

Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 32, No. 2 September 2013

Time Tells



Left: Reed family bureau washstand. The heirloom was recently donated to the Shiloh Museum by C. Vinson Reed. **Right: Jarvis and Elizabeth Reed family at their home near Springdale, circa 1905.** Back row, from left: Fred, Ollie, Kate, John. Middle row: Lydia, Charles, Joe. Front row: Jarvis, Ruth, Elizabeth. *Courtesy Henrietta Holcomb*

Victoria Thompson

Collections/Education Assistant

Here in the collections department, we strive to keep ourselves updated on the latest and best methods of caring for the family heirlooms with which our donors entrust us. So many of these objects have been lovingly cared for by generations of the same family and we aim to keep them safe for generations to come.

As part of my professional development, I have been taking a course in the care and identification of furniture. For the practical part of the course I have been studying a recent addition to our collections – the Reed family bureau washstand. A bureau washstand is part chest of drawers and part washstand, generally with a towel rack or mirror at the back. Reed family lore has it that the bureau washstand was first owned and used on a farmstead close to Springdale by Sarah Reed Meek, who

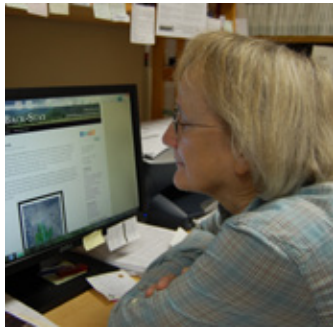
came to Springdale with her first husband (John David Reed) in 1851 and died in 1878. Their eldest son, Lewis Jarvis Reed, likely inherited the piece from Sarah, as he was one of two executors of her will. Lewis Jarvis Reed died in 1912, leaving the bureau washstand with his wife, Elizabeth Keicher Reed. After Elizabeth passed away in 1948, the piece eventually passed to Lewis Jarvis and Elizabeth's daughter, Ollie Reed Beaver. Upon Ollie's passing in 1978, the washstand was inherited by her nephew, Vinson Reed, who donated it to the Shiloh Museum in 2013.

Identifying the Wood

The primary wood used in this bureau washstand is most probably black walnut; the secondary wood inside the carcass (main body) and on drawer backs looks like

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Allyn Lord



Have you been reading our online museum blog? It's really good stuff, folks! Susan Young, outreach coordinator—who takes care of all things web-related—has been writing, and encouraging staff members to write, blog entries. I'm impressed not only with the

broad and fascinating subjects covered but also with the caliber of writing. For those of you who haven't yet found your way to our blog, here are a few of the highlights you're missing:

Photo archivist Marie Demeroukas writes about the "back-to-the-landers" who moved to rural Northwest Arkansas and how they survived in "Back to the Land," including the story of Cindy Arsaga and her Madison County adventures in the early 1970s.

If you've ever wondered where all the stories are about the women who made this a great country, Susan introduces us to three unsung local heroes in "Three Ozark Women": Emaline Winn, born into slavery; Dr. Phoebe Struble Lininger, who practiced medicine in the first decade of the 20th century; and Iginia Pianalto Cigainero, one of Tontitown's original settlers.

Library assistant April Griffith has two articles that mix research and field work. "Ozark Mountain Folk Fair:

History in Our Back Yard" introduces us to a 1973 folk festival just north of Eureka Springs, today part of the land she and her husband own, that attracted as many as 150,000 people, including performers John Lee Hooker, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Earl Scruggs! In "Bat House Cave," April describes the Newton County cave, captured in museum photographs of the early 1900s, that we thought was used for moonshining but was instead a government-bonded distillery.

Take a look at exhibit manager Curtis Morris' piece ("Snapper Save") on the rescue of a snapping turtle by groundskeeper Marty Powers. The photos alone are worth a look.

In "Politics As Usual," collections manager Carolyn Reno lets us in on some correspondence in the museum's collections between Springdale businessman Luther Johnson and Senator J. William Fulbright. Fulbright's writing gave Carolyn some interesting insights into his character.

Photographer Don House's recent post, "Perfect Beauty," relates his musings upon a particular ash-leaf maple tree—or box elder—on the museum campus and a surprise sighting there one day.

So if you need a pick-me-up, like short stories that inspire, or just want a light touch o' the Ozarks, the Shiloh Museum blog might be just what the doctor ordered.

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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

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

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Washstand

From page 1

pine. According to *Field Guide to American Victorian Furniture* by Thomas H. Ormsbee, black walnut was used extensively during the period for this kind of piece, as was pine for the insides. Both woods are native to Northwest Arkansas and were plentiful in this area during the 1800s, but we cannot identify the woods with certainty without the use of invasive techniques.

