Our museum was chosen to house the Smithsonian Institution’s national traveling exhibit titled *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America*. Amelia Bowman wrote the application proposal and we are proud to have been chosen!

Exhibit subject areas are titled: More Than a Game, Fields of Glory, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, Playing the Game, Root Root Root for the Home Team, and Sports Explosion. These large sections will fill the entire Barnes/Simmons Main Gallery and will include standing interactive areas.

Men from John 3:16 will help us remove all physical pieces from that gallery, ready for the new installation on December 12. We are also thankful to have other people who are willing to help assemble the components.

The Grand Opening will take place on Saturday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will serve free hot dogs, Pepsi Cola, Crackerjacks and popcorn. Special drawings for prizes will be announced from time to time. Mark Martin will appear as our local Sports Hero from 11:00 to 12:30 that day. He will mingle with the crowd and be available for photographs, and at 12:00 he will speak about his days growing up in Batesville and working as a driver in NASCAR races. The exhibit will be on view until January 27.

We have celebrated the theme of Hometown Teams throughout this calendar year with 11 monthly programs. This fall we hosted one on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and one about baseball in the Ozarks by Dr. Brooks Blevins. Our most well-attended program was when we celebrated three local former Redhead Women’s Basketball players with 71 people crowding into our theater.
Last June our museum was awarded a Historic Preservation Restoration grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage for $53,614. We had already received $18,000 in GIF funds for this project from Representative James Sturch and Senator Linda Collins Smith. The projected total roof cost is $80,421.

Our present roofing is 20 years old and it had been leaking in multiple areas within the museum for several years. Fortunately we had been able to place protective coverings over our collections and there was no permanent damage. We knew, however, that our museum building was in jeopardy.

This month Jonesboro Roofing Company started replacing the roofing and repairing any roof damage, along with placing step lashings into the mortar. M&A Jones Construction volunteered to oversee this work. We are thrilled that our new roof should last another 25 years!

A whole exhibit wall, titled “Building Community” focuses on Church, Schools, Early Businesses and Having Fun. All of these elements helped early settlers to gather and feel a sense of community. Each of these subjects not only has colorful panels of information and photos, but also objects from our collections in mounted cases.

A new button allows visitors to hear early shape note singing above the melodion. And a case now being created will feature buttons to push to hear early folk music played on instruments such as a picking bow, tub base, washboard.

Twyla Wright was thrilled to work with two interns, Nichole Ursin (UALR) and Dunham Kissack (Lyon College) as they designed two of these panel/cases. Another student, Zachary Ward (Lyon College) has computer-programmed an Android tablet to challenge our visitors to read various forms of cursive writing. The tablet sits beside a historical school slate.

Our Entry Exhibit Sports a New Feature

Beneath the huge entry map of our region, and sitting on the shelf above the clay pots and tools exhibit, is a computer that shows images of the early Mississippian Native American Culture. Instead of the former poster just telling about this culture, visitors now can see and hear the story of these peoples. We thank Butch Ketz for its narration, and Colyn Bowman for the programming.

Scott Blackwell, our in-house IT volunteer, worked long hours producing the method for this computer video presentation. He worked with a new tiny computer called Raspberry Pi. He is also doing the same thing for the Southerland Gallery entry computer.

Twyla Wright, Curator of Exhibits
The Collections Corner

Alan Bufford, Co-Curator of Collections

Why is the collections area of the Old Independence Regional Museum so exciting? Because we just do not know what will walk through the front door!

The museum recently became the beneficiary of a truly wonderful gift which offers the opportunity to travel back to Batesville circa 1856 – 1857. It was in that era a new local newspaper began production. On April 4, 1856 Urban E. Fort, a Whig, entered the field of printing naming his new publication “The Independent Balance” and set out to publish it as a weekly. The paper’s byline was “Independent in all things – neutral in nothing.” As a historical note, none other than Elisha Baxter was employed as typesetter while he pursued the study of law under Hulbert F. Fairchild.

