
The Bulletin

of the Johnson County Historical Society

Warrensburg, Missouri

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Warrensburg prepares to celebrate its Sesquicentennial (1855 - 2005)

Old Courthouse Records Located

Susan Pentlin, editor

The following documents, among others, have come to light during the Local Records Project described elsewhere in this Bulletin. They are transcribed by the editor. In places, punctuation has been added and capitalization amended. The first document is an excerpt from the original proposal in March 1838 to the "Honorable County Court of Johnson County."

In pursuance of an order of the county court made at the last February Term 1838, the undersigned being appointed superintendent for the erection of a courthouse in Warrensburgh, the county seat of Johnson Cty. has the honor of submitting to the honorable court the following plan of the building with the dementions [sic] thereof and the materials of which it is to be built out of with an estimate of the probable amt. of the cost of the same as following to wit: 40 foot square foundation of good firm rock let into the ground sufficiently deep . . . there is to be 24 light glass winders [sic] 10 by 12 inches in each side, 6 of said winders to be placed 3 1/2 feet

above the floor. The 2 are to be placed above the judges seat. All said windows to be put in in good plain workmanlike order. Shutters to be after the Venitian [sic] form . . . Said house is [to] have a

the second floor is to be lathed & plastered. The Judges seat is to be placed in the center of the west end of said house & made in the usual form with a seat on each side extending to the wall 15 inches

wide by 18 inches high. The platform is to be 3 feet wide & elevated [sic] 3 feet above the floor. The Jurors binch [sic] is to be 14 inches wide and 18 inches high. Clerks table to be 5 feet long by 2 1/2 feet wide, seat 15 inches wide. Lawyers seat 10 by 15 inches by 18 inches high. Table 2 feet 4 inches wide & a suitable high [sic] . . . All of said work to be done as represented in the draft . . . In each girder in the second floor there is to go a large screw in the form of an S from the one side of the wall into



hiped [sic] roof well-sheeted and shingled. The usual maner [sic] of such roofs done in a good workmanlike maner.

The wall of said house on the inside is to be plastered & white-washed & also the under part of

the end of each girder to confine the wall and girder together . . . I make this estimate of the brick and stone work at \$10.00, the waad [sic] at \$17.00, painting \$3.00, plastering \$2.00. Total \$32.00.

H. [Harvey] Dyer [Cons?]

March 12th 1838

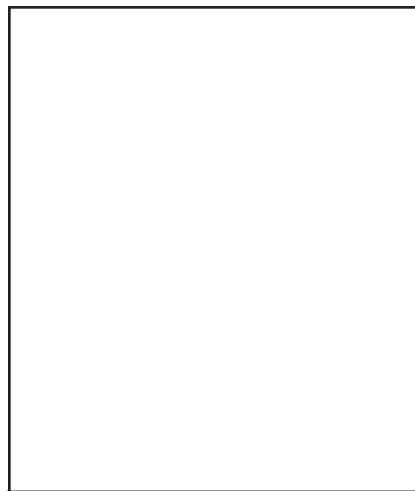
The following document, addressed to Jas S. Raynol, describes changes in the original dimensions proposed for the Courthouse, "State of Missouri, County Court, January term, County of Johnson, 2nd Day 1839."

At a County Court held for the County of Johnson on the 1st day of January 1839, it is ordered that the plan of the Court house be altered and that the house be thirty-six feet square instead of thirty-six and forty-four and it is further ordered that there be four fire places in the upper story, two in each end of the house and two fire places below the windows to be 18 lights instead of 24 and it is further ordered that the house be all covered in.

A Copy Test
James D. Warren, Clk

Below is an excerpt from the contract to build the Courthouse, 1839.

Know all men by these presents that I William N. Wade as principal and Urial Murry and Robert Craig as his securities are held and firmly bound into the county of Johnson in the just and full sum of five thousand and six hundred dollars good and lawful money for the payment of which will and truly to be made we and



each of us do bind ourselves, our heirs and each of our Ececretors [sic] and administrators surely and jointly firmly by these presents, signed with our hands and seals and dated this 20th July 1839.

