

Newsletter of the Arkansas Historical Association

Fearlessly grappling with all the latest history doin's pertinent to the discerning Arkansawyer, about twice a year. Send news and events to kjones116@atu.edu.



Eightieth Annual Conference Imminent

Enjoy a retreat with the AHA at our annual meeting, which will be held virtually, June 3-5, 2021. Our theme, "**Collective Memory in the Natural State: Commemoration, Preservation, and Reconciliation,**" is meant to facilitate Arkansans' recently intensified focus on the people, places, and events that our society remembers or forgets. In our reckoning with the past, this year's program features presentations that raise questions about the nature of archives and how public memory is fashioned. It's true that many of us are tuckered out from all the virtual work and play lately, but the meeting's engaging moderators, Arkansas Trivia Night, and periodic breaks between sessions (featuring videos from folks around the state and photos from past conferences) will be sure to prevent dreaded screen fatigue. The fun will be stretched out over three half days. View the program at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org, and from May 10 to June 1, visit that same page to register for the meeting. The registration fee is \$15, plus a small online processing fee. What a deal!

The association regrets to note the **passing of permanent member Paul Greenberg**. Born in Louisiana in 1937, Greenberg came to Arkansas in 1962 after studying at Centenary College, the University of Missouri, and Columbia University. His editorial work related to the Civil Rights Movement for the Pine Bluff *Commercial* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1969—one of many honors he received over the course of his career. Greenberg had retired in 2015 from overseeing the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* editorial page. His wife, Sarah Brooke Malloy, is also a permanent member and an *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* author.

"The other man was a stalwart ruffian called 'Arkansas,' who carried two revolvers in his belt and a bowie knife projecting from his boot, and who was always drunk and always suffering for a fight. But he was so feared, that nobody would accommodate him."

-Mark Twain, *Roughing It*

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Two Constitutional Amendments Await Membership Approval

Chastened by the pandemic, the board of trustees has proposed to amend Article 4, section 8 of the Association's constitution to read:

“Nominees for membership on the Board of Trustees shall be presented to the board for approval at the last meeting prior to the annual conference. The membership will be notified of the names of the nominees as part of the president's annual report. Persons may also be nominated from the floor at the annual conference. Nominees receiving approval from a majority of members present and voting at the annual conference will be elected. Should emergency prevent the Association from holding a conference, the membership may instead be polled by paper or electronic ballot. In selecting officers and trustees, consideration will be given to a broad representation of various interests and will include at least one representative from each congressional district.”

The board also proposes that Article 8 be amended to delete the following: “PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE. This committee shall oversee the scholarly and educational publications of the association,” as the said duties of the aforementioned committee are either no longer necessary or are adequately carried out by the journal editor or the Public Information Committee.

The amendments will be voted upon by the membership at the 2021 annual conference.

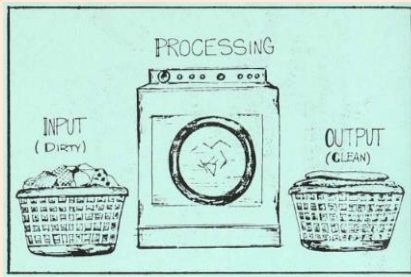
You'll be as happy as a kid in a "crick" as you relax in the "bought air" in front of your device to enjoy our conference sessions in June.



Bertha Westbrook Reese, Ellie Westbrook Floyd, and others swimming in Blue Bayou Creek, Center Point, ca. 1920. Courtesy of the Central Arkansas Library System, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

I Tell You What:

The **Central Arkansas Library System** continues to collect oral histories, letters, photographs, and diaries for the Arkansas Vietnam War Project. It especially seeks to record oral histories with Arkansas Vietnam War veterans. To participate in such an interview, contact Brian Robertson at brianr@cals.org or (501) 320-5723. For more information visit www.butlercenter.org/arkansas-vietnam-war-project.



In 1980, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's pamphlet, "ABC's of Computers," sought to explain the newfangled contraptions and their programs using the metaphor of a washing machine and laundry tasks. It declared, "How efficient your washing machine would be if you could write a program for it like this:"

Put-Away Program

Put pillowcases in a linen closet.
Put handkerchiefs in bureau drawer. (Top, left)
Put flannels in bureau drawer. (Bottom, center)
Put shirts in closet. (To the right of the pants)
Put crib sheet in baby's room.
Put Grandma Nellie's old crazy quilt in the attic.
Put the green towels in the blue bathroom.
Put the blue towels in the green bathroom.
Put any stones, marbles, strings, and so forth from children's pants in the trash.

