Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

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No More Slippery Slope



Tyson Foods recently teamed up with the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, the City of Springdale, and the Shiloh Museum for a Spring Creek riparian restoration project along the Razorback Regional Greenway adjacent to the museum. Two dozen Tyson volunteers planted 119 native trees and shrubs along the streambank.

Allyn Lord Director

The grand opening of the newly rehabilitated Shiloh Meeting Hall on June 30, 2018, was a big event with a standing-room-only crowd of friends cheering for the remarkable transformation of the 1871 building. As of today we've spent fourteen years and more than \$1.1 million on the building's renovation. You might think that all the work is behind us. And yet not!

During the first four phases of the project—work on the building's exterior, roof, and interior, as well as property improvements—the bulk of what visitors can see has been accomplished. In the next two years we'll be converting the building's second floor to an exhibit hall, displaying the history of the many groups that once called the structure home. But another major project is also being undertaken: we're transforming the eastern property line of the Hall.

Spring Creek and the natural resources around it attracted the earliest people to this area, including the Osage Indians who came here to hunt. After the Civil War, the small settlement of Shiloh began to grow along the western bank of the creek. In 1871 the massive building now known as the Shiloh Meeting Hall was hand-built by community members and has graced the hillock above the creek for almost 150 years.

Leap forward to the 20th century. Expanding businesses and the railroad moved the center of the then-named town of Springdale to Emma Avenue. But as the century progressed and more of the downtown was asphalted and built upon, heavy rains flooded Spring Creek and Springdale's downtown. By mid-century the flooding was so bad that, under the "urban renewal" program of the day, Spring Creek was channelized

We're soon to complete the renovation of our entire exhibit hall, a goal we set in 2013. At that time we realized we had many big-ticket goals and couldn't fundraise or get grants for all of them. Renovation of our core exhibits was one thing that we could do ourselves and for less money than a professional exhibit company (for whom renovation estimates ran into the millions of dollars.)

The exhibit hall has had only minor revisions over the years since we first occupied the 1991 museum building. It was long past time to redress that issue. It began with a series of staff meetings to discuss how we wanted to approach telling the story of the Arkansas Ozarks in about 4,000 square feet.

Many proposals were put forth, but ultimately we decided to tell the story chronologically. We decided upon five galleries to represent five time periods, plus a changing exhibit space and a small gallery for discussing Ozark traditions through time. Five senior staff members chose their time period/gallery to curate and each got about a year for completion.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Allyn Lord

Then began a series of activities for each gallery: research, recognition of significant Arkansas Ozark stories and events, storyline development, search for museum collections and photographs to illustrate that storyline, occasional loan or purchase of artifacts, label writing, translation (we decided from the start to create both English and Spanish text to make our history accessible to more people), finding hands-on elements, help from our experts (illustrations, videos, case construction, touchscreens), fabrication, and installation of the exhibit. Whew! Times five.

Some of the chores tested us. Except for the Lewis-Reed log cabin, every wall in the hall was moved, destroyed, or newly created. Rather than buying an entirely new lighting system (\$20,000+), students from Springdale's Sonora Elementary School EAST class 3-D printed enough electronic parts to allow us to continue to use our otherwise-outdated system. We've learned many new skills, such as large-scale printing on vinyl. And we've realized how incredibly talented our entire staff is and how, when we pull together as a team, tremendous results occur.

Reactions to the renovated hall have been highly complimentary. Visitors like the hands-on activities, the videos and touchscreens, and the variety of artifacts. We've had a lot of folks send a "postcard to the future."

