

# BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY



Stephens Museum Curator Dr. Dana Morris works on mounted specimens of a mallard drake and hen, which are part of the museum's extensive bird collection. Photo By Don Cullimore

## Stephens Museum: A Treasure Hunter's Delight

*The Popcorn Wagon And The Two-Toed Sloth*

Book Reviews: *J. Milton Turner*  
*History of Howard County Families*

VOL. 13 No. 1 — SPRING 2014

BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL

## Treasure Hunts, Extinction, Popcorn Wagons and Special Events

ALMOST ALL OF US ENJOY A GOOD TREASURE HUNT, NOT ONLY when we're young and eager to discover and explore the often limited spaces about us, but also as we grow older and our intellectual curiosity about places and spaces worldwide expands. So it is with pleasure that we offer in this issue (page 4) a little-known "gem of a place" for youngsters and oldsters alike to find new treasures that are both immediately exciting and intellectually stimulating. This gem is Stephens Museum, housed in CMU's venerable T. Berry Hall, an

Italianate-Victorian architectural treasure in its own right on the north end of the Central Methodist University Quad. The building dates to 1896, but a substantial part of the museum's multiple collections (both natural and social history) date to 1885, when Lawrence V. (Lon) Stephens, governor of Missouri from 1897

to 1901, gave Central College \$5,000, which was used to buy the brick residence in which the Museum was originally housed.

Foremost among the museum's bird collection are two highly prized specimens of species that have gone extinct – the passenger pigeon and the Carolina parakeet – and one bird that is still dancing around the edge of extinction, the whooping crane. The last passenger pigeon and last Carolina parakeet both died in captivity (in the Cincinnati Zoo) within a few days of each other in 1914. "It's odd how two very different species like that would check out from the same zoo in the same month," former museum curator Dr. Dan Elliott muses. Elliott, now professor emeritus of biology at CMU, still maintains a strong personal interest in the museum as an unofficial advisor to the current curator, Dr. Dana Morris.

On page 8 we present a whimsical account of a historic popcorn wagon that was present on the streets of Fayette in the early to mid-nineteenth century. The story begins with an eye-witness account of a college-student-led "heist" of the popcorn wagon as a prank during the 1940s; it was written by then student, and later Fayette newspapers editor and publisher, H. Denny Davis. It is brought to a twenty-first-century conclusion by a later Central student and Fayette newspaper editor and publisher, Jim Steele.

### Odds and Ends

Following membership approval of nominations for 2014 BHS Board of Directors positions at the fall meeting in Boonville in November, all 2013 members of the board were returned to office. The fall meeting action was made official by the Board at its January meeting. Continuing as board officers are Cindy Bowen of Armstrong as president, Sam Jewett of Boonville as vice president, and Paula Shannon of Boonville as treasurer. Tom Yancey of Fayette stepped down as secretary, and those duties are now handled by Denise Gebhardt of Glasgow. Other continuing board members are Connie Shay of Fayette, Bill Lay of Fayette, Don Cullimore of Fayette, and Brett Rogers of Boonville.

Several new categories of BHS membership were approved in 2013. The categories are: \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50- Sponsor, \$250-Patron, and \$500- Life. The dues year is January through December. Receive our publication, *Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly*, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

— Don B. Cullimore



**Mounted specimens in Stephens Museum of two bird species that went extinct in the 20th Century are the passenger pigeon, above, and the colorful Carolina parakeet.**  
Photos by Don Cullimore





**Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly** is published four times a year by the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

**We encourage our members** and others interested in history to contribute articles or other information of historical interest, including family histories, pertaining to the region. Please address all contributions and correspondence related to the periodical to the editor, Don B. Cullimore, 1 Lawrence Dr., Fayette, MO 65248, or email to: don.cullimore40@gmail.com, phone: 660-248-1732. Editorial guidelines may be obtained from the editor. Publication deadlines are February 1 for the March (Spring) issue; May 1 for the June (Summer) issue; August 1 for the September (Fall) issue; and November 1 for the (Winter) December issue.

**The Boonslick Historical Society** was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy programs about historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Members of the Society have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. They supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hanna Cole's Fort and have restored a George Caleb Bingham painting of loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette.

