



Treasuring the Past
Embracing the Present
Envisioning the Future

The Barry County
Museum
is located south of
Cassville
on Highway 112

HOURS
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Monday—Saturday
1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday

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BARRY COUNTY REFLECTIONS

A Quarterly Publication of the Barry County Museum

Volume III, Issue 4 November, 2010

Stunning tie quilt on display



Ties of Our Past quilt on loan from Sandy and Errol Dill

This quilt belongs to Sandy John Alexander (Alex) Dill. Sandy shared the following information about the quilt: In July of 2000 my father-in-

law, Elmer C. Dill of Belle Plaine, Kansas, had a massive stroke and spent the remaining 18 months of his life in a care home in Mulvane, Kansas.

When my husband Errol and I, along with a few other relatives, were cleaning out his home I discovered all of Elmer's ties in the trash. I couldn't stand to see them thrown out as he was a very dapper man and wore lovely ties. He had collected ties all his adult life. I felt like he was being thrown in the trash.

So I pulled his ties from the dumpster. Errol wasn't immediately sure this was a good idea. "What are you going to do with all those ties?" he wanted to know. I replied I would think of something.

I phoned a lady who had made a quilt for our family using material from dresses worn by Errol's mother and aunt. I told her I wanted another quilt, this time using Elmer's ties. I asked her to machine quilt it as I knew it would be very heavy. She was hesitant, as she had never made a tie quilt. I assured her we had great confidence in her and handed over many boxes of ties, which she stored in her barn in Holcomb, Kansas.

After quite a bit of time passed we became anxious, but about five years later she delivered the most magnificent quilt I've ever seen. Each tie tells a story for us. We love and cherish the quilt.

Fields' Featured Photo



Courtesy Fields' Photo Archives

For many, many years long time local businessman and veteran Santa Claus Ken Corn could be spotted frequently during the holiday season.

In addition to closing the Christmas parade, Santa could also be found at local businesses where children could make their requests, receive candy, and have their photos taken.

Here with Santa are Lucille and Kenneth Johnston, owners of Johnston's Hardware and Variety Store.

Shell Knob School—District 78 Poetry Nook



This “curtain” advertising many local businesses was used as a backdrop in many Shell Knob School Photos. This photograph was taken May 1, 1940. Courtesy Fields’ Photo Archives

The earliest record of Shell Knob School appears in the form of minutes recorded in September, 1871. The school, a log structure, was situated across the drive on the right side of the old Cupps Store and was completed for the December 1872 school term. By the end of the April, 1888 term the log building could no longer house all the

students. In the early 1900s a clapboard schoolhouse was built. It was just west of where the rock school now sits. By 1930 the “L” addition had been added. The school, a Job school, was for grades one through ten. The clapboard school, which had become a residence for the Lloyd Nicks family, was destroyed by fire

in the early 60s. The WPA assisted with building the rock schoolhouse in the 1930s. There were four rooms upstairs as well as a basement.

Shell Knob School is the only remaining Barry County school grades K-8 only. Students attend high school in either Blue Eye or Cassville.

The Shell Knob School is just one of 112 rural Barry County schools currently being researched by the Rural School Project. Fran Bolton and Penny Bailey meet Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. at the Barry County Museum.

If you have photographs, information, memories or anecdotes about any rural school, please contact them through the Barry County Museum (417) 847-1640 or jbuntin@barrycomuseum.org

Shell Knob Missouri
December 1955

There were two men, on the eighth of October,
Who rode into town looking very sober.
With their pants full of creases
Hitting up the farmers for gases and oil leases.
Spreadin’ it around about fabulous wealth
And untold - - - - - riches.
Shootin’ over derricks and “burstin’ the casin”
From wells drilled in the Shell Knob Basin.

They told me it was a shame to work and toil,
I should rent my land for gas and oil,
So leased to them for a little while,
I’ll soon be right and live in style.
Move to town and dress like sin,
When they bring that first well in.

