

Dear Friends,

This month's meeting is at noon, Tuesday, October 20, at the Garland County Library. To mark the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, award-winning author Dr. Nancy Hendricks will present a program about the sinking of the Civil War-era steamboat *Sultana*. Even though it did not receive the attention of the sinking of the *Titanic* fifty years later, the 1865 *Sultana* sinking remains America's worst maritime disaster.

Hendricks says the *Sultana* tragedy is a Civil War story few people know. That may be about to change with the recent publication of Hendricks' book *Terrible Swift Sword: Long Road to the Sultana*, which the prestigious *Kirkus Reviews* called a "riveting read." "Yet even in tragedy," she says, "I try to emphasize that the story is also inspiring and uplifting." In her presentation she will also include a local connection to the story.

Hendricks is known for her portrayal of Senator Hattie Caraway of Arkansas, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. She is author of the book *Senator Hattie Caraway: An Arkansas Legacy*, which was recently named by *Cosmopolitan* magazine as one of the "Twenty Political Books All Women Should Read." Hendricks travels nationwide with her program, *Hattie to Hillary: Women in Politics*, and has received the Pryor Award for Arkansas Women's History, the Arkansas Governor's Arts Award, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution 'Women in American History' Award, and the White House Millennium Award for her work.

The premiere of *The First Boys of Springs* by Larry Foley at the Convention Center on October 10 was a huge success. Over 700 people enjoyed Larry's documentary about major league spring training in Hot Springs (narrated by Billy Bob Thornton). Our board member Mark Blaeuer and member Don Duren (who were instrumental in making the documentary) did an outstanding job during the panel discussion after the showing of the documentary.

Even if you don't like baseball, the local photographs and history as well as the human stories in the film are fascinating. You can order a copy (\$19.99 plus shipping) from University of Arkansas Press. <http://www.uapress.com/dd-product/the-first-boys-of-spring/>

Patsy Hall has given us her just completed version of the 1870 Census for Clark County. This is just the latest of the census records we can thank Patsy for. For years, Patsy has examined Federal Census records and has created digital and hard copies of them, correcting mistakes and misspellings. Thanks to Patsy, we have excellent, indexed versions of censuses for not just Garland County but also surrounding areas.

We're also grateful for the interesting donations of material we've received this month. A partial list includes photos of St. Joseph's Hospital in 1888 and photos of the construction of the new St. Joseph's Hospital in 1984; photos of Pleasant Hill School, Daniel School, Higdon Ferry, downtown scenes by Gary Simmons, the 1928 Army and Navy Hospital baseball team; a map detailing the Missouri Pacific railroad depot in 1920; American Legion photos; and a spoon from the Velda Rose.

Hope to see you on the 20th!

Sincerely,
Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society