
The Bulletin

of the Johnson County Historical Society

Vol. XVIII No. 3

Warrensburg, Missouri

May 2003

The spring meeting of the Johnson County Historical Society will be held May 18, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Courthouse. Guest speaker will be board member, Dr. Jeff Yelton, who will speak about "Pertle Springs – Archaeology & History." Historic quilts will be on display in the Library at 1:00 p.m.

Isaac W. Hanthorn: Regional Tradition-Builder

Leslie Anders



State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia

Isaac W. Hanthorn

In the generation following our Civil War, a stream of immigrants from the Old Northwest prompted Johnson County's change from an Upper South outpost to a Midwest stronghold. The names of Henry C. Fike, Nathan Land, and Jacob Hyer come immediately to mind, but Isaac W. Hanthorn was also a factor in this transformation, although his amazing example is all but forgotten in his home county. Born in 1846 in Abingdon, Illinois, to a Scottish father and an Ulster-

ite mother, Hanthorn attended the local Cherry Grove seminar and earned a teaching certificate destined to assure his financial salvation. In 1869, he married Sophia Josephine Marsh Huggins, widow of a Congregationalist missionary slain by the Sioux Indians in Minnesota. Directly descended from John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, she was destined to make her own mark on the rising Middle West. Born in due course to Isaac and Sophia were three children: Ernest (who died in infancy), Elroy Josephine, and James Noble.

After six years of teaching in the public schools of Knox county, Illinois, Hanthorn joined the westward migration in the early 1870s. Soon the Hanthorns found themselves at home on a rented farm in Pettis County's Camp Branch neighborhood. Sad to tell, this brave venture met with calamity. First came drought years to dry up the crops; then, in 1875, the grasshoppers arrived to "clean up the leftovers." Hanthorn desperately returned to the schoolroom to support his family and keep paying for tracts of land nearby in southeastern Johnson County.

In 1877, the Hanthorns were able to move from Camp Branch to a promising farmsite in Jeffer-

son Township. "This little farm," an admirer was to write, "through his unremitting toil grew to one of the more desirable farms in the neighborhood." Expanded in time to 600 acres, Hanthorn's "Sleepy Hollow Farm" became a stock and grain operation lauded for its production of Red Durham cattle and Poland China hogs.

Busy as he was, Hanthorn actively championed community improvements such as elevators, telephone lines, and "farm-to-market" roads. For six years he served as the township's road commissioner, supervising building of the road from Windsor toward Knob Noster, known today as Route W.

By the dawn of the twentieth century, many of his neighbors were coming to see in Hanthorn what Ewing Cockrell saluted: "one of the most intelligent men in this section of Missouri..." Many people loved to tell of Hanthorn's trip to a Windsor elevator with a team and wagon, during which most of his load of newly-threshed grain had been lost through cracks in the wagon's bed. Alerted to his misfortune, Hanthorn sighed philosophically, "I never look back." Roy Soles of Windsor,

continued

whose mobile sawmill frequently produced lumber, early in the century, for the various Cooper farmsteads in the township, long remembered Hanthorn's visits to the milling sites and his witty and authoritative analyses of current events.

Isaac and Sophia saw to it that Elroy and James entered the new century prepared to utilize their talents for personal and societal progress. Elroy, after graduating from the District 2 Normal (now CMSU) in 1893, began a teaching career that long endured. In 1896, she married Henry L. Gallaher, grandson of an original judge of the County, George T. Gallaher, and a cousin of the renowned state geologist John A. Gallaher. Her descendants continued farming Sleepy Hollow as well as the Gallaher fields north of Knob Noster into the twenty-first century.

Elroy's brother James, after graduating from the Normal in 1897, went on to a career that included nearly two decades as principal of William Chrisman High School in Independence and a closing stint as Assistant Su-

perintendent of the Independence school system. So greatly was his service admired that the city's school board dedicated a new school in his honor in 1954. The James N. Hanthorn Elementary School stands to this day at 1511 Kings Highway.