Identifying Methods of Manufacture and Hardware

Most of the components of the bureau washstand are machine made. The drawers are joined by dovetail joints, cut by hand, and hand-cut nails. The drawer runners, which have been replaced, are glued on. The carcass is probably joined together with dowelling. Drawer locks have been replaced, which necessitated the drawer pulls to be replaced and secured with factory-made screws. On the top drawers, the previous pulls' screw holes have been pegged in and filed down.

Style

The plain bracket feet, inset key surrounds, and skirt with S-curved scrolls date the piece from the 1840s ("transitional early Victorian"). Comparing this piece to photographs of similar pieces of furniture, we also find elements from the 1860s and 1890s. The style most similar to this bureau washstand is "country," defined as practical, filling a basic need, and mostly handmade. That also defines much of the home furnishings in the historically poor Arkansas Ozarks.

Age

If furniture style is not readily evident, another way to date furniture is by looking at the patina (surface aging and wear). The patina on the bureau washstand is not



Canvas pocket found on the rear of one of the washstand's drawers.

as dark as on a black walnut chest of drawers we know to be from the 1860s. However, inspection under ultraviolet light shows orange fluorescence of the coating, indicating that shellac was applied within the last 75 to 100 years. Given the restoration of this piece, dating by the patina is difficult.

The next approach to dating furniture is to look at the manufacture and hardware. As stated before, the bureau washstand parts and drawers were machine cut, but both the dovetail joints and nails were hand-cut. From the 1850s, most factories used machines to cut wood; small factories or shops used machines to cut the basic shapes they needed, but continued to do the rest of the work by hand. Machine-made nails were available from the mid-1870s. Using this dating technique, an educated guess dates this bureau washstand to the early 1870s or very late 1860s, probably made in a small factory by a cabinetmaker who had much experience in working in different styles. The 1870 census lists 30 cabinetmakers in Washington County and 441 in Arkansas.

A Mystery

Bureau washstands generally have towel rails or mirrors built into them. The top of this piece has neither but it does have two square-cut holes on each side, near the front. At the back, on top, a piece of wood has been added; there is also an added backboard. Could this be a repurposed bureau washstand? One theory collections manager Carolyn Reno and I have is that, after the family installed plumbing, they repurposed the bureau washstand as a chest of drawers, cutting out the towel rail, flipping around the top, and adding an extra piece to make it look pretty. The baseboard may also have been added then or maybe later. Repurposing furniture is a time-honored tradition.

Restoration

The baseboard on the bureau washstand is a different color, and perhaps made of different wood, than the rest of the piece. It also looks out of place and is definitely machine made. The drawer pulls are a style popular in the 1870s to 1890s, but they are a later addition and are also a different color. Inspection of the varnish on the handles and baseboards under ultraviolet light

showed no fluorescence, which indicates the presence of a synthetic varnish. Such varnishes were used heavily in furniture manufacture and restoration from the 1950s until recently. Additionally, the replacement locks do not have a patent number, which means the patent had probably expired before the locks were manufactured

Another clue as to the age of these additions is a 1950s-pattern canvas pocket tacked onto the back of the

top left drawer. The recent coating of shellac on the bureau top and carcass also points to a restoration date in the 1950s, the shellac being within a seventy-five-year age mark.

Why was this piece restored in the 1950s? Elizabeth Keicher Reed died in 1948. It is probable that Ollie or another family member wanted to keep using the bureau washstand as bedroom furniture and wished to restore the piece for future family members to enjoy. Whoever restored

the piece wanted it to be as close to the original as possible. This can be seen in the shellac coating and the treatment of the baseboard. The back of the bureau washstand shows signs of singeing consistent with the story of the family's house catching fire sometime in the 1920s or 1930s, and the reverse of the backboard has been painted black to match.

Thank you, family Reed, for making my work so interesting. 🍷



Decoration Day and dinner on the ground at Pine Grove Cemetery (Madison County), circa 1940. Identified in the photo are Addie Brandenburg Hoskins (with her back to the camera), and Addie's daughters, Tommie (next to Addie, also with her back to the camera), and Geneva (at the gate). All three are wearing dresses made from feed sacks, using patterns Addie cut from pieces of newspaper. *Tommie Mooney Collection*

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Over 200 antique and contemporary quilts were entered in the 36th Ozark Quilt Fair held at the museum recently. Visitors to the fair voted on their choices of the best antique and contemporary quilts.

