

# Museum Musings

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2016

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

## “Little Cabins: Slave Dwelling Architecture in Missouri’s Little Dixie” Author Will Speak

The Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Weston Historical Museum will take place on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Time for the dinner is 6:00 p.m. at Eventful.

The Program will be a presentation by Mr. Gary Gene Fuenfhausen. His PowerPoint presentation examines the four distinct types of Southern slave quarters found in Missouri’s Little Dixie.

Using 15 slave quarter and plantation case studies from the region, supplemented by Missouri’s WPA slave oral histories and other period documents, Fuenfhausen will also submit information pertaining to these dwellings in and around Weston.

Fuenfhausen is president of Missouri’s Little Dixie Heritage Foundation and is recognized as an architectural and cultural historian who specializes in Missouri Southern history and slave cabin architecture. He lives in historic Arrow Rock, Saline County, Missouri, where he and



his partner are restoring the historic property “Thompson Villa,” as well as the recently purchased 1820s Spencer/Shreve house in Port Gibson, Mississippi.

Cost for the dinner is \$30 per person and the deadline for reservations is November 6th. There will be a cash bar before the dinner.

## Membership Increases; Revenues, Volunteers Fall

As a member of the Weston Historical Museum, your contributions support the preservation of Weston’s historical record and the interpretation – through exhibits and outreach programs – of Weston’s heritage. Your support of the Museum assures that the link between our past and our future will endure.

Revenue from memberships dropped somewhat in 2016, partly due to members converting from annual contributors to Life Membership. That was great for the Museum’s revenue in 2015, but it led to a drop in annual contributions in 2016, since Life Members are not required to make annual contributions. Even if you are a Life Member, we encourage you to continue to support the Museum with a small annual contribution.

A 2017 membership form is printed inside. To renew your membership now, please fill out the form and return it to the museum with your check. You can get a tax deduction on your 2016 taxes for any contribution made before the end of the year. If you prefer to wait till the new

year, look for a renewal package in January.

In either case, your contribution to the Weston Historical Museum helps us continue our efforts to preserve the history of our community.

## Volunteers Desperately Needed

Along with the retirements this past year of Director Ann Saugstad and Curator Carolyn Larsen, our volunteer pool here at the Museum has dwindled to alarming levels.

Organizational work is done mostly on Mondays as well as between early December and mid-March, when the Museum is closed for the winter.

News items need to be clipped and filed, all donations must be photographed, catalogued and tagged, and research requests are processed. During the winter some display cases will be changed out and others refurbished to keep the Museum fresh and maintenance will be done throughout the building.

To accomplish this all, we NEED volunteers. Even one day two or three times a month helps tremendously. So please share your talents with us. Contact Barb Fulk, Director, at 816-386-2977. We’ll be glad you did!

## Upon My Death . . .

(This article, reprinted from "The Newsletter of the Friends of the Missouri State Archives" in the fall issue of 2000, was written by Carolyn Larsen and Becky Carlson, Missouri State Field Archivists, about records they found while doing preservation work in Jackson County.)

For many slaves in Jackson County, Missouri this was a fact of life — leaving the ownership of a deceased master and being sold into the ownership of another master. Records of will probated by the Independence Probate Court held by the Jackson County Records Center give insight to the condition of slaves in the nineteenth century. In reviewing the series of surviving wills from 1834 to 1865 a total of 170 wills were filed with the court, fifty-four or thirty-one percent, of the wills referred to the disposition of slaves.

