



PEMISCOT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORGANIZED IN APRIL 1970

OFFICERS FOR 1982-1983 - PEMISCOT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Society meets the fourth Friday of each month, except for the month of December. Membership is \$5.00 per year per person, (you may also include \$1.00 extra to defray cost of publishing the Quarterly).

This Quarterly is published four times a year: July, October, January and April. All members who are present at those respective meetings of those months may pick up their copy--all others will receive them shortly thereafter, since the publication date is the fourth Friday.

Queries are free to members of the Society, and should reach the editor before the first day of month of publication. This address is: R.R. 2, Box 975, Hayti, Mo. 63851.

A free book review will be given anyone who wants a book advertised, they must supply the Society with a free copy of the book to be placed in the Archives Room in the Presbyterian Church Building which the Society maintains.

Historical Societies and Genealogical Societies are invited to swap quarterlies with us. Their publications will also be placed in the Archives Room.

The Quarterly this year and for the '82-'83 Historical Society year will continue the same format: namely of publishing for preservation the essays submitted to the Society by residents or about residents of Pemiscot

County. These will be supplemented by official records. The continuing articles for this year--marriage records from Book #4, and Peniscot County Cemetery Inscriptions, Vol. II. The Index of VIII is indexed on card file in the Archives Room. Historical Society members have access to Volume VIII by contacting one of the officers, and all Volumes preceding Volume VIII.

The numbering of pages in Volume VIII--continues where Volume VII left off, Be sure to save your copies to bind later on.

The authors of all these essays have described to the fullest of their knowledge concerning the subject about which they have written. But from time to time, there are others who can add to the information that has been published. Please feel free to send this to the editor, as the Society wishes to collect and preserve information.

CEMETERY BOOKS AVAILABLE

Volumes II, III, IV, & V Cemetery Books available send \$5.00 for each book needed to: Rachel Dawson, address below.

ISSUES OF THE QUARTERLY AVAILABLE

<u>January</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>in October</u>
	1976	1976	1976
1977	1977	1977	1977
1978	1978	1978	
	1979		1979
1980	1980	1980	1980
1981	1981	1981	1981
1982	1982	1982	1982
1983	1983		

Dues are still \$5.00 per person per year, however by including an extra \$1.00 you can help defray costs of publishing the Quarterly. You may send your check for the 1982-82 dues, and as a member of the Society you will receive each issue of the Quarterly to present date of this Volume. Send Check: Rachel Dawson, 600 Carleton Avenue, Caruthersville, Mo.63830.

PEMISCOT COUNTY, MISSOURI CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS, VOLUME II
Compiled and Published by Pemiscot County Historical Society, cont'd
from October 1982 Quarterly

Joeeph Richard Neeley, Mar 27, 1901-Dec 6, 1960
Beva Lurene Neeley, Nov 5, 1910-

Henry Oval Nelson, July 8, 1898-Mar 8, 1965
Christine Nelson, Dec 29, 1900-Jul 21, 1961
Thomas Earl Nelson, July 24, 1934-Apr 18, 1935

Rosa Elvia New, July 29, 1901-June 6, 1954

Larry Lynn New, Feb 11, 1940-Mar 31, 1940
Willard Van Lee New, May 15, 1923-Oct 5, 1925

Bobbie Lee Newsom, Aug 15, 1930-Feb 1, 1930

Ida Mae Nicholes, Aug 10, 1879-July 14, 1958
Alfred Tom Nicholes, Nov 8, 1880-Apr 26, 1949
Jack Alfred Ashley, grandson of A.T. & Ida Nicholes, 1925-1943

Paul Lee Nicholson, Nov 14, 1942-Dec 18, 1950

Willebelle Nickens, 1882-1928
Rebecca Nickens, Jan 9, 1860-Feb 22, 1939

Also born were two sons,
Elmer and Floyd.

Nikki Nickens, d.o. Elmer & Lilia, Apr 24, 1951

Elmer S. Nickens, Sept 28, 1911- "Father"
Lilia Mae Nickens, May 13, 1904-Aug 17, 1966 "Mother"

Harry Noakes, Missouri, Pvt. Arm'd Force, Repl EC W W II,
June 15, 1920-Nov 27, 1948

W.L. Noel, 1866-1928

Walter Noel, 1892-1967
Nancy Noel, 1892-1967

Eugene Edward Nolin, Arkansas, Pvt Field Arty W W II, Jan 21, 1921-
May 7, 1957

William H. Norman, 1882-1927

Peggy J. Nunnery, Aug 16, 1933-Oct 28, 1934
Carlos J. Nunnery, Aug 4, 1907-Aug 28, 1936

James F. Odell, Feb 20, 1852-Mar 5, 1929
Martha J. Odell, July 15, 1856-Nov 3, 1914

Thomas W. Odom, Dec 31, 1867-Feb 24, 1922
James O. Odom, June 30, 1901-Apr 30, 1956
Lora Jackson Odom, d.o. Thomas & Candice, Sept 22, 1899-Mar 12, 1919
Robert Odom, Pvt US Army, W W I, Feb 14, 1898-June 10, 1961
Sarah R. Odom, Feb 6, 1877-May 20, 1954
Charles David Odom, Missouri, Tech 5/C, Co. C, 637th TD Bn W W II,
Aug 6, 1920-Dec 1, 1968
Velma R. Okeane, 1907-19
Howard S. Okeane, 1903-1958
Annie Olree, Mar 12, 1852-Mar 1, 1929
John J. Olsen, Dec 25, 1872-Sept 7, 1947
Franklin Orton, Feb 23, 1896-June 29, 1952
Charley B. Orton, Aug 30, 1923-Nov 3, 1931
Thomas R. Orton, Mar 6, 1885-July 10, 1960
Clifford F. Orton, Aug 3, 1920-Apr 28, 1931
Flavil L. Owens, Apr 5, 1904-Dec 13, 1962
Marion C. Owens, Mar 29, 1967-July 10, 1948
Deller Owens, Apr 6, 1875-Nov 12, 1964
Bessie Jane Oxford, 1911-1938
Mozella Page, Nov 10, 1906-
Oscar K. Page, Aug 21, 1891-July 29, 1963
Mary Helen Palmer, d. Dec 24, 1966 F H M
Gertrude Parham, 1920-1957
John d. Parham, 1909-1957
James Adkerson, Parham, Sept ?, -??-Apr 5, 1946 (stone cracked-birth date
. cannot read)
Lincoln Parkinson, Apr 28, 1894-Dec 24, 1964
Preston Parks, 1911-1940
Maggie May Parks, Feb 24, 1884-Dec 11, 1954
Francis Marion Parks, Jan 12, 1874-June 10, 1951
Violet Parnell, 1910-1956

Atlas Pate, May 5, 1900-May 18, 1962

William Bryant Pate, Missouri, Pvt Co L, 41st Inf, W W I,
May 12, 1898-July 1, 1960

Allen Pate, Oct 13, 1875-

Jennie Pate, June 19, 1879-Oct 25, 1960 married Dec 31, 1902

Georgia Ann Patterson, Oct 20, 1880-Oct 17, 1963

Wilmot Malcolm Patterson, Nov 5, 1889-Aug 21, 1969

Ova Buchanan Patterson, Mar 16, 1895-July 29, 1968
Married Dec 5, 1912 Parents of Orland and Maicel

