

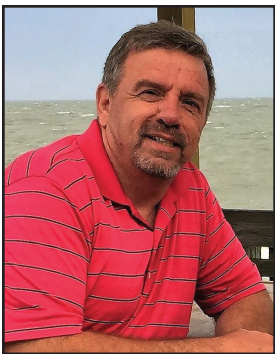
Museum Musings

JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER 2017

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 601 MAIN STREET, HISTORIC WESTON, MISSOURI 816-386-2977

Farley History Buff Donates to Museum

In the last two or three newsletters, we have used several photos and articles given to us by Chuck McCardie of Farley. Chuck finds and, most times, pays for these items out of his own pocket. And he loves to share them with others.



Chuck says he often finds these photos and articles on EBay and other online sites.

The Weston Historical Museum has recently been gifted with five discs from this very generous gentleman. The discs hold hundreds of copies of news articles, documents and photos, all having to do with Platte County. Weston, Farley, East Leavenworth, Stillings, Iatan and Parkville, as well as other towns in the County, are represented in these discs.

This donation is an interesting treasure trove which enriches our knowledge about the rich and various history of our county. It also represents a great deal of time and effort on the part of Mr. McCardie for which the museum is eternally grateful. Thank you, Chuck!

House Hunting . . .

The folks at the Weston Historical Museum are on the "hunt" again. Most of the ante-bellum homes in the town have been documented as to when they were built and a list of prior owners, as well as an address for the house.

Now we are looking for information on all the other homes in Weston. Specifically we would like to know the address, the year it was built and by whom, if any additions were made and in what year, and any or all previous owners.

If you have such information on any homes in Weston, we would appreciate your sharing it with us. We will be compiling a list for future home owners and history.

Contact us 816-386-2977 or at westonhistoricalmuseum@yahoo.com.

Carl's Corner

by Board President Carl Felling

Twenty one people responded to the Annual Dinner Assessment Questionnaire that was included in the April/May/June *Museum Musings*. The results of the voting are included in this edition of the Musings and will provide valuable information for the planning of this year's Annual Meeting.

The voting was very close concerning the preferences for the agenda of the meeting. 10 voters preferred the combination of agenda items with a dinner and 10 preferred Hors d'oeuvres with the same options for the agenda. Looking at the first question options, 17 of 21 included an option to have a speaker. Confusing this issue, 10 thought a speaker was important and 10 didn't feel it was important. However, since 17 checked an option for a speaker, the Museum will plan on having a speaker at the dinner.

As you will note the other results were clear: speaker subject, general history and Weston history: preferred start time 6pm; Museum should not pay more \$250.00 for a speaker; and \$30.00 was a good value for the dinner and program. The Executive Committee will be preparing the agenda format based on the information from this questionnaire.

Thank you for your input. It is hoped that you will plan to attend the Annual Dinner Meeting on Sunday, November 12.

Short Message Holds True Even Today

"We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863

The Gettysburg Address

Curator Says Thanks to All Museum Volunteers

As many of you know the editor resigned from the museum (for the second time) this past November. When I “cleaned out my desk” I brought home with me a large briefcase filled with bits of paper that held phone numbers, reminders of things needing done, emails, etc. These were going to be pitched.

However there were a number of detours so it was not until late April that I actually started on the briefcase.

Though I think I did a fairly good job of showing appreciation to the volunteers, I want to thank all those who made my 14 years as Curator so enjoyable and easy.

Thank you to those who donated pictures, documents and family histories.

Then there are those who contributed monetarily to help pay for restoration of items that needed special work.

My deep appreciation goes to those who helped or contributed to displays and special projects such as the photographs and information of all the headstones in Laurel Hill. I also want to thank those who helped for the last four years of work to complete the business histories.

I would name all of these lovely people but do not want to forget anyone.

There is one thing left to say—Thank You.

The Journalist's Creed

Walter Williams was known as the father of Modern Journalism and was a frequent visitor to Weston and *The Weston Chronicle*.

Dean of the Journalism Department at Missouri University, Williams was called upon to help other colleges and universities to start up a program or re-vamp an old one all across the country.

In the early 1940's Williams and a colleague drew up, and published, a Creed for Journalists.

