



Miller County Historical Society

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**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Bob Oligschlaeger | 2 |
| NRLCA Band | 2 |
| Open Memorial Day | 2 |
| Eldon Cemetery | 3 |
| T.J. Babcoke | 3 |
| Probate Records | 3 |
| Thank you! | 4 |

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MUSEUM REOPENS MAY 15

The social schedule for the upcoming season was decided at the February board meeting and is as follows: The museum will reopen to the public on May 15 with refreshments served from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some additions and changes have been made to our existing displays and we are excited to share these with you.

The family of Bob Oligschlaeger is loaning some of his unique handiwork for a very special temporary display this season. A brief description and article appears on page 2.

Other events for the season will be the ice cream social on July 10 from 11-2 with ice cream, desserts and entertainment.

The Vintage Car Exhibit, October 9

from 11-2, has been combined with our chili supper with an expanded menu offering. Details of these events will be announced in future newsletters.

One additional celebration in Miller County will be the opening of the new Osage River Bridge, presently under construction. Several organizations in the area are working together to plan special activities for this occasion and we anticipate extended media coverage since there has been network news coverage throughout the construction. Particulars will be announced as MODOT work progresses and a firm date is established. We will keep you informed as the time draws nearer. The museum will close October 9.

**MEMBERS' POT LUCK
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**



The members' pot luck and election of officers is scheduled for April 25 at 1 o'clock. We hope for a nice turnout as we look forward to our 2010 museum season. Bring your favorite dish and join us!

The nominating committee, comprised of Donna Carrender, Betty Kallenbach, and Jim Clark, met in February and presents the following slate of candidates for your consideration:

New board members Greg Keeth and Gary Carrender. Wanda Wright is eligible and has agreed to stand for election to a second term. All officers have agreed to stand for another term. They are: President, Joe Pryor, Vice President, Carl McDonald, Secretary, Peggy Hake and Treasurer, Betty Kallenbach.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. In order to participate in this election, your membership must be current.

BARN AND FARMHOUSE REPLICA

Bob Oligschlaeger was born in 1923 at St. Elizabeth, MO, the son of Bernard and Alma Schell Oligschlaeger. His father died in 1938 and he helped his mother run the farm until his enlistment in the Marine Corps during WWII.

After the war he ran his own business in Jefferson City from 1946-1961 then in 1957 moved with his family back to St. Elizabeth and opened a business there.

According to the family, he always enjoyed woodworking and after retiring in 1985, created many beautiful objects from various types of wood for his children and grandchildren.

During this time he created an exact replica

**WE WILL BE OPEN
MEMORIAL DAY**

The past couple of years we have held the museum open for Memorial Day. This seems to be a time when Miller County folks return to reconnect with family and many local and out-of-town people have included the Miller County Museum in this special day.

We plan to be open again this year on Monday, May 31 from 10 until 4 p.m. to receive our friends. Stop in and see us!

**MISSOURI RURAL LETTER CARRIERS
ASSOCIATION**

An interesting piece of local history surfaced a couple of weeks ago when Connie Wyrick presented us with a bass drum acquired from Diane Barnhouse Henley. The drum, dated 1937, was owned by Diane's grandfather, Howard L. Stephens who was postmaster of Eldon, MO, and a member of the NRLCA, a national labor union representing rural mail carriers, founded in 1903.

Further research by Diane's brother,

of the old homestead barn and house where he grew up. Since both had been torn down, he did this all from memory. The two buildings are unique not only in the fact that they are built in accordance with his recollections, but also moving and memorable to all his extended family.

Bob lives in Aplington, Iowa now and his daughters, Judy Meyer and Mary Wright have brought together the two pieces and put them on display in the lower level of our original museum. We are as excited as they are to share this excellent handiwork with you all.

"Who's in charge?"

We get a number of inquiries throughout the year for information about who is "in charge" of the various cemeteries in our county. On Memorial Day many of the cemeteries are staffed by volunteers accepting cash donations toward the maintenance and upkeep of these burial grounds.

