The way Regina Bauer Gabel sees it, history is a way of telling stories. So I ask her to tell me about her history, her life story. I figure if I know something of her story, I’ll know why Regina Gabel—retired teacher, mother of two, and grandmother of three—chooses to support the Shiloh Museum both as a volunteer and as a member of the Shiloh Museum Association. It’s a story that begins halfway around the world in Germany before ending up in the Ozarks by way of Illinois and the Arkansas Delta.

William Bauer was from Alsace-Lorraine, an ethnically German region of northeast France. He immigrated to America and worked for a time on the Erie Canal. Eventually William made his way to Illinois where he worked as a farmhand and ended up marrying the farmer’s granddaughter, Mary Putnam. William and Mary Bauer moved to Brinkley, Arkansas, sometime after the birth of their son, Glenn, in 1922. There, the Bauers built a successful farming operation, raising rice, cotton, soybeans, and winter wheat in the rich Delta soil.

Glenn Bauer served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he was stationed in Germany as part of the U.S. occupation there. Glenn was in charge of an Army commissary, an assignment that led him to

Museum volunteer Regina Gabel not only helped with our kids history camp this summer, she enrolled her granddaughter Katie in the camp. Here, Regina helps Katie experience the old-fashioned pastime of churning ice cream by hand.

Susan Young
Outreach Coordinator
Once again I’ve been thinking about the power of place to inform us, excite us, and help us learn about history. In early August I spent a week in southern Colorado, chasing the details and continuing to research the as-yet-uncovered history of William “Coin” Harvey, founder of the Monte Ne resort near Rogers.

Harvey owned a silver mine outside the small town of Ouray between 1884 and 1887. Ouray is nestled among the 13,000-foot mountain peaks of the San Juan Mountains and today has a population of about 800. When Harvey was there, however, it was a booming mining town with over 2,600 inhabitants.

As I walked among some of the late Victorian buildings, along the dirt streets, looking at the crests and summits above, I literally felt like I was walking side-by-side with Harvey. I could feel his presence. At the local historical society I read letters he penned to his mining chief and to the assayer.

Writing about that time in Harvey’s life before I made my visit was easy enough. Now, having walked in those footsteps, breathed the high-altitude air, and traveled the infamous steep and twisting “million-dollar highway” south of Ouray to locate the Harvey-owned mine, I can no longer simply write that “Harvey owned a silver mine.” Today I can truly begin to comprehend his life in that remote place, imagine what he felt and how he reacted to events and people, and better understand the area where he first began to think about the power of silver and its place in U.S. history.

For me, the excitement of discovery and the power of place have everything to do with getting at the gut of history—putting on the mantle, not just of dates and names, but of fleshed-out characters and tangible sights, clothing, buildings, and the like. While my imagination may be a bit more over-the-top than others, I make no apologies for how transformative and enlightening the power of place can be for me.

Whether searching cities or cemeteries for your ancestors, returning to your hometown, or even visiting historical tourist sites, stop for a moment and breathe in the stories steeped in that place, imagine the people fully present in front of you, and try to feel what it was like to live, work, play, or even die in that place. For me, that sends shivers.
meet his future wife, a young German woman by the name of Maria Koegel. She became friends with Glenn at a time when Germans were experiencing post-war food shortages. Maria's family was hungry, and Glenn started bringing food from the commissary to the Koegel family. A romance blossomed between Glenn and Maria (all of the Koegels became quite fond of Glenn), and soon Glenn Bauer and Maria Koegel were married. They recited their vows three times, in fact: in the German embassy, the American embassy, and in a church. The newlyweds then sailed for America, but they didn't make the entire journey together. Maria had to enter the country through Ellis Island. Glenn met her there, and the couple headed for Brinkley, Arkansas, where they set up housekeeping, farming, and raising a family.

Four children were born to Glenn and Maria Bauer: Regina, Michael (who died of leukemia as a child), Monica, and Christina. As a child, Regina helped with the milk cows, chickens, pigs, and the family vegetable garden. “We didn't have horses,” she said. “Dad didn't like horses. He said if it didn't have a key and an engine, he didn't want it.” In the absence of horses, the kids did, occasionally, ride the cows.

Maria Bauer spoke German at home, and Regina learned the language at an early age. When she was five years old, Maria and Regina went to Germany and stayed a year. “When we came back home, I got off the plane and my dad said to me, ‘How are you, honey?’ I turned to my mother and said in German, ‘What is he saying?’ I started first grade in Brinkley, Arkansas, and I couldn’t speak English,” she laughed.