The conditions of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bound William N. Wade hath this day become the undertaker to build a courthouse in the town of Warrensburgh on the public square in the county of Johnson of the following dimensions to wit: 36 feet square foundation to be of good firm rock, let into the ground sufficiently deep, so there will be good firm ground to commence and said wall to be three feet thick and well sementid [sic] together with lime mortar [sic], the lowest part of said wall is to be 18 inches above the highest part of the ground. All of the stone work above the ground to be [range?] work, with a platform of rock six feet square in the center of said house and to be let into the ground the same as the outside wall & raised level with the outside wall of said house for the sills and collum [sic] to rest on.

The wall of said house is to be of good smoothe well burned brick & all the outside brick of said house is to be concave brick and laid Flemish bond in good lime and sand. Lower story of said house, the wall to be 2 1/2 brick thick and thirteen feet high.

Second story to be two brick thick and 11 feet high with 4 chimneys and six fireplaces, 2 below and 4 above. The lower fireplaces to be 4 feet wide & the upper ones 3 feet & placed under the directions of the Supt. The chimneys to be run at least 10 feet above the wall.

The lower story is to have 3 doors, 1 in the East and in the South and one in the north sides

[sic] of said building, said doors to be 5 feet wide by 7 feet high with a true circular top. The East door to be finished off with folowing [sic]: shutters and framsut [frameset ?] work each of said doors is to have a slam sill of the usual size and extend into the wall on each at least 6 inches & is to be cut smoothe on one side and edge. The lower story is to have 2 [two] 24 light winders [sic] in each square of said house. Glass 10 by 12 inches. Second story to have 3 [three] 24 light winders in each square. There is also to be a litle [sic] over the top of each winder. The wall of said house is to be plumb inside and out. There is to be 2 sills, 1 running throug [sic] the center of said house from north to south & one from the center to the west end 12 by 18 inches. The narrow side up for the [slufurs?] and collum to [rest?] on; said collum to be 20 inches in diametor [sic] at bottom made under the direction of the supt. . . . all of said girders and joists to be good sound burr oak or white oak timber. Collums to be oak and walnut . . . said house is to have hip roof with 12 principal rafters 4 by 8 inches and the balanced 3 by 6 inches with a good strong frame suitable for a cupala [sic] to rest on. All of the said rafters to be of good sound oak timbers. Said roof to be well sheeted and shingled. Said shingles to be not les [sic] in width than 3 3/4 inches nor more than 4 1/2 inches in width and . . . to made of walnut, burr oak or Spanish oak. All of the timbers belonging to said house is to be good and sound and the house well covered in. Said house is to have a plain cornice [A. G. Cornish?]. All of said work is to be done in a good workman like

order and to be completed against the 1st day December 1840.

The County Court doth appropriate the sum of twenty-eight hundred dollars to be paid out . . . in the following payments to wit: one third when the brick for said building is burned and third when the superintendent reports to the court that two thirds of the work is done and the remaining third [on] May the 10th 1841 to the said William N. Wade as a full compensation for the building said house. Now should the above bound William N. Wade [not] well and truly do and perform all things required of him to do in the foregoing bond, then the above obligations to be void. Otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, William N. Wade, Ro Craig, Uriel Murrah

I do certify that I recorded the foregoing on the 21st day of January at 1840 in book A, pages 68. 69. 70. 71 & 72.

James D. Warren Clerk
State of Missouri, County Court,
January Term

Curator's Corner

Thanks to the donations of members and friends of the Johnson County Historical Society and the work of the Board of Directors and Volunteers, much has been accomplished at the Johnson County Historical Society.