The visage of Isaac W. Hanthorn, strangely as it might seem, "bears acquaintance" in his home county. Geography played tricks on his memory. Windsor, in Henry County, was the necessary center of his commercial and spiritual life. Indeed, had he taken his horse and buggy for a twenty-mile ride he could have passed from Johnson county into Pettis, Benton, and Henry counties before returning to Sleepy Hollow's front gate. His funeral, following his death on September 30, 1928, was held in the sanctuary of Windsor's First Christian Church. And, beneath a massive granite marker he sleeps "the sleep of the ages" in Windsor's Laurel Oak Cemetery.

Still, for many reasons, he was a mentor and model whose legacy came to full blood amid the hills and prairies of Johnson county.

taken by your board of directors.

In the fall, the board employed the firm of Susan Richards Johnson & Associates in Kansas City to prepare a Master Plan Study of the Society's 1838 Courthouse. Johnson is an architect who specializes in working with historic properties. Steven Huey, a structural engineer with Wallace Engineering and Structural Consultants, also assisted with the project. Their final report was completed in January, and I am pleased to inform you that this historic property remains structurally sound. The plan includes a list of specific recommendations for repairs and improvements that will ensure the building's continued preservation in the years ahead. This comprehensive assessment will enable the board to proceed with work at the old courthouse in a systematic way. A copy of the plan is available at the Heritage Library, and I invite any of you who are interested to come by and look it over.

In January, the board adopted a 2003 master plan that establishes a number of specific goals for this year. The following items from that list are apt to be of particular interest to members: 1) Complete and occupy the Leland and Zinn Culp building. 2) Initiate phase one of the Courthouse repair and restoration plan developed by Susan Richards Johnson and Associates. 3) Assist with microfilming Johnson County Circuit Court records in cooperation with the Johnson County Circuit Clerk, the Johnson County Commission, and the Missouri State Archives. 4) Develop a regular series of programs for members and friends of the society to run throughout the year.

The board has already taken steps to begin work on several of

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Message from the President

William E. Foley

Since the publication of the last issue of the *Bulletin*, the Society's board of directors, staff, and its volunteers have been exceptionally busy. The curator's report included in this issue provides a summary of some of the exciting things that have been happening. I will not attempt to enumerate all of the activities of the past six months, but I do want to highlight a few very important actions

these projects. I call your attention to the list of special activities that have been scheduled for the current year.

The Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Courthouse in December played to rave reviews, and we look forward to a repeat performance this year. An ice cream social with various other attractions has been scheduled for July. You will not want to miss it.

In September, we will be dedicating the completed Culp Building in conjunction with our Annual Meeting. These events represent only a small sampling of the year's programming, and we hope that many of you will take advantage of the opportunities that they afford for people of all ages.

I am saddened to report the death of our former president, Clayta Downing whose contributions to the Society are outlined elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

The board has appointed Dr. Jeffrey Yelton to fill the vacancy until the next election. Dr. Yelton is an archaeologist and a member of the Department of History and Anthropology at CMSU. We welcome him to the board and invite you to meet him and to hear his presentation on Pertle Springs at our spring meeting.

As you can see much has been happening, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the many people who have made it all possible, with special thanks to the hardworking board members, curator, *Bulletin* editor, membership chairman, Courthouse Records Project coordinator, and dedicated volunteers who contribute so much to the Society.

Past President Downing Passes Away

Clayta Kathryn Teater Downing passed away on Monday, October 14, 2002, in Warrensburg. Clayta was born Sunday, November 4, 1928, near Blairstown, MO, the daughter of George B. Teater and Ollie L. Houston Teater.

She received her education in rural Johnson County Schools and graduated from Chilhowee High School in 1945.

Clayta continued her education at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg to obtain her teaching degree in education. She taught at Hughesville, Odessa and Garden City and retired from Sherwood-Cass R-8 School District after 40 years as a teacher.

