

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

APRIL ~ MAY ~ JUNE 2010

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

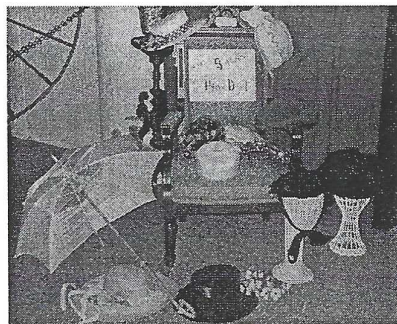
Fifty Years of Displays



The "Toy" case is located on the lower level and features a selection of dolls of all ages, toys and accessories. It is a permanent display, but refreshed each year.



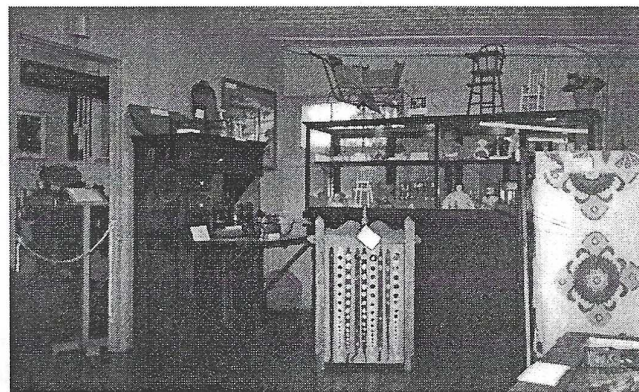
The first thing most visitors see upon entry to the Museum is this c.1863 Steinway baby grand piano. It is also a permanent display.



This millinery display was designed for Father's Day 1999 and sat near the large mural on the first floor.



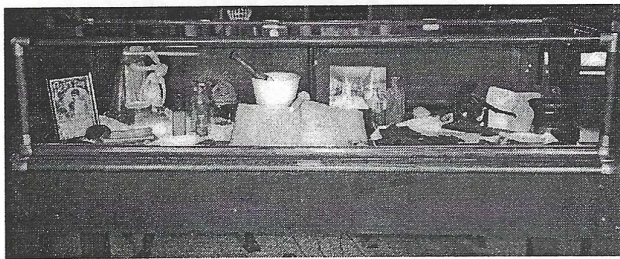
A diorama created by Dr. R.J. Felling, on the right, graced this display case for many years. In this 1991 photo, it was adjoined to reflecting pioneer days.



This photo of the lower level in 2002 shows off some of the lovely handmade items the Museum possesses; namely the quilt on the right. A collection of buttons appears in the center, and to the left can be seen a hand press, part of a permanent display of an early day newspaper office.

More photos can be seen on Page 7.

Photographs Share Five Decades of Displays



As this is the 50th year for the Weston Historical Museum, we thought it a good idea to display photos from some of our many different cases throughout those fifty years. Some were well received, others not so well, but we learned as we went along.

Thanks to Judy (Turner) Davis, we have also been doing displays of donated artifacts in a window of the old Quinley Paint Store on Main Street.

The current display showcases shoes -- women's, children's and men's, as well as purses and a few hats. We hope anyone seeing it will be interested and continue up the street to see other displays at the museum itself.

The prior display, which closed May 24th, highlighted Victorian Era dresses and hats from several different decades.

Join Us for an Evening Of Trivia and Fun

The Museum is sponsoring a night of fun and fellowship June 18th. The Weston Trivia night will be held in the Bee Creek Shelter in Weston Bend State Park from 7:00 to 10:00. It is a fundraiser for the Museum.

The game will have categories that include Sports, Presidents, Weston History, Movies, Food and Music. Young and old alike are welcome to join a team of six and battle it out with other teams to win a prize.

Ticketholders will receive two free drinks. Wine, water, beer and soft drinks will be available. Please bring your own snacks.

We hope as many as can do so will join that evening for the fun and to help raise funds for the museum.

President Emeritus, Marian Gaskill Dies

Our world shrank a bit on Sunday, May 23, 2010, when it was learned Marian Gaskill had died quietly that morning, with family and friends around her, following a brief illness.

Perhaps it was her lovely smile or the nearly regal way she held herself, or maybe the sense of genuine warmth that attracted you on first contact with Marian Gaskill. Whatever it was, she always appeared the impeccable, neatly dressed and proper lady.

Many individuals can recall perfectly the time and place they first met Marian. They remember her especially for her kindness and helpfulness towards strangers and newcomers to Weston.

Throughout over thirty years, she gave her time and energy to the Weston Historical Museum as President, then later as President Emeritus.

