Old Independence
Regional Museum
2008-2009
Report
Our First Gala

Our First Gala — Governor Beebe was Guest Speaker - Two hundred people gathered for a festive dinner on September 30, 2008, to celebrate the anniversary of the museum’s ten years of operation and to honor the lead founding donors. At the elegant head table sat Governor Mike and Mrs. Ginger Beebe, Doyle and Raye Rogers, and Kay Southerland. Preston and Nancy Grace were unable to attend due to the sudden death of her mother. Members of the three families sat at tables near the front.

After the Reverend David Steele voiced the blessing, Elizabeth’s Catering served a fine dinner. During the meal Dr. Alan Storyegard of Jacksonville, Arkansas, provided keyboard musical background. Immediately after dinner three students from the Weston Studio and the Batesville High School Jazz Ensemble performed musical interludes.

At the podium, Governor Mike Beebe expressed his affection for the three founding families, and challenged those gathered to continue to work toward the establishment and future development of worthwhile institutions, such as the museum, in Arkansas towns.

The museum expressed its great appreciation to Lisa Powell, who donated her time as the gala coordinator, and to Ronnie Clouse, who donated his creativity and splendid flower arrangements for the occasion.

Gala Committee members were: Twyla Gill Wright (chairperson), and Jim Johnson, Lenora Mobley, Ann Rhodes, Jan Smith, and Linda Wann.

After all gala revenue was counted and expenses subtracted, the museum netted $16,404. What a wonderful evening, and a financial success!

Other guests joined the honored families for the evening within Independence Hall at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. State Senator David Wyatt greeted everyone and introduced the Master of Ceremonies: former United States Senator Kaneaster Hodges of Newport.

Gala Honorees Raye & Doyle Rogers and Kay Southerland
A Tenth Anniversary Retrospective: Looking Back Over the Years

1991 - A museum planning committee began work
1993 - Incorporated as a non-profit, and elected 18 trustees, Twyla Wright, Board president
1994 - Received tax exempt status 501-(c)-(3). Office space donated by Arkansas Bank. Development Consultant, Blackstone, was hired to manage capital campaign.
1995 - Raised $400,000 in gifts and pledges and deed to the former National Guard armory was transferred to museum from Rodgers and Grace families
1996 - Witsell, Evans and Rasco architectural firm hired to design renovation of the armory. Building placed on the National Register of Historical Places.
1997 - Reed Construction started renovation work on front half of building
1999 - Jo Blatti hired as first museum executive director, after Twyla Wright had served as acting director for 8 months. Wright became volunteer curator.
2000 - Teresa Russell hired as administrative assistant
2004 - Began pledge campaign to renovate the second half of the building, Vikki Gentry hired as Docent Coordinator. Received two U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants totaling $344,224.
2005 - Grand Opening of Phase 2, completed by M & A Jones Construction added 5,000 sq. ft.: Main Gallery, Program Center (extension of Theater), First Community Bank Gallery, 2 more preservation rooms, 800 sq.ft environmentally controlled vault, preparation rooms. Z.F. Mobley Design, architect
2005 - Educational Endowment Campaign goal of $187,500 set, with a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of $62,500, if goal is reached.
2006 - Replaced Southerland Gallery exhibits with new semi-permanent exhibits “Where the Delta Meets the Ozarks, and “Region On the Move” in Main Gallery. Vine Street rental house property was purchased.
2007 - April White hired as administrative assistant, Amanda Nikkel as docent coordinator. Frances Mathis became volunteer gift shop manager. Jo Blatti retired from the museum.

Present—Museum managed by Staff Team and Board Executive Committee

Over the past 10 years dozens of temporary or traveling exhibits were put up and taken down, keeping “something new” for visitors to explore.

Programs, averaging 1 or 2 each month continued, along with scholarly “brown bag” speakers. State awards for exhibits and volunteer work were received. Arkansas Heritage Month grants were regularly awarded.

The Museum collections of artifacts, including documents, objects, photos, and library books grew to include over 22,000 items.


