



GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2012

Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to a book signing and to our Christmas dinner!

Our latest book has just arrived from the printer. We are very proud of *The Art of History: Catherine Thornton's Hot Springs*. This ninety-seven page, full-color, 6 inch by nine inch book presents Catherine's paintings of locations and events in Hot Springs' past in a beautiful union of art and history. Ann and Willie Gilbert are hosting a book signing at the American Art Gallery, 724 Central, during Gallery Walk from 5:00 to 9:00 pm Friday, December 7.

The forty-eight oil and watercolor paintings reproduced in the book were inspired by old photographs of historic scenes. Each painting is accompanied by text that provides information about the people, place, or event that it depicts. The paintings take us back in time from an 1858 view of Smith Creek Church to the 1973 burning of the Moody Hotel. In between, we can see the Hot Spring jail of the 1870s, views of Central Avenue from the days when it was called Valley Street to more modern times, the 1884 Opera House, Whittington Junction as it changed over the years, an 1885 baseball game at Whittington Park, the 1882 Courthouse, the 1900 Arkansaw Club, the Gaines Block circa 1900, the Crystal Bathhouse in 1905, the 1905 Oaklawn Race Track, the 1910 Old City Hall, the Fire of 1913, the 1914 Hot Springs Railroad Depot, Como Square in the 1920s, the Medical Arts Building in 1935, a rooftop view that includes the Army and Navy Hospital circa 1950, and much, much more. A map of downtown Hot Springs notes the locations of many of the paintings' subjects.

We hope you can come to the book signing. The book is also available at our archives (321-2159) at 328 Quapaw from 8:00 to noon, Mondays through Fridays, or at garlandcountyhistoricalsociety.com for \$20 (\$25 if mailed). (Need I say, these are great Christmas presents!)

Also, please come to our annual Christmas dinner at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, December 18 at Red Lobster. Please call (321-2159) and let us know if you can attend so that we can give the restaurant an accurate head count. This is always such a fun occasion—hope to see you there!

Best wishes,

Liz Robbins
Executive Director

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity." - Cicero

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