

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

JANUARY ~ FEBRUARY ~ MARCH 2012

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

Next Trivia Night Planned for March

Saturday, March 24, 2012 is the new date for our next Trivia Night. It will be held again at the Weston branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library from 7:00 to 10:00 that evening.

As before, it is a matter of you bringing your own snacks, and beverages will be provided. Cost is \$15.00 per person and all proceeds go to the Weston Historical Museum.

Come join us with a table of four, six or eight friends and family to answer ten sets of ten questions about all sorts of useless trivia – sports, literature, music, entertainment, and of course, one set of questions about Weston.



Civil War Guns Donated

Jon Root of Leawood, Kansas, and his son Tom, of Detroit, Michigan, visited the Museum in late December. With them they brought two firearms used during the Civil War.

The guns had been given to Root many years ago by a relative, the late E.M. "Chubb" Brill. Following the death of his wife, Jon contacted Tom to decide what to do with the weapons, a revolver and a rifle. The two men decided they needed to return to Weston.

Root, whose first wife was a Doran, is also related to the Mitchell family of Platte County.

Your Museum Has Items In Display at WWI Museum

A display entitled "Coming Home" at the World War I Museum in Kansas City has included in it four or five photographs of the return of Company K to Weston in 1919. The photos were donated by the Weston Historical Museum.

They will remain on display through the end of March. The Museum, located at the Liberty Memorial, is open from 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday through Sunday.

This is the second time a nationally recognized museum has featured artifacts or documents from our museum in the past year. The first loan was to the Harry S Truman Presidential Library & Museum last March.

We, at your museum, think this is not too shabby for a museum of our size.

Volunteer Crew Getting Ready for New Season

Volunteers, Museum Curator Carolyn Larsen and Director Ann Saugstad, have been hard at work the past two months getting ready for our March 15th re-opening. Several displays have been refreshed and others have been disassembled and replaced with new ones. (See pictures on Page 3.)

Two new exhibits are ones honoring TWA, a long-time employer of many area residents, and another tracking political contests from the Ulysses S. Grant presidential race to today's elections. (See page 3 for more.)

A large collection of dolls, donated last year, will take a featured spot on the lower level. Those who have not been to the Museum recently can also see the finished display of Rumpel Hardware memorabilia, which was in progress last fall.

The Museum will open for the 2012 season on Wednesday, March 15th at 1:00 pm. Hours are 1:00 to 4:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and 1:30 to 4:30 pm Sundays.

Come in sometime and enjoy our history!

Bits and Pieces from Bertha's Morgue

May 12, 1917 A.E. Fankhanel and Miss Maude Carson of Farley were married. Mrs. Fankhanel is a sister of Mrs. C.H. Chastain of Weston.

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In the issue of The Weston Chronicle, dated April 16, 1954 we read: "Eva M. Wilhite Field, native of Saline County where she spent most of her life, was born March 1, 1872 near Slater, and died April 10, 1954 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D.C. Lamar, near Weston." She was kin to Eliazer Wilhite who once ran the Weston Milling Company before the Ohlhausens bought it from the bank.

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January 18, 1901 we read, "It is useless for us to say that Mr. Julius Rumpel is one of our most enterprising business men as the looks of a man's real estate generally indicates his enterprise and pride of the town wherein it is situated.

His latest venture will be a telephone system for Weston which he will have in operation within six months. Last Monday the city council granted him a twenty-year franchise for the same.

This is a commendable move in Mr. Rumpel as a telephone system in our city will be a great convenience, and if liberally patronized the charges will be reasonable. Work on the same will commence as soon as Mr. Rumpel can secure the necessary material. He contemplates putting in the latest improved system. If our city had a few more such men our community would be more prosperous."

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Twenty-seven years later, a new company has taken over the telephone system and we read on April 2, 1928 the following: "The Central hours have been changed considerably by a new schedule that has gone into effect at the offices of the Midwest Telephone Co. this week. Each girl works only eight hours a day, has one day off a week and every other Sunday is relieved from duty. The Central girls on duty are Miss Unmessig, Miss Graves, Mrs. Loyles, Mrs. Holladay, and Mrs. Linville. Dallas Linville and Lois Wood are the relief girls newly employed."

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Reporting on themselves in the April 4, 1891 issue, we read: "The Chronicle office is being moved into the Bonifant building where we will be pleased to meet all of our customers and friends." (Note: The Bonifant building was on the southwest corner

of Main and Market Street and was known as The Chronicle building from then until the mid 1980's. The newspaper was moving from the building now occupied by "Town Mouse".)

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In May of 1909 we found this item: "Rev. McLaughlin conducted services at the Platte City Catholic church last Sunday. Next Sunday he will conduct services at the Catholic church near Parkville."