Carl Leon Patterson, May 28, 1902-Sept 12, 1966

J.P. Patterson, 1869-1932

Mary A. Patterson, 1875-1955

Mary V. Patterson, Aug 12, 1895

Samuel R. Payne, Nov 10, 1882-Dec 30, 1955

Minnie M. Payne, Jan 18, 1890-Aug 23, 1969

Angie Lee Peacock, Apr 3, 1897-Dec 3, 1969

Waldo Pease, Missouri, Mech Co E, 12 Inf 8 Div W W I
July 6, 1891-Oct 4, 1955

Phebe Ann Penrod, Sept 18, 1877-Aug 27, 1955

Henry D. Perdue, 1865-1944

Joe B. Perkins, Jan 11, 1887-

Rose L. Perkins, Oct 31, 1907-Jan 22, 1962

Claud Petty, Tennessee, Pvt Co M, 112th Inf, W W I,
Mar 31, 1885-Dec 27, 1960

F. Stanley Petty, Oct 12, 1897-Jan 22, 1962

Mildred C. Petty, Sept 11, 1898

Martha J. Petty, 1873-1948

Chester Phebus, Mar 25, 1893-May 26, 1966

Lillie Mae Phebus, May 15, 1908-

Johnny D. Phelps, May 1, 1932-Jan 30, 1935

Ruby Odell Phillips, Dec 20, 1915-July 17, 1928

Betty E. Phillips, 1856-1933
 Ben J. Phillips, 1857-1933
 John Jackson Phillips, Missouri, Pvy Co E, 70 Inf W W I,
 Mar 13, 1895-Apr 8, 1968

 Zerta Phillips, Aug 2, 1909-
 Harmon Phillips, Aug 16, 1903-Feb 25, 1966

 Earl Irving Phillips, New Jersey, Cpl, Co C, 303 Eng W W I,
 Nov 23, 1892-May 3, 1958

 Walter W. Phillips, Dec 14, 1887-Mar 31, 1957
 Mattie S. Phillips, Sept 8, 1891-Aug 3, 1968

 Billy Mathis Pearce, Missouri, Pfc, 534, AAA, AW, BN, CAC,
 W W II, Korea, Aug 25, 1920-Jan 30, 1955 PH

 Sadie Mae Pierce, Jan 24, 1908-Aug 19, 1949
 Maxine Robertson Pierce, Nov 23, 1929-July 9, 1962

 Dayton Dixon Pinion, D.D.S., Jan 7, 1886-June 17, 1954
 Mary Elizabeth Pinion, Oct 2, 1887- "Mayme"

 Raymond G. Pinion, Mar 23, 1914-Feb 11, 1932
 W.P. Pinion, Apr 18, 1864-Mar 12, 1938
 Jonnie Pinion, Feb 14, 1884-Apr 11, 1931

 Sallie Ann Pittman, Nov 4, 1871-Aug 7, 1942
 William Lee Pittman, Nov 12, 1885-Feb 14, 1943

 Mattie L. Poole, 1832-1944
 James L. Poole, 1865-1941

 James Lewis Portlock, Sept 21, 1880-June 28, 1958
 Emma Thompson Pottlock, Oct 13, 1885-June 1, 1959

 Eveline Mildred, d.o. Annie & C.R. Portlock, Nov 27, 1917-May 27, 1920

 Joseph Earl Powell, Oct 1, 1889-Mar 3, 1967
 Missouri Powell, Jan 11, 1890-

 Lexia Leonard Powell, Missouri, Cpl, U.S.M.C.R., Oct 9, 1906-May 16, 1959

 Ben Powell, Missouri, Cpl Co I 349th Inf Reg, Jan 29, 1892-Aug 8, 1953

 Thelma Powers, 1915
 Katherine Powers, 1947-1953

 Turrell Reed Prater, Apr 8, 1930-Oct 29, 1949 Veteran

MARRIAGE BOOK NO. FOUR - cont'd

Page 440, Oscar Eppers, Holland, Pem. Co. Mo., Mary Lee Sanford, Holland, Pem. Co., Mo., verbal assent of W.A. Sanford, father of said Mary Lee Sanford at Holland, Mo. by S.E. Redman, J.P. 1 Oct 1905.

Page 441, Pleas Payne, Pem. Co. Mo., Delia May Stinchfield, Pem. Co. Mo. un 18. Written assent of Birty Bivins, mother of Delia May, at George Bivins by Eld, C. Bivins, Minister of the Gospel 4 Oct 1905.

Page 441, John Paul, Stanley, Pem. Co. Mo. to Ella Hartwell, Stanley, Pem. Co. Mo. at L.O. Hartwell by Eld. J.J. Wilson 17 Sept 1905.

Page 442, Brookland Davis, Braggadocio, Pem. Co. Mo., to Ethel Woodall, Braggadocio, Pem. Co., Mo. at Braggadocio, by J.D. Dills, J.P. 24 Sept 1905.

Page 442, Edward E. Hamlett, Cooter, Pem. Co. Mo., to Josie Ayers, Cooter, Pem. Co. Mo., at Cooter, by James A. Jones, J.P. 5 Oct 1905.

Page 443, Joseph L.F. Hinson, Cooter, Pem. Co. Mo. un 21 to N.M. Terry un 18, written assent of both parents at Cooter by James A. Jones, J.P. 25 Sept 1905.

Page 443, S.H. White, Braggadocio, Pem. Co. Mo. to Inez Bigham, Braggadocio, Pem. Co. Mo. un 18, verbal assent of J.M. Bigham, father of said Inez Bigham at Braggadocio, Mo. by J.O. Willett, Baptist minister 11 Oct 1905.

Page 444, W.B. Conner, Hayward, Pem. Co. Mo., Nannie Howard, Hayward, Pem. Co. Mo. at home, by B.C. Grymes, J.P. 24 Sept 1905.

Page 444, Pink Maddox, Stewart, Pem. Co. Mo., Annie McCory Stewart, Pem. Co. Mo., verbal assent of Wm. Withrow, step-father of said Annie McCory at Withrow's by B.C. Grymes, J.P. 8 Oct 1905.

Page 445, Albert Ball, Stewart, Pem. Co. Mo. un 21 to Myrtle Neal, Stewart, Pem. Co., Mo. un 18, verbal assent of father of said Albert Ball and the written assent of the mother of the said Myrtle Neal, at J.M. Lee's by J.M. Lee, J.P. 22 Oct 1905.

Page 445, M.H. Nassar, Pem. Co. Mo., to Lola Metcalf, Pem. Co. Mo.

Walter Young, Tiptonville, Lake Co., Tenn. to Lillie Taylor, Tiptonville, Lake Co. Tenn. at Caruthersville, by Sterling H. McCarthy, Judge of Probate Court, 1 Dec 1905.

Page 457, Fred Pitts, Stewart, Pem. Co., Mo. un 21 to Liddie Sins, Stewart, Pem. Co., Mo. written assent of L.D. Caldwell, guardian of said Fred Pitts. At J.M. Lee's by J.M. Lee, Justice of the Peace.

