

ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Seventy-Eighth Annual Conference



Stuttgart

April 11–13, 2019

Once the domain of tall grasses, abundant game, and a few scattered landowners, the settlement of Stuttgart began in earnest 140 years ago when Rev. Adam Buerkle of Plattenhardt, Germany, arrived with two groups of German Lutherans. He established a post office, naming it Stuttgart after the city near his birthplace. The completion in 1883 of the Cotton Belt Railway through the Grand Prairie provided a way to ship local products, chiefly hay and cattle, to Midwestern markets.

Stuttgart was incorporated in 1889. The concurrent arrival of a group of astute developers and realtors, who organized railroad excursions to Stuttgart, attracted many new settlers from Midwestern and Mid-South states. These early residents started businesses such as furniture factories, livery stables, flour, grist and feed mills, wagon makers, farm implement factories, well drillers, dairies, blacksmith shops, and a concrete plant.

The most lasting development in Stuttgart's history occurred in the early 1900s, when a successful rice crop was grown in the vicinity. By 1907, Arkansas's first rice mill was built, and the city experienced a boom in growth. Rice production took off in a big way, made viable by the prairie's clay soil layer, which supported irrigation. Formed in 1921, the Arkansas Rice Grower's Cooperative Association (today's Riceland Foods) grew into the world's largest rice miller and marketer.

Soon area farms were cultivating hundreds of thousands of acres of rice which, after the fall harvest, were flooded. With an abundance of surface water, nutritious flooded rice fields and a convenient Mississippi Flyway location, millions of migratory waterfowl began wintering in the region. Grand Prairie residents quickly realized the opportunities commercial duck hunting would provide for their area. Lodges, guiding services, and suppliers were established, aiding the area's economy then as now.

The first National Duck Calling Contest was held here in 1936, inspired by a dispute among local duck hunters as to which one was the best caller. Now known as the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, the event is part of Stuttgart's Wings over the Prairie Festival.

Stuttgart, the "Rice and Duck Capital of the World," maintains its reputation as a progressive and diverse city. Thank you for coming to visit us and enjoy your stay. *Willkommen in Stuttgart!*

Cover: Stuttgart Rice Mill Company, 1915. *Courtesy Arkansas State Archives*

The Conference in Brief

Thursday, April 11

- 1:00–3:00 p.m. Genealogy workshop, Grand Prairie Center
3:15–4:30 p.m. Session I-A, Grand Prairie Center
Session I-B, Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie
6:00–7:30 p.m. Reception, Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

Friday, April 12

Registration, sessions, reception, and meals at the Grand Prairie Center.

- 7:30 a.m. Registration opens
8:00 a.m. Welcome, Salon B
8:20–9:30 a.m. Session II-A, Salon B
Session II-B, PCC Seminar Room
9:30–9:50 a.m. Break
9:50–11:00 a.m. Session III-A, Salon B
Session III-B, PCC Seminar Room
11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m. Session IV-A, Salon B
Session IV-B, PCC Seminar Room
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 13

Sessions and meals at the Grand Prairie Center.

- 8:30–9:40 a.m. Session V-A, Salon B
Session V-B, Riceland Auditorium
9:40–9:50 a.m. Coffee Break
9:50–11:00 a.m. Session VI-A, Salon B
Session VI-B, Riceland Auditorium
11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m. Session VII-A, Salon B
Session VII-B, Riceland Auditorium
12:30–1:45 p.m. Luncheon

LAND, RACE, AND IDENTITY

General Information

The seventy-eighth Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) annual conference will be held in Stuttgart, April 11–13. Founded in the late nineteenth century by German immigrants, Stuttgart has a rich history as one of Arkansas's most important agricultural centers, known especially for its rice production and waterfowl habitat. The conference will mark several major anniversaries, including the bicentennial of the formation of Arkansas Territory and the centennial of the Elaine Race Massacre. Presentations will be offered on a broad array of topics from all time periods that illuminate how the land—and ideas about it—have intersected with various identities, including race, to help shape the history of Arkansas.

