

GCHS Newsletter—May 2017

Dear Friends,

With great sadness I have to report that our GCHS President and dear friend Marsha Oliver King passed away suddenly on May 9. Marsha was passionate about so many things, including her family, her friends, her work, her faith. She loved local history and knew an astounding amount about life and people in the county and in Hot Springs. We will miss her warmth and humor and knowledge enormously, and we're very grateful to have known her.

A celebration of her life will be at 2 p.m. Monday at the Caruth-Hale Funeral Home. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 1-2 Monday. Our hearts go out to her husband, Ron, her daughter, Melissa, her parents and her other loved ones.

It seems strange to transition from this sad news to another topic, but Marsha would have wanted us to carry on.

Our last monthly meeting until September will be on Tuesday, May 16, at noon at the Garland County Library. The program will be about the murder of Park Ranger James A. Carey, the first National Park Service ranger killed in the line of duty. Law Enforcement Ranger Zach Summerlin will present the program.

Born in Missouri in 1895, Carey served in the Navy during World War I. He joined the National Park Service in 1923 and was appointed a law enforcement ranger in Hot Springs National Park that same year. While patrolling West Mountain on March 12, 1927, he was murdered. No one was ever convicted of his murder. Zach's program will explore Carey's life, career, and the identity of his murderer.

Zach is a Law Enforcement Ranger with the National Park Service. He's been stationed in Hot Springs since 2011 and previously worked at Grand Teton National Park and Dinosaur National Monument. His interest in the James Cary murder started when he was cleaning out the basement in the Ranger station and ran across an old case file.

If you haven't yet seen it, please notice the memorial to Carey (a bronze plaque and iconic Park Ranger hat mounted on a large novaculite boulder) which was unveiled in May 2016 at the corner of Reserve Street and Central Avenue.

Our book party at the Convention Center in April, featuring Rex Nelson and his new book *Southern Fried: Going Whole Hog in a State of Wonder*, was a great success. Thank you to all who came. We have a few copies of Rex's book left at the archives, if you haven't yet gotten one.

We're very grateful to the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation for a grant we received earlier this month. With this grant, we will buy a flat file case for oversized photos, maps, and books.

Please check out the GCHS Facebook page. We're sharing old photos and information there.

Thank you, always, for your wonderful support, and please remember Marsha's family in your prayers.

Liz

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