



Dear Friends,

Our **noon, Tuesday, February 15** meeting will be broadcast virtually. We'll not be able to meet in person until next month.

John Archibald will present "Arkansas Epidemics in the 1800s: News Coverage from Days of Pioneer Presses to the 1895 Hot Springs Smallpox Epidemic Information War." You can view the program live (or after its broadcast) at facebook.com/garlandcountylibrary or youtube.com/garlandcolibrary.



John works a ca. 1915 Ostrander-Seymour iron hand Washington press, close to the size that would have been used by almost any Arkansas weekly newspaper publisher after the Civil War.

A press run of replica 1868 copies of the Washington Telegraph produced by John on his Ostrander-Seymour iron hand press. As in the days of William E. Woodruff's pre-Civil War Arkansas Gazette, each issue had to be dried on a line overnight before the next pages could be printed.



John, a well-known Arkansas publisher and printer, will explore newspaper coverage in the 1800s of Arkansas epidemics, which included smallpox, yellow fever, cholera, and malaria. He'll tell how newspaper coverage changed through the 1800s, as printing equipment and communications methods evolved, and he'll demonstrate some of the news gathering processes used by Arkansas publishers in the 1800s. He'll also shine a light on the 1895 smallpox epidemic information war between Hot Springs doctors and the national media.

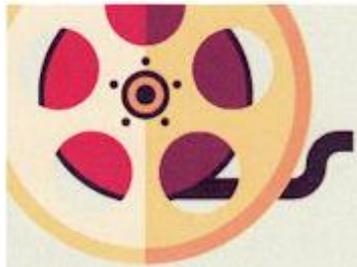
His demonstrations will include how to hand set type, how a telegraph key was used (with a demo sender and sounder), how a clamshell printing press works (using a table-top model), and how a typewriter was used (for the younger members of the audience). He'll bring other items of the 1800s news gathering process. This will be fun!

John is an award-winning journalist who has 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 tabloid, *Ouachita Life*.



Check out the new display case at the Garland County Library! GCHS volunteer Melanie Pearce just added photos and memorabilia from the society's collections to this interesting case.

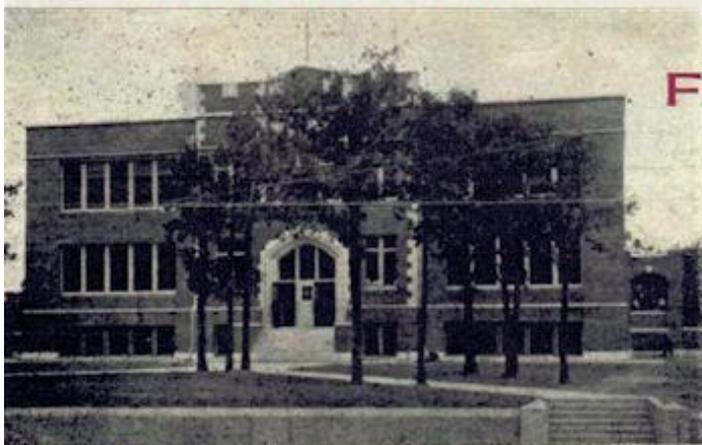
Mark your calendars for a fascinating documentary about Langston High School that will be shown **Sunday, February 27**, from 2 to 4pm at the Central Theater. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this historic school whose graduates include Dr. Edith Irby Jones, Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark, artist George Hunt, NFL great Bobby Mitchell, and so many more distinguished African Americans.



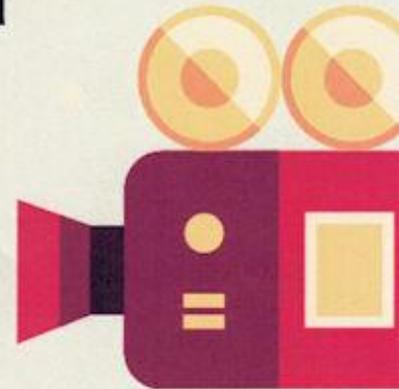
Join us for the documentary:
Langston High School

Before and After Integration

Learn about Langston High as you've never heard before. Q&A follows with Langston alumni Ms. Minnie Lenox and Mr. Thomas Anderson



FREE
ADMISSION,
CONCESSION
AND DRINKS
AVAILABLE



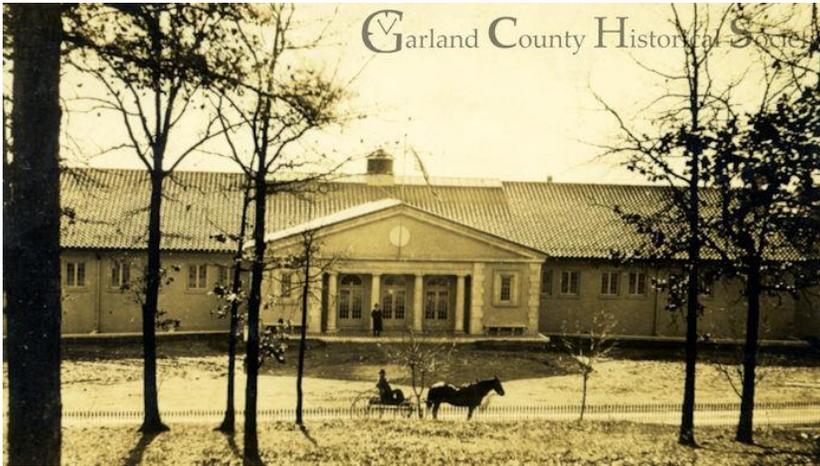
**Sunday,
February 27, 2022**

2:00-4:00 pm
Presented in partnership
with Chris Rix and the
Central Theater

1008 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, AR 71913
vckdemocraticwomen.com

How did you do on the Test Your Knowledge question?

