

GCHS Newsletter October

Dear Friends,

The Garland County Historical Society's next meeting will be Tuesday, **October 18**, at noon at the Garland County Library. It will feature Dr. Michael Dougan presenting "Hot Springs Communist Joe Strecker and the US Supreme Court." Dr. Dougan is a distinguished historian and an excellent speaker.

Dougan has unearthed a little-known story from the 1930s that resonates today. Local restaurant owner Joe Strecker's story involves First Amendment Free Speech issues, immigration concerns, and the powers of the federal government. Does the First Amendment protect aliens as well as citizens? Can the federal government deport someone for his political beliefs? Who decides what actions are treasonable?

Find out what happened when immigrant Joe Strecker applied for US citizenship in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1933. Dr. Dougan will explain how "forces were set in motion that lasted for decades." The case of Joe Strecker (who was defended after his arrest by Hot Springs lawyer C. Alpheus Stanfield, the "Clarence Darrow of Arkansas") went all the way to the Supreme Court, and the court's decision had a great impact on the United States we live in today.

Dr. Michael B. Dougan, Professor Emeritus of History at Arkansas State University, is a highly respected teacher and author in the field of Arkansas history. Holding degrees from Southwest Missouri State College and Emory University, Dr. Dougan taught at ASU from 1970 until 2006. His award-winning books include *Confederate Arkansas: The People and Policies of a Frontier State in Wartime*, *By the Cypress Swamp: The Arkansas Stories of Octave Thanet*, *Arkansas Odyssey: The Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present*, *Arkansas History: An Annotated Bibliography* (with Tom Dillard and Timothy G. Nutt), *Arkansas Politics: A Reader* (with Richard P. Wang), and *Community Diaries: Arkansas Newspapering, 1819-2002*. He is the author of countless papers and articles relating to Arkansas history, on topics as diverse as medical history, literature, music, law, drainage ditches, and green beans (the latter, along with tomatoes, being a special interest). A past president of the Arkansas Historical Association, Dougan received its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.

We will present volunteer Gary Jackson's excellent program about the Army and Navy General Hospital again at the library at 2 PM, Monday, **November 7**. Last month, the library and GCHS co-presented this program. The Williams Room was full to capacity, and many who wanted to hear the program could not be admitted. If you missed this program last month, mark your calendar for November 7.

The Arkansas State Archives will be hosting a symposium from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, **October 29**, at the North Little Rock Heritage Center in North Little Rock. The symposium's theme, "Using Archival Records to Preserve Historic Structures," will feature speakers Rachel Silva, Callie Williams, Sandra Taylor Smith, and Ann Clements and will focus on using archival records for research in historic preservation.

Topics include, "How History Saved a Neighborhood," "Researching Your Historic Home: A Case Study," "This Place Matters: Preserving Arkansas's Architectural and Cultural History," and "The National Register of Historic Places: Records, Research and Careful Reading."

The seminar is free but registration is required. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Registration is limited and deadline for registration will be October 25, so be sure to make reservations soon. Lunch will be provided.

We're working hard at the archives—preserving, cataloging, digitizing, helping researchers, and giving programs. We appreciate your support!

Best wishes,  
Liz Robbins, Executive Director  
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*Leave a legacy. Please remember GCHS in your estate planning.*