
The Bulletin

of the Johnson County Historical Society

Vol. XVIII No. 2

Warrensburg, Missouri

September 2002

The Annual JCHS Fall Meeting will be on September 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Courthouse. The program will be a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Mary Miller Smiser Heritage Library and tribute to Betty Pine Lockard, Probate Ex-Officio Judge of Johnson Co., 1963-1967. It will also afford an opportunity to welcome Rich Lawson, our new board member.

Sesquicentennial for the First Presbyterian Church

Denise Miller



West Gay Street Building

The First Presbyterian Church of Warrensburg, Missouri recently celebrated its sesquicentennial, honoring one hundred fifty years of service to Christ and the Warrensburg community. A small group of Christians met with the Rev. A. V. C. Schenck and elder L. Green from the Presbytery of Upper Missouri on May 30, 1852, for the purpose of establishing a Presbyterian church in Warrensburg. Presbyterians had been meeting on a monthly basis for about a year before the congregation was formally organized. Fifteen people, nine women and six men, joined the church that day by letter of transfer from other Presbyterian

churches, although others were in attendance as well. Because there were no church buildings in Warrensburg in 1852, all religious services were held either in the courthouse, where the Presbyterians organized, or in the old Masonic Hall on Main Street. The following year the Methodists built a frame building on Gay Street near the

old cemetery and the fledgling Presbyterian congregation met there for worship services when a minister could be obtained. Regularly scheduled church services did not begin until the congregation engaged the services of the Rev. James S. Lapsley in 1857. The Warrensburg and Knob Noster congregations shared the Rev. Lapsley for one year, before he returned to his home state of Kentucky. In 1859 the first church building, a one-story brick structure about 30 X 40 was erected on West Gay Street for a cost of about \$2500. Miss Lizzie Grover, writing some years later, remembered the site of the original sanctu-

ary as being a forested glade, with mature trees and wild roses, blooming with wild flowers in spring and summer. The congregation had a membership of about 40 persons when the Civil War broke out. Like other parts of Missouri, Warrensburg endured extreme hardship during the war and many congregation members were lost, either because they moved from the area or were killed in the fighting. The building was used for part of the war as a hospital for soldiers, with Dr. A. W. Reese, a member of the congregation, acting as attending physician.

Following the war, both the town and the congregation grew quickly. By 1871, the congregation had outgrown the little brick church building and a new structure was erected on the current site of Market and College Streets (then called Miller Street). This church was a brick gothic structure with arched windows and a slender spire. This building cost \$8000 to build and was not dedicated until 1884, when the entire cost of its erection was paid in full. The latter part of the nineteenth century saw much important growth in the

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church.

The building itself did not change, but the congregation and its mission matured. A Mission Sunday School was started in 1891 in the eastern suburbs of Warrensburg. The congregation sent a missionary, the Rev. Edward Haymaker and his family to Guatemala. The Women's Society was vitally important to the local mission outreach of the church and educated members on a number of topics during their monthly meetings. The Sunday School department had a lending library that was the recipient of the first bequest received by the congregation. Enoch Clark left \$200, the yearly interest of which was to be spent on books to be placed in the library.

In 1902, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with great fanfare, three days of Jubilee Services, special music and the first written history of the church, done by Miss Lizzie Grover. Within two years it became clear that the national bodies of the Cumberland Presbyterian and Presbyterian churches were nearing a merger agreement and conversations between the two local congregations led to a plan for union. In 1906 the union became permanent and First Presbyterian Church was strengthened by the addition of many de-

vout and committed families. The Sterlings came with their daughter, Nellie Hart Sterling. The merger also brought U.S. Congressman Frances Cockrell, whose funeral took place in the present sanctuary in 1915. Once again, the congregation was faced with a building too small to meet its needs. The brick gothic building that had just been dedicated in 1884 was torn down and a new, more commodious structure was erected on the same lot. It was decided to build the church of local Warrensburg stone, in rustic masonry, with cut stone trimmings around doors and windows.