The winner in the contemporary category was a Cathedral Windows quilt by Reba Clark of Siloam Springs. Diane Pennington of Lowell won second with her Tie Sunburst quilt. Third place was awarded to an Out of the Blue quilt by Joan Miller of Alma.

In the antique category, a Whig Rose quilt owned by Ronna Precure of Huntsville won first place. Second place went to a Zimmerman patch quilt owned by Rose O'Connor of Springdale. Ruth Vacin of Fayetteville won third place with a Nebraska crazy quilt.

After the awards were announced, our museum photographer, Don House, gathered the winners and their quilts for this lovely photo in front of Dr. John C. Carter's Office on the museum grounds. Back row, from left: Ronna Precure (Whig Rose quilt) Rose O'Connor (Zimmerman patch quilt), and Joan Miller (Out of the Blue quilt). Front row, from left: Ruth Vacin (Nebraska crazy quilt), Reba Clark (Cathedral Windows quilt), and Diane Pennington (Tie Sunburst quilt).

Special thanks to Arvest Bank for sponsoring the 36th Ozark Quilt Fair!

Welcome, Judy!

We're delighted to introduce our new education manager, Judy Costello. Judy grew up learning and living Southern history through her family's exploration of Civil War battlefields, swimming holes, potential duck-hunting sites, and old cemeteries where ancestors were buried. Her education includes degrees in agricultural engineering from Auburn University and LSU. She moved to Fayetteville 27 years ago with her husband who is a professor at the UA. She invested many years homeschooling her three children, all of whom are now UA students.



Judy's interests include outdoor activities, working with children, and learning new things. Judy and her three children are very active in the Washington County Historical Society's living history programs, including Heritage School, a week-long class for young people that teaches the heritage and culture of Civil War-era Arkansans.

Featuring Shiloh Museum volunteers and supporters

A Little Help from Our Friends: Meredith Eades



As part of her internship at the museum, University of Arkansas student Meredith Eades worked under the direction of exhibits manager Curtis Morris and collections manager Carolyn Reno to revamp our World War I exhibit. Here's Meredith with the finished product.

Working at Shiloh Museum has opened my eyes to the different and complex jobs that exist in a museum setting. I have learned many things since I joined the team here. The majority of work I did was in the collections department, where I learned how to catalogue new artifacts, how different materials need to be cleaned and stored, and what the process of researching and designing a new exhibit is like. I also learned what it is like to work in an environment that is directly suited to my interests and employs many great and helpful people intent on helping me learn about museum work.

My experience at Shiloh Museum has been a great one and I am very grateful for the opportunity to intern here this past summer.

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- clamps of any kind, \$7-10 each
- 6HP shop-vac, \$150
- white cotton rags
- cabinet-grade table saw, \$1000
- anvil
- microfiber towels, \$15

For buildings and grounds

- Cordless drill, \$100

For collections

- 16" x 30" two-shelf steel service cart, \$50
- archival shoe storage boxes, \$12/2-pack
- archival hat boxes, \$30 each

For education department

- clothes rack on wheels (for living history costumes), \$80
- *Common Thread—Uncommon Women* by Marilyn Hayes-Martin, \$20

For events

- (2) one-gallon glass beverage dispenser, \$25 each

Thank you for these "for-use" items (June-August 2013)

Arvest Bank: prize money for 36th Ozark Quilt Fair

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art: office chairs, exhibit furniture

Marie Demeroukas: plotter paper

Tom Duggan: *Encyclopedia of North American Railroads*

Terry Eastham: *Eastham, Denton, Ledbetter & Reynolds Family Histories*

Harp's Food Stores: food and drinks for block party

Curtis Morris: trailer rental

Karen Smith: *Singing in Zion: Music and Song in the Life of an Arkansas Family*

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August 2012–August 2013

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Houstine Cooper
Patricia Corbin
Patricia Cornish
Lue Verne Cunningham
Ann Dalton
Sarah Duffel
Mrs. Eugene Eddy
Nancy Elkins
Thelma Ellis
Lewis Epley Jr.
Martha Estes
Nettie Everett
Elizabeth Floyd
Jerol Garrison
Carole Ann Groves
Joe Carnes Guinn

Nadine Hamilton
Sondra Heying
Jerry Hogan
Phyllis Kettleman
Beth Kimbrough
Wanda King
Carl Koffler
Robert Lane Jr.
Marian Carter Ledgerwood
Larue Mabry
Carolyn Madison
Mary Ann Marquette
Susan McRae
Marilyn Meek
Robert Mello
Patricia Morgan
Lou Orr
Pat Pond
Barbara Pulos
Ray Ritter
Ann Roberts
Don Schaefer
Lorita Simmons
Amelia Smith
Homer Smith
David Stiegler
George & Leotta Talley
Ruby Shaw Terry
Robert Toney
Sally Walker
Dr. Linda Watts
MaryAnne Westphal
Dorothy Wilson

