

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CHET BREITWIESER

estive greetings of the season as we bring glad tidings to each of you! The village is festooned in 19th century finery, our museum buildings are adorned in cedar boughs, pinecones, apples and oranges, and with candles glowing in the windows. The Boardwalk is draped in swags of fresh cedar, adding a warm welcome to all our visitors. The Holiday Season is especially charming and visually stimulating each year in Arrow Rock.

The Friends of Arrow Rock has had a productive year, with many restoration and repair projects on our buildings. The Christian Church, Sites Gunsmith Shop, Odd Fellows Lodge, and FAR Museum Building have each benefited. Our Properties Committee is hard at



Chet Breitwieser President Friends of Arrow Rock

work on renovating the kitchen, fellowship hall, and restrooms at Brown's Chapel, in addition to the patio and terrace at the Miller-Bradford House. Our build-

ings will begin the New Year in good condition—but there is always preservation work to be done.

With a generous grant from the Sunderland Foundation of Kansas City, our Properties Committee has worked efficiently to add a new roof over the kitchen section of Brown's Chapel, fresh exterior paint and new kitchen cabinets, countertops, flooring, appliances and fixtures for the ADA accessible bathroom.

The Miller-Bradford House has had five dead trees removed from the patio terrace to allow for continued restoration of the elegant courtyard.

On September 18, our Sip & Stroll event was a well-attended success thanks to our Events Committee, staff and volunteers. Our Fund-a-Need from the virtual and live auctions raised

enough money to cover the cost of repairing and repainting the Sanctuary in Brown's Chapel.

On the beautiful and sunny afternoon of October 8th, with Main Street blocked off in front of the Boardwalk and the iconic Huston Tavern as our backdrop, we celebrated the post-fire ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovation of Missouri's first State Historic Site and oldest continuously operating restaurant West of the Mississippi. What a glorious day of celebration for the Huston Tavern with many dignitaries speaking to an overflow crowd.

On the evening of December 5, our Holiday with Friends was a well-attended event. The village was aglow with holiday cheer and candlelight. Our generous thanks to the Huston Family for again hosting the welcome reception before crossing Main Street to the beautifully decorated warm hospitality and delicious food of the J. Huston Tavern. We continued the evening celebration with Santa and Mrs. Claus in attendance. Alan Hagedorn, Janet Carmack and their staff continue to do an amazing job with the reopening of the Tavern. The Events Committee, staff and volunteers again did a wonderful job! With your support of the Fund-a-Need in the virtual and live Auction, we raised enough money to purchase and install a much needed, period-style lighting fixture for the exterior of the 1829 Museum

REMEMBER, HISTORY IS INVALUABLE, LEARN IT, EM-BRACE IT, TEACH IT, AND SHARE IT!

Building and essential office supplies. 2021 has definitely been a year of transitions. Executive Director Sandy Selby surprised us with her resignation to become the next Editor in Chief of *Missouri Life* magazine. Our longest-serving Historical Interpreter, Elaine

Breshears, retired to share more time with family, and Historical Interpreter Sue Day left us to spend more time with an aging family member. We are very grateful for their service to FAR.

Mindy Smith, President of the Missouri Folk Art Gallery, which has been located in the Miller-Bradford House, will be closing the Gallery. After nearly three years of operating this 501c3 not-forprofit, Mindy is anxious to return to her professional art career. This Gallery has been a tremendous success, Mindy and her Board have directly benefited the FAR by more than \$25,000 in Artisan Commission Sales, plus antique items donated by FAR members. It has been a tremendous amount of hard work, and we are grateful to Mindy for her vision and the support of her Board for proving to us that a quality shop featuring good art, fine antiques, and Missouri-made Folk Art can still be successful, just as Cora Lee and Bill Miller asked of us.

