



Miller County Historical Society

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MCHS 2013 SCHEDULE

APR 21 - Potluck & Election

MAY 6 - Museum Work Day

MAY 18 - Open House

JUL 20 - Ice Cream Social

OCT 19 - Chili Supper &
Car Show

RECORD ATTENDANCE IN 2012

Each year has shown an increase in visitors to our museum, but 2012 shattered all previous records. We hosted school groups from various districts within Miller County, as well as students from the local colleges. Church groups sponsored tours, family reunions brought in folks from all over the USA, and our public events saw increased turnout as well. The Civil War Exhibit attracted history buffs, the Car Show had several new exhibitors and the Veterans Memorial dedication also brought new visitors to the museum grounds. Invariably the comments were, "What a great museum! It's so big; I had no idea there were this many exhibits and of such high quality." We are always pleased with the response to our museum displays and are grateful for the word of mouth recommendations. There is no admission charge and a docent is always available to answer questions.



Museum visitors at the Chili Supper



Museum Car Show

Put us on your calendar for a 2013 tour!

RESEARCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS



Research Library

Our Research Library has been improved to make it more user-friendly. Doris Wiggins, one of our regular volunteers, has organized and labeled all the contents by subject matter, with the family histories and cemetery information clearly marked. She and Wanda Wright also divided some of the huge, bulky notebooks into smaller, lighter ones to make them more accessible. Diane Knutson, another one of our volunteers, has been updating the inventory of the family histories to replace the one currently on the MCHS website. Diane Brown Berkbigler continues indexing the probate records through 1939 so they can be sent to the MO State Archives to be microfilmed. Having completed her multiyear task of

preparing those probate files for the State Archives, Jody Newman is now glean- ing information from original copies of the Miller County Advertiser newspapers from the 1920s. Jody, Catherine Ponder and Connie Prather are retrieving the obituaries from that period to enter into our database. Karen Wyrick, our Museum Director, manages the Monday crew with skill, efficiency and lots of fun.

A great big thank you to all our docents, volunteers and board members who give so freely and generously of their time and talents!



Old Eldon Advertiser

S. CAROLINA COUPLE WIN QUILT RAFFLE

Dr. and Mrs. Victor Berry of Okatie, South Carolina, were the lucky winners of our 2012 quilt raffle. Victor is a retired veterinarian who spent his career in the US Dept. of Agriculture in the Dept. of Inspection. His wife, Nancy, worked for the US Dept. of State Foreign Service Office in Korea and Austria before her retirement. They visited our museum in their quest to learn more about Victor's great grandfather, William R. Johnson, who served in the U.S. Colored Cavalry during the Civil War. William had moved to Miller County from Ohio after the war in the 1860s. Most likely, Victor said, William came here because this area still had quite a lot of land which could be homesteaded. William's pension from the Civil War, awarded because of an injury he sustained, more than likely provided him with the ability to purchase land in Miller County. Two of William's neighbors were cosigners of an affidavit attesting to his good standing in the local community. One was Samuel P. Hickman, M.D., who was a well known physician at the time. The other cosigner was William Lollis, one of Miller County's earliest black settlers. The land William purchased was in Glaze Township. William and his wife, Lydia, were buried in the Gott Cemetery between Ulman and Brumley. William died in 1894 and Lydia in 1878.



Dr. & Mrs. Victor Berry

HONEYMOONERS VISIT



Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Christensen

We are always delighted to welcome visitors to our museum and are proud to offer them a historical tour of our county as presented by the many displays, photos and original antiques. Most visitors are local people who live in the surrounding area. A few weeks ago, however, one of our guests was a native of Russia, having arrived in this country only two months previously. Genya was introduced to Matthew Christensen of Overland Park, Kansas, through mutual friends in early 2011. The two of them Skyped every day (phone contact via the Internet) until Matthew was able to make the trip to the Ukraine for their first physical meeting in July, 2011. A year of continued phone conversations followed before Jennyfer (her chosen new 'American' name) came to the

US on 9/15/2012. They were married 11/17/12 and came to the Lake of the Ozarks for their honeymoon. In his search to find a museum in the rural Ozarks that would best present the America he thought most representative for his new bride, Matthew turned to his GPS navigation system and it directed him to the Miller County Museum in Tuscumbia. We were absolutely charmed by Jennyfer; she had an amazing command of English and easily conversed with our staff. The couple spent two cheerful hours carefully touring our museum and were a special delight for our staff to host!

SPECIAL THANKS TO JOE JEFFRIES

We are greatly indebted to Joe Jeffries for his willingness to provide live music for our museum events free of charge. Miller County has lots of great musicians, but Joe is one of the best! We are grateful, Joe, for your many years of supporting the Miller County Historical Society.



