

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Eighty-Second Annual Conference

*Amusing Arkansas:
Sports and Leisure in the Natural State*



April 13-15, 2023

Arkadelphia

The Conference in Brief

Thursday, April 13

Genealogy Workshop: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
DeGray Lake Lodge and Convention Center

Reception: 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Historic Captain Henderson House, Arkadelphia

Friday, April 14

All activities at DeGray Lake Lodge and Convention Center

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Welcome: 8:00 a.m.

Sessions: 8:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Luncheon and Business Meeting: 12:30 p.m.

Tours Depart: 2:30 p.m.

Reception and Awards Banquet: 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

All activities at DeGray Lake Lodge and Convention Center

Sessions: 8:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m.

Cover image: Sailboating on Lake DeGray, 1980.

Courtesy Archives and Special Collections, Riley-Hickingbotham Library, Ouachita Baptist University.

Amusing Arkansas: Sports and Leisure in the Natural State

The eighty-second Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) annual conference will be held at DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge and Convention Center, April 13-15th. DeGray State Park, dedicated in 1974, occupies 984 acres in Clark and Hot Spring counties in southwest Arkansas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the DeGray Lake and Dam (1966-1972) to provide hydroelectric power and flood control for Clark County; it now is a focus of recreational tourism for the area.

Conference sessions and meals will be held at DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge and Convention Center, 2027 State Park Entrance Rd., Bismarck, AR, 71929.

Before attendees convene for the opening reception at the historic Captain Henderson House in Arkadelphia Thursday evening, the members of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Arkansas Chapter will present **Unveiling the Legacy: Preserving the History of the African American Family, Community & Final Resting Places**, a workshop offering genealogical resources.

On Friday afternoon, attendees can choose from two historic tours: **The Camden Expedition Tour**, led by Mark Christ, Central Arkansas Library System, will follow part of the route used by Major General Frederick Steele's Union army during the 1864 Camden Expedition, visiting some of the battlefields where his forces clashed with Major General Sterling Price's Confederates. Christ will give a full account of the expedition, including the racial atrocities of which both sides were guilty. The **Arkadelphia Historic Sites Tour**, led by David Sesser, Southeastern Louisiana University, will visit sites documenting Clark County from pre-history through the 20th century. The tour will visit Henderson State University's Caddo Center where a selection of Native American artifacts from the region is on display, as well as the Clark County Historical Museum, located in the 1917 Missouri Pacific Depot. The tour will also visit two pre-Civil War Greek Revival properties—the Bozeman House and Cemetery, Magnolia Manor—and will include a stop at the Peake-Rosenwald School.

Pre-registration for both tours is required. Space is limited.

The conference committee members are Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University; Brian Robertson, Central Arkansas Library System; Lisa Speer, Ouachita Baptist University; and Chris Mortenson, Ouachita Baptist University.

Lodging: Attendees can reserve rooms at the Lake DeGray State Park Lodge, 2027 State Park Entrance Rd., Bismarck, AR, 71929 at the rate of \$105 per night plus tax by calling 501-865-5850 **by March 14th**.

Registration:

To register for the conference and meals, members can complete the form received in the mail and send it with check or money order to the Arkansas Historical Association, 416 N. Campus Dr., MAIN 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701 or register online at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

The registration fee is \$10. Deadline for registration is **March 31**.



Mount St. Mary Academy basketball team, 1909.
*Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies,
Central Arkansas Library System.*

Thursday, April 13

Unveiling the Legacy: Preserving the History of the African American Family, Community & Final Resting Places

1:00-3:30 p.m.

DeGray Lake Convention Center, Caddo/Ouachita Rooms

Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Arkansas Chapter

The workshop will begin with basic instruction for tracing family history, methods of conducting research, what to do with family heirlooms, documents, and photographs, how to extract historical information from oral interviews, and how to publish. The second session will show attendees how to discover the active roles family played in the development of the African American community, discuss traditions and values that were the strength of the black family, and cover the importance of proper burials of deceased loved ones, the upkeep of their final resting places, and the preservation of the history and legacy of the African American community.

Reception and Welcome by Mayor Scott Byrd: 6:00 p.m.

Historic Captain Henderson House, 349 North 10th Street, Arkadelphia

Hosted by:

Clark County Historical Museum

Clark County Historical Association

Ouachita Baptist University Department of History

Ouachita Baptist University Sutton School of Social Sciences

Dr. Trey Berry, President of Southern Arkansas University

Mr. Rex Nelson

Dr. Lisa Speer

Friday, April 14

All activities at DeGray Lake Lodge and Convention Center

Presidents' Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

Shoreline Restaurant

President Rachel Patton hosts this breakfast for former presidents of the association.