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The issue of the newspaper dated August 19, 1932 brought us this: "Three Weston boys, Richard Thomas, Franklin Mann and J.J. Layton spent the first of the week in Raytown, where they are practicing with the Englewood band under the direction of Prof. Bartlett.

"The Englewood band will appear in concert at the State Fair at Sedalia August 25. The Weston boys will return in time to play with the Weston band at the Platte County Fair on Friday, August 26."

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From the September 17, 1915 issue of the local newspaper: "There have been numerous crop reports in the columns of this paper the past few weeks, but as a mutual agreement and just for old time's sake this reporter wishes to state that he saw some of the finest potatoes one day last week that he has seen anywhere this season.

"Aunt Jane Hamilton (now you all know she's colored, so we'll just omit that word) emphatically claims the renowned distinction backed by judicious authority that she nursed those potatoes from the peelings, which she planted to the age of maturity. She also states that while some of these "Poor white trash have got it in their noodle that she does not know anything, they are sadly mistaken."

"Along with other qualifications she is no novice in the art of gardening. We must frankly admit that Aunt Jane has the goods on display to cinch the argument that her 'tater crop for the season of 1915 was a humdinger."

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In January of 1956 we read: "Charles Still received word Monday evening of the death of his brother, Morgan Still, of Lowell, Kansas, who had died that day of asthma. He left Tuesday afternoon for Lowell where the funeral and burial were held yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Still, 69 years of age, and his brother, Charles, were prominent in baseball from about

Loans, Donations Shown Off in Newest Displays



Volunteer Susan Cline Grinlinton did most of the work on one of the Museum's new displays. "Campaign Headquarters" includes items donated or loaned by Gary Enright, Michael Bless, John Bless and one unknown individual. Featured are posters, bumper stickers, buttons and other election paraphernalia from national, state and local races. There are also a number of photographs of candidates for the office of the Presidency. Even Mickey Mouse is included!

In years past TWA was a large employer of many of the men and women in Weston and the surrounding area. Volunteers of the museum thought it would be interesting and fun to display items from that era in the life of many in the community, so we put out a call for TWA items.

Among those responding were local residents Larry Crockett, Judy Juergens, June Kisker, Judy Shenefield and Dennis Saugstad. Uniforms, bags, tools, airplane models and many other interesting items were lent for the display.

So come in and indulge in some reminiscing!

1916 to the early 1930's. They were members of the old Mink league, playing mostly in Missouri and Iowa. Morgan was pitcher and Charles was catcher. The brothers gained quite a reputation and their names meant something in baseball circles.

Mr. Still is survived by his wife of the home, three daughters and several nephews and nieces."

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Mrs. Louise Magers Winzer died May 13, 1917, at the home of her sister in Chesterton, Ind., where she was visiting.

Check Us Out Online

**www.westonhistorical
museum.org.**

For pictures, curator columns, special events and other bits of information.

From the Newspaper Files: Bellar Rebuts Scathing Article of Weston

(In April of 1895, Mr. F.H. Brooks, later a famous reporter on The Chicago Tribune and still later an envoy to Austria, wrote a scathing criticism of Weston's early businessmen. Only one man, a Baptist minister, the Rev. A.G. Bellar, came forward with a rebuttal. These are excerpts from his article.)

In his quite humorous account of Jim Burnes, F.H. Brooks mixes some truth with a good deal of error, at least so far as the people of Weston are concerned. In part, the thrashing is well deserved. And yet, the people have never been such idiots as his recital of their actions in the matter of the railroad would indicate. It is doubtless true that Weston has a number of times been too blind to take advantage of passing opportunities, but these opportunities have, in several notable incidents, been snatched from her grasp despite her own people. Personal envy and prejudice were the leading factors in these disastrous results.

When the Hannibal-St. Joseph railroad was rejected, Robert M. Stuard of St. Joseph, afterwards governor of the state, was the leading support. Naturally, when it came to securing the western terminus, he knew no place but St. Joseph. Who could blame him?

After the road had secured aid from eastern capitalists and a large amount of bonds from the state, it became necessary to obtain the right of way from the state through the legislature.

Was Weston's Greatest Opportunity

In due time the Hon. Geo. Smith, Senator, prepared a bill giving the right of way to the company and fixing the terminus of the road. The eastern terminus was easily agreed upon as Hannibal. But there were influences working against St. Joseph as the western terminus. The author of the bill—and those facts I had directly from his own lips—left the field open from Westport to St. Joseph. This was doubtless Weston's greatest opportunity.

When Gov. Geo. Smith afterwards gave me this information, he expressed surprise that Weston did not secure the terminus. Westport was of no importance. St. Joseph was not as large as Weston. She had no western outlets, while Weston had Fort Leavenworth with its great military roads leading into the distant west.

Some Played Ostrich

It became, thus, a struggle in the legislature between these two points.

