



ALHFAM

The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums



**2024 Annual Conference
Preliminary Schedule**

**“Looking for Truth in
America’s Historic Places”**

**March 1 – March 3, 2024
Washington, Arkansas**

Hosted at Historic Washington State Park

Online registration at

<https://www.arkansaslivinghistory.com/event-5556472>

For more information, contact alhacommunications@gmail.com.

**“Looking for Truth in America’s Historic Places”
Conference
with keynote speaker Debra Conner**



Debra Conner has worked as a Chautauqua performer since receiving a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to develop a portrayal of Emily Dickinson in 1997. She has appeared in almost every state Chautauqua program, including 10 tours with Ohio Chautauqua. In addition, she has appeared at the Forbes Gallery in New York City, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and the Margaret Mitchell Museum in Atlanta. For many years, prior to her recent move to South Carolina, she worked as an Artist-in-Residence for the Ohio Arts Council, the West Virginia Arts Commission, and as a faculty member of several colleges. Her degrees are from the University of Virginia (BA in English) and Warren Wilson College (MFA in Creative Writing.)

Hotel Information

10 miles from Host Site

Holiday Inn Express Hope

2600 North Hervey
Hope, AR 71801
(870) 722-6262

https://www.guestreservations.com/holiday-inn-express-hope/booking?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI39b51tvUgwMVToBaBR0-wGoEAAYASAAEgLTxPD_BwE

Hampton Inn & Suites Hope

2700 N. Hervey Street
Hope, Arkansas, 71801
(870) 777-4567

https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/txkhphx-hampton-suites-hope/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-HX-TXKHPhX&y_source=1_MjA4MzM5Ni03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2l0ZQ%3D%3D

Best Western Hope

1800 Holiday Drive
Hope, AR 71801
(870) 777-9222

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.04091.html?iata=00171880&ssob=BLBW10004G&cid=BLBW10004G:google:gmb:04091

Super 8 by Wyndham Hope

2000 Holiday Drive
Hope, AR 71801
(870) 667-4226

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/hope-arkansas/super-8-hope/overview?CID=LC:yytq4fvvehxh7se:08529>

Other accommodation options

Walking Distance from/at Host Site

Coulter Farmstead

209 Gray Street
Washington, AR 71862
(870) 826-5391
www.coulterfarmstead.com

Historic Washington State Park

1874 Jail Bed & Breakfast

306 NW Conway Street
Washington, AR 71862
(870) 983-2684

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/articles/jailhouse-bed-and-breakfast-historic-washington-state-park>

Historic Washington State Park

1914 School House Bunk Room

702 NE Conway Street
Washington, AR 71862
(870) 983-2684

This accommodation is a dorm room sleeping arrangement. There is one room for gentlemen and a room for ladies. Cost is \$15 per bunk. Limited availability. Cold continental breakfast options provided.

Airports

- **Texarkana Regional Airport** is approximately 30 minutes from Historic Washington State Park. Take Interstate 30 East to Hope, Arkansas, take exit 30 and make a left onto Highway 278. Travel approximately 10 miles to the park.
- **Shreveport Regional Airport** is approximately 1 hour 40 minutes from Historic Washington State Park. From the airport get on Interstate 220 East (Monroe) to Interstate 49 North (Texarkana). Take Interstate 49 North to Interstate 30 East. Take exit 30 and make a left onto Highway 278. Travel approximately 10 miles to the park.
- **Little Rock National Airport** is approximately 1 hour 40 minutes from Historic Washington State Park. Take Interstate 440 West to Interstate 30 West (Texarkana). Take exit 30 and turn right onto Highway 278. Travel approximately 10 miles to the park.
- **Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport** is approximately 3 hours 30 minutes from Historic Washington State Park. Take the International Parkway to Interstate 635 East and take Interstate 30 East (Texarkana). Take exit 30 at Hope, Arkansas and turn left onto Highway 278. Travel approximately 10 miles to the park.

Host Site Information

Washington, Arkansas was an important stop on the Southwest Trail; James Bowie, Sam Houston, and Davy Crockett famously traveled through here. James Black, a local blacksmith, forged the legendary Bowie knife. From 1863-1865, it served as the Confederate capital of Arkansas. The history of this town is preserved and interpreted through Historic Washington State Park and its staff. The courthouse that held the state papers still stands, there is an extensive weapons collection, an operating blacksmith shop and much more to see at the Park. Visit the park online at www.HistoricWashingtonStatePark.com

Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master Certifications

The Arkansas Living History Association encourages higher standards of living history performances. The ALHA certification process was designed to recognize ALHA members' efforts, and to assist educators, parks and museum staff, living history event sponsors, and others in identifying quality living historians that are historically/factually accurate and skilled in public performance designed to educate the public.

