

Dear Friends,

Please mark your calendars for interesting August events:

(1) The Garland County Library is co-sponsoring with GCHS a presentation by GCHS volunteer and board member Gary Jackson about the Army and Navy Hospital at 2 PM, Wednesday, August 17. This is not a GCHS meeting, but a special program that the library asked us to provide to the public.

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.

The library asks that you call (501-623-4161 or 501-922-4483) before August 17 to register for the program.

(2) Also of interest: The Arkansas State Archives will host a half-day symposium from 9 a.m. until noon at the Historic Arkansas Museum on Saturday, August 27. The symposium's theme, "Arkansas's Homerun: Major League Training in Hot Springs," will feature the screening of Larry Foley's documentary, *The First Boys of Spring*, and a presentation by Don Duren, who will be speaking about his book, *Boiling Out at the Springs: A History of Major League Baseball Training at Hot Springs, Arkansas*.

The event is free, but registration is required. The deadline for registering will be August 23, and registration is limited, so be sure to make reservations soon. Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM on August 27. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance.

For more information about the symposium or to register, contact the Arkansas State Archives at events.archives@arkansas.gov or call them at 501-682-6900.

We are having a busy summer at the archives—cataloging, digitizing, helping researchers, providing programs to educate people about our history. All made possible, of course, by your support!

Thank you, and hope to see you at the library on August 17!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director

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Garland County Historical Society Newsletter: Army and Navy Hospital Program

