

BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY



While home on leave in November 1944, a Fayette GI sells war bonds on the Fayette Courthouse steps during a rally for the Fifth War Loan Drive. Photo courtesy of Jim Steele

HOWARD COUNTY RESIDENTS RECALL CHALLENGES DURING WWII CHRISTMAS SEASONS

KIT CARSON: FROM MISSOURI TO THE WILD WEST

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

VOL. 18 No. 4 — WINTER 2019
BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL

Wartime Memories and Famous Men from the Boonslick

WRITER SYLVIA FORBES EVOKES MEMORIES OF COMMUNITY spirit and challenges of short supplies in Fayette and Howard County during World War II Christmas holidays (page 4). An earlier version of this article first appeared in the Fayette newspapers in 2004, but the sentiments and memories – both painful and happy – expressed by residents then still hold true as we go through the Christmas of 2019 and prepare for a new year in which the United States still has military troops stationed in war zones in far-off places around the globe.

My wife, Carlene, born in May of 1944, one month after the death of her father, Flight Lt. Carl Magnus Carlson, a navigator/bombardier, whose B-24 was shot down over Wiesbaden, Germany, was too young to have memories from the war years. But she clearly remembers being handed around to family members during her father's funeral services two years later after his remains were returned from Europe and he was buried with full military honors in Salt Lake City. That is a painful memory with no end date—one that is shared by many residents of Fayette and other Missouri communities who lost loved ones during the war.

But there were also more positive memories of those holidays shared by local residents and reported here by Sylvia. My positive wartime Christmas memories include those of the Cullimore family erecting Christmas trees on the evening of December 24 each year. My father, Don G., was an editor with the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, responsible for preparing coverage on the European Theater of the war. Thus, the family always had first-hand knowledge of how the war was progressing. In 1944, Dad purchased a large, 1870s brick Queen Anne Victorian house

in the St. Louis suburb of Webster Groves. Its 11-foot-high ceilings offered a challenge—finding Christmas trees tall enough to fill the rounded corner tower off the formal living room. It was a family adventure to select the appropriate tree and then to spend an evening decorating it.

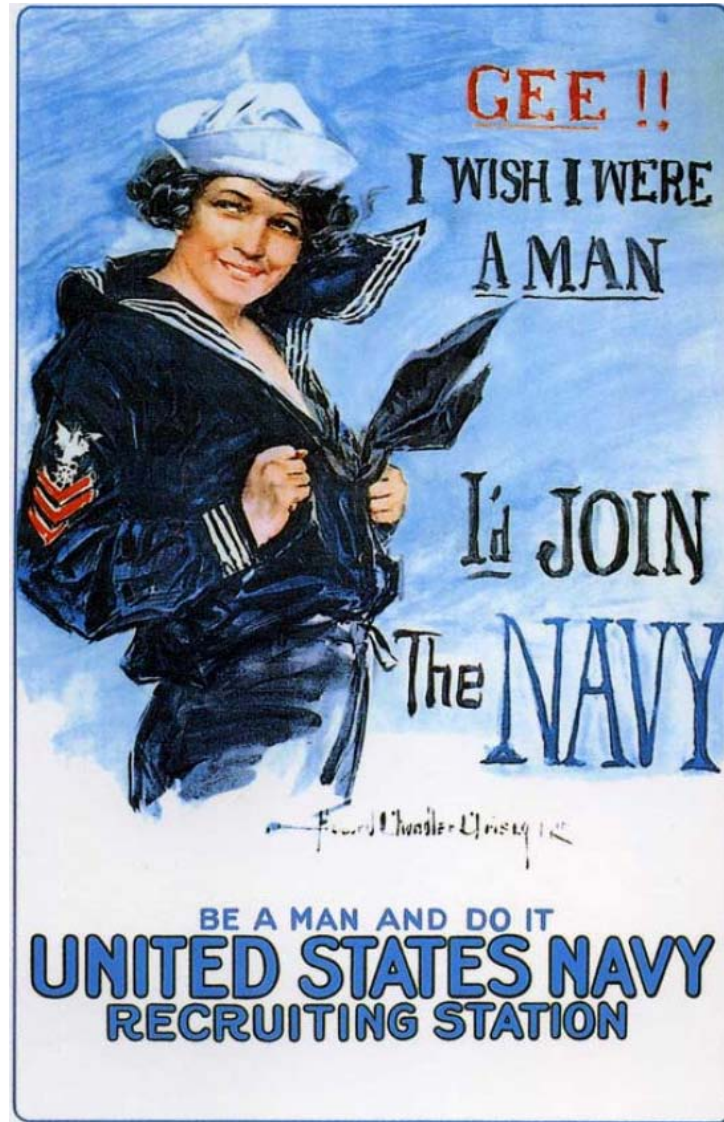
Freelance writer Tim Carson has a passion for researching the history of his famous relative Christopher “Kit” Carson, who would be classified as Tim’s seventh cousin (page 10). Kit Carson had close ties to the Boonslick Country, having spent part of his youth in old Franklin before his sense of high adventure and wanderlust lured him to the Wild West and a storybook life as a mountain man, buffalo hunter, Indian fighter, U.S. Army scout, and, ultimately, an Indian agent for the U.S. government. His daughter, Adeline, by his first wife, the beautiful Arapaho girl named Singing Grass, was brought back to Fayette in the 1840s to attend Howard Female Seminary (later, Howard Female College, Howard-Payne, then Central College, now CMU).

We close this issue with news briefs (page 14) that include notice of two BHS members who died this year and the gift of a genealogical report on a significant Boonslick family that is tied to the opening of the Santa Fe Trail.

And we offer our traditional seasonal wishes for

joyous holidays and “Peace on earth, among people good will.” That expression is from Erasmus’ text, which is the established Greek Orthodox text, the *Receptus*: In Christianity, the *Textus Receptus* (Latin: “received text”) is an edition of the Greek texts of the New Testament established by Erasmus in the 16th century.

—Don B. 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: 660-888-3429. 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 on 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 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.

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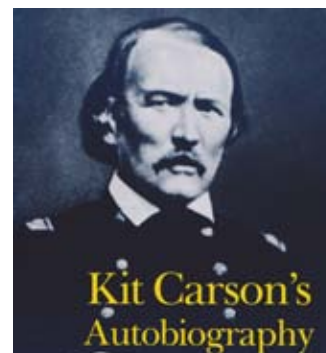
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BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY

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WWII poster art
courtesy of Google
Images

Howard County Residents Recall Christmas During World War II

by Sylvia Forbes

Editor's note: In December 2002, Sylvia Forbes, guest writer to the Fayette Advertiser and Democrat-Leader, wrote an in-depth account of Christmas in Howard County during World War II as recalled by local residents. Some of the interviewees are no longer living. The article is reprinted here in honor of those who have passed away and those who serve now in the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Special thanks to Jim Steele, former publisher and editor of the Fayette newspapers, and Sylvia Forbes, for granting permission to publish this article in the Quarterly.

During World War II, in the early- to mid-1940s, Christmas was not as happy a time for some—with loved ones away from home fighting the war. Many in the county had to live with less because of shortages of supplies, but most people still carried the holiday spirit.

Decorating the Square

Estelle Miller was gone from Fayette from 1941 through 1956, but she remembered coming back to visit at Christmas. Ropes of greenery were draped over the street from light pole to light pole.