After 35 years of dedicated service to the Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Administrator Mike Dickey reached retirement in December. Mike has been a tremendous asset to the Arrow Rock State Park and Visitors Center. The FAR have shared a warm working relationship with Mike and his Staff all these years. We have always been aligned with the State and FAR Mission of historic preservation and history education. We are especially grateful to Mike for his care of the J.Huston Tavern and the family's barking dog! The FAR and State Site hosted a retirement party for Mike at the Huston Tavern on December 12, with an overflow crowd attending. It was especially nice to have Director of Missouri State Parks, David Kelly, speak along with other Village organizations. We wish Mike and his family much happiness in the future.

Our Board voted to ask Operations and Education Director Jeff Kurtti to fill the Interim Executive Director position for 2-6 months, and he has accepted. We will convene the Executive Director Search Committee after the first of the year. Our Board also asked former Operations and Education Director Mandy Dorrance to return and oversee the 1829 retail shop and assist with office needs, and she accepted. We

are most grateful to each of them for their support, in addition to our dedicated Historical Interpreter Monte Holder.

Looking into next year, in addition to our regular events, we are excited to host an Antiques and Decorative Arts Symposium, May 14 at the Lyceum Theater. This event will feature noted speakers from across the country and the focus will be on American Folk Art.

Over the July 4th weekend, Arrow Rock will host the 50th Anniversary of the

movie *Tom Sawyer*, which was filmed here in 1972. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime event with many of the original cast members and associates returning to help all of us celebrate this exciting reunion.

On behalf of our Board and Staff, we thank you for your continued support. We wish you and those you hold dear, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and abundant blessings in the New Year.

- A GENEROUS MEMORY -

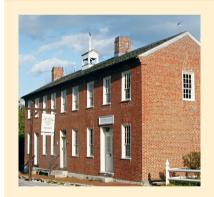
THIS PAST AUGUST we were deeply honored to receive a conditional gift of a large early 19th century landscape painting, traditionally attributed to George Caleb Bingham.

he walnut and gilt framed oil-on-canvas gift was presented to the Friends of Arrow Rock by Barbara Rives Carmen of Columbia, MO, her brother, James M. Rives, of Overland Park, KS, and their siblings. The gift was offered in memory of their parents, James G. and Marilee June Proctor Rives, who inherited the painting from her mother. Barbara and her siblings share fond memories of Arrow Rock, and are the great step-grandchildren of Nettie Morris Proctor Dixon, who is recognized for the acquisition of the J. Huston Tavern in 1921 and saving it from destruction. Mrs. Dixon was an active member of the DAR, and is interred in the Arrow Rock Cemetery. We are truly grateful to Barbara and her siblings for this amazing historical gift.

(L to R) Alan Hagedorn, Day Kerr, Donna Huston, Barbara Rives

Carmen, and Chet Breitwieser accepted the gift on behalf of the FAR.

FRIENDS OF ARROW ROCK Historic Preservation Consultant Marty Selby says with a wry smile, "An old building is like a tree, once a year something turns brown and falls off." But he continues, "It's a funny little analogy; but the truth in it is a fact we live with here every day." From hinges to roofs, foundations to gutters, paint to windows — in Arrow Rock there is a daily need and a daily effort to a core tenet of our institutional mission: the conscientious conservation of Arrow Rock's historic buildings. The past year has seen our preservation efforts as strong as ever with our 13 properties, from the minute to the major. Marty Selby manages the projects, and bridges the communication between the Properties Committee, staff, and contractors to make sure the organization's exacting preservation standards are upheld. Marty has assembled some 2021 "preservation highlights" for our readers:



From the Ashes: the J. Huston Tavern

The disastrous fire that destroyed the Tavern kitchen in May 2019 and threatened the oldest continuously operated restaurant west of the Mississippi is blessedly fading into memory. Missouri State Parks' rebuild of the kitchen was completed in August 2021, and as the restaurant has continued to operate, the Friends of Arrow Rock has assured that "God is in the details." "Working with the State authorities, there have been—and will likely continue to be—dozens of small jobs of repair, replacement, and removal," Marty says, "all while retaining clarity of the Tavern story and fidelity to its historic fabric and materials."

