

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY ~ MARCH 2011

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

Display Cases from Years Past



Some of the displays at the Museum in recent years have included (clockwise from top left): Madame Alexander dolls, 2004; Weston High School items, 2005; World War II, 2005; Steinway piano, 1970's; and early-day textiles, 2005.



See A Colored Dot On Your Newsletter?

If you see a colored dot somewhere on your copy of this newsletter, it means that you are receiving a free, promotional copy. If you like what you read and are interested in continuing to receive the newsletter, simply become a member of the Weston Historical Museum. Inside this copy you will find a card with a self-addressed envelope to join.

Once you have joined you will receive four newsletters per year that includes current news about the museum and events. It will also contain historical information about Weston, the surrounding area and individuals of Weston.

Your membership helps the museum keep its door open free of charge and it also helps preserve the past for future generations. Thank you for your help.

Please Give Us a Hand: Memberships Needed

Though memberships have not declined in the last several years, it would be helpful to gain a few more.

One way to do this is if each current member would pay for a family, individual or senior membership for one year for someone else, starting with the next issue of the newsletter. You might wish to do so for a friend, a family member or a neighbor you admire.

Family memberships are \$25, Individuals are \$15 and Seniors are \$10. This would afford someone a year of enjoying the newsletter and perhaps deciding to continue the membership once your year's gift has ended. It might even lead to them becoming active within the museum.

You might also pick a high school student or a student in college who is interested in museum science or history or would like a little different "letter from home" during their stay at school.

Our memberships keep the door open and the work of the museum continuing. Please give this idea some thought and then pay for one other besides your own membership. Thank you for your help in this endeavor.

Museum Honored By Truman Library Request

During the past several months Clay Bauske, Museum Curator for the Harry S. Truman Library and a board member of the Weston Historical Museum, has been doing research for an upcoming exhibition "Steamboats to Steam Engines: George Caleb Bingham's Missouri, 1819-1879" planned for display from March 10 to September 8, 2011.

The exhibition will feature about 40 of Bingham's drawings and paintings along with artifacts, documents, photographs and other historical materials that will illustrate life on the Missouri River during the years shortly before statehood and through the tragedy of the Border Wars and the Civil War.

This exhibit will also feature loan items from about a dozen museums and a number of private sources.

Our museum is pleased, honored and excited to be among those selected having pertinent documents and artifacts to add to the exhibit.

As many residents and historians know, Weston was once a major river port and an important part of Missouri's early history. Many westward-bound pioneers came up the river to Weston, stopping to purchase wagons and oxen for travel from here to points west. Other travelers proceeded up the Missouri by steamboat to places such as St. Joseph and stops in Nebraska.

Past and present residents of Weston should make the exhibition at the Harry S. Truman Library a "must-see" this year. Take your friends and family along and make a day of it.

Truman Library is full of wonderful history and displays. Take pride in the fact that your little hometown is represented in this very well-known tourist destination—the Library of a former President of the United States.

Looking for Something to Do?

Volunteers are always welcome on "Work Day Mondays," when we sort, file and label items. During the winter we also clean, refresh and change displays for the new season.

If interested call 386-4063 or 386-2977.

~ Upcoming Events ~

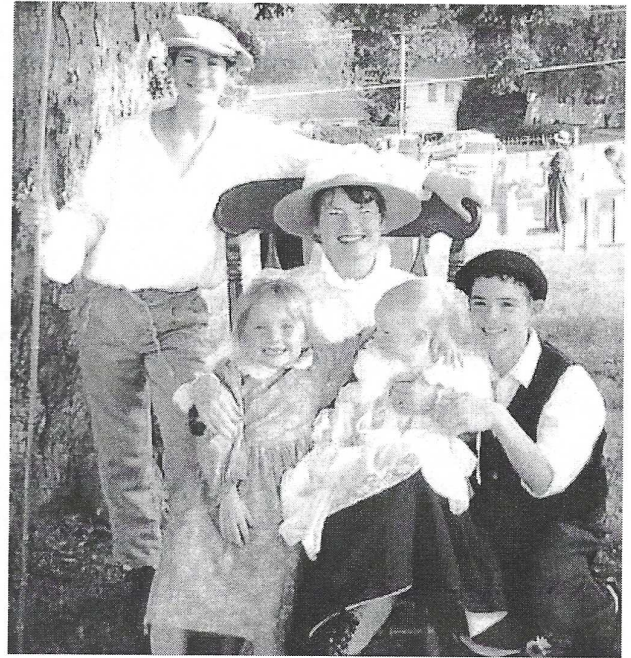
Fun Cemetery Stroll Planned for April 30, 2011

Once again, the Weston Historical Museum and the Weston Community Theatre come together to present their Laurel Hill Cemetery Stroll on Saturday evening, April 30 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Come stroll through this lovely hilltop cemetery and visit the graves where period-costumed actors will tell you about the life and time of the individual they are portraying. Some of their stories will delight, perhaps shock and awe you.

