

# ST CHARLES COUNTY LIBRARY

Rampification of RPA Effort to Gain Access to  
Newspaper Archive - especially re <sup>△</sup>OBITUARIES  
2008-2009 - with help of Jenna Lane Lynch

The project began by going to <sup>△</sup>St Louis County  
Library (see file for my card No) which led  
me to <sup>△</sup>St Charles County Library (see file for  
my card No). This led to access to  
<sup>△</sup>NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE.COM and to News Bank, Inc  
- Hence a linkage to interesting <sup>△</sup>Internet source

The end result is that you get to download  
obituaries for free - with Jenna's help this led  
to downloading obits from many NC Newspapers  
and the addition of about 3,000 sheets to my  
Profile System.

One presumes the same approach would  
allow one to find other kinds of articles in  
Newspaper Archives.



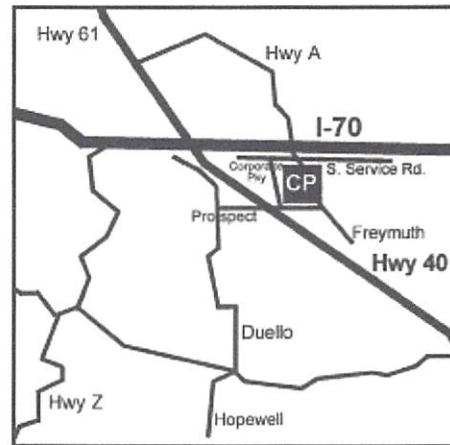
**CP = Corporate Parkway Branch**

**Library Hours:**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.



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**St. Charles**  
City-County  
St. Charles County, Missouri

**Library District**

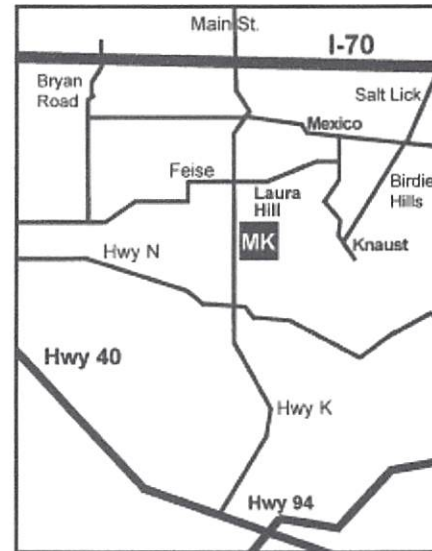
Your Answer Place



**MK = Middendorf-Kredell Library**

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Last updated 1/4/00 - jfb

# ST CHARLES COUNTY, MO

## LIBRARY

SPRING 2008 - Visited St Louis County Library on Lindbergh Blvd. Learned that I could go to St Charles Co & become a member - which I did - see enclosed map. The membership allows me to access the Newspaper Archive Outway File to which they subscribe. (Jenna proceeded to use this for all interests)

Also about March 2008 I called the St Charles Co Library help desk for Genealogy (636) 946-6294. Name tree -  
JUDY BROWN  
JIM RIDGES  
ROUNELL -

They were helpful

JUN 2009 - I called (636) 946-6294 and had a nice chat with Judy Brown. She was very helpful re my last card and how to get to NEWSBANK for Outwayer



OBITUARIES FROM NEWSBANK, INC  
SPECIAL SUBJECT

Obtaining obituaries from this archival source requires a subscription. The St Charles, MO County Library has a subscription but St Louis County, MO Library does not. However, given that I have a St Louis County Library membership it can be honored by St Charles County Library.

In the spring of 2008 Jenna Wylshurch worked for me and downloaded numerous obituaries from North Carolina Newspapers. Then she returned to complete this project starting on 1 JUN 2009. I needed my St Charles County Library card number but could not find it - so went there and for \$3 got a new number. So as of 1 JUN 2009 my numbers are

Library Card Numbers:

St. Charles - 900 555 5114

St. Louis - 0023024409

During June & July 2009 an adjustment is to complete the obituary downloads from the NC Newspapers and to prove names.

See also Geographical file for St Charles Co, MO Library File

How To get to Newsbank:

Go to [Youranswerplace.org](http://Youranswerplace.org)

Click on electronic resources

Click on alphabetical

Click on "N"

Click on Newsbank (in Remote Access)

Type in code and last name (login) - that will bring you to newsbank

Click on America's Obituaries... (1st link)

Click on NC

Click on the Newspaper

(MON) 14 JUN 1999

ST. LOUIS, MO

BY PEGGY BRADBURY

Special to the St. Charles County Post

Lindenwood University may own more property connected with Daniel Boone than any other institution in the country.

In April, the university acquired the Historic Daniel Boone Home, at 1868 Highway F in Defiance. More recently, Lindenwood purchased six historic buildings on Highway F in Defiance. Three buildings are connected with Daniel Boone and his extended family.

Of the new purchases, the Flanders Callaway log house is among the most historic buildings in the United States — mainly because Daniel Boone slept there, as did his wife, Rebecca Boone.

The six purchases, as well as the Historic Daniel Boone Home, lie in the heart of 11 miles of Spanish land grants owned by either Daniel Boone and his children, or his extended family and friends. The Boone settlement extended almost continuously from the Missouri

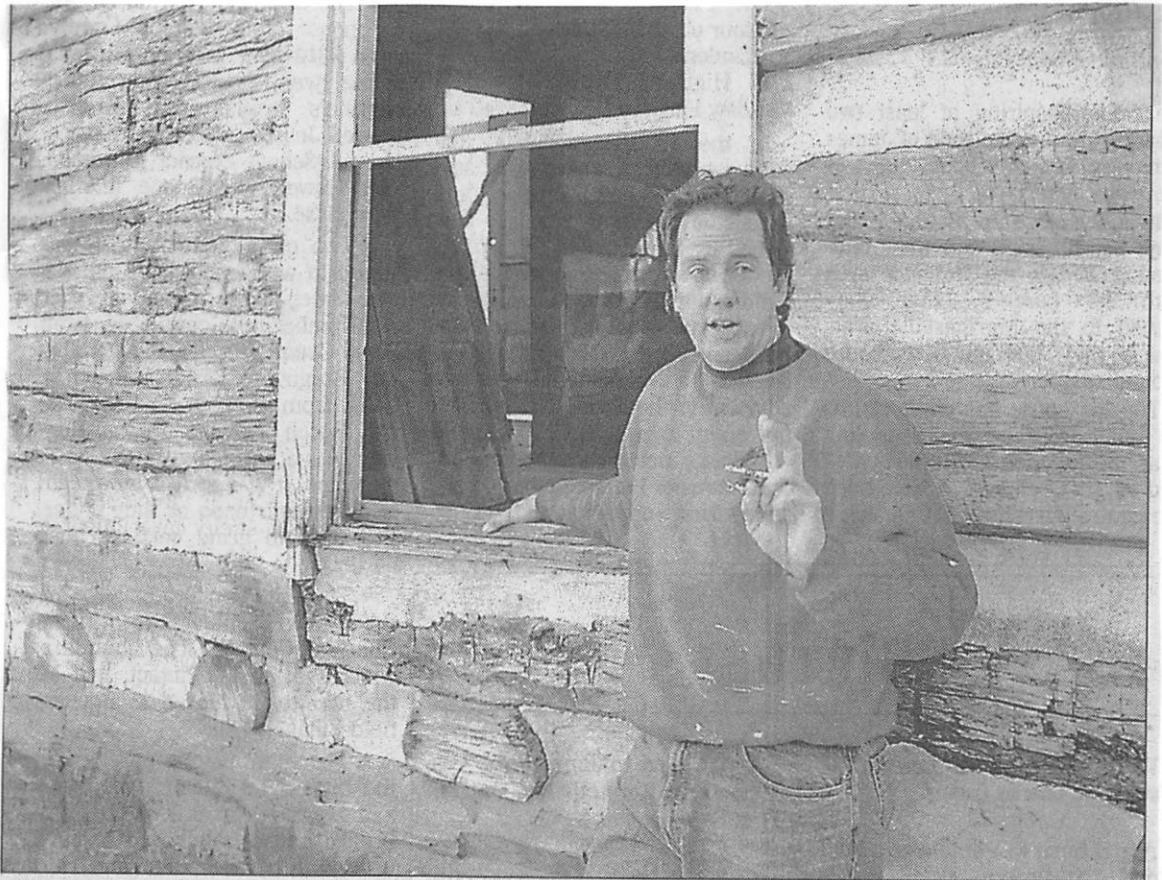
River at Matson to Marthasville in Warren County.

In their latter years, Daniel and Rebecca Boone lived or spent a good deal of time at the two-story Jemima (Boone) home and Flanders Callaway log house. Jemima Boone Callaway was their daughter.

Rebecca Boone died in the house in 1813. In 1820, Daniel Boone died on a visit to see his youngest son. It was in Nathan's house (now called the Historic Daniel Boone Home), that Boone was laid out in the log house. In 1969, the Flanders Callaway log house was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Jemima Boone Callaway was famous in her own right. In 1776, when she was 14, Jemima and two cousins were captured by Indians. The three girls were rescued two days later, unharmed, by Daniel Boone and Flanders Callaway, who married Jemima soon afterward.

The story caused a sensation in



PEGGY BRADBURY

Steve Butler of Defiance discusses the structural damages to the Jemima Boone and Flanders Callaway log house; he estimates the cost of restoration at \$250,000. Lindenwood University bought the house and will move and restore it.

the press, inspiring at least two paintings and an episode of James Fenimore Cooper's book, "Last of the Mohicans."

In 1799, Jemima Boone Callaway, her husband and their children moved to the Defiance area with her parents. Later, they moved to the Marthasville area, where they built the log house around 1812.

The log house has other claims to fame. Built on the floodplain near the junction of Highways 47 and 94, it is believed to have been the central structure of Callaway's

Fort, a War of 1812 fort built to protect settlers from Indian attacks. In 1818, the Friendship Baptist Church was founded in the house.

The Flanders Callaway house and four other buildings purchased by Lindenwood are currently at 2275 Highway F on Stone Mill Meadow Farm in Defiance.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the buildings were salvaged by a surgeon named Robert Tomasson, and rebuilt on the farm, which is now owned by Steve and Sarah Butler. Lindenwood plans to move the five buildings to Boonesfield Village or to property near the Historic Daniel Boone Home. (Boonesfield Village is a commercial venture adjacent to the Boone Home.) The university owns about 750 acres in the area, including several hundred acres of the Saddleback Lake subdivision opposite the Boone

Home.

In addition to the Jemima and Flanders Callaway house, the four buildings purchased from the Butler farm are:

- The two-story Newton Howell log house from Warren County, circa 1814-1819. Newton Howell's father was Francis Howell Sr. Newton's brother was Francis Howell Jr., for whom the Francis

Howell School District is named. The Howell and Boone families were close.