Yapp-ing About Preservation

n Saturday, May 1, Friends of Arrow Rock welcomed nationally renowned historic preservation expert and TV personality Bob Yapp, who presented three entertaining and enlightening informational sessions. Participants were also invited to tour recent Friends of Arrow Rock preservation projects following the seminars. This free event (thanks to generous sponsorships from Hercon Construction and Well-Preserved Consulting) was a popular and well-received restatement of our commitment to the fine art of historic preservation.



A Heavenly Renovation

"We the undersigned do mutually agree on this the tenth day of April 1872 to unite in forming a congregation of the Church of Christ at Arrow Rock, Saline County, Missouri."

The lengthy and thorough renovation of the 1872 Christian Church was completed late this year. Among the many projects and details are a new heating and air-conditioning system, weatherizing and air infiltration testing, new sanctuary light fixtures, interior painting, "I had to go outside my professional expertise a

little," Marty says, and "relocate a resident squirrel who appeared to enjoy the church upgrades, too." The resulting facility is not only more protected and more pleasant; it is more viable as a year-round rental facility for the Friends.





Even when he isn't working on FAR projects, Marty's hobby is preservation. Here he is on a "day off" cleaning historic stones at the Arrow Rock Cemetery.

"The greatest glory of a building is not in its stones, nor in its gold. Its glory is in its Age, and in that deep sense of voice-fulness, of stern watching, of mysterious sympathy...which we feel in walls that have long been washed by the passing waves of humanity."—JOHN RUSKIN

THE ENEMY WITHIN...

The 1868 Arrow Rock Odd Fellows Lodge Hall and the Sites Gun Shop on 5th Street both had newly rebuilt exterior access completed in 2016: the Lodge ramp on the east side of the building, and the Gun Shop steps to the second floor. Late this summer, though, both of these structures—even though primed and painted and without external assault by man or nature—began to show signs of intense wood rot. "I called the contractor, Pishny Restoration Services, and we shared a sense of bafflement. Then they did an investigation that revealed an organic internal fungus that was causing the structures to deteriorate from the inside out!" The damaged materials were removed and replaced, and currently show no signs of a recurrence of that peculiar and puzzling problem.

THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE

An Arrow Rock showplace, the 1839 Miller-Bradford House has been largely renovated and restored, but it's a highly complex structure. Marty explains, "Vigilance and a fairly constant attention are required to keep it in a state of good repair." This year, in addition to exterior painting, repointing of the foundation wall, and various window and shutter repairs, particular attention was focused on the old Slave Kitchen, including excavation of the west foundation, which revealed the remains of a brick walk. After insulating the slave kitchen ceiling, contractors installed beautiful rough-sawn oak in the joist bays, as well as oak posts and a beam to support the kitchen and take stress off the foundation wall. The old cistern was filled and covered.

"The Holy Spirit Has Made You Overseers"

The re-roofing of the 1869 Brown's Chapel was completed during the summer, and the September Fund-a-Need supported the repainting of the sanctuary interior for the first time in 25 years. As part of a Sunderland Foundation Grant, work began in December on the complete renovation of the chapel kitchen, fellowship hall, and restroom. Work is expected to be complete in early 2022, and like the Christian Church, not only will it preserve and protect this historic structure, it will increase its appeal and viability as a year-round rental facility for the Friends.



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DID YOU EVER WONDER about the origin of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas?" This folk song was first published in England in 1780 but its roots go back further. In some branches of Christianity, the Christmas season was 12 days long, beginning December 25 and ending on January 5 or 6. The Twelfth Night, known as Epiphany, commemorates the story of the Magi visiting the Christ child. The Twelfth Night tradition began with the Council of Tours in 567 AD. The 12 days are known as Christmastide or Yuletide and are marked by religious services, dancing and feasting especially on the Twelfth Night. In Britain and Ireland "King's Cake" was served on the Twelfth Night. In Spain, Twelfth Night is called Cabalgata de Reyes "Parade of Kings." Men dressed as "kings" would go through towns and hand out sweets. In France, Gateau des Rois "Kings' Cakes" were eaten all month long. In northern France, it is called a galette and is filled with frangipane, fruit, or chocolate. In the south, it is a brioche with candied fruit. In Germany Twelfth Night is called Wunderabend "Night of Miracles"

and a special beer, known as Bockbier, is brewed for the occasion. The levity of the Christmastide season often grew to rowdiness and some countries like Belgium banned the celebrations as did the Puritans of New England. In America, the celebratory rowdiness manifested itself with the

discharge of fireworks, guns and noisemakers on the holidays especially in southern states. In December 1868 the Arrow Rock Board of Trustees: "Ordered that the Chairman procure such assistance for the Town Constable during holidays as may be deemed necessary by him."

