



*Happy  
Birthday  
to Us!*

# MUSEUM MUSINGS

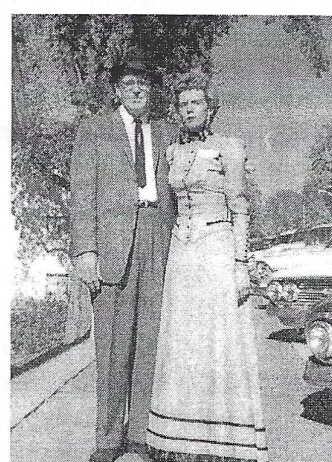
WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY ~ MARCH 2010

P.O. BOX 266 ~ 601 MAIN STREET ~ WESTON, MISSOURI 64098 ~ 816-386-2977

This year, The Weston Historical Museum observes its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. [See page 3 for planned events.] Originally housing the Weston Baptist Church, the building was sold to the Historical Society in 1960. Those at the official signing included: (above, left to right) Mrs. B.J. (Bertha) Bless, Mr. Browning Hull, Mr. Roger Wilson, Dr. R.J. Felling, Reverend Bob Strickland and an unidentified man.

Below are some of the early volunteers who made our early years so successful. Left to right: Forestyne Loyles and Hilda Marshall; Annabel Hull Jones and Marian Gaskill, long-time Museum President; Virginia Hall; and Charles and Mary Lee Quinley.



## We're Celebrating! Its Our Fiftieth Birthday!!

On our front cover are a few of the many individuals who helped with donations of money, time and energy toward the creation of the Weston Historical Museum in 1960.

The building, the fourth structure on that site, started its life as the Weston Baptist Church in 1897 and continued to be just that until 1958 when church members felt they needed more room for their growing congregation.

They put the building up for sale and a group interested in preserving Weston's history bought it with the goal of turning it into a museum.

Through the drive and energy of Mrs. B.J. (Bertha) Bless, Jr. and Dr. R.J. Felling, the dream became a reality when the museum opened its doors for the first time in October of 1960 with a two-day Old Homes Tour.

As the year goes by, more historical information will be in newsletters and the Curator's Column in *The Weston Chronicle*.

## Reminders Sent For 2010 Dues

President Diza B. Eskridge and Vice-President Carl Felling spent a number of hours recently addressing and stamping reminders to all of the members of the Weston Historical Museum. These reminders are for dues for the year 2010 and we hope you will return yours as early as possible.

It would also be nice if each one of our members would encourage at least one other individual to join.

For everyone who gets at least five new members to join the Weston Historical Museum there will be a prize given. This 'contest' ends June 1, 2010 and the prizes will be announced at that time.

Have fun, send us your renewal. If you are trying to "sell" us, remember that a membership gets you a newsletter four times each year, an invitation to the annual dinner, and the awareness that you have helped keep our doors open to the public for free. We appreciate your help and hope you will continue to support us with your memberships. Thank you.

## New Cases and Display Being Readied for Opening

As this is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, the museum volunteers have chosen to enhance the Eagle Scout project with a special map of the Civil War and mannequins dressed in battle uniforms, dresses of the era and other clothing of that time.

Thanks to donations of Civil War clothing and other items from Mrs. John Hartley, Mr. and Mrs. Chris West, Mr. and Mrs. Jim DeJarnett and Mrs. Ruth Marr, the volunteers have been able to do a fantastic job.

~~o~~

Eagle Scout candidate Nathan Wilson has done a great job taking information and photos of Civil War soldiers and putting them in a format to be seen and easily read for the public. Family connections for these veterans have also been noted for those presently living in the Weston area.

~~o~~

Additionally, Mrs. Susan Grinlinton has put together another display of her great photography, showing many photos she took during the two re-enactments of the Bee Creek Battle, which was fought near Weston during the early years of the Civil War.

~~o~~

Thanks to Mrs. Floyd (Connie) Liberty, the museum has a delightful new case filled with some of Connie's collection of Kewpie Dolls.

