Entry Exhibit Expands!

Visitors now walk into our entry to find an exciting welcome scene. New lighted exhibit sections under the entry map showcase an array of handcraft made by the long ago Native American Mississippian Culture. Pots and bowls, arrow projectile points, a gaming stone, and an ax head and a flint spade are on display. These are gifts to the museum from Scott Davidson. Another pottery jar and pot are from the Young and Bearden collections that were earlier given to the museum. A meal grinding stone (metate) was given by the Henke family whose father unearthed it while plowing along the White River near Batesville in 1928.

This major change is in response to the many requests for an exhibit about the Native Americans who lived along the White River hundreds of years ago. Twyla Wright, exhibit curator, has designed this array, plus the large panel that explains life in the nearby Greenbrier Site. The platform and protective plexiglas frame that encases the artifacts were constructed by Dennis Wright.

The large map of our region remains in place, but a shorter narration of it can be heard simply by pushing a button. This major expansion connects the developing history of our geographical region by including its earlier history when this land was inhabited by Native Americans up to 800 years ago.

Special points of interest:
- Sara Low Remembered in new exhibit
- A new and vocal addition to the Shawnee Town Exhibit
- Check out the new items in our gift shop and get a head start on your Christmas shopping!
The Collections Corner
Sharan Pittser, Curator of Collections

It has been a very busy time in the Curators’ office, since Twyla asked Sharan to share the Curator’s position. Twyla continues as Curator of Exhibits, so we will still benefit from her vision and creativity, and Sharan will be able to pester her with questions.

Since Sharan took over the Collections in May, a number of people have brought in items from deceased family members or else they are cleaning out the house. Some who have contributed items to the Museum are Jerry Taylor, Jack Stevenson, Ann Strahl, Kay Longenbach, Deneschia Isley Wilson, Shaaron & Joe Wilson, Joan Sellers, Moorene Massey, Polly Bell, Adele Grilli, Steve Davis, Don Huer and the Arthur Montgomery family.

A few of the artifacts that have come in include a spinet piano the Arthur Montgomery family donated. It belonged to Mr. Montgomery’s parents. He also paid for the tuning of the piano. The Museum staff is grateful to have a piano which can now be used at some of our events. Many thanks to the Montgomery family!

Shaaron and Joe Wilson of Cherokee Village donated a large hand sewn, detailed ragdoll collection. The 7” to 9” dolls were made by Joe Wilson’s aunt; the larger 12” to 18” dolls were made by Shaaron Wilson’s mother, Honore Goodwin Pruitt.

Steve Davis, a longtime Mason, contributed a Masonic Bible, Square & Compass from Tina Lodge. It recently merged with another small lodge.

One of our new docents, Duane Massey, has agreed to take on the position of Museum librarian. We are delighted to have him do so. He will be in charge of accessioning books, repairing books, helping people with research & using the microfilm machine. Duane currently works on Tuesday afternoons. Welcome to OIRM, Duane. We are glad you are one of our extraordinary volunteers!

A Surprising Edition to the Shawnee Town Exhibit

Now when you walk into the semi-darkness of the Shawnee room, you hear a man and woman talking together in the Shawnee language! A couple in Ohio made this minute-long audio especially for the museum. A motion sensor at the door starts the audio and suddenly you feel you are really among the Shawnee (in what is now Yellville).

Master Gardeners Begin Work

We are happy to announce that the Master Gardeners of Independence County have accepted the Museum as one of their projects. They have been working throughout the summer on improving the flower beds that line the front of the Museum. We are excited about the plans they have for adding additional color to the beds this fall.

Curator of Collections, Sharan Pittser holding dolls from the Wilson Collection.
New Civil War Exhibit

“Occupied Territory, 1862” shows events during the two-month period when the Army of the Southwest, under the command of U.S. General Curtis, invaded Batesville. After months of design work by members of the museum’s Exhibit Team: Amelia Bowman, Sharan Pittser, Nelson Barnett, Linda Wann, George Lankford, and exhibit curator Twyla Wright, they were pleased to open it to the public in late spring. Kayla Davis, a student in Batesville High School’s EAST program created a map of Gen. Curtis’ travel route to Arkansas.

A metal guidon is anchored above the exhibit. One exhibit panel holds photographs of Elvena Maxfield and her family home, plus a plastic box showing a facsimile of her diary and dried roses. She and her family were avowed Confederates and her forceful words are quoted. Several of the invading Federal cavalry wrote how beautiful Batesville was, and mentioned the fragrance of roses.

Another panel focuses on Gen. Curtis and the invasion, plus the quandary that Batesville and country folks faced: to sign an Oath of Allegiance to the Union or face repercussions. Then there was a question for the slaves: whether to follow the Union soldiers, or stay with their masters.