Local Shopping

Glen and Betty Collier recalled that Christmas was much less commercial than it is today. Shop owners put out their Christmas merchandise just a couple of weeks before Christmas, rather than before Halloween, as they do now. Thanksgiving wasn't a skipped-over holiday. People hung up Thanksgiving decorations—turkeys, pilgrims, Indians.

Melba Fleck, who lived in the Armstrong area at the time, recalls her community had more than one grocery store and a drugstore.

People shopped locally in Armstrong, she said, but if they wanted more variety, they usually didn't drive farther than Fayette to shop.

Window Displays

Fayette shop owners decorated their windows with special displays for Christmas. Estelle remembered that Clatworthy's always had pretty windows. Denny Davis noted that the stores had window decorating contests. One year, Charles H. Lee Clothier had a display of a tuxedo jacket and bow tie on a mannequin. It won the window decorating contest, partly for the striking black-and-white display and partly because most people had not seen a tuxedo in several years.

Freelance writer Sylvia Forbes, a longtime resident of Fayette, now resides in Round Rock, Texas. Members of her family have lived in Missouri and the Boonslick Country since the 1820s.

Many Groceries

Estelle described a bustling square filled with businesses in the early 1940s. There was a Kroger grocery store where the IGA later was. Next door was a Temple Stephens grocery store. Poole & Creber was located on the courthouse square.

Skillman's was a grocery store located where the city hall parking lot is now. Mr. Lemon also had a grocery store, located where the laundromat is on the corner of the west side of the square. On the north side, Estes had a grocery store in the building next to the corner (in part of the space that Inovatia Labs occupies today). The other part of the space was occupied by Dimmit's. Mr. Daniels had a small neighborhood grocery store on Highway 5, just north of the [now vacant] Central Missouri Used Car lot. Mr. Pattison had another small neighborhood grocery store on Church Street, next to where Taylor Foodmart used to be. Ben and Dora Roberts had a grocery store located one block east of Highway 5.

Wide Variety of Stores

In the downtown area, there were two men's clothing stores, one



Birkheimer's Pharmacy and variety store, circa 1944, was a popular business on the south side of the Courthouse Square. Photo courtesy of Jim Steele

shoe store, one furniture store, a Western Auto, three barbershops, the movie theater, a hotel, a hardware store, a jewelry store and Mrs. Clifford's restaurant (next to Alsop's). Lee Hospital was located on the second floor of the north side of the square, a Skelly station (where Merchant & Farmer's Bank is now), a Conoco station (where Sam's Healthmart is now), two lumber yards (La-Crosse and Fayette Lumber), a Standard Gas station, three pharmacies, Clatworthy's and Ayres Dry Goods.

Bill Ayres was 6 years old at the time and remembers Christ-



Many of the young men attending Central College (now CMU) during the war participated in military training programs such as the V-12 Navy program. Photo courtesy of Jim Steele

mas was the busiest time of year at his father's store. The whole family pitched in to help. Merchandise was difficult to acquire due to shortages of so many items. It was almost impossible for men to find hose to buy for their wives. Almost anything you could want (except men's suits) could be found at Ayres, which had 26 departments. They carried shoes, purses, dresses, fabric, and many other items. Ayres was a relatively new store at the time, having been started in 1936.

Jim Clatworthy's father, running Clatworthy's clothing store, had to take a bus to both Kansas City and St. Louis to buy clothes for the store. Because of gas rationing, he couldn't drive himself.

When people paid for their purchases, they paid the sales tax with little red tokens called mils, which were equivalent to 1/10 of one cent, Jim said.

Shortages

Metal was a critical item during the war. Melba Fleck remembers that a person couldn't buy a tube of toothpaste at the drugstore unless he or she turned in the old, used tube. Bath towels were in short supply and it was a long wait to get them.

Jimmie Ann Yaeger was one of many rural people who drove to Fayette on Saturday night to buy groceries and to visit. It was hard to think of something you couldn't buy in Fayette, since it had such a variety of stores, Jimmie recalled.

But because of the war, a large number of items were out of stock. Denny Davis remembered that even plain white shirts were difficult to obtain. Dr. Donald Benson recalled it was hard to get good soap, since most of the name brands were always out of stock.

Bob Wilhoit remembered that it was difficult to find wrapping paper for presents. Toilet tissue was also hard to find. If you received a Christmas present that was wrapped in tissue, that tissue was saved and later used in the bathroom.

Everyone in the area did their shopping in Fayette — because of the variety, and also because rationing of gasoline and tires made it difficult to go anywhere else.

Prices

Looking back, items sound like an incredible bargain. But the U.S. was just coming out of the Great Depression and few people in Howard County had large bank accounts.

The minimum wage at the time was 35 cents per hour, and a driver's license cost 25 cents. Coke and Pepsi were 5 cents. A full meal at McMillan's Cafe was 25 cents. The cafe operated seven days a week, including Christmas day.

Joe McClammer remembered that Paul's Sandwich Shop, located across from the post office, sold hamburgers for 5 cents each.

Rationing

Since so much of the nation's industrial capacity was being used in the war effort, many items were in short supply. A rationing system was in place and was administered through the powerful Office of Price Administration (OPA).

Catherine McClammer and Evelyn Bagby were two of the people who worked on the OPA rationing board. The office was located on the second floor of city hall.

When rationing was first started, people had to sign up, and parents had to bring in their children to prove the number of people in the family. The number of ration stamps received depended on the size of the family. Sign-ups were at local schools, the courthouse and at the OPA rationing board office in city hall.

Some of the rationed items included gas, sugar, shoes, tires, butter and oil, canned and processed foods, cigarettes, fuel oil and several other items. The rationing board issued stamps and coupons for these. They were often messy.

The "A" ration sticker for gas was 3 gallons per month. If people needed extra gas, they had to go before the rationing board and prove they were doing critical work to receive a "B" or a "C" sticker. Kenneth Street remarked that it wasn't a fun time for teenagers to learn to drive because gas and tires were in short supply. The wartime speed limit was 35 mph.

People who used their vehicle regularly as part of their business had to apply for extra stamps.

Liz Brown remembers the stamps for shoe rationing. People



A Fayette family (identity unknown) poses for the obligatory Christmas photo after opening presents on Christmas morning. Metal toys, such as these trains, were in scarce supply as most metal was being used for the war effort. Photo courtesy of Jim Steele

were allowed to buy two pairs of shoes a year. "They were saving the leather for the war," she noted.

Lois Johnmeyer recalled sugar rationing. She and her husband quit adding sugar to their tea during that time. Sugar ration stamps were good for five pounds of sugar, which had to last two months.

People would take the ration stamps to the store and had to give the clerk the specific stamp for the rationed item they wanted to buy. Once a person ran out of stamps, he or she couldn't buy any more of that item until after receiving the next set of stamps.

Denny Davis recalled there was never a panic in Fayette about rationing or not having enough to around. No outrageous abuses of system were reported here, he said.

Family Gatherings

Glen and Betty Collier remembered some families did not observe holiday traditions. Loved ones may have gone away to war and those left at home sometimes did not feel like celebrating.

Joe McClammer remembered that his two sisters came back to live with their family while their husbands were gone to the war.

James McMillan said that Christmas in 1944 was very depressing at his house. Three of his brothers were in the Army, and he was about to go.

Bertha Johnmeyer also remembered it being an unhappy time. Her older brother and first cousin went off to the war at the same time. She went with her father as he drove them to the train station to see them off. Her mother didn't go—she couldn't bear to see them leave. Bertha's husband, Raymond, was going to be in the next group. But ultimately he didn't have to go because he starting working at the TNT plant at Weldon Spring where Ted Forbes, Mary Louise Johnson, Maurice Long and Howard Johnson – all from Howard County – worked.