Clayta was an active and life member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the local chapter in Warrensburg. She was also a member of Missouri and Johnson County Retired Teachers Association, life member and past president of the Johnson County Historical Society, member of Sedalia Doll Club, West Central Missouri Genealogical Society, Hallmark Crazy Collectors Club of Harrisonville, Henry County Museum, and was president of the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

She married Howard Downing on August 11, 1962, in Chilhowee. He survives of the home. Clayta was preceded in death by her parents and first husband Edward Callis, Jr.

Burial was at the Centerview Cemetery.

Curator's Report

Lisa Irle

First, I would like to express our gratitude to all who have contributed time, talents, historical information, and artifacts to the Johnson County Historical Society. The candlelight celebration of Christmas in the Old Courthouse was a great success. New volunteer, Rose Marie Kinder, helped to plan the event, which featured a dinner of oyster stew and chicken and dumplings; music from Tony Shaffer, David Lindsay, Dave Rest, and MeShell Nelson, a Christmas message from Joe Alexander and festivities which included Drew Schrag, who demonstrated whipcracking on horseback. Members of the society donated cookies and food and the curator and her family baked over a dozen mince meat pies. About 175 people were in attendance and a repeat performance will be held this coming December.

Saturday, March 22, a musical jamboree was held at the Old Courthouse, with about 25 in attendance. Included in various ensemble and solo performances were guitars, a fiddle, an upright bass, dulcimers, penny whistles, harmonicas, and a tuba. The Nold Brothers, Everett Norman, Post Oak, Dr. John Check, John Haug, and several singalong participants in the audience who made a joyful noise for over two hours.

Don't forget! Tours of the Museum and Old Courthouse are available for groups, and there is a wealth of resources for research at the Historical Society. The Curator gives a "History Lesson" on KOKO radio on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Menu? The Women's Relief Corps, which sponsored the lavish dinner at Empire Hall published in the last issue was probably the women's branch of the Grand Army of the Republic established in 1883. It is likely the dinner was held within a few years of that date.

Recent Accessions

Hart's Hamburger Shop booth and table - Robin Scully
FFA jacket - Rep. David Pearce
Beaded dress, baby dresses, Victorian wall hanging, charcoal portraits of the Upton/West/Burris Family - Sarah Ferguson,
12 framed pictures of Holden Scenes -Hubert Jones Family,
Materials of Mary Miller Smiser relating to the Johnson County Historical Society, framed photo of Sam Smiser with his Mules, Smiser overalls - Elizabeth Schwensen
Materials from Unitog and Brookfield Mfg. - Anonymous Donor
Photo of 1920-1921 Holden H.S. Junior Class and Marsh and Minerva Windsor - Robert & Lois Windsor
Family genealogy of John Cockrell - Army-Navy hymnal 1942 - Betty Marr
Scrapbooks and minutes of Johnson County FCE - Debbie Weigand
Corporal Johnson's WWII era propeller plane model - Nat Cassingham
Warrensburg, Missouri (Images of America) - Lisa Irle, the author
Straight Plow with pegged construction - Kenneth Burden
Pick heads (3) from the Pickel Quarry - the late John Bruch
Large sausage grinder, adding machine - O.L. Cobb Family
Mrs. Agnes J. Woods, United Daughters of the Confederacy Certificate, dated May 1, 1914 - Doris Brookshier
Photo of Alec Nichols and Max Aber - Bob Corbin
Large photo of Pickel Quarry family - Helen C. Kendrick
E.N. Johnson, druggist, pharmacy bottle - Carol Berkland

Special Donation from Liz

Long time volunteer and patron of the work of the Johnson County Historical Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Smiser Schwensen, has

Christmas in the Court House



Christmas Baked Goodies

presented the Mary Miller Smiser Heritage Library with a collection of letters and memorabilia which had belonged to her mother. Smiser, the founder of the Historical Society, had a rich, productive life which is documented in the Mary Miller Smiser Collection. Mrs. Smiser and her husband, A. Lee, were charter members of the first incarnation of JCHS. Their children, Elizabeth, Mildred Vyverberg, and Sam Smiser, and Elizabeth's sons Carl and Christian (Kit) have all contributed to the Museum and Library in innumerable ways.

