

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all very well!

We have regretfully decided to cancel our Hidden Hot Springs homes tour (and fund-raiser) scheduled for September 27, 2020. Here's a message from Julie Nix and Carol Dyer, our event co-chairs: "It's painful to cancel this annual event, but the Covid19 risk made this decision necessary. We look forward to resuming the tours of historic Garland County homes on September 26, 2021."

Cancelling our annual fund-raiser and having to close to the public for many months has, of course, impacted us negatively financially. We're grateful to the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities for awarding us a grant designed to help historical organizations that are being harmed by the pandemic. The money will help us pay some operating expenses, such as utilities, for June-September. This will not put us "where we would have been" without the pandemic, but it is certainly a help.

We're also very grateful to you for your support during this challenging time.

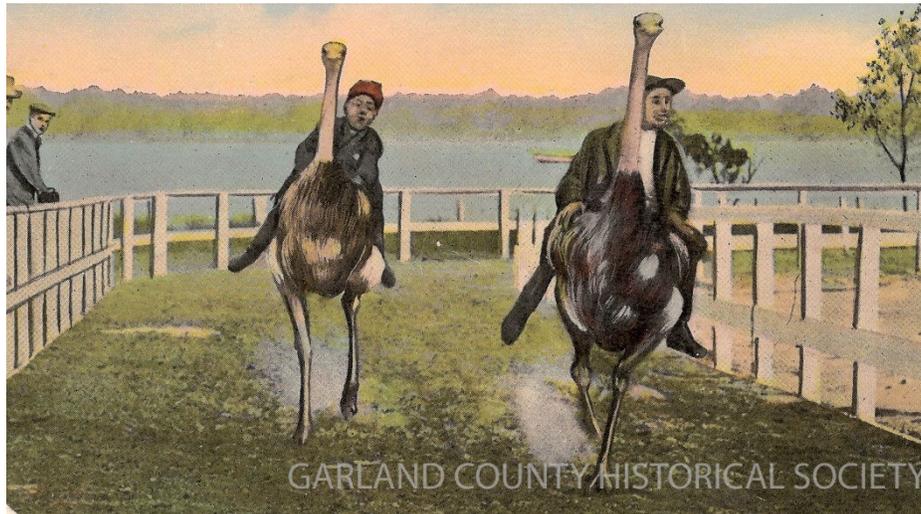
As you know, the archives building has been closed to the public since March. We are allowing limited access for some transactions, such as buying books or t-shirts, making donations, paying dues. We can deliver materials to patrons in the parking lot. If one enters the building, safety protocols must be followed: a mask must be worn, temperature taken, social distancing observed, visitor must stay in front of plexiglass shield on reception room counter and must sign contact tracing log. Call us (501.321.2159, M-F, 9am to 1pm) if you want to come to the archives for one of these limited transactions.

It is important to remember that no place can be made 100% safe. We are making our environment as safe as possible, but an element of risk is present in any trip outside the home.

We are **not** open to researchers in the building. However, please email or call with research requests that we can help you with remotely.

We're planning how best to present our fall monthly programs remotely. We thank all of you who replied to our email and gave your suggestions. We'll keep you informed! Programs will continue!

This month the *Sentinel-Record* “Time Tour of Historical Hot Springs” online feature (which we provide) showcases the Ostrich Farm. Check it out!



