

Changing Face of Agriculture and the Rural Landscape

Agricultural History Society

90th Year

Annual Meeting



June 18-20, 2009
Little Rock, Arkansas

Agricultural History Society
Annual Meeting
DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock, Arkansas
June 18-20, 2009

Registration

Registration forms (printable and online) are available at <http://aghistorysociety.org/meetings/2009/>.

Hotel Options

Make reservations directly with the hotel identify Agricultural History Society

- **DoubleTree Hotel Little Rock** is the conference hotel. A guest room rate of \$100 per night has been reserved for the conference. Contact the hotel directly at 501-372-4371 or 1-800-937-2789. The hotel is located at 424 West Markham Avenue, a block from President Clinton Avenue and within in walking distance of the Clinton Presidential Library and the corporate headquarters of Heifer International.
- **Wyndam Riverfront Hotel**, located across the river from the DoubleTree Hotel at # 2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, the Wyndam offers guest rooms for the conference at \$89.00 Contact the hotel at 501-907-4800.
- **LaQuinta Hotel**, located at 7th Street and Broadway, 6 blocks from the DoubleTree, offers a Conference room rate of \$79.00. Contact the hotel at 501-374-9000
- Van service will be provided between all three hotels on a continuous basis throughout the conference.

Transportation

Each hotel provides complimentary van service from Little Rock National Airport. Taxi service is approximately \$20.00 for a 20-minute commute to the hotels.

Local Interest Tours

Complimentary transportation and free admission will be offered to the Central High School Civil Rights Museum, the Clinton Presidential Library, and Heifer International Headquarters.

Agricultural History Society

Officers

President - Anne Effland, USDA

Vice President – David Vaught, Texas A & M University

Secretary-Treasurer –C. Fred Williams, University of Arkansas, Little Rock

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Call for Presentations deadline for 2010 annual meeting at Rollins College, Winter Park Florida is October 15, 2009. (See CFP on the Society's web page www.aghistorysociety.org)

Thursday, June 18, 2009

9:00 – 10:30 am

1. Rural Society and Rural Life Across Time and Space - Room 101

- A. Chair and Commentator: Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Professor of History, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

"Child Labor and the American Farmer: A New Perspective from Institutionalized Children, 1865-1920," Megan Birk, Assistant Professor of History, University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, Texas

"What's Radical About Forward Thinking?" Women, Families, and the National Farm Organization, 1955-1975," Jenny Barker-Devine, Assistant Professor of History, Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois

"Who's Minding the Store? Rural Merchants and Class Dynamics on the South Central Plains in the Late Nineteenth Century," Linda English, Assistant Professor of History, University of Texas, Pan American, Edinburg, Texas

2. Conflict, Cooperation and Continuity: Responses to Modernization in Rural Ontario - Room 102

- B. Chair: Margaret Derry, Chair, Associated Scholar, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto

Commentator: Claire Strom, Rapetti-Trunzo Chair of History, Rollins College, Orlando, Florida and Editor, *Agricultural History*

"Contesting Expertise: Tuberculin Testing and Bovine Tuberculosis in North America," Lisa Cox, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph

"Breeding Soy (*Glycine max*) in Ontario, 1920-1940," Pat Bowley, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph

"They Taught us how to make things just that little bit nicer": Progressive Continuity and Rural Reform Targeting Women in Ontario's Ottawa Valley, 1900-1950," Katherine Scott, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph

3. Hopes and Fears on the Land: New Perspectives on the Mechanization of Southern Agriculture, 1890-1940 – Room 103

- C. Chair and Commentator: Ted Ownby, Professor of History and Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi

"The Machine (or the Mule) In the Garden?: The Mechanization of the Rural South in Erskine Caldwell's Tobacco Road and William Faulkner's Flags in the Dust," Steven Knepper, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

"Nothing for the Day Hand to do:" Cotton Mechanization and the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, Jim Ross," Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

"Last Ditch Efforts: South Carolina Planters and the Failed Attempt to Mechanize Rice Cultivation, 1890-1930," James H. Tuten, Associate Professor of History, Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

11:00 - 12:30 pm

4. Representations of Rural Space – Room 101

A. Chair and Commentator: Leo Landis, Director, Iowa Newspaper Foundation, Des Moines, Iowa

"The excavation of a hunting thicket in Roissy (France)," Jean-Yves Dufour, Archaeologist, French National Institute for Archaeological Preventive Research