Did you need a mini Homes Tour arranged? Ask Marian. Was there a need for someone to take tickets for the Laurel Hill Cemetery Stroll? Ask Marian. Was someone needed to speak at a civic or service group about the museum? Ask Marian. Did we need someone to be the liaison between Weston's Historic Preservation Committee and the Museum? Marian stepped in and did the deed.

Almost always smiling, always calm and coolly collected, Marian guided the museum and the museum hostesses and volunteers through protecting, storing and displaying the artifacts given to the museum, cleaning, yard work, as well as innumerable homes tours, receptions and special holiday events, and all the paper work required to keep the institution going smoothly.

Gracious and welcoming to one and all, Marian steered the museum through good times and a few rough spots, always remembering to praise and thank and share the credit with others.

Marian's spirit lives on in her legacy of time and energies spent in support of the museum and as one of Weston's and Platte County's biggest promoters.

Donations Find a Home in Our Museum

Historical Society members and other individuals have been very kind to the museum in recent months in the form of artifacts.

Sue Layton Gabbert recently donated a Seth Thomas mantel clock to the museum. The clock was purchased in 1868 from a company in St. Louis by Christopher C. Graves. Graves bought it shortly after returning from the Civil War where he served in the Confederate Army. Upon his death, the clock was passed on to his daughter, Tula Graves Kyle. Tula Kyle passed it on to *her* daughter, Julia Etta Kyle Layton. Later it was passed on to Julia's daughter, Mrs. Gabbert.

Delores Baker gifted the museum with four large scrapbooks that had been the property of the late Maurine Fry. Mrs. Fry entrusted the scrapbooks to Emma Margaret Frey, who later loaned them to Donna Baker and her daughter-in-law, with the intention the books would be given to the Museum upon Mrs. Fry's death.

Museum President, Diza Eskridge recently gave the museum a number of old Weston/West Platte yearbooks, as well as several documents of local interest and ancestral pictures.

Jean Hartley has donated a black-powder Springfield rifle from the gun collection of her late husband John, along with several sets of Civil War uniforms that are now on display.

Chuck Sebus has given us a large display case that is now in place on the lower floor of the museum. After a little bit of paint is applied and the glass doors are in place, it will be a great addition to our cases.

David Knox has continued to donate letters, documents and photos that come from the estate of Ervin "Chubb" Brill.

Jane Moppin Hoeltzel of Leavenworth, has given us a quilt designed with a version of the Flying Geese pattern. The pattern was popular in Ohio where the maker of the squares, an aunt of Molly Baker, lived before moving to Northern Platte County. Mrs. Baker gave the squares to Josephine Moppin of Farley, who gave them to her daughter, Jane, who put the blocks together and hand-quilted it.

The quilt has never been used and the batting and backing are new fabric, but the patterned blocks are approximately 140 years old. Mrs. Hoeltzel had to be extremely careful as she hand stitched the quilt together. It is now a part of the Civil War display.

Janet Elsea presented the museum with a box of "goodies" from a recent estate auction, which among other things, included an album full of Weston information.

Gifting the museum with time and talent, Marsha West organized and arranged the records and programs of the Weston Study Club. These documents fill two large file boxes. They date from the Study Club's beginning in 1941 to present day.

Museum vice-president, Carl Felling, has also recently given a number of items from the collections of his late parents, Dr. R.J. and Mary Felling. Among the items are a number of ledger sheets that chronicle the purchases of dry goods, food, tobacco, etc. by John G. and Harriet B. Owens from 1856 to 1858. The items were purchased from Armstrong & Wells at New Market, and a business in Camden Point.

Judy (Turner) Davis recently gave us a book containing Park Board minutes from the 1970's, along with a number of old blueprints. Some show the paving, guttering and curbing of Walnut Street in 1918.

Kenny Harpst stopped by one day recently and dropped off several items including photos of the Kramer Drug Store which once occupied the place where the Quinley Paint Store building stands.

Another photo was one of Austom's Liquor Store which stood halfway between Beverly and the Leavenworth Bridge.

Norma Stephen has donated her beloved doll she played with as a child. It is in great shape and it came dressed in a pinafore. The doll was most likely given to Norma around 1935.

Donations come in almost weekly and though we are beginning to bulge at the seams, we are appreciative of and happy to have these artifacts and documents to display for our visitors.

All-School Reunion Attendees Visit Museum

On Saturday, May 15th, members of past graduating classes from WHS/West Platte High School visited the museum to see the special display of school artifacts and documents. Many stayed to visit with others and to read through the many yearbooks put out for their viewing.

