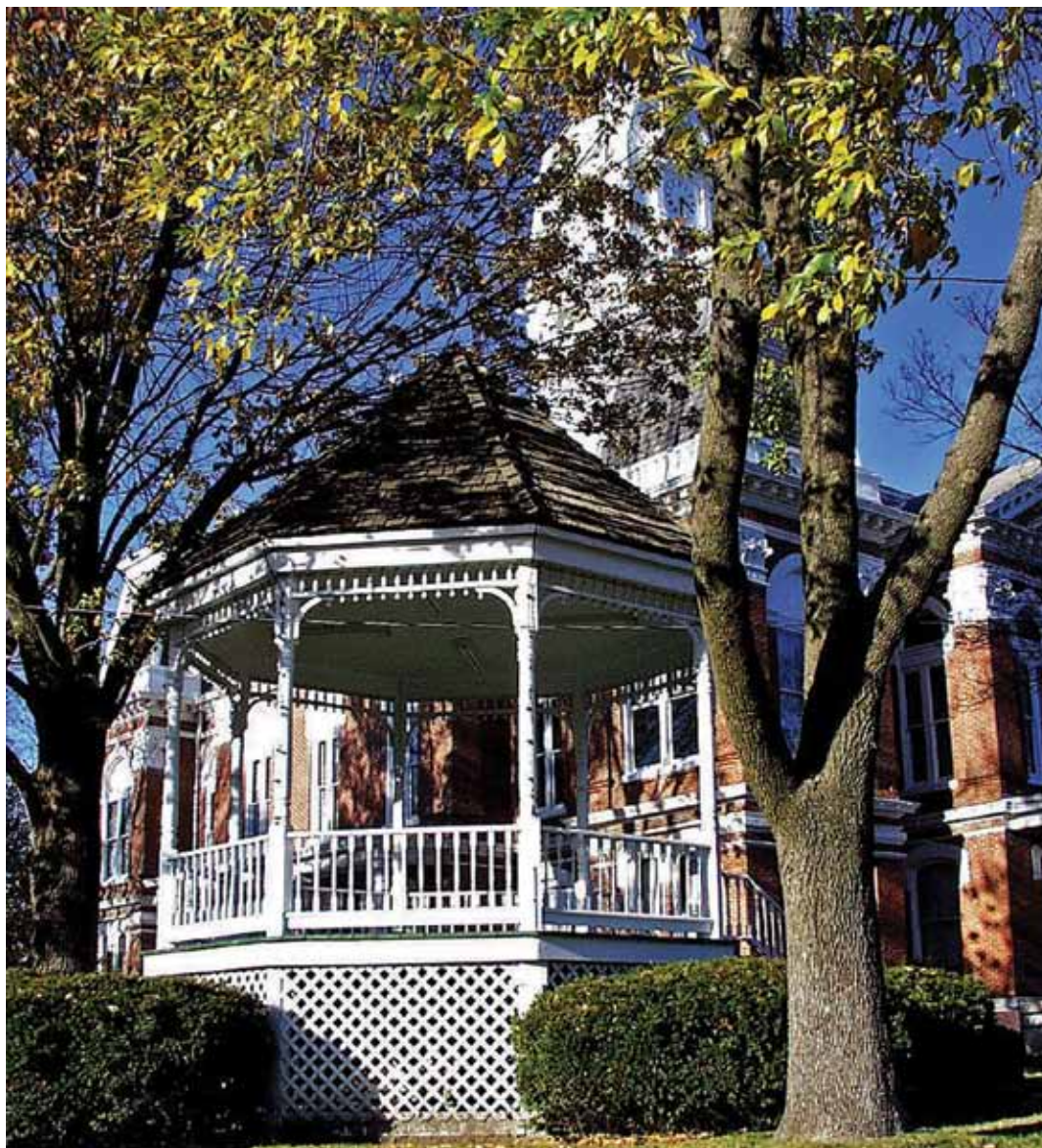


BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY



- **HISTORIC COMMUNITY BANDSTANDS**
- **CARSON FAMILY CEMETERY**
- **CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER BORN IN THE BOONSLICK**

VOL. 20 No. 1 — SPRING 2021
BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL

Bandstands, Forgotten Family Cemeteries, and a Boonslick Civil Rights Personality ...

THE COMMUNITY BANDSTAND (pg. 4) was a common element in the fabric of small-town America from the mid-19th century through the first half of the 20th. It was considered a public symbol of a community's cultural standing. Akin to a library, it showed appreciation for education and music.

A bandstand provided a stage for Sunday afternoon musical performances, as well as for political rallies and the welcoming of dignitaries. Often it was placed near the center of town amidst the action of daily life—in parks, courthouse squares, and fairgrounds.

Gazebo-style bandstands came into existence in the United States after the Civil War (1861-65) to accommodate the brass and percussion "cornet" bands. The structures ranged from exotic "Moorish" designs to ordinary wood pavilions. They soon became popular in amusement parks, where bandstands and dance pavilions were an essential feature.

Most bandstands were built to suit the pocketbooks and needs of the citizens of that town, hence the variety of architectural styles and sizes. Preservation of historic bandstands is encouraged by cultural historians. Some bandstands are on the National Register of Historic Places, usually as part of a historic district. Continuous use as stages for musical performances and community events provides a good reason to keep them maintained.

ANOTHER FEATURE common to the culture of our early nation was the family cemetery (pg. 7). While uncommon today, family (or private) cemeteries were often a matter of necessity during the settlement of America. Settlers in rural areas would select small plots of land, often in wooded areas bordering their fields, to begin a family plot. Sometimes, several families would arrange to bury their dead together.

While some of these sites later grew into true cemeteries, many were forgotten after a family moved away or died out. These small graveyards are found throughout rural areas of the Boonslick. A number of them are the final resting places for individuals—or their family members—who were prominent in Missouri or western history, such as Kit Carson.