- Page 457, Lucius Foutche, Pen. Co. Mo., to Fannie Faulkner, Cottonwood Point, Pen. Co. Mo., at Caruthersville by J.F. Scott, 15 Oct 1905.
- Page 458, W.F. Pearson, Hayti, Pen. Co., Mo. to Lindy Dowdy, Hayti, Pen. Co., Mo. un 18 written assent of Tom and Martha Dowdy, father and mother of Lindy Dowdy. At Carleton, Mo. by J.F. Scott, J.P. 12 Nov 1905.
- Page 458, Elihu Berry, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo. to Mary Patnor, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo. at Caruthersville, Mo. by J.F. Scott, J.P. 5 Oct 1905.
- Page 451, Harry Davis, Braggadocio, Pen. Co., Mo., to Delia Clifton, Braggadocio, Braggadocio, Pen. Co. Mo. at Braggadocio, Mo. by Frank J. Long, J.P. 5 Nov 1905.
- Page 452, J.R. Carson, Dyersburg, Dyer Co. Tenn., to Lizzie Cross White, Braggadocio, Pen. Co. Mo. at Braggadocio, Mo. by J.D. Dills, J.P. 5 Nov 1905.
- Page 452, Tom Jones, Braggadocio, Pen. Co. Mo. to Mary Smith, Braggadocio, Pen. Co. Mo. at Caruthersville, by S.H. Steele, J.P. 15 Nov 1905.
- Page 453, O.S. DePriest, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo., to Nora Hunt, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo. at my office, by S.H. Steele, J.P. 13 Nov 1905,
- Page 453, H.J. Swartz, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo. to Ora Bell Graham, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo. at J.A. Ross, P.A. Meek, Minister of the Gospel, 15 Nov 1905.
- Page 454, C.A. Northcut, Douglas, Pen. Co. Mo., to N.A. Cagle, Douglas, Pen. Co. Mo. at Cooter, by James A. Jones, J.P. 13 Nov 1905.
- Page 454, Bertie Bailey, Holland, Pen. Co., Mo., to Lilly Graham, Holland, Pen. Co. Mo., un 18 written assent of Mary Alnstead, mother of said Lilly Graham. at Holland, Mo. by G.E. Redman, J.P. 8 Oct 1905.
- Page 455, Walter Shaw, Caruthersville, Pen. Co. Mo. to Maggie Marbry, Caruthersville, Pen. Co., Mo. at Caruthersville, by Sterling H. McCarthy, Judge of Probate Court 25 Nov 1905.
- Page 455, Frank Barnes, Hayti, Pen. Co. Mo. to Eva Pullan, Hayti, Peniscot Co., Mo. at Caruthersville by L.P. Thompson, J.P. 25 Nov 1905
- Page 456, Charles A. Percy, Hayti, Pen. Co., Mo. to Mrs. Jennie Percy, St. Louis, St. Louis Co., Mo. at Caruthersville by J.P. Willett, Baptist Minister 27 Nov 1905.

"THE MOUND BUILDERS - AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY"

By Jessie Markey

Program presented at September 1982 Pemiscot County Historical Society meeting by Jessie Markey.

"The Egyptians have their monuments (The Pyramids), and we have these (The Mounds). These are our Pyramids." So said Archie Sams, 68, a Natchez Indian, a descendant of the last native American people known to have built high mounds. *(1)

Scattered throughout the Mississippi Valley there are great numbers of earth mounds. Who were the builders of these mysterious structures? Someone made them, but who?

Once it was believed by many that the builders were some unknown "lost race" distinct from the Indians found living in the area by the early explorers. This vanished race of men, highly civilized artisans, were thought to be blond-haired and seven feet tall, totally unlike the Indians. What happened? Where did all these people go if they ever really existed? Did a plague sweep them away? Did DeSoto who came to the area between 1539-1541 bring weapons far more destructive than gunpowder--- measles, syphilis, small pox?

Today, scholars and archaeologists generally hold that the Mound Builders, those fabled and mysterious ancestors of the American Indians, were one and the same people. So we are left with the Indians.

Missouri lies in the heart of Americas great inland waterway systems with its many miles of navigable rivers, bayous and small streams. The area provided needed water, "giver and preserver of all life", as well as a readymade highway for this mobile people. The forests were so dense, travel by land was slow and hard. Not only the bounteous water supply but the rich alluvial plains was ideal for the raising of corn, beans and squash, necessary items in the diet of our earliest people. A plentiful supply of game and fur-bearing animals could be found in great numbers along these waterways.

Mounds are found in almost every part of Southeast Missouri. Most numerous in Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin Counties. They are found along water courses, bayous and in swamps which were common in these counties before drainage and reclamation of the land was practiced. In some areas where there were high ridges the Indians used these for summer camps while fishing and in winter while trapping. Near Micola, along the Old Pemiscot Bayou evidences of such camps have been unearthed. Arrow heads, shards of pottery and crude skinning tools have been found on the Alford and Franklin farms.

* (1) Southern Living Magazine-July 1982

These man-made mounds, with earth being the only materials used, represent a staggering number of man hours; an effort comparable to building the great Pyramids along the Nile. The tools were primitive and unless the builders were more knowledgeable and sophisticated concerning excavation, earth-moving and hoisting, we can only imagine the immense task, the number of people used and the time period consumed in their building.

These mounds vary in size, shape and function. In New Madrid County there is a mound 1200 feet (the distance of four city blocks) in circumference, 40 feet high, surrounded by a ditch five feet deep and ten feet wide. This mound must have been constructed for a fort since the ditch or moat would halt invaders, at least temporarily.

There were burial mounds, much smaller, usually 15 feet high. The residence mounds were conical, pyramidal or square in shape with the tops levelled off to make a flat surface for the teepee's. These are called truncated mounds.

The Indians were idolators and many mounds served as altars and temples and monuments to their gods and were sacred.

Some mounds, the higher ones, were used as look-out posts of observation towers of signal stations. In the heavily wooded area of this section in order to communicate with the next tribe by smoke signals, a high elevation was needed so the signals could be clearly seen and understood.

We are particularly interested in the large mound four miles southwest of Caruthersville, Peniscot County, known only as "The Mound". It is, or was, before erosion and the ravages of the elements, some 90 feet high. The circumference would have been much greater than that. To what use it was put is problematical. Its height may indicate it was used as an observation or signal tower. I'm sure the Mississippi River can be seen from its top. Hostile tribes from the North with their war parties may have come down the river by canoe and could be seen from this vantage point and the tribes nearby and further down the river could be warned in time to defend themselves.

There has been very little excavation done near this mound. A few organized digs near the base and in adjacent farmland proved unproductive and were abandoned.

Archaeologists do not know the reason, but the Indians stopped building mounds. LaSalle and Fur Traders who followed him up the Mississippi River in the late 1680's told of a people called the Natchez who had a confederacy of villages, each dominated by large mounds. They kept a sacred fire burning in a temple on one of the mounds.

"The old stories say our Natchez domain was big, really big" says

Archie San. "We had a string of great cities along the river from the Missouri River, south all the way to the Gulf of Mexico". * (1). Maybe ArchAs Ancestors built our big mound. We will never know.

A land grant or patent issued by the United States Government to the State of Missouri during the period 1856-1866, gave to the state the right to sell public lands and use the money derived therefrom for the purpose of operating the state government. Pemiscot County was organized in 1851 and these "Swamp Land Patents" were issued after that date.

Andersons Mound, the big one, four miles southwest of Caruthersville and surrounding acreage was now up for grabs.