The following are a few of the tenets:

I believe in the profession of journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

Weird and Interesting Facts from U.S. History

During WWII, many American military men were captured and sent to POW camps in Germany. The Germans allowed the Red Cross to send “care packages” to the GIs from their families which included board games and others. The two most hoped for games in the packages were a deck of cards and Monopoly.

Often the cards held small maps and money.

Monopoly went further with the useful surprises of German, French and Italian currency hidden in the Monopoly money. There was often a metal file hidden within the board. A small compass was hidden in a play piece and the Hotel pieces held silk maps of the prison and its location. Many GIs managed to escape from their prisons and into the arms of friendly allies thanks to the two games.

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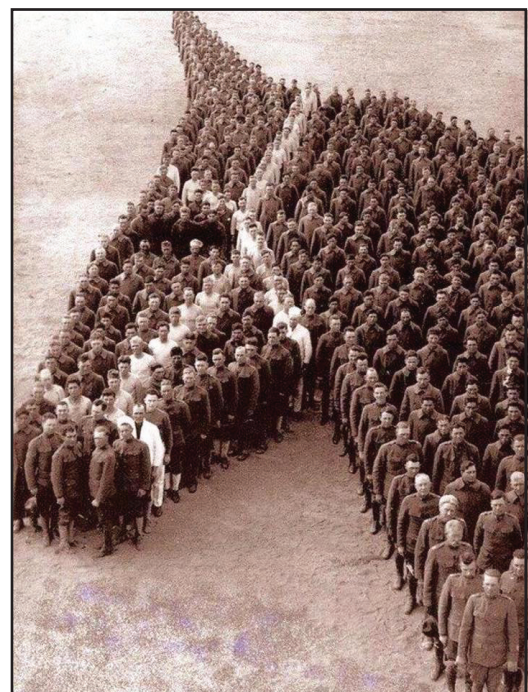
The youngest male to serve in WWII was a young man who enlisted in the U.S. Navy. It was not until he was wounded that it came out that he had lied about his age. He was 12-years-old and his name was Calvin Graham.

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Russia and Japan never signed an official peace treaty with each other to end WWII.

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The accompanying photo came from the WWI era. It was taken following the end of that war. It depicts the head and neck of a horse and made up of military men. It was done in honor of the many (nearly 2000) horses killed in battle.



## Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

In November 1951 we learned from a newspaper article "Mr. and Mrs. Francis Yates, of Orrick, were visitors at the Tobacco Show on Saturday.

Bad luck stalked the Yates family during the summer. In June, Mr. Yates suffered a stroke. Later he had a complete loss of the 8-acre tobacco crop due to the flood.

Mrs. Yates, with grandmotherly pride, was showing pictures of her first grandchild, Robert Holloway, now 9 months old and walking."

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According to a Weston Chronicle item in June of 1967, "Airman Third Class Robert O'Neill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen O'Neill of Weston, has been graduated with honors at Sheppard AFB, Tex., from the training course for U.S. Air Force aircraft propeller repairmen.

Airman O'Neill, a graduate of Maur Hill High School, Atchison, Kans., is being assigned to an Air Force unit in the Canal Zone, for duty with the U. S. Air Force Southern Command."

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Nov. 1966 we learned this: "Ashley Pepper left this week to return to the Marine Corps. Pepper served four years before joining the Bank of Weston staff.

He will return to the rank of corporal and sent to Camp Pendleton for a refresher course and expects to be sent overseas after the Christmas holidays."

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In yet another article from the local newspaper, we read, "Miss Janice Rees, daughter of Wm. and Mrs. Rees of the Weston area, won 3rd place in a Horse Show in Salem, Nebr., with a "Gay Nineties costume. Janice wore an authentic costume and for the parts of it, she used a side saddle owned by Lucy McAdow; shoes of Mrs. George Russell; a hat from Miss Fannie Bonnell; and the dress was one of Mrs. Erma Ross Gray's. She has won nine ribbons in this costume and riding her horse, "Little Head."

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An article from the local newspaper, dated July 14, 1967, gives us this—"Ship fitter 3C Edward A. Layton, USN, was a crew member aboard the heavy cruiser USS St. Paul, when the ship engaged in a gun battle off the coast of Vietnam.

