

→ - THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ARROW ROCK, INC. - ←

HISTORIC ARROW ROCK™

Vol. 36

No. 2

Summer 2016

→ *Bingham Film Nears Completion
Join Us For The World Premiere!*

→ *Preservation At Work
Jeffris Project Is Underway*

+ *Historic Christian Church
Gets A Paint Revival!*

The American Artist

THE LIFE & TIMES OF GEORGE CALEB BINGHAM



ROLLOUT THE



BINGHAM FILM DEBUTS



RED CARPET

IN ARROW ROCK OCT. 15 ←—————→ 

Here in Arrow Rock, we know all about George Caleb Bingham, the artist who beautifully captured life on the American frontier in the mid-1800s, and offered up blistering indictments of the day's politics through his paintings. Bingham made his home here in Arrow Rock, and often included

Arrow Rock faces and places in his work, but the height of his fame came later, after his death, when the work of regionalist painters came into vogue. Today he is celebrated in artistic circles, but he remains somewhat unknown to the general public.

Friends of Arrow Rock is the executive producer of a new film that will introduce Bingham and his art to a much larger audience. The project was made possible thanks to a generous gift from the Pillsbury Foundation.

The American Artist: The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham, is a documentary biopic that recounts the artist's life from his childhood, when his introduction to itinerant painters lit an artistic spark, through his career as a professional artist and politician. He was a prolific documenter of life through his art, and his

candor on canvas still evokes an emotional response from viewers.

Emmy-winning Wide Awake Films of Kansas City was selected to produce the movie. Filming took the cast and crew all over the state, and recently brought them to Arrow Rock for four days of filming in the

town Bingham loved most. Just as Bingham featured his Arrow Rock friends in his painting, Wide Awake Films included some Friends of Arrow Rock members in this movie. Be sure to look for those familiar faces!

The collaboration between the filmmakers, the Pillsbury Foundation, and the Friends of Arrow Rock has yielded a beautiful and compelling film that we hope to bring to a national audience in 2017. But you don't have to wait that long!

We will celebrate the completion of this project with a world premiere in Arrow Rock on Saturday, Oct. 15. Friends of Arrow Rock members, Wide Awake Films cast and crew, art curators who offered their expertise both on film and behind the scenes, and Nancy Pillsbury Shirley,

the project's benefactor, will all be on hand for the very first public showing of the film. We hope you will join us for this special celebration. ▶

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
to the World Premiere of
*The American Artist:
The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham*

Date
Saturday, Oct. 15

Times
3:30 p.m. (doors open at 2:30 p.m.)
8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.)

Place
Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, Arrow Rock, MO

Enjoy a glass of champagne before the showing, snap photos with the cast and crew, then settle into the comfortable Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre to enjoy this marvelous film on the big screen. The Mengel Brothers Duo, whose music is used in the film, will be on hand to provide entertainment prior to the show.

VIP ticketholders enjoy special seating at the front of the theater for the premiere (3:30 showing) and will adjourn afterward to a private reception at the J. Huston Tavern, a building that made appearances in Bingham's art. Reception guests will have an opportunity to visit with the filmmakers, key actors, and others who were involved with the film. Guests will be treated to a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres, wine and other beverages. The VIP experience is limited to 100 people. Tickets will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

→ Tickets ←
VIP EXPERIENCE
(includes reserved section seating for the premiere showing at 3:30 p.m., and the reception at the J. Huston Tavern.)
\$100 per person

GENERAL ADMISSION SEATING
(includes a glass of champagne prior to the showing, and general admission seating for your choice of the 3:30 or 8 p.m. showings. Specific seats will not be assigned and cannot be reserved.)
\$35 per person

To purchase your tickets, visit
FriendsofArrowRock.org/binghampremiere or
call the Friends of Arrow Rock office at 660-837-3231.



Above: FAR Trustees Mary Burge and Pat Cooper get a 19th century makeover. Right: FAR members who volunteered as extras include (from left) Quin Gresham, Rich Lawson, Tempe McGlaughlin, Judy Smith, Elaine Breshears, Cooper, Burge, and Charles Cooper.



