

# ALHA

ARKANSAS LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Volume 9 Issue 4

Fall 2015

## 2016 Annual ALHA Conference

ALHA 2016 Conference "History Is In Your Nature"  
March 4 - 6, 2016

Van Buren, Arkansas Hosted by the UAFS Drennen-Scott National Historic Site  
Experience nature and history at the 2016 Arkansas Living History Conference in Van Buren, Arkansas. Arkansas is known as "The Natural State" with an abundance of natural resources, native animals, native plants and gardens, historical sites and buildings, and a rich history. Explore how living historians are using nature and history together to discover, experience, educate, and inspire. Packets containing detailed information about the conference will be going out at the first of the year.

There will be several officer positions up for election that will need to be filled. Nominations will be accepted and voted on during the business luncheon at the ALHA conference in March. Positions needing to be filled are:

**Vice President-** The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board, and shall perform such other duties as the Executive Board may direct.

**Treasurer-** The treasurer shall have custody of all monies belonging to the Association, shall account of all expenditures and receipts, and shall report thereon at the annual meeting of the Association, and to the Executive Board whenever so directed by them. The treasurer shall file all tax information as required by law, on behalf of the Association. The finance records may be inspected by any member, for any purposes, by making an appointment with the Treasurer. The Treasurer will submit quarterly financial reports to the general membership by publication in the Newsletter. Previous experience with bookkeeping and a knowledge of QuickBooks or Quicken helpful.

**Communications Director-** The communications director shall be responsible for producing the official quarterly newsletter of the Association, and of managing the Association's website.

**District 1 Representative and District 3 Representative-** Serve as a board member and attend quarterly board meetings. Organize at least one ALHA sponsored event in their district each year.

## Volunteers Needed

Statehood day will be on Saturday, June 11, 2016 and Little Rock museum professionals are already beginning to talk about ways we can commemorate the movement for women's suffrage in Arkansas 100 years ago. As with most political history, our region and our state have a different women's suffrage narrative than other areas of the country. This gives us the chance to tell a unique story.

If you are interested in being involved in this often overlooked portion of our state's history, please contact Leah Lambert at the Old State House Museum at [leah@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:leah@arkansasheritage.org). Even if you do not want to participate in costumed interpretation for this time period, your living history skills can still be used!

Old State House Museum  
300 West Markham St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201

	Table of Contents
1	2016 Annual ALHA Conference "History Is In your Nature".
2	Calendar of Events History Myths Revisited
3	Calendar of Events Continued History Myths Revisited continued
4	Youth Volunteers Complete Valuable Project
5	Membership

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 19, 2015** 10 am - 4 pm

### **Holiday Crafts Open House**

**Plantation Agriculture Museum State Park**  
4815 Hwy 161 South, Scott, AR 72142

Start some new holiday traditions to kick-off this Christmas season. The Plantation Agriculture Museum will open its grounds and buildings to the public for our 5th annual Open House. Feel free to also shop for unique gift items in the museum's gift shop and storewide 20% discounts. Bring the family and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere while shopping, making handmade crafts, sipping hot mulled-apple cider or coffee, and nibbling on homemade treats. Crafts and activities include: Graham cracker house building, cotton boll angels, holiday soap crafts, homemade potholders, and more...

Admission: Free for main event, \$2 per craft or \$20 per family

Email: [plantationagrimuseum@arkansas.com](mailto:plantationagrimuseum@arkansas.com)

Website: <http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/plantationagriculturemuseum/>

**January 9, 2016, 6 pm - 9 pm**

### **Trial by Jury**

#### **Williams' Tavern Restaurant**

Justice is served and you are the jury. After enjoying an evening meal at Williams' Tavern Restaurant, guests will proceed to the 1836 Courthouse. There you will take part in a living history drama where you judge the guilt or innocence of a man accused of murder. The drama is based upon an actual 1844 trial that took place in the same courtroom. Dress casual or wear your favorite 19th century costume. Reservations are required. There is a 36 hour cancellation deadline.

