

GC Historical Society Newsletter March 2020

Dear Friends,

We have regretfully decided to postpone our meeting and program scheduled for noon, Tuesday, March 17 at the Garland County Library. Jeanne Rollberg's program, which explores William Jennings Bryan's Hot Springs and Arkansas connections, will be scheduled for some future date.

Also, we have decided to close the archives to the public for the rest of March. Staff will be here to help with questions by phone or email.

We made these decisions out of concern for our members, visitors, and volunteers. We don't want to take chances with the anyone's health in light of the corona virus situation.

To satisfy your historical curiosity in the meantime, please follow our Facebook page. Tireless board member/volunteer Toma Whitlock creates very frequent posts with photos from our collections.

The Arkansas State Archives Board of Directors are holding their quarterly meetings at various county historical organizations to get to know them better. On Thursday, March 12, they met at our archives. We enjoyed meeting them and introducing them to our facility and work.



We also enjoyed recently hosting at the archives two groups from the Active Aging Class of the U of A Rich Mountain Campus at Mena. The senior students are studying the Civil War this semester, so we gave them programs about how the Civil War impacted the Garland County area.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the expansion of our building. The enlarged building allows us to welcome and educate groups like the ones just mentioned—as well as safely preserve our irreplaceable collections.

in 1873. She helped found the first library in Hot Springs and, as the leader of the Columbian Club, she was the force behind the creation of a pagoda and water fountain at the intersection of Whittington, Park, and Central. Sarah was also a president of Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs in 1908, headed the project to save the Old State House in Little Rock, started the movement for the adoption of a state flag and state flower, and designed the crystal fountain presented by Hot Springs to the Arkansas building at the World's Fair in Chicago, and much more.



The Ellsworth Family, ca 1900 at Wildwood. Ernest and Ellsworth, top; Dr. Prosper and Sarah Ellsworth, seated; Frank and Elizabeth "Bessie", bottom.

Her home, Wildwood, at 808 Park Avenue, is an elegant Victorian house she and her physician husband built in 1884. It reminds us of the elegance of a bygone era and also of the commitment to public service of a remarkable Hot Springs lady.



Wildwood ca 1904

Thank you for your support—and for your understanding of our decisions at this time. Be well!

Liz

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