

# The Herald

Grand River Historical Society, Chillicothe, Missouri

N. Hoyt, Editor

January 2013

Vol. 26 No. 1

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN ...

*Marvin Holcer*

The Thanksgiving leftovers are gone and we have the memory of a great time with family and friends. This is a time to be thankful for the blessings we enjoy and share.

At this writing the Christmas season is rapidly approaching. Please keep in mind the Reason for the season, and may each of you and your family be richly blessed. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our January meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge building on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. The menu for that evening will be Southern Style pork chop with vegetables and dessert for \$7 per person. We will install the new officers for 2013, with Kelly Christopher serving as installer.

Our officers are: Marvin Holcer, President, Mary Underwood, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ron Wilder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Kenny Hoch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Laura O'Donnell, Treasurer, Nancy Hoyt, Secretary, Pat O'Donnell, Board Member.

Ron Wilder is working out details for the evening's program, with guest speaker, Jim (Two Crows) Waller, a freelance oral historian, who combines his love of history with a good story—keeping you spellbound. He is the fourth of six generations of storytellers, and has been sharing stories for twenty-five years. This Missouri native has captured the imaginations of audiences spanning three continents. His presentation will focus on the stories of the civilians and soldiers in the prelude and during the Civil War.

We ask everyone who has an email address to please contact the museum by email so we will have your address. In an effort to reduce expenses we will be sending some of **The Herald** newsletters by internet beginning soon. Thanks for your help!

*Marvin*

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the Board Members and Staff  
of Grand River Historical Society  
and Museum**

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

*Ron Wilder*

In case you missed Marvin Holcer's November letter to the editor in the Constitution-Tribune, I'd like to repeat some of his comments and second everything he wrote.

As Marvin stated, Pam Clingerman has just completed two years as curator of our museum. During this period attendance has nearly doubled, the quality of the exhibits has greatly improved and a great deal of attention has been paid to conservation of the collection. I think he said it best in stating that we thank Pam for helping make a good museum great!

Pam's December plans include working with the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Central School in the Partners in Education program, preparing Christmas decorations for trees to be on display at the museum.

On Wednesday, November 7 a group of teenagers and leaders from the young Men & Women's group of the LDS church came to the museum to work on a community project. They swept, dusted and cleaned and must have enjoyed the day, as they vowed to come back again next year.

On Wednesday, November 14 a group of 20 home-schooled students from Brookfield and their leaders visited the museum. Pam said they asked tons of questions and were very interested in the exhibits and attentive to her comments.

Pam is planning to expand our exhibit on traditional craft activities such as spinning, weaving and knitting next spring, and is working with Zelma Cleveland in arranging onsite demonstrations.

If you attended the Christmas parade recently I'm sure you saw that two of our vehicles—the Churchill truck and the Irvinbilt truck, participated in the review, thanks to the work of Marvin Holcer and Chris Golden who got them ready for the event.

We are going to continue our regular Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. hours during the winter as long as the weather cooperates. If you have relatives or friends visiting over the holidays try to set aside time to bring them to the museum at 1401 Forest Drive!

*Ron*

## FROM THE CURATOR

*Pam Clingerman*

As a curator I wear many hats to fulfill my job and this last year was no exception. While cataloging the Civil War exhibit I discovered water in one of the cases. The case in question contained the Civil War uniforms—150 years old and irreplaceable. My job at that point was to immediately don my conservator hat. The uniforms were put into an environmentally-controlled area—my office. I checked them from collar to cuff and although they smelled like wet wool, there did not appear to be any actual water damage to the fabric.

Returning to the case I found an area on the floor of the case (made of particle board) with swollen wood fibers and still wet. I scrubbed down the interior with vinegar water to make sure that no mold or other organisms could begin to grow and then tried to locate a textile conservator—almost impossible at 3 p.m. on a Friday.

I spoke with the curator at the St. Joseph museums—she referred me to the Des Moines Historical Society who has a conservator on staff. In speaking with the conservator's assistant she thought I had done everything properly, but that I should follow up with a certified conservator to be absolutely sure. Returning to the case I chiseled out the swollen area on the floor and left a fan running inside the case for the remainder of the weekend. When the wood fibers were dry I sealed them with wood glue. When this dried I made a new liner of inert black felt and then, giving the uniforms a good cleaning with a soft bristle brush, returned them to their case.

While checking the uniforms, (having donned my researcher hat) I discovered a donor card with the great-coat, and a handwritten note identifying the second uniform as Missouri Guard, so I called the Chillicothe Armory. They directed me to the Military Museum, etc. The Director there requested that I send descriptions and pictures of the uniform in question, which I sent email. In less than 5 minutes I received a return email confirming that the second uniform was indeed Missouri Guard from 1904, and not from the Civil War era. He was also able to confirm the name of the man who wore the uniform, enabling a starting point for me to pursue further research.