The hostesses, Mrs. Sigi (Buck) Rowland and curator Carolyn Larsen, were pleased to receive compliments on the school case, as well as the other displays within the museum.

As the visitors signed the register book, they also added the year of their graduation, making it fun for others who came later to see who had already been there.

Memorials Continue to Honor Community Members

Our book of Honorariums and Memorials has been added to since the first of April of 2010.

Memorials have been received for Maurine Fry, Susan Norman and Marian Gaskill.

An Honorarium in the name of Bill and Claire Hall Baskett has also been received.

Weston Folk Respond To Mercy Hospital Drive

*From an article of "The Weston Chronicle"
dated May 15, 1931*

Eager to help, ready and willing with contributions and cheerfully extending a welcome with a gift — were the people of Weston in last week's Mercy Hospital Drive. In the house-to-house canvass an almost 100% response was made; and in the slouchy rain of Saturday four intrepid workers canvassed the streets. They were Mrs. Charles McMillian and Misses Gertrude Scott, Josephine Freidl and Victoria Brill.

When the day was over, the committee in charge had a total of \$62.30 in cash; 100 quarts of fruit, preserves and vegetables; 30 glasses of

jelly; 56 pounds of homemade cookies, including doughnuts; a 50-pound sack of corn meal; nine dozen eggs; seven dozen oranges; one bushel of potatoes; a large bunch of rhubarb and a chocolate cake.

Did You Know...

... that Miss Marie Ohlhausen was the first librarian for the Weston branch of the Mid-Continent Library? It was located in the Weston Hotel where the Silk Museum is now located in just the one room. The library moved to the Museum building in the 1960's, the old Sandell Variety Store at the corner of Main and Thomas in the 1980's and finally to its current location off of Highway 45.

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... that Mrs. Rachel Woodring worked for the City of Weston for ten years? She was elected to five terms as City Collector, serving from 1963-1973. Later, she came out of retirement to work as "receptionist" at *The Weston Chronicle* until the Bless family sold it in 1984.

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... that R.G. Allen was a whittler? He did so for over 70 years, saying that the hobby was essential to staying unruffled and free from emotional stress. Some of his work can be seen on the lower floor of the museum.

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... that a recital in 1914 included three lovely ladies of Weston? Held in the Weston Methodist Church, it featured Miss Hilda Doppler, reader; Mrs. A.J. Baker, soloist; and Miss Irene Doran, Pianist and Accompanist. Admission was 25c for adults and 15c for children.

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... that seats from the old Municipal Stadium in Kansas City, torn down in 1976, are in Weston? About 100 seats were installed at Hibbs Field in Weston in April of that year.

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... that Weston had an honest-to-goodness blacksmith in its midst until May 1985? Clarence Brumley was one of the first of the modern-day blacksmiths. He started in the business

upon his return from service in 1945, during the transition period when village blacksmiths stopped using fire and forges and did the work with the more modern, electric equipment.

His shop stood where the American Legion building is located today.

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... that there was surgery done in a shop called Havisham's Attic in Weston? Run by Paul and Karen Johnson, the shop was an antique doll hospital. Mr. Johnson was the chief 'surgeon' in the 1980's here.

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... that in 1974 HELP, Inc. Ambulance Service in Weston was one of only three volunteer ambulances in the state run without funds from the government?

Most of the time, HELP was run 24 hours a day, seven days a week and had a roster of about sixteen volunteers at any given time. At one time, among the volunteers was a minister, a funeral director and a nurse.

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... that until the early 1980's, 410 Main Street was almost always a jewelry and/or watch and clock shop? In the late 1800's a gentleman by the name of Peter Blancjour owned a jewelry and watch shop there. Several other jewelers followed until 1931 when J.A. Offutt opened his jewelry shop. In 1981, Offutt closed his shop down and retired. Since then it has served as a t-shirt shop, used clothing store and an antique store.

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... that a famous lady of pancake fame served her pancakes with maple syrup, sausage and hot coffee for 968 Weston citizens at Schindler's grocery in February of 1952?

The lady was "Aunt Jemima."

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... that August 1, 1891 the Weston Brewing Company exhibited a large cake of their manufactured ice on the post office corner? Inside one could plainly see a bouquet of roses.

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Trustee Board Member Jean Hartley has been named as chair of the Mini-Tours committee for the Museum.

## Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

On May 5, 1851, in a Platte County Court document, Lorenzo Bird admitted that he owed Abel Gilbert the sum of seven hundred and five dollars for goods received.

Abel Gilbert was a merchant in Weston at that time. He also did business with the Mormons in Far West, Missouri.

