

# Old Independence



Regional Museum

## Spring 2015 Newsletter

### What Do You Know About Living Along the White River?

The museum exhibit team, plus other craftsmen, have installed a new exhibit in the Barnes/Simmons Main Gallery. As you enter, you are introduced to a section titled "Traveling On the White River" which contains a large wall-mounted map of the river with its steamboat and ferry landings. Beneath it sit models of a keelboat, steamboat, and a flatboat complete with a miniature family, animals and tools. Other items, such as an anchor, will take you back in time to early river travel.

"Lifting Boats Up and Down the River" is installed along the museum's stone wall. This exhibit pictures how the three locks and dams were constructed during 1903-1908. The focal point is a large, fully functioning model of a river lock. Visitors may pump water into the lock and see how the water lifts and lowers a steamboat through the lock.

"Building Bridges Over the River" is illustrated by many photos taken in 1927-1928. Between those large picture panels hangs a steel worker's belt and tools needed to build the bridges at Batesville, Newport, Calico Rock, Augusta and Cotter.

"Ferrying Across the River" features a mock ferry with a mannequin boy on board under a large photo of hand-powered ferries. Visitors may leaf through a large scrapbook of various White River ferries through the ages and learn the cost for riding a ferry in 1911.

"Playing and Fishing in the River" features an early one-man boat filled with items needed for those pursuits, and exhibit panels tell the stories

of those who have found great recreation in the White River. Early fishing reels and lures are on view.

Another exhibit section includes "Creating Houses and Communities Along the River." Here you see a model 2-pen log house with its dogtrot. Families are encouraged to build their own log houses by using Lincoln Logs. Historical photographs of early Calico Rock, Des Arc, Jacksonport, Guion and Batesville illustrate how the White River, the primary travel artery, invited settlement along its fertile banks.

The exhibit team looks forward to adding to this major exhibit in the coming months by including sections on river flooding and baptizing in the river. The team includes designer Twyla Wright, Nelson Barnett, Mary Katherine Vandiver, and Linda Wann. Behind the scenes craftsmen are Dennis Wright and Mike West. Kay Longenbach was the scout, looking for objects to include along with items from the museum collections.

The public is invited to attend the official opening of the exhibit on Sunday, May 24, at 2 p.m. when Sam Cooke, president of the Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers' board of directors, will speak. His topic is "Our White River Watershed: Keeping it Clean and Healthy."

The exhibit and program were made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, funded by your 1/8 cent conservation tax, Amendment 75.

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## Director's Note

### By Amelia Bowman

2015 has already been a very exciting year for the museum and there is much more to come. In February we introduced a new fundraiser called "Love Bites." It raised over \$1,000.00! With a few changes we think this event will continue to be a great fundraiser for the museum for years to come.

To accompany our Spring Family Day in March, our volunteers and staff made savory and sweet treats to sell during a bake sale. The sale raised \$300.00 to fund Wi-Fi for the museum. We also had a researcher donate an additional \$500.00 to the cause. Thanks to these wonderful donations, we will be getting Wi-Fi for our researchers to enjoy within the year! There have been numerous requests for Wireless Internet in recent years and we are extremely excited to be able to offer this great service to our researchers and guests in the very near future.

I am also happy to announce we now have an online giving program. You can now give to the museum online by following the "Donate Now" button on the homepage of our website [www.oirm.org](http://www.oirm.org). In order to reach younger generations, we felt online giving was a must. The company we partnered with, Network for Good, has a great reputation and has helped raise over 1

billion dollars for non-profits. We feel strongly that this partnership will greatly boost donations and bring in a new generation of donors to keep the museum open for many years.

The museum is also a member of Kroger's Community Rewards Program. By going to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and linking your Kroger Plus Card to Old Independence Regional Museum, Kroger will donate a percentage of your purchase to the museum! All you have to do is shop!

Finally, this September 19<sup>th</sup> is going to be a day to remember! Stardust Big Band, a seventeen piece band from Hot Springs, will be performing at our USO Dance at the National Guard Armory! The dance will be our major fundraiser for the year, and I for one am ecstatic! The dance will complement our program theme for this year, "Celebrating the End of WWII."

What better way to celebrate than with a night of great music and swing dancing? Fusion Dance Academy will be giving swing dance lessons an hour prior to the dance for anyone that is unfamiliar or out of practice with swing dancing! A silent auction will also take place throughout the event. Hope to see you there!



## Volunteers Needed

### By Laura Reed, Docent Coordinator

*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

I will never forget when I first started working as the Volunteer Coordinator, and I asked the docents why they volunteered. Bertha Hughes, our faithful Thursday afternoon worker said, "I support the Museum, and I believe if you support something you should VOLUNTEER!" I love that! She didn't want to just make a monetary donation; she wanted to volunteer weekly to know what's going on at the place she supports.

We need volunteers. It's as simple as that. The Museum would cease to function without volunteers. I want to challenge all our supporters to give one day a month (it's only 4 hours). If you can't give a day, find someone who can, because we need your support! To those who continue to volunteer and support us, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

For more information on volunteering, e-mail me at [lareed69hotmail.com](mailto:lareed69hotmail.com).

*You tell me and I forget.  
You teach me and I remember.  
You involve me and I learn.*

-Ben Franklin

# The Collections Corner

## By Sharan Pittser, Curator of Collections

We now have two new registrars to help accession collections. Alan Bufford began volunteering in October. He is a fast learner: It didn't take him anytime at all to learn the accession procedure on the computer. He has assisted both Twyla Wright and myself. Currently he is working on three different collections - local news articles "News from Other Days," a large collection of negatives, and the Patricia Seibert collection. He also assists genealogists & other researchers who come into the library.

