Shiloh Museum of Ozark History Newsletter Vol. 28

Vol. 28, No. 3 December 2009

Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty



Members of Springdale's Ulysses S. Grant Post No. 34 of the Grand Army of the Republic gather in front of their meeting hall in the early 1890s. The hall was located in the upstairs portion of the Baker Brothers Grocery building on the southeast corner of Emma Avenue and Holcomb Street. *Marion Stafford Warner Collection*

Susan Young

Outreach Coordinator

t was the early 1890s. Over twenty-five years had passed since the men laid down their guns, yet they gathered twice a month to recount their wartime experiences, to assist each other in times of need, and to share in a camaraderie that is known only to soldiers who have stood together on the battlefield. The Civil War was over, but for the members of Springdale's Ulysses S. Grant Post No. 34 of the Grand Army of the Republic, their time spent as Union soldiers was not to be forgotten.

Founded in 1866 with the goals of "fraternity, charity, and loyalty," the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a nationwide organization of Union veterans. The structure included state-level organizations known as Departments and local units known as Posts. The Department of Arkansas was organized July 11, 1883. Nationwide GAR membership reached its peak in 1890, when over 400,000 members were reported. In 1956, after the death of its last member, the GAR was formally dissolved.

According to the Library of Congress website (http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/gar/garintro.html): "In its early days, the GAR limited its activities merely to fraternal activities. But soon, members began discussing politics in local gatherings. A growing interest in pensions signaled the beginning of open GAR participation in national politics. The rank and file soon realized the value of presenting a solid front to make demands upon legislators and congressmen. The GAR became so powerful that the wrath of the entire body could be called down upon any man in public life who objected to GAR-sponsored legislation."

We remember Springdale's GAR Post 34 today thanks to Paul Dolle of Rogers, who recently donated an 1890s Post 34 ledger to the Shiloh Museum. Ledger entries make for fascinating reading, and are delightfully worded with the

DIRECTOR'S **C**OLUMN

Allyn Lord



In October I spent about ten days in West Virginia researching the early years of Monte Ne's own William "Coin" Harvey for a book. I visited the state

archives, several libraries and historical societies, and a courthouse, along with traipsing through cemeteries and looking at historic buildings. The helpfulness, generosity, and commitment of the archivists, librarians, cemetery sextons, and local folks really impressed me and made me look closer at how we at the Shiloh Museum help people connect to the past.

What we do at the museum sometimes feels removed from our visitors and the public. We preserve large collections, we research and gather data, we draw up lesson plans and programs. But actually we do none of that in a vacuum. Everything we do, including such activities as creating exhibits, conducting class visits, holding special events, offering programs, writing grant applications, caring for our collections, updating our website, maintaining our buildings, and producing podcasts, is centered around not only our mission but what you, our many audiences, want and need.

Board of Trustees

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Dr. C. S. Applegate*, Dr. Dwight Heathman, Maudine Sanders, Stephen Taylor *deceased

Staff

Allyn Lord, director; Betty Bowling, secretary; LuAnn Clarkson, special projects library assistant; Cheri Coley, library assistant; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Amjad Faur, photographer; Pody Gay, education coordinator; Michelle Hearn, education assistant; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, assistant director/collections manager; Heather Marie Wells, collections assistant/podcast producer; Susan Young, outreach coordinator Every time you visit the museum, connect to our website, use our services, or stroll our grounds, we want your experience to be the very best it can be. The staff, board, and volunteers of the Shiloh Museum strive to be helpful, and our commitment is strong. Please don't let us fail. Pass along to us your comments and criticisms, your praise and your problems. It's only when we respond to you, listen to your ideas, correct any deficiencies, and create new opportunities, that we truly can become a community-centered museum. Phone, fax, email, Twitter, blog, U.S. mail–there are many ways to keep in touch. We're eager to hear from you!

Wondering what to give someone who has (almost) everything?

- 1. A museum membership is a great gift that lasts year-round! An application form is on page 7.
- 2. The museum's Shiloh Store specializes in regional books and gifts. Members receive a 10% discount, and all proceeds go to support the museum.
- 3. Honor a special person with a donation to the museum endowment fund in their name.