The Cruiser, St. Paul, is the only all-gun heavy cruiser in the Seventh Fleet

Layton is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Layton of Iatan.

Another crew member aboard the St. Paul is 3C Gary W. Everett of Rushville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M.P. Everett.

## Survey Results

Responses to our survey are tallied below. Please watch the next *Musings* for more information.

1. Please check your preference for agenda of meeting:
  - 6 Dinner, Election, Reports and Speaker
  - 4 Dinner, Election and Speaker
  - 5 Light Hors d'oeuvres, Election and Speaker
  - 5 Light Hors d'oeuvres, Election, Reports and Speaker
  - 4 No Speaker (also select one of the above)
2. What is your preference for start of event?
  - 7 5:30 pm
  - 11 6:00 pm
  - 2 6:30 pm
  - 1 Early afternoon (1pm or 2pm)
3. Is a speaker important for the meeting?
  - 10 Yes
  - 10 No
4. Assuming a speaker is part of the event, what type of subject would you prefer?
  - 12 General history topic
  - 4 Humor
  - 15 Weston history
  - 4 Musical
5. If a speaker fee is required, what is the maximum amount the Museum should pay?
  - 3 No amount should be paid
  - 15 No more than \$250
  - 3 No more than \$500
6. Is the \$30 per person cost reasonable and a good value for the dinner and program?
  - 17 Yes
  - 4 No
7. Further comments: The following are comments:
 

Light Hors d'oeuvres no more than \$25, another no more \$20, and one \$25.

Dinner & program \$25.

Keeps community informed of Weston history.

Dinner with raffle, dance, live music, theme party, no reports necessary.

Appeal to school for speaker or entertainment.

For business & elections only.

Social event with pictures of museum at tables.

Would pay \$40 for dinner.

Keep report simple not so detailed.

Try Hors d'oeuvres for change and short speaker.



# Bees, Piglets and Fires OH MY!

The hotels in Weston were rather interesting places during the early years of the town. One catered mostly to the men who worked on the wharf. Another one refused to accommodate women. Neither of these two remained in business for more than a few years. Perhaps, though, the hotel with the most interesting bits of history was St. George Hotel.

The hotel had a number of owners and has had several different names, but the one best known to most is the present one of St. George Hotel.

One of the owners was a man who had come back from the Civil War without one leg. He was also the father of eight children and reported to be among the finest of managers.

Another owner was something of a scoundrel cutting cost corners on what was supposed to be great food and accommodations. Eventually he sold to another party, but not before he pocketed the title and other important documents that he had promised the new buyers were to be found in the hotel vault.

The St. George was destroyed by a fire on December 14, 1890. The fire broke out about two o'clock in the early morning and burned rapidly, keeping even the proprietor, Mr. John Ryan and his family from saving much of their possessions on the second floor.

One guest, Miss Allie Danfour, was housed on the second floor. She quickly threw her clothing and jewelry into a trunk and was not having much success pulling it until a porter, Henry Woods, helped her get it and herself to safety. Woods was the hero of the day. He quickly went back into the hotel to alert and check on other guests on the third floor.



Mrs. Nora Hogarth escaped with her trunk, although she later found that it was empty of her clothes. Much more to the lady's dismay, she discovered she had also lost her jewelry. Some people said that she had a large diamond necklace among other fabulous jewelry but that they were lost in the ashes and rubble in the aftermath. The same folks say that the jewelry was still there just waiting to be found. However history does not tell if anyone found them. And, no treasure hunting allowed.

J.P. Reichard escaped from the burning third floor by the method of pitching out his mattress and jumping down to land on it. He was followed by two others from the third floor, J.P. Bretz and the porter, Henry Woods. Henry had stayed until the last of the guests were out and then like the other two men, threw out a mattress and followed it down rapidly.

In the 1940's Mr. and Mrs. George Marr, Jr. became the proprietors and managers of the hotel. By that time the name of St. George was restored, after having been changed two or three times after it was rebuilt following the fire of 1890.

The couple had a set of identical twin boys, Pat and Mike.

