



GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 16, 2015

Dear Friends,

Good events are coming up:

April 17: GCHS volunteer Gary Jackson documents the story of the Majestic Hotel in a photograph-rich program at 6:30 pm at the Fine Arts Center, 626 Central Avenue. You can also enjoy The Fine ArtWorks of Hot Springs Exhibition where Walter Arnold's Art of Abandonment photographs of the Majestic Hotel - 2012 are on display. Other artworks are inspired by the cultural, historic, and natural Hot Springs. Visiting Texas musician Cactus Robin McGirk will perform after the presentation, His flat pick guitar style picks up the melody and compliments the ballads, folk songs, and classic rock songs that he performs.

April 21: "Civil War Connections at Hot Springs National Park" will be presented by Mark Blaeuer at the society's noon, Tuesday, April 21 meeting at the Garland County Library.

There is no evidence for battles or skirmishes having taken place within what are now park boundaries, but Hot Springs Reservation (precursor of the park) was affected nonetheless. From a temporary state capital on Bathhouse Row, to veterans who became superintendents and leaders of the bathing industry, Hot Springs National Park history reveals numerous connections to the Civil War.

Mark Blaeuer received an M.A. in anthropology in 1989 from the University of Arkansas. His professional career spanned the disciplines of historic preservation and public interpretation. He was employed for over twenty years with the National Park Service, primarily at Hot Springs National Park.

April 24-25: Pioneer Days at the Garland County Fairgrounds (sponsored by the Friends of the Courthouse) will be great fun from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25. Demonstrations of old-time skills, a pioneer cabin, school, jail, blacksmith, animals, presentations by GCHS of pioneer day photographs, dancing, music, costumes---Pioneer Days has all this and more. Don't miss the Bluegrass concert at noon on Saturday! Admission is \$5 per vehicle. Proceeds go toward preservation needs of the courthouse.

May 4: The role of Jewish people during the Civil War will be examined by Dr. Nancy Hendrix on Monday, May 4, at 7 pm at Congregation House of Israel, 300 Quapaw. The event will include a wine-

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and-cheese reception. There is no admission charge, though contributions will be accepted and donated to the Garland County Historical Society. Thank you, Nancy!

Nancy will appear in costume and in character for this program. Her recently released book, *Terrible Swift Sword: Long Road to the Sultana*, has been called *Gone With the Wind* meets *Titanic*. Kirkus Reviews said it is “. . . a riveting novel.” Nancy is also the author of *Senator Hattie Caraway: An Arkansas Legacy*, is well known for her portrayal of Caraway. Nancy has received 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 White House Millennium Award for her work.

On April 10, at its annual conference, the Arkansas Historical Association awarded *The Record 2014* the Walter H. Brown Award for Best County or Local Journal (for the third year in a row). Thank you, authors and volunteers who worked so hard on *The Record*! One of those authors, GCHS president Renee Lambert Lucy, received the award for Best School History for her article “The Castle on the Hill: Hot Springs High School 1916 – 1968.”

GCHS has received a grant from the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation for \$1,000 to use for a reception room computer on which researchers can search our databases for materials. Thank you, HSACF!

And a huge thank you to the many people who donated to GCHS on Arkansas Gives Day, April 2. We received \$4,035 from donors plus \$540 bonus dollars from the Arkansas Community Foundation for a total of \$4,575. We will thank donors individually as soon as we receive their names from Arkansas Gives.

As I’m sure you realize, our preservation work and education work, as well as the upkeep of the archives building, require a lot of money each year. Community support, like that shown on Arkansas Gives Day, makes it possible for GCHS to continue to serve students and the public. Thank you, friends of our history!

Hope to see you soon at the upcoming events!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
Garland County Historical Society
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