VOLUNTEERS

Ethna Billings, David and Vonita Carpenter, Karen Cordell, Beverly Cosby, Leslie Coston, Susan Dewey, Alison Demorotski, Tom Duggan, Steve Erwin, Martha Estes, Linda Fulton, Regina Gable, Danielle Hansen, Bill Jones, Mary John Jones, Ann Kabanuck, Mitsy Kellam, Jim Langford, Mira Leister, Marilyn Meek, Oda Mulloy, Pam Redfern, Debbie Reed, Don Reynolds, Larry Shivel, Jeanne Tackett, Ray Toler, Mary Vaughan, Ryan Wells. *Volunteers Emeritus:* Mada Knight, Marie Langford, Bruce Vaughan, Era Walker

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.

Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on July 13, 2006

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

Ledger

From page 1

language of the day. To celebrate New Year's Day 1891, "A bountiful repast was spread by the wifes [sic] and daughters of the old veterans which was heartily partaken of by all present followed by music and song with other entertainments until the hour arrived to part and return to our homes. All feeling that we had a good time and that the old vets might live to enjoy many more returning New Year's Days of the same kind."

Caring for widows and orphans of deceased "comrades" was taken seriously. In March 1891, "Comrade Plummer reported on Mrs. Barnes, deceased soldier's widow, with six children, two sick and very needy, widow also sick. Proper steps were taken for their relief." The Post continued to look after Mrs. Barnes and family. Two months later, "Widow Barnes unable to meet part of her rent, and Post ordered payment of \$2.30 balance of rent due by her.

In July 1891, "The matter of deceased Comrade Baker's orphan daughter Nora was brought up. The Post appointed Comrades Plummer and Greenfield a committee to assist in selecting suitable clothing and school books to prepair [sic] her for attending school and report same to Post for Post to pay." Two weeks later, "Clothing, books, and shoes have been furnished suitable to prepare Miss Nora to attend school at an expence of \$4.37."

Plans were made in October 1891 to hold a "bean supper" and to "extend an invitation to the Grays [Confederate veterans] to participate with us." According to a notice in the the *Springdale News*, the bean feed was held at the GAR hall on November 14.

Notice, Blue and Gray. The boys in Blue will hold a campfire, and have a bean supper at the G. A. R. hall in Springdale on the night of November 14, 1891. All ex-Confederates friendly to the Blue are cordially invited to bring their families and meet with us, and participate in the festivities and assist in making this an enjoyable occasion long to be remembered on account of its pleasant memories. By order of COMMITTEE.

Springdale News, October 30, 1891

An intriguing story is related in a ledger entry from July 1892. "...the fact [was disclosed] that a loyal man by the name of _____ Miller during the war was compelled to jump off from Martin's Bluff on White River over 100 feet high by the guerilleys [sic] as a chance for his life, or be shot by them. That he made

the jump successfully and was shot by them when found to be alive." A motion was carried that a committee be formed to "gather all the facts relating to said Miller's death. Also to learn the proper governmental authority and treport the same to this post. That the same may be reported to the government with the view that the remains of said Miller may be removed to the National Cemetery at Fayetteville, Arkansas as one of the nation's dead, where the same may receive appropriate memorial honors."

In November 1892, the Post voted to have a Thanksgiving meal at the GAR Hall (which was located on Emma Avenue). All comrades were advised to "bring baskets filled with eatables and all outsiders [will] be charged 25 cents each for supper and comrades 25 cents per family."

Ledger entries continue on through 1896. Looking through the lens of community history, the ledger offers a fascinating glimpse into the inner workings of a GAR Post at the local level. On a broader scale, the ledger provides insight into the GAR's role in post-Civil War American culture. We are grateful to Paul Dolle for helping to preserve this important piece of local history. *

In October 2010 we will open a new exhibit, *The Music of Our Lives*, focusing on the role music has played in the everyday lives of people in Northwest Arkansas. Museum collections assistant Heather Marie Wells, who is curating the exhibit, wants your help. She has selected 40 musical artifacts from the Shiloh Museum's collection and invites you to vote on the artifacts you would like to see in the exhibit. Ballots, complete with photos and descriptions of each artifact, are available at the museum or online at www.springdalear.gov/shiloh. Voting ends April 30, 2010.