Then he emailed me again to tell me that the saber belt on the Civil War uniform was placed incorrectly—"the upside down eagle on the buckle was a dead giveaway." This was a bit embarrassing, but easily corrected.

I checked the name on the donor card for that uniform and made phone calls. Unfortunately the uniform was not donated by someone currently living in Livingston County. Next I went online to the Civil War Registry and searched the name. One name returned, but not from Livingston County. However, when I matched this name to one on the census records going back several generations I was pretty sure it was the right person. I was able to confirm the name, rank, what unit he served in, his regiment and even found a copy of one of his pay chits.

I was also able to find the root of his family—from Hampshire County, Virginia in 1794—how cool is that! I followed through on the census and then switched to "Find A Grave" website and was able to trace the family tree backwards and forwards from 1794 to the present.

I'll not give out names—you will have to come into the Museum to learn who, what, where and when. And this is just a friendly reminder—you won't have to wait until next year—the Museum is now open year 'round—Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 until 4 p.m., except in the case of inclement weather. If you have family visiting and you want to do something together, bring them out to the Museum.

Perhaps you haven't been out since the Spring Tea—we have several new exhibits for your enjoyment, and are constantly updating and improving the exhibits already in place.

One last thing I noticed, the Civil War uniform was puckering and so "my new contact" at the Military Museum was able to give me the name of a textile conservator who works with military uniforms. This conservator will be here to assess the uniforms in the collection the first week in January.

I hope you had a safe and wonderful Holiday season.

—Pam

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**"THE CHILLICOTHE CONSTITUTION"**

Thursday, September 7, 1876

"We learn that the bridge across Shoal creek, at the town of Dawn, in Mound township, which has been deemed unsafe and was condemned, fell on Monday last, and it was reported that a child was killed, and one or two persons injured..

"But now we learn that there was no loss of life. Three little children were playing on the bridge at the time, and one of them had a leg broken, and another was taken up insensible, but revived, while the third was uninjured. The bridge was not in use, and the plank floor had been partially taken up to prevent accidents."

## MISSOURI MUSINGS OVER EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS

By Mable Jones Bryan

Originally written October 11, 1951

Frank Platter had bought and occupied the nice home built by Edward Crellin on South Locust Street. It seems to me the Crellin-Platter house had been put up just about the time we left Chillicothe. After the Platter family moved to Texas, the house was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. K. S. Piatt, who had moved from Avalon. At the present time it is made into apartments, I believe; and the Mansur house too, now is occupied by several families.

It was in the late spring of 1900 that our baby, Lee, was stricken with spinal meningitis and hovered between life and death for three weeks. His little hands were like bird claws when the fever finally left him, and he was a pitiful sight, but within two months' time after the crisis was over, he was again the game, chubby, swarthy, little fellow he had been before. My mother always said that Lee looked more like his Grandfather Jones than any other of my children and she always called him "Little Jonesie". I was grateful not only for the recovery of my baby, but for the two fine neighbors who proved to be of so much help to me during those trying weeks.

Bolin Abshire had been a schoolmate of mine, but I had known his wife only slightly until she came so whole-heartedly to my assistance in nursing Lee; and our friendship was broken only by her death last year. Then there was Mrs. William Voelker, who had been a stranger until she called at my home about a month after our removal from Ludlow. When the doctor said we had to have quiet in the sick baby's house, Mrs. Voelker told me to send John, Lute and Gene to her house every day between their meals; and so she contributed mightily to his health and mine. Our friendship with the Voelker family has continued through the half-century since we moved from their neighborhood, and they are, I believe, the only family left in that section who were there in 1900.

Only one new church had been built during our absence. It was the Presbyterian, and it occupied the site of the old church, although the new building was set nearer Elm Street than the first one had been. I am told that as this is being written, the Presbyterians are tearing down the second building, preparatory to erecting a third church on the same site. I was never very familiar with the Presbyterian congregation, but I do remember some of the members very well. When I was a child, one of

the staunch families connected with that denomination was that of the Thornburghs and Blakes. They lived in a two-story frame building at the northwest corner of Elm and Ann Streets, and old Mr. and Mrs. Thornburgh conducted a little store on the corner. Entrance to their living quarters was on Ann Street. Their daughter, Mrs. Blake, had two daughters, Margaret and Lena, and they were very active in the Presbyterian Church by 1900. Margaret is the better remembered of the two because she stood at the General Delivery window of the Post Office for so many years.

Mrs. L. N. Barker was the leading member of the Presbyterian choir when I first knew the group. She had one daughter, Ella, who became Mrs. Nathan Swetland. When Mrs. George Milbank's three daughters were grown, they took a leading part in the musical affairs of the church, especially Mayme (now Mrs. Fulkerson, of Kirksville, Missouri) for she had an excellent voice. Mrs. Bissett was an Old School Presbyterian, from Scotland, and her three daughters, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Minor, and Miss Ella, were all faithful members.

