

GCHS Newsletter February

Dear Friends,

“Images of Hot Springs National Park” will be presented by Mary Bell Hill at our meeting at noon, Tuesday, February 21, at the Garland County Library. She will talk about the history of the park using historic images from the park archives. The photos range from the earliest days of the park’s formation through today.

Mary has worked in museums for the past twenty-three years, caring for a wide variety of collections ranging from vintage military aircraft to exotic bird species. Her work has taken her all over the country where she has worked in the collections at Hot Springs National Park, Hill Aerospace Museum, the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum, the Botany Division of the Nebraska State Museum of Natural History, and the Fort Worth Zoo. She has a Master’s of Science in Museum Studies from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, a Bachelor of Science in History from Weber State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Mary is currently a volunteer Museum Technician at Hot Springs National Park. Her book *Hot Springs National Park*, from Arcadia Publishing’s *Images of America Series*, is a collection of archival photos from the park highlighting the changes through time of this extraordinary place.

We’re very grateful to Major James (Jimmy) Dowds for donating to the society a collection of over 400 historic postcards of Hot Springs that had been collected by his father, James J. Dowds Jr. They range in dates from the late 1800s to the 1980s and bring the city’s history to colorful life. A history of the Dowds family and an article about collecting postcards will be in *The Record 2017*.

The Mountain Pine Historic Museum’s dedication will be at 10 AM on Friday, March 10. The museum is in the Mountain Pine Municipal Building, 241 Main Street. The museum features photographs and artifacts as well as an amazing diorama of the town and the lumber mill built by Jimmy Long. Jimmy and his wife, Brenda, have been instrumental in the creation of the museum.

You might also be interested in the presentation by Cheryl Batts at the Garland County Library on February 21 at 5:30 PM. She will show photos of and discuss the Pleasant Street Historic District. You need to call the library at 501.624.4161 to register for this program.

And check this out: A great new exhibit opens at Old State House Museum, 300 W. Markham, Little Rock, on March 11. "Cabinet of Curiosities" features a diverse collection of artifacts ranging from dinosaur bones and Ming Dynasty ceramics to a machine gun allegedly taken from Bonnie and Clyde's car. The exhibit contains 388 artifacts selected from over 7 million in the University of Arkansas Museum collection. The "Cabinet of Curiosities" exhibit will be the first time many of these objects are available for public viewing.

Thank you for your continued support, and see you at noon on the 21st!

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