- Two mills, which will be restored to working order. One is a rare water-driven up-and-down or sash lumber mill, circa 1815, from Perry County, Pa. The other mill is the Borgmann grist mill, circa 1840, from Warren County. The mill, which is on the National Register, has a wooden gear 18 feet in diameter. It was turned by a team of either four oxen or four mules, and used to grind corn or husk barley.

- The Fritz Von Der Bruegel log store from Schluersburg, in St. Charles County. The building, which will remain intact, will be the first to be moved to Boonesfield Village.

- The sixth historic purchase is the James Van Bibber stone house and 91-acre farm at 2068 Highway F. The house is believed to have been built between 1807 and 1816 by James Van Bibber, Nathan Boone's brother-in-law and friend.

The house, which was owned by Robert and Mary Kate McGregor, will stay put. It will be the "Future Lindenwood Arts Building."

## Lindenwood University adds to collection of property connected with Daniel Boone

ST. CHARLES POST DISPATCH  
MON 8 DEC 1997

## 1885 book is back on the shelf

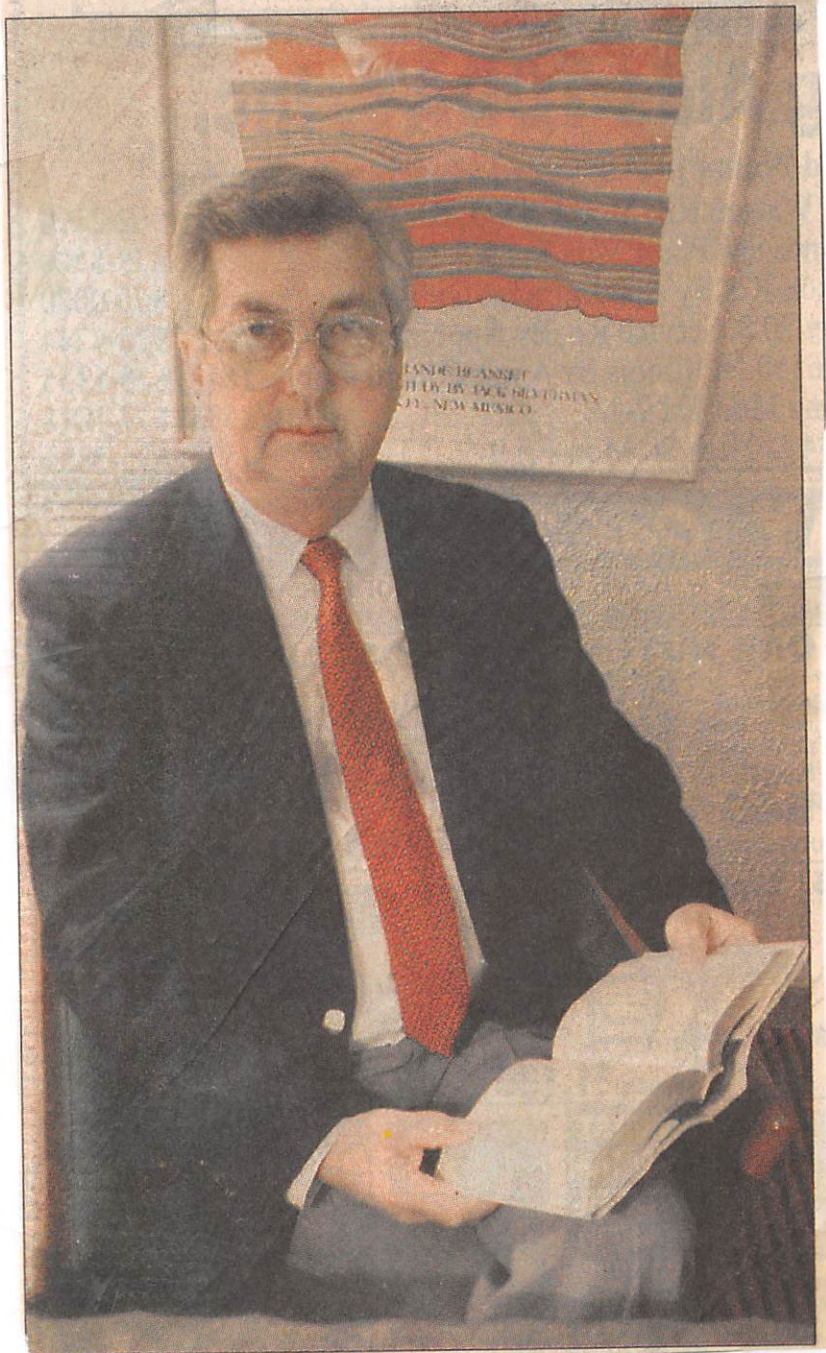
St. Charles native Paul Hollrah re-releases updated history of region

**BY ESTHER TALBOT FENNING**  
*Special to the St. Charles Post*

**PHOTO BY SAM LEONE**  
*Of the St. Charles Post*

St. Charles native Paul Hollrah has a Christmas gift for his hometown. One that will appeal to genealogists, history buffs and families whose ancestors settled the area. Hollrah has indexed, cross-indexed and published "The History

### NEIGHBORS





of St. Charles County (1765-1885)."

The original book was titled "The History of St. Charles, Montgomery and Warren Counties." It was published in 1885 by a company that came to town to gather biographical sketches of its leading residents and to document the part they played in the Civil War and

the war with Mexico and in settling the area.

The book includes detailed information on their homes and families, their roots in Germany and their stories and recollections, in addition to a section on Missouri history. It lists 1,880 surnames and more than 220 biographical sketches — some of which are a page long. In addition to including a 40-plus page index, Hollrah gave the book a new title and wrote an introduction. The text was unchanged.

The original book was reprinted in 1969 by Paul Cochrane of St. Louis. Cochrane sold copies of that edition in St. Charles through the late Edna McElhiney, a local historian.

Hollrah, 64, lives in Locust Grove, Okla. He was interviewed on a Thanksgiving holiday visit to his mother, Linda Kernkamp Hollrah of St. Charles. Hollrah's great-grandfather, Johann Dietrich Hollrah, came from Germany to settle in St. Charles in 1834. His father was Elmer Hollrah.

Hollrah has been working on "The History of St. Charles County" for seven years. He described it as a fascinating and uncomplicated read and much easier to research now that it has been indexed.

"Before you had to read the entire 600 pages to find a reference to your ancestors," he said. "It's an absolute treasure chest for people who are into genealogical work. The personal stories are wonderful. They tell about friendly and unfriendly encounters with Indians and what families had to endure to obtain, clear and farm the land."

Hollrah pointed to a story about the Kessler family, whose riverboat sank halfway between New Orleans

and St. Charles.

"They came from Germany and lost everything — clothing, luggage and money. They got safely ashore and walked the rest of the way," he said.

Three thousand copies of the book are in the process of being printed. They will sell for \$19.85 and will be available in St. Charles this month at Main Street Books, 621 South Main, and Bookmark, 1355 South Fifth Street.

### St. Charles High grad

Hollrah attended Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Charles and graduated from St. Charles High School. After serving in the Korean War, he enrolled at the University of Missouri at Columbia, where he graduated with honors in engineering. He spent the remainder of his career working for Sun Oil Co.

Hollrah's interest in politics was piqued in 1963 when his company transferred him to Tulsa, Okla. He discovered that the one-party Democratic state was barring residents from their right to a secret ballot. In the next three years, Hollrah organized Operation Secret Ballot. He and his supporters built enough voting booths by hand in the fall of 1966 to cover 800 to 1,000 voting precincts.

"The National Guard was called in to help us deliver and set up the booths," he recalled. "I believe I had more threats on my life in that one year than any president during his entire term."

Speaking of presidents, Hollrah knew Richard M. Nixon, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan. Hollrah served as a consultant to members of all three administrations. His contacts resulted in Sun Oil appointing him to director of state relations for the company. In the mid-1970s Hollrah established and registered the first political action committee with the Federal Election Commission.

"There aren't many people who

have the opportunity to change the face of American politics forever, and I jumped on it," Hollrah said.

One of Hollrah's most memorable experiences was running the presidential campaign of Donald H. Rumsfeld, who served as White House chief of staff and secretary of defense in the Ford administration. Hollrah supervised the advance men, the schedule and wrote some of the candidate's speeches.

"Rumsfeld was a good man who came close to winning the nomination in 1988," Hollrah said. "Had he won, the country would have been spared George Bush."

### Recruiting Russians

Before the fall of the Soviet Union, Hollrah traveled behind the Iron Curtain to recruit Russian scientists and engineers to work in this country. He has also served as a consultant to the United Methodist Church, escorting humanitarian-aid officials to countries in eastern Europe, central Asia and western Siberia, among others.

Hollrah and his first wife had three children. The oldest, Mark Hollrah, suffered a fatal stroke in 1994. Mark Hollrah left behind four of Hollrah's six grandchildren.

Hollrah is engaged to marry Dottie Brandely of Columbus, Ind. They will live at his home in Locust Grove, dubbed by Hollrah as Asyl Kernkamp, which in German means "refuge of the hard-core warrior."

Hollrah said that one of his greatest supporters in publishing "The History of St. Charles County" was Sharron Van Meter. She and Mary Fran Rash co-own Main Street Books.

"Sharron told me there was a great interest in the history of St. Charles," he said. "I have always felt that this area is one of the top five historical sites in all of North America, just behind Boston and Philadelphia."



Post-Dispatch archives

**The Daniel Boone Judgement tree on the Nathan Boone property. This photo was taken in 1922 when the tree was still alive.**

**Here's how to help save Boone sites**

Ken Kamper, whose imagination was caught by tales of Daniel Boone while he was growing up on a farm in southern Missouri, jokes that his is a voice "howling in the wilderness in Missouri," trying to stimulate interest in, the earliest American history west of the Mississippi River.

Kamper would like to have corporate and volunteer help to make the Boone settlement and early history of Missouri "a public fact, with the sites saved, forever."

**For more information, his address is:** Ken Kamper, Historian and director, Boone and Frontier Families Research Association, 1606 Cork Court, Hazelwood, Mo. 63042. Phone: 271-0737.

**To help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Boone family immigration to Missouri with a re-enactment next October, contact historian and living history re-enactor Carolyn Whetzel at 425 South Duchesne, St. Charles, Mo. 63301. Phone: 940-8099. E-mail: carolynwreview.com**



**A detail from the painting "Boone Escorting Settlers Through Cumberland Gap" by George Caleb Bingham, courtesy Washington University Gallery of Art.**

# TRYING TO SALVAGE THE BOONE LEGACY

THE HISTORIC BOONE SETTLEMENT IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY HAS ALL BUT VANISHED, AND DEVELOPERS ARE CLOSING IN

**BY PEGGY BRADBURY**  
*Special to the Post-Dispatch*

**F**or years, the name "D Boon" was carved on a sugar maple tree growing on the highest point of Wilfred Wissmann's family farm at Matson, a community near Defiance in southern St. Charles

County.

