August 2009

# What a Family Held Dear

#### **Susan Young**

**Outreach Coordinator** 

*Springdale resident Mary* Braun recently donated several items to the Shiloh Museum. A glimpse at the family history associated with the artifacts reveals how special the items truly are.

n 1879, newlyweds Millard and Ida McHolland Berry left their native Indiana bound for Texas, where Millard, a lawyer by trade, wanted to try his hand at cotton farming. Accompanying the young couple were Millard's parents, Walter and Angeline Berry. After four years of low cotton prices, in 1883 the Berry family, which by that time had grown to include Millard and Ida's children Thaddeus



Members of the Berry family at the Millard and Ida Berry home in Springdale, ca. 1907. From left: Hazel Ewalt, Ethelyn Van Horn, Ida Berry holding grandson Berry McQuaide, Josephine Berry, and Angeline Berry. Hazel, Ethelyn, and Josephine were daughters of Ida and Millard Berry; Angeline was Millard Berry's mother. McQuaide Collection, donated by Bruce Vaughan

and Ethelyn, moved to Northwest Arkansas. The Berrys looked to settle in Fayetteville, but a housing shortage led them a few miles north to Springdale, where the family rented a house on Main Street. In 1885 Millard purchased the rental property and built a new Queen Anne-style home there.

Millard Berry quickly established himself as one of Springdale's most enterprising citizens. By 1900, he had sold farm machinery, started an abstract company, edited a newspaper, founded a telephone company, bought a 200-chick incubator, started a canning factory, opened a furniture company, and served two terms as Springdale mayor. In 1900, Millard Berry was elected county judge of Washington County, serving two terms and spearheading the construction of a new county courthouse (today's historic Washington County Courthouse on College Avenue in Fayetteville).

Meanwhile, Ida was busy raising seven Berry children: after Thaddeus and Ethelyn came Walter, Helen, Hazel, Marian, and Josephine. (Two children, Bessie and Frances, died as infants.) Amazingly, Ida found time enough to create a five-acre garden and nature sanctuary around the Berry home. Millard built a greenhouse where she grew flowers and houseplants; before long, her hobby blossomed into "Evergreen Gardens," a retail plant nursery and greenhouse.

Josephine, the youngest of the Berry children, lived in the Berry home her entire life. After she married Percy Braun, a Springdale pharmacist, the house and gardens became known as the Berry-Braun home. Both Percy and Josephine were talented musicians. Percy was a founder of the Northwest Arkansas Symphony, and Josephine taught music

# **DIRECTOR'S COLUMN**

Allyn Lord

Exploring history brings meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration to folks everyday. Witness the recent anniversary observances of the first moon landing, the first nuclear attack on



Hiroshima, and even the Razorback mascot's beginning.

Not all explorations of history have such a widespread impact, but each discovery can be personally impactful. And sometimes it can literally take your breath away.

During July's "Shiloh Sandwiched-In," our monthly presentation on Ozark topics, Randall Houp of Booneville discussed almost three dozen historic bridges in the Arkansas Ozarks. During the question-and-answer period, one woman in the audience, Lorene Schooler from Lincoln, explained that she was the daughter and granddaughter of Ozark bridge builders and that her father, Henry Powers, used to cart his family around with him to each of his building venues.

Houp said that he had heard a story about Powers. According to the story, at one bridge site Powers' wife Delia knocked over a lantern, setting herself on fire, and in hugging her to extinguish the flames the man himself was burned. Were those her parents? Several exchanges

of information took place, before the woman, who had become quiet for a moment, then realized that yes, her mother had had numerous burns that had never been explained to her.

The museum audience audibly inhaled as one.

In the sharing of information, in the exploration of history, some amazing moments happen. Here, on an otherwise average Shiloh Museum day, a researcher learned more about an Ozark bridge builder that he'd not previously known. And one woman learned something very personal about her now-deceased parents that she'd never known.

May we all feel such power from our own explorations of history.

