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Thank you to all who helped with Progress, "Lebanon & Laclede Co. 175 Years." A special thank you to Kirk Pearce, our local historian. Without you this publication would not have been possible.

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Laclede County, Lebanon founded in 1849

By Noah Smothers,
President of the Lebanon/Laclede
County Historical Society

The story of Laclede County and the City of Lebanon begins in 1849.

The county was created by a legislative act entitled "an Act to Organize the County of Laclede" out of portions of Pulaski, Wright and Camden counties dated Feb. 24, 1849.

On Oct. 1, 1849, the first day of the first term of the circuit court, it was reported that Thomas Whitacre of Miller County and John Duncan of Pulaski County, went before the judge of the circuit court and reported the donation of 50 acres of land for the location of the county seat of Laclede County. A total 41 acres of this land was given by Benjamin B. Harrison and his wife, with the other nine acres given by James M. Appling and his wife.

From 1850 to 1860, the town grew and prospered, having a population of 4,875 by the 1860 census. By February 1851, the first courthouse was completed, and by September 1851 the first jail was completed. Just 29 years after the coming of the first settler, the territory was organized into a permanent county.

In 1861, the War of Secession came to Lebanon and Laclede County. "The First Hundred Years," a history of Lebanon, Mo. compiled by Frances Gleason has several stories of the women of Lebanon and Laclede County and their experiences during the war.

The period from 1865 to 1867 was one of the most difficult times for Laclede County. It was full of bushwhackers and thieves. Lands, property and goods were confiscated. The railroad hadn't arrived yet as it stopped at Rolla at the start of the war. Because of the heavy casualties suffered during the war, the governor actually asked immigrants to come to not only Laclede County, but to Missouri to help with the work that needed to be done. One such item was posted in The Memphis Daily Argus of Memphis, Tenn. on April 17, 1866. It read, "Judge S. H. Boyd, who has arrived in St.



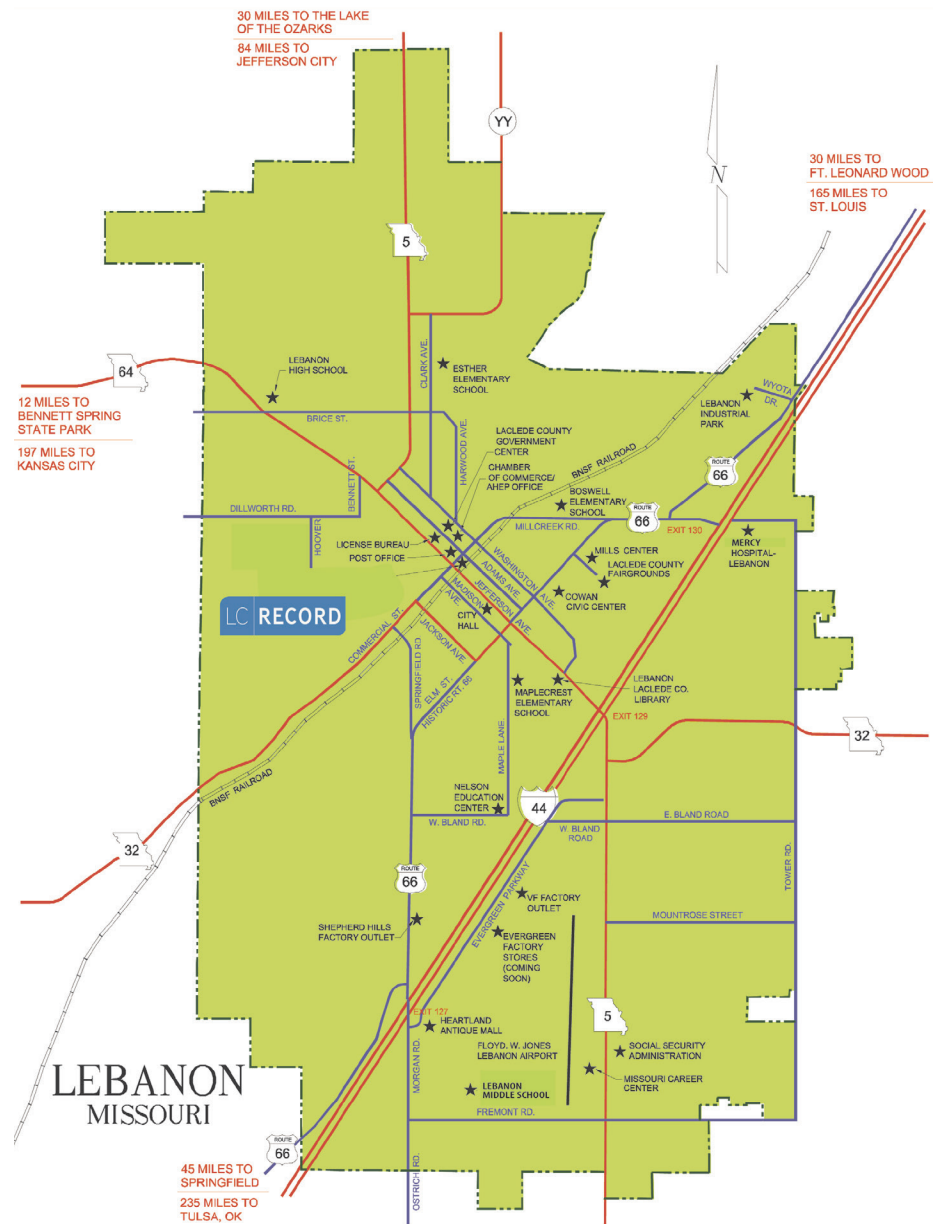
Louis from Springfield, Mo. reports that the country is fast recovering from the devastation of the war; farmers are picking up, and larger tracts of land will be put under cultivation this spring than at any previous season. The tide of immigration is flowing into the southwest. Judge Boyd met near Lebanon, Mo., 70 wagons loaded with immigrants. Each wagon had an average of five girls, and other small children."

By 1869, the first train reached Lebanon.

Major changes came to Lebanon and Laclede County in the period from 1870 to 1880. There were six churches with buildings, Masonic lodges, one high school, one bank, one steam grist and sawmill, 21 stores, one lumber yard, cabinet makers, breweries, hotels, wagon and carpenter shops, a stock yard and newspapers, the Lebanon Chronicle and the Lebanon Anti-Monopolist.

The 1890s was an exciting time for Lebanon. Board sidewalks were installed. Running water and electricity, street lights and telephone service came to town.

In the 1900s, the board sidewalks were replaced because Mrs. Louis Ripley fell and injured herself. She sued the city for \$500 and the suit was settled for \$75. On June 20, 1902, ordinance 258 passed, condemning wooden sidewalks and



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ordering them all removed.

In 1949, Lebanon and Laclede County celebrated their first 100 years. This year, 2024, is the 175th anniversary of the city and the county.

Previous historians have written many books and articles about the

history of Laclede County. If you would like to learn more, the Historical Society holds monthly meetings at the VFW the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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Early Settlement of Laclede County

By Kirk Pearce



Earliest known photograph of Commercial Street — 1870, with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lillard traveling down Commercial in a wagon driven by oxen.

Early in the spring of 1820, Jesse Ballew came westward, crossed the Gasconade River and settled near where the Hazelgreen Bridge spans that river today. He was the first white settler to settle in what is now Laclede County. Ballew still has descendants in Laclede County today.

A short time later, Henry Anderson, another daring pioneer, settled just across the river from Ballew, followed by William Montgomery, who erected a cabin a few miles downstream.

Settlers then began coming thick and fast. As early as 1836, the land in this region was surveyed and sectionalized, thus making it possible for land entries to be made within 16 years after the coming of the first settler.

These early settlers came from North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky, sometimes in groups, often one or two families with their household goods piled on ox-drawn wagons, settling chiefly in the fertile little valleys along streams and creeks.

The first ones to take advantage of the homesteading were Abraham Munholland, John Tucker, Robert Montgomery, D.B. Laxton, Benjamin Moore, William Maxey, John Honssinger, Robert Faires, Moses Bean and W.P. Wisdom. There are still descendants of these early settlers in our county today.

The first mill of any sort to be erected in the territory known as Laclede County today, was built in 1825 by Robert Montgomery.

By the 1840s substantial settlements had grown up along the

Gasconade and Osage River, Bear Creek, Brush Creek, Dry Glaize, Goodwin Hollow and Cobbs Creek, with a few scattering farms between.

The earliest settlers in and around the city of Lebanon were James Jolley, John T. Cooper, William A. McPhail and Lauckland Murphy.

Laclede County was organized in February 1849 at the house of L. Murphy. An election was held in April of that year. Robert Faires, William Smith and Samuel W. Barnes were elected judges of the county court; John S. Shields, sheriff, and



Taken on West Commercial Street looking east 1908.

John L. Herndon, clerk of the county court.

The contract for the first courthouse in Laclede County was let to A.S. Cherry in May 1850. The county was organized in honor of Pierre Liguist Laclede, the founder of St. Louis. The city of Lebanon was once called "Wyota" by the Indians.

Benjamin B. Harrison, who gave a great part of the land for the original townsite, was the first merchant in Lebanon, having opened his store about two years before the town was established. About the year 1857, J.W. McClurg, later governor of Missouri, and a merchant at Linn Creek, opened a branch store in Lebanon. There were four stores in Old Town when the Civil War began. Lebanon was then a small place, but a great deal of business was carried on there.

The Lebanon Post Office was established on April 9, 1850 with Harrison the first postmaster.

The Civil War had much impact on Laclede County. Lebanon was very isolated at that time since it was 100 miles from railroad or telegraph. Both North and South were represented among the residents of that section. Many of the early settlers were from Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas and there were many slave owners among them. There were also pioneer settlers from New England and the northern states. Feeling was intense and many, once good friends and neighbors became bitter enemies during the war.

Troops from both North and South passed over the Old Wire Road and old timers in Lebanon have told of occasions when the army of one side came into town very shortly after the

army of the other side had left, going in the opposite direction.

Bushwhackers also made frequent raids in the section and terrorized the people. More than one good citizen incurred their enmity and was shot or hanged by them.

After the close of the war, business immediately began to revive in Old Lebanon. Some of the business places at that time were Wallace Brothers General Store, H.P. Crane, Joe Fisher's Restaurant, Rubey & Ivey, Serl's Drug Store, Worthington's Store, Norman's Drug Store, Bradley & Hartmiller, a hardware a bank, Cushwa's General Merchandise. Steinberg's and two hotels or taverns.

The Old Academy was the first school in Lebanon.

The next great epoch in the history of Lebanon occurred in the summer of 1869 when the railroad, spanning the entire nation, passed through the very heart of the county from northeast to southwest. Failure of the town council at that time to donate to the railroad the land it requested caused the train station to be established three quarters of a mile out on the muddy prairie at that time, the railroad missing the town a quarter of a mile. The first passenger train arrived in Lebanon on Oct. 20, 1869. The inevitable happened. Businesses immediately moved to the new addition, which was laid out parallel to the railroad and in a couple of years a new business center grew up and Old Town became simply the first ward of Lebanon. There were no brick buildings in Old Town, but with the removal to the present location, most of the business places were built of



Commercial Street looking west in 1880.



Selling wool in downtown Lebanon in the 1907 era.



Kaffenberger Bakery in 1905.



Demuth Grocery in the 1890s era.



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The fashionable Attaway Hotel in the 1880s was located next to the railroad before the Laclede Hotel taken on North Jefferson Ave.

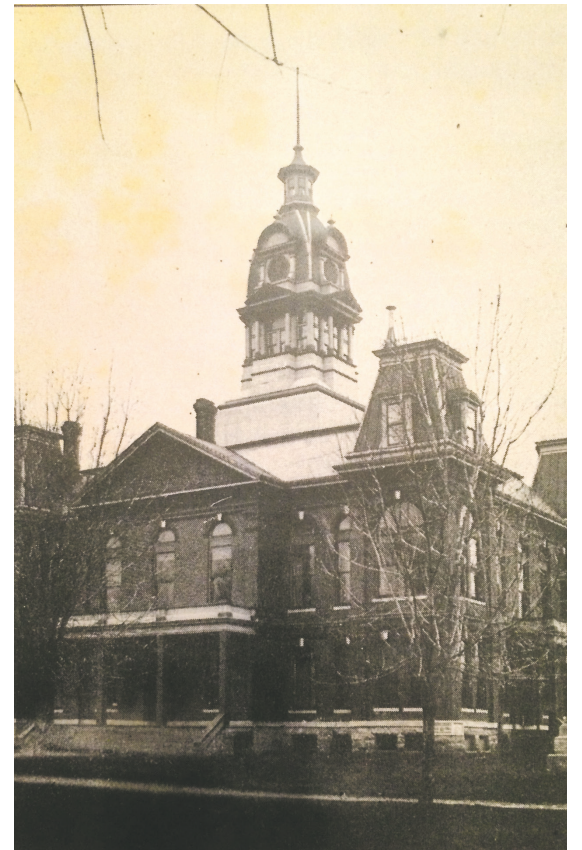
brick. Even the location of the cemetery was changed from Old Town. When the cemetery was moved, only three bodies were moved, that of a man, a woman and a little child.

The old courthouse was sold in 1870 and officers were moved to

the new town. A new courthouse was constructed in 1894. This grand building was destroyed by fire in 1920. Another courthouse was built where the Laclede County Government Center is now located. This building was completed in 1924.



The Lingsweiler building in 1918. It is where the Laclede County Record and Cali & Co. are now located.



The old Laclede County Courthouse in 1913.

We've got a lot to cheer about in Lebanon

But, we always have! Whether it be 1849, 1988 or 2024 the spirit of our town has always been one of determined people who pull together to accomplish the task.

Our history is rich and our future is bright. The City of Lebanon looks forward to challenges of the future while providing those city services you depend on.

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We've Got a lot to Cheer About in Lebanon...

ABOVE— Fans and onlookers of the 1987 Babe Ruth World Series Parade on Jefferson Ave.

But, we always have. The spirit of our town has always been one of determined people who pull together to accomplish the task... for be it a Babe Ruth World Series, grants for city projects, developments of parks and recreation facilities or a summer celebration downtown.

Our history is rich and our future is bright. The city of Lebanon looks forward to the challenges of the future while providing those city services you depend on.