Wm. B. Gable and Burrell Hill were the first individuals to own the Mound. They paid \$300.00 for some 240 acres, including the Mound. Approximately, \$1.25 per acre. Today's value of that same land, according to public officials, John Alford, County Clerk and James Ralph Murphy, Recorder of Deeds, would be \$2,500 to \$3,000 per acre, if it was for sale.

During the next ten years the land changed hands several times. Among the owners were Wyatt and Martha Mooring and Granville and Caroline Hayes. Later James R. Edsall acquired the property. After his death in the late 1870's the land was sold to Green F. Anderson. (This land has been in the Anderson family, continuously, for more than 100 years.)

In an apparently shady deal, the Administrator of the Edsall Estate made an agreement with the late John A. Cunningham, Caruthersville, where- by Mr. Cunningham brought an Ejectment Suit against Mr. Anderson to remove him from the land ^{and} take possession. After several years of litigation, the suit was decided in favor of Green Anderson, the rightful owner. The dispute may have been due to an error in the land description in the deed, according to the information I was able to uncover. The court- house burned in 1883 and all the old records, including the property re- cords were destroyed.

The Anderson Family built a large two-story house atop the Mound about 1830. A fine frame house with ten rooms, two long halls and large porches, front and rear. This was the home of the family for the next 100 years. The family consisted of the husband, Green, wife, Susan, sons, George W. and Goah and daughters, Cora E., Minnie L., and Ada Myrtle, grew and prospered. As the children married and left the nest Mr. Ander- son gave each of them a farm of his or her own.

This house was not only a home to the Anderson family, but to a number of oprhan children to whom this charitable and Christian mother opened her doors and her heart. She also kept the teachers who taught in

* (1) Southern Living Magazine, July 1982. Pgs 84-91

the Mound School just across the road from her home. The late Parker Kersey was one of these teachers who accepted her hospitality.

George W. Anderson married Maggie Ray, a Kentuckian. They had five children, two are deceased. Surviving children are Georgia Anderson Tidwell, Joyce and Cassie Anderson, Caruthersville, and a son, Wade Anderson, Pueblo, Colo.

Goah Anderson, aged 94, the only surviving child, lives in Florida.

Cora E. Anderson, daughter, married Willie Wilks. She and her spouse are deceased. They had no children.

Minnie L. Anderson, daughter, married Odie Stanley, both deceased. Surviving children are: Flay Stanley Rogers and G.F. Stanley, Caruthersville, Bill Stanley, Hayti, Mary Sue Stanley Parkinson, Jonesboro, Ark., and Tom Stanley, Tenn.

Ada Myrtle Anderson, daughter, married C.E. Murphy, both deceased. The surviving children are: Christine Bonhan Norris, Fla., Acal Bonhan Taylor and James Ralph Murphy, Caruthersville, Mo.

There are several great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren now living in the area.

The grandchildren recall the holiday dinners at the big house on The Mound and the annual family picnic in a cool, shady grove near the base of the Mound which was held each summer.

They remember the taste of delicious peaches picked from the trees in the large orchard. There was never a fruit failure because the orchard was on the south slope of the mound and was protected from the cold north wind and any possible early spring frost.

Winters that brought snow were welcomed by the grandchildren since they had a perfect sleigh run from the top of the mound down the north slope, which had been kept clear of weeds all summer for just such an occasion. Sometimes the elders joined in the fun.

Mr. Anderson died June 3, 1905 and a daughter, Mrs. Odie Stanley and her family lived with the mother, Susan Anderson until her death in the summer of 1933. A granddaughter recalls that her grandmothers funeral service was held on the tree-shaded lawn atop The Mound where she had spent so many years. A grandson, though small at the time, recalls hearing that when the funeral procession was entering Little Prairie Cemetery in Caruthersville, there were cars just leaving the home at The Mound. This great show of respect and affection attested to her standing in the community.

I have lived in Peniscot County my entire life and have visited the site of The Mound one time. When I was a small child my mother, Mrs. Janie Estes Williams, took me there for a visit. All that I recall is the large flock of gray, white speckled guineas that kept running wildly about and making funny sounds and the huge peacock that spread its tail feathers into a gorgeous fan of many brilliant colors. I had never before seen such unusual and beautiful birds. When we left the elderly woman gave me a bright peacock feather to take home. I kept it for a long time and it added color to the bed-room shared by my little sisters and me. For weeks I went about the house yelling, "Padrack, padrack, y padrack". The cry of the guinea fowl, when alarmed. One Spy Papa said, "Next spring lets get a setting of guinea eggs and raise a flock of guineas and keep the noise outside". Shortly thereafter I stopped the noise. We never did get a flock of guineas.

Missouri has a history of unusual interest. Unfortunately Missourians do not know the history of their own state as well as they should. There are so few books we can turn to for information. There are probably a dozen in the local Library, written in the early 1890's to 1902, and as a rule, elementary and sketchy. One of the oldest and possibly the most complete is not indexed. This necessitates the reading of page after page to find the area in which one might be interested.

This paper was an interesting experiment and probably means more to me than to you the listener. Now that it is too late, how we wish we could talk with the pioneer residents of Peniscot County and record what they had heard, had experienced and remembered.

ADVERTISEMENT-Copied from "The Book of Peniscot County" published by the Twice-A-Week Democrat, W.R. Lacey, Editor, 1911.

THE GILLEN FURNITURE COMPANY

An Extensive and Progressive Enterprise of Caruthersville, Mo.

Mr. E.D. Gillen, proprietor of this large enterprise, established the same, May 8th, 1909. He came to Caruthersville from Texas, where he had seven years' successful experience in the furniture business and is therefore conversant with all the details of operating an establishment of this character.

The line is a large and varied one, consisting of a complete stock of house furnishings, including the famous Buck's stoves and ranges, noted for their certainty and superiority. Carpets, matting, rugs, draperies, are also to be had of latest designs and standard quality.

The store is thoroughly modern, equipped with up-to-date accessories.

Copied from The Republican, August 25, 1927

PRESBYTERIANS LAY CORNER-STONE NEW CHURCH

With fitting ceremonies, the public laying of the cornerstone of the First Presbyterian Church was held yesterday at the site of the new church now in the course of construction at the corner of Seventh and Calleton. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Geo. W. Walker Acting Grand Master of Missouri, a special representative of the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri, with the assistance of the Masonic bodies of this city. A brief but very appropriate program was rendered.

The depositing of relics and historical objects in the box contained in the cornerstone was presided over by C.F. Bloker, with the assistance of E.W. Shade who is the oldest Deacon (in point of service). In this box was deposited the following items: A 1927 one cent piece, 1927 calendar, Bible the property and personal gift of Mrs. E.W. Shade (this Bible was given to Mrs. Shade by her mother in 1879), a copy of the latest issue of the two local newspapers, The Republican and the Democrat-Argus, dated August 18th and August 25th, respectively; copy of the August 17th issue of "The Christian Observer"; a copy of the programs used by the assembly on this occasion; a list of the names of those members of the church that saw service during the last year; a copy of the Old Beniscot Press, with an article pertaining to the death of Captain W.A. Joplin, one of the eleven charter members of the church. A copy of the articles of incorporation of the church, together with the details of the loan which made possible the erection of this new building; the original copy of the History of the First Presbyterian Church in this city; and a silk American Flag.

At infrequent intervals in 1894 and 1895, there visited this community, Rev. A.J. Cheatham, who conducted services which were wholly voluntary in character for those inclined to or were of the Presbyterian faith. To him may be attributed the sowing of the seed which has resulted in 1927 of the erection of a beautiful church building.