After graduating from Brinkley High School in 1967, Regina chose to attend the University of Arkansas. She majored in elementary education for a very simple, yet very important, reason: “I like being around kids.”

Regina quickly decided that Fayetteville was a great place to live. “Soon after I arrived in northwest Arkansas, I called my mother and said, ‘I’m staying here for good. There are no mosquitoes.’” She also discovered another appealing characteristic of the region: a Fayetteville boy named Wilson Gabel, who was majoring in business at the UA. Regina and Wilson began dating and were married in 1972.

Right after graduating from college, and before marrying Wilson, Regina went back home to Brinkley where she had a teaching job. There Regina found her calling. “I taught kids who were in a ‘step-down program,’ meaning they were not ready to go on to the next grade,” she said. “I discovered I really enjoyed working with special-needs kids. They have a spirit that is very genuine.”

After marriage brought her back to God’s country (“that’s what Wilson always called it,”) in northwest Arkansas, Regina taught in Bentonville for five years. The Gabels lived in Fayetteville, where Wilson was a buyer for Campbell Soup and, later, Pinnacle Foods. In 1977, Wilson and Regina welcomed the birth of identical twin daughters, Erica and Jennifer. Regina laughs and recalls, “I didn’t know I was having twins until the second baby came out.” When Regina came out of the delivery room holding twins, a stunned Wilson looked at her and said, “What did you do?” Regina replied, “What did I do?”

After the twins were born, Regina began teaching at Farmington, where she enjoyed a twenty-six year career as a special education teacher. During that time, she had the opportunity to teach Arkansas history for a couple of years. “You had to be a certified teacher to teach Arkansas history, but you didn’t have to be certified in...”

continued next page
social studies,” she explained. “Nobody else wanted to teach it, so I volunteered. I thought it would be fun. I soon found out that the Arkansas history textbook was horrible, so I kind of made up my own textbook. I started teaching Farmington history as a way to engage the kids. A lot of them had grandparents that were still living in the Farmington area, so as a class project, the kids interviewed a lot of the older residents in the community. The adults enjoyed being interviewed, and the kids were so much more interested when the history lesson was about people and places they were familiar with.” Even after her stint teaching Arkansas history was over, Regina continued to teach Farmington history in her special education classes.

“In 2008, after I had retired from teaching, and after Wilson had passed away, I found myself with a lot of time on my hands,” Regina said. “My friend, Pam Redfern, was volunteering at the Shiloh Museum and she suggested I come check the place out. Pam said there were all kinds of things going on at Shiloh.”

So, Regina took Pam’s advice, paid the museum a visit, and met with education coordinator Pody Gay. “When Pody started telling me all the activities the education folks were doing, I knew this was a perfect place for me,” Regina said. “I get to do all the things I like. I get to be around kids. I get to be a tour guide—something I always wanted to do. And now, I get to dress up!”

Regina is referring to our project of creating a living history program, complete with historically accurate costumes. Thanks to her skill as a seamstress, our living history costume selection is growing steadily. Over the last several months, Regina has sewn several dresses, aprons, and bonnets similar to those worn in the mid-1800s. The challenges of creating these historically accurate costumes are many. “The patterns can be hard to follow, because they were originally made for dressmakers of the day, not women sewing at home. There are not a lot of instructions. They didn't waste on words,” Regina points out, adding, “Buttons must be made of wood, metal, or shell. You can use hook-and-eye fasteners, but no Velcro and no zippers.”

Practice makes perfect, this modern-day dressmaker says. “The first time you make an article of reproduction clothing, it’s hard. The second time, it’s easier. By the third time, you’ve got it. Then you really ought to make a bunch of outfits, because now you’ve got this skill.”

Regina enjoys wearing the costumes as much as she enjoys creating them. “I did a little test with some school tours here at the museum,” she noted. “We were talking about pioneer economics, about bartering. I gave a tour in my street clothes of our log cabin, general store, and doctor’s office. I explained how bartering was common in the Ozarks in the old days because many people didn’t have money to spend. I talked about how the people who might have lived and worked in these buildings would have used the barter system.

“Then I did the same tour dressed in period costume. At the log cabin I showed the kids how I might gather eggs in my apron. I carried the eggs in my apron to the general store, where I told the kids I would trade the eggs to the storekeeper for some sugar so I could bake a cake. At the doctor’s office, I explained to the kids that if the doctor didn’t have his own chickens, he could go to the general store and buy my eggs that I had just traded there.

