

# THE KEY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FAULKNER COUNTY MUSEUM

Spring 2015

VOL. 12 ISSUE 1



Boy Scout Troop #78 and Short Bessie

## Greetings Museum Friends!

This spring has been a busy here at the Faulkner County Museum! We have two interns this semester; Kyle Zinno, a history major from University of Central Arkansas and Karissa Varga, a history major at Hendrix College. This semester we are also doing service learning with two of Dr. Kimberly Little's senior history seminar classes from University of Central Arkansas. Their project involves inventory of old Faulkner County Records. It's great to have everyone here!

The Arkansas Humanities Council's traveling exhibit "Civil War Arkansas: 1861-1865" that was rescheduled last fall due to damage has been set to return this November! Stay tuned for the precise dates.

We received a wonderful donation from the family of Darrell Hutchins, a retired UCA and UALR physics professor and self taught bowyer who passed away last October. Pairing his physics knowledge with his love of wood, he created functional works of art using the simplest of tools. By the beginning of April, pieces of Dr. Hutchins' collection will be displayed in the front gallery, including a machine to test the tensile strength of bow strings and various tools he created to work and test his materials. Stop by and check them out!

We have a schedule for the Make-It Monday Program! This year the summer children's program will be 10-11:30 every Monday from June 8<sup>th</sup> - July 27<sup>th</sup>. See topics below:

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Conestoga Wagons

June 15<sup>th</sup> – Bows-N-Arrows and Paper Plate Dream Catchers

June 22<sup>rd</sup> – Garden Bugs and Bird Feeders

June 29<sup>th</sup> – Basket Weaving

July 6<sup>th</sup> – Pinwheels and Poppers/ Fourth of July

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Community Band

July 20<sup>st</sup> – Christmas in July

July 27<sup>th</sup> – One-Room Schools

Admission is free! Donations to cover the cost of supplies are welcome. If you have any further questions feel free to call the museum at 501-329-5918, or email: [fcm@conwaycorp.net](mailto:fcm@conwaycorp.net)!

*AT THE MUSEUM...*

*We have publications on topics of local history and by local authors for sale. Call or stop by for more information!*

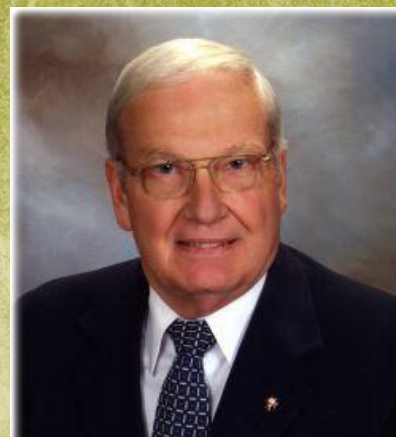
## What's Going On Around Here?

The museum's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Open House was this past November! It was a full day of crafts, living history demonstrations, refreshments and fun. UCA service-learning students brought kid-oriented period crafts and activities to the open house. There were students teaching kids young and old the fine arts of Dutch oven cooking (with samples), rope-making, needlework, basket weaving with newspapers, cornhusk dolls and miniature log-cabin building. We also partnered with the Faulkner County Historical Society to dedicate two Civil War historical markers that will be installed at the Oak Grove Cemetery, and at the Cadron Settlement Park. The Conway Women's Chorus, Civil War Ensemble performed music for the ceremony. It was a blast!

The Museum is undergoing a slow but steady upgrade if you haven't been by lately! Last summer we made changes to the Native American and Cadron exhibits. We added new artifacts, redid interpretive labels, and resurfaced a portion of the floor! We also installed new exhibit cabinets along one wall that is part of the Arkansas River interpretive panel. During the week of Spring Break, Mr. Grant Merkle, aspiring Eagle Scout, and his Boy Scout Troop #78 painted the cotton exhibit space, moved objects around, built exhibit stanchions and interpretive panel bases, and created a model of a cow for the new dairy exhibit! We are the proud new owners of a four-foot high Holstein cow model affectionately known as Short Bessie! A great big thank you to Mr. Merkle and his troop!



On January 17, Mr. Bill Larsen passed away. For those of you who knew Mr. Larsen, you will know he was a very dedicated volunteer, who loved working with the collections at the Museum. Mr. Larsen volunteered from about 1997 to 2009. He was an integral part of cataloging the Sam Fausett Studio Photograph collection, and worked on it diligently for six years.



On February 12, Mr. A.J. Hambuchen also passed away. Mr. Hambuchen served the Museum from 2001 to 2014 on the Museum Commission Board of Directors. He was instrumental in helping the Museum get reliable funding through the voluntary millage, and he advocated tirelessly for the Museum in the hopes that eventually we would get more public support and a larger facility. He spent many hours telling museum staff and volunteers stories of his childhood and recollections of the history of Conway.

## Spring History Interns



Hello Everybody!

My name is Karissa Varga (at left) and I am a freshman history major at Hendrix College. I started working at the Faulkner County Museum in January of 2015. I mostly spend my time accessing collections and I love handling the artifacts and learning about history. I would like to pursue a career in a museum someday and this volunteer opportunity provides me with the experience to do that.

My name is Kyle Zinno (at right) and I am in my last semester of study at the University of Central Arkansas. My major is in history and I am interning at the Faulkner County Museum this semester two days per week. Much of my time here is spent accessioning the various artifacts that we receive here at the museum, but I am also in the planning stages of a few other projects that I will complete by semester's end. So far, my time here at the museum has been a positive experience and I am thankful for the opportunity I have right now to work alongside some great people.

## New and Renewed Memberships

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Thurmond, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Phillips  
Doretta Bright  
Michael Murphy  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Linn  
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Todd  
Anola Noakes  
Kenneth Burns  
Judy Corcoran  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Walker  
Jo Anna Dale  
Harry Readnour  
Mr. and Mrs. David Grimes  
Mr. John Stuckey  
Bill Ward  
Marie Pinter  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tyler

## Memorials

Sondra Gordy in Memory of Bill Larsen  
Sondra Gordy in Memory of AJ Hambuchen  
Foy Lisenby Family in Memory of Bill Larsen  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Grimes in Memory of AJ Hambuchen  
Harry Readnour in Memory of Bill Larsen

## Upcoming Events for 2015

- We will soon be renovating the porches of the Dogtrot Cabin! Ty Kelso has gathered up volunteers and materials to rebuild the porches on both the east and west sides. Thanks so much to everyone involved!
- The Make-It Monday Program will be held this summer and will start June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Arkansas Humanities Council's exhibit titled "Civil War Arkansas: 1861-1865" will be on display November. Stay tuned for more details!
- We are actively collecting photos, stories, and artifacts pertaining to the dairy industry in Faulkner County, so if you have anything you'd like to contribute, bring it on down!

*"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself: but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total: of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."*

*-Robert Kennedy*

# FRIENDS OF THE FAULKNER COUNTY MUSEUM

Become a Friend of the Museum and help underwrite our continued development. All contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:

Faulkner County Museum  
501 (c)(3)#: 71-0726554  
P.O. Box 2442  
Conway, AR 72033

## Membership Levels:

**Founder (\$1,000.00+)**

**Collector (\$500.00-\$999.00)**

**Scholar (\$250.00-\$499.00)**

**Historian (\$100.00-\$249.00)**

**Family (\$50.00-\$99.00)**

**Individual (\$35.00)**

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VOL. # ISSUE #

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**Conway, AR 72033**

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