GIVEN THE HISTORY of the Boonslick Region and the congruent Missouri River borderlands known as "Little Dixie," the news that respected African-American civil rights leader C. T. Vivian, who died last July, was a native of the Boonslick (pg. 9) occasioned our sense of historical irony. Vivian was an American minister, author, and close friend and lieutenant of Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights leader Georgia Congressman John Lewis. He founded the C. T. Vivian Leadership Institute Inc. and was active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Journalists and some historians claim that Vivian was born

in Boonville, but Vivian himself disputes that. In a 2011 interview recorded by the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African American History, Vivian states that he was born in rural Howard County and that when the family lost its farm property during the Depression a short time later, it moved across the Missouri River to a small house in Boonville.

But the irony of Vivian's birth in the Boonslick, whether in Howard or Cooper County, stands. In her book *On Slavery's Border* (Athens and London: The University of Georgia Press, 2010), Missouri historian Diane Mutti Burke notes that "While there were slaves in every Missouri County in 1860...most slaves were held in the counties straddling the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, with the largest concentration in the central and western part of the state ... from the beginning slavery was at the base of the state's economy."

Much of the Boonslick was settled by migrants from the Upper South—small-slaveholding farmers and yeomen from back-country areas of Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky—and they brought their slaves with them and the cultural paradigm of a plantation economy.

While slaves accounted for 10 percent of Missouri's statewide population in 1860, in many counties bordering the Missouri and Mississippi rivers the slave populations often exceeded 25 percent of the total population. Boone, Callaway, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, and Saline were the most populous slave counties in the state. Howard County, the smallest of the 17 counties known as "Little Dixie," had the second largest number of slaves (5,886 compared to 6,374 in Lafayette County). Howard also had the highest percentage of slaves to the white population—36.9 per cent of a total population of 15,946, of which 801 were slave holders. Lafayette's slave population was 31.7 percent of its total. Boone, with 5,034 slaves, had a slave population of approximately one in four.

It is interesting to note that slavery in the region (Louisiana Territory) which later became the State of Missouri began in 1720, when a French merchant named Philippe François Renault brought about 500 enslaved people of African descent from Saint-Domingue up the Mississippi River to work in lead mines in what is now southeastern Missouri and southern Illinois.

Although slavery was condemned "in the rebellious states" and enslaved people in those states declared "free" by Lincoln's formal Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and banned by the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution two years later, old tribal attitudes fostering cultural discrimination never seem to die or simply fade away: the national debate over voting rights, civil rights, immigration, and social justice is very much alive.

—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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World War II Draft registration, dated 14 December 1942, where Vivian stated he was born in Howard County, Missouri. See story on page 8. Source: www.ancestry.com

History Program Featured on Fayette's KPIP FM Radio



Local history is one of many feature programs aired on Fayette's low-power FM radio station, KPIP 94.7. A new series has aired for several months now and is titled "Local Voices, a Glance Back."

The series focuses on Howard County history and was initiated by KPIP news director Rachel Steele who in turn has enlisted her father, Jim, to write and air the program. Currently serving as BHS president, Jim Steele has a long professional history as a broadcast and print journalist.

The Boonslick Historical Society is credited for the program's source material. For example, a recent three-part series told the story of rural electrification (REA) coming to Howard County. Appropriate music and historical voices are included. The series airs from 12 to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays and is repeated at the same times on Fridays. Future KPIP programs on area history are being coordinated by another BHS member, Jane Crigler, a retired health planner and policy analyst who grew up in Fayette and recently returned here to live part time.

Cover Photo: The Howard County Bandstand as it appears in 2021. The original bandstand was built in 1888. It was torn down in 1943 but rebuilt in 1971. Image courtesy of Jim Steele. Page 2: Image of 1870 Gazebo Bandstand. Image courtesy of Library of Congress.

Ties to Years Past Link Iconic Howard County Bandstand

Central Students Led Effort to Replicate Earlier Edifice

April Event Celebrated 50th anniversary

By Jim Steele

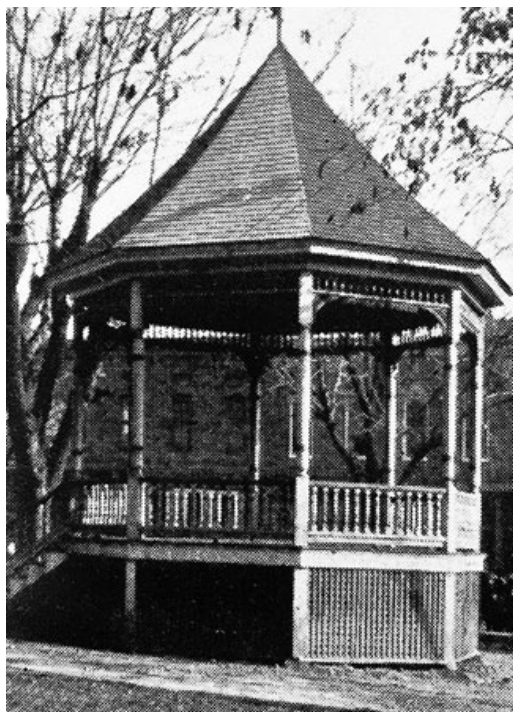
AS A COLLEGE COMMUNITY, Fayette enjoys more than its share of out-of-town visitors. Newcomers no doubt come away with a variety of memories, but it's safe to say the most iconic image many observers recall is the circa 1888 courthouse, and particularly its adjacent bandstand. the history of which stretches back 133 years. The original bandstand stood for 55 years before being razed.

Recreated in 1971, the current bandstand is situated on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn and officially is known as the Howard County Memorial Bandstand. But the picturesque edifice has deeper roots than most folks might imagine. While a 50-year-old landmark may not seem that old by historic measures, this particular bandstand has an interesting lineage.

Keep in mind that in days gone by virtually every city — large or small — had some kind of community band, with summer outdoor concerts featuring march-time music (think John Philip Sousa) and familiar tunes being particular favorites. Folks old and young flocked to such events well into the 20th century. (Electronic forms of entertainment were still decades in the future and even radio didn't come along until the 1920s.)

