

# Old Independence



Regional Museum

## Fall 2012 Annual Report & Newsletter

### 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.

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#### 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.

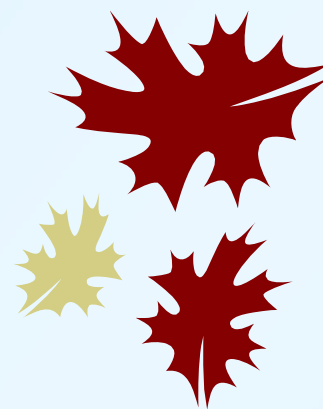
A few of the artifacts that have come in include a spinet piano the Arthur Montgomery family donated. It belonged to Mr. Montgomery's parents. He also paid for the tuning of the piano. The Museum staff is grateful to

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!



*Museum Volunteer and Master Gardener Laura Reed plants flowers along the front walkway.*



*Curator of Collections, Sharan Pittser holding dolls from the Wilson Collection.*

## 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.

# 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 cavalymen 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 cavalymen 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 war’s 150<sup>th</sup> year.

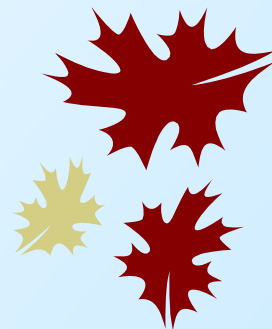


*Kay Southland and Helen Musgrave visit in Sarah’s Corner.*

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> year of day camp at Old Independence Regional Museum. In June we hosted a one-day camp for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and our week-long day camp for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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,

*The Gift Shop now offers puppets like this Great Horned Owl. Remarkably lifelike, you can turn it's head and blink the eyes!*



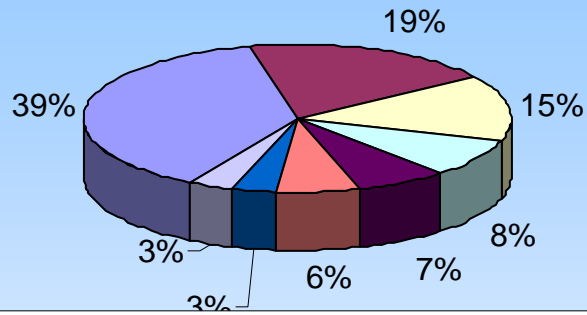
skunks and even donkeys. These toys are undeniably cute as well as life like.

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!



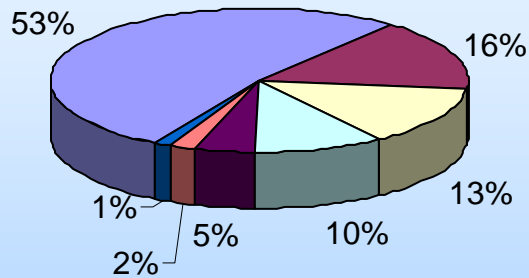
*Ron Waltman, member of the Arkansas Intertribal Association, teaches campers a Native American song and game.*

## 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  
Lisenne 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  
Laura Parks  
Margie Pettersen  
David & Sharan Pittser  
Bob & Mary Slaughter  
Kay Southerland  
Jack & Barbara Stevenson  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Tebbetts

## Friend Memberships

Robert Carius  
George & Marilyn Chlebak  
Jim & Jean Crouch  
Boris & Pamela Dover  
Gerald Fullbright  
Carl Garner  
Martha Healey  
Barbara Hoover  
Carolyn Craig Keeble  
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Ketz, Jr.  
Pat & Mary Lea  
Rebecca Alyson Low  
Marian P. Milum

Jack & Anne Griffin Moore  
Robb & Amanda Roberts  
Carl & Amy Shaver  
Anne Strahl  
Bill & Janis Walmsley  
Sandy West  
Williams Equipment  
Dewitt Yingling