A few of the wills refer to slaves as an item of little note in the listing of property. William Cogswell's 1861 will states:

*I "desire that all of my estate consisting of land & negroes & all other Property be set up and sold at the highest bidder on a 12 month Credit, Except my land I want it to be sold on a one, two & Three year credit."*

Not all of the slaves were designated to be sold upon their master's death. Finis Ewing, manumitted his slaves in his "Last Will and Testament" dated 1841:

*"It is also my will that my negro Slaves Leven, Nero, Barnett, Clary, Jane, Louis be, at my death, manumitted and set free for the rest of their lives. . ."*

Ewing also gave financial help to some of his male slaves, saying:

*"I also give and bequeath to my servants Leven and Nero whose manumission has been above proved for, two hundred dollars each in money. . . I also grant to said trustee (i.e. Ewing's son, Fini G. Ewing, and son-in-law, Robert Sloan) a superintending control over said money and servants and require of them to look to the protection, habits and company of said servants."*

Some wills reveal intimate relationships between master and slave. The 1852 will of Charles Lee Younger, grandfather of the infamous Cole and Bob Younger (the Younger Gang), provided for his slave mistress, Elizabeth and his two children by her:

*Item 4<sup>th</sup> "I will and bequeath that after my death the following slaves belonging to me, be manumitted and for Ever set free from slavery or service or bondage to any man, to wit: Elizabeth, aged 22 years, of Mulatto Colour, and her two children named Cathrine (sic) and Simpson. Also Fanny aged between 35 and 40 years and her two children named Nathan and Washington and that their freedom commence at my death."*

*Item 5<sup>th</sup> "I give and bequeath to said Elizabeth, Fanny, Cathrine, Simpson, Nathan and Washington named in the*

*4<sup>th</sup> item, jointly, the 300 acres tract of land, situated on Little Blue in Jackson County, which I bought. . . To have and to hold the same to said last mentioned legatees after their freedom for Ever."*

An 1854 codicil shortly before Younger's death extended provisions for his slave family when he directed:

*"It is my will and desire that the slaves, Catharine and Simpson, mentioned in my will, shall after my death be known by the names Catharine Younger and Simpson Younger, and in addition to their freedom absolutely at my death, it is my will and desire, that my Executor hereinafter names, shall as soon as convenient after my death, take said Catharine and Simpson to a free state and place them in a respectable school where they shall be clothed and cared for in every respect, and their morals particularly, guarded, until they arrive at the age of twelve years each, and when they respectively arrive at the age of twelve years each, it is my will and desire that my Executor hereinafter named, shall place each of said children Catharine and Simpson at an Academy or College of high grade, where each may receive a thorough classical education."*

Younger, who left a rather bountiful estate, went on to specify that the two children were to be kept in school until they had graduated and if necessary to be kept at school until each arrived at the age of twenty-one. The estate would be charged with all expenses. At the age of twenty-one, they were to receive additional funds from the estate:

*"I hereby give and bequeath to the above named Catharine and Simpson, the sum of Three Thousand Dollars to be paid to them in equal parts, when they respectively arrive at the age of twenty-one years, and in case either of them shall die before he or she shall arrive at the age of twenty one years, then in that event, the whole of the said Three Thousand Dollars to be paid to the survivor. . . In order that there may be no mistake as to the identity of said Catharine and Simpson for whom I have made and wish to make by this codicil the most liberal provisions, I here state that Catharine is about 8 years of age and Simpson about 6 years of age, both of bright mulatto colour, both the children of my mulatto woman Elizabeth, and that said Catharine and Simpson and their mother are now living with me in St. Clair County, Mo. . . it is my wish and desire, that the provisions of my above described Will as well as this Codicil be liberally construed to promote the Freedom, Happiness, Education and Respectability of said Catharine and Simpson."*

Documents in his estate case file prove that his wishes for the education of Simpson and Catherine were carried out, they attended Oberlin College in Ohio.

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Carlson and Larsen also helped with the accessioning of the St. Louis Circuit Court case files when the Dred Scott vs Irene Emerson, 1846 and Harriet, a Woman of Color vs Irene Emerson, 1846, were discovered by the state field archivists.

WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# Annual Dinner Meeting

Sunday, November 13th \* 6:00 pm



**EVENTFUL**  
AT LOCUST GROVE

25180 County Rd JJ - Weston, Mo.



## The Program

Gary Gene Feunfhausen

*“Little Cabins: Slave Dwelling  
Architecture in Missouri’s Little Dixie”*

Dinner Reservations are \$30 per person. Cash Bar.

*Deadline for reservations is November 6th.*

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## RESERVATION FORM

Please mail this form to:

Weston Historical Museum, P.O. Box 266, Weston, MO 64098

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## Bits and Pieces From Bertha's Morgue

The following came from the local newspaper of March 28, 1908:

"W.H.S. and Weston in general has cause to be proud of one of her intellectual sons, Shortridge Hardesty. In 1899 he was valedictorian of his class at WHS; a few years later he held a similar position at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. He completed a four year course in three years at the Van Rensaleer Polytechnic school in Troy, N.Y. He now holds the honor of making the highest grade ever made in the history of the school. Mr. Hardesty is studying civil engineering."

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In an article written in *The Weston Chronicle* in December 1913, it was reported "Miss Neva Fulk has not only been a "hello" girl for the telephone service in Weston but is currently a linotype operator for this newspaper."

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An item in the local newspaper dated July 20, 1962 tells us of another Hardesty, "Roger Hardesty is still walking on air after a trip to Los Angeles and Michigan.

Roger was invited by Mr. Richard Ellsasser of New York to accompany him to the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. Mr. Ellsasser is a world known organist and has given concerts in Europe and in America. Ellsasser is a recording artist and is the youngest person known to have memorized and performed the complete 250 organ works of Bach.

He and Roger have become good friends and he not only insisted Roger should accompany him, but paid all expenses." Roger went on to build and restore organs all over the world. A 1958 graduate of West Platte H.S., he now lives and continues his work in California.

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An obituary dated April 5, 1963 from the local newspaper reads, "Before the turn of the century he had been honored with many scholarships, rare in those days, and had graduated from Missouri University and from Harvard. John M. Fellows was a modern day wizard at mathematics and went to Germany to study at the University of Gottinger under the great masters in math. Germany was then the leading nation in the world of mathematics.

After teaching at several universities in the States, he then went into the business world, working as a realtor and contractor.

He was a humanitarian whose chief interest lay in the education of the youth. He often made a home in his home for the poorer students who wanted to study at Missouri University.

In 1956 the Fellows had nineteen students "under their wings." They had even purchased a home next door and turned it over to the MU students.

Mr. Fellows had four nieces who survive him: Mrs. Phillip Spinner, Miss Ethel Fellows, Mrs. W.H. Rees, and Mrs. John Robinson all of Weston.

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*The Weston Chronicle* dated May 26, 1967 brings us this: "Daryl Grame, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grame of East Leavenworth, returned Friday from a year's stay in Vietnam. He was with a Helicopter crew.

Grame, who volunteered for extra duty, was given his honorable discharge early and is now just plain 'mister."

## Did You Know. . .

. . . that Thomas F. Eagleton, U.S. Senator from Missouri, was the only man ever nominated by a national convention for vice president of the United States who resigned his candidacy? He was the running mate of George McGovern who lost the presidential race to Richard Nixon in 1972. Eagleton had visited Weston several times.

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. . . that several actors/actresses visited in Weston? Paul Newman and wife, Joanne Woodward visited in Weston in 1991 while filming "Mr. and Mrs. Bridges" in Kansas City. She purchased a hat from Vintage Clothing, owned by Mrs. Donna Swaney, to be used in the movie.

Gary Sinise visited Weston while parts of the movie "Truman" was being filmed in downtown Weston.

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. . . that Missouri's New Madrid Fault had an earthquake in the winter of 1818-1819? It was felt heavily in seven states. Aftershocks lasted for several weeks and it also made the Missouri River run backwards for three days.