With no "e" on the end of the name, the family decided the signature couldn't be Daniel Boone's. So, in 1968, the tree — which had died — was cut down. Later, Wissmann learned that Boone typically left the "e" off when he signed trees.

The farm was originally owned by Boone's son, Daniel Morgan Boone. It overlooks Daniel Boone's Spanish land grant on the flood plain below.

"I wish we would have cut that D

Boon slab off," says Wissmann.

In much the same way, the first Judgment Tree where Boone held court, which stood about 200 yards east of the Katy Trail parking lot at Matson, was cut up for firewood in the 1950s.

Piece by piece, the last evidence of the first major American settlement west of the Mississippi River has all but disappeared. Gone are the first cabins built by Daniel Boone and his extended family, the fort, the small mills, even a 25-block town, Missouri-ton, and a boat landing on the Missouri, where salt from the family's salt works near Arrow/Rock were unloaded. Over time, the Missouri River washed away both the landing and the town.

**After 20 years** of probing archives and manuscripts, out-of-print books, old maps and government records,

Boone historian Ken Kamper has produced a picture of the first Boone settlers, showing where they lived, what they did and even what they hoped to do.

Kamper has:

- Mapped the first American trails through Missouri.

- Mapped the first Boone family Spanish land grants, which lie next to one another in St. Charles County. This was the first major American settlement west of the Mississippi.

- Pinpointed 30 Missouri War of 1812 fort sites.

- Located 130 Boone-related sites in St. Charles County, plus 40 sites in other counties.

- Developed genealogies of the first Boone settlers, who were all related by blood, marriage or adoption.

"I'm amazed at the depth of his research," says Booker Rucker, an offi-

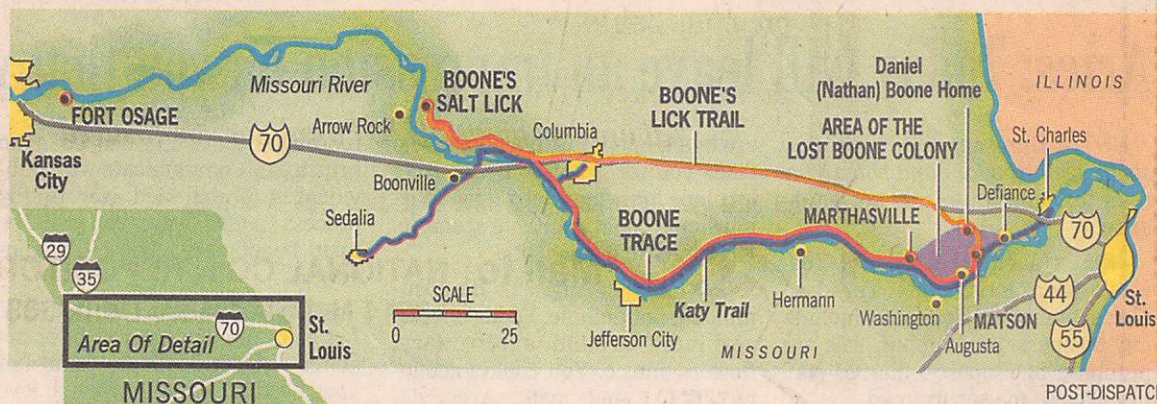
*See Boone, Page D3*



Post-Dispatch

**The back of the Nathan Boone home near Defiance. It is now owned by Lindenwood University. Most Missourians mistakenly believe it belonged to Daniel Boone, who had a cabin nearby.**

**Daniel Boone in Missouri**



# Boone

## Historians trying to save legacy of frontiersman

Continued from Page D1

cial with the Missouri State Parks Department, who receives Kamper's newsletters for the Daniel Boone and Frontier Families Research Association. Rucker is the program director for the state park Interpretation Program.

Five Boone family houses are still standing, including the handsome stone house on Highway F built by Boone's youngest son, Nathan Boone, on his Spanish land grant. During a visit, Daniel Boone died there in 1820. Next door is the James Van Bibber house. The Daniel Hays house is also off Highway F. Hays was Boone's grandson and James Van Bibber was Nathan Boone's brother-in-law and good friend.

The Nathan Boone home is a commercial venture named the Daniel Boone Home. It was recently donated to Lindenwood University. At one time, Daniel and Rebecca Boone lived on the property in a cabin of their own, but the cabin has long since been razed. The second Judgment Tree, although it is dead, is still on the property.

West of these, also on Highway F, is a private farm owned by Steven and Sarah Butler, with a collection of well-preserved historic structures, including: a stone house built by Boone's brother, Squire Boone (which Ken Kamper discovered); a cabin built by Boone's daughter and son-in-law, Jemima and Flanders Callaway; and an ox-driven mill and stone barn believed to be built by Rebecca Boone's

cousin, Jonathan Bryan.

Despite the wealth of history, tourists know the Boone settlement area not as the historic Boone country, but instead as Missouri wine country.

"What you have is the real America," says Steve Powell, director of the Greater St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's all there, packaged like a time capsule."

With the area already a tourist destination, it would be easy to use the newfound information about the Boone settlers, added Powell. "You have all the pieces of the story, but the whole story's not being told." Coincidentally, Sugar Creek Winery, at the edge of a bluff on the Wissmann farm offers a fine view of Daniel Boone's 850-acre Spanish land grant. The vast farm fields on the floodplain below stretch from Highway 94 east to the Missouri River, with a view of the white bluffs over Tavern Rock Cave. The floodplain was Boone's property, the only Missouri land he ever held title to.

That's the good news. The bad news is, better hurry out to take a look, because, as St. Charles County Planning and Zoning Department staffers warn, developers are poised to turn southern St. Charles County farmland — and the Boone historical area — into tidy subdivisions.

"Unless an interest is developed, all will be lost to the urban development that is starting to come into the Boone settlement area," says Kamper.

Kamper and others hope the county will preserve the history of the area with a mixture of greenbelts and parks connected by roadside markers along the old trails, as well as historical interpretive sites.

Kamper sees the Boone sites as a national tourist draw. He envisions

a state or national Daniel Boone Historical Area, with marked sites from St. Louis to Kansas City — where Boone's son, Daniel Morgan Boone, is buried beside his wife in a neglected graveyard. Planned development, markers and landowner incentives like tax breaks and site steward programs, such as other states have, can keep sites from

**“What you have is the real America. It's all there, packaged like a time capsule.”**

Steve Powell of the Greater St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau

being lost without sacrificing growth, says Kamper.

"We have a gold mine of some of the most important history west of the Mississippi, and we have been letting it slip through our fingers," says Kamper. "From the 1790s to the 1840s, this area through Missouri (in St. Charles County) was the center of all of America's movement westward."

Boone was a living legend when he arrived in Missouri, 199 years ago this month. At the time, he was one of the most popular folk heroes, ever, says Kamper. He had been elected or appointed to more than 20 civil, legislative or military offices. He had once been adopted by an enemy, a chief of the Shawnees. Even in Europe, Boone was a legend. When Boone arrived at St. Louis with his family in 1799, Spanish authorities held a parade in his honor, treating him with more respect than his countrymen ever had.

Boone had been at the leading edge of the frontier from North Carolina to Tennessee, and from Tennessee to Kentucky, then from Kentucky to Missouri, cutting and blazing hundreds of miles of trails, noting the best stands of timber, waterways, the richest soils, and both fresh water and salt springs as he went.

Following right behind him to Missouri — at the end of the War of 1812, when Indian tribes signed peace treaties — would be thousands more Americans and European immigrants. Even the American government would follow Boone, buying up the Louisiana Territory in 1803, four years after Boone's arrival.

In Missouri (then called Upper Louisiana), Daniel Boone laid the first American trail west, the Boone Trace. The trail began at present-day Matson. The first part of the trail went over the hills past family farms to present-day Marthasville (then called Charette), eventually joining an Indian trail, the Trail to the Village of the Missouri, which wound west to the mouth of the Grand River in north central Missouri. Much of the Boone Trace is part of the Katy Hiking and Biking Trail.

The second trail, called the Boonslick Trail, was routed across the prairie to the Boones' salt lick near Arrow Rock, where the family had a salt-processing business. The last segment of trail led from the salt lick to Fort Osage.

In short, Boone and his family established trails across central Missouri almost to Kansas City. Eventually, the trails became the first leg of the Santa Fe, Overland, California and Oregon trails — and, in modern times, part of Interstate 70

through Missouri.

Surprisingly, miles of the original Boone pioneer trails through eastern Missouri are well-preserved, comprising sections of Highway 40/61, Highway 94, Highway F, Highway N, Femme Osage Creek Road and Old Colony Road.

Of the 115 roadside markers

**“We have a gold mine of some of the most important history west of the Mississippi, and we have been letting it slip through our fingers.”**

Historian Ken Kamper

erected in each county by the state, only one honors Daniel Boone: a highway marker at the Warrenton courthouse in Warren County. There are no Boone monuments in St. Louis County. A bust of Daniel Boone sits in the state capitol at Jefferson City. A painting of Boone at the Judgment Tree is in the senate chambers.

Elsewhere in the state, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources owns two Boone family sites, the (second) Nathan Boone Homestead near Ash Grove in southwest Missouri, and the Boone's Lick State Historic Site at Boonesboro in central Missouri.

But in St. Charles County, at the heart of the first major American settlement west of the Mississippi River, there's not so much as a roadside marker to show the first Boone family settlement, or the site

where Daniel Boone first lived, at Matson.

When it comes to Daniel Boone, Kentucky is pretty much where the history books and roadside markers stop.

"Unlike states to the east and the west of us, Missouri, for the most part, has failed to research and make public its early American history," says Kamper.

Pennsylvania makes a big deal out of the house near Reading where Daniel Boone was born. Kentucky proudly marks the route of the Wilderness Trail, which Boone was hired to cut in 1775. The monument at Boone's Kentucky grave in Frankfort has been vandalized by tourists seeking souvenirs. (Missourians claim, perhaps rightly, that someone else lies in the grave, and that Boone is buried at Marthasville, Missouri. Even so, the Daughters of the American Revolution, not the state, has marked the site at Marthasville in Warren County.)

So, while tourists flock to celebrated Daniel Boone sites and Boone family houses, to forts, battlefields and well-marked pioneer trails in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Pennsylvania, Missouri tourists unknowingly drive, or ride a bike, right past the only land Boone ever owned outright, at Matson.

Historian Ken Kamper contributed research to this story.