Evelyn Bagby had just gotten married in November of 1942. Her husband was already in the Air Force. Christmas was a lonesome time for her. All she got from her husband for Christmas was a letter (as was all many wives received). She had baked cookies and a cake and had sent it to her husband as a Christmas care package. But shipping and time took its toll, and by the time the cake and cookies arrived, they were inedible.

Holiday Cooking

One of the common activities for mothers and girls was holiday baking. Almost every home had special family recipes for cookies,

pies or cakes that were made for the holidays. With sugar rationing, baking of Christmas treats was severely limited in some families. Others adapted recipes and used Karo Syrup (which was not rationed) as the sweetener.

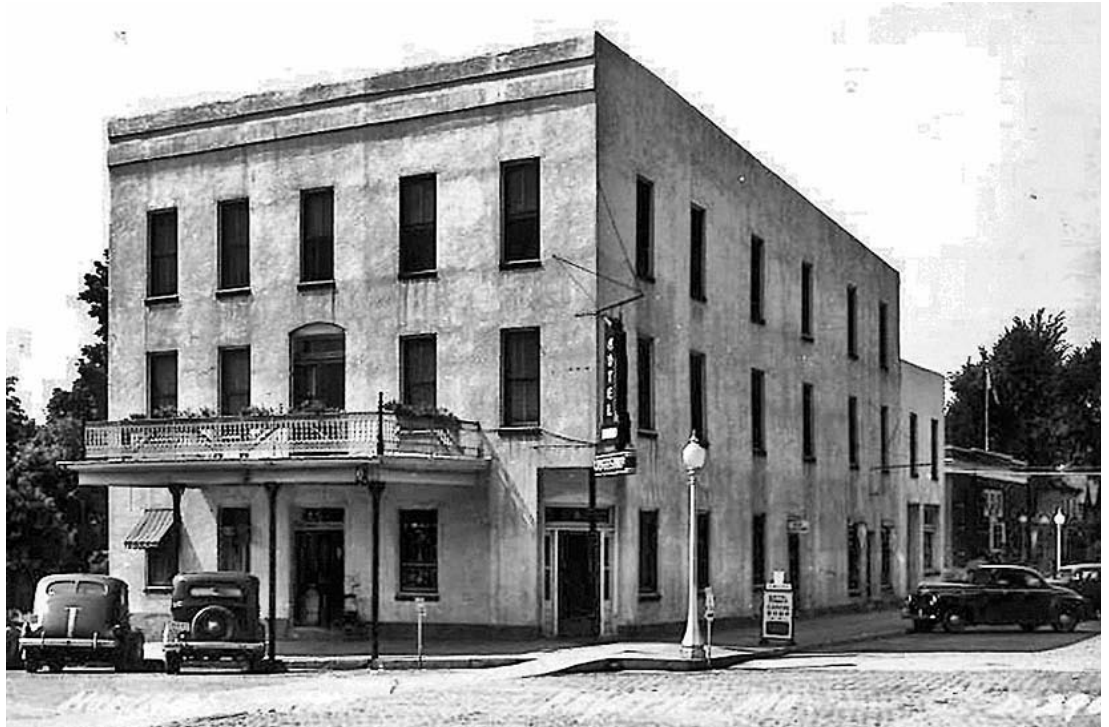
Many farm wives were able to apply for extra sugar ration stamps, if they could show that they raised their own fruit on the farm, and canned jams, jellies or preserves. This policy was made to encourage people to raise their own food.

One of the holiday traditions in Jimmie Ann Yaeger's family was having oyster stew and celery sticks at Christmas Eve supper. Celery sticks were a special treat, something you didn't get to eat every day. The traditional dessert was pumpkin pie. The meal was served on their best dishes.

Roy Werner enjoyed all the home-made candy, such as taffy, divinity and fudge.

Bertha Johnmeyer remembered a special dessert for Christmas was red Jell-o with real whipped cream on top. It's common today, but back then it was special — something you didn't have often. Her family usually went to her grandmother's for the Christmas meal where a goose was always served. Charlene Shipp's family, south of Boonesboro, also served goose for a special Christmas dinner.

Lois and Emil Johnmeyer always went to her mother's house



The hotel howard was a Fayette landmark for more than 150 years. Located on the southwest corner of the Courthouse Square, seen here as it appeared in the early 1940s. Photo courtesy of jim steele

for Christmas dinner. It was usually a chicken dinner, and the special holiday dessert was a custard.

Victory Gardens

Victory gardens were promoted by various government agencies. There was a huge emphasis on encouraging people to grow their own food to free up commercial canned goods for soldiers.

Charlene Shipp's family was typical of many rural families.

They raised much of their own food on the farm. This included geese, cattle, hogs, and other animals, and they had a big garden. The family not only canned vegetables, but also canned meat and made sausage. Meat rationing did not really impact their family, as they raised most of their own meat.

In the fall, they also collected walnuts, pecans and hickory nuts. To crack the nuts, they put the walnuts in a gunnysack and ran over them with their car.

It was common for people in the area to butcher a cow or hog and to keep it at the locker plant until they wanted to use some of it. J.L. Rowland owned the ice and coal plant on South Church Street. Because he had ice readily available, he also started a locker business at the same location.

Since meat was rationed, those that had to rely on rationed meat learned how to stretch it. Bread or cracker crumbs were added to hamburger meat.

Movie theater

The movie theater in Fayette showed movies every night of the week. Jimmie Ann Yaeger remembered that movies cost 10 cents during the war.

Roy Werner remembers newsreels about the war. These and

Roy Werner recalled that Sunday night in Fayette was “date night” and everyone dressed up in nice clothes to attend the movie.

Transportation

Roy Werner [also] recalled that due to gas and tire rationing, most people didn’t leave Fayette. People that had to travel took buses and trains. These were almost always overloaded.

Werner took a bus trip from Tampa, Florida, to Boonville during the war. The bus was so crowded he had to sit in the aisle until he reached St. Louis. Many others also sat in the aisles.

There was regular bus service from Fayette to New Franklin and Boonville for many years.

Melba Fleck remembered that even if you did drive somewhere, the speed limit on the highways was 35 miles per hour. You had to save up a long time for gas ration coupons to take a trip anywhere.

Most of the trains burned coal and had no air conditioning. Usually the windows were kept wide open and the soot would come in the windows covering everyone with grime. There were six trains a day through Fayette on the Katy line from Moberly to Franklin, three northbound and three southbound.

In those days, Moberly was more the shopping mecca than Columbia. A person could take the train to Moberly, shop and catch another train back the same day.

Doris Markland lived in Armstrong during the war. She remembers the frequent trains that “barreled on through” Armstrong carrying troops and armaments. New Franklin also had a lot of train traffic. According to Denny Davis, New Franklin was on the Katy’s north-south corridor from Chicago to Texas.

Tire Rationing

People were only allowed to buy one or two tires per year, if that. This may seem normal today, but at the time Fayette streets were mostly cinders or gravel, and most of the roads in the county were still gravel or dirt. Many county roads were impassible at Christmas and all winter, unless the ground was frozen solid. Tires were not the sturdy, steel-belted types we have today—they were thinner with tubes inside. People carried patch kits with them and had to use them often.

Just south of the old Hotel Howard (now the Exchange Bank location) was Mounter & Rawlins garage. They would recap tires by taking a piece of rubber and melting it onto the tire so that it would last a little longer.