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. . . that besides the James Brothers Gang, Missouri also lays claim to the Dalton Gang, the Younger Brothers and the Reno Brothers? In 1960 Missouri elected a Governor by the name of John M. Dalton, a descendant of those same Dalton brothers. Gov. Dalton also visited in Weston several times and was a noted speaker at a dinner/meeting of the Platte County Historical Society during his tenure in office.

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. . . that the Tri-State Tornado originated in Jackson County, Missouri? It traveled through Illinois and Indiana for over two hours. Approximately 700 people were killed and there was tremendous property damage. It was recorded that the core of the tornado was 300 miles per hour. The Tri-State tornado greatly changed the way tornadoes are now reported and predicted.

## Letters from Home

*(The following is our second, and last, letter from J.E. Miller of Weston to Amelia Bird Parker in St. Louis. Mr. Miller mentions the steamboat M Jewett as well as several people you might recognize.)*

Dear Amelia,

Your last favor of June I received last Saturday and have not answered. I was sick having a high fever and my right check swelled up from the bite of a poisonous insect and I have not been very well though I have been at the store this week. . . I have just come up from the lower landing I went down about four o'clock this morning hearing a whistle and thinking it was the SB M. Jewett, but I was disappointed for it was one going down but enough of that.

We had a tolerable pleasant day yesterday the Glorious 4<sup>th</sup>. The only celebration here yesterday was made by the German Rifle Co. turning out and marching to woods to a picnic party in brills Pasture (Park) and the Temperance folks doing the same but going to Mick's Pasture so it was cold water vs. Lager Beer to see who could have the most fun. I went out to the German place and came across the Misses Maria Hawn and Cutler and a young friend of theirs (another) young Diefendorf and we had a pleasant time strolling round for about two or three hours visiting both companies, being independent, we were invited to dinner by the temperance folks and by your sister, Annie and L.D. Bird Esqr. Delivered a temperance address and read the declaration of independence but I heard neither. I had the pleasure of seeing your brother John.

Boat whistle must go. . . I saw John enjoying himself dancing and the next morning just before the boat left I bid him goodbye. I was mistaken in saying Miss Miller had the Shultz piano. I guess as the one she had here sounded like an excellent one. She has gone away from here and I think they have moved away to stay. I have heard nothing of her engagement with (Dort E?) nor yet of her brother's with Miss 'Mollie Adams' I keep pretty much at home and go but little in female society.

John Adams has left "holladays" he has been spending it here for some time and about two weeks ago he got tight and went shooting round with a revolver and shot once or twice and once into the Drugstore and was fined the next morning by the Mayor though lightly with an admonition to do better for the future but I am afraid that will not keep him from ruin. . . Newmans three story brick stable near the bridge on Thomas Street on the former site of (?) house though covering the whole front of the lot and more than half way through the Block is nearly finished it has a self supporting roof and the upper story is the City Hall (to Be) and we anticipate a large Ball there Christmas Eve and (Mathias?) 3 story brick is a great deal and nicer than his others.

I will close with love from all to you and your Dear Mother and respects to your Brother. I remain your brother J.E.R. Miller.

## Looking for Photos Of Your Ancestors?

Several years ago Mrs. Zelda Reeber, who was working at the Carroll Mansion Museum in Leavenworth, gave me the news about a photograph collection their museum had received. The Everhard Collection contains nearly 30 thousand portraits, identified by name. These were taken in Leavenworth from the 1880s to the 1950s.

Though Weston did have its photographers, many folks from here went to Leavenworth to have their photos done. Any number of the old photos we have in the museum were taken in Leavenworth.

So, if you have no luck finding the photo here, check out the Carroll Mansion Museum, which just happens to be the home of the Leavenworth County Historical Society. They can check the database for the name of your ancestor. Happy hunting!

## Another Artist Added

Bill Manley was brought to our attention as another artist from this area. Bill is a woodworker and is quite talented.

We have also added Brad Lancaster and Matt Keogh to our list of volunteer firefighters.