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Welcome: 8:00 a.m., DeGray/Ouachita Rooms

Secretary Mike Mills, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

Session 1A: 8:20-9:30 a.m., Caddo Room

Arkansas Pigskin

Moderator: Story Matkin-Rawn, independent scholar

“The Arkansas Travelers Football Team”

Thomas A. DeBlack, Arkansas Tech University, *emeritus*

“From Gridlock to Gridiron: The Birth of Little Rock’s War Memorial Stadium”

Scott Carter, independent scholar

“Wayne ‘Thumper’ Harris: The First Arkansan to be on a Canadian Grey Cup Postage Stamp”

Maylon T. Rice, independent scholar

Session 1B: 8:20-9:30 a.m., Eagle Room

Arkansans and the Great Outdoors

Moderator: Blake Perkins, Arkansas State University-Beebe

“‘Covered with Glory and Blood’: The Development of Early Arkansas Sportsmen”

Buck T. Foster, University of Central Arkansas

“Wildlife Destruction in Arkansas and the Creation of Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge”

Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Lake Chicot: The Home of Good Fishing”
Ruth O’Loughlin, Lakeport Plantation Museum

Break: 9:30-9:50 a.m.

Hosted by the University of Arkansas Press

Session 2A: 9:50 -11:00 a.m., Caddo Room

In the Arena

Moderator: Glenn Mosenthin, Grand Prairie Historical Society

“The Ten Round Fight for Prizefighting in Arkansas”

Brian Irby, Arkansas State Archives

“A Little Friendly Swordplay: Fencing as Club and Competitive Sport in Arkansas”

Joshua Youngblood, Special Collections, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Wiley Jones: Arkansas Entrepreneur and Equerry”

John Kyle Day, University of Arkansas at Monticello

Session 2B: 9:50-11:00 a.m., Eagle Room

Take Me out to the Ball Game

Moderator: Rodney Harris, Williams Baptist University

“Clark Countians in the Negro Leagues”

Lisa K. Speer, Ouachita Baptist University

“Backroads and Ballplayers”

Jim Yeager, independent scholar

“From the Battlefield to the Ballfield: American Indians in Arkansas Baseball”

Erin Fehr, Sequoyah National Research Center, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Session 3A: 11:10 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Caddo Room

In-Town Amusements

Moderator: Joshua Youngblood, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“The Sport of Bicycle Racing in Little Rock, 1885-1898”

James F. Willis, Southern Arkansas University, *emeritus*

“Sports and Leisure in Hot Springs, 1934-1964”
Bobbye Henry, independent scholar

“Getting Snookered: Cards and Billiards at Colonial Arkansas Post and Beyond”
Linda C. Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Session 3B: 11:10 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Eagle Room
Community Studies
Moderator: Rebecca Howard, Lone Star College

“Resilience Learning in an Arkansas Prisoner-of-War Camp, 1944-1946: Homefront Assignments of Leisure to Inspire Personal Health, Freedom, and Democracy”
Michael Reinschmidt, Arkansas State University Museum

“Happy Times in Southwest Arkansas-Arkla Village: Arkansas’s First Theme Park”
Revis Edmonds, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

“Be GLAD in 1985: Fayetteville’s First Pride Celebration”
Todd Lewis, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Luncheon and Business Meeting
12:30 p.m., DeGray/Ouachita Rooms

Presiding: Rachel Patton, President, Arkansas Historical Association
President’s Report
Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
Election of Trustees

Keynote Address: “A Time to Play”
Rex Nelson
Senior Editor, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

Tours: Depart Lodge at 2:30 p.m.
Camden Expedition Tour
Arkadelphia Historic Sites Tour

Annual Awards Banquet

DeGray Lake Lodge and Convention Center

Reception: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Banquet: 6:30 p.m.