How does a Tarheel come to write more than 250 entries for the **CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas**? Find out on May 5th at noon during the virtual Legacies and Lunch program in which Bill Pruden will present "Lessons in Learning: The **CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas** and One Man's Journey into the World of Arkansas History." Pruden is the director of civic engagement, a college counselor, and an instructor in history and social studies at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to his whopping *Encyclopedia of Arkansas* record, Pruden has contributed book chapters and encyclopedia articles on various American history topics. Register for the webinar via the events page at robertslibrary.org.

Hemingway fever has raged for some time in Arkansas and there is no vaccine. Long before Ken Burns' *Hemingway* documentary on PBS created buzz in April 2021, Arkies appreciated their own particular link to the author's life at the **Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center** in Piggott. Purchased by Arkansas State University in 1997, today's renovated site includes a barn studio associated with Ernest Hemingway and the family home of his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer. Pauline's parents, Paul and Mary Pfeiffer, were prominent citizens of Northeast Arkansas and owned more than 60,000 acres of land. During the 1930s, the barn was converted to a studio for Hemingway's writing while visiting his in-laws. For those who can't get enough of Hemingway in Arkansas, the **Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's** May 7th virtual "**Sandwiching in History**" program will feature the site. Like all of AHPP's virtual tours, the program will premiere on Facebook at noon on the first Friday of each month and will be afterward archived on Youtube. (View their full summer schedule, including a tour of a Titan II Missile site at <https://www.arkansasheritage.com/events?agencies=AHPP>.) Of course, you can always make your own in-person visit to the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum, as the site is open Mon.-Sat., with tours on the hour from

9:00am to 3:00pm. Find details about the site and its COVID-19 precautions at

<https://hemingway.astate.edu/>.

The **Old State House Museum's** summer youth enrichment camp will explore the new exhibit, "Play it Loud! Concerts at Barton Coliseum." The week-long camp will feature a look at many of the bands who performed at Barton, different genres of music, and how music and culture changed from the 1950s to the present. The camp will be held June 21-25, 9:00-10:30am and is open to youngsters coming into second through ninth grades. The application deadline is June 4. Find details galore on this and other OSHM events here: <https://www.arkansasheritage.com/events?agencies=OSHM>.

The *Shiloh Museum of Ozark History* just can't quit offering exceptional virtual programming. While the museum is open to masked patrons from Monday through Friday, 10:00-5:00, it will offer a special online event on Wednesday, May 19 at noon. Zoom in to enjoy folk healer Brandon Weston's enchanting presentation on his book *Ozark Folk Magic: Plants, Prayers, and Healing*. Pre-registration is required at Shilohmuseum.org.

Teachers, mark your calendars for summer professional development opportunities offered by *Lakeport Plantation*. During the on-site option, held June 29, 9:00 am-noon, educators will enjoy a guided tour of the house and grounds that will include an overview of Southeast Arkansas's history. At the tour's conclusion, staff will discuss Lakeport programs and resources that are available to teachers and their students throughout the year. A virtual version of the program will be offered from 12:30 to 3:30 the same day. Visit <https://lakeport.astate.edu/> for more information.

A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

The point of all this is that though computers are not infallible, usually it is the man-made program that causes the goofs.

As the Extension Service pamphlet so bluntly warned computer users in 1980, Arkansas Historical Association meeting attendees may indeed experience a "goof" or two in creating accounts and logging in to enjoy each other's virtual company this June, but the friendly atmosphere our meetings are famous for will be on offer glitch-free.

Finally, we offer the same request made in World War II-era issues of the AHQ:

"If you think it tolerable, speak kindly about it to your friends and invite them to join the Association."



Above: Kirst family at picnic table, ca. 1890. Courtesy of the Central Arkansas Library System, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.



Join the Arkansas Historical Association and receive four issues of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* per year, as well as the Association's newsletter for the following rates:

Individual, one year for \$20; Individual, two year, for \$35;

Family, one year for \$30; Family, two year for \$45;

Foreign, one year for \$30; Student, one year, for \$15;

Contributing, one year, for \$50; Sustaining, one year for \$100;

Supporting, one year, for \$200;

Life Membership for \$500 (payable over three years)

Permanent Membership for \$1,000 (payable over five years)

Renewal and new memberships can be paid online using Paypal;
visit the AHA website arkansashistoricalassociation.org.
