Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 35, No. 1 + June 2016

Getting to Know a Local Legend

Cheryl Larson

Collections Volunteer

Like many people, my husband, Craig, and I are Northwest Arkansas transplants. Through our volunteer work at the Shiloh Museum, we are learning about the history of our new home and many of the region's longtime residents through organizing and cataloging hundreds of letters and documents in the museum collections. This process is more than sorting and filing. You begin to know people by what they say, by what they saved, by what other people sent them, and, most of all of all, by what they wrote.

A recent project has been to organize papers in the Berry-Braun Collection. In doing so, Craig and I met one of the most beloved families of early Springdale. The collection spans the years from 1852 to 2014, centering mostly around the lives of Percy and Josephine Berry Braun and their three children, Raphael, Josef ("Buddy"), and Mary.

Born in 1897, Josephine Berry was one of nine children born to Millard and his wife, Mary Ida McHolland Berry. The Berrys moved to Springdale in 1883, and Millard built a house at 500 N. Main. Ida landscaped the area around the house and ran a nursery and greenhouse there called Evergreen Gardens. The home and grounds still exist today as the Magnolia Gardens Event Venue.

Millard Berry was extremely influential in the development of Springdale and Washington County. 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. He also served two terms as Washington County judge, spearheading the construction of a new county courthouse (today's historic Washington County Courthouse on College Avenue in Fayetteville).

Judge Berry loved music and encouraged all seven of his children to develop their musical talents. Daughter Josephine played the piano, which led her to a courtship with an enterprising young Springdale pharmacist and



Mary Braun (left) and her mother, Josephine Berry Braun, celebrate Mary's twenty-sixth birthday at their Springdale home, September 13, 1951. *Mary Braun Collection*

fellow musician, Percy Brown. Their romance produced voluminous correspondence after Percy enlisted in the Army Medical Corps during World War I. He was stationed in England, France, and Germany before returning home to Springdale in late December 1919.

Percy and Josephine married on June 24, 1920. They built a little house on the Berry property. Josephine's life was very happy for quite some time. She had her three children,

A Google search of "giddiness and geekiness" pulls up such diverse subjects as comic books, films like *Star Wars* and *The Lego Movie*, gaming charms, and linguistics. And while I'm partial to language and semantics myself, the giddiness and geekiness I want to talk about here are entirely related to local history.

You've likely heard that we're undertaking a major rehabilitation of the 1871 Shiloh Meeting Hall, the two-story building off Huntsville Avenue that's been home to three churches, the Masons, the Women's Civic Club, the New Era Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Rebekah Lodge No. 28.

Right now workers are excavating the crawl space and demolishing some of the later interior additions like bathrooms and closets. But it isn't a standard "demo." It's a painstaking removal of each architectural element so as to determine, as much as possible, the how, when, why, and who of the building's history.

While there may occasionally be big discoveries, each day there are a handful of small finds that can bring

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Allyn Lord

local-history geeks to giddiness. Assistant Director Carolyn Reno and I are overseeing the work and making day-to-day decisions about what to save and what's expendable, but it's these tiny treasures that make us sound like giggly school girls.

Some small items have been found within the walls—playing cards, matches, an origami star—that make us wonder how they ended up there. Were the playing cards part of the lore that builders sometimes left such things in walls as good (or bad) luck charms or as time capsules? Did a smoker among the Odd Fellows fumble through his pocket, perhaps looking for coins, and let the

matchsticks drop to the floor? Might the origami star have been folded by one of the Rebekahs as a table decoration? Imagining these stories is fascinating and fun, though certainly not part of history's surety.

The geekiest conversations revolve around small architectural elements revealed upon tearing off paneling or demolishing interior walls. Demolition of the men's restroom showed portions of particle board that had originally been painted to use for carnival games. Removal of paneling revealed painting on the original 1871 wall lumber, including brown quarter-circles sandwiching each window. Demolition revealed a host of sea-foam-green-painted walls and elements. While we know from these finds that the Odd Fellows were good recyclers of materials, we don't know any painter's name or who chose the colors.

There's much more to be discovered as the Shiloh Meeting Hall morphs into its new form, but you can be sure that geekiness and giddiness will abound until project's end.