**Membership dues** are \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50-Sponsor, \$250-Patron, \$500-Life. The dues year is January through December. Receive our quarterly publication, Boone's Lick Heritage, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

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# BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY

Boonslick Historical Society Vol. 13, No. 1 • Spring 2014

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## Stephens Museum: A Treasure Hunter's Delight

By Don B. Cullimore

The moment you enter the main corridor of T. Berry Smith Hall at Central Methodist University in Fayette a familiar odor begins to tease your memory. Soon it surfaces childhood recollections of digging through the dusty attic in the grandparents' turn-of-the-nineteenth-century sturdy brick home. Piled to the rafters with cardboard boxes, steamer trunks, sidesaddles, wardrobes and discarded furniture, the room harbored a treasure trove awaiting discovery by those of us too young to understand how much family history lay scattered at our feet. But a budding curiosity had led us up the pull-down stairwell to that darkened room and into a world of wondrous things wrapped in a vaporous, protective mantle.

It is that same age-old safeguard that unlocks those adolescent memories as you enter the venerable halls of T. Berry and slip into the Stephens Museum and find yourself in another Attic of Delights, a special place for explorers young and old alike. It is a 129-year-old treasure chest of objects that run from A to Z – from armadillo to Zulu artifacts – an alphabet soup brimming with the worlds of archeology, cultural anthropology, biology, geology, paleontology: the memorabilia and fossilized traces of science and religion and humankind in general. It is one of Central Methodist's most prized possessions.

Once inside, you'll see the small canisters of mothball crystals hanging inside the glass cases housing the Museum's extensive collection of mounted birds. Even in their inanimate state of display, the birds can be sustenance for the still living. "It's the dermestid beetle that's the problem," explains Dr. Dan Elliott, former curator of the Museum. "Both the larvae and adults will destroy mounted specimens such as birds and butterflies. It's a problem for museums everywhere." But for the repellant properties of a crystalline, water-insoluble hydrocarbon made from coal tar, the crown jewels of the Stephens Museum would be turned into a meal for a tiny insect related to the cockroach. It would be an ignoble end for such an auspicious collection.

The Stephens is one of the older museums in the Midwest, and one of its most extraordinary features is the bird collection, which includes mounted specimens of several extinct species, says Dr. Dana Morris, the new curator of the museum. "The museum contains many specimens older than 100 years and many of these represent the first recorded collection in the state," adds Dr. Morris. "Of the 320 museums in the state, we are one of ten that have a natural history collection."

"Undoubtedly, it is the best bird collection for a small college or university in the Midwest," agrees Elliott, who retired in 2012 after serving as a professor of biology with CMU since

1974. Morris, who stepped in as curator upon Elliott's retirement, also teaches biology and holds a doctorate in biology and additional degrees in fisheries and wildlife science from University of Missouri-Columbia.

"The bird collection is just outstanding," Elliott adds, noting that it also includes a large number of raptors. "There are 12 or so birds that were the first to be collected in Missouri, back when it was not commonly done."

"The [museum's] collection of native Missouri birds and mammals includes nicely prepared skins, skulls, and teeth that are useful for studies on systematics, phylogeography, and molecular studies of biodiversity and biogeography," Morris adds.

Foremost among the Museum's bird collection are two highly prized specimens of species that have gone extinct – the passenger pigeon and the Carolina parakeet – and one bird that is still dancing

around the edge of extinction, the whooping crane. The last passenger pigeon and last Carolina parakeet both died in captivity (in the Cincinnati Zoo) within a few days of each other in 1914.

Lining the walls around the bird room (more than 300 avian species are in the glass display cases and bird tubes) is a broad assortment of other natural history objects and animal specimens, including a bobcat, snowy owl, reptiles indigenous to Missouri, a nine-banded armadillo (an armor-plated mammal common to southern states but now being found even in Central Missouri), a small alligator, and a sizable selection of fossils, minerals and shells of mollusks from around the world. Toward the rear of the room is a glass case housing primate skulls and numerous large bones of Ice Age mammals, some collected within recent years. "The big flood of 1993 washed a lot of bones out of the loess cliffs along the Missouri River," Elliott notes. It was from those same Missouri River bottoms, where Elliott often took his geology students fossil hunting,

**The Stephens Museum is open during the spring semester from 2 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, and from 3 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. For information or to schedule special showings, contact Dr. Dana Morris at (660) 248-6378 or by email at [dmorris@centralmethodist.edu](mailto:dmorris@centralmethodist.edu).**



**More than 300 avian species are in glass display cases and bird tubes, including the endangered whooping crane and extinct passenger pigeon and Carolina parakeet. Photos by Don Cullimore**

that he discovered the fossilized remains of a starfish in 1997 that scientists believe is only the second of its kind found in North America.<sup>1</sup> It, too, has been added to the Stephens Museum collection.