Since the family lived in the hotel they could have no pets. However, that did not stop the twins, especially since they were specially admonished, "No dogs or cats are allowed." One afternoon they managed to smuggle a piglet into the hotel and up the stairs to the third floor where they kept it for several days, until one of the parents heard it squealing. Out it went.

Through a partially opened window on the third floor honey bees decided it would be a great place to build a hive. At this time in its history no one was living on the third floor although it was used for storage. Story has it that the twins saw what was going on but "forgot" to mention it to the parents. As the hive grew larger, some of the bees took a look around other rooms, including

*(Continued on Page 5)*







## B-a-t-t-e-r Up! Play Ball!

*(From The Weston Chronicle dated July 16, 1915.)*

The heavy rains having placed the ball grounds here in such a condition that the home boys could not romp thereon Sunday, they journeyed to New Market to do their 'pastiming'.

The score was 6 to 4 in favor of the New Market team which shows that it was a good game.

Weston had the game won up to the 6<sup>th</sup> inning when a change for the worse came. It was then that "Dummy" Smith, a deaf and dumb boy who tried out with St. Joseph this year, took the job of pitching to our boys and struck out 9 men in the inning and held them scoreless.

In the 7<sup>th</sup> the Weston boys made enough misplays to allow the game to slip away.

However, none of the boys on the team blame Irvin Arnold for they have reason to believe that the pretty girls on the line had everything to do with it. Holladay pitched a fine game and should have won easily but for the reasons mentioned above.

## Bees, Piglets & Fires . . .

*(Continued from Page 4)*

the lower floors and even into the kitchen. Deciding it best to inform the parents, Pat and Mike reluctantly informed the parents. Of course the hive was removed immediately.

The hotel holds many other stories such as a guest getting very drunk and falling down the long stairs or in recent history when employees have reported seeing ghosts. It has certainly had a varied history all in all.

When the hotel was being totally gutted, several items of interest were found in some of the walls, others were lying about in various places. Short strips of very old wallpaper were found and offered to the museum for the hotel's business file. Another item was a heavy glass tumbler that had been used in the kitchen at one time or another; it too was donated to the museum. The museum staff at the time could recall many memories that these items brought back to them.

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*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."*

*Native American Proverb*

## Price Letter Found In Donated Papers

The following is taken from a box of recently donated letters, articles and other ephemera. It is an actual, original letter written by James Price who, at one time owned the Price-Loyles home on Spring street. Price was the husband of Mrs. Russella Warner Price, a granddaughter of Daniel Boone.

Col. Price was a dentist in Weston for a number of years, later moving to Savannah, Missouri. It is from there that he wrote an old friend in Weston—A.G. Beller in August of 1896:

“Dear Old Friend:

I have just learned, with much surprise and sincere regret of the sudden demise of our understandably esteemed and dear old friend Henry Huvendahl. Only two weeks ago last Monday I met and clasped his honest and friendly hand. While he seemed to be well and full of vigor, not withstanding afflictions, he seemed full of hope, yet ready and willing to do his Master’s will. Little thinking that his final would come so soon. Hence I was much surprised to hear of his sudden passing away.

Uncle Henry, as we always called him, I have known very intimately and formally for about 40 years. During that whole time I have never heard of him being accounted of a dishonorable or dis (undecipherable) act.

I always loved his real worth, his honest truth and fidelity. He was truly the noblest work of God. An honest man, and a faithful and devoted husband and a devoted and indulgent father. God will most assuredly award him a high place in His divine Kingdom. If not, what’s the use of us frail sinful and -----mortals trying to enter that eternal above of fact and Joy?

I wish, through you, as a mutual friend, to express to his afflicted family my most sincere sympathy and condolences in this, their sad affliction and lament, and may God, in his divine wisdom, give them that comfort and consolation, which He alone can offer in such sad affliction and bereavement, is the humble but constant prayers of. In haste, which please excuse--

Truly Your friend  
James A. Price

If an obituary is published—please send me the paper.”

*“I never knew the full value of trees. Under them I breakfast, dine write, read and receive my company.”*

*Thomas Jefferson*

## Did You Know . . .

. . . that John Maget is one of the alumni of Jordan School? At a reunion John told that patrons of the school, in the early days, felled large trees in the vicinity and drug them, with oxen teams, to the school grounds for the older pupils to cut and saw them into stove lengths for winter heat.

