



## Spring 2019 Opening Day!

The Spring season is upon us, which means the opening day of the REACH sites is here! Both sites will open for the first time in 2019 on **Tuesday, April 2 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**. Chris Lewis, REACH assistant, will be available to anyone who wants a tour. This is also the perfect time to start booking tours with our development coordinator.

### OPEN DATES FOR 2019

#### 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

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.

## Black River Technical College

### Project REACH Homecoming Event

Descendants, historians, and all who are interested in Arkansas History... The Project REACH Homecoming Event is near! Saturday, May 11 from 9:00 AM-2:00PM will be the Project REACH Homecoming Event at the Rice-Upshaw House and the Looney Tavern in Dalton, Arkansas. This event will be open to the public, and we encourage all communities to attend!

Living historians Randall Watts and wife Kristyn Watts will transform the Looney Tavern into an 1800's layout. They will demonstrate games, militia drills and musket firing. Mick Haven, interpreter at the Powhatan Historic State Park will be at the Rice-Upshaw



Tours will be given throughout the day!

House doing live demonstrations of historic cooking, candle making and children's games. The Metro City Singers, a traveling group out of St. Louis, MO will be performing at the Rice-Upshaw Pavilion. Tours of both sites will be given periodically throughout the day, and lunch will be available from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM. Come out to Dalton for all of this and more! Experience the food, animals, entertainment and history of Project REACH!

For more information, questions, or concerns please contact Holly Looney (project coordinator) at: (870) 248-4189.



The Metro City Singers performing at the REACH sites

### Looney Tavern Receives Updates

The Looney Tavern is receiving landscape updates this spring. Ronnie Walker, construction supervisor/project manager at Black River Technical College, and his crew are working hard to complete concrete sidewalks at the Looney Tavern for 2019 visitors. This will make tours more accessible and easier for visitors to walk around the site. A wheelchair ramp will also be added to the sidewalks for those who need assistance. We are happy to complete this addition to the REACH sites so that all visitors may be accommodated during tours and visits.



# Display at Welcome Center

A shadow box filled with information, pictures, and artifacts from the REACH sites is on display at the Welcome Center in Corning, Arkansas. The box has a brief summary of the history of Project REACH, pictures of the Looney Tavern and the Rice-Upshaw House, and four different types of artifacts.

The artifacts include porcelain, hand-made beads, a historic medicine bottle, pre-historic projectile knives, and hand-made shell buttons. A timeline is also displayed in the box that shows special dates that happened in the Looney, Upshaw, and Rice families as well as important dates that happened in U.S. history. This gives individuals an idea of how important Project REACH is in the history of the United States.

We want to thank the Welcome Center at Corning for donating this shadow box for the use of Project REACH. You can visit the Welcome Center and see the box at 6717 US 67 in Corning, Arkansas!



Shadow box provided by the Arkansas Welcome Center in Corning, AR

## Donor Spotlight

Barbara Rumping-Beck is a descendant of the Downey family and a generous giver to Project REACH. She lives in Fenton, Missouri with her husband and two sons. We asked her some questions about her passion for REACH.

### How/ When did you realize your family is associated with Project REACH?

I have always known that I am a Downey. Downey was my mom's maiden name. My Grandfather would tell me stories about the farm's history and even recorded an oral history, which I found fascinating! My Great Grandmother was still alive and living at the farm when I was born. When we would make trips to Arkansas, we would stop by and visit the place. Even after the family let the farm go, the new owners, Jack and Christina French, were kind enough to let my mom bring us to visit the land and Tavern. My mom was born on the farm, and some of her most entertaining childhood stories came from her time living there. I have always been so thankful the French's let us visit, and the gift they have given the college by donating the building and some of the land is so generous.



Pictured left to right: Barbara Beck, sons Aidan & Carter, and husband Justin Beck

### What does it mean to have a rich historical background in the state of Arkansas?

My roots in Randolph County grow deep, and it is always an adventure to come back and visit the area. Having the Looney Tavern/Downey Farm restored like it has been, enables me to teach my kids about our history (just like my mom did for me), and take them on a walk back into their own history. Arkansas should be proud of its people of Randolph County that have done such an extraordinary job of preserving its past and tying it to the people of today. I know that I am lucky to know so much about my ancestors and my roots, and much of that is thanks to Black River Technical College and Project REACH.