In March 1895, Rev. J.W. Rosebaugh, Synodical Evangelist, held a meeting here in this city and as a result of that meeting, the church was organized in that same year with eleven charter members. The record of their names have been lost and there are only seven known to the present congregation. These seven were: Capt. W.A. Joplin, Sol. F. Roberts, Mrs. F.B. Roberts, W.A. Ward, Sr., Don C. Shoptaugh, Mrs. Maggie Reel and Hina C. Schult. Of these seven only one, Mr. Schult is living, but all of them are well remembered by numerous citizens here.

Capt. W.A. Joplin was the first elder. He was very active, it is stated, in securing the first church building. He was permitted to attend services in the new building only three times before he passed on to another kingdom. His was the first funeral held from the church. This

This was in March 1902. Incidentally, the last funeral from the old church was that of another beloved member, Mrs. J.W. Faris, affectionally known as "Mother" Faris.

The Sunday School was organized in 1899 with J.D. Huffman as Superintendent, Miss Grace Roberts as organist and with an enrollment of only fifteen. The meetings were held in a room over Mr. Huffman's store on Ward Avenue, just off the corner of Fourth Street.

The site is at the northeast corner of Seventh Street and Carleton and is 85.78 X 247.1 and was obtained from the Cunningham Estate February 1, 1900, by the Faithful Worker's Society. The first building was erected later in this same year at an estimated cost of \$2,200.00. The exterior dimensions were 50' X 60' and the material used was yellow pine, and had stained glass windows. The interior of the building was divided into a vestibule, auditorium, seating 250, a Sunday School class room and the pastor's study. In 1905 the first wall paper was replaced with a lovely moss-green figured imported paper which Geo. C. Pettie helped get. This paper was still on the walls when the church was razed in April of this year, and except where leaked on was still good.

The new building and its equipment represents an investment of \$45,000. Its outside dimensions are 56' X 96', and it will have Bedford stone trimmings. The first floor or basement will contain a furnace room, kitchen, dining room, and an assembly room, which will seat two hundred fifty persons. The auditorium will be 37 by 50 feet, and have a seating capacity of three hundred. Adjoining the auditorium are to be eight rooms which will be used for class meetings, the pastor's study and the Women's Auxiliary parlor. Above the auditorium there will be a balcony which will seat two hundred. It is proposed to complete the building the latter part of this year.

The Finance Committee comprises the following: H.V. Litzelfelner, as Chairman, Chris Mehrle, N.W. Helm, Hyman Caldwell, Phillip Hamra, J.J. Long and H.P. Thweatt.

The Building Committee has the following members: C.F. Bloker, Chairman, N.W. Helm, Mr. and Mrs. Morrell De Reign, Mrs. Chris Mehrle and Mrs. Paul Horner.

The old church bell is an object of considerable interest. The bell was purchased through Col. F.D. Roberts at a cost of \$235.00 which was paid by the Faithful Worker's Society. It is said to have been at one time used on a steam boat. It bears the inscription: "Presented to Russell E. Gardner, Dec. 25, 1901 by the Banner Boys" hence seems to have been a Christmas gift. Recently the bell was appraised by a bell manufacturing company was stated it had a value of between \$1300 and \$2000; whether the purchase price was the real value of the bell or whether the price of material which went into its construction has

advanced, we are unable to say. It is most likely that the church will dispose of it as the plans for the new edifice do not contemplate the use of the instrument.

The following program was rendered:

Song----Congregation--"America, the Beautiful"

Invocation, Rev. F.P. DeBolt

Special Song, Dixie Four Quartet--To be selected

Apostle's Creed, Congregation, led by Pastor DeBolt

Scripture Reading, Rev. C.P. Thogmorton

Laying of the Cornerstone--By Masons

Stone Raised.

Prayer

Depositing of Relics, History, etc.

Laying of Stone--Dr. George W. Walker, Acting Grand Master

Song, during laying of stone, "How Firm a Foundation"

Address--Rev. H.C. Hoy

Song, Congregation--"Blest be the Tie that Binds"

Benediction

DEMOCRAT-ARGUS - September 29, 1925

COLLINS DISTINGUISHED AS CAT PROTECTOR AND SPEAKER

Willard Collins took an active part in the Freshman Day activities at Central College last Monday. Collins occupied a prominent place in the parade around the public square, carrying and carefully protecting a stray cat. He also delivered a delightful speech to the assembled crowd of some six hundred on the subject of "Love at First Sight", which kept the crowd in convulsions of laughter. Freshman Day is a day of good fellowship and fun, but only the outstanding speakers and singers of the class take an active part. It is directed by the Freshman Class itself.

REPUBLICAN - April 27, 1927

DR. TREECE AGED PHYSICIAN BURIED YESTERDAY

Dr. Larkin Treece, 80, well known citizen of Cooter, died at his home

early Tuesday. The funeral arrangements have not been completed but the services will be held at Cooter tomorrow and interment made at Holly Cemetery, Cobb Undertaking Co., in charge.

Dr. Treece has lived there for 25 years and until a few years ago was a prominent practicing physician in that vicinity. He was known and loved by everyone.

The deceased is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sarah Treece; one daughter Mrs. Nora Michie of Cape Girardeau; two sons, Frank Treece of San Francisco and Jop Treece of McAlister, Okla.--Blytheville Courier.

REPUBLICAN - Thursday, May 19, 1927

CHAS. A. TISTADT, OLD CITIZEN WAS BURIED SUNDAY

The funeral of Charles A. Tistadt, well known farmer and business man was held here from the home on Ward Avenue, Sunday afternoon, the Rev. C.P. Thogmorton, pastor of the Methodist Church officiating, interment being made in Little Prairie Cemetery, the funeral services being conducted by the Masonic Order of which Mr. Tistadt had been a faithful and valued member. An exceedingly large number of people from all over the county were present at these last rites.

Mr. Tistadt's death occurred early Friday morning about 7 o' clock, following an illness of perhaps two or three years duration which had left him practically an invalid, he being confined to his home for the past three or four months. While his death occurred rather suddenly it was not wholly unexpected by those intimately associated with him.

Mr. Tistadt was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 6, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tistadt. At the age of 9, with his parents, he moved to Caruthersville which place has since been his home. In his early life he was associated with a Mr. Bell, under the firm name of Bell and Tistadt in the mercantile business. He has long been associated in business and financial circles with the leading business men of the town and surrounding country. He was known and respected among his associates for his keen and sagacious business judgement, his honesty and straightforwardness, and noted for his unflinching loyalty to his friends, and his kindness and consideration shown to all with whom he came in contact. That he was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens is attested to by the great score of folks present at the services, and the wealth of floral offerings.

A little story is told that illustrates quite effectively the character of the man. One night during lodge meeting, the members of this particular lodge were balloting upon the application of a certain party which was known to have enmity toward Mr. Tistadt and it was noticed that

Mr. Tistadt voted for his acceptance. When one of his brother lodge members accosted him remarking about the incident, Mr. Tistadt remarked that under his oath as a member he had no particular right to vote against that man and that he felt he had done nothing except that which was right. That incident is sufficient to show the breadth and depth of his broad character. There are not many of us that big.