Above and left: The *Wide Awake* Film crew and actor Jacob "Jake" Walker were meticulous about every detail in their depiction of Bingham's life.



Left: Art curator Nancy Work and Bingham Trust president Charles Valier explain how Missourians stepped up to prevent the sale of Bingham's original sketches. Right: During his time as Missouri governor, Christopher "Kit" Bond (on left with Valier) was instrumental in saving the Bingham sketches.



A Very Good Year

Future historians, take note! The Friends of Arrow Rock will be recalling the great accomplishments of 2016 for many years to come.

Two years ago, I had the pleasure of writing the history of the Friends of Arrow Rock as part of its 55th anniversary celebration. As I was doing my research, I discovered this is an organization that has never grown content with staying the course. From the beginning, it has always looked for ways to do more and to do better.



Sandy Selby
Executive Director
Friends of Arrow Rock

Every one of our 57 years is important to this organization's story, but some years represent giant leaps forward. One such year was 1984, when Friends of Arrow Rock hired its first executive director, began its spring education programs, and established its endowment fund. In 1998, FAR effortlessly maneuvered through projects that included a traveling exhibit honoring Arrow Rock's black history, a George Caleb Bingham symposium, and preservation work on the dilapidated Brown Lodge No. 22 A.F. & A.M. building.

Whoever writes the next FAR history will look back on 2016 with the same sense of awe at all that was accomplished. They will speak of this year's remarkable importance

because it brings two notable projects to fruition: a major preservation effort that affects four of our historic properties, and the documentary film on the life of Arrow Rock's own George Caleb Bingham.

This issue of our newsletter is filled with exciting news about these projects, and includes a special invitation for you to be a part of the world premiere of *The American Artist: The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham* on Oct. 15.

It's always a good time to be a member of Friends of Arrow Rock, but this year's members will be part of a momentous time in our history. Thank you for all you do to help us protect this treasured place and share its stories far and wide. ▶

Save The Date For These Friends of Arrow Rock Events

Get details and ticket information on all these events at FriendsOfArrowRock.org or by calling the office at 660-837-3231.

Saturday, Sept. 17:

Sip & Stroll

Every Friday Night

In October:

Arrow Rock Night Walks

Saturday, Oct. 15:

World Premiere!

The American Artist:

The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham

Sunday, Dec. 4:

Friends of Arrow Rock Holiday Celebration

First Saturday Lectures

All First Saturday Lectures begin at 10 a.m. and take place at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site auditorium. They are free and open to the public. The 2016 First Saturday Lecture Series is made possible through a generous gift from Pamela Parsons, former Education Director for Friends of Arrow Rock.

Sept. 3: "Both Sides Now: Seeing the Santa Fe Trail from Santa Fe and Missouri," presented by Frances Levine, President of the Missouri History Museum.

Oct. 1: "Ars Moriendi: The Art Of Dying" (the cultural evolution of American death and mourning customs from Colonial times through 1900), presented by Paula Zalar. This is a 2-hour presentation, with a short break after the first hour.

TELLING THE STORIES OF ARROW ROCK

Friends of Arrow Rock's core Children's Education Program in April and May marked its 32nd year and was as informative as ever. We offered our ever-popular program highlighting *1800s Family Life and School Days* to grades 1 and 2, using the Bingham House as the setting. Back again was our program led by the Missouri River Bird Observatory emphasizing natural history and native inhabitants of Arrow Rock. The program included a tour of the 1830's J. Huston Tavern — a backdrop for the paintings of George Caleb Bingham — and the Bingham House.

New this year and as a tie-in to the 2016 elections, we offered a program titled *Governing the Frontier*. Students discovered how settlers became citizens and leaders in the towns along Missouri's waterways and trails, and participated in a mock election at the 1839 Saline County Courthouse. While initially designed to target grades 4 through 6, grades 2 and 3 participated as well. Both students and teachers praised this new program!