Mrs. Wilcox, wife of Dr. Wilcox, the organist at Grace Episcopal Church for so many years, taught a class of young men at the Presbyterian Sunday School during the 1880s and 1890s. She took a particular interest in the romance of Edward Chapin and Olia Jenkins, which culminated in marriage about 1891. The Jenkins family had come from New York State, as had the Chapins.

The Scruby family were others who became prominent members of the Presbyterian Church after the second building was erected, for they moved from Wheeling about that time.

The last time I was inside the Presbyterian Church was about 1943, when the late Mrs. Calbraith took me to a book review there one afternoon. She had been a good friend of my daughter and went out of her way to relieve my loneliness after Mayme's death in 1941.

Next to the Christian Church, I suppose I was as well acquainted with the members of the Elm Street Methodist, South, as any other in town. The Bryan family, with few exceptions, belonged to the Southern branch of the Methodist faith after their removal to Livingston County. My husband's parents had been Presbyterians when they came from Tennessee in 1837, but finding no Presbyterians in the southwest part of the County, where their farm was located, they united with the Methodists when Bethel Church was organized, sometime during the 1840s. Thomas Ross Bryan, who was about nine years older than John Bryan, my father-in-law, had also been a Presbyterian when he first came to Livingston County in 1833. He remained a bachelor for several years, but around 1839 he proposed to Miss Lydia Ann King, of

Richmond, Missouri, and was accepted. His bride being a member of the Christian Church, the matter of church affiliation was not so easily resolved, since Thomas wanted nothing to do with the "Campbellites" and Lydia Ann had no use for Presbyterian doctrines. When the Elm Street Methodist Church, South, was organized about 1844, they struck a compromise and both went into the new congregation as charter members, and all of their nine children, excepting one died in that faith. Florence, the youngest daughter, was one of the early converts to Christian Science in Chillicothe. Today, Miss Ada Currin is the only descendant of Thomas Ross and Lydia Ann Bryan who is connected with the Elm Street Church.

Other relatives of ours in the Elm Street Church are Misses May and Clyta Anderson, whose Grandmother Anderson was a Bryan before her marriage. The Anderson family came to Chillicothe from the Springhill neighborhood, but that was more than sixty years ago, and thus the greater part of their lives have been spent in the Chillicothe congregation.

One of the young women in church when I was about eighteen years old was Fannie Dain, whose family had moved here from Canada. Not long after their coming here, she became the bride of Douglas Stewart, who had been born and reared in the Springhill neighborhood, and whose sister was the second wife of Thomas Anderson, father of the Anderson girls mentioned previously. Faye Louise, the oldest daughter of Douglas and Fannie Stewart, was always a favorite of mine; and Ann, their younger daughter, endeared herself to me when she drove me from Chillicothe to Kingston, New York as she was returning to her position in Hartford, Connecticut after a vacation trip to Chillicothe in 1929. That was the longest journey I ever made by automobile.

From out on the old Wheeling Road the Jones and Adams families came to worship at Elm Street Church. Dick Jones, an old schoolmate of mine at Long's Seminary, married Carrie Adams; and then a few years later, Frank Adams, younger brother of Carrie, married Mary Jones, younger sister of Dick. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Jones reared a family of five daughters and two sons; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Adams had three sons and three daughters, so that the Sunday School of the Elm Street Church had perhaps more double cousins around the turn of the century than did any other in town.

The Grace family, whose home was in the northeastern corner of town, had four sons and five daughters. Odon was the one I knew best, for he

married my step-sister, Rebecca Chapin, whose family had been members of the First Methodist (North) Church from the time that congregation's first building was put up in 1866. Ida Grace was the oldest of the daughters, and she became the wife of Robert Stewart, younger brother of Douglas Stewart. Ellen Grace, who became the wife of Cully Seay, and Alice, the youngest daughter, both had good voices and were members of the choir at the Elm Street Church. They were pupils of Professor J. Marshall, who opened a studio in Chillicothe around the turn of the calendar from the 1800s to the 1900s. He was the best male teacher of voice that we have ever had, and I believe Miss Phradie Wells was the best teacher among the several women who have appeared on our local musical scene. She was in charge of music in our public schools a little more than thirty years ago; and then she later became a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York—holding a prominent place in that organization. Of present day members in the Elm Street Church, I believe the one I have known the longest is Mrs. M. E. Hornback. She was a classmate of my sister Kittie's in High School.

I remember Harry Graham when he first came to Chillicothe as a young evangelist and held a protracted meeting at the Elm Street Church. His stay was protracted indeed when he met Miss Mary Ford, and their entire married life of more than fifty years was spent in Chillicothe. The Ford family had come here from Ohio, I believe, and settled in the southwestern part of town, where they owned a considerable acreage adjoining the city limits. During the last ten or fifteen years of their lives, Mr. and Mrs. Graham were members of the Christian Science Church, and he served as a reader there.