These dolls were the brainchild of Rose O'Neill, a native of Missouri. Last year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the debut of the dolls. The case contains not only dolls, but many other items having to do with the Kewpies.

We believe many children as well as adults will enjoy this case immensely.

~~o~~

Another new display is one that holds many older items from the kitchen, such as old-style toaster, potato masher, hand juicer, etc. We hope many of the women visiting will enjoy this one.

## Honorariums and Memorials

In the latter months of 2009, we received a donation **In Honor** of Bill and Clara Baskett and another one **In Memory** of Robert Cockrill.

## Mannequin Travels to Museum from Ohio

Thanks to Chuck and Anka Hall, we now are the owners of a lovely female mannequin. "Clarise" as we have dubbed her, has come to us all the way from Wooster, Ohio.

The mannequin had been used in an Historical Society museum in Mansfield, Ohio known as "Oak Hill Cottage". Anka formerly worked there as the Curator, and knowing they were getting rid of the mannequin, she asked that she might have it to send on to Weston.

She and Chuck say it originally came from a department store in Mansfield before the Historical Society acquired it. Anka continues to be associated with the Cottage even though she and Chuck have moved to Wooster, some thirty or forty miles away.

## Plans Made for Busy Anniversary Year

An evening of Weston Trivia at the State Park, a progressive dinner and a monthly history contest are among events planned for this year's celebration of our museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A fund drive to help with replacement or extension of the life of the roof and to help with other necessary expenses is also being planned.

Specific details of all our events will be published in later *Museum Musings* as well as local newspapers.

We invite all citizens of Weston to help us celebrate this milestone in the life of the museum and to help it continue for many years into the future.

## We Have a Volunteer Or Two for Yard Work

Following the request for someone to take care of the museum yard in our last newsletter, School Superintendent Kyle Stephenson offered his help along with that of his son, McKaulley.

The two came one afternoon, trimmed bushes and cleaned up around the area.

We thank both Kyle and McKaulley for their great work and for volunteering their services.

## 92-Year-Old Bridge Goes Down 46 Years Ago

On February 3, 1964 ninety-two years of history went down with a loud roar and a large splash. The last half of the old Leavenworth Bridge was dynamited and it sank into the Missouri River.

The bridge, started in 1868 and finished in 1872, was actually built in Holland and the pieces shipped to the United States. Its plank floor was "done over" numerous times, it burned several times and it took a wrecking crew a good many months and hours to finally bring the bridge to its 'knees'. The first fire was in 1904 and again in 1913 but it was repaired at the start of W.W. I.

The highway to the bridge traced a pattern through Federal property, across the Missouri and into Fort Leavenworth.

Many workers from Weston traveled the route coming and going to their jobs at Ft. Leavenworth for years. Shoppers going to the city of Leavenworth also traveled the route. It was only during World War II and the Korean War that armed guards, usually MP's, were stationed at the end of the bridge on the federal lands and at the gate of the Fort. They often stopped and did searches of the vehicles traveling along the route. Regular traffic eventually was rerouted when the new bridge was built.

With the building of the Centennial bridge, several miles down the river, there was no further use for the old span. The government asked for bids to tear it down and a Salina, Kansas company started the work. Shortly before Christmas, flames from a blow torch set the floor on fire and it burned through the night.

Care had to be taken in the dynamiting of the bridge not to tear up tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad running right along the edge of the Missouri river and just below the bridge. Several sections of the track had been removed earlier and as the structure fell it cleared the tracks, relieving some of the worry.

Some historians believe that if Leavenworth had succeeded in getting the bridge earlier that Leavenworth would have been "the Kansas City". They also hold the same belief that Weston would have been "The Town" if railroads had been allowed.

But, that's history!

