

# Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31, No. 3 December 2012

## Meeting Mr. Lincoln

**Susan Young**

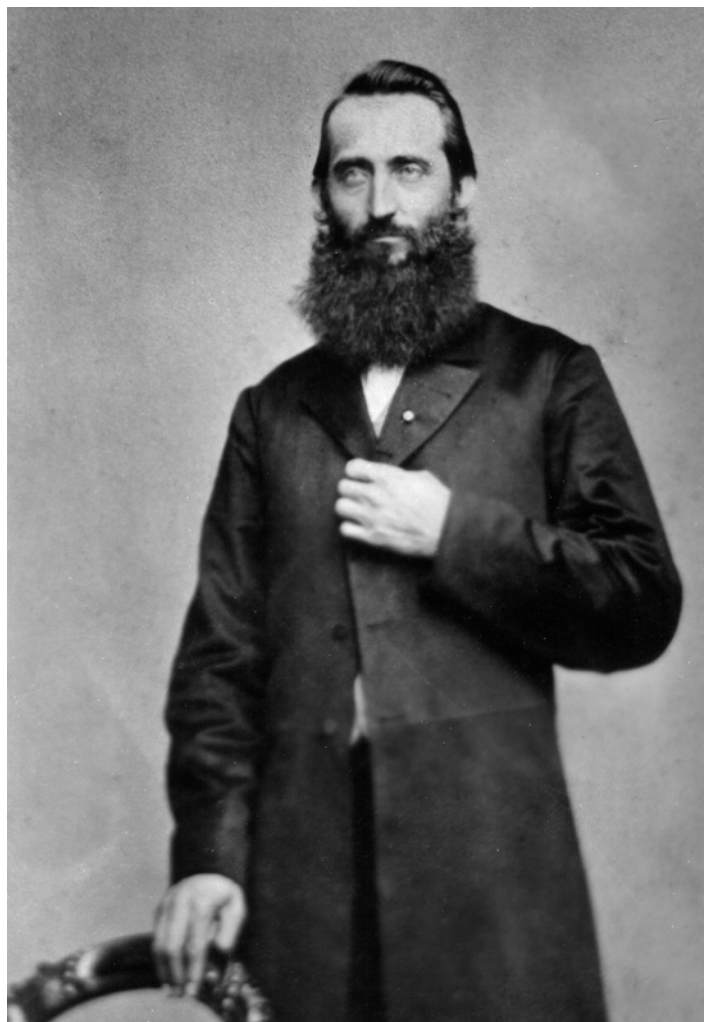
*Outreach Coordinator*

After seeing Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln* (twice; it's magnificent), I was reminded of a Northwest Arkansas connection with President Abraham Lincoln. The story involves James Hayden (J. H.) Van Hoose, a prominent Fayetteville businessman and political leader, who, through tenacity and luck, managed to meet with President Lincoln in February 1865. Thirty years later, on March 7, 1895, the *Washington County Review* ran Van Hoose's account of the meeting. An original clipping survives in a Van Hoose family scrapbook, donated to the Shiloh Museum by the Fayetteville Public Library in 2004.

In January 1865, J. H. Van Hoose's brother George was a Confederate prisoner of war at Johnson's Island, Sandusky Bay, Ohio. George sent a letter home saying that the cold winter winds off Lake Erie were more than he could endure. Upon learning of his brother's suffering, J. H. Van Hoose set out for Washington D. C., where he hoped to gain permission from Federal authorities to take George some warm clothing.

J. H. didn't exactly make a beeline to Washington. His route from the Ozarks to D. C. took included stops in St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia. In each of those cities, he contacted various well-connected friends and acquaintances and explained the reason for his journey. These movers and shakers all provided J. H. with letters of introduction to their respective political contacts in Washington—men who might pave the way for Van Hoose to gain an audience with the appropriate government officials.