The conference is headquartered at the Grand Prairie Center. The Thursday afternoon genealogy workshop is at the Grand Prairie Center. Thursday night's reception is at the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie. Friday registration, sessions, break, luncheon, reception, and awards banquet take place at the Grand Prairie Center and at the Phillips Community College UA Seminar Room next door. Friday afternoon tours will leave from and return to the Grand Prairie Center. Saturday sessions and luncheon are at the Grand Prairie Center.

View an online map of conference locations at goo.gl/jjtvAf.

The conference committee members are Steve Kite (conference co-chair), University of Arkansas–Fort Smith; Blake Perkins (program chair), Williams Baptist University; and Susan Young (conference co-chair), Shiloh Museum of Ozark History. The local arrangements committee members are Raeann Refeld Braithwaite, Glenn Mosenthin, Gena Seidenschwarz, and Bill Shrum.

Registration

Complete the enclosed registration form and send it with check or money order to the Arkansas Historical Association, Department of History, Old Main 416, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. You may also register online at www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org. The registration fee is \$10. **Deadline for registration is March 29.**

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 29** using the enclosed registration form. Meal prices include tax and gratuity.

Lodging

Tru by Hilton (204 W 22nd St.) is the host hotel for the conference. A block of 60 rooms will be offered **until March 19** at a special nightly rate of \$99 plus tax. Call 870-672-7505 to make reservations; mention the Arkansas Historical Association conference to receive the discount rate.

Other nearby lodging options:

Days Inn and Suites
708 W. Michigan Street
870-673-3616

Quality Inn and Suites
704 W. Michigan Street
870-673-2575

Thursday Afternoon Genealogy Workshop

Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Jeanne N. Rollberg, M.A., American Dream Genealogy and Research; board, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Gary W. Jones, ABD Heritage Studies, Arkansas State University; board, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Session I. Not All Who Wander Are Lost: Research, Heritage Tourism, and Genealogy Travel

Historical investigation plays important roles in family history inquiry. Interdisciplinary study helps us understand our family trees more fully. This session will include an overview of family research, reunions, and heritage tourism, along with an exploration of individual family locations that provide historical context and color for family researchers and family history writers. Tips will be shared on research preparation, contextual tourism, and investigation of family locales.

Session II. A Boy Named Sue: Your Family's Genealogical Identity

Reflecting the themes of the AHA conference, this session will examine our own and our families' identities both in Arkansas and beyond. Samples of identity such as that of Chinese grocers in the Arkansas Delta, Japanese Americans at Rohwer and Jerome, African Americans, and others will be discussed.

The workshop is free for AHA members and \$20 for non-members, who will be automatically enrolled as AHA members.

Thursday Evening Reception

Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, 921 E. 4th Street

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Mix and mingle amongst local history. The story starts in 1878, when German Lutheran missionary Rev. Adam Buerkle bought 11,000 acres of tallgrass prairie and a few abandoned buildings. From this initial purchase of grassland rose a center of rice production. A variety of exhibits are on display from farms, families, and merchants, along with four historic buildings and beautiful irrigation engines. *Sponsored by the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie and the Grand Prairie Historical Society*

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.

Limited space available; pre-registration encouraged. Note on your conference registration form that you want to sign up for one of the tours. Slots will be filled in the order that registrations are received. Buses will leave from and return to the Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South.

Tour Option 1. St. Charles Museum

The St. Charles Museum has outstanding interpretations of the 1862 Battle of St. Charles, the CCC's "floating camp" established in 1935 to develop a federal wildlife refuge along the lower White River, the mussel-shelling industry, and lower White River culture in general. Outside the museum is one of two cannons recovered from the 1862 battle, and the only known monument to the dead of both sides of a Civil War conflict.

Tour Option 2. A Trip to "Research Row"

Tour the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center and the Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center, two renowned facilities located side-by-side on Arkansas Highway 130 just east of Stuttgart. The Rice Research Center conducts studies on yield, pest resistance, and cooking quality of rice. The Aquaculture Research Center focuses on improving the production of warm-water fish such as bass and catfish, mainly for human consumption. Your tour guides will be Dr. Anna McClung, Rice Center director; and Dr. Carl Webster, Aquaculture Center director.