"Evaluating Historic Properties – Farm Buildings, Landscapes, and Rural Districts," Sally McMurry, Professor of History, Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

5. "Juicers, Boosters, and Barons: Innovation and Empire in the American Citrus Belt" – Room 102

B. Chair and Commentator: Karen-Beth G. Scholtof, Professor, Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

"From Oranges to Orange Juice: Re-Commodification in the Indian River Region, 1945-1965," Robert Hutchings, Ph.D. Graduate Student, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"The House of Citrus Built on Oil: The Limoneira Company, the World's Largest Lemon Ranch and its Influence on the Southern California Landscape," Margo McBane, Ph.D., History Lecturer, San Jose State University, San Jose, California

"Colonizing the Borderlands: Citriculture and Booster Literature in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley, 1910-1930," Timothy Paul Bowman, Ph.D. Candidate, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

6. Weeding Out Myth: Creating and Confronting Ideals of Agriculture – Room 103

C. Chair and Commentator, Jim Giesen, Assistant Professor of History, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Missis

"Eating the View: Food Production and Landscape Aesthetics in Britain, 1930-1950," Clare Griffiths, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, University of Sheffield

"Framing Farming: The Historical Narrative of "The Farming Problem",“ John F. Obrycki, 2008-2009 Joanna Jackson Goldman Scholar, Miami University of Ohio

12:45-1:45 pm Lunch - Richard Bell, Secretary of Agriculture, State of Arkansas – Great Hall, Robinson Center

2:15- 3:45 pm

7. Researching without Teaching: A Roundtable Discussion of Writing History in Non-Teaching Careers – Room 101

- A. Claire Strom, Moderator. Rapetti -Trunzo Chair of History, Rollins College, Orlando, Florida and Editor, *Agricultural History*

Randall Hall, Managing Editor, *Journal of Southern History*

Mark Wetherington, Director, The Filson Historical Society

Pete Daniel, Curator, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Elizabeth Jacoway, Independent Scholar, Little Rock, Arkansas

Julia Blackwelder (former associate dean), Texas A & M University

8. Pathways to Monoculture – Room 102

- A. Chair and Commentator: Alan Marcus, Professor and Chair, Department of History, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi

“Facilitating Monoculture: Cytoplasmic Male Sterility and Hybrid Seed Corn,,” Joe Anderson, Instructor of History, Department of Humanities at Mount Royal College, Calgary, Canada

“Going for Corn. German Agriculture and the Culture of Monoculture,,” Frank Uekoetter, Historian, Research Institute of the Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany

““Wouldn't you rather grow *one* extra fancy apple than a dozen culls?": The Debate over the Industrialization of Washington State Orchards, 1890-1920,?” Amanda Van Lanen, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

9. Panel Eight: The Transformation of Agriculture in Response to Urban Growth in the American Southwest – Room 103

- B. Chair: Douglas Helms, Senior Historian, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.

Commentator: Donald Pisani, Merrick Professor of History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

“Sleuthing Socio-Economic Mitigation from America's Largest Agriculture to Urban Water Transfer,,” Benny Andrés, Jr., Assistant Professor, Department of History and Latin American Studies Program, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina

“SRP: Transforming an Agricultural Economy to an Urban Marketplace,,” Shelly Dudley, Senior Historical Analyst, Salt River Project Research Archives, Phoenix, Arizona

**6:00-9:00pm Presidential Address & Riverboat Cruise on the *Arkansas Queen* - Cash Bar, Buffet Dinner, Anne Effland's Presidential Address
“*Small Farms, Cash Crops, Agrarian Ideals, and International Development*”**

(Bus will leave the DoubleTree Hotel at 5:45 pm)

Friday, June 19, 2009

7:45-8:30am Business Meeting – Room 101

9:00-10:30 am

10. Credit and the Making of American Agriculture – Room 101

- A. Chair & Commentator : Anne Effland, Economic Research Service, USDA, Policy Analyst, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture

“Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Credit: American Agrarianism and the Modernization of Agriculture, 1890-1940,” Connie Lester, Associate Professor of History, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

“Origins and Aftermath of the 1980s Farm Financial Crisis in the Context of Agricultural Industrialization,” Sarah M. Gregg, Farm Credit Council Post Doctoral Fellow, Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, Staunton, Virginia