To have this resource of valuable documents and photographs contributing to the historical record of the very fascinating times in which Mary Miller Smiser lived is a great addition to the JCHS Collection. Some of the incredible history of the Miller/Burkhardt families from Sumner Co. Missouri is also included. Five volumes of correspondence have been assembled from the collection. Our thanks to Liz for this wonderful donation.

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.



Lottery Winners

Volunteers Report

Donna Holt

Several new projects are off and running since the last *Bulletin*. Rose Marie Kinder is helping in the Museum. Her current project is improving the labels on artifacts in the Museum, especially by adding the first names of women donors. The Local Records Project began with a training session conducted by Steve Sandy of the Missouri State Archives; twelve people were present, and the group is currently meeting on Monday afternoons at our new temporary processing center on the lower west end of the Justice Center. New volunteers Carol Berkland and Herb Best have begun cataloging photographs in the Library's collection. New volunteer Carolyn Gwin is filing index cards concerning marriage and birth records and is also working with Doris Brookshier, Rosalie Elwell, Elizabeth Irle, Jane Reynolds and several others on the Local Records Project. Andy Kerr is filing newspaper clippings in Family Files.

Volunteers are organizing and indexing marriage and birth announcement documents from the *Daily Star Journal*. More volunteers are always needed. Possible projects include:

Library

- Photograph files – cataloging and dating
- Family files – filing of clippings
- Local Records Project – Preparing circuit court records for microfilming and archiving
- Clerical tasks such as data entry

Museum

- Inventory of artifacts
- Assisting with tours
- Organizing and implementing new displays
- Clerical tasks

- Landscaping, groundskeeping, and cleaning
- Special interest research: writing on local subjects, and creating historical character sketches
- Help with May Quilt Show
- Musicians
- Traditional craftspeople are needed to demonstrate: candlemaking, bookbinding, blacksmithing, barrel making, basketry, soapmaking
- Kids' activities, and crafts

Upcoming Events for 2003

Put these dates on your calendars:

- May 18 Heritage Quilt Show. Museum opens at 1 p.m. Spring Meeting. Dr. Jeff Yelton, guest speaker. Old Courthouse. 2:00 p.m.
- June 14 Blind Boone Festival on Main Street, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. "Memories of J.W. 'Blind' Boone," live presentation of the radio play by Eddie Osborne (host of Eclectic Café), Old Courthouse. 10:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.
- July 12 Old fashioned American Celebration. Ice Cream Social and Stump Speaking. Old Courthouse lawn. An old tradition comes back! Watch for details.
- September 28 Fall Meeting. Culp Building dedication. Down home entertainment.
- October 7-11 Old Drum Trial. Details to be announced.
- December 11 Christmas in the Old Courthouse and Volunteer Recognition. 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Third Saturday each month.
Open Stage/Jam Session at the
Old Courthouse. 4:00 p.m.