We believe we've told our Ozark stories in accessible, accurate, and interesting ways. And soon we'll be starting all over by updating and changing stories so that you can always learn more about our Arkansas Ozark history.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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LIFE TRUSTEES

Dr. C. S. Applegate, Dr. Dwight Heathman, Martha Lankford, Maudine Sanders, Stephen Taylor (all deceased)

STAFF

Allyn Lord, director; Judy Costello, education manager; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Walt Gallagher, facilities manager; Michele Gibson, receptionist/store manager; Kimberly Hosey, education specialist/weekend manager; Aaron Loehndorf, collections/education specialist; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, assistant director/collections manager; Rachel Whitaker, research specialist; Bo Williams, photographer; Susan Young, outreach coordinator

VOLUNTEERS (November 2018-March 2019)

Geri Alvis, Marilee Bachmann, Brad Baldwin, Renee Baldwin, Ethna Billings, Kathryn Birkhead, Jamie Bradley, Pam Butler, Miriam Grace Calhoun, Noah Calhoun, Ricky Candrilli, Doris Cassidy, Trinity Castro, Karen Cordell, Kiersten Cross, Kyla Cross, Malachi Cross, Nathan Cross, Allison Dillingham, Rose Dollins, Astre Dunn, Abigail Freeman, Henry Freeman, Oliver Freeman, Rachel Gibson, Debbie Gilmore, Jerry Hilliard, Molly Hutchins, Ruth Isaac, Ann Kabanuck, Sue Kelley, Cheryl Larson, Craig Larson, Jayne Laster, Mira Leister, Steve Lisle, Linda MacLean, Mary McCully, Pat Mills, Lona Mullins, Tom Oppenheim, Sharon Perry, Lynn Phillips, Gail Pianalto, Tom Porter, Pam Redfern, Jacob Reinford, Tyler Reinford, Glen Robillard, Martha Sparkman, Mariette Spidel, Julia Stilwell, Laura Stilwell, Meredith Stilwell, Janice Torbett, Mary Vaughan, Richie Whitaker, Melissa White

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

Volunteer Spotlight

Marie Demeroukas

Photo Archivist/Research Librarian

Ethna Billings came to museum's research library in 2007 as a computer-studies intern from Northwest Technical Institute. After a few months she became a two-day-a-week volunteer. Since Ethna enjoyed doing research, she was shamelessly tasked with many long-term, tedious projects. She dove right in! During her time here she rough-cataloged over 11,000 images from Madison County and the *Springdale News* collections, plus photos taken by several local photographers—Ray Watson, Howard Clark, Gene Thompson, Marion Mason, Bruce Vaughan, and Guy Loyd. Recently she'd been matching Ray Watson negatives to prints, yet another tedious task she was glad to do, since it meant helping out the museum.

When Ethna was at the computer, she was in the zone—researching, writing, and contemplating. When asked how she was doing, she always answered, "Doin' okay." But sometimes it was hard to catch her attention, because she was so tuned in. She'd have to be reminded to take a break and walk around, or that it was four o'clock and time for her to head home. But she never had to be reminded about staff birthday parties, which were often held on one of her work days. Ethna was always ready for cake and good cheer.

Working with someone for so long you learn about their interests, opinions, and quirks. Ethna loved family genealogy but hated eating leftovers. She enjoyed reading the paper and commenting on the news of the day. She kept up with old friends from Searcy County and the School of the Ozarks, where she went to high school. She cared about her family and enrolled her great nieces in the museum's summer History Camp, because she wanted them to see a bit more of the world and the options available to them. Recently Ethna became a chair-volleyball referee at her senior center, which sounded like a riot. She also developed a penchant for wearing oversized,



sparkly costume jewelry, which seemed an unlikely thing, given her no-nonsense clothing style. But that was part of the charm—she was always surprising us. Just a few weeks ago Ethna was working on the computer, oblivious to all office chatter. Near her, 91-year-old volunteer Mary Vaughan began talking about some racy turn of events on the television show, *The Bachelor*. Immediately Ethna swung around in her chair to join in on the conversation. We all laughed.

