Our Exhibit Won!

Do you remember that in 2013 we installed a new Civil War exhibit titled “War Comes to Us?” It is still on view and completely fills the First Community Bank Gallery with artifacts of that war, along with large panels of photos and text. We are proud to announce that during the Arkansas Museum Association’s annual conference this spring they gave it the top Award of Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions of 2013!
This year has brought many changes to our wonderful museum. We have opened four new exhibits including the premier of the traveling Preller Exhibit. We held our first fundraiser in three years, and we hired a new director—that’s me!

I am so very honored and privileged to be involved with this great museum. I have volunteered here since October 2011, working mostly in collections and exhibits. I love my job and spending time at the museum. When I am not working, I can usually be found hunting, fishing, or reading.

As director, my goal is to raise funds for operations. On August 30th we held the “Grand Independence Musical Revue” featuring Danny Dozier, Pam Setser, Scott Wood and Larry Bentley, Friendship Baptist Choir, and the Highlander Youth Singers. The event, held at Brown Chapel, raised $3000 for the museum!

We also have a new fundraising option for donors called “Spotlight On...” For $500, the donor gets to have a month long exhibit on an event, organization, date, or area of their interest. In addition to the exhibit, the museum will host a reception for the donor. This is great opportunity for individuals, businesses, and organization to bring awareness to those things dear to them. Currently, Mt. Zion Lodge #10 a Masonic Lodge in Southside, has sponsored the wall and their exhibit is now on display through the end of October.

I look forward to many future projects and adventures with our great staff, volunteers, and donors!
The Collections Corner
By Sharan Pittser, Curator of Collections

The museum has taken in a number of large & small collections this year. Skip Rutherford has donated his father’s (G.G.’s) papers & we are slowly going through that collection. Alice Saltzman donated her father’s playbooks, papers, & photographs. Lyon College was delighted to get the hundreds of playbooks John Saltzman had collected over the years. OIRM kept a few playbooks, his papers, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Other large collections have come from Betty Barnett, Terry Smith (the Marie Fowler estate), & the Wilson Powell papers donated by Laura Hudson.

Aerial maps of Independence County were donated from the business of Ennis Realty. The Batesville Preservation Association recently gave their scrapbooks to the museum. We were happy to have those as it is one more organization whose history will now be stored in the vault.

Perhaps the 70th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6 has prompted some families to think about World War II and Korean medals and photographs they have of family members who served. Lewis Hoobler of Wichita donated the Purple Heart & other medals & memorabilia that belonged to Charles Alwhite from Newark. Alwhite served during WW II on the USS Kidd that was hit by a kamikaze pilot. Alwhite was one of the casualties. Maude L. Nash donated a Korean medal & letter from the South Korean President thanking her first husband for his service in Korea.

Currently MaryAnn Marshall, Kay Longenbach, Twyla Wright, & Sharan Pittser are working the collections. MaryAnn & Twyla took on the daunting task of identifying the Ennis Realty aerial maps, & MaryAnn entered each map into our computer data base. MaryAnn has now begun working the Marie Fowler collection. Kay Longenbach, our super sleuth & fund raiser extraordinaire, works in collections when she is not so busy doing other things for the museum. We couldn’t do without either one of these ladies. Thanks so much for your help MaryAnn & Kay.

The food processor above was added to the Floyd collection and the child’s wicker rocking chair pictured below was recently donated by Don Heuer.

The photo on the left is of Charles Alwhite who died while serving on the USS Kidd during WW II.

The photo on the right features items from the Nash collection. The metal and letter were sent from the South Korea President thanking veteran’s for their service during the Korean War.
Once Again Our Exhibits Change!
By Twyla Wright, Curator of Exhibits

In the Barnes/Simmons Main Gallery — Last Spring Hugo and Gayne Preller’s House of Light traveling exhibit made its premier in our museum. We facilitated funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council for the creation of this outstanding exhibit. Chris Engholm created the exhibit of the Prellers’ photographic work, which they produced just after the turn of the 20th century in Augusta, Arkansas. Many of their portraits were of African Americans, and Gayne is reportedly the earliest woman portrait photographer in the Arkansas Delta. We hosted a premier reception and program that were well received. It has now moved on to other museums.

In its place within the Main Gallery is our latest exhibit change. Wheels: Taking Us From Here to There invites visitors to wander through the large gallery to see 10 vehicles of transportation. Three of those are large in size.