Volunteers

In the Library a huge marriage records project has been

completed by Donna Holt, Jody Iseminger, Marcine Pennington, Carolyne Gwin, and typists: Kathy Garza, Brenda Gardner and Carol Easter. Donna, Jody, and Marcine are currently filing clipped birth announcements, 1994-1996. Carolyne is cataloging and filing new accessions. Original copies of marriage licenses issued in Johnson County from 1934 to 1967 have been added to family records and indexed in the card files. Birth announcements clipped from newspapers are currently being updated, as well. Mary Rainey answers research questions from all over the U.S. and compiles research gleaned from the Heritage Library resources about the communities in the area, including the recent *Early History of Warrensburg*. She is currently working with Margaret Bardgett on Mondays and Thursdays. Andy Kerr is clipping articles from current newspapers and filing them. Carol Berkland and Herb Best have collaborated with Lisa Irlle on a book of postcards from their personal collections and those of the Johnson County Historical Society. *Warrensburg and Johnson County* is coming from Arcadia Publishers this summer. The project stemmed from their work cataloging the photographs in the archives. Thanks to Susan Pentlin, editor, and her husband Floyd, *The Bulletin* you are reading now goes to press. Susan's article from the last issue on Hamburgers was recently reprinted in *Central Today*. Phil Sadler's earlier article on Cena Christopher Draper was also reprinted in the *Daily Star*. Rose Marie Kinder is tour docent and works at improving labeling on museum items. Baird Brock is opening the MMS Heritage Library on first and third Saturdays from 1 – 4 p.m. We would like

to open on the other Saturdays as well, if you are interested, please contact us.

Reviving Old Drum

The recent event orchestrated by Cass County Commissioner John Seabaugh and attended by Johnson County Commissioner Bob Baines, on the county line, was documented by Terrence Arnold of the *Daily Star Journal*. The "historic remains" of Old Drum were ceremoniously moved across Old Drum Road — nearer the site of the monument. Prompted by the request of a volunteer, your curator has procured a small portion of soil from Drum's immortal resting place for the display in the Old Courthouse.

Schoolhouse Jam

In an effort to increase community awareness of traditional music, Rob Nold has taken our "Jam Session" under his wing. He suggested moving the event to a more intimate setting on the historic square and now every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. the One Room School will ring out with the sounds of the old-time songs. Rob is hoping to form a community of acoustic musicians who desire to learn and grow together in the old-time ways of fiddlin', pickin', and singing.

Blind Boone Festival to be held June 12, 2004 at 10 a.m.

This year, the Original Town Square and the facilities of your Historical Society will be home to the festival honoring the life of J. W. "Blind" Boone. The Blind Boone Park Renovation Group has expressed their gratitude and enthusiasm for this partnering. JCHS Volunteers will operate a

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Local Records Project

Doris Brookshier

For the past year, five dedicated volunteers, plus occasional others, have been diligently working on preparing the Circuit Court Records for microfilming by the Missouri State Archives. The project started with the earliest court records from Johnson County. These are civil cases that deal with people trying to recover their slave, horse, cow, money loaned, payments for goods and services etc. Also there are estate settlements, cases to establish dower for widows and divorce cases (more of these than anticipated).

During the Civil War, these documents were buried for safe keeping. It appears that the cases were originally filed in a loose alphabetical order and, then, following the Civil War, were given a case number, folded in thirds, placed in manila folders and filed in a metal filing system. Imagine paper documents that were buried for a few years and have been folded for 130 to 170 years. Many of the documents are in bad condition due to this treatment, while other pages are in remarkably good condition. Our job is to unfold them, remove any items that were used to fasten pages together and put them in new legal size manila folders. The former circuit clerks were very creative when fastening pages together. They used straight pins, rivets, ribbons, strips of paper threaded through slits cut in the documents and lots of glue.

The new folder has to be labeled with the case number, the names of plaintiffs and defendants, the year the case was filed and the cause of action. This is no easy task. During the indoctrination by

Archive personnel we were led to believe that all the information needed to label the new folder would be on the front of the old folder. This is not so for these early records. There is a case number on the older folder and usually the names of plaintiffs and defendants. However, if several people named Jones all filed suits during this period, all of those cases may be in the same folder with a list of defendants given.