Rationing was often frustrating. Gary Bagby noted that keeping track of the rationed tires and gas caused mountains of extra paperwork for the merchants. A 1944 ad by Carl Grigsby’s Service Station stated: “With the knowledge that the restrictions imposed upon our business, which at times were an inconvenience to both us and you, may help boys we all know weather the crisis on the



Chenoweth's Clothing and Shoe store, long a fixture among Fayette dry goods stores, anchored the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square. Photo by Don Cullimore

cartoons were shown before the main feature. Newsreels were one of the main sources of information about the war. War footage was not always accurate. Casualties were never shown and the U.S. was always depicted as winning all the battles.

Denny Davis worked at the theater during this time. On Friday and Saturday nights, Westerns were usually shown. On Sunday and Monday nights, musicals and movies were shown starring big names like Betty Grable, Nelson Eddy, Jeannette McDonald, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Ingrid Bergman and John Wayne.

battlefronts, we ask your continued cooperation for carrying out these regulations.”

Lois (Smith) Johnmeyer sold milk from her farm to Central Dairy in Columbia. She remembers that it was difficult to get extra tires for the trip.

Dr. Don Benson was living in Butler, Missouri, and recalled that in some areas people had problems with tires and gas being stolen. People had to get locking gas caps. Special locking lug nuts for wheels were also developed.

Draft Board

Men aged 21 to 35 were required to sign up for the draft board. They each received a number and were called to war by number.

Originally all farmers were deferred from the draft because of the need for food and fiber. But as the war continued, the draft was eventually lowered to age 18, and persons older than 35 were also taken. Eventually farmers were not automatically deferred, and had to have additional reasons for not being drafted.

War Families

To show that they had a son in the war, families displayed a rectangular piece of cloth with a blue star in the middle in their front windows. If their son was killed, the blue star was replaced with a gold star.

During the war years a large billboard was put up on the lawn of the courthouse which listed all the names of persons in the county who were serving in the war. A gold star was placed next to names of those who died.

In New Franklin a similar billboard was set up downtown next to the rock. It listed all servicemen from the New Franklin area.

Air Raids

During wartime, the entire nation prepared in various ways for possible attacks from the air. Towns throughout the U.S. carried out air raid drills. Marvin Perry's father, Art, a local barber, was an air raid warden for Fayette. During drills, he would check houses and make sure lights were turned off and windows covered.

Church Programs

One of the highlights of the year for young children was going to church on Christmas Eve. In many of the small rural churches, Santa would visit and give each child a special treat of an orange or small bag of candy.

Charlene Shipp recalled lovely Christmas programs held at Clark's Chapel.

During wartime, Christmas Eve services honored soldiers. Many churches would give Bibles to soldiers who were preparing to leave for the war effort.

Christmas presents

Betty Collier recalled that more simple, less expensive gifts were given. Children got just a few presents. Popular gifts for high

school girls were hope chest items such as embroidered pillowcases, tea towels and crocheted doilies. Music boxes, teddy bears and books were also desired gifts.

Jimmie Ann Yeager's family would open presents Christmas morning. Each person got a couple presents, not dozens. A special treat around the tree was small sacks of chocolate candy. Chocolate was usually bought by the pound. That one day of the year, they were allowed to eat all the chocolate they wanted. Other special presents around the tree were sacks of fresh fruit—oranges, bananas and grapes. These were foods that people did not eat very often.

Mary McCutcheon remembers that toy guns with leather holsters were popular. The shoe repair shops would make the holsters with left-over scraps of leather.

Metal Toys Hard to Find

Keith House remembered that during the Christmas of 1943 it was difficult to find good toys in the stores. He was 16 at the time and had outgrown many of his toys, so he gave away all of them to younger children. Most of his toys were metal trucks and cars including a Graham-Paige automobile and a little metal motorcycle.

Roy Werner remembered that some popular presents at the time were wind-up toys, board games, BB guns, cap pistols, dolls and marbles. There weren't many toys made of metal or plastic. Many gifts were hand-made.

Christmas cards

Betty Collier said that Christmas cards were not as popular as they are now. People didn't have the money for stamps. Cards were sent only to immediate family members and close relatives.

Holiday Activities

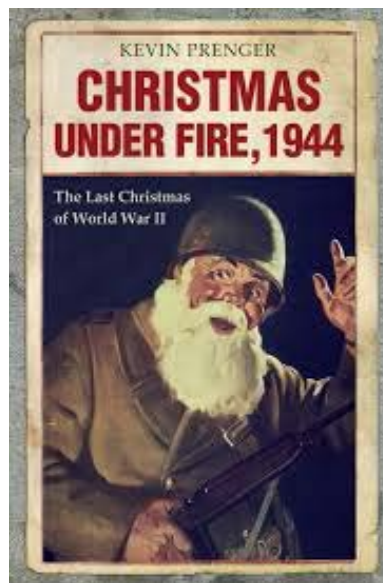
Sledding was always a popular activity for the younger children. Bill Ayres remembered that Gym Hill, where CMU's Philips Recreation Center now stands, was the best hill for sledding.

Marvin Perry recalled the longest hill in town for sledding. He started at the top of Church Street, where it intersects with the highway, then sledged to Morrison Street. Then he turned west on Morrison and sledged to Cleveland. Then—he wasn't finished yet—he slid south along Cleveland Avenue past the bridge on Highway 5 (past O'Brian's MFA station now).

James McMillan recalled he and his friends starting at Morrison Street where it intersects with Main Street and sliding west down the hill.

Marvin Perry believed that there used to be much more snow during the winters. He remembered the sidewalks would get covered with ice and kids used to ice skate all over town on the sidewalks.

James McMillan recalled the Mill Pond (located near the current Fayette MFA Cooperative) as a popular spot for ice skaters.



Bertha Johnmeyer described the many different kinds of skates that were clamped onto shoes.

Christmas caroling was also a common activity. Each year, the Sunday School class at Linn Memorial Methodist Church would go neighborhood Christmas caroling one evening during the holiday season. Carolers were often rewarded with cookies or candy.

Tree decorating

Nancy Hackley remembered that it was difficult to get Christmas tree lights or ornaments during the war. She took apart strands of old Christmas tree lights that no longer worked, painted the individual lights and re-used them as separate ornaments.

Joe McClammer's family always had a big tree. They had a 10-foot ceiling and always cut their own tree tall enough to reach the ceiling. They had a few strings of lights and many of the or-

naments were handmade. "There was never a lot to go under it, though," Joe chuckled. His family lived in the country off of Route W at the time, and they were one of the few early households to be wired with electricity. Many rural homes in Howard County still did not have electricity during the war years.

The 'good old days'?

The fact is that Christmas then (1941 to 1945) was not a happy time for many. Sons, uncles, husbands and friends were away from home fighting in the war. Others were away because of home-front jobs in large cities. In addition, shortages and rationing created hardships.

It's a testament to the character of many folks, including Howard County residents, that "The Greatest Generation" was born from those difficult times.

WWII Propaganda Posters

"We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want . . . everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear . . . anywhere in the world."

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt

President Roosevelt addressed Congress on January 6, 1941, delivering the historic "Four Freedoms" speech at a time when Western Europe lay under Nazi domination and he was wrestling with the issue of the United States being drawn into the war in Europe. Eleven months later, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II against the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy and Japan).