Shining in the spotlight is a beautifully restored 1966 Ford Mustang coupe that its owners Jerry and Diane Taylor have loaned us for the next few months. It sparks memories in many who view it. Garcia Towing donated their service in getting it on their roll-back truck and lifting it up into the gallery.

The large farm wagon that has been in the gallery for some time has a new look. Jim and Anne Bechdoldt brought over a cloth cover for it. Inside the wagon can be found a feather bed, antique trunk barrel, sacks, coffee grinder, and a number of caste iron tools and pots. A woman stands with milk bucket in hand, and a hen has just laid eggs in a crate roped to the wagon! On the wall is a large photographic panel of folks arriving in our region by wagon in the early 20th century.

The Brougham carriage now has a wonderful lady inside with a stunningly beautiful horsehair lap robe to keep her warm. The robe, donated to us, once belonged to John Norman Harkey’s grandmother.

Smaller wheeled vehicles include a puzzling recumbent, a two-seat tandem bike, and a children’s trike and scooters. An amazing Victor High Wheel bike that G.G. Rutherford donated to the museum, along with a replica of a wooden wagon that a nine year old boy made many decades can also be seen.

In the J.K. Southerland Gallery — Our new exhibit wall titled Earning a Living is now complete. A photograph in our last Annual Report showed Amelia Bowman installing a portion of this exhibit. Visitors have been especially interested in it.

In the Honkonen Center — five paintings from our museum’s collection are now on view, including historic views of Batesville Main Street, Miller Creek in 1900, Uriah Maxfield’s home, along with a rustic Bethesda cabin. A portrait of Capt. William Austin Hardy (1789 – 1878), forbearer of the founder of Hardy, Arkansas, was beautifully restored as a gift to our museum.
The staff and volunteers at Old Independence Regional Museum are delighted to be able to serve our region’s school-aged community through guided tours, hands-on programs, Family Days, Home School Days, and summer Day Camps. In the spring, we applied for and were awarded three grants. These grants directly benefited the students in our region.

An Arkansas Humanities Mini-grant was awarded to OIRM in March 2014 to bring the living history group, History Helpers, to our Spring Home School Day. This group shared the experiences of the Hunter/Dunbar expedition through hands-on activities and living history interpretations. The information presented to the group was taken directly from Hunter’s and Dunbar’s expedition journals, which told about their experiences traveling Ouachita River from Louisiana to the Hot Springs in 1804, as part of the Corps of Discovery commissioned by President Jefferson.

In May, OIRM was awarded an Arkansas Heritage Grant. This year’s heritage month theme was “Come to the Table: Arkansas Foodways.” The Museum built a small, outdoor hearth, and the grant helped to supply the museum with tools for Dutch oven cooking. The Museum offered Dutch oven cooking demonstrations to visiting school groups, during the month of May. Each group made a pan of cornbread on the hearth, in the Dutch oven. They also churned butter, and in the end, were able to sample their hard work. Over 400 students were able to participate in this free program over the course of the month of May.

The third grant awarded to the Museum in Spring 2014 was a continuation of our Admission Grant. This grant is provided by a private donor and helps to pay the admission fee, plus one hands-on program fee, for eligible schools in the museum’s 12-county region. This program started several years ago and has become integral to our education program. We regularly see schools from 8 of the museum’s 12 counties, and roughly 800 of the nearly 1300 students that the museum’s sees, take advantage of this program.

During the summer, over 60 students participated in the Museum’s three summer day camps. Two one-day camps were offered to students in grades 1st-3rd. A four-day camp was offered for students in grades 4th-6th. This year the theme was the Great Depression and World War II. Through hands-on activities, living history presentations, games, and demonstrations, students learned what life was like for folks living during these eras.

Volunteering Has It’s Rewards
By Laura Reed, Docent Coordinator

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Museum. Without them we could not exist. From those who work special collections and special occasions- to those who faithfully volunteer in docent shifts every week. We simply could not do it without you!

Two of those special docents were recognized at the annual meeting held September 14.

Ann Mobley was presented the Twyla Gill Wright award for her work as a docent which began when the Museum first opened its doors in 1998. The Twyla Gill Wright award recognizes a volunteer who shows an outstanding dedication of time and service to the Museum. Not only does Ann work a weekly 4 hour shift, she also works at the numerous other events we host. She is a tremendous supporter of the Museum.

Sylvia Crosby was awarded the Dennis Wright Award which recognizes a volunteer for their work behind the scenes. While most see Sylvia working her Tuesday afternoon docent shift they may not realize that she serves on our Board of Directors and helps with numerous special programming events. The least known fact would be the number of hours she spends sewing items to be sold in our gift shop.
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.