Anyone wanting to begin or continue the process may sign up for the certification training workshops. Any member of the Arkansas Living History Association who desires to be certified as a journeyman level in a first- or third-person living history performance will submit an application packet as posted on the website. For more information, or to sign up for the Journeyman or Master certification contact Ian Beard: ian.beard@arkansas.gov

Scholarships

ALHA offers scholarships to the annual conference that cover registration and a portion of lodging expenses. Scholarship recipients must be members of ALHA, or must become members upon acceptance. Scholarship recipients will also be asked to supply an article for the ALHA newsletter.

To apply, email the following information to leita.spears@gmail.com by January 26th:

- Reason for wanting to attend the conference
- Reason for needing assistance
- Current area of study (students) or current position
- Year in school or length of time in position

Silent Auction

ALHA and SEALHFAM requests items for the silent auction showcased during the Saturday evening banquet on Saturday, March 2. Funds from the silent auction go to support the scholarship program of both the organizations. Auction items can be dropped off at the conference registration table or mailed to: Historic Washington State Park, Attn: Sheila Ballard, PO Box 129, Washington, AR 71862

Friday, March 1: Workshops

For questions on workshops or sessions, contact Sheila Ballard at
sheila.ballard@arkansas.gov

8:00 a.m.

Registration Table Opens – Brunson House

All Day

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

ALHA Apprentice Workshop (6 hours)

Full-day workshops covering the basics of Living History 101: creating a character, basic performance skills, research, dealing with special problems in living history, event planning basics, and other topics. Certification guidelines can be downloaded from the Arkansas Living History Association Website.

Location: TBA

ALHA Certification Board

Harness and Driving Workshop (6 hours)

Limit 6

This workshop covers the basics of safe harnessing and driving of horse teams. If you like hands-on learning opportunities and want to experience the fun of wagon and carriage transportation, this class is for you!

Location: Sanders Farmstead

Austin Tatum, Animal Curator, Historic Washington State Park

Hands on history – Dressmaking 1845-1853 (6 hours)

Limit 12

A sewing bee/hands on study session with extant dresses and personal fitting help. Does your 1850s fan front look frumpy? A close look at original dresses can help you get that under control. Can I open this dress in the front? How is the skirt attached and why did they do that? What's with this sleeve? Marna will bring her late 1840s and 1850s dresses and other ladies' garments so you can see up close the construction methods used, and she will have a handout with other primary source material. There will be patterns and muslin so we can fit linings for the timeframe. We won't have time to complete a dress, but understanding how they did it in the timeframe helps greatly when we must replicate a dress. We suggest bringing basic sewing tools and your corset for fitting. Bring your own project or start a new one.

Location: 1914 School House Auditorium 2nd floor

Marna Jean Davis

1920's Hat Making Workshop (6 hours)

Limit 12

Learn how to construct a 1920s style ladies' hat from scratch. Using 1920s millinery books, magazines and photographs participants will make a lady's hat to suit their style. Both frame and soft styles will be discussed and participants will select a style to suit their needs, and then make one to take home.

Location: 1914 School House 2nd floor

Kimberly Wageman-Prack, Nash Farm Coordinator, Nash Farm, Grapevine Texas

Half Day

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Explore Historic Washington State Park (available all day)

A selection of buildings in the park will be available for touring.

Painting the Past, Inspiring the Future: A Workshop on Theorem Painting for Living Historians and Aspiring Artisans (3 hours)

Limit 12

Delve into the art of theorem painting, also known as Poonah painting, a captivating art form that flourished in the 19th century. This comprehensive workshop will guide living historians and educators through the intricacies of theorem painting techniques, its historical significance, and its potential to enrich living history programs and spark creativity in young learners.

Location: TBA

Amy Armstrong, Living History Coordinator, Historic Arkansas Museum

Friday Lunch

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Williams Tavern Restaurant

There will be a special Conference menu that is included with conference registration. If you are ordering from the Tavern's regular menu it will be at your own expense.



Half Day
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Explore Historic Washington State Park (available all day)

A selection of buildings in the park will be available for touring.

Dancing to the Next Step (3 hours)

Learn early and mid-century dances and how you can use them to educate the public about the positives of social and community dancing.