Brooks would have us believe that our people were opposed to Weston becoming the terminus because, I suppose, according to his notion, there was a "Yankee in the woodpile." He intimates that an indignation meeting was held and that all friends of the project hid themselves. I suppose Jim Burnes was among those who played ostrich. If there really was any indignation, it was so mild that no one saw it or heard of it. Nay, Brother Brooks, this indignation meeting is a child of your fertile fancy.

But why then, did Weston fail to secure this western terminus? Listen!

Loss Was Result of Envy

Among those who aspired to legislative honors from this county that year were Jim Burnes and Judge E. H. Norton. Rather big men, these, even then, and they did not seek those places for the empty honors. They could look far into the future. To secure for Platte County the advantage of this western terminus was one of the principal objects they had in view. Certainly, they would have been a match for any man St. Joseph could present. It will be remembered that there had long raged a bitter controversy between Weston and Platte City. As usual, the fates, or Jim Burnes' irrepressible nemesis was at work again, to upset the plan. The proper man was found to upset these well-laid plans and turn Weston's hopes into "Dead Sea Apples." In our midst was a little man—little in stature but sharp in intellect—shrewd and polished and unscrupulous as Satan. The first letters of his name were L.D. Bird. He saw his opportunity and was not slow to grasp it. Like Aaron Burr, "A great man in small things and a small man in great things," he had been disappointed in political aspirations and was waiting his chance. He managed to inject the old county seat controversy into this legislative contest. As he hoped, it was soon bubbling and boiling furiously. Being chief cook with fiendish pleasure, he threw in the elements of discord which soon resembled the decoction prepared by the witches of Macbeth. Soon the original issue, that of securing the western terminus

(Continued on Page 6)

Weston 175th Anniversary, 2012

Weston History Essay Contest

To commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Weston, the Weston Historical Museum is sponsoring a "Weston History Essay Contest." Open to anyone, the contest offers cash and other prizes for the best original essays on some aspect of Weston History. The contest will be held in three categories, as follows:

Elementary School Division: Open to elementary school students (grades K-6). Essays should be 200 to 700 words and may be hand printed. First Place prize is \$50.00 cash. There will also be gifts for second and third place, and certificates of appreciation for all entries.

Junior and Senior High School Division: Open to junior and senior high school students (grades 7-12). Essays must be typed and should not exceed 2,000 words. First Place prize is \$150 cash. There will also be gifts for second and third place finishers, and certificates of appreciation for all entries.

Open Division: This division is open to any applicants of any age. Essays must be typed and should not exceed 3,000 words. First Place prize is \$250 cash. There will also be gifts for second and third place finishers, and certificates of appreciation for all entries.

All essays must be original works specifically created for this essay contest. They cannot be versions of articles and essays that have been produced previously as a school research paper, a published article, or any other previously-produced essay. The Weston Historical Museum can provide resource materials, topic suggestions, and other advice. Call the Museum at (816) 386-2977 for assistance.

Essays will be judged by a panel selected by the Weston Historical Museum Board. Contest participants shall retain their rights to the articles but shall agree to grant the Weston Historical Museum non-exclusive rights to publish the essays in any form (including, but not limited to newsletters, website, and other formats).

The deadline for entries is *Friday, September 7, 2012.*

Entries should be hand-delivered or mailed to:

**The Weston Historical Museum
601 Main Street
Weston, MO 64098**

The winners will be announced at the City of Weston's 175th Anniversary celebration on September 22, 2012. Winners also will be invited as honored guests to the Weston Historical Museum's annual dinner in November where they will receive further recognition.

Bellar Rebuts . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

of the Hannibal railroad, was completely lost and the people of the county were blinded to their best interests. Fighters Withdrew—Weston Lost.

Both Burnes and Norton withdrew and, like Achilles, they drew in their tents. Two men were nominated and elected who shall be nameless here. When the contest came, they proved no match for the champion St. Joseph had selected to carry the fight for the terminus.

Years afterward, General Craig, as shrewd a politician as there ever was, declared: "If Weston had secured the western terminus of the Hannibal road, she would have become what St. Joseph is now and the later place would be a cornfield."

I am constrained to make this explanation, not only to straighten out Brooks but to inform our younger generation that our people were not such fools as he would have them be. The people were blinded, it is true, but that the people of Weston were ever illiberal as regards enterprises of this kind is not true. We ask for justice.

(Ed.'s Note: However the "fight" came about; whatever the circumstances, many Weston citizens today think that we are better off in that we remained a small town and enjoy many pleasures and privileges we might not have, had we grown into a large city.)

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New Creamery Opens In Parkville

(This article, along with a large advertisement, about the creamery, was found in an issue of The Weston Chronicle dated October 10, 1927.)

Platte County has a new project that means more success to the farmers who are paying attention to diversified farming. A creamery and cheese factory at Parkville makes a market for milk and cream for the milk producers. The establishment has been open only a few weeks and is very successful so far. Wm. McRuer, who is the representative outside Parkville, visited Weston Tuesday and called on a number of farmers along the route, arranging for the collection of milk.

