

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Eighty-Third Annual Conference

*Picturing Arkansas:
Depictions of Its People in Art, Photography,
Literature, Music, and Media*



April 25-27, 2024
Heber Springs

The Conference in Brief

Thursday, April 25

Preservation Workshop: 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Entropy Room, ASU-Beebe Heber Springs

Reception: 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Main Dining Room, Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

Friday, April 26

All activities at Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

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.
Main Dining Room

Tours Depart: 2:30 p.m.

Reception and Awards Banquet: 5:30 p.m.
Main Dining Room

Saturday, April 27

All activities at Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

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

Luncheon: 12:30
Main Dining Room

Cover image: Business & Professional Women's Club band float, Hot Springs, circa 1925. *Courtesy Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.*

Picturing Arkansas: Depictions of Its People in Art, Photography, Literature, Music, and Media

The eighty-third Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) annual conference will be held at Eden Isle in Heber Springs, April 25-27. Long known for its mineral springs, the Heber Springs area has been a destination of visitors for years. The first European settlers arrived in the 1830s. Since the creation of Greers Ferry Lake in the 1960s, the area has become a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts.

Conference sessions and meals will be held at the Red Apple Inn, 305 Club Road, Heber Springs, AR 72543.

Before convening for the opening reception at Eden Isle Thursday evening, Brian K. Robertson and Danielle Afsordeh from the CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will present the workshop **Preserving the Past: Organizing and Protecting Historical Materials**.

On Friday afternoon, attendees can choose from two historic tours: **The Eden Isle Tour**, led by Rachel Patton, will explore the Red Apple Inn property, and include a tour of Herbert Thomas's second home, now owned by Jeff Gilbrech. The **Greers Ferry Dam Tour**, led by Kay Goss, and including Cleburne County Judge Jerry Holmes, will visit Greers Ferry Dam, the Corps of Engineers Headquarters, and John F. Kennedy Park. During the tour attendees will learn about the history of the dam as well as future plans for the site.

The conference committee members are Brian K. Robertson, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System; Blake Perkins, Arkansas State University-Beebe; and Tom Wing, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Lodging: Attendees can reserve rooms at the Red Apple Inn, 305 Club Road, Heber Springs, AR 72543, at the rate of \$140 per night plus tax by calling 501-362-3111 **by April 1**.

Registration:

Members can complete the form received in the mail and send it with check or money order to the Arkansas Historical Association, Department of History, 416 N. Campus Drive, Main 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701 or register online at

www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org.

The registration fee is \$10. Deadline for registration with meals is **April 12.**



Photographer Geleve Grice self-portrait, circa 1950s. *Courtesy Old State House Museum.*

Thursday, April 25

Preserving the Past: Organizing and Protecting Historical Materials

1:00-3:30 p.m.

Entergy Room, ASU Beebe-Heber Springs

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Brian K. Robertson and Danielle Afsordeh will lead a two-hour workshop on archival practices aiding individuals in preserving historical photographs and documents. The session covers identifying and preserving various formats, basic digitization, digital preservation standards, and potential web access platforms. The workshop's goal is to empower attendees to organize, describe, and share their collections online.

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Main Dining Room, Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

Hosted by:

Heber Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Friday, April 26

All activities at Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

Presidents' Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.

Red Apple Inn

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

Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Welcome: 8:00 a.m. Quindell Room

Heber Springs Mayor Kasey Griffin

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

Observing Arkansas

Moderator: Steven Kite, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

“Mark Twain’s ‘Mr. Arkansas’ and Other Unflattering Images of the Territory and State, Including a Dramatic Presentation of ‘Mr. Arkansas’”

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

“Dernières Découvertes: A Book of Fact and Fiction at Arkansas Post”

Linda Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“‘A Barren, Flat Pine Country’: Depictions of Arkansas During the Camden Expedition”

David Sesser, Southeastern Louisiana University

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

Arkansas Music

Moderator: Lisa Speer, Ouachita Baptist University

“Love In Real Life and Other Strange Things Happening Every Day: A History of Arkansas Rock and Blues from Sister Rosetta Tharp to Beth Ditto”

Jacquelyn West, independent scholar

“Almeda Riddle: The Story of a Mountain Balladeer”

Brian Irby, Arkansas State Archives

“Of Medieval Kings, Pagans, and Hillbilly Poets: Beowulf, Trent Reznor, and Johnny Cash”

Barbara A. Castle, Arkansas State University-Heber Springs

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

Hosted by the University of Arkansas Press

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

Life in the Ozarks

Moderator: Brian K. Robertson, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library

“Ma and Pa and All ‘Em: A Visual Analysis of the Hillbilly Family in Bruce Seaton’s Photographs”

Rachel Trusty, Bucknell University

“Life, Work, and Back-to-the-Landers in the Arkansas Ozarks”

Billy D. Higgins and Steven Kite, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

“Picturing the Ozarks”

Rachel Whitaker and Stephanie Carter, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

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

Arkansas in Film and Television

Moderator: W. Scott Tomlin, Arkansas Tech University

“Arkansas as Community: Arkansans in the Films of Jack Hill”

Steff Leffler, Pryor Center, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Televising Hillbilly Music in the 1950s: Si Siman and the Ozark Jubilee”