Ethna passed away suddenly on March 27. She will be remembered the next time we run across photos from a collection she worked with, or see somebody wearing a bit of bling. When we see the computer she worked on every Tuesday and Wednesday we'll send a silent thanks for all that she did for the museum, both as a dedicated volunteer and as someone who made the research library sparkle.

Thanks, Ethna, for coming into our lives.



As part of a recent celebration of *Instruments of Faith*, our exhibit about instrument-maker Ed Stilley, Kelly and Donna Mullhollan, known as the folk music duo Still on the Hill, performed a mini-concert of original story-songs about the life and work of their good friend, Ed Stilley. Our next-door neighbors at First United Methodist Church generously allowed us to hold the concert in their historic sanctuary, a perfect venue to honor a man of faith such as Mr. Stilley. To the delight of the 100+ people in attendance, Ed Stilley himself, along with his wife, Eliza, and many members of their family, were able to attend. Mr. Stilley even treated the audience by singing a hymn at the end of the concert. Aaron Loehndorf, our collections and education specialist who curated *Instruments of Faith*, noted, "It was quite the day and people are still coming up to me to discuss how great it was--especially the fact that Ed and family were able to be there." *Photo: Donna Mullhollan, Ed Stilley, and Kelly Mullhollan*

DONATIONS TO THE **C**OLLECTIONS

November 2018-March 2019

Anonymous: Washington County highway map, 1960

Shirley Brick: Photograph of Ellis Ice Cream Parlor, Springdale, 1940s

Karen Clark-Briscoe and Brenda Smith: Portrait of Anna Elizabeth "Summie" West Summers, Summers (Washington County), circa 1890

Martha Estes: Martha Estes's wedding dress and accessories, Fayetteville, 1961

Elizabeth Logan Gwin and Ann Gwin: Pollie Skelton Logan's crazy quilt, Washington County, circa 1890; Confederate money, 1860s; Jesse Walker's Benton County land grant, 1860

Ellen Harris Hoff: Helen Crane's high school graduation dresses; Helen and Marie Crane's school books, documents, scrapbook, and photographs; all from Fayetteville and Springdale, 1920s

Becca Martin-Brown: Files and photographs from the Springdale News and Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 1970-1990s

Ron Mynatt: Copy of map of Fulbright's Creek near Springdale, 1951

Pat Pond Estate: Pat Pond's dolls and teddy bear, Fayetteville, circa 1940

Irene Pritchard: Brass candlestick and baby gown from the Henderson family, Benton County, 1850s and 1870

Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees:
Ozark Trout Farm advertising card,
Washington County, early 1960s;
contract between B. Y. Hunt and H.
C. Warner to publish the Yellow Jacket
newspaper, Springdale, January 1885;
B. Y. Hunt letter regarding tough
times, Springdale, November 1885;
Sutherlan's Daree Kreem wooden
nickel, Springdale, circa 1960; Bennett
Brothers Springdale souvenir china
saucer, circa 1910

Regina Stewman: Brownie and Girl Scout uniforms, Springdale, 1970s

Ann Sugg: Letters, papers and photographs from John and Ann Wiggans Sugg ancestral families, Northwest Arkansas, 1800s–1900s

Photographs loaned for copying

Gary Barnes: Picnics, Barnes family, singing school, all from Cincinnati (Washington County,) 1910s; Old Red School near Blackburn (Washington County, 1910s.

Donna Geller: Yoes family, Parker Brothers Nursery band at Fayetteville, West Fork band and dinner on the ground at Baptist Ford, all from Washington County, 1910s–1920s

Paul Mayfield: Mayfield and Pratt families at the Ruddick homestead near Pea Ridge (Benton County), early 1900s

Truman Stamps: Hial Brown and catfish, Springdale, 1960s

To explore our collections, visit our website's Artifact of the Month and Photo of the Month pages.

SLOPE

From page 1

and routed through a concrete culvert in the late 1960s to reduce flood damage.