This building was built at a cost of about \$35,000. Construction began in 1909 and the building, still in use, was dedicated on October 10, 1910. The first half of the twentieth century saw a good deal of growth in congregational numbers as the church became a fixture in the community. The church provided a sanctuary during a time of depression and war, a place where solace and strength were handed out on a weekly basis. The congregation sent 104 members to fight in the two World Wars. Other missionaries followed the Haymakers into the mission field. Dr. Emma E. Fleming, Carrie Johnston Eames, and Lois Armentrout all were stationed in China. The one hundredth anniversary was celebrated with a newly redecorated sanctuary, a new pipe organ and a new chancel window and cross. In 1955 the education wing originally designed as part of the 1910 church was added. During the sesquicentennial celebration held last June 2, the congregation had a chance to look back and celebrate its journey of faith, which it did with great joy, great music and great food. Thus fortified, First Presbyterian looks

with anticipation toward its next 150 years.

New Ornament in Series



2002 Ornament for sale at the Heritage Library. Brass. \$15.00.

By-law Changes to be voted on at September meeting

Article III, Section 5. At every such meeting each member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote, which vote may be cast by the members either in person or by proxy. All proxies shall be in writing, and shall be filed with the secretary prior to the meeting, and by such office entered by record in the minutes of the meeting. *Change to read as follows: At every such meeting each member in attendance shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote.*

Article IV, Section 2. Three directors shall be elected annually by the members at the annual meeting and shall hold office for three years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. *Add the following to read as follows: Effective September 2002 incoming directors shall be eligible to serve no more than three consecutive terms.*

Article VI, Section 1. The corporation shall establish and hold as a Permanent Endowment Fund the sum of \$100,000 together with all additional amounts received from any source and designated for the Permanent Endowment Fund. *Change as follows: Substitute \$100,000 with \$300,000.*

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President's Message

Clayta Downing

I am deep into my second year as president of the Johnson County Historical Society. This can be a very challenging job at times, but most of the time it has been rewarding as so many things have been accomplished and so many more projects are in the works. One very top priority is the restoration work on the courthouse. This building is one of our most valuable assets and very important work needs to be done to preserve it. We are working with the state and knowledgeable architects to prioritize the steps that need to be taken to insure that our courthouse will be preserved. This is an ongoing task.

Another very high priority is to get the circuit court records moved to the archives room. We are *fortunate* to have space to store these; most counties do not have proper facilities or space. Remember, our job is to get these records ready to microfilm and store. This will take many hours. As soon as the records are moved Doris Brookshier and Betty Williams are in charge of getting the records ready to be microfilmed by the Missouri State Archives. The state will have to send someone with the appropriate materials to train our people on the proper procedures. Remember, we do not own these records; we are just storing them and the state can claim them, although they probably won't. When the filming is complete, we will have all the microfilm available for our patrons to use. However, this process will take a long time.

At the present time, we have all nine board members in office. If you as members have questions or suggestions please contact one of them. The board is always

in charge of what goes on but always looks to the membership for suggestions. Write or call a board member so that items to be discussed can be put on the agenda before the meeting. Minutes of the last meeting and the agenda are mailed to each board member prior to monthly meetings.

A factor that I think causes such low attendance at our semi-annual meetings is the fact that the meetings are held on Sunday afternoons. The last meeting was on the same Sunday as some all day church activities and a funeral. When can we meet? Remember that the elected board members are running this organization with the help of volunteers who keep the operation going on a daily basis. There is always a need for capable volunteers to work on the many tasks that need to be done. So much has been accomplished but the work is ongoing and never ending.

Current Society Policies

Library Hours 1:00-4:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Research charge \$5 for non-members. Daily tours of Old Courthouse, School and Museum \$3 (students accompanied by an adult are free). Members free. Photocopying: 25 cents a page. Tours at other times may be arranged by calling the curator at (660) 747-6480.