The fact that all the milk purchased does not need to be Grade A appeals to many, as low as grade C will be purchased as the facilities included at the factory for the raising of the standard is such

as to make the purchase of lower grades feasible.

The route has been extended to Weston and daily collection is to be made. The farmers need only to place their milk on the road and the truck picks up the contents. The highest market price for all qualities is promised."

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AT REST: Mary Saunders Buried in Laurel Hill

(The following obituary is from the March 1, 1907 issue of The Weston Chronicle. Due to a glitch in the editor's memory banks, she could not send this to an individual who had written or called to ask about the Glauner family. The editor hopes the individual will see this item and be able to glean some information needed.)

Mrs. Mary Glauner Saunders was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1827; was married to Abner Saunders in Jackson county, Missouri in 1848 and moved to Weston in 1856. She died Monday morning at six o'clock and is survived by four children: Mrs. S.J. Noland, Mrs. J.C. Cooper and Mrs. A. Leipard of this city, and H.B. Saunders of Leavenworth; sixteen grandchildren and ten living great grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother, B.F. Glauner of Soda Springs, Idaho, and a sister, Mrs. Barbara Billott of Leavenworth, Ks.

She was a member of the German Lutheran Church, though the funeral took place at the Christian church Tuesday afternoon, services conducted by Rev. J.C. Howell. Interment in Laurel Hill cemetery.

Of late Mrs. Saunders made her home with Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Cooper where her familiar form will be greatly missed as they see the vacant chair; but she had been spared to her family and her friends until her age reached four score when the Reaper had need of her in the land beyond, so he gathered her to her father as the ripened grain is garnered at the close of its season. Rest in peace thou good and faithful friend.

"Disobedience is in our DNA, from England's King George to the present. The spirit that tossed tea into Boston Harbor; that refused to sit in the back of the bus, Disobedience demands that you put yourself at risk."

Unknown

Weston Historical Museum Members

February 2012

Below are listed the members of the Weston Historical Society who have paid their membership dues as of February 20th. If you are not listed and would like to remain in the Society, please fill out the form on the next page and return it to us as soon as possible.

Membership dues are the life blood of the Museum, helping us to literally keep the lights on. If you know of any friends, family or neighbors who might be interested, please share your copy of the "Museum Musings" with them and encourage them to join!

A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Marcus Garvey

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

William E. Baskett *
Earl and Dot Benner *
Alice Braasch
Howard & Bethene Breen
Dick Cray
Vivian Beck Dissette
Jeff & Janet Elsea
Jeffrey V. & Pat Gaskill
Sally Gaskill &
Massimo Ossi *
Virginia Hall
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Hart *
Susanne & Donald Head
Roy & Frances Hornbuckle
Susan & Floyd Hudson *
Owens R. Hull
Owens "Lee" Hull, Jr.
Joan and Walt (Sandy)
Humphrey
Jana Collison Johnson
Charlie & Margie Johnston
Kenneth Juergens
Dr. & Mrs. Ray Kirk
Ray & Edna Kirk
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kisker *
Cynthia S. Hudson Lake
James K. Layton
Floyd & Connie Liberty *
Mrs. Elmer Lindsey
Mike & Ruth Marr *
Helen Benzinger &
David McKinney
Dr. Sandra McMillan
Charlotte V. Miller *
Art & Susan Nagel
Ann S. Niemann,

Robert F. Niemann
Haroldine Nisbet
Drs. Ward & Deb Ohlhausen
Carla & Bret Ohlhausen
Bill & Jean Ohlhausen
Phil & Mary Pattison
Sue Phillips
Dr. & Mrs. Elbert Pirtle
R. L. Rutherford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Smith
Louis & Pam Smither
Norma Lee Stephen
Francie & Bill Stoner
Joan Keogh Taloff *
Chris & Marsha West
Fred & Linda Whisman
Paul R. Whitters
Margaret T. Wilson *

BENEFACTOR

Clay & Lennie Bauske
Jerry & Dorthi Blair
Brent & Laura (Juergens)
Davidson
Pat & Cathy Egan
Harvey & Julie Eplee
Carl & Kacey Felling
Russel & Terri French
Dennis & Barb Fulk
Charles & Barbara Gatschet
Stephanie Glusac
Kiah Harris
Brent & Trish Hudson
Verna Kowetz
Roger & Susan Lindley
Patty Cray Mach
Kate & Jack Parsons

Dennis & Ann Saugstad
Quint & Christy Shafer Family
Sandra Taylor

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Michael Bless

CONTRIBUTOR

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Bill Cecil
Helen Sue Gabbert
Jerry & Suzanne Goodpaster
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George Z. & Regina Ann Hull
Jan & Larry Jabara
David & Thea Knox
Ron & Jean Novotny Family
Jay & Vanessa Nower
Pacific Breeze LLC
Ted & Connie Wilson