# Remember us in your will.

If you're thinking of updating your will or changing your estate plans, please consider an endowment gift to the Shiloh Museum.

It's a great way to support our future needs, as well as memorialize your support in perpetuity. Contact us to learn how you can make a charitable gift to our endowment fund.

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks.

#### SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

118 W. Johnson Avenue • Springdale, AR 72764 • 479-750-8165 www.springdalear.gov/shiloh • shiloh@springdalear.gov

Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. • Free Admission

# **Volunteer Spotlight**

Michelle Hearn



History is fun—no, really! A lot of people have a misconception that museums are stuffy, dimly-lit, and intimidating places filled with mysterious and unexplained exhibits. The Shiloh Museum is different because it has a hands-on approach that draws visitors and children into a tactile experience.

As an education volunteer I specifically work with schoolchildren through several different outreach programs. These include tours for classrooms visiting the museum, history summer camps, and Discovery Boxes, which contain

historical artifacts, lesson plans, games, and worksheets that teachers can use in the classroom.

My favorite experience as a volunteer is to give outdoor tours of the buildings and the grounds. The children especially love the spring house, the barn, and the log cabin. Often a child will ask, "Is that a real log cabin?" and I love the look on their faces when I tell them it is over one hundred and fifty years old. We sit in the cabin and I ask them questions about life in the past, such as "What did the pioneers do without television?" or "What was it like to live in one room with eight people?" In this atmosphere, the children can really imagine what life must have been like in early Arkansas.

There is a large collection of artifacts in the museum's education department. These objects are meant for people to touch, examine, and use first-hand. In the main exhibit hall, children are told that if something is not behind a rope or glass, they can play with it. For example, children and visitors can view images with

a stereoscope, try on old-fashioned clothes, and use a Native American grinding stone. The hands-on exhibits add to the overall experience of the Shiloh Museum as an open and friendly place.

With the Shiloh Museum's focus on local history, it is uniquely able to assist educators in fulfilling state education requirements. Tours and discovery boxes are designed with these requirements in mind.

The museum's events and exhibits bring together people of all age groups, and as a volunteer, I get to learn more about local history from all these people including visitors, volunteers, expert presenters, and those who work at the museum. One of the most rewarding things about being a volunteer is when we gather the children together after a tour and ask them "What did you learn today?" Their answers let you know that they had fun, that they learned a little more about our local history, and that yes, people really did use corn cobs in the outhouse.

# **Welcome New Staff Members!**



Photographer Amjad Faur's parents—his father is from Jordan, his mother from Madison County, Arkansas—met in Italy. Amjad was born in Springdale, raised in Fayetteville, and now lives in West Fork with his wife Laila ("she's half Iranian, therefore beautiful and brilliant by default") and their amazing Irish Wolfhound, Bela Lugosi. Amjad has a BFA in painting from the University of Arkansas and an MFA in photography from the University of Oregon. After just a few short weeks at the Shiloh Museum, Amjad declares this is the favorite job of all the ones he has had (which range from working in a baby wipes factory to teaching at a university).



Library assistant Cheri Coley is a fifth-generation Ozarker, born and raised in Fayetteville. She has a BA degree in sociology from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and recently retired from a 30-year career with AT&T. Cheri is a member of Marion Chapter DAR and Frances Ironmonger Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, and serves on the board of directors for historic McCord Cemetery near Elkins. Monday evenings, you'll find Cheri volunteering with the "DAR Library Ladies" in the genealogy department of Blair Library in Fayetteville. Cheri's family includes husband David, son Kyle, two dogs, and two cats.

