

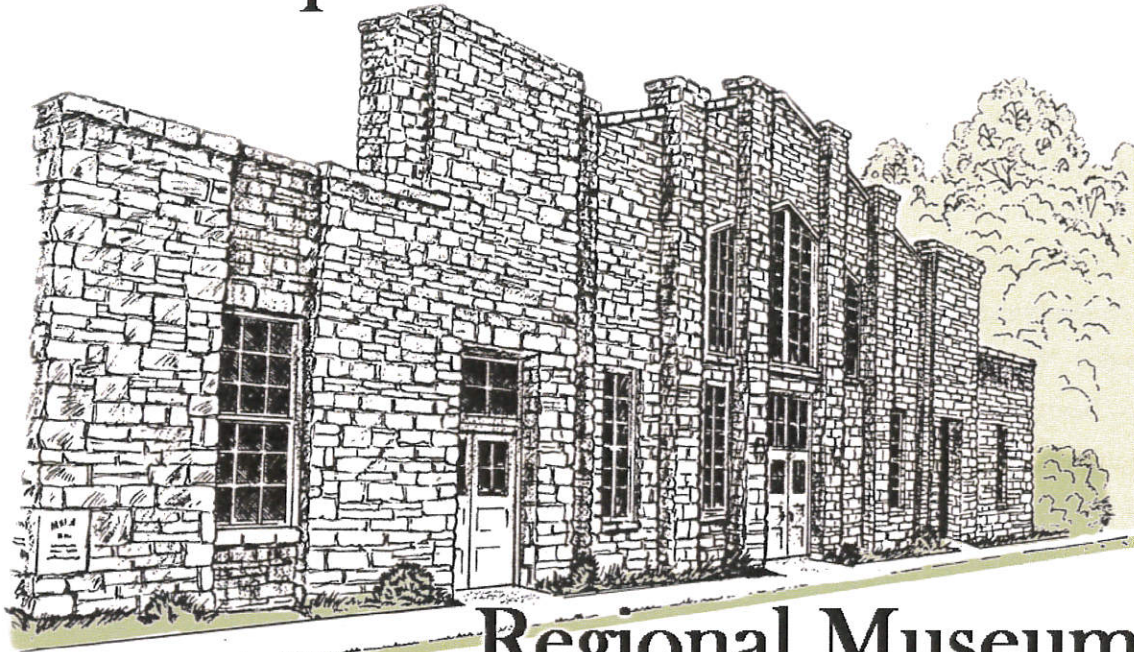
Old Independence

2020



Inside this issue:

Exhibits	2
Collections	3
Education	4
Quilt Trail	5
Board	6
Financials	7
Membership	8



Regional Museum

2021 Batesville Bicentennial

Planning for the 2021 Batesville Bicentennial is underway! Lyon College is heading up the steering committee. OIRM is happy to be part of this committee. This smaller steering committee heads up the larger planning committee. This is such an amazing opportunity for us to all work together to ensure that this wonderful community has the bicentennial celebration it deserves!

The museum is currently planning a variety of bicentennial programming. As one part of OIRM's bicentennial programming we plan to have a monthly happy hour together via Zoom! We are calling it "Happy Hour With A Historian". OIRM will provide the speaker, and you can tune in via zoom with the libations of your choice. If you would like to be a speaker or to suggest a speaker/and/or topic, or if you'd like to be involved in bicentennial planning in any capacity please contact me!

I am excited to hear from our museum friends!

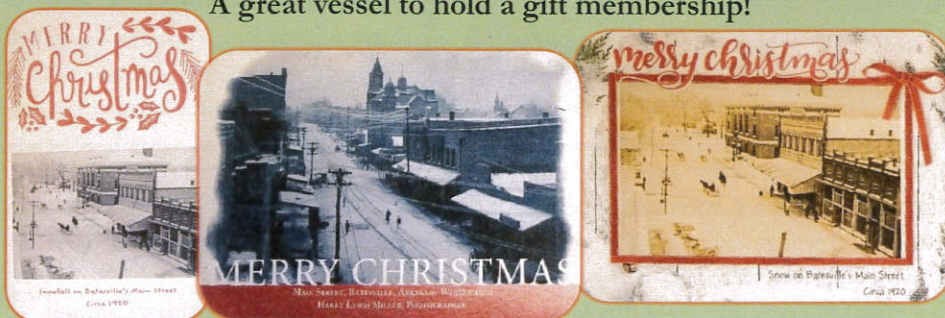
I can be reached via email amycrouchoward@gmail.com or leave me a message at the Museum at 793-2121.