We offer our sincere thanks to our good partners at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site and our dedicated Friends of Arrow Rock volunteers! Our education programs would not be possible without the generous Legacy Gift from Corinne Jackson and the kindness of Marti and Richard Hodge, who loan us the use of

their restored log cabin. The spring program drew 967 participants, a 5 percent increase over 2015. With excellent response last year, and the need to get back on track with offering the Children's Craft Festival on even numbered years, we have scheduled the festival for Sept. 22 (rain date, Sept. 27). The festival highlights crafts and activities that were part of daily life for children in the 1800s.



Response to our initial request for crafters and volunteers has been favorable, but we still need more! Contact the Friends of Arrow Rock office at 660-837-3231 if you'd like to learn more about this fun volunteer opportunity. ▶

Despite some rainy weeks and a hot and humid July, our Guided Tram Tour sales are on par with 2015. Our Interpretive theme, "America's Frontier from Bingham's Doorstep," is reflected in our tour brochure and made possible by the Janette Louise Bohlken Crumpacker Memorial Fund. Tour highlights include the Arrow Rock Main Street business district, the J. Huston Tavern, and the home of artist George Caleb Bingham.

Sip & Stroll For A Great Cause

The Friends of Arrow Rock's annual Sip & Stroll fundraiser returns for another great year on Sept. 17. Get exclusive access to some of Arrow Rock's most beautiful homes, then enjoy a hearty meal of barbecue favorites and take part in the thrilling silent and live auctions. Proceeds from this event benefit the ongoing preservation and education pro-



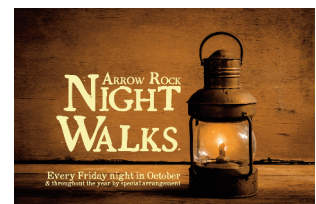
grams of Friends of Arrow Rock! Tickets are \$60 and may be purchased online at FriendsOfArrowRock.org, or from the FAR office at 660-837-3231.

Arrow Rock After Dark

See the historic village of Arrow Rock, Missouri in a whole new light by exploring it in the dark! Friends of Arrow Rock Executive Director Sandy Selby will lead you on a 90-minute walk around the village, recounting spine-tingling tales of daring adventures

and dastardly deeds from days gone by. You'll walk in the footsteps of great American painter George Caleb Bingham, "Quinine Doctor" John Sappington, rowdy river men, weary pioneers, slaves, merchants and tradesmen who lived and died (and some say linger still) in the village. Night Walks are scheduled for every Friday night in October, beginning at 8 p.m., or may be arranged for groups of five or more any time throughout the year. Tickets for the Night Walk

tour are \$15 per person. Reservations are strongly recommended. All ages are welcome but some stories may be too intense for small children. Visit FriendsOfArrowRock.org/nightwalks or call Sandy at 660-837-3231 to learn more.



SITE WORK BEGINS ON JEFFRIS PRESERVATION PROJECT

After six years of planning, studying and fundraising, the Friends of Arrow Rock recently celebrated the start of the construction phase of the Jeffris Preservation Project on four of its properties.

Breaking Ground Dozens of Friends of Arrow Rock members, project contributors, and local residents gathered for an official groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, June 22. The ceremony opened with an invocation by Patrick Overton, pastor of the Arrow Rock Federated Church. Dr. Tom Hall, Friends of Arrow Rock president, shared the history of the project before joining supervising architect Marion Smith of Engine House No. 1, and Corey Thomas of Pishny Restoration Services, to turn the first spade of dirt.

The project will bring structural, mechanical, and site drainage improvements to the 1868 Odd Fellows Lodge Hall, which houses the Missouri Press Association's print shop museum; the John P. Sites Gunsmith Shop; and the Sites House. The project also will improve drainage around the 1868 Masonic Lodge Hall.

Friends of Arrow Rock teamed with the Jeffris Family Foundation of Janesville, Wisconsin, which provided a \$230,000 challenge grant for the project. More than \$460,000 in additional funding for the project was contributed by organizations that include the Missouri Press Association, the Grand Lodge of Missouri Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and numerous other corporations, foundations and individuals.