Old man Ledgerwood is getting along fine,
Leased all his land in section nine.
He’s the wisest old prophet that ever was found,
For he knows they will punch a big hole in the ground.
Should you come down to look the oil field over,
You should come by to see Lizzie and Grover,
And when you come, if you happen to think,
Stop at “Pumpkin Center” and get yourself a drink.

When I get my money I can do as I please,
I will visit Mixon in Texas for some black eyed peas.
I can stall all summer and won’t have to pay board,
For I will sing him a song called “Sugar in the Gourd.”



Shell Knob School 1941-42 Front Row: Willa Dean Whisman, __, Norma Lee Cooper, Charles England, __, __, Shirley Whisman. Middle Row: H.L Kennedy, Wilma Jean Kimball, _ Schreiner, Lavon Dodson, Imogene Whisman, Kester Dodson. Back Row: Lucille Cooper, Willa Dean Painter, Doris Schreiner, _ Towler, Marsie Whitlock, Ruthie Stapleton, Vera Mae Whisman. Teacher Lela Wornington



By
G.C. Ledgerwood,
Age 70
Shell Knob Basin
Submitted by his
great-niece, Penny
Cooper Bailey

Volunteer Spotlight—Anne Taggart



Anne Taggart

Anne Taggart has been volunteering since April of 2010. Anne came on board to assist with Pioneer Days and New Harmonies, and has been active ever since. Anne has been a tremendous addition to the museum family serving in the gift shop, assisting museum patrons, and preparing delectable goodies for book signings and other special occasions.

Anne's husband, Gene, graduated high school from Southwest City in McDonald County and from Oklahoma Pharmacy College. Anne and Gene met in Springfield, Illinois, where they were both working. Gene's parents were still in Missouri and wanted him to come home, and they knew Wooten Drug was for sale. Gene always wanted his own store, so they purchased Wooten's and moved to Missouri. Anne shares, "I loved it! It's so different than Chicago where everybody is so busy. You don't make friends in Chicago like you do here. The people are

so much friendlier and there is such a fellowship. You don't hear that word in Chicago. The church became part of our life, a good part of our life. It's just really a family place. That's what I love about it. I go back to Illinois, but this is home now. The people were so gracious and kind to me. I was different and I really had the northern accent then *bad!* They just accepted me and they accepted Kathy. Anyway we just did it; we uprooted ourselves. We put it in God's hands and said, 'Here we come.' I never thought we made a mistake and I know Gene didn't either. I had never seen a hummingbird before. There weren't any hummingbirds in Chicago with all the concrete. I had never had milk gravy before! My brother said, 'That's hillbilly food.'"

Anne fondly refers to her husband as the farming pharmacist citing his love for farm life. But as a pharmacist he was always on call. Gene tried to manage the situation, like on a day off, Anne

says, "Say Memorial Day when the pharmacy was closed, he would try to have customers all come in at one time so he wouldn't have to drive back and forth; but if it was a night call he always went down, especially for children. Kids were just special. He was a good man. He was kind and sweet and he wasn't mercenary. It wasn't the money. It really wasn't."

Anne worked in the business office at the hospital here in Cassville for 20 years. When she started it was the Barry County Hospital, but was St. John's when she retired in 2007. "I have done everything," Anne says. "Because the hospital was so small we just wore every cap we could put on our heads. I admitted people, did collections, and did certifications."

The Taggarts owned and operated Taggart's Medicine Shop for 14 years. They also established the pharmacy in Shell Knob, which they ran for two years. Anne helped with the books, assisted Gene in the pharmacy, helped at the fountain and would go down to Shell Knob once a week and do their books.

In 1986 Gene and Anne sold the Cassville drugstore to Gene's nephew, Blake Whitley. Anne and Gene did a lot of motorcycling. From the east coast to the west coast, to the Grand Canyon, and down Highway 101 into California, which was their last trip. Gene passed away four years ago. Anne and Gene had 33 years together.