While next to the Shiloh Meeting Hall there once stood a stand of trees, a dense thicket overrun with vines, and abundant undergrowth, today we've cleaned most of that out, leaving a few important trees. Although the current view may seem bare, drivers traveling west on Huntsville Avenue and Razorback Greenway users can now easily see the imposing Hall. We're also afforded more security for the building's east entrance.

In collaboration with the City's public works department, we're working on transforming that slope. We've cleared it out, added fill where needed, covered the slope with coco grow matting (made from natural coconut fibers), and hydroponically planted grass seed. Teaming up with Tyson Foods volunteers and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership which supplied the plants, we honored Earth Day by planting native trees and shrubs at the top of the slope. Public Works will add additional plants on the steep slope to help mitigate

erosion. They've also replaced the old chain-link fence with a beautiful new fence atop the concrete channel to improve the look of the creek from Huntsville to Johnson Avenues.

The spring rains which decades ago caused devastating flooding to downtown Springdale now encourage the growth of new plantings along Spring Creek's riparian (streamside) areas. Soon the rehabilitated Shiloh Meeting Hall will be partnered with a reinvigorated, beautiful eastern slope.

WISH LIST

For education programs and summer history camp

- kid-friendly fishing rods for our annual kids fishing derby
- Walmart gift cards for history camp supplies
- shoe boxes for playing life-size Jenga
- red checkered tablecloth for our Mr. Cooper's Barn program
- beehive: (clean, complete, and empty of bees, please), for our Arkansas Symbols Day

For photo digitization project

- SanDisk 128 GB SD cards, \$40 each
- 2 TB (or more) external hard drives, \$70 each
- Canon lithium rechargeable battery (LP-E17), \$70

THANK YOU

... for these "for-use" items (November 2018–March 2019)

Becca Martin Brown: Holiday Islander newspapers; Once Upon Dickson; An American Dream Comes True

Denele Campbell: The West Fork Valley: Its Environs and Settlement Before 1900

Cincinnati (Arkansas) Researchers Group: Three Longs and a Short: The History of Cincinnati, Arkansas, Telephone Company

Walt Gallagher: door closer

Mary Ann Kahmann and Juana R. Young: In God's Pocket: The History of Our Lady of the Ozarks Shrine

Jacqueline Kurtt: boat shuttles, bobbin winder

Koni Boone Powers: Springdale News clippings

Schmeiding Center: three office chairs

University of Arkansas Museum (Mary Suter): archival storage boxes



Photos are a treasured part of a family's history, but to many, their preservation can seem daunting. The Shiloh Museum will demystify the process during a one-day "Family Photo Preservation Workshop" on Saturday, July 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. With budget, time, and skill considerations in mind, museum staff will offer good, better, and best strategies for managing a family photo collection.

From 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., photo archivist and research librarian Marie Demeroukas will discuss "Strategies for Storing Photos and Negatives." Topics will include common types of historic photos, documentation, archival materials, and storage methods and locations.

From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. research specialist Rachel Whitaker and photographer and digital specialist Bo Williams will discuss "Strategies for Digitizing Photos and Managing Digital-born Media." Topics will include types of scanners, scanning parameters, file types and naming, file storage, and other technical aspects of digitization. There will also be discussion about creating and preserving digital-born images.

Workshops are FREE and no registration is required. Participants may attend one or both presentations. For more information, contact Marie Demeroukas or Rachel Whitaker at 479-750-8165.

Photo: Museum volunteer Karen Cordell organizes slides and negatives in archival storage sleeves.

In April, the Northwest Arkansas Sacred Harp Singers voted to give a \$300 annual gift to the Shiloh Museum in honor of Hugh McGraw. McGraw (1931-2017) is widely regarded as the most significant person in the renewed growth and spread of Sacred Harp singing in the late 20th century and the early 21st. Many of our local singers knew and sang with McGraw and understood his importance to all Sacred Harp singers. The museum offers a sincere thank you to our Singers.



