Arkansas Historical Association

Seventy-Ninth Annual Conference

Conway

April 16–18, 2020
Conway, Arkansas, is the seat of Faulkner County. It has approximately 66,000 residents and ranks as the eighth-largest city in the state. In the territorial period, settlers in the area, including veterans of the War of 1812, concentrated around Cadron, a few miles outside of modern-day Conway. Cadron was an early seat of Pulaski County, holding that title for a year until Little Rock took over in 1821.

Conway proper came into being in 1871 with the creation of Conway Station, a stop on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad. Colonel Asa Peter Robinson, known as the “Father of Conway,” oversaw the platting of the town and the construction of the first twenty miles of the rail line. Founders selected Conway as the town’s name in honor of the state’s first elected governor, James Sevier Conway, and his influential family.

Faulkner County was created during the Reconstruction era, and state officials named Conway as the county seat. As the turmoil of Reconstruction died down, the area attracted large numbers of German and Irish settlers and the town became an important agricultural hub. Farmers depended on Conway’s commodity markets, cotton gins, and sources of farming supplies and equipment.

Conway has an impressive history of business and industry development. In 1947 Allied Telephone (Alltel) was established in Conway, and two years after that one of the largest construction companies in the nation, Nabholz, opened its doors there. Other companies with ties to Conway include Virco Manufacturing, IC Corporation, Diamond State Bus Company and Hewlett-Packard.

As home to three institutions of higher learning, Conway is known as the City of Colleges. The University of Central Arkansas is a public research university with an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students. Hendrix College is a nationally recognized private liberal arts college with an enrollment of just over 1,300 students. Central Baptist College is a four-year private liberal arts college with nearly 900 students. These colleges together contribute to over 40 percent of Conway’s adult workforce having a bachelor’s degree or higher, making it one of the most educated cities in the state.

The Conference in Brief

Thursday, April 16
6:00–7:30 p.m.  Reception, UCA Downtown

Friday, April 17
Registration, sessions, and meals at the Conway Expo and Event Center. Reception at Hendrix Archives and Special Collections, Olin C. and Marjorie Bailey Library.

7:30 a.m.  Registration opens
8:00 a.m.  Welcome
8:20–9:30 a.m.  Session I-A
              Session I-B
9:30–9:50 a.m.  Break
9:50–11:00 a.m.  Session II-A
                 Session II-B
11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.  Session III-A
                        Session III-B
12:30–1:50 p.m.  Luncheon and Business Meeting
2:00–4:30 p.m.  Tours
6:00–7:00 p.m.  Reception
7:15 p.m.  Awards Banquet

Saturday, April 18
Sessions and meals at the Conway Expo and Event Center.
8:30–9:40 a.m.  Session IV-A
                Session IV-B
9:40–9:50 a.m.  Coffee Break
9:50–11:00 a.m.  Session V-A
                 Session V-B
11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.  Session VI-A
                       Session VI-B
12:30–1:45 p.m.  Luncheon
ARKANSAS WITHOUT BARRIERS: PURSUING EQUITY IN THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

General Information
The seventy-ninth Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) annual conference will be held in Conway, April 16–18. Conway was established in the 1870s along the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad and named for one of the state’s most powerful political families. By the early twentieth century, the Faulkner County seat had emerged as one of Arkansas’s most important educational centers and remains home to three institutions of higher education today.

Conference sessions will explore a broad array of topics from all time periods that illuminate how Arkansans seeking better lives and improved communities have pushed back against barriers impeding equity, including poor health care, political inequality, economic marginalization, cultural exclusion, social injustice, and environmental degradation.

The conference is headquartered at the Conway Expo and Event Center (Expo Center). Thursday night’s reception is at UCA Downtown. Friday registration, sessions, break, luncheon, and awards banquet take place at the Expo Center. Friday afternoon tours require your own transportation to and from the tour locations. The Friday night reception is at Hendrix Archives and Special Collections at the Olin C. and Marjorie Bailey Library. Saturday sessions and luncheon are at the Expo Center.

View an online map of conference locations at shorturl.at/EOU06.