Anne remains active and has many hobbies and interests. "I read, I like to travel, I like yard work, I like to shop and I like to do volunteer work. I also volunteer at the church", says Anne. "I collect pencil boxes. They're wooden, and I have been told that they originated in Germany. They have little slots that you can hide your pencils in, and I think the really neat thing about them is that most of them I find the children have written on the back of them, their names. And

there are still old pencils in some of them. I have about 42 and none are duplicates. My friends have told me they think I have the last ones that can be found in Missouri. They are about eight inches long and they open up in different places. That's one of my favorite things to go shopping for."

When asked what drew her to the museum Anne replied, "I have been doing so much church volunteering and I wanted to meet different kinds of people. I've always been interested in museums. I lived in Chicago and we went to them all the time. I talked to (fellow volunteer) Fran Bolton and she told me what was going on here. I have to admit that I only made one trip here before I volunteered. I was really impressed with it. When the New Harmonies exhibit came, I knew I was where I was supposed to be." Anne shares, "I love the people; I love when the people get together and they start saying, 'Oh I knew him.' They talk about their ancestors and what this means to them."

Anne has a daughter, Kathy Henry in Cassville; a stepdaughter, Carla Buck and stepson, Keith Taggart in Oklahoma; and a stepson, Troy Taggart, in Texas. She also has two granddaughters, Hannah Bolton and Kelsey Henry, and two step-granddaughters, Casey Evans and Haley Buck. She is also proud great-grandmother to Casey's daughter Cayley and Hannah's son Cason.

Gene and Anne were both active at First Baptist Church in Cassville teaching youth and singles Sunday school classes. Anne continues to teach Sunday school, for 30 years now, and is currently teaching fourth grade girls.

The Volunteer Spotlight is a feature honoring the generous people assisting the Museum.

Volunteers' names were placed in a flower vase and will be selected randomly to spotlight.

Featured Recipe — Up Side Muffins



Effie (Erwin) Atwell

UP SIDE MUFFINS

from Effie (Erwin) Atwell

- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 12 slices of bacon
- Generous amount of jelly

Beat egg, add milk and rice, mix thoroughly, then add flour with salt and baking powder. Put one slice of bacon in each muffin pan and fill with batter. Bake 30 minutes. Turn upside down and cover with teaspoon of jelly.

Because the stoves were heated with wood there is no oven temperature included with this recipe.

Effie Marie (Erwin) Atwell was the daughter of Joshua Edward and Isabella (Bell) Asline Ledenham. She was born March 3, 1902 in the Washburn community on the Erwin homeplace near Washburn, Missouri. She died October 18, 1942. She was Glenn's aunt.

From time to time the landscape of Barry County has been changed dramatically by storms that pass our way. Rain, ice, and windstorms are not the only storms of life that bring about change. In 1834 a storm struck the Erwin family when Samuel A. Erwin died on the banks of

the Nolechucky River near Erwin, Tennessee. This untimely death left his wife Mercy (Tilson) Erwin with six children ages 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, and 14 at home, and in addition she was four months pregnant.

Mercy shouldered the responsibility of caring for the family of four sons and three daughters. As the children grew, she moved the family first to Virginia and then to Barry County, Missouri, settling near the communities of Truelove and Wayne.

Just as the duties of life seemed to ease and Mercy replaced the duties of motherhood (when the last of her children was married) with the joy of being a grandmother another storm raged through our area. The outbreak of the Civil War brought the family into the conflict. All four of the boys, William Stuart, Joshua Edward, George Washington Carver, and Samuel Alexander Stuart enlisted in the Confederate Army. All four of the Erwin boys fought and survived the battle of Elk Horn Tavern (Pea Ridge) but only three of the boys were alive at the close of the War. (See story page 5.) But what an impact these four boys had on the population of Barry County. The four Erwin boys had thirty-six children.



G.W.C. and Harriet Erwin

This article focuses on the family line of Mercy's third son, G.W.C. Erwin, who married Harriet Ash from Benton County Arkansas. G.W.C. and Harriet were active in community events. You could always find G.W.C. at the Old Soldiers and Settlers Reunion each year swapping stories and reliving his younger years. Harriett was the first president of the Maplewood Cemetery Association when it was organized on May 21, 1905. G.W.C. and Harriett are buried on the front row.

