

Call for Presentations



Food^{and} Foodways

April 1-3, 2027
Russellville, Arkansas

The Arkansas Historical Association invites proposals for its eighty-sixth annual conference in Russellville, April 1-3, 2027. We seek **presentations on a wide range of topics pertaining to the history of Arkansas food and foodways and their broader impact on Arkansas life and culture**. Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes. Use of audiovisual elements is encouraged.

Russellville was named for Dr. Thomas Russell, an early white settler, sometime in the mid-1840s; but the region had long been inhabited by Native Americans. Used as a hunting ground by the Missouri Osage and a focus of Cherokee settlement in the early 19th century, Pope County was the site of Dwight Mission, the first formal Protestant effort to re-educate and convert Native Americans in Arkansas (1820-1829). Russellville was strategically located on an east-west road from Little Rock to Fort Smith and a north-south buffalo trail to a ford on the Arkansas River. An area divided by sentiment during the Civil War, Pope County saw violence during Reconstruction. The coming of the railroad in 1873 boosted the growth of Russellville, and the county seat moved there from Dover in 1887. This continued growth resulted in the town being chosen as a site for one of Arkansas's four agricultural schools. Second District Agricultural School became Arkansas Polytechnic College in 1925, and then Arkansas Tech University in 1976. Russellville is also the site of Arkansas's only operational nuclear power plant, Nuclear One, operating since 1974.

Proposals must be submitted by Friday, October 16, 2026, and must 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.

Please send proposals of approximately 200 words to:

Lisa Speer, program chair
speerl@obu.edu

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