At one time, Lorenzo Bird owned the home where our present day Mayor, Greg Hoffman, lives. It is believed that Bird had that home built around the same time as he was in court admitting that he owed Abel Gilbert.

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*The Weston Chronicle* dated September 24, 1954 reported that "Mrs. Dan Lynch resigned her position at Fort Leavenworth this week to campaign for her brother, Wm. R. Hull."

From an issue of the same paper dated November 3, 1967 we read: "James H. Molder, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer L. Molder of Edgerton, Mo., and husband of the former Miss Jean H. Corcoran of St. Joseph, is serving with the Navy Mobile Construction Battalion - Nine 'Seabees' at Da Nang, Vietnam.

"The 'Seabees' provide engineering and construction support for Marine and Naval Forces by building and defending bridges, roads, quarters and other combat support facilities.

"When not engaged in military construction the 'Seabees' give medical and technical assistance to the Vietnamese civilian population."

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In April of 1963 we read: "On the 'downtown' scene a familiar face is missing at the Post Office. Mrs. Hilda Marshall has retired.

"Mrs. Marshall has been in the Post Office for 25 years and was a clerk for the late Roscoe How for about five years.

"Along with her postal duties, Mrs. Marshall has found time to be active in the Methodist Church, serving as organist and in the choir. She saves time for socializing with her friends, visiting her daughter and other loved ones.



"Mrs. Marshall lives in Weston with her sister, Miss Edith Kemmerer."

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Not dated but noted was an item that reads: "Rev. J.M.P. Martin read the services and preached a sermon over Jesse James at the time of his burial. He was severely criticized for having anything to do with the whole thing, but at the time he was the pastor of the Baptist Church in Kearney where James' mother was a member."

In an article dated August 12, 1938, "Zadock Martin was married to a daughter of the Chief of the Cherokee tribe and was probably the first white settler in what was later known as the Platte Purchase."

History tells us that Zadock Martin drove his family to the Platte Purchase region in an ox cart. He built a log cabin settlement replete with a flour mill, sawmill, a general store and he also operated ferries on both the Platte River and the Missouri River. The settlement was called Martinsville and later became a part of Platte City.

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In the November 23, 1937 issue of *The Chronicle*, we note that: "Doug Henson, who is with the General Motors Corporation, was recently transferred from Columbus, South Carolina, to Bristol, Virginia. Bristol is located in the Appalachian Mountains and is a typical mountaineer town. The main street is the dividing line of the two adjoining states Virginia and Tennessee."

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In an issue almost two years earlier, January 17, 1936, we read "Augusta Young was born near Weston in 1844, eldest of four children born to the late Zachariah and Augusta Palma Young, pioneers to Platte County from Kentucky.

"Augusta was eight years old when her parents died and she made her home with her aunt, Mrs. Charles A. Perry, at Oakland on the Platte County Pike for about ten years and attended Pleasant Ridge School.

"In 1862 she was united in marriage to Henry Herndon of Platte county, son of the late Edward and Rebecca Herndon.

"Henry lived only eight years after the marriage, leaving his widow with four small children."

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Last but not least, in November of 1959 *The Chronicle* held this article: "Robin Hood has invaded the bottom lands and hills of the Missouri river in Platte County. However, he is using a gun this season and one hunter proved his might within 20 minutes after his hunt started.

"Eddie Hardesty killed his deer on the O'Neill farm near Iatan only 20 minutes after his hunt started.

"Among other crack shots, who have a deer to prove their skill, are Ed Gwinn, Toby Herman, E. O. Keene, who couldn't leave for his winter home in Florida until he had his deer; and Tony Larison, Weston and Frank Griffin of the Bean Lake area."

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It was noted in a March 1934 issue of *The Weston Chronicle* that "Six army planes were completely destroyed and three others badly damaged in a fire of unknown origin, which burned the south half of the new air hangar at Fort Leavenworth early Sunday morning. Total loss, estimated by army air corps officials was about \$250,000."

## Company K Returns From the War in Europe



On a Friday in early May, 1919 the noon train arrived in Weston, bringing Company K to Weston where a genuine welcome was waiting for them. Lt. Coburn Hull called Company K to attention of Main Street, where 48 little



girls in costume assembled on steps erected for the occasion and sang "My Own United States." Then 50 boys in red, in white or in blue assembled to form a living flag, which waved in the breeze. The young boys also sang for the troop.

Marching north on Main Street, the company of men passed under a street-wide arch from the top of which Misses Imogene Evans, Helen Rumpel, Minnie Williams, Madolin Risk, Helen Adkins and Nina Murdock showered the boys with rose petals and foliage. All the bells of the town rang in unison to give the boys some idea of the love and appreciation the hometown felt for "our boys."