# **D**ONATIONS TO THE **C**OLLECTIONS

April-June 2009

Geneva Anderson: World War II booklets, Pettigrew school record books, Pettigrew Extension Homemakers Club scrapbook and booklets; all belonging to Eula Ferrel, 1940s-1972

Agnes Bowman: Harvey and Bernice Jones Nursing Scholarship program and Har-Ber School of Nursing records, 1957-2007; video histories of Harvey and Bernice Jones; video of Harvey Jones Day with Gov. Bill Clinton, July 30, 1988

Mary Braun: acoustic telephone, 1890s; picture of the Washington County courthouse, ca. 1900; photograph of Millard Berry, ca. 1900; hitching post from the Berry-Braun house, Springdale, ca. 1900; Rain King sprinkler, ca. 1930; handmade dollhouse, 1930s; Our Lady of the Ozarks, ca. 1945; chalkboard with music chart, ca. 1950; paintings of the Berry-Braun property by Joseph "Buddy" Braun, 1980s

Abby Burnett: photographs of people and places in Northwest Arkansas

Reeva Clark: Springdale Community Fund button, mid-1900s; Rodeo of the Ozarks Golden Anniversary souvenir cup, 1994; printed baseball promoting Springdale baseball league, 2006

Doug and Janet Couch: Justice of the Peace ledger, Thompson (Madison County), 1893-1923

Steve Davis: Two pair of kneelength trousers of Frank Davis, Fayetteville, 1920s

Orville J. Hall, Jr.: baby buggy and Brunswick radio, Fayetteville, 1930s; toy rifle, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, 1944

Nena Hendricks: photo of Nena Jean Brogdon at Rodeo of the Ozarks, 1945

*Path Hennon:* video equipment from Fayetteville Open Channel, (FOC), 1990s

Margie Kerstetter: World War I diary and photo album of Corp. Wilber Atkinson, Battery A, 142nd Field Artillery

Martha Lankford: migrant ministry papers, Springdale Memorial Hospital certificate, Thrift-T-Wise and S&H trading stamps of Eva Lena Reder, Springdale, late 1960searly 1970s

Carmen Lierly: Ozark Hillbilly with Veneer: Life and Times of Carmen L. Lierly, 2007

Gene Long family: Osburn Post Office (Washington County) cabinet and mailbox made by George Washington Long, Hazel Valley, early 1900s

Allyn Lord: autograph album of Ernestine Vinson, Rogers, 1934-1935; Tontitown Centennial commemorative program card, May 17, 2009

*June Loyd:* Springdale Farms photos, 1950s-1960s

Rhnee McClung: photos of Shannin Bennett and Emma Bennett (Lichlyter), Johnson, ca. 1900 Robert Mosier: interview with Springdale Public Schools assistant superintendent Dr. Ron Bradshaw about the history of the Springdale School system, 2008

Mrs. Ann Shumate: Photos of B.B. and Marge Patrick, 1960; diaries and artwork by Pauline Overholt, 1968-1977; *Teen Topics* booklets by Ann Shumate, 1959

Wanda Brewer Stephens: interior decorating and house building game sets, 1960s; Noark Girl Scout Camp counselor notebooks, 1960s

Bruce Vaughan: photo of Catherine Vaughan Sanders, Spring Valley (Washington County), ca. 1900

WACO Title Company (Patrick Curry): Royal typewriter from Berry Abstract office, Springdale, late 1930s; Millard Berry financial aid letter, 1932

Melinda Warmack: World War II Army Air Force uniform of Euel James Pinkley, Springdale

Dr. Lloyd Warren: photos of the Warren Brothers band and the Gilliland/Blake home, Goshen, early 1900s; photo of UA Vol Walker Library, 1936; negative of aerial view of Son's Chapel, 1935

Heather Marie Wells: program materials from 2009 Goddess Festival, Fayetteville

Dorothy Wilson: University of Arkansas commencement program of Vivian Horton, 1940

# REMEMBER THE ICE STORM?

Did you take a great picture of the 2009 ice storm? If so, we would like to use one in our next photo exhibit, *Disasters!* Contact photo archivist Marie Demeroukas for more info at mdemeroukas@springdalear.gov or 750-8165. Thanks!

# **Phone Home**

Springdale's first telephone dates to the early 1890s, when two acoustic telephones were installed to connect the Springdale Roller Mill (present-day northwest corner of Huntsville and Mill streets) to B. F. Deaver's store (present-day northeast corner of Mill and Emma).

