

Call for Presentations

Arkansas at Work: Histories of Labor, Land, and Learning



Arkansas Historical Association 85th Annual Conference April 9-11, 2026 Monticello, Arkansas

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) invites proposals for its eighty-fifth annual conference in Monticello, April 9-11, 2026. We seek presentations on a wide range of topics from all time periods that explore the history of Arkansas at work, from the production and trade of material goods by Indigenous peoples for hundreds of generations to a diverse economy based on agriculture, mining, forestry, manufacturing, and tourism in more modern times. Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes. Use of audiovisual elements is encouraged.

Monticello, established as the seat of Drew County in 1849, has been an enduring commercial hub in southeastern Arkansas. Located on the Little Rock, Mississippi River, and Texas Railroad beginning in the 1880s, and later at the juncture of two major roads, Monticello experienced steady population growth throughout the 20th century. A diversified infrastructure, including commerce, agriculture, timber operations, health care, and education, has provided a strong economic base for the town. Monticello is the home of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, originally established in 1910 as the Fourth District State Agricultural School. The historic Monticello Post Office, now home to the town's Economic Development Commission, is one of nineteen places in Arkansas where Depression-era post-office art may be viewed. During World War II, Camp Monticello was established in 1943 south of town to house Italian POWs.

Please send proposals of approximately 200 words to: Lisa Speer, program chair

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Ouachita Baptist University
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Proposals should be submitted by October 14, 2025, and include a mailing address, telephone number, and email address. Proposals may be submitted by email. Please contact the program chair with any questions. **All presenters must be members in good standing of the AHA. Membership details are available on the AHA website at arkansashistoricalassociation.org.** Those submitting proposals should be certain they can attend the conference. Acceptance of a proposal requires the denial of others, and conference sessions are built upon the expectation that those presentations will be made.