Armed with a packet full of referrals, Van Hoose arrived in Washington on February 17, 1865. He first called on a family acquaintance, Senator Lazarus Powell of Kentucky. (The Van Hoose family lived in Kentucky before they moved to Northwest Arkansas in 1839.) Powell sent Van Hoose to Senator Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota, saying, "Senator Ramsey can do more for you than I can. . . Secretary [of War, Edwin] Stanton knows I don't love him." Ramsey penned a letter to Stanton on Van Hoose's



**Fayetteville resident James Hayden Van Hoose, circa 1870.**

In 1865, President Lincoln granted Van Hoose a pass to see his brother, a Confederate prisoner of war. *Washington County Historical Society Collection*

behalf, then pointed Van Hoose in the direction of Stanton's office at the War Department.

Van Hoose got in to see Edwin Stanton fairly easily, but Stanton advised that President Lincoln was the only person who could grant Van Hoose permission to visit his brother at Johnson's Island Prison. "Go to [Lincoln]

see LINCOLN, page 3

# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Allyn Lord



As we look ahead to 2013, you might say that projects are afoot. It's easy to visit the museum and see changed exhibits, new merchandise in the store, and new programs. But behind the scenes, there are bigger things being planned for our facility.

The iconic 1850s Ritter-McDonald log cabin has seen thousands of schoolchildren and other visitors since its relocation to the museum in 1979. Over the years its sturdy construction has weakened and in 2013 we'll undertake some major repairs to keep this beloved friend strong enough to serve us well into the future.

The renovation of the exterior and roof of the Odd Fellows Lodge or the Shiloh Church—now known as the Shiloh Meeting Hall—occurred between 2006 and 2009. After much research and discussion, we've just received from our architect the blueprints for turning the interior of the Hall into a community meeting space and exhibit space. You'll be hearing more about the transformation of the building as we begin fund-raising in 2013.

Another transformation that will occur in 2013 is scheduled for the front desk and museum store area. While the store has always offered unique and history-related gifts, its layout has placed limits on how we'd like to grow its merchandise. In the bigger picture, we'd like

the visitor experience upon entering the museum to be warmer, friendlier, and more accommodating.

In 2012 we added a new off-campus building to our "collection" ... a former airport building which will be used as our exhibits shop. Exhibits manager Curtis Morris has done yeoman's work in bringing it somewhat up-to-date, and the museum has been the recipient of numerous tools and equipment thanks to several generous friends.

Improvements being made in the meeting room include a new projection and sound system to enhance visitors' program experiences, and better recording devices to polish the sound of our podcasts.

A new riding lawnmower will help maintenance man Marty Powers keep our nearly three acres trimmed and beautiful, and members of the Washington County Master Gardeners have performed miracles on the grounds, many of which will be seen as spring arrives.

The museum is also about to become a wi-fi facility. With the assistance of the City of Springdale's IT department, Internet access will be available throughout the museum.

These improvements happen because we're generously supported by our members and visitors and by the City of Springdale and its citizens. They're also the result of strategic-planning initiatives of the museum's board and staff. Please continue to let us know how we can better serve you and enhance your museum experience.

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sallyann Brown, president; Dr. Marsha Jones, treasurer; Dolores Stamps, vice-treasurer; Carolyn Bayley, secretary. Dr. Judy Hammond, Dianne Kellogg, Kate Loague, Robert Mello, Eva Osborne, M. J. Sell, Dr. Bill Smith, Derek Taylor, Jason Trenary, Sally Walker

## EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Allyn Lord, Jim Morriss

## LIFE TRUSTEES

Dr. C. S. Applegate\*, Dr. Dwight Heathman, Martha Lankford, Maudine Sanders\*, Stephen Taylor \*deceased

## STAFF

Allyn Lord, director; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Pody Gay, education manager; April Griffith, research library assistant; Don House, photographer; Megan Kaplan, education assistant; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Adam Pang, weekend assistant; Kathy Plume, secretary/receptionist; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, assistant director/collections manager; Victoria Thompson, education/collections assistant; Susan Young, outreach coordinator

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## VOLUNTEERS (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2012)