Original Bandstand Constructed

For local city fathers it was thus almost a foregone conclusion that



Original bandstand built in 1888. Photo was taken in 1905. It was torn down in 1943. Courtesy of Jim Steele

a bandstand would arise on the town green following completion of the present courthouse. Fayette's original bandstand was nearly identical in appearance to the current bandstand, albeit slightly smaller, and was located on the square's southwest corner where the present bandstand is situated. It was built between May 1887 and October 1888 for

use by what was described as "one of the best bands in the state." Known as the Fayette Star Cornet Band, the group was organized in the late 1870s and in April 1879 was composed of 12 members.

In 1898, Dr. Ernest M. Blakey graduated from the Kansas City Dental College. Formerly a student at Central College (now Central Methodist University), he returned to Fayette and established an office for the practice of his profession. A public-spirited citizen, Blakey served for more than 30 years as director of the Star Cornet Band and was widely known as a composer and arranger of band music. It was through his efforts and interest that Fayette for so many years was fortunate to have such a fine musical organization. He died at his home in St. Louis on September 24, 1954.

For much of his career Blakey occupied office space in the then-new Commercial Trust Building, practicing in the same rooms currently utilized by Jessica Quint, D.D.S. His photo appears in the 1905 *Picturesque Fayette* where he's identified as one of the town's leading citizens.

Regular Friday Evening Concerts

Local residents from various walks of life were among those who performed regularly from the bandstand as part of the Fayette Star Cornet Band. Practice nights were Tuesdays and Thursdays, weekly summer concerts on Friday evenings. The aforementioned *Picturesque Fayette* (now a collectible historic artifact) notes that the concerts "are always the occasion for popular gatherings."

After Blakey's retirement and move to St. Louis in the late 1930s, the bandstand fell into disuse and decay and was torn down in the summer of 1943. The Howard County Court (now County Commission) had ordered the structure demolished, with the wood utilized for scrap.

In later years the turnout for weekly concerts apparently had dwindled somewhat, although occasional performances still drew reasonably good crowds. But hard times of the Great Depression and the World War II years no doubt were also contributing factors spelling the end of regularly scheduled band performances.

A Dream Takes Hold

Now fast-forward to 1969. While viewing some photos of Fayette's bygone days (probably in *Picturesque Fayette*), Gary Hawkins, a member of the Central Methodist men's professional music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Beta Mu Chapter), came across a picture of the long-gone courthouse bandstand. He brought this to the attention of fellow Sinfonians and before long a dream had taken hold.

In short, the group concluded that if Fayette had a bandstand in days past, why not today?

Fraternity members talked up the idea, and before long townspeople, fellow students, alumni and others had come on board to



Central band directors honored on the Howard County Memorial Bandstand: L-R, Paul Montemurro, Keith House, Nancy and Ken Seward, Thomas Birch, and Keith K. Anderson. Images courtesy of Jim Steele

ensure a new bandstand, like the legendary Phoenix, would rise again.

Photos and drawings of the original bandstand were studied and plans for the new structure eventually took shape with some modifications. It also was decided to locate it on the courthouse lawn's southwest corner where the original bandstand had been situated.

By September 1969, the bandstand project was under way with permission to build granted by the Howard County Court. In December blueprints, based on the original structure, were received from a Kansas City architectural firm, and an estimate from a local contractor had been received by January 11, 1970.

Fundraising Begins

Under the leadership of bandstand committee chairmen Murphy Tetley and Robert Bray, and others in the fraternity, concrete plans were developed and efforts begun to raise the necessary funds. Various newspaper articles in the *Democrat-Leader* and *Fayette Advertiser* told of the project with an eye to enlisting support. Phi Mu members spread the word with presentations to various groups in and around Fayette.



Murphy Tetley displays 50th anniversary history poster. Photo by Cathy Thogmorton

Local builder Gus Vandenoche was selected as contractor, with the projected cost set at roughly \$5,500 (approximately \$35,518 in 2021 dollars).

In addition, local clubs, along with civic, social and fraternal groups of all kinds, joined in support of the project — sometimes with direct donations or by sponsoring a variety of fund-raising events. Businesses, individuals and students also made donations, as did Central Methodist alumni and friends (including one particularly generous contribution from the grandmother of the one of the fraternity members).

Ground was broken for the bandstand on Independence Day, July 4, 1971. Suffice it to say the project came to a successful fruition and this new addition to the courthouse lawn officially was

dubbed the Howard County Memorial Bandstand.

Bandstand Dedicated

So on a chilly Sunday, November 21, 1971, county and city dignitaries — joined by college officials, members of the fraternity, and friends — gathered on the bandstand for formal dedication ceremonies. Keynoter for the event was then-Missouri First Lady Betty (Mrs. Warren E.) Hearnes who herself had been a music educator.

Also bringing remarks that day were recent Central graduate Murphey Tetley (now a retired band director living in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas) and the late Central Methodist Alumni Director Robert H. Bray who together had served as co-chairmen for the fund drive. Also speaking were Central Methodist President-emeritus Ralph L. Woodward, Fayette Mayor H. C. Rethwisch, and County Court (now County Commission) Presiding Judge Gibson Dougherty who accepted the bandstand on behalf of Howard County.

The structure initially was dedicated in honor of Central's first two faculty band directors - K. K. Anderson, who served from 1925 to 1951, and Dr. Thomas E. Birch IV who served from 1951 until his death during the band's spring home concert on May 1, 1964. Brass and marble plaques adjacent to the bandstand steps ultimately were placed to commemorate their legacy. Later, other memorial plaques were added to include band directors Ken and Nancy Seward (1964-66) and Keith House who served from 1972 to 1995.

Serves Various Purposes

In subsequent years the bandstand has been host to any number of events, musical and otherwise. During the August 1973 Fayette Sesquicentennial, it was the site of various activities associated with the week-long celebration, including the grand climax on the closing day when Missouri Gov. Kit Bond spoke from the bandstand following a gala parade.

In more recent years, performers taking part in an annual August event known as the Great Fayette Freeze-Off utilized the bandstand, and this tradition has continued with the current Fayette Festival of the Arts. Other groups having special events have done likewise.