What a wonderful way to learn a bit about the people who lived during the early years of Weston's growth.

For a donation of \$5.00 each, you will not only enjoy the true stories but you will receive a souvenir booklet that talks about the individuals being portrayed and the actor. The booklet also contains old photographs, bits of historical facts about the town of Weston, a map of the cemetery and much more.



The Reiser family of Farley portrayed characters in one of our early Cemetery Strolls. This year's event will be held on April 30th.

Please put this enjoyable event on your calendars and plan to attend to learn more about Weston's past.

Trivia Night Coming Soon to Your Museum

The Trivia Night many enjoyed last June is coming once again, only this time in a bit more comfortable and cooler setting than before. So, the winning team of last June, the many other cheerful and interested players should dust off their thinking caps, recruit other participants to join the fun and get ready for a great evening of trivia, fun and fellowship.

The date is set for Saturday evening, March 19 at 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Weston American Legion Hall. There will be tables of six and eight and each player will be charged \$10.00.

As before, players are encouraged to bring their own snacks, fancy or plain. Drinks will be provided.

Questions will include geography, history, sports, food, TV, music and movies to name just a few.

You need not have a team; individuals and couple who attend will be placed on a team.

The winning team will be refunded their entry monies.

All proceeds will go to the Weston Historical Museum

Put the date and time on your calendar and start looking around for your team members.

To reserve a place simply call 816-386-4063 or 816-386-2977 and leave a message.

Looking forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable evening.

Annual Dinner Delights Seventy Attendees

Along with a great dinner and wonderful program, the nearly seventy people in attendance were happy to hear acting President Carl Felling announce that the 50/50 Fund drive has reached approximately \$45,000. The funds have come from many of our members and other individuals. The Weston Rotary Club, the Weston Jaycees, and a grant from the City of Weston have also added to the funds.

Election for officers and new Board members was held with those elected being Carl Felling, President; Judy Juergens, Vice-President; Ted Wilson, Treasurer; Charlotte Miller, Secretary; and Corresponding Secretary, Patricia Benner.

New Board members, filling in the unexpired terms of the late Diza Eskridge and Marion Gaskill are Marsha West and Kirk Nelson. They will serve until November 2011.

Larry Lintner provided the program for the evening when he spoke about Weston, its relationship to Leavenworth and at least one of the causes of the beginning of Weston's demise.

Lintner is a graduate of West Platte married to another graduate, Carol Cogan Lintner, with whom he traveled around the United States as well as some foreign destinations while working in the agriculture industry. Upon retirement the couple purchase the home of Carol's grandmother in Atchison, Kansas and opened Kathryn's Tea Room, named for Carol's grandmother. In his 'spare' time, Larry enjoys doing research on Weston, Iatan and the surrounding area. His talk was a result of many hours of his research.

The dinner, held at the Weston Methodist Church, was catered by The Avalon restaurant and enjoyed by all present.

During the evening President Felling recognized and expressed thanks for the contributions made to the museum by Mrs. Norma Stephen who recently resigned from the board. He also recognized the work done by the late Mrs. Etta Marie Brill who had been a Curator at the museum for many years. The

'Monday Morning Volunteers' also came in for their share of thanks.

Along with the Lintners and Fellings at the head table were Rev. and Mrs. Jim Voigt of Methodist Church. Rev. Voigt gave the grace before and after the meal.

Expanded Newsletter Begins Seventh Year

The year 2004 brought a new look to your newsletter. Expanded, updated and quarterly, it began to give a bit more items of local history, news about the work going on within your museum, items about recent donations of artifacts and documents and the new cases and displays being readied each year for the re-opening of the museum.

Slowly but surely, photographs were added into the pages, bringing back more memories and information for the readers.

Barbara Bless has gradually taken on the make-up of the pages, giving the newsletter more polished arrangement and artistic look.

Research on articles is the responsibility of Carolyn Larsen, and most of the photos come from within the museum.

If you have an interesting photo having to do with Weston or the surrounding area and would care to share it with us, please feel free to drop a copy or the original by the museum. Please include any comments about the people, place or events pictured and we will be happy to use them when we can.

The next newsletter will be the April-May-June issue and the deadline for a photo would be mid-April.

Did You Know . . .

. . . Mrs. Guy B. Park (Elnora Gabbert of Weston) wrote *Ladies of the Mansion* when she was Missouri's first lady? She said it was her "first and last book, a labor of love." Your museum has a copy of the book published in 1939.