FAMILY

Donna D. Baker
Don & Debby Buckholz
Kenneth & Kay Clemens
Larry & Ruth Mary Clemens
& Grandchildren
J.P. & Helen Coldren
Tom & Cecilia Credille
Scott & Mary Davin
Nancy Day & Pat Jesaitis
Jim & Peggy Dejarnatt
Mr. & Mrs. John Dowd
Walt & Kate Dowd
Jim & Sue Farley
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Burton Hiatt Family
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David & Kim Kirby Family
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Eric & Diane Marr & Family
Liz Marr & John Price
Joby & Bill McGowan
Kirk & Julie Nelson
Paul Norman Family
Joe & Lyn Pepper
Ann & Mark Raab
Anita Hall Reddy
Lee & Becky Robertson
Chuck Sebus & Bill Sebus
Kyle & Joan Stephenson Family
Sylvia Stuckey & Dan Verbeck
Keith, Marie & Donnie
Stutterheim
Ann Suarez

William R. & Carla Sutton
Paul & Alberta Toy
L.R. & Sue Vaughn
Larry & Sharon Whitt
Larry & Gertrude Woodring

INDIVIDUAL

Lorraine Darnell Belote
Thomas R. DeBerry
Marie Gilbert
Susan Grinlinton
Robert M. Hardesty
Mary Jo Heidrick
Frances M. Hite
Nancy Honerkamp
Marly Hougland
Bonnie Huffman
Jan Marriott
Janis Saugstad Morris
Rev. Charles N. Rowe
Nancy & Lee Saugstad
Pat Stampfel
James W. Van Amberg

SENIOR

Ms. Joyce Batterson
Mr. T. J. Beach
Myrtle Lee Burns
Joe & Marcia Cosgrove
Dorothy A. Donnelly
Margaret Engeman
Earlene & Robert Fulk
Phyllis Haynes
Mary Hayworth
June Kisker
Carolyn Larsen
Robert D. Leonard, Jr.
Charles & Beverly McConnell
Earl D. Miller *
Patrick O'Malley
Louise O'Neill
Robert O'Neill
Clyde Pognard
Helen & Dick Shores
Louise E. (Doppler) Smith
Lee A. Wilhite
Mary Sue Winneke

STUDENT

Coy Kirby
Coy Taylor
Kaylee Taylor
Trent Taylor

* Denotes additional donation

Few Changes Made At Annual Dinner

Our Annual Membership Dinner was held November 13th in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church. A smaller than usual gathering enjoyed the dinner, catered by the Avalon Cafe, and an informative and very interesting talk by Mark Raab, UMKC Adjunct Professor of Geosciences.

Prof. Raab spoke on the Native Americans living in the Weston valley along the Missouri River 1000 - 2000 years ago, covering the culture and society of these people. He presented slides of a archeological dig near Farley which yielded artifacts of the Native Americans living in the area 1500 years ago. His presentation also presented information pertaining to the climate conditions affecting the culture of these early Native Americans.

Judy Juergens, who had been serving as Vice President, stepped down and was replaced by Clay Bauske who is the Curator at the Harry S Truman Library and Museum. He and his wife, Lennie Medcalf, live in Weston. Ms. Medcalf is a sixth grade teacher at West Platte Elementary. Mrs. Juergens remains on the Board and oversees The Nostalgia Store in the Museum.

Also tendering her resignation was Charlotte

Slapper Miller, who has been Recording Secretary for many years. Patricia Benner, who has been the corresponding Secretary was asked to take over Mrs. Miller's duties and combine the two posts.

President Carl Felling, Treasurer Ted Wilson and Director Ann Saugstad were all re-elected for another term.

Duplicate Yearbooks Are Still Available

Don't forget that we have quite a few duplicate yearbooks that are available to anyone at the low, low cost of only \$10, plus shipping.

Those years in which there are duplicates are 1923-1928, 1946 through 1962. All proceeds will be used to fund Museum expenses.

Give us a phone call, a shout out, stop by the museum, or drop a note to us in the mail and we will be glad to make you a proud owner.

On the inverse side, if you have any yearbooks you would like to see go to a good home, please contact us. We've already had three requests for a 1964, of which we only had one available.

Either way, contact us at 816-386-2977 or through our website:

www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A Non-Profit Corporation for the Preservation of Historic Information.