Kitty Ledbetter, Texas State University, *emeritus*

“Exploring the KATV Collection”

Randall Dixon, Susan Kendrick-Perry, and John C. Davis, Pryor Center, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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

Life in the Delta

Moderator: Tom Wing, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

“Constructing Images of Arkansas Delta People”

Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Art, Literature, and Music at the Valley Plantation on Bayou Bartholomew”

Matthew P. Rooney, Arkansas Archeological Survey

“Reading FSA Photographs of the Lakeview Resettlement Farm”

Patsy Watkins, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, *emeritus*

Session 3B: 11:10 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Quindell Room

Arkansas Fiction

Moderator: Brian Irby, Arkansas State Archives

“Shame, Sugar, and Salvation in Small Town Arkansas: The Depiction of Bigelow in Two Novels by Bernice McFadden”

Timothy G. Nutt, Historical Research Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

“*Violence* by Marcet and E. Haldeman-Julius: A Fictionalized Tale of Lonnie Dixon and John Carter”

Stephanie Harp and Kwami Abdul-Bey, independent scholars

“Arkansas as Presented in the Dime Novel”

Ethel Simpson, Special Collections, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, *emeritus*

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m., Main Dining Room, Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

Business Meeting

Presiding: Rachel Patton, President

President’s Report

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Election of Trustees and Officers

Keynote Address: “The Folklife Lens: Arkansas Materials Collected at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival”

Rachel Reynolds, Cultural Continuum Consulting, LLC

Tours: Depart Red Apple Inn at 2:30 p.m.

Eden Isle Tour

Greers Ferry Dam Tour

Annual Awards Banquet

Main Dining Room, Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

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

Banquet: 6:30 p.m.

Awards Presentations

Lifetime Achievement Award

Award of Merit

Arkansas Diamond Award

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



L.C. Chalk on fiddle, tenth annual Leslie Homecoming, Leslie, 1964.
Courtesy Arkansas State Archives.

Saturday, April 27

All Activities at Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

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

Images of Arkansas

Moderator: Mark Christ, Central Arkansas Library System

“Frank Tinker and the Spanish Civil War: The Portrayal of an Arkansas Fighter Pilot in Hemingway’s Fiction”

Adam Long, Arkansas State University

“W.H. Burton, the Sage of Burney Mountain: Philosopher, Poet, and Moonshiner”

James A. Rees, independent scholar

“The Enduring Image of the ‘Arkansawyer’ as a Backwoods Character in Frontier Literature”

Fatme Myuhtar-May, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives

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

Arkansas Art

Moderator: Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University

“‘Gentle Mysticism’: Unraveling Lee Nora Parlor”

Deena R. Owens, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Depictions of Arkansans in ‘The Struggle in the South’ by Joe Jones”

Emily Housdan, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“Local Women Artists of Hempstead County”

Josh Williams, Historic Washington State Park

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

Hosted by the Arkansas State Archives

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

Indigenous Americans

Moderator: Matthew P. Rooney, Arkansas Archeological Survey

“Arkansas Indians as Seen Through George Catlin’s Words and Brush”
Erin Fehr, Sequoyah National Research Center, University of Arkansas
at Little Rock

“‘When White Men and Indians United Shall Praise’: Native American
Inclusion in the Hartford Music Company”
Savannah Skaggs, Arkansas Tech University

Rock Art Stories in the Fairfield Bay Historic District
Jill Bailey, Fairfield Bay Historic Preservation Commission

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

Political Imagery

Moderator: Rodney Harris, Williams Baptist University

“The Dixiecrat Revolt of 1948 and the Politics of Public Perception in
Arkansas”
Marie C. Totten, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“The Several Faces of George: Representations of Arkansas’s 22nd
Governor”
David Ware, Arkansas State Archives

“Wilbur D. Mills: The Congressman from Kensett”
Kay Goss, independent scholar

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

Community Studies

Moderator: Timothy G. Nutt, Historical Research Center, University
of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

“Forgotten Pioneers: Hot Springs’s Black Community and the Untold
Legacy of Post-Civil War Arkansas”
Ani-ya Beasley, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Taking Care of Sick Folks: Medical Care in the Arkansas River Valley, 1875-1975”

Taylor Prewitt, independent scholar

“Picturing Faulkner County: Representation and Ideation in a Museum Setting”

Lynita Langley-Ware, Faulkner County Museum

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

Arkansas Potpourri

Moderator: Billy D. Higgins, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

“The People’s House, Then and Now: The Legacy of the Old State House in Pictures and Prose”

Cary Cox and Samantha Ashley, Old State House Museum

“The Fayetteville Polka: Arkansas’s First Published Sheet Music”

Maylon T. Rice, independent scholar

“A Moment, Gregory, Arkansas: Analysis and Context of a Photograph of Vernacular Architecture”

Callie Williams, independent scholar

Luncheon: 12:30 p.m., Main Dining Room, Red Apple Inn, Eden Isle

Keynote Address: “Ornaments of Our Race: Disfarmer, Portis, McBride”

Robert Cochran, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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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:

Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism

Arkansas State Archives

Arkansas State University Beebe-Heber Springs

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Capitol Zoning District Commission

Heber Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

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

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