### 2016 Museum Officers

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| President .....      | Carl Felling     |
| Vice-President ..... | Clay Bauske      |
| Secretary .....      | Francie Stoner   |
| Treasurer .....      | Ted Wilson       |
| Director .....       | Barb Fulk        |
| Hostesses .....      | Sigi Rowland     |
|                      | Susan Grinlinton |
|                      | Terry Chapin     |

## 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](http://www.westonhistoricalmuseum.org)

# Weston Historical Museum Members

## October 2016

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

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 Robert and Delores Baker  
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 Vivian Beck Dissette  
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 Suzanne Goodpaster  
 Mitzie Hall  
 Ron Hansman and Catha Hall  
 Suzy Hardesty  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Hart  
 Debbie Hay  
 Donald and Susanne Head  
 Frances Hornbuckle  
 Karl and Marlys Houglund  
 Floyd and Susan Hudson  
 Owens "Lee" Hull, Jr.  
 Walt and Joan Humphrey  
 Louise Harpst Jackson  
 Jana Collison Johnson  
 Judith Pettit Juergens  
 Kenneth Juergens  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ray Kirk  
 Edna Kirk  
 Sandra Kisker  
 Cynthia S. Hudson Lake  
 James K. Layton  
 Floyd and Connie Liberty  
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 Sharon Lyons  
 Luellen Hull Malley  
 Mike and Ruth Marr  
 David and Helen McKinney  
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 Drs. Ward and Deb Ohlhausen  
 Massimo Ossi and Sally Gaskill  
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 Chris and Marsha West  
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 Paul R. Whitters  
 Margaret Theo Wilson

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 Richard and Dorothy Emery  
 Carl and Kacey Felling  
 Dennis and Ann Saugstad

### BUSINESS

Avalon  
 Missouri Bluffs Boutique  
 Reece Nichols Weston Bend  
 Snow Creek

### PATRON

Glenn and Pat Benner  
 Jerry and Dorthi Blair  
 Bill Cecil  
 John and Terry Chapin  
 Kenneth and Kay Clemens  
 Butch and Judy Davis  
 Pat and Cathy Egan  
 Harvey and Julie Eplee  
 Russel and Terri French  
 Dennis and Barb Fulk  
 Charles and Barbara Gatschet  
 Brent and Trish Hudson  
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 Mel and Jeanne Branef  
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 John and Sandy Dowd  
 Walt and Kate Dowd  
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Ross and Juliana Felling  
 Brian and Megan Fulk  
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 Jean Hartley  
 Stacey Howe  
 Robert and Janet Kerns  
 David, Kim and Coy Kirby  
 Robert and Fay Kottman  
 Eric and Diane Marr and Family  
 Dan and Diane McCaffrey  
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 Sylvia Miller  
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 Tim, Ann and Liza Suarez  
 William and Carla Sutton  
 L.R. and Sue Vaughn  
 Dan Verbeck and Sylvia Stucky  
 Dan and Peggy Wainscott  
 and Family  
 Dan and Danielle West  
 Larry and Gertrude Woodring

### INDIVIDUAL

Robert E. Baker  
 T.J. Beach  
 Barbara Bless  
 John Bless  
 Cindy Bond  
 Myrtle Lee Burns  
 Grace Cogan  
 Tom DeBerry  
 Barbara Diment  
 Dorothy A. Donnelly  
 Margaret Engeman  
 Sue Farley  
 Kristina Fulk  
 Susan Grinlinton  
 Mary Hayworth  
 Mary Jo Heidrick  
 Chris and Wendy Hiatt  
 Bobbi Hiatt  
 Frances M. Shenkner Hite  
 Nancy B. Honerkamp  
 S. Craig Kirkpatrick, Jr.  
 June Kisker