Tour Option 3. Native Grasslands of the Grand Prairie: Remnants and Restorations

Note: This tour will be conducted via carpool. Meet at the Grand Prairie Center main entrance at 1:55 p.m. Join Theo Witsell, ecologist and botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, on a visit to Roth Prairie Natural Area (an ancient prairie remnant southwest of Stuttgart), and to an ongoing prairie restoration project at the Stuttgart Airport. Roth Prairie is one of the last remnants of an ancient ecosystem that has declined by approximately 99.9% over the last two hundred years. See an example of the landscape as it would have appeared in the early nineteenth century and witness the extraordinary biodiversity that even a tiny remnant supports. Dress for the weather and for a one-mile walk that may get a little wet in places.

Friday Reception and Awards Banquet

Reception, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

Enjoy beer, wine, soft drinks, and camaraderie as the evening builds toward the highly anticipated annual awards banquet. *Sponsored by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System*

Please indicate on the registration form that you will attend the reception.

Banquet, 7:15 p.m.

Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

Posters and Exhibits on Display at the Conference

The Elaine Race Massacre of 1919: A Multimedia Research Project
Students of Lisa Lacefield, Valley View Junior High School

The Arkansas Truth and Reconciliation Memorial Project
Kwami and Clarice Abdul-Bey, Washitaʼw Foothills Youth Media Arts & Literacy Collective

Thursday, April 11

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Salon B, Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

Jeanne N. Rollberg, M.A., American Dream Genealogy and Research; board, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Gary W. Jones, ABD Heritage Studies, Arkansas State University; board, Friends of the Arkansas State Archives

Salon B, Grand Prairie Center

Session I-A, 3:15–4:30 p.m.

STUTTGART AND THE GRAND PRAIRIE IN ARKANSAS HISTORY

Moderator: Glenn Mosenthin, Grand Prairie Historical Society

Waterfowl and Hunting on the Grand Prairie

Eddie Lumsden, Bayou Meto Schoolhouse Lodge

The Grand Prairie's Slovak Community

Dan and Paula Hooks, members of the Slovak American community

Stuttgart in Arkansas History

Glenn Mosenthin and Burk Buerkle, local historians

Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, 921 E. 4th Street

Session I-B, 3:15–4:30 p.m.

STUTTGART AND THE GRAND PRAIRIE IN ARKANSAS HISTORY

Moderator: Gena Seidenschwarz, Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

Waterfowl and Hunting on the Grand Prairie

Wayne Capooth, Brent Birch, and Mike Lewis, Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

EVENING RECEPTION

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie, 921 E. 4th Street

Sponsored by the Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie and the Grand Prairie Historical Society

Friday, April 12

Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

Grand Hall

Registration, 7:30 a.m.

Salon B

Welcome, 8:00 a.m.

David Earney, Mayor of Stuttgart

Please note: "B" track sessions take place in the Seminar Room at Phillips Community College UA, a short walk across the parking lot from the Grand Prairie Center.

Salon B, Grand Prairie Center

Session II-A, 8:20–9:30 a.m.

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS TO ARKANSAS, OR NOT, 1867–1910

Moderator: David Sesser, Henderson State University

"Greet Every One with a Cordial Welcome": Arkansas Immigration Societies, 1867–1910

Lisa K. Speer, Ouachita Baptist University

"Many Families Might Find a Happy and Independent Home": The Irish Catholic Colonization Association and St. Patrick's Irish Catholic Colony in Yell and Perry Counties

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

"The Vast Tide of Immigration...Only Awaits Our Action": The Failure of the Powell Clayton Administration's Commission of Immigration and State Lands

Brian Irby, Arkansas State Archives

Bohemian Immigration to Dardanelle, Arkansas

Mildred Diane Gleason, Gleason Historical Studies

Seminar Room, Phillips Community College UA

Session II-B, 8:20–9:30 a.m.

NATIVE AMERICANS AND THEIR GROUND

Moderator: Sonia Toudji, University of Central Arkansas

Quapaw History and Culture Visualized

Linda Jones, University of Arkansas

Becoming the Western Cherokee Nation: Land and Sovereignty in Early Nineteenth-Century Arkansas

Austin Stewart, Lehigh University

Atlantic Routes and Native Paths: Geographic Literacy and Fugitive Slave Activity in Nineteenth-Century Arkansas

Tessa Neblett Evans, University of Tennessee

Grand Prairie Center

Break, 9:30–9:50 a.m.