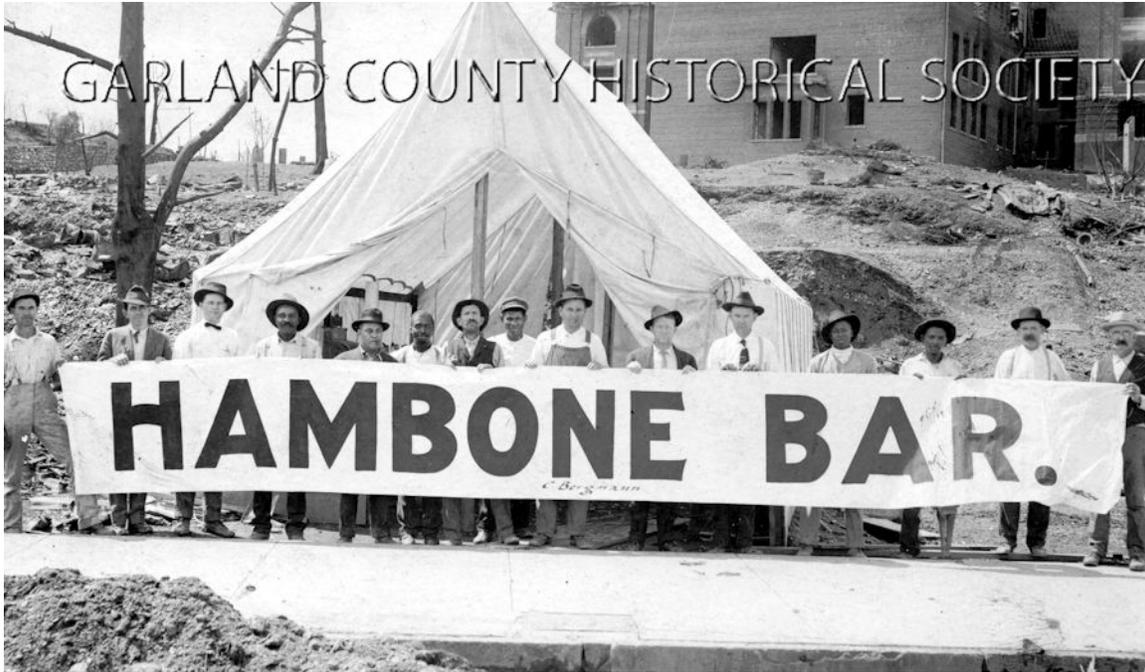
This vintage postcard shows an exciting race at the Ostrich Farm’s ¼ mile track. (No betting allowed—supposedly!). The twenty-seven-acre Ostrich Farm on Whittington Avenue was started in 1900 by Thomas A. Cockburn. Besides entertaining tourists, the farm produced beautiful plumes for ladies’ fashions.

Also, Charlie Moore of the Arkansas Highlands Folk Project has a suggestion: Enjoy a virtual Old Time Concert by talented musicians from “all over.” Charlie says, “Thanks to modern technology, we can enjoy and support these fine musicians from our easy chairs. So, sit back in your living room and enjoy the music and conversation from their living rooms. You’ll find this concert at <https://youtu.be/v9lbvkb8vfk>.

If you haven’t checked out the features on the website of the Arkansas State Archives, you’re in for a treat. I especially like the *From the Vault* blog. You’ll find information about the Spanish Flu in Arkansas; how to use city directories, phone books, and land records to research family history; the history of boxing in Arkansas, and much more. Go to <http://archives.arkansas.gov/ArkansasStateArchives/home>.

If you still don’t have your History + Art t-shirt with the lovely Hot Springs downtown skyline by Tansill Stough Anthony, order one through our website or call 501.321.2150!

Thanks for the great comments about the photos on our FaceBook posts—you make this a lively, entertaining way to share our history! Here’s a recent post that people have enjoyed:



"As soon as the ashes of the fire (Hot Springs Fire of 1913 that destroyed 60 city blocks) cooled and sufficient rubble could be moved aside, tents housing businesses began to spring up throughout the fire district. Some of the first to go up were saloons . . . The Hambone Bar tent was behind the burned-out Hot Springs High School. Some of the town leaders were not amused and took issue with the practice of liquor sold in tents." From "City in Flames," The Record 2013

In closing, here's a look at a place many people remember fondly—Mrs. Miller's Restaurant at 4723 Central Avenue. From 1937 to 2005, Bill and Lillian Moore, John and Marcia Hudson, and the great staff made folks feel at home and served "scrumptious" fried chicken, fried fish, pot pies, quail, and chicken-fried steaks. People would drive for miles just for the biscuits and conserve.



Thanks again for your support. Our society will continue to preserve and educate and make people aware of our remarkable heritage, thanks to wonderful people like you! Stay very safe!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society
328 Quapaw (71901)
PO Box 21335 (71903)
501.321.2159

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