## Museum Memberships 2009

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Bob & Delores Baker  
Earl & Dot Benner \*  
Alice Braasch  
Howard & Bethene Breen  
Dick Cray  
Vivian Beck Dissette  
Jeff & Janet Elsea  
Virginia Hall \*  
Suzy Hardesty  
Judge Andrew J. Higgins  
Floyd & Susan Hudson  
Owens Lee Hull, Jr. \*  
Owen R. Hull  
Walt & Joan Humphrey  
Charlie & Marge Johnston  
Jana Collison Johnson  
Ray & Edna Kirk  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kisker  
Cynthia Hudson Lake  
& Jim Lake  
James Layton  
Floyd & Connie Liberty  
Mrs. Elmer Lindsey  
James C. McCrea  
Dr. Sandra McMillan  
Charlotte V. Miller \*  
Art & Susan Nagel  
Carla & Bret Ohlhausen  
Drs. Ward & Deb Ohlhausen  
Mr. & Mrs. William Ohlhausen  
Paula Sue Phillips  
Dr. & Mrs. Elbert Pirtle  
Louis & Pam Smither  
Norma Lee Stephen  
Francie & Bill Stoner \*  
Fred & Linda Whisman  
Paul R. Whitters  
Margaret T. Wilson

*\* Life Member making additional contribution*

### BENEFACTOR LEVEL

Avaion Café  
Clay & Lennie Bauske  
Patrick & Cathy Egan  
Dick & Dorothy Emery  
Diza Eskridge  
Harvey & Julie Eplee  
Carl & Kacey Felling  
Russel & Terri French  
John H. & Marian Gaskill

### BENEFACTOR LEVEL

Stephanie Arnold Glusac  
Kiah Harris  
Hatchery House B & B, LLC  
Judith Juergens  
Roger & Susan Lindley  
Mike & Ruth Marr  
Jack & Kate Parsons  
James K. & Jill A. Praff  
Denny & Ann Saugstad  
Snow Creek Ski & Board Area  
Ted & Connie Wilson

### PATRON LEVEL

Charles & Barbara Gatschet  
Greg & Audrey Hoffman  
Mike & Tracy Large  
John & Julie Pasley

### CONTRIBUTOR LEVEL

Glen & Pat Benner  
Charles & Mary R. Bradley  
Ed & Pat Farrand  
Dennis & Barbara Fulk  
Nancy B. Honerkamp  
Mr. & Mrs. George Z. Hull, III  
Kenneth Juergens  
Patty Cray Mach & Family  
Janet Gabbert Marriott  
Platte County CVB  
Jim & Rebecca Rooney  
Peggy & Rogers Strickland  
Sandra Taylor  
Chris & Marsh West  
Ms. Mary Sue Winneke

### FAMILY LEVEL

Jerry & Dorthi Blair  
Mike & Cyndee Bohaty  
William V. Cecil  
Kenneth & Kay Clemens  
Larry & Ruth Mary Clemens  
& Grandchildren  
Joe & Maxine Collison  
Cecilia & Tom Credille  
& Family  
Scott & Mary Davin  
& Family  
John & Sandra Dowd  
Walter & Kate Dowd  
Gary & Felice Enright  
Jim & Sue Farley  
Jeff & Pat Gaskill

### FAMILY LEVEL (con't)

Larry & Brenda Hamby  
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Hart  
John & Jean Hartley  
Roy & Frances Hornbuckle  
Bruce & Susan Huffman  
Ms. Nancy E. Day  
& Mr. Patrick T. Jesaits  
Jeff & Gretchen Juergens  
David & Thea Knox  
Robert & Fay Kottman  
Tom & Marilyn Lindahl  
George & Nancy Livingston  
Eric & Diane Marr Family  
Liz Marr & John Price  
& Family  
Pete & Diane McCaffrey  
Joby & Bill McGowan  
Helen Benziger  
& David McKinney  
Ronald & Sandra Miller  
Kirk & Julie Nelson  
Paul, Susan, Emily  
& Tori Norman  
Jo B. & Gary L. Norris  
Jay & Vanessa Nower  
Patrick & Barbara O'Malley  
Esther & Jim Paden  
Joseph P. & Lyn D. Pepper  
Donald & Della Porter  
Joyce & Harvey Priddy  
Ann & Mark Raab  
Clyde & Sigrid Rowland  
Chuck Sebus & Bill Sebus  
Abe & Ann Shafer  
Quint Shafer Family  
Doug & Shana Sharp  
Edd & Jan Specht  
Kyle & Joan Stephenson  
& Family  
Keith & Marie Stutterheim  
& Family  
Tim & Ann Suarez  
William & Carla Sutton  
Sylvia Stucky  
& Dan Verbeck  
Joe & Joan Keogh Taloff  
L. R. & Sue Vaughn  
Scott & Jaci Vaughn  
Dan & Peggy Wainscott  
Larry & Gertrude Woodring  
John Wurttenberger