Sponsored by the Bank of Cave City and the University of Arkansas Press

Salon B, Grand Prairie Center

Session III-A, 9:50–11:00 a.m.

**THE ELAINE MASSACRE OF 1919: NEW CONTEXTS, NEW SOURCES,
NEW PERSPECTIVES**

Moderator: Guy Lancaster, Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture

Black Organizing through Fraternal Orders: Black Mobilization and White Backlash

Adrienne A. Jones, Center for Arkansas History and Culture

When the Depths Don't Give Up Their Dead: A Discussion of New Primary Sources and How They are Reshaping Debate on the Elaine Massacre

Brian K. Mitchell, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

With Intent to Destroy: What Labels Can Reveal About Elaine

Richard Buckelew, Bethune-Cookman University

Seminar Room, Phillips Community College UA

Session III-B, 9:50–11:00 a.m.

NAVIGATING “WHITENESS” IN ARKANSAS

Moderator: Kevin Butler, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Becoming White: Germans Navigating Race in 1892 Arkansas

Kathleen Condray, University of Arkansas

Out of the Fire and Into the Water: Access, Leisure, and the African American Community in Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1913–63

Daniel Chmill, University of Kansas

Branding a “White Preserve”: Slum Clearance, Urban Renewal, and the Creation of One-Race Communities in Little Rock

Monica N. Campbell, University of Mississippi

Memory Unearthed: An Archeological Investigation of Two Sites on Little Rock’s Historic West Ninth Street

Devin Sorrows, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Salon B, Grand Prairie Center

Session IV-A, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

ENGINEERING A NATURAL STATE IDENTITY

Moderator: Chris Mortenson, Ouachita Baptist University

“Curiosity of the First Magnitude”: Making Hot Springs Reserve a Southern Landscape

Cane West, University of South Carolina

Capt. Henry Sheldon Taber: Leadership and Insight at the U.S. Corps of Engineers

Vincent S. Anderson, Donald W. Reynolds Library, Mountain Home

Teaching Farmers to Love Their Trees: The Role of Research, Demonstration, and Extension Forestry in Arkansas

Don C. Bragg, U.S. Forest Service

Ernest Vivian Visart: Arkansas’s First Game Warden

Buck T. Foster, University of Central Arkansas

Seminar Room, Phillips Community College UA

Session IV-B, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

POLITICAL POWER, LAND, AND THE DISPOSSESSED

Moderator: Rodney W. Harris, Williams Baptist University

“We Used to Own Land, but...”: Oral Histories from Elaine

Mary Olson, William Quincey III, and James White, Elaine Legacy Center

The Voiceless and the Political Bourbons: The Limits of New Deal Programs to East Arkansas’s Rural Poor

Revis Edmonds, Old Statehouse Museum

Congressman E. C. Gathings, Arkansas Rice, and Cuba during the Cold War

Erika Isbill, Arkansas State University

Salon A, Grand Prairie Center

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

Speaker

Rectifying the Identity of a Black Southerner

Calvin White Jr., University of Arkansas

TOURS, 2:00–4:30 p.m.

Buses and carpools will depart from and return to the Grand Prairie Center.

- St. Charles Museum
 - A Trip to “Research Row”
 - Native Grasslands of the Grand Prairie: Remnants and Restorations
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RECEPTION, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

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

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, 7:15 p.m.

Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

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

Awards Presentation

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

Grand Prairie Gleanings

Rosalie Goes Shopping (1989) is an eccentric, comical critique of American consumerism. In its quirky fashion, the film reflects the growing multinational, digitized nature of debtor economics and underscores the reality that consumerism is not limited to those living in large cities. Filmed almost entirely in Arkansas, this German-produced film is centered in Stuttgart.

Bryan L. Moore, Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

Saturday, April 13

President's Breakfast

7:30 a.m., Tru by Hilton

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

Saturday sessions and luncheon take place at the Grand Prairie Center, 2709 Highway 165 South

Salon B

Session V-A, 8:30–9:40 a.m.