One of the most interesting artifacts of the museum sits on the floor, a large chunk of rock with the clear outline of a dinosaur footprint. It's an icon for one of Elliott's passions when he's wearing his hat as a paleontologist. "I have a real affection for dinosaurs," he admits, adding, "I would like to see a reproduction of one of the raptors – a velociraptor, such as in the movie Jurassic Park – in the Museum. There's no doubt that dinosaurs are related to birds. There is more and more evidence to that every day. Dinosaur fossils with feathers were found in Chinanot long ago."

"Eclectic" is the best adjective to describe the museum pieces housed in the second room. The collection falls under the stern visage of a larger-than-life oil portrait of Missouri's first Methodist Bishop, Enoch Mather Marvin (1823-1877). The nearly eight-foot-high standing figure of the Bishop appears to be floating several inches above the floor in the painting, an illusion created by the artist's technical deficiency when it came to painting the connection between feet and floor. The ghostly apparition of the Bishop has spawned a haunted-house story, according to Thomas Yancey, a former curator, who says the Bishop reportedly steps from his canvas likeness each Halloween and walks about the darkened rooms tapping his cane, as if to ward off unwanted spirits. The "Methodistica" collection in the room also contains a bust of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, and numerous documentary materials pertaining to church figures and church history, including those of Bishop William F. Mc-

Murry, president of Central College from 1924 to 1930 and for whom a student residence hall was named.

Displayed prominently in the second room are two of the museum's most historically significant items: the original tombstones of Daniel Boone and his wife, Rebecca.<sup>2</sup> The two markers, given to the college in the late 1800s by descendants of Daniel Boone, are a footstone bearing only the name "Daniel Boon" in capital letters with the "n" inverted, and a headstone reading "Rebecca Boon" with the same spelling. Rebecca died in 1813 and Daniel in 1820. The two markers were reportedly picked up by two descendants who were present in 1845 when the bones of the two Boones were exhumed and reinterred in Frankfort, Kentucky. Debate continues today over whether or not the bones taken to Kentucky were those of Daniel Boone or a stranger who died while visiting Boone some years back.

"There is also a comprehensive mid-nineteenth-century tool collection that is significant," notes Dr. Robert Wieggers, a CMU professor of history. "It includes metal tools, woodworking tools, files, rasps and numerous other tools of the period." Wieggers points out that the museum also has a good assortment of Civil War and World War I memorabilia and weapons and a large selection of Native American artifacts, as well as artifacts from African tribes. "It's a treasure trove," he adds.

In addition to Civil War- and World War I-era military weapons, other historic firearms include the Dreyse needle-gun (German *Zündnadelgewehr*, which translates roughly as "needle ignition rifle"). It was a military breechloading rifle, famous as the main infantry weapon of the Prussians, who accepted it for service in 1841 as the "*leichtes Perkussionsgewehr Model 1841*" ("light percussion rifle Model 1841"), with the name chosen to hide the revolutionary nature of the new weapon.

Other unusual and highly valued items include five paint-



**In the "social history" room numerous artifacts from the Civil War, WWI, and other historical periods are on display in cases and on the walls. These include items related to the history of the Methodist Church.**





**A third room contains a mounted musk ox from the Northwest Territories, Alaskan wolves, domestic species such as the American bobcat, and numerous animals from Africa.** Photos by Don Cullimore

brushes that were owned by 19th century artist George Caleb Bingham, who grew up in the Boonslick Region. Samplers, weaving utensils, folk paintings, early photographs, arrowheads, pottery and numerous other pieces also document the cultural history of the Boonslick Region of central Missouri, an area in which the town of Fayette and Howard County played such an important part in the opening of the Santa Fe Trail trade and westward migration of settlers in the 19th century.

A recent addition to the museum's collections is a large collection of mammal specimens of animals – including many exotic species – from all over the world that has been donated by Dr. Jack Stephens of Idaho, a veterinarian and big game hunter. Among the animals in the collection are a musk ox from the Northwest Territories, Alaskan wolves, numerous animals from Africa, and domestic species such as the American bobcat. Morris and Elliott say that the Stephens collection is one of the most significant collections of mounted specimens in the Midwest.

### Priorities and Goals for the Museum

Morris says she has a number of priorities and goals for the museum. “We just received a Conservation and Assessment grant from Heritage Preservation that will allow us to hire an assessor to provide guidance on how to best conserve and protect our collections,” she adds. “Another priority includes increasing the interpretive value of the museum. The collection contains so many unique and fabulous items but without sig-

nage to inform visitors, much of that information does not get conveyed. Student assistants have been researching taxonomic names and updating labels and we’re starting to create additional signs and displays that will help visitors get the most out of their visit. We’ve also added a flatscreen TV with an informative slideshow about some of the species in the natural history collection.” Another goal of Morris’ is to find alternatives to the use of naphthalene pesticides to protect mounted specimens in the museum.