A Bright Future...

AT RIGHT— Commercial Street circa 1910 during the popular Fourth of July Parade.

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City Hall advertisement
in Briarwood 1988



The Sam Farrar building at Commercial and Jefferson, in 1949. Conner Drug was located in the building at the time.



Commercial Street looking east in the 1930s era.



The Kroger Store located across from the Lebanon Post Office.



Laclede Hotel on North Jefferson.



Armistice Day Parade in Lebanon in 1918.

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City of Lebanon

By Kirk Pearce



West Commercial Street in the 200 block in the 1930 era.

Lebanon began around the time Laclede County was established with 50 acres donated by Benjamin B. Harrison and James M. Appling families. The Lebanon Post Office was established in 1850. The town began to develop and by 1851, a log courthouse and jail were constructed on the square formed by Main, St. Louis, Broadway and High streets. A Town Board was formed.

The town moved after the railroad came through in 1869 and the first Mayor of Lebanon was Sam R. Farrar, a longtime druggist in Lebanon. He was appointed in 1874. Many town meetings and other city events were held in the Opera House which was located on the third floor of his building at the corner of Jefferson and Commercial. William H. Owen was remembered as another early mayor.

Lebanon officially became a 4th Class City on October 17, 1877, and has

been governed by a Mayor/Council form of government since.

The City Manager form of government was voted on and approved in June of 1946. City Manager government did not become effective until April, 1947, and lasted until voters defeated it in 1959. A mayor-councilman form of government became effective in April, 1960. In 1959, Lebanon achieved 3rd Class City status, due to its growth and progress.

In 1957, a new sewage disposal plant was built in Goodwin Hollow to serve approximately 6,000 people. A new sewage disposal plant was completed in 1975.

A Zoning and Planning Commission was appointed in 1952, when zoning became effective in the city, and in 1969 a comprehensive plan was adopted. The comprehensive plan consisted of a zoning, electrical, plumbing, fire prevention and minimum housing

standards ordinance, a subdivision ordinance, building code ordinance, and the zoning district map was included.

In 1893, a great sidewalk construction project took place that was extended throughout the city.

Lebanon City Hall was located many years in a building at 121 N. Jefferson Ave. The city collector, city engineer and police judge had offices in this building. In 1944 the Police Department was located at Commercial and Madison. In 1946, the city purchased the U.S.O. building at Madison and Pierce. This building housed city offices until a new modern city hall building was built at Madison and Hayes in 1975. This new building was paid for with Revenue Sharing Funds.

For many years Lebanon had a Justice of the Peace, Uncle Billy Turner, who lived on East Commercial Street

many years. He was the last remaining Civil War veteran and died in 1941. The City of Lebanon also had a Night Watchman, William Elder, who was also a peace officer. He served in that capacity many years.

The Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department also had headquarters at City Hall on North Jefferson.

The first fire department in Lebanon was organized by Jack England, who also served as fire chief for many years. England also built all of the early fire fighting equipment. The first 1920-21 fire truck was purchased from J. Ward Owen. It was a 150 gallon pumper. Some of the firemen at that time were George Burd, Dode Elder, J. Ward Owen, Worth Allison, Fat Atkins, Ralph Elder and Drew Donnelly. Oscar "Shorty" Smith was also a fire chief for many years. The North Jefferson location served as a fire house until two new stations were



Lebanon City Council meeting in 1973.



Stanley (Bud) Allen and Hubert (Bud) Pond. Allen was Mayor of Lebanon for 12 consecutive years. Pond served as Acting Mayor when Kenneth E. Cowan died in 1995. He also served as Mayor Pro-Tem a number of years.



Uncle Billy Turner, Justice of the Peace in Lebanon, located at his home on East Commercial.

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Lebanon Police Department in 1953.



1950s era photo of the Lebanon Police Department.

built in 1974 and 1975. Charley Bailey was the last volunteer fire chief until the department employed some firemen full time. The first volunteer regular fire department was organized on Jan. 7, 1892.

The city power plant was located on Van Buren Avenue.

The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1921, with the following officers: I.T. Curry, Dr. E.C. Traw, C.O. McCain, W.I. Diffenderffer. Diffenderffer became the first full-time secretary. Other early secretaries were Rev. W. Willard, Rev. W.M. Kerr, Rev. Leroy Munyon and Carl G. Ross. Through their work the Rice-Stix factory came to Lebanon.

The Lebanon Library had its beginning in 1896 when the Shakespeare Club set up a small wooden box. It was kept in the home of Mary Wallace from 1896 to 1898, and later housed in the courthouse. In 1936, the American Women's League gave its club house at 30 Harwood to be used as a library. Charlotte Bass was

the first paid librarian. A new building at that location was dedicated in 1951.

The original park in Lebanon was Gasconade Park, which was dedicated along with the swimming pool in 1949, in the time of Laclede County's centennial celebration. Most of the original playground equipment at Gasconade was secured through the courtesy of the Lebanon Lions Club. The park covered ten acres, including a shelter house donated by the Lions Club., tennis courts and a baseball diamond. However, the city of Lebanon's first baseball diamond was located at Frisco Park, situated on the corner of South Jackson and Pierce streets. Since that time, we have had Nelson, Boswell, Spiller, W.T. Vernon and Harke parks.

Lebanon has also been fortunate to have had the Lebanon Community Building, Nelson Community Center and Cowan Civic Center for meetings, and other events.



Lebanon Fire Station in 1970 and former City Hall.



Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department in 1920s.



Former Lebanon City Hall at the corner of Pierce and Madison, 1950.



Story home at Lebanon Library in 1958.



Lebanon Post Office in the 1950 era.

100 Years at Bennett Spring

By Laura L. Valenti



The confluence, where the Bennett Spring branch meets the Niangua River. Notice that this photo was taken before 1932, when the concrete Highway 64 bridge was built across the Niangua, going from Laclede to Dallas Counties. It was a popular place for picnics on weekends.

Once upon a time—for that is how all good fairy tales begin, isn't it?—there was a magical place in the land of the Ozarks that would be known as Bennett Spring. Long before it bore that name, however, it was recognized by the area's original inhabitants, members of the Osage, Kickapoo and Delaware tribes, as a sacred place. While they camped and hunted in the immediate area, they never lived at the spring.

According to one of their legends, the original spring was a small round pool with a minor blue stream. One night, as a group of Native hunters returned to their camp after a shameful raid in which they had attacked and killed others, the ground began to shake and trees fell. In the upheaval, the little stream shifted and the tiny pool became a great weeping eye.

They believed it to be the eye of the Sacred One, weeping ceaseless tears of shame at their behavior. Modern day scientists have confirmed that geological evidence bears out that an earthquake may well have been what revealed the modern-day spring, which is part of an underground river.

By the 1830s, the area's population was transformed as the Native Americans moved further west to the Oklahoma Indian territory, dictated by Federal government treaties. A new population began to filter into the enchanted valley of Bennett Spring.

James Brice and his wife, Ann, were the first to arrive by covered wagon in the year 1837. They discovered a valley of oak, hickory, walnut, elm, maple, and dogwood, teeming with wildlife including deer, rabbits, squirrels, mink, beaver, muskrat,

dove and wild turkey, as well as the occasional buffalo, wild cat, wolf or coyote. And in the midst of it all was a spring that spilled forth 100 million gallons of clear fresh water each day.

Within a few years, James Brice built the first mill in the valley, initiating a new era as other settlers coming into the area brought their corn and later, wheat, to be ground into meal or flour. Peter Bennett and his family were one of those families and sometime later, Peter Bennett also built a mill.

No one knows exactly how many grist and sawmills were built at Bennett Spring over the years as all were eventually destroyed by flood or fire. To those early settlers, mills were built to fulfill a daily need, increase a family's income, or serve the community, but not something that would one day be of historical

interest to future generations. Within a few years, a new tradition was born, as families lined up at the end of their season, with their wagons full of grain, to camp and fish while they waited their turn at the mill. And thus, the joy of families fishing and camping together at Bennett Spring began.

A tiny settlement, the town of Brice grew up around the mills and soon included a couple of stores, a post office, a blacksmith's shop, a church and a little hotel, the Brice Inn. Local residents struggled to survive, overcoming the challenges of the remote location and the capricious Ozark weather that often resulted in floods. Others were man-made and included the locals' squabbles with each other and threats of a greater nature.

Peter Bennett was accused of assisting both Union and Confederate troops who passed through the area during the US Civil War in the early 1860s. Bushwhackers and lawlessness were common to the area as some took advantage of the chaos of war to line their own pockets. The only lawmen were to be found in towns, like Buffalo and Lebanon, both over 15 miles from the little valley. Peter Bennett might well have been wise to accommodate both armies, either of which could choose to burn his mill if they felt he was offering aid to the other side.

By the turn of the twentieth century, interest had turned to stocking the local spring branch with trout. In January 1900, the Missouri Fish Commissioner dropped 40,000 Colorado mountain trout into Bennett Spring for the first time. In 1923 Charles A. Furrow, an Oklahoma dentist opened a trout hatchery at Bennett Spring after bringing in 50,000 rainbow trout eggs from the Federal trout hatchery at Neosho and securing another 50,000 brook trout eggs from Wisconsin. Soon, he had 10,000 tiny trout in his new rearing pools.

Weekend visitors began arriving at Bennett Spring, spending a few hours to fish, picnic and explore or days at the Brice Inn, fishing and enjoying the pristine woodland retreat. The state of Missouri was busy founding the state's park system and had taken an interest in purchasing land to establish a park at Bennett Spring. Negotiations soon broke down, however when the state believed efforts were being made to boost the price of the lands involved.

Still, the dream of sharing the beauty of this enchanted valley would not die. On December 27, 1924, Josie Bennett, granddaughter of James Brice, the original settler to come into the area, sold her eight and one half acres including the Brice Inn, to become the first acreage in the new Bennett Spring State Park. In April 1925, her brother, William Sherman Bennett sold another 525 acres to the state, including the area's well-known spring, to complete the establishment of Missouri's first state park. In short order, the new trout hatchery also became a part of the same venture.

Despite the new ownership, very little changed. The town of Brice continued to stand for a few more

years, paying rent to the state of Missouri. And within another few short years, the whole country was swallowed up in a dark cloud that history would call the Great Depression.

As the world slowly awoke from that nightmare, the US government established the Civilian Conservation Corps, teams of young men who lived and worked together while being provided with room, board and uniforms. They worked on soil conservation and reforestation projects, both of which were desperately needed in the dust bowl area that had destroyed so many Midwest farms; they worked in flood control projects and built state park structures all across the country. Each man was paid \$30 a month but received only five dollars. Twenty-five dollars was sent home to their families, many of which like them, were unemployed and on farms suffering from drought. The money sent home saved thousands from starvation in those desperate uncertain times.

In the valley of Brice, CCC workers who arrived in 1933 were World War I veterans. They first built their own barracks in the field immediately behind the current park store. (One of those buildings, the officers' quarters still stands behind the trout hatchery garage.) They completed the stone on the famous triple-arched bridge, built the Dining Lodge and the first tiny tourist cabins in the park. They finished the destruction of the last buildings of Brice, built a park store, which took the place of the town's store and became the home of the Brice Post Office. (While the town was gone, the Brice Post Office remained active until 1965.) They left only the church as per the contract signed by William Sherman Bennett in 1925, allowing the single acre that still belongs to the church, not the state, to remain, making Bennett Spring the only state park in the nation with a church situated in its midst.

The Bennett Spring Church of God was built in 1917 by the Rev. George Bolds who came to the valley as a traveling preacher with his family in 1893. They held a tent revival that year in which 38 individuals were baptized in the frigid spring waters. William Sherman Bennett was one of them and a few years later, he married the pastor's daughter,



The last mill at Bennett Spring, built in 1900 by a group of business people from Lebanon. In its last years, it was no longer grinding corn or wheat for area farmers but was used to mix fish feed for the state owned trout hatchery. This mill stood where the current hatchery pools are located. Two groups were struggling at the time, one which wished to preserve the mill for historical purposes and one that believed it had outlived its usefulness and needed to be demolished. It burned one night in 1944 under mysterious circumstances.



The Brice Inn, the small hotel in the town of Brice. For a time after the state bought the land for the park and before all buildings in the town were dismantled, the state of Missouri continued to operate the Brice Inn. The two figures on the front porch are Juanita Donnelly, who ran the hotel briefly and her son, David. Juanita went on to be the First Lady of Missouri when her husband, Phil Donnelly of Lebanon was elected governor. David grew up to be a well-respected lawyer in Lebanon. He died at the age of 93 in 2018. He was believed to be about four years old in this photo.



Bennett Spring in its original natural state—before the spring branch was dredged at various times to deepen the stream to improve the fishing and before large rocks were brought in to edge the spring itself. Much of the spring branch was so shallow that cars of the day could cross it in several places.



One of the log dams, eventually destroyed by flood waters at Bennett's Mill as the area was known. Like the mills, more than one dam was constructed over the years at Bennett Spring. The original dams were log dams and at least, two concrete dams were constructed.



A photo from the 50th Anniversary at Bennett Spring Park in 1974.

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► Louie Bolds. Louie Bennett and her son, Paul became well-known preachers in the area.

The charm and mystique of Bennett Spring drew more visitors and soon names like Bramwell, Usery, Splan, Burtin and Vogel also became well-known for their privately owned cabins and rooms they offered to fishermen, their families and other tourists.

Like all good fairy tales, this one includes a bit of tragedy as well. Just a year after, William and Clarise Splan of St. Louis purchased the Bennett Spring Inn from Louie Bolds Bennett in 1949, he drowned at the confluence, in an effort to rescue a young girl. His 12 year-old son, Bill saved the girl, using a boat and paddle but not before

his father, who had been injured in a fall on shore in his haste, had slipped beneath the icy waters. Bill wrote an essay *The Day My Father Died*, many years later while in college and it is obvious that day haunted him for the rest of his life.

His sister, Gail Splan Anderson's memories were different. "It was a wonderful place to grow up," she reminisced. "My mother, Clarise, loved to cook and she surprised people by staying at Bennett, even after my father drowned. She ran our resort—it had been our father's dream—providing lodging and cooking for people. My brother, Bill and I were ornery kids and if my mother was not around, we would sometimes tell people

we were full because we didn't want to clean the rooms after they left!"

