

The Olde Towne Depot continues to offer a fun, educational, and interactive experience for visitors, Clinton residents, school groups, and young families. Last year saw an increase in visitors from 3,200 in 2018 to 5,800+ in 2019. On display at the Depot are donations and collections of historic railroad memorabilia, photographs and artwork of Clinton's old depots, the Full Steam Ahead diorama by Lucky Osborne, and informational banners highlighting Charles Caldwell, Sarah Dickey, and the origins of our railroad. Stories of the Clinton Riot of 1875, of Louis Turner laying Clinton's famed brick streets, and of the Methodist Church Bell are shared with guests, honoring those that have influenced the Clinton we know today.

Over one hundred ninety events were held at the Olde Towne Depot in 2019, an increase from one hundred twenty in 2018. These events included many types of meetings – from local chapter meetings, school groups, home owners associations, and birthday parties to high school reunions, Mississippi College's annual swing dance, ward meetings, theatre rehearsal space, and Citizen's Police Academy. Facility rentals in 2019 alone have generated over \$10,000.00 for the City of Clinton.

In addition to hosting meetings and events organized by other groups, the Olde Towne Depot has a growing list of offerings for the public. Reading Railroad, a monthly kids' reading, takes place on the first Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. Pre-school age children enjoy a train-themed book, an activity, and a ride on Turner the Train. First Friday Jazz is also held monthly at the Depot, with live jazz played at 7:00 p.m. Past performances have included Scott Albert Johnson and the Jazz Combo at Hinds Community College. The Olde Towne Depot's annual summer camp Off the Rails is one of the great highlights of the year, with a small group of students learning about trains and cultures around the globe. Temporary exhibits included an art show with works by Chris Shepherd, a Mississippi College art class student art show, and an exhibit from the Union Pacific Railroad Museum entitled "Move Over, Sir! Women Working on the Railroad" highlighting the many contributions that women have made to the railroad. Local theatre has found a home at the Olde Towne Depot, with two murder mystery dinners, a comedy improv show, and a One Acts event showcasing locally written acts. Families enjoyed another year of holiday traditions at the Depot with the annual pumpkin patch, Christmas tree farm, and Polar Express Pajama Party. Two new holiday events brought even more visitors to our community – the Holiday Model Train Display and the inaugural Gingerbread House Competition, a partnership with Main Street Clinton. These events engage Clintonians of all ages and showcase the vibrancy and activity of beautiful Olde Towne.

The Olde Towne Depot received additional income from ticket sales, merchandise sales, etc. of over \$9,000 in 2019.

One of the highlights of 2019 was the completion of Turner the Train, Clinton's very own custom trackless train. Built by Independent Metal Craft, Turner the Train was built to resemble an old steam locomotive. The train pulls five cars, including a handicap accessible caboose, and can accommodate 24+ individuals. Jonathan Ford's winning submission to name Turner the Train reads,

"Turner the Train is named for Louis Turner, who in 1928, assisted by a crew of workers, laid all of the bricks on Clinton's famed brick streets. Turner, a veteran of World War I, worked with extreme pace

laying all 600,000+ bricks in a just a handful of days as the November weather turned from chilly to cold. This tribute to Turner, who literally laid the foundation of Clinton's most treasured relic, pays homage to an unsung legend of our great city. This head-"turner" of a train certainly celebrates Clinton's past as it traverses over the very bricks that the original Turner laid without knowing what a great legacy he was leaving for Clinton's future."

The Olde Towne Depot will continue to engage Clintonians in interactive, meaningful ways. The facility has been well-used over the last two years, and we aim to make use of every opportunity to share Clinton's rich history and vibrant present to build pride and understand within our community.