School groups from mid-Missouri regularly schedule tours or programs throughout the year. More than 120 public school students have toured the museum since August 2013. The museum receives an average of 1,000 visitors per year.

“With no other natural history museum, nature center, or zoo in the area,” Morris says, “the Stephens Museum provides a unique opportunity for visitors young and old to visualize the wealth of biodiversity in the state. The unique collection of full body mounts of birds and mammals makes it a popular attraction for school groups and campus tours. And work-study students gain experience in hosting visitors, guiding tours, and creating interpretive displays.”

### Brief History of Stephens Museum

Dr. Dana Morris and her husband, Dr. Paul Perneluzi, both teach biology at CMU. Morris became curator of the Stephens Museum in 2012 upon the retirement of Dr. Dan Elliott, who was a professor of biology, as well as a teacher of physiology, anatomy, geology, invertebrate zoology and other areas of science. He was appointed curator of the Stephens Museum in July 1998. He succeeded Thomas L. Yancey, CMU professor emeritus of music and art history, who guided the museum from 1978 to 1998. Key figures involved with the museum prior to that were Dr. Farris H. Woods, professor emeritus of biology, who served as curator until his death in 1978, and Dr. Kenneth P. Stephens, head of the college’s biology department in the 1930s, who

The mission of the Stephens Museum is to attract and serve



**Among the numerous fossils in the Stephens Museum collections are this 350-thousand-year-old starfish and dinosaur footprints.**

the general public and the CMU community. This is accomplished by promoting the study, understanding and enjoyment of nature, science and human culture. An equally important role for the museum is to provide opportunities for students to learn and train in museum technologies and to practice the principles of being a museum curator. Morris also notes that the museum will be hosting biodiversity awareness programs and marking the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon in September 2014.

The Stephens Museum originated in 1885 when Lawrence V. (Lon) Stephens, governor of Missouri from 1897 to 1901, gave Central College \$5,000, which was used to buy the brick residence in which the Museum was originally housed; it was also used as a teaching area for science students. When T. Berry Smith Hall, originally called Science Hall, was built in 1896, the museum was relocated there and has remained within the building since.

The museum initially consisted of a small collection of miscellaneous biological materials and a few minerals. The items were used in teaching natural history and geology. At the turn of the century, a collection of mineral and fossils was acquired from the Scarritt Bible and Training School in Kansas City and given the name Kilpatrick Memorial Collection. Some of the specimens currently in the museum were given to the college as far back as 1870.

Over the years, alumni and friends of the college have contributed many items, including memorabilia from Methodist ministers and foreign missionaries. Shortly after Gordon Alexander enrolled in Central in 1919, the college acquired from him an extensive collection of birds' nests and eggs he'd gathered as an amateur collector. He continued to add to the collection while he attended school at Central. Later he became head of the Department of Biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

About the same time, another student active in natural history studies at the Central, J. Clark Salyer, who later became director of the federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, began contributing his natural history collection to the college. Other contributors to the Stephens collection before World War II included Wayne Short, prominent in the Missouri Ornithological Society and founder (in St. Louis) of the first chapter of the National Audubon Society. He was able to make arrangements with the St. Louis Zoological Society to acquire birds from the zoo following their death. The birds were prepared by a taxidermist and given to the museum. In 1957, fifty valuable birds were given to the museum by the Rev. Howard Hardeman, whose father, an amateur taxidermist, had collected them over the years.

The museum's mineral and geological collection was supplemented by a collection owned by William B. Spayde, which his son, Webster Spayde, and grandson, Luther T. Spayde, gave to the college. Luther Spayde served as a professor of music and later as dean of the Swinney Conservatory of Music at

CMC from 1930 to 1972. Other contributions of museum items came from Dr. Edward W. Meiners of St. Louis, who donated an extensive insect collection, together with his collection of land snails. Dr. Max A. Nickerson, who graduated from CMU in 1960 and later became a well-known herpetologist and director of interpretation with the Florida Museum of Natural History, gave the museum a large number of reptilian specimens. Numerous items have come from many other friends and students of Central over the past years, but there is insufficient space to list all of them here.