Historic Christmas Cards

Our gift shop has Christmas cards featuring historic photos of Batesville's Main Street covered in snow!

These beautiful cards are only available through our gift shop and are reasonably priced at \$2 each including envelope.

A great vessel to hold a gift membership!



Curator of Exhibits Twyla Wright Change in Exhibit Plans!

Last spring we were especially excited. The Smithsonian traveling exhibit “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America” was to arrive in our museum this year. We were required to put together a companion exhibit on the same general subject. Our exhibit curator spent months of planning, researching, pulling items from our collections, and creating wall panels of information and images. By March our new exhibit was well on its way to filling the museum’s Honkonen Center. It’s title: Our Voices – Our Votes. We were excited to have it almost completed.

But then, COVID-19 intervened. The Smithsonian’s exhibit was “quarantined” in D.C. and we wouldn’t receive it for 2 years. What were we to do? We moved forward and finished the exhibit! We covered elections from 1840, 1874, 1886, 1888, to 1890. The Brooks/Baxter War came to life. Highlights include well-known Arkansans: Robinson, Hattie Caraway, Mills, Fulbright, Pryor, Bumpers. A paper dress given out in the 1968 national campaign and a whole case of political mementoes grace the room.

The Arkansas Secretary of State gave our museum a voting machine, and Craig Ogilvie’s political cartoons gave us a laugh at how “windy” political campaigns can be. Most informative is a large panel showing the percentage of registered voters who actually voted in each of our region’s 12 counties in 2016. The exhibit is totally non-partisan!

Now that the museum is once again open, although on a part-time basis, visitors are viewing our new exhibit. However, we questioned how we might take this exhibit outside the museum. (See Terri Crawford’s column to find out what we did!)



We applied to the National Archives for, and received, a free large “pop-up” 4-sided exhibit about the Suffragettes and 19th Amendment which granted women to vote.

“You guys are truly the “dream team” when it comes to exhibits, programs, and anything for that matter. The work you’ve done and continue to do is always exceptional and has educated and entertained countless adults and children...and will for years to come. I’m really sorry the Voices and Votes exhibition was postponed, but without a doubt the OIRM exhibit will be enjoyed with many learning so much Arkansas history because of all your efforts. You guys truly are the BEST!

— Jama Best, Director of Arkansas Humanities Council

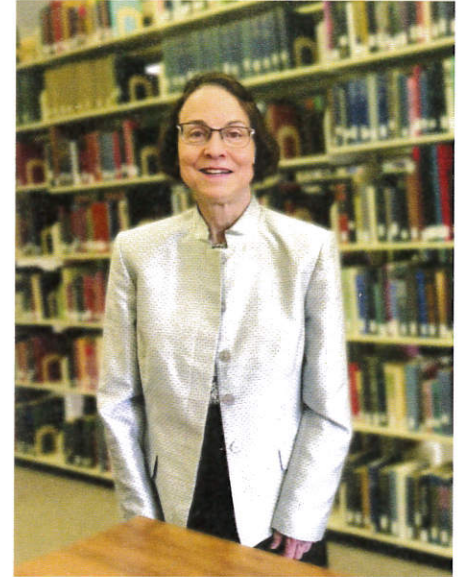
Curator's Corner

Sharan Pittser

The Curator's office continues to work on collections brought in to the museum. Our largest collection to date is from the Gail Harley estate. At present the three of us in the office - Sharan Pittser, Ruth Kent Cook, and Kathy Whittenton - are working on the collections. Yes, there is more than one collection from her home. For those of you who knew Gail, you can imagine with what we are working!

Our newest registrar and librarian is Kathy Whittenton. Once she retired from Lyon College as a librarian, it wasn't long before she came to the museum. We have long needed a librarian, and Kathy is just the person we needed. She has an extensive background as a librarian. She attended Arkansas College, majoring in history and graduating in 1975. It was Dr. Jane Fagg who suggested she become a librarian. So Kathy attended George Peabody College in Tennessee, graduating with a Masters in Library Science. Her first job was at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City, Arkansas. She did everything in technical & public services, except catalog books. She worked there for 8 ½ years. At that time she returned to Arkansas College in February, 1986, working as the Public Services Librarian until her retirement in June 2019. Two months later she began her volunteer work at Old Independence Regional Museum.