First African-American Teacher Retires.

Morris Collins retired in May as an art teacher in the Warrensburg Public Schools after thirty-three years. A native of Johnson County, he was the first African-American teacher hired in the R-VI district. Collins recounted in *The Daily Star Journal* (3 June 2002) that Superintendent Stanley Lebow told him, "Don't tell anybody that we hired you until everything's settled."

Books of Interest

Harriet Frazier. *Slavery and Crime in Missouri, 1773-1865*. McFarland: Jefferson, N.C., 2001. An important study based on meticulous research in county court records, pre-civil war newspapers and territorial records.

Melva Jones, *Living Between Two Creeks: Growing Up in Missouri*. Mid-America: Warrensburg, 2002

Lisa Irle and Mary Rainey, *Historic Quilts in Johnson County*. 2002. Available at the Library.

Dusty Poskocil. *Johnson County, Missouri 1860 Census*. Research paper prepared for Dr. Jeff Yelton, 2002.

Harry Webster, *The Hyer Family Odyssey: An American Pioneer History*. Hyer Education, 2001. The Hyer Family was a very early owner of the Old Courthouse as a residence.

West Central Genealogical Society is offering a reprint of 1881 *History of Johnson County*. Unbound. Contact Eldon Yung. \$45.00.

Later Hangings

Mary Rainey

In the last bulletin, I asked if the double hanging was the last hanging in Johnson County. I found a later one. In December 1893 (10 years later) Charles Banks, a "colored man" with a very "unsavory past," started an argument with a man he knew in a Sedalia pool hall. The other man by the name of Ike Palmer, also "colored," tried to walk away. Banks stated, "I feel like killing a man today." Banks drew a revolver and shot Palmer. The trial was held in Warrensburg due to a change of venue. Banks was found guilty and hung.

Volunteer Report

Donna Holt

The big news in the library is the addition of a new Canon MP 90 microfilm reader/ printer which has improved access to the resources of the library for volunteers and patrons alike. Thanks to the board for approving that purchase. A volunteer through the summer months, Zack Smith, who will be starting 4th grade at Sterling Elem. this fall, has nearly earned his free membership, spending 80 hours of his summer in the library.

Gifts to Library

Marvin and Ellen Mullen: Scholar Register Books for Quick City-Stout and other Holden areas.
Elizabeth Sanders: *Bowmans of Bowmansville*
Raylene Harbit: photo of Newt Murphy and firehorses
Dottie Salchow: Farmers Elementary School Yearbook
Tom and Robbie Stokovaz: photos and files pertaining to Leland Culp
Family histories for Andrew, Smarr, Horn/Horne, Wm. Crunk Jennings, and Cooper

Curator's Corner

Lisa Irle

Since the last newsletter, over 100 individuals have toured the museum, courthouse and school. Group tours of schools and organizations have included over 400. Programs of different subjects of Johnson County history have been presented at meetings of the ABC club, D.A.R., summer school, and every 2nd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. on KOKO Radio with Marion Woods. Students from Kingsville, Knob Noster, Leeton, and Warrensburg have been introduced to JCHS.

This year's production of *The Dog Gone Truth* was a focus

of the spring. Forty-three cast members told the real story of the Old Drum Trial to sold out audiences from May 29th through June 1st. The play netted over \$1000 for the Society, and was appreciated as an element of the Blind Boone Festival held on Main Street.

Thanks to the many individuals and families who have donated items of local historical interest to the museum. This fall, look for new displays and stories about residents of the area

Please contribute copies of family writings. There is always interest in the documentation of an item and its oral history as well as the item itself.—Lisa Irle, Curator

Gifts to the Museum

Anonymous: F.M. Cockrell's Cumberland Presbyterian Hymnbook; 1898 fence stretchers
O. L. Cobb family: quilt and serving dishes
Betty Byrum Wilson: comforter made of woolen tie scraps from Hipsch Tie Factory, Holden.
Sue Crouch: Goodall Mower Mineral Creek Church of the Brethren, Leeton: wheelchair of Mrs. James Mohler
Hubert Jones: Civil War era cartridge bag, Warrensburg bottles and a Dummy spike
E. Bruce Reynolds: a Holden Centennial program, "Arkie" songbook of cowboy songs with yodel arrangements, tape of Bob Hope at the Sedalia Glider Base
Betty Marr: patriotic directories and Goodall mower manual
Flo Mullis: pictures from WHS play *Little Women* and of the Old Courthouse.

