

“Confluences” – Saturday, April 26 – Cairo Junior/Senior High School – hosted by the Illinois Humanities Foreground Rural Initiative southern regional hub

8:30-9:00 AM: Check-in

9:00-9:15 AM: Welcome

9:15-11:45 AM: Plenary session: “Regional History, Memory, and Heritage Preservation”

- Robert Swenson: “Three Confluences: The Four Rivers Reach of the Lower Ohio River”
- Marcella Woodson: “Cairo at the Confluence: Merging Waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers”
- Gregory Hansen: “Heritage Sites and Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University”
- Don Patton: “From Past to Future: Utilizing Preservation to Ignite Community Renewal in Cairo, Illinois”

11:45 AM-12:45 PM: Lunch

12:45-1:45 PM: Optional, brief interpretive tour(s) of one or two historic sites in Cairo

2:00-4:30 PM: Concurrent sessions: “Documenting Life in the Confluence Region, Past and Present,” and “Arts in and of the Confluence Region”

| “Documenting Life in the Confluence Region, Past and Present” | “Arts in and of the Confluence Region” |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Molly Parker-Stephens & Julia Rendleman & students: “Reporting on Rural America at the Confluence”● Richard Kuenneke: “A Gathering of Stories: The Mound City National Cemetery”● Betsy Brown & Laura Varner: “Southern Illinois Civil War Stories: Three Women’s Perspectives”● Darrel Dexter: “Famous Visitors to Cairo” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clover Johnson: “Raices Entrelazadas: El Que No Tiene Dinga, Tiena Mandinga”● Kesiena Obue: “Charles Dickens’ Cairo, Illinois: A Prophetic Confluence of Past, Present, and ‘A Christmas Carol’”● Nathan Lynn: “The Mary Wheeler Collection: A Lower Ohio Valley Folksong Archive”● John Shoptaw: “Blues Haiku: Music, Poem, and Place” |

4:30-4:45 PM: Conclusion

4:45-6:00 PM: Supper (on our own)

6:00-7:30 PM: Post-conference reception at Harold S. Jones Fine Arts Center in Cairo, featuring free refreshments and music by Carter & Connelly and Henry Herron