

ALHFAM



The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums

**MOUNTAIN PLAINS ALHFAM
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 21 - 23, 2017**

**RETHINKING THE
HISTORIC VILLAGE MODEL:
WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE
WHAT WOULD REMAIN
THE SAME?**

**Hosted by:
STUHR MUSEUM
OF THE PRAIRIE PIONEER
3133 W US HWY 34
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA 68801**

Greetings!

The theme of this year's regional conference is *Rethinking the Historic Village Model: What Would You Change. What Would Remain the Same?* Who among us has not asked this question: If we could do this over again, how would we do it? This question really goes beyond the historic village and includes historic homes, forts and events. We offer this conference as an opportunity to openly discuss what is good about how we do things and to look constructively at how - if we were asked to consult on any new site opening in the future - we could advise those folks down the line so that they might avoid, or just lessen some of the pains and challenges our sites have faced over the course of our histories. What are the things that can wait? What are the "must haves?" There is so much more that goes into any interpretive site than just plopping down structures and opening them to the public. When many of our institutions opened either during the blush of the Bicentennial, or perhaps earlier, many of the practices that we all understand to be essential today were not in place. Today we understand so very much more about curatorial care, material culture, interpretive and educational practices and strategic planning than most of the folks who just wanted to preserve a piece of local history, or perhaps be the "Williamsburg of the West" before us. It is now time to pay it forward. The people who attend this, and any other ALHFAM conference, have a staggering amount of collective knowledge, not only of the heritage trades and history of the structures we interpret, but of good museum practices. Let's make sure that we share as much knowledge as we can with those who are just entering the field. We owe it to the future of our trade.

Sincerely,

Kay Cynova - 2017 MPALHFAM Conference Chair

Host Site

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer
Grand Island, Nebraska



We are celebrating the 50th year of the opening of the Leo B. Stuhr Building, which serves as the main exhibit gallery and visitor center for the 200 acre Living History museum in central Nebraska. We have a combination of modern exhibit buildings - Gus Fonner Memorial Rotunda, Farm Machinery Building, the Reynolds Research Center - and several historic areas, including the re-created 1840s Pawnee Earth Lodge, the 1860s log Road Ranche, the 1890s Railroad Town and the 1900 Farm. Most, if not all of the workshops and session will take place in Railroad Town.

For more about the museum, please visit www.stuhrmuseum.org.

CONFERENCE HOTEL

CANDLEWOOD SUITES

859 Allen Drive

Grand Island, NE 68803

308-381-7000

Our conference code is MPR.

Room block deadline is August 21st.

The Candlewood Suites opened in January of this year. They are located just 3.5 miles north of the Stuhr Museum.



The rate for the conference \$109.95 + Tax. Amenities include standard 49" high definition Smart televisions, fully equipped kitchenettes, spacious living areas, free parking, the Candlewood Cupboard, Lending Locker, and Lending Library for recent movies. They also have a indoor pool and outdoor gazebo grilling area. While they do not have a continental breakfast, they are just steps away from Panera Bread or Barista's. They are also located next to or near a Buffalo Wild Wings, Panda Express, Freddie's, Olive Garden, PepperJax Grill, Ruby Tuesday, Buffet House, Whiskey Creek, Qdoba Mexican Eats, Fuji Japanese Steak House, Sonic Drive In, Applebee's and Pizza Hut. Texas Road House, Perkins, Jimmy John's and Starbucks are not far away.

To learn more about the hotel:

<https://www.ihg.com/candlewood/hotels/us/en/grand-island/grigi/hoteldetail>

So what else is going on in this area? **Field trip opportunities** depending on which way you are headed and how much time you have:

 **JUNK JAUNT:** The event spans nearly 500 miles of garage sales, collectibles, antiques, vintage items and quirky finds. In 2016, 760 vendors were selling things for Junk Jaunt, compared to the estimated 730 in 2015. - <http://www.junkjaunt.com>

 Nebraska History Museum: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/mnh/>

 Fort Kearny: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/fortkearny/>

 Fort Hartstuff: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/forthartsuff/>

 Happy Jack Peak and Chalk Mine: <https://visitnebraska.com> see and dos happy-jack-peak-and-chalk-mine

 Ash Hollow: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/ashhollow/>

 Ashfall Fossil Beds: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/ashfall/>

 Pawnee Indian Museum (Kansas): https://www.kshs.org/pawnee_indian

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Schedule subject to change. Finalized information available in your registration packet.