A 1937 edition of the *Springdale News* carried a story about the telephones; by then, one of the phones was owned by Millard Berry, who founded Springdale's first telephone company in 1899:

Up in Judge Millard Berry's house there is a piece of polished brown wood, hollowed here, curved there, fitted with a bit of fabric, a length of wire, and a brass button. It looks like the beginning of an electric table lamp, but it isn't. It is the beginning of a telephone system.

In the days before "Central" was summoned by the lifting of a receiver and any voice on the continent was at the bidding of Springdale, this queer contraption used to be Springdale's first telephone. There was another just like it, and a length of copper wire, a quarter of a mile long, ran from one to the other. One hung on the wall of the Springdale Roller Mill and the other, uptown at B. F. Deaver's store. When the men at the mill felt the need of consultation with those at the store—which was often the case since the mill accounts were handled by the store—they went to the instrument and tapped on it with a lead pencil. The sound of the pencil tapping set up vibrations which were amplified and transmitted through the vibrating brass button along the copper wire, and the men at the store came right over and talked in the thing. The principle was much the same as that of the tin-can telephones through which youngsters shout at each other from one yard to the next, but Judge Berry says it worked.





Top: Josephine Braun in 1978 with Springdale's first telephone. Bottom: Shiloh Museum collections manager Carolyn Reno with the telephone in 2009. Braun photo from the Springdale News Collection/Morris White, photographer

The telephone was featured again in a 1978 *News* article which included a photo of Millard Berry's daughter, Josephine Berry Braun, holding the phone. In 2009, more than 100 years after making its debut in Springdale, the telephone was donated to the Shiloh Museum by Mary Braun, daughter of Josephine Berry Braun and granddaughter of Millard Berry.

# Going, Going, Green!



Many of you have responded to our invitation to receive the *Shiloh Scrapbook* as an online publication. If you haven't signed up for the online version, please consider doing so. You'll be helping us to be more environmentally and fiscally responsible, you'll enjoy a *color* newsletter, you'll cut down on the volume of mail you receive, and you'll receive the newsletter faster than if you wait for a printed copy.

**As of December 2009, we will only mail printed newsletters to members who request one.** If you wish to receive a print edition of the *Scrapbook*, please let us know: call 750-8165, email shiloh@springdalear.gov, or write 118 W. Johnson, Springdale, AR 72764.

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## Berry-Braun

From page 1





**Siblings Buddy and Mary Braun** made names for themselves as professional musicians: Buddy as a trumpet player, Mary as a harpist and piano teacher. *Springdale News Collection* and *Caroline Clark Collection/Howard Clark, photographer* 

lessons for many years. The Brauns had three children, Raphael, Josef "Buddy," and Mary, all of whom received their parents' musical genes and appreciation for the natural world.

When 21-year-old Raphael joined the Army during World War II, he listed his occupation as "musician and music teacher." In the spring of 1944, Corporal Raphael Braun was stationed in the South Pacific. He wrote his family and asked them to send him a sprig from one of the trees he knew would be in bloom in the gardens at the Berry-Braun home. Raphael would never see the gardens again. He was killed during the New Guinea campaign on May 2, 1944. In 1949, Raphael Braun's body was returned to the United States and buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Buddy Braun grew up to be a professional trumpet player. He was only 14 years old in the mid-1930s when he accepted his first paying job as a musician—the trumpet player in the Braun family band. Father Percy switched between playing the bass and flute, brother Raphael was the piano player, and cousin Jimmy McQuaide played the marimba. (There was also a drummer, but he was not a Braun relative.) The group played at dances throughout the region. After serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, the war, Buddy toured with several orchestras, playing in New York, Chicago, Las

Vegas, and Los Angeles. He was also a talented painter; he supplemented his musical career by selling his oil and pastel artwork. Buddy retired in the 1980s and eventually returned to Springdale, where he lived with his sister Mary until his death in 2008.