Roosevelt presented a vision in which the American ideals of individual liberties were extended throughout the world and

alerted Congress to the necessity of war. The means in which the government communicated these messages to citizens took a variety of forms, including strategic media initiatives. A series of posters were developed which reflected war time attitudes, depicted national symbols, appealed to patriotism, espoused freedom, recognized the contribution of women to the war effort and entreated citizens to conserve resources. These posters often made a direct, emotional appeal, playing on the public's fear of the enemy and reports of Nazi atrocities to enrage or activate the public.

The posters were central to fundraising efforts for Liberty Bonds & Stamps in WWI and for War Bonds & Stamps in WWII, with seven national drives as well as for the Red Cross and Community (War) Chest.

This collection consists largely of World War II-era posters which were collected and preserved by The University of Montana as they were issued by U.S. government agencies. •



Posters courtesy of Google Images

From St. Louis to Parts West: Kit Carson's Muzzle-Loading Rifles

by Timothy L. Carson

SOMETIME IN THE SPRING OF 1843 A MOUNTAIN MAN NAMED Christopher "Kit" Carson departed his home in Taos and crossed the mountains eastward. His purpose was to deliver letters to a wagon train moving over the Santa Fe Trail. He was accompanied by a Taos native riding a mule. As they broke timber on the eastern slope and moved down onto the plain, they were surprised by a party of Ute Indians that galloped directly toward them. Kit's companion, knowing he could not outrun them on his mule, told Kit to go on and escape without them. But Kit refused to desert his friend and chose instead to make a stand with him.

As the well-armed Utes gathered in a tight circle around them, the mountain man and his companion stood back to back, with their single-shot muzzle-loaders leveled at the leaders of the menacing group. It was a standoff, neither party unable to avoid losing life should matters escalate. After half an hour, the aggressive Utes finally departed.

Of course, not every encounter in the far west was this dramatic or had such a happy ending. But the importance of the black powder muzzle-loading rifle cannot be overstated; these arms, especially before the rise of repeating rifles and pistols, were the primary means of both hunting and survival.

When a fifteen-year old young man named Kit Carson finally escaped from his service as a saddle maker's apprentice in Franklin, Missouri, in 1826, he joined a wagon train headed to Santa Fe. That began a life-long adventure that included a diverse career as a hunter, mountain man, trapper and trader, scout, guide, Indian agent and military officer.

Reliance upon black powder rifles was typical for anyone in a similar situation. But in Kit's case, we know precisely which of these rifles were in his possession and where they ended up. This story of the purchase and possession of the Hawken black

powder, muzzle-loading rifle, begins in St. Louis and moves across Missouri to parts west.

Kit has also been credited by numerous other sources with using a variety of other guns besides black powder muzzle loaders. This is a matter of some speculation. Some of those sources are suspect because gun manufacturers of the period often wanted their brands affiliated with popular heroes. On the other hand, the eminently reliable John Fremont reported after his path-finding journey of the west in 1842 that Carson slept with a pair of 1836 Paterson Colts at half-cock by his head, and a Colt revolving rifle under the blanket beside him.

However true those accounts may be, our focus here is on the dominant tool of the trade, Kit's choice of rifles.

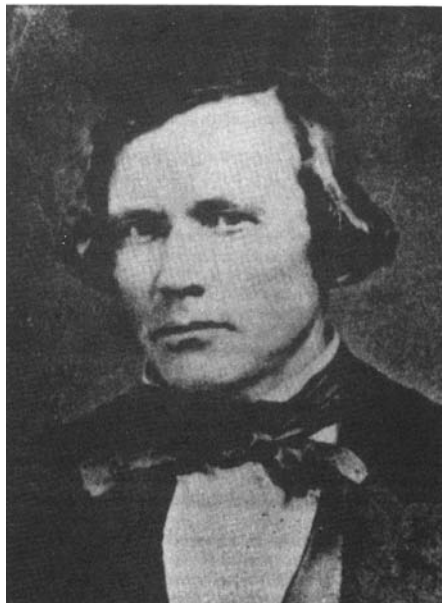
The Hawken Rifle

In an interesting newspaper interview given by Samuel Hawken in 1882 he said, "Oh yes, I made several (rifles) for Kit Carson, one of them he prized very much. He presented it to some historical society in Santa Fe. Kit gave me an order for a rifle and I didn't see him again for several years. One day he walked into the shop – I didn't know him – and asked if I had any rifles. I told him there was one on hand, and was made for Kit Carson. 'That's my name,' he said and took the rifle for \$25. He would have readily paid twice as much, for all my guns were made to kill at 200 yards."

The Hawken rifle was the rifle of choice by Kit Carson, Jim Bridger and a host of other mountain men who frequented the far west. It was a black powder, flintlock and

percussion-cap long rifle manufactured by Jacob and Samuel Hawken in their St. Louis, Missouri, shop

during the years of 1820 – 1858. It weighed between 10 and 15 pounds and used a round ball with an average of .54 caliber. Most mountain men preferred the Hawken over other rifles because it was relatively light, shorter than a military issue long rifle, and had great range, accuracy and power. At \$25 it cost more than the going rate of other black powder rifles which often went for a third of that, but those who could afford it considered the difference well worth it. The Kit Carson Hawken rifle has a 1 1/16" diameter, 31 1/16" long 54-caliber, octagonal barrel stamped "S. Hawken St.



Above, Kit Carson's Hawken 50-caliber Rifle. Photo courtesy of Montezuma Masonic Lodge #1 Santa Fe New Mexico

Timothy L. Carson lives on the banks of the Missouri River in Rochestport, Missouri, just minutes away from the original Kit Carson homestead in Howard County. He is a seventh cousin of Kit Carson and owns his own replica of the Kit Carson Hawken 50-caliber rifle.



Tim Carson with his replica of the Kit Carson 50-caliber Hawken muzzle-loader. *Photo courtesy of Tim Carson*

Louis”.

The Hawken brothers, Samuel and Jacob, belonged to a Maryland rifle-making family and came to the St. Louis area around 1820. They set up shop in an area just north of where the Arch now stands today. The Hawken rifle was later replaced by breechloaders and lever-action rifles that arose after the Civil War. Though the original Hawken rifle company is no longer in business, several fine gun smiths make fully functional, historically authentic Hawken replicas today.

The organization in Santa Fe that Samuel Hawken referred to above is actually the Montezuma Masonic Lodge in Santa Fe and Kit presented the rifle to them in 1868 shortly before he died. Kit’s Hawken rifle resides there today, though a replica is displayed at the Kit Carson Home and Museums in Taos.

The Double-Barrel Muzzle-Loading Shotgun

In the history of the west it was not uncommon to purchase guns, sell guns, trade guns, take guns as the spoils of war, or steal guns. But guns with great personal sentimental or historic value were also given as gifts, expressions of appreciation. That is the case when it comes to a very distinctive double-barreled, muzzle-loading flintlock shotgun that today hangs in the east gallery of the Soldier’s Memorial in St. Louis.

After Kit Carson accompanied John C. Fremont as a guide for three of his mapping expeditions of the west, Fremont gave Carson a very special gift – an English-made double-barreled muzzle-loading shotgun. Muzzle-loading shotguns were widely



Double-barreled shotgun like Carson’s. *Photo courtesy of Missouri History Museum, St. Louis*

used on the frontier and during the Civil War for both hunting and defense.

The story is told that at the Battle San Pascual, December 6, 1846, with the United States Dragoons and the California Light Horsemen, Kit Carson was thrown from his horse and the shotgun was broken into two pieces. This incident was dictated by Carson to Col. And Mrs. D.C. Peters who recorded the event in Kit Carson’s Own Story of His Life. Copper wire was used in mending the stock.