“Here’s what I learned from my experiment with those two tours. First, I would never have created that story if I had been in street clothes. Second, and most importantly, the kids were completely caught up in my story. I had their attention, and they were learning history.”

Along with being a museum volunteer, Regina is also a member of the Shiloh Museum Association. “My financial support helps the museum provide education programs free of charge,” Regina said. “I’m amazed at the number of schoolchildren who are served by the Shiloh Museum each year. I think a museum membership is money well spent.”

If you asked me for the condensed version of Regina Gabel’s life story, here’s what I would say: raised up with an appreciation for everyday rural life, infused with a love for the Ozark Mountains, dedicated to helping children learn, brimming with creative energy, understanding the value of bridging old and new.

If you asked me for the condensed version of why Regina Gabel supports the Shiloh Museum, I’d say exactly the same thing. ✶

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DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS
April - July 2010

John Andrews: Mountain dulcimer handmade by Sydney Cox, 1981

Ann Applegate: Photos of Moore Drop Forge Company groundbreaking, Springdale, 1968

Charlene Barron: Photo of Lee Elementary School second grade class, Springdale, 1968

Mary Braun: Evening dresses, Springdale, late 1940s-1960s

Frances Collins: Telegrams to Lizzie Bryant and Mary Burnett, Pettigrew, 1930s; photos of the Francis and Nancy Baker family, 1915-late 1920s


George and Rosa Lea Davis: Wrought iron bed from the Gladden Hotel, Springdale, ca. 1890

Nettie Everett: Toy broom, Spring Valley, ca. 1940; Christmas lights, Springdale, 1950s; postcards of Edna Homesley and Walker Vansandt, Sonora, ca. 1910; Cranking Up the Old Machine; All Around the Farkleberry Bush

Linda Gordon: Handwoven blanket, Newton County, ca. 1929; Dogpatch map and souvenir spoon; Vance Randolph scrapbook; Farmington area land abstracts, 1970s; maps; photos of Hillcrest Junior High, 1960, Terrel and Jim Gordon, and Fayetteville baseball team, 1936

John Jablonski and Carolyn Reno: Portable Sony TV, Fayetteville, 1994

Mickey Jackson: Scrapbooks about the Springdale Fire Department, 1976-1988

Janis Johnson: Framed needlework by Elizabeth Jones, Oxford Bend (Washington County); quilt and quilt top, feed sack sheet, and nightgown made by Pearl or Nina Ferguson, Goshen, 1900s

Gene and Geneva Long family: Handmade cane of John Wesley Long; butter mold and coin purse of George W. Long; ration book of Lila Smith, 1942; all from Hazel Valley

Doyle and Barbara Lynch: Comforter made by Mary Tomlinson, Elkins, 1930s-40s; feed sack handkerchief made by Olvie Lynch, Hickory Grove (Madison County), 1900s; feed sack apron, mid-1900s; photo of Alfred and Mary Tomlinson, 1950s; photo of John Brown University class, 1930

Bob Madison: Dulcimer made by L.O. Stapleton of Springdale for his daughter, Linda, 1980

Mary Marquess: Photo of University of Arkansas student demonstration, mid-1960s

Kevin McDonald: Springdale Monument Company papers of Bryan Work; cabinet chamber pot, Fayetteville, ca. 1900

D.A. Millis II: Eureka Camp 23 United Spanish War Veterans flag, Eureka Springs, 1936-1947; Spanish American War medal and documents of Charles Frazier, Eureka Springs

Jim Morriss: Springdale News rack, 1980s; negatives and Velox copies of Springdale News banner, 1990

Joan Pharr: Painting of the Moore-Crouch house, Fayetteville, by Evelyn Pharr Parrott, ca. 1990

Carolyn Reno: Photo postcard of the Crossbowettes, Huntsville, ca. 1960

Roy G. Rinehart: Photo postcards of Cane Hill Bank and Main Street

Truman Stamps: Carroll County Farmers Co-op ruler, early 1950s

Jackie Stites: Christmas ornaments made by Mary Lucille Lewis Yoe, Fayetteville, mid 1900s

Bruce Vaughan: Mercury tube tester, late 1960s

Washington County Archives: photos of Contractor Appreciation Day, 2010; Canova vanilla extract bottle and box; blueprints for Washington County courthouse annex, 1970, and Baldwin bridge, 1929; Civil Defense Week posters