The year 1972 marked the first full summer for the then-new bandstand and it was roughly during this time that the aforementioned Bob Bray led in reconstituting the long-gone Fayette Star Cornet Band. Enlisting local volunteer musicians, the group for

many years performed a schedule of early-summer concerts, usually four or five in number. Initially attendance was strong, but as older residents passed from the scene and with the reality of changing musical tastes, audience members listening from the courthouse steps and the lawn became fewer and fewer. Musicians willing to play also became increasingly difficult to secure. The schedule of concerts was discontinued about a dozen years ago.

Nonetheless the venerable Memorial Bandstand has soldiered on and today groups from both the town and university still find it a friendly venue for different events and performances.

Repairs Undertaken

About 13 years ago, county officials and musicians noted the facility was in need of structural repairs, with rotting supports underneath and flooring badly in need of replacement. A fund drive led by Central Methodist band alumni and the Fayette newspapers (then owned by this writer) garnered funds to undertake refurbishment of the structure, with modern weatherproof composite flooring replacing the wooden planks and steel undergirding in place of the original wood supports.

Now the lovely little landmark is at the half-century mark, a milestone which is occurring just two years before Fayette celebrates its bicentennial in 2023.

But for the present, the bandstand played host to an event held



In 2008 Robert Bray, director of the Star Cornet Band, conducted a concert in the refurbished Howard County Memorial Bandstand.

Photo by Jim Steele

Saturday, April 17, when CMU band alumni — and others from across the state and beyond — descended on the city for a special memorial concert honoring the bandstand's 50th year. Various Phi Mu Alpha members past and present were present to make remarks and a ceremony was held that marked the addition of a new memorial plaque adjacent to the bandstand commemorating the service of the late Prof. Paul M. Montemurro who directed Central's band program from 1967 to 1972.

As in past years this rededication event honored in loving memory those who have gone before us, whose

hearts and hands have served college and community, and to all who may, in years to come, share use of this historic bandstand toward the purpose instilling an awareness of music's important role in the enrichment of the human spirit.

So as band members and attendees paused on April 17 to observe a quiet moment before the ceremonies began, the echoes of long-gone musicians surely were heard faintly coming from the overhead rafters — bringing with them memories of a long-forgotten past.

Jim Steele is president of the Boonslick Historical Society and is the retired editor/publisher of the Fayette Advertiser & Democrat-Leader (2000-2011). In 2016 he served as editor of Howard County's bicentennial book, From Prairie Land to Promised Land—A Remembrance Across Two Centuries.

Help Us Document this Time in Boonslick Country History

Editor's Note: We are asking members to help document current events related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As keepers of local history, the Boonslick Historical Society invites its readers to help us document the impact of the coronavirus on communities in the Boonslick region. We encourage readers to share with us their stories about the coronavirus disease and how it has affected them, their families and friends.

The board and staff of the magazine are keenly aware that a historic event is taking place. The coronavirus pandemic of 2020-21 will be written and spoken about by for generations to come. We ask readers to share their stories through a written, physical journal or a digital record (flash drive or an emailed document) and to donate these stories to our historical society to be preserved for future generations. Future Boonslick residents will want to read first-person narratives of this unique time; they will want to know what this time was like.

Personal journals may include daily activities, letters to family members, poems, saved emails, videos, or photographs documenting this event. If your submission is a creative work such as a photograph or a poem, you will have the choice of donating or maintaining copyright.

Write in your diary every day if you can, or at least once a week. It can be long, or it can be short. It can be funny, or it can be angry. Whatever you write about, it's your story. A physical journal may be helpful since our current digital technology may be obsolete in 50 to 100 years, but

either way we won't collect your ongoing diaries until this crisis is over so we can capture your whole story. It might be June at the earliest before you feel your journal of this time is complete.

However you choose to keep your diary, paper or digital, please date each entry clearly, and add your location if you are comfortable.

- But, What to Write?
- How did you spend your time today? What did you work on?
- Who did you talk to today? About what?
- What are you happy about?
- What worries you?
- What's it like to 'shelter in place'?
- Are you telecommuting or video conferencing? For work or school or for fun?
- What do you wish you could do right now?
- How has COVID-19 impacted your life?
- What and who are you thankful for right now?

To share your stories, photos and videos for a Boonslick Country COVID-19 digital archive, send hard copy information or print photos to: Don Cullimore, BHS Editor, 1 Lawrence Drive, Fayette, MO 65248, or email documents or digital images to: don.cullimore40@gmail.com.

If This Cemetery Could Talk: (oh, but it does)

By Timothy Carson

IF TRAVELERS START at the terminus of the Boone's Lick Road, where Old Franklin used to stand before the flood washed it away and the townspeople moved a mile north to higher ground in what became New Franklin, they will stand on the very spot that in the early 1800s claimed the unique status of being the largest town west of St. Louis. That status was temporary as the trailhead constantly moved westward, culminating with Independence and Westport.

There was a time before Old Franklin, of course, when pioneers led by Nathan Boone capitalized on the salines in the Boonslick Region and opened the Boone's Lick Saltworks. If we depart the Old Franklin site and travel west on Highway 87 the road quickly rises out of the river bottoms, winding uphill and through farmland until arriving at Boonesboro (at Highway J). Just a mile more and we arrive at the turnoff to the Boonslick State Historical Site (at Highway 187).

While many people make it that far, to the Saltworks, or even farther to Glasgow, very few stop on Highway 87 a mile beyond the saltworks at the turquoise water tower. The tower is emblazoned with CPWSD #1 and sits at the intersection of Highway 87 and County Road 316. That is where we turn right or east. It is not a familiar pathway today. But it used to be.

It shouldn't surprise us that many of the settling families in the Boonslick spread in every direction to buy land to begin their lives. Families like the Coopers and Carsons built their cabins, cleared the fields, and fortified when necessary. Those families often intermarried as they were the most readily available for courtship matches and marriage.

County Road 316 takes us right into one of those early homesteading areas. Whereas Kit Carson is broadly known in lore and fiction, his seven siblings are less so. County Road 316 leads right to the area where his younger brother, Sashwell Cooper Carson, homesteaded, raised his family and made a life for himself.