Admission: \$25 adults, \$20 children under 14

Phone: (870) 983-2684

Email: [HistoricWashington@arkansas.com](mailto:HistoricWashington@arkansas.com)

Website:

<http://www.HistoricWashingtonStatePark.com>

**Saturday-Sunday, January 16-17, 2016**

### **Introduction to Forging Workshop**

#### **Historic Washington State Park**

Join the park smiths at the James Black Forge, home of the Bowie knife, for a hands-on class covering the basic operations of blacksmithing. Participants will make simple art objects and more functional objects with the beauty that only hand forging can give iron and steel! Materials and tools are supplied. Register by submitting your nonrefundable deposit of \$40 to the park.

*Continued page 3*

## History Myths Revisited

By [Mary Miley](#)

Submitted by Chris Adams

Working at a historical site has its many challenges. From meticulous study of the topics we talk about to learning the most effective way of communication through examples, visual aids, etc. While no member of a historical site wants to give out information that is wrong it unfortunately does happen. One of the really difficult jobs of our calling is letting park visitors down easy when a myth they have believed for many years is found out to be false. One of those that is usually believed by people and one we at historic Washington hear frequently is that with the lack of the modern amenities we have today people in times past bathed once a year. For an explanation and to finally get to the truth of the matter click the link below:

<https://historymyths.wordpress.com/2015/10/26/revisite-d-myth-61-back-then-people-bathed-once-a-year/>



Other versions of this myth include: "Brides carried bouquets of flowers to cover up their body odor," and "People bathed twice a year, in May and October." All nonsense.

Personal habits are notoriously difficult to document—when was the last time you noted in your diary that you took a shower?

*Continued on page 3*

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

Please send any articles, Events, or Pictures that you would like to submit for the Winter Newsletter to the Communications Director no later than February 15, 2016

[ALHAcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:ALHAcommunications@gmail.com)

Visit us at [www.arkansaslivinghistory.org](http://www.arkansaslivinghistory.org) and find us on Facebook

Continued from page 2

## Calendar of Events

Pay \$35 when you arrive for a total package of \$75.

The minimum age is 16 (accompanied by an adult). There is a 36 hour cancellation deadline.

Location: 1874 Hempstead County Courthouse

Admission: \$75

Phone: (870) 983-2684

Email: [HistoricWashington@arkansas.com](mailto:HistoricWashington@arkansas.com)

Website: [www.HistoricWashingtonStatePark.com](http://www.HistoricWashingtonStatePark.com)

**January 16, 2016 9 am - 1 pm**

### Old Timey Fermented Foods Workshop Plantation Agriculture Museum State Park

Farming families on the Arkansas Delta came from a mosaic of backgrounds, bringing unique traditions and foods with them. Continue past traditions by creating and enjoying your own live-culture food. Join a park interpreter to learn how to make and take home your own sauerkraut, sourdough starter, and kimchi.

Workshop participants will be learning how to ferment a variety of fresh vegetables with dry brine and wet brine methods.

Location: Plantation Agriculture Museum State Park

Admission: \$15 per person

Phone: 501-961-1409

Email: [plantationagrimuseum@arkansas.com](mailto:plantationagrimuseum@arkansas.com)

**January 30, 2016, 9am – 4pm**

### Fiber to Fabric: The Basics of Weaving Historic Washington State Park

Spend the day learning how to turn fiber into fabric with the help of spinning and weaving techniques.

Class begins with a demonstration by staff on turning fiber into thread. Then, participants weave their own projects on a lap loom. Plain twill and other weave variations will be discussed. All materials are provided (you will take your lap-loom home with you). Advance registration is required.

Location: 1874 Courthouse

Admission \$35

Phone: (870) 983-2684

Email: [HistoricWashington@arkansas.com](mailto:HistoricWashington@arkansas.com)

Web:

<http://www.HistoricWashingtonStatePark.com>

Continued from page 2

If the verb “to bathe” means to sit in a large tub of hot water and wash, then Myth #61 might be considered true. Almost no one bathed that way until the 20th century when the miracle of indoor plumbing brought gallons of hot water directly into a tub with no more effort than it took to turn a tap. Before that, hot water required too much labor to allow even the upper classes with servants or slaves to fill up a tub every day and soak in it—although some did, as evidenced by large tubs like the one above. Men could bath in rivers and lakes as part of their swimming recreation; women seldom did. Bathing in warm mineral springs and seaside resorts began to spread in the early 19th century, at first for the wealthy, but later for middle classes as well.