Joann Baker, Ethna Billings, Reuben Blood, Ryan Bronni, Karen Cordell, Betty Deen, Jeremy Denson, Johnny Dorman, Tom Duggan, Steve Erwin, Martha Estes, Regina Gabel, Ron Harrison, John Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Bill Jones, Mary John Jones, Ann Kabanuck, Mitsy Kellam, Darlette Kendrick, Tommy Kendrick, Jim Langford, Mira Leister, Adam Pang, Ann Payne, Sharon Perry, Barbara Pulos, Pam Redfern, Russell Self, Jess Smith, Truman Stamps, Jeanne Tackett, Virginia Venable, Haley Wallace

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks.*

Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on July 13, 2006

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## SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

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

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

## Lincoln

From page 1

like any other American citizen," Stanton said. So that's what J. H. Van Hoose did. He walked from the War Department to the White House. There, Van Hoose took his place in a line of people waiting to pay their respects to President and Mrs. Lincoln, who were hosting a concert by the Marine Band. "As I passed by the president I reached my hand which he shook just like any other man would have done, saying, 'How do you do?'" Van Hoose recalled. "Mrs. Lincoln was standing on his right, arrayed in a handsome evening dress, and I could but notice the beautiful flowers which adorned her headdress. I made my politest bow which she acknowledged with a smile and gentle bowing of her head." Van Hoose knew the time wasn't right for pleading his case, so he left the White House and returned to his hotel.

The next day Van Hoose went back to see Senator Ramsey, who was surprised to find out that Van Hoose had yet to meet Lincoln. Ramsey hatched up a plan. "He told me to get my breakfast very early on Monday morning and go to the White House, that the president was a very early riser and the first entitled to an audience with him were members of the Cabinet, next senators, next members of the Congress, and so on, and, finally, citizens," Van Hoose recalled. Ramsey advised that "senators and congressmen are lazy and do not rise early," so if Van Hoose made it to the White House at an early time, he stood a better chance of meeting with Lincoln.

Van Hoose did just as Ramsey instructed. He arrived at the White House early Monday morning and took a seat in the hallway outside Lincoln's private office. He watched

as Secretary of War Stanton and Secretary of State William Seward came and left. Then, by pure chance, Van Hoose's Kentucky acquaintance, Senator Powell, showed up. Powell took Van Hoose under his wing at that point, explaining that senators were allowed to bring a friend in to meet the president, but that Van Hoose would have to present his own argument. Lincoln's office door opened, and J. H. Van Hoose stepped inside.



**George Van Hoose.** *Washington County Historical Society Collection*

After hearing Van Hoose's request to visit his brother George in prison, Lincoln took pen and paper and wrote, "Allow the bearer J. H. Van Hoose to visit his brother, prisoner at Johnson's Island." As Lincoln began to sign his name, Van Hoose said, "Please say that I may be allowed to give him some food and clothing." With that, the president looked up and said, "Yes, there it is. In other words, you want to set him up and make him comfortable. They have rebelled against the government. We have spent millions of dollars and sacrificed tens of thousands of valuable lives trying

to subdue them...Why should they now be comfortable? Why should they not suffer?" Van Hoose told Lincoln that many in Northwest Arkansas had been Unionists, but when Arkansas seceded, they felt their first loyalty was to their home state. "Put yourself in my place, Mr. President," Van Hoose continued. "Suppose it was your brother with whom in innocent childhood you had played...that he had gone into the Confederate Army, been captured, and was sick in prison... Would you let him die without an effort, or would you regard him as your brother still and make an effort to save his life?"

Lincoln threw up his left hand, exclaiming, "I grant it, I grant it." He amended the written pass to read, "and give him a few necessary articles not contraband," and signed it, "A. Lincoln, February 20th, 1865."

With that, Abraham Lincoln and J. H. Van Hoose shook hands. "Goodbye, sir, I wish you success," said Lincoln. "I hope you may find your brother alive and that he may live to be an honorable and useful citizen of this government."