From 2007 to the present the museum’s educational program has expanded enormously, including more school tours, family day events, day camps, home school days. Gift Shop sales and inventory have grown by leaps and bounds. Volunteers remain committed.
Barnes / Simmons Estate Gift

Kathleen Barnes and Fonteen Simmons gave many treasured family items to the museum over the years. At the end of their lives, they generously supported the museum by including it in their trust fund. On October 24th the Museum Board of Directors, staff and friends gathered to remember and honor them as the name of the main gallery was unveiled—The Barnes – Simmons Main Gallery.

Charles Barnett, Board Treasurer, announced that monies from the gift will be used to expand the educational outreach program at the museum. It can touch twice as many learners of all ages as before. The position of museum educator will be increased from one-quarter time to a half-time position.

Board president, Jan Smith, said, “This additional funding has been a blessing to the museum to fulfill some gaps in our mission and vision. We really appreciate Mrs. Barnes and Miss Simmons for thinking of us.”

Museum Awarded Grant to Support School Tours

Old Independence Regional Museum was pleased to be the recipient of a grant in summer 2009, through a private donor, to support a new community outreach education program developed by the museum staff for the 2009-2010 school year. This program was created to encourage public schools to take advantage of the regional educational opportunities that the museum has to offer. The grant was designed to fund a tour of the museum for 100 students from each of the 12 counties that the museum represents: Baxter, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Marion, Poinsett, Sharp, Stone, White, and Woodruff. The tour offered to schools includes: Depression Era Back Porch, Shawnee Town, Region on the Move, and Living off the Land, plus our add-on program “19th Century Toys and Games” and a gift shop visit.

“This is a program that we have wanted to implement for over a year, and now a private donor has granted us the funds to do it. We are so excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our region’s schools, and hope that they will take advantage of the generous contribution of our funder,” stated Amanda Nikkel.

So far the museum has been able to award the grant to 7 schools, and we looking forward to second round of applicants in the spring.

School Age and Family Report 2008 and 2009

2008 Scheduled School Tours
887 - Students (K-12)
111 – Accompanying Adults (teachers, aides, and parents)

2009 Scheduled School Tours
18 - Tours
1,092 - Students (K-12)
84 - Accompanying Adults

Special Programs for School Age Children
Fall 2008 Home School Day – 3 hour, in-depth program with several hands-on and demonstration elements
57 - Students
30 - Accompanying adults and non-participating siblings

Spring 2009 Home School Day
50 - Students (Grades 5-15)
30 - Adults and non-participating siblings

Fall 2009 Home School Day
110- Students (Grades 3-15)
40 - Adults
2008 Summer Day Camp – week long half-day program for 3rd-6th graders
33 – Students
2009 Summer Day Camp – expanded to two weeks with 3rd and 4th graders coming week one and 5th and 6th graders coming week two
60 – Students
2009 Scout Day – hands-on program for Boy and Girl Scouts to earn a specially designed Old Independence Regional Museum patch
35 - Students

Programs for Family Groups – multigenerational programs with several hands-on and demonstration activities relating to a theme from the 12-county region or one of the museum’s exhibits.

Native American Family Day – July 2008
300+ - children, adults, and senior adults

Fall Family Day – October 2009
300+ - children, adults, and senior adults

History on Wheel Family Day – September 2008
100 – children, adults, and senior adults

Spring Family Day – April 2009
100 – children, adults, and senior adults

An Old Fashioned Christmas – December 2008
100+ - children, adults, and senior adults

An Old Fashioned Family Christmas – December 2009
200 - children and adults
This report uses information taken from the 2008 financial statements which were independently audited and then approved by the board of directors. 2009 financial statements will be available in 2010.
2008 - 2009
Day Sponsor
Membership
Levels

Old Independence Society
First Community Bank
Dewitt Yingling

Patron
AgHeritage Farm Credit Services
Dave & Cindy Allen
I.N. Barnett Family
Nelson & Sandy Barnett
Batesville Daily Guard
Batesville Title Services
Chapter Z P.E.O. Sisterhood
City of Batesville
David & Mary Ann Bell
Wayne Boyce
Hail & Faye Bryant
Paul & Joni Bube
Dr. Robert & Patsy Craig
Sylvia Crosby
Boris & Pamela Dover
Econo-Mart Pharmacy
Elizabeth Evans
First National Banking Company
Fran Flener
Lanny & Debbie Frazier
Trudy Hall
Independence County Farm Bureau
Jackson County
Mike & Myra Kendall
Raymond & Diane LaCroix
Pat & Mary Lea
Liberty Bank of Batesville
Matthew Luoma
Lyon College
Meacham Packing Co.
Merchants & Planters Bank
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Montgomery
North Arkansas Farm Supply
Dan & Nancy Orr
Margie Petersen
Glen & Audrey Pool
Robert & Barbara Reynolds
Lisenne Rockefeller
Roller-Crouch Funeral Home
James L. Rutherford
Alan & Amanda Seagrave
Carl & Amy Shaver

