

## New Scavenger Hunt for Kids

In an effort to always be making the site more learning-friendly for children, this summer we created a scavenger hunt for children. They are able to



obtain a worksheet from a docent on site to fill out with information from the Rice-Upshaw interpretive panels. Once it's filled out, children receive a REACH lapel pin. It's fun for all ages and kids almost don't realize they are learning history in the process.

## Black River Technical College

### Surprise Find During a Family Visit

Barb Beck brought her immediate family to visit the sites during our opening celebration in October of 2011. During that visit, her boys were young, but they still remembered meeting Gerry Barker, re-enactor and demonstrator of the 1800's way of life, and seeing his team of oxen. They even had the chance to ride in his wagon during one of his demonstrations. Many pictures were taken during that ride.

Fast forward to this summer when the Beck family came back to the REACH sites. Beck brought her in-laws so they could see the William Looney Tavern. Barb had shared childhood memories with them of times she had visited the tavern when it was the home of her grandmother, Dora Downey. Barb had even brought with her photographs that were taken of her inside the tavern. It was a special time for the whole family to stand in the structure they had heard so much about.

As they started the tour of the Rice-Upshaw House, Barb's sons, Aiden, age 14 and Carter, age 12, looked at the interpretive panel by the granary and immediately recognized two heads in the picture of children in the back of Garry Barker's wagon. It was them! What a fun discovery! On top of learning about the history surrounding their ancestors, the boys found they now had a personal connection to the sites. This is why we at REACH work so hard to make sure each visit is special!



Aiden (left) and Carter next to the interpretive panel with their photograph



Jimmy and Rebecca Beil are restoring the Stephen Byrd House in Jackson, Missouri. They, along with friends, visited in search of the connection between William Looney and Stephen Byrd. The men served together in the War of 1812. It is thought that Byrd came to visit Looney and then died in Lawrence county. To learn more about their house visit: <http://thebyrdhouse1820.com/index.html>

## You Make REACH Artifact Displays Possible

When the Arkansas Archeological Survey returned the artifacts from the Rice-Upshaw House and William Looney Tavern to Black River Technical College (BRTC) in 2016, we knew that we had just received a huge blessing as well as a lot of work. With thousands of artifacts, we would need to have a place to store them, a way to catalog them, and cabinets to display them.

None of these items were free. Thanks to your generous donations, we have almost secured all the money needed to purchase display cabinets that will go in the BRTC Library. Since the previous owner of the cabinets offered them at such a great price, the BRTC Foundation loaned the money to REACH so that we were able to purchase the cabinets as we work to raise the last bit of money.

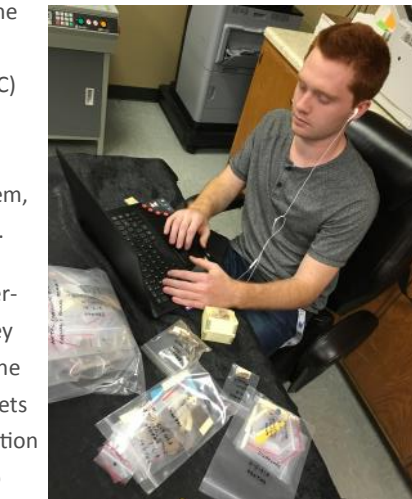
As we catalog the artifacts, each has to be photographed then entered into software. This process sounds simple until you realize we have 18 boxes of artifacts, and we are currently going through box two, and have just entered artifact 447! Thankfully, student Cody Whitmire really enjoys entering the artifacts in the software and he is a fast worker.

We know you are chomping at the bit to see the artifacts, so we hope to get them on display as soon as possible. But as you can see, the task is daunting!

Thank you so much for your gifts which allow this project to happen so visitors will be able to learn about and enjoy these artifacts in the future!

## Looney Descendants Visit

Mary Ann Herron of Springfield, formerly of Pocahontas, and two of her six sons, Stephen and Tony, visited the Looney Tavern site in June. Ms. Herron is the granddaughter of the late Oma Taylor. "Miss Omie" was married to Ransom Looney who was the son of Hiram and Tina Looney, former slaves listed in the 1865 will of William S. Looney. After the Civil War and Emancipation, they remained nearby and owned property just north of the Looney/Downey farm. Hiram died in the 1880s and is buried near the Eleven Point River. After his death, Tina moved her children to Pocahontas where they attended the Catholic mission school for African-American children, circa 1890. The Herrons, along with Pat Johnson, visited with Cindy Robinett and discussed the history of the families associated with the historic site. Also along was Cindy's granddaughter Gwendolyn McQuay.



