

Mid-America Conference on History
September 10-12, 2015
McKendree University

Thursday, September 10th 6:00-9:00 pm Bothwell Chapel

Opening registration 6:00-7:00 pm

**The Friends of Mother Jones Museum
and the Mother Jones Heritage Project
7:00 pm Bothwell Chapel**

This presentation will introduce Mary Harris “Mother” Jones and her work. It will also provide an overview of the current efforts to educate the public about her historical significance. The museum and project supporters hope to collect, interpret, and preserve the legacy of labor activist Mother Jones.

Mother Jones had a special relationship with Illinois. It was there, in Chicago, the most radical city in the nation and perhaps the world in the late nineteenth century, that she became a radical activist against corporate and elite power structures. She launched a campaign for socialism from Chicago with another woman activist in 1898, an effort that led to the folk song “She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain.”

For more information about the museum, visit: <http://www.motherjonesmuseum.org/museum/>.

This presentation is free and open to the public.

Registration Holman Library 8 am -3 pm

Session I : Friday, September 11th 8:30-9:50am

IA. Women and Gender in American History

Clark 203

Chair: Lisa Guinn, Bethany College

“Toward Restoring the Significance of Clothing in Early American History: Analyzing Washington’s Invoices from 1755-1772,” Wendy Lucas and Noel Campbell, University of Central Arkansas

“ ‘To Train the Hearts and Minds of Their Pupils’: Virginian Mary Tucker Magill as Educator and Lost Cause Historian,” Ann Denkler, Shenandoah University

Discussant: Lisa Guinn, Bethany College

IB. Outsiders, Religion and Identity

Holman Library 105

Chair: Deborah Houk, McKendree University

“ ‘Do We Differ Least From the Romish Church?’ Anti-Catholicism, Republicanism, and the Shaping of Lutheran Identity in Jacksonian America,” Timothy D. Grundmeier, Baylor University

“ ‘Faith as Currency in the Cold War: Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam’s Protestant America in the Age of Eisenhower, 1953-1961,” Aaron Davis, Kansas State University

Discussant: the Audience

IC. Travel Bugs: Historical Impacts of Disease and Travel

Fitness Center Classroom

Chair: Tom Jorsch, Bethany College

“ ‘The Climate is no Excuse for Letting These People Die Without Hearing of the Saviour’: The Problem of Disease for American Missions to Africa,” Luke Schleif, University of Missouri

“On the Road with the ‘Spanish Lady’: Travel in the United States and its Territories During the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919,” Gari-Anne Patzwald, Independent Scholar

Discussant: Tom Jorsch, Bethany College

Session II : Friday, September 11th 10:30-11:50 am

IIA. Industry and the Environment

Holman Library 105

Chair: Orion A. Teal, Missouri Western State University

“Midwestern Pine, Lumber Tycoon Frederick Weyerhaeuser, and the Principles of Corporatism and Conservation, 1857-1914,” Luke Ritter, Troy University

“From the Plow to the Pump: Agriculture, Environment, and the Early Kansas Oil Industry,” Anna Holdorf, Washington University in St. Louis

Discussant: Orion A. Teal, Missouri Western State University

IIB. Actors and Emulators: Radicalization and Protests During the Vietnam Era

Circuit Riders in Bothwell Chapel

Chair: Steven Collins, St. Louis Community College at Meramec

“Hidden Actors: The Curious Case of Mennonite Central Committee Workers and the Radicalization of Mennonite Colleges in Kansas During the Long Vietnam War, 1954-1975,” Robin Deich Ottoson, Kansas State University

“Envious Emulators: The Peace Corps and the Protestant Short-Term Mission Movement,” Brandon Flint, University of Missouri

Discussant: Steven Collins, St. Louis Community College at Meramec

Session III: Friday, September 11th 1:30-2:50 pm

IIIA. Native American History

Circuit Riders in Bothwell Chapel

Chair: Kay Blalock, St. Louis Community College at Meramec

“The OTHER Trail of Tears,” Jayme Blandford, St. Charles Community College

“Suitcase Justice: Justice Department Investigations into Indian Depredation Claims Cases,” LaQuita Saunders, Arkansas State University

“From Children of Nature to Mining Royalty: The Quapaw Tribe, 1895-1945,” Jeff Birdsong, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College

Discussant: Kay Blalock, St. Louis Community College at Meramec

IIIB. Studies on Socialism

Holman Library 105

Chair: Stanley Arnold, Northern Illinois University

“Socialism in Madrid, Iowa, 1910-1920,” Tom Jorsch, Bethany College

“W.E.B Du Bois and African Socialism,” Dominic J. Capeci, Jr., Missouri State University and Jack C. Knight, Missouri State University

Discussant: Stanley Arnold, Northern Illinois University

Session IV: Friday, September 11th 3:10-4:30 pm

IV A. Progress and Progressives

Piper Academic Center 214

Chair: Luke Ritter, Troy University

“The Canadian Department of Immigration Draws the Color Line, 1896-1911,” Rachel Wolters, Southern Illinois University

“The Senator and the Editor: The La Follette Dynasty’s Complex Relationship with Congressman Merlin Hull,” William Kostlevy, Brethren Historical Library and Archives

Discussant: Luke Ritter, Troy University

IV B. Laboring Through the New Deal

Piper Academic Center 220

Chair: Steven Kite, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

“Texans in Trouble: How the New Deal Brought Relief to Unemployed Texans During the Great Depression, 1933-1941,” David Park, University of North Texas