## NOTES

1. The starfish (new species and genus) is on display in The Stephens Museum. The starfish was named and described in an extensive article in *The Journal of Paleontology* written by Dan Blake, retired professor of Paleontology and museum curator at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, and Dr. Elliott. There is a copy of the article in the museum near the display case that holds the fossil and associated fossils from the site. This particular article redescribes two other genera of fossil starfish and named one new family of fossil starfish. All of these starfish are related and are of about the same geologic age. The starfish fossil was also described in another article to be written by Dr. Elliott in the "Transactions of the Missouri Academy of Science." The article describes the presence of sponge spicules within the body cavity where the stomach is located. The presence of these sponge spicules indicated the last meal the starfish ate was a sponge. This is the only fossil evidence, to date, of a starfish eating a sponge. However, today there are many starfish that regularly consume sponges, in spite of their indigestible spicules. The Stephens Museum starfish is under lighted magnification so these sponge spicules can be seen by visitors. In addition, there are small pieces of limestone with abundant sponge spicules present. The spicules are commonly found fossilized, but whole starfish are rare.

2. There has been some discussion among historians as to the origin of the Boone tombstones and regarding the spelling of the Boone name on the stones, which was presented without a "E" at the end and with a reversed "N." At the 1845 disinterment of Daniel and Rebecca Boones' remains, the grave markers are reported to have been picked up by two descendants who were present at the ceremony—Dr. Samuel H. Jones (great grandson, 1837-1898) and Marion McKinney (great-great nephew on Rebecca's side, 1822-1904). Dr. Jones' daughter, Caroline (1866-1889) was enrolled at Howard Payne College in 1889, the year of her death. Marion McKinney and his family lived in Fayette at the time of his death. According to a St. Louis newspaper article from 1888, one marker had already been donated to the Stephens Museum and another was still held by Dr. Jones. ♦



## The Popcorn Wagon and the Two-Toed Sloth

By H. Denny Davis and Jim Steele

How many Boonslick Historical Society members recall the popcorn wagon at the northeast corner of Main and Davis Streets on the Fayette town square? Generations of Fayette High School students, Central College students, and Howard-Payne College students bought nickel bags of popcorn for their dates on the way to or from the movies — it was a rite of courtship.

The wagon had begun life as a horse-drawn hearse and boasted beveled crystal windows, polished flower vases, gas lamps and ornate carving. On its big wooden chocks it was something of a landmark downtown. To many townspeople it was as immovable as the courthouse.

And yet, if you had been standing in front of the Christian Church late one autumn night in 1944, you would be surprised to see the popcorn wagon proceeding up Church Street, not drawn by horses or motive power, but pushed and tugged at by a group of young men. From their witty repartee and fashionable attire, you would have known them to be members of the academic community.

Of course, I had nothing to do with this. I just happened to be standing in front of the Christian Church. At least I think that's the way it was. This was in 1944. One cannot be expected to remember every detail (it was the 17th Sunday after Trinity).

In my college freshman innocence, I imagined these students had purchased the popcorn wagon and were on their way to donate it to the Stephens Museum. So I paused to greet these jolly fellows.

At that moment two sound tracks assailed our ears. One guy yelled, "Look out, here he comes!" Simultaneously, far down Spring Street, we heard the squeal of World War II retreads rounding a corner, and the muffled roar of a 1936 Dodge being floor-boarded in second gear. I looked around

and my friends were gone. (Had Coach George Kline such sprinters...) Moved by some atavistic response, I climbed a tree. It had thorns. I climbed just high enough to get inside the foliage, and hung with my arms and legs around a limb, upside down, like a two-toed sloth.

The Dodge stopped. Henry Goodwin, owner of the popcorn wagon, sprung out, "Those bleep-bleep college boys," he muttered, and other things equally ungenerous, considering all the popcorn we'd bought, over the years. His head swiveling in all directions, looking for culprits, he walked toward the tree.

A nickel-plated revolver was in his hand. He held it upright, his elbow close to his rib, like a starter at a track meet (appropriately enough). The muzzle pointed straight up. He stopped under the tree. The muzzle was about 4 inches from my — from the part of the sloth that hangs the lowest. I held my breath.

At that moment a forgiving God caused a breeze to spring up. The popcorn wagon slowly began to roll downhill, toward the square. Mr. Goodwin forgot about college boys and dashed to his wagon, grabbed it, and attached it to the back of the Dodge. He towed it to safety. I landed running.

I cannot remember the names of the boys

who were involved. As long as their names continue to appear in the lists of substantial contributors to Central (CMU), memory will continue to fail me. If any name fails to appear one year, that may jog my memory and readers of this newspaper will be informed.