Cena Christopher Draper -

Warrensburg and Johnson County's Cena Christopher Draper, Pt. 2

Philip A. Sadler
Professor Emeritus of Children's Literature, CMSU

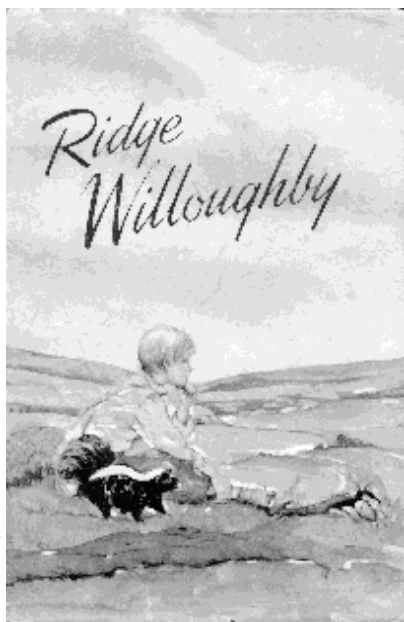
Draper and Maurice Nugent adapted *Papa Says* as a three-act play called *Summer Flight*, but there is no evidence of publication or a production. It is a delightful read and is reminiscent of the light romantic movies of the 1940s and 1950s though it retains the original setting and time of *Papa Says*, the 1920s in Warrensburg.

Mother, the Overseer, privately published in 1962, is an account of Mayme H. Rowland and her pioneer family of the El Dorado, Arkansas, area. In her usual inimitable style, Draper collected the stories and compiled them to be distributed to members of "Aunt Mayme's" family. It is a rare item and not often found in libraries or most private collections. In it, however, Draper did for the Arkansas area what she so ably did for Johnson County, Missouri, and Warrensburg—capture the spirit and essence of the people of the area.

Rim of the Ridge (Criterion)

was published in 1965. Draper returned to the setting and time of *Ridge Willoughby* (Bristle Ridge in 1902) to relate the story of a teen-age boy, coon dogs, and coon hunting, an important part of life at that time. Punk, with his mentor, an older friend called Hummy, tramp the woods in the area, appreciating the beauty of nature and growing up to accept responsibility in this coming-of-age story. Garnering national and international attention for her books for the first time, *Rim of the Ridge* was selected by the Books Across the Sea panel as an "American Ambassador Book." It was recognized as a work that interpreted the lives, backgrounds, and interests of American young people to readers in other English-speaking countries. *Dandy and the Mystery of the Locked Room* achieved the same recognition later in 1975.

In the early 1970s, Draper and her husband moved to Florida "for health reasons," but she continued to write about her family and the Johnson County area. Literature for children and young adults was becoming much more realistic at this time, so she was influenced to change her title of a new novel from *Beloved o'er All* to *Dandy and the Mystery of the Locked Room* (Independence Press, 1974). She was also talked into substituting real names for real settings, which resulted in a novel about Centertown and Indian Springs happening in Warrensburg and Pertle Springs. Pertle Springs was a nationally known resort from 1887 to 1925 and owned by Draper's grandfather, J. H. Christopher. There were hotels, theaters,



© Mont Draper / The Steck Co.

concert halls, a tabernacle, and outdoor recreational areas, with a dummy line (streetcar) to provide transportation from the railroad station in downtown Warrensburg to the Springs. It was a popular seat of culture in the area and visited by such dignitaries as William Jennings Bryan, Billy Sunday, Buffalo Bill and Carrie Nation. Chautauqua programs, revival meetings, and Shakespearean dramas were also hosted there. Here is another story based upon old family stories and the authentic area in which they happened though she touched them with her own imagination to create an exciting mystery for young people.

Draper told of an elopement with a Shakespearean actor that she adapted in her story of the daughter of the owner of Pertle Springs, who eloped with an actor and alienated herself from her father. Upon their deaths, their son, Dandy, travels to Warrensburg to find his grandfather whom he has never known, an older man so full of pride that he has great difficulty accepting his grandson. In Draper's hands, the people, the time, and the place come alive. Even the minor characters (extended family members and household retainers) are as skillfully developed and memorable as the main characters. Greatly enhancing the story are the illustrations and jacket painting by Patricia Barrows Minnis, a young teacher in the Central Missouri State University Laboratory School, which she executed using photographs of Warrensburg and Pertle Springs as models. The jacket illustration and frontispiece of the book are especially effective.