Awards Presentations

Lifetime Achievement Award

Award of Merit

Arkansas Diamond Award

J. G. Ragsdale 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

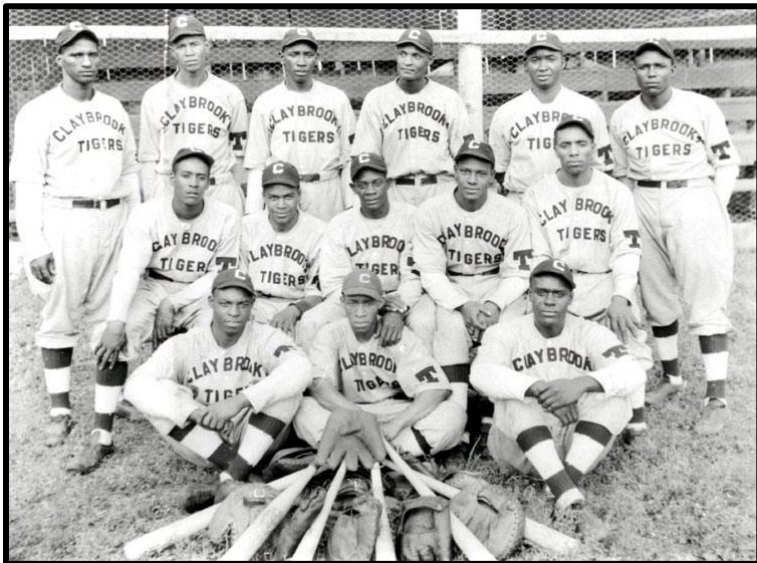
Lucille Westbrook Award

Violet B. Gingles Award

Susannah DeBlack Award

Walter L. Brown County and Local Journal Awards

Arkansas Women's History Institute Susie Pryor Award



The Claybrook Tigers, a black semi-professional baseball team from Claybrook (Crittenden County), circa 1935.

Courtesy David D. Dawson.

Saturday, April 15

All Activities at DeGray Lake Lodge and Convention Center

Session 4A: 8:20-9:30 a.m., Caddo Room

Devil's Den State Park: Cherishing the Legacy of the CCC through Documentation

Kimball Erdman, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Angelia Payne, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Lori Filbeck, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Manon Wilson, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Session 4B: 8:20-9:30 a.m., Eagle Room

Active Arkansans

Moderator: Richard A. Buckelew, Bethune-Cookman University

“The Trojans Keep Marching On! The Story of UALR Football & Men’s Basketball”

James Wethington, Center for Arkansas History and Culture, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“Wear Schoonover: First Southwest Conference All-American”

Rodney W. Harris, Williams Baptist University

“A Rolling through History: Mountain Biking in the Natural State”

Tim Scott, Devil’s Den State Park

Susan Donnangelo, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

Break: 9:30-9:50 a.m.

Hosted by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Session 5A: 9:50-11:00 a.m., Caddo Room

Lesser-Known Leisure

Moderator: W. Scott Tomlin, Arkansas Tech University

“Herman Hackbarth: Arkansas Golf Pioneer”

Breck Speed, independent scholar

“Lurlyne Greer Rogers: Arkansas’ Unknown Hall-of-Famer”
Justin Sangster, Arkansas State University-Beebe

“Clark County on the Rise? An Obscure 1973 Study Advocating
Recreation and Tourism in Clark County, Arkansas”
Darren Bell, Arkansas State Archives

Session 5B: 9:50-11:00 a.m., Eagle Room

Take it Outside

Moderator: Nathania Sawyer, Certified Archivist (retired)

“New Deal ‘Parkitecture’ in Little Rock”

Danielle Afsordeh, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas
Library System

“An Altered Landscape: Impacts of the Civilian Conservation Corps in
Arkansas”

Ben Brockinton, Cabot Public Schools

“Outdoor Sports and Leisure Through the Lenses of Forest Service
Photographers in Arkansas”

Don C. Bragg, USDA Forest Service

Session 6A: 11:10 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Caddo Room

Power and Spectacle in the Natural State

Moderator: Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech
University

“How the Mocking Serenades of the European Charivari Served as the
Inspiration for Arkansas Lynch Mobs”

Richard A. Buckelew, Bethune-Cookman University

“Leisure Activities of a 19th Century Arkansas Village”

Josh Williams, Historic Washington State Park

“‘Good Speaking, Fine Baseball and Other Attractions’: Sports and
Leisure at Drew County Barbecues, 1895-1915”

A. Blake Denton, Fred J. Taylor Library & Technology Center,
University of Arkansas at Monticello

Session 6B: 11:10 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Eagle Room

Living it Up

Moderator: Lisa Speer, Ouachita Baptist University

“Tolerably Far Gone in Whiskey: Alcohol in Arkansas Foodways”
W. Scott Tomlin, Arkansas Tech University

“Snuff, Bullets, and Dolls: An Archeology of Recreation on a Postbellum
Arkansas Plantation”
Matthew P. Rooney, Arkansas Archeological Survey

“‘To Uphold Morality and Decency:’ The Fight Between the Little
Rock Censor Board and the City’s Arts and Entertainment
Community”
Timothy G. Nutt, Historical Research Center, University of
Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m., DeGray/Ouachita Rooms

Keynote Address:

“Cooking and Dining on the Wild Side”

Phyllis Speer

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (retired)



Campers canoeing at Camp Joyzelle, late 1950s.
*Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies,
Central Library System.*

THANK YOU!

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

Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

Trey Berry

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Clark County Historical Association

Clark County Museum

Department of History, Ouachita Baptist University

J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Rex Nelson

Lisa K. Speer

Sutton School of Social Sciences, Ouachita Baptist University

University of Arkansas Press