Family

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Doug James
Martha Agee
John Michael Andrews
Mark Arnold & Gail Halleck
Dr. Murl & Concetta Baker
Daymara Baker
Alice Beetz
B. R. & Katy Black
Richard & Gaye Bland
Dr. & Mrs. John Boyce
Charles Britton
Linda Brown
Brad Bruns
Steve Burch
Ivian Butler
Robert & Bernie Callier
Dr. & Mrs. James Cherry
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Beverly Cortiana-McEuen
Jim & Cathy Crouch
Jerry & Joey Danenhauer
John & Mary Davis

Galen & Laura Denham
Susan Dewey
Tom & Mary Dillard
Lela Donat
Carolyn Dowling
Lori Drake
Mary Jane, Ovi ,&
Mary Beth Dyson
Steve & Linda Erwin
Lynn Fitzpatrick
Richard & Debbie Flora
Alan & Patricia Fortenberry
Laurie Foster
Jeff & Kay Franco
Frank & Tammy Gamble
Kara Gosnell
Nancy Green
Jim & Anne Greene
Lowell & Kathy Grisham
Eddie & Nancy Guinn
Louise Hancox
Sheron Harp
Lisa Childs & Donald Hendrix
LeeRoy & Mary Horn
Tom & Sylvia Howard
James & Dodie Hunter
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Jacqueline King
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Marshall Mitchell
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Shannon & Craig Mueller
LaDeana Mullinix
Oda Mulloy
Paul & Eunice Noland
Eva Osborne
Janine Parry &
Bill Schreckhise
Cal & Mary Jane Pearce
Mike & Denise Pearce
Rebecca Peterson
Thomas Pittman
Poets Northwest
Curtis & Beth Presley
Jane Purtle

Bob Razer
David & Kathy Reece
Tom & Lynn Reed
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Bill & Emily Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. John Robinson
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Jim Rutledge
Elizabeth Scott
Mark & Clara Self
Russell Self & Mary Umbaugh
Marcella Sharum, Drucilla
Morris, & Gary Morris
Lee & Shirley Sletten
Mike & Brenda Smart
Christy & Steve Smith
Kim & Nancy Smith
Tommy & Vicki Smith
Wesley & Jackie Stites
Derek Taylor
Patrick & Cindy Tenney
Dana Thompson
Jean Toenges
Jason Trenary
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Tribble
Nola Van Scyoc
Catherine Wallack & Family
Sam & Elizabeth Weathers
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Wiggins
Don & Joanna Williams
Duane & Judith Woltjen
Curtis & Ann Yates
Rev. Cyrus Young
Seth Young

Individual

Allen County, Indiana,
Public Library
Margie Alsbrook
Erwin Baird
Cassandra Barnett
Angie Bassett
Beth Barham
Wes Block
Sallyann Brown
Travis Burnett
Zoe Caywood
Janet Clower
Karen Cordell
Georgia Davis
Joe Doster
Claudia Driver
Jean Duncan's class,
Walker Elementary School
Jimmy Dykes
Dondi Frisinger
Regina Gabel
Sylvia Geddes
Joan Glassell

Diane Gollihugh
Deborah Hales
Andrew Hammond
Dr. Kevin Hatfield
Harold High
Dr. Sunny Hinshaw
Charlotte Horvath
Jean Huffman's class,
Hunt Elementary School
Margaret Johnson
Mary Ellen Johnson
Tommy Jones
Jamie Kain
Kenny Keiter
Nancy Kelly
Wanda Kent
Patricia Kile

Barbara Kossieck
Evy Lamb
Melinda Lambaren
Jeff Ledbetter
Tammi Reed Ledbetter
Bailey Jo Lemke
Lisé Lipko
Gina Little
Karen Loftin
James Longacre
Rhonda McCrackin's class,
Walker Elementary School
James McNally
Shannon Dillard Mitchell
Cathy Montgomery
Karen Morton
Mary Jo Myers

Willie Nemec
Juanita Nordgren
Marty Powers
Verneal Prater
Kristin Race's class,
The New School
Sue Richardson
Melissa Roach
Clifton Ruddick
Clif Ruddick's class,
Hunt Elementary School
Wilma Samuel
John Selph
Linda Sheets
Bill Shook
Thelma Smallen
Deb Smith