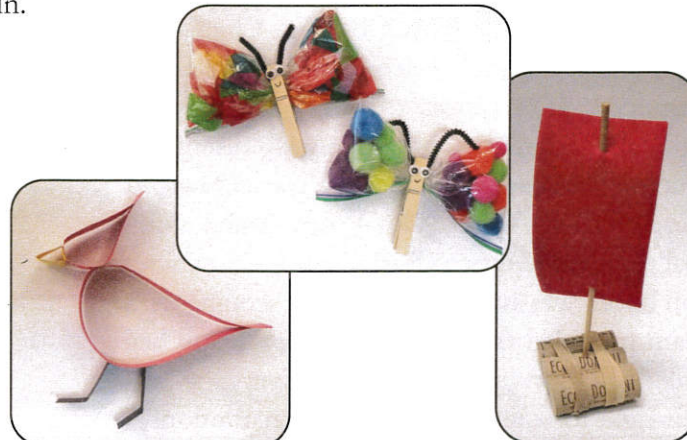
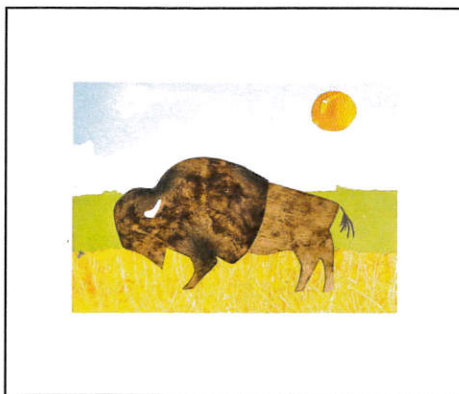
We had a number of books waiting to be catalogued. Kathy got right to it. She hadn't used the Dewey Decimal System, but it didn't take her long to learn it. She took a long look at the shelving and began reshelving books. In the process she made more space for the books that needed to be catalogued and shelved. She is a wonderful person with whom to work. This curator is glad to have her at OIRM.



Family Days To-Go

We couldn't let the Coronavirus steal all our joy, so in lieu of our traditional Family Days in May and October, OIRM hosted Spring and Fall Family Day To-Go! With the museum's currently reduced hours and moratorium on large events, the usual on-site crafts were packed up into individual kits and distributed free to children. Kits were picked up curbside in front of the museum. Board members Alan Bufford, Amy Howard and Nona Floyd volunteered to pass the kits to visitors, many being avid Family Day attendees. Spring kits were based on the theme of "Using What You Have" as many businesses were shut down and new supplies were limited. So, we opened up the cabinets and worked with what we had on hand! Fall kits celebrated "200 Years of Independence County" with educational craft projects to represent our early settlement days. Instructions were included for each project, but families could access instructional videos posted to the museum's YouTube channel for additional assistance.

How nice it was to see some of those familiar, sweet faces! We look forward to the day when we can welcome families in again.



Educator's Notes Terri Crawford Moving Forward with Technology

Old Independence Regional Museum is an institution charged with documenting the history of our region. Ironically, we now find ourselves living in an era of notable change-- not slow, barely noticeable change but rapid, almost overnight change. How are we to carry out our mission in an age of social distancing and closures? Technology! If we weren't using it before, we certainly are now. By using today's available technology, OIRM will continue moving forward by sharing exhibits and educational resources online, connecting with the public through social media, and operating via virtual meetings.

Whether in-person or online, we want visitors to experience our exhibits. The decision by the Arkansas Humanities Council to postpone the Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street exhibition, *Our Voices, Our Votes: Democracy in America*, was well-justified but still disappointing. During this election year, the topic of democracy is still timely, so Exhibits Curator Twyla Wright installed the intended auxiliary local exhibit, *Our Voices, Our Votes*. Visitors are encouraged to explore this exhibit on site, but for those who may feel uncomfortable in public spaces, a short narrated video of the exhibit as well as footage of the Women's Suffrage pop-up exhibit is available on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. There visitors will find more videos of other museum items or featuring museum patrons like Tommy Bryant who stopped by to talk about electronic voting in Independence County. With help from our fearless board members Amelia Bowman and Amy Howard, plans are in place to produce more videos so that OIRM's content may be more widely available.