We are the proud recipient of 40 complete issues of The Independent Balance. Yes, the printing paper is very fragile. It requires the most delicate procedures when handling. However the print itself is very legible. Our hope is to one day scan and digitize this collection in order to make it more accessible to all.

So what was happening in Independence County in 1856?

Two interesting historical landmarks were posted for sale. First, The Big Spring Mill encompassing some 220 acres of land with its “never failing spring of water, sufficient to drive a grist mill” was offered by the executor of the estate of John Agnew. Second, William Byers as Commissioner of Public Buildings, was authorized to “sell the lot of ground upon which the old Court House stands, with the appurtenances thereto belonging.” (A new court house building was well under construction further east and away from the flood plain on the corner of Main and Broad Streets.)

The May 9, 1856 edition of the Balance contains an article lauding the four educational institutions in the city. The newspaper states a total of 150-plus students were enrolled in the four schools (1) the Soulesbury Institute headed by the Hon. David Lowe; (2) the Batesville Academy with the Rev. B. N. Sawtele as principal; (3) Miss Lucy Magruder had “a flourishing school”; and, (4) the Batesville Model School and Normal Institute which was established for “young ladies and gentlemen who propose to become teachers . . .”.

As a sober reminder of the days of oppression and bondage of African-Americans, the June 20, 1856 paper carries a legal notice from the sheriff of Independence County in the case of Burr and Company vs. A. I. Ambler. The notice announced the sale of Lizzie and her child “both to be sold together” at the Court House door on July 5th.

The collection encompassing these issues of The Independent Balance reflect both the progress in developing our frontier town as well as reminding the twenty-first century of the woeful shortfalls in equality for our fellow man.
Introducing...

Terri Crawford, Humanities Educator

Laura Reed, Docent Coordinator

Terri Crawford recently joined the staff of OIRM as Humanities Educator. Terri grew up in nearby Heber Springs then later moved to Batesville to attend Arkansas College (now Lyon College), receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Biology. She has worked in a variety of settings, including medical laboratories, the Hamburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and in a public school district. After a long sojourn in south Arkansas, Terri and her family relocated to Batesville this past August. Her husband Gene, a native of Batesville, is employed by Citizens Bank. Their older son Will is a junior at Lyon College, and younger son Sam is a student at Batesville Junior High School. The family is excited to be back in the area, living on a hilltop, and enjoying the history and vibrancy of the community.

I am excited to be back! For those who are unfamiliar with me, I was docent coordinator from 2013 thru 2015. My family and I live at Southside, my husband Eric, is the manager of O’Reilly Auto Parts in Batesville. I became involved with the museum when my two girls volunteered as 4-H’ers and home-schooleers. It was just a natural progression for us as parents to help out. They became busy with college and life as young adults but still help out occasionally. I found myself filling in for them and soon became a regular volunteer, and eventually docent coordinator.

Having been a volunteer, and seeing the enormous value my daughters received from being volunteers, I am very passionate about this job. Please keep the Museum in mind when you are looking for something to do or somewhere worthwhile to give your time to. We can always use funds, and friends.

I hope we continue to grow our volunteer “staff”. I would love to build on the growth we have had in my absence. As I have said in the past, volunteers are our lifeblood, without them we will wither away. I want each and every one who reads this to go to your email list, your Facebook friends list, and your phone list, invite someone to volunteer. I did this very thing upon coming back and I got some new volunteers.

I continue to be impressed by our volunteer staff’s dedication and love for our museum; we have recorded 5,219 hours this year! I want to thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart.

I can be reached at lareed69@hotmail.com. You can call or text me at 870-307-9398. You may also call my home phone number 870-251-3045.