DONATIONS TO THE **C**OLLECTIONS

July-October 2009

Chase Barbour: Clason's Guide to Arkansas map, 1919

Eddie and Betty Bradford: Books and household items from the Johnson and Mix families, Madison and Washington counties, late 1800s-late 1900s

Shirley Brashears: Invitation to crowning of Queen of the Apple Blossoms, Northwest Apple Blossoms Festival, Rogers, 1924

Paul Dolle: U.S. Grant Post No. 34, Grand Army of the Republic ledger, Springdale, 1891-1896

Martha Estes: Rodeo of the Ozarks program, 2009

Edna Smith and Nettie Everett: Christmas cards from Governor Orval Faubus to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Vansandt, 1965-1966

Kirby Fuessel: Store token for A.B. Coger's Fountain, St. Paul, 1910-1917

James Germany: Deeds, tax receipts, etc., from the Moore family and others for land in and around Cincinnati (Washington County), 1880s-1900s

Orville and Susan Hall: Toys, dolls, games, bassinet, bicycle, Fayetteville, 1930s-1940s; Masonic regalia, Springdale, 1930s-1940s

Bob Hanna: Comic postcard, 1909; Cane Hill College souvenir, 1953; photograph of baptizing on the Middle Fork of the White River, ca. 1920

Ruthanne Hill: Photograph of 1933 Arkansas General Assembly

Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society: Photographs of Dr. John E. Plummer, Rev. H.C. Jolly, and Monte Ne pyramids *Dayle Martell*: Anti-Saloon League Lincoln-Lee Legion pledge card, 1914

Myra Moran: Diary of Ruby Casteel, St. Paul (Madison County), 1931-1932

Omer D. Parrish: Grain cradle from the Isaac Norman Parrish farm, Washington County, 1900s-1930s

Tontitown Museum: *So Big This Little Place*, 2009

Pat Pond: Oat shock handler of J.T. McKenzie, Washington County, 1940s; embroidered table linens by Gertrude Pond, Fayetteville, 1950s

Bertha Reid: Letters, postcards, miscellaneous papers, and photograph from the Leming, Cartmell, and Brainard families, Brentwood (Washington County), 1912-1940s

Maudine Sanders: China doll, Stony Point (Washington County) 1920s; composition book, Lowell, 1936; photographs of Springdale High School mascot "Pretty Boy Dreadnaught," 1970-1972

Bill Shook: Clothing, engineering tools and project files, books, photographs, etc., of Carl Smith and Ada Lee Smith Shook, Fayetteville and Washington County, 1900s

Truman Stamps: Photograph of Robinson Produce truck, early 1950s

Anna Tillman-Floyd: Portrait of Opal Tillman, Springdale, 1912

Heather Marie Wells: Tontitown Grape Festival program, 2009

JoAnn Huffman and Iva Wheeler: Friendship quilt made by Beulah Stanback Lynch and neighbors, Lynch Hollow (Madison County), 1931

Photographs loaned for copying:

Raymond Anders, Emmie Stiles Anderson, Pody Gay, Elbert Eugene Graham, Orville and Susan Hall, Susie Obert, Anna Tillman-Floyd, Iva Wheeler

"For-use" donations:

Abby Burnett: vintage board games

Jarrett Chapman: cotton seed

Kate Cooper: The Springs of Eureka Springs DVD

Mike Donat: button maker

Mira Leister: negative storage sleeves and binders

Barbara Pulos: anniversary editions of The Springdale News and the Northwest Arkansas Times

Bryan Lindley Searcy: anniversary edition of *The Springdale News*; 1929 University of Arkansas annual

Steve Erwin: History of Cane Hill College in Pictures and Words and Butterfield Centennial Edition (1958) of the Van Buren Press Argus

Sallyann Brown: 2009 ice storm DVD by Carroll Electric Cooperative

Madison County Genealogical & Historical Society: Madison County Cemetery Book #9, 2008

To learn more about artifacts and photos in our collection, visit **www.springdalear.gov/shiloh** and click on "Artifact of the Month" or "Photo of the Month."

Volunteer Spotlight

Martha Estes



Retirement after forty years of employment outside the home was intimidating, to say the least. I feared boredom. My husband Kirby feared there'd be a divorce or a murder if we spent 24 hours a day in the same house, especially one as small as ours. At first the luxury of sleeping until seven, drinking coffee until nine and actually reading and discussing the newspapers saved us. But, alas, my spouse, already retired for several years, had a routine of writing and research in his basement office that did not include me.