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**LOLITA (R)** Dolby SR (3:30) 7:00, 10:00

**A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER**

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH TUE 27 FEB 1996 St Charles, MO

# Ode To A Pioneer

## History Buffs Proud Of Ties To Daniel Boone

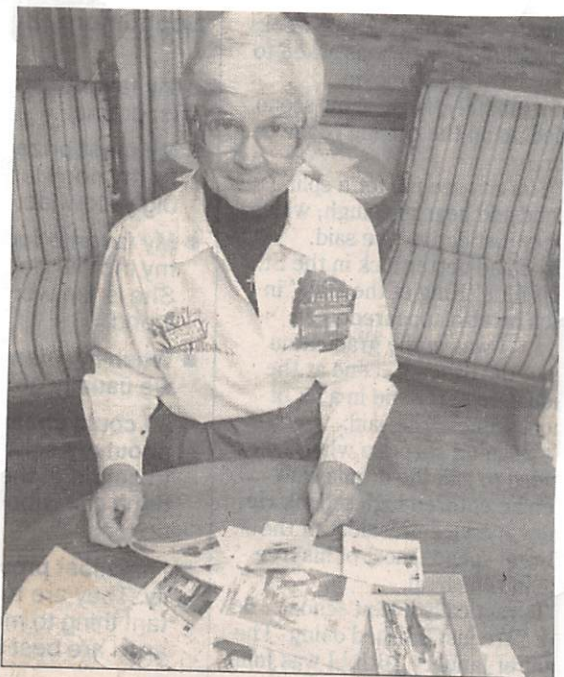
'When you get to Matson, you're to the heart of where the Boones lived'



This stone house in the Matson area is believed by some to have been built by Daniel Morgan Boone, a son of the famous pioneer Daniel Boone.

Peggy Bradbury

The elder Boone, who spent considerable time in the area, owned land near the house.



Peggy Bradbury

**Edith Knoernschild Morgan of St. Charles with photos of Matson and a paper she wrote years ago on the history of the town.**

## Residents Still Cherish Times Centered Around Work, School And Home

By Peggy Bradbury

Special to the St. Charles Post

For some, growing up in Matson years ago brings to mind memories of playing on a women's softball team, sledding on old strips of tin roofing and witnessing the Hershey chocolate remnants of a train that spilled groceries when it derailed.

"The big deal with us was the girls' softball team," says Josephine Beumer Sevenser, 76, who has since moved to Washington, Mo. "All of us girls that lived around there got on the team. We didn't know much about softball, but we got the idea that we wanted to play."

Sevenser played outfield and then pitched for the team. Her father, Herman Sevenser, was the team manager.

"We got to be pretty good, actually," Sevenser says.

In 1940, the team lost a St. Charles County softball tournament by one run.

Edith Knoernschild Morgan, 68, says that in the winter, children fashioned toboggans from old tin roofing by bending up one end of the tin.

Morgan's father, Reinhold Knoernschild, ran the general store and post office in Matson from the 1930s to 1969, when he sold the store to Richard and Marjory Flesch.

"The store was the gathering place for the whole town," says Morgan. On winter nights, when the temperature dropped to the teens, her father tended small fires on the cellar's dirt floor to keep produce from freezing upstairs in the store.

"Life at that time was strictly centered around work, school and home," says Morgan.

In 1940, she wrote "The History of Matson," a 32-page term paper for a class she was in at Francis Howell High School. She earned top marks for the paper, which was reprinted 41 years later in Bill Schiermeier's Cracker Barrel News but as "author unknown."

To write the paper, Morgan interviewed Matson residents, including then-state Sen. George H. Williams, who owned the Daniel Boone Farm in the 1930s and 1940s, and an 84-year-old former slave named Joe Chandler.

She illustrated her paper with a hand-drawn map of Matson and photos of residents, buildings, graveyards, Daniel Boone's Judgment Tree and a 1937 train wreck in which five men burned to death. She also included a 1939 photo of the girls' softball team, all knees and smiles.

"Abraham Matson owned much of the original Spanish land grants from Daniel Boone and a son, Daniel Morgan Boone, which were adjacent," Morgan wrote in her paper. "When Matson went broke buying stocks, he split the property and willed it to his two sons, Richard C. Matson and William Harvey Matson, so that the

farm couldn't be taken away from the family."

Matson was founded in 1888 — or in 1892, according to other sources — when Richard Matson donated 20 acres to the Missouri-Kansas-Topeka Railroad for a depot "59 miles from Union Station in St. Louis," Morgan wrote. Some of the land makes up what is now the parking lot for the Katy Trail at Matson.

Morgan penned a portrait of the two, very different Matson brothers: "Harvey Matson, a stingy sort of man, brought a rooster to the store one day, went home, thought he hadn't received enough money for it, then came back to the store the next day and got the rooster back. He wore suspenders that he made himself. The suspenders were hooked on the troussrs (sic) by nails . . . It is believed by others that it wasn't Harvey Matson who was stingy, but his wife."

It continues, "Richard C. Matson was born Sept. 17, 1849. He was a jolly sort of a person willing to spend his money. His home was built somewhat like Harvey's. . . . The two brothers were always trying to outdo each other, so Richard built an eight-cornered barn. He was a prosperous farmer who raised good stock and fast horses."

His wife, Mary Murdock Matson, was a taxidermist.

Floods plagued the Matson area in the days of Daniel Boone, washing away much of the farmland, as well as Missouri, the town started by Daniel Boone. "Since the river was changing its course at different times and washing away much land," Morgan wrote, "an attempt was made to change the current. Around the year 1870, they built V-shaped boxes, weighted them down and put them into the river away from the bank so the current would flow in a different direction. They also tied trees in the river against the bank and anchored them out in the field to keep the land from washing away. A third attempt was dragging logs up and down the water away from the bank to establish a new channel away from the bank."

During the 1903 flood, a farmer named Murdock refused to leave his house until the water rose so high he had to climb onto the roof and call for help. "The house of Mr. Murdock's floated from Matson to St. Louis County," Morgan wrote.

# Matson: Where Boone Lived

## Area Historian Tries To Keep Alive Legacy Of Pioneer's Home

By Peggy Bradbury

Special to the St. Charles Post

*When Daniel Boone goes by, at night,  
The phantom deer arise  
And all lost, wild America  
Is burning in their eyes.*

— Rosemary and Stephen Vincent Benet

Area history buffs are proud to say pioneer Daniel Boone lived and died here.

To salute him, there's the Daniel Boone Home in Defiance, which was built by his son Nathan Boone and is open for tours. In Marthasville in Warren County, there is a plaque at Boone's grave.

Yet there is no monument to Boone at Matson, the site of the only property he owned in Missouri. Historian Ken Kamper says a monument, at least, is in order.

"When you get to Matson, you're to the heart of where the Boones lived," says Kamper, a mechanical engineer who says his studies of Daniel Boone have been "continuous and forever." His basement in Hazelwood has a floor-to-ceiling library of books, maps, displays and filing cabinets filled with records.

Matson is along Highway 94, about 12 miles south of Highway 40. If visitors look east across Highway 94 from the Katy Trail, they can see Boone's original Spanish land grant of 1,000 arpents (about 851 acres) of flood plain stretching to the Missouri River.

Rolling out a topographical map plotted with boundary lines of Spanish land grants, Kamper shows where Boone and his family settled in and around what is now Matson. In the area were his in-laws, children, adopted children that Boone and his wife, Rebecca, raised, and grandchildren.

Boone brought his family to the Matson area — called the Femme Osage Valley — in 1799 after the Spanish government offered him land in exchange for bringing other settlers with him. At the time, the Spanish controlled a vast wilderness extending west from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

### Hero, Explorer, Civic Leader

By the time Boone came to Missouri, he was one of the most popular American heroes ever, says Kamper. Boone was a Revolutionary War hero and an explorer, was elected to the Virginia Legislature three times and held many civic and military offices in several states. In 1781, he was commis-

sioned a colonel in the Virginia Militia.

In 1799, the Spanish appointed Boone commandant of the Femme Osage District. As commandant, Boone also served as judge. His court was outdoors under an American elm tree dubbed The Judgment Tree.

The Judgment Tree stood about 100 yards east of Highway 94 on Boone's property. The tree would have been easily visible from the Katy Trail parking lot at Matson. It stood southeast of an abandoned stone house that can be seen on the flood plain east of the Katy Trail's parking lot.

The tree was still alive when Hilda and Emil Stelzer moved into the area in 1926. A few years later, lightning killed it, but it stood until 1951, when a storm blew it over. Afterward, it was cut up for firewood.

The stone house recently was featured in a tele-

vised story about Boone. One of his sons, Daniel Morgan Boone, is believed to have built the house for his father and family when they first came to Missouri. Another story attributes the house to a Boone contemporary, Robert Hall, who is believed to have used it as an inn.

Historical records don't agree with those versions, says Kamper. However, Kamper found a U.S. government surveying error made after Boone's death. He says he believes it's possible that the stone house originally was on Boone's property near the northern boundary.

For now, the stone house, which is older than any other building in Matson, is a mystery.

### The Boones Branch Out

About a mile southeast of the stone house was Missouri-ton, the town Daniel Boone and his son Daniel Morgan Boone started near the Missouri River. The town was laid out in 25 blocks, which were advertised for sale in 1818. From 1833 to 1888, the town had a post office, but in the 1870s, floodwater washed Missouri-ton away.

The Boones also had a boat landing near Missouri-ton, where loads of salt mined from the Boone family salt-works near present-day Boonesborough were unloaded.

Boone never lived on his own property. From 1800 to 1804, he and his wife lived in a log cabin about three blocks west of Matson, where Boone Fort was built by Daniel Morgan Boone to protect settlers from Indian raids. The cabin was inside the fort. As long as he lived in Missouri, the elder Boone stayed with his children when he wasn't exploring, says Kamper.