Chilhowee Fair: Contests

Melva Jones

This year marks the 55th Chilhowee Community Fair. Chilhowee, normally a quiet little rural shopping center, springs into life. When I was a child, back in the 1940s, my parents would go to the Friday night activities which featured a horse show. School was dismissed on Friday afternoons so the students could go up "town" and take part in the many activities scheduled to entertain the children at the fair. They usually had a tug of war, hula hoop contest, and bubble blowing contest. One of the most popular was the flour dip. The children were divided up into age groups.

Money was hidden in the large wash tubs of flour. It was mostly pennies, nickels and dimes, but enough quarters to make it interesting. The ones who found the odd fifty cent pieces were rich indeed. The white flour coated contestants backed away from the tubs clutching their treasured finds. Flour for the dip was really ground grain feed from the local mill, cheaper than flour, but it made for just as much fun. The older high school teenagers really geared up for the water balloon toss, and it was more fun to publicly give some unsuspecting adult a good drenching. Another popular contest with teens and young adults was the egg throwing contest. Two lines of people lined up facing each other. The eggs were tossed back and forth. The object was to catch the egg, and toss it back to the other lines (no these were not hardboiled eggs!). Races for bikes and tricycles were run according to age. One of the big Friday afternoon events was the terrapin race and all the folders

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Warrensburg and Johnson County's Cena Christopher Draper, Part I

Philip A. Sadler

Professor Emeritus of Children's Literature, CMSU

In 1982, Cena Christopher Draper returned to Warrensburg from her home in Florida to address a meeting of the Missouri Folklore Society at Pertle Springs and Central Missouri State University. Her speech topic was "Facts and Fantasy by a Missouri Writer," an appropriate subject that aptly described her long career of producing plays and novels for young people. Only once did she really stray from her roots in Warrensburg and Johnson County in her writing, and that was only to the neighboring state of Arkansas, an area she also knew well. When Cena Draper was a grandmother, someone said to her, "Don't ever grow up." If anyone ever remained a child at heart and enjoyed a world of fantasy all her life, it was she. Her plays and stories reflect her childhood world and show how everyone can find the happiness and joy of childhood if they search for it.

Cena Christopher Draper, born October 17, 1907, in Warrensburg, grew up in a large fifteen-room house at 415 Grover to successfully depict Johnson County and the early inhabitants of the area. Both branches of her family, Christopher and Baile, owned extensive areas around Johnson County—Bristle Ridge, Pertle Springs, Post Oak, Hale Lake, among them. She also stated that she learned truth and respect for her elders from these experiences.

From an early age, Draper had an interest in writing and an interest in acting that was equally as strong. She attended the teach-

ers college in Warrensburg where she was active in drama, often writing plays in which she could take acting parts. She continued her education at the University of Missouri. Writing both short and full-length plays, she won national prizes for her plays, and they were produced on the campus at Warrensburg and later in Columbia at the University of Missouri. She was very proud of what may have been her first, "The Holy Hour," which won what she called a "Longmans, Green prize," but no copy of this play has been found. Though her early prize-winning plays were serious in nature, her later dramas were plays of fancy or fantasies written for children. At least eight of them were produced by Kansas City acting groups in elementary schools as well as in other states. *The Golden Hoop*, *The Bells of Melodoon*, and *Zigzagziparoo* exist in manuscript form. References were found to *Wizards of Taboo* and *From the Singing Hills*. "Deep in the Dingle Dell, A Play for Puppets" (Row-Peterson) was published in 1951.

