



GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Friends,

Please mark your calendars:

Sunday May 17—Local Author Book Fair, Garland County Library, 1-4 pm.

Tuesday, May 19—GCHS meeting with Wendy Richter, Garland County Library, noon

After June 1—Garland County Cemetery Directory for sale at Melting Pot Genealogical Society

Saturday, June 13—World War II in Hot Springs, Liz Robbins, Garland County Library, 10:30

May 17: From 1-4, you can meet local award-winning authors, get signed books, ask questions about their nonfiction works, novels, poems, short stories, memoirs. Please visit with us at the GCSH table, and with Dr. Nancy Hendricks (author of *Terrible Swift Sword: Long Road to the Sultana* and *Senator Hattie Caraway: An Arkansas Legacy*) at her table.

May 19: The featured speaker at our May meeting (at noon, Tuesday, at the Garland County Library) will be Dr. Wendy Richter. Her presentation will be based on her book, *Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley*, and will include dozens of photographs and much information detailing the history and culture of Arkansas's Ouachita Mountains region.

The completion of Blakely Mountain Dam and Lake Ouachita in the mid-1950s resulted in a total and permanent evacuation of a large portion of the upper Ouachita River valley. As people sold their property and abandoned local communities, life in what was once an ordinary rural uplands Arkansas region transformed into an extraordinary experience. When partaking of Lake Ouachita's many amenities, most never consider the upheaval that occurred as a result of the reservoir project's completion. The memories and stories of those who lived in the reservoir area before the lake began to fill will be the featured in the presentation.

Wendy's book (*Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley: Buckville, Cedar Glades and environs*) will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Wendy is a longtime friend of our society—a past president of GCHS and former editor of *The Record*. She's a native of Garland County and graduate of Jessieville High School. She has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Heritage Studies from Arkansas State University. She currently serves as Archivist and Associate Professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Previously, she was State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission (State Archives) in Little Rock from 2005 to 2012 and Archivist at OBU from 1990 to 2005.

She is on the board of directors of the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society and is Vice-President of the Clark County Historical Association. She has been president of the Garland County Historical Society and the

"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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Arkansas Women's History Institute; a member of the Arkansas Historical Association Board of Trustees, and Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Historical Society. She also served on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Council of State Archivists. She has authored, compiled, and edited numerous books and articles on state and local history. Every day, visitors to Hot Springs read the text she wrote for more than thirty historical markers embedded in downtown sidewalks.

After June 1: For \$30 you can purchase a copy of the new *Garland County Cemetery Directory* compiled by the Melting Pot Genealogical Society. The 200+ page book lists every known burial location in the county. (Open 10:00 to 2:00, Mondays and Fridays, 649_B Ouachita, 624-0229, mpgs@att.net)

June 13: I will give a powerpoint program exploring how World War II affected Hot Springs at 10:30 at the Garland County Library.

We are very grateful to the Congregation House of Israel Sisterhood for raising funds for us at the May 4 program they hosted featuring author Nancy Hendricks (*Terrible Swift Sword: Long Road to the Sultana*).

We are also grateful to everyone who brings items to the archives. Recent donations include two World War II scrapbooks compiled by Lois Neal Welton and donated by her niece, Janet Fotioo; a photo of the old Pleasant Hill School donated by Pat Mitchell; and Beautification Commission scrapbooks donated by the commission. The tireless Patsy Hall gave us a transcript she compiled of the 1860 census of Clark County.

Please urge your friends to join the society. They can download a membership form from our website, call me to have one mailed to them, or come by the archives. Their dues (like yours) will help us continue our work.

Tuesday's meeting will be our last monthly meeting until September. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes,

Liz Robbins, Executive Director