Immediately after turning on County Road 316, a private lane exits to the right. This private lane is named Carson Ridge and continues in a long loop to the right around three large human-made ponds made possible by an earthen dam on the east side. This land is presently owned by the Weber family, and after crossing the dam and passing by the first house on the right – the Weber's house – explorers will find the small Carson Cemetery on the right side of the road.

Among the worn grave stones, we find Sashwell's rectangular marker inscribed with the dates of his life (1816-1864) and the inscription "Own[ly] Brother of Pioneer Kit Carson." Even in death we are often overshadowed by siblings.

Beside Sashwell's stone is that of his wife, Catherine Amick

Carson. This was one of the many Amick-Carson marriages. We remember that when Kit brought his daughter, Adeline, from the west to be educated in Missouri, arrangements were brokered by his younger sister, Mary Ann Carson Rubey, who arranged for Adeline to stay with the Leander Amick family, whose farm was located between Fayette and Glasgow. Catherine's name and the dates of 1816-1904 are enclosed in a tombstone oval.

Though Sashwell and Catherine were born in the same year, she outlived her husband by forty years. During the last year of the Civil War, Sashwell's life was cut short. It was a common Missouri story: As he crossed a field on the way to escort his wife back home, he was attacked and killed by Bushwhackers. Catherine brought him back home for burial in an ox-drawn cart.

Sashwell and Catherine had three children: Christopher Carson, named after his uncle Kit (1838-1851), George Carson (1842-1928), and Eliza Carson Amick (1844-1929).

The fact that Christopher is the only child to be buried beside his parents in the Carson cemetery tells a story all by itself. Christopher died at the young age of 12 while his siblings married, moved and had children of their own. George Carson is buried in the Boonesboro Christian Church cemetery beside his wife, Sarah Cravens Carson. Eliza Carson Amick is buried with her husband, Thomas Amick, in the Oakland Cemetery in Moberly.

Christopher's stone simply reads Christopher Carson, son of Sashwell Carson.

Other than some indiscernible stones and a few markers for infants, the most prominent tombstones in the Carson cemetery are three, those of Sashwell, Catherine and Christopher. Theirs was one of the founding homesteading families of the Boonslick, part of a much larger network of Carson brothers and sisters who intermarried with other prominent homesteading families such as the Coopers, Boones, and Amicks.

On the one hand, cemeteries can be some of the most silent places on earth. Certain quietude accompanies places of final rest. But they are, at the same time, noisy places, full of names, families and stories. It's simply not true that dead men tell no tales. They are the tales.

(My appreciation to Dexter Slagle, longtime surveyor of the counties of the Boonslick, who provided me with a personal, handwritten map of the route to the Carson Cemetery.)

Timothy Carson is a retired pastor, teacher in the Honors College of the University of Missouri, and author of books dealing with liminality or transitional states. He lives with his wife, a Golden Retriever pup, and two cats in Rocheport. As he is a seventh cousin of Kit Carson, Tim has personal interest in the exploration of 19th century Missouri and the great trails west.



The Carson family cemetery near Boonesboro.
Photo by Tim Carson

C. T. VIVIAN: Civil Rights Leader Native to Boonslick Region

By Harold Kerr

In September last year I received a phone call from Jane Crigler¹ concerning the death of a man I frankly had never heard of, the Rev. Cordell Tindall Vivian, also known as “C. T.” Crigler had been in touch with Tim Jackman² about Vivian and they decided to contact me to see if I would include something in an upcoming Howard County Genealogical Society newsletter. After hearing his story and doing some research, I readily agreed. What follows is a Life Sketch about the Reverend Vivian. His life (and death) is very interesting to me and I trust it will be to you, the readers, as well. —Harold Kerr

Life Sketch of a Civil Rights Icon with Howard County and Cooper County Roots

On the same day, July 17, 2020, two well-known civil rights activists died. These were Congressman John Lewis³ and the Rev. C. T. Vivian, friends and colleagues in the civil rights movement from the 1960s onward. Following is a profile of the life of the Reverend Vivian, a native son of this area.

Cordell Tindall (“C. T.”) Vivian was born on 30 July 1924. He was also known as “Cordie” or “Cordy.” As he states in several oral history interviews which are readily accessible online, he was born in Howard County, Missouri. (One of these interviews was given for the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Library of Congress for its Civil Rights History Project.) Further evidence may be found in his World War II Draft registration, dated 14 December 1942, where he stated he was born in Howard County, Missouri. This is found on www.ancestry.com.

“...the Depression, we lost everything we had, three farms and all that sort of thing. This is why you see Howard County, Missouri, on where I was born, right? ... But then everything was lost and as a result of the Depression, and then we moved into the house in town which was in Boonville, and that's why you get that, right?...”—*Smithsonian Institute National Museum of African American History & Culture oral interview of C.T.Vivian by historian Taylor Branch, March 29, 2021* I.

As the Reverend Vivian explains in these interviews, at the time of his birth the family was buying three farms in Howard County but “lost everything” during the Depression, when he was quite young. He notes that they were not alone as many others lost “everything they’d worked for for their lives” as a result of the Depression. As he reports, the family then moved “across the river to a house in Boonville” where he, his mother, and his grandmother lived for a few years. They later moved to Macomb, Illinois, where C. T. grew up and went to school. Again, in his own words, while all this was precipitated by the family’s losses during the Depression, his mother and grandmother were motivated to move out of a segregated society but chose Macomb because of the educational opportunities there, including a university. It was a dream of his grandmother, particularly, that he be able to go to college.

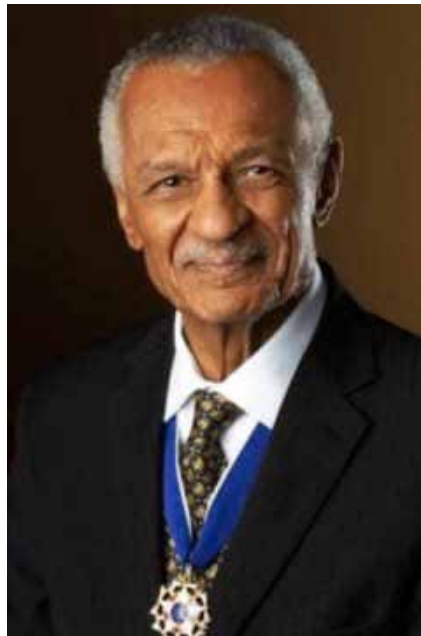
The Reverend Vivian’s Parents: His father’s name was Cordell

Robert Vivian, and he went by “Cordie.” He was born 8 May 1885 in Howard County, Missouri, and his first wife was named Janie (maiden name not known), who was born about 1890. This comes from the 1900 Howard County census. They were living with Cordie’s parents in the 1910 census. He must have divorced Janie, and he then married Euzetta Gertrude Tindall, 4 August 1919 in Howard County, Missouri.