Thursday 21 September 2017 - Stuhr Museum

9 am: Registration Opens

9 am - 5 pm: Workshops

5 pm: Registration Closes

6 pm: Opening Reception - Railroad Town, Stuhr Museum

Friday 22 September 2017 - Stuhr Museum

8:30 am: Registration Opens

9 - 10:30 am: Opening Forum

10:30 am Break

10:45 am - Noon: Sessions

Noon: Lunch

1 - 3:30 pm: Sessions

3:30 pm: Break

3:45 - 5 pm: Sessions

5 pm: Registration Closes

6 pm: Banquet & Auction- Railroad Town, Stuhr Museum

Saturday 23 September 2017

8:30 am: Registration Opens

9 - 10:30 am: Sessions (workshop -Tinsmith Part 2: 9 am - 5 pm)

10:30 am Break

10:45 am - 11:45 am: Sessions

Noon: Conference Ends

1 PM: Textile Tour of the Museum's Collections

WORKSHOPS Thursday 21 September 2017 - Stuhr Museum

Tin Smithing for The Living Historian

Limit 7 participants - \$70 materials fee * includes lunch(es).

Instructor - Loren Miller

Thursday September 21st (9 am - 5 p.m.) & Saturday September 23rd (9 am - 5 p.m. - if needed)

****workshop is split to allow presenter and participants to attend sessions!***

This workshop in the Tin Shop in Railroad Town will teach basics of tin smithing to the attendees through the creation of simple projects. After these are completed, Mr. Miller will pull out the museum's collection of original patterns and give participants a choice of what they would like to construct next. Items that could be made could include, but are not limited to, a sconce, a cup or a box, but these are just a very few of the patterns that are on hand. Despite the fact that the conference concludes at noon on Saturday, Mr. Miller plans to make himself and the shop available until 5 p.m. for everyone to finish up their projects.

Topping it Off - Hairstyles and Hats (9 am - 5 p.m.)

Limit 12 Participants - \$40 Fee* includes lunch.

Instructors - Marna Davis & Kimberly Wagman-Prack

We will be learning millinery techniques by constructing a small bonnet appropriate for the late Victorian era for you to take home. We will cover techniques for creating a buckram frame, covering it, and finally finishing it off by creating appropriate bows and floral decorations for it. We will touch on appropriate hairstyles and how they affect how you wear your bonnet. You will go home with a new hat and plenty of source material!

The Magic of Color and Fiber (1 - 5 p.m.)

Limit 10 participants - \$15 fee

Instructor- Kathy Dickson

In this workshop, we will explore the process of using natural dyes with wool yarn. You will learn how to prepare your fiber for dyeing and how to mix the dye bath. A discussion on the source and history of several different dyes will take us on a trip around the world and a quest for empire. We will make dye baths of indigo and cochineal. Each participant will leave with instructional material and a skein of natural-dyed wool yarn. You choose--indigo or cochineal--or bring a skein of your own yarn or other fabric to dye and do both. If you are bringing your own material contact me ahead of time for preparation instructions if you are unfamiliar with the process. Dress for mess.

6 pm: "Salted, Smoked & Pickled" Welcome Reception & Touring

- Railroad Town, Stuhr Museum

Sunset 7:29 pm, Civil Twilight 7:57 pm

SESSIONS

Friday 22 September 2017 - Stuhr Museum

8:30 am: Registration Opens

9 - 10:30 am: Opening Forum -

If We Had It To Do Over Again - Re-evaluating the Historical Village Model

Beginning with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in 1927 and quickly followed by similar ambitious projects at Greenfield Village and others across the country, the historical village model has evolved into one of the most popular methods of preserving endangered historic structures and interpreting local history to students, citizens and visitors across the United States. Buoyed by the bicentennial excitement of the 1970s and moving into the heyday of research, refinement and practice during the 1980s and 1990s historical homes, forts, villages and events have long served as supportive venues for living history interpretation, hands-on demonstrations and other exciting and interactive programming. Many factors are calling into question whether maintenance- and staff-heavy historical sites are still a viable model for preserving and telling local history. All conference attendees are invited to discuss the basic components every viable historical site or event must have and be able to offer, and the challenges faced in keeping these 20th-century amalgamated sites running as we move forward.

10:30 am Break

10:45 am - Noon

Hello Connections: What Does it Take to Set Up a Telephone Office

Lonnie Husing - retired from LT&T.

The Nebraska Telephone Company first set up operations in Grand Island in 1880, setting up a "central" office in 1882. By 1884 there were 64 connections and by 1896 there were 140 connections in that city of over 7,500 people. The number jumped to 907 subscribers by 1905. Most telephone exchanges were local to a community, connecting to other communities within the state and just outside. This session will look at the equipment of a



"Central" office, including switchboards, telephones, batteries and other equipment, and give you an idea of what it would take to set up a "central" of your own.