There is never a date or a cause of action listed so the volunteers must read enough of each document to obtain the necessary information. The documents are all written in long hand in that wonderful script that was used in the first half of the 19th century, pretty to look at but difficult to read. Also many pages are stained, the ink has bled through on some and some have bits and pieces missing.

Some interesting documents have been found. One document emancipated a slave, another gave specific, detailed plans for the old courthouse and another provided information about one volunteer's great-grandfather that was unknown to the family. There is a lot of family information in the estates cases. Many well-known names appear on these documents: Nathaniel Holden, Alexander Culton and Benjamin Grover, to name a few streets.

When the project is complete and the documents have been microfilmed, the Circuit Clerk will have a copy of the microfilm; the historical society will have a copy of the microfilm as well as become the depository for the original documents. This will provide an enormous amount of information that will be valued by both genealogists and historians. If you would like to volunteer, call me at

747-6795

Old Courthouse Renovation

Jeff Yelton

The Old Courthouse is the oldest surviving building in the County and an important part of our collective heritage. In 2003, Susan Richards Johnson & Associates of Kansas City presented the Johnson County Historical Society with a Master Plan for further restoration and upkeep of the Old Courthouse. That report includes twenty-seven general recommendations, ranging from the need to repair the roof to the need of planting historically appropriate plants on the grounds. As part of our preparation for the Johnson County Sesquicentennial in 2005, the Board is planning on taking care of the following high-priority items, among others:

- Raise the grade around the building and improve drainage. The foundation has become increasingly exposed, especially on the west half of the Courthouse, and water does not drain well. We are planning to rebuild the grade, so that drainage is away from the building. As part of the process, we also will be improving the brick sidewalk to the building.
- Have the stone foundation re-pointed. This can become complicated for historic structures. Historic preservation guidelines call for using mortar that is consistent with the original material in color and composition.
- Install heating in the Old Courthouse. This will be expensive, but it is something that the Board has considered at length. Susan Richards Johnson recommends keeping

the building warmed to about 50 degrees.

■ Install humidity control in the crawl space. There has been a continual problem with wood becoming too wet and moldy. We need to keep this under control, dry out the wood, and remove the mold.

■ Repair some gaps in the wood shingles of the roof before they become a serious leak problem. At this time, we do not believe we need to re-shingle, but some time in the future that will have to be done.

■ Replace, repair, and paint window sills and trim, the gutter box, and south entry door trim and fascia. Not only will this remove some eyesores, but it also will protect the wood and make the building more waterproof. We are particularly concerned about the upstairs windowsills, as these have rotted. By July 2005, we intend to have the Courthouse stronger and more attractive than it now is. Keep track in the newsletter of further developments and how you too can help preserve this important part of our past.

Curator's Corner, from p. 3

concession in the Zinn and Leland Culp Building, offering the items sold in the Library to festival goers. The schedule for the festival and details about performers and activities will be available on their website <<http://www.blind-boonepark.org/festival.html>>.

Upcoming Events

- Blind Boone Music and Art Festival June 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- Annual Meeting Sept. 26, 2:00 p.m.
- Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner and Volunteer Recognition December 9

The Heritage Library & Museum Library Hours
1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and first and third Saturdays.

Tours at other times may be arranged by appointment with the Curator at (660) 747-6480. Fees: Members—No charge; Research for the afternoon for non-members is \$5; Daily tours of Old Courthouse, School and Museum \$3; Students accompanied by an adult are free. Membership Individual \$10, Family \$12.50, Sustaining \$25, Life \$100, Couple Life \$150.

The Centerview Village Improvement Club

Katy Spicer

The Centerview Village Improvement Club, one of the oldest, continuous women's clubs in Johnson County, is approaching its centennial year. It has a long history of contributing to life in Centerview. In 1956, when the Centerview Village Improvement Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, Katy Spicer, then a relatively new member, wrote the history of the Club. She has now belonged to the Club for fifty-nine years. The history, compiled from the Club's records, told of its original founding and of the many activities the Club had contributed to the improvement of the Centerview community. Much of the following history is based on an article published in the Daily Star Journal that year. -ed.

