



GARLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 11, 2015

Dear Friends,

The weather forecast does not look good for next Tuesday, when we have our monthly meeting scheduled at the Garland County Library. If the weather is icy, our meeting will be cancelled. If you're not sure on Tuesday morning, call the library at 501/623-4161 and ask if the meeting has been cancelled. Our speaker will come back at another time if we have to cancel on Tuesday.

Dr. Wendy Richter will speak at our meeting at noon, Tuesday, February 17, at the Garland County Library. Her presentation, "Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley," will include dozens of photographs and information adapted from her doctoral dissertation (since turned into a book), which details the history and culture of Arkansas's Ouachita Mountains region.

The completion of Blakely Mountain Dam and Lake Ouachita in the mid-1950s resulted in a total and permanent evacuation of a large portion of the upper Ouachita River valley. As people sold their property and abandoned local communities, life in what was once an ordinary rural uplands Arkansas region transformed into an extraordinary experience. When partaking of Lake Ouachita's many amenities, most never consider the upheaval that occurred as a result of the reservoir project's completion. The memories and stories of those who lived in the reservoir area before the lake began to fill will be featured in the presentation.

Dr. Richter's book (*Lost Communities of the Upper Ouachita River Valley: Buckville, Cedar Glades and environs*) will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Wendy is a longtime friend of our society—a past president of GCHS and former editor of *The Record*. She's a native of Garland County and graduate of Jessieville High School. She has a B.A. in Liberal Arts and M.A. in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Heritage Studies from Arkansas State University. She currently serves as Archivist and Associate Professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Previously, she was State Historian and Director of the Arkansas History Commission (State Archives) in Little Rock from 2005 to 2012 and Archivist at OBU from 1990 to 2005.

She is on the board of directors of the Arkansas Supreme Court Historical Society and is Vice-President of the Clark County Historical Association. She has been president of the Garland County Historical Society and the Arkansas Women's History Institute; a member of the Arkansas Historical Association Board of Trustees, and Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Historical Society. She also served on the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Council of State Archivists. She has authored, compiled, and edited numerous books and articles on state and local history. Every day, visitors to Hot Springs read the text she wrote for more than thirty historical markers embedded in downtown sidewalks.

It's always a pleasure to hear her speak—please join us on the 17th.

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity." - Cicero

Baseball fans truly enjoyed meeting William “Youngblood” McCrary and his biographer Linda Black at their booksigning at the archives.

GCHS is giving programs in February to the Men of First Presbyterian Church, the DeSoto Women’s Club, the Ladies of Community of Joy Lutheran Church, the Forum Club, and the Garland County Retired Teachers.

Our volunteers are working hard helping researchers and processing materials to be digitized. And you might notice that the grounds at the archives are in the middle of an overhaul. A huge “Thank You” goes to volunteers Susan and Dave Hayes—they are cleaning up, digging up, and planting as they give our grounds a desperately needed make-over.

Another “Thank You” goes to Mike Pettey, owner of the Ohio Club. Mike raised \$500 for the society from Ohio Club patrons on Al Capone’s birthday!

Thank you so much for renewing your memberships. You are greatly appreciated! Please tell your friends about us—let’s keep building community support for the work the society does to preserve local history and educate people about it.

See you on the 17th (**weather permitting**)!

Liz Robbins, Executive Director
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