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# RWSA NEWSLETTER

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June

2020

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## May 2021 RWSA Virtual Conference Update



Rural Women's Studies Association  
14<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference

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**KITCHEN TABLE TALK  
TO GLOBAL FORUM**  
A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

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**MAY 11-15, 2021** University of Guelph

Proposals due by **30 September 2020** [RWSA2021@gmail.com](mailto:RWSA2021@gmail.com)

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**  
**COLLEGE of ARTS**  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

For more information contact:  
**Catharine Wilson** at [cawilson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cawilson@uoguelph.ca)  
or visit the **RWSA** website:  
[www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes/rwsa](http://www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes/rwsa)

Hosted by the **University of Guelph** and the **Francis and Ruth Redelmeier Professorship in Rural History**

## **Our RWSA Conference, 11-15 May 2021, goes VIRTUAL**

As an international organization, the RWSA executive have been particularly concerned that funding and travelling might not be normalized by May 2021, when we hold our conference, and we want to protect all our delegates from the risk of illness. With this in mind the executive, program and local arrangement committees have decided to hold the conference online.

Admittedly this will be not the same as meeting in person in Guelph. Going online, however, means that we can all proceed with confidence, knowing that the event will happen and that we can meet and share our research and conversations. There is a lot of psychological comfort in that during these days of uncertainty - and some exciting new possibilities. In going virtual we can create meaningful new connections and achieve greater inclusivity. We can extend the reach to people who cannot ordinarily attend: those in remote places, those whose funding is cut, grad students, and internationals. In fact, our conference theme “Kitchen Table Talk to Global Forum” makes even more sense in a virtual environment.

How will this work? Any paper and panel submissions that have already been made will still be considered and the call for papers deadline has been extended to 30 September to incorporate more presentations. Zoom or Webex are reliable cloud platforms for video and audio conferencing, which can support our previously planned activities: keynote and plenary speakers, performers, cookbook launch – and regular sessions. We will be providing further details in the next newsletter about the chosen platform, the various presentation formats possible, security, accessibility, and the highlights of the conference program.

If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please contact Cathy Wilson, [cawilson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cawilson@uoguelph.ca)

### **Updated CFP**

The theme “Kitchen Table Talk to Global Forum” emphasizes how conversations, relationships, and food shape rural communities. This theme allows for the consideration of the ways that gendered, sexual, ethnic, and racial identities affect personal power, class consciousness, individual choice, and community development. These subjects lend themselves to the exploration of rural activism, social justice, innovation, politics, business development, cultural expression, self-governance, and collective experiences — both historical and contemporary — in local, regional, national, and global settings.

RWSA is an international association founded in 1997 to promote and advance farm and rural women’s/gender studies in a historical perspective by encouraging research, promoting scholarship, and establishing and maintaining links with organizations that share these goals. RWSA welcomes public historians and archivists, graduate students, and representatives of rural organizations and communities as conference participants and members, in addition to academic scholars from diverse fields, including sociology, anthropology, literature and languages, Indigenous Studies, and history.

Presentations take many forms at this **virtual RWSA conference**. Possibilities include workshops, panel sessions, virtual tours, interactive sessions, roundtable discussions, poster presentations, open-mic discussions, performances, readings, and audiovisual presentations. As much as possible, presentations and conference activities will take place in a synchronous environment. Virtual tours, posters, or other forms of presentations may be pre-recorded with the consent of the program committee. The RWSA encourages inter-, trans- or multi-disciplinary approaches that connect rural women's/gender history and present-day concerns. The RWSA seeks to integrate creative work with the conference theme, and we encourage artists working in visual, film, performative, and literary genres to submit their ideas to make the conference most dynamic.

The theme: "Kitchen Table Talk to Global Forum" encourages exploration of several sub-themes:

- Women and mental health
- Women and food justice
- Indigenous rural women
- Women and food tourism
- Women and technological and biological innovation (media, healthcare, equipment)
- What's on the table (food production, preparation, rituals, hospitality, etiquette, and display)
- Women's Table talk (issues concerning family, community, politics, legislation, and markets)

The University of Guelph is known as Canada's Food University and has gained international recognition for its impact on agricultural sciences and rural life.

