

MUSEUM NOTES

Fort Smith Museum of History

Winter 2016

Mardi Gras 2016

The best party in town is early! Friday, February 5, enjoy the annual tradition. Beginning at 6:00 pm at IC Church Parish Hall enjoy cocktails, a Cajun dinner, live and silent auctions, music and dancing. \$80 per person, \$800 per table of ten, \$900 for a premium table. Sponsorships available.



General William O. Darby Birthday Celebration February 6, 1:00 pm

William O. Darby was born in Fort Smith on February 8, 1911. Following graduation from Fort Smith High School and West Point, General Darby established Darby's Rangers in World War II, an elite force well known for victories in North Africa and Italy. View an interview with Major Warren "Bing" Evans, who passed away in 2015. Major Evans was Battalion Sergeant Major to then Colonel Darby and offers a fascinating description of Ranger training and the devastating Battle of Cisterna. Join the museum to honor the legacy of General Darby and view updated exhibits in the William O. Darby Memorial Room.

Upcoming Events

- Mardi Gras
February 5, 6 pm
- Darby Birthday
Celebration
February 6, 1 pm
- *GIs on Garrison*
USO Dinner and
Dance, March 19
- William O. Darby
Statue Dedication
April 30, 10 am

Mardi Gras February 5 at 6:00 pm— Darby Birthday Celebration, February 6 at 1:00 pm

"GIs on Garrison"— USO Dinner and Dance

In conjunction with **Roots, Rhythm and Rock-Music That Moved Fort Smith: 1880-1945**, the museum is planning a WW II era USO dinner and dance for Saturday, March 19 at the Blue Lion. Enjoy hors' d oeuvres, a cash bar, music, dancing and stories from the home front in Fort Smith during World War II. John McIntosh is assisting with music for the event with Reggie Moore on board, Beth Templeton as Miss Camp Chaffee, Marcus Coker providing a dance performance and a variety of re-enactors to recreate a USO dinner and dance in Fort Smith. Garrison Avenue was a popular spot for soldiers stationed at Camp Chaffee. Join us to celebrate the legacy of the USO and "GIs on Garrison."

Veterans Day Parade and Reception

The museum's float was featured in the Veterans Day Parade on November 14 at Chaffee Crossing with a record sixteen veterans and families riding along. Thank you to Douglas Harp for loaning a trailer and providing helpers to assemble the float. Thank you to Smith Auto Group for loaning a beautiful red truck.

On November 11, the annual Veterans Day reception was attended by local veterans and a special guest, Co. Marcus Hatley with the AR Attorney Generals Office Military and Veterans Initiative was on hand to visit with our veterans. Thank you to all veterans for your service!



Veterans Day Parade



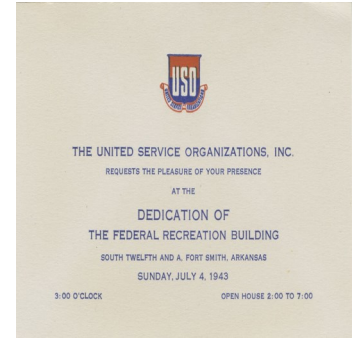
B. G Hendrix

Music That Moved Fort Smith: 1880-1945 Murder and Mayhem Haunted Trolley Tour German Exchange Students Butterfield Trails Retirement Community

Although visitation slows during the winter months, the museum has plenty of activity. The latest temporary exhibit opened on October 15 in the Boyd Gallery with a program on William Worth Bailey, Jr. and Katherine Price Bailey presented by Dr. Kevin Jones, professor of English at UAFS. A Shape Note singing and dulcimer demonstration was December 10. The exhibit will remain in place through May.

The annual Murder and Mayhem Haunted Trolley Tour fundraiser was held the last two weekends in October. Thank you to volunteers Floyd and Sue Robison, Debbie Carney, Marcus Woodward, Bambi Clifton and others for working hard to make the tours a success. A special tour was arranged for a group of German exchange students.

Floyd and Sue Robison and Carl Riggins continue to offer programs for student and tour groups. Thank you!



Invitation to the dedication of the USO building, 12th and A, 1943. (Photograph courtesy of Nancy Carver).



Opening Program



Murder and Mayhem



German Exchange Students



Butterfield Trails

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New and Renewed Members

Eugene and Jo Ann C. Blackwell
CCZ Business Consulting
Robert T. Dawson
Jim and Suzie Dunn
Larry and Becky Evans
Eleanor and Harry Foltz
Rick Foti
Helen Hander
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Remember the museum for honorariums, memorials and bequests.

Donations

Arkansas Humanities Council
Burn's Flowers
Cooper Clinic
Tabitha Embree
Fort Smith Area
Community Foundation
David Roberts
Stephen Young
Western Arkansas Planning and
Development District

In Honor of Suzy Hestand Laird
South Tulsa Home and Garden Club

In Honor of
Melissa and Nubbin Udouj
Mary and Stephen Young
Cliff and Christy Ivey
Lynn Curry and Family
Mary and Andrew Riche
Elizabeth and Chip Paris
Colby and Courtney Beland

Capital Campaign

George and Carole Beattie

In Memory of Greg Smith
Sue Plattner Smith

In Memory of Clarence Durham
Carl and Teena Riggins

In Memory of Tommy Craft
Charles Palmer

In Memory of Archie Hewett
In Memory of Wallace and Jean Hunton
David, Terry, Tory and John Hunton

In Memory of Bob Sanders

Julie B. Hamilton
Paul and Suzanne Henson and
Family
The Phillip Thompson Family
Steve Vicary
Kim and Phil White

In Memory of William P. England

Larry and Becky Evans
Bill and Adrienne Hanna
Fred and Barry Kofman
Bill and Kathy McClennen
Eleanor McCormack
Kathy and Randy Reano

In Honor of Dr. and Mrs. Cole Goodman

David and Jan Whitt

Thank you to the
U. S. Marshals Museum
for a successful fundrais-
er "An Evening with
George Washington."

A delightful 18th century
event was held at the
Bonneville House on De-
cember 7 with all pro-
ceeds benefitting the
museum.



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Where the past comes to life!

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Capital Campaign:

Striving to raise funds for renovation of the historic building as well as to modernize the exhibits to appeal to a twenty-first century audience while keeping intact the traditional charm of the museum. To date, over \$385,000 has been raised through private donations. Please consider a contribution to this worthy project.

Operating Fund:

Daily operations and maintenance of the historic Atkinson-Williams Warehouse, which houses the museum, are an ongoing challenge. Admission fees do not meet rising operational costs. Please consider a membership or a contribution to assist in meeting these costs.

Endowment Fund:

Interest from the fund subsidizes general operating costs. Please consider a contribution to assist with long-term funding.

Adopt an Artifact:

Archival supplies are always needed (and expensive). Help us preserve the invaluable collection.

*Roots, Rhythm and Rock-
Music That Moved Fort
Smith: 1880-1945*

The museum's latest exhibit will run through May in the Boyd Gallery. A December program featured the Shankle Sisters of Hartford, AR and former State Senator Gene Jeffress discussing Shape Note singing, T. J. McClung Gibson with a history of the Hartford Music Company and Linda Bennett of Fort Smith demonstrated the dulcimer. *This program is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

Contribute today: Capital Campaign, Operating Fund, Endowment Fund, Adopt an Artifact.