Claudia Nobles, the Gift Shop manager models one of the new scarf designs while holding a Hardy Pottery fish mug.

A diverse collection of puppets are available in the gift shop. These make great gifts!

Arkansas made products are available.

The gift shop carries a wide range of books. Local History titles are a favorite of the volunteers. The Tim Ernst photography books are a popular gift item. The gift shop also carries some autographed titles like the book Dark Spell.

Go Pioneers! Coonskin caps are available in the Museum Gift Shop.

Unique gift options for men, women and children can be found in the Gift Shop. Museum Members receive a 10% discount.

The gift shop carries a variety of bracelets and other jewelry. Come see our new collection of scarves and scarf accents.
Old Independence Regional Museum

“Wheels” Fall Family Day

October 18, 2014
10 am - 2 pm
Free Admission

See some of the ways that “wheels” have changed over the years.

Classic cars on display.

Decorate a toy car.

See how fast you can go in our box races.

Sample some road layer cake!

Join us for hotdogs provided by First Community Bank

Old Independence Regional Museum

380 South 9th Street - Batesville - 870-793-2121
Night at the Museum

October 30, 2014
5:30 pm - 7 pm
Admission - $5 per person

Have you ever wondered what happens in the Museum when the sun goes down?

Be there to watch as the Museum exhibits come to life.

Make fun crafts like silly putty “guts” and “toxic ooze” to take home. Create your own pet spider and make some snow.

Dare to stick your hands into the mystery boxes.

Cookies and punch will be served to those brave enough to attend...

Old Independence Regional Museum
380 South 9th Street - Batesville - 870-793-2121
2013 Revenues

- 51% Grant Revenue (Local, State, Federal & Private)
- 20% Membership and Day Sponsors
- 13% Bequests
- 6% Admissions, Archives, & Gift Shop Revenue
- 4% Interest Income
- 4% Memorials, Honors, Donations & Pledges
- 2% Workshop Fees, Special Projects, Rental Fees and Other

2013 Expenses

- 58% Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits & Professional Fees
- 17% Utilities and Security Fees
- 12% Maintenance & Repair Costs
- 6% Insurance
- 3% Exhibit, Collections, Grant and Special Event Expenses
- 3% Postage, Office Supplies, Travel & Other Miscellaneous Expenses
- 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.

One Day
Dave & Cindy Allen
Arkansas Lime
Citizens Bank of Batesville
First Community Bank
Willa Harkey
Jane Jameson
LaCroix Optical
Mike & Bobbie Low
Midwest Lime
Skip & Billie Rutherford
Terrell & Diane Tebbetts

Four Days or More
Arkansas Lime
Citizens Bank of Batesville
First Community Bank
Willa Harkey
Jane Jameson
LaCroix Optical
Mike & Bobbie Low
Midwest Lime
Skip & Billie Rutherford
Terrell & Diane Tebbetts

Two Days
Charles & Betty Barnett
Batesville Preservation Association
Jim & Jean Crouch
George Lankford
Polly Livingston
MaryAnn Marshall
Steve & Ellen Massey
Lisenne Rockefeller
Lyon College
Dennis & Twyla Wright

Robert & Deborah Stroud
Wade’s Heating Cooling & Electric
Bill & Janis Walmsley
Mike West
Frances Williams Family
W.R.D. Entertainment, Inc.

Friend Memberships
Polly Bennett
Paul & Joni Bube
George & Marilyn Chlebak
Dr. Robert & Patsy Craig
Boris & Pamela Dover
Fount Foushee
Gerald Fulbright
Aaron S. Gill
Barry & Sandy Hammers
Martha Healey
Barbara Hoover
Chuck Jones
E.J. Jones
Carolyn Craig Keeble
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Ketz
Pat & Mary Lea
Rebecca Alyson Low
Charles & Patricia McClain
Marian Milum
Jack & Anne Moore
David & Sharan Pittser
Robb & Amanda Roberts
Carol Robertson
James L. Rutherford
William & Louise Sandefur
Carl & Amy Shaver
Jay & Cathy Shell
Bob & Mary Slaughter
Avondale Street
Robert S. Stroud
Sandy West
Membership Continued...