Dorothy Wilson: The Bank of the 80s, First National Bank, Rogers

Photographs loaned for copying: Fonda Callaway, Frances Collins, Martha Estes, Sophia Estes, Linda Gordon, Jaylon Haley, Susan Hall, John Johnson, Janice Jordan, Carol Kendrick, Barbara Lynch, Shirley Mannon, Springdale Fire Department, Mary Umbaugh

“For-use” donations:

Velda Brotherton: The Boston Mountains: Lost in the Ozarks

Dennis Davis: Selected Verse by an Ozark Maverick

Marie Demeroukas: Plexiglas panels

Steve Erwin: photocopies of Newton County Civil War claims; transcribed news articles and index of area newspaper stories

Regina Gabel: Fabric and sewing of living history costumes

Pody Gay: clothing rack

Henrietta Holcomb: Copies of John Holcombe’s Odyssey

Debbie Reed: fabric for living history costumes

Dolores Stamps: Homemade lunch for Photo Identification Group volunteers

Virginia Venable: fabric and sewing of dress for kids dress-up exhibit
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Ray & Vera Tripp
Nola Van Scyoc
Don & Shannon Walker
Jan Walker
Mike & Christy Walker
Catherine Wallack
Mark & Martha Wann
Jesse & Patsy Ward
Morgan & Sandra Ware
C. W. & Ann Webb
Gay Wheat
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Whiting
David Whitmore
Beth Wilkins
Mrs. Bromo Wilson
Duane & Judith Woltjen
Mr. & Mrs. Gayland Zeiset
Erwin Baird
Cassandra Barnett
Heather Bennett
Kaci Berry
Shelly Bewley
Tina Blythe
Kerry Boles
Jean Bolinger
Agnes Bowman
Shannon Bowman
Julie Boyd
Laurel Boyd
Diana Bradberry
Helen Brannan
Chassie Brooks
Cindy Brown
Deborah Brown
Julie Brown
Sallyann Brown
Brad Bruns
Lulu Bruns
Ronda Bryant
Travis Burnett
Anita Burney
Beth Carter
Jennifer Carter
JoLynda Casey
Lisa Cave
Sally Chindamany
Donald Choffel
City of Lowell Museum
Charlene Clark
Jackie Collins
Sherrie Curry
Donna Daugherty
Georgia Davis
Kent Detmer
Betty Dodson
Linda Doede
Stacy Dominguez
Jenna Donnell
Ted Downum
Mary Ellis
Steve Erwin
Laura Etchison
Abby Farrell
Everett Fields
Diana Fischer
Debi Flora’s Class, Young Elementary School
Carmen Flynt
Katy Fowler’s Class, Young Elementary School
Heather Fox
Helen Friend
Doni Frisinger’s Class, Walker Elementary School
Barbara Frost
Regina Gabel
Kim Gadberry
Susan Gage

Individual
Tracy Abshier
Alicia Adams
Diane Aday
Allen County, Indiana, Public Library
Rachel An
Congratulations to museum volunteer Steve Erwin! His research paper, "Fayetteville's Water System on the West Fork of the White River," was selected as the second place winner of the Third Annual W.J. Lemke Prize given by the Washington County Historical Society. Steve's article grew out of research he conducted on behalf of the museum about the Tilly Willy Bridge in Washington County. His paper will be featured in the Spring 2011 edition of the Society's quarterly journal, Flashback.

Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase and Fable (1898) defines a nest egg as “Some money laid by. The allusion is to the custom of placing an egg in a hen’s nest to induce her to lay her eggs there. If a person has saved a little money, it serves as an inducement to him to increase his store.”

You can help us protect and grow our nest egg (better known as our endowment fund). 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.
Who doesn’t like to play dress up? Shiloh Museum educators certainly do. Education staff and volunteers have been adding costumes and props to help bring Ozark history to life. Four new living history programs have been added as 2010-2011 Shiloh Museum field trips.

Living history allows visitors to interact with costumed interpreters who recreate life from a specific time in the past, such as the Civil War or the territorial days in Arkansas. Living history is typically done in either first person (an interpreter portrays a historical figure) or third person interpretation (an interpreter tells about the historical figure). Three of the new programs will be presented in first person. Students will meet a settler who shares tales of migrating to the Ozarks in a covered wagon, a pioneer who lives in a log cabin and talks about feeding her family, and a Civil War-era Ozarks resident who relates what life was like during those turbulent times. School groups will also learn about Victorian technology and entertainment as they watch a magic lantern show.