One hundred years ago, in 1922, this building was erected in Hot Springs. What is it? Where is it?



It's the United States Public Health Service Venereal Disease Clinic and Government Free Bathhouse!

(Most locals call it "The Libbey.")

This side (ca 1922) fronts Reserve Street.

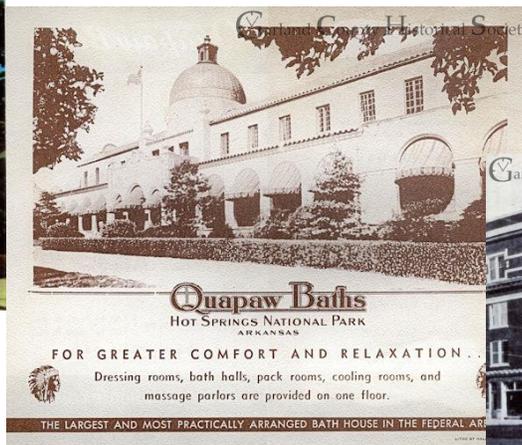
This side faces Spring Street. The bathhouse occupied the top floor and the clinic occupied the lower floor.

The clinic closed in 1953. In 1958 the Government Free Bathhouse was reopened in a new incarnation as the Libbey Memorial Physical Medical Center, which closed in 2005.



One of our crack volunteers notes that the car is a 1953 Oldsmobile.

What other bathhouses first appeared in 1922? 1922 saw the birth of the (second) Ozark, the Quapaw, and the Woodman of Union bathhouses. The WOU was also a hotel, hospital, and business center.



Contact us at gchs@hotsprings.net or 501.321.2159, if you want to find out about supporting our work by becoming a corporate sponsor at one of the following levels:

Augustus H. Garland
Samuel W. Fordyce
Hiram A. Whittington



The January 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 membership, your support, your love of our history!

Liz

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society
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Leave a legacy. Please remember GCHS in your estate planning.

Garland County Historical Society
Monthly Meeting
January 18, 2022

The meeting was conducted remotely via the Garland County Library's Facebook and YouTube links. Adult Services Librarian Paul Kagebein opened the broadcast. He welcomed participants and introduced GCHS President Julie Nix. (The full broadcast will be available on YT and FB).

Nix announced that minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting had been emailed to members, and since no additions or corrections were received, the minutes are approved as distributed.

Copies of the 2021 *Record* are now available. The Society is focusing on a strategic plan this winter. She then introduced Executive Director Liz Robbins who made a few announcements.

The Arkansas Highlands Folk Project will present "Getting to Know the History of Garland and Montgomery Counties" on its 6th Virtual Facebook Live presentation. Charlie Moore will moderate as Barry Mickey, Director of the Heritage House Museum in Mt. Ida, Arkansas, and Robbins share some little-known facts and misconceptions about our local histories. Also, viewers will learn how to use the resources of the Heritage House Museum and GCHS to research various topics of history and how to share and archive historical items so future generations will be able to benefit from our rich history. Moore will also provide an update to his search for the missing history of Ouachita Old Time Mountain Music. Recent discoveries have uncovered several promising resources.

The GCHS building at 328 Quapaw will reopen on March 1. You may visit the online store at garlandcountyhistoricalsociety.com to order our products or to renew your membership.

Robbins then introduced today's speaker, Dr. Sam Taggart, who will present "Country Doctors of Arkansas," based on his 2021 book of that name. It conveys "a tapestry of the history of health and disease in rural America told one doctor at a time."

Taggart is a family doctor, raised in the White River Delta in Augusta, Arkansas. He worked his way through college at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and then attended medical school at the University of Arkansas Medical School in Little Rock. After obtaining a medical degree, he completed a Family Practice Residency and then spent two years in the army. He then returned to Arkansas to practice medicine and has lived in Benton and Hot Springs for the last 40 years. He retired in 2013 as the senior partner and founder of Family Practice Associates of Benton.

His first novel, *We All Hear Voices*, was published in 2007 and won the National Bronze prize for popular fiction from the Independent Book Publishers Association in 2010. In 2010 he published a second novel, *With a Heavy Heart*, which tells the story of a German spy at Bauxite and Hot Springs, Arkansas, during World War II.

In 2012, he was commissioned by the *Arkansas Times* to write a history of health care in Arkansas for the last two hundred years. *The Public's Health* was published in January of 2013. His most recent book is *Country Doctors of Arkansas*, released in June of 2021, published by the *Arkansas Times*.

The next meeting will be February 15, 2022 at noon. It will be announced later whether it will be virtual or open to the public at the Garland County Library. John J. Archibald, Arkansas publisher and printer, will present "Arkansas Epidemics in the 1800s: news coverage from days of pioneer presses to the 1895 Hot Springs information war." He will tell how newspaper coverage changed through the 1800s, with an emphasis on the 1895 information war between Hot Springs doctors and the national media.

Of note, Archibald will demonstrate some of the news gathering processes used by Arkansas publishers in the 1800s.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Johnston

Secretary