Euzetta was C. T.’s mother. She was born 20 March 1901 and died in Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, on 1 April 1966.

C. T.’s parents divorced and his father remarried a woman named Laura Bell Winfrey on 5 November 1927 in St. Louis, where they lived. Euzetta remarried Le-Roy Huff in McComb County, Illinois.

The Reverend Vivian’s Wife⁴: C. T. married Octavia Geans in 1952, who was instrumental in the Civil Rights movement in her own right. She and C. T. were married for 58 years and Octavia was born in Pontiac, Michigan, on 23 February 1928 and died on 5 May 2011. Octavia earned a degree in social work from Eastern Michigan



The Rev. C.T.Vivian. Google image

University and was active in church and civic work throughout her life.

C. T. and Octavia had six children, Denise Vivian Morse (Carlton), Cordy, Jr. (deceased January, 2010), Kira E. Vivian, Mark Evans Vivian (Utrophia), Anita Charisse Thornton (Andre), and Albert Louis Vivian (DeAna Jo Swann), and 14 grandchildren.

According to her obituary, “The Vivians moved to Atlanta, Georgia, when the Reverend Vivian joined the executive staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (The Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. was serving as its first president). Octavia worked tirelessly to end racial segregation in Georgia’s DeKalb County Public Schools. She also became one of the first African-American deputy voter registrars in DeKalb County, Georgia.

“Octavia organized women and mothers of the greater neighborhood to end one principal’s efforts to segregate the elementary school from within. Octavia took the lead in collecting and organizing documents that detailed the history of S.C.L.C. and the American Civil Rights Movement. In 1970, Octavia authored and published *Coretta*, the first biography of Coretta Scott King. She revised and re-published a memorial edition of *Coretta* upon Mrs.

King's death in 2006.

"Octavia also assisted Coretta King in the early months of establishing the Martin Luther King Jr. Center. She also spent several years working as a secretary for the Cascade United Methodist Church and in public relations at Morris Brown College.

"Octavia was a loving, strong, and spiritual woman who assisted and supported C. T. on his journey to gain freedom for African-Americans across this country.

"She trusted and loved God, and she believed her mission in life was forged by His design." [Quotes from news sources]

The Rev. C. T. Vivian's Obituary

Cordell "Cordy" Tindall Vivian (30 July 1924 – 17 July 2020) was an American minister, author, and close friend and lieutenant of Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement. Vivian resided in Atlanta, Georgia, and founded the C. T. Vivian Leadership Institute, Inc. He was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Senator Barack Obama, speaking at Selma's Brown Chapel on the March 2007, anniversary of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches, recognized Vivian in his opening remarks in the words of Martin L. King Jr. as "the greatest preacher to ever live."

Vivian was born in Howard County, Missouri. As a small boy he migrated with his mother to Macomb, Illinois, where he attended Lincoln Grade School and Edison Junior High School. Vivian graduated from Macomb High School in 1942 and attended Western Illinois University in Macomb, where he worked as the sports editor for the school newspaper. His first professional job was recreation director for the Carver Community Center in Peoria, Illinois. There, Vivian participated in his first sit-in demonstrations, which successfully integrated Barton's Cafeteria in 1947.

Studying for the ministry at American Baptist Theological Seminary (now called American Baptist College) in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1959, Vivian met James Lawson, who was teaching Mohandas Gandhi's nonviolent direct-action strategy to the Nashville Student Movement. Soon Lawson's students, including Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette, James Bevel, John Lewis, and others from American Baptist, Fisk University, and Tennessee State University, organized a systematic nonviolent sit-in campaign at local lunch counters. On April 19, 1960, 4,000 demonstrators peacefully walked to Nashville's City Hall, where Vivian and Diane Nash discussed the situation with Nashville Mayor Ben West. As a result,

Mayor West publicly agreed that racial discrimination was morally wrong. Many of the students who participated in the Nashville Student Movement soon took on major leadership roles in both the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (S.N.C.C.) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.).

Vivian helped found the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, and helped organize the first sit-ins in Nashville in 1960 and the first civil rights march in 1961. In 1961, Vivian participated in Freedom Rides. He worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. as the national director of affiliates for the S.C.L.C. During the summer following the Selma Voting Rights Movement, Vivian conceived and directed an educational program, Vision, and put 702 Alabama students in college with scholarships (this program later became Upward Bound). His 1970 *Black Power and the American Myth* was the first book on the Civil Rights Movement by a member of Martin Luther King's staff.

In the 1970s Vivian moved to Atlanta, and in 1977 founded the Black Action Strategies and Information Center (BASIC), a consultancy on multiculturalism and race relations in the workplace and other contexts. In 1979 he co-founded, with Anne Braden, the Center for Democratic Renewal (initially as the National Anti-Klan Network), an organization where blacks and whites worked together in response to white supremacist activity. In 1984 he served in Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign, as the national deputy director for clergy. In 1994 he

helped to establish and served on the board of Capitol City Bank and Trust Company, a black-owned Atlanta bank. He also served on the board of Every Church a Peace Church.

Vivian continued to speak publicly and offer workshops and did so at many conferences around the country and the world, including with the United Nations. He was featured as an activist and an analyst in the civil rights documentary *Eyes on the Prize*, and was featured in a PBS special, "The Healing Ministry of Dr. C. T. Vivian." He made numerous appearances on "Oprah" as well as "The Montel Williams Show" and "Donahue." He was the focus of the biography *Challenge and Change: The Story of Civil Rights Activist C. T. Vivian* by Lydia Walker.