Just like today, habits varied. Some people washed daily and others did not. Some washed hands and face daily; others took sponge baths daily. Inventories and photographs commonly show a wash stand in bed chambers. People washed as they stood or sat in a small tin tub with a few inches of water or stood on a floor cloth beside the wash basin. And there are some written references to bathing. In the eighteenth century, William Byrd II wrote in his book, HISTORY OF THE DIVIDING LINE (1741) that he was relieved to bathe after several days in the wilderness. Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia was writing about soldiers but his recommendations could have applied to any American when he said that they should “wash his hands and face at least once every day, and his whole body twice or three times a week, especially in the summer.”

Primitive “shower baths” came into play in the middle of the 19th century for the well-to-do to install in their homes. Virginia's governor installed one of these in the basement of the executive mansion in the 1840s. This newspaper advertisement dates from 1847.

<p>PURCELL, 7 Main Street. VALI rather lot of fine Gentlemen's hats nearly new. Good article, for Spring.</p> <p>J. ALLEN, 9 Main Street. PAPER Kestley and Bro- th a full and fresh paper of window to tapes and mu- rals with a rest to Gray House.</p>	<p>of such property, to be able to give general satis- faction to those who may think proper to entrust property to his management. His Office is on Wall street, in rear of the Ci- ty Hotel. Feb 20—6m BENJAMIN DAVIS.</p> <p><b>SHOWER BATHS!</b> We would advise the ni- tention of the public to an improved and very superior SHOWER BATH—im- provements of which may new be seen at our store. The family or individual should be without one of these Baths, at once so pro- pious of both comfort and health. We respectfully suggest an early call and orders be- fore the warm weather sets in. For sale by W. F. HUTLER &amp; CO., 218 Main street, sign of Gull Pitcher.</p> <p>March 22</p> <p>OPENED on Saturday a very large and hand- some lot of Gentlemen's, children's, new pat- terns—among them are some beautiful patterns for mourning.</p>	<p>D subject goods, which Smiths' B Moore, Ho Corner. H Sledge an Buck and Smiths' B These in No. 111 March 27 S MURKE colored 300 lbs. a 100 lbs. a 300 lbs. All in get 219 Main Bank, some EP Regu MURPE B U B Lamps for t Lamps are s ers offered, made to the economical every event March 22 T. S. C. H. H.</p>
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## Youth Volunteers Complete Valuable Project

On Friday, November 16, 2015 a great group of volunteers came out to Historic Washington State Park to help the curator with a special project in the Pioneer Washington Cemetery. The group of volunteers is known as the OWLS (Old Washington Legacy Studies). It is made up of local home school families who come to the park on the 3rd Friday of each month during the school year (except December).

Park volunteer coordinator, Leita Spears arranges a morning of learning about science and math using history. One of the goals for the monthly activities is to take theory learned in the classroom setting and teach application using historic methods. Last month the group learned about the process of saponification by making their own soap. This month the group went to the historic Pioneer Cemetery and put to use their GPS skills (how GPS works was learned in a previous class).

The students and teachers joined park staff, Joshua Williams, Leita Spears, and superintendent trainee Brandy Oliver in locating and recording the GPS location of each grave marker remaining in the cemetery. Detailed reports of the condition and location of any damage was also documented at that time. The 16 volunteers split into groups and in 2 hours completed the project. This project will help preserve the identity of the remaining marked graves. Many grave markers have been lost to time, so this data will prevent further loss.

This project is one of the efforts underway to preserve the remaining elements of the cemetery. Most of the remaining stones have been conservation cleaned to preserve the information and art work on them. Others have been earmarked for repairs or reset and leveling. Of the original burials numbering nearly 300, only 76 graves remain marked and identified. The 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) is set aside for cemetery preservation work.

**Student volunteers identify and record marker data**



# Arkansas Living History Association 2016 Membership Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual: \$12 - Any adult, 18 years of age or older.

The individual member shall have full voting privileges in the ALHA as a general member.

\_\_\_\_\_ Institutional: \$50. This fee includes 5 members with full voting privileges.

\$10 per additional member over the first 5.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Additional Members X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the 5 members to receive the newsletter and their email addresses:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Help us learn more about you.**

Periods of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

What you would like to receive from ALHA: (this will help us develop training opportunities, meetings, workshops, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make Checks Payable to: ALHA

Please send Registration along with Payment to:

Joleen Linson ALHA Secretary

joleen@arkansasheritage.org

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