Family Memberships
James & Camille Anderson
Jim & Anne Bechdoldt
Polly Bell
Rev. Bob & Kay Burton
Robert Carius
Tom & Dorothy Dodson
George & Della Mae Dortch
R.B. & Nona Floyd
Lloyd & Lorene Gaithright
Kenny & Michele Gerhardt
Robert & Gayla Griffin
Donald & Emma Hedden
Paul & Virginia Henry
Brian & Erica Hurst
Oscar Jones, III
Guy & Charlotte Lacy
Dean & Leann Lindsey
Charles & Shirley Marable
Randolph & Francis Mathis
Gary & Tommie McDonald
Earvin Moser
Virginia Moser
Dick Nelms
Joe & Kay Pool
Judy Purnell
Charlie & Ruby Schaaf
Clint & Mayfan Thomas
Fran Troy
Hal & Mary Vandiver
Fred & Linda Wann
Neil & Beverly Wilkins, Sr.

Individual Memberships
Denise Baker
Batesville Collectors Club
Martha Bentley
Ernestine Boyce
Marilyn Brewer
Lola Caraway
Rosemary Cotton
Sheridan Chadwell
William Coe
Dwight Ford
Jean Garner
Carol Gifford
Lois Goff
Lou Ann Hance
Doris Harper
Annas Heasley
Margaret Henley
Barbara Rutherford Keedy
William Leach
Scott Lien
Carolyn McClure
Anna Mae McSpadden
Beth Meacham
Christopher Moore
Janice Nail
Laura Parks
Robbie Purdom
Jane Purtle
Sue Richmond
Betty Crutcher
Connie Crymes
Sandy Deckard
Janet Galvan
Velma McSpadden Gould
Janet Gray
Mary Gail Harley
Mary Harmon
Jack Helm
James A Hester
Ed Holler
Valerie Holler
Frances Jernigan
Kathryn Lemon
Anne Luster
LaVerl Mason
Linda Matthews
Sherry Matthews
Jaydine Morton
Larry Morton
Michael Moser
Helen Musgrave
Craig Ogilvie
Margie Pettersen
Connie Schirmer
Joan Sellers
Loretta Shell
Hope Spragins
Katherine Stokes
Dorma Talburt
Martha Taylor
Phyllis Terhune
Mary Lee Thessen
Mildred Thomas
Roy G. Thomas
Malinda Maxfield Tulloh
Betty Weaver
Patsy Wilson
Alice Witterman
Lucy Yeager

Senior Memberships
Joanna Buchanan
Lola Caraway
Mickey Coe
Shirley Coe

Fall 2014 Newsletter and Annual Report
OIRM 2014 Board of Directors

Mary Ann Marshall - President
Sandy West - Vice President
Kenny Gerhardt - Treasurer
Charles Barnett - Secretary
Sylvia Crosby
Chuck Jones
Kay Longenbach
Arthur Montgomery
Barrett Moore
Mark Rorie
Diane Tebbetts

OIRM 2014 Volunteers

Haley Adams
Jeff Adams
June Armstrong
Nelson Barnett
Betty Barnett
Scott Blackwell
Amelia Bowman
Jay Cantrell
Nancy Cantrell
Emily Chandler
Marilynn Chlebak
Alice Clark
Sylvia Crosby
Melody Fitterling
Taylor Fitterling
Isabella Floyd
Nona Floyd
Emilee Gerhardt
Beverly Grigsby
Lillie Guth
Sundi Guth
Bertha Hughes
Jimmy Hughes
Susan Johnson
Charlie Jones
Teri Lane
Kay Longenbach
MaryAnn Marshall
Duane Massey
Steve Massey
Francis Mathis
Randolph Mathis
Jeral Matthews
Sherry Matthews
Greta McCann
James McCann
Max McCann
Mary Miller
Nelda Mitchell
Ann Mobley
Clara Nikkel
Claudia Nobles
Bekah Paxson
David Pittser
Sharan Pittser
George Pouliot
Brianne Reed
Cheyenne Reed
Mack Reed
Ann Rhodes
Heather Runyan
Kayla Shaw
Ted Stepanek
Barbara Stevenson
Eva Wade
Jeannie Wagoner
Quinn Walker
Linda Wann
Mike West
Dennis Wright
Twyla Wright

Ann Mobley was the 2014 Twyla Gill Wright award recipient for her dedication to the Museum and years of service. Ann has volunteered since the Museum opened in 1998.

Pictured on the left are Museum Board Members and Volunteers Kay Longenbach and Sylvia Crosby. In addition to her other duties, Sylvia makes items for the Museum Gift Shop - pictured at right. Sylvia won the 2014 Dennis Wright Award for her work behind the scenes.