Conference committee members are Steve Kite (conference chair), University of Arkansas–Fort Smith; Blake Perkins (program chair), Williams Baptist University; Kelly Houston Jones (local arrangements chair), Arkansas Tech University; and Susan Young (accumulated wisdom).

Faulkner County Facts
In 1909, Conway attorney Samuel Frauenthal became the first person of the Jewish faith to serve on the Arkansas Supreme Court. He was appointed by fellow Conway resident Gov. George Donaghey.

William H. Pruden III, CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Registration
Complete the enclosed registration form and send it with check or money order to the Arkansas Historical Association, 416 N. Campus Drive, MAIN 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. You may also register online at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org. The registration fee is $15. **Deadline for registration is March 27.**

Name tags may be picked up at the Thursday evening reception or at the AHA registration table during the conference.

Meals
All meals require reservations, **which must be made by March 27** using the enclosed registration form. Meal prices include tax and gratuity.

Lodging
A block of 30 rooms at Hilton Garden Inn (805 Amity Road) will be offered until **March 26** at a special nightly rate of $109 plus tax. Call 501-329-1444 to make reservations; mention the Arkansas Historical Association conference to receive the discount rate.

A block of 40 rooms at Home2 Suites by Hilton (820 Bill Dean Drive) will be offered until **April 2** at a special nightly rate of $109 plus tax. Call 501-504-2602 to make reservations; mention the Arkansas Historical Association conference to receive the discount rate.

Other nearby lodging options:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comfort Suites</th>
<th>Country Inn and Suites by Radisson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>705 Museum Road</td>
<td>750 Amity Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-329-8548</td>
<td>501-932-0500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thursday Evening Reception
*UCA Downtown, 1105 West Oak Street*
6:00–7:30 p.m.

Enjoy beer, wine, and soft drinks while viewing the current art exhibition curated by the UCA College of Fine Arts and Communication. **Sponsored by Rex Nelson and the UCA Department of History**

There is no cost for the reception, but please indicate on the registration form that you will attend this event.
Friday Afternoon Tours, 2:00–4:30 p.m.
Please arrange your own transportation to and from the tour locations.

Tour Option 1. Faulkner County Museum and Historic Downtown Conway Walking Tour. Explore the museum from 2:00–3:00 p.m., then join museum director Lynita Langley-Ware for a one-mile walking loop tour of nearby historic sites. Wear comfortable shoes! Faulkner County Museum is located at 801 Locust Avenue, three miles west of the Conway Expo and Event Center.

Tour Option 2. Cadron Settlement Park. On the National Register of Historic Places, the park includes a reconstructed blockhouse historically consistent with Thomas Nuttall’s 1820 sketch of Cadron, Trail of Tears exhibits, and walking trails. Members of the Faulkner County Historical Society will be on hand to help illuminate your visit. Cadron Settlement Park is located at 6200 Hwy 319, eleven miles west of the Conway Expo and Event Center.

Friday Reception and Awards Banquet
Reception, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Hendrix Archives and Special Collections, second floor of the Olin C. and Marjorie Bailey Library, Hendrix College, 1600 Washington Avenue
Enjoy beverages and camaraderie before the annual awards banquet.
Sponsored by Central Arkansas Library System Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
Please indicate on the registration form that you will attend the reception.

Banquet, 7:15 p.m.
Conway Expo and Event Center, 2505 E. Oak Street

Faulkner County Facts
Since 1990, Scott and Heidi Riddle have operated Riddle’s Elephant and Wildlife Sanctuary, located on 330 acres outside of Greenbrier. They provide a permanent home for African and Asian elephants in need of sanctuary for any reason, regardless of age, sex, species, health, or temperament. Elephants come from private owners, circuses, or zoos.
Ali Welky, CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Exhibits on Display at the Conference

Hearing Arkansas Struggle: A People’s History in Process
*Arkansas People’s History Project*

Journey of Survival: Mapping Indian Removal Through Arkansas
*Erin Fehr and Alex Soulard, Sequoyah National Research Center*