Joe Jeffries & Band

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

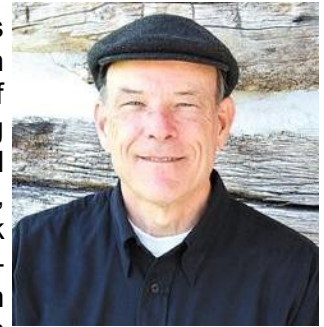
As this year comes to a close I find myself experiencing a degree of nostalgia as I remember my childhood days living in Tuscumbia. The catalyst may have been the recent destruction by fire of the historic J.R. Wells home five miles east of Tuscumbia on Highway 17. Mr. Wells was the president of the Anchor Milling Company and owner of the most well known steamboat on the Osage River, the "J.R. Wells." The 3-story landmark structure, located five miles east of Tuscumbia on Highway 17, was built in 1889. My mother remembers playing in the house with her childhood friend, Marjorie Sue Speedy, who was Mr. Wells' granddaughter.



J.R. Wells Home



J.R. Wells Home after Fire



H. Joe Pryor, M.D.
President

Along the riverfront in 'downtown' Tuscumbia another historic house, the Captain Bob Marshall home, still stands but has deteriorated significantly over the last few years; it may not last much longer. Mr. Marshall was a steamboat captain and one of the original owners of the Bank of Tuscumbia. The original Bank located 'under the hill' overlooking the river in Tuscumbia was abandoned close to half a century ago and now is covered by old vines with all the windows shattered. Facing it on the same side of the hill is the old Presbyterian Church which I attended as a child. Sadly, the roof of the old church collapsed this summer and only the front façade remains standing. Fortunately, the beautiful antique light fixtures and the magnificently colored stained glass windows of the church have been stored at the College of the Ozarks south of Branson. The large home in which my mother lived as a child is also gone. It was located in 'Goosebottom' just across from the Riverside Park. My grandfather, Madison Bear, raised five children there. This home was particularly historic because it was originally built by Phillip Hauenstein, one of Tuscumbia's most important early businessmen. Madison had a store in the old two story stone Woodmen's Hall building which faced the river just a short distance east of what is now the Missouri State Conservation Department's river landing. This building no longer is standing; only the foundation remains. When I was a boy, it was a tavern and restaurant; I played many games of pool there growing up. Just thirty yards west of it was located the old Hauenstein's Store. The store was very well known; people came from miles away to buy supplies, farm equipment and groceries. I remember when coffee beans, sugar and flour were stored in glass bins below the counter. I bought horse shoes at the store which were shaped to fit my horse's feet by Elmer Flaughner, the town blacksmith. He had an old forge which he used to weld the caulks and toes to the shoes. Two original buildings remain standing along the river, the old barber shop and the old post office and are maintained by the current owners.

My childhood home, built by Dan Thompson in 1946, still stands on Highway 52 as you enter Tuscumbia. The view of the Ozark hills and river valley as you enter town has always been one of my favorites and still evokes an emotional response as I drive to the museum. I've called Tuscumbia home for 69 years, even though I lived elsewhere for most of my life. Places change, people move, loved ones are gone, and eventually memories are lost. I'm happy the Miller County Historical Society exists to protect and preserve our early history.

Judy and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

BAMBER WRIGHT

Our dear friend, Bamber Hauenstein Wright, passed away in late September. His three children, Ann, Phil and Jack, named MCHS as the recipient of memorial contributions in his honor. Below is a list of those choosing this method to remember Bamber. We would like to encourage you to consider this way of honoring your loved ones. The MCHS Foundation was established for just such a purpose and will protect and preserve the funds for the ongoing benefit of the museum.



CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMORIALS

To the Miller County Historical Society: John and Megan Pryor

To the MCHS Foundation, Inc.: Henry Heldstab, Citizens Bank of Eldon
John and Kathy Fields, Joe and Judy Pryor

Memorial Designations in Honor of Bamber Wright:

Roy & Joyce Sone, Stephanie Graves, Brice & Betty Kallenbach, Darrell & Diane Knutson, Jennie Stevens, Alex & Joann Heckman, Joe & Judy Pryor, Wanda Wright, Gary & Mildred Schell, Barret & Amy Wolters, Rich & Betty Kampeter, Michael G. Biggers, Ruby F. Webb, Kim England, Tracee Schell Fisher, Robert Ebert, Jr., Herbert Kohn, Brian W. Berglund, Don G. Lents, Bryan Cave LLP, Bob & Chris Mathias, J. Powell Carman, Nancy M. Neier, Irvin & Sue Belzer, Kevin M. Abel, Pat & Dennis Fleischmann, Stephen & Anita Esslinger, Janet Papageorge, Nancy Schell Mitchell, Larry & Elizabeth Deffenbaugh, Rose Marie Schell, Judy & Richard Harris, Barbara & Mike Newmark, Jim & Nancy Clark, James & Lisa Nours, Shane & Tina Matzen, Michael Staenberg, Clayton S. Smith, Jim & Diane Weber, John Michael Clear, Mary Sue Smith, John & Victoria Sharp, Mark & Sheila Schell

Thank you! We are grateful for your support!

Annual memberships are renewable in January of each calendar year. Please continue your support for our organization and museum by completing the application below and returning it with your payment to the address: P.O. Box 57 Tuscumbia, MO

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
_____ Institutional Sustaining Members—\$15 per organization

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<http://millercountymuseum.org>

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