Carolyn A. Larsen  
 Robert D. Leonard, Jr.  
 Earl Miller  
 Charlotte Moreland  
 Pat O'Malley  
 Robert O'Neill  
 Judy M. Peterson  
 Clyde Poignard  
 Jean Robertson  
 Jean Robertson  
 Cindy Seward  
 Judith Shenefield  
 Sarah Ohlhausen Slaughter  
 Pat Stampfel  
 Jean Taylor  
 Joyce Taylor  
 Peggy Truders  
 James W. Van Amburg  
 Lee Wilhite  
 Mary Sue Winneke

# Guilty As Accused

From an article written in the local paper in 1898: While under the influence of liquor, Henry Pence fired three shots at his brother-in-law, Marion H. Turner, last Saturday.

Pence was arrested but the matter was amicably settled and he will probably take the Keeley cure. This is a move in the right direction as Henry is a good citizen when sober.

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Another similar case was found in the issue of in July 1901,"Nathan Simmons, a farmer, living north of Dearborn was struck by a pitchfork by "Charles "Davis last Friday evening and he is reported to be in serious condition. Simmons lives a short distance from the Ferrell brothers who shot and killed John Wilhoit last week. It was stated that Simmons had heard of the shooting and seeing Davis riding along the road he stopped him and inquired about the problem. Seems Davis answered in a surly manner and one word led to another and Davis struck Simmons a terrific blow with the pitchfork he was carrying. No warrants have been issued as yet.

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From the 100 years ago column we read "J.W. Moore, known as "Boss" Moore, a prominent farmer of near Platte City, was shot from ambush at six o'clock on the morning

of June 20 1909. George Johnson, a drain tile worker, is being held. Mr. Moore was about 55 years old and leaves a widow and six children.

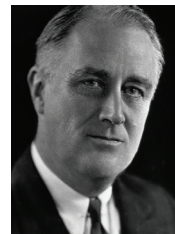
## Make the Museum a Stop for Gift Shopping

It is not too early to be thinking about Christmas gifts for family and friends. The museum has several books on Weston history authored by Platte County residents. We also carry Dover books which explore U.S. history.

A selection of coloring books, paper dolls, refrigerator magnets, note cards and art work from several local artists are also available and make great stocking stuffers.

Come in and browse a bit. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 1 to 4 pm and 1:30 to 4:30 on sundays.

The Museum will close for the winter following the Christmas Homes Tour in December.



Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

# WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

601 Main Street • P.O. Box 266 • Weston, MO 64098 • 816-386-2977

## 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership includes an electronic version of the Museum's quarterly newsletter *Museum Musings*. To receive it, please indicate your e-mail address on the line above.

Check here if you prefer to receive *Museum Musing* by regular mail.

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

| No. of Memberships    | Category                                 | Dues  | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                       | <b>Individual</b>                        | \$15  | \$    |
|                       | <b>Family</b>                            | \$30  | \$    |
|                       | <b>Patron</b>                            | \$100 | \$    |
|                       | <b>Benefactor</b>                        | \$250 | \$    |
|                       | <b>Life Membership</b><br>(one time fee) | \$500 | \$    |
|                       | <b>Additional Donation*</b>              | \$    | \$    |
| <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b> |                                          | \$    |       |

*\*To make an additional donation in support of programs, exhibits, preservation initiatives and other activities, please indicate the amount here.*



## WESTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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

### INSIDE

• *Annual Dinner  
Reservation Form*

• *2017 Membership Form*

# ? *Mystery Corner*



The pictured home stands at the corner of Washington and Beaumont streets. It is presently a rental home owned by Mr. Bruce Huffman of Weston, but little is known of the date of it being built or by whom.

Next to it is the home of Mrs. 'Fritz' Coleman. Again, we here in the museum, have little or

nothing as to its history in our files.

If any of our readers can help us out with information, give us a call at the Weston Historical Museum, 816-386-2977, or 816-386-2886. You can also come by during business hours or drop us a note. Thank you.