



July, 2012

Dear Friends,

Some exciting events are in the near future—especially if you want to learn more about baseball in Hot Springs or about the Civil War.

The Garland County Library, as part of its Great Arkansas Read summer series, will host a special afternoon on Sunday, July 8, about local baseball. In fact, it's a double header! Mark Blaeuer will present "Lifting the Lid on Negro Baseball History in Hot Springs" at 1 p.m. and Don Duren will talk about professional baseball spring training in Hot Springs in a program called "Boiling Out at the Springs" at 3 p.m.

Please also come to "Civil War Perspectives: A History Symposium" at 2 p.m. in Rooms 203-204 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This event features Dr. Wendy Richter, Dr. Tom DeBlack, Ronnie Nichols, and Dr. Ray Granade. Using photographs to illustrate their presentations, these outstanding historians and authors will share their insights into the Civil War experience in Arkansas and in the Hot Springs area. There is no admission charge. The symposium is presented by our society and the National Park Service, with the assistance of Visit Hot Springs.

Dr. Wendy Richter, State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission, will examine "Hot Springs in the Civil War," including the weeks in 1862 that the small spa city served as the unofficial state capital as Governor Henry M. Rector moved the state records from Little Rock to Hot Springs to keep them out of Federal hands. She will discuss the devastating effects on the Hot Springs area of marauding guerrilla forces as well as other aspects of the war in the local area.

Dr. Tom DeBlack will present "The War within the War: The Cherokees and the Civil War in Arkansas." His program includes the roles of Cherokee leaders John Ross and Stand Watie, the only Native American on either side to attain the rank of general and one of the last Confederates to surrender. An Arkansas Tech University professor since 1995, DeBlack is the author of *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas 1861-1874*, winner of the Butler-Rommel Arkansas History Literary Prize.

Mr. Ronnie Nichols will speak about "The Civil War in Arkansas and the Role of People of African Descent: Enslaved, Contrabands, Freedmen and Soldiers." Mr. Nichols is the founder of Nichols Consulting, which provides planning, research, and technical services in Civil War, military, and African-American history for films, publications, and public programs. Mr. Nichols served as a technical advisor on the production of the motion picture *Glory*, the story of first black regiment raised in the North. His articles concerning blacks in the Civil War have appeared

in *U.S. News and World Report*, the *Civil War Times*, and National Park Service publications. His book *Freedom's War: Black Soldiers in the Civil War West of the Mississippi River Fighting and Serving in Arkansas, 1862-1866*, will be published in 2013.

Dr. Ray Granade will serve as symposium moderator. He is the Director of Library Services and Professor of History at Ouachita Baptist University. He is serving his second term on the board of the Arkansas History Commission and has been its chairman since 2011. He has produced numerous publications, especially in the fields of Civil War history, American social and intellectual history, Southern history, and Baptist history.

The history symposium is part of "A Capital Weekend," a series of events July 6-8 in Hot Springs that mark the 150th anniversary of Hot Springs serving briefly as the state capital. Below is a calendar of the weekend's events:

Friday, July 6th

Arkansas during the American Civil War Exhibit

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Bathhouse Row Emporium, Lamar Bathhouse, 515 Central Avenue

The exhibit includes artifacts on loan only for this weekend from the Arkansas History Commission. Of special interest are the Military Board Minutes excerpts written while the board met in Hot Springs.

Toe Tapping Fun

7 – 8:30 p.m. Hill Wheatley Plaza, Central Avenue

Bring lawn chairs and wear dancing shoes to enjoy this free musical presentation of Civil War era music. A dance caller and instructor will be on hand to teach dances of the period.

Saturday, July 7th

Arkansas during the American Civil War Exhibit

9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Bathhouse Row Emporium, Lamar Bathhouse, 515 Central Avenue

Civil War Perspectives

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Bathhouse Row, 329 – 515 Central Avenue

The lawns of Bathhouse Row will come alive with living history re-enactors who will depict life in Hot Springs before, during and after the Civil War.

Civil War Perspectives History Symposium

2 – 3:30 p.m. Hot Springs Convention Center, 134 Convention Blvd, Rooms 203-204

Dr. Wendy Richter, State Archivist and Director of the Arkansas History Commission:

"The Civil War in Hot Springs"

Dr. Tom DeBlack, author of *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas 1861-1874*, Professor of History at Arkansas Tech University: "The War within the War: The Cherokees and the Civil War in Arkansas"

Ronnie Nichols, nationally-known expert on the Civil War experiences of African Americans: "The Civil War in Arkansas and the Role of People of African Descent: Enslaved, Contrabands, Freedmen and Soldiers"

Symposium moderator: Dr. Ray Granade, Director of Library Services and Professor of History at Ouachita Baptist University

The Magnolia Ball

7 – 10 p.m. Arlington Hotel Crystal Ballroom, 239 Central Avenue

A 19th century ball complete with live music and period dance. Historic brass band music will be provided by Todd Cranson and his “Sultry Night Serenaders” with dance calling and instruction by St. Louis’ own Deborah Hyland. The evening will include heavy hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, and elegant dancing. Period attire is encouraged but not required. Advance tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased by contacting the Hot Springs Music Festival at (501) 623-4763.

Sunday, July 8th

Arkansas during the American Civil War Exhibit

9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Bathhouse Row Emporium, Lamar Bathhouse, 515 Central Avenue

Guided Tours of the former Army-Navy Hospital

1 – 3 p.m. Arkansas Career Training Institute, 105 Reserve Street

Established in 1887, the Army and Navy Hospital provided medical care to the serving military and to veterans, including in its early years many Civil War veterans. The current building, built in the early 1930s, served the military until April 1960, when the facility was turned over to the State of Arkansas. Today the building is home to the Arkansas Career Training Institute.

We hope to see you at these exciting events!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society