



Miller County Historical Society

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HOT CHILI AND COOL CARS

Plan now to attend the final event of the 2012 museum season scheduled for Saturday, October 20. The annual **chili dinner and car show** will take place from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on that date. Music will be provided by the Joe Jeffries group and Larry Flaucher will be coordinating the classic car event. The show cars will be parked in the county courthouse parking lot which will allow visitors with special needs to park close to the museum building. A lunch of chili, dessert and drinks will be offered for \$5.00/person and we'll have tables set up for visiting in both downstairs rooms. The drawing for the beautiful quilt made by Elva Steen will be in the afternoon.



Elva Steen and Quilt

PIG 'N PICKLES



Tuscumbia celebrated its sesquicentennial (175 years) with a 'Pig and Pickle Fest' at the Riverside Park Saturday, September 8. The Miller County Museum hosted an exhibit showcasing photos of that area, known as Goosebottom, from the late 1800s and early 1900s featuring businesses and houses no longer in existence. Also included were pictures of the great floods that had caused their

demise. Our featured exhibit was this year's raffle quilt, but we also displayed several older quilts from various community sewing circles. We had a lot of visitors and sold many raffle tickets



ALAN SULLIVAN'S BAGNELL DAM HISTORY

Alan Sullivan, consulting engineer for Ameren at Bagnell Dam, presented a power point enhanced history of the construction of Bagnell Dam to our volunteers, board members, visitors and guests Monday, September 24. Because Alan was raised in Tuscumbia, his appearance was a true homecoming. He was uniquely qualified to tell the Lake of the Ozarks story: he not only has been employed with the company for 37 years, but shared personal memories of his Grandpa Elmer Slone and Uncle Lloyd Slone and their work on the original construction of the dam. The lower level of our museum houses a wonderful photo collage of that work which was acquired by a former MCHS president, Wilma Link. Plan a visit to see how Lake of the Ozarks was created!



Alan Sullivan and Gary Carrender

MCHS FOUNDATION GIFT



G. R. Keeth of Iberia (pictured left) recently hand-delivered a \$5,000.00 check and asked that it be deposited in the MCHS Foundation account in memory of his wife, **Jean Pemberton Keeth**, who passed away August 28, 2010. We were thrilled that he chose to honor Jean with this sizeable contribution. Jean won the 'Best of Show' prize for her entry into our 2009 quilt show and she and G.R. were great supporters of the museum. Their son, Greg, currently serves on the museum's board of directors and their son-in-law, Chad Rushing, is on the Foundation's board. Thank you, G. R. and the Keeth family.



STUDENT TOURS

We have been happy to host school groups at the museum again this fall. Tuscumbia's 8th and 9th grade classes toured one morning in late August, with the 6th, 7th and 8th graders coming in the afternoon. The teachers were well-prepared to highlight the Miller County artifacts, taking time to explain the various exhibits. As usual, the cabins and the outhouse were a hit with the youngsters.



Tuscumbia Students

One of our board members, Gary Carrender, is a teacher at Columbia College in Osage Beach. He brought his history class to the museum for in-depth research opportunities as they prepared for one of their assignments spotlighting Miller County history.

CHURCH LUNCHEON



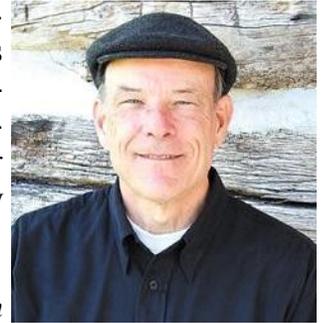
Members of Mt. Zion Church

Members of the Mt. Zion Church shared a 'brown-bag lunch' at the museum after church on Sunday, August 26, and then enjoyed a tour of all the exhibits. Jim and Nancy Clark spear-headed this event to give their fellow church members a more opportune time to visit the museum.

The Miller County Historical Society is always eager to host members of clubs and organizations at our museum. When given advance notice, we are very willing to provide special tours.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Walter Stillwell was one of Miller County's most well known and respected attorneys. He died in 1953, but many of his memories, artifacts and historical records were quite well preserved in a large, antique family trunk. This trunk and its contents were recently donated to the museum, along with other items, by his grandson Raymond Stillwell of Alton, Illinois, who is also an attorney. The Miller County Autogram-Sentinel published a 'Windows to the Past' article written by Peggy Hake on May 5, 2011, that chronicles Walter's life:



**H. Joe Pryor, M.D.
President**



Trunk owned by Walter Stillwell donated by his grandson Raymond Stillwell

Walter B. Stillwell was born in Harrison, Ark., June 27, 1879, but came to Miller County and settled in Tuscumbia as a young man. He had studied the law and became an attorney and opened a law office in Tuscumbia with his partner, Jacob Gantt. Later he was in the law profession with Bob Fendorf, his brother-in-law, and their law firm was called Stillwell and Fendorf.

He was active in politics holding several offices including Prosecuting Attorney elected in 1905, 1908, 1910, 1924 and 1928. He was the Public Administrator 1909-1912. In 1930 the Governor of Missouri appointed him as the Circuit Judge of the 14th Judicial Circuit and he held that office until 1933.

Not only was he a busy and successful attorney, but he also owned a partnership in the county newspaper, Miller County Autogram, as co-owner with Lawrence Wright.

In 1932 he was elected as President of the Bank of Tuscumbia and stayed in that profession for over 20 years. He also served as a member of the Tuscumbia school board, the town board and was a member of the Presbyterian Church.



Jim Clark

In 1910 Walter bought all the records of Miller County land transactions in the County Recorder's office and began recording all property sales and acquisitions in the county. Later he was joined by his son, Roger Stilwell, an attorney also, and the business was then called Stillwell and Stillwell Abstract Company.

Artifacts donated by Walter's grandson include the door to the Abstract Company which was installed in the lower level of our museum by board member, Jim Clark. The trunk with many of its mementoes and historical documents is now on display in the library area upstairs. We are very grateful to Raymond Stillwell for donating and delivering these items to the Miller County Historical Society.



Closeup of Stillwell Door

SUMMER SEASON

Our summer season is quickly drawing to a close and once again it has been quite successful. The Ice Cream Social in July was very well attended and the Civil War Exhibit on loan from the Missouri State Archives was quite a hit. A quick count of our guest registry showed more than 1000 visitors this summer. We are so grateful to the board members and others who serve as docents from Mid-May thru the close of the museum each October. If any of our readers would like to participate in any of the museum activities, please contact us. *We'd love to have you!*

CONTRIBUTIONS & MEMORIALS

To the Miller County Historical Society: John and Megan Pryor

To the MCHS Foundation, Inc.: Gary Flaughner, Rebecca L. Poertner, Dr. Paul and Marjorie Howard, Philip Bear, Joe and Judy Pryor, Carl Jarrett, Thomas W. Albertson, Harold and Gail Strange, Cindy Hart, Alan T. Wright, William F. Harvey

Memorial Designations:

In Honor of Jean Pemberton Keeth G. R. Keeth

In Honor of Mrs. Harrison (Althea) Mace Lois Webb

Designated Giving:

In Honor of Joe Pryor Judith James Wydick

As always, we are grateful for your generosity and support. Thank you!

Our dues for 2012 remain the same. You can show your support for our organization and museum by filling out the application below and sending it, along with your payment, to: P.O. Box 57 Tuscumbia, MO 65082

Miller County Historical Society
Membership Registration

Please fill in the form and mark your membership choice below

Name: _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

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