The following Wednesday the real official welcome and parade was held. Davies Band of Atchison headed the parade. The first unit consisted of Company K, other infantrymen, aviators and navy boys; the second unit, veterans in autos, comprised of both Confederate and Union veterans; the Red Cross ladies in autos, followed by the Junior Red Cross, on foot, showed the part these had played in helping win the war.

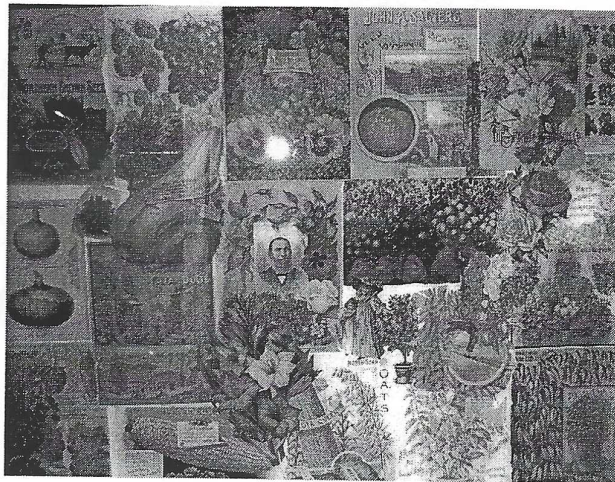
Boy Scouts made a hollow square in front of the living flag.

In the afternoon, the speakers were Judge A.D. Burnes and the Honorable Lewis C. Gabbert of St. Joseph; the evening program included addresses by Lt. Raymond Hall, Lt. Coburn Hull, the Honorable L.C. Gabbert, who was the faithful Y.M.C.A. man assigned to Company K in France.

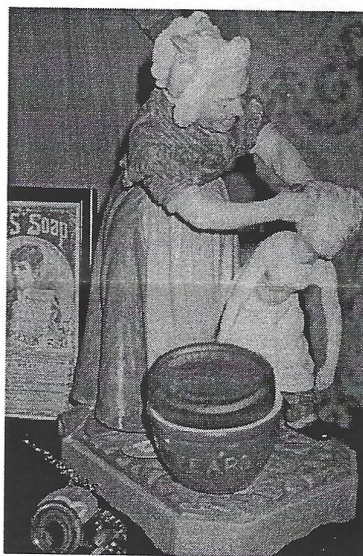
Dancing was held on the second floor of the Main Street warehouse, 500 cakes were ready for the menu of sandwiches, pickles, salads, fried fish, coffee, ice cream and cake. All the food was free to all visitors and lasted long enough to refresh the dancers throughout the evening. The food was made and donated by church groups, mothers, aunts, sisters, grandmothers and friends of the men in Company K.

## Museum Officers

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| President .....               | Diza Eskridge    |
| Vice-President .....          | Carl Felling     |
| Recording Secretary .....     | Charlotte Miller |
| Corresponding Secretary ..... | Judy Juergens    |
| Treasurer .....               | Ted Wilson       |
| Director .....                | Ann Saugstad     |
| Curator .....                 | Carolyn Larsen   |

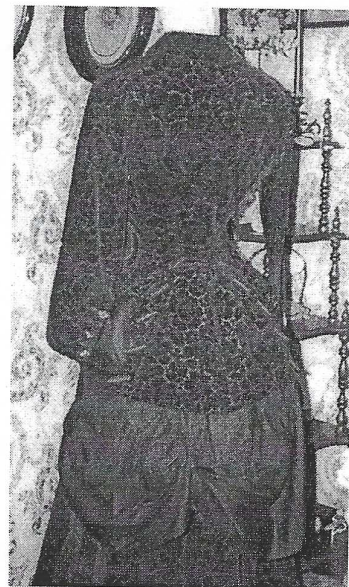


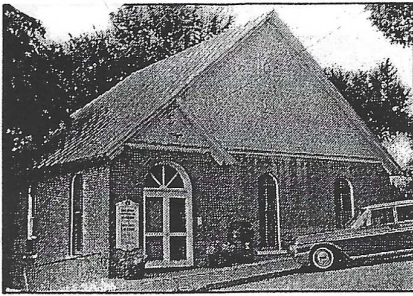
*Original seed catalogs from throughout the decades were woven together in a collage by Susan Grinlinton in 2008.*



*Pear Soap was a desired item in the early 1900's. The lady scrubbing a young child was an advertisement for the scoop*

*This dress, belonging to Mrs. Laura Hall, was made in 1883 at Emery Bird Thayers in Kansas City.*





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

Non-Profit Org.  
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*