



GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Friends,

Our February meeting was cancelled because of the icy weather. Our scheduled speaker, Dr. Wendy Richter, will give her program in May. Her topic will still be "Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley."

Next Tuesday, March 17, at noon at the Garland County Library, longtime society supporter Don Duren will present a program about baseball star and Garland County Judge Lon Warneke. Don's recently published book, *Lon Warneke: The Arkansas Hummingbird*, tells the story of the popular major league baseball pitcher from Mount Ida, Arkansas, who played for the Chicago Cubs and the St. Louis Cardinals during the 1930s and 1940s. Following retirement as a Cubs pitcher in 1945, Warneke served as an umpire for ten years, seven of which were as an arbiter in the National League. Warneke is the only major league player to have played and umpired in the World Series and a Major League All-Star Game. Upon retirement from umpiring in 1955, he entered politics and was elected county judge for Garland County, serving from 1963 until his retirement in 1972.

Don is the author of *Boiling Out at the Springs: A History of Major League Baseball Spring Training in Hot Springs, Arkansas* and also *Bathers Baseball: A History of Minor League Baseball at the Arkansas Spa*. He has contributed many articles to *The Record*, and is a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. He is a member of the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) and the Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County, Arkansas. A well-known authority on baseball, especially the baseball history of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Don is one of the baseball historians that assisted in establishing The Hot Springs Baseball Trail.

A descendant of Arkansas pioneer Granville Whittington, Don attended public schools in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and is a graduate of Hot Springs High School. He served four years in the United States Air Force and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, Southwestern Seminary in Texas, and Northwestern State University in Louisiana. He is the retired Minister of Activities of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

In March the society is giving programs to the Garland County Retired Teachers, the young people of the Uzuri Project, the Hot Springs Village Computer Club, the Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Hot Springs Village Kiwanis Club, and the North Garland County Scenic 7 Rotary Club.

As always, our volunteers are incredibly busy cataloging, helping the digitizers, helping researchers, and doing a myriad of tasks to improve our archives. Our society is so fortunate to have this enthusiastic, hard-working, dedicated group.

Your support, of course, makes everything possible! Thank you, and I hope to see you on the 17th!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity." - Cicero

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