LAVINIA SAPPINGTON MARMADUKE

(daughter of Dr. John Sappington) described the extended Christmastide celebrations in the Arrow Rock area to her brother William in 1830:

"We have had a very merry Christmas. The Miss Sappingtons have had beaus in profusion. Mr. Shackelford of our family gave a splendid Ball Christmas Eve. Jane, Louisa, Susan, Mary Ellen, and Darwin attended. They went up Friday and returned Sunday evening attended by a host of gallants too numerous to mention and on Monday evening they had a party at Father's house. I believe they danced and played cards all night...The young ladies and gentlemen all went up to Jonesborough (Napton) the next morning, got through the day there; came here in the evening, had a card party, which lasted till about 12 o'clock. The principal part of the company went to Father's and Judge Tuckers the next day which was Wednesday...however Thursday was a better day, and Judge Tucker gave notice that the party would be expected that day, and accordingly went, dined, supped, and danced till day. By this time there were some sore feet, and heavy eyes, but would not flag. They nodded all day Friday until evening; commenced dancing at Father's and danced till about midnight. Next morning which was New Year's morning, Jane recollected was her birthday, so they must try it again, and danced till Sunday dawned upon them, and so they were compelled to break up & go home, and sleep a little before Monday, And now what do you think of such a Christmas for Saline?"

By Michael Dickey,

Retired Site Administrator, Arrow Rock State Historic Site and author of Arrow Rock: Crossroads of the Missouri Frontier



The please



Invitation to a Grand Ball at the Arrow Rock Hotel (Tavern) on December 27, 1870





SOCIAL HOP

WILL BE GIVEN

AT THE ARROW ROCK HOTEL.

-6N-

Monday Evening, Dec. 25, 1876.

You are Invited to Attend

Committee of Invitation.

Col. W. S. Jackson, Marshall. M. Levy, Will H. Wood,

John R. Walker, Booneville. Sam'l Ravanell. Col. Steve Cooper, Howard Co.

C. E. Bernard, Arrow Rock.

E. Scott Mills, "
John Neff, Saline Co.

"The presence of your company is solicited at J. Huston's on Friday the 31st inst, at 5 o'clock P.M.

Managers

6.6. McGarty

H.G. Miller

J.M. McMahan

W.W. Finly

J.G. McGutcheon

A.G. Morrison?

L. Chambers

T.T. Napton?

W. Lawless

J.S. Long

Arrow Rock Dec. 13th 1841"

A "Social Hop" at the Arrow Rock Hotel (Tavern) on Christmas Day 1876.

Committee of Arrangements.

Jonas A. Sterne.

Jas. M. Ancell,

R. H. Piper.

HISTORIC ARROW ROCK | WINTER 2021-22

J. HUSTON TAVERN TAVERN AROUNDON AROUND

After a long, dark winter of confusion, quarantines, fear, and uncertainty, 2021 gave us the opportunity to stretch again, to begin a return to the "times before," and to spread our wings to imagine and invent a "new normal." Here are a few moments we'll remember from the year gone by.

In August, the J. Huston Tavern reopened after two years of reconstruction after a fire destroyed the kitchen. New public restroom facilities were added as a part of this project.