Draper once mentioned the publication of a short story, "The Pear Orchard," which appeared in *The Toronto Star Weekly*, but no copy was found. Publication was probably in the early 1930s. Only a few times did she write about real people in real situations in her plays. "The Grand Old Man" (a forerunner of her older, wiser man and teen-age boy theme that appeared later in her books of fiction) was included in *The Yearbook of Short Plays—1st*



Cena Christopher Draper

Series (Row, Peterson, 1931). *Plays of Fancy, Six Short Plays for the Elementary School* (Row-Peterson) was a paperback publication in 1948. Draper's interest in the world of fancy populated by talking animals and little people is most evident in her plays. Only one typescript appears to be a novel, undated, entitled "The Adventures of Poe and the Jolly Goodfellows," but there is no evidence that it was published or adapted into play form. Apparently she enjoyed this type of writing all her life because she was still producing plays for children up to the time of her death in Florida, though copies of many of them have not been located.

Her first published book was a novel for children called *Ridge Willoughby* (Steck, 1952). In the classical genre of the boy-with-a-dog story (though in this book the dog was a skunk named Pew), she realized her uncanny ability to create a story about real characters, most often teenage boys, set in the region of Johnson County and Warrensburg. Setting her story on the ridge south of Knob Noster around the beginning of the twentieth century, she utilized the notes in her journal about the family stories; the everyday life of the people of the area; their daily

activities; their heritage; the way they spoke the English language; and the woods, fields, and creeks she had known all her life. Though *Ridge Willoughby* is set in the Tom Sawyer mode, Willoughby is a fully realized, believable character who finds adventures with his pet skunk Pew, his large group of younger sisters, other relatives, and the bullies of the neighborhood as he grows up. All this is accomplished by Draper with humor and a subtle hint of a moral—learn to depend upon yourself and success and happiness will follow. Draper could not resist her love for romance and beauty, however. She was true in her descriptions of people and their lives, of the region in which they lived, but she engaged in a bit of exaggeration and changed the name of Johnson County to Boone County, possibly misleading many young readers about the true setting of her story. She simply thought that Boone County was a more romantic name for the area.

In 1956, she published her second book, *Papa Says, the Story of My Sister Bianca* (Liveright), a novel set in Warrensburg during her own teen years in the 1920s. Depicting the daily lives of the large, extended Kitt (Christopher) family living in the old home place at 415 Grover, she drew a clear picture of the town and its people that is touched by the humor of what happens around a naive teenager who means well. Miranda (Draper herself) is her only female protagonist of star quality in any of her books, but her life, like that of the boys in other books, is full of misunderstanding, humor, and adventure. More a book for all ages than a children's book, *Papa Says* can be read with a clear understanding of the layout of Warrensburg with

real places and real street names. (One item in particular was the practice by Vernaz Drug Store of displaying insufficient-fund checks on the front window of the store until the writers made them good, a business practice continued until into the 1960s.) The old family home no longer stands (a modern apartment house takes its place today); other houses in the area may be recognized in the book.

[Note Most of the factual information in this article is based upon conversations between the author and Mrs. Draper during their years of friendship while he taught Children's Literature at CMSU. A few family members were located and interviewed. All book publications as noted were available. Copies of her plays were very difficult to locate; some were not available to author at all. Some manuscripts were read by the author during Mrs. Draper's lifetime, but their location now is unknown.]