Jim Rogers became the Bennett Spring park concessionaire, managing the park store, cabins and dining lodge upon his arrival in 1980. Shortly afterward in 1982, the CCC-built park store was replaced by a new modern structure as were the original park cabins. New multi-plex cabins were built in their place. Jim and his wife, Carmen just celebrated 50 years of serving the same role, much of it simultaneously, all these years at Roaring River State Park in Cassville.

"We've been very fortunate here, with good country people working for us. Some of our employees have been with us nearly 30 years. When I was a boy, 10 or 12 years old, trout fishing at Cassville was a beloved hobby. And somewhere along the line, God said, how would you like to do this for a lifetime? I haven't had time to do a lot of fishing the last few years but I still enjoy teaching the fly fishing classes. Now, my daughter, Mary Ann, who has been a buyer for us at the store over the years, is helping me in that as well. It's good because it is time for

me to slow down a little bit."

After 100 years, names like Brice, Bennett, Bramwell, Burtin, Splan, Usery, Vogel and Larry Peace are fading away into Bennett Spring history. And yet, the original trout hatchery building and pools are undergoing a complete renovation by the Department of Conservation. A new bridge at the park's western entrance is under consideration to replace the original narrow wooden structure that has served for over 90 years and was originally designed for horse and wagon traffic.

Those who love to fish still flock to Bennett Spring, and many have made it their family tradition over the years. Whether they choose flies, lures or bait, they come despite the snows of early March, the heat of summer or the floods in between. And surely, just like those first families who camped and fished while waiting for their turn at the grist mill, they all still live happily ever after, in their dreams at Bennett Spring.

Hayley Schnaath, Bennett Spring Park specialist, shared that a 100 year celebration of Bennett Spring State Park is in the planning stages for



The town of Brice, featuring the three story Bennett Spring Mill in the foreground with the white Brice Inn, directly behind it. The white clapboard church which today is covered in stone and the only building remaining of the town of Brice, is tucked behind the Brice Inn. The lone cedar tree, left of center in the field, still towers over the far end of the current Bennett Spring Store.

Saturday, October 5 at the park. There will be artisan vendors, historical demonstrations, live music, food trucks, storytellers and information about the town of Brice and the

CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) included in the day-long celebration. More information will be made available as the date approaches.

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Postcards from the early days of the new trout fishing state park, Bennett Spring.



That is the original trout hatchery building, built in 1923 and then sold to the state in 1925. Until just the last few years, all the eggs taken were hatched and the trout fry (babies) were raised in the basement of this building. It is currently undergoing serious renovation at age 101.

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Laclede County Centennial of 1949

By Kirk Pearce



25,000 people attended the parade held on day three of the seven-day event.

Held August 7-13, 1949, the Laclede County Centennial was one of the grandest celebrations in Lebanon's history.

The centennial committee consisting of Jean Paul Bradshaw, J.H. Easley, Fern Willard, Thelma Jones, Mrs. Jewett Fulkerson, J.C. Rader, Mrs. Len Pool, Charles E. Brown, Curtis James, Dr. V.D. Hill,

J.B. Daniels, Loren Alexander, Kenneth Irvin, A.W. Schneider and Virginia MacKesson, spent many months planning events.

Lebanon lawyer John F. Lowe was named chairman of the program committee. Billie Lee Walstrom was also on the committee and prepared an official souvenir booklet, which detailed the various events of that week. The book contained photos of

Laclede County residents dressed in their centennial costumes. The men grew beards and the women donned long dresses, bonnets and hats. County residents were photographed by Lebanon Publishing company photographer Bob L. Hough.

Longtime Laclede County school teacher, Frances Ethel Gleason, prepared a history about Lebanon

and Laclede County called "The First Hundred Years." The Books have long been sold out and reprinted by the Laclede County Genealogical Society. Gleason worked many months collecting materials, photos and researching the files of The Laclede County Republican and Lebanon Rustic.

Young John Paul Clinkenbeard received the honor of being "The

First Settler of the Second Century.” The son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Clinkenbeard, he was born Feb. 15, 1949, 100 years and one day after Laclede County was established.

One of the events was a queen contest. DeLores (Montgomery) Shadel was named centennial queen, receiving 793,410 votes. Carmen (Meyer) Layman was second runner-up. Other contestants were Faye Miller, Marge Watson, Mary Sue Smith, Marlene O’Dell, Carolyn Fitzgerald, Mary Cito, Lena Bell Speaker, Daphne Moye, Mary Lou Johnson, Lynn Winchell, Dorothy Windsor and Verna Lee Davis.

DeLores Montgomery Shadel led the grand march at the Queen’s Ball held at the Community Building. She had many memories of the centennial and said in an interview several years ago that “it was nice — something Lebanon never had before. It was quite an honor to me. We sold tickets to the pageant and I sold the most.” As a queen, she was presented a 1/4-carat diamond ring. She wore a tiara, and the pageant committee rented her a special dress for the



Laclede County Centennial Pageant in August 1949.



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Laclede County Centennial Parade in 1949.



Tom Miller of KLWT on the air with Frances Ethel Gleason, author of "The First 100 Years," in 1949.

1957



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occasion.

Weeks before the centennial, the committee and Shadel traveled to small towns promoting the event — Buffalo, Stoutland, and Richland among others.

Sunday, August 7, 1949, was the official date of opening activities with a “religious observance day” held at many churches in Lebanon and Laclede County. On that day, there was a Laclede County Singing Convention held at the Community Building and a chamber of commerce-sponsored baseball game at Frisco Park.

The centennial committee presented a mammoth historical spectacle, “The First Hundred Years,” held at the fairgrounds area. In this pageant, hundreds of people were costumed. There also were horses, oxen and covered wagons.

Many former residents came back to Lebanon that week. Monday of the centennial week was named “Old Settlers Day.” An address was given by Judge Homer Davenport at the Gasconade Park. May Kennedy McCord of Springfield gave her Ozark



Antioch Baptist Church at Oakland observing Laclede County Centennial in 1949.



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Len and Lena Pool at Laclede County Centennial with covered wagon.

philosophy, and there was a horseshoe pitching contest. A basket dinner was also held, followed by a style show with 1,000 people present. Mrs. J.M. (Grace) Cumbea was the first-place winner

at the style show. The winner of the contest for the oldest person at the event was George Alexander, 91.

The centennial museum sponsored by the Laclede County Historical Society, was held in the

Methodist Church annex. KLWT featured historic music and live interviews.

August 9, 1949, was set aside as "Merchants Day," with a gigantic parade held. It was estimated that more than 25,000 persons viewed the parade in downtown Lebanon. It was the largest parade ever in Lebanon and the largest crowd ever assembled in Lebanon.

The day was marred when two prominent local businessmen were killed that afternoon when their light plane crashed as they prepared to scatter confetti over Commercial Street. E.R. Bethel, proprietor of Bethel Appliance, and Don Barto, an electric-supply dealer, had just taken off from the Lebanon airport when their plane crashed into a residential area known as Orchard Hills.

The annual three-day Laclede County Fair was also held that week, in conjunction with a flower show, and children's pet parade, which included 100 participants.

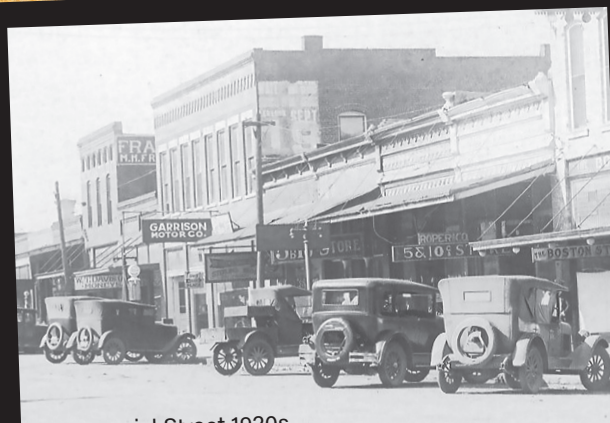
"A Whisker Derby Day" was held on August 11, 1949, with a parade of the "Brothers of the Brush and

Sisters of the Swish" on Commercial Street. Mrs. Robert West was named "Queen of the Swish." Winners of the "Brush Contest" were Gene England, Adam Scott, H.O. Hadley, W.J. Donigan and Russell O'Dell.

A children's square-dance club was organized for the event consisting of Janet Rainey, Eddie James, Gloria Enstrom, Ron Walstrom, Sheila Donaldson, Mickey Woosley, Jean Alice Alexander, Patsy Johnson, Larry Crow, with Stanley Allen, caller, Marilyn Randolph, organist and Gerald Elam, fiddler. Some of the other contests were an Old Fiddlers' contest, rolling-pin-throwing contest, wheelbarrow and three-legged races and pie-eating contests.

Many mementoes of this event now are valued souvenir items to Laclede Countians. Wooden nickels were made and quality historical plates were distributed and are now collectors' items.

On the closing day, there were centennial field trials, a barbershop quartet and a gigantic fireworks display, followed by a street dance.



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Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Clinkenbeard had the honor of being parents of the "First Settler" of the Second Century" in Laclede County. Little John Paul Clinkenbeard, held in the picture with his mother, was born Feb. 25, 1949, just 100 years and one day after Laclede County was created.



Tom Miller advertising the centennial celebration in front of Lebanon Publishing Company in 1949.

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Passenger Train Service for 97 Years

By Kirk Pearce



The last passenger train in Lebanon in 1967.

The arrival May 13, 1967, of the last Frisco passenger train through Lebanon marked an end of an era.

For more than 97 years, the city had enjoyed passenger-train service.

On that eventful day in 1967, many local people were on hand at the Lebanon depot to see the train make its final run on its route between St. Louis and Oklahoma City.

The only Frisco passenger service

remaining at that time was between Kansas City and Birmingham, Ala.

The arrival of the first train to Lebanon on Oct. 20, 1869, made Lebanon a major trading center. It gave rise to an economic boom since goods could be transported easily and cheaply across the United States.

For many years, Linn Creek was the chief shipping point for southwest Missouri and north Arkansas. When the railroad went through, Lebanon

became the major shipping point.

When Laclede County was organized out of three neighboring counties — Pulaski, Wright and Camden — in 1949, a donation of 50 acres of land by Berry Harrison and James Appling established the county seat on what is now known as Old Town.

Here, a town was laid out around a square with streets and alleys. A number of years later a courthouse,

a jail, general store, offices and various places of businesses filled all available space on the square and down neighboring streets.

This all changed when the town council failed to donate to the railroad land it requested on Old Wire Road, causing the railroad station to be established three-quarters of a mile out on what was described as a “muddy prairie,” with the railroad missing the town by a quarter-mile.

With the depot built on what is now the middle of Jefferson Avenue, businesses immediately moved toward the new addition, which was laid out parallel to the railroad.

Within a couple of years, a new business center grew, and Old Town became the 1st Ward of new Lebanon.

It was noted that great business activity followed after the building of the railroad here.

As the railroad continued to Springfield, the Frisco shops were located there and Springfield became the metropolis of the Ozarks.

All along the railroad, small towns grew up, taking their share of trade that the first few years had given to Lebanon. In Laclede County, those towns were Brush Creek, Phillipsburg, Conway, Sleeper and Stoutland.

Many prominent families came to Lebanon on the Frisco passenger train to start their new lives.

The first work train through Lebanon was said to have had a speed of 10 mph. It was said that when the first train came through, people from miles around came by



Frisco Depot in Lebanon in 1909.

foot, on horseback or by mule, in farm wagons, some in old ox-carts. When the train came puffing up the grade to the station, there often was a stampede of horses.

On that exciting day a procession

formed and headed by the brass band, marched up Commercial Street to the new yet-to-be occupied storeroom, known as the Hoskinson Building. There was a speaking program in which Frisco officials,

Lebanon officials and businessmen participated.

The celebration also marked another change in Lebanon — the recognition of the new addition as the business

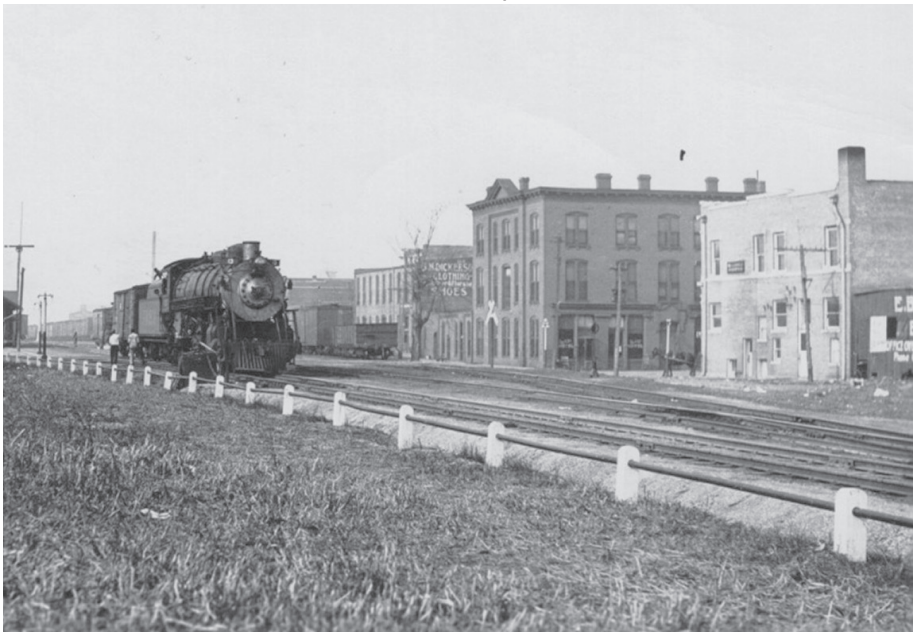
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Train passing through Lebanon in 1910.



Lebanon Depot in 1975.

center of the town. The town's business was moving to the new addition, and the new houses were almost all built in the new part.

In 1901, the Frisco Railroad put on

a new train, the Fast Flyer. The train's name was changed to the Meteor within a few years.

Many Lebanon people took advantage of the cheap excursion rates. Trips to St. Louis, Springfield,

Joplin and points in Arkansas and other neighboring states were enjoyed by large crowds from Lebanon.

During World War I, many soldiers left for and returned from service via the Frisco. Many bodies were sent

home by train.