Cody Whitmire entering artifacts into museum software



## OPEN DATES FOR 2018

We may be closed for the winter, but it's never too early to start planning for 2018! Below you will see our Saturday open dates. Also, keep in mind we are open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. April through October unless otherwise noted on Facebook.



Follow us on Facebook to learn about our visitors, our history, and our upcoming events!

## Second Saturdays (9 a.m. - noon)

4/14	April
5/12	May
6/9	June
7/14	July
8/11	August
9/8	September
10/13	October



Site tour during a visit by Arkansas Virtual Academy.

\*If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or if you would prefer receiving it by email, contact  
Jessica Bailey at  
Jessica.bailey@blackrivertech.edu

## Arkansas Virtual Academy Visit

Child laughs and giggles could be heard throughout the Rice-Upshaw site on Friday, November 3, as the Arkansas Virtual Academy gathered students from around northeast Arkansas to have a day of learning about life in 1800's.

While the day was chilly, students got a tour of the site. They were most amazed to see the marriage marks (the marks they used to number the beams) by Rueben Rice or one of his family members put on the roof beams. They were impressed to see that the marks are still visible today. They also liked laying on the rope bed like the one that was in the house at one time.

After the tour students played games from the time period such as drop the clothespin and ring toss. They were also the first large group to complete the site's scavenger hunt and use the interpretive signs to find the answers.

Arkansas Virtual Academy is an online charter school that offers a personalized education experience to their students, explains their website.

## Sons of America Revolution Honor Edward Hudson

On Saturday, October 14 the Crowley's Ridge Chapter of the Arkansas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held a ceremony honoring Revolutionary war soldier, Edward Hudson. Boy Scout Troop 45 of Pocahontas was also part of the ceremony by participating in the Color Guard.

Greg Hogue, a member of the Crowley's Ridge Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution explained, "We held the ceremony to honor the service of a patriot of the American Revolution who made his way with his family and settled and died in what is now Randolph County, Arkansas. The Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is dedicated to assisting our members, schools, teachers, and the general public in their efforts to sustain and preserve our history and constitutional principles. Honoring a patriot such as Edward Hudson reminds us that there were those that gave everything to allow us to become what we are, the United States of America."

Hogue also praised Troup 45 for their help during the ceremony: "They acted as ushers for those attending, filmed the event, and helped with the breakdown of the ceremony. They were invaluable. The Society strives to promote the Boy Scouts of America and were excited to have them assist us in this rare event."

The Sons of the American Revolution hold these ceremonies in order to give the soldiers the recognition they most likely did not receive at the time. Most of the soldiers died with no recognition of their service aside from a small pension with a few family members present. The ceremony given now is an effort to make things right and conduct an appropriate eulogy.



Students, parents and teachers gather on the porch of Rice-Upshaw after their tour.



## Rate Us on TripAdvisor

Have you visited the sites and have a Trip Advisor account? Please rate us! We are listed as the Rice-Upshaw Historic Site since that is the only site the public can visit without a guide. We appreciate the feedback and your rating will help entice more visitors to come out and learn about our history!



## Thank you for visiting!

We have had another wonderful year at Dalton! We've met new people and seen familiar faces. We started the year with a visit from Chuck Dovish of Exploring Arkansas on PBS. This gained the sites more notice among Arkansans. We then hosted the Arkansas Historical Association on a rainy, cold Friday in the spring. Students from Williams Baptist College also came out to see the sites and work with Brian Meridith, our local wood craftsman, who brought out his lathe for people to use. Leadership Randolph County came out to visit. This is a group of community leaders in the area. They learned about the sites and even tried to call the cows. We had so many family members come that I fear in listing them I would forget someone! Thank you for supporting these important places. We hope to see you again soon!

*Top right*-Jeanette Grigg visited with her son and daughter and their spouses, Rice descendants. *Second from top*-Exploring Arkansas. *Bottom Right*-Leadership Randolph County. *Bottom middle*-Marjorie Smith and grandson, Joe Douglas, Downey descendants. *Bottom left*-Brian Meridith, wood craftsman.



## CONTACT US!

P.O. Box 468  
1410 Hwy 304 East  
Pocahontas, AR 72455  
(870) 248-4189

**Office of Institutional  
Advancement**  
Jessica Bailey  
Karen Liebhaber

Visit us on the web at  
[reach.blackrivertech.org](http://reach.blackrivertech.org)



**BLACK  
RIVER**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
P.O. BOX 468  
POCAHONTAS, AR 72455