In 2008, Vivian founded and incorporated the C. T. Vivian Leadership Institute, Inc. (C.T.V.L.I.) to "Create a Model Leadership Culture in Atlanta," Georgia. The C. T. Vivian Leadership Institute conceived, developed, and implemented the "Yes, We Care" campaign on December 18, 2008 (four days after the City of Atlanta turned the water off at Morris Brown College (MBC) and,



The Rev. C. T. Vivian receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama in 2013. Google image

over a period of two and a half months, mobilized the Atlanta community to donate in excess of \$500,000 directly to Morris Brown as "bridge funding." That effort saved the historically black institution and allowed them to negotiate with the city, which ultimately restored the water services to the college.

On August 8, 2013, President Barack Obama named Vivian as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The citation in the press release reads as follows:

C.T. Vivian is a distinguished minister, author, and organizer. A leader in the Civil Rights Movement and friend to Martin Luther King, Jr., he participated in Freedom Rides and sit-ins across our country. Vivian also helped found numerous civil rights organizations, including Vision, the National Anti-Klan Network, and the Center for Democratic Renewal. In 2012, he returned to serve as interim President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

C. T. Vivian died from natural causes in Atlanta on July 17, 2020, two weeks before his 96th birthday and on the same day that his friend and fellow activist, John Lewis, died. He was buried at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta.

Author's note: I want to thank Jane Crigler and Tim Jackman for bringing to my attention this great man who had his start on Earth in our area. He truly is a person I would have loved to have met.

*Editor's note: Harold Kerr is president of the Howard County Genealogical Society. This article is reprinted with permission from Vol. 29, No. 1, Mar 2021, of the "Howard County Missouri Genealogical Society Newsletter." According to the author, sources for this article include a compilation of information from funeral home obituaries for C. T. Vivian and for his wife Octavia Geans, *Ancestry.com*, the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of African American History and Culture, and other public domain sources.*

ENDNOTES

1. Mary Jane Crigler considers Fayette her hometown as she graduated from high school there and attended Central for two years before the family moved to California. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in music from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and a Master's degree in Social Work from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Crigler is a retired health planner and policy analyst. She lived in Seattle, Washington for 24 years before moving back to Missouri.
2. Tim Jackman serves as the president and CEO of Previsor, Missouri Employers Mutual's partner in supporting policyholders with multistate workers compensation needs. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Central Methodist University in Fayette. Jackman is currently a member of the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds, the Board of Trustees for Central Methodist University, the Risk Management Insurance Advisory Board at the Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the Lincoln Public School Memorial Committee, and the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Columbia Area. He is the coordinator of the Annual Juneteenth Celebration in Fayette.
3. John Lewis was born in February 1940. He served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th Congressional District from 1987 until his death in 2020.
4. A previous marriage: In 1945, Mr. Vivian married Jane Teague, who worked at a hardware store, and they had one daughter, Jo Anna Walker,

who survives him. The couple separated amicably in the late 1940s and divorced later so that Mr. Vivian could marry Octavia Geans, in 1952. She died in 2011.

Tom Yancey Honored With Sculpture at Ashby-Hodge Gallery

Central Methodist University's newest outdoor sculpture, *Inspiration*, honors the late Boonslick Historical Society member and board officer Tom Yancey.

Inspiration was installed in early October. The sculpture stands nearly eight feet tall, and its painted steel exudes both strength and peace at the same time. *Inspiration* was commissioned by The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art Board with memorial funds from the friends and patrons of the Gallery to honor the contributions and legacy of Yancey. He was known as a "strong and peaceful man—one of Central's most iconic and longest-tenured faculty members." Yancey died in 2019.

"Tom would have liked *Inspiration*," said Joe Geist, registrar of The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art and Yancey's companion of 45 years. "He was very inspirational himself, and it fits his character and



Sculpture *Inspiration* honors the late CMU professor of music and BHS member Tom Yancey.

Photo by Don Cullimore

personality and dedication."

Geist said the placement of the sculpture is "just perfect" near the sidewalk outside of Classic Hall, an area that has become the Gallery's outdoors sculpture garden. "It's like an invitation to the gallery and to Classic Hall," said Geist. "It's beautiful, warm, and welcoming."

Inspiration was created by Rita Blitt, an international award-winning painter, sculptor, and filmmaker from Leawood, Kansas. Geist said she was a perfect choice to do the sculpture, given that "her thinking is very in tune and aligned with Central's mission."

Yancey joined the faculty at Central in 1958, and served as a beloved teacher and mentor to hundreds of students at the Swinney Conservatory of Music – covering six decades. Besides being an accomplished musician, he was a well-known artist.

"Professor Tom Yancey made a lasting impression on Central," said CMU President Roger Drake. "Tom frequently mentioned how lucky he was to have the best job in the world – music and art. We were the lucky ones to have him in our presence."

Remembering Old Friends

Three longtime members of the Boonslick Historical Society passed away during the winter months. They were Braxton Rethwisch of Fenton, and Martha Holman and Julia (Judy) Lay, both of Fayette.

Braxton Rethwisch died Nov. 29, 2020, at the age of 78 after an extended illness. He and his wife Judith (Judy) were BHS family members. They hosted the 2013 summer meeting of BHS at their historic 1883 Victorian home in Fayette, The Elms, a classic example of French Second Empire-style architecture. Braxton retired in 2016 from Central Methodist University, his *alma mater*, after a lengthy career as an admissions counselor. He was involved with the university's establishment of an extended studies program with community colleges that began in 1989. His father, Henry C. Rethwisch, served as mayor of Fayette in the 1940s.

Martha Holman died Jan. 7 at the age of 95 after an extended illness. She and her late husband William (Bill) were BHS family members. Her father, D. C. Rogers, was active in politics and served as mayor of Fayette in the 1930s. The main city lake is named after him. Martha was a 1947 graduate of Central College (CMU) and had a long career as a math teacher. Following her death, Martha was profiled on the "PBS Television News Hour" which, at the end of its broadcast each Friday, features short stories of five individuals who have died because of complications with the coronavirus.