People brought livestock to Lebanon to the stockyards to be shipped by train.

Railroad ties were made by area farmers.

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Lebanon Depot in 1924.



The last passenger train through Lebanon in 1967.

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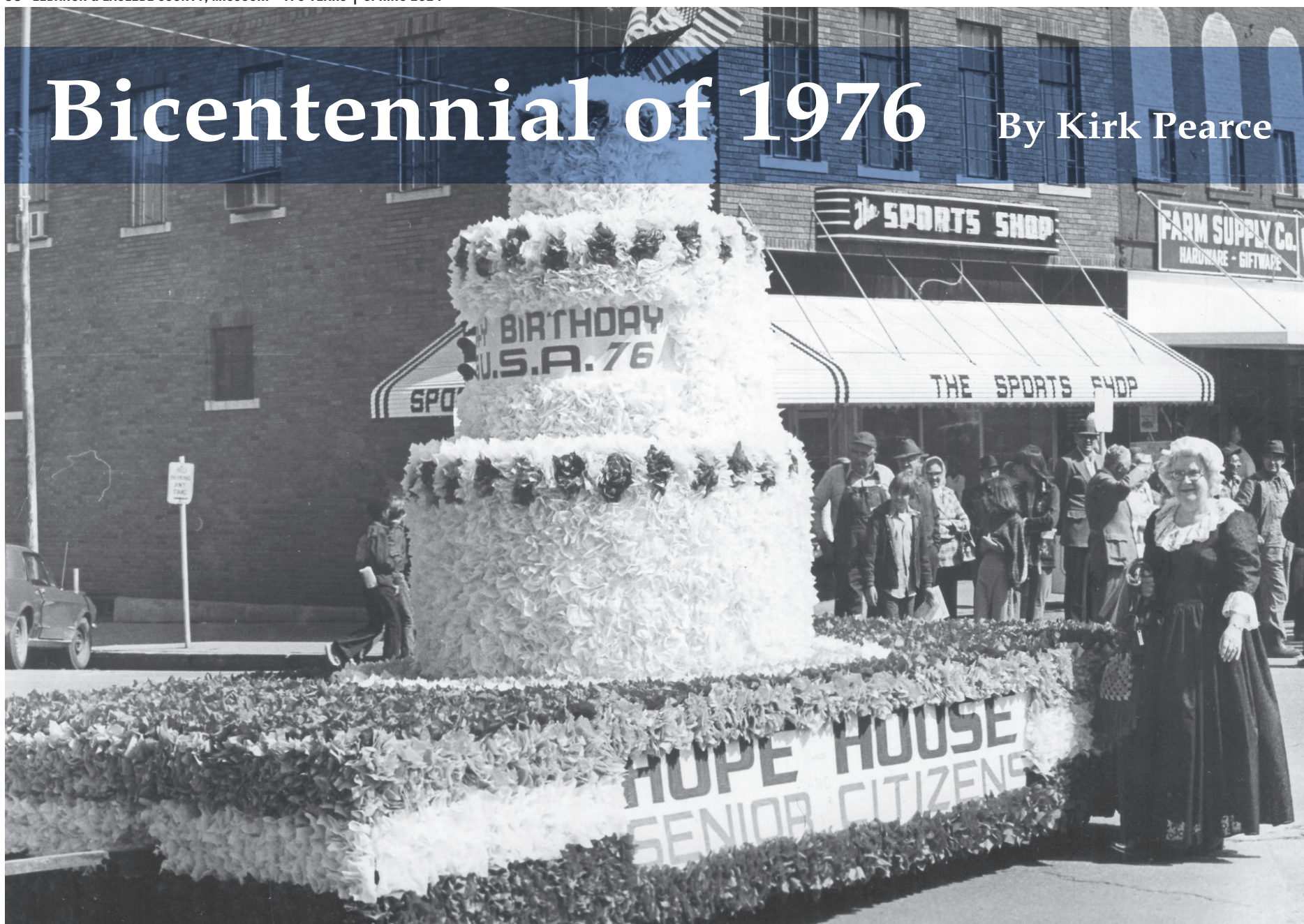
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Bicentennial of 1976

By Kirk Pearce



Bicentennial Parade in Lebanon in 1976 with Edythe Miller behind the Hope House Senior Citizens float.

The Bicentennial of the United States in 1976 was celebrated in great fashion locally.

Many activities and events marked a yearlong local observance of the county's heritage.

In 1975, Lebanon agreed to build a bicentennial program that would fit in with the national order. The themes were Heritage: The way we were; Festival: The way we are; and Horizons: The way we hope to be.

The first meeting of the Lebanon Bicentennial Commission was Feb. 13, 1975. The commission included a group

of Lebanon residents who organized and planned many programs.

The executive board was made up of: Eddie Smith, Billie Lee Walstrom, Jim Henderson, chairman Wally Schuette, Dalton Wright and Alan DeBerry.

In preparation for the celebration, then-congressman Gene Taylor came to Lebanon and presented the late Mayor Wallace Earp with a United States flag that had flown over the nation's Capital in Washington, D.C.

Missouri Chief Justice Robert Donnelly, formerly of Lebanon, was guest speaker, with state Sen. James

Noland making the presentation to the city.

On that special day, State Rep. Margaret "Peg" Miller of Marshfield, who was a member of the State Bicentennial Commission, presented a bicentennial plaque to the city.

The first event held by the organized committees was a bluegrass festival and ice cream social on Aug. 23, 1975, sponsored by the VFW. The chairperson of this event was Billie Lee Walstrom, who was head of the Heritage Committee. She also wrote feature articles on Lebanon's history

that appeared in The Daily Record each week in 1975 and 1976.

The second presentation began with an old newspaper and documents display headed by Dody Wright Coughenour and Kirk Pearce. Many rare documents and newspapers that had been on display in Lebanon's banks were exhibited.

One of the best-remembered events was "Pioneer Lebanon On Tour," organized by Diane Eastburn and committee. This was held at the Nelson Community Center Feb. 13-15, 1976, and drew a record crowd.

On display were old-time shops and home settings furnished with antiques, including demonstrations. The Laclede County Historical Society was reorganized at that time.

Among other events were a bicentennial parade of music headed by Grace Manchester Johnson, a flag day, a pet and pedal parade, Mark Twain Days, and Lebanon historical tours led by Dorothy Breneman.

The Jaycees sponsored a patriotic musical and historical pageant in July 1976. On opening night, the updated History of Laclede County was released.

Tom Luthy Jr. was selected to update the history of the county, dating back to 1949. This was a major project through the bicentennial commission's heritage committee. Walstrom and her committee, including members from all over Laclede County, compiled histories of churches, schools and communities in all parts of the county.

Funding of these books was provided by the bluegrass festival and ice-cream social.

During a bicentennial pageant, Becky Rhoades was crowned Miss Bicentennial. Named as first runner-

up was Janet Florence, Len Darrow and Christine Carr were crowned Little Mister and Miss Bicentennial.

The bicentennial parade sponsored by the commission included many floats, marching units, cars, scouts and flag bearers. Spectators along the parade route viewed many famous characters in America's history.

The Century III Track at Lebanon High School was spearheaded as a bicentennial project by the Horizons Committee. Residents of Laclede County donated money to build the all-weather, athletic track to fill the needs of youth and adults as well.

The track was called "Century III" because the country was moving into its third existence as a free nation. LeRoy Buske was chairman of the fundraising event. To raise money, the "440 Club" was formed, and the committee sold yards of track for \$60 each. Each yard purchased entitled the individual, club, company or organization to have its name inscribed on the monument or track.

More than \$33,000 was raised by contributors. A sculpture executed in stainless steel with the title, "The Flame of Hope,"



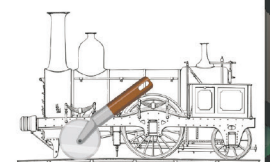
The Bicentennial Parade was held on May 1, 1976, with the theme, "The American Spirit," sponsored by the Lebanon Jaycees. Eddie Smith, Festival Chairman, was dressed as "Uncle Sam" in the bicentennial parade and driven by Marjorie Brown Winfrey.

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Bicentennial Pageant at Rainey Junior High gym. First row, from left, Jennifer Burton, Len Darrow, Little Mr. Bicentennial; Christine Carr, Little Miss Bicentennial; Gianni Troester. In back are pageant directors, Lebanon teachers Gean Harrison and Jack Parscale.



Lebanon observed the Bicentennial of the United States of America in 1976. Wally Schuette agreed to build a bicentennial program in Lebanon that would fit a national order. Lebanon's application was approved and Lebanon received our flag with ceremonies held July 12, 1975, in front of the old City Hall located at Pierce and Madison. U.S. Representative Gene Taylor is shown presenting the Bicentennial flag to Mayor Wallace Earp on that date. The executive committee was composed of Eddie Smith, Billie Lee Walstrom, Jim Henderson, Wally Schuette, Alan DeBerry and Dalton C. Wright. The Century III Track at Lebanon High School was created through the Horizons division.

was placed in the south corner of the new Century III track May 13, 1976, as a monument commemorating the contributors who enabled it to be constructed.

During the bicentennial year, the park in Old Town was restored and named the W.T. Vernon Memorial Park.

The historical display at city hall was a project by the Lebanon Art Association and Golden Thimble Club. Each section in the tapestry depicted important scenes in Lebanon's history. It was dedicated at the end of the bicentennial year, Dec. 28, 1976, after seven months of work.

Another project that year was the mural at the old Laclede County Courthouse painted by Carol Stoneking and headed by Lois Roper Beard.

The Lebanon Community Betterment was established during the bicentennial year.

Commemorative money was issued in Lebanon, and there were endless events. The last meeting of the Bicentennial Commission was held in August 1976 with an awards banquet. This group had met regularly for 18 months, making the 200-year celebration a success.

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Upper left, MFA in 1914. Right, MFA in 1949. Bottom left, MFA employees in the 1950s. Pictures courtesy of Kirk Pearce.



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Billie Lee Walstrom, chairman of the Heritage Committee, presented a Bicentennial Parade of Music with Grace Manchester Johnson assisting.



The Pioneer Lebanon on Tour with Mayor Wallace Earp leading in front of the Moneymaker house.

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Laclede County Sheriff's Department

By Laura L. Valenti



The old Laclede County Jail and Sheriff's Office on Second Street.

In 1849, the town of Lebanon was officially established and simultaneously, John S. Shields became the first county sheriff. He had served as sheriff in Wright County previously and filled the office in the newly formed Laclede County for one year as appointed. He was elected to the post a year later, serving a total of two years. The next Laclede County Sheriff was Joab Scott, who had been a neighbor to John Shields. Scott also served as county assessor, county court justice, and county collector at various times. Both men are buried in area cemeteries, Shields in his family-named cemetery six miles east of Marshfield and Scott in the Bear Thicket cemetery.

The above information is found in a local printed publication, Sheriffs

From *Years Gone By*, compiled and written by Charlene Hopkins. Charlene Hopkins was a longtime member of Laclede County's original Historical Society and a supporter of the new historical society established in 2023. Ms. Hopkins passed away at the age of 95 in January 2024.

Her compilation lists each individual sheriff and at least a small bit of information about them, their family or their history in office. Several only served one year as sheriff and as such had fairly quiet mundane terms in office. For others, especially those serving as sheriff, immediately before, during and after the Civil War, theirs proved to be exciting times, including an area murder or two and a jail break.

The first building serving as a

county jail burned and the county's first new brick jail was built in 1876. The building was two story and included an upper story, with a metal floor and ceiling that was all cells plus an open area for cots. The ground floor featured an office, a kitchen, a women's cell, and a rest room. There was also a 12 by 14 foot basement. A. A. West, Laclede County's 8th sheriff was the first to make use of this new jail.

There were two hangings in Laclede County in the late 1880s, events as anyone who has paid any attention to Hollywood depictions of the same, knows that these were huge social events as well as the ultimate lethal conclusion of a legal proceeding. Sheriff J.A. Wilson was the sheriff for the first one.

It took place in the spring of March 1880 when Joe Core, a local farmer, was hung for the murder of George King. Core waited until he was approaching the scaffold before he confessed to his spiritual advisor, Rev. T.E. Robinson that he had indeed shot King. George King had deliberately burned Core's harvested wheat, the crop that would feed his family throughout the coming winter.

It was reported by the *Journal*, the newspaper at the time, that "the streets of Lebanon were filled to overflowing with people...an extra police force of twenty-five was summoned by the mayor to keep everything quiet...no intoxicants could be had anywhere in town." Yes, quite the social event.