Over 15,000 cavalrmen had to be fed, plus their horses, and that meant foraging off the land. A hands-on game invites visitors to forage and move magnetic “food” to fill a barn and tent to see how difficult it was to feed that many. Gen. Curtis had to leave the area because after 2 months they ran out of food.

A map of the area in Batesville where many of the cavalrmen camped shows that the campground included the museum’s grounds and where Central Magnet School now stands. Special to the exhibit is a Spencer Carbine used by the Union cavalry.

Future segments of the Civil War are being planned for next year. These exhibits will focus on the war’s events year by year as they relate to Arkansas’ commemoration of the wars’ 150th year.

A Special Corner in the Museum Library

Photographs and documents that celebrate the life of Batesville’s Sarah Low now grace a prominent corner in the research library. Cards that summarize her life are available for visitors to take with them.

A beautiful wooden pedestal, designed and crafted by Mike West, holds an exquisite bronze Marquette (smaller than life-size statue). It was donated by Mike and Bobbie Low in honor of their daughter Sarah. The original, larger-than-life-size statue stands at Grapevine, Texas, to commemorate all the lives lost on the American Airliner that was brought down in 9/11, killing all aboard, including flight attendant Sarah Low.
School Tours

We have had another fun and exciting year of school age programming at Old Independence Regional Museum. Our school age visitation accounts for over ½ of all paid visitors through the doors of our museum. Also, more than half of all of our gift shop sales come from school tours. This includes public and private schools, as well as visits from our local home school organizations. These young visitors are very important to the present and future of our museum!

Again for the 2011-2012 school year, we were pleased to be able to offer our standard tour, A Step Back in Time, at no charge for most school groups through an admission grant program funded by a private donor. Schools may choose to enhance their experience by adding one of our hands-on programs to their tour. These hands-on programs have proven to be very popular, and we have a lot of fun presenting them! Schools from eight of the twelve counties that the Museum represents regularly visit, helping us meet our objective to be a truly regional museum.

Day Camp

Summer 2012 marked our 5th year of day camp at Old Independence Regional Museum. In June we hosted a one-day camp for 1st-3rd graders, and our week-long day camp for 4th-6th graders was held in July. The theme for both camps was Native Americans. Campers learned about Native American culture through crafts, language study, and games. They were even able to sample common foods. Our camps have proven to be popular in the community and usually fill to capacity. The focus for next year’s camp will be Pioneers.

Christmas Gift Ideas From the Museum Gift Shop

Looking for that perfect gift? The Museum gift shop is stocked with unique goodies that highlight the Museum, its exhibits and programming. Many of the items are locally produced, and the shop stocks some one of a kind handmade creations as well. There is no admission charge for shopping in the gift shop and as a non-profit there’s no sales tax. If you’re a Museum member, don’t forget to ask for your 10% discount.

Children will delight in our selection of old-fashioned games and toys. The shop offers several beautiful kaleidoscope designs that would make the perfect stocking stuffers. Nature puzzles and science kits make fun and educational gifts for little ones. Browse the variety of children’s books including the ever popular John Denver series and funny favorites like “Alphabeasts” or “Monkey Business”.

If you have an animal lover on your list, be sure to check out our line of Folkmantis Puppets and Wild Republic plush. Featuring fun critters like opossums, owls, squirrels, deer, skunks and even donkeys. These toys are undeniably cute as well as life like.

If you’re shopping for that person who has everything, consider some of the locally made items. The shop offers a variety of pottery from Hardy Pottery including honey jars, spoon holders and mixing bowls. McCoy knives from Mt. Ida, Arkansas are a great gift idea for that hard to buy for man on your list. The gorgeous photographs of Arkansas photographer Tim Ernst are available in a variety of coffee table books like “Arkansas Wildlife” or “Arkansas Spring”. We look forward to helping you find that special gift!
2011 Revenues

- 39% Grant Revenue (Local, State, Federal & Private)
- 19% Membership and Day Sponsors
- 15% Bequests
- 8% Admissions, Archives, & Gift Shop Revenue
- 7% Memorials, Honors, Donations & Pledges
- 6% Interest Income
- 3% Workshop Fees, Special Projects, Rental Fees and Other Income
- 3% Benefits and Fundraising

2011 Expenses

- 53% Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits & Professional Fees
- 16% Utilities and Security Fees
- 13% Maintenance & Repair Costs
- 10% Exhibit, Collections, Grant and Special Event Expenses
- 5% Postage, Office Supplies, Travel & Other Miscellaneous Expenses
- 2% Insurance
- 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.**