“A Violation of Civil Rights: Discrimination in Farm Credit, The Largest Class-Action Civil Rights Settlement in U.S. History, and the On-Going African American Freedom Movement,” Spencer D. Wood, Assistant Professor, Kansas State University, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Manhattan, Kansas

11. Farming and Faith: Religious Responses to Changing Agricultural Practices – Room 102

- B. Chair and Commentator: Calvin White, Assistant Professor of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

“Holy Parade: Rural Clergymen and Scientific Beekeeping in Late-19th Century England,” Adam Ebert, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

“Folk Religion, Communal Neighborliness, and the Rural Poor of the New South,” John Herbert Hayes, Visiting Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

“Protestant Religiosity and Agricultural Practice in the Oregon Country,” MacKenzie K. L. Moore, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California

12. The Contributions and Exploitation of Migrant Labor – Room 103

- C. Chair and Commentator: Jim Norris, Associate Professor of History, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota

“The Creation of Sugar Culture: Mexican American Migrant Worker Contribution in Western Nebraska,” Tisa Anders, Independent Scholar, Lakewood, Colorado

“Irrigation Systems and Mexican Migrant Labor in the Medina Valley Area of Texas, 1912-1939,” Marvin Bendele, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, Texas

“Agribusiness Against the State: California Growers Challenge Agricultural Labor Relations Legislation,” Elizabeth Lamoree, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California

11:00-12:30 pm

13. Teaching Farmers, Young and Old: Approaches to Rural Education – Room 101

- A. Chair: George Kritikos, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Harokopion, Athens, Greece

Commentator, David Danbom, Professor of History, North Dakota State University

“Adult Education in the New Deal: Schools of Philosophy for Extension Workers and Discussion Groups for Farm People,” Jess Gilbert, Professor of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin—Madison

““Sing for the Blessings of our Democratic Community”: Citizenship, Nationalism and Ritual in the American 4-H, 1935-1950,” Gabriel Rosenberg, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island..

“The Beginnings of Vocational and Agricultural Education in the Rural Midwest, 1895-1914,” Audrey Shoemaker, M.A. Student, Agricultural History and Rural Studies Program, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

14. Rural Women Cultivate Power – Room 102

- B. Chair: Sara E. Morris, Associate Librarian, University of Kansas and Ph.D. Candidate, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

Commentator: Deborah Fink, Independent Scholar, Ames, Iowa

“The Women Would Fight Anything”: Women and Grassroots Organizing During the 1980s Farm Crisis,” Coreen Derifield, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

““It was a raw idea at first”: Rural Women and the Woman Suffrage Movement in Iowa, 1900-1920,” Sara Egge, Ph.D. Candidate, Agricultural and Rural Studies Program, Iowa State University, Ames

““Common Ground? Examining the Experiences of English and American Women in Agriculture During the Twentieth Century,” Abi Hunt, Ph.D Candidate, Lincoln University and Pathway Leader for Archaeology and Landscape History at University Centre, Peterborough, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, UK

15. Race and Place on the New South Farm – Room 103

- C. Chair and Commentator, Valerie Grimm, Associate Professor, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington

“Delta Cooperative Farm and Providence Plantation: Biracial Labor Reform in the Rural Jim Crow South,” Robert H. Ferguson, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“The Port City Prophet: Hugh MacRae’s Agrarian Vision for the New South,” J. Vincent Lowery, Visiting Lecturer, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina

“Discriminatory and Economic Barriers to Black Property Accumulation in the Postbellum South: New Evidence from Real Estate Transactions,” Charles Reback, Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance, University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, South Carolina and Neil Canaday, Assistant Professor of Economics, Vanderbilt, Nashville, Tennessee

12:45-1:45pm Lunch – Sterling Evans, University of Oklahoma, 2008 winner of the Theodore Saloutos Book Award, will present “Dusting off Ricardo: The Lessons and Impacts of Export Agriculture in a Global Context” - Great Hall, Robinson Center

2:15-3:30 pm

16. "It's a Good Thing?" Communication and Agriculture in the 20th Century – Room 101

A. Chair and Commentator: Connie Lester, Associate Professor of History, University of Central Florida, Orlando

“Farmers and Radio during the Great Depression,” Steve Craig, Professor, Department of Radio, Television and Film, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

“The Farm Beautiful and Martha Stewart,” Anna Thompson Hajdik, Ph.D. Candidate, American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, Texas

“Sowing the Seeds of Communication: The Department of Agriculture, E.T. Meredith, and the Growth of American Radio,” Rick L. Woten, Ph.D. Candidate, Agricultural and Rural Studies Program, Iowa State University, Ames