Please submit the following information by **30 September 2020**.

1. Title of paper/panel/poster/workshop/performance (working title is acceptable).
2. 200-word description/abstract of paper, panel, poster, workshop, performance, etc.
3. Brief vita/bio of presenter or panel participants and complete contact information for all.

Please indicate if your panel or workshop proposal does not fit in a typical session time of 1.5 hours. We will contact you if your proposal has been accepted.

Submissions should be sent electronically (as a single Word document or combined PDF) to:  
RWSA2021@gmail.com

**Program Committee Co-chairs:** Katherine Jellison, Ohio University, and Jenny Barker-Devine, Illinois College

**Program Committee Members:** Margaret Thomas-Evans, Jodey Nurse-Gupta, Tracey Hanshaw, Amy McKinney, Cathy Wilson.

For additional information on the RWSA, please go to the [organization website](#)



## Silent Auction Items

If you find solace in arts and crafts during these weird and worrisome times, consider making something for the silent auction at the 2021 RWSA conference. Funds raised benefit the RWSA's Jensen-Neth Fund, which provides some funding for graduate students, activists, and international scholars who wish to attend the RWSA conferences. Popular items in past auctions have been handiwork by and depictions of rural women from around the world. Books on rural women are also most welcome. Published authors please contact your presses to request copies of your books and other titles related to rural women. We will find some way to hold the Silent Auction at the Virtual RWSA Conference 2021.

## Invitation to the RWSA Virtual Annual Breakfast Meeting 26 June 2020, 1:00-2:30 EST

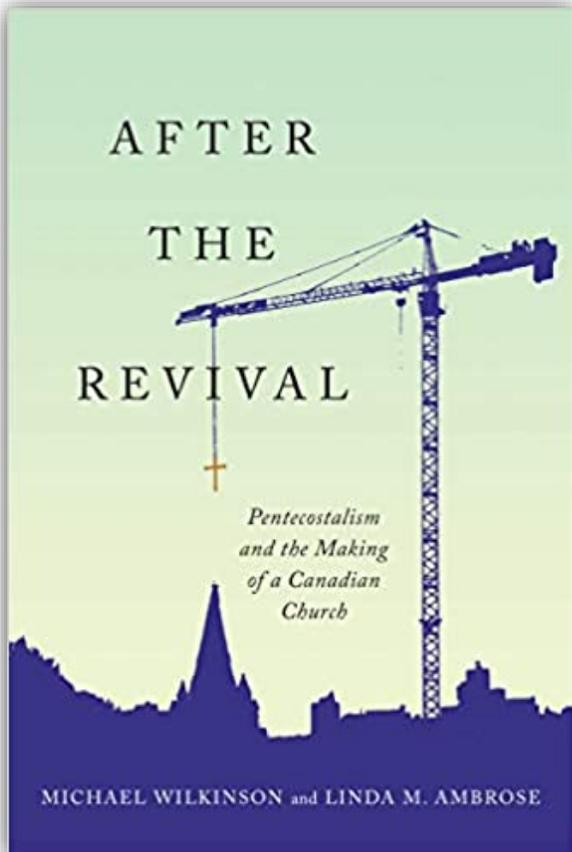
A warm thank you goes out to the Agricultural History Society and Iowa State University for sponsoring our last Annual Meeting in Washington, 2019. This year's annual RWSA meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the Agricultural History Conference was cancelled owing to Covid-19. Sadly we cannot meet over coffee and muffins but we can meet on Zoom, online, on Friday, 26 June 2020, 1:00-2:30 EST. Everyone is welcome to attend. In order to join the meeting, you will need to RSVP to [cawilson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cawilson@uoguelph.ca). She can then send you an email with the link to the meeting and instructions. You will soon receive an email with the agenda and other documents for the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there. Be sure to have your coffee/tea ready.