Location: TBA

Josh Williams, Historic Washington State Park

Friday Evening Events

ALHA Journeyman and Master Certification Review

4:00—5:30 p.m.

ALHA members wishing to complete their Journeyman certification must stand for the review panel. You must have already received your Apprenticeship certification, notified the committee, and completed all other requirements for Journeyman certification. All ALHA members are invited to observe the review process.

Location: TBA

ALHA Certification Board

Opening Potluck and Reception

5:30–8:30 p.m.

Welcome to Historic Washington State Park! Conference attendees are invited to bring a historic delicacy to share during the potluck meal.

Location: Brunson House

Portrayal of Mary Edwards Walker

7:00 p.m.

Mary Edwards Walker, commonly referred to as Dr. Mary Walker, was an American abolitionist, prohibitionist, prisoner of war, and surgeon. She is the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor. In 1855, she earned her medical degree at Syracuse Medical College in New York, married, and started a medical practice.

Location: WPA Gym

Portrayal by Debra Conner

Conference Hospitality Room

Historic Washington Jail Bed and Breakfast

Saturday, March 2: Sessions and Keynote

7:00 a.m.

Registration Table Opens – Brunson House

Keynote Address

8:00–8:45 a.m.

Keynote Speaker, Debra Conner

Location: WPA Gym

Concurrent Session I

9:00 a.m.

World War 2 Proving Ground Bus Tour (3 hours)

Limit 17 on bus. Private Vehicles May Follow

Take a tour of the Southwestern Proving Ground near Hope, Arkansas, a U.S. Army Testing Center for artillery, air bombs, artillery shells, and other ammunitions. During World War II, it hosted the third largest airfield in the country for bomber and fighter planes. Civilian and military personnel served as part of the government's National Defense Program from 1941 until World War II ended in 1945. Families were forced to leave their homes and relocate in less than two months' time.

Learn all about the facility's operation.

Location: WPA Gym

Josh Williams, Historic Washington State Park Curator

Balancing Living History Programs (90 minutes)

Historic Arkansas Museum's Living Craft Saturdays are a balancing act of programming quantity vs quality. How do you work with and organize your staff & volunteers with programs, costumes & props? How do we deal with burn-out? The panel includes the retired interpretive professional who both served as an advisor & participant; the veteran living historian for hire who spent dozens of Saturdays on site; the director who oversaw a transition from monthly to weekly events; the coordinator who helped with costumes and programming; and the assistant who lived in spreadsheets to organize it all!

Location: TBA

Ornett Grind, Retired, Arkansas State Parks

Kent Goff, Principal, Mississippi Valley Educational Programs

Amy Armstrong, Living History Coordinator, Historic Arkansas Museum

Ian Beard, Education Director, Historic Arkansas Museum

Sketching Life: using an artist's sketches of his family to document and interpret everyday clothing (90 minutes)

While Friedrich Richard Petri was known for his 1850's drawings and painting of Native Americans in Texas, I will use the intimate drawings of his family around the farm to show how I documented and searched out extant women's clothing that was pictured in his sketchbooks. Copying these garments can then be used to present a better picture of frontier life in the 1850s. I will show both the extant garments I have collected and how I link the styles to the sketchbook images.

Location: 1914 School House Auditorium 2nd floor

Marna Jean Davis

Explore Historic Washington State Park (available all day)

A selection of buildings in the park will be available for touring.

Concurrent Sessions II

10:45 a.m.

Born with a Silver Spoon (or Pewter): Casting Pewter Spoons (90 minutes)

Limit 15

In the 18th and 19th centuries, pewter was a common material for making many objects used in the household. This session will teach participants how to cast pewter using original and reproduction spoon molds. Participants will learn what is necessary to start a pewter casting demonstration program at their historic site. Participants will finish and take home a pewter spoon.

Location: Blacksmith shop

Walter Hill, Director, Horry County Museum and L.W. Paul Living History Farm

Historical MythBusters (90 minutes)

They didn't have closets! They were smaller back then! They only had one outfit! --These are just a few examples of things we hear daily at Hunter's Home. Join us to discuss common historical myths and how to bust them using research and solid documentation.

Location: TBA

Molly Hutchins, Hunters Home

Cooking up History: Turning an Interpretive Program for Adults into a Successful Children's Book (45 minutes)

Captivating audiences with multi-layered interpretive techniques can be a challenge, but using story time to do it can be a real blast! Come learn how one historian turned an interpretive program designed for adults into a successful children's book entitled *Josette and Friends Cook a Gumbo*.

