

Dear Friends,

A huge thank you to the many people who donated to GCHS on Arkansas Gives Day, April 7! GCHS received \$8,299 from donors, and will receive bonus dollars from the Arkansas Community Foundation. (I haven't been told yet what that amount will be.)

We will thank donors individually as soon as we receive their names from Arkansas Gives. We are so grateful for this support, which will truly help us save more history and help more people learn about it. Thank you!

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming events:

(1) The history of the Army and Navy General Hospital in Hot Springs will be explored at the society's meeting at **noon, Tuesday, April 19 at the Garland County Library**. The program, presented by Gary Jackson, features many photographs of the campus and of the two main Army and Navy Hospital buildings. The first building, erected in 1887, was replaced in 1933 by the building that now towers over the south end of Bathhouse Row. The campus was given to the State of Arkansas in 1960 and now is home to the Arkansas Career Training Institute.

Gary will explain how this unusual facility came to be located in Hot Springs, its service during peace and war (including two World Wars), its status as the main military treatment center for arthritis and polio, and much more. He will also review prominent patients and visitors, from General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing to baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio.

Retired from AT&T, Gary is on our Board of Directors and also volunteers at the archives. The programs he has developed (including ones about the history of Hot Springs, the Majestic Hotel, and polio in Hot Springs) are an important part of our educational efforts.

(2) On **May 11 from 4 to 6 at the Convention Center**, we will have a GCHS Party! People can browse through our GCHS publications, learn more about the society, and, as a special treat, see GCHS Board Member Mark Blaeuer's just released book, *Baseball in Hot Springs*. This is a beautiful photographic record of Hot Springs' long baseball history. Published by Arcadia, the book, which has many rare photographs, is receiving rave reviews. Please come congratulate Mark, who will be signing books at the party.

(3) In **May** the society will present a four-week course of programs at the Hot Springs Senior Center, 210 Woodbine. Registration is required. Contact Judy Rowe at 501/624-0838 or jrowe@stvincenthealth.com to register. The schedule is:

Tuesday, May 10, 1:30	The Majestic Hotel. Presenter Gary Jackson
Tuesday, May 17, 1:30	The Arlington Hotel. Presenter Mike Blythe
Tuesday, May 24, 1:30	The Fire of 1913. Presenters Clyde Covington, Mike Blythe, and Liz Robbins
Tuesday, May 31, 1:30	Then and Now: Hot Springs, Arkansas. Presenter M. Blythe

On April 22, at its annual conference, the Arkansas Historical Association will award *The Record 2015* the Walter H. Brown Award for Best County or Local Journal, Honorable Mention. Many societies publish excellent journals—this second place award is a great honor. Also, *The Record 2015* article “Their Hearts were in the Coffin”: Samuel Hamblen’s Firsthand Account of President Lincoln’s Funeral” by Jane Wilkerson will receive the AHA award for Best Edited Document. Congratulations, Jane! And thank you, authors and volunteers who worked so hard on *The Record*!

We’re very grateful to Standard Business Systems (and their representative, Doug Gulley) for the donation of a copier after our old copier “died.”

The Arkansas History Commission and State Archives, the Arkansas Genealogical Society, and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives Foundation, Inc., will be hosting their annual history symposium on **Saturday, April 30, 2016**, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the 1914 Schoolhouse at Historic Washington State Park. The symposium’s theme, “Discovering Your Story, “ will feature speakers James G. Jones, Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, and Arkansas History Commission staff members Melissa Nesbitt and Jane Hooker.

Topics will include DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy, American Indian Family Stories: Fact or Fiction, Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives: Guide to Historical and Genealogical Records, and New Services and a New Face: The Arkansas History Commission Today.

The seminar is free but registration is required. Teachers can earn up to four professional development hours through attendance. Registration is limited and deadline for registration will be Monday, April 25. Check-in will begin at 9:15 a.m., the morning of April 30. Lunch will be provided for attendees.

For more information about the symposium or to register, contact history.commission@arkansas.gov or call us at [501-682-6900](tel:501-682-6900).

Thank you again for your support, and I hope to see you soon at the upcoming events!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
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