Draper's last published book, *The Worst Hound Around* (Westminster), appeared in 1979. She returned to Bristle Ridge for the

setting of the story that involves a teen-age boy and his blue-tick hound, Blue Dog. This book interested many for the same reasons the earlier books did, the nature and lore of Central Missouri, but Draper added much information about coon dogs, their training, and the favorite pastime of many in the area—coon hunting. She included some of Jorrie's first brushes with love and the opposite sex and provided humorous incidents that keep readers reading. *The Worst Hound Around* was nominated for the 1981-1982 Mark Twain Award, which is awarded by the Missouri Association of School Librarians to a book from the nominated list that is chosen by school children in Missouri as their favorite.

Two unpublished manuscripts exist: *The Green Widow* and *The Orphan Train*. *Green Widow* must have been written early in Draper's career (1930s) because it is a light, romantic novel set in the 1930s and apparently intended for adults, not children.

At the time of her death at her home in Stuart, Florida, October 8, 1986, Draper had finished *The Orphan Train*. Set around 1908, it reflected a real event, the transporting of orphans from New York City and finding homes for them in the Midwest. Possibly one of the first efforts by any writer on that subject, it failed to be published, though the theme became a popular one in literature for children and young adults a few years later.

Cena Christopher Draper spent her life sharing the joys of childhood and a hope for a better world with all who would read her books or watch her plays. Her books continue to be enjoyed by generation after generation.

[Note Most of the factual information in this article is based on conversations between the author and Mrs. Draper. A few family members were located and interviewed. Mont Draper, son of Mrs. Draper, and his daughters have located more manuscripts and papers since the publication of the first part of this article and made them available for research.

All book publications as noted were available. Copies of her plays were difficult to locate; some were not available to the author, but newly discovered papers have been sent to the author and will be placed in the Special Collections area of the James C. Kirkpatrick Library at CMSU. Other manuscripts were read by the author during Mrs. Draper's lifetime, but their location now is unknown.

Readers will find copies of her published books in various libraries such as Trails Regional Library, Warrensburg; Central Missouri State University Library; and the Johnson County Historical Library. Various copies of the books are listed as available for purchase at Alibris.com and Amazon.com on the Internet.

Some unpublished manuscripts are held by the Johnson County Historical Society Museum and in Special Collections, Central Missouri State University Library. Draper's career was also chronicled by writers of many newspaper articles, usually in the Warrensburg Star-Journal. A collection of these articles and a voluminous correspondence between the author and Mrs. Draper can be found in the Central Missouri State University Library.

An Xerox of the manuscript of a short story, "The Pear Orchard," has surfaced, but it has the title as "The Apple Orchard." It also states on the manuscript that it was published in the Toronto Star Weekly, 27 August 1949.]

Local Historian Passes Away

Lisa Irle and Susan Pentlin

Lucille Deloras Gress died January 28, 2003, in Warrensburg. She was born December 18, 1920, in Kansas city, KS, the daughter of Willard P. Gress and Fannie Hancock Gress. She had worked as a machine operator for Hipsch Shirt Factory in Holden from 1941 to 1947. From 1947 until 1952, he was an operator for United Telephone Company in Warrensburg. She received a nursing diploma from the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing in 1954. In 1966, she joined the faculty at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, where she taught until 1983 and moved back to Warrensburg.

A dear person, gentle and soft-spoken, Gress will be missed by many people and organizations in Warrensburg. Her spirit of quiet perseverance has created a legacy for future generations. Her books are also testament to her interest in learning more about African American culture and in compiling that information so it would be accessible to all.

A great supporter of all libraries—Lucille frequented the Mary Miller Smiser Heritage Library in working on her two books about the Black families of the Warrensburg area (1993, 1997). She was a great believer in the press and often wrote letters to the editor of the *Daily Star Journal*, expressing her appreciation for the help she received and expressing her opinions.

A writer and patron of the arts, she contributed feature stories to the *Star Journal* on the following subjects, among others: Don Kendrick and the Pickin' Friends, Black history, Madeline Kurtz (who came to town on an

orphan train), Flag day and Blind Boone Park. Her poetry was also published in various anthologies, journals, and chapbooks. She was an accomplished pencil sketch artist and illustrated her own books. Watercolor painting was another of her pursuits.