Location: TBA

Elista Istre, Belle Heritage, LLC

Saturday Lunch
ALHA and Southeast ALHFAM Business Meetings
12:15–1:30 p.m.

Location: TBA

Concurrent Session III
2:00 p.m.

Prairie D'Ane Civil War Battlefield Field Trip (3 hours)

Limit 17 on bus. Private vehicles may follow.

Prairie D'Ane was the scene of heavy skirmishes April 9-12, 1864 as Southern soldiers sought to blunt the Union drive toward the Red River. Though the Confederates thought the Federal objective was to capture their capital at Washington in Hempstead County, the Northern troops instead headed for Camden. Much of it is pastureland, looking much as it did in 1864.

Location: WPA Gym

Paul Ridgell, President of Nevada County Depot and Museum

**“Who was William Leslie?: When Research Leads Down a Surprising Path”
(2.5 hours)**

While seeking to write a short biography of beloved Southern Arkansas University history professor, Dr. Robert B. Walz, archivist Melissa Nesbitt uncovered more than just a simple, straightforward family history. A young widow, attempted murder, and a trial under charges of the “White Slave-Traffic Act” of 1910, all figure into the Walz family background. The presentation will piece together evidence to see what conclusions can be drawn regarding the life of Lolla Nora Walz and a mystery child named William Leslie.” The program will be followed by a visit to the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives.

Location: Brunson House

Melissa Nesbit, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives

**Uncovering Archeological Treasures: Rebuilding a 19th Century Town
(2 hours)**

Take a tour of Washington with Dr. Carl Drexler as he shows different locations of town that have been studied through archeology. Learn how archeological truths have helped rethink how some of the homes were built in town and the layout of the urban farm landscape.

Location: WPA Gym

Dr. Carl Drexler, Arkansas Archeological Survey

Recreating a 200-year-Old Newspaper (90 minutes)

The Historic Arkansas Museum set out to replicate an 1824 edition of the *Arkansas Gazette* to commemorate the bicentennial of our print shop. We'll discuss the challenges and opportunities this project provided museum staff and visitors.

Location: TBA

Ian Beard, Education Director Historic Arkansas Museum

James Rowe, Museum Educator, Historic Arkansas Museum

John Horn, Printer Extraordinaire, Shooting Star Press

Concurrent Session IV

4:00 p.m.

From Fat to Fossil Fuel (45 minutes)

The ability to generate light where and whenever needed is one of the outstanding achievements of a developed society. To comprehensively explore lighting, one must begin with the study of candles. The creation of candles emerged from the necessity of a portable, compact light source that didn't rely on additional fuel, boasted a prolonged burn time, emitted minimal soot, and was easily ignitable. Throughout this session, participants will learn about the diversity of materials used in crafting candles, grasp the overlooked genius of the wick, and understand the intricacies of creating your own molded candle.

Location: Candle Shop

Chris Adams, Historian, Historic Washington State Park

Historic Signs of a 200-Year-Old Town (45 minutes)

The town of Washington was established in 1824 and this year celebrates its 200th birthday. The town of Washington is truly an American town. The streets of town were named after different American heroes. Come hear about some of the people the streets are named after.

Location: 1874 Courthouse Visitor Center

Josh Williams, Curator, Historic Washington State Park

Saturday Evening Events

Dressing in your favorite living history outfit is encouraged.

Silent Auction Preview

6:00—6:30 p.m.

Help support the ALHA and SEALHFAM fellowship program with your donation to the annual auction! We will feature both our traditional silent auction and a live auction. This is a great opportunity to promote your business or site, find new homes for old living history gear, or just make some room on your bookshelf at home. You can drop your item off at the conference registration table. All donations are tax deductible and go to support scholarships.

Dinner, Dancing, and Live Auction
6:30—9:00 p.m.

Conference Hospitality Room
After Evening Banquet
Historic Washington's Jail Bed and Breakfast

Sunday, March 3: Sessions

8:00 a.m.

Registration Table Opens – Brunson House

Concurrent Session V

9:00 a.m.

Beginner Leather Sewing (90 minutes)

Limit 15

Participants will learn the basics of leather sewing by trying their hand at sewing a business card-sized version of an 18th-century wallet. Using very limited tools, this simple demonstration will encourage interpreters to introduce leather sewing into their daily demonstration set.