## Family Memberships

Polly Bennett  
Fred & Elsie Blankenship  
Armilda P. Brodie  
Mark & Judy Butler  
Bill & Patty Cash  
Jeff & Nikki Childers  
Sam & Kate Cooke  
Dr. Robert & Patsy Craig  
Shirley & Mickey Coe  
Tom & Dorothy Dodson  
George & Della Mae Dortch  
Jesse & Meredith Edgerton  
R.B. & Nona Floyd  
Kenny Gerhardt  
Donald & Emma Hedden  
Virginia & Paul Henry  
Amy Howard  
Robert & Jacaue Huskey  
Dr. & Mrs. Aubrey Joseph  
Guy & Charlotte Lacy  
Charles & Shirley Marable  
Gary & Tommie McDonald  
Max & Susan McElmurry  
Guy & Sara Mosley  
Earvin Moser  
Virginia Moser  
Dick Nelms

## Membership Continued...

Joe & Kay Pool  
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

Blair Arnold  
Paulette Arnold  
Judy Babcock  
Denise Baker  
Batesville Collectors Club  
Ernestine Boyce  
Marilyn Brewer  
Robert Dody Broussard  
Sarah Brown  
Rev. Bob Burton  
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

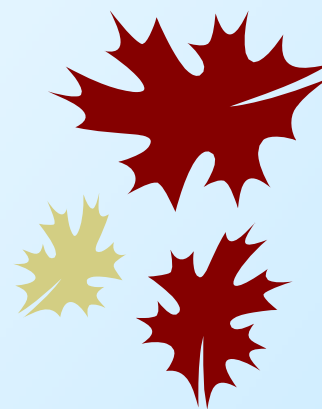
### Senior Memberships

Joanna Buchanan  
Betty Crutcher  
Sandy Deckard  
Chrysanne Demirel  
Janice Eddleman  
Janet Galvan  
Leah Graveley  
Lou Ann Hance  
Mary Harmon  
Annas Heasley  
Jack Helm  
James A. Hester  
Ed Holler  
Valerie Holler  
Frances Jernigan  
N.E. Johnston  
Barbara Rutherford Keedy

Pat Kelley  
Kathryn Lemon  
Dean Lindsey  
Leann Lindsey  
Kay Longenbach  
LaVerl Mason  
Earlene Meachum McMullin  
Beth Meacham  
Jaydine Morton  
Larry Morton  
Craig Ogilvie  
Judy Purnell  
Joan Sellers  
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.



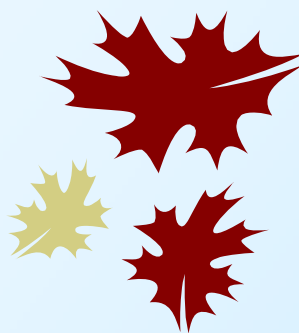
*Ann Rhodes and Claudia Nobles*

## OIRM 2012 Board of Directors

Charles Barnett - President  
Mary Ann Marshall - V. President  
Kenny Gerhardt - Treasurer  
Anne Moore - Secretary  
Sylvia Crosby  
Dwight Ford  
Kay Longenbach  
Arthur Montgomery  
Mark Rorie  
Bradley Slaughter  
Diane Tebbetts  
Sandy West

## OIRM 2012 Advisory Board

Bill Walmsley - Chairman  
Dale Cole - Vice Chairman  
Fran Troy - Secretary  
Nelson Barnett  
Jo Cargill  
Sam Cooke  
Deborah Frazier  
Jane Jameson  
George Latus  
Polly Livingston  
Mike Low  
Steve Massey  
Hayes Olson  
Kay Southerland  
Frank Tripp



## OIRM 2012 Volunteers

Scott Blackwell  
Amelia Bowman  
Clara Bufford  
Marilynn Chlebak  
Alice Clark  
Kate Cooke  
Sylvia Crosby  
Jean Crouch  
Taylor Fitterling  
Nona Floyd  
Janet Gray  
Beverly Grigsby  
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Steve Massey  
Greta McCann  
Josie McCann  
Ronnie McCann  
Mary Miller  
Ann Mobley  
Fern Moody  
Clara Nikkel  
Claudia Nobles  
David Pittser  
Sharan Pittser  
Dody Pouliot  
George Pouliot  
Brianna Reed  
Cheyenne Reed  
Eric Reed  
Laura Reed  
Mack Reed  
Ann Rhodes  
Pam Skinner  
Barbara Stevenson  
Phyllis Terhune  
Linda Wann  
Dennis Wright  
Twyla Wright