Mr. Tistadt was married March 1st, to Miss Laura Bell Barcroft, to which union there was born four children, Harry, deceased, Hugh, Edith and Maurice, all of this city. Besides his widow he is survived by the three last named children, these being the only immediate relatives, at least in this area.

The community has lost a valued citizen who will be greatly missed as the days pass and we are sure the entire county feels keenly his demise.

REPUBLICAN - August 25, 1927

HARD LUCK FO' SHO'

Speaking of Hard Luck, we believe that the prize should go to John Zarecor, who lives on the old Spiller farm in the Kinfolks Ridge Community. A couple of weeks ago his Ford was acting a little contrary, and he decided to try his hand at repairing her disposition. He tore the car down to get to the trouble. Incidentally, he took his license plates off, they being on the fender brace rod in front. Thursday of that week he reassembled "Lizzie" and told his wife that he was going to try it out and see how the engine was hitting. It must have been running pretty good because he kept on coning and before he knew it he was in town. He parked it on the street (minus the license plates). When he returned about an hour later an officer was parked near the car also, who calmly told him it would be necessary to fork over \$13.80 to be able to run "Lizzie" home. John tried to tell him that the plates were at home, but that did not satisfy the officer who is used to listening to excuses. Inasmuch as it is about a five mile drive home and he wanted to get home in a hurry, John release himself from the required sum. That's half of the story and here goes the other half.

He has, or rather now, it is "had" a real good milch cow. However, she was sort of "flighty" and very tempermental. And of course, that Thursday at milking time, was the time she chose for one of her tempermental fits. She had been "acting up" all during the time John was milking her. Then to climax the evening she lifted her dainty little foot and planted it against the full bucket of milk and also slightly against John's leg. John wasn't in a very good humor anyway, and this little act of "Bossie" rather aggravated him. Within ~~the~~ reaching distance was

a short stick of wood about an inch and a half in thickness. He picked it up and intending to chastise the cow for her actions, gently tapped her on the head. And to be accomodating the cow promptly keeled over and died. The day was neither the thirteenth or Friday the thirteenth, but we say it certainly was an unlucky day for him.

We are indebted to his cousin, Joe, for the story which is as we have related it above. He says that John left the next morning for the hills of Tennessee, to shake off his bad luck.

THE DEMISE OF COTTONWOOD POINT, MISSOURI

by
Randy L. McDaniel

April 25, 1975

Cottonwood Point, Missouri is located on the bank of the Mississippi River in southeast Pemiscot County, twelve river miles south of Caruthersville, Missouri, and five river miles north of Mississippi County, Arkansas (maps with article). This area along the river had an abundance of timber, particularly cottonwood trees, in the immediate post-Civil War era, thus arose the name. The place name Cottonwood Point originated in 1867.¹

In the late 1800's and early 1900's Pemiscot County, Missouri was entirely lowland in character with five-sixths of its area timbered.² A large part of the county was subject to overflow from the river. In fact, the name of the county is said to be an Indian word which signifies 'liquid mud'.³ Because of the frequent overflow of the river, the county court decided it was necessary to construct a levee along the river bank. This levee extended the entire length of the county. The original site of the settlement of Cottonwood Point was protected from the flood waters of the Mississippi by the levee.

Logging became an extremely important industry in this area, and Cottonwood Point grew as an important shipping point for the adjacent country. A road was constructed through the swampy lands⁴ of the countryside connecting the counties of Dunklin and Pemiscot. ⁴ Loggers

would transport their goods to Cottonwood Point to be shipped to St. Louis, Memphis and other ports. As more business came into the area, the settlement began to prosper.

At its peak, Cottonwood Point had three medical doctors in residence. Three cotton gins were located at Cottonwood Point. A number of large stores and other business establishments, including a drug store, sprang up, churches were built and a school maintained. Also located a short distance to the north and south of the settlement were two 'coaling' stations. At these points the ships could stop and refuel prior to landing at or after leaving Cottonwood Point.

The first census available was for 1880. The population was 96. No census available for 1890. In 1900 the population was 147. The 1910 population was 170; this was the last census taken for Cottonwood Point. Cottonwood Point changed to Brasher after 1910.

There are primary reasons that led to the demise of Cottonwood Point; 1) the Mississippi River, 2) the building up of Caruthersville, Missouri, 3) the construction of the Frisco railroad in the county.

When the river began its annual rise in the early spring, most all of the flooding took place on the Tennessee side because there were no levees to protect the land. The levee on the Missouri side, which protected Cottonwood Point, was built right on the bank of the river. This later proved to be a disadvantage. Since the levee was right at the river's edge, the pressure on the levee resulting from the increased velocity of the rising river was enormous. Eventually the pressure took its toll and the levee was completely destroyed in 1893.⁵ This forced the population back away from the river and the original site of the settlement. In August of the same year the construction of a new levee was commenced. The levee was constructed several hundred feet to the west of the original one. The population began to settle behind the new levee. As time passed, much of the original site of Cottonwood Point fell into the river.

Caruthersville became the county seat of Pemiscot County after the

original county seat, Gayoso, met a similar fate as that of Cottonwood Point, the Mississippi gradually encroached upon it until little was left.⁶ Along with the increased importance of Caruthersville because of the relocation of the county seat, the construction of railroads in Peniscot led to the demise of Cottonwood Point.

Prior to the construction of the St. Louis, Memphis, & Southeastern branch and the St. Louis & Gulf Branch of the Frisco railroad in the late 1890's and early 1900's, most all transportation of timber and cotton, the two most important products of the area, was done by river with Cottonwood Point a major focal point.

Sixty-seven miles of railroad had been completed in Peniscot County by 1904 with Caruthersville becoming a major hub of the railroad industry in the county.⁷ Aside from the major Frisco lines in the county, 'spur' lines were constructed connecting outlying areas with the main lines. One such 'spur' line connected Cottonwood Point with Caruthersville.

Probably the economic factor had a greater impact upon the demise of Cottonwood Point than did the overflow of the Mississippi River. It became more economically feasible to ship goods by rail than by water. It would normally take a ship, at least, two days to get from Cottonwood Point to St. Louis by river but only a few hours by rail.

Joseph M. Brasher deeded a tract of land to Peniscot County in 1915. This tract of land was where many of the people had resettled after the levee broke in 1893. This new settlement became known as Brasher.

Many of the people who were forced to move from the original site of Cottonwood Point across the levee to Brasher still referred to the new settlement as Cottonwood Point. But, in fact, Brasher remained in existence from 1915 to 1971. The population of Brasher from 1930 to 1970 was 112, 135, 152, 135, and 80. The 1974 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide stated that Brasher changed back to Cottonwood Point in 1971.

Today a toll ferry is located at Cottonwood Point. The original site

of the settlement still receives annual flooding. There are still a few families that live on the 'wrong' side of the levee. It is almost an annual springtime occurrence that these families must move their belongings to the 'right' side of the levee and take up residence with their neighbors until the flood waters recede.

To say that Cottonwood Point has been reborn because of the name change is probably a gross overstatement. A bridge is under construction about six miles north of Cottonwood Point which will link Missouri with Tennessee. It is scheduled for completion in 1976 or 1977. The completion of the bridge will probably deal a death blow to the ferry at Cottonwood Point and drain what little economic activity that remains from the community.

Footnotes

¹Robert L. Ransay, Missouri Place Names. (University of Missouri, Columbia, 1952, p. 86).