At the October 1867 Medicine Lodge Treaty, really three treaties signed between the Federal government and the southern Plains Indian tribes, Kit Carson gave William Mathewson (Buffalo Bill) the shotgun as an expression of his appreciation.

Through time the double-barreled rifle was passed down and to the family of George H. Browne, who donated it to the Soldiers Memorial in St. Louis on May 4, 1944.

To Mark an Era

Why is it that century-old howitzers often rest in front of VFW halls? Or some concerts featuring early music insist on featuring the instruments of the era, even though they don’t sound nearly as good and are infinitely harder to play? Or many of us love to dress up for an early Americana reenactment? Isn’t the answer something like this: We desire some way to connect with the meaning of the history the has preceded and shaped us - its characters, events, and ways of life.

The truths of such times often become most real for us down in the details. Yes, we do have to take quinine for Malaria. The trail was scattered with so many graves it looked like a cemetery. We eat lots of salt pork. Wagon wheels and axels will fail and need to be repaired on the spot. We need to ration water on the Cimarron cutoff. Details.

So it is as we attempt to understand how Kit Carson and so many like him survived in the far west. They hunted game. Their weapons protected them. Open conflict required lots of powder and musket balls. And that is what they had to work with. For them it was one of the primary things that spelled the difference between life and death.

Compared to the high-tech rifles of today such weapons seem so very primitive. Which is why we need to remember just how precarious were all their efforts. In the complexity of the westward expansion for everyone involved – the ever shrinking and relocated Native American tribes; conflict with Spanish, French, British and then Mexican forces; settlers risking all for land, to strike it rich, to outrun their debts, to start over again, to escape slavery; to move, move again, and again - it was a dangerous time and place. Which helps us understand why people would go to such extreme effort to obtain just the right kind of rifle, enough powder and shot, and everything else that would enable them to strike out to places where the only thing standing between themselves and the grave had something like the name Hawken engraved in its blue steel.

For Kit and many in his situation during the same era, rifles like the Hawken and the Double-Barreled shotgun travelled up and down the transcontinental road, beginning in St. Louis, continuing over the Boone’s Lick Road, Santa Fe Trail and other great trails west, and often coming back again. They remain tangible remembrances of the people of the time who traversed the Missouri territory that was at once a destination and a pathway. •

Kit Carson Grew Up in Old Franklin

By Mrs. N. A. Brunda

Editor's Note: This Article was first published in January 1976 in the Bicentennial Boonslick History. The author was a member of the Boonslick Historical Society, which published the bicentennial history as an official project carried out in conjunction with the commemoration of the United States Bicentennial that year.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS CARSON WAS BORN IN CYNTHIANA, Madison County, Kentucky, December 24, 1809, grew up in the Boonslick area and died May 23, 1868, in Taos, New Mexico, having made a name for himself as the West's greatest free lance Indian fighter. He was the only brigadier general in the U.S. Army who could write nothing beyond his own name and could read nothing at all, although he was appointed head of the first New Mexico Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.

During the War of 1812 the Carson family lived in the Boonslick area near Fort Hempstead where the father, Lindsay, and an older son, Moses, were listed as defenders of the fort.

When Lindsay died in 1818, the children were placed under guardians. Kit seems to have been quite a problem and eventually John E. Rytand, later a Missouri Supreme Court judge, was made his guardian: History says that Kit spent a portion of his youth at the home of an older brother, William, in an old two-story log house in Howard County. Little is known of his childhood.

However, at the age of 15 he became apprentice to David Workman in his saddle shop in Franklin, in Howard County. Tales of high adventure got the best of him, and in 1826 he happily ran away to join a Santa Fe-bound wagon train.

Probably Workman wasn't much disturbed over Kit's leaving, because he himself left the next year with a wagon train bound for Santa Fe. However, the law required that a notice be posted of the apprentice's leaving. The announcement included a one-cent reward.

Once in Santa Fe, Kit had to stay until spring. He made friends with a person named Kincaid whom he had known back in the Boonslick Area. They located in Taos, about 70 miles north of Santa Fe, learned the leather trade and the Spanish language. Soon Carson became so conversant with the language that he was hired by a trader by the name of Trameil to go with him as an interpreter on a trio into Mexico.

Along the way they met the trapper, Ewing Young, and they explored and tripped along the Gila and Salt Rivers. In California they sited San Gabriel Mission, then traveled north over the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers where they met some Hudson's Bay trappers brought from Montreal by Peter Ogden. Both parties wintered together, since fur and game were plentiful and the hostile Klamath Indians were nearby. By springtime young Carson could speak French as well as a Frenchman.

He sold his furs near San Francisco and bought horses for the return trip to Taos. His career as a trapper and Mountain Man was launched.

For the next 16 years Carson trapped, hunted and guided, and sometimes fought Indians with such famous mountain men as Jim Bridger, Thomas Fitzpatrick (one of the Ashley-Henry men),

Capt. Stephen Lee, Jim Beckworth, Alex Godey, Lucian Maxwell, Joe Meek, Dick Owens, Joe Walker, and "Old Bill" Williams. He trapped the region of the Yellowstone River, the Big Horn, the Black Hills, and the headwaters of every river west of the Mississippi.

He had mingled with the Indians, learned their customs and languages, and when possible he had been their friend. When impossible, he had been their enemy. His reputation as a sober, capable, resourceful leader and a skillful Indian fighter was well earned. It has been said that he probably knew the Great Plains, the Rockies, and their water courses as no other man ever did.

He traveled with John C. Fremont as he crossed the western plains for the first time. Kit Carson contributed conspicuously to that expedition. Fremont had met Kit Carson on a Missouri River steamboat and hired him as a guide. Carson at that time was only 33 years old, but a bona fide mountain man, having become a beaver trapper in his teens. He was quiet, competent, and level headed. He had been instructed by the most famous of the older mountaineers and learned his lessons well.

By the time Fremont met him he was well experienced. He had fought Indians, endured winters, wandered through the west from Mexico to the Pacific Northwest. He had the lusty frontiersman's confidence. "I told Colonel Fremont that I had been sometime in the mountains and thought I could guide him to any point he would wish to go." Fremont liked Carson immensely and publicized him as a kind of "Hawkeye of the West."

Evidently Kit Carson had many "literary" people among his friends. As early as 1846 books appeared in the East featuring Mountain Men embroiled in all sorts of derring-do. Kit Carson was a particular favorite of the publishers. He was the star in dozens of dime novels bearing such titles as *Kit Carson, the Guide, or Perils of the Frontier*. In one, Kit surrounded an entire Indian camp singlehanded by creeping around it at night and firing potshots from different vantage points.

Carson's skill as a frontiersman did not keep him from being a good follower. He served as a steady second-in command and an able technical consultant to more aggressive individuals when the occasion arose. One historian says, "In moments of repose the singularly unassuming demeanor of Carson did little to advertise the qualities of resolute leadership which he displayed in a crisis. To casual strangers he seemed wholly to belie the character their fancy had painted, so that stories are told of men asking to have Carson pointed out to them and when this was done, refusing to believe that it was actually the great trapper who stood before them. In the final analysis, Carson's principal asset was his character—gentle, generous, honest, and courageous."

Kit's first wife was a beautiful Arapaho girl named Singing Grass, whom he found in the Green River country. He called her "Alice" after their wedding in 1835. Alice Singing Grass, unlike her Indian sisters, who, when they married white men refused to work after marriage, became a most capable helpmate to her white husband. She was of great help and Kit never denied his happiness with her. They had a daughter who was named Adeline, for

his niece, Adaline (sic) Cooper, of Howard County. Alice Singing Grass died sometime in 1841 of a fever.