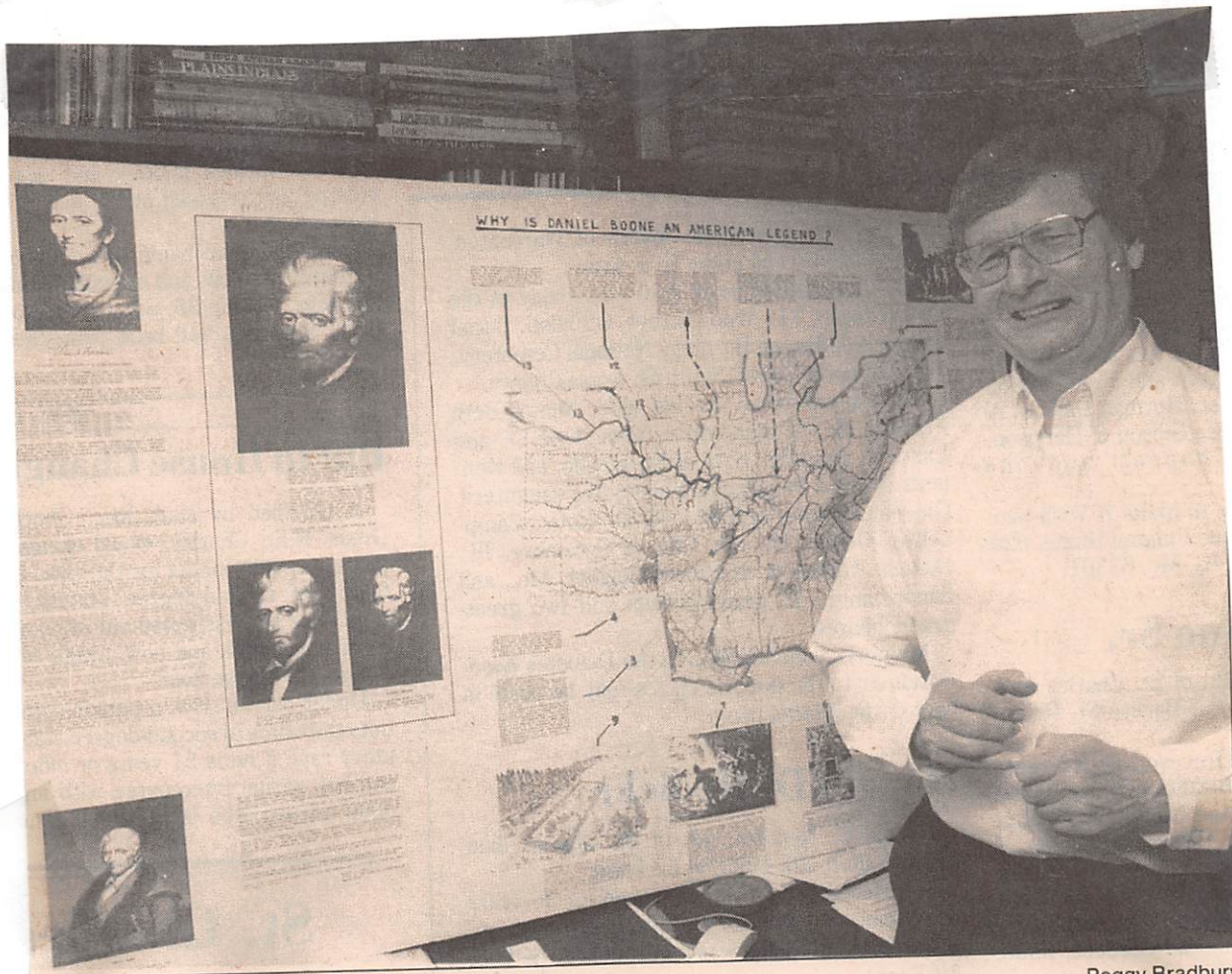
The Matson fort and cabin are long gone, but the current owners of the land, Barbara Koenig, her sons Frank and Roy Koenig and a daughter, Kim Beer, have kept track of where buildings once stood on their farm, the Daniel Boone Farm.

A handsome brick house built in 1854 by Abraham Shobe Matson was erected on the site of the fort. The foundation of the house was laid with

### Daniel Boone Sites



Post-Dispatch Map



Peggy Bradbury

**Ken Kamper of Hazelwood shows some of his research about Daniel Boone. Most of Kamper's basement is filled with information about the pioneer.**

stones culled from the fort's block houses, says Barbara Koenig. Other stones were used to build a spring house nearby.

### Getting The Truth Out

Kamper, 61, plans to write a book about Boone, "if I live long enough." He says biographies on Boone are long on fiction and short on documentation.

"Very little of the true Daniel Boone history is known by the public," says Kamper. "If it's not true, it just gets repeated over and over."

To network with serious Boone researchers, Kamper started the Boone Frontier Research Association last year. Members work to document "the complete and true story of Daniel Boone, his ancestry and his family," as well as the history and genealogy of pioneer families that

lived in Missouri before 1820.

Kamper says Missouri history books contain little about the state's pioneer era from 1799, when the Boone settlement began, to 1820, just before Missouri became a state. Yet, the Boone settlement opened the West. The family's trails became the first leg of the Booneslick Trail, which bifurcated into the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon Trail.

In that era, about 30 forts were built to protect Missouri settlers from Indian raids during the War of 1812. Although little physical evidence of the forts remains, the sites of at least three forts are near St. Charles: Fort Zumwalt in O'Fallon, Boone Fort at Matson and Fort Howard near Old Monroe. The Battle of the Sinkhole, an important battle in the War of 1812 between Indians and area rangers, was fought near Fort Howard.

Kamper says he thinks the Boone

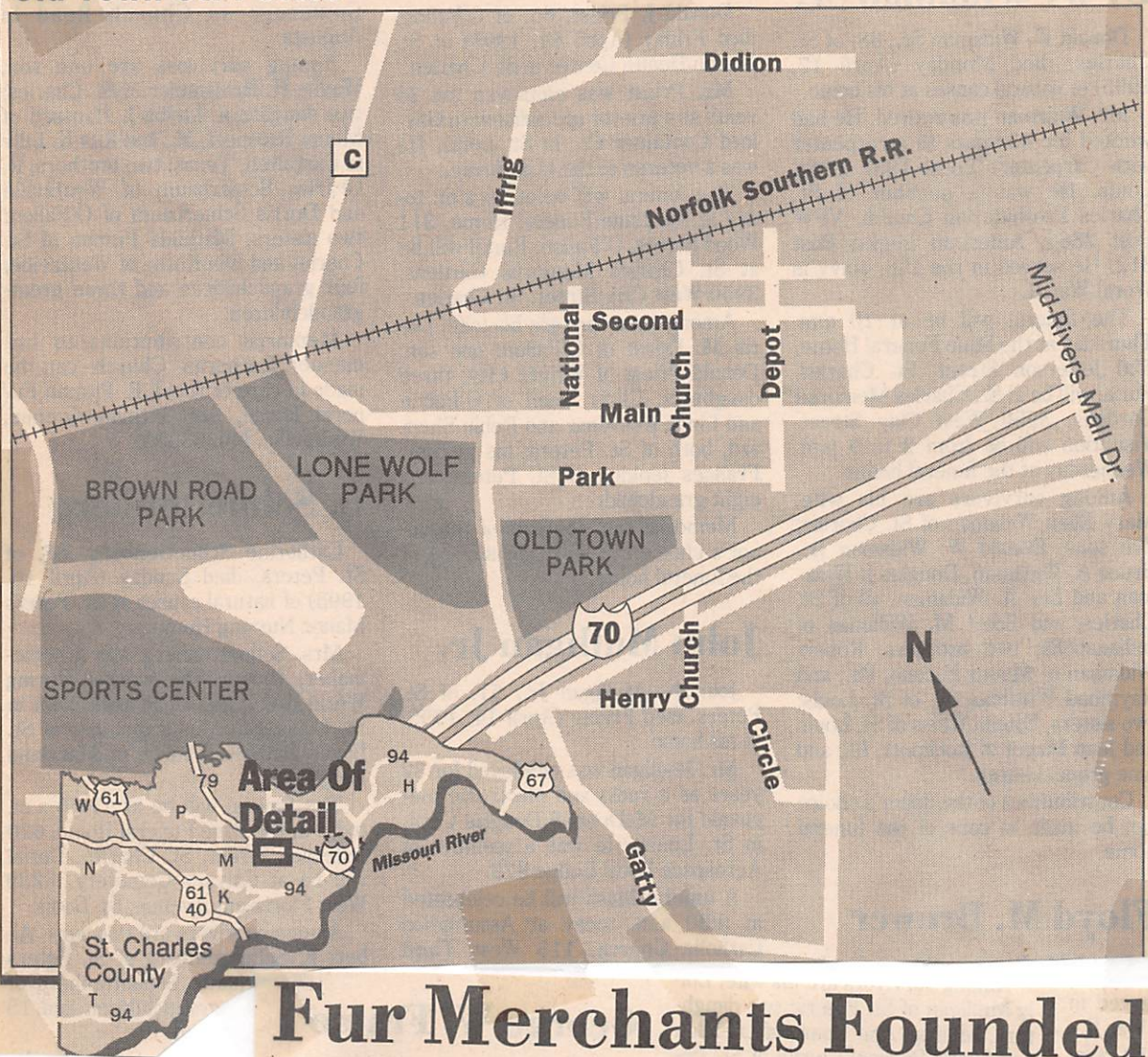
pioneer sites are "a gold mine for Missouri."

Someday, he says, he hopes the state will designate a Daniel Boone Wilderness Area, with re-created historic sites, museums and roadside markers. The sites would be linked by Highway 94, which roughly follows the Old Boone Trace along the Missouri River, and Highway 40 and Interstate 70, which follow the Booneslick Trail.

Sites near Loutre, Arrow Rock and Booneville are rich in forts, battle sites and early pioneer sites, many related to the Boone family.

Kamper says he believes the sites, with markers telling of the sequence of battles and re-created buildings showing how the pioneers lived, would capture the imagination of tourists. But first, Kamper says, an accurate history has to be written. "I'm the guy who tells the story that puts it all together."

## Old Town St. Peters



# Fur Merchants Founded Town

By John Sonderegger  
Of the St. Charles Post

St. Peters was founded by fur merchants in 1796 on an 800-acre tract from a Spanish land grant. The earliest settlers were French. After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, farmers streamed in, this time with U.S. land grants.

In 1815, the settlers built a log chapel called The Church on the Dardenne, dedicated to St. Peter. Many Germans settled in the area between 1830 and 1875. A post office was established in 1855, and the North Missouri Railroad ran a line through the town. Then came another rail line, connecting Hannibal and St. Louis in the 1870s.

The village was platted and surveyed in 1868. Shops and businesses on Main Street and Second Street flourished, and a public school was built. The "Brick Church on the Hill" was built in 1874 and was named "All

Saints." The village had become St. Peters, taking the name from the original church. St. Peters became incorporated in 1910.

Here is a look at some of the historic buildings in Old Town:

■ **Iffrig House.** On the corner of Main and Depot streets, the building once was the home of Albert and Katie (Taubeler) Iffrig. Both of these families were influential in the early days of the city. Albert Iffrig was postmaster from 1914-1959. He also operated the Iffrig Merchandise company and the Iffrig Market. The Iffrig House was built in 1940 and now serves as an antiques and craft shop.

■ **Taubeler Home:** Across Main Street from the Iffrig House, this was the home of Frank Taubeler, who built roads and bridges in the area. He supervised construction of the old wagon bridge, finished in January 1888. Taubeler was a member of the original board of aldermen and was

the organizer and first fire chief for the volunteer fire department.

■ **Home of the First Mayor:** On Second Street near National Street, this home was built in the early 1870s by Frank Algermissen on land bought from Englebert Gehrs. The house later was bought by George Schneider, who lived there from 1882-1906. In 1910, Schnedier became the town's first mayor.

■ **The Mercantile:** On Main Street across from Schneider's Hardware, this shop has been operating as a general store since the early 1870s. Several of the early entrepreneurs were postmasters.

■ **Elmer's Tavern:** Next to the Mercantile, this building also dates to 1870. It has been refurbished by its new owners but retains the flavor of an oldtime tavern. It's certainly one of the busiest spots in Old Town. One wall is devoted to photographs of the way the village once was.



# Old Town Memories Keep Preservation Spirit Alive, Hopeful

By John Sonderegger  
Of the St. Charles Post

The old man squints into the evening sun as he looks across Second Street in Old Town and tries to remember faces and places long gone.