J. H. Van Hoose succeeded in delivering food and clothing to his brother George at Johnson's Island Prison, and then returned home to Fayetteville. Within a few short months, the war would be over, Abraham Lincoln would die from an assassin's bullet, George Van Hoose would be released from prison, and the Van Hoose family would begin the task of rebuilding their lives in Northwest Arkansas. ♣

*Thanks to Alan Thompson, registrar at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, and Dr. David Bush, director of the Center for Historic and Military Archaeology at Heidelberg University, for help with this article.*



## DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

August-November 2012

*Martha Agee:* Uptown School records, Fayetteville, 1970s-1990s

*Arkansas Country Doctor Museum:* Fayetteville City Hospital nursing school records and cash register book, 1918-1950s

*Larry Blackburn:* Handmade violin mold of Ray Alvah Jenkins, Lincoln, 1950s-1970s

*Abby Burnett:* Marble Falls souvenir patch (Boone County); "Vote Wet November 6, 2012" campaign sign from Grandpa's Store, Kingston (Madison County)

*Patricia Burnett:* Photos of the White and Ames families (Madison County), First National Bank group, and Springdale High School reunion group, 1900s

*City of Springdale City Clerk's Office:* City check register, 1952



*Willa Crump:* Covered vegetable dish of Orlando and Virginia Tresner, Round Mountain (Washington County), 1934

*Nancy Hornor Dugwyler:* Springdale Kiwanis Club minstrel program booklet, 1959; photographs of Springdale Brownies, Boy Scout Troop 107, Springdale Kiwanis, Curtis Hornor, Hornor's Tire and Supply Shop, Beaver Lake, 1950s-1960s

*Fayetteville City Hospital:* Hospital memorabilia, 1912-2012

*Fayetteville City Hospital Auxiliary:* Auxiliary records, 1913-2012

*Jo Holcomb Heiliger:* Springdale High School diploma and announcement card, Beverly Jean Holcomb, 1944

*C. A. Howerton:* Photographs of Springdale store and restaurant interiors, Springdale Grape Festival, Jones Truck Lines, 1900 -1929

*James W. Johnson:* Photograph of Western Arkansas Scottish Rite Bodies 57th Reunion, April 1956

*Mary Kwas:* Slaw cutter and chopper, Fayetteville, early 1900s; fireplace tool set, Carroll County, 1930s

*Laverne R. Moss:* *Tales and Sketches of an Ozark Artist*, 1971

*Ronald Pile:* Ward's and Arkansas Ice and Cold Storage ice picks, Fayetteville, early-mid 1900s

*Marty Powers:* Lewis Ford Sales key case, Fayetteville, 1960s

*NWA Handweavers Guild:* Newsletters, yearbooks, and other records of the Northwest Arkansas Handweavers Guild, 1979-2007

*Carolyn Reno:* George's Majestic Lounge and Bluegrass Grill t-shirts, Fayetteville, late 1970s

*Glenda Roddey:* *Northwest Arkansas Times*, May 7, 1945

*Alice Ann Simkins:* Uniform of Fayetteville High School band director R. W. Willis, 1940s

*Joyce Sue Simkins:* Wooden tobacco storage box of S. L. "Semp" Phillips, Ribbon Ridge (Madison County), mid-1900s



*Peggy St. John White:* Crayon portrait of Aaron L. Thompson, Springdale, late 1800s

*Bobbie Nell Templeton:* First National Bank of Fayetteville memorabilia, late 1900s

*Bonita Thomas:* Wedding dress of Deborah Yvonne Thomas, Fayetteville, May 29, 1970

*Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees:* Earl White Springdale Concord Grapes grape basket with lid, 1920s-30s; Jeff D. Brown Poultry Company salt and pepper shakers, Springdale, ca. 1960; W. G. Ownbey Drug Company medicine box, Springdale, 1918

*University Museum:* *Fayetteville and Washington County, Arkansas*, booklet, March 1962

Photographs loaned for copying: *Norma Crass, Sunny Hinshaw, Antoinette Pianalto, Roger Pianalto, Charlotte Piazza, Betty Rendon, Pete Sbanotto, Alice Ann Simkins, Ann Sugg, Debbie Aaron Tessaro, Bonita Thomas, Roger Tisdale*

To learn more about artifacts and photos in our collection, visit the "Artifact of the Month" and "Photo of the Month" pages on our website.