### Seven or More Days
First Community Bank
Jane Jameson
Yellowbook

### Four or More Days
Arkansas Lime Company
Judge & Mrs. John Norman Harkey
LaCroix Optical Co.
Mike & Bobbie Low
Midwest Lime Company

### Two or More Days
Charles & Betty Barnett
George Lankford
Steve & Ellen Massey
Lisette Rockefeller
Dennis & Twyla Wright
Futurefuel Chemical Company
MaryAnn Marshall

### One Day
Dave & Cindy Allen
I.N. Barnett Family

Jim Barnett
Nelson & Sandy Barnett
Steve Bell
Paul & Joni Bube
Charles & Jennie Cole
Sylvia Crosby
Econo-Mart Pharmacy
Bill & Sandra Hughes
Ketz Family
Raymond & Diane LaCroix
Polly Livingston
M & A Jones Construction
Matthew Luoma
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Montgomery
Barrett Moore
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Margie Pettersen
David & Sharan Pittser
Bob & Mary Slaughter
Kay Southerland
Jack & Barbara Stevenson
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Tebbetts

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Gerald Fullbright
Carl Garner
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Carolyn Craig Keeble
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Carl & Amy Shaver
Anne Strahl
Bill & Janis Walmsley
Sandy West
Williams Equipment
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### Family Memberships
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Dr. Robert & Patsy Craig
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Tom & Dorothy Dodson
George & Della Mae Dortch
Jesse & Meredith Edgerton
R.B. & Nona Floyd
Kenny Gerhardt
Donald & Emma Hedden
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Amy Howard
Robert & Jacaue Huskey
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Guy & Charlotte Lacy
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Earvin Moser
Virginia Moser
Dick Nelms
Membership Continued...

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Paul & Ann Rhodes  
Carol Robertson  
James L. Rutherford  
Charlie & Ruby Schaaf  
Doug Lee & Jan Smith  
Avondale Street  
Robert S. Stroud  
John & Martha Taylor  
Clinton & Mayfan Thomas  
Fran Troy  
Hal & Mary Vandiver  

Individual Memberships
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Paulette Arnold  
Judy Babcock  
Denise Baker  
Batesville Collectors Club  
Ernestine Boyce  
Marilyn Brewer  
Robert Dody Broussard  
Sarah Brown  
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Rev. Kay Burton  
Rosemary Catton  
William Coe  
John Davis  
Dwight Ford  
Carol Gifford  
Lois Goff  
Doris Harper  
Margaret Henley  
Stephen D. Kearbey, Jr.  
Owen Kelley  

Lorene Kilbreath  
William Leach  
Carolyn McClure  
Anna Mae McSpadden  
Christopher Moore  
Michael Moser  
Joseph Parks  
Gary Perkey  
Robbie Purdom  
Jane Purtle  
Sue Richmond  
Teresa Russell  
Julie Sandy  
Dianne Taylor  
Jerry Taylor  
Betty Weaver  

Senior Memberships
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Betty Crutcher  
Sandy Deckard  
Chrysanne Demirel  
Janice Eddleman  
Janet Galvan  
Leah Graveley  
Lou Ann Hance  
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Pat Kelley  
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Earlene Meachum McMullin  
Beth Meacham  
Jaydine Morton  
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Craig Ogilvie  
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Hope Spragins  
Katherine Stokes  
Linda Sutton  
Dorma Talburt  
Mary Lee Thessen  
Phyllis Terhune  
Alice Whitterman  
Beverley Wilkins  
Neil Wilkins, Sr.  

Student Memberships
Davidson Justus Hughes
**Award Winning Volunteers!**

Mary Ann Marshall, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Old Independence Regional Museum, announced the recipients of the Dennis Wright and Twyla Gill Wright Awards during the annual meeting of the membership on Sunday, September 23, 2012.

Ann Rhodes received the Twyla Gill Wright Award. This award recognizes a volunteer who shows an outstanding dedication of time and service to the museum. Ann Rhodes has been involved with the museum since before the doors opened, over 14 years ago. She has served, and currently serves, on several planning committees and is the museum’s regular Sunday afternoon docent!

Claudia Nobles received the Dennis Wright Award, which recognizes a volunteer who works behind the scenes and really goes above and beyond what is asked. Claudia has served as the gift shop manager for over two years. With her eye for design, she has diligently worked to improve appearance of the gift shop and how the products are exhibited.

Ann Rhodes and Claudia Nobles

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**OIRM 2012 Board of Directors**

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Dwight Ford  
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Barbara Stevenson  
Phyllis Terhune  
Linda Wann  
Dennis Wright  
Twyla Wright

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Ann Rhodes and Claudia Nobles