Unfortunately, school field trips and homeschool events are on hiatus. Therefore, staff will be making more resources available on our webpage for parents, students, and teachers to access. For example, computer links for word puzzles and videos were accessible to help celebrate Constitution Day on September 17. We anticipate offering virtual tours and programs as the year progresses.

The museum is ramping up its use of social media, specifically Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. These sites help us to get information out quickly and to reach broader audiences. We can use visual images to thank our day sponsors, share artifacts, and inform visitors of upcoming activities. We can upload all of our cool videos to one site to make sharing easier. Social media has the added advantages of giving us feedback from our audiences and allowing supporters to share OIRM with their friends. Printed media will always be an avenue for us to share information, but social media sites allow us to broaden that base.

Our dedicated board of directors continues to function with new social distancing measures. Fortunately, the spacious rooms in the museum allow our board members to maintain safe distances when meeting. Our smart TV and Chromebook permit us to host Zoom meetings to include members who remain at home. This same technology will give us access to interact with other groups, such as classrooms and professional organizations. Virtual meetings are not quite the same as in-person meetings, but they get the job done and actually expand our reach into the world.

Technology is a double-edged sword. We may rail at the need to learn new skills and mourn the loss of human interaction, but technology allows us to keep moving forward and to continue to live into our mission of sharing our region's 200 year history.

Celebrating Constitution Day at UACCB

Each year, Americans celebrate Constitution Day on September 17 to commemorate the signing of the United States Constitution in Philadelphia, PA, in 1787. This year, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville (UACCB) Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Zach Perrine invited OIRM to participate in their celebration of the annual federal holiday. Exhibit Curator Twyla Wright presented a brief history of voting in Independence County, statistics on current voters in the region, and a reminder of previously disenfranchised voting groups such as women and people of color. Humanities Educator Terri Crawford provided videos of the museum's *Our Voices, Our Votes* exhibit along with footage of the National Archives' Women's Suffrage pop-up exhibit. A manned voter registration booth was available on site. In keeping with the theme, the UACCB team provided free Philly Steak & Cheese bag lunches for all who attended the non-partisan event. Everyone was encouraged to exercise their right to vote, thanks to the Constitution!



Independence County Quilt Trail

What's good to do during a pandemic? Create art, of course! This past June, Jessica Hogue took on the task of coordinating an Independence County Quilt Trail to be added to the existing Arkansas Quilt Trail. The trail is a collection of painted quilt blocks on the exterior of barns, homes, businesses, historical buildings or other structures. A series of at least 12 quilt blocks is required to start a trail. Each location included on the trail, along with its story, is published in a brochure and online so folks can drive by to view and photograph the blocks.

When OIRM was invited to participate, volunteers Ruth Kent Cook, Alan Bufford, and Professor Dustyn Bork formed a small committee to bring the idea of a painted quilt block to fruition. All agreed that an image of an accessioned quilt housed at OIRM would tie together the missions of both the quilt trail and the museum. After careful deliberation, the committee chose a quilt from the Cook/Morrow collection for its local historical significance and its bold image and use of color.

The quilt features a Carolina Lily pattern that is pieced and appliqued using traditional hues of dark red with greens and teals. The quilt was made by either Pernicia Dodds Cook or her daughter-in-law Ophelia Lamb Cook circa 1870-1880. V.Y. Cook, son of Pernicia and husband of Ophelia, was a prominent merchant and planter in northeast Arkansas who established the town of Olyphant then later moved to Batesville. The Cook-Morrow home, built in Batesville in 1909, still stands today at 875 East Main Street and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Once the quilt was chosen, Bork narrowed the design to one specific block and matched the paint colors to the original materials. The pattern of the red material was replicated using an original stencil. The 8' x 8' block required four layers of paint! Upon its completion, Eric Reed hung the large block over the bay door on the southern side of the museum building. (In keeping with the standards of the national historic registry, the block hangs on temporary hooks which can be easily removed rather than being permanently mounted to the building.)

Visitors are invited to come by to see the quilt block and also to step inside to view a small exhibit Curator Twyla Wright created to accompany the exterior fixture. To see the full Independence County trail and others like it, visit www.ArkansasQuiltTrails.com.