Hidden Figures: Unheralded African American Women of Arkansas Who Have Broken Barriers
*Students of Lisa Lacefield, Valley View Junior High School*

Mapping Renewal
*Shannon M. Lausch, Center for Arkansas History and Culture, University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

Overcoming Obstacles: Mike Anderson, Lillian Mickey, and the Economic Impact of Photography in Early 20th Century Johnson County
*James Peck, Arkansas Tech University*

Becoming Wiley Jones
*Brian Rodgers, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center*

Lincoln High School and African Americans in Fort Smith
*Sherry L. Toliver, Fort Smith Historical Society*

*Making mattresses at the Centerville community service center, 1940. Marion Post Wolcott, photographer. Library of Congress Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Photograph Collection*
Thursday, April 16

**Evening Reception**
6:00–7:30 p.m.
*UCA Downtown, 1105 West Oak Street*

Sponsored by Rex Nelson and the UCA Department of History

---

Friday, April 17

*Conway Expo and Event Center, 2505 E. Oak Street*

**Registration, 7:30 a.m.**

*Willow Room*

**Welcome, 8:00 a.m.**
Bart Castleberry, Mayor of Conway

**Willow Room**

*Session I-A, 8:20–9:30 a.m.*

**Women Breaking Barriers**

*Moderator: Jami Forrester, Northwest Arkansas Community College*

“The Darkest Times We Have Seen”: Amanda Braly’s Civil War

*Karen S. Colwell, independent researcher*

The Young Woman from Clinton Who Played in the All American Girls Professional League

*Jim Yeager, independent researcher*

Frances Marion Hanger: A Study in Equity, Advanced and Blocked

*Jo Blatti, independent researcher*

**Birch Room**

*Session I-B, 8:20–9:30 a.m.*

**Jim Crow and Judge Lynch**

*Moderator: Christina Shutt, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center*

Jim Crow and the Grand Army of the Republic in Arkansas

*Rebecca A. Howard, Lone Star College–Montgomery*

Session I-B continued on next page
Combating “Judge Lynch”: An Examination of Threatened and Averted Lynchings in Arkansas
Richard A. Buckelew, Bethune-Cookman University

Lynching as a “Negro Problem,” or How a White Rapist Became Black: The Case of Andrew Springer
Fatme Myuhtar-May, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives

Break, 9:30–9:50 a.m.
Sponsored by the University of Arkansas Press and the University of Arkansas–Fort Smith

Willow Room
Session II-A, 9:50–11:00 a.m.
Black Culture and Agency
Moderator: Kevin Butler, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

African American Fraternal Organizations in Arkansas
Desara Grant, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

“The Home Boys is Here!”: Ethnic Pride and African American Baseball
Jan Ziegler, Eddie Mae Herron Center

Florence Price and William Grant Still: Pioneering African-American Composers
Linda Holzer, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Birch Room
Session II-B, 9:50–11:00 a.m.
Disability, Social Reform, and Dynamics of Advocacy
Moderator: Story Matkin-Rawn, University of Central Arkansas

“Understanding Shine from a Child’s Eyes”: Ruth Edgington and the Education of Developmentally Disabled Children
Timothy G. Nutt, Historical Research Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The Conway Arkansas Children’s Colony: The First Decade, 1955–65
Emily Housdan, independent researcher

Session II-B continued on next page
“No One Would Object to Being Well-Born”: Ira Sanders, Hilda Cornish, Birth Control, and Eugenics in Arkansas, 1930-58
James L. Moses, Arkansas Tech University

Willow Room
Session III-A, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
HISTORIANS AND THE WORKING CLASS OF ARKANSAS AND THE SOUTH: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE—A ROUNDTABLE
Moderator: David Cullen, Arkansas Tech University

Shennett Garrett-Scott, University of Mississippi
Michelle Haberland, Georgia Southern University
Matt Hild, Georgia Institute of Technology
Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University
Mike Pierce, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Birch Room
Session III-B, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
AGAINST THE GRAIN: QUESTS FOR LAND AND EQUITY
Moderator: Rachel Silva Patton, Preserve Arkansas

