

The Newsletter of the Arkansas Historical Association

Vol. 40 No. 1 (November 2024)

Editor: Brian Irby

Order in the Court!

The Arkansas Historical Association's eighty-fourth annual conference will be held in Fort Smith this year, titled "Law and Justice in Arkansas." It will be a grand time with discussions of the history of Arkansas's legal system and the various characters that have either upheld or run afoul of the law. Fort Smith will be a fitting setting for the conference, having been the home of Arkansas's best known judge, Isaac C. Parker, famed deputy United States Marshal Bass Reeves, and fictional lawman Rooster Cogburn.

In addition to the conference sessions, there will be genealogy workshop and a reception at the Fort Smith Historic Site. Keynote for the Friday luncheon will be Catherine Foreman Gray, Historian for the Cherokee Nation. Saturday's luncheon speaker will be author Mara Leveritt. We look forward to seeing you in Fort Smith on April 10-12, 2025.

Donna Ludlow, an Appreciation



Donna Ludlow has retired as the Arkansas Historical Association's Business Manager after twenty-one years of service. Hailing from Oklahoma, she's another naturalized Arkansan who became vital to the life of the Association, sticking with us through thick and thin. Donna has counted our money and kept our books, managed our membership rolls and, most importantly, served as AHA's good-will ambassador. The Association has been fortunate, indeed, that the first person someone sees when they walk through the door of our Fayetteville

offices, and the first person people talk to if they phone up AHA, has been Donna—and not, God help us, the secretary treasurer. They are far more likely to say, "Now, that's an organization I want to join! That's an organization I want to give lots of money to!" But AHA members probably know Donna best as the soul and shepherdess of our annual conferences. From Fort Smith in 2004 through Heber Springs in 2024, she has warmly greeted and registered every attendee, fielded their concerns, and put them at peace—all with a supernatural cheerfulness. As a result, Donna must be as well regarded by a wider cross-section of the state as anyone on the University of Arkansas payroll—including (perhaps especially) football coaches.

AHA thanks Donna Ludlow for all she has done on our behalf and wishes her the best in a new stage of life, where she will never again have to explain to a caller that sorry, no, we are *not* the Arkansas State Archives. She will instead be tending to passels of grandchildren and even great-grandchildren—none of whom are likely to make as much mischief as the average AHA member.

Arkansas Historical Association

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Y'all Come Out:



Preserve Arkansas will hold its annual Ramble, titled “Delta Determination: A Legacy of Resilience” on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Preserve Arkansas Rambles are bus trips that explore Arkansas’s heritage sites for an exceptional experience filled with history and fun. This year’s Ramble will travel to significant historic places throughout the Southeast Arkansas Delta associated with the region’s legacy of strength and resilience, including the Dunbar Jr. and Sr. High School, Lakeport Plantation Museum, UAM’s Taylor House, Selma Rosenwald School, WWII Japanese American Internment Camp Museum, Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery, John H. Johnson House, UAPB Museum and Cultural Center, and more. To cap off the day, rambblers will enjoy dinner at Colonial Steakhouse in Pine Bluff.

Full-day tickets with charter bus transportation are \$150 each and include transportation from North Little Rock, historic site tours, snacks and libations on the bus. A cash bar will be available during dinner at Colonial Steakhouse. Half-day tickets are available at \$100 each for those who wish to provide their own transportation; they include lunch, dinner, and site tours.

Seating is limited, so register soon at www.preservearkansas.org.



The **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Historical Research Center** is pleased to announce the opening of “Making a Difference: The M. Joycelyn Elders, MD., Collection,” a digital collection documenting the career of Joycelyn Elders, M.D. Elders was born in Howard County in southwest Arkansas and graduated from UAMS in 1960. As a doctor, Elders wanted to improve the lives of children and became the first person in Arkansas to become certified in pediatric endocrinology. In 1987, she was appointed by Governor Bill Clinton to lead the Arkansas Department of Health, the first woman and African American to hold that position. President Clinton later appointed her to the office of United States Surgeon General. After her time in the Clinton Administration, she returned to UAMS in 1995 as a faculty researcher and served as a professor of pediatric endocrinology at Arkansas Children’s Hospital until her retirement in 2002.

The digital collection, which includes images, videos and documents, may be viewed at <https://hrcdigitalcollections.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17317coll2>



The **Shiloh Museum of Ozark History** is partnering with the **Arkansas Archeological Survey** for the 5th annual Native American Days all-virtual education event on November 21 and 22, 2024. A variety of sessions highlighting the history and culture of Native Americans in Arkansas will be offered for registered attendees over a span of two days. Session recordings will be available following the two-day event. This event fits Arkansas curriculum standards for grades 5 to 7 but is open to all grades. All sessions over the two days are free but registration is required. All registered participants will receive access to a digital page of resources for educators and students as well as recordings of all sessions. To register visit the Shiloh Museum website <https://shilohmuseum.org/native-american-days/native-american-days-registration/>

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The **Arkansas State Archives** has unveiled a new traveling exhibit for the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 1874 Arkansas Constitution. The exhibit features text giving the history of the various constitutions that have governed the state since 1836. The exhibit explains the historical context of the Constitution and how it has developed through the amendment process over the last century and a half. It also goes into depth on attempts to replace the constitution. The exhibit is available to travel to schools and other public spaces by contacting Julienne Crawford at julienne.crawford@arkansas.gov.

Attention teachers and students! **The Arkansas Historical Association** is proud to announce its sponsorship of two awards for students taking part in National History Day. The awards will recognize the best use of *Chronicling America*, the Library of Congress's website that makes digitized historic newspapers available to researchers for free, in student projects. Many of Arkansas's historic newspapers have been included in *Chronicling America* thanks to the work by the **Arkansas Digital Newspaper Project**. The core motivation behind History Day is to allow students to learn the basics of historical research using primary sources and then evaluate historical evidence to come to a thesis that is reflected in the final project. Projects can be in the form of papers, visual exhibits, documentaries, websites, or performances. The AHA is sponsoring two \$100 awards, one for the senior category and one for the junior category. For more information about History Day and the *Chronicling America* awards, visit <https://arkansashistoryday.org/> or contact Angela Adams, State History Day Coordinator, nhdar@uca.edu.

Look Here!



Thanksgiving is coming! In 1918, officers at the Quartermaster's Department at Camp Pike enjoyed quite a spread for Thanksgiving. At noon on November 28, 1918, 126 soldiers sat for a dinner of roast pork, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, creamed corn, buttered peas, chocolate layer cake, pumpkin pie, and cinnamon rolls, among other delectables.

After the meal, soldiers could wander down to the Liberty Theater in the camp to enjoy live music from musicians from across the state and dancing. (Photo Courtesy of the *Arkansas State Archives*)

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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.”



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 \$25; Individual, two year for \$45;

Family, one year for \$35; Family, two year for \$55;

Foreign, one year for \$35; Student, one year for \$15;

Contributing, one year for \$55; 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;
visit the AHA website arkansashistoricalassociation.org.