On April 7, 1906, eleven ladies met at the Centerview schoolhouse to organize a club. Their purpose was beautifying and improving the town and township in any way possible. The charter members were: Mrs. J.D. Gibbs, Mrs. Daughtery, Mrs. Marie Woolfolk, Mrs. Ada Bozarth, Mrs. Ella Blair, Mrs. Rodney Hull and Mrs. W. H. Sherrick. Bozarth was elected president, Gibbs, vice-president and Hull corresponding secretary and treasurer. A constitution was outlined and an initiation fee of twenty-five cents was charged each member. The motto "Never say fail" was selected.

At the next meeting, the Club met with the Priscilla Embroidery Club and six of its members decided to join the Improvement Club. The minutes also noted that: "A much needed rain came up after adjournment, helping the crops



and gardens, but spoiling the white dresses and slippers of the ladies.” Throughout the years, the club has worked on projects which have benefited the town and township of Centerview. Money to carry on these projects was earned in various ways, such as plays, socials, suppers, sale dinners, bazaars, musicals and assessment. In 1912, the Club incorporated the town of Centerview, at a cost of twenty-five dollars.

The Club also gave funds for building walks at the school, the Presbyterian, Methodist and black churches, the Cumberland manse and from the northern end of town to the cemetery. Other civic improvements were: helping to build the stage at the high school and providing curtains and dishes, oiling streets, giving contributions to the Cemetery Association, the Red Cross, the cancer fund and donations to the Girls’ Athletic Association. In 1917 and 1918, the women made surgical dressings and knitted and, in June 1919, sponsored the “Soldiers Home Coming.” It also gave five dollars for a town watering trough. In November, 1921, an orchestra was organized and sponsored for seven years. Professor Essig, band master at the Normal, was paid for two hundred lessons at \$5.00 each; the Club also sponsored a Community chorus and paid \$25.00 for an organ for the school.

From 1937 to 1942, the Village Improvement Club helped with ads in the high school annuals and with the junior and senior banquets, sent R.Y.O. youth to camp, had flowers sales and did USO baking. It also held flower sales, Boy Scout drives and helped to provide traffic signs. It maintained a circulating library for five years, sponsored three Lyceum courses, gave financial

aid to a three-day Chautauqua, brought speakers on the Citizenship League and contributed to the salary of the first high school teacher in the consolidated school. Some of the achievements from 1948 to 1956 included contributions to Mercy Hospital, sunshine boxes for shut-ins, yearly trash pick-up, spray for the cedar trees in the cemetery, compiling a history of Centerview, sponsoring a student to Boys’ State and helping re-surface the main street in town. In 1970, they gave \$300 to the Cemetery Endowment Fund.

The officers of 1956-1957 were: President, Mrs. A.C. Owings, Jr., Vice-President, Mrs. Frank Spicer; Secretary, Mrs. Guy Goode and Treasurer, Mrs. G.T. Roach. The Club at the end of its first half century took pride in its past and described itself as follows: “The many members, both past and present, have adhered to high ideals of community improvement. The club has stood for tolerance and understanding and has been able to function without being a financial burden to anyone. The Village Improvement Club has encouraged gracious, entertaining and intellectual programs over a period of fifty years.”

Today, the Club continues to meet in Centerview on a monthly basis, except for the months of January, February and August, due to the weather. Originally, the women met in homes, but today they meet at a restaurant in Centerview. The mothers of many members today also belonged to the Club. Last month, fourteen members attended the monthly meeting. The oldest member, Janice Smith, is ninety-eight years old. Members still pay the original 25 cents dues. In more recent years, activities have included

a quilt display and talks about “My First Ice Box,” “A Interesting New Fabric,” “Mothers of the Bible,” “Old School Tales,” “Things that go wrong” and “A Civil War Ancestor.” On November 22, 1923, the *Holden Progress* observed that, “Centerview is one of the prettiest towns along the Midland Trail and the V.I.C. is no doubt responsible for that.” The Centerview Village Improvement Club has a long proud history of friendship and of contributions to the community of Centerview continuing into the 21st century.

