

## Artifacts to be Displayed at Welcome Center



The Welcome Center in Corning, Arkansas, has agreed to showcase some of the interesting artifacts found at the

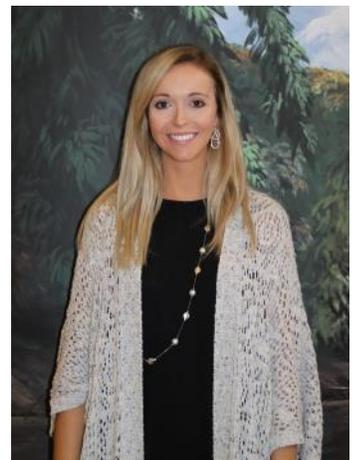
REACH site! Travelers who pass through the Welcome Center will be able to learn from the artifacts, and we hope this will bring more attention to the work that has been done at Dalton! The artifacts will be on display by January 2019, so make sure you stop by and take a look at what the Welcome Center has to offer for REACH. What exciting news for our program!

## Black River Technical College

### New Additions to the REACH Team

**Holly Looney**, (right) is the new REACH project coordinator. She works as the development coordinator for Black River Technical College, and has enjoyed her time as an employee since July. Looney is a graduate of Williams Baptist College. She is currently obtaining her Masters of Business Administration at Southern Arkansas University.

“The REACH program has given me so much information about Arkansas Heritage that I did not know existed right here at our back door,” Looney states. “I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting with descendants of both sites and learning such an interesting story.” She wants to see the REACH program flourish, and hopes to develop new opportunities for the site in 2019. “My goal is not only to draw more visitors to the site, but also bring the REACH program out in the community.” Looney works in the Office of Institutional Advancement at Black River Technical College, and encourages anyone interested in the REACH program to contact her for information on how to get involved.



Holly Looney- Project Coordinator



Chris Lewis- Part-Time Assistant

**Mary Christina Lewis (Chris)** has been the part-time assistant at the REACH site since April. She is a retired school teacher, and works with her husband on their farm raising beef cattle. Lewis has a special connection with the Rice-Upshaw house because she is a seventh generation descendant of Rueben Rice.

Lewis and her husband own part of the farm that Fielding Stubblefield, a dear friend of Rueben Rice, was granted in 1842 from the United States government. They have raised their two daughters, Stacy and Autumn, and still reside with their son Casey just two miles from the Rice-Upshaw House.

Chris enjoys working at the REACH site because she enjoys learning new facts about her ancestry from the many descendants, friends, and people who visit the site. She is also excited to be adding to the descendant family, and will welcome two new grandbabies in November and February! We are so happy to add Chris to the REACH team. She has a passion for learning, and has created games for children at the site to learn while they participate in the tour! Chris works at the REACH site on Tuesdays from April - October. Her love for the history that these sites brings to the community makes her a great addition to the program.

# REACH Committee Meets for 2019

A REACH meeting was held at the Black River Technical College campus on October 11, 2018. Members of the REACH committee and the Office of Institutional Advancement discussed the progress that the site has made. New ideas for events at the REACH site included a "Homecoming" event for descendant families and the community. This event is set to be in Spring of 2019 and will include the unveiling of the archival cabinets and entertainment from several local community members.



REACH committee meets with Office of Institutional Advancement.

The archeological artifacts found at the REACH sites have been sorted and are ready to be displayed at various sites. Plans to display the loom and spinning wheel in the library at Black River Technical College are in the works. The REACH committee also discussed ideas on displaying the artifacts at several locations around the state to promote the REACH program. This, in turn, will draw visitors to the site. We hope to bring positive and exciting changes for REACH next year!



Ronnie Walker and Karen Liebhaber discuss the options for archival cabinets.

## Stonebridge Residents Visit REACH

Residents of Stonebridge Senior Living in Pocahontas visited the REACH site on Tuesday, October 23. They enjoyed a beautiful day touring the Rice-Upshaw House, and ate lunch under the pavilion. Our tour guides enjoyed visiting with the residents and speaking about the history of the REACH site.

Eugenia Ingram of Stonebridge spoke of their experience at the site: "The beautiful, historic setting provided a wonderful backdrop for the tour. Chris Lewis and her son Casey gave an in-depth history of the house and the activities of its occupants. All of the residents enjoyed a complete tour and a sack lunch in the pavilion. It was a memorable day for our residents. Chris left no stone unturned to make sure everything was perfect!"