**And remember to RSVP!**

# Member News

## New Books!

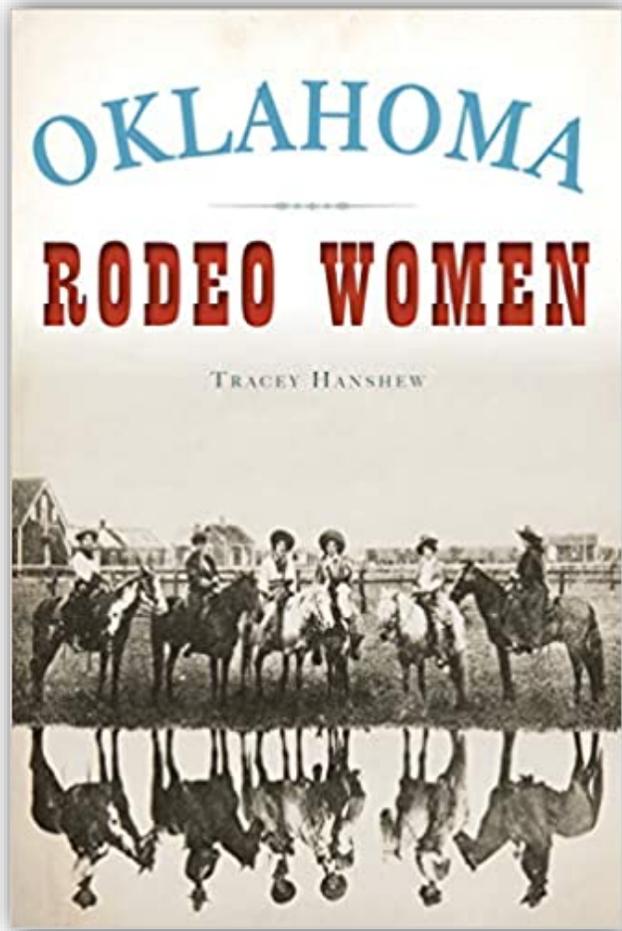


Linda Ambrose has a new co-authored book coming out! *After the Revival: Pentecostalism and the Making of the Canadian Church* will be published in September 2020 by McGill-Queen's University Press.

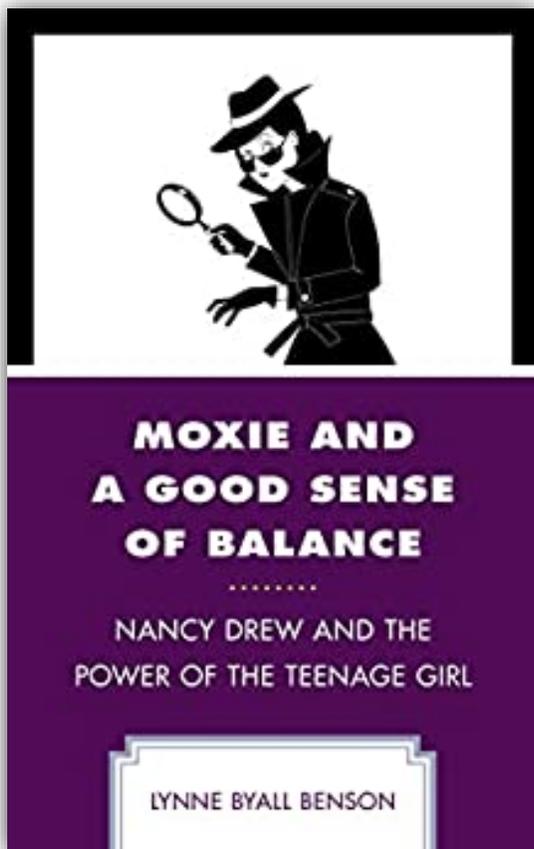
Early Pentecostal revivals swept through Canadian communities, big and small, in the early 1900s. Reports abounded of worshippers falling down at the altar, speaking in tongues, having dreams and visions, and experiencing divine healing. Tent meetings inspired curious onlookers to witness these phenomena for themselves. Following these revival meetings, Pentecostals organized, built churches, and expanded across the country, while many churches were beginning to decline. How did these Pentecostal "holy rollers" move from the fringe to take centre stage in Canada's religious landscape? Why is a religious group rooted in the early twentieth century, tied to Methodism and the Holiness movement, still so popular among followers from all walks of life, especially Indigenous peoples and new Canadians?