Hugh McGraw. Courtesy fasola.org

History Camp is Coming Up!

Judy Costello
Education Manager

We are looking forward to summer and our summer History Camps! History Camp 1 meets June 17–21 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and is for ages 7–10. History Camp 2 meets July 8–12 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on and is for ages 11–14. Both camps will have an optional camp reunion on the evening of July 12 at Arvest Ball Park to watch the Naturals play baseball and then finish up with a fireworks show!

This year's theme for both history camps is "The Decades: 1950s–1990s." Each day we will explore the history of a different decade. We try to make memories to help you remember the information from camp, so we will be participating in a variety of activities. We hope to have something that will be a favorite for every camper. We have games, crafts, contests, guest speakers, and foods related to the "Decade of the Day." For example, for the 1960s, we will learn about music and then have games to guess song titles and artists; we will make a craft about space exploration; we will watch historic videos such as Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and Disney animations; we will make our own Silly Putty and seedballs, and more.

In History Camp 2 we plan to spend one day at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks where we will participate in a wide variety of activities including a scavenger hunt in the children's garden, making and eating a chef's salad at the vegetable garden, weaving a basket at the "Four Seasons" garden, and more. We will make our own tie dyed tee shirts. We will learn about the Marshall Islands and make our own stick charts. Aaron Loehndorf, curator of the Shiloh Museum's exhibit about a self-taught instrument maker named Ed Stilley, will share inside details about making museum exhibits and and about Mr. Stilley's unique musical instruments. And more!

Please go to our website to download a registration form or come to the museum to pick up a copy. We do have some scholarships available, so please don't let the cost of camp keep you from attending. Deadline for registration is May 31 or when camp is full.



Top: A camper models the tie-dyed tee shirt he made at History Camp. Bottom: Campers in the process of creating Silly Putty.



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Award-Winning Ann

Marie Demeroukas
Photo Archivist/Research Librarian



When Ann Kabanuck returned to Springdale after living overseas for a few years, she searched for a volunteer opportunity. Fortunately for us, she wanted to work behind-the-scenes at her hometown museum. Given her interest, our research library was a natural fit. Back in 2009 we were just beginning a major reorganization of the research files. After some instruction about the project, Ann dug in, spending months reading and reorganizing thirty file-cabinet drawers of research materials. Her talent for the task shone through. Soon we were giving her newspaper articles and other

ephemera to clip and file. Ann's three-hour-a-week gig turned into six hours as we tasked her with more duties. Today she takes care of nearly 5,400 research files.

Over a year ago Ann asked to increase her time from six to twelve hours a week. Seeing a need, she decided to tackle a different aspect of museum work cataloging photos. The museum has over one-half million images in its collection with more arriving every month. Knowing what we have and where images are stored is crucial. Cataloging involves writing detailed descriptions of each photo, with such info as who's in the image, where and when it was taken, etc. As part of her work, Ann has had to learn about architecture, clothing styles, family genealogy, and how to briefly yet clearly describe what's going on in an image. In 2018 she cataloged nearly 700 photos.

Finding reliable volunteers is one thing. Finding folks who are willing to take on tedious, unglamorous, never-ending projects is another. Ann does all this and more, whether by working on projects which help researchers access museum resources, supplying staff with homemade treats, or just being her usual cheerful self. She is so dedicated to "going to work," as she would say, that she often comes in even when research library

staff are out for the day. She's even been known to work a holiday or two, quietly catching up on her work. Existing records show that between 2012 and 2018 Ann volunteered a total of 2,529 hours.

Two years after she began volunteering, Ann wrote about her experience for the Shiloh Museum's May 2011 newsletter. On being assigned the task of reorganizing the files she said, "Well that was the job for me! I liked it so much and felt so productive. . . . In all the years of [living in Northwest Arkansas], I didn't learn as much about the Ozarks as I have learned in these two years at the Shiloh Museum. My job really concentrates my focus. . . . The Shiloh Museum, in its subtle wisdom, has rooted in me a new and deep appreciation for the people and the land of the Ozarks. I've said it before. I love my job."