He points to a vacant lot and recalls the lumberyard run by H.B. Algermissen. "We used to shoot chippies with our BB guns. When we got three of them, we'd take them to old man Algermissen, and he'd give us a dime."

Bernard Heintzelmann, 78, is one of a handful of old-timers from the original village of St. Peters. Occasionally, he will venture across the interstate and enter the new St. Peters, but mostly he stays in Old Town.

"I just go and buy a few groceries and come back," he said. "I don't pay much attention to those over there."

Others apparently feel the same way. They shun the "new" St. Peters, with its malls and fast food and traffic, and want to see Old Town preserved, much the way the historic sections of St. Charles are preserved.

"I've lived my whole life here except for four years, five months and eight days," Heintzelmann said. That time was spent in the Army during World War II.

The old man tells stories of Ed Stuckey's blacksmith shop and the ice cream store run by Julius Chapue. In a scrapbook, he points to a photo dating to 1901, showing five men about to fry fish caught in Dardenne Creek.

"Everything's different today than what it used to be," he said with a sigh.

## Turning Back Time

Old Town lies north of Interstate 70, just west of Mid-Rivers Mall Drive. About 300 people live and work in its handful of blocks. This is where St. Peters got its start about 200 years ago, when the area was known as La Dardenne. Some of the buildings are more than 100 years old.

There's Schneider's Hardware Store, operated by Jerry Schneider, 38. His father, Eugene, was the first elected mayor in town in the 1960s. In the old days, the store used to be Schneider Implement Co.

Schneider's now is housed in a relatively new building, but it is connected to the old Kunderer Tavern and Rooming House, which was built in 1865.

The Kunderer building drips with history. It was frequented by traveling salesmen, who would stay there before heading out into the country to sell their wares to farmers.

A plaque outside of the building reads:

*Built in 1865 and sold to Reinhard Kunderer in 1886. Tavern and Dance Hall and Rooming House in the rough, tough railroad days. Room, breakfast, supper and feed and water horse for \$1. Rebuilt as today after 1913 fire.*

"St. Peters must have been a good time," Schneider said. "It was all taverns and hotels and dance halls."

Across the street from Schneider's is

Elmer's Tavern, a monument to the past. Kevin and Kent Eisenbath bought the tavern three years ago and have restored it. The building dates to 1870.

One wall is reserved for old photos. One shows the St. Peters wagon bridge in 1874. One called "Wheat to Market" shows horses pulling wagons through the town.

The remains of Gues' Blacksmith Shop, destroyed by a cyclone on July 7, 1915, are the subject of another photo. In yet another, flooding is the theme. The picture shows a train stopped on the railroad tracks. Water is on one side, Old Town on the other. The caption reads: "The Flood of 1946. Train parked on the railroad tracks to keep the town of St. Peters from washing away."

Chris Entwistle, 34, tends bar during the day at Elmer's. She says the old-timers come in early and leave before the younger crowd arrives around mid-afternoon.

She grew up around Old Town and has come back to work in the area, mindful of two centuries of history.

"I'm real partial to Old Town," she said. "I'd like for them to keep all of the new buildings on the other side" of I-70.

"This is still a small town, where everybody knows everybody," said Nancy Wilson, whose grandparents lived in Old Town. She now works at Schneider's.

Kevin Eisenbath, who owns Elmer's, said he would "like to see Old Town stay kind of the neighborhood it has been. We're dedicated to the preservation of what it once was."

## Passing The Torch

Heintzelmann and some of the other old-timers, such as Bert and Loyola Heppermann, are part of the landscape. Their love of Old Town is being carried on by a younger generation working to preserve the heritage of the area.

Theresa Chase, 38, owns the old Chapue building with her husband at 19 Main Street. It dates to 1910; the Chases bought it from the Heppermanns. Theresa Chase is working to get at least six of the buildings in Old Town placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Glenda Tabor, who owns Aunt Bea's Tearoom & Treasures on Second Street, also has worked to keep Old Town intact. Pat Kumer, who lives in the area, is working closely with Chase.

"The most discouraging thing in what we're doing is trying to get people together and trying to do anything," Theresa Chase said.

# Officials Encourage Restoration Efforts

By John Sonderegger

Of the St. Charles Post

St. Peters doesn't have any grand plans for Old Town.

"But there are no plans to bulldoze it," said Shirley Foster, the city's economic development director. "There's always that rumor that goes around. I don't know how it gets started."

The city intends to preserve the area and encourages anyone wanting to restore buildings and get them declared historic landmarks, Foster said.

"It is valued, and sometimes we feel it's in the shadow of St. Charles," Foster said. "We have an Old Town, too."

Alderman Betty Woelfel, who was re-elected April 4, has been outspoken on restoring Old Town. She thinks it can be turned into something that would rival Main Street in St. Charles. She would like to see more craft shops and businesses to bring in tourists.

Often, city officials call her plans "Betty's Vision."

Construction on a \$9.8 million levee to protect Old Town from floods is set to begin by next spring. In 1988, the city spent \$500,000 for a storm-water pump to keep water from Interstate 70 from rushing into Old Town.

"That and the levee show our commitment to Old Town," Foster said.

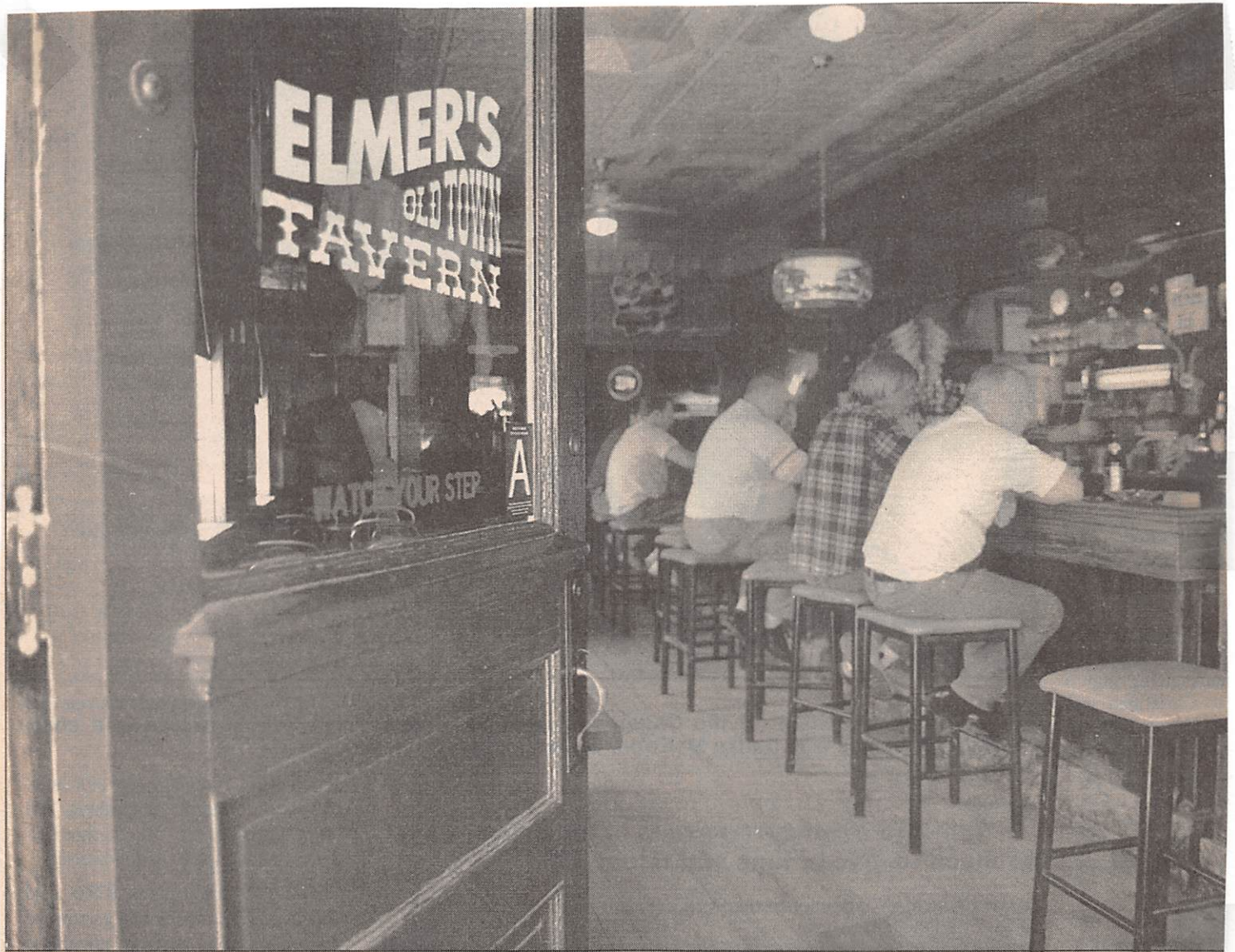
Kevin Eisenbath, who owns Elmer's Tavern, said, "The levee might help if it opens up more areas for industrial growth. But it depends on the traffic flow. That's the only thing I'm afraid of."

Like Eisenbath, some people fear that road improvements in the works may cut off much of Old Town from normal traffic and keep

Photos by Wendi Fitzgerald  
Of the St. Charles Post



ABOVE LEFT: Dave Ash models his home, built around 1880 in Old Town. Ash is trying to get his house on the National Register of Historic Places. ABOVE RIGHT: The building owned by Mitzie Allen used to be a one-room schoolhouse. It was built in 1869. Historic plaques suggest that 19th-century Old Town, with its dance hall, tavern and rooms for rent, was rollicking place for railroad travelers and salesmen.



**ABOVE: Elmer's Tavern is one of the most hopping spots in Old Town. The old-timers come to the bar in the morning and the younger people in the afternoon. Pictures on its walls recount the history of St. Peters.**

business away. They worry that the city may barricade Main Street after Gatty Drive, shutting it off from Highway C, and they fear that the extension of Mid Rivers Mall Drive to Didion Road would keep traffic off Main Street.

When the city allowed a service station and market to be built almost at the mouth of Main Street a few years ago, some wondered about the planning.

"They didn't tell us they were putting a truck stop at the end of the street," said Theresa Chase, who is working to get several buildings in Old Town placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Trucks are kept running while drivers shop and doze on the premises. Hitchhikers congregate, and some try to sleep in the backyards of homes on Second Street, Chase said.

The new business also has brought litter to Old Town.

Residents and merchants want to make sure that the area is preserved, and they certainly don't want any new businesses that would blight the natural charm of the area.

Woelfel and Alderman Mike Snider will meet with residents at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the American Legion Hall in Old Town to discuss the future of the area and offer reassurance.

"A lot of people aren't sure what the city has planned for Old Town," Chase said. "There is already some light industrial across the railroad tracks, and more is planned. A lot of people aren't sure if it's worth putting any money into their properties."