Location: TBA

Walter Hill, Director, Horry County Museum and L.W. Paul Living History Farm

Filling the Gaps: Exploring Diplomatic Methods to Offset Mandated “Cancel Culture” in Historic Sites of the Southeastern United States (90 minutes)

Over the last 25 years, a methodical effort to cancel, erase, censor, remove, or bury any mention of the very rich heritage, culture and military history of the Southeastern United States has occurred. This includes, but is not limited to, monuments, museums, libraries, memorials, heritage, and traditions. What can invested historic site employees, reenactors, curators, genealogists, historians, and volunteers, do to assure that they and their sites are included, and have an equal opportunity for input and discussion before administrative decisions are made that would cancel any portion of relevant historical events at our historic sites?

Location: TBA

Vicky E. Schoeneweis- Region 1 Representative NE Arkansas, Southern Heritage Reenactors of NE Arkansas

A Seventies Summer: Women Dressing for the heat in the 1870s (90 minutes)

When we look at some of the 1870s garments in fashion magazines and museum collections, they look so heavy, dark, and stifling. Using pattern catalogs, extant garments, and quotes from primary sources we will look at options to help beat the heat for women in the 1870s and early 1880s. What were the fabrics like? Did they wear low necks? How different are American fashions than the French fashion magazines. What can we do today to help manage the heat?

Location: 1914 School House Auditorium 2nd floor

Marna Jean Davis

Concurrent Session VI

11:00 a.m.

Church Services 1850s style (45 minutes)

Religion was an important part of daily life in the mid-19th century. Methodism helped establish the community that became Washington, Arkansas and the Washington Methodist Church is still an active congregation today. Learn from park volunteer and Methodist minister, Keenan Williams how the service was conducted in that place and time.

Location: Washington Methodist Church

Keenan Williams, HWSP Volunteer

Royston House - Remodeling a Historic House (45 minutes)

As new information is discovered the functional layout of the home may need to be altered. This information can come from journals, diaries, and archeology. Come and learn about how this type of information helped rethink the purpose of rooms at the Grandison Royston house in Washington.

Location: Royston Townhouse

Josh Williams, Curator, Historic Washington State Park

Safe Trip Home!

Check on upcoming events and dates!

Arkansas Living History Association

www.ArkansasLivingHistory.com

Association of Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums

www.ALHFAM.org

Registration

Name _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email _____

Registration:

Full Registration: \$85 (\$95 after February 9th) \$ _____

Friday Daytime Registration Only: \$35 (\$45 after February 9th) \$ _____

Saturday Daytime Registration Only: \$35 (\$45 after February 9th) \$ _____

Saturday Evening Registration Only: \$25 (\$35 after February 9th) \$ _____

Sunday Registration Only: \$20 (\$30 after February 9th) \$ _____

Registration Total \$ _____

Workshop and Bus Tours

**Please select which Workshops and Bus Tours you plan to attend.
Space is limited. Personal vehicles can be taken on bus tours.**

ALHA Apprentice Certification (Friday All Day) _____

Harness and Driving (Friday All Day) _____

Hands on History (Friday All Day) _____

Continued Next Page

Hat Making (Friday All Day)	_____
Painting the Past (Friday Morning)	_____
Dancing to the Next Step (Friday Afternoon)	_____
Pewter Casting (Saturday Morning)	_____
WWII Proving Ground Field Trip (Saturday Morning)	_____
Prairie DeAnn Civil War Battlefield Field Trip (Saturday Afternoon)	_____
Leather Sewing (Sunday Morning)	_____

Please list any dietary restrictions (including vegetarian, gluten free, etc.):

Are you bringing an item for the Silent / Live Auction? Describe item:

Auction items can be dropped off at the conference registration table or mailed to:
 Historic Washington State Park, Attn: Sheila Ballard, PO Box 129, Washington, AR 71862

Are you a current ALHA or ALHFAM member for 2024? Yes No
 (If no, please complete membership section on the next page)

Registration Deadline is February 23, 2024

Arkansas Living History Association

Membership Registration

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Position: _____

Street: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FAX: _____ Web site: _____

Type of Membership:

____ **Individual: \$12** Any adult, 18 yrs of age or older. The member shall have full voting privileges in the ALHA as a general member.

____ **Group: \$50** This covers up to 8 members with full voting privileges. Please attach a list of members with all of the above information.

____ **Site: \$100** This covers an institution or group consisting of 9 or more members. Please attach a list of members with all of the above information.

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:
Arkansas Living History Association
PO Box 648
Little Rock, AR 72203