. . . that in 1934 the A.A. Love residence had

a pair of courting red birds who later produced three babies? Inez Love named the three young chicks: Henry, Liza and Joe.

... that Rev. Frederick Starr wrote a *History of Weston*? It was heavy on the happenings in Weston as to the anti-slavery movement and his trials and tribulations while living here. Again, your museum has a copy of the book.

... that in December of 1969 Mrs. R.G. Allen noted a "visitor" among her usual flock of birds she put feeders out for? After some research she discovered it was a North Carolina wren and it stayed around most of the winter.

... that in 1932 a 50-mile-an hour wind and rainstorm killed sparrows by the bushel? This happened all over the Weston area and folks picked up dead birds for several days.

... that the brothers Egbert and John Railey were not only early bankers here in Weston but were descendants of Pocohontas? Several women in the direct lineage were named Pocohontas. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Railey was so named and married Richard Jacquemin who lived where Connie and Bill Juergens now live. Jacquemin became a partner with the late R.O. Shenkner and Jack Shenkner was his namesake.

... that the Everhard Collection of glass plate negatives contains nearly thirty thousand portraits taken in Leavenworth from the 1880's to the 1950's? Most are identified by name and can be seen at the Carroll Mansion Museum in Leavenworth. Ask them to check the Everhard database for the name of your ancestor. The telephone number is 913.682.7759 or check online at www.leavenworthhistory.org.

Moxie Hanley Was Cody's Press Photographer

The December 3, 1965 issue of *The Weston Chronicle* gave a story about the above named man written by Mrs. Bertha Bless in her column entitled "This and That".

"Recently I came upon a newspaper clipping about which I had not written in years but is a valuable addition to our local history about Buffalo Bill Cody.

It concerned the death of Moxie Hanley, famous photographer in Kansas City, associated

for many years with the great showman, who for a time lived in Weston.

It was pure chance that took me into Hanley's photographic supply office on East Tenth Street and still chance which brought to his attention that I was from Weston. I can assure you my stay was much, much longer than I had anticipated, for with the magic word "Weston," he launched into a long recital of his days with Buffalo Bill and the latter's frequent references to Weston.

Hanley had been press photographer for Cody's Wild West Show and traveled with him all around the world. Most of his huge collection of photographs was made on glass negatives and most of them were lost in a fire in 1952. Among them was one of Cody with President Teddy Roosevelt.

Hanley became world famous as the only photographer who caught the five generals in a picture together at the dedication of Kansas City's Liberty Memorial in 1921. It was thru his friendship with the then Major George C. Marshall that he "scooped" all other photographers there. His pictures sold around the world.

After Cody's show closed for the winter in 1914, Hanley joined the Kansas City Journal as a news photographer, later opening the studio from which he retired in 1961, after the death of his wife.

"He often spoke of Weston and his love for the little town on the river," Moxie told me. "He spoke of the river's broad sweep into the finest harbor on her long mileage from St. Louis to the great northwest, opened after Weston's decline. He often invited me to go to Weston with him, but my work kept me so busy I never found the time."

Hanley was interested in this being a large tobacco center and promised to come up to one of the famous auctions for which I had invited him. I'm afraid that promise fell into the limbo which exists for so many busy people. Moxie—a nickname attached to him because of a soft drink he sold as a young man and later legally added to his own name—died last year and one of his survivors is the wife of Kenneth Haysler, who, with his wife owns Cloverset Farms, visited every year by many gardeners from Weston."

Weston Historical Museum

2010 Membership

membership is from January 2010 - January 2011

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 Earl D. Miller
 Haroldine Nisbet
 Owen & Louise O'Neil
 Judy M. Peterson
 Clyde Poignard
 Jean Robertson
 Lee Wilhite

STUDENT- NONE

Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

We found the following in a December 1965 issue of *The Weston Chronicle*: "Mr. and Mrs. James G. Anderson of Weston announce the marriage of their daughter, Candace Kay to Phillip Buckler, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Benson of Weston."

That same issue found this item: "Douglas Eskridge, serving in Vietnam, was promoted to First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps this week. Douglas, a graduate of West Platte H.S. and of Missouri University is the son of Supt. and Mrs. R.G. Eskridge."

An item in Sept. 1932 tells about a family reunion: "About thirty-five descendants of the late W.T. and Sarah J. Lindsey held their first family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Lindsey on Spring street Sunday. A picnic dinner served cafeteria style was enjoyed by those in attendance. Eight children and their families were in attendance: Mr. and Mrs. Ira Lindsey, Harry Lindsey and wife, of Leavenworth; Tom Lindsey and family, Howard Gabbert and family, Ray Lindsey and wife, George Trigg, Kansas City; Lee Lindsey and wife, Jesse Lindsey and family and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lindenmeyer, Weston."

