



# Miller County Historical Society

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**SOME NUMBERS TO PONDER**

Although often overshadowed by World War I, Spanish influenza took more lives in a shorter time period in 1918-19 than any other event in human history. In the U.S. 670,000 succumbed to the disease. World wide the number was 50 million.

Missouri's schools and universities were substantially impacted by influenza. Each of the state's three medical schools graduated their classes early, to bolster the understaffed health care workforce. Public school systems across the state cancelled classes for weeks at a time, sometimes on multiple occasions, leaving parents to care for restless children in their quarantined homes. The University of Missouri was quarantined twice, and the Mizzou Tigers cancelled the entire 1918 football season. Social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands was strongly encouraged then as it is now and is certainly nothing new when it comes to recommendations for preventing the spread of disease.

A quick check of 1918-19 death certificates for Miller County reveals a total of 33 deaths from pneumonia, 14 deaths from pneumonia following influenza, 14 deaths from influenza (some had pneumonia & influenza together) and five deaths from "epidemic" or "Spanish" flu. Those five deaths were Nellie Hollandsworth, Dora May Lutrell, Pearl May Vaughan, Brooks Albertson, and Leo Frank.

The museum is not open at this time due to COVID-19

As of the date of this writing Miller County has lost 41 residents to COVID-19. The United States has had 267,000 deaths and there have been 1.46 million deaths world-wide. These numbers change daily.

**Miller County Historical Society Officers and Board Members**

President:	Bill Weidinger	Cindy Hart	Board Member
Vice President:	Jim Clark	Mike Wood	Board Member
Secretary:	Peggy Thompson	Gary Carrender	Board Member
Treasurer:	Betty Kallenbach	Charolette Graham	Board Member
Museum Director:	Karen Smith	Connie Prather	Board Member
Endowment Chair Person:	Judy Pryor	Carl Kemna	Board Member
		Cathy DeGraffenreid	Board Member
		Joe Pryor	Board Member Emeritus

## THE JAMES BROTHERS IN MILLER COUNTY

It has long been believed that Frank and Jesse James were cousins of Mildred James Wall, wife of James Milton "Black Jim" Wall of the Faith community in Miller County. Miller County is full of stories about those two men visiting Mildred and her husband and other areas of the county.

A long-ago letter to the editor of the Eldon Advertiser describes the stopover of the James boys near Mt. Pleasant:

"I read in your Advertiser last week in your "History in Review" where a Mr. Albert Russell wrote about the James boys.

Well, I have a razor and an old watch that Jessie and Frank James gave my grandfather when he lived near Mt. Pleasant, or Pleasant Mount as it was then called. Grandfather homesteaded the farm that is now owned by Graydon Haynes.

Those two men came there one evening late, and asked to stay all night as their horses were awfully tired, and Grandfather Wyrick told them to put their horses in the barn and feed them, and come on to the house and get them some supper. So they did, but would not stay in the house. They said they would rather sleep in the hayloft, that they had some blankets. So that's where they slept.

Early next morning they came to the house and ate some breakfast, and asked what they owed grandfather for keeping them and their horses overnight, but grandpa told them that he never charged anyone for a night's lodging. So they gave him an old-fashioned key wind and key set watch with full ruby jewels and solid silver hunting case, also a big wade butcher straight razor. My father carried the old watch many years, also shaved with the big razor..I still have them here in my home yet.

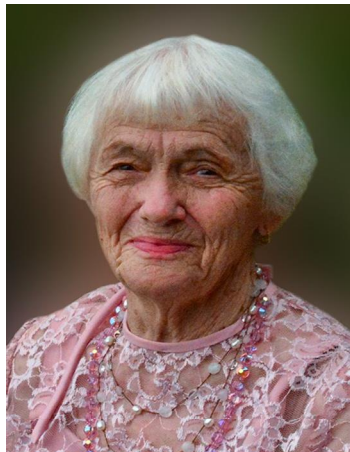
When the men started to leave, they said to grandfather: "Bet you don't know Jessie and Frank James. That's who we are, but don't tell no one about us for a few days, only if four more come here asking if you seen us, just tell them that we will meet them as planned at St. Joseph, Mo. But don't say nothing to no one else."

So this is true for my grandfather told my dad about it many times.

I'm writing this for your "History in Review". Anyone can see those old articles that wished to see them."

Wm. Wyrick  
Etterville, Missouri

I N M E M O R Y



Betty Lee (Wright) White  
1926-2020



Betty with film star Victor Mature  
on the set of "Glory Brigade,"  
Tuscumbia, MO, Sept., 1952

Betty Lee (Wright) White, age 93, of Wyandotte, MI. passed away May 30, 2020. Betty Lee was born and raised in Tuscumbia, MO, the daughter of Homer Lee Wright and Elizabeth (Hauenstein) Wright. Homer Lee was a farmer and with his brother, Clarence "C.B." Wright, was associated with the old Anchor Milling Co. of Tuscumbia for many years.

In September, 2019, at the age of 93, Betty revisited her home town of Tuscumbia, MO. While there, she renewed friendships with old acquaintances, toured local cemeteries and the Miller County Museum, and traveled to her father's Osage River farm where the movie "Glory Brigade" was filmed in 1952. In addition, she led a family group that climbed the 122 steps from the old Tuscumbia Presbyterian Church to the Courthouse grounds.

Betty was a graduate of Tuscumbia High School and Park College, Parkville, MO, where she played basketball. She was a high school teacher in Iowa and later a long-term substitute teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, in Wyandotte. Betty was very active in her church, most recently the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, serving as a deacon and contributing to church dinners and bazaars.

Betty Lee (Wright) White is survived by her husband, Carroll, two sons and one daughter, and several grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother, Bamber H. Wright, and sisters, Barbara (Wright) Lyon and Matilee Wright.

**D O N A T I O N S**

Donations	Roberta Jenkins, M.M. Parsons Camp #718, Sons of Confederate Veterans, John & Kathy Fields
In Memory of Carl McDonald	John Hunsaker
Life Memberships	Nicole McDonnell

*As always, we are grateful for your generosity and support. Thank You!*

Annual memberships are renewable in January of each calendar year. You can show your support for our organization and museum by filling out the application below and sending it, along with your payment, to the address shown.

Miller County Historical Society  
Membership Registration

*Please fill in the form and mark your membership choice below*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual membershipô \$10  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family membershipô \$15  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual lifetime membershipô \$50  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Institutional Sustaining Membersô \$15 per organization

P.O. Box 57, Tuscumbia, MO 65082  
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Visit our web site:  
<http://millercountymuseum.org>

*Thank you for your  
continued support*