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. . . that Charles B. Collison, in September 1930, was killed by a bandit? He was the husband of Ethel Krusor and father of Joe Collison and his sister, Betty. He was also the grandfather of Lynn Collison and her two sisters.

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. . . that Hamp Cook hewed his home, near Iatan, from wood he cut out of the nearby forest? He built the home, at the age of nineteen when he also married. Hamp was twenty-one when his first son, Alfred, was born. Alfred continued to live in the house his father built for over sixty years.

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. . . that Richard I. Marr was a Civil Service worker? He worked at the American Bomber Plant. Marr had to move from so many different departments he first used roller skates but later changed to a motor scooter.

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. . . that Miss Pauline Dietz was a world traveler up into her ‘80s? She, Capt. and Mrs. Edwin Schwein spent several months traveling through Europe together. Following that trip, Pauline made trips to Ireland, Scotland and in the Mideast. While in her 80’s she planned and took a trip to the Orient. The Dietz family once lived in the Rumpel “cottage” west of Thomas St. Bridge. At the time, the house was a long rambling frame home.

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. . . that a WPHS 1959 graduate went on to become a doctor? Mary Ruth Webb became a Chiropractor in 1962. Several years later, in August of 1968, she and her husband, Al Sandefur, also a Chiropractor, opened an office in Leavenworth.

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. . . that a kinsman of Mrs. Alberta (Price) West was killed in 1957? Charles Leon, 30, was killed by a truck. His brother, Richard, died in 1959, from the falling of a truck bed pinning him to the ground. Their mother, Mrs. Jesse K. West, died within 12 hours of the death of Richard.

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. . . that E. J. Thorn, once a merchant in Weston, moved to Sun City, Arizona. He bought a 5-room house completely furnished and landscaped. Cacti are the main item in the landscaping. Part of the carport is covered with a vine that produces a red berry which causes the birds to become drunk on eating.

A Killer That Brought Fear and Death: Cholera

Cholera visited Weston in 1850, 1851 and again 1854, bringing almost certain death to the citizens of Weston. In a matter of days it wiped out families, leaving orphans and parents without partners or children. In many cases entire families were wiped out by this killer disease.

Many of those who lie in the town's first cemetery, Laurel Hill, died of just such illnesses brought in by travelers from the steamboats.

In one of the sexton's record books, under the heading of CHOLERA, the names of many "little ones" are listed:

Died between Weston and Parkville in May, on board the Steamer "Alton", J.V.P. Bonfils, Jr. He was the only son of Dr. and Mrs. Bonfils and was aged five years.

Mary Halpen died in June, age 9 years.

Phoebe Jane Hartly died also in June, age 11 years.

Luciana Norton died June 14th at the young age of age 2 and a sibling, C. Norton, died three days later at the age of 4.

Mary Norton, age 13, died on the 27th of June.

Cholera could occur, usually, anywhere from three days to a week after exposure. Many people who had died

of the dreadful disease were denied burial, due to the fear of spreading the disease. Some families have been told that their dead family were brought in during the early morning and buried quickly.

Looking for Something to Do?

Volunteers are always welcome on "Work Day Mondays," when we sort, file and label items. Substitute hostesses are also welcomed throughout the season. If interested call 386-2977.

The Nostalgia Store
at the Weston Historical Museum

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

Check us out through our website:
www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

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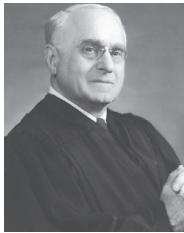
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WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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



It is a fair summary of history to say that the safeguards of liberty have been forged in controversies involving not very nice people.

– Felix Frankfurter

? Mystery Corner



This photograph, dated 1972, shows square dancing on Main Street, possibly during a parade, or maybe during a Homes Tour and Heritage Festival. Was this a group of Weston citizens? Does anyone recognize any of the participants? Or was this possibly a demonstration of dance done by some group from elsewhere?

What we do know is that there was a square dancing group in Weston. They met regularly to enjoy the fun and friendship. Are any members still around? When did it start and when did it close?

If anyone can enlighten us on this photo or the Weston group, please give us a call or drop by to see us. You can also email or write. Thank you.