VISITING ARTISTS

The Stitch by Stitch Quilter's Guild was a popular participant in the ongoing Visiting Artists series on Saturday and Sunday September 11th and 12th. Gina Hare, Becky Porter, Georgann DeMoss, Adrianne Booth Joyce Davis, Marsha Lashley, Carrie Henk, Pam Sebastian, Kris Snapp, Mary Durham, Carol Dickerson and Judy Smith met many neighbors and visitors on Main Street, showing beautiful examples of their finished works, as well as demonstrating the intricacies and techniques of their fine art.

A BLOSSER BARN LUNCH

On July 26, a group of Friends gathered for a special lunch at the Blosser Barn. The three-story barn is adjacent to the 1880 National Register Henry Blosser House in Malta Bend, and has been restored and repurposed as a multi-use event center. The gathering was an auction prize from the 2020 Holiday with Friends event. (L to R) Pam & Kevin Riggs, Sandy & Marty Selby, Sherry Mirador, Chet Breitwieser, Mindy Smith, Donna Huston, Daniel & Frances Link, Lucy Fletcher, and Rod Starns.



Hearts Connect in Arrow Rock



on October 16, Laura and Eric Dungca were married in the 1872 Christian Church on Main Street. Shortly afterward, we received this lovely and heartfelt note, confirming what we already know — that the people and places of Arrow Rock touch visitors in a deeply memorable way.



GENERATIONS: THE WIMER FAMILY

On October 7, three generations of the Wimer family reunited for a visit to Arrow Rock. (L to R) Chase, LeRoy, and Dale Wimer enjoyed a special tour of Arrow Rock and lunch at the J. Huston Tavern. Like so many of our visitors, Dale Wimer feels the multi-generational connection of the village. Although he had not been to Arrow Rock since 1975, his memories of visits here with his dad, LeRoy, enjoying history, hiking, and picnics, inspired him to bring grandson Chase, visiting from Tennessee, to see where so many of his happiest childhood memories were born.

— ARROW ROCK HERITAGE FESTIVAL —

he 53rd Annual Arrow Rock Heritage Festival took place on Saturday and Sunday, October 9th and 10th. It was estimated that more than 5,000 visitors came to Arrow Rock that weekend to participate in one of Missouri's oldest and most popular heritage festivals, featuring traditional and modern artistic handcrafted items, historic reenactments, living history presenters, musical entertainment, and food vendors.





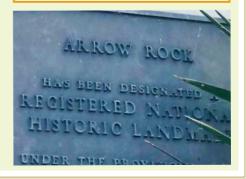


HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 20 saw the annual pre-holiday Hanging of the Greens event. A group of dedicated volunteers and Arrow Rock citizens gathered to make the decorations on November 19, and the following morning decorated the boardwalk and buildings of Arrow Rock in a tradition that began in 1976.









Sandy Selby

Executive Director Sandy Selby stepped away from Friends of Arrow Rock on November 1, 2021. Sandy had led the FAR for six years. "I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish over those years—especially the past few very difficult ones," Sandy says. Those achievements include aligning FAR Education programs with state standards, completely revamping the retail operation to create a thriving retail shop, new tours including Night Walks, Preservation Tours, and Mile in Her Shoes. Under Sandy's leadership, the \$750,000 Jeffris preservation project was completed, a new Arrow Rock Tour app was launched, and POS and donor management systems were improved and updated. Sandy also wrote grants that raised nearly \$500,000 for FAR. She will fortunately remain an Arrow Rock resident, and has assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief of *Missouri Life* magazine!



Elaine Breshears

In September, Elaine Breshears retired as Historical Interpreter for the Friends of Arrow Rock, a role she had filled since 2010. Elaine's dad, Robert Stith, had been the Superintendent of the Arrow Rock State Historic Site, and she lived with her family in the Academy Boarding House from 1961-1972. "This is my home," she says of Arrow Rock, "This is where I grew up." During her time, she enjoyed the annual school programs most of all, "I enjoyed the children, and generations of parents and children have been here for visits and field trips. In some ways, telling people about Arrow Rock was like telling my own life story!" Elaine will continue to advise, the FAR Education programs and continue to share her knowledge and passion.