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Allyn Lord, director; Judy Costello, education manager; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Kris Johnson, photographer; Aaron Loehndorf, collections/education assistant; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Kathy Plume, receptionist/gift shop manager; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, assistant director/collections manager; Carly Squyres, education assistant; Rachel Whitaker, library assistant; Susan Young, outreach coordinator

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

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

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

From the Henry Gresham Collection





Back in 2014, Henry Gresham allowed us to copy his family photos and related documents for inclusion in the museum collection. Most of the pictures are of Gresham relatives and friends who lived in and around the Madison County community of Burks, south of present-day Kingston. Here are a couple of our favorites, showing members of the Williams and Johnson families, who were intertwined through marriages to Gresham family members.

LEFT: Carl Williams (left) and Cassie Dewey Williams, circa 1910, sons of William J. "Willie" Williams and Bijou Aletha Gresham Williams. The 1910 Madison County census finds Carl, Cassie, and their widowed mother, Bijou Williams, living with Bijou's mother, Mary Jane Baker Gresham, in King's River township. The boys' father, Willie Williams, died sometime between about 1903 and 1910.

RIGHT: Frank Johnson and Ollie Gresham Johnson (standing), with Frank's sister, Elizabeth, seated, circa 1910. Again turning to the 1910 census, Frank and Ollie Johnson and their children are living next to Carl and Cassie Williams and family. Frank Johnson's occupation is listed as a timber inspector for a spoke factory.

Local history is so much richer when you can match a photo of an individual to his or her name on a census record or marriage license. Thank you, Henry Gresham, for bringing your kinfolks to life by sharing your photos with all of us and thereby preserving your family's story.

If you have photos of Northwest Arkansas people and places you'd like to share, contact our photo archivist/research librarian, Marie Demeroukas. We'd be pleased to tell your story.

What's in Store

Kathy Plume Gift Shop Manager









In our ongoing effort to promote "Made in the USA" products that reflect our mission, we are very pleased to offer a new item in our store. Working with Museum Store Products of Hackensack, New Jersey, we selected artwork from four historic, local canning factory labels to be made into coasters. Each colorful 3¾-inch coaster has a laminated surface and felt bottom. They are packaged as a set of four coasters in an attractive custom silver tin box, and retail for \$15. Museum members receive a 10% discount!

Way Proud of Our Waystation

A group of Washington County Master Gardeners who regularly tend the Shiloh Museum gardens—including Mary McCully, Carol Butler, and museum groundskeeper Marty Powers, plus butterfly enthusiast Jack Bardwell—have established a monarch butterfly waystation on our grounds. Certified by the national group Monarch Watch, a waystation supplies monarch caterpillars and migrating butterflies with food, shelter, and water they need for survival, and educates visitors about how they can help reverse the recent decline in the monarch butterfly population.

On April 12, Mayor Doug Sprouse signed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, making Springdale among the first cities in the U.S. committed to the preservation and reclamation of the monarch butterfly. Check out Springdale for Monarchs on Facebook and come visit us to find out more about the role Springdale plays in hosting these magnificent butterflies.

WISH LIST

For education

- daguerreotype, ambrotype, and cased tintype; non-local images preferred
- · whole sheep fleece, unwashed
- Harps and Walmart gift cards for perishable items for programs
- furs of native animals (not deer)
- vintage hats, 1900s–1910s
- heavy-duty wooden spoons or spatulas

For exhibits

- clamps, any size, \$5-\$30 each
- (12) bags of Hobby Lobby faux strawberries, \$4.99/bag

For buildings and grounds

• Craftsman or Troy-Bilt tiller, \$700

Thank you for these "for-use" items (November 2015–April 2016)

Bob Besom: living history clothing

Boston Mountain Chapter, National Railway Historical Society: train order hoop

Lance Estep: Bathed in Blood...Baptized in Love

Vicki and John Harrell: washer and wringer

Florence Johnson: table loom

Allyn Lord: University of Arkansas

Tom Oppenheim: monitor and stand

Pea Ridge National Military Park: split rails

David Quin: Hills of Home: The Rural Ozarks; Of These Hills and Us; Climb the Highest Mountain

Tighest Womittum

Glenna Renner: table loom and thread

Truman Stamps: sheet magnets

Washington County Cemetery Preservation Group: Restoration of the Historic Black Oak Cemetery

Dorothy Watson: Unbroken Circle

Donations to the **C**ollections

November 2015-April 2016

Raymond Anders: Abstract for Lot 17, R. L. Hayes Subdivision, Springdale, 1859–1990