Docents Laura Reed

We miss our docents! Unless you've been under a rock, you know that COVID hit this area beginning in March. Most of our docents began to stay home, some from necessity and others because we didn't have visitors. Nona Floyd has been a shining example this year. Her family has faced trials and she had to take a short break to deal with that. In honor of Nona's dedication, Terri and I took her place at her other volunteer job (she has many), and we spent a couple of Wednesdays working at Help & Hope. It was hard work but lots of fun! She was soon back here at the museum, finishing her 20-year project on the early county probate records. She is being careful, says she will go until she can't, and then she will call Crouch's!



Amy Murphee



Kay Southerland



Sandy West



2021 Board of Directors

President - Alan Bufford
Vice President - Amelia Bowman
Secretary - Amy Crouch-Howard
Treasurer - Kenny Gerhardt
Trustee - Sonya Rucker
Trustee - Glenda Martin
Trustee - Kathy Clements
Trustee - Landon Reeves
Trustee - Ashley Engles

New Board members added this year by vote of the board due to covid -
Amy Murphee, Kay Southerland,
and Sandy West

Many thanks to board members rotating off this year -
David Winberry, Bruce Johnston,
and Nona Floyd

A few of the volunteers coming in
Dr. Scott Blackwell
Steve & Ellen Massey
Nelda Mitchell
Dr. Sharan Pittser
Kathy Whittenton
Ruth Cook
Ann Mobley
Sherry Matthews
Dennis & Twyla Wright



Thank you to the following donors for supporting the creation of the Carolina Lily quilt block:

- Ruth Kent Cook
- Kenny & Michele Gerhardt, in memory of their grandmothers, Lura King, Vallie Freeman, Irene Gerhardt, and Neva Churchwell
- Amy Crouch Howard
- Home Depot

We are excited about obtaining photos of and information about earlier businesses along St. Louis Street and also Harrison Street.

Our exhibit curator has some interesting possibilities that would include them.

We would like to make copies of them. Please let us know if you can help!



Membership

FOUR DAYS OR MORE

Rick Elumbaugh,
Mayor City of Batesville
Judge Robert Griffin,
Independence County
First Community Bank
of Batesville, Dale Cole
Arkansas Lime
Hail Technologies, Inc.
Willa Harkey
Jane Jameson
Raymond & Dianne LaCroix
Kirk Warden, LaCroix Optical
Scott Lancaster,
Bad Boy Incorporated

TWO DAYS

Charles & Betty Barnett
Batesville Preservation
Association
Nancy Britton
Bob Carius
Dale & Gayle Cole
Emma Lou Hedden
Don Heuer
Dr. George Lankford
Steve & Ellen Massey
Barrett & Sara Moore
Mrs. Lisenne Rockefeller
Bob & Deborah Stroud
Hal & Mary Vandiver
Dennis and Twyla Wright

DAY SPONSOR

Dave & Cindy Allen
John Beller-
Bank of Cave City
IN Barnett Family
Larry and Martha Bentley
Nelson & Sandy Barnett
Alan Bufford
Dwight & Karis Ford
Citizens Bank of Batesville
Charles & Jennie Cole
Kate Cooke
Gene & Terri Crawford
Sylvia Crosby
Kenny & Michele Gerhardt
Ashley Engles
RB & Nona Floyd,
Future Fuel Chemical
Don Heuer

Paul Holifield,
Econo-Mart Pharmacy
Clint & Amy Crouch-Howard
Bill and Sandra Nash Hughes
David Hutchison, Lyon College
Bruce & Sue Johnston
Arch & Mary Kay Jones
Rusty & Butch Ketz Family
John & Jean Larson
(Pat) & Mary Lea
Mike & Bobby Low
Matthew Luoma
Glenda Martin
Linda Matthews
Charles McClain, Jr
Ned Metcalf

Midwest Lime Company
Pete and Helen Musgrave
Calvin & Julie Reves
Mark and Matt Rorie,
Batesville Printing
Skip & Billie Rutherford
Fred & Peggy Shelton
Kay Southerland
Barbara Stevenson
Terrell & Diane Tebbetts
Jim Wann
Michael & Sandy West
Bill and Janis Walmsley

FRIENDS

Judy Babcock
Dr. JR & Wanette Baker
Phil & Dee Dee Baldwin
Aubry Bell
Doug Brodie
Paul & Joni Bube
Al & Vicky Crouch
Boris & Pamela Dover
Pam Easterwood
Gerald Fulbright
David Hanks
Margaret Henley
T.J. and Tommie Hively
Barbara Hoover
Edward House
Jim & Shirley Chaney
EJ Jones
Carolyn Craig Keeble
Barbara Rutherford Keedy
Butch & Virginia Ketz, Jr
Frances & Donald Mathis