## The Band Plays On



Museum volunteer Mary John Skillern Jones (on the left in photo at right, with museum collections manager Carolyn Reno) recently donated the red-and-white uniform she wore as a member of Mrs. Hurst's Rhythm Band in Fayetteville in the 1930s. Above left is a picture of the band about 1935, with little Mary John standing on the far right, holding a tambourine. It was April 27, 1935, when Mrs. Hurst's Rhythm Band marched in a pet and doll parade around the Fayetteville Square. According to the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, some fifty kids entered

pets and dolls in the parade, with hopes of winning a cash prize. The pets included ponies, dogs, kittens, goats, bantam chickens, and a baby alligator. First prize of \$10 went to Rebecca Jean Russell, age two, with her kitten wearing a red ribbon. Nancy Carol Woods, also age two, won the \$5 second prize with her toy terrier, and Zara Lee Thomas, age twelve, won third place and \$3 with her baby goat.

Next time you're at the Fayetteville Square, take a minute to imagine a tiny band dressed in red and white,

marching in step while playing tambourines, triangles, bells, and drums. Following behind them are children pushing doll buggies and carrying or leading their pets, everything from a kitten to a baby alligator. Imagine the scene and try to keep from smiling. It's a sweet bit of local history, brought to light courtesy of a little tambourine-playing girl who grew up to be Mary John Skillern Jones. *Photo of Mrs. Hurst's Rhythm Band courtesy Marnelle Thomsen*

## Welcome, April!

It's a pleasure to introduce you to April Griffith, our new research library assistant. In her words, "I first visited this part of Arkansas five years ago with my husband who is a native of Eureka Springs, and have been planning our return to settle in this unique part of the word ever since. As a librarian I have an innate interest in almost any topic and I have been thrilled to discover that the Ozarks provide an inexhaustible range of material for my curiosity!"

*Photo by Don House*





## WISH LIST

### For exhibits workshop

- 220-volt air compressor, \$600
- Dust collection system, \$500
- Bench grinder, \$200
- Large belt sander, \$250
- Large vise, \$150
- 7¼" circular saw blade for cutting Plexiglas, \$50
- Firebricks, \$20
- 2 Tupperware containers with lids, 11" x 16" x 7", \$15 each

### For living history programs

Reproduction items:

- 1930s shoes, \$50
- 1930s dress, \$50

### For education programs

Optical toys:

- Cabinet camera obscura, \$300
- Zoetrope replica, \$75
- Praxinoscope replica, \$75
- Phenakistoscope set, \$25
- Thaumatrope set, \$20

### For collections

- Acid-free tissue paper, package of 100 sheets, \$250
- Textile storage boxes, \$35 each

### For oral history interviews

- Marantz PMD661 digital audio recorder, \$600
- 2 Sony Electret ECM-88B condenser microphone units with power supply, \$500 each
- Portabrace PC333 audio recorder case, \$300
- Sony dynamic stereo headphones MDR-7506 with 1/8-1/4 adapter, \$100
- Marantz PMD661 case, \$60
- 2 32 GB digital SD flash cards (Class 6, 32-bit), \$40 each
- 2 10' Pearstone XLR cables, \$20 each

### For maintenance workshop

- Two-drawer file cabinet, \$100

### Thank you for these "for-use" items (August-November 2012)

*Jocelyn Bailey:* hatbox

*Jim Binns:* landscape consultation

*Judy Hammond:* plastic cups

*Questers Trail of Tears #904, Bella Vista:* pie safe for the log cabin

*Dolores Stamps:* lunch for Photo ID volunteers

*University Museum:* Plexiglas, exhibit props, cabinets, shelves

*Bruce and Mary Vaughan:* table saw with stand and accessories; miter saw with stand and blades; router with table and bits; scroll saw with stand and blades; belt sander; pad sander and paper; industrial drill; cordless drill and batteries



## A Cure for Winter Boredom

Mark your calendars for our Fifth Annual Cabin Fever Reliever open house, **Saturday, January 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Several area collectors will have items on display, including G. I. Joe toys, Frankoma and Niloak pottery, tatting, hand-wrought kitchen tools, fossils, demitasse cups, rocks, teapots, 1950s Japanese souvenirs, and railroad memorabilia. We'll have a make-and-take craft activity for kids, too.