601 Main Street • P.O. Box 266 • Weston, MO 64098

Please Choose Your Level of Participation

_____ Student	\$ 1	_____ Contributor	\$50 - \$74
_____ Senior	\$10	_____ Patron	\$75 - \$99
_____ Individual	\$15	_____ Benefactor	\$100
_____ Family	\$25	_____ Other	_____

Life Memberships (per person)

_____ Ages 1-55	\$400	_____ Ages 56-75	\$300
_____ Ages 76 +	\$100		

Membership Runs from January to January

List this membership as follows:

Name _____
 Address _____

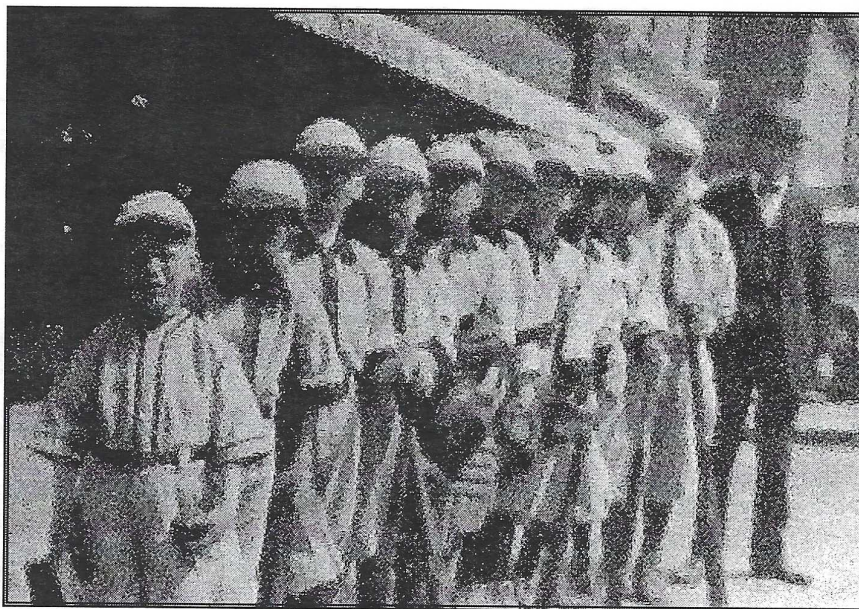
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

1923

Baseball Team

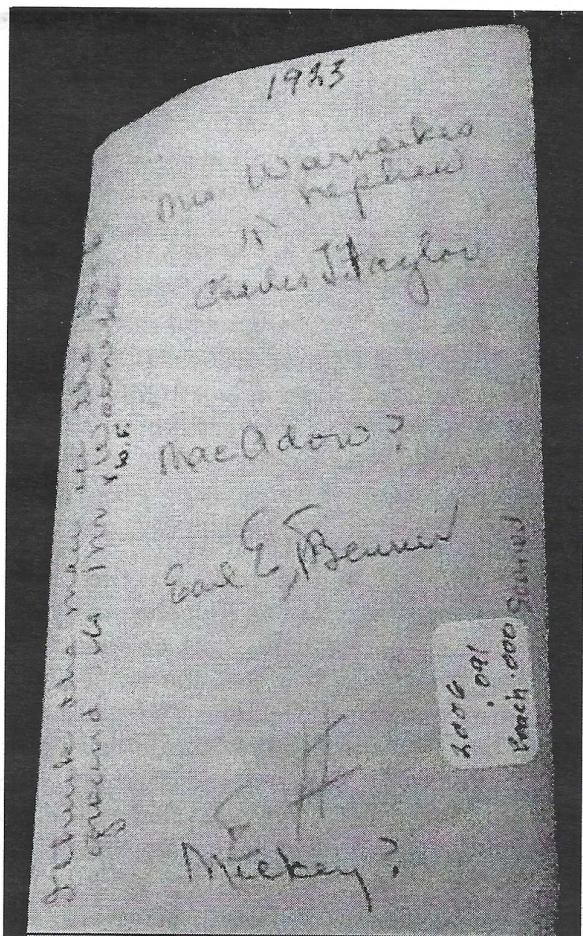
With spring just around the corner, many minds turn to the new baseball season. Pictured is a team of young lads who were fun-loving, mischievous, yet totally serious about the game of baseball.

W.F. Warneke, who ran a Variety Store in Weston, sponsored the group and can be seen at the back of the line-up. First in line is Charles Taylor, a nephew of Mrs. Warneke's. Third in the line is believed to be a member of the McAdow family and the six one is identified as Earl Benner, Sr.



There are no other identifications of the subjects in the photo, although one can see a "Mickey?" written on the back of the picture (below).

If anyone knows the rest of the team, please let us know at 816-386-2977 or 816-386-0185

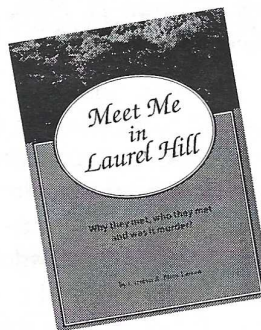


The Nostalgia Store

at the Weston Historical Museum

New & Used Books
• Cookbooks • Paper Dolls •
Souvenir Publications • Prints

Announcing the arrival of
Carolyn Larsen's Newest:



Meet Me in Laurel Hill

Vignettes on some of
the early day
denizens of Weston.