**The foregoing was written back in 1979** as the remembrance of Fayette native H. Denny Davis who, at the time, owned a printing business on East Morrison just off the town square. The tongue-in-cheek account was penned about a year after Davis had retired from a distinguished career as a



**This is the only known photo of the popcorn wagon as co-eds pause to purchase refreshments on the Fayette square, probably in the late teens or early 1920s. Currently, well-known Howard County artists Joe and Peggy Guest are working on a project to build a replica of the wagon for use in local festivals and special events. Photo courtesy Jim Steele**



Latin American bureau chief for United Press International. Later he was editor-publisher of the Fayette newspapers, from 1984 to 2000, and died on December 31, 2006. The following story was written by Fayette resident Jim Steele, who is a 1964 graduate of CMU.

### The Rest of the Story...

But now the mystery: Whatever happened to the popcorn wagon? Robert Bateman, brother-in-law of Henry Goodwin, told Davis he could not recall. Orville Hawkins, who had business interests on North Main for many years, remembered "the popcorn wagon was there when I came to Fayette 55 years ago. It belonged to a Mr. Hoff, who sold it to Henry Goodwin," Davis wrote after questioning Hawkins.

Denny Davis went on to note that several persons had recalled the wagon was in business until sometime after World War II. Mr. Goodwin reportedly went to work full time for the Ralph A. Carr Funeral Home. The wagon remained in storage for about two years, some say, and was sold. Mr. Goodwin died February 4, 1971.

Even today, a few older residents recall that the former hearse had dispensed popcorn, peanuts and fudge for many years at the corner of Main and West Davis where Inovatia Laboratories is located today. It was something of a rite of courtship for couples, both students and townspeople, to patronize the wagon in warmer weather, especially while going to or from the movies. According to some accounts, Goodwin also sold his refreshments from the basement of Dimmitt's Department Store in the winter months (below the current Inovatia offices). At that time there were stairs leading off the Main Street side of the building.

Goodwin eventually sold the wagon to a Billie Shields, probably in the early 1950s. According to Roger Daniels, Shields simply parked the wagon behind his home on South Cleveland where it was allowed to decay. He never actually used it. Shields may have purchased the wagon simply to obtain the little mechanical man inside the wagon who kept the popcorn and butter stirred. Apparently the little man was somehow or another powered by steam "It was fascinating to watch," Daniels recalls.

Fayette native Jim Rich, who had resided for many years in Columbia until his death early in 2013, wrote the following in an e-mail to Jim Steele several years ago: "While I was finishing school at Central after I got out of the service (I think it may have been in 1954 or '55), I was quail hunting one day and saw the old popcorn wagon in a ravine. I remember thinking that it was too bad it had been dumped because I remember buying popcorn from Mr. Goodwin. However, I cannot remember where I was hunting.

"Mr. Goodwin lived on North Howard Street next door to where Dr. William Bloom lived. He would store the wagon in the garage-barn behind that house. Then, during the

winter, Goodwin would move it into the basement of Dimmitt's. He still had popcorn there in the basement and also made and sold candy. The entry to his store was the steps leading to the basement on the Main Street side, with an iron railing around them."

Currently the Fayette Area Heritage Association (FAHA) is working with artist Peggy Guest and her husband, Joe, in an effort to build a replica of the popcorn wagon.

*BHS member Jim Steele is chairman of the Fayette Historic Preservation Commission and a journalism adjunct professor at Central Methodist University. He was editor-publisher of the Fayette Advertiser and Democrat-Leader from 2000 to 2011. ♦*

## Events Calendar

**Battle of Centralia Reenactment** to commemorate the 150th anniversary along with the Mount Zion Battle, September 13-14.

It will take place on the historic battlefield site three miles southeast of Centralia. Both of the famous battles will be reenacted each day. Spectators will be able to visit the soldier and civilian camps and sutlers and learn how they lived during the Civil War days. Infantry, artillery and medical corps will perform demonstrations daily. For more information, call 573-682-5511 or email [centraliabattlefield@yahoo.com](mailto:centraliabattlefield@yahoo.com).

**Show me the Fair:** Souvenirs and Remembrances of the 1904 World's Fair," 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday, March 1 - August 30, 2014

The Elizabeth Rozier Gallery is showcasing selections of the Missouri State Museum's extensive collection of St. Louis World's Fair memorabilia. Come to the gallery for a fun look at the trinkets, toys and tales that survived the fleeting existence of the fair.

For seven months, April 30 to November 30, 1904, the Show-Me state showed off. Travelers visited St. Louis to marvel at innovations and inventions from around the world. To remember their trip to the 1,200-acre fair, visitors bought and brought home all manner of keepsakes.

This exhibit will highlight photographs, quotes and mementos that capture the feeling of the fair. Come see some of the spectacle that was the 1904 World's Fair.