Although our current programs interpret the Ozarks during the last half of the 1800s, the education staff has plans to develop presentations about the first half of the 1900s. The goal is to add additional living history programs each year.

Developing a living history program has many components. First and foremost, accurate research must be completed. A persona is then developed with information gleaned from the research. Next, a script is written, reviewed, and edited. More is added to the script as additional research reveals new and interesting information to share.

Appropriate clothing must be found, which also depends on research. Accurate reproduction clothing is not easy to find and can be very expensive. Reproduction clothing is necessary because actual historic clothing is typically a valued artifact to be preserved. Also, historic clothing may be too worn or damaged for use, and may be the wrong size for interpreters.

The story and clothes help set the stage but what really evokes the “wow factor” is using authentic artifacts, or “old stuff.” “Old stuff” is the terminology some museum educators use to refer to the historic artifacts most of us only see in museums. Showing and telling about the artifacts is fine, but what really takes a history program to the next level is allowing the kids to interact with the old stuff. I’m certain that last statement caused a collective gasp from museum curators and collectors across the universe, which is why reproduction objects are so important to living history programs. Reproductions allow interaction without danger of damage to an irreplaceable artifact.

Living history is also a means to teach visitors through a more complete experience. Allowing visitors to listen, see, touch, and sometimes taste or smell an item has a greater impact and creates a memory of that experience. Telling students about the work pioneer children had to do is thought-provoking, but placing a wooden yoke on a child’s shoulders and asking him to walk while carrying two full buckets of water gives the child a clearer picture of life in the past.

You can help us create experiences with history. Our living history program is just getting started. If you’re someone who likes to do research, can sew or have other crafty skills, is a dutch-oven chef, wants to perform, or would like to financially support this program and watch it grow, please contact me at 750-8165 or pgay@springdalear.gov.
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.

Help us save money and trees

☐ Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email instead of U. S. mail.

Email address ____________________________________________

November 17, noon. “Madison County Mysteries, Solved and Unsolved,” a program by Joy Russell, president of the Madison County Genealogical and Historical Society.

November 20, 2:00 p.m. Program and book signing by acclaimed nature photographer Tim Ernst.

December 4. “Holidays are for the Birds!”, programs by local bird experts Joe Neal and Lynn Sciumbato. At 11:00 a.m., Joe will discuss “Winter Birds in Northwestern Arkansas.” At 1:00 p.m., Lynn and some of the residents at Morning Star Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will show and tell about life as a bird.

December 21-April 16, 2011. Bumper Crop: The Apple Industry in Northwest Arkansas, a photo exhibit examining the rise and fall of the local apple industry.

January 15, 2011. “Cabin Fever Reliever,” the museum’s annual celebration of the New Year.

January 19, noon. “Arkansas's Apple Roots,” a program by Dr. Roy Rom, emeritus professor of horticulture at the University of Arkansas.

February 1, 7:00 p.m. “Leave Town and Never Return: Racial Cleansing in Arkansas,” a program by Guy Lancaster, editor for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture. Presented in conjunction with TheatreSquared’s new play, Sundown Town, which runs February 3-20.

February 7, January 16, 2012. Working Dawn to Dusk, an exhibit exploring the lives of Ozark homesteaders.
In the late 1800s and early 1900s, many towns in the Arkansas Ozarks sponsored a community band. Along with providing musical entertainment, bands fostered civic pride. Here, the Berryville Band poses in front of the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs in 1897.

Now for a drumroll, please. Our new exhibit, The Music of Our Lives, opens Monday, October 4. Come enjoy the sights and sounds as we explore the ways music has played a role in the everyday history of Northwest Arkansas.

Carroll County Historical Society Collection

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**WISH LIST**

**For collections**
- rolling metal shelf unit ($125)
- bulk storage shelves ($1500)
- furniture dollies ($50 each)

**For darkroom**
- timer for enlarger ($100)

**For exhibits**
- Music stands (7 @ $10 each)

**For education program**
- Historically accurate reproductions for living history programs:
  - Wooden washboard ($125)
  - Large wooden wash tub ($475)
  - Wooden bucket (2 @ $200 each)
  - Child’s wooden yoke ($200)
  - Small wooden washtub ($350)

- Donations to help purchase historically accurate reproduction clothing

**For research library**

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