Chilhowee Fair *cont. from page 4*

read, "Bring your own turtle." Mothers and fathers proudly brought in their youngsters for the baby contest at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The Grand Parade was held at 12 noon on Saturday. Afternoon activities included the story book characters contest and it was also when the best decorated dog and cat show was held. The hobo contest was well attended; it didn't require a mother to make much preparation for her children to participate. One needed only gather up some old clothes, the more patches the better, and bum a hat off of dad, let a rag hang out the hip pocket and clump along in a pair of oversize shoes. The cracker and whistle contest was mostly entered by the teenagers and young adults. The object was to eat a

four square of cracker and then whistle—not as easy as it sounds. The sack race had contestants of all ages lined up two to a sack, and their hobbling race toward the finish line brought cheers from the watching crowd. Old and young alike lined up and took part in the tug of war, made more exciting by the puddle of water added in the middle of the street. The Fair is a community effort and an event many people look to each year on Labor day weekend. *Some things never change. Many of these contests are still held annually—ed.*

Howard School: Past, Present, Future

Lucille Gress

During the immediate post-Civil war period, black and white children of Warrensburg attended separate schools. "We wondered why, if we could play together, we couldn't go to school together," Ernest Collins, Sr. commented. Furthermore, the concept of "separate but equal" schools failed to materialize in the real world, which raised additional questions. Moreover, schools were not always available to black children in rural areas. Families sometimes sent their children to stay with relatives in urban areas during the school year, so their children could go to school. Other families moved from outlying areas to Warrensburg so their children would have the opportunity to go to school. During the process of bringing their dream of educating their children to fruition, black families also helped dispel the myth that black children lacked the capacity to learn and an interest in learning.

Leona Gray Williams Mackey, who lived on a farm south of

town, described her experience: "I started to Howard School in 1920, at age six," she said. "I walked four-and-a half miles to school. We didn't know anything about buses those days." "I graduated from the two-year Howard High School program in 1929. I completed grades eleven and twelve at McKinley high School in Coffeyville, Kansas. In 1937, I went to the Tuskegee Institute for a year. When I returned home, a vacancy existed at the Centerview school and I was asked to take the position." During her tenure there, Mackey attended two summer sessions at Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City. "I wanted to become a better teacher," she said. Subsequently, she taught at Montserrat, Chilhowee and Butler.

At about age six, Verna Rucker Brown came with her family to Warrensburg so she could go to Howard School. "There were three classrooms, and a pot-bellied coal stove heated the school," she recalled. "I completed the tenth grade at Howard." She continued, "I started to work at age fourteen. I worked two hours after school, and gave fifty cents of every dollar I earned to my mother. I sewed and made my own clothes."

Married young, Brown had several children. She became a certified nurses aide and worked at the hospital and in nursing homes for about twenty-five years. "When my husband became ill and required tracheotomy care, I felt blessed to have the knowledge and experience to take care of him," she said.

Frances Morgan Harden, also from Centerview, attended Howard School. Her teachers were Felice Hill Gaines and Fred and Olive Grear. "Felice taught sewing. She was very exacting," Harden said. "If you didn't get

your work right, you had to rip it out and do it over. I learned a lot from her. Manual training classes were held on the other side. It was noisy and dusty there."

Harden became the first black practical nurse in Warrensburg. Eventually, she qualified to become a foster parent, and took care of children. "I had to care for my elderly parents and found that I could also care for children in my home," she said. "I always liked children. People used to call me 'Granny of the town.'"

When Ernest Collins, Sr. completed the eighth grade at East Lynn in Mt. Olive, his parents moved to Warrensburg, so he could go to high school. He graduated from Howard High School in 1947. "My parents wanted me to go to college," he said, "but I know they didn't have the money to send me." In 1949, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Following retirement in 1969, he worked as a heavy equipment mechanic at Whiteman Air Force Base. In 1977, Collins was elected to the Warrensburg City Council for a three-year term, the first black to be elected to the governing body of the City of Warrensburg.

Sterling Dallas White, Sr. started to Howard School as a fourth-grader, when his parents moved from Sweet Springs to Warrensburg. "I was mad all the time I was in school, because of the way things were done," he said. "We were not allowed to mark on our desks, but, in the summer, whites traded their broken-down desks for ours. Our books were bought new, but whites replaces them with their raggedy books. We didn't have a play-ground and had to play in the street. One day, a foul ball went into an old lady's yard and she wouldn't give it back. When we



Emeritus Professor Felice Gaines

asked the teacher why he didn't do something about those things, he said he couldn't do anything. Couldn't suit. Why? And that was school."

