

# Rushlight Club 2019 Spring Meeting Report

## April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Little Rock, Arkansas

Great weather and a friendly city greeted attendees of the Rushlight Club Spring meeting. The meeting hotel, the Capitol, a historically restored, Victorian hotel in downtown Little Rock was conveniently located a short walk from meeting activities at the Old State House and the Historic Arkansas Museum. The hotel opened in 1877 and the latest renovation in 2007 was



Jerry Mercer Takes an Evening Trolley Ride

Friday morning we visited the Historic Arkansas Museum and the museum's storage facility where we were able to view, and to help identify, some of their lighting.

successful in merging luxury and comfort with the 140+ year old building's large and quiet rooms. The hotel's large elevator is rumored to have been built to allow Ulysses S. Grant to take his horse to his room. A free trolley with numerous stops around the downtown area provided a convenient way to explore the city and to visit some of the local attractions.



Club Members Help Identify Lighting at the Historic Arkansas Museum Storage Facility



"Boars Head" Figural Argand Lamp

Carl Miller displayed many lighting devices as period furnishings of his restored 1890 mansion. The house itself is perfectly restored and the period lighting was a combination of candles, fluid lamps, gas wall brackets and early combination gas and electric fixtures.

Friday afternoon we toured the Old State House Museum. Constructed between 1836 and 1842, it is the oldest capitol building west of the Mississippi river.

Saturday morning we viewed two private collections. John Bush, displayed a number of early lighting devices in excellent and in burning condition. Among them were a figural Argand lamp and an unusual double-arm Argand floor lamp. (photo right)



Carl also played some of his amazing, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, music machines for us.



Kerosene, Gas and Early Gas/Electric Lamps Represent Lighting in the 1890's



Carl Miller Played this "Violano-Virtuoso" Made by the Mills Novelty Co., Chicago



Gas Cigar Lighter



Embossed Plume & Atwood Student Lamp

Saturday afternoon Al Zoellner allowed us to wander throughout his home to view lighting collected by his late wife. Among the many interesting items were a heavily embossed Plume and Atwood student lamp and a gas cigar lighter. Following the Rushlight dinner, June Freeman was asked to light the rush in



recognition of her help in planning the meeting. During the show and tell session, Keith Letsche brought a pair of oil lamps with cast figural bases in like new condition. A group photo concluded the meeting.

(Meeting Photos by June Freeman, M.J. Howell, Keith Letsche & Dick O'Connell)