“I know how to farm”: Women’s Strategies for Obtaining Federal Land in Howard and Polk Counties
Lisa C. Childs, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Landless Living, Peripheral Proprietorship: African Americans, Agriculture, and Identity in Post-Civil War Arkansas
Judith Stiritz, independent researcher

The Lakeview Project: A New Deal Resettlement Community for African Americans in Eastern Arkansas
Callie Williams, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Imperfect Bliss: Unionist Calvin Comins Bliss in Civil War- and Reconstruction-Era Arkansas
Sonny Rhodes and Harrison Hudson, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Willow and Birch Rooms
Luncheon and Business Meeting, 12:30–1:50 p.m.

Presiding: Mark K. Christ, President, Arkansas Historical Association

Business Meeting
President’s Report
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
Election of Trustees and Officers

Speaker
Risk Factors for Children and Families: New Questions for Arkansas History
Elizabeth Findley Shores, independent scholar

Tours, 2:00–4:30 p.m.
Please arrange your own transportation to and from the tour locations.

• Faulkner County Museum and Historic Downtown Walking Tour
• Cadron Settlement Park


According to Steven Teske in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, a ferry crossing was established at this location on the Arkansas River soon after 1811. The origin of the location’s colorful name “has prompted a variety of explanations. One common story is that the ferry was named for tavern patrons who ‘sucked on a bottle until they swelled like a toad,’ but other researchers note that a ‘suck’ is a river whirlpool that needs to be marked and avoided by travelers.”
RECEPTION, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Hendrix Archives and Special Collections, second floor of the Olin C. and Marjorie Bailey Library, Hendrix College, 1600 Washington Avenue
Sponsored by Central Arkansas Library System Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, 7:15 p.m.
Conway Expo and Event Center, 2505 E. Oak Street
Presiding: Mark K. Christ, President, Arkansas Historical Association

Awards Presentation
Lifetime Achievement Award
Award of Merit
J. G. Ragsdale Book Award
John William Graves Book Award
Tom Dillard Advocacy Award
J. H. Atkinson Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Arkansas History
NEARA Award for Exemplary Archival Research
James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award
Lucille Westbrook Award
Violet B. Gingles Award
Susannah DeBlack Award
Walter L. Brown County and Local Journal Awards
Arkansas Women’s History Institute Susie Pryor Award

Faulkner County Facts
In 1960 and 1961, the 308th Strategic Missile Wing constructed five missile silos in Faulkner County, containing Titan II missiles armed with nuclear warheads. The silos continued to be maintained until the missiles were deactivated late in the 1980s.

Steve Teske, CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Saturday, April 18

President’s Breakfast

7:30 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn

AHA President Mark Christ hosts this breakfast for former presidents of the organization.

**Willow Room**

**Session IV-A, 8:30–9:40 a.m.**

**Money and Slavery in Early Arkansas**

*Moderator: Jonathan Hancock, Hendrix College*

Preparation for Independence: Dreams and Failures of Entrepreneurs on the White River, 1810s

*George Lankford, Lyon College emeritus*

Chunky Jack, Stingy Bill, and the Morass: The Black and White Polks in the Mississippi Valley

*Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University*

Fighting for Their Manhood: Enslaved Masculinity in Antebellum Arkansas

*Tye Boudra-Bland, Arkansas Tech University*

---

**Birch Room**

**Session IV-B, 8:30–9:40 a.m.**

**Mental Illness in Arkansas History**

*Moderator: Kathy Anderson, Philander Smith College*

Rebecca Ballard, Arkansas State Archives

Stephanie Carter, Arkansas State Archives

Jane A. Wilkerson, Arkansas State Archives

---

**Coffee Break, 9:40–9:50 a.m.**

*Sponsored by Rex Nelson*
Willow Room  
Session V-A, 9:50–11:00 a.m.  
**Education and Struggles for Progress**  
*Moderator: Rodney W. Harris, Williams Baptist University*  

“The Raising of the Heavy Indebtedness”: The Financial Struggles of Henderson-Brown College, 1890-1929  
*David Sesser, Henderson State University*  

