

GC Historical Society Newsletter February 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you can come to our monthly meeting at noon, Tuesday, February 18, at the Garland County Library for a fascinating program. "Caddo Indian History in Garland County" will be presented by Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt.

People have lived in what is now Garland County for thousands of years. This talk will provide an overview of the archeology and history of the ancestors of Caddo Indians who lived in this region from at least 11,500 BC to AD 1700. Archeological investigations at sites ranging from novaculite quarries to mound centers give a picture of their tools, foodways, housing, ritual life, and interactions with neighbors.

Mary Beth is an archeologist for the Arkansas Archeological Survey and a Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas. She heads the Survey's Research Station at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, where she teaches, conducts research, and works with members of the public interested in Arkansas history and archeology. Her most recent book, *Ouachita Mountains Archeology: Researching the Past with Two Projects in Arkansas*, was published in 2019 by the Arkansas Archeological Survey.



In the photo below, archeological field school students from Henderson State University and the University of Arkansas excavate at the Jones Mill site in 2007. Ancestors of the Caddo Indians inhabited the Jones Mills area between 6000 BC and AD 1450.



Interesting donations come into the archives all the time! One that was a lot of fun this month was this sterling silver souvenir spoon, donated by Mrs. and Mrs. Anthony Colasurdo. Can you figure out the “message” in the handle? It’s a word-picture puzzle (a rebus). The answer is at the bottom of the email. The design in the spoon bowl shows first Army and Navy Hospital buildings. That building stood from 1887 to 1933, so the spoon would have been produced during those years.



(Speaking of the Army and Navy Hospital—please remember to email our Congressional delegation about the importance of maintaining fire suppression and security at the ACTI site after the federal government takes possession of it on July 1. Just go to the websites of Senators Boozeman and Cotton and Representative Westerman to send them emails.)

Congratulations to GCHS member Mike Pettey for his recent restoration of the exterior of The Ohio Club! And for the restaurant’s nomination as a finalist, for the second year in a row, for the Department of Arkansas Heritage's Arkansas Food Hall of Fame. The restaurant was also nominated for the People's Choice Award. The winners of the awards will be announced at a reception and induction ceremony at 5 pm. on February 24, at the Ron Robinson Theater in Little Rock. The tickets cost \$20. Go to the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame website for more information—and to see a great short video of Rex Nelson talking about famous Arkansas restaurants.

An interesting program coming up is “The Life, Times, & Legacy of Dr. Edith Irby Jones” by Dr. Erick Messias. Dr. Jones, who passed away in July, grew up in Hot Springs and graduated from Langston High School. She was the first African American to graduate from a Southern medical school (The U of A), first black intern in the state of Arkansas, and the first woman president of

the National Medical Association. She practiced medicine in Hot Springs before moving to Texas, where she became a towering figure in medicine and philanthropy. Sponsored by the Uzuri Project Youth Institute, the free program is at 5:50 pm, Saturday, February 22, at the Hotel Hot Springs.



If you've always wanted to research your family tree, this class is for you! Genealogy 101 will be taught by Barbara Erdmann of the Melting Pot Genealogical Society at National Park College April 1 through April 22 on Wednesday nights for four sessions (5:30 pm -7:30 pm). Call 501.760.4223 to register and find out about the supply list.

Figures out the rebus on the spoon? Letter R + can + saw = Arkansas!

Don't forget to check out our great Facebook page!

Thank you again for your love of our history and your support!

Liz

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