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Lorraine Darnell Belote  
Pacific Breeze  
Roger & Elsa Meyer  
Lynn Collison  
Thomas DeBerry  
Maurine C. Fry  
Susan Grinlinton  
Catha Hall  
Mary Jo Heidrick  
Mary M. Hillix  
Frances M. Hite  
Bonnie Huffman  
Luellen Hull Malley  
Robert O'Neill  
Margaret A. Spratt, Ph.D.  
Pat Stampfel  
James W. VanAmburg

## SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS

Joyce Batterson  
T. J. Beach  
& Emma Margaret Frey  
Etta M. Brill  
Myrtle Lee Burns  
Mrs. Lewis Wes Cook  
Marcia K. Cosgrove  
Barbara Diment  
Isabel Dowdell  
Dorothy Donnell  
Earlene & Robert Fulk  
Mary Hayworth  
Burton Hiatt  
Maurine J. Holland  
Shirley Humes  
Mary Johnston  
June Kisker

Carolyn Larsen  
Robert D. Leonard, Jr.  
Beverly & Charles  
McConnell  
Earl D. Miller  
Owen & Louise O'Neill  
Jean Robertson  
Percy Schindler  
Frances Brown-Siler  
James Swaney  
Dorothy J. Voorhees  
Lee A. Wilhite  
Helen A. Wilson

## Newsletter Editor Now A Published Author

Following nearly twenty years of on-again, off-again research and then another three or four years of writing, Carolyn Larsen, writer and editor of this newsletter published her first book, receiving the first copies of it on October 9<sup>th</sup> of 2009.

The hard cover book entitled *We, Too, Lived*, documents over 400 individuals buried in what was once called the "colored" section of Laurel Hill Cemetery. Many of these individuals were slaves. Presently there are only sixty-six stones in that particular section. Due to lack of funds for a marker by the individual's family, or possible weathering, perhaps some vandalism, other stones no longer exist.

The book contains a great deal of information about the black community that once existed inside the Weston community. One finds obituaries, lists of slave owners and names of their slaves, marriages, births, etc within the black community from 1850 to 1950.

In writing the book Carolyn not only wanted to identify those buried in the "colored" section, but also give as much information about each individual as possible. She commented that she wanted these individuals to 'live' for her and now that they do, she hopes that it will be the same for others who read the book.

Copies of the book are available either at the Weston Historical Museum, the Weston Chamber of Commerce or at [lulu.com](http://lulu.com) on the internet.

Carolyn also plans to have five historical booklets for sale at the museum later this spring. Each booklet will deal with some aspect of Weston history, such as "Weston and the Civil War", "Weston and the KKK", etc. The booklets will be between twelve to twenty-four pages long and will include photos.

## Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

We read in July of 1913 that "George Terrence Riley has added his shingle to that of Weston businessmen. He passed the bar examination at Jefferson City and is licensed to practice law.

"Riley was born in Weston and is a graduate of W.H.S. as well as the Christian Brothers College of St. Joseph. He studied three years at the State University in Columbia and spent a year in the Circuit Clerk's office in the county seat. He also spent a year at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C."