Pictures were taken of the group in front of the Rice-Upshaw house (top right), a resident in the Rice-Upshaw House (middle), and the group eating lunch under the pavilion (bottom). This was a fantastic end to the REACH season. Thank you, Stonebridge, for the wonderful morning!



## OPEN DATES FOR 2018

We may be closed for the winter, but it's never too early to start planning for 2019! 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)

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

## How Can YOU Help?

### Become a donor!

Learn more about Project REACH and become a funding supporter at [www.blackrivertech.org/office-of-development/](http://www.blackrivertech.org/office-of-development/)

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list or if you would prefer receiving it by email, please contact

Holly Looney

[holly.looney@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:holly.looney@blackrivertech.edu)



# STOPPING BY

THANKS FOR

We are always excited to see new faces and descendants at the REACH site! Our tour guides love to see individuals drive out to the site and explore all of our early Arkansas heritage material! Here are some of the visitors from this year!

The Anderson family (top right) are pictured exploring the cemetery next to the Rice-Upshaw house. Carl Harris and brother (middle right) are seen visiting in front of the grainery at the Rice-Upshaw House. Members of the Haven Family are pictured (bottom right) learning new information about the Rice-Upshaw House.



Dan Stubblefield and family are standing in front of the Looney Tavern (left). They are descendants of Coleman Stubblefield and still own some of the original land from the Stubblefield's.

If you have pictures at the Upshaw-Rice House or the Looney Tavern, please send them to us! We would love to include you in our newsletter! Send pictures to: [holly.looney@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:holly.looney@blackrivertech.edu)



## Descendants Corner A Tale of Two Houses

By Cindy Robinett

One day several years ago while giving tours at the Rice-Upshaw House, I was told an interesting bit of house history. Peggy Fender (step-daughter of Willard Upshaw) said the last two ladies to call the Rice-Upshaw House and the Looney Tavern "home" had a decades-old rivalry with each other over whose house was the oldest. I remember smiling at the thought of two elderly ladies, both well respected members of the Dalton community, bickering over this local claim to fame.

Peggy often visited the old Rice-Upshaw home place and Willard's parents, Albert and Zella. "Aunt Zella" as she was always called by my family, married Albert in 1911. They lived together in the "Old Monarch" for the next 63 years—until Albert's death in 1974.

As it turns out, Zella was not the only local girl to marry in 1911. One of her closest childhood friends (and future rival), Dora Baker, married Nick Downey. Downey inherited the old Looney farm through his mother's first marriage to William S. "Bill" Looney, the last family member to call the Tavern site home.

Both the Rice-Upshaw House and Looney Tavern site underwent modernizations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Electricity, indoor plumbing, bathrooms and kitchens were added and large families were raised in both. The two ladies, Zella and Dora, grew gardens, and put up meat in their smoke houses to last through the winter months. Later, they became members of the local EHC Ladies Club and hosted meetings at their homes, all the while, the rivalry stewed. Unfortunately, both ladies went to their graves not knowing which had been correct in thinking her home was the oldest.



Today, we finally know the answer to the question once thought to be lost in time. Based on scientific, dendrochronological research (tree-ring dating the logs in each structure), we know now that the Rice-Upshaw House was built in 1828 and the Looney Tavern was built just five years later in 1833. Because both houses were built before Arkansas was granted statehood, both ladies had a great deal to be proud of. Imagine what they'd think today if they could see the incredible restoration and homage given to both sites.

The REACH sites are treasures, not only of Black River Technical College and the communities we serve, they are also treasures of the state of Arkansas. It's a fascinating and never-ending story—one that's still being written .

-Have a story to share? SEND IT TO US! [holly.looney@blackrivertech.edu](mailto:holly.looney@blackrivertech.edu)

## Thank you for visiting!

We have had another wonderful year at Dalton! We've met new people and seen familiar faces. The REACH Program was designed to educate individuals on Early Arkansas Heritage, and we hope that our sites give all of our visitors insight on the lives of those who lived here! Although visiting hours are over for the year, that does not mean you have to stop supporting our program! Contact our staff if you have any relation to the sites, or if you are interested being a donor. The Rice-Upshaw House and the Looney Tavern are wonderful assets to our community, and we could not do all of this without your help! Thank you for supporting these important places. We hope to see you again soon!



## CONTACT US!

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

**Office of Institutional  
Advancement**  
Holly Looney  
Karen Liebhaber

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



## 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!