Elizabeth Rozier Gallery, Jefferson Landing State Historic Site, 101 Jefferson St., Jefferson City

To learn more about the Boonslick Historical Society, go to our website at:

**[www.boonslickhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.boonslickhistoricalsociety.org)**

## Todd Baslee Guest Speaker at Boonslick Historical Society Spring Meeting *April 11 at Historic Zuzak Building in Boonville*

NEW FRANKLIN RESIDENT TODD BASLEE, AN AUTHORITY ON the history of the M-K-T Railroad and the iconic "KATY" Railroad Bridge across the Missouri River at Boonville, will be the featured speaker April 11 at the Boonslick Historical Society (BHS) spring meeting in Boonville.



The title of Baslee's presentation will be the "M-K-T Crossing the Missouri River at Boonville." The BHS fall meeting will be held at the historic Zuzak Building, 311-313 Main St., Boonville. It begins at 7 p.m. The general public is invited to attend the meeting. There is no fee. For more information, contact Cindy Bowen at 660-273-2374 or by email at [gbowen@socket.net](mailto:gbowen@socket.net)

A native of Boonville, Baslee and his family now live in New Franklin in the house that his grandfather built. "During the time he was building this home he was working for the M-K-T Railroad. This is how I became interested in the KATY Railroad," Baslee said. "I have studied the KATY for over twenty-five years and continue to collect items that are of mostly local interest."

The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Bridge (often called the "KATY Bridge" from MKT) is a former rail bridge across the Missouri River at Boonville, Missouri, where it connects Howard and Cooper counties. In 2010, after a successful campaign by the Save the KATY Bridge Coalition, the bridge was acquired by the city of Boonville from the Union Pacific Railroad. The city plans to incorporate it into the 225-mile Katy Trail bicycle trail.

The bridge was built in 1931-32 as MKT Bridge No. 191.1 by the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad to replace an 1873 MKT structure. It has four trusses over the water and

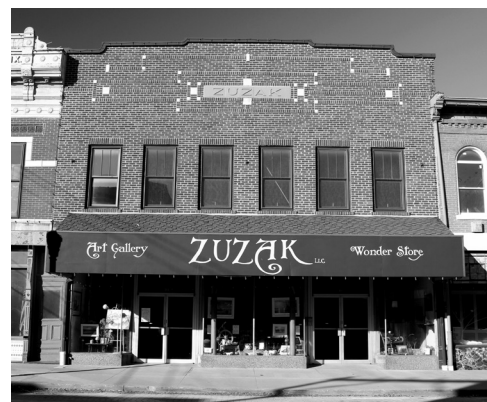
a vertical lift in the middle, and was constructed by Kansas City Bridge Company (substructure), American Bridge Company (superstructure), and General Electric Company (electric installation).

The rail line served by the bridge was acquired by Union Pacific Railroad, which later announced plans to abandon the line. In 1987, bicycle enthusiasts worked out an agreement to take use of the line for a rail trail administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and stretching from St. Charles to Clinton. The agreement stipulated that the trail would be operated as a railbank and according to the desires of the railroad.

Herman Zuzak opened Zuzak's Wonder Store on Main Street in Boonville early in the twentieth century, selling everything from "5- & 10-cent curiosities" to home furnishings. The "dime store" idea caught on and the building housed a Woolworths for the next 40 years. One of Sam Walton's Ben Franklin stores followed, as his idea of a mega-dime store matured into an even larger reality.

In the 1970-80s, the building housed a men's and women's fashion shop. Later it was a used-furniture store, then from 2000 thru 2004 a home décor and gift store. And then, some 90 years after Zuzak first filled his store with wonders, it reopened in 2010 as Zuzak Art Gallery and Wonder Store.

The Boonslick Historical Society was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Society members have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. The Society supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hannah Cole's Fort and restored a George Caleb Bingham painting on loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art, Central Methodist University, Fayette, Mo. ♦



**Historic KATY Railroad bridge and the Zuzak building in Boonville.** Photos by Don Cullimore and Brett Rogers



**J. Melton Turner: An American Hero** by Mary Collins Barile. Illustrated by Peggy A. Guest. (Eureka, MO: Monograph Publishing, 2013). 50 pp. Table of Contents. Preface. Illustrations. Maps. Glossary. Questions Section. \$24.95, Cloth.

The book is based upon the book, *James Milton Turner and the Promise of America: The public Life of a Post-Civil War Black Leader* (Missouri Biography series), by Dr. Gary Kremer. It is written for young students and designed so that teachers can use it as a teaching tool in American History studies. Author Mary Collins Barile attended Hofstra University, majoring in literature and music. She earned her Ph.D. in Theatre History at the University of Missouri-Columbia and works there as a grant writer. The author of several books, Barile has written about food, ghosts, cookbooks and history. She teaches at the State Fair Community College in Boonville.