Mary Braun, the youngest of the Braun children, became an accomplished pianist and harpist. She followed in her mother's footsteps as a music teacher, and began giving piano lessons while in her teens. In 1948, Mary was a featured performer at a Christmas party hosted by the Springdale Women's Civic Club. In the audience was Roberta Fulbright, publisher of the *Northwest* Arkansas Times. Afterwards, Fulbright wrote in her editorial column, "High on the program was Mary Braun, harpist, daughter of Mrs. Percy Braun and the late Percy Braun, who concluded her playing with "Silent Night" so beautifully that the very essence of Christmas spirit was left in our souls." Mary studied under the French-born Carlos Salzedo, a virtuoso harpist and composer who was the first harpist for the Metropolitan Opera and founder of the Summer Harp Colony of America in Camden, Maine. She continued to give piano lessons at the Berry-Braun home into the 1980s.

Through the years, Josephine Braun and her family nurtured and added to Ida Berry's gardens. In a 1963 *Springdale News* article, columnist Billie Jines noted

dozens of plant materials found at the Berry-Braun home, including Southern magnolia, saucer magnolia, sweet bay, tulip poplar, yellow pine (transplanted from the War Eagle area), white pine, redbud, dogwood, maple, oak, elm, hickory, walnut, hackberry, cedar, weeping cherry, crabapple, apricot, purpleleafed plum, high bush cranberry, Asiatic euonymus, yellowwood, Russian olive, English haw, witch hazel, sweet shrub (Josephine noted that she and her sisters used to gather the blossoms and carry them in their hankies to church as a perfume), fir, Norway holly, blue spruce holly, English yew, arborvitae, hemlock, Golden Pfitzer juniper, mimosa, gingko, fringetree, Moraine locust, Indian cherry, silver bell, quince, leather-leaf viburnum, bittersweet, lilac, snowball, beauty bush, ivy, narcissus, and iris.

The Brauns sold their home in the early 1990s; today it is Magnolia Gardens Bed and Breakfast. Mary Braun still lives in Springdale, and recently donated several family items to the Shiloh Museum, including Springdale's first telephone (see story on page 5); a cast iron hitching post installed at the Berry home by Millard Berry; an artist's rendition of the 1904 Washington County Courthouse; a dollhouse handmade by Percy Braun in the early 1930s; invoice forms and envelopes from Ida Berry's Evergreen Gardens nursery; a copper kettle the Braun family used first to make soap during World War II and later as Josephine Braun's flowerpot; drawings by Buddy Braun; and a chalkboard used by Josephine and Mary Braun to teach music. All are reminders of what the Berry and Braun families held most dear: art, music, nature, innovative thinking, public service, and a creative spirit. &

# **Great Shakes**



Thanks to a grant, the Steele General Store now has a beautiful cedar shake roof. When it was built in 1871 or 72 just south of the present-day museum (then the center of town), it was Springdale's first general store. The building later served as the first post office, a private residence, the Church of Christ, a school, a hospital thrift store, and a Christian Science reading room. In 1978 the building was donated to the Museum and moved in 1989 to its current location on the Museum campus.

The double layer of thick, asphalt shingles that had served as the building's roof were old but not original. The fully-grant-funded project allowed us to replace the roof, add drip edges and flashing, repair damaged wood trim, re-stain it, and prolong the building's life as an active center for community engagement. The project was made possible by a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage, funded by General Improvement Funds provided by the Arkansas 86th General Assembly.

With the completion of the General Store roof, the Museum procured six new roofs in less than a year: three new metal roofs on the Museum building, a new cedar shake roof on the Shiloh Meeting Hall, a new corrugated metal roof on Dr. Carter's office, and the new General Store roof. To say we've raised the roof would be an understatement!