We are preparing a current reference list of contacts to make available to the public. So please, let us know who you are...the name of the cemetery, your name and any contact information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Stephens. Barnhouse turned up a marvelous photograph of the entire band which included his grandfather, Howard, and his mother, Alpha Stephens Barnhouse. Both items are now part of our centennial display at the museum.



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Old Eldon Cemetery

Mike Wieneman, former Eldon resident and early member of the Miller County Historical Society, informed us recently of the existence in the past of an old Eldon cemetery on the west side of town. Here is what he wrote:

Joe,

I never hear or read about anything on the old Eldon City Cemetery that was located on the west side of town. I lived about 1/2 block from it for many years. I can tell you where it was located: Bounded on the South by Second Street. Bounded on the North by First Street.

Bounded on the West by Walnut Street. It did not come as far East as Grand Avenue.

Some of my older relatives remember it as I had family buried there. The present Eldon Cemetery was established in 1895 several years after the founding of Eldon.

A lot of the burials in the old Eldon Cemetery were never removed and sent to the new one. Houses no doubt were built on top of burials there, especially in the oldest part which would be closest to Walnut Street, between First and Second Streets.

My older relatives told me that my great-grandfather's sister Catherine (Clark) Allen is buried here and her daughter Ida is also buried here. They died in 1885. Their bodies were never removed. At one time according to my family, some of the tombstones were used as part of the sidewalk!

Would make an interesting story if you could find out something! If any reader has more information about the old Eldon cemetery we would appreciate it being shared with us!

Thomas J. Babcoke

Methodist Minister Thomas J. Babcoke, was assigned to this area by the Missouri Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1860. His story is one of great trial as well as adventure because he was one of the major figures serving the northern forces in Miller County during the Civil War. You can read a very detailed and interesting account of his life and the story of his leadership during the Civil War on the archived President's Page of Miller County Historical Society website from September 7, 2009.

The reason I am discussing Babcoke now is that we cannot find a verifiable photo of him. Several descendants of his still live in the area so if any reader knows of one or are themselves a descendent we would certainly appreciate the opportunity to scan for our files an image of Thomas Babcoke, one of Miller County's most notable and historic natives.



Joe Pryor, our President and Good-Will Ambassador

M I L L E R C O U N T Y
P R O B A T E R E C O R D S P R E S E R V A T I O N

Work continued on the probate records throughout the winter. Many people came forward to help with this very important work and we are most appreciative of their assistance.

Of special note is the Americorps volunteers from Eldon, headed by Daphne Partridge. Their willing hands helped put a big dent in the work we had to do in this first phase of preparing the records for microfilming. We were able to get the oldest records out of boxes and into file folders. Staff will be working on the next, more technical step of putting the files in order.

Lynn Morrow, John Korasick, and Dianne McKin-

ney of the Missouri State Archives have given their professional support and guidance to this very important project.

Four new file cabinets were purchased to hold the records. This will allow the documents to "relax" and protect them from further damage until they can be microfilmed.

Next winter we hope to tackle flattening the balance of the records. It doesn't seem there is any end in sight, but progress is definitely being made. So for those of you who missed this "fun" activity this winter, there is always next year.

THANK YOU, FRIENDS

While the museum has been closed for the winter, work goes on and so does the generosity of our friends!

Since our last newsletter, the following individuals have made cash donations in support of our mission, and we greatly appreciate their generosity.

Kathy & John Fields, Lees Summit, MO
 William & Gerry Harvey, Indianapolis, IN
 Judy Hawkins, Jefferson City, MO
 Rex & Peggy Miner, Belfontaine, OH
 Lynn Morrow, Jefferson City, MO
 John Pryor, Amesbury, MA
 Roy & Joyce Sone, Jefferson City, MO
 Waldo & Alice Steen, Weatherford, TX

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 membership—\$10
 _____ Family membership—\$15
 _____ Individual lifetime membership—\$50 per person
 _____ Institutional Sustaining Members—\$15 per organization

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*Thank you for your
Continued support*