Within a couple of weeks, I had cleaned the house, organized the closets, tested every untried recipe and moved the furniture so often the flooring was showing skid marks. Tiring of all that, I began to do genealogical research utilizing family papers and the Internet. Going through my mother's papers one day, I found a box of letters written by my great-grandparents. My aunt Helen and I read, sorted, and copied the letters, gleaning names, dates, facts and stories about our ancestors for the family tree.

While we worked on the project, we discussed how we could be sure the letters would be preserved. I suggested that Helen might want her children to have them so that they'd be kept in the family. "They ain't my kids' letters," Helen stated flatly. "I want you to give them to that Susan girl at Shiloh Museum. Look at the shape they're in now. Me and your mom tried to take care of them, but we couldn't. They're too old. And if they hadn't been at her house when mine burned, we'd have lost them all. They belong at the museum where they'll be safe."

Having worked in Springdale for years, I was familiar with the Shiloh Museum. I often ate lunch on the museum grounds. Occasionally I strolled through the exhibits. Donating the letters brought me back to the museum and rekindled my friendship with outreach coordinator Susan Young,who had attended school with my daughters. At some point I mentioned my retirement; Susan immediately suggested I become a volunteer.

"Oh, I don't think so," was my first response. "I never liked history classes—all about kings and presidents and wars—just death and destruction. I hated it."

"Well, Martha," Susan said with that infectious smile, "these letters we're talking about are the kind of history we preserve. History is about people. Folks just like yours. You say you don't like history, but you just went through all those letters and told me about them. You might like history better than you think," Susan said.

So I agreed to give it a try. My first assignment was to scan old copies of the *Springdale News* for articles about the Washington County Courthouse, which was built in 1904, watching for any mention of County Judge Millard Berry, the major driver of the project. I turned a few pages of the *News* and noticed subheads of communities: Goshen, Buckeye, Whitener. I saw family names I knew: Vaughan, VanWinkle, Murphy. This piqued my interest. Soon I saw a community column headed "Macedonia" and there was the name of my grandfather, Joe Gilbert! He had sold his blacksmith shop!

My family was a typical Arkansas hill family with no money, little education and not exactly "newsworthy," but here was mention of that wonderful raw-boned man who shared our home for most of my childhood. Could this be history? Is this what museums are about?

I was hooked. I learned so much about Judge Millard Berry and his role in the construction of the Courthouse, that he was like a friend. a man to admire—not for winning a war, but for building our community. He lived among the people of this county, including my family. He looked to the future and influenced the building of a structure that figured largely in my life and still stands today. Suddenly there was a solid connection between this man and my people; the Courthouse and my hometown; the newspaper and the community where my ancestors settled. All of these things define who I am.

Today, I work proudly, happily, and enthusiastically with Shiloh Museum because this is my community, my museum, my place in the world. Maybe I'm becoming a little of that history myself.

ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

May 2008-October 2009

Memorials

Lajoice Atkins Alan Smith

Joe Bowling

Carolyn Bayley, Bob and Patty Besom, Susan Dewey, Thomas and Marion Duggan, Jim and Gloria Fields, Hartzell and Marsha Jones, Kirby Lambert and Rebecca Kohl, Raymond and Martha Lankford, Marc and Tricia Niebergall, Randolph Perritt, Edna Regan, George Regan, Don and Kay Reynolds, Dennis and Harriett Sisson, Mike and Brenda Smart, Truett and Linda Smith, Ray Toler, Shiloh Museum staff, board, and volunteers, Bruce and Mary Vaughan, David Whitmore, Zulpo family

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Honoring

Kathryn Birkhead Nathaniel and Shannon Birkhead

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Raymond and Martha Lankford Kathryn Birkhead, Ben and Evalena Mayo, Mike Lankford, Karen Smith

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General gifts

William Bass, Carolyn Bayley, Central United Methodist Church (Fayetteville), Dolores Chitwood, Fayetteville High School Exotic Food Club, Grand Escape Tours, Stephanie Hegde, Mitsy Kellam, Patricia Kelley, Dianne Kellogg, Martha Lankford, Robert and Louise Maringer, Marion Chapter DAR, Bob Mello, Jim Morriss, Paula Montgomery, Al Newton, Quilt Guild of Northwest Arkansas, Rebekah Lodge No. 28, Bertha Cartmell Reid, Rogers First Church of the Nazarene, Madge Roberts Scharber, Shop for Museums, Dolores Stamps, Gerald and Jeanne Tackett, Wal-Mart Foundation, Sally Walker, Mrs. Willard Walker, David Whitmore, Mary Zimmerman

WISH LIST

For photo collections

(Contact Marie Demeroukas for specifics on these items.)