It is amply illustrated throughout by Fayette artist and illustrator Peggy Guest, who is also well-known in the Boonslick Region for her large-scale murals painted on buildings in Boonville, Fayette and in the Howard County Circuit Courtroom and public library. Guest is a graduate of Park College in Parkville, with additional undergraduate studies in fine art at the University of Missouri and the Kansas City Art Institute.

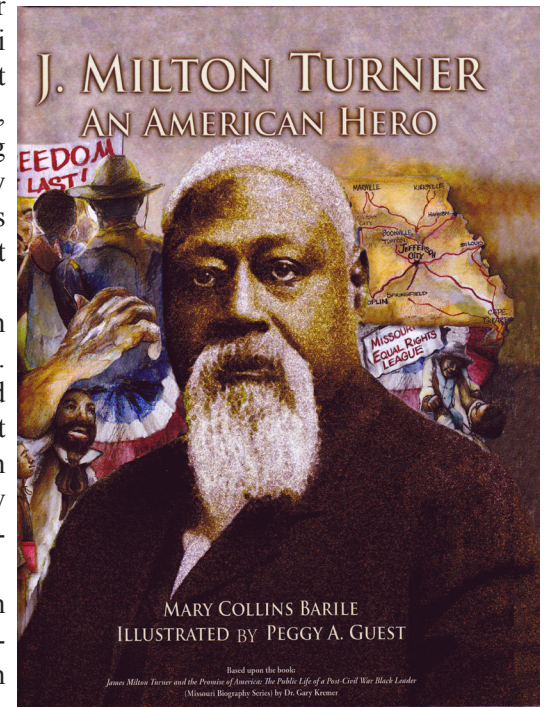
Born into slavery in St. Louis County in either 1839 or 1840, James Milton Turner and his mother, Hannah, were freed in 1843. His father, John Turner, was a free black who shoed horses. During the late 1840s and early 1850s, young James was educated in secret schools in the St. Louis area. An 1847 Missouri law prohibited teaching blacks. After attending Oberlin College in Ohio, Turner returned to St. Louis in the late 1850s. He worked as a porter until the Civil War began. During the conflict, he acted as a body servant for Madison Miller, a Union colonel.

Turner quickly gained prominence as a black politician after the war ended, becoming known for his speaking abil-

ity. He became involved in numerous activities to advance the rights of African Americans in Missouri and the nation. He worked for the Missouri Department of Education, establishing over thirty new schools throughout the state for African Americans. He also helped gain support for Lincoln Institute (now Lincoln University).

"J. Milton Turner, a towering figure in advancing human rights, is an inspirational story for all people," Barile says." In order to tell his story, we have used nineteenth-century documents such as letters and government dispatches, newspaper interviews and journals. But throughout this story we have also created some dialogue so the young reader has a stronger sense of Turner's personal experiences.

"We refer to Turner throughout the book as James or J. Milton. When Turner was born, slaves were commonly called by their first name. As an adult he referred to himself as J. Milton Turner. "At the end of the book we have included questions for readers meant to encourage additional learning and discussions about James Milton Turner and the time in which he lived."



**History and Families of Howard County, Missouri: 'The Mother of Counties'** by Members of the Howard County Genealogical Society (Fayette, MO: Howard County Genealogical Society, 2012). 271 pp. Table of Contents. Foreword. Illustrations. Maps. Foot Notes, \$12. (Available only as a CD from the Howard County Library, 201 S. Main Street, Fayette, MO 65248,

The forward is by Harold H. Kerr II, editor of the publication. There are sections on the formation of the Howard County Genealogical Society, the history of Howard County and of the Town of Fayette and Burton Village. A chapter entitled "Some of the Nation Builders" detailed the stories of some of the original settlers to come into what we now call

the "Boonslick Region" after the War of 1812. This includes what was to become the original Howard County, established in 1816, that covered nearly a third of the central and northwest area of what was to become the state of Missouri in 1821, hence the identification of Howard County as "The Mother of Counties" after the original area was broken in to more than thirty Missouri counties. Prominent among these early family names were Finnell, Green, Harvey, Markland and Walkup. The book also details the genealogical history of more than fifty additional families who settled in Howard County, many of which still have descendants living in the county today. For anyone interested in the history of Howard County, this book will prove a valuable resource.

**Boonslick Historical Society**

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**One-hundred-eighteen-year-old T. Berry Smith Hall, a blend of Italianate and Victorian architecture, houses the Stephens Museum on the Central Methodist University campus in Fayette. *Photo courtesy of CMU***