SLAVERY, RACE, AND LAND IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY ARKANSAS

Moderator: S. Charles Bolton, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Slavery and the Creation of Arkansas Territory: A Reassessment
James J. Gigantino, University of Arkansas

Arkansas's Digests of Laws: Process, Context, and Consequences
Jim Tuten, Juniata College

Environmental Change, Wild Resources, and African American Life on the Arkansas Frontier

Story Matkin-Rawn, University of Central Arkansas
Theo Witsell, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Riceland Auditorium

Session V-B, 8:30–9:40 a.m.

ARKANSAS HEALTHCARE AND HUMANITARIANS

Moderator: Kathy Anderson, University of Arkansas at Monticello

A Legacy of a True Humanitarian: Dr. Claude Melnotte Wade
Bryan McDade, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Arkansas's Hospital Unit T in World War I
Carolyn Kent, independent researcher

Session V-B continued on next page

Within a Prescribed Sphere: Eva Dodge's Quiet Resistance
*CaLee Henderson, Historical Research Center, University of Arkansas for
Medical Sciences*

Coffee Break, 9:40–9:50 a.m.

Sponsored by Stuttgart Rotary Club

Salon B

Session VI-A, 9:50–11:00 a.m.

ARKANSAS SCOUNDRELS, FEUDISTS, AND MOONSHINERS

Moderator: John Kyle Day, University of Arkansas at Monticello

Unblushing, Low, Degraded Scoundrels Revisited: George W.

Featherstonhaugh's Perceptions of Arkansas, 1834

Andrew Milson, University of Texas at Arlington

Violence, Power, and Influence on the Grand Prairie: The Eagle-Booe
Feud in Lonoke County, 1898

Tom DeBlack, Arkansas Tech University

“A Peculiar Outlawry”: Moonshine in North Howard and South Polk
Counties, 1890s

Lisa C. Childs, University of Arkansas

Riceland Auditorium

Session VI-B, 9:50–11:00 a.m.

IDENTITY IN EARLY NINETEENTH-CENTURY SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

Moderator: Wendy Richter, Arkansas State Archives

Race in Territorial Hempstead County

Rebecca Ballard, Arkansas State Archives

Class in Territorial Hempstead County

Wendy Richter, Arkansas State Archives

Gender in Territorial Hempstead County

Jane Wilkerson, Arkansas State Archives

Salon B

Session VII-A, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

DELTA CULTURAL HERITAGE

Moderator: Jeannie Whayne, University of Arkansas

Mythmaking in the Delta: The Southern Atonement of Wilson,
Arkansas

E. Ashley Clayborn, University of Georgia

Rev. Green Hill Jones: From Slavery to the Arkansas General Assembly

Blake Wintory, Heritage Foundation of Williamson County, Tennessee

“It Sounds Like We All Got Religion, Don’t It?”: How Levon Helm and
The Band Brought the Sound of the Arkansas Delta to the World

Aaron Russell, Arkansas State University

Riceland Auditorium

Session VII-B, 11:10 a.m.–12:20 p.m.

THEM THERE HILL FOLKS

Moderator: Brooks Blevins, Missouri State University

When Becoming American Became a Liability: Tontitown Italians,
Grape Juice, and Prohibition

Rebecca A. Howard, Lone Star College-Montgomery

“The Largest Cooperage Factory in the World”: The H.D. Williams and
Export Cooperage Companies of Leslie, Arkansas, 1906-27

Darren Bell, Arkansas State Archives

The Ozark Mystic Vision: Hipbillies, Farming, and the Renewal of
Arkadia

Jared M. Phillips, University of Arkansas

Salon A

LUNCHEON, 12:30–1:45 p.m.

The Significance of the Territory in Arkansas History

Joseph Key, Arkansas State University

NOTES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 2020 AHA annual conference will take place in Russellville, April 16-18.

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:

Bank of Cave City

Raeann Refeld Braithwaite

Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

Department of Arkansas Heritage

Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center

First Baptist Church, Stuttgart

First United Methodist Church of Stuttgart

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

Grand Prairie Center

Grand Prairie Historical Society

Anna McClung

Glenn Mosenthin

Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie

Party House Liquor

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

Renee Robison

Gena Seidenschwarz

Steve Stillwell

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

Stuttgart High School Jazz Band

Stuttgart Rotary Club

University of Arkansas Press

Carl Webster

Theo Witsell

