



Dear Friends,

Hello from GCHS!

We are proud to announce that our 2021 “History = Art” featured artist, renowned watercolorist Richard Stephens, has chosen to highlight ‘The Old Post Office’ on a beautiful 11 inch by 17 inch poster. Signed copies of Stephen’s 11 inch by 17 inch watercolor of “The Old Post Office” can be purchased for \$25 plus \$5 shipping at garlandcountyhistoricalsociety.com or in person or by phone at the society’s archives at 328 Quapaw (501.321.2159) on weekdays from 9am to 1 pm.

THE OLD POST OFFICE
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS



Garland County Historical Society
WATERCOLOR BY RICHARD STEPHENS
2021

Stephens’ inspiration was the memory of, as a child in the early 1950s, accompanying his father to the Old Post Office at 119 Benton Street (now Convention Boulevard) and passing through the magnificent green doors to the splendid interior’s beautiful marble floors.

The two-story Renaissance Revival style building opened on March 14, 1903, and served as a post office until 1959. It was then repurposed for seven different government and community organizations that included the

Navy Recruiting Station and the United Fund of Garland County. By 1966, the Old Post Office was occupied by the City and County Health Department. In 1990 the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. By 1991 the historic eighty-nine-year-old building had been beautifully restored by Courtney Crouch to house his Selected Funeral & Life Insurance Company.



Internationally recognized watercolorist Richard Stephens presents a poster of his painting of the door of the Old Post Office to President Julie Brenner Nix and Vice President Bitty Martin.



People flock to the newly built Post Office ca 1906.



Parking in front of the Old Post Office, early 1920s.

Our September speaker will be our longtime member and friend of local history, Ron Fuller. His topic will be “Hot Springs: A History in Postcards.” The program will be at noon, on September 28, at the Garland County Library. It hasn’t yet been decided if the program will be in-person or only virtual. We will keep you posted!

This Friday and Saturday is the first annual Arkansas Heritage Festival at Ponce de Leon Center, Hot Springs Village. The two-day event will spotlight arts and crafts as well as Arkansas history, culture, and entertainment.

Their website gives a detailed schedule of events/map/other good things, and a registration button. Registration is required. <https://www.arkansasheritage.hsvli.org/>

At 1 pm Saturday, I’ll present the program “Hot Springs: A Small Town’s Giant Contribution to Arkansas’ Tourism Heritage.”



Health and fun—perennial themes at Hot Springs!

Now, what is the official name of the sidewalk in front of Bathhouse Row?

It's Magnolia Promenade!



Visitors stroll along Magnolia Promenade ca 1900

Thank you again for your wonderful support! Keep spreading the word about GCHS!

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.