Don Bailey: Stoneware jars and jugs from Nathan V. and Maud Hanks family; canning contract, photos from the Tom Farish family, all from the Johnson area (Washington County), ca. 1900–1920s

Jan Barber: School memorabilia, news clippings, and photos of the C. L. George family, Springdale, ca. 1900–1970s

Peggy W. Bennett: Records, scrapbooks, and table display from Epsilon Sigma Alphas sorority, Springdale, 1960s

Bob Besom: Issues of the Progressive Star, Fayetteville, 1934–1937; advertising memorabilia, Fayetteville, 1920s–1960s; 1930 Winslow High School program; UA student newspapers, mid-late 1960s; J. W. Fulbright campaign items. 1940s–1960s

Reuben Blood: Corona Sterling portable typewriter, Son's Chapel (Washington County), late 1940s; First National Bank and Security Bank bags, Harrison, late 1900s; photos of Cane Hill Mill (Washington County), ca. 1970s

Dana Cable: Menu and novelty rolling pin, Rolling Pin restaurant, Fayetteville, 1962–1969; quilt made for Dale Ross Dunn by UA Food Service Department, ca. 1993

City of Springdale Planning Department: Springdale Planning Commission agendas and minutes, 1980s–2010s; aerial photos of Springdale, 1999

Claude W. and Nancy Faulkner family: Portable slide viewers, boat speedometer, Amana microwave popcorn maker, household items, Fayetteville, 1920s—late 1900s

Houstine Cooper: Scrapbook, Springdale, 1937–1940

Mary Cotton: Photos of Ozark Grocery wagon, Fayetteville, 1912, and Fayetteville Public Library groundbreaking, 1961 Betty L. Davis: Account book of Charles L. Hayes Jr., Fayetteville, 1910–1920; photos and news clippings of the Taylor, Hayes, and Manuel families, Fayetteville, 1900s–2000s

Rosa Lea Davis: Bank clock, early 1900s; scrapbooks, 1907–1950s, all from First National Bank, Springdale

Joey Gibson: Knives used by basket makers Don and Joey Gibson, Winslow (Washington County), 1980s

Suzanne Griscom: Letters, account books, postcards, Uncle Wiggly books from the J. N. Dodson, Holt, and Griscom families, Cincinnati and Lincoln (Washington County), 1890s—1950s

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dale Howerton: Photos of Howertons, Watsons, Eidsons, Searcys, Clarksons, Phillips, Neills, and Washington School, Springdale, 1900s–1940s

Glenna Ingraham: Coverlets, quilts, quilt tops, lace, handmade blanket chest, papers, and photos, all from the Ephraim and Sarah Spradling family, Hindsville (Madison County), late 1800s—mid-1900s

Loren Kelchner: Springdale business directory, 1959

Margaret Becker Lester family: Photos of Randall Tyson, Springdale, 1950s

Art Meripol: Photo negatives of Fayetteville Farmers' Market, 1970s

Dee Dee Moore: Photos of Wilson Park and the Square, Fayetteville, 1940s, 1970s

Gayle Perry: Photos of Ula, Grace, Nola, and Nellie Moneyhun, Springdale area, early 1900s, and of Cain Canning jeep, 1940s

Mike Polston: Association of Mt. Zion Freewill Baptists annual meeting booklets, 1904, 1908, 1909

Joanna Porch/Arkansas Dept. of Human Services: Bible and photos of the William Steve McCuistian family, Alabam (Madison County), 1940s—late 1900s Pam Redfern: House of Webster booklet, Rogers, ca. 1985; Arkansas souvenir handkerchief, mid-1900s; Fort Hood World War II souvenir pillowcase; all from the estate of Ora Smith, Vale (Washington County)

Larry Rogers: Arkansas Apple Festival brochure, Lincoln (Washington County), 1981

Springdale High School Class of 1965: Class of 1965 quilt, memoirs, and U. S. flag, 2015

Steve Thompson: Photo negatives made by Gene Thompson, Springdale, 1954–1960

Mary Vaughan: Springdale Funeral Home molding planes, early 1900s; photos of Harvey and Bernice Jones by Ray Watson, ca. 1980; photo negatives made by Bruce Vaughan, mid- to late 1900s

Kim Watson: Photos of the Baughman and Buie families, Boone County, early 1900s

Libby Wheeler: ERA fundraiser cookbook, Sasnakra Cookbook, 1980; slides from Fayetteville ERA rally, 1978

Dorothy Wilson: Photos of Robinson and Kincheloe communities (Benton County), early to mid-1900s

Photographs loaned for copying: Reuben Blood, Leann Cloer, Karen Cordell, Craig Larson, Liz Lester, Glenna Thompson

To learn more about artifacts and photos in our collection, visit our website's Artifact of the Month and Photo of the Month.