Reasons to Volunteer

Do your part
Meet new people

Join the excitement
Be a Positive Influence

Develop new talents
Grow from the experience

Learn and Serve
Share your vision

Personal Satisfaction
Be part of a Team

Work for a cause
Face new challenges

Pass along Wisdom
Keep Active

Preserve our history

Old Independence Regional Museum
### 2016 Revenues

- **25%** Grant Revenue (Local, State, Federal & Private)
- **21%** Interest Income
- **17%** Membership and Day Sponsors
- **13%** Memorials, Honors, & Donations
- **11%** Bequests
- **7%** Workshop Fees, Special Projects, Rental Fees and Other
- **6%** Admissions, Archives, & Gift Shop Revenue

### 2016 Expenses

- **57%** Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits & Professional Fees
- **14%** Utilities and Security Fees
- **11%** Exhibit, Collections, Grant and Special Event Expenses
- **8%** Maintenance & Repair Costs
- **5%** Insurance
- **4%** Postage, Office Supplies, Travel & Other Miscellaneous Expenses
- **1%** Advertising
Museum Membership

Day Sponsor Members are individuals and businesses that support a day of operating costs at the Museum. For each day sponsored, the member can “name the day”. Many choose to honor a birthday, anniversary, friendship or express support of a local business.

Four Days or More
Arkansas Lime
First Community Bank
Willa Harkey
Jane Jameson
LaCroix Optical
Mike & Bobbie Low

Two Days
Charles & Betty Barnett
Annette Heasley
George Lankford
MaryAnn Marshall
Steve & Ellen Massey
Midwest Lime
Lisenne Rockefeller
Dennis & Twyla Wright

One Day
Richard & Ruth Ashcraft
Nelson & Sandy Barnett
Nancy Britton
Alan Bufford

Friend Memberships
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Polly Bennett
Martha Bentley
Paul & Joni Bube
Kate Cooke
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Robert & Gayla Griffin
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Bruce & Sue Johnston
Guy & Charlotte Lacy
John & Jean Larson
Dean & Leann Lindsey
Charles & Shirley Marable
Randolph & Francis Mathis
Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas? Consider Museum Gift Shop Certificates, Memberships, Honors, & Memorials

As the Christmas season approaches and we all begin our search for that perfect gift for our loved ones, please keep the Museum in mind. The Museum offers several gift ideas for those hard to buy for individuals.

The Museum Gift Shop offers gift certificates that can be purchased at a variety of levels starting at $10. With a wide selection of books and gift items to choose from certificate recipients should have no problem finding “that perfect something.”

For those interested in history you might select a Museum Gift Membership, available in a variety of levels beginning at $20. Memberships give individuals free admission and publications about upcoming events and programming.

For those who “have everything” you might consider giving a donation in their Honor. Both the donor and honoree receive a card acknowledging the contribution. This is an excellent way to support the Museum and its programming.

Memorials are also available and provide an opportunity to honor the legacy of those who have passed away. The donor and honoree’s family each receive a card acknowledging the contribution. This is a great way to remember someone special during the holiday season.
Mike West was the 2017 recipient of the Dennis Wright Award for outstanding service behind the scenes.

Sylvia Crosby was the 2017 recipient of the Twyla Gill Wright Award for Outstanding Long Term Service to the Museum.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

Unknown

OIRM 2017 Volunteers

Judy Allen
Ruth Ashcraft
Scott Blackwell
Amelia Bowman
Keith Brown
Kristen Brown
Alan Bufford
Joel Cannady
Alice Clark
Ruth Cook
Sylvia Crosby
Joan Davidson
Melody Fitterling
Taylor Fitterling
Nona Floyd
Vicki Garland
Emilee Gerhardt
Kenny Gerhardt
Pamela Glover
Carol Gifford
Beverly Grigsby
Guth Family
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Jimmy Hughes
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Kay Longenbach
MaryAnn Marshall
Steve Massey
Frances Mathis
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Sherry Matthews
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Ann Mobley
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Amanda Nikkel
Claudia Nobles
Andi Nobles
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Dennis Wright
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