Said Mayor Tom Brown, "Old Town will always be dear to our hearts. That's where our city began."

# Slow Winter Months Are Ideal For Browsing Through Museums, Memories

**By Esther Talbot Fenning**  
Special to the St. Charles Post

The New Year is a time for looking back as well as ahead. Following the hectic pace of the Christmas season, many area residents and tourists find stimulation and entertainment in museums.

There are many museums in St. Charles County that offer historians, art buffs and the otherwise curious the opportunity to browse, learn and buy. One can enjoy looking at a wedding dress from grandma's time, her old rope bed and the Victorian china she treasured. Memorabilia from long-gone businesses, schools and other entities are exhibited in restored homes, historical societies and even banks.

Many curators and museum directors use January and February, slow months for tourism, to plan upcoming special events and exhibits. A number of smaller museums have shortened winter hours, although most are open on weekends and by appointment. Admission to most area museums is nominal or nonexistent.

Following is a list of some of the museums in the St. Charles area, as well as plans for special events and exhibits in 1997.

■ **The Frenchtown Museum**, 1400 North Second Street, St. Charles.

The Frenchtown Museum features more than 4,000 vintage objects and memorabilia relating to St. Charles history from the early 1800s. Museum curator Richard Vinson has designed 12 glass-encased mini museums. The traveling exhibits, each 2 feet by 2 feet by 6 feet, have individual themes. The first of these is the "St. Charles Dairy," on display at the St. Peters Cultural Arts Center at Mexico Road and Venture Drive. Vinson hopes to display each of the mini museums at public sites in St. Charles County.

"There weren't enough people coming to Frenchtown, so I decided to take the items to them," Vinson said.

Call 946-2865 for information.

■ **Miniature World**, 132-36 North Main Street, St. Charles.

Miniature World documents moments of history from the dawn of time to the nuclear age. Displays range from individual pieces to models of sections of cities destroyed by war. The museum was opened last month by businessman Bob Letterman, co-owner of the VLS Corp., a scale-model manufacturing and distributing company in O'Fallon.

Two or three new exhibits come to the museum a month, Letterman said. The museum was housed in the

VLS headquarters in O'Fallon for a year.

VLS can be reached at 281-5700.

■ **Lewis and Clark Center**, 701 Riverside Drive, St. Charles.

Featured are dioramas and 18 display areas focusing on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Information is included on the participants of the expedition, transportation, supplies, research and journals. Director Mimi Jackson and her staff offer classes and programs on the expedition.

Exhibits will be enhanced next year, Jackson said. Featured will be a display on Pierre Cruzatte of St. Charles, the fiddler who accompanied the expedition. Also on exhibit will be a sextant, one of the instruments used for making maps in Lewis and Clark's time; and a recently acquired Harper Ferry rifle designed by Lewis for the expedition.

The museum provides a hands-on experience for visitors, Jackson said.

"Everyone wants to feel the fur, play the drum and pick up the things we have," Jackson said. "We think this is an important that they do that."

Call 947-3199 for more information.

■ **St. Charles County Historical Society**, 101 South Main Street, St. Charles.

Historical documents, photographs, genealogical information and memorabilia regarding St. Charles County, as well as a toy museum, are highlighted.

Upcoming events include a Black History Day celebration Feb. 22 and the Historical Society's annual antique show March 14 and 15 at St. Charles West High School.

"We are also planning a museum room to display the textiles, quilts, period clothing and other selected artifacts from St. Charles' history," said museum archivist Carol Wilkins.

Call 946-9828 for more information.

■ **First State Capitol**, 200 South Main Street, St. Charles.

The First Missouri State Capitol building is restored with period furnishings of the 1820s. The complex includes a Senate house, governor's office, general store and two residences. A 20-minute tour includes an orientation show in the visitor's center that covers the history and restoration of the building.

Upcoming events include a musical celebration of Black History Month on Feb. 22, Statehood Day on Aug. 10 and a historical children's festival in the fall. The date for the children's festival hasn't been set.

Call 946-9282 for more

information.

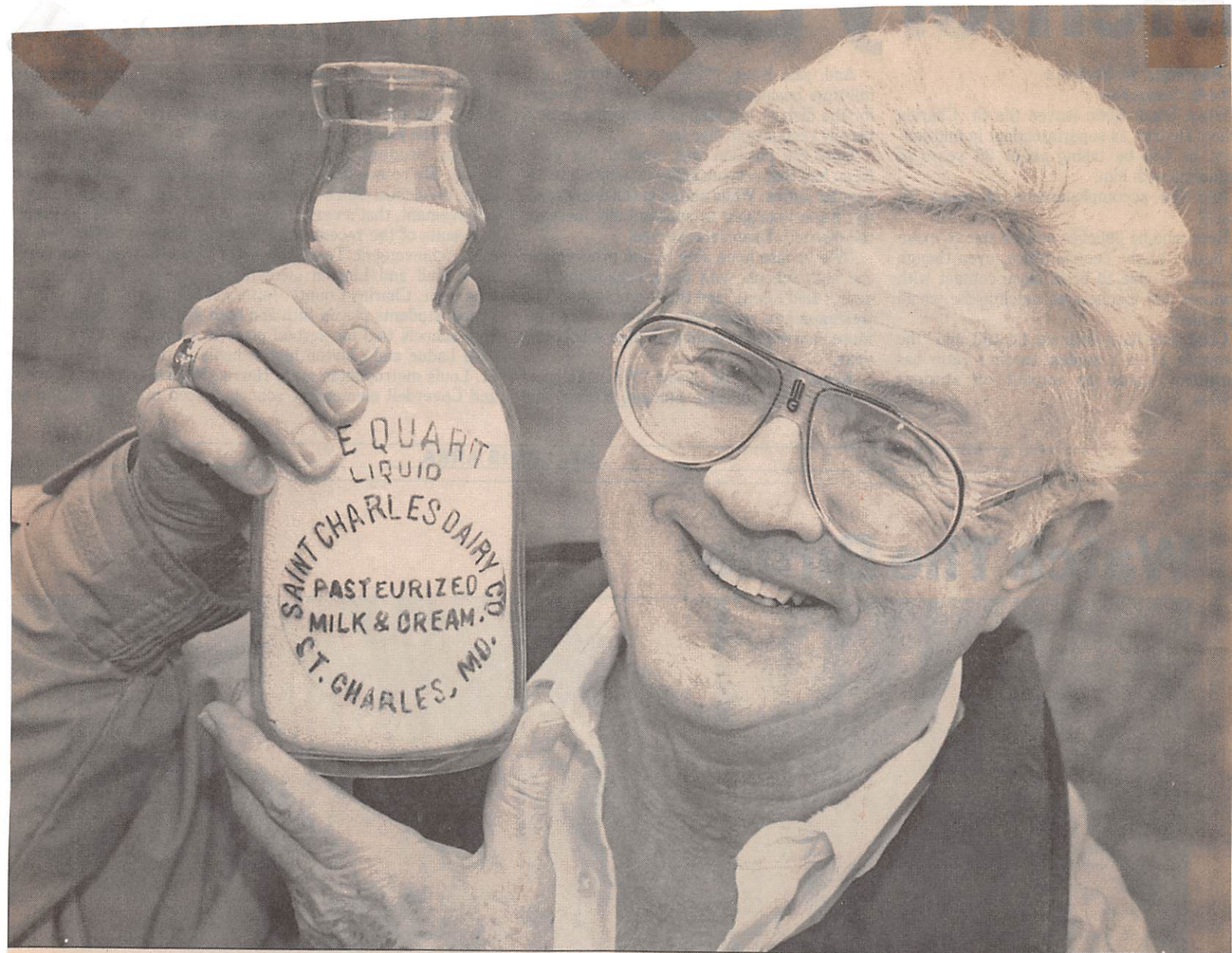
■ **Commerce Bank**, at Linn and Pearce Boulevard in Wentzville, has a display of the early history of St. Charles County.

The exhibit, set up by New Melle historian and writer Bill Schiermeier, consists of maps, books and photographs. Schiermeier recently added a 15-foot time line that outlines the 1700s to the present.

Call 828-5887 for more information.

■ **The Boone/Duden Historical Society** in the Kamphoefner House at Highway D and F in New Melle features genealogical material.

Call 828-5887 for more information.



Larry Williams/St. Charles Post

Richard Vinson holds a 60-year-old milk bottle (presumably past its expiration date) from the now-defunct St. Charles Dairy. Vinson is curator of The Frenchtown Museum.

■ **Daniel Boone Home & Boonesfield Village**, 1868 Highway F, Defiance.

The Daniel Boone Home is a four-story Georgian-style structure featuring early Americana such as hand-crafted walnut woodwork, four-poster beds, long rifles and many items that belong to the Boone family.

Four special events are planned in the coming year. They are a Military History Weekend on April 19 and 20, a Trade Show and Military Re-enactment on June 21 and 22, a Civil War weekend Oct. 4 and 5, and the Candlelight Christmas tour and walk Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13.

Special events coordinator John Campbell is especially excited about the military history weekend in April, which will honor men and women who have served in the armed forces.

"This is something new this year," he said. "We're trying to get veterans from the airplane The Enola Gay and the U.S.S. Indianapolis — the ship that carried the A bomb and was sunk by Japanese subs. Very few survived that ordeal," he said.

Call 987-2221 for more information.

■ **The Augusta Historical Museum**, 275 Webster Street, Augusta.

The house features memorabilia of early residents of Augusta. The bedroom contains a rope bed and mannequins dressed in early 19th-century wedding dresses from Augusta families. There is a kitchen from the mid-19th century, and a coffin room honors the original owner of the house, who was a casket maker. There are also woodworking tools and items from the original Augusta Post Office and the KATY Railroad.

Old businesses and organizations also are featured, including a display on local blacksmith Wilbert Holt.

Call 228-4821 for more information.

Miniature World Museum

# Meticulous War Exhibits Rule

By Tommy Robertson  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Raymond Klingert of St. Peters is typical of the visitors who drop in to view exhibits at the Miniature World Museum in St. Charles.

Klingert spent more than three hours recently in the museum, at 132-36 North Main Street. He couldn't make up his mind about his favorite exhibit and took museum manager Tom O'Dell back through the museum to suggest technical adjustments in a few displays.

"Happens all the time," O'Dell said.

Klingert is a Korean War veteran, and most of the museum's exhibits revolve around wars, particularly World War II.

The museum's grand opening date, Dec. 7 — Pearl Harbor Day — was not coincidental.

Bob Letterman, president of the VLS Corp. and the man who built many of the models, said he sees two main reasons for the popularity of wars for models.

"I think World War II was the last war that everyone believed in," Letterman said. "And I think modelers choose war as a subject because of the colors associated with the uniforms."

The museum features 40 major dioramas — a French word for a scene through a window. An additional 160 smaller scenes, some in shadow boxes, also are displayed.