In an issue dated May 14, 1937 we read: "The Eighth grade commencement exercises will be held at the Christian Church Wednesday evening, May 10.

All seats will be reserved until 8 o'clock to assure the parents and relatives of the graduates have seats.

Candidates for graduation are "Elsa Marie Hardesty, Lena Mae Caldwell, Kathern Mingee, Glenn T. Henson, Marvin Lunbeck, Grover Lee Lober, Davie McHughes, Anna Marie Bradley, Mary Kerns, Bethene Benner, Paul Mace, Vivian Foley, Ruth and Esther Turner and Paul Calvert."

October 1925 we read "Lee Murphy was sporting a new rubber-tired buggy and a new set of driving harness about town Saturday. Mr. Murphy always was a lover of horses and had in times past had the best string of show horses in Platte County. He says there's nothing

to compare to the "feel of holding the lines over a good driving mare and ride along at leisure in the good October glow or early spring bloom time." So he purchased a new buggy and spanking new harness at a total cost of over \$200. And he attracted considerable attention as he paraded up and down Main Street."

October 1937 brought us this item: "Mr. and Mrs. Earl Newton of Platte City announce the birth of an eight-pound daughter at Cushing hospital in Leavenworth on Tuesday, October 26, whom they have named Frances Laverne. Mrs. Newton was formerly Miss Mary Baker."

That same month and year we read: "Earl Benner, Jr., is the name given to the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Benner, who arrived home from Leavenworth with his mother yesterday."

Grade School Notes From September 1932

The following comes from the school news printed in The Weston Chronicle and your editor thought you might enjoy a bit of it.

"The first grade is getting along very well. The children have been interested in the study of pets. A story was told by Bobby Mann about his kitten 'Plumpy'. Plumpy lives in the country and can do many tricks.

The second grade is studying about caterpillars. Joe Collison expects to capture a woolly bear caterpillar for our study.

The following people have visited us this month: Mrs. Ethel Collison, Mrs. Geo. Hull, Mrs. Robert Brownell, Mrs. Dan Corbin, Miss Margaret Hull and Mr. David Fellows.

The following Fourth graders have made a perfect record in Spelling this year: Elaine Cox, Betty Jean Brownell, Pearl Glass, Betty Jo Knox, Jesse Judy Alison and Matthew Roberts.

This year Early American History is being added to the studies of the Fifth graders.

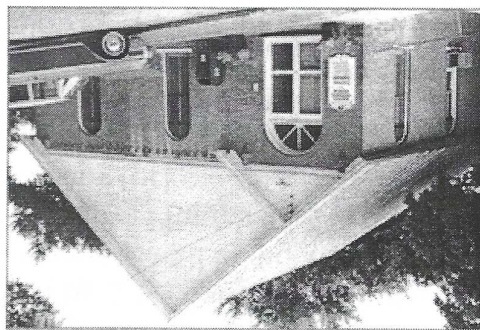
Pupils of the Sixth grade have started their map booklets for this year by making relief maps of the British Isles. When their booklets are completed, they will contain map studies of all parts of the Eastern hemisphere."

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

Mr and Mrs Carl Felling
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Weston, MO 64098

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Weston, Missouri 64098

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM



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Today's Mystery Corner

Guist or Guest? Who Was She?

Recently, I had reason to look through the Platte County, Missouri Mortality Schedules 1850-1880 & Register of Deaths as Filed at the County Clerk's Office 1883-1888 as I was doing some research for an individual. While going through the book, I often find names that catch my eye or my imagination.

One such name was Arabelle Guist. She was listed as a white female, 23 years old. The young wife of William Guist died May 25, 1884 in Weston at four o'clock in the afternoon. The cause of death was recorded as being from Phthisis Pulmonalis. According to the book, the undertaker listed as A Smidt of Weston, buried her in Weston May 6, 1884. Arabelle's doctor was Dr. S.W. Coots, also of Weston.

In the cemetery book Graceland and Laurel Hill Cemeteries, Weston, Missouri by Shirley L. Kimsey. Arabelle's last name is spelled Guest

and we are told that she was born in Illinois.

Curious to learn more, I started checking Paxton's Annals and could not find anyone listed under that name regardless of how it was spelled.

Wondering just what Phthisis Pulmonalis was considered to be, I found that back in the 1880's it was another name for Consumption or Tuberculosis.

Then I tried checking marriage records, but did not find one between Arabelle and William in Platte County. I also did not find a death record for William and also no children of the couple. And plat maps showed no record of them owning property in the area.

So, Arabelle, may you rest in peace despite the fact that we know nothing about you and are left wondering about your aspirations, your dreams and how your last name was really spelled.