Judy Lay died Jan. 27 at the age of 84 after a brief illness. She and her late husband William (Bill) were BHS family members. An attorney, Bill was also an avid historian of the Boonslick Country. He had served on the BHS Board of Directors and had been involved with another area historical group, the Boone's Lick Road Association. The family made a gift of his Boonslick History papers to the Boonslick Historical Society in 2015. Judy was a graduate of Drury College and taught elementary school for a number of years.

Photos courtesy of Jim Steele

BHS DUES REMINDER

Many of our members already have sent BHS dues for 2021, but in case you've overlooked doing so, please do so soon. Make checks payable to Boonslick Historical Society. Please include your email as we're endeavoring to build an email base for the society. Membership dues are \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50-Sponsor, \$250-Patron, \$500-Life.—THANKS!



South Howard County Historical Society News

The South Howard County Historical Society (SHCHS) is celebrating the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail in a big way in 2021.

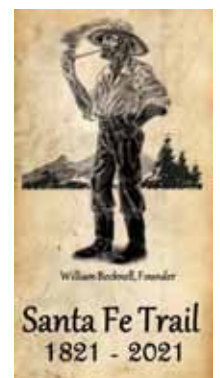
New light-pole banners were purchased for New Franklin depicting William Becknell, who opened up the Trail in 1821. The construction of a small building at the crossroads of the Katy Trail and Route 5 to house the group's authentic Conestoga wagon is almost completed and a dedication is being planned. And a display honoring the Trail has been created by local artist Taylor Ellebracht for the store window next to the SHCHS Museum in downtown New Franklin.

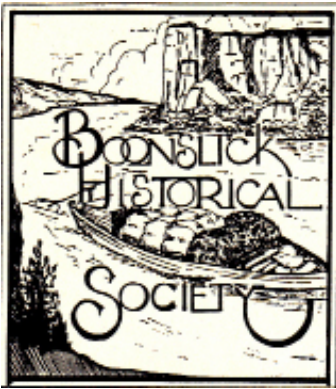
The SHCHS Museum is featuring special displays on the Santa Fe Trail: "Santa Fe Traders," "Women on the Trail," "Blacksmith Shop" as well as a "Santa Fe Trail Research Area." The museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. from April through October, or by appointment.

The South Howard County Historical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution are planning a special celebration this historic year on June 6. They will conduct a wreath-laying ceremony at the large DAR 1909 rock monument in downtown New Franklin. The rock commemorates the end point of the Boone's Lick Trail, which began in St. Charles, and the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail in Franklin. After the ceremony, Tim Williams, the fifth great grandson of early Howard County settler Ezekiel Williams, will give a presentation about the Santa Fe Trail.



Santa Fe Trail window display next to SHCHS Museum in New Franklin, was created by Taylor Ellebracht (right). Below, left, is conestoga wagon to be housed in display shed next to Katy Trail. Right, Santa Fe Trail banner with image of "Father of the Santa Fe Trail" William Becknell. Donations are being accepted by SHCHS to pay for wagon shed. Images courtesy of SHCHS





P.O. Box 426
Boonville, MO 65233

Wayne Lammers Creating Pictorial Book on Boonville

BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY member Wayne Lammers is creating a large-format glossy color pictorial book on Boonville that features many of his high quality photos of community landmarks alongside historic images he has obtained of the same locations, some dating to the 19th century. Titled *Boonville Then and Now: a Pictorial*, the book is being printed by an area firm and will be coming off the press sometime this summer.

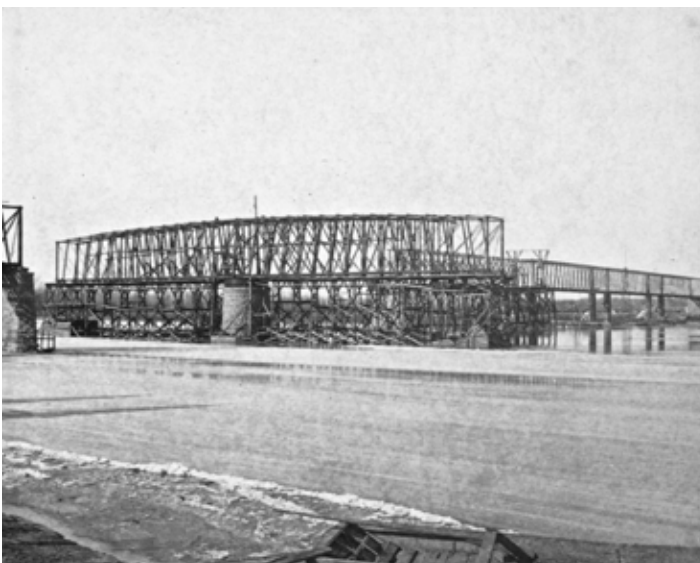
Copies will be available for purchase from Lammers. Interested parties can contact him by email (boonvillebook@gmail.com), and he will place them on a list and contact them when the publication has been printed. The cost of the 160-plus page book is yet to be determined.

Among the buildings and sites being featured in the book is an early photo of the Boonville Central National Bank where Snapp's

Auto is today. "You can see that they are placing the old Central Bell on top of the bank. This is before the two dogs were placed there by Jay Gould," Lammers notes.

Other contrasting images in the book are Harley Park (now and 110 years ago). "You can still see the same entrance to Harley Park that we had over 110 years ago just off Santa Fe Trail in the center. The beautiful stone walls built in the 1930's around the Harley Park are still standing," Lammers says.

Also in the book are images of the George Hirsch building that preceded the Fredrick Hotel, High Street; Kemper Parade to Cemetery, Locust Street; Cobblestone/Wharf Hill, Water Street; Northbound Katy Train, First Street; Roslyn Heights, 821 Main Street; MoPAC Conductor & Agent at Depot, Second Street; and First Black School, Spruce Street.



THEN AND NOW: Left, the MKT Boonville Railroad Bridge (first built in 1873) after it was reconstructed in 1896. The black and white photo was taken in Boonville about 1910. Right, the bridge we have today, constructed in 1932. Photos courtesy of Wayne Lammers