

GCHS November Newsletter (Army & Navy Hospital and HS Baseball)

Dear Friends,

Please mark your calendars!

In August, many more people wanted to hear Gary Jackson's terrific program about the Army and Navy Hospital than the meeting room at the Garland County Library could hold. So the library and GCHS are presenting the program again at **2 PM, Monday, November 7** at the library. This is not a GCHS monthly meeting, but a special program that the library asked us to provide to the public. The library asks that you call (501-623-4161 or 501-922-4483) to register for the program.

Everyone sees the former Army and Navy Hospital building, rising over downtown Hot Springs like a fortress, but few know its complete history. In his fascinating program (full of stories and photographs), Gary reveals the history of this iconic Hot Springs landmark, which is now home to the Arkansas Career Training Institute.

Gary explains how this unusual facility came to be located in Hot Springs, its service during peace and war (including two World Wars), its status as the main military treatment center for arthritis and polio, and much more. He also reviews prominent patients and visitors, from General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio.

GCHS's monthly meeting will be at **noon, Tuesday, November 15**, at the Garland County Library. Mark Blaeuer will present the program "Baseball in Hot Springs." Mark was a consultant on the Hot Springs Historic Baseball Trail and on the documentary film *The First Boys of Springs*. He is also the author of *Baseball in Hot Springs*, a popular photographic history of major leaguers, local teams, and baseball schools in Hot Springs. In his program, Mark will share many images and stories about Hot Springs' unique sports history.

At the meeting, you can also see his book, which presents nearly 200 images taken in Hot Springs between the 1890s and the 1950s. Many of these photos have never or rarely been seen by the public. His introduction and captions show the depth of his research into the white and also the African-American teams who came to Hot Springs starting in 1886 to "boil out" in the thermal waters and get in shape for the baseball season. The book showcases the local ball parks where players such as Honus Wagner and Babe Ruth sharpened their skills. The book also includes photos of players away from the baseball diamonds as they enjoyed the bathhouses, trails, golf courses, and other attractions in Hot Springs. Local teams (like the Hot Springs Arlingtons and the Hot Springs Bathers) are included, as are the baseball schools held here from the 1930 to the 1950s. His program will include images from his book as well as additional photographs.

Mark is a retired National Park ranger and the author of many books and articles. He is a GCHS board member and a member of the Society for American Baseball Research.

Come to our Christmas dinner! It's at 5:30, Tuesday, December 13, at Smokin' in Style at 2278 Albert Pike. Please help me give a head count to the restaurant by letting us know if you will attend. You can call us at 321-2159 or email gchs@hotsprings.net.

The Record 2016 will be arriving from the printer's in late November or early December. Watch your emails and the *Sentinel-Record* to learn when you can pick it up. Some of you, of course, have chosen to have it mailed to you. Many authors and volunteers worked very hard on this issue, and we hope you enjoy it.

Thank you again for all your support! I hope to see you soon!

Best wishes,
Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society
321-2159 gchs@hotsprings.net 328 Quapaw Avenue

Leave a legacy. Please remember GCHS in your estate planning.