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September 9, 1961 brought us this item: "As of the middle of the week no trace of the three armed men, who held up the Farley State Bank last Friday morning, had been found. The men entered the Bank shortly after it opened last

Friday and took over \$13,000. This was the second time this year that the Farley Bank had been robbed."

~~o~~

Miss Dallas Linville, substitute operator at the United Telephone office, quietly slipped away in June of 1935 and was married to Dr. Frank Allison, keeping the marriage as a secret from her friends and family until just recently.

~~o~~

An article in the newspaper dated July 18, 1963 tells about "Dr. Robert E. Turner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Turner, has accepted the presidency of Macomb County Community College at Warren, Michigan. He will assume his duties soon. Dr. Turner has been Director of the school of Technology and Applied Arts at Arizona State College in Flagstaff."

~~o~~

Also in July of 1963, Mrs. Bertha Bless recalled her first Platte County Fair in the summer of 1909. She stated "After a suitable briefing in deportment and taboos by an anxious mother and an equally anxious aunt, I was permitted to go in the Wells family's handsome fringe-topped surrey with "Uncle Jess" to drive the team. I could stay in the carriage, go up in the grandstand or visit Floral Hall, but I pledged my word (and kept it) that I would not go back among the concessions; "nice girls" couldn't go there and married ladies went only when escorted by their husbands.

"Some of the other girls with me were Bethel Cox, Erma Hull, Georgia and Helen Linney, Nan-nie and Lena Hymer, Elizabeth and Mary Morton and Margerite Redman."

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The August 16, 1963 newspaper announced: "Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Adair of 1014 Broadway, Leavenworth, Kans., announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Shirley Ann, to Mr. Robert Clemens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Clemens of Weston.

"Miss Adair is a graduate of Leavenworth High School and is employed with Hallmark in that city. Mr. Clemens is a West Platte High School graduate and is employed in Kansas City with Hallmark Cards, Inc.

"The young couple plans a fall wedding."

~~o~~

The March 13, 1964 issue of *The Weston Chronicle* reads thusly: "Sonya Elizabeth was born prematurely March 7 at Cushing Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dydell of Weston and died there on March 11. Graveside services were held for the infant Thursday afternoon in Laurel Hill cemetery.

"Rev. W.G. Williams officiated at the services.

"Besides her parents, her grandparents in Texas and Kansas survive the baby."

~~o~~

According to an article dated Feb. 7, 1964, "Bob Chase and Glen Blaksely, PBA Bowlers, will give an exhibition of bowling Sunday, Feb. 9 from twelve noon until three o'clock.

"Bowlers and interested persons are invited to the 501 Bowl in Weston to see these men perform. Chase and Blaksely will also give free Bowling instructions."

~~o~~

In an October 1966 issue of *The Weston Chronicle* the following can be found: "Jim DeJarnett is home on a three week leave from the Air Corps and is spending most of that time as a guest at the O.K. Nye home. Jim will be stationed in Arizona, close to his parents who recently moved there from Camden Point."

(Note: Jim and his wife, Peggy, have recently loaned the museum a number of items for the Civil War case. Among the items are a derringer called a "Lincoln Killer", a Civil War ditty bag, items of clothing from that era such high top button shoes, several snoods, a parasol, fans and a sepia-colored picture of the battle of Bee Creek.)

## Photos Identified From Last Newsletter

Due to too many irons in the fire and the holidays, your writer has belatedly been working on identities for the two Generals who were not identified on the front page of the last newsletter.

Though not absolutely certain, I believe Unknown soldier #1 to be General Emory Upton and Unknown soldier #2 to be General Don Carlos Buell.

If someone out there in 'readerdom' knows differently, I would gladly stand corrected. The number to call is 386-4063 or 386-2977.

## Did You Know...

*Did you know:* Young ladies and young married women once used a mixture of arsenic dissolved in water to wash their hands and faces? This was because washing with the poison gave the individual that "interestingly pale" look that many men found so intriguing. It also supposedly it also made hands look pale, fragile and "lovely".