Benefactor
Arkansas Lime Company
Batesville Preservation Association
Judge & Mrs. John Norman Harkey
Jane Jameson
LaCroix Optical Co.
White Rodgers Co.

Sustainer
Charles & Betty Barnett
Batesville Kiwanis Club
Batesville Rotary Club
Faye Bone
Nancy Britton
Jim & Jean Crouch
FutureFuel Chemical Co.
Delta Beverage Group / Pepsi-Americas
George Lankford
Liberty Bank of Batesville
Polly Livingston
Mary Ann Marshall
Steve & Ellen Massey
Midwest Lime Company
Freeman & Aline Mobley
Carolyn Nichols
North Arkansas Clinic Inc.
Regions Bank
John & Joyce Richey
Frank & Loretta Shell
Bradley Slaughter
Robert & Deborah Stroud
Ronald & Caroline Spillers

2008 - 2009
Membership Levels

Friend
Judy Babcock
Jim & Lois Barnett
Anne Becholdt
Fred & Elsie Blankenship
Newt & Jean Blankenship
Armilda P. Brodie
Robert Carius
Woody & Melissa Castleberry
George & Marilyn Chlebak
Les & Mary Beth Frensley
Dwight Ford
Gerald Fulbright
Helen Fulbright
Sherry Hayes
Donald & Emma Lou Hedden
Paul & Barbara Hoover, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley J. Ketz, Jr.
Carolyn Craig Keeble
Charles & Shirley Marable
Michele McCann
Marion P. Milum
Virginia Moser
Guy & Sara Mosley
Robb Roberts
Jay & Cathy Shell
Mr. & Mrs. Carter Yeatman

Family
H.D. & Sissy Bailey, Jr.
Anne Becholdt
Dr. & Mrs. R. E. Bell
Dr. William C. Beiler

Sims Grocer Company
Bob & Mary Slaughter
Stanley Wood Chevrolet – Pontiac
Steve Bell
Jack & Barbara Stevenson
Avondale Street
Jim & Laura Parks
Charles & Rachel Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Tebbetts
Williams Equipment
Jim & Kathy Wilson
Dewitt Yingling

Wal-Mart of Batesville
Dennis & Twyla Wright
Dewitt Yingling
Polly Bennett
Marcus & Glenda Bowers
Amlida Brodie
Arvie “Bubba” Burks
Dixie & Barbara Carpenter
Bill & Pat Cash
Mickey & Shirley Coe
Sam & Kate Cooke
Donald & Joan Cooper
George & Betty Crutcher
Tom & Dorothy Dodson
George & Della Mae Dortch
R.B. & Nona Floyd
Leslie & Mary Beth Frensley
Don Gilchrist
John Gregg
James & Rose Marie Hankins
Jon & Martha Healey
Donald & Emma Lou Hedden
Jack Helm
Paul & Virginia Henry
Ed & Valerie Holler
Joe & Dawn James
Oscar & Beth Jones
W.A. & Bettye Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Aubrey Joseph
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley J. Ketz, Jr.
Guy & Charlotte Lacy
Jan Smith & Doug Lee
Eva Luster
Charles & Shirley Marable
Gary & Tommie McDonald
Max & Susan McElmurry
Zack & Lenora Mobley
Jack & Anne Moore
Larry & Jaydine Morton
Michael Moser
Joe & Kay Pool
Judy Purnell
Paul & Ann Rhodes
William & Carol Robertsson
James Rutherford
Bob Schrienk & Dorothy Sanders
Charlie & Ruby Schaaf
Jay Shell
David & Sarah Shetron
Robert Stroud
Joe & Kay Pool
Charles & Rachael Taylor
Fran Troy
Bill & Janis Walmsley
Neil & Beverly Wilkins, Sr.
Mid & JoAnn Wooten