The three daughters of John Graves were devout members of the congregation, although their father is said to have been a member of the Christian Church. I don't recall ever seeing him at the Christian Church in Chillicothe, but it must be remembered that he was an old man when I was a child. Sarah Graves became the wife of Dr. John S. Williams; Nancy, the wife of E. D. Waples, and Elizabeth, the wife of James Leeper. Mrs. G. G. Henry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Leeper, was a devout member of the Southern Methodist Church, as were her several sons and daughters. Her youngest son, William, was a close friend of my son Charles during their High School days. The entire Henry family moved to San Diego, California more than forty years ago; and the Waples family went to Texas during the late 1870s, as I mentioned in connection with the bond election for Central School.

(To be continued...)

### IN PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN THE 30s

On the south side of the Chillicothe square, buildings from the southeast corner of Washington and Jackson Streets heading east: the Santa Fe Café and bus station, Mohrs Furniture Store, Southside Barber Shop, Austin's Cleaning and Pressing Shop, South Side Shoe Shop, Saale's Tobacco Shop, Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company grocery store, England's Market, Hogan's Drug Store, and Citizens National Bank.

The north side of the square looking east from the northeast corner of Washington and Webster: England's Pharmacy, Macdonald Jewelry, Stella Rene Style Shop, Gloré and Seidel, Westy's Shoe Store, Ireland's Hat Shop, Hegen's Café, Ace Drug Store, Chillicothe Electric Company, Ryan & Carnahan, and Wigley's Drug Store.

At the northwest corner of the square, inside the *air-conditioned* Leeper Hotel, managed by B. T. Clark, are an air-conditioned coffee shop, an air-conditioned dining room that can be divided to two rooms, 15 air-conditioned rooms, 105 rooms in total, 60 with private bath.

The West side of the square from the intersection of Washington and Webster Streets: the Miracle Store, Shoe Mart, Hatcher's Book Store, The Farmer's Store, Horn Drug Store, J. C. Penney Co., Walker's Boot Shoppe, Place's Food Market and First National Bank.

On the East side of the square from the corner of Jackson and Locust were: Clark's Pharmacy, Anderson's, Temple Stephens Co., F. W. Woolworth, Stagg Habedashery, American Candy Kitchen, Scott's Store, Holt's Shoe Store, and Howell and Stein.

*Editor's Note:* (I recall when I was a child in the 40s, the grocery store on the west side of the square—possibly Places's—had a donut machine in the window. It was fascinating to watch the automation as the wheels of dough were cut, dropped, and floated along through the hot grease and flipped over “magically,” untouched by human hands—arriving at the end of the process as ready-to-eat donuts—amazing!). Anyone else have fond memories of growing up in the area they'd like to share?

### DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES IN 1882

Located on the north side of the square, at the northwest corner was A. T. Benge's Drug Store, which was preceded by McAchran, Druggist, and before that business, W. D. Vincent's Drug Store.

Next door to the east, was Henry Leeper Hardware, then Douglass Stewart and T. J. Mahaffey ran a grocery and queensware store. Next building east was Gittner's bookstore, and just past the alley was The Farmer's Store, run by H. S. Deuel Co. This store followed the Philadelphia Store, which was preceded by a store run by U. T. Greene.

The Farmer's Store on the north side was established in 1868 with Mr. Deuel, proprietor, and Joe Botts at that time was an employee. He later became one of the proprietors. Various names associated with this business over the years: Gunby, Stephens & Botts; Stephens, Conger & Botts; Gunby, Botts and Minter; Hirsh, Botts & Minter; and Wade H. Wright.

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### THE CHILLICOTHE CONSTITUTION

Thursday, September 7, 1876

“Our people will remember that when a few years ago a young man was egged by some boys after night, the *Tribune* denounced the Democratic city authorities as inefficient for not preventing the outrage. If it is consistent, it will now denounce Mr. Toppass, the present Republican city marshal, for not preventing the egging of Rev. Mr. Stoddard and his friend.

“Mr. Toppass cannot plead ignorance, for an hour or two before the outrage occurred, a certain party actually asked permission of him to throw the eggs! Mr. Toppass says he pointedly refused such permission, but did he do his whole duty? Let the *Tribune* answer.”

“The speech of C. H. Mansur, in the public square on Monday afternoon is pronounced on all sides one of the ablest and most powerful ever heard in our city and since its delivery, Mr. Mansur has been congratulated by Republicans as well as men of his own party on his brilliant effort.”

“If the boy who drums under our window every morning at half-past five will call and make himself known, we'll give him an outfit and start him for the Sioux country. He will then have an opportunity to see what there is in dime novel life.”

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