In 1843 Kit fell in love with and married Josefa Jaramillo, sister-in-law of Charles Bent, of Bent's Fort fame. Kit's devotion to her was deep and beautiful. Adeline was brought back to Missouri to live with Kit's niece, Mrs. Leander Amick, daughter of his sister, Elizabeth Cooper. It is written that Adaline attended Howard Female Seminary at Fayette, Missouri.¹

At the age of 40, Kit was persuaded by his friend, Lucian Maxwell, to build a home at Rayado on the Cimarron River, close to the Santa Fe Trail. He did and he and the ranch prospered. California-bound travelers stopped in and were always welcome.

In early 1851, Carson took a train of twelve wagons belonging to Maxwell to St. Louis to purchase goods. While there he heard of high prices being paid in San Francisco for sheep. Together he and Maxwell bought several thousand head and drove them overland to San Francisco. They were assisted along the way by Kit's nephew by marriage, Tom Boggs, son of Missouri Governor Boggs, and his cousin George Jackson, of Glasgow, Missouri. Arriving at their destination they made quite a profit, having paid 25 cents a head, and selling for \$5.50 a head!

His fame making him too conspicuous to suit him, Kit returned shortly to Taos where he found he had been called into government service as Indian agent for the Utes, Pueblos and Apaches. He served them as an understanding friend and counselor. Later he was appointed Indian agent for the entire territory of New Mexico.

Resigning as Indian Agent in 1861, Carson immediately accepted an appointment as Lieutenant Colonel of the First Regiment of New Mexico Volunteers. It was largely due to his foresight, courage and steadfast firmness that the Southwest remained safely in Union hands. As a reward for his efforts in the Northern cause he received a brevet commission as a Brigadier General in 1865.

Although born in North Carolina, Kit Carson was always loyal to the Union. Kit, Captain Smith Simpson, and Colonel St. Vrain and some others nailed the American flag to a cottonwood pole the plaza at Taos where it had been torn down repeatedly by Confederate sympathizers. Kit and his trusty rifle stood guard at a vantage point nearby. The flag stayed put. The flag which flies there still, twenty-four hours a day, commemorates this act of bravery on the part of Kit Carson.

When Kit lived in Taos, the town was the scene of considerable deviltry and a little frontier sin. It was a crossroad for trappers gave the name "Taos Lightnin'" to a local beverage for which the community was widely known. They say that, even while loaded with this potent potable, most mountain men (and Kit was one) could shoot a rifle with amazing accuracy. A favorite trick was to pack the handle of a tin cup with mud, put it on a friend's head and, at awesome yardage, shoot out the mud.

In Taos is the Kit Carson Memorial State Park where Kit and his beloved Josefa as well as many other illustrious western figures are buried. His home is now a museum in Taos. Among treasures there is a photographic gallery in which may be found pictures of Kit's ancestors and heirs, some of whom are living in the Boonslick Area today.

After the war ended, Carson resumed his work as an Indian

agent, with all of New Mexico, Arizona, and the Rocky Mountain region as his domain. By this time and until his death in 1869 he reigned as First Citizen of the West, and one of the most renowned men in all of the United States.

The following recollections of Governor Stoneman appeared in the Sacramento Record Union: 'in conversation the other day with some gentlemen in the Governor's office the name of Kit Carson was mentioned. The Governor said. "Poor Kit is dead. He was a broad-shouldered, open-hearted brave fellow. I remember his spending a few weeks in our camp in southern California in 1847. The only way we could communicate with the national capital was by messengers on horseback. It was a long dreary, lonesome ride of 3,000 miles fraught with many dangers Kit was one of those scouts who thought nothing of making such a trip.

"I taught him to write his name while he was in camp. Having been elected a lieutenant, it was necessary for him occasionally to sign reports, I remember he would insist upon writing it in full – Christopher Columbus Carson – taking up a whole sheet of paper in signing it. Kit was gentle, jovial and a most interesting companion. While in camp we often played seven-up and practiced shooting the rifle together. Kit could beat me at both, being as adept at cards, and a crack shot. When we played it was for a picayune and we shot for the same stake.

"When Carson was ready to leave for the East with his messages, I cast up accounts and discovered that he was about \$5 ahead of me. Our target was a small silver coin placed in a split in a limb. I walked up to Kit and said, "Well, old boy, let's have one last shot I'll bet you \$5 that I can hit the picayune at the first shot." 'Agreed.' said Kit. and the money was put up. I walked deliberately up to the coin, put the muzzle of the gun against it and blew it to atoms. Kit was the maddest man I ever saw for a few moments. He walked about the camp in quite a rage, and denounced my act as a 'd-d mean Yankee trick.' He soon, however, got over his pet and seemed to enjoy the laugh as much as anyone, and we parted, as we had always lived, friends.' "

End Notes

1. The college was chartered as Howard Female College in 1859 after existing as an academy for girls since 1828. The American Civil War briefly interrupted classes between 1864 and 1865, though some classes were taught until Union Army troops occupied the campus, housing troops and horses in Brannock Hall, part of then Central College.

As a result of the war, the college sank deep into debt for a decade, until it was purchased by Moses U. Payne of Rocheport in 1869. After purchasing the college, Payne deeded the college's property and land to the church. Building continued on campus throughout the 1890s, including the addition of a science building and a museum. The college's name was formally changed to Howard-Payne Junior College in 1892.

Howard-Payne was closely associated with several other Missouri junior colleges for women. In 1918, it was one of the eight charter colleges of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

In 1923, Howard-Payne received formal accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission and also participated in the HLC's Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (PEAQ). The college was closed, however, during a consolidation of small Methodist colleges in Missouri in 1927. It is now part of Central Methodist University. •

New Center for Missouri Studies Opens Its Doors

The newly constructed Center for Missouri Studies in downtown Columbia opened its doors on August 10. It is the new home for the State Historical Society of Missouri, founded in 1898, and will serve as the premier research center for the study of Missouri state and local history.

At the Center, a second floor research center connects students, researchers, patrons, and genealogists with the collections that the State Historical Society of Missouri holds on their behalf. The Center's first floor gallery is designed to showcase one-of-a-kind pieces, whether they are the iconic works of George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton or original Hare and Hare architectural drawings from the Kansas City collections. Flexible public spaces are also available for hosting a wide range of events.

Through its education program, the Center fosters ongoing study of Missouri's past, encouraging connections among scholars in fields such as history, geography, folklore, anthropology, journalism, and other disciplines. Center initiatives consolidate and extend the State Historical Society of Missouri's efforts to support scholars,

publish new works, provide educational programs, and promote greater understanding of Missouri's history.

The Center publishes the Missouri Historical Review. This quarterly journal offers scholarly articles on diverse topics in Missouri history. As a book publisher, SHSMO's publications have covered everything from editorial cartoons to German settlement.

Copies of SHSMO publications can be purchased at the Center's Ronald F. and Patty Richard Bookstore and online.

The Center for Missouri Studies competitive fellowship program extends SHSMO's mission to promote and disseminate the study of the state's history and culture. The fellowships specifically encourage scholarship in new or underexplored areas.

For more information, contact the State Historical Society of Missouri at (573) 882-7083 or by Email: contact@shsmo.org. The street and

mailing address is: 605 Elm Street, Columbia, MO 65201.