*The story of the restored historical structure that is today called the William Looney Tavern would not be complete nor accurate without acknowledgement of the significant role of the Downey family and its part in the long historic narrative thread of history of the Looney Tavern. After the death of William Looney, the family homestead would pass to their son, William S. Looney. After William S. Looney's death his widow, Catherine, married **Dennis Downey**, and for well over a century the Looney Tavern would be home to the succeeding generations of the Downey family.*

Project REACH has

Facebook!



Follow us on Facebook to learn about our visitors, our history, and our upcoming events! Post pictures and make sure you tag us!

## 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/)



Restoration funded in part by the Arkansas Natural & Cultural Resources Council

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

Holly Looney

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## KNOWLEDGE

### CHECK YOUR

How well do you know the history of Project REACH? Answer these questions correctly and be entered into a drawing for a prize!

- ✓ What year did Reuben Rice arrive in the Eleven Point River Valley?
- ✓ What was the name of Reuben Rice's father, who served in the Continental Army of Virginia with continued service in North Carolina and awarded four land grants for his service in the Holston River Valley?
- ✓ What year was William Looney born?
- ✓ William Looney was a Justice of the Peace in a county that was once identified in Missouri, but was then claimed as Arkansas Territory. What is the name of this county?
- ✓ What is the name of the Stubblefield family member who married Elizabeth Rice, Reuben Rice's daughter, thus connecting two Eleven Point River Valley families?

Answers will be taken by phone, email, or mail!

Contact Holly Looney

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## Archive Update



Project REACH artifacts are being placed in the archival cabinets! Hundreds of pieces from both sites have been sorted into groups and will be placed in the cabinets which

were paid for by our generous donors.

The cabinets are sorted by subject matter and hold historic items that were found during the archeological digs. These items include household items, working material and metals, pre-historic utensils, glassware, ceramics and more! We are excited for the public to see these items and for descendants to read about the everyday items that their ancestors used, wore, and made.

A special ceremony will be held to unveil the cabinets to our generous donors in May, and then the cabinets will be open to the public. The artifacts are located in the library classroom on the Black River Technical College Pocahontas location.

## Descendant's Corner

Janet Wilson shares her experience of finding links in her family history through documents presented by Project REACH



My research began years ago as an adult. I was interested in finding out information about my family history because of the stories my great uncle (Odell Hatcher) told me about his grandmother, lovingly referred to as Granny Kate.

One story that was told about Granny Kate was about a train ride she had taken and how she was mistaken for a white woman. She sat in the "colored section" of the train and was asked to move to the white section. Her response was, "I know where I belong" and she stayed seated. It is alleged that Kate's father was her "master" and that her mother (name unknown) was a slave who was killed by the master's family.

During one of my conversations with Uncle Odell, he said Granny Kate told him that we are descendants of Pocahontas, the Native American princess. This is what sparked my curiosity and why my research began.

I spent years going to the National Archives in my city looking at countless rolls of microfilm trying to find a connection to Pocahontas and my family. I never found the connection. The research to find out information about Granny Kate's family was challenging and not very successful. She was found on the 1870 census as Cath Lindley, a member of the household of a mulatto woman (Ellen Lindley) who is believed to be her grandmother.

I was more successful in finding the connection between my family and Charles Hatcher, who was the slave owner of my great-great grandfather Warner Hatcher, the father of Russell Hatcher who was married to Catherine Hatcher (maiden name Lindley), aka Kate. To know that my family has such a rich historical background is awesome.

*Charles Hatcher, along with Reuben Rice and William Looney, was one of the first slave-owners listed in the Davidson Township Sheriff's census in 1829. Only the slaves of Hatcher are assumed to have been primarily kept intact as a family unit during Hatcher's lifetime.*

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



## Thank you for visiting!

We are excited for another wonderful year at Dalton! We hope to meet new people and see familiar faces. The REACH Program is 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! Visiting hours are open again, and that means it is the perfect time to start 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!

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[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!