Engine House No. 1 of St. Louis serves as the architect for the project. Pishny Restoration Services

of Lenexa, Kansas is the general contractor. Both firms were selected because of their experience with complex historic preservation projects.

The Hole Story One of the first projects site supervisor Doug Scales and the rest of the Pishny Restoration Services team tackled was the removal of three abandoned cisterns and an old root cellar from the Sites Gunsmith Shop and Sites House properties. The cisterns proved to be much deeper than expected — each was approximately 20 feet deep — and all were still holding water.

Friends of Arrow Rock Properties Manager Marty Selby is confident that removing the old cisterns and root cellar will greatly improve the drainage around those properties and eliminate the water retention that was causing damage to the buildings' foundations and soft brick walls. The entire landscape around the Sites House, Gun Shop and the Masonic Lodge Hall will be regraded to provide good drainage away from these irreplaceable historic buildings.

"Water is the enemy," Marty says. "Especially when it comes to these old buildings. The better job we do today to divert water away from these foundations, the better it will be for the buildings in the long term."

Although Marty and the team from Pishny kept their eyes open for buried treasures as they were digging, their finds were limited to some old bottles, a few rusty spoons, and some scraps of metal.



RIGHT: Corey Thomas of Pishny Restoration Services, Marion Smith of Engine House No. 1, and FAR President Tom Hall break ground on the Jeffris Project.

LEFT: Properties Manager Marty Selby inspects the progress of the cistern removal behind the Sites Gunsmith Shop.





ABOVE: The crew dug out a cellar that had been loosely filled more than 50 years ago, but that was still holding water.
 LEFT: The ground around the Sites House is being regraded to better divert water from the building.
 BELOW: Marty Selby (center) visits with the project team following the groundbreaking ceremony.



Next Up Once the site work is completed, the project will move to the 1868 Odd Fellows Lodge Hall. The building's structure is being reinforced to better support the heavy printing equipment that is on display on the ground floor at the Missouri Press Association print shop museum. The upstairs will be devoted to a display that explains the role of the Odd Fellows organization in local communities like Arrow Rock. A new ground-source heat pump will heat and cool the building, marking the first time in its history that the building has enjoyed the luxury of an HVAC system. The project is currently on budget and on schedule to wrap up by the end of 2016. ▶

The Christian Church Gets A Fresh Coat Help Us Pay The Painter!

Our Friends of Arrow Rock Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, June 5, at the historic Christian Church. As we were preparing for the meeting, we were concerned about the exterior appearance of the church. It was time for a fresh coat of paint — at least on the front of the church.

When we contracted painter Kevin McCartney for the job, we explained that we had funds on hand to pay him for work on the front of the church. Kevin was concerned that the entire building was beginning to suffer because of the failing paint on the back and sides, so he took a leap of faith and painted the entire building, assuring us that we could pay him when we were able to raise the funds. He and his crew did an outstanding job, carefully abiding by the strict guidelines we have in place for how our buildings are to be painted. Kevin was even on the job on the day of the annual meeting, visiting with members and talking about his progress.

Thanks to the generosity of the members who attended our annual meeting, we have paid Kevin all but the final \$1,900 for the job.

Please consider making a special gift to Friends of Arrow Rock so we can make our final payment to Kevin for his excellent work on this project. The church has never looked better and will be a beautiful wedding venue for the couples who have rented it this fall. ▶



Make plans to attend the old-fashioned worship service at the Christian Church during this year's Heritage Festival. The service begins at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Other Fund-A-Need Opportunities

American flag, pole and wall mount for Shelby Log Cabin

\$100

Two sturdy park benches for the boardwalk in front of the FAR museum shop:

\$250/each

Sidewalk replacement at Brown's Chapel:

\$1,425

Sidewalk replacement at Christian Church:

\$2,750

Join the Friends of Arrow Rock today!

Joining us is easy! Pay by check, mail to the address on the website or join us with a secure credit card donation online at FriendsofArrowRock.org.

YES, I want to be a Friend of Arrow Rock!



Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

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My check made payable to Friends of Arrow Rock Inc, is enclosed.

Mail to: Friends of Arrow Rock, P.O. Box 124, Arrow Rock, Missouri 65520

Or join with a secure credit card donation online at FriendsofArrowRock.org.

* Consider making a recurring (monthly) gift electronically via our website FriendsofArrowRock.org under the "Get to Know Us" tab. This type of giving helps us operate more efficiently and economically year round.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

> Life \$1,000

> Benefactor \$500

> Patron \$250

> Sponsor \$100

> Sustaining \$50

> Supporting \$30

▶ PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR LEGACY SOCIETY BY REMEMBERING THE FRIENDS OF ARROW ROCK IN YOUR WILL.

HAR

Anna Mae Hodge (1922-2016)

By Dr. Thomas B. Hall, Friends of Arrow Rock President

With the death of Anna Mae Hodge on June 12, Arrow Rock and the Friends of Arrow Rock have lost one of our very best friends. Anna Mae was born and grew up in nearby Fayette, just across the river from Arrow Rock in historic Howard County, and it was there, while she was a student at Central Methodist College, that she met Robert Hodge. They were married for 68 years; for over 30 years he was a practicing physician in North Kansas City, specializing in internal medicine.

Anna Mae and Bob had always known of Arrow Rock, but they acquired their first property here, the ca.1830 Thornton House, in the 1960s, and they restored that house and their other properties in Arrow Rock beautifully. Anna Mae served for 25 years as a very active and dynamic trustee of the Friends of Arrow Rock, starting in 1989, and she was subsequently a loyal and active emeritus trustee.


Anna Mae had a genuine interest in historic preservation. She was a talented artist, and she documented in beautiful paintings all of the historic African American houses in Arrow Rock, of which only a few are still standing. She was a major impetus and promoter for the Friends of Arrow Rock's museum of black history in the Brown's Lodge building on Morgan Street. Anna Mae's great interest in archaeology and in Missouri pottery and her support of archaeological excavations on Block 30, where Brown's Lodge is located, led to significant discoveries there about Arrow Rock's early pottery factory. The Thornton House in Arrow Rock, Anna Mae and Bob's main residence, was filled with antique furniture, mostly of Missouri origin, and with Anna Mae's impressive collections of early Missouri pottery and of Indian arrowheads and other artifacts, which she gathered herself in

nearby expeditions with her good friend and Arrow Rock resident Karen Murray. These collections have important teaching value about the Indian culture and flint tools and weapons for which our town is named, and about Arrow Rock's early manufacturers.

Anna Mae became a good friend to everyone who met her. Her enthusiasm, graciousness, kindness, love of beauty, art and music brought much that was good to Arrow Rock during the 50+ years that she and Bob were residents. Their personalities and generous involvement in all activities of Arrow Rock, the Friends of Arrow Rock, and the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre made people feel like they were full-time citizens of the town. As former Friends of Arrow Rock Executive Director Kathy Borgman aptly said, "A visit with Anna Mae was more than a breath of fresh air ... more like a mighty rushing wind ... and it always made me feel better. I can already

hear the heavenly laughter!"

I have lost a good personal friend and mentor; Anna Mae always inspired her friends and the many organizations she supported to do their best. She and Bob will always be remembered as leaders in the preservation and restoration of Arrow Rock. We are grateful that their son Dr. Richard Hodge continues to serve on the board of the Friends of Arrow Rock; their older son Dr. Robert Hodge serves on the board of the outstanding Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University. Their daughter Nancy Shy, another good Friend of Arrow Rock, predeceased Anna Mae and Bob. Arrow Rock

will not be the same without them, but they have left a wonderful legacy here that will last forever. 