The hanging of Joe Core was reported to be a 'clean, hanging, the

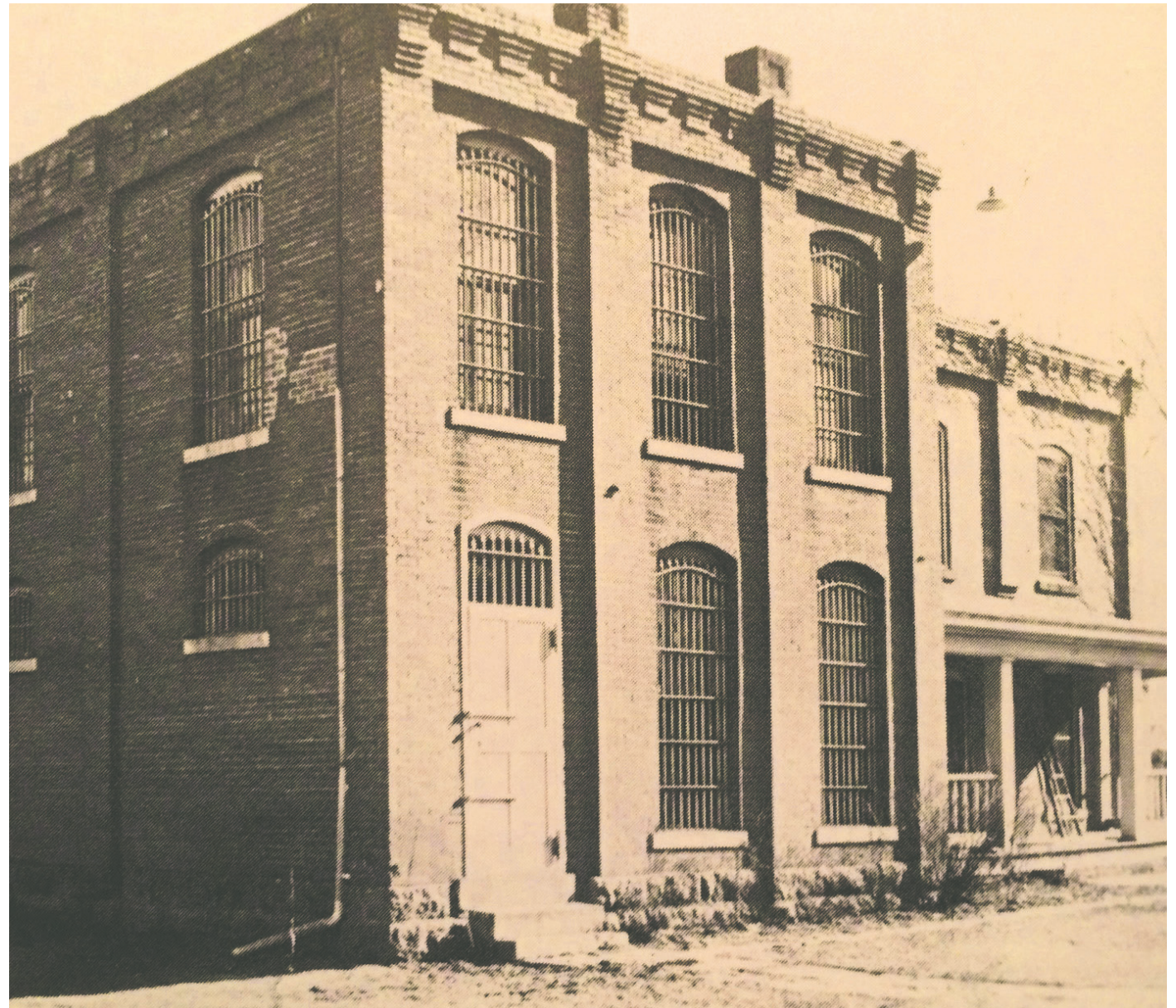


Sam Allen, Sheriff of Laclede County from 1925-1928 and 1933-1936.

body falling a full ten feet, with a sickening thud. Five minutes after the trap was sprung, the body was examined by Dr. Henderson, who pronounced life extinct from a broken neck.'

Wilson Howard was the second hanging during the term of Sheriff Frank W. Jones. He was accused of killing over 15 different men at various times. His attorney stated that he had admitted to him to killing all of them, however, Howard never did make any other confession. He did surrender a knife upon his arrival at the Laclede County Jail that he said he had intended to use to kill Pulaski County Sheriff Imoden. On the day of his hanging, on the scaffold, Howard drew up his neck which caused the hangman's knot to slip under his chin. He died by strangulation rather than a broken neck and it took thirteen and half minutes for him to expire. It was a hanging gone wrong, a lawman's nightmare.

Another hanging gone wrong was that of Sheriff Robert Boone Harris, a name that was not on the historical list of sheriffs. He was appointed to the office in 1865, shortly after the end of the Civil War. (It may have been after Sheriff John W. Stewart, the previous sheriff was reportedly shot and killed in what is now known as Old Town. There is no other information available on Stewart's



Old Laclede County Jail in the 1920s.

demise in office.) Shortly after his appointment, Harris was hung by a group of 46 Confederate loyalists who ravaged the area. They killed 13 people as they swept through Laclede, Dallas, Camden, Hickory and Benton Counties.

Upon learning of this once neglected historical incident, current sheriff David Millsap applied to have Harris' name added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. and the Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial in Jefferson City. Efforts are still underway (at the time of this publication) to contact any of Harris' known descendants. Harris had served in the Union Army during the Civil War and lost an arm

during the fighting.

In 1905, a two-story addition consisting of a parlor, dining area, screened in front porch, two bedrooms and an upstairs bathroom were added to the original jail building as living quarters for the sheriff and his family. Glass windows were later added to the porch.

William J. Williams became sheriff in 1907, the county's 21st, and served four years before being re-elected. At the beginning of his sixth year, he died unexpectedly of illness. His wife, Nancy Hays Williams was appointed to cover his duties as the only woman to ever serve as Laclede County Sheriff, until a new election could be held. Living in the jail building, she

was well-acquainted with the day-to-day activities of the office. There were only three prisoners in the jail at the time.

In 1925, Sam C. Allen became sheriff, serving until 1928. He lost his re-election bid to John W. Jones but was re-elected in 1933. Law enforcement was a family tradition, including his cousins, John L. Jones, Laclede County's previous sheriff and John W. Jones who would follow him in office. Sam Allen, who currently works in the sheriff's office under Sheriff David Millsap as Director of Support Services, dealing with court administration, is Sheriff Allen's great grandson. His grandson, Jake Allen, works

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Sheriff Neil Brown and his wife are shown in front of the old Laclede Jail in 1956.



Tearing down the old Laclede County Jail on Second Street in 1997.

for the sheriff's department as a canine deputy today. The family tradition continues.

Sheriff Allen had an extremely active few years while in office, chasing local thieves involved in robberies of the Dove Post Office, the Henderson Drug Store at Phillipsburg in addition to chicken roosts in area farms. In short order, he and his officers were also busy fighting bootleggers. They poured out more than 100 gallons of homebrew and moonshine whiskey and destroyed 13 stills. In four years, he also helped to secure \$6000 in fines for the local schools as assessed by the Laclede County Circuit Court.

In one incident, the sheriff and his son, Rudolph Allen who worked as a Pinkerton officer were called to a robbery in progress at the Brice Post Office, on the outskirts of Bennett Spring State Park. At that time, Stanley Allen, an older teen, who was the sheriff's grandson, often drove for the officers. As one of the thieves broke out of the post office, Stanley stepped out of the car with a sub-machine gun in his hands. According to the family story, the thief immediately jumped back into the post office, telling the officers, "I'm done! Just keep that kid with that gun away from me!"

By the 1950s, the criminal element of Laclede County had outgrown the 1876 jail and a new one was built in 1953. Like so many jails for nearly a century, once again, this new one was built around living quarters for the

sheriff and his family. It featured cells to hold 17 prisoners on two floors, with separate cells for two female prisoners, and a cell in the basement that would become known as the 'drunk tank' as it offered the only solitary confinement. Sheriff Neil Brown and his wife were the first to live in and employ this new jail. Like so many of the previous sheriffs' wives, Mrs. Brown used the kitchen to cook for both her family and the prisoners on a daily basis. Many of those wives also provided temporary foster care for the occasional prisoner's child when they had no place else to go, no local relatives to care for them.

By the 1970s, many sheriffs no longer wished to live in housing provided by the county, raising their children amidst a bunch of orange-clad prisoners. Like many church pastors, who began to prefer to purchase their own homes, establishing home equity in their own name, rather than live in parsonages, the sheriffs chose to forego their previous jail homes. Counties then often attempted to convert that antiquated previous living space into extra jail cells, a move that often led to more jail escapes.

As times have changed, so has the office of County Sheriff. For the most part, the sheriffs of the first century and a half were 'good old boys' whose expertise for the office was based on their experience as a police officer and peacekeeper. No doubt the

last of the 'good old boy sheriffs', in the very best meaning of that word, in Laclede County was Robert L. Dotson. First elected in 1988, he was a rare Democrat elected to office during this time, who served three terms in office. A former Lebanon Police Officer, his

approach to the many tasks required of a county sheriff was a blend of common sense and the ability to assess people and their skills and make the very best use of both. He was known for choosing staff members well-versed in

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Affidavit for State Warrant

File No. _____

Complainant _____

VS.

CHARGED WITH _____

MADE BEFORE _____

Justice of the Peace, _____

On the _____ day of _____, 191____

AFFIDAVIT FOR STATE WARRANT.

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
COUNTY OF LACLEDE. } ss

BEFORE ME, *Wm. P. McMillan*, a Justice of the Peace within and for the County aforesaid, personally came *May Wilson*, who, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says, that on or about the *9th* day of *June*, A. D. 1912, in the County of Laclede and State of Missouri, one *Bob Kissinger and Carl Miller* did then and there unlawfully and willfully disturb the peace of a certain family to wit the family of Mrs. Inusila Wilson by loud and unusual noise by offensive and indelicate conversation by threatening, quarrelling, challenging and fighting.

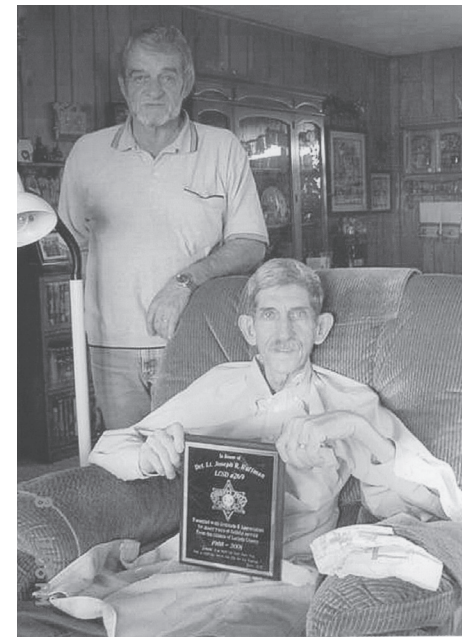
and further this Deponent saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this *10* day of *June* A. D. 1912

May Wilson
Justice of the Peace.

Wm. P. McMillan
Justice of the Peace.

Rec. 15 cent.



In 2001 Deputy Sheriff Joe Huffman received a plaque for his services from Sheriff Robert Dotson. A detective in the sheriff's office, he worked for three sheriffs, Lawrence Rifenburg, Robert Dotson and Richard Wrinkle.

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1912 Warrant for Disturbing the Peace in Laclede County.

► court department, diplomacy and computer proficiencies as these skills became as important in running a modern sheriff's department as sheer strength and brute force had been to his predecessors. Sheriff Dotson was seen by many as the 'poor man's counselor' as he spent much of his time listening to and personally assisting his county constituents. He and his staff also moved the sheriff's department into the third newly constructed jail in the county.

In 1997, Laclede County opened the new Adult Detention Center, a 106 bed jail, including cell space for 12 women with 5 separate holding cells in clear site of the Intake staff. To accommodate such, the sheriff's department staff swelled from a total of 15 deputies and jail staff to a new high of 55 persons, including 911 dispatchers, all under the supervision of the county sheriff. The 1953 jail was torn down to accommodate the new jail. The 1876 jail, which had survived for many years as a museum under

the auspices of the local historical society, succumbed to deterioration and was demolished in 2023. A new 911 communications center is under construction on that site.

Sheriffs since 2000 have, like the rest of the world in the 21st century, come to depend more heavily on the computerized world and higher education. In the 175 years since the establishment of the county and the sheriff's department itself, both have grown substantially, changing and adapting with the changing times. In the case of the sheriff's department that includes a law enforcement agency that employs many well-educated, well-trained individuals who do their very best to serve the citizens of this county.

{In 2001, Sheriff Richard Wrinkle appointed this reporter as the first female jail administrator, serving over three years in that position—the highest-ranking woman in the department up until that time—with the exception of Nancy Williams who served as sheriff for one month in 1912. There were only three women jail administrators in the state at that time.}

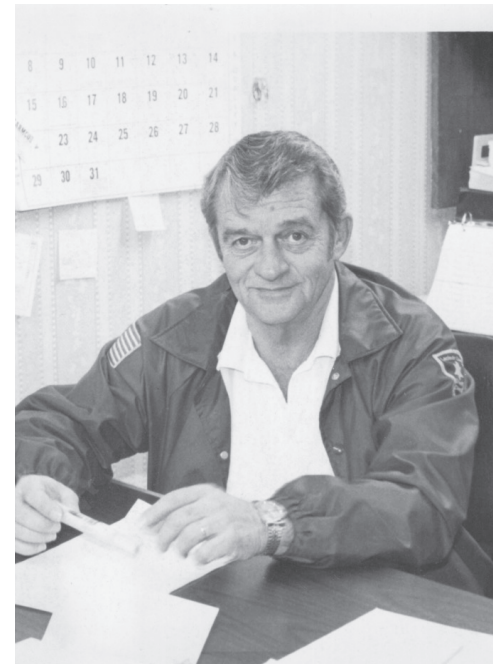
Finally, it should also be noted



Laclede Sheriff William Henry Shank at his office in 1899.



H.B. Wrinkle, Lebanon Chief of Police, is shown pointing to loose bricks from a jail break in the old Laclede County Jail in the 1946-47 era.



Former Sheriff Robert Dotson.

that only four men—Neil Brown, Lawrence Rifenburg, Robert Dotson and Richard Wrinkle—served a total of 12 years as sheriff, three elected terms of four years. While all ran for re-election to a fourth term, all were

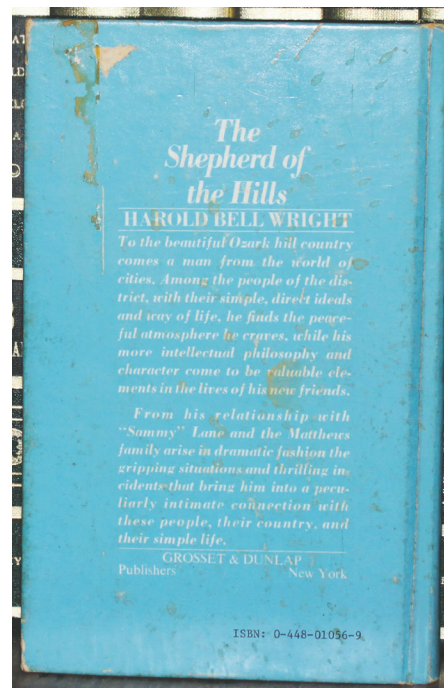
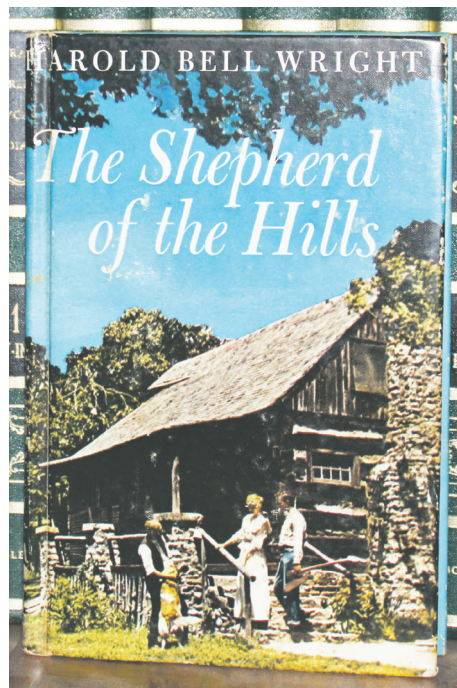
defeated. Sheriff Robert Dotson once observed that the limiting size of the county population—30,000 to 33,000 at the time—was probably a major factor in that fourth term defeat. “There is not that great a turnover in

our county’s population as in some counties, like Boone County, Mo. (location of the University of Missouri and several other smaller colleges) where they have had the same sheriff for up to 20 years. By the time you’ve

served three four-year terms here, you’ve arrested and ticked off enough people as well as their relatives, that those who might have once voted for you, have now decided it’s time for somebody new!”

