

Arkansas Historical Association

Eightieth Annual Conference

*Collective Memory in the Natural State:
Commemoration, Preservation, and Reconciliation*



A patron tries out the brand new electronic catalog system, InfoLinks, at the University of Arkansas's Mullins Library in 1993. *Courtesy Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.*

June 3-5, 2021

The Conference in Brief

Thursday, June 3

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Welcome and AHA Business Meeting
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30 - 1:40 p.m.	Begin logging into conference platform
1:40 - 2:40 p.m.	Session I
2:40 - 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	Session II
3:45 - 3:50 p.m.	Break
3:50 - 4:50 p.m.	Session III
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Virtual Reception and Arkansas Trivia Night

Friday, June 4

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Session IV
9:30 - 9:35 a.m.	Break
9:35 - 10:35 a.m.	Session V
10:35 - 10:40 a.m.	Break
10:40 - 11:25 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Carla Coleman
11:25 - 11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	AHA Awards Presentation

Saturday, June 5

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Session VI
9:30 - 9:35 a.m.	Break
9:35 - 10:35 a.m.	Session VII
10:35 - 10:40 a.m.	Break
10:40 - 11:40 a.m.	Session VIII
11:40 - 11:45 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm

The Eightieth Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) annual conference will be held virtually, June 3-5, 2021. The conference committee members are Kelly Houston Jones (conference chair), Arkansas Tech University; Brian K. Mitchell (program chair), University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Rachel Silva Patton (local arrangements), Preserve Arkansas; and Kathy Anderson (local arrangements), Philander Smith College.

Complete the online registration form at the Arkansas Historical Association's website, www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org. The registration fee is \$15, plus a small online processing fee. Registration will open May 10 and close June 1.

Collective Memory in the Natural State: Commemoration, Preservation, and Reconciliation

Like other Americans, Arkansans have recently intensified their focus on the people, places, and events that our society remembers or forgets, and the many ways in which those remembrances occur. 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. Many of our presenters highlight how certain places have come to have particular meanings and how those meanings change. We also seek to stoke discussion about prospects for reconciling with our state's often oppressive, violent history.

Pictured here, the George Berry Washington Memorial near Earle commemorates the life of a man who was born into slavery and became a community leader and wealthy landowner in Crittenden County. *Courtesy of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.*



Thursday, June 3

Welcome and AHA Business Meeting: 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- President's Report
- Secretary-Treasurer's Report
- Election of Trustees and Officers

Lunch Break: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Virtual Conference Platform Opens at 1:30

Moderator: Rebecca Howard

Session I: 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Recorded Memories: Tracing Arkansas Through Archival Sources

“Collective Memory in Northeast Arkansas: The KAIT/A-State News Film Collection”

Gary Jones, KAITV

“Segregated Histories: The Pitfalls and Opportunities of County Histories”

Heather McNamee, Jonesboro

“Tracing Narratives of Slavery and Reconciliation in NEARA's Court Records”

Fatme Myuhtar-May, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives

Break: 2:40 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Session II: 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

People, Places, and Impact

“Abraham Lincoln, Fort Smith, and Little Big Horn: The Impact of the Fort Smith Council on U.S. Indian Policy”

W. Dale Weeks, Blinn College

“The Sudden Rise and Long Fall of the Irons Fork Experimental Forest”

Don C. Bragg, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station

“Lost Arkansas: Historic Site Mapping in GIS”

Jaimie Sloan, St. Charles, Missouri

Break: 3:45 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

Session III: 3:50 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.
What Makes a Community?

“Women Homesteaders in the Ouachita Foothills: ‘I know how to farm’”
Lisa C. Childs, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Communication in 17th-century Quapaw/French Interactions”
Linda C. Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Valley of Litter: Notes toward a Necessarily Incomplete Survey of Human Habitation in the Cove Creek Watershed, Time Immemorial to 2021”
Liam McMahon, Natural Dam

Virtual Reception and Arkansas Trivia Night: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Ian Beard and *CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas*



Librarian Alberta Bailey assists historian Willard B. Gatewood, Jr. with the new technology at Mullins Library. To their left works librarian Barbara Dean. *Courtesy Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.*

Friday, June 4

Moderator: Kwami Abdul-Bey

Session IV: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Arkansas History Across the Century

“‘Cover to Cover’: The Illustrated History of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 1942-2021”

Maylon Rice, Fayetteville

“Cuban ‘Marielitos’: Perceptions of a People and Life in Detainment at Fort Chaffee”

Caroline Speir, Fort Smith Historical Society

“The Marielitos at Fort Chaffee in 1980: Misunderstood and Misrepresented”

Erin Langford, Fort Smith

Break: 9:30 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.

Session V: 9:35 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

Narratives of Freedom Struggles in Arkansas

“Facts, Truth, and Memory: When Recorded History is Privileged over the Oral Histories of Black Lived Experience”

RoAnne Elliott, Washington County Community Remembrance Project Coalition

Dr. Valandra, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Commemorating the Freedom Rides at Sixty: A Grassroots Perspective”

John A. Kirk, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“Quiet Revolutions: The Struggle for Equal Rights for African Americans and Women at Arkansas Tech”

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

Break: 10:35 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: 10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.