“ ‘Continue the Work’: The Political Kinship of Louisiana’s Huey and Earl Long and Edwin Edwards,” Revis L. Edmonds, Jr., Arkansas State University

Discussant: The Audience

IV C. Revolutionary Change

Circuit Riders in Bothwell Chapel

Chair: Pat Folk, McKendree University

“Friedrich Gentz and a Conservative’s view of the American Revolution,” Travis Eakin, University of Missouri

“A Martyr for the Cause: Pius VI’s Assertion of Papal Primacy Through *Charitas*,” Andrew Paul Dinovo, University of Missouri

Discussant, Pat Folk, McKendree University

IV D. Historical Happy Hour: Studies on Alcohol Consumption

Piper Academic Center 222

Chair: James Klein, Del Mar College

“Alcohol and Culture in Missouri During the Nineteenth Century,” Marlin Barber, Missouri State University

“Sipping for Social Status: Historicizing Wine Consumption Among Millenials,” Stephen Barnett, University of Oklahoma

Discussant: James Klein, Del Mar College

Keynote Address: Friday, September 11th 7-8:30 pm

Hettenhausen Center for the Arts

Dr. William Maxwell, Washington University in St. Louis

A graduate of Columbia University and Duke University, William J. Maxwell arrived at Washington University in 2009 and teaches courses in twentieth-century American and African American literatures. His scholarly research, rooted in both modernist and African American studies, addresses the ties among African American writing, political history, and transatlantic culture. He has published over forty articles and reviews, and three books.

Maxwell's third book, *F.B. Eyes: How J. Edgar Hoover's Ghostreaders Framed African American Literature* (<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10321.html>), was published by Princeton University Press in 2015. At first glance, few institutions seem more opposed than African American literature and J. Edgar Hoover's white-bread Federal Bureau of Investigation. But behind the scenes the FBI's hostility to black protest was energized by fear of and respect for black writing. Drawing on nearly 14,000 pages of newly released FBI files, *F.B. Eyes* exposes the Bureau's intimate policing of five decades of African American poems, plays, essays, and novels. Starting in 1919, year one of Harlem's renaissance and Hoover's career at the Bureau, secretive FBI "ghostreaders" monitored the latest developments in African American letters. By the time of Hoover's death in 1972, these ghostreaders knew enough to simulate a sinister black literature of their own. The official aim behind the Bureau's close reading was to anticipate political unrest. Yet, as *F.B. Eyes* reveals, FBI surveillance came to influence the creation and public reception of African American literature in the heart of the twentieth century. The book's companion website, "The F.B. Eyes Digital Archive" (<http://digital.wustl.edu/fbeyes/>), presents high-quality copies of 49 FBI files on African American authors and literary institutions obtained through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

This event is free and open to the public.

**Copies of *F.B. Eyes* will be available for purchase at the conference rate of \$20 (cash or check) at the event. Book signing will follow the Keynote Address.

Session V: Saturday, September 12th 8:30-10:00 am

V A. Phi Alpha Theta Session

Piper Academic Center 220

Chair: Bill Thomas, Independent Scholar

"Rich Owens: The Life and Legacy of Oklahoma's Deadliest Man," Kylee Cole, University of Central Arkansas

"Numbers and Strategy: How Soviet Russia Defeated Nazi Germany," Cameron Harsey, McKendree University

"Recollections and Realities of Post-World War II Reconversion in America," Aubrey Anderson, Missouri Western State University

Discussant: Bill Thomas, Independent Scholar

V B. "The Making of *McKendree Recollections*"

Piper Academic Center 222

Panel Discussion:

Meghan Dohogne, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Andrew Olden, University of Missouri-Columbia

Timothy Rose, San Jose State University

Session VI: Saturday, September 12th 10:15-11:30 am

VI A. Modern Revolution

Piper Academic Center (PAC) 222

Chair: Brian Frederking, McKendree University

“Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sir Aylmer L. Haldane, and the Limitations of Historical Precedent,” John Daley, Pittsburg State University

“A Historiographical Analysis of the Romanian Revolution of 1989: Media, Film, Literature, and Collective Memory,” Lanna Demers, Bowling Green State University

Discussant: Brian Frederking, McKendree University

VI B. Ladies and Maids: Intersections of Race and Gender in Modern America

Piper Academic Center 218

Chair: Shelly Lemons, McKendree University

“The New Maid: African American Domestic Workers and the Economics of the Color Line during the Great Depression,” Catherine A. Stewart, Cornell College

“Enter the Ladies: Race, Class, and Black Femininity at Little Rock Central,” Misti Nichole Harper, University of Arkansas

Discussant: Shelly Lemons, McKendree University

VI. C. Show Me the Violence: Civil War, Suicide, and the KKK in Missouri, 1860-1930

Piper Academic Center 220

Chair: Alison Efford, Marquette University

“Disloyalty and the Cross: Gender and Antiwar Dissent in Civil War Missouri,” Darin Tuck, University of Missouri

“A Mourning Mother Seeks Her Child in Death. The Strangely Sad Suicide of Mrs. Estelle Johnson:” Suicide and Gender in St. Louis, Missouri, 1875-1885,” Sarah Lirley McCune, University of Missouri

“ ‘A Curious and Interested Spectator’: C.S. Burns, A.W. Nelson, and the Hyde-Phares Conspiracy,” Sean Rost, University of Missouri

Discussants: Alison Efford, Marquette University

Ann Collins, McKendree University