Harold Bell Wright

By Laura L. Valenti



September 1905 the Rev. Harold Bell Wright arrived in Lebanon from Kansas City to take the pastorate of the Christian Church. During the years Mr. Wright remained in Lebanon he gathered material for his second book, "The Shepherd of the Hills," which was to make him known to the reading public and which was published after he left Lebanon for the west, where he went on account of his health.

— from: "The First Hundred Years 1849-1949" by Frances Gleason, p. 103

And thus, Ms. Gleason recorded the arrival of Harold Bell Wright, who came to Lebanon as a pastor in 1905, but that was certainly a long journey from where he had first begun. Born in Rome, New York, the ancestral home of the Wright family and also of his mother's relatives, the Watsons, Harold Bell Wright, acquired his middle name from close family friends, the Bells. From letters written by his mother when she was yet a young girl that were passed along to him many years later, Harold Bell Wright (or HBW as he was referred to in a biographical piece written by Eric Tudor for the Lebanon Daily Record's 150th anniversary publication) came to know that his mother was raised in what would, in current terms, be known as a middle to upper middle class home.

His father, William "Will" Wright, might best be characterized as a Civil War lieutenant who came back from the war with an officer's commission and a great many stories, which he shared with a soldier's charm and swagger. Less charming was the not-so-obvious fact that he was a serious alcoholic with what today would be known as PTSD. Despite his promises upon proposing to Alma Watson 'to place her in a home [on a farm] as pleasant and agreeable as the one she now occupies', nothing of the kind ever came to pass. (quote from "To My Sons" by Harold Bell Wright's own memoir)

HBW and his older brother, Will, were raised in abject poverty as his father rarely kept regular employment, moved the family from one rented shanty to another and often chased various get-rich-quick schemes. He grew close to his mother,

who was the stable parent, always providing a home, such as it was for her boys by cooking, washing, cleaning and scrubbing. A slightly built woman from the beginning, the harsh life wore her out to the point where she died of tuberculosis when HBW was not quite 12 years old.

His father, who was often gone for weeks at a time, did not change his ways upon the death of his wife. The future author and his brother were quickly shipped off to strangers, essentially as indentured servants, working for their room and board only, on neighboring farms. HBW, particularly at this young age, was thin and slightly built, like his mother and as such, was not particularly well-suited to much of the heavy work required on farms. He did not know the first farm family he lived with, and they nearly worked him to death. He found somewhat

better treatment with the second family, one of his father's former comrade-in-arms from the Civil War. However, their pious Christianity coupled with their willingness to cheat some of those to whom they sold their farm wares, did not set well with him, even at his young age.

Before she died, his mother had managed to find him a sort of informal apprenticeship in which she introduced her son to 'the other world' as HBW referred to the world she had known before her marriage. He called it the world of beauty, art and music, a world that included more than just their hand-to-mouth existence, which at times included missed meals for a day or more, as poorly provided by his father. It introduced HBW to the art of drawing and applying paint to canvas, a talent he followed off and on, all the remaining days of his life. (At one time, one of his paintings was still displayed in the Lebanon First Christian Church, well into the last years of the twentieth century.) Nonetheless, wherever they moved, his father always made certain they weren't too far from the local tavern.

As a result of his forced labor as a very young man and then shortly afterwards, once he was on his own as a young adolescent, 'Hal' as he would come to be called later in life by his friends, received little in the way of formal education. At one point, as a young man, he attended Hiram College in Ohio but by his own admission, most of his were remedial studies, designed to bring him up to the beginning college level. Even so, he left Hiram after two years, in part because he was ashamed of the fact that he could not earn enough to pay his own room and board as well as his college expenses. The one life-changing result of those two years was that it was at Hiram that he met his future wife, Frances.

Harold Bell Wright's life was marked by a series of life-altering moments, which he did not ever seem to know exactly how to label.

Today many might call them God-inspired or blessed events, in which he simply knew of something that was about to happen or that at a certain moment he needed to move on, even though he could not explain how or why he knew. Such was the moment that he knew his mother would not survive the illness that shortly afterwards took her life or he knew when he needed to go or not to go at a certain time.

One such moment found him attending a revival of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in which for the first time, he heard an evangelist preaching a message based simply upon the words of Jesus Christ. The man espoused no other creeds or beliefs and HBW was fascinated.

Somewhere along the line, HBW, who had never been terribly strong to begin with, contracted pneumonia which nearly took his life. His doctor sternly warned him, he needed to go further west and spend time resting as much as possible in a better environment, to recover completely. It was that advice that brought him to the Ozarks, along the White River

where he spent several summers, camping in a tent on the property of John and Anna Ross, who would later become the models for his characters, Matt and Molly in his second book, "The Shepherd of the Hills."

A few years later, he attended another revival in which that evangelist misquoted the Bible and Jesus Christ himself so badly that HBW left, furious at the mangled Christian message. What was even more disturbing to him, was how those in attendance, hung on every word uttered by the makeshift preacher. Shortly afterward, he attended another such gathering, where the speaker for the evening failed to appear. One of those in attendance, approached him as 'a man with an education' and could you speak to us tonight? And with that, Harold Bell Wright, the evangelist and pastor was born, although he was the first to admit he had no formal education as such.

Sometime after that, he was called to become the pastor at the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ in Pierce City. He continued his preaching as he had from the

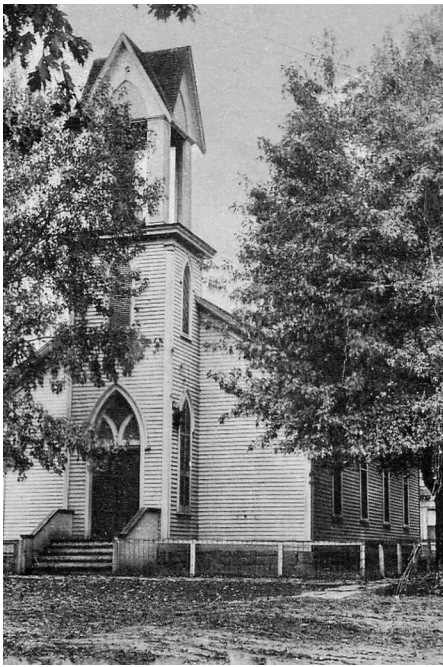


Harold Bell Wright books.



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Picture of the Christian Church at the time that Harold Bell Wright would have been pastor of in 1907. It was located on the corner of Washington and Commercial, currently the parking lot of a former gas station.

beginning, basing it on the words of Jesus himself. Most of the time, this pleased those in his congregation, although at times, it also offended some—those who didn't want to be reminded that they were to take those words to heart, applying them to their daily lives six days a week, outside of the church where they heard them each Sunday.

Shortly afterward, HBW wrote a story which he intended to share from the pulpit in serial form, as another way to send the Christian message home. Before he could do so, a friend suggested he share it in a published form and it was sent to *The Christian Century* magazine. They agreed to publish it but there the neophyte writer discovered the dark side of dealing with some editors. By the time his story hit print, it had been so changed, he was appalled and did not even wish to recognize it as his own.

Eventually, another friend familiar with the publishing industry, convinced him to try again, and this time, his original version became his first published novel, "The Printer

of Udell's." Whether it ever made it as a serial from the pulpit is to this day unknown, but once again, inadvertently and without his intent, Harold Bell Wright was launched on a new career path, that of novelist.

Between 1902 and 1942, he wrote a total of 19 books, three of which became best sellers, including "The Shepherd of the Hills," believed to be the first novel to sell over a million copies. It is thought that he wrote most of that same book while living at the large rambling house, still at the corner of Adams and Hayes Streets in Lebanon, which has now been whittled into several apartments. At that time, it was the parsonage of the Christian Church, a white clapboard building located at the corner of Washington and Commercial Streets. (Today, it is the left-over parking lot to a former gas station. It was replaced by the current brick First Christian Church at 500 S. Madison, behind the Elm Street Eatery, which was built in 1952.)

As anyone with significant respiratory difficulties knows, the Ozarks winters are not conducive to improved lung function and once

again, HBW was advised by his doctors to move further west, to the desert climes of Arizona. And once again, in preaching the basics of Christianity from the Master himself, HBW had managed to offend some in his congregation and they in turn, did the same for him.

The scene of his next book, "The Calling of Dan Matthews" was laid in Lebanon and several of the characters were drawn from people living in the town. It was perhaps just as well the publication was postponed until the author was out of town for, as usually is the case, many people took offense at his interpretation of people and things in Lebanon.

— from: "The First Hundred Years 1849-1949" by Frances Gleason p. 103

To this day, the Lebanon-Laclede County Library does not carry a copy of "The Calling of Dan Matthews" on its shelves. They can and will, however, borrow a copy of it from a partnering library upon request of a local patron.

From Lebanon, Harold Bell Wright moved on to Tucson, Arizona where he lived for several years on a compound he had built there



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and where he recovered his health. He wrote several more books and short stories, many of which were published in magazines of the time. There were also over 20 movies made from his books and stories over the years. One of the best known was a version of "The Shepherd of the Hills," starring a very young John Wayne as one of the main characters, Young Matt. Unfortunately, the script, like the first published version of "The Printer of Udell's" deviated greatly from Wright's original story and paints a dismal version of Ozark life in general.

Meanwhile, that original story of "The Shepherd of the Hills" has sparked an entire million dollar industry at Branson over the last many decades, bringing in hundreds of thousands of visitors to further explore the original fictional story and see the play re-enacted night after night.

From Arizona, Harold Bell Wright eventually moved to California where he remained until his death in 1944.



This is the house where Harold Bell Wright lived when he was in Lebanon circa 1905. It was the parsonage belonging to the Christian Church at that time. (It was just the Christian Church back then. The word First wasn't added to the name until a couple decades later.) He probably wrote most of his best seller "The Shepherd of the Hills" while living here.

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Early Churches in Lebanon and Laclede County

By Kirk Pearce



Trinity Episcopal Church on Harwood Avenue was organized in 1873. This photo was taken in 1973.

As soon as settlers began arriving in Laclede County, they started worship services in their homes until a house of worship could be erected.

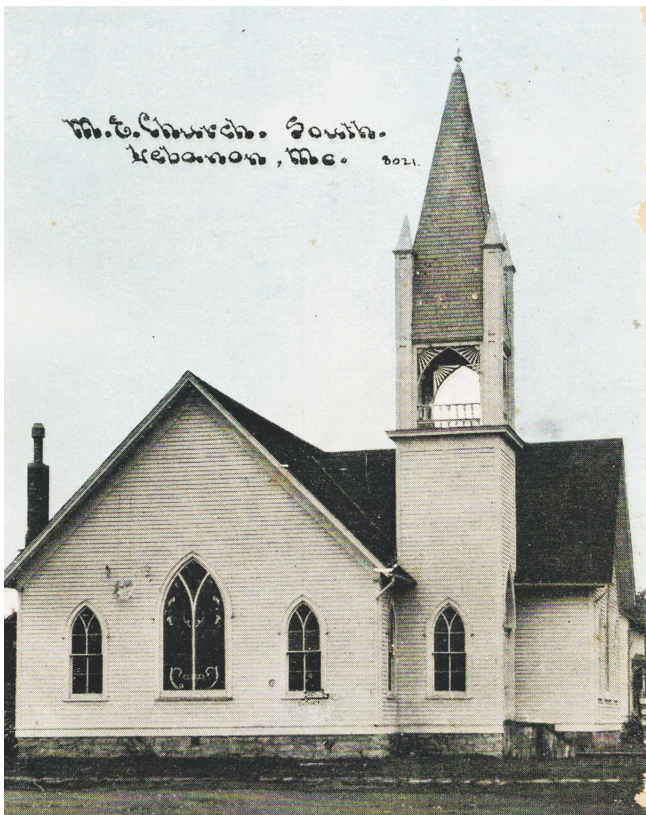
In the early history of the county, the Methodists held preaching services at the home of Lot Murphy. Some years after the division of the Methodist church, in 1844, the Methodists of

this part of the county identified themselves with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. There was no organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church until 1870.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South, was organized in 1855 and was a flourishing church until the Civil War, when it was disorganized but there were, after the war, many

Southern Methodist Churches in the county that held camp meetings every summer, and kept the spiritual condition of the church members alive. In 1884, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, built a small church on Bland Avenue in Lebanon. Sometime late in the 1880s, this building was moved to Commercial Street, and enlarged.