Carla Coleman, Black History Commission of Arkansas

“The Meaning of Commemorate: Why We Should Commemorate African-American Cemeteries and Burial Grounds”

Break: 11:25 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

AHA Awards Presentation: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Tom Dillard Advocacy Award

J. G. Ragsdale Book Award

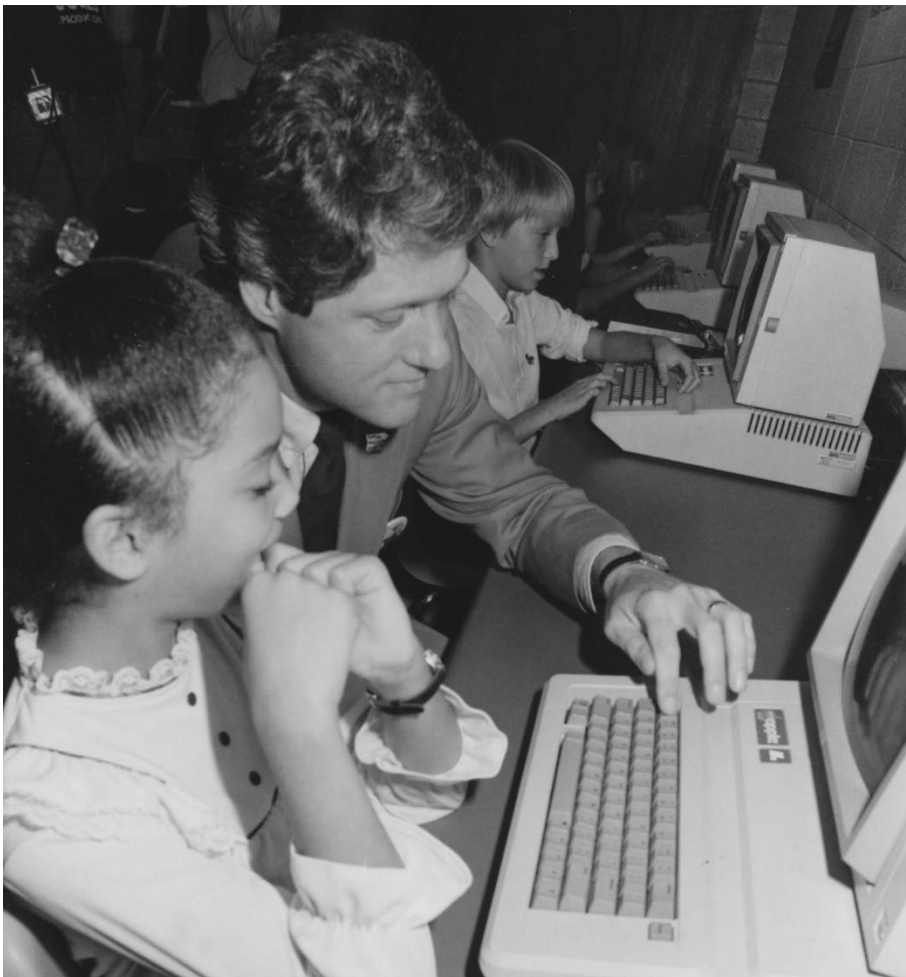
J. H. Atkinson Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Arkansas History

Lucille Westbrook Award

Violet B. Gingles Award

James L. Foster and Billy W. Beason Award

Walter L. Brown County and Local Journal Awards



Governor Bill Clinton works with a student at a computer on a school visit (date and location unknown). *Courtesy Central Arkansas Library System, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.*

Saturday, June 5

Moderators: Story Matkin-Rawn and Kelly Houston Jones

Session VI: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Remembering the Black Experience in Arkansas

“Arkansas Jubilees: Communities Commemorate the End of Slavery”

Kelly Houston Jones, Arkansas Tech University

“Breaking Barriers in ‘A Place Called Hope’”

Revis Edmonds, Old State House Museum

Break: 9:30 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.

Session VII: 9:35 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

Place and the Construction of Identity

“Building Delta Plantations: Indiana Carpenters in the Mississippi Delta”

Blake J. Wintory, Heritage Foundation of Williamson County (TN)

“Building a Monument to 4-H: One Disco at a Time”

Hope Bragg, 4-H Youth Development

“Place and Memory: A Critical Exploration of Listening to Place in Community to Understand Our Present”

Katie Powell, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Break: 10:35 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Session VIII: 10:40 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

New Understandings of European Immigration to Arkansas

“Italian Migrants, Racial Politics, and Radical Thought”

Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“German Settlers, Racial Voter Suppression, and the Election of 1892”

Kathleen Condray, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Two Hundred Years of French Immigration and Quapaw Alliance in Arkansas”

Linda C. Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Break: 11:40 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

“What the Rest of the World Can Teach America about Addressing Histories of Violence”



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:

Ian Beard

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