Thousands of models are on exhibit, from miniature pistols and rifles to automobiles to a reproduction of the Gateway International Speedway.

But the military exhibits dominate, including one called "Day of Infamy" by Lewis Pruneau. That diorama is a scene of the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.

That exhibit is 12 feet long and turned out to be Klingert's favorite.

"There is such fine detail in that display," he said. "The detail in all of the pieces is very impressive."

Klingert also was captivated by a display called "Paris Gun," which is a diorama of the production of a heavy gun in a German munitions factory.

"They even have the little, bitty tools the people used," said Klingert. "The detail is just great."

Letterman's wife, Susan, said most of the displays belong to her husband, who built them to advertise the products available through VLS Corp. The company is one of the nation's largest suppliers of materials, supplies, brochures and catalogs for miniature-model distributors.

Susan Letterman said many of the exhibits had been on display at the company's warehouse in O'Fallon, Mo.

"We attracted more than 5,000 visitors last year from around the world without any advertising at all," she said.

St. Charles officials were among those who visited the warehouse and spent the better part of last year persuading Letterman to move the dioramas to St. Charles.

The city bought the building on North Main late last year for \$330,000 and spent \$201,000 renovating it.

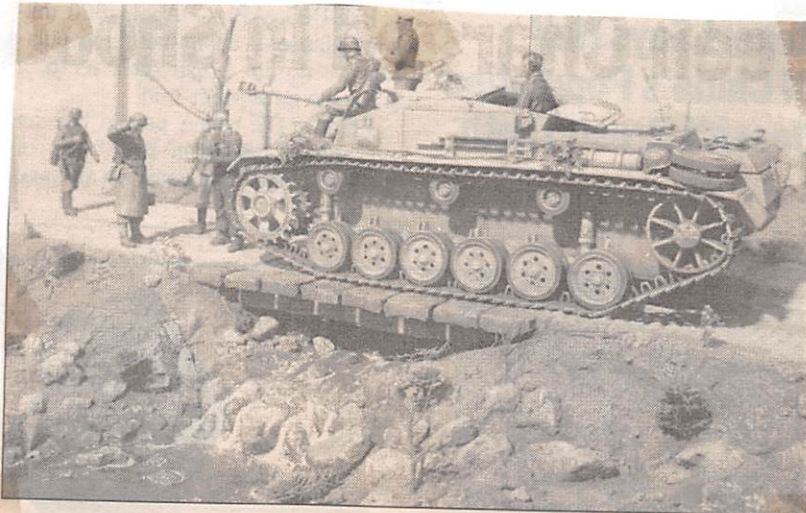
Letterman responded by joining several collectors and modelers to form the Kole Foundation Inc.

The foundation is paying St. Charles a minimum of \$100 a month for three years to lease 7,450 square feet in the 2½-story building. The lease also calls on the foundation to pay the city 5 percent of gross sales up to \$300,000 annually and 10 percent of gross sales of more than \$300,000.

Susan Letterman said the museum attracted 466 visitors on opening weekend. But traffic was not that brisk in the following weeks, she said.

"We really don't have a history in this location yet. We'll just have to wait and see what develops."

*The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday until March 1, when summer hours will be set. Admission is \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for older adults and \$3 for children ages 5 to 14.*



Ted Dargan/Post-Dispatch  
One of the World War II-related displays at the Miniature World Museum in St. Charles.

## Femme Osage Creek has an interesting background

BY PEGGY BRADBURY

Special to the St. Charles County Post

Fifty-one years ago, Mary Kate McGregor and her husband, Robert, moved to the old stone house and farm at 2068 Highway F. The Femme Osage Creek winds through the property.

Mary Kate McGregor recalls an oral history of how Femme Osage Creek earned its name. It was told to her by the daughter of an early missionary in the area, which was an Osage Indian hunting grounds at the time the Boone clan moved to Missouri. Femme Osage is French for Osage Woman.

"A French trapper fell in love with an Osage Indian maiden, but she happened to be engaged to an Osage Indian brave," said McGregor. The Indians kidnapped the trapper, sealing him in a cave along the creek, "and put briars over the mouth of

the cave, so they were sure that he would not escape," said McGregor. "However, the Indian maiden knew a way to get food and water to him, and she did this. When the Indians were sure the French trapper was dead and gone to heaven, they stopped coming to the cave. The Indian maiden then let him out. When the Indians found out what she had done, they took care of her. One day, when she was down at the creek doing laundry or whatever, they came up behind her and tomahawked her. That is why it's called the Femme Osage Creek, after the woman of the Osage."

Mary Kate McGregor is pleased with the sale of the house and property to Lindenwood University, which paid \$500,000 for it. She and her husband talked at length about the sale with Dennis Spellmann, president of Lindenwood.

"He really is a charmer, and he

has wonderful ideas for this valley," said McGregor.

Steve Butler, too, is pleased and relieved at selling some of the 18 or so old buildings moved to his farm by the previous owner, Robert Thomasson, a surgeon.

"I've been looking for a good home for them for three to four years," said Butler, a sales representative for a leather company. Butler estimates that at least \$250,000 will be needed to restore the Flanders Callaway log house.

"My arrangement with Dr. Thomasson was if I couldn't physically or financially do (the restoration) myself, that I would find someone who could."

Spellmann says the new acquisitions will enhance the university's program to combine historic preservation with university-level studies.

The program, called the Center for the Study of American Culture and Values, will be based at

the Historic Daniel Boone Home and Boonesfield Village, which will remain open to tourists. Randall Andrae, former owner of the business, is the executive director of the Boone Home.

As far as land purchases near the home, Lindenwood will prevent "encroachment" by developers, said Spellmann, yet provide a place to reconstruct historic buildings, including several owned by the Boone Home that remain on private property. Purchases of additional historic sites are in the works, he added.

As Spellmann envisions it, "I'm trying to make this a total Renaissance project." Plans call for restoring the ecology around the Boone Home to the 1800s, and for two areas of historic preservation: early American (1800 to 1830s) and German-American (1840s to 1900s). Classes in science, music,

art, historic craftsmanship, ecology, archaeology, history and computer science will be centered around restoring buildings and other preservation efforts.

"I need volunteers and students to make this work," Spellmann said.

**"I'm trying to make this a total Renaissance project"**

Dennis Spellmann

ST LOUIS POST DISPATCH 21 APR 74

## **Saint-Named Cemetery Includes A Sinner**

St. Charles Borromeo Cemetery in St. Charles contains the graves of many early pioneers such as Baptiste Point de Sable and Francois Duquette.

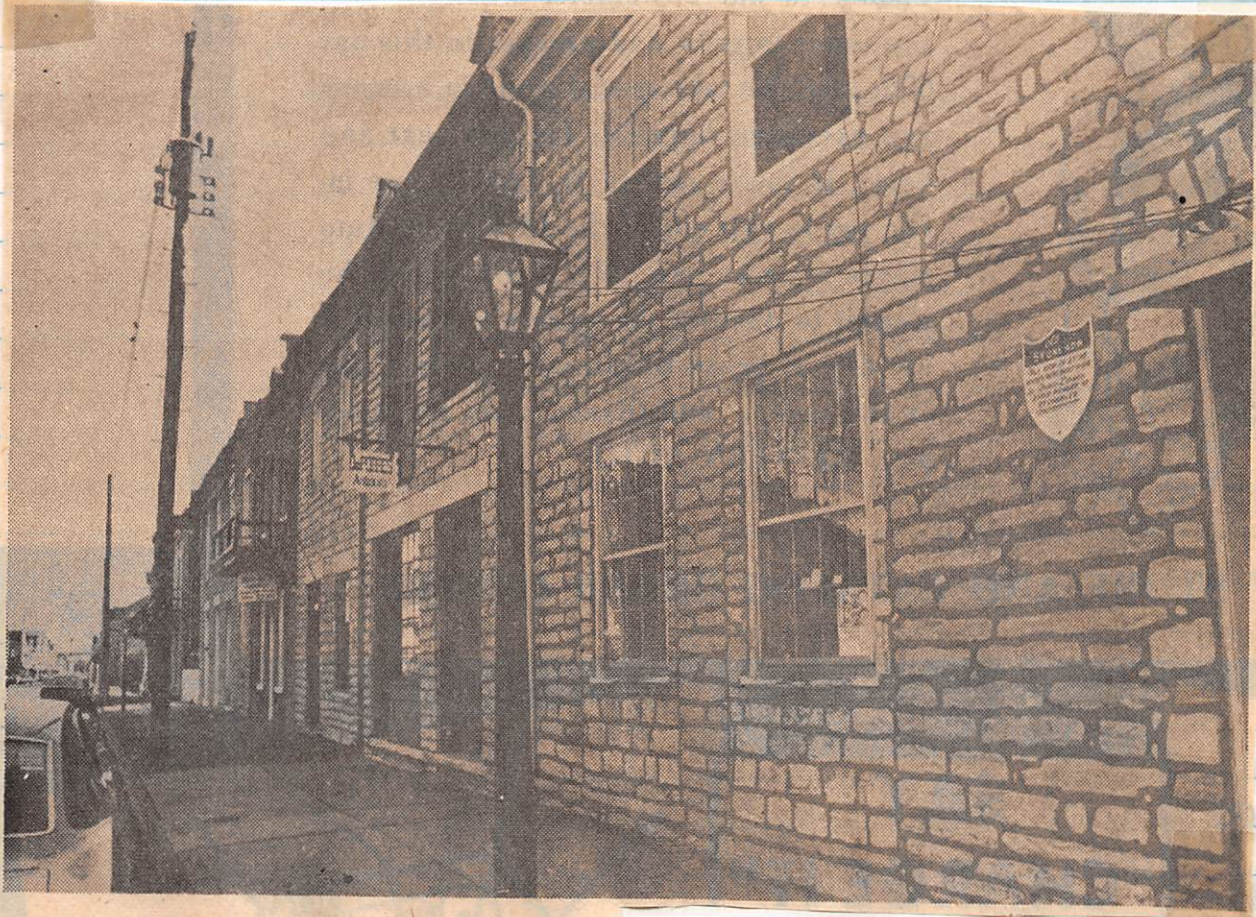
But the headstones also include those of Sir Walter Rice, no nobleman but a victim of his parents' belief that Sir was a pleasant first name, and of William Dugan.

Dugan liked to drink, despite his wife's ceaseless warnings that liquor would bring him to a bad end. She was right. In 1874, when under the influence of strong spirits, he was kicked to death by his mule.

Mrs. Dugan, unable to reach her late husband to say, "I told you so!" had the scene of the death-by-mule-kick carved on his gravestone, along with an account of the event as a moral lesson for future generations.



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**VISITORS** to the four-block historic district along South Main Street in St. Charles will have no trouble finding health food or fudge, 10 brands of snuff, an inlaid rifle or a miniskirt. For tired feet unaccustomed to cobblestone streets, the Missouri River and a city park are just a hobble away. The city plans to have a new pedestrian mall just north of the historic district completed in 1976.