Available at the Museum, the Weston Chamber Office
or on Amazon.com

Guerrillas, Militia and Bushwhackers, Oh My!!

Below are three written reports/dispatches by Clinton B. Fisk, Brigadier-General to Major-General Rosecrans, Commanding Dept. of the Missouri, during the Civil War:

• • • •

**Saint Joseph,
June 1, 1864**

The band of guerrillas that encountered our militia this morning near the south line of Buchanan County also made a raid into New Market, Platte County, for plunder. They stole horses, guns, and money, and left in the direction of Platte City. I have militia after them from Platte City, Weston, and Saint Joseph, nearly 300 in all. They are said to be a portion of the original Quantrell band and are doubtless a part of the grand combination of villains of which we have heretofore been advised. H.T. is here tonight. He has done well so far and will immediately take the trail after this band of brigands.

Clinton B. Fisk,
Brigadier-General

• • • •

June 1, 1864

Skirmish near Arnoldsville and raid on New Market, Mo. Report of Brig. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, U.S. Army, Commanding District of North Missouri.

Saint Joseph.

A desperate little fight occurred this morning between a detachment of militia and bushwhackers in the southeastern portion of Buchanan County. The militia were outnumbered and surprised. We lost 3 men killed. I have 200 men in pursuit of the villains.

We have captured another of the murderers of Wilson and Christian, who has confessed the murder and revealed the names of his confederates in this crime. I am leaving no stone unturned to dis-

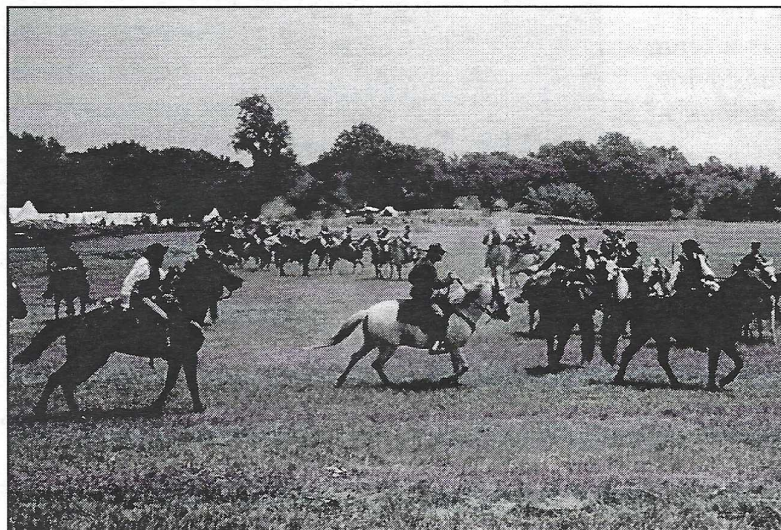


PHOTO BY SUSAN C. GRINLINTON

cover and summarily punish the guilty parties.

The people are clamorous for protection that I am unable to afford from my limited force. Am increasing the loyal militia as rapidly as possible. We must look and prepare for considerable trouble. My advices from the river counties indicate that returning

rebels and guerrillas are constantly crossing the river to this side. I have ordered Colonel Williams to Macon to assist in the organization of militia in Northeast Missouri.

Clinton B. Fisk,
Brigadier-General.

To: Major-General Rosecrans,
Commanding Dept of the Mo.

• • • •

June 11, 1864

Skirmish at Ridgeley, Mo.

Reports

- No. 1---Brig. Gen. Clinton B Fisk, U.S. Army,
Commanding District of North Missouri
No 2---Capt. William J. Fitzgerald,
Sixteenth Kansas Cavalry.

No. 1

Saint Joseph, Mo., June 12, 1864

A detachment of militia were attacked by a band of guerrillas yesterday at Ridgeley, in Platte County, and a desperate little fight ensued. Captain Hoberson (Overson), late of the rebel army, now recruiting under Col. Calhoun Thornton, C.S. Army, and leader of the gang, was killed outright, and his lieutenant, William Felland (Oldham), son of a planter in this county, was wounded and taken prisoner. He was shot today. His confession will be valuable to us in securing scores of the black-hearted villains in the country. We captured several fine

horses and revolvers.

We lost one brave boy; only two others were slightly wounded. The brigands were the same party that committed the murders at Arnoldsville. Eleven of them were on the muster-rolls of a militia company in this county, and they carried a Federal musket all winter. I am pushing after the villains day and night, and my limited force of reliable troops are nearly worn out.

I can get help from General Curtis, who has kindly tendered it today, but I dislike to have the Kansas troops come over here if it can possibly be avoided. I shall go to Platte County again tomorrow if able to ride. We captured 2 more of our escaped prisoners today, McConly and Briggs; the latter was killed.