Connect with us

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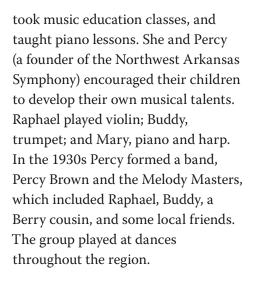


Berry-Braun

From page 1



The Braun brothers. Above: Buddy Braun (left) with Jimmy Durante and L. Kay in Del Mar, California, September 1953. At the time, Buddy was playing with the Al Donahue Orchestra. Right: Raphael Brown in the early 1940s, after his Army enlistment during World War II. *Mary Braun Collection*



When World War II started, both Raphael and Buddy enlisted. Raphael was part of an Army gunnery crew in the Pacific Theater; Buddy was in the U. S. Army Band. On May 2, 1944, Raphael was killed during combat in New Guinea. This began the worst four years of Josephine's life. She refused to accept Raphael's death, convincing herself that he was a prisoner of war. Letters from

Raphael's fellow soldiers and other military personnel confirming her son's death left Josephine devastated. Then, just several months after losing Raphael, Josephine's father, Millard Berry, passed away. In 1946 family turmoil continued as Percy and Josephine took legal action to change their surname from Brown to Braun, the spelling used by Percy's family when they emigrated to America in 1866. Tragedy visited Josephine again in 1948 when her beloved Percy died. She turned to her remaining children, Buddy and Mary, for support. The three remained extraordinarily close for the rest of their lives.

Neither Buddy nor Mary ever married. A career as professional musician took Buddy away from home as he performed across the country with big bands, orchestras, and Broadway shows such as *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Mary



stayed in Springdale with Josephine. Following in her mother's footsteps, Mary taught piano lessons in the Berry-Braun home until the 1980s.

Mary and Josephine were lovely, cultured women. Their home was filled with art, antiques, and music. Even so, making ends meet was sometimes difficult. Buddy regularly sent home money, clothing, and even household furnishings. He felt very responsible for his mother and sister and often coached them on how to handle taxes and financial matters.

Buddy, Josephine, and Mary kept up a lively correspondence for the thirty-plus years Buddy was on the road. Josephine and Mary traded Springdale and family gossip for Buddy's tales of big cities and cross-country travels. An accomplished artist, Buddy often illustrated his letters with caricatures or sometimes

a diagram to help Mary fix something in the house.

The Brauns were Catholic at a time when Springdale did not have a Catholic church. In 1949 a small congregation was organized and they met for a time at Callison-Sisco Funeral Home. In 1950 Josephine offered a rental house on the Berry-Braun property for use as a Catholic chapel. Named Saint Raphael Mission for Raphael Braun, it was the forerunner of today's Saint Raphael Catholic Church in Springdale, one of the largest parishes in Arkansas.

After Josephine's death in 1982, Buddy and Mary took on the task of caring for hundreds of family letters and documents, along with a vast collection of their own papers: financial records, receipts for household items and clothing, veterinary bills, medical bills, decades of personal letters from friends across the country, and some fine examples of Buddy's artwork.

Eventually Buddy and Mary sold the Berry-Braun house and properties, but kept many of the furnishings and the family papers. Over time, all these items were put in storage. After Buddy's death in 2008, Mary sold some family items and donated many significant heirlooms and papers to the Shiloh Museum before her death in 2014. Because Mary Braun

recognized the value of her family's papers, photographs, and possessions, the Berry-Braun legacy is now preserved for future generations.

Do you have a collection of family papers or know someone who does? If so, please consider donating it to an appropriate museum, archive, or historical society. If the collection relates to Northwest Arkansas, the Shiloh Museum is a fine choice. The information researchers can learn from these documents is invaluable, as is the opportunity for future generations to feel they have friends in the past, just as Craig and I have come to feel about the delightful Berry-Braun family.