- R E C E N T M E M O R I A L S A N D H O N O R S -

In memory of Truman Anderson: Jennifer & Bill True | *In memory of Tut Bellamy:* Chet Breitwieser | *In memory of Charles Borgman:* Chet Breitwieser & Rod Starns, Elaine & Danny Breshears, Kathy Borgman, Jan & Dale Hinnah | *In memory of Gordon Buckner:* Chet Breitwieser | *In memory of Eric Breitwieser:* Kathy & Charlie Digges Sr., Mandy Dorrance & Bruce Satterlee, Donna & John Huston, Marjo & Al Price, Sandy & Marty Selby, Bunny Thomas & Ken Blair | *In honor of Judge Kathleen Forsythe:* Jill & Leland Shurin | *In memory of Laverne Breitwieser Haley:* Chet Breitwieser | *In memory of Anna Mae Hodge:* Leslie & Keith Anderson, Dan Auman & Kirby McCullough, Kathy Borgman, Chet Breitwieser & Rod Starns, Elaine & Danny Breshears, Anita & Steve Byers, Vicki Cole, Dona Sue Cool, Kathy & Charlie Digges Sr., John Dillingham, Mandy Dorrance & Bruce Satterlee, Kenneth I. Fligg Jr., Nelda & Richard Forry, Dr. Shelby Gregory, Jan & Dale Hinnah, Ernest Hodge, Dr. Jay Hodge, Donna & John Huston, Dr. & Mrs. Joseph F. Jacobs, Rosemary Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kennedy, Day & Whitney Kerr, Betty Kusgen, Richard Mehl, Pamela Parsons, Mary Pogson, Pam & Kevin Riggs, Elizabeth & Richard Rhoads, Wilda & Hal Sandy, Sandy & Marty Selby, Tommy W. Taylor, Bunny Thomas & Ken Blair, Irene Thomas, Gretchen Weible, Mr. & Mrs. F. Scott Werner | *In memory of John Irvin:* Chet Breitwieser, Donna & John Huston, Grayson Kabler, Pam & Kevin Riggs | *In honor of Day & Whitney Kerr:* Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Zimmer III | *In honor of Paul Ratcliffe:* Jane Ratcliffe & Jack Coakley | *In memory of Herschel Roth:* Mary & David Norbury, Pam & Kevin Riggs, Jennifer & Bill True | *In memory of Roberta Lanier Smith:* Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Bredehoeft, Rick Buckman, Norma Jeane & Charles Ferguson, Trish & John Fletcher, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Hall III, Henry Harris IV, Jane & George Huff, Audrey & Steve Jones, Julie & James Lewis IV, Melinda & Timothy Smith, R. Barclay Smith, Bob Van Dyke, Zada Watkins, Wood & Huston Bank, Jeanne Young | *In memory of Margaret & George Thompson:* Jennifer & Bill True

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Our Mission: Sharing the Missouri Frontier Experience



An Invitation to Join the Friends of Arrow Rock

The Friends of Arrow Rock safeguards the history, historical artifacts and 13 of the historical structures of the village of Arrow Rock, a National Historic Landmark, through ongoing education programs and preservation initiatives. **Please join us in 2016, our 57th year,** and help us share the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations. Memberships may be deductible for income tax purposes.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION →

CALL: 660-837-3231
 EMAIL: office@FriendsofArrowRock.org
 WEB: FriendsofArrowRock.org

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Sandy Selby

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Mandy Dorrance

Thank You to ...

These individuals and organizations donated shelving and cabinets to help us organize our basement storage space:

- Tom and Mary Beamer for the rolling cabinet
- The Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre for metal shelving
- Rich Lawson for metal shelving
- Nancy Blossom for a vertical filing cabinet



Friends of Arrow Rock members gathered at the historic Christian Church on June 5 for the organization's 57th annual meeting.

CHECK OUT our Web page at FriendsofArrowRock.org and "like" us on Facebook.

➡ ~ FRIENDSOFARROWROCK.ORG ~ ⬅

OUR VISION: To develop Arrow Rock into one of the premier historic destinations in the country so that the important lessons of our past will not be forgotten.

On the cover Mary Burge, a trustee and charter member of Friends of Arrow Rock, volunteered as an extra during filming of *The American Artist: The Life & Times of George Caleb Bingham*. See Page 2 for details on the film's premiere.