Unfortunately, being unaware of the cumulative effect of the poison, many a female died a slow, premature, unlovely and uncomfortable death.

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*Did you know:* Weston at one time had a Weston Tobacco Barns Building Company?

In *The Weston Chronicle* of March 7, 1930 we find a large display advertisement saying "Tobacco Barns Financed. For qualified tobacco growers, we can finance the building of tobacco bars in any of six sizes, complete the job, furnish the money and allow FIVE YEARS TO PAY. Your Opportunity. Your Prosperity. Call or See A.G. Watson, Weston Tobacco Barns Building Co."

~~o~~

*Did you know:* During the thirties, Weston had five garages? A newspaper dated May 16, 1930 brings us this: "With the opening of the M & M Garage, Weston has its fifth garage. Morrison & Murdock are the proprietors and they are located in the Morrison building on south Main Street. The new firm has the Chevrolet Agency.

"The building has been painted a bright yellow inside and outside."

~~o~~

*Did you know:* Dr. Abram Shafer of Edgerton died in 1930? When he died, according to his son Mitchell Shafer, there were outstanding accounts of \$55,000. Some of them went back to the days when Dr. Shafer and his brother, Dr. William Shafer, received a fee of 50c for an office call and \$1.00 for a house visit. The Shafer brothers often received no pay or took pay in such things as eggs, poultry and other food stuffs.

The Drs. Shafer were relatives of Judge Abe Shafer and our city attorney, Quint Shafer, both of Weston.

~~o~~

*Did you know:* The first rider for the Pony Express 150 years ago, was Johnny Fry of Rush-

ville? He later fought for the Union in the Civil War and was killed by Confederate guerrillas in 1863. It is said that he killed five of his attackers before he was then killed.

His mother, Mary Fry, married Benjamin Wells following the death of her first husband, John Fry.

~~o~~

*Did you know:* In 1934 the Weston Garden Club sponsored a Cookie Day? The Club invited all interested citizens to donate cookies for Children's Mercy Hospital. During the '30's the Garden Club also sponsored a civic beautification program, a community Christmas tree and a Christmas tea for the community. The Club also gathered groceries, clothing and toys for families who were having financial difficulties.

This was in addition to their annual flower show and their Mother's Day corsages for many of the older women in the community.

~~o~~

*Did you know:* James M. Baker of Fancy Bottom served during the Civil War? He fought in the battle of Gettysburg and later, in 1913, he attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and reunion of Gettysburg combatants.

~~o~~

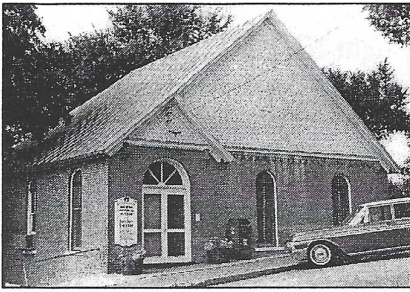
*Did you know:* Peter Gray was appointed organist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City in August of 1964?

Peter was a native of Weston, being born and raised here. He was a graduate of Weston High School and had a number of credits from the Kansas City University. Later he worked for Ford Motor Company in the Employee Insurance Department, his official title being Personnel Benefit Representative.

Peter was a young boy when his father and Don Weigman killed each other in a shootout here in Weston.

~~o~~

*Did you know:* Columbus Graves, a staunch Confederate who served through all the years of the war, was also wounded many times? He spent some time in a hospital near Vicksburg recovering from at least one of his wounds. On his return from service in 1865, he immediately purchased 400 acres of land in the Salem-Mt. Bethel neighborhood. There he married and raised a large family. As he grew older the land was parceled out to members of his family.



**WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
P.O. Box 266  
601 Main Street  
Weston, Missouri 64098

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U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 7

Mr and Mrs Carl Felling  
904 Blackhawk Street  
Weston, MO 64098

*"If we do not know our history, we will lose our road to the future."*

*Unknown*