I 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
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.

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.
language of the day. To celebrate New Year’s Day 1891, “A bountiful repast was spread by the wives [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 prepare [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 expense 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 report 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.
**DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS**

**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

**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.”
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

*Harp Elementary School Chorus*

Dr. Marsha Jones

*Raymond and Martha Lankford*

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

*Bob and Evalena Mayo*

Raymond and Martha Lankford

*Smith Elementary School Chorus*

Dr. Marsha Jones

**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

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**Wish List**

**For photo collections**

(Contact Marie De mer oukas 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 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)
Calendar


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


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.


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.


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.

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

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Address ________________________________

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Please make check payable to: Shiloh Museum

118 W. Johnson Avenue
Springdale, AR 72764
479-750-8165

For a current listing of events and meetings at the Shiloh Museum, visit www.springdalear.gov/shiloh
AUTHORS 4 ARKANSAS at the Shiloh Museum
Programs and Booksignings
Saturday, December 5

11 AM
DON HOUSE
author of Not A Good Sign

NOON
ALLYN LORD
author of Historic Monte Ne

1 PM
SUSAN YOUNG
author of “So Big, This Little Place”: The Founding of Tontitown, Arkansas, 1898-1917

2 PM
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!