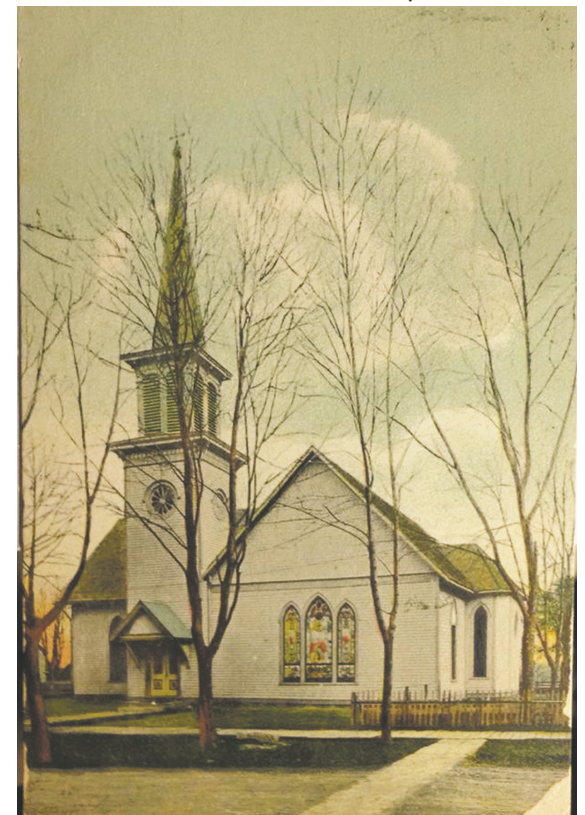
Other Methodist churches in the county before 1900 were Fairview Methodist in 1870, Hazelgreen Methodist in 1876, Bear Thicket in 1860s, Salem in 1878, Wair Chapel in 1883, Phillipsburg Methodist in 1884, Marvin Chapel, 1860s, Conway Methodist in 1881, Mt. Pleasant in 1867, Bethel (Sleeper) and Evans Chapel near Stoutland, shortly after



Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1900.



Oakland Moravian Church in 1910.



First Congregational Church in 1909.

the Civil War.

The first Baptist Church that they have record of was organized about one mile northwest of where Old Town is located in 1844. Among charter members were Mrs. Miles Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Thraikill, John Atchley, Mrs. Jack Elder and a Mrs. Wyatt. This church was later relocated to the Atchley farm on Goodwin Hollow Creek in 1850, about five miles northwest of Lebanon. It ceased to exist sometime during the Civil War. A new church, named Cornith Baptist, was organized on the Vernon farm, two miles west of the original location. The second Baptist church was the Gasconade Baptist Church in Smith Township, organized in 1847, and the third was Osage Baptist, organized in 1847, near Drynob. Other early churches were Freedom Church near Nebo in 1858, and Zion Baptist north of Lebanon. This church was organized in 1854 and closed in 1966. There was a fifth Baptist Church that was organized in 1855 near Old Town.

Antioch Baptist at Oakland is the oldest church in the Laclede Baptist Association, having been organized

in 1870. Mt. Salem was organized in 1872 and closed in 1965. Oak Grove was organized after the Civil War in 1866 and reorganized in 1912. New Hope, near Russ, was organized in 1882 and First Baptist in Conway in 1878.

The First Christian Church in Lebanon was organized on Jan. 20, 1867. After the organization, services were held in the Union Brick Church. In 1870, the congregation moved to a store building on the corner of Michigan and Chestnut streets, where they worshipped until 1873, when a church building was erected at Washington and Commercial.

Another early Christian Church was Liberty, located Northeast of Lebanon. It disbanded many years ago.

In 1869, the First Congregational Church was organized and congregation met at the old Brick Union Church. In the fall of 1869, a house of worship was built in Old Town and was dedicated in 1870. When the town of Lebanon was relocated, it moved to its present site on Harwood Avenue.

Another early church in Lebanon



First Baptist Church in 1950.

is Trinity Episcopal Church at 100 Harwood Ave. In 1873, The Rev. William Johnson, Missionary, was appointed by the Right Reverend Charles F. Robertson to establish an Episcopal Mission in Lebanon. The Mission was given the name Trinity, which it still remains. In 1883, a project began to build a church, and it was dedicated in 1884, at the corner of Washington and Harwood.

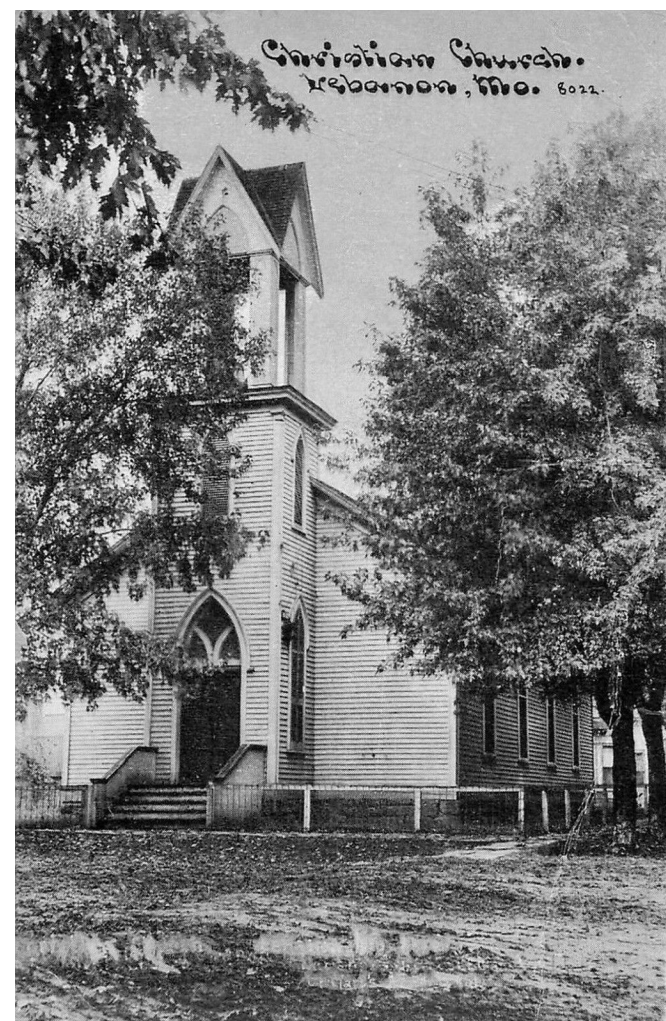
The Cumberland Presbyterians also established churches in Laclede

County in its early days. One of these first congregations was near Williams Pond. The Phillipsburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Phillipsburg was organized in 1854 and was reorganized in 1871. Conway Presbyterian Church was organized in 1868 and was an active congregation for many years. It disbanded in the 1920s.

White Oak Pond Cumberland Church was first known as at the Hickory



White Oak Pond Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in 1868. This photo was taken during their centennial in 1968 with the late Beulah Griffin displaying old photos and other memorabilia of the church.



The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was organized on Sunday, January 20, 1867, at the old courthouse in the original town of Lebanon.



The Phillipsburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located on Grover Street in Phillipsburg (across from the Phillipsburg City Park), is the oldest church in Phillipsburg, having been organized in November 1871.



Zion Baptist Church in the northern part of Laclede County was organized in 1854.



Methodist Episcopal Church at 300 S. Madison Ave. in 1905.

Valley Congregation and organized on Aug. 16, 1868 by Rev. J.S. Alsup. The first congregation met in homes, until erecting a building. The church has been continuously active for over 155 years.

The Moravians also established churches in Laclede County in the 1880s, with Oakland in 1883, Macedonia at Prosperine in 1886, Drynob and Spring Grove near Lonesome Hill. Oakland later became

a Methodist church in 1914. All the others disbanded many years ago.

Two churches in Old Town, Wood Street Baptist and Mount Lebanon Methodist Church, were also two early churches, with Wood Street having church long before the Civil War.

The parish of St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church dates back to 1864. The first priest known to have been active in the area was Father P.F. Gallaher,



Washington Christian Church was organized in 1892. The church building was dedicated September 20, 1903.



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Phillipsburg Christian Church congregation in the 1940s.

who was a circuit rider from Rolla. The first permanent priest serving was Father F.W. Graham, who also served as a circuit rider. Father Graham built the first permanent church in 1869 for one thousand dollars on land donated by Isaac Wickersham.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in

Conway also dates back many years. It was organized in 1876.

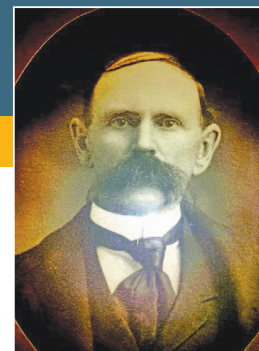
In later years other churches were organized in various parts of the county, including the Freewill Baptists, with one of the early churches being Crossroads, which is still a very active church.



Thomas Chapel Church in 1950s.

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first Secretary



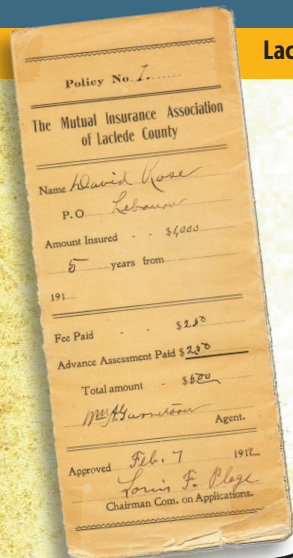
Mr. G. Schneider
first President

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Wm. A. Garretson had drawn a constitution and by-laws, which he submitted for approval. Five board members and a president, G Schneider were elected to become the first Laclede County Mutual named Mutual Insurance Association of Laclede County.

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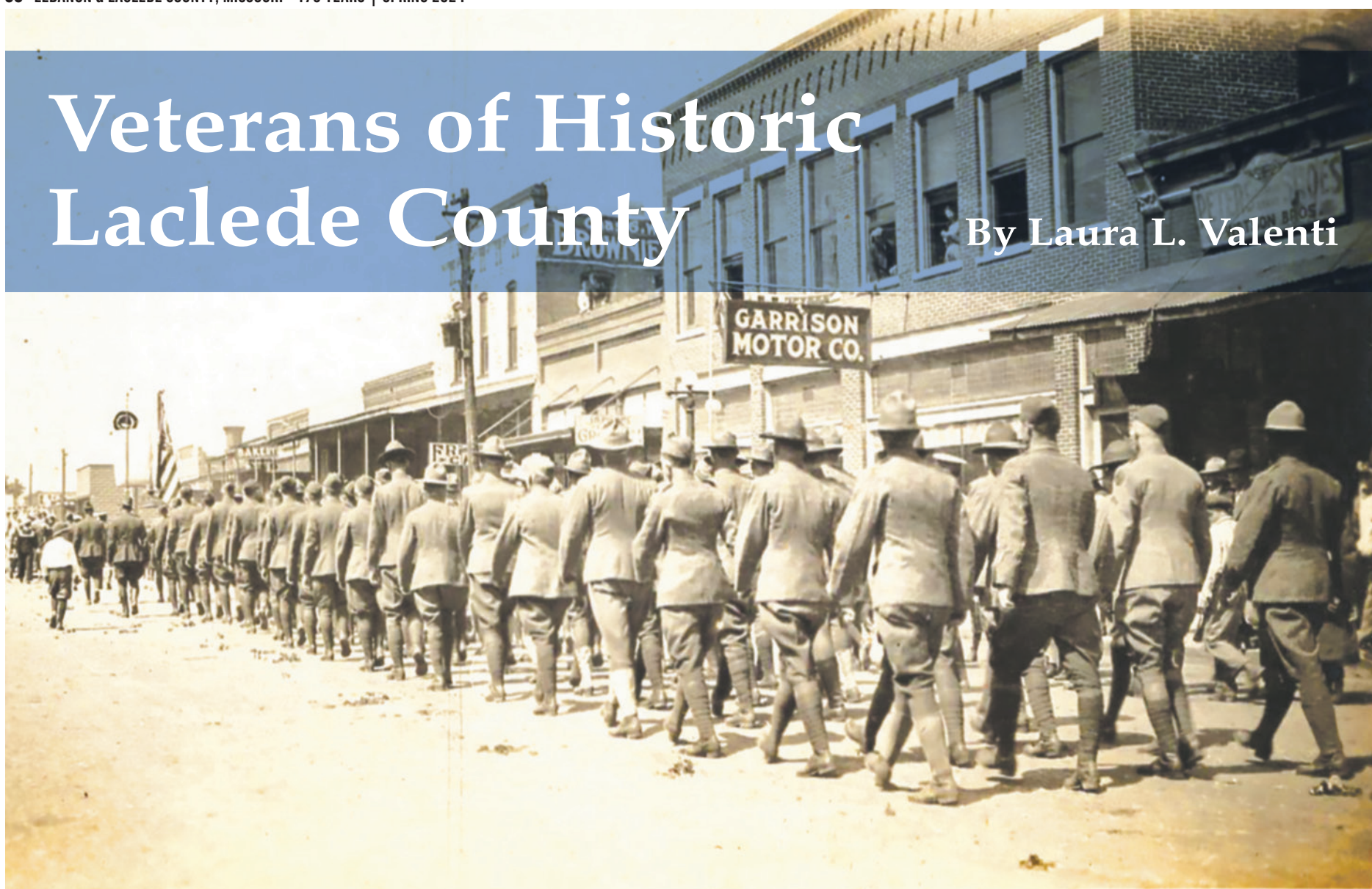
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Veterans of Historic Laclede County

By Laura L. Valenti



Armistice Parade going down West Commercial in 1919.

Barely a decade after its founding, Laclede County and Lebanon were involved in supplying soldiers to the US Civil War, which engulfed the whole of the country from 1861 to early 1865. Missouri was renowned as a Border State and Lebanon was certainly a tragic example of same. Frances Gleason, in her historical account of Lebanon, *The First Hundred Years*, described the fledgling town as “a community held together by sympathy and understanding” before the war. Northern and Southern sentiments and resentments quickly ended, however, suspicion soon took over, turning neighbor against

neighbor. Men of both sides quickly marched off to the conflict, some to the North and others to the South, while the women and children were left to mind the farms and shops.