Quiet Revolutions: The Struggle for Equal Rights for African Americans and Women at Arkansas Tech  
*Tom DeBlack, Arkansas Tech University emeritus*  

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: The Post-Integration Fight for Equal Education in Jonesboro  
*Heather McNamee, Arkansas State University*  

Birch Room  
Session V-B, 9:50–11:00 a.m.  
**Working-Class Arkansas in the 20th Century**  
*Moderator: Michael Rosenow, University of Central Arkansas*  

Hello Girls on Strike: How the 1917 Telephone Operators’ Strike Changed Arkansas History  
*Kyra Schmidt, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*  

“What Kind of Socialist”: Lee Hays, the Social Gospel, and the Path to the Cultural Front  
*Elizabeth Withey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*  

Edmondson, Arkansas, and the Demise of African American Landownership, 1902-49  
*Samuel Ownbey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*  

---

**Faulkner County Facts**  
The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s 6,700-acre Lake Conway is the largest lake in the nation constructed by a state wildlife agency.  
*Aaron W. Rogers, CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*
Willow Room
Session VI-A, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
ARCHAEOLOGY IN ARKANSAS HISTORY
Moderator: Chris Mortenson, Ouachita Baptist University

Thunder Across Southwest Arkansas: Archeology, History, and Memory of the Camden Expedition of 1864
Carl Drexler, Arkansas Archeological Survey

The Cadron Settlement: The Role of Archeology in Telling a More Nuanced Version of History
Andrew R. Beaupre, Arkansas Archeological Survey

Make No Bones About It: Kitchens, Foodways, and Public Archeology in Arkansas
Jodi A. Barnes, Arkansas Archeological Survey

Birch Room
Session VI-B, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.
BATTLING SEGREGATION: PROGRESS, LIMITS, AND MALCONTENTS
Moderator: John Kyle Day, University of Arkansas at Monticello

Separate, Unequal, but Extension Nevertheless: Forestry Outreach in Segregated Arkansas
Don C. Bragg, U.S. Forest Service

Breaking Barriers in “A Place Called Hope”
Revis Edmonds, Old Statehouse Museum

Ben Laney and the Foundations of Massive Resistance in Arkansas
Marie C. Totten, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

James David Bales on Race and Civil Rights
Cory Spruiell, Harding School of Theology

Faulkner County Facts
Luther G. Presley, who wrote the lyrics for “When the Saints Go Marching In,” was born in Faulkner County on March 6, 1887.

Jimmy Bryant, CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas
Willow and Birch Rooms

Luncheon, 12:30–1:45 p.m.

John Wesley Woodward: Savant, Author, Poet, Artist, Teacher, Chess Master, Editor, Letterer, Wagon Master, Clerk, Scribe, and Founder of the First Deaf-Mute School in Arkansas

Buck T. Foster, University of Central Arkansas

El Dorado Air Service hangar, circa 1940.

Ernie Deane Collection/Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Start making your travel plans for the 2021 AHA conference in El Dorado, April 15–17. Longtime AHA members Ben and Sherrel Johnson are already working on local arrangements. They know how to throw a party, so El Dorado is sure to be a time to remember.

See you all in south Arkansas!
Scenes from Conway History
Special thanks to Heather Reinhold, UCA Archives technician

Fire Prevention Parade, Conway, circa 1950. Faulkner County Historical Society Photography Collection, University of Central Arkansas Archives

Front Street, Conway, circa 1930. Faulkner County Historical Society Photography Collection, University of Central Arkansas Archives
THANK YOU

This annual conference is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Arkansas Historical Association is also grateful to the following for their special support:

Central Arkansas Library System Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
Faulkner County Historical Society
Faulkner County Museum
J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Hendrix Archives and Special Collections, Olin C. and Marjorie Bailey Library, Hendrix College
Rex Nelson
Heather Reinhold
Brian Robertson
University of Arkansas–Fort Smith
University of Arkansas Press
University of Central Arkansas Archives

Hendrix College, circa 1900. Central Arkansas Library System Butler Center for Arkansas Studies