- early copies of the *Springdale News* on microfilm (1887-1910s), about 14 rolls at \$75 each (plus shipping)
- portable, lightweight microfilm reader, used or new (\$575)
- back issues of *Newton County Homestead* (Newton County Historical Society) and *Boone County Historian* (Boone County Historical and Railroad Society)
- 8x10 polypropylene photo sleeves (\$70)

For exhibit construction

panel saw for cutting sheets of plywood (\$700)

For collections storage

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

For podcasting

• Pinnacle Dazzle Video Creator DVC 170 (\$90)

For landscaping

• (7) one-quart size "Big Bluestem" grass (\$75)

For education

• A volunteer seamstress to make an antebellum-era dress (we'll supply the materials)

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

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

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

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.

January 20, noon. "Derailed! Getting off Track in Northwest Arkansas," a program by Mike Sypult, member of the Boston Mountain Chapter, National Railway Historical Society.

February 1-Jan. 22, 2011. All Dressed Up, an exhibit of men's, women's, and children's finery.

February 17, noon. "Precious Threads: Preserving Heirloom Textiles," a program by Carolyn Reno, Shiloh Museum collections manager.

March 6, noon. Artifact identification with Jerry Hilliard, archeologist with the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

March 17, noon. A program on Arkansas archeology by Hester Davis, Arkansas State Archeologist Emerita.

April 10, 1:00-8:00 p.m. Pettigrew Day, a celebration of Madison County history held at the Pettigrew Community Building on Highway 16, 40 miles east of Fayetteville.

April 12-September 18. Answering the Call, an exhibit on the history of the Springdale Fire Department.

April 13-August 21. "Carl Smith's Fayetteville," a personal look at a town and a family as seen through one man's camera lens.

April 21, noon. "My Fayetteville," a panel discussion by Fayetteville residents Ann Sugg, Shirley Lucas, Kim Agee, and Charlie Alison.

May 19, noon. "Gone to the Grave: Funeral Customs of the Ozarks, 1850-1950," a program by independent researcher Abby Burnett.

June 16, noon. A program on the history of public access television in Northwest Arkansas by journalist Richard Drake.

July 21, noon. "What Brought You Here?", readings by members of the LifeWriters group.

For a current listing of events and meetings at the Shiloh Museum, visit www.springdalear.gov/shiloh

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 you would like to receive your newsletter by email.

Email address

Membership Levels

□ Individual - \$15

□ Family - \$20

- □ Patron \$50 □ School class - \$12.50
 - □ Sponsor \$100
 - □ Sustaining \$250
- □ Senior Individual (65+) \$10 □ Benefactor \$500 □ Senior Couple - \$15

	Founding	-	\$1,	,000)
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Please make check payable to:	Shiloh Museum 118 W. Johnson Avenue
	Springdale, AR 72764

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AUTHORS 4 ARKANSAS at the Shiloh Museum Programs and Booksignings

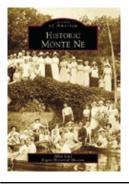
Saturday, December 5



DON HOUSE With a Foreward by Larry Foley



11 AM DON HOUSE author of *Not A Good Sign*





NOON ALLYN LORD author of *Historic Monte Ne*





1 PM

2 PM

SUSAN YOUNG author of "So Big, This Little Place": The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917





BROOKS BLEVINS author of Arkansas/Arkansaw: How Bear Hunters, Hillbillies and Good Ol' Boys Defined a State

Wishing you a holiday season full of wide-eyed wonders!



Hill Lu Ann allyn Cawlyn Marie Marte Marie Angel Pody Vito Susan Dody Vito

Northwest Arkansas Times Collection



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