

# The Felix Valle State Historic Site

## New Staff and Volunteers at Felix Valle State Historic Site

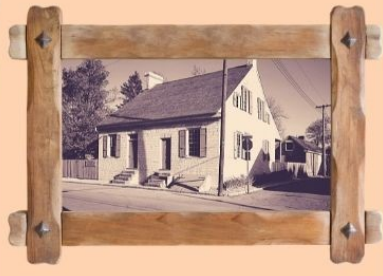
### New Staff 2021

**MARIA KEMPER**

**JULY 2021**

Maria is a seasonal interpreter and recent Ste. Genevieve High School R-II district graduate. Her passion for history and community lead her to applying for a position with Felix Valle House State Historic Site.

In addition to leading guided tours, aiding in education programs, and maintaining the gift shop, Maria cares for the historic gardens and creates artwork for the site. She has stated one of her favorite aspects of her job here is the frequent opportunity to be outdoors engaging with people and nature.



**WHITNEY TUCKER**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

Whitney joined the staff as the Historic Site Specialist in September of 2021. She came to us with experience in both museum education and historic preservation.

A graduate of the Southeast Missouri State University Graduate Program in Public History, she was familiar with the many sites and stories in Ste. Genevieve, as well as the special and unique history showcased here.

Her passion at the site has been on aiding in the expansion of interpretation on African American and Native American history in the area. Starting such initiatives as the Descendant Community group, interpretive panels, and staff training and development on creating programming about and teaching difficult history.



### 2021 New Volunteer

**COLTON RAY**

**DECEMBER 2021**

Colton joined the site in December of 2021 as a volunteer. A student in the 7th grade, his favorite area of study is literature, though history does come in a close second. He enjoys reading fiction on other cultures and times. He brings a unique perspective to the site in his active participation in testing out programs for K-12.



In addition, he has worked in the historic gardens pulling weeds, in the house restoring the flooring, and in preparations for La Reveillon. His favorite part of volunteering is assisting with tours and working with the public. He hopes to one day be able to lead tours on his own.

### New Staff 2022

**KYLA VAETH**

**FEBRUARY 2022**

Kyla began her journey with us as seasonal interpreter in February. She came to us with a background in retail and early childhood education. A go getter, she is always bustling about the site working on projects.

She has aided in numerous K-12 programs both on site and at other parks. Her willingness in taking advantage of opportunities to use her skills and talents in engaging children and teaching them to be life-long learners, has been a boon to the site.

Kyla introduced a new project on showcasing the architectural changes the Valle site has gone through over the years.

While a skilled tour guide, Kyla said her favorite part of the job is working with children in the early grades.



### 2022 New Volunteer

**KELLY BERNAL**

**FEBRUARY 2022**



Kelly officially volunteered with the site in February. She has a passion for research, particularly in the topics of Native American and African American histories. She has been vital in the research of the genealogy of the

people who were enslaved on the site, as well as those who worked in domestic servant positions after the close of the Civil War.

Professionally, Kelly is a licensed therapist who specializes in generational trauma and trauma response. This experience, as well as her research skills, have been a much needed contribution to the work group on engaging with the descendant communities of both Native American and African American lineage.

If you're interested in volunteering at the site or assisting with any of the initiatives, reach out to the the Historic Site Specialist Whitney Tucker at [whitney.tucker@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:whitney.tucker@dnr.mo.gov)

or  
(573) 883-7102

**Debbie Cambron**

**2022**

Debbie has worked as an interpreter for special events at Felix Valle House State Historic site, but she officially joined our team in June of this year. She comes to us with many years of experience with the Department of Natural Resources.

She brings with her years of experience in living history interpretations and is an authority on historical domestic crafts. As both an herbalist and master gardener, Debbie offers insight into the uses and care for the plants in our gardens to visitors.