**Photo:** A young visitor admires a collection of sand from around the world during a past Cabin Fever Reliever.

### Keep up with us!

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## Help From Our Friends



**Top:** Education volunteer Regina Gabel introduces schoolchildren to an old-fashioned Christmas as she reads from an 1800s reproduction edition of *A Visit From St. Nicholas* (aka *The Night Before Christmas*) in the museum's Ritter-McDonald log cabin.

**Bottom:** Master weavers Marty Benson (left) and Laura Redford are volunteering their talents to conduct an in-depth study of 26 coverlets in our collection. Marty and Laura are taking precise measurements, analyzing patterns, and noting the fibers used in each coverlet.



## CALENDAR

**Through January 19.** *Arkansas/Arkansaw: A State and Its Reputation*, an exhibit from Little Rock's Old State House Museum, about the evolution of Arkansas's hillbilly image.

**Through March 23.** "Nothing but sorrow, trouble, and worry," an exhibit based on memories of people in the Ozarks during the Civil War.

**Through May 11.** *Single Pens, Saddlebags, and Dogtrots*, a photo exhibit featuring Ozark log buildings.

**January 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.** Cabin Fever Reliever, the museum's annual celebration of the New Year, featuring "Collectors Edition" displays by local collectors.

**January 16, noon.** "Dinner'll Soon Be Ready," readings from Lilly Edens Preston's memoir of life in the Benton County community of Glade by Patricia Heck, vice president of the Glade Historical Society.

**February 4–January 11, 2014.** *From Archaeopteryx to Zapus*, an exhibit on the history of the University of Arkansas Museum.

**February 20, noon.** "Forgotten But Not Gone: Memories of the University of Arkansas Museum," a program by Mary Suter, curator of collections; Dr. Nancy McCartney, curator of zoology; Dr. Mike Hoffman, former curator of anthropology; and Dr. Walt Manger, former curator of geology.

**March 13, noon.** "The Northwest Arkansas Land Trust: Preserving Natural History in the Ozarks," a program by Terri Lane, executive director of the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust.

**April 8–August 17.** *Their Story, Our Story*, an exhibit on the Reed family of Springdale and a century of history they witnessed in their community.

**April 13.** Pettigrew Day, a celebration of Madison County history, held at the historic Pettigrew Community Building on Highway 16 in Pettigrew.

**April 17, noon.** "Poorest of the Poor," a program on two photography projects documenting Arkansas "mountaineers" during the Depression by University of Arkansas professor of journalism Patsy Watkins.

**May 14–December 14.** *Canned Gold*, a photo exhibit on the history of canning in the Arkansas Ozarks, from community canneries to industrial plants.

**May 15, noon.** "Straight From the Horse's Mouth," a program on animal-powered farm equipment by lifelong Washington County resident Jerre Van Hoose.

**June 19, noon.** "From Horse Collars to Hot Coffee," a program on Ozark country stores by Dr. Brooks Blevins, professor of Ozark studies at Missouri State University.

**July 17, noon.** "Murder and Mayhem: The Dark Side of Fayetteville's Past," a program on heinous crimes and shocking stories in Fayetteville's history by independent researcher Jerry Hogan.

**August 21, noon.** "The Tomato Club Girls," a program on the history of Arkansas home demonstration clubs by Joyce Mendenhall, administrative specialist with the Washington County Extension Service.

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### 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.

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### Membership Levels

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$15              | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron - \$50      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School class - \$12.50         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$100    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$20                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual (65+) - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple - \$15           | <input type="checkbox"/> Founding - \$1,000 |

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