# WISH LIST

#### For research library

- phone books/city directories from Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Washington counties
- back issues of Ozarks Watch magazine
- Obituaries of Washington County Arkansas, Volume Three, 1903-1908 by Easley and McAnelly

#### For collections storage

- mechanic's rolling stool (\$100)
- (2) five-tier wire shelving and casters (\$130 each)

#### For education programs

- · beaver, fox, raccoon, skunk, and deer skins
- · rug hooking supplies and sample
- JB Hunt and Jones Truck Lines toy truck
- (4) fossil casting kits (\$50 each)
- 1920s-era men's and women's hats (can be reproduction)
- (4) metal shelving units (\$150 each)

## **C**ALENDAR

**Through Jan. 16, 2010.** *Squeaky Clean,* an exhibit on the history of hygiene in the Ozarks.

**Through Sept. 26.** *Carry On*, an exhibit featuring baskets, trunks, purses, and other artifacts used to contain and transport items.

**Through December 19.** *Prized Possessions*, a photo exhibit featuring people posed with their favorite things, be it heirloom, horse, or household goods.

**September 12, 10:00 am.-2:00 p.m.** 32nd Ozark Quilt Fair, with antique and new quilts for show and sale.

**September 16, noon. September 16, noon.** "Mystery of the Trees," a program on trail trees by Don Wells, president of Mountain Stewards.

October 12-March 27, 2010. What's Its, an exhibit of oddities from the museum collections.

October 21, noon. "How Life Changed in Madison County in the 1860s," a program by Joy Russell of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society.

**November 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m.** 8th annual Tontitown Polenta Smear, celebrating Tontitown's Italian heritage. Co-sponsored by the Shiloh Museum and the Tontitown Historical Museum; held at St. Joseph Parish Hall.

**November 18, noon.** "Not a Good Sign: A Backroads Photographic Love Affair," a program by photographer Don House.

**December 22-April 10, 2010.** *Disaster!*, a photo exhibit of crashes and catastrophes.

**January 16, 2010, 10:00 a. m.-2:00 p.m.** Cabin Fever Reliever, the museum's annual celebration of the new year.

# Follow us on **twitter**

Twitter is a free and easy way to send and receive short instant messages (called "tweets") via computer, cell phone, or hand-held device. We use Twitter to let you know about upcoming events or interesting things that are happening at the museum as they occur. Create your own Twitter account at www.twitter.com, then go to www.twitter.com/ShilohMuseum to be come one of our Twitter followers!

#### Join the Shiloh Museum Association

- Satisfaction of knowing you are supporting an important cultural institution and helping preserve our Arkansas Ozark heritage, and
- 10% discount on Shiloh Store purchases
- Reduced fees for children's and adult workshops
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events

#### Consider a Gift to the Shiloh Museum Endowment Fund

☐ Check here if you would like more information about the endowment fund.

☐ Check here if y by email.	you would like to receive your newsletter
Email address	

#### Membershin Levels

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<ul><li>☐ Individual - \$15</li><li>☐ School class - \$12.50</li><li>☐ Family - \$20</li></ul>	☐ Patron - \$50 ☐ Sponsor - \$100 ☐ Sustaining - \$250	
<ul><li>☐ Senior Individual (65+) - \$10</li><li>☐ Senior Couple - \$15</li></ul>	D ☐ Benefactor - \$500 ☐ Founding - \$1,000	
Name		
Address		
City		
State	Zip	
Please make check payable to:	Shiloh Museum 118 W. Johnson Avenue Springdale, AR 72764	

479-750-8165



**Meeting the train at Patrick**, a stop on the St. Paul Branch of the Frisco Railroad, ca. 1925. At that time, passenger trains ran seven days a week between Fayetteville and St. Paul. Leaving Fayetteville at 8:10 a.m., the train arrived in Patrick (a trip of 27.3 miles) at 10:30 a.m., after stops in Fayette Junction, Leith, Harris, Elkins, Durham, Thompson, Crosses, and Delaney. *James Bayles Collection* 



118 W. Johnson Avenue Springdale, AR 72764 Return Service Requested

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