Individual
Denise Baker
Batesville Collectors Club
Jo Biatti
Brooks Blevins
Ernestine Boyce
Marilyn Brewer
Robert Doty Broussard
Christine Buck
Rosemary Catton
William Coe
John Davis
Sandy Deckard
Marie Edwards
Laurie Fulbright
Carl Garner
Kenny Gerhardt
Carol Gifford
Elizabeth Glenn
Lois Goff
Lou Ann Hance
Annas Heasley
Margaret Henley
Bill Hoskins
Billie C. Jett
Stephen D. Kearbey, Jr.
Barbara Rutherford Keedy
Ledeana Brackett Kelley
Kathryn Lemon
Francis Mathis
Cheryl Matthews
Anna Mae McSpadden
Mary Miller
Ann Mobley
Charlie Morris
Susan Mosier
Craig Ogilvie
Joseph Parks
Dody Pouliot
George Pouliot
Robbie Purdom
Jane Purtle
Estell Rucker
Blake Rutherford
Julie Sandy
Mary Slayden
Patti Snowden
Kay Southerland
Katherine Stokes
Dianne Taylor

Marion “Tony” Thompson
Roy G. Thomas
Mary Vandiver
Linda Wann
White River Materials
Mrs. Franklin Williams
Mrs. John Quincy Wolf
Lucy Yeager

Senior / Student
Amanda Ashby
Betsy F. Benton
Jimmie Jean Pate Bowman
Judy Boyd
Joanna Buchanan
Ruby D. Cooper
Kenneth Crymes
Connie Crymes
Jo Cudd
Janice Eddleman
Lois Etheridge
Carol Fulton
Janet Galvin
Velma McSpadden Gould
Mary Gail Harley
Mary Harmon
Doris Harper
James A. Hester
Theodora Hightower
Ed Holler
Valerie Holler
Frances Jernigan
N.E. Johnson
Barbara Jones
Barbara Rutherford Keedy
William Kramer
LaVerl Mason
Carolyn McClure
Earlene Meacham McMullin
Beth Meacham
H. Glenn Mosenthin
Jane H. Parker
Bertha Perkey
Violet Reed
Connie Schirmer
Sarah Maxfield Smither
Hope Spragins
Linda Sutton
Dorma Talburt
Phyllis Terhune
Mildred Thomas
Malinda Maxfield Tulloh
2008 - 2009 Volunteers

Docents
Karon Chrisco
Alice Clark
Sylvia Crosby
Jean Crouch
Nona Floyd
Janet Gray
Beverly Grigsby
Mary Gail Harley
Bill Hoskins
Bertha Hughes
Ron Karg
Sue Kibbe
Jimmie Lou Liles
Frances Mathis
Cheryl Matthews
Tommie McDonald
Mary Miller
Ann Mobley
Anne & Jack Moore

H. Glenn Mosenthin
Limuel Parks
Dody Pouliot
Cheyenne Reed
Brianne Reed
Doris Reves
Ann Rhodes
Mary Slayden
Barbara Stevenson
Phyllis Terhune
Esther Thomas
Mildred Thomas

Archives
Sydney Brown
Marilynn Chlebak
Merry Covington
Hasnat Jahan
Jason Lee
Mary Ann Marshall

Bertha Perkey
David Pittser
Sharan Pittser
George Pouliot
Abby Senn
Linda Wann

In 2008 our volunteers gave 6,635 hours to the museum. According to the Independent Sector the hourly rate for volunteer work in 2008 was $20.25. Our volunteers’ in-kind, monetary amount given to the museum totals $134,358.75. In 2009 the volunteer hours totaled 6,232, and the in-kind monetary amount totals $126,198. Thank you volunteers!

2009 Board of Directors

Charles Barnett - Treasurer
Tim Bruner
Sylvia Crosby
Dwight E. Ford
Debbie Frazier
Jeffery Freiert
Kenny Gerhardt
Dr. Ben Hipp
James Johnson
Wesley “Butch” Ketz
Arthur Montgomery
Anne Moore
Charlie Morris - Secretary
Joyce Richey
Robb Roberts
Jan Smith - President
Martha Sue Smith
Marion Thompson - Past President