Max & Susan McElmurry
Jack & Anne Griffin Moore
David & Dr. Sharan Pittser
Robert & Barbara Reynolds
Rob Roberts
Carol Robertson
Doyle "Rog" Rogers, Jr.
William & Louise Sandefur
Becky Siegel
Sara Maxfield Smither
David & Beth Winberry

FAMILY

James & Anne Bechdoldt
Dr. Scott & Kathryn Blackwell
David & Suzanne Blair
Ray & Julie Bowman
Jim & Joanna Buchanan
Bryan & Amanda Dickie
George & Della Mae Dortch
MaryAnn Fisher
Jean Garner
James & Deborah Johnson
Barry & Sandy Hammers
Jimmy and Bertha Hughes
Guy & Charlotte Lacy
Dean and Leann Lindsey
Gary & Tommie McDonald
Chester McDoniel
Merry McSpadden
Julia Nail
Craig Ogilvie
Joe and Kay Pool
Bob & Judy Purnell
Landon Reeves
Jay & Cathy Shell
David & Bonnie Taylor, MD
Mayfan & Clinton Thomas
Fran Troy
Fred & Linda Wann

INDIVIDUAL

Darren Altom
Vanessa Adams
Denise Baker
Batesville Collectors Club
Amelia Bowman
Robert H. Carius
William Coe
Carol Gifford
Cindy Griffin
Luiza Harper

Terry Hedden
Aaron Herndon
Velva Huddleston
Terri Jameson
W. Joseph King
Alyson Low
Jody Mabry
Donna Magar
Matt Martin
Carolyn McClure
Katie Mclean
Christopher Moore
Gary Perkey
Robbie Purdom
Zach Perrine
Joan Sellers
Amy Shaver
Malinda Maxfield
Tulloh Sarah Witkowski

SENIOR

Polly Bennett
Loretta Brewer
Freda Briscoe
Dixie & Barbara Carpenter
Rosemary Catton
Kathy Clements
Mickey & Shirley Coe
Connie Crymes
Betty Crutcher
Janet Galvan
Lloyd Gathright
Velma Gould
Mary Harmon
Jack Helm
Valerie Holler
Frances Jernigan
Shirley Marable
Cheryl Matthews
Michael Mead
Beth Arnold Morgan
Michael Moser
Sue Richmond
Kenneth Rory
Kay Simpson
Ceil Smith
Dorma Talburt
Tandy Whitaker
Katherine Whittenton
Alice Witterman

Financials

We have survived this COVID year because of our faithful members who haven't wavered in their support. In addition to our membership payments we have also received community support from our banks in the way of a Payroll Protection loan from Citizens Bank, and grants & loan forgiveness during lock down from First Community Bank. We have great board members who have worked diligently in the community and abroad to find grants. We have received this year-

Payroll protection loan Citizens Bank-\$8365.00 (This is a forgivable loan.)

First Community Bank Grant-\$1000.00

Arkansas Humanities Council Cares Grant \$8262.00 To be used for utilities

Arkansas Humanities Council Cares II Grant \$809.00 To be used for utilities and operations

Arkansas Economic Development Council \$1500.00 Ready For Business Grant – Covid Cleaning supplies

Support Our Gift Shop

Gift shop is open!

We have many new items featuring local historic images as well as items bearing the new Independence County seal and flag. The Bicentennial coins in silver or bronze make excellent stocking stuffers! We offer curbside service as well. Just give us a call at (870) 793-2121 to place your order.



A Great Gift Idea

Do you recall that a couple of years ago, Main Street Batesville produced a coffee table book about the history of Batesville, titled "Up From the River"? It sold out quickly, but now they are having it reprinted with a few additions, and it will incorporate a "Bicentennial Edition" on its cover. It will certainly be a keep-sake, and will make a splendid Christmas gift. Our museum gift shop will stock it for you.



Social Media

Be sure to follow us for all the latest info!



Facebook - @oldindepenceregionalmuseum

Instagram - @oirm1820

YouTube - OIRM Museum

Find out more by visiting our website, too!

www.oirm.org

Old Independence Regional Museum

380 S 9th St, Batesville, AR 72501

(870) 793-2121