²Walter Williams, The State of Missouri, (Press of E.W. Stephens, Columbia, Mo., 1904, p. 470)

³Robert Sidney Douglass, History of Southeast Missouri, (Lewis Publishing Co., New York & Chicago, 1912, pps. 313-314).

⁴Ibid., p. 382.

⁵Ibid., p. 314.

⁶Ibid., P. 282.

⁷Williams, P. 471.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The three named above are the following—Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Southeast Missouri. (The Goodspeed Publishing Company, Chicago, 1888).

Census information came from the U.S. Department of Commerce/Social and Economic Statistics Administration/Bureau of the Census/Washington, D.C. 20233.

Mr. Morrell DeReign, owner of the Peniscot County Abstract & Investment Co. of Caruthersville, Mo. provided me with a large amount of information

and maps on Cottonwood Point. He was extremely helpful.

The Pemiscot County Recorder's office provided me with helpful information concerning Brasher, Missouri.

The April 8, 1975, issue of The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn. contained an article titled "Life Between The Levees Doubly Dangerous". It concerned the movement of families from one side of the levee to the other during the high water.

PHILA MAGEE TISTADT

(Life story presented at the Pioneer Heritage Awards Program, Pemiscot County Historical Society, May 1982)

Born to Horace L. Magee and Ida E. Evans in Easton Pennsylvania, I was the fifth child of seven. Easton was a settlement before the Revolutionary War and retains many of the old landmarks.

I was a carefree, happy child, happy in school, but I always said I would not be an "old maid schoolteacher". As the saying goes, I ate my words, for being a school teacher began my wonderful life.

Apparently my life hinged on several simple words. In college (Randolph Macon), Virginia Reynolds had been one of my closest friends, and writing to her the summer after our graduation, in 1914, I carelessly said, "I'm so bored I may even teach." I forgot I wrote it until a wire came from her begging me to apply for the vacancy in the Caruthersville High School in my major, History.

Of course, there was a family conference after such a shock. Finally all gave in. Mr. Bloker was head of the School Board. He always teased me because on my application I wrote, "Height 6' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". He approved me but wrote that it would necessitate remodeling the doors.

So I came to Caruthersville, arriving at the old Frisco Railroad Station early in the morning. Virginia and Mr. Reynolds met me in a high buggy. I remember climbing up in my stylish (then) tight skirt and saying, "So much sand, whew!" and Virginia answering, "Hot sand, a just Missouri dirt."

But I fell in love with Caruthersville then and loved it always after. And what a change for a city gal! I stayed in the Reynolds home and loved everyone and everything. Teaching was a happy, rewarding time then: no discipline problems; the children seemed to want to learn. I remember the Welcome Party for new and old teachers each year. We all dressed in our best and were really welcomed by the Board, the parents, and the city officials.

Then followed a happy year, and a date with Hugh the first night here. Next summer Virginia went back East with me. Hugh came in September. I came back to Caruthersville as Mrs. Hugh Tistadt.

Hugh farmed for five years; and then January 1921, we decided to try Everett, Washington, where Harry Tistadt and his family had located. We spent almost a year there and in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, my brother, Donald Magee, married in Pennsylvania; and he and his bride, Katherine Rebert, joined us. But we all became homesick. Hugh and I came back to Caruthersville a year after we had left, and the Magees returned to Pennsylvania. However, they could not ~~withstand~~ ~~the~~ ~~size~~ ~~of~~ ~~Caruthersville~~ and in 1928 they came to make their home here. Our families became a fast unit, inseparable, always close.

Through the years Caruthersville has changed. Then it was a Southern town and I was a Yankee, now we are as one. .

Nellie Lee Dorroh was the only woman driving a car, and she was most generous with her rides. There were wooden sidewalks on Bond Avenue and a tree growing in the middle of the street right in front of the Tistadt residence, at Fifth and Ward.. We drove around it, and the city did not cut it down, because it was old and beautiful.

Fifth Street was not cut through, and when we were first married we lived on Walker Street right behind the Tistadt home. Hugh farmed with his dad and spent the day on the farm. I ate dinner each day with his family. They had a cow, and I was afraid to go through the yard, so each morning I put on my hat and walked to Third or Eighth, telling no one I had never been that close to a cow.

I had to get acquainted, but when still a fairly new resident, I ran for the City Council, Ward 2. Other candidates were: Mrs. Bigham Ward 1; Mrs. Morkey, Ward 3; Mrs. Lacey Ward 4, and Mr. DeReign for Mayor. We all lost.

In 1920 we organized the Woman's Club, and Mrs. H.C. Hawkins was the first President. I was the second President, elected when Mrs. Hawkins retired to teach.

We of the Educational Department of the Woman's Club took as our project the organization of a public library. One woman expressed herself very definitely against our project: "Oh, the people wouldn't read. Our Sunday Schools have libraries." We campaigned and came up with the donation of 600 books. With those second-hand books we started our Library. Mrs. Bob Ward, Mrs. Humphrey Johnson, and I were the first, volunteer, Librarians.

After three years of all-volunteer workers, we formed the Library Association and won a city tax. We employed Zula Fowlkes as Librarian. Formal opening of the Library was held April 17, 1940.

Mrs. Nell Horner and I wrote the State Board of Health and started procedure for our local Board of Health.

Formerly a Presbyterian, I joined Hugh's Church, the Methodist, where I have enjoyed a wonderful Church life.

I can't stop without mentioning our two children, Hugh, Jr., and Mary Laura. Hugh, Jr., Captain of the Fourth Regiment Marines in the Second World War, after graduation from Annapolis Naval Academy, was sent to China. The next year he was captured at Corregidor and died in prison camp in Japan as the war was about to end. We lost Mary Laura when she was about to graduate from New York University and preparing to marry.

Now at the age of 92, I am both Magee and Tisdall's lone survivor of my generation. My eleven nieces and nephews call me "the Matriarch."

PEMISCOT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

June 1982 - May 1983

PROGRAMS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Kaye Gill, Chairman; Mayme Hamlett, Virginia Bader,
Josephine Van Cleve, Sarah Ruth Peterson

- June 24 - Show and Tell
- July 23 - The History of Pemiscot County-Caruthersville, Mo. 1911
by Josephine Van Cleve
- Aug. 27 - The Aquino Kids, Folks, Friends and Fun as Children
by Francis Hiller
- Sept. 24 - The Mound Builders
by Jessie Markey
- Oct. 22 - Indian Antiques
by Sarah Ruth Peterson
- Nov. 19 - The Mo. Volunteers in the Mexican War
by George Phipps
- Dec. No Meeting
- Jan. 28 - Silver Hairéd Legislature
by George McReynolds
- Feb. 25 - History of Steamboats
by Harry Litzelfelner
- Mar. 25 - New Madrid Association 1883--Baptist Churches
by Mayme Hamlett
- Apr. 22 - Eastern Star
- May 26 - Pioneer Heritage Awards
Pioneer Heritage Awards Committee

Substitute Programs will be provided when necessary

QUERY

Seeking information on children of JEAN BAPTISTE GRIMARD AND FRANCAISE DEROUSSE married 1804, JEAN BAPTISTE son of PIERRE GRIMARD AND GENEVIEVE COLON.

Also any connection between JOHN W. VANOVER married KATE GRIMARD 1839 Fortageville and a J. VANOVER age 51 as listed in 1870 Census living in Butler Township, Pemiscot County. Contact: Myrtle J. Vail, 9944 Zion Lutheran Church Road, Hillsboro, Mo. 63050.

