

## GC Historical Society Newsletter April 2021

Dear Friends,

Join us at noon, Tuesday, April 20, for the zoom program: “Spanish Diggings: The Hunt for Gold and Silver in the Ouachitas” by John Archibald.

There are countless stories about Spaniards coming to the Ouachita mountain region of Arkansas in their quest to find gold and silver. John will separate the facts from the fiction. He will share important details about what makes the Ouachita Mountains unique when compared to any other mountain region in North America.

He will also explore the reasons that brought the Spanish here in the first place, how they began to find places to mine, and how the mining happened. In addition, he will demonstrate some of the tools and techniques used by early explorers in mining processes. John recently walked the woods of the Ouachita mountains and took photos for the program of some of the places he will mention.

You will be able to ask questions live via text messaging after his presentation.

(And the answer to “What IS Hell’s Half Acre?” It’s actually twelve acres of hundreds of thousands of naturally occurring sandstone boulders.)



*Garland County’s Walnut Creek marks the location of one the places connected with a Spanish mining story.*

John, a great friend of our society, is an award-winning journalist with a bachelor's degree in communications from Marquette University in Milwaukee. He worked as a journalist at the *Pacific Daily News* of Agana, Guam; the *Sentinel-Record* of Hot Springs, Arkansas; and as editorial writer for the *Oshkosh Northwestern* of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and his articles have regularly been run by the Associated Press and Gannett. He returned to Arkansas in 2006 to publish the monthly magazine *Ouachita Life*.

**When is the meeting? Tuesday, April 20, Noon, CST**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85033003531>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,85033003531# or +13017158592,,85033003531#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 850 3300 3531

Please share the Zoom link with friends!

I'm sure you have friends who are also interested in our history and would enjoy supporting the society and receiving *The Record*. Please let them know that now it's easier than ever to join—they can simply hit the "Join GCHS" button on the home page of our website

<http://garlandcountyhistoricalsociety.com/>

**Join GCHS**

**Keep Hot Springs' and Garland County's History Alive**

*Easy-Join button on our website!*

Some historical fun:



You may have been enjoying Ken Burns' PBS film, *Hemingway*. Here's a great link to a short video about the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center in Piggott, Arkansas. It's an Arkansas Historic Preservation Program virtual tour that traveled to Piggott to walk in Hemingway's steps. Hemingway was

married to Pauline Pfeiffer and the couple visited Pauline's family off and on for over a decade. He wrote portions of *A Farewell to Arms* in a barn studio there that is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Past and current Arkansas State University Historic Site Directors, Dr. Ruth Hawkins and Dr. Adam Long, are interviewed, and the glimpses of the thirties-era museum are outstanding.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw\\_XXYAEI-Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw_XXYAEI-Y)



And use this link <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/exhibits-online-vault-images/index.3.html#> to find "Tales from the Vault, " a collection of 110 items from the Arkansas State Archives' holdings. Selections include artifacts, audio, books, documents, photographs, and more. This is a fascinating glimpse into a wonderful Arkansas collection, which includes this photo of our own Thornton Ferry across the Ouachita River at Hot Springs.

The March minutes are at the end of this document. If you want to make any corrections or additions to them, please email or call me.

Thank you for your support! I hope you can join us remotely on the 20<sup>th</sup> (and on our Facebook page).

Liz

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

**Garland County Historical Society**

**Monthly Meeting**

**March 16, 2021**

The meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Julie Nix at noon.

Minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting had been emailed to members by Liz Robbins. There being no corrections or additions received, the minutes were approved.

The next meeting will be April 20, 2021. John Archibald will speak on the Spanish hunt for gold and silver in the Ouachitas.

Executive Director Liz Robbins introduced today's program. As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Hot Springs National Park, Dan Chmill presented a program on "Rethinking Our Relationship with the National Parks." A Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kansas, Chmill has spent an extensive time in Hot Springs doing research. He thanked Liz Robbins and staff for assistance at GCHS with his dissertation, as well as HSNP personnel.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Johnston

Secretary