**ARKANSAS BEFORE STATEHOOD: HOT SPRINGS, JUNE 28, 1833**

**Questions:**

1. Why are books not common or popular in Arkansas according to Whittington? What does this tell us about the people who migrated to Arkansas Territory?
2. What does Whittington write about women? Note that Whittington’s thoughts on women do not tell us anything about women. Instead, they tell us a lot about Whittington and his understanding of women. How would you describe Whittington’s personality and character based on this section of the letter?
3. Whittington reports a seasonal outbreak of cholera, a serious disease that according to Whittington affected large numbers of people west of the Mississippi river. Research the causes and symptoms of cholera. The disease is not very common in the United States anymore and even in 1833, Whittington writes that he never saw it before moving to Arkansas. Why do you think cholera was such a big threat in places like Arkansas Territory?
4. How did cholera affect people according to Whittington? What impact did it have on enslaved African Americans in Arkansas Territory? What does it tell us about slavery in Arkansas?
5. Whittington informs his brother that he is running for office and that “our election is approaching rapidly.” The letter suggests that he is confident that he will win. He was correct. In 1833, he was elected clerk of Hot Spring County. Whittington moved to Arkansas in 1827 so only six years before the 1833 election that he won. What does Whittington’s win tell us about politics in Arkansas in the 1830s? Why do you think he was able to convince Hot Spring County voters to support him only six years after moving to Arkansas? At the time, Hot Spring County had the population of around 450. How many people had the right to vote according to Whittington? Research who could and who could not vote in Arkansas in the 1830s.