Men Behaving Badly

Marna Davis

Men Behaving Badly follows the social history behind the introduction of, and reactions to a new style. Through newspaper accounts, original photos, and extant dresses, Marna traces the beginnings of the Mother Hubbard dress and searches for the reason it caused such a stir when worn. Extensive photos from her personal collection and a close up look at the extant Mother Hubbard gowns she owns help to round out this interesting subject. *(Note: Books on this presentation are available for \$17.95 with scaled patterns of extant dresses that will be viewed)*

Holding History in Your Hands: Things That Tell the Story

John C. F. Luzader

How does one bring a historic moment to life for an audience? More than just a lecture or static displays, handling a piece of history relates better to the moment.

The greatest fault with historic interpretation is the fact we can not physically take the audience back in time to a moment of history. We must utilize vocal, emotional, and physical recreations to remake the past in the present. However, there are physical items that are from the past that were there, nonspeaking, unfeeling, and slowly eroding that can be used to convey a perspective of the time and moment of important events. This session utilizes historic artifacts to aid in telling the story of a moment that will assist in making the intangibles of history into tangibles in interpretation.

Noon: Lunch

1 - 2:00 pm:

Living History Program Development: How to Create Revenue With a Small Staff.

Cody Jolliff

Cody Jolliff, of Nash Farm in Grapevine, Texas, will discuss several methods of producing funds with a small staff at living history sites. Presentation will include samples of new programs and events at Nash Farm such as a Barn Dance, Farm Suppers, and Parlor Sociables. Participants will receive a worksheet to map out their potential new program development.

Learning from Originals: An 1840's Front-Opening Fan-Front Dress and Other Items

Kelsey Patton

Learn what to look for in studying an original garment for construction clues in creating your own. While not all historical seamstresses and tailors were at the same skill level, there were certain rules in each era and things that were done a certain way. Learn how to look at original garments to see how things were generally done when that garment was made or how to look at a particular garment to see how to go about copying it.

2 - 3:30 pm:

Comfortably Casual: Wrappers and Teagowns of the 1890's

Marna Davis

The 1890s saw new expanding freedoms in comfortable dress for ladies for work and leisure. We will be examining extant gowns from this time period, as well as seeing how they compare to original photos and patterns from the same time period. You will find out more about how they were constructed, the reform dress movement, and where a lady could wear these comfortable gowns.

Zombies, Outlaws, Soldiers and Spies: Rediscovering Tilden's Sixth Principle through Play

Ann Cejka



Freeman Tilden's famous six principles of interpretation have stood the test of time, but it is the last one regarding interpretation for children that sometimes leaves interpreters and programmers still scratching their heads half a century later: "Interpretation for children should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best, it will require a separate program."

What, exactly, does that mean? Join Ann Cejka, Program Curator at Ushers Ferry Historic Village, for her own interpretation of Tilden's musings as she explores modern educational theory and the burgeoning body of evidence supporting the importance of "Risky Play" activities for children not only as an important benefit to their physical and psychological development, but also as an essential tool for education and engagement. Learn how she has applied these concepts to everything from role-playing school tours for children to imaginative adventure programs such as Zombie Survival Camp that keep kids coming back for more.

Participants will not only see how modern educational theory intersects with a growing body of research in children's mental health and their social and emotional development, but learn how living history and open air museums may be well positioned to address this growing need in their local communities.

3:30 - 5:00 pm:

Re-creating a Millinery Shop

The Milliners of Railroad Town

Visit with the milliners of Railroad Town and learn what it has taken to recreate a late 19th-century millinery and dressmakers shop, from which they draw their inspiration, and the positive and negative aspects of recreating the millinery trade in a living history setting.

Naked Living History, or, If You Can't Do It Without the Costume... :

Finding Your Way Back to Basics



John C. F. Luzader

Often interpreters believe the answer to a program is a costume, but are the cloths a crutch? Come explore how to create the "foundation" for quality successful living history programs. "The clothes make the man" is an old phrase that is often the belief among living history interpreters: that the costume is the program. Unfortunately, the costumed personnel are too often devoid of interpretive training, methodology and understanding. They rely only on the costume and a few other bits of information and craft skills. The principles of interpretive methodology are lost or lacking. What is needed is the ability to tell the story in such a way that the visitor is mentally transported to the depicted time through the skills of imagination: to interpret naked.

5 pm: Registration Closes

6 pm: Banquet & Auction- Railroad Town, Stuhr Museum

Touring, there will also be touring... Sunset 7:29 pm, Civil Twilight 7:57 pm.

Saturday 23 September 2017

8:30 am: Registration Opens if needed.

9 am: Workshop -Tinsmith Part 2: 9 am - 5 pm (if needed)

9 - 10:30 am:

The Ethics of Living History and of Quality Costumed Interpretation.

