

GCHS Newsletter September 2016

Dear Friends,

We're looking forward to starting our monthly meetings again this month. Our September meeting will feature Jeff Heitzman presenting "Walking for Health and Pleasure at the Hot Springs Reservation." The meeting will be at noon, Tuesday, September 20, at the Garland County Library.

The fitness craze of the 1970s helped revive for modern-day Americans the notion of walking as an effective means of physical exercise. Remarkably, about a century earlier, Hot Springs Reservation was promoting the same idea. Jeff will explore this early connection between the Reservation (now Hot Springs National Park) and physical fitness. He will be dressed as a pedestrian from 1915, ready to tramp the mountain walks and roads of Hot Springs. Through a PowerPoint program, he will illustrate how mountain paths offered a complement to the curative hot waters, and he will touch on the bygone sport of pedestrianism and the once acclaimed Oertel system of graduated exercise.

Jeff, who has a B.A. in history from the University of Oklahoma, is a retired Hot Springs National Park Interpretive Ranger. He served at Hot Springs for almost 25 years.

While you are at the library, please look at their display case. GCHS volunteers Renee Lucy and Donnavae Hughes prepared the current exhibit with the theme "100 Years Ago." Using photos and objects from the society's collection, Renee and Donnavae show glimpses of days gone by, featuring the Como Hotel, Hot Springs High School, Garland County's entry into World War I, and more. This outstanding display will be exhibited during the month of September.

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.

Let's congratulate our friends at the Melting Pot Genealogical Society! They will celebrate forty years of preserving history and helping people research their ancestors on Tuesday, September 27, at 12:30 at their archives at 649b Ouachita Avenue (in the back of the Election Commission Building).

Many people have asked about the status of the Hiram Whittington obelisk in front of the Majestic Hotel. Many years ago, GCHS was instrumental in installing this memorial to a Hot Springs pioneer. The City of Hot Springs has moved the obelisk to a green median in front of St. Mary's Church of the Springs on Whittington Avenue. Its new site is very attractive.

On a sad note, our great friend, Dr. W. Martin Eisele, passed away on Thursday. He was a charter member of the society, helping form it in 1960. He was a past president and, always, an enthusiastic supporter of our work. Many individuals and groups will remember his kindness and generosity. We will miss him. Our prayers are with his family.

Best wishes,

Liz Robbins, Executive Director

Garland County Historical Society

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