



Dear Friends,

Please join us at noon on Tuesday, May 18, when Dr. Nancy Hendricks and Larry Wilson of Hot Springs Village will present "Beyond Possum Pie: Arkansas' Amazing Heritage," a virtual program that we are presenting in association with the Garland County Library. Nancy and Larry will share exciting news about a fun, uplifting, new annual event coming to Garland County. You can view the program at [facebook.com/garlandcountylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/garlandcountylibrary) or [youtube.com/garlandcolibrary](https://www.youtube.com/garlandcolibrary). (Our next monthly program will in September.)

Their presentation will discuss how the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) of Hot Springs Village was awarded a grant from the Arkansas Department of Heritage to host the first annual Arkansas Heritage Festival at Hot Springs Village on Friday-Saturday, August 27-28, 2021. The two-day event will spotlight arts and crafts as well as Arkansas history, culture, and entertainment. It will be held in whatever format is safe at that time, with a combination of indoor, outdoor, and virtual venues being planned.



The Arkansas Highlands String Band (Tom Sartain, Jenny Sartain, Judy Warner, and Charlie Moore), along with The Rackensack Society and Hot Springs' Ken Tillery, will perform at the Arkansas Heritage Festival.

Larry, a retired Hot Springs history teacher, said, "I understand the importance of recognizing the state's heritage in all its forms, especially in challenging times. I feel the Festival will attract students, teachers, and the general public to our area from around Arkansas." He added that more information on presenters, special events, and vendor booths will be available as the event approaches.

Nancy is a longtime friend of GCHS. You may recall her presentations in character for GCHS programs including Hattie Caraway, Notable Arkansas Women, and in Civil War attire for the story of the sinking of the steamboat *Sultana*. Nancy is an award-winning author and is the recipient of the Pryor Award for Arkansas Women's History, Arkansas Governor's Arts Award, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution 'Women in American History' Award, and the White House Millennium Award.

Larry is someone who many of us here in Garland County know from his countless hours of volunteering to video significant local events like Arts & the Park and Oktoberfest. Retired from teaching history at Hot Springs High School, he currently serves as Director of the Lifelong Learning Institute of Hot Springs Village.



Arkansas Heritage Festival committee members Amy Thomason, Nancy Hendricks, Terry Wiley, and Larry Wilson.

I'm honored to have been asked to be one of the Festival speakers. My topic will be "Hot Springs: A Small Town's Giant Contribution to Arkansas' Tourism Heritage." I'm finding lots of great photos in our collections to illustrate the talk,

such as this one taken in front of the Dixie Café at 124 Central in 1940.



And this float that advertised Hot Springs at the Aluminum Bowl in Little Rock in 1956.



MGM!

We've launched an **MGM (Members Get Members!)** campaign. Please help us find new members who want to support our efforts in preserving Hot Springs' and Garland County's history. We have newly designed membership brochures that you can pick up and give to family and friends you know would enjoy the Historical Society and receiving a copy of *The Record*. Or you can direct them to our website where they can join directly. Between now and September 15, the Historical Society member who obtains the most new members will receive a Historical Society t-shirt or hat.

As you know, six membership levels are available, beginning with Individual at \$35 and progressing to Champion at \$1000. There are also three corporate memberships levels, which will be handled by GCHS board members Carol Moenster Dyer, Tom French, and Len Pitcock.

And this year, when members open their *Records*, you'll not only see your names listed in the membership roster, but you'll also receive a Christmas gift, a GCHS window sticker for your automobiles.

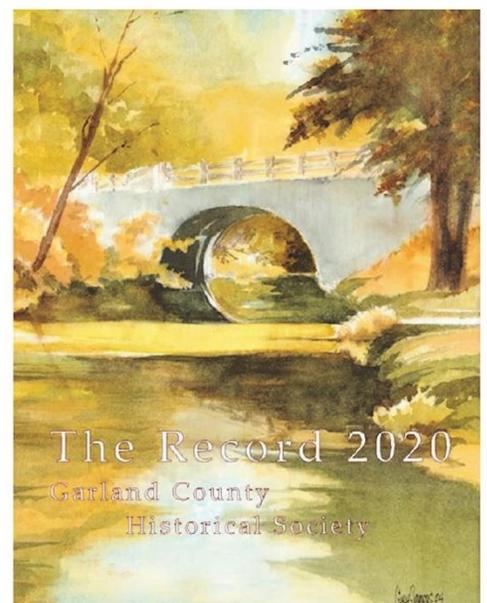
I hope you'll be a member who "gets" a member (or two . . . or three)!

President Julie Brenner Nix hands newly designed membership brochures to board members Wayne Threadgill and Clyde Covington



We're honored that *The Record 2020* is receiving the Arkansas Historical Association's Walter L. Brown Award for Best Use of Graphics in a County or Local Journal. Many thanks and congratulations go to our longtime volunteer Donnavae Hughes who designed the graphics for *The Record*.

This year the AHA's eightieth annual conference will be held virtually, June 3-5. This conference always features interesting topics and speakers. The 2021 theme is "Collective Memory in the Natural State: Commemoration, Preservation, and Reconciliation." The registration fee is \$15, plus a small online processing fee. Here is a link to register at the AHA website: [Click here to register](#). At the website, you can also view a full program for the conference that lists the speakers, topics, and events.



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



Trivia Question Answer: If you said Fountain Lake (or its other name, Arbordale), you are correct! About four miles northeast of Hot Springs on Hwy. 5, it was a popular destination for swimming, paddleboating, and dancing in the island pavilion from 1933 to 1949.

Thank you for your support! I hope you can join us remotely on the 18th (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

April 20, 2021

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

Minutes of the March 16, 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 May 18, 2021 at noon. Dr. Nancy Hendricks and Larry Wilson will Zoom in to present “Beyond Possum Pie: Arkansas’ Amazing Heritage.” We are partnering with the Garland County Library to present this program, via the library’s Facebook or YouTube links. The link will be in our newsletter.

Executive Director Liz Robbins introduced today’s program. John Archibald, a great friend of our Society, is an award-winning journalist with a bachelor’s degree in communication from Marquette University in Milwaukee. He worked as a journalist at the *Pacific Daily News* of Agana, Guam; the *Sentinel Record* of Hot Springs; and the *Oshkosh Northwestern* of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. His articles have been regularly run by the Associated Press and Gannett. He returned to Arkansas in 2006 to publish the monthly magazine *Ouachita Life*. Following a presentation on “Spanish Diggings: the Hunt for Gold and Silver in the Ouachitas,” he encouraged listeners to share any stories relating to the subject with GCHS.

In introducing his program, Archibald had emphasized Robbins’ request for members to consider the Society when making estate plans and wills. Nix enlarged upon this by announcing a new membership campaign, which will offer many ways to join such as online, and which will encourage members to recruit others as members. A new corporate sponsorship program has been implemented.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine C. Johnston

Secretary