STRAYED OR STOLEN - From our farm near Hayti on the night of December 10, 1914, one white horse mule about 15½ hands high and about 14 years old, has split in one ear no shoes, is in good condition. Any information leading to the recovery of said mule will be liberally repaid. The Alfalfa Farming Company, Hayti, Missouri

January 12, 1915

MEETING OF THE LAND OWNERS -

S.F. Reynolds of this City reelected a Member of the Board-Report of President of Board Read.

At the landowner's meeting at Morehouse last Thursday, S.F. Reynolds, of Caruthersville, was elected to succeed himself as a member of the board of directors of the Little River Drainage District.

About fifty landowners in the district, representing 150,000 acres of land in the district, a little less than a third of the total were present in person or by proxy. The meeting was attended by very few, as the secretary of the district, G.S. Hanford, held the proxies of many large bodies of the district land.

The big feature of the meeting was the annual statement read by President Himmelberger. In it he gave a skeleton report of an audit of the books for the district since its organization. It showed that \$283,061 had been paid into the treasury since the organization through taxation and the sale of \$14,530 bonds. All this money had been paid out for the work so far done, with the exception of a small amount of cash on hand.

President Himmelberger also read a statement in his report that the board had found much difficulty in arranging for the finances to push the construction work and that the European War was at the bottom of the bond and money stagnation. He said that the board has good reason to believe that the finances could be arranged for in a short time now.

Unofficially, it is said that the board hopes to have new arrangements made by January 10 for the sale of the bond issue of nearly \$5,000,000 with money sufficient coming in at all times to keep the drainage work moving right along.

H.C. Anderson of Gideon was elected chairman of the landowner's meeting, with W.A. White of Sikeston, Secretary.

January 19, 1915 - Judge W.N. Evans of West Plains convened Circuit Court in this city yesterday morning. Most of the day was taken up with the matter of the organization of the St. Francis Levee District, land-owners of New Madrid and Dunklin counties filing protests against being incorporated in the district. Attorneys from all over Southeast Missouri were in attendance, their main point of attack being leveled against the legality of the notice given of the organization of the district, claiming that the notice hadn't appeared the required number of times in the papers printing it. Judge Evans took this same view and decided against the levee board insofar as Dunklin and New Madrid counties are concerned. The case will be taken to the Supreme Court.

January 15, 1915 - Civic League Annual Report -

The Civic League was organized March 23, 1914, and secured one hundred and forty-four paid memberships. It should have been two thousand. We consider we have made a good showing as the following list of accomplishments will witness--yet it is not all that we wished to do, or yet hope to do.

Our first official act was to take charge of Clean-Up Day. Our Mayor had set aside the beginning of April for this work and issued a proclamation to this effect. We had 500 posters printed and distributed, and then solicited wagons to haul off the trash. Although quite a number of wagons were donated, and the city had several at work, the number was not adequate, and it was necessary for us to hire much of the work done. Last year we did not realize the enormity of the task; being more experienced, hence better prepared, we promise that this year the work will be greatly expedited.

In April, 1,500 packages of flower seed were distributed among the school children, both white and colored, for the nominal sum of 1¢ each. Prizes were offered for the best individual specimens and the prettiest flower bed, but the drought prevented any results. The seed giving will be repeated this spring and we hope that a more propitious season will produce better results. Through the efforts of one of our members, trees were planted around the Earl Long property. When the mudhole in front of the Methodist Church became offensive, Mr. A.J. Dillman, at our solicitation, kindly donated them lime, and had same put in this place. Possibly this aroused the City Fathers for they had the long standing hole filled.

Much time was spent in an effort to make a Park along the river front, but we were unable to obtain the use of the ground. We have secured permission, however, to cooperate with the Frisco Railroad Company in beautifying the block around the new depot. Trees will be set out, walks built, flowers cultivated, and if the contents of the four contribution jars that have been placed up town justify us, a drinking fountain

will be erected. This contemplated improvement will be a great addition to that part of town.

An attempt to lessen the unpleasant and unsanitary practices of spitting on the streets, was made by posting and distributing 250 cards and running slides at both picture shows, calling the attention of the public to the fact, that they were violating a city ordinance, and rendering themselves liable to disease. While the League cannot arrest, or fine for this offence, yet they can warn, and if only ten persons were prevented from spitting, it was worthwhile.

For many years the stable back of the County jail was very offensive and unsightly as it was near the sidewalk and also obstructed the view beyond. The attention of the County Court was called to this, they removed same, and opened a driveway into the free wagon yard, which has been a great improvement and convenience. The back stairway to the Business College was dangerous and through the League has been repaired.

The League was instrumental in having the vacant lots back of 4th street cleaned, (they had been used as a dumping ground for all the restaurants and saloons in that vicinity) and this ground has since been turned into a hitching yard.

A petition was presented to the Council with regard to certain offensive places in town, and they returned a vote of thanks to the League for calling their attention to the same. The need of a Sanitary Officer was so evident that the office was created and this officer appointed. This official has been very helpful in the cleaning of our city. Like all new ordinances the enforcement of same has met with some opposition but great good has been accomplished, and we hope in the spring this officer's duties will take in a much wider field.

Twelve refuse cans were bought and placed down-town and the Council agreed to see to the emptying of same. Special clean-up notices to the number of 150 were sent out, 100 Do Not Spit On the Floor cards were distributed to merchants, 12 fly traps were ordered and sold, 500 hand bills about weed-cutting were distributed, and four slides were run at the picture shows regarding same. Eighteen city blocks were oiled twice, thus doing away with the dust evil. The silica does not retain the oil as well as the sand, and, if this work is taken up again this spring, heavier oil should be used.

The School Committee has done the most valiant work of any of the Committees, and if the League had done nothing else, this alone would credit it. They inspected conditions at both the Grammar school and the colored school and reported same to the School Board, who made all the improvements asked for. At the Grammar school, new doors were hung to swing out, the chimney repaired, plastering and papering done where necessary, transom placed over the door to the drinking fountain to admit light, the dangerous circular stairway removed and replaced with one much safer and the entire building re-roofed. (cont'd April 1923).

PEMISCOT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PIONEER HERITAGE AWARDS

The Pioneer Heritage Awards will be featured at the May 27, 1983 Society meeting. Selections will be made on the basis of Biographies (life histories) of county residents who give their consent and are 75 years of age or older. Biography is to be written by a family member or acquaintance and not to exceed 1,200 words. The Society asks that at least two type-written pages be submitted double-spaced.

Persons whose life histories are submitted should have contributed in some exceptional way to community and social betterment. Attention should be directed to those who have functioned as motivators - often behind the scenes - rather than limiting consideration to those in publicized and recognized leadership roles.

Biographies will be accepted anytime between now and the deadline of February 28, 1983, and will be the property of the Historical Society.

Each person whose biography is submitted will receive a Certificate of Honor from the Pemiscot County Historical Society and is invited to attend the Awards Program at the meeting of the Society May 27, 1983.

Biographies may be submitted at any time to the following:

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Mrs. J.T. Markey, Chairman, 200 E. 8th St., Caruthersville
Mrs. J.T. Martin, R.R. 2, Kennett 63857
Mrs. Carolyn Newton, 110 E. 7th St., Caruthersville

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