John C. F. Luzader

The ethics of historic interpretation, more specifically, our collective responsibility to ensure that ethical practices are practiced from administration to the on-site interpreter, whether a volunteer or not, is an important issue. Our field is primarily made up of volunteers with a great deal of passion and knowledge about their specific interests and historic depictions. On the whole they are a group of very dedicated folks who share a great deal of time, effort and information to their sites, agencies and educational facilities. Unfortunately, like many such groups, their image may be marred and slurred by the actions of a few whose participation is primarily for the individual and not the program, agency, the audience or other interpreters. We, as individual interpreters, planners, and administrators, are too often enablers for bad interpretive methods, poor historic representations, and misleading information and interpretation for a trusting public by not admitting we know too little about a historic theme or by being unwilling to confront volunteers or groups who, though they do not meet our needs, want to participate in our events. This session will look at the excuses and offer some ideas for solutions.

Victorian Knitwear: Beyond Socks

Kelsey Patton

In the Victorian age, knitting was a popular evening pastime, an inexpensive way to create items for yourself and the home, and a profitable occupation for those who needed to earn some extra money. This class will explore some of the items beyond stockings that were knit by rich and poor alike and how they can help you finish your impression. Modern equivalents of historical yarn and needle sizes, easily accessible "translated" patterns, and tools and methods of interpreting historical patterns will be discussed.



We Just Got a New Structure. Now What?

Kay Cynova



The Peter Stuhr House was originally offered to the Stuhr Museum in 2010. It would not roll onto the grounds until December of 2012 and placed just across the street from the row of houses in Railroad Town. Since most structures on the grounds came in the mid 1960s through the 1990s, this was the first new addition in a very long time. This session examines the process of taking a modernized mid-19th century structure and taking it back in time to create a new interpretive and educational facility and why documenting this transformation is important.

10:30 am Break

10:45 am - 11:45 am:

When the Actual Story is BETTER than the Myth

John C. F. Luzader

Historic programmers often find themselves struggling to create events that will catch the attention of the audience and entertain. Utilizing repeated "accepted histories," the authenticity is often lost and forgotten. We often believe we know the history of our pasts: the journeys of Lewis and Clark, George Washington, mountain men and rendezvous', Lincoln's life, the Emancipation Proclamation, beginnings of the Spanish American War, women's rights, the great Christmas Peace of 1914, Rosa Parks, Woodstock and hippies, and the list continues. Continually falling back on "commonly-known events for historically-themed programs" too often fails to articulate the exciting true stories of actual events and lives of those involved. This session explores how to take authentic events and reveal their excitement.

Understructures of the Late Victorian Skirt

Kelsey Patton

Ever feel frustrated because original photos show beautifully smooth and supported hemlines, while yours hang limp and sad? The Victorians didn't just sew the skirt fabric together and call it good: like a Victorian bodice, a proper 1880s-1890s skirt has layers and support built in to hold it in a near-perfect shape, even with minimal petticoats. This lecture will teach you about the supportive layers built into an 1880s to 1890s skirt, that will allow even skirts made of slinky or limp fabrics to hang beautifully.

11:45 am: Conference Wrap Up and Thank Yous

Noon: Conference Ends

BONUS for those who have time -

1 PM: Textile Tour of the Museum's Collections!!!!!!



Registration Form

Name _____ Position/Title _____

Site/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I am bringing an auction item _____

I am a first-time MPALHFAM conference attendee _____

 **Early Bird pricing ends September 7!**

Workshops

Tinsmithing: Sept. 21 all day & 23 up to all day - includes lunches: - \$70 _____

The Magic of Color and Fiber: Sept. 21 half-day, afternoon - \$15 _____

Topping it Off- Hairstyles and Hats: Sept 21 all day - includes lunch - \$35 _____

Full Conference Registration -

Includes Thursday reception, Friday and Saturday sessions, breaks and banquet.

ALHFAM Member - Early Bird \$95 _____

ALHFAM Member - After Sept. 7 \$110 _____

Non-member - Early Bird \$125 _____

Non-member - After Sept. 7 \$140 _____

Please register online at:
www.alhfam.org.
Click "Conferences",
then "Regional Conferences",
then select the Mountain-Plains
conference to register

Conference A La Carte

September 22

ALHFAM Member - Early Bird \$65 _____

ALHFAM Member - After Sept. 7 \$75 _____

Non-member - Early Bird \$95 _____

Non-member - After Sept. 7 \$105 _____

Banquet only \$30 _____

Lunch Only \$10 _____

September 23

ALHFAM Member - Early Bird \$35 _____

ALHFAM Member - After Sept. 7 \$45 _____

Non-member - Early Bird \$65 _____

Non-member - After Sept. 7 \$75 _____

TOTAL _____

 *Non-member rates include a year of membership in ALHFAM*

Do you have special dietary needs?
Gluten-free Vegetarian
Kosher

Need to mail in your registration?
(Checks only - Payable to Mountain-Plains ALHFAM) Please send to -
Stuhr Museum
Attention: Kay Cynova
3133 W US HWY 34
Grand Island, NE 68801