In *After the Revival* Michael Wilkinson and Linda Ambrose ask these and other questions, arguing that the answers are tied to Pentecostalism's continued organizational efforts. Since 1919, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC)

has worked to establish order and steady growth by managing financial and material assets, offering programs designed to attract families and youth, and training leaders. While Pentecostalism sometimes reflects broader cultural trends and at other times resists them, the PAOC has grown steadily to become one of the largest evangelical denominations in Canada. Addressing broader questions about how religious movements organize, establish an identity, and develop a subculture that flourishes, *After the Revival* explores the fascinating history of Pentecostalism in Canada and the ways the church, represented by the PAOC, engages with Canadian society.



Tracey Hanshew has a new book! *Oklahoma Rodeo Women* from The History Press of Arcadia Publishing came out in February, 2020. Oklahoma's central location and ranching tradition gave it a unique connection to the rodeo industry as it grew from a local pastime to an internationally popular sport. From the very beginning, Oklahoma cowgirls played a significant role in developing the institution and the businesses that grew up in its shadow. Lucille Mulhall's pioneering roping carved out a place for women in the actual competition, while Mildred Chrisman's promotional efforts kept rodeo chutes open during the Great Depression. Modern ranchers like Terry Stuart produced the quarter horses sought by professional athletes around the world. From Guymon to Pawhuska and from stock contractors to rodeo clowns, Tracey Hanshew follows the trail that Oklahoma women blazed across this rough-and-tumble sport.



Lynne Byall Benson also has a new book. “Moxie and a Good Sense of Balance. Nancy Drew and the Power of the Teenage Girl”, was published in December 2018 by Hamilton Books, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield Publishing.

The literary character of Nancy Drew, created by the Stratemeyer publishing syndicate in the 1930s, has endured for more than eighty years. Successfully solving complicated mysteries, Nancy Drew offered girls the role model of a confident, independent young woman, functioning simultaneously within what was considered appropriate within the sphere of her gender and outside of that sphere in terms of her so-called moxie. Nancy Drew’s portrayal in the books has changed over the years, reflecting changing social norms, becoming a more obedient and less independent in the 1940s as women returned to traditional roles after World War II.

Surprisingly, the Nancy Drew of the 1970s and 1980s did not reflect the changes brought about by the women’s movement and instead was transformed into a glamorous, globe-trotting professional private investigator in The Nancy Drew Files. The publishers soon came to their senses and brought back the plucky Nancy of old. In addition to analyzing Nancy Drew as a proto-feminist role model, Lynne Byall Benson provides a comprehensive bibliography of sources that can be used by scholars and teachers.

Barbara “Barney” Nelson will have a new memoir, *Making Circles: Memoir of a Cowboy Journalist*, coming out from Oklahoma UP in spring 2021. In it she combines her life on an Iowa farm, Texas ranches, and study of rural points of view in academia with her career writing for horse and cattle magazines. More details to come.

## Other News

Cindy Prescott was awarded The Gita Chaudhuri Prize for best monograph about the history of women in rural environments for *Pioneer Mother Monuments: Constructing Cultural Memory* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2019). This is an annual prize that recognizes the best monograph about the history of women in rural environments, from any era and any place in the world, published by a WAWH member.

Cindy also had an essay published, "Going Digital to Enrich Research and Engage the Public" in *California History* 97, no. 1 (spring 2020): 60-64.

Jeannie Whayne won the Graduate Mentor Award from the University of Arkansas Graduate School. She also published an article, "World War I and Woman Suffrage in Arkansas," in Mark Christ, *The War At Home: World War I in Arkansas* (Fayetteville, University of Arkansas, 2020).

Jeannie also won the Charles and Nadine Baum Award for Excellence in Teaching, an award at the University of Arkansas.

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg was promoted to Distinguished Professor of History at Iowa State University. She also had an article published, "A Terrible and Special Irony: Hunger on Iowa's Farms in the Agricultural Crisis of the 1980s." *Annals of Iowa* 78, 4 (Fall 2019): 384-413. Honorable Mention, Throne-Aldrich Award for the Best Article in *Annals of Iowa*, 2019.

Cherrise R. Jones was appointed as the Dean of the Graduate School at Arkansas State University. She also co-published "'We Who Believe In Freedom Cannot Rest:' The Civil Rights Movement" in Craig Thompson Friend and Lorri Glover Eds., *Reinterpreting Southern Histories: Essays in Historiography* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2020), 305-331.