White was interested in music. In the 1920s, he went on the road with Verlon Ewing's band, so he could continue taking music lessons. Later, he entered the military service. "I organized a band when I was stationed in South Carolina in 1942," he recalled. "When the hospital ships came in, we played for the boys who couldn't go home for Christmas. When I was on the road, I couldn't go home for Christmas. When I was on the road, I couldn't go to church regularly. I always missed going to church. Somehow, the week didn't seem complete without it."

Shirley Brown Harvey entered Howard School as a seventh grader, when her mother moved to Warrensburg. Felice Hill Gaines, her former teacher at McGuire School in Montserrat, once again, became her teacher. Harvey said, "Mrs. Gaines expected students to do their best. She said, 'Being black has nothing to do with it. You take what you have been given and do your best.'" She added, "I still have the original copy of a hand-printed newspaper that she assigned the students to do in 1939. The paper has a mast-head and dateline; it is laid out in columns and has a comic section. I learned so much from

Mrs. Gaines. She was my teacher, mentor and family friend.”

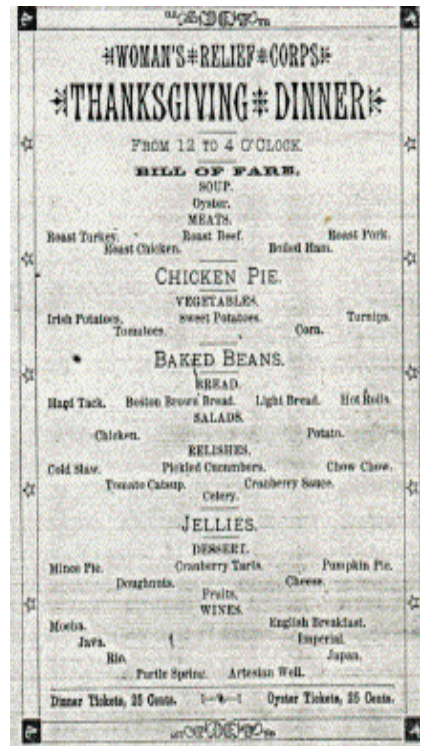
Harvey continued, “I didn’t get to go to college. My grandmother was ill and mother was taking care of her. I went to work to help my mother.” Harvey worked at the local hospital and in the office of Dr. O.H. Damron and helped care for Sam and Felice Gaines, and her husband, Clarence Harvey Jr., during their terminal illnesses. Harvey continued to carry on the Mission work of the Shiloh Baptist Church, as Felice Gaines had done. Other volunteer work included the Blind Boone Park and Howard School Restoration projects, and activities at the Western Missouri Medical Center.

Meanwhile in the 1940s, the State Board of Education issued a new set of regulations for the accreditation and classification of schools. However, a tax levy, which would have provided funds

for implementing the new regulations set for the high school, failed to pass on two occasions. The school board, because of the lack of finances, decided to close the Howard High School in 1948, and transport qualified students to Hubbard High School in Sedalia, for their high school education.

Howard School continued as an elementary school, until the Warrensburg schools were desegregated in 1955. Closure of the school, however, became a mark of success, rather than failure. An attitudinal change in people of the Warrensburg area contributed toward the integration of schools. People had come to realize that children who play together could also learn together. Educational parity had become a reality.

Can You Identify the Women’s Relief Corps?



Note the water is from “Purtle Springs.” It must be Thanksgiving in Warrensburg.

Henry Fike Collection, Western Historical Manuscripts, Columbia, Mo.

If undeliverable please return to:
Johnson County Historical Society
302 North Main Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093

COME VOTE

The Nominating Committee offers the following slate for election to the Board of Directors:

Bob Theiss

Rich Lawson

J. C. Carter

Annual Fall Meeting
September 29, 2002