Library volunteer Jane Reynolds has organized and filed research on African Americans in Warrensburg that was collected by Gress in preparation for her books. This material is available in the Library for patron use.

Blind Boone, Missouri Musician

Clyde Robert Bulla

In the spring of 1906, a musician billed as Blind Boone gave a performance in my hometown, King City, Missouri. My father, mother, and sisters were there (I had not been born yet). Years afterward I heard their accounts of this memorable evening. Boone was “an imposing-looking black man,” they said. His piano-playing was spectacular, like “thunder and lightning,” although they could not recall what he had played. He had an amazing gift.

After hearing a piece of music only once, he could play it from memory. At the concert in King City, he was tested. A local pianist played something brilliant and difficult, inserting a small error. Boone played the piece after her, note for note, with the error included.

It sounded to me as if he might have been more showman than serious musician. Later, however, I discovered that he was highly regarded among musicians I knew. He was a composer as well as a performer. I saw one of his published pieces. It was classical in form and called “Caprice

de Concert.” I’m not familiar with any of his other compositions, but



I’ve wondered if it is a mistake to place him in the same category as Scott Joplin, the great composer of ragtime.

Until I moved to Warrensburg, Missouri, last year, I hadn’t known that he was associated with Warrensburg. I have seen the park that is named for him, I went to a local festival given in his honor. His biography, by Madge Harrah, a native Missouri author who now lives in New Mexico, will be published soon. It appears that Boone has taken his place among noted Americans—Missourians in particular.

Clyde Bulla, the author of 80 children’s books, moved to Warrensburg last year.

Seeking Information

The editor and assistant editor are seeking information from anyone who remembers Ellie (Ella) Fike, the Fike home at 419 N. Maquire street in Warrensburg, or being at the auction of Fike’s possessions after her death at age 89 on October 5, 1950.

Also, does anyone have information about Bettie Callaway, the aunt of the late Elizabeth Callaway, and Mary Callaway Porcher of Warrensburg for an upcoming article?

Second Edition Has Arrived: Warrensburg Book

The recent publication of Lisa Irle's book, *Warrensburg, Missouri*, in the *Images of America Series* by Arcadia Publishing is off to a great start and has generated a lot of interest among Warrensburgians, both present and past. The original printing of 1500 books was first released in November, 2002. It soon became a Christmas gift favorite and was scheduled for a second printing by January 2003. Comments and new information about the 225 published photos have been received from both coasts and several places in between. John Mark Eberhart of the *Kansas City Star* reviewed the book as follows: "Author Lisa Irle knows her subject: She's a native of Warrensburg. And Kansas Citians should know that its neighbor to the east has a long and rather

interesting history going back to 1833. From railroads to farming to the entity the town is now most famous for — CMSU — the 'Burg has seen quite a bit. This photographic history, accompanied by just enough text to contextualize, gives the town a good look." The Historical Society has sold over two hundred copies, proceeds of over \$1500 going to the general budget.

Irle would like to express appreciation to all who helped in the original assembling of the book and also to those who have offered further information and stories concerning the photographs included. The Mary Miller Smiser Heritage Library has a wonderful collection of historic images, which were used for the project, but more would be welcomed. With calls for another book issued, Lisa would like to request access to your family photos. With

the advent of computer scanning technology, it is now possible to archive your precious photos with us without ever losing sight of them. One example relates to the recent Hart's Cafe donation. We have no photo yet of the Cafe in operation. Please, don't disregard the contributions of your family to the history of Johnson County. Everyone plays a part. Also, if anyone else has an idea for a book, contact Lisa. Arcadia accepts proposals from potential authors.

Copies of the book can be ordered from the Johnson County Historical Society for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 postage. It will also be available, locally, at Farm and Home, Warrensburg Books and Toys and at Hastings.

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