When soldiers of either side managed to get a pass or a short leave, before daring to slip back to their homes and families, they first had to determine, which army was in control of the town and the county as that changed several times during the four year conflict. On more than one occasion, a farmhouse located in an isolated area was surrounded by sympathizers of one side when they believed a man from the opposing army had been secreted inside. In

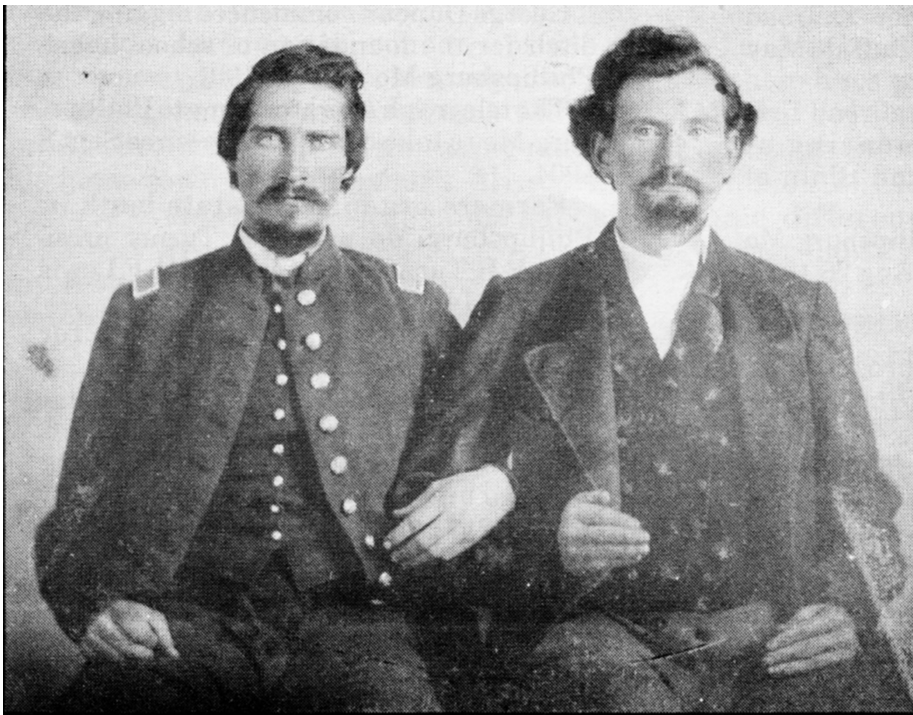
reading the various accounts, the most impressive part was the parade of familiar surnames in the county over a century later; names like Appling, Atchley, Curry, Dotson, Holman, Gibbs, and Vernon, amongst others.

The most notorious incident involved the hanging of Laclede County Sheriff Robert Boone Harris, a former Union officer who had lost an arm during the war. He was appointed to the office of sheriff in 1865 just as the war ended. His name was not included on the historic list of county sheriffs although his predecessor, John W. Stewart was shot and killed while in office. Sheriff

Harris was hung by a group of Confederate marauders who swept through the area later that year, killing 13 people in five adjacent counties.

It would be another 30 plus years before the country was involved in another major conflict, the Spanish-American War in 1898. No records or accounts have been found to indicate that any Laclede County residents were involved with that war that made future president Teddy Roosevelt famous as he charged up San Juan Hill in Cuba with the famous Rough Riders.

By World War I, in 1917 and 1918, photography had come into its own

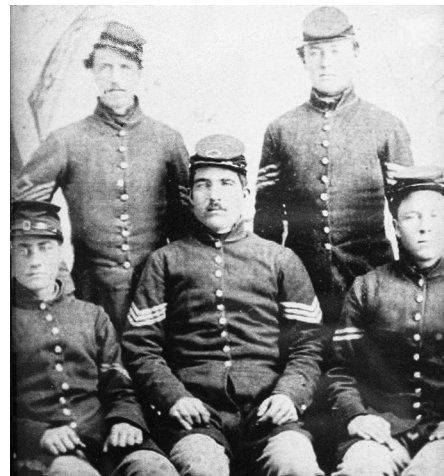


Anderson McFall, well known citizen of Phillipsburg in Civil War uniform, age 26, taken on Jan. 20, 1863 with a fellow officer, Captain F.I. Woolford.

and the Lebanon archives still hold an array of different military troops, marching and posing for their group portrait on the streets of downtown Lebanon. Unlike the days of the civil war, the wartime activity greatly united the community, bringing people together to support their soldiers as they marched off to war. The Red Cross sponsored blood drives and other community events which brought people together as well as raise morale and funds.

In the 21st century, all have become aware that we are quickly losing the last of our World War II veterans. Almost too late, the world has become aware of how important those veterans' contributions and sacrifices were to the life we live now. Few of them, upon their return, ever talked much about their experiences while 'over there'. Most of their relatives—spouses, siblings, children, nieces and nephews, and grandchildren—learned little of their wartime activities until near the end of those heroic lives.

The rare ones like Lebanon native, the late Jack McCulloch actually kept journals. His son, Brian found the tiny notebooks Jack penned decades earlier, in a wooden chest, along with



Civil War veterans from Laclede County in 1860s. John Digby and Robert H. Stith are standing in back.

a few other wartime momentos. Jack wrote about being in the Philippines, pursuing the Japanese armies as they fled, and the lack of food all, both the Americans and the Japanese soldiers were experiencing. For weeks, they supplemented their diets with coconuts, roots and berries they found along the route. All Jack's children and grandchildren knew for many years that under no circumstance, would Jack eat coconut. They never knew why until they read those journals.



Civil War veterans of Laclede County who were members of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). The photo was taken in Lebanon in the 1880s era. Those identified in the photo are Captain James T. Taliaferro, John Digby, Mose Knight, S.C. Barnes, W.W. (Buck) Thomas, John Watkins and Houston Lewis. These men served in the 24th Missouri Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.



Civil War soldiers in Laclede County that were members of the Grand Army of the Republic at a reunion held on the King farm near Drynob in 1902.

Likewise, he wrote of coming upon bands of Japanese soldiers who knew that their leaders had surrendered to the American forces. They quickly laid down their weapons, raised their hands and smiled tentatively at their new captors. Despite the language barrier, they began, with the help of the occasional bi-lingual translator, to share bits of information and discovered surprising similarities in their life circumstances—young men with lives interrupted by circumstances beyond their control.

Jack shared other stories that did not seem typical of what one expects when listening to 'war stories'. He was in the field when he and the others heard about some sort of super bomb that had been dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

Jack's son, Brian heard even more of those highly personal stories when he had the opportunity to accompany his father on one of the Honor Flights that have become popular in recent years. World War II and veterans of other more recent



After World War I, Lebanon veterans formed Post No. 43 of the American Legion. It was named for two members of the company killed during the war in France, Louis L. Kaffenberger and Hadley Williams.



Old Glory Camp No. 3 Department of Missouri Spanish American War veterans from Laclede County are shown taken in front of the Laclede County Courthouse in 1933. First row, from left, James D. Stanton, J.D. Peters, Archie Henderson, William Augustine, Gus E. Arndt, Fred J. Watson, W.W. Bailey, Edward Wanger; second row, Vivian L. Sanders, Edgar Newkirk, Emil Berg, Roy L. Barr, Allen L. Stroud; third row, C.C. Knowles, Sam Kesterson, Amiel Stickman, James P. Brown and Tom Turner. Emil Berg was the last surviving Spanish American War veteran in Laclede County. He died in 1968.





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American Red Cross Gray Ladies during World War II.

war efforts are provided the opportunity to spend a one day whirlwind flight and tour of several of the memorials and monuments in Washington D.C., dedicated to their many efforts to preserve freedom and our way of life in America.

Brian served as his father's guardian for that day and heard many an incredible account on the flights to and from and throughout the day as the veterans shared with each other about their wartime experiences.

The wars after that were often euphemistically referred to as 'police actions' or peace-keeping efforts as American soldiers marched off to Korea and then Vietnam. The American culture changed, too. Where they had once welcomed their soldiers home from the battles they fought in foreign lands, demonstrations against the Vietnam war brought a new battle to American college campuses and then the streets and neighborhood. Soldiers that had once been welcomed home as heroes were now met with hostility

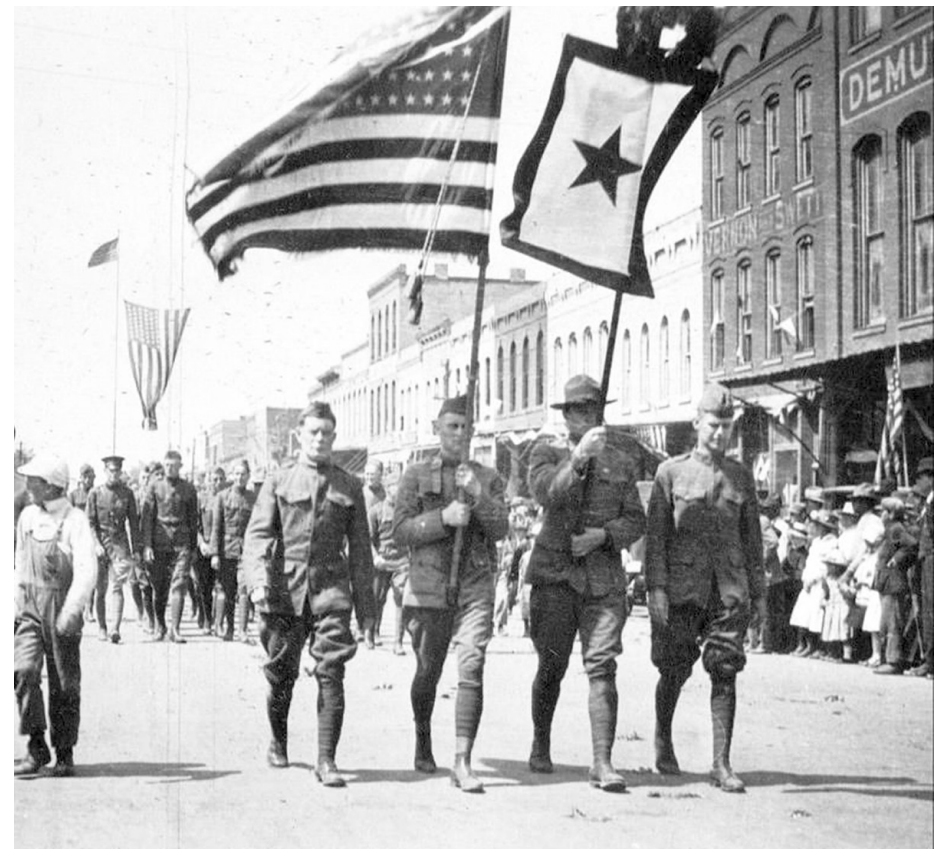
in American airports.

One soldier, an Army veteran of the Vietnam and Cold War era, shared years later that bystanders threw trash at him when he walked through Chicago's O'Hara airport in uniform. After that he hid in the back of the airport bar with another couple of soldiers, talking and waiting until 2 am before moving on. Another Vietnam vet described how the Army began timing the flights of soldiers out of the jungles of southeast Asia so that they landed in US airports in the wee hours of the morning when they were all but closed. "We flew out of the jungle at one point and our first landing was in Anchorage. Talk about a shock to your system!"

Now as veterans return from wartime activities in Middle Eastern nations like Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, American society has transformed itself once again, welcoming veterans home, watching with rapt attention as videos on the nightly news show them surprising their children at school as they return from



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World War I parade in Lebanon in 1918.

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Soldiers leaving to serve in World War I in front of the Laclede County Courthouse.



A tank driving on Commercial Street in Lebanon 1918.



A huge crowd celebrating the ending of World War I in downtown Lebanon in November 1918.



Lebanon's American Legion Kaffenberger-Williams Post 43 was named in honor of St. Lewis L. Kaffenberger, who was killed in World War I, also for Sgt. Hadley Williams, who also died in action. Lewis Kaffenberger was the son of Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Kaffenberger.



Company H, 2nd Regiment taken in Lebanon in 1917 during World War I.

long deployments. A major difference today is the fact that some of those returning veterans are now wives, sisters and mothers.

Veterans programs, like Wounded Warriors, have been established in attempts to reach out to veterans who continue to struggle with the physical, mental and emotional challenges left from their wartime experiences. A heart-breaking number of veterans continue to commit suicide on a daily basis, indicating that more still needs to be done.

Lebanon has long been involved with and supportive of area veterans, particularly with our proximity for nearly a century now to Ft. Leonard Wood at Waynesville. Honor Flights and similar efforts to honor our veterans are certainly a major step in the right direction in the 21st century.



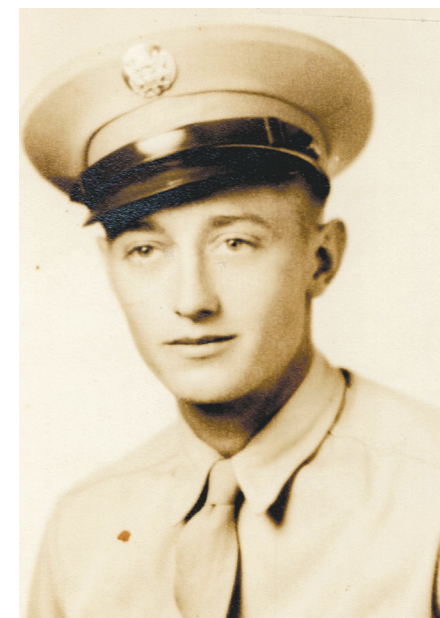
County Service Banner for Laclede County from World War I.



Homecoming Parade on Armistice Day in 1919.



Company H World War I soldiers in Lebanon — August 9, 1917 in front of the old Laclede County Courthouse.



In 1944, Jack McCulloch was the oldest of eight kids, a 19-year old farm boy from Laclede County. A year later, he was part of the U.S. Army, fighting his way across the Philippines and mainland Japan as part of the First Cavalry Division's Twelfth Regiment, Combat Infantry, Company B.

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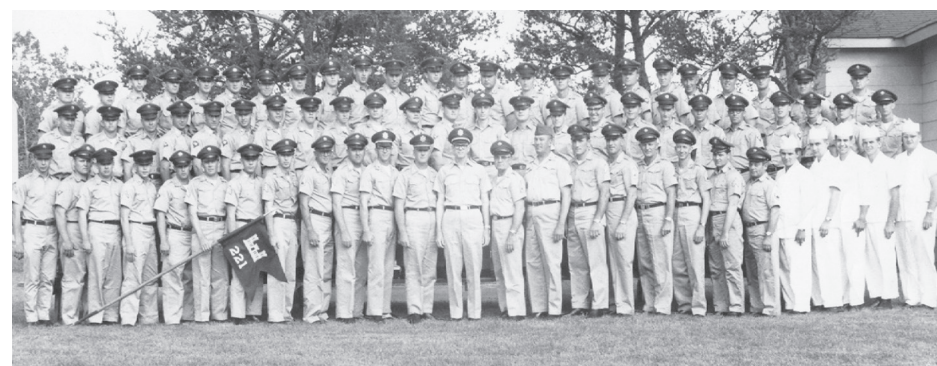
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Army National Guard Reserves in Lebanon in 1960.



The observance of Veterans Day in the 1940s era on Commercial Street.



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