

Dear Friends,

At noon, Tuesday, February 16 at the Garland County Library, the society will meet and hear Elizabeth Griffin Hill, author of *A Splendid Piece of Work 1912 – 2012: One Hundred Years of Arkansas's Home Demonstration and Extension Homemakers Clubs*. In 2011, Hill was asked to write the one-hundred-year history of Arkansas's home demonstration and extension homemakers clubs for the organization's centennial celebration in June 2012. During her research, she and her husband, Richard, discovered a treasure trove of Arkansas's Cooperative Extension Service county agents' annual narrative reports from 1911 to 1965 at the National Archives at Fort Worth. She also interviewed thirty-four current and past club members and agents.

Her book and program highlight the bright, shrewd, sometimes heroic county agents who taught Arkansas's rural women to be self-sustaining through two world wars, devastating droughts, floods, and the Great Depression. She shows how Arkansas's isolated farm women spread their wings, taking leadership roles and embracing their communities (especially malnourished school children) and later manning canning centers to help neighbors slaughter and can starving livestock during the darkest days of the 1930s. Hill traces the changes that have taken place among Arkansas's rural women and their families from the early twentieth century to today. One reviewer called the book "a love letter to Arkansas's rural women" and another said it's a "must-read for anyone who had an Arkansas grandmother or who loves history."

Hill also contributed to the Butler Center's publication *To Can the Kaiser: Arkansans and the Great War* with a chapter about Arkansas women's efforts on the home front during World War I. She has a BA and MA in professional and technical writing from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, with a focus on historical research and writing.

The year is off to a great start, particularly thanks to you who renewed your membership or joined the society. We appreciate you! Please tell your friends that this would be a great time for them to renew their memberships or to become new members.

Mike Blythe's photographic book (*Then and Now: Hot Springs, Arkansas*) has been a huge success. Copies are still available at the archives or through our website.

When you visit the archives, you'll see that we have a new look in the reception room, thanks to John Faginkrantz, who donated very attractive chairs to replace our old, dilapidated ones. We are very grateful to him!

Thank you again for your support! You make our work possible!

Sincerely,

Liz

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
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