Clinton B. Fisk,
Brigadier General.

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No. 2

*Report of Capt. William J. Fitzgerald,
Sixteenth Kansas Cavalry.*

Ridgeley, Mo. June 12, 1864, 7 a.m.

Dear Sir: We were attacked here yesterday by bushwhackers, about 20 in number, at about 11 o'clock, under the command of Captain Overson and Lieutenant Oldham. Overson is from Kansas formerly. We killed Overson and wounded Oldham. We will shoot him in one hour from this time.

I captured some papers of importance and Major Curtis' hat. They killed one of our men and wounded 4. We drove them off; captured 3 horses, 3 revolvers, and \$110 in Confederate money.

They murdered Thomas H. Bailey, of my company, who was furloughed, the same day that I left the fort, about 5 miles from Weston.

We are in a bad fix here. Can't get away without assistance. We have no ammunition, and can't get it. Send men to relieve us, if possible. I can't go away; we are preparing to defend ourselves the best we can. I could (not) get any one to carry you a dispatch yesterday.

Wm. J. Fitzgerald,
Captain Company E.
Sixteenth Kansas
Volunteer Cavalry

Major-General Curtis.

Have Some Spare Time?

Our Museum is always in need of volunteers.

All day on Mondays and Wednesday mornings we have work days. Every donation to the Museum must be sorted, labeled, cataloged and filed. We also clip newspaper items such as obituaries to keep for genealogists.

If you are interested or have questions, please call us at 386-0185 or 386-2977.

Did You Know . . .

. . . according to an item found in Paxton's Annals dated Sept. 15, 1858, David Smith, colored, was basely murdered at his home, on the Missouri, below Leavenworth, by a gang of outlaws? A free negro, he was honest and industrious, and owned a good farm. He left a son, Henry C. Smith, born in Independence, Mo., September 5, 1845. Our fellow-citizen, R.F. Mason, became his guardian, and gave him a good education. He became a protégé of Senator Bruce (colored), of Mississippi, and was employed in the Treasury Department at Washington. He held the office of State superintendent of schools of Mississippi. He is a rising man among the negroes of the South and West."

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. . . Peter A. Jones of the Pleasant Ridge area served in the Civil War where he organized Co. A of the Missouri 51st Regiment and was appointed Captain of the unit? Following the war he taught in and around the Dearborn area for 45 years and died in July of 1924.

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. . . Michael Engelhard was a brewer who came to Weston in 1888? He worked as foreman at the Weston Brewery and left in 1901 for Lexington to go into the brewing business with Ernest Hoffman of that city. He retired in 1911.

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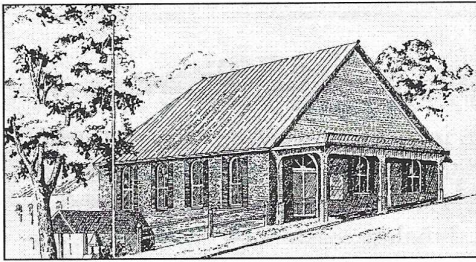
. . . the home in which Henry McAdow lived, at the corner of Washington and Gay streets, was once a dairy? "Aunt Emily" ran one there in 1889.

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. . . Joseph Phillips, believed to have come from England, was a conductor of a band? He and his wife and two children came to America about 1880 settling for awhile in Weston, then removing to Atchison, Kansas. It was there he became the conductor of the Atchison band for over twenty years. He often brought the band to Weston to perform for the citizens here.

Membership is important to us.

Please share our news and events with a friend.



WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM
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DATE CHANGE!
Trivia Night
Moved to March 31st

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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

Today's Mystery Corner:

Kidnapped? Murdered? Run Away?

Sometime during 1842, Fannie, an escaped slave, was married to Vincent Wigglesworth in Claremont County, Ohio. Vincent was a freed slave and the couple lived in peace and harmony for about four or five years. During that time they had four children: Mary Ann, Eliza, Josiah and a baby daughter of several weeks, name unknown.

During the year of 1846 or 1847, two men by the last names of Middleton and Moore kidnaped Fannie and the four children; taking them first to Kentucky then to Platte County, Missouri.

Vincent followed and obtained an agent/lawyer by the name of Robert Fee to help him gain back his family. Shortly after he was hired, Mr. Fee was jailed on trumped-up charges by friends of Middleton and Moore, later released

and was set upon with the intention of tarring and feathering him.

Fee escaped the plan to hurt and humiliate him, but it is believed he quickly left the county.

In the melee Fannie and children were taken out of the county, it is believed, but Vincent could not find them. He returned to Ohio without his family, fearing they may have been murdered or sold off as slaves further south.

In the past several years the Museum has received several inquiries for help in finding something about Fannie Wigglesworth and her children, but we have been unable to help.

Does anybody out there have any knowledge or information about this event? If so, please contact us at 816-386-2977 or 816-386-0185.