Information and image courtesy of the State Historical Society of Missouri



Battleship USS Missouri on US Postage Stamp



The Postal Service recently issued a First-Class stamp for the famous World War II battleship *USS Missouri*. The battleship was affectionately nicknamed "Mighty Mo," and had one of the most historic roles during World War II.

On Sept. 2, 1945, military officials from the Allied powers and imperial Japan convened on her deck and signed the documents confirming Japan's surrender and ending the war.

BHS 2020 Member Fees Now Due

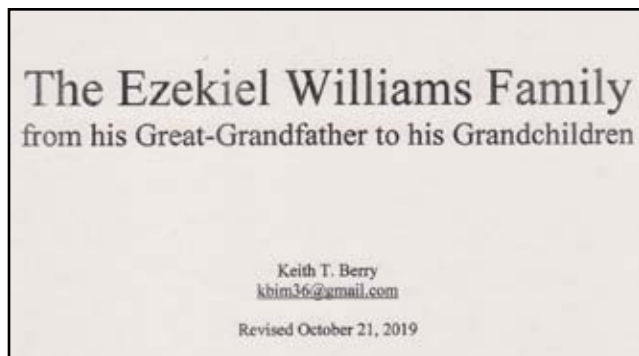
Boonslick Historical Society annual membership fees for calendar year 2020 are now due. The dues year is January through December. Membership dues are \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50-Sponsor, \$250-Patron, and \$500-Life.

If you are not already a BHS member and wish to join, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233. You will receive our publication, *Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly*, and be able to attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history.

BHS Board Nominations

The two-year terms for five BHS board members up for renewal were approved at the fall BHS banquet. The new terms begin in January. The five are Carolyn Collings of Columbia, Don Cullimore of Fayette, Sam Jewett of Boonville, Jim Steele of Fayette and Mike Dickey of Arrow Rock. Ten board members are the maximum allowed on the board.

Be sure to check out the BHS website:
www.boonslickhistoricalsociety.org



BHS Receives Important Historical Document

An important Boonslick Country historical document was given to the Boonslick Historical Society at its November 3 annual banquet in Boonville. The Rev. Dr. Keith T. Berry of Kansas City presented to BHS President Jim Steele a significant genealogical report he had researched and compiled on the Ezekiel Williams Family.

Ezekiel Williams (c. 1775-1844) is known as the "Grandfather of the Santa Fe Trail," which began in old Franklin in 1821 when William Becknell (known as "Father of the Santa Fe Trail") organized a pack-train trading party expedition to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The territory recently had come under the control of Mexico after the Country won its independence from Spain in 1821. At this time, the Spanish policy of closed empire ended, and American trappers and traders moved into the region.

One week after making the presentation of the Williams Family genealogical document to the Boonslick Historical Society, Dr. Williams, died at his Kansas City home. He was just four days shy of his 83rd birthday (see obit on this page).

The genealogical document – "The Ezekiel Williams Family: from his Great Grandfather to his Grandchildren" – compiled by Berry is well researched and documented. Ninety-eight typed pages, it includes sections on: The Williams Family Name; Great-Grandfather: Edward Williams [I] (c. 1684-1761); Grandfather: Vincent Williams [I] (1715-1756); Father: David Williams (1750-1831); Ezekiel Williams (c. 1775-1844); Son: Samuel. E. Williams (1797-1871); and the Grandchildren.

In 1821 William Becknell advertised an expedition to "far western places" in the *Missouri Intelligencer*. Because of his frontier experiences, the August 14th planning meeting was held at the Howard County home of Ezekiel "Zeke" Williams. Zeke did not make the first trip, but in 1827 he captained the largest and most profitable caravan of that time. It included 105 men and 53 wagons and pleasure carriages. Sixty men returned with 800 horses and mules worth \$28,000—a 40 percent profit. Subsequently, Williams became a prosperous Boonslick landowner.

Remembering BHS Members Lost in 2019

Editor's note: The Boonslick Historical Society lost two valued members during 2019, William Shay of Fayette and Keith Berry of Kansas City. Their obituaries are presented below.

William T. "Bill" Shay

Longtime Boonslick Historical Society member William T.

"Bill" Shay of Fayette died July 27 at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia. He was 82. Bill and his wife Connie have been active members of the BHS for many years. Connie has served several terms on the board of directors.

Shay was born in St. Louis on October 12, 1936. He graduated from Fulton High School in 1954 and earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1959 at the University of Missouri- Columbia.

In 1960, Shay joined the United States Department of Agriculture. He was first an assistant county supervisor for Fanner's Home Administration in North West Missouri. He later became county supervisor at Kahoka, Missouri, and in 1977 district director for Central Missouri in Columbia.

He later was appointed state director of rural development for Missouri by President Bill Clinton. He held that position for eight years during which time he received special recognition for his service to the department. He retired in 2001.

Bill Shay and Connie Tindall were married in 1979. They were members of Paul H. Linn Memorial United Methodist Church in Fayette and the University of Missouri Alumni Association.

Shay was a past president of the County Supervisors Association and the Fayette Senior Center. He was the Howard County representative for Central Missouri Area Agency on Aging. He was also a member of the Fayette Area Historical Society, Boonslick Model Railroad Club, Missouri Pacific Historical Society, and Katy Railroad Historical Society.

Surviving are his wife, Connie, of the home; children: Brad Shay of Fulton, Beth (Steve) Schmidt of Woodstock, Illinois, Shary (Art) Auer of Columbia, Rick (Patty) Trimble of Jefferson City, and Robert Trimble of Fayette; and several grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Keith T. Berry

The Rev. Dr. Keith T. Thomas Berry died November 10 at his home in Kansas City. He was born in Lincoln, Missouri, on November 14, 1936. On April 10, 1960, Keith married Marcia Lubbers from Plainwell, Michigan.

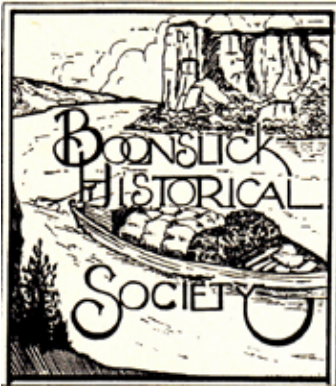
He graduated from the Ionia Elementary School (1950), Cole Camp High School (1954), and Central Methodist College (1958). He received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from Boston University (1961 and 1969) and was ordained a Deacon and Elder in The Methodist Church (1959 and 1962).

For twenty-five years Berry was a pastor, serving churches in Massachusetts and in Missouri, including at Glasgow and Kansas City. He also served for one year as an exchange pastor in England (Cockermouth/ Keswick Circuit).

For five years he was a district superintendent in Missouri (North Central, Kansas City North and Heartland North). For ten years he was the council director for the Missouri West Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Berry was a member of the World Methodist Council (20 years), was the process consultant for the Missouri Christian Leadership Forum (10 years), and a discernment group leader when the Consultation on Church Union in the United States formed Churches Uniting in Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife. Survivors include his children: Jean Beach, Karen Berry and David Berry, a brother and several grandchildren.



P.O. Box 426
Boonville, MO 65233



St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a historic Episcopal church of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri. It is located at 104 West Davis Street, a half block off the Courthouse Square in Fayette. The Gothic Revival-style church structure was built in 1849, and is a small rectangular one-story structure constructed of vertical board and batten on a brick foundation. It measures 18 feet by 50 feet with an additional vestibule area which measures 8 feet by 10 feet. *Photo from BHS Archives*