



King's Tavern Democrat photo by Danny Richardson

THE MYSTERY DAGGER— Mrs. Annabelle Maxie displays an ancient Spanish dagger that was found in a fireplace wall at King's Tavern, alongside three skeletons, in 1932. The jewel-encrusted weapon is back on display.

Spanish dagger back

The "mystery dagger" is back on display at King's Tavern where curious diners can gaze at the bejeweled relic.

Mrs. Annabelle Maxie, owner of the dagger, recently loaned it back to King's Tavern following a study by the Mississippi Department of Archives.

She said the archives department had determined that the dagger was of Spanish origin.

Made of brass, the dagger has an ivory handle inlaid with jewels.

It was found in 1932 when repairs were being made on the building and a fireplace collapsed.

The dagger, along with three skeletons were unearthed.

King's Tavern, the oldest house in Natchez, is owned by the Pilgrimage Garden Club and is now a working restaurant.

When the Tavern was first opened several years ago, Mrs. Maxie loaned the dagger and several other heirlooms to the club for display.

To this day, no one seems to know the exact story about how the dagger got in the wall or who owned it.

Elizabeth Craig, chairman of King's Tavern, delights in telling tourists that the dagger belonged to "an infamous Spanish nobleman who murdered several people with the blade."

"It's a beautiful antique," says Mrs. Craig. "We keep it in a case hanging in the dining room."