Margaret Thomas-Evans was appointed Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Indiana University East in 2019.

Joyce Thierer is now Professor Emeritus of Emporia State University. She and Ann Birney continue historical performance with *Ride into History* and are planning a workshop for October of this year and a series of camps next summer. They contributed to Debra Reid and David Vail's *Interpreting the Environment at Museums and Historic Sites*.

Prior to the COVID19 shutdown, Melissa Walker (Converse College/Heyday Coaching) was enjoying the opportunity to give lots of talks about women's suffrage in this centennial year.

## About the RWSA

Founded in 1998 as an outgrowth of the Sixth Conference on Rural and Farm Women in Historical Perspective, the Rural Women's Studies Association is an international organization for the advancement and promotion of farm and rural women's gender studies in historical perspective. The Association aims to encourage research, to promote existing and forthcoming scholarship, and to establish and maintain links with contemporary farm and rural women's organizations. The RWSA aims to encourage scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and countries to communicate about their research and all other activities that are supportive to the Association's goals.

### **RWSA Officers**

#### **Co-Chairs**

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University  
Catharine Wilson, University of Guelph

#### **Co-Secretaries**

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, Iowa State University  
Position open for second secretary

#### **Treasurer**

Jenny Barker-Devine, Illinois College

#### **International Membership and Communication Coordinators**

*Pacific*—Kate Hunter, Victoria Univ. of Wellington

*Canada*—Jodey Nurse-Gupta, University of Waterloo

*Europe*—Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University, Holland

*Africa*—Olubunmi Ashimolowo, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

*U.S.*—Vivianne Holmes, University of Maine;  
Tracey Hanshew, Washington State TC

#### **Emerging Professional & Graduate Student Coordinators**

Maggie Weber, Iowa State University  
Kendra DeHart, Sul Ross State University  
Karissa Patton, University of Saskatchewan  
Diane McKenzie, University of Lethbridge

### **RWSA Officers Cont.**

#### **Web Master**

Katherine Jellison, Ohio University  
Website:

<https://www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes-associations/rwsa/index.cfm>

#### **Social Media Coordinators:**

Cynthia Culver Prescott, University of North Dakota  
Maggie Weber, Iowa State University

Blog:

<https://ruralwomensstudies.wordpress.com/>

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Margaret Thomas Evans, Indiana University East

#### **Fundraising**

Cynthia Culver-Prescott, University of North Dakota

### **Share Your Work on the RWSA Blog**

We invite submissions to the RWSA blog, which publishes on a wide range of topics related to rural women, gender and sexuality. We publish scholarship and book reviews as well as more informal reflections. We also seek to highlight rural activism. Posts typically range from about 200 to 2,000 words. Send submissions and queries to Cindy Prescott at <cynthia.culver@gmail.com>.

### **Send Us Your News!**

RWSA members would appreciate hearing of your accomplishments, awards, changes in employment, publications, and research discoveries or needs. We welcome announcements from institutions and organizations regarding historical holdings, job openings, and events. Send submissions to Margaret Thomas Evans [margevan@iue.edu](mailto:margevan@iue.edu)

We plan to have two issues per year – fall and spring.

RURAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBER INFORMATION

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS (please circle: Work or Home)

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY

STATE

ZIP / COUNTRY CODE

\_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY

E-MAIL PHONE FAX

MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO RWSA:

ANNUAL DUES are \$10.00 for students, non-academics, and adjunct and part-time faculty; \$25.00 for tenure-track faculty; and \$50.00 for contributing members.

JOAN JENSEN-MARY NETH FUND: RWSA welcomes contributions to the Joan Jensen-Mary Neth Fund to help offset registration fees for invited speakers and international participants. Memorials may be made to the Fund as well. Please designate the name of the person being memorialized.

DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please circle: Annual \$10; Annual \$25; Contributing \$50)

JENSEN-NETH FUND: \_\_\_\_\_ IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail a personal check or international money order made out to RWSA to:

Jenny Barker-Devine, RWSA Treasurer  
Dept. of History, Illinois College  
1101 W. College Avenue  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

**(RWSA is a 501C-3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.)**