Pick a Project—Any Project

We know that many wonderful causes compete for your charitable dollars. But because you're a museum member—someone who has already demonstrated your support of the Shiloh Museum—we hope that you'll have a special place in your heart for the good work that we do to preserve, protect, and share the history of the Arkansas Ozarks.

Do you appreciate our vision of "a community where children and adults are inspired by local history and understand their natural and cultural heritage"? Would you like to **help support bus stipends** so more students can participate in field trips to the museum?

The **1871 Shiloh Meeting Hall**, one of the oldest buildings in Northwest Arkansas, is now being rehabilitated to become a meeting space and exhibit hall for the community. We're in the midst of a major campaign to raise \$1 million, and you can help support that.

For our upcoming fiftieth anniversary we're **completely renovating the museum exhibit hall**. Two of the five new exhibits are already completed and a third underway. Would helping

to make the renovation a reality be something you'd like to support?

With the largest collection of historic images in the state of Arkansas, **the museum needs to digitize its close-to-a-million photographs** to make them accessible to the public. Would you like to help make that happen?

The iconic **1851 Ritter-McDonald Log Cabin** has been a part of the Shiloh Museum since 1979. It's used for tours, children's programs, special events, and film locations, but now it's in need of some structural repairs. Is your heart drawn to this special piece of Arkansas Ozark history?

You can support these by sending a check made payable to the Shiloh Museum (note the project you prefer to fund in the memo line) to Project Support, Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, AR 72764, or else stop in at the museum to use your credit card or pay in cash. We thank you for your generosity and belief in our work.

Bus photo courtesy Johannes Thiel/flickr.com











CALENDAR

Through February 11, 2017. *CHAIR-ished,* an exhibit featuring chairs in the museum's collections.

Through December 10. *Starstruck*, a photo exhibit featuring a lighthearted look at celebrities who have visited Northwest Arkansas over the years.

June 4–January 14, 2017. *At Home in the Ozarks, 1974,* an exhibit of photographs by former Fayetteville resident Jim Simmons.

June 4, 2:00 p.m. Opening reception for *At Home in the Ozarks, 1974*, featuring a talk by photographer Jim Simmons.

June 7, 7:00 p.m. Gallery talk by photographer Jim Simmons, whose work is featured in the exhibit, *At Home in the Ozarks, 1974*.

June 15, noon. "History Lessons for Today's Organic Fruit Growers," a program by Guy Ames, owner of Ames Orchard and Nursery in Fayetteville.

June 18, 8:30–10:00 a.m. "Goat-tastic! An Introduction to Urban Goat Tending." Connie Rieper-Estes and Jason Estes, owners of Greedy Goats of Northwest Arkansas, will discuss the basics of small-scale goat-raising: breeds, anatomy, goat psychology, diet, fencing, housing, city ordinances, buying, goat math, and pet-a-goat. \$10; preregister by June 10.

June 18, 10:00–11:00 a.m. Bring the whole family and meet the goats from Greedy Goats of Northwest Arkansas. Free; no preregistration required.

June 18, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. "Goat-tastic! Advanced Urban Goat Tending." Connie Rieper-Estes and Jason Estes, owners of Greedy Goats of Northwest Arkansas, will discuss nutrition, minerals, health, parasites, hygiene, hooves, pasture rotation, record-keeping, breeding, kidding, milking, wethering, and selling. \$10 fee; preregister by June 10.

June 18, 1:00 p.m. "Monarch Metamorphosis: The Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly," a program by Jack Bardwell and Mary McCully, members of Springdale for Monarchs, a community group dedicated to the preservation of monarch butterflies and their habitats.

June 24, 5:30 p.m. Barn Party: Pluck and Play. Bring your instrument and a lawn chair for an acoustic jam with local musicians on the lawn in front of the Cooper Barn on the museum grounds. Brought to you by Downtown Springdale Alliance.

July 16, 10:00–11:00 a.m. "Selfies with Stinkbugs," a Shiloh Saturday family program. Identify and photograph Ozark flora and fauna with Dr. Don Steinkraus, professor of entomology at the University of Arkansas. First twenty youth participants will receive a free disposable camera!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by preserving and providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks. Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on February 11, 2016.

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
- · Discount on photo reproduction fees
- 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

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y email instead of U. S. mail.	
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Meml	ership	Levels
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☐ Individual - \$15	☐ Patron - \$50
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