For some time we have needed an assistant curator and Alan agreed to take on that position as well. He is in the museum from around 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays. He has been a great help to the museum.

Ruth Kent Cook has also begun working with the collections. On Tuesday mornings she can be found registering a collection on the computer. She, too, has quickly learned the accession procedure on the computer. She is currently working on the Mary Gail Harley collection and is about to be finished.

There are more collections awaiting her! She is also a huge help. Because both Alan and Ruth are long time Batesvillians, we now have four people who can help identify people from the Batesville area in photographs: Alan, Ruth, Ann Rhodes, and Bertha Hughes. Ruth's sense of humor keeps the accession area rockin.'

Collections continue to come in the museum. Recently we received a quilt with West Elementary 2nd graders' signatures from the mid-1930s embroidered on the quilt. Several large collections we received last year continue to be accessioned.

We are fortunate to have other registrars working the collections. They are Kay Longenbach and MaryAnn Marshall. Kay often works on Mondays and Mary Ann works on Saturdays. Twyla and Sharan also continue to work the collections.

To the registrars who help with the collections, I am grateful for all you do.

## Reasons to Volunteer

*Develop new skills*

*Contribute to a cause you care about*

*Meet new people*

*Keep your mind active*

*Connect with your community*

*Expand your horizons*

*Opportunity to give back to your community*

*It's your opportunity to choose the legacy that you leave*

*Strengthen your resume*

*Make friends*

*It's good for your career*

*Studies show that volunteers live longer and are healthier*



*The new White River exhibit features several models, including the steamboat and keelboat in the photo above.*



*The large model of the river and lock is the center piece of the exhibit.*



*As visitors enter the exhibit they are greeted by the entry panel featuring old and new photos of the river.*



## Mondays at the Museum By Amanda Nikkel

The Museum is excited to announce our plans for summer 2015. We are changing our programming a little this year. Instead of a week-long day camp, we will offer a new series of programs called Mondays at the Museum, beginning with Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and running through Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. These programs will have a historical focus and will be filled with crafts, games, and lots of fun. The museum is closed to the general public on Mondays, so students will have the museum all to themselves.

The Mondays in June will be for rising 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. These will be half day programs beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at noon. The museum will provide a snack. The cost for the half-day program is \$15 per student per Monday or \$55 if a child is registered for all four. Each Monday is limited to 25 participants. The themes for the Mondays in June are as follows:

- June 8 – Native Americans
- June 15 - Little House on the Prairie
- June 22 – Historic Toys and Games
- June 29 – A Taste of the Past

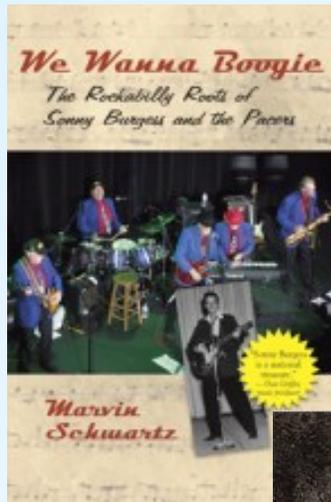
The Mondays in July will be for rising 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. These will be full-day programs beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. The students should bring a lunch, and the museum will supply a snack each day. The cost for the full-day program is \$25 per student per Monday or \$95 if the child is registered for all four Mondays. Each Monday is limited to 15 participants. The themes for the Mondays in July are:

- July 6 – Westward Expansion
- July 13 – Civil War
- July 20 – Archaeology
- July 27 – Create a Historic Character

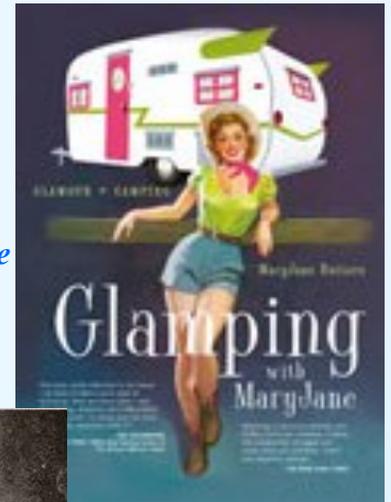
We are very excited about this change. This allows us to offer something for children every week of the summer.

## The Museum Gift Shop By Claudia Nobles, Gift Shop Manager

Our volunteers and staff selected some of their favorite items available in the gift shop to showcase in the newsletter. We invite everyone to visit the gift shop to see the full line of products carried by the Museum. All gift shop proceeds go to support Museum operations.

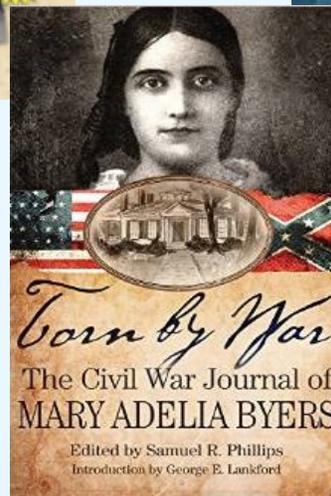


*These three books are the current "volunteer favorites" available in the gift shop.*



*Above: Glamping offers a fun new look at outdoor adventures.*

*Above: The book "We Wanna Boogie" is filled with interesting regional history and mentions many local people and places.*



*Left: The compelling diary of a young Batesville girl during the years of the Civil War.*

*Puppets, coon tail caps, and rocks are favorites of young visitors.*