Sue Day

Sue Day stepped away from Friends of Arrow Rock on October 29, she had joined Arrow Rock's team of historical interpreters in 2018. She had retired as the director of food service for the Pilot Grove School System, but her interest in our regional history—she has been a longtime volunteer for the Cooper County Historical Society—led her to accept a role here, where she was vital in the execution of educational programs and tours. Like her colleague Elaine, Sue has graciously offered to advise, the FAR Education programs and continue to share her gifts with our Village.



Jeff Kurtti

With Sandy Selby's departure on November 1, Friends of Arrow Rock welcomed Jeff Kurtti as Acting Director. He had joined us as the Director of Education and Operations in August. Since 1995, Jeff has enjoyed a career as an author, writer, and consultant in the motion picture, theater, and themed-design industries. He was creative director, content consultant, and media producer for The Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco, and a producer of *The Boys: The Sherman Brothers Story*, a critically acclaimed documentary about the famed songwriters (among whose works is *Tom Sawyer*, filmed here, and a deep influence on Jeff).

A Seattle native, Jeff worked as a production coordinator on the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Arts Festival, followed by two years as the assistant to the president of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). For several years, he worked for Walt Disney Imagineering, the theme park design division of The Walt Disney Company, and then for the Corporate Special Projects department of Disney. A lifelong supporter of historic preservation and adaptive reuse, an experienced researcher and historian, and a skilled communicator, Jeff brings an abundant resource to the Friends of Arrow Rock. He has been the force behind our 50th th Anniversary celebration of the filming of *Tom Sawyer*, coming on July 4th Weekend.

In addition, he has increased our population by nearly ten percent with the relocation of his family of five to Arrow Rock in June.

OUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST



The Friends of Arrow Rock look forward to a new year of renewed activity and renewed commitment to our institutional vision and commitment. None of our many accomplishments over the past decades would have been possible without the ongoing support of our most valuable asset: our devoted Members, and we depend on your shared enthusiasm and generosity to help guide us into a new era in the important work of the Friends of Arrow Rock.

	V		
☐ Apple 27" iMac — \$1,799.00	► Pew Cushions for Christian Church – \$7,900.00		
☐ Apple 21" iMac – \$999.99	☐ Pew Cushions for Brown's Chapel – \$3,500.00		
\Box 5 TB external hard drive (2) $-$ \$200.00	\square Use my donation where it is most needed		
☐ Sponsor a Student for School Visits and Education Programs (15.00 per Student)			

		
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LIFE \$1000 BENEFACTOR \$500 PATRON \$250 SPONSOR \$100 SUSTAINING \$50	BENEFACTOR \$500 PATRON \$250 SPONSOR \$100 SUSTAINING \$50 SUPPORTING \$30	
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS: LIFE IS A ONE-TIME GIFT. ALL OTHER LEVELS ARE RENEWABLE ANNU	JALLY.	round.
 My check made payable to Friends of Arrow Rock, is enclosed. Mail to: Friends of Arrow Rock, P.O. Box 124, Arrow Rock, Missouri 65320 Join with a secure credit card donation online at FriendsofArrowRock.org 		OUR LEGACY SOCIETY HE FRIENDS OF ARROW

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Our Mission: Sharing the Missouri Frontier Experience

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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 2022, our 63nd year, and help us share the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations. Memberships may be deductible for income tax purposes.

CALL 660-837-3231

EMAIL office@FriendsofArrowRock.org

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Acting Executive Director Jeff Kurtti

A Living Legacy Gift

This summer, Friends of Arrow Rock received an unexpected \$40,000 Living Legacy Gift from Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Mitchell of Lawrence, KS. Bill and Jean were frequent visitors and volunteers to the village in earlier years and have warm memories of those years. We are deeply grateful to be the recipient of their thoughtful and generous annuity.

Focus on Folk Art

On Saturday May 14, plan to attend the Antiques and Decorative Arts Symposium at the Lyceum Theater! Noted speakers from across the country will focus on the subject of American Folk Art. More details will follow soon!

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 For nearly two centuries, Arrow Rock's renowned J. Huston Tavern has been a beacon of warmth and hospitality during the harshest winters