17. Homesteading, Gender, and Economic Opportunity – Room 102

B. Chair and Commentator: Brian Cannon, Associate Professor of History, Brigham Young University

“Almost Pioneers: Mobility, Western Agriculture, and the American Dream,” John J. Fry, Associate Professor of History, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois

“Women Homesteaders on the Canadian Prairie,” Peter Russell, Associate Professor of History, University of British Columbia, Okanagan

18. Canadian Agriculture and Modernization – Room 103

C. Chair and Commentator: Douglas McCalla, Professor of History, University of Guelph

““To increase their prosperity, happiness, welfare”: Agricultural Improvement, Assimilation, and the First Nations People of Ontario,” David Mizener, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, York University, Toronto

“The Canadian Thistle: the Blowing Currents of Cross Border Farming Knowledge in the Antebellum Northern Borderland Region,” Taylor Spence, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

3:45-5:30 pm, Plenary Session – Rooms 101 & 102

19. Material Evidence as Historic Evidence in Rural and Agricultural History

Chair: Debra Reid, Associate Professor of History, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois

Joe L. Anderson, Instructor of History, Department of Humanities at Mount Royal College, Calgary, Canada

Cynthia Culver Prescott, Assistant Professor of History, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota

6:30 – 9:00pm Awards Banquet – Great Hall, Robinson Center

Saturday, June 20, 2009

8:30 to 10:15 am

20. "Teaching Rural History in a 'Post-Rural' Society: Past Experiences and Future Strategies" – Room 101

David Danbom, Moderator. Professor of History, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota
Gary Edwards, Assistant Professor of History, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas
Mark Hersey, Assistant Professor of History, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi
Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Professor of History, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

10:30-11:45 am

21. Agriculture and the Market Revolution – Room 101

A. Chair and Commentator, Matthew Reonas, Heritage Trails Coordinator, Louisiana Office of Tourism

"The Market Revolution and Immigration to Antebellum Central Missouri," Jeff Bremer, Assistant Professor, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas

"'Yeotopia Revisited': How the Vibrant Yeoman Ideal Hid the Relatively Early Industrialization of New Zealand Agriculture," Tom Brooking, Professor of History, University of Otago, New Zealand

"Minding the Store: Rural Merchants and Economic Reconstruction in Postbellum Louisiana," Scott P. Marler, Assistant Professor of History, University of Memphis

22. Farmers and Environmental Challenges – Room 102

B. Chair and Commentator: Jeannie Whayne, Professor of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

"Decades after the Dust Bowl: The 1950s Drought in Oklahoma," Daniel Balkwill, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Oklahoma, Norman

“What Price Garbage? What Price Farmland? The Complimentary and Contradictory Reasons Why the Longest Running High-tech Waste Management System in the U.S. has Survived in a Rural Landscape,” Angie Gumm, Ph.D. candidate, Agricultural and Rural Studies Program, Iowa State University, Ames

“Sustainability in a German-Immigrant Enclave in 19th Century Illinois,” Peter Noll, Ph.D. candidate, Agricultural and Rural Studies Program, Iowa State University, Ames

23. Government, Railroads, and Farmers - Room 103

C. Chair and Commentator: Robert C. McMath, Dean, Honors College, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

“Deconstructing the Countryside: Railroad Abandonment in the Pacific Northwest Wheatbelt, 1950-1993,” Marc Entze, Ph.D. Candidate, Washington State University, Pullman

“The Munn Bill and the Fight for Reciprocal Demurrage: Farmers, the Railroads, and Car Service, 1900-1910,” Scott E. Randolph, Lecturer/Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming, Laramie

12:00 Noon – Field Trips - Buses Load in front (Markham Street side) of Double Tree Hotel

1. **Tour # 1 - Heifer International Ranch** - care and feeding of animals to be sent to Heifer Int'l projects in Developing Countries. Approximately 1 hour bus ride each way and 2-hour tour of the Ranch. Box Lunch on the Bus.
2. **Tour # 2 - Scott Plantation Living Farm; Museum of Arkansas' Grand Prairie; Tour of Riceland Foods.** Approximately 45 minute bus ride each way 3-hours to tour museums and Riceland. Lunch at Scott Plantation.

Buses will return to the DoubleTree approximately 6:00 pm

Dinner on your own – see restaurant guide in your packet