What Happened to the Centerview Depot?

Melva Jones

“You have been around Centerview most of your life, Melva. Tell me, what happened to the Centerview Depot?” It caught me by surprise. I am not a very observant person. Oh, I knew the old depot had been gone a long time from its location on the west side of Main Street. It sat between the railroad tracks for as long as I could remember. When had it no longer been there? Sometimes we look, but do not see. What had happened to it? The question of what happened to the depot sent me on a hunt of several weeks. Like an old foxhound, the enjoyment is in the hunt itself, rather than the end results. Searching for answers, I learned a bit more about the history of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and picked up some bits of interesting local history.

The railroad comes to Missouri

The Missouri Pacific Railroad reached Jefferson City, Missouri in late 1855. There, the railroad es-

established a fleet of twelve steam-boats to connect with the trains from St. Louis, so passengers and freight could be transported on to Kansas City within fifty hours. On February 1861, the railroad reached Sedalia where construction was stopped; they ran out of money. The Civil War intervened, but work went on, and by May 10, 1863, the rails had been laid to Dresden. To raise money to finance the push for construction on to Kansas City, the railroad sold "Dresden Bonds." Once the Union forces had driven the bushwhackers and guerillas away from the line, Daniel Garrison, general superintendent of construction, promised a bonus of \$45,000 to get the line into Lee's Summit. Under his supervision, the rails reached Knob Noster on May 2 and Warrensburg on July 3, 1864.

General Price's raid in the fall of 1864 stopped the work at Warrensburg. Bridges, buildings, truck tracks and rails as well as rolling stock were destroyed all the way from Franklin into Kansas City. Price fled to Arkansas and the work of completing the Warrensburg and Independence lines was undertaken again. The same difficulties were experienced as contractors were robbed of horses, mules and provisions and the workers were under continual fear. Garrison met with Governor Fletcher and efforts were made to stop the lawlessness and the line was reopened to Warrensburg on February 18, 1865 through the new depot just west of Holden Street. The line continued to Holden on May 28, to Kingsville on June 14, Big Creek on July 5 and Pleasant Hill on July 26. The last rail was laid on September 19, 1865, connecting the line built eastward from Kansas City with that built westward from St. Louis.

Graham station and Centerview

The Missouri Pacific Railroad reached the A.C. Graham property, six miles west of Warrensburg, in 1864. It was called Graham Station. Samuel Crockett Graham and Ethanon Roop sold lots for a village near the tracks. Later, Roop's wife was given the honor of naming the new town Centerview. R.C. Hull was the first railroad agent at Centerview. His daughter, Berdie Hull, was the telegraph operator.

The *Journal Democrat*, on September 2, 1881, described Centerview as an "ambitious prairie city." With a population of three hundred, it was growing rapidly, owing to the existence of a magnificent farming area. With a mill and extensive stockyards near the railroad tracks, it was one of the most important shipping points in the county.

The 1914 platt map shows three railroad tracks at Centerview with the depot between, to the north of two of the tracks. As a child in the 1930s, I recall the yellow building with brown trim, sitting between the tracks. There was a loading platform on the west end and a high steel-wheeled baggage cart, an office where the agent sold tickets and accepted freight, which occupied the east end as well as a desk where the telegraph operator pecked out messages. There was a swinging arm contraption that the agent hung mail bags on and swung toward the tracks to be picked off. Non-stopping trains collected the bags en route as they hurried on west toward Kansas City or east to St. Louis. A tall coal chute, west of town, was a stopping place for the coal burners to take on fuel and water.

As a child at my Ruppert grandparents' home, I was often

around the depot. My grandmother purchased tickets to take me to Warrensburg with her when I was six years old. It was my first train ride and very exciting. We went to buy flannel to make pajamas for winter time. The conductor, dressed in an all black suit and billed cap, jumped out, and put a small stool down on the ground for us to step on to.