To say that Ann contributes greatly to the work of the research library is no exaggeration. Without her help there would be years of newspapers stacked in corners and uncataloged images sitting forgotten in boxes. In recognition of all that Ann does, in March she received the Outstanding Museum Volunteer award from the Arkansas Museums Association.

Congratulations, Ann, for this well-deserved honor!

Board Member Brief

Name: Janelle Riddle

Family: husband Charles Riddle

Job: Teacher at St. Paul High School (Madison County) for 34 years: 10-12 grade English,

journalism, and business law **Pets:** four dogs and 20+ cats

Favorite TV show: The Tonight Show

Hobbies: Taking care of dogs and cats, reading, traveling, taking photographs, visiting with friends in person and on Facebook

Describe a perfect day. A day that begins about noon after a leisurely breakfast and includes visiting with friends, reading, and playing with our pets.

What is your favorite animal and why? Cats and dogs. They bring joy to our lives.

What three people, living or dead, would you invite to dinner? Mark Twain, Johnny Carson, Robin Williams



CALENDAR

CURRENT SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Through May 18. Stand Up, Speak Out, a photo exhibit about protest movements over such issues as labor, education, war, civil rights, government, and the environment.

Through January 11, 2020. Instruments of Faith, an exhibit on the life and work of folk instrument-maker Ed Stilley of Carroll County.

Through April 11, 2020. *Model Homes*, an exhibit featuring handmade model and dollhouse recreations of real homes from the 1900s.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

May 15, noon. "Opera? In the Ozarks? Yes! Henry, Isaac, Galatea, Mimi, and Friends," a program by Janet Parsch, University of Arkansas librarian emeritus and Opera in the Ozarks board member.

May 18, 10:00 a.m. "What's the Buzz?" Beekeeper David Cheek will be here with his observation beehive for all to see. Part of our Shiloh Saturday Series for families.

May 21-December 14. Scenes of Madison County, a photographic look at the people, places, and history of Madison County, from nineteenth century settlement to present-day issues.

June 15, 10:00 a.m. Come learn about the aquatic history of Beaver Lake with Dot Neely, education coordinator with Beaver Water District. Part of our Shiloh Saturday Series for families.

June 19, noon. "Wheels A-Rolling: The Early History of Mountain Biking in the Natural State," a program by Tim Scott, assistant superintendent at Devil's Den State Park.

July 17, noon. "Arkansas Beer: An Intoxicating History," a program by Brian Sorensen, author of Arkansas Beer.

July 20, 10:00 a.m. Explore mapmaking and surveying in the early 1800s with historical reenactors Tim and Sharlene Richardson. Part of our Shiloh Saturday Series for families.

August 17, 10:00 a.m. Feed Communities will be here to help you make seed balls that are both fun to throw and an easy way to grow native wildflowers. Part of our Shiloh Saturday Series for families.

August 21, noon. "Politics, Prejudice, and Permanent Posts," a program on western Arkansas boundary markers by retired archeologist John Riggs.

September 14, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 41st Ozark Quilt Fair. New and antique quilts for show and sale on the museum grounds.

September 18, noon. "Working for Things Eternal," a program about Ted Richmond and his Wilderness Library in Newton County, by Shiloh Museum outreach coordinator Susan Young.

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

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

Membership Levels

☐ Individual - \$15	☐ Patron - \$50		
☐ School class - \$12.50	☐ Sponsor - \$100		
☐ Family - \$20	☐ Sustaining - \$250		
\square Senior Individual (65+) - \$10	☐ Benefactor - \$500		
☐ Senior Couple - \$15	☐ Founding - \$1,000		
Name			
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Please make check payable to:	Shiloh Museum		

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