Richard Stamps
Robert Stark
Wanda Brewer Stephens
Angela Sullins' class,
Hunt Elementary School
Richard Swanson
Christine Talley
Kenneth Trapp
Thomas Triplett
Guy Wann
Tony Wappel
Nova Jean Watson
Dianne Wilson
Mildred Winborn
Theresa Wohlfeld
Bob Young
Jacqueline Zahariades

DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

June-August 2013

City of Springdale: City of Springdale Resolution 36-73 establishing the Letha Brogdon Lounge at City Hall, 1973; Washington County plat book, 1985

Dr. Mary Cotton: University of Arkansas, church, business, political, and miscellaneous ephemera, Fayetteville, 1940s-1980s

Steve Erwin: Erwin brothers threshing records; Case threshing machine booklets, Boone County, 1920s

Randy McCrory: Photograph of James Shore Searcy by Sidney Aaron, Springdale, ca. 1905

Dr. Garland Doty Murphy III: Dr. Ed Wheat's Burdick EKG machine, Springdale, 1940s

C. Vinson Reed: Sarah Reed Meek's bureau washstand, Springdale, late 1800s

Carolyn Reno: child's admission tickets to Dogpatch USA, late 1900s; Radio Shack personal data assistant with instruction book, Fayetteville, ca. 1995

Wanda Stephens: Keystone movie projector, 1967; Yashica Super 8 movie camera and accessories, 1967; Signature 2000 VHS movie camera and tripod, 1987; Women's History Month materials, Fayetteville, 2000s

Terri Stuart: Springdale High School and Springdale memorabilia, late 1960s through 1991

Photographs loaned for copying:
Mike Crane, Wanda Easley, Steve Erwin, Charlene Cook Grigg, Nancy Marshall, Tommy Mooney, Vonda Robinson Musteen, Henry Piazza, Robyn Puntch, Russell Self

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

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What's New in Store?

Cramped space, inadequate security, poor lighting, unwelcoming... these are all terms we used for our former front desk and museum store space. Soon we'll unveil the major remodeling project we've been working on since mid-August.

Thanks to architect Tim Turek (pb2 architecture + engineering) and Nabholz Construction Services, we're about to debut a brand new reception desk and store. It's a bright and cheery look, complete with new merchandise and soon to come, a new way to make your purchases. We'll be offering a few specials in time for the holidays, so come see us!

Before



After



CALENDAR

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

Through January 11, 2014. *From Archaeopteryx to Zapus*, an exhibit on the history of the University of Arkansas Museum. This exhibit is cosponsored by KUAJ 91.3 FM National Public Radio.

Through March 1, 2014. *Cover Stories*, an exhibit of "special occasion" quilts from the Shiloh Museum collection.

October 16, noon. "Museum Objects from the Cherokee Removal Period," a program by Dr. Duane King, executive director of the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

October 26, 2 p.m. "The Five Civilized Tribes in the Civil War," a program by Bethany Hope Henry, graduate student in the University of Arkansas Department of History. Sponsored by Heritage Trail Partners.

November 16, 2 p.m. Program and book signing with Nancy Powell, author of *Dark Secrets*, a historical novel set in Arkansas during the early 1900s.

November 20, noon. "Going to the Picture Show," a program on the history of Springdale movie theaters, by Shiloh Museum outreach coordinator Susan Young.

November 23, 2 p.m. "Buffalo River Beauty," a slide program by nature photographer Tim Ernst. His picture books, trail guides, calendars, and prints will be for sale at special holiday prices!

December 14, 2:30 p.m. Holiday concert by students of the Will Bush Violin Studio in Springdale.

December 17–May 10, 2014. *Scenes of Newton County*, a photo exhibit of people and places in a ruggedly beautiful area of the Ozarks.

2014

January 11, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cabin Fever Reliever, the museum's annual open house, featuring displays by local collectors.

January 15, noon. "Weaving Warmth: Uncovering Ozark Coverlets," a program on coverlets in the Shiloh Museum collection by museum volunteers and long-time weavers Marty Benson and Laura Redford.

January 27–January 10, 2015. *Just Doing My Work*, an exhibit featuring the paintings of folk artist Essie Ward.

February 19, noon. A program on the effort to preserve Mount Kessler, an urban forest southwest of Fayetteville, by Mount Kessler Greenways member Frank Sharp.

March 19, noon. "Ozark Reflections," a program by Ozark storyteller, journalist, and musician Marideth Sisco of West Plains, Missouri.

March 24–March 24, 2015. *A Boy's Toys*, an exhibit of toys from the 1930s and 1940s from the Shiloh Museum's Orville Hall Jr. Collection.

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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Please make check payable to: Shiloh Museum
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Springdale, AR 72764
479-750-8165