I also remember one year at Halloween time, someone removed the yard gate from my Granddad's front yard. He found and retrieved it next day from on top of the depot. He did not think it was a funny joke. "Kids have no business taking a persons' property away!" he complained. My cousins and I kept mum about the times we would sneak straight pins from Grandma Norie's sewing basket. We laid two pins across each other on the railroad track. We would wait patiently for a train to come and run over the pins. Then we would have a perfectly welded silver-colored "X."

Sometimes my grandfather let us kids accompany him as he walked along the railroad track, and we picked up pieces of coal that had fallen from the cars. My grandparents used coal to fuel the heating stove. Money was scarce, and the coal was free to anyone who wanted to make an effort to pick it up.

My cousin Nellie Martin, who was raised in Centerview, says that the last railroad agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad in town was Mr. Donley. He and his wife and two children lived in the Graham House. He was transferred to Emma when they closed the depot in Centerview. That was either 1950 or 1951. The last section boss for the crew who traveled up and down the tracks on a small open car on wheels was named

Ridenhour. Ray Swisher purchased the depot and its outhouse in the late 1950s or early 1960s to use as an office for the Centerview Grain Co. Swisher later sold the business to some local investors. Regarding the depot, Wendall Davis reports that “it burned down either in 1992 or 93... I had a big hole dug, and the ashes were buried near the place it burned down.”

Doran’s Switch

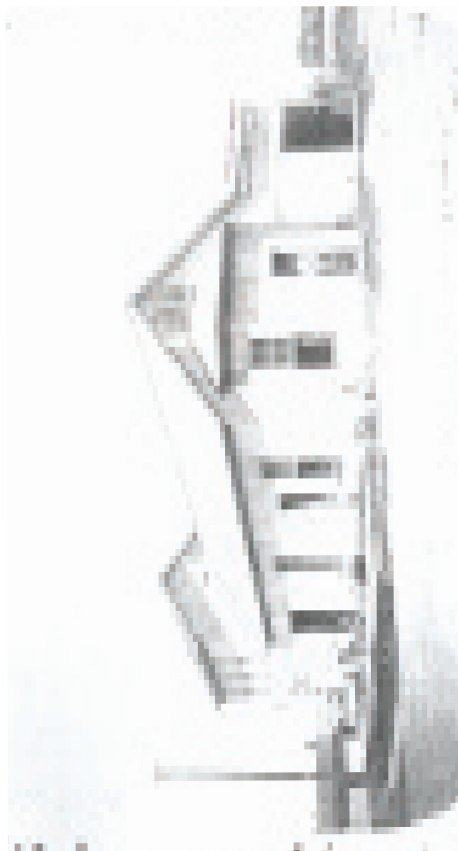
When I was asking questions about the Centerview Railroad, I heard mention of Doran’s Switch. My cousin Nellie (Irvine Martin) recalls her grandmother Lucinda Jane (Morgan) Irvine telling of a train wreck at Doran’s Switch. She does not know or recall her saying what year the wreck took place, but her grandmother said, “There was a bad train wreck. A

car loaded with shoes was derailed and shoes scattered about. People from miles around came and helped themselves to shoes. My Grandma Irvine said she walked from their farm to the wreck and got some shoes.”

I found an old news clipping, reporting that: “One day one of the trains had a wreck west of Centerview. Badly damaged from the wreck was a refrigerator car which contained meat being shipped in ice. A man by the name of Shanks lived near the tracks saw what had happened. He ran to salvage what he could from the wreck. Meat perhaps? No indeed. The thing he wanted was the ice. He gathered up the ice and took it home to put in his well to cool the water.” Harold Shanks said his folks lived north of Doran’s Switch. His family filled the lan-

terns and hung them at each end of the switch so the trainman would know when they were at the location. This was probably in 1885.

Today there is no visible sign that there was ever a long switching section of track called Doran’s Switch in Johnson County. The private prison, built here several years ago between Holden and Centerview, is next to the track where Doran’s Switch was once located.



Early twentieth century postcard of the feed store in Centerview. This is the only photo from Centerview in the Historical Society collection. Additional donations would be welcome.

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