Joshua Edward Erwin (Josh) was the 7th child of G.W.C. and Harriett. Josh married Belle Ledenham on January 28, 1900. Belle was the granddaughter of Joseph Freeborn Rowley (Judge) who was a colorful personality, but that is another story entirely. Josh and Belle only had three children, but the house was always filled with neighbors, music and the smell of delicious food. Josh was a fiddle player and could play any tune



Josh and Belle Erwin

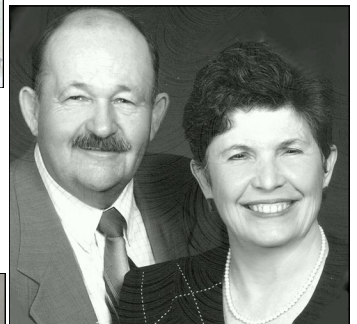
he heard hummed, whistled, or sung one time. Belle was a fantastic cook. The recipe included is from Belle's daughter.



Leon and Loraine Erwin

Leon Edward Erwin was the youngest child of Josh and Belle. Leon married Wanda Loraine Long on November 15, 1942. Leon always bragged that he was in the top ten of the graduating class of 1932. There were only seven in his class. Leon and his brother Ethyl operated one of the first school buses of the Washburn School. It was a one-seated buggy pulled by a horse named Fred. Leon and Loraine served actively in Barry County especially as the pastor of Calvary Baptist, Rock Springs Baptist, and Washburn First Baptist Churches.

Glenn Edward Erwin is the youngest child of Leon and Loraine. Glenn married Barbara Snow on June 25, 1967. Barbara has told everyone who would listen that the only reason Glenn married her was that she was the only girl in the county he was not kin to. Barbara's family moved to Barry County when she was in high school. Glenn and Barbara spent 30 years in Texas City, Texas before returning to the family farm in Barry County. Glenn and Barbara have been serving as pastor of Washburn First



Glenn and Barbara Erwin Baptist Church since 2000. Barbara is a published writer and award winning artist, is very active in Barry County history, and is currently compiling information for a book on the history of the Keetsville/Washburn area.

Recipe and information provided by Glenn and Barbara Erwin.

I was born in Barry County—Story by Philip Erwin

A good day at the Museum can be turned into a great day when a new artifact or information is brought in to be shared.

The following is taken from a handwritten document created by Philip Erwin and was shared by Linda Erwin Langton.

I was born in Barry County, Missouri, Cassville was the county seat, October 5, 1861. My mother's maiden name was Katherine Myers, and she was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Indiana, and from there to Missouri. She lived on the Wabash River at one time and spoke of it time and time again. She was of Pennsylvania-Dutch parentage and could not speak a word of English until she was eleven years old.

Philip Myres was my grandfather, and he lived with us in Missouri after the War and came to California with us.

Samuel Alexander Erwin was my father's name and he was born in Tennessee. (Dad thinks on the Wabash River.)

Grandfather was an officer in the War of 1812 and had his sword. He cut off the end so we children would not hurt ourselves and later we used it to cut corn.

I was two years old when my father went to fight with the South. My only remembrance of my father was when he came

home on furlough and I was about three years old. He came to see my brother. He went out the back door as the Federal soldiers came in the front door. There was a big orchard in the back of the house and he escaped into it. He was six foot or over. He had three brothers: George, Bill and Joshua. He was the youngest in the family. Our farm was eight miles from Cassville and was 200 acres. We raised corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes, but there was not a market for anything. Sometimes we sold butter in town; eggs were 5¢ to 8¢ a dozen.

We had a log cabin with an immense fireplace at one end where we could put a four-foot log eighteen-inches through for a back log. It would last a week.

During the War we lived with Grandfather. He had a big board house, two stories, with two big fireplaces in the living room. This is where I remember seeing my father. I stood by the fireplace and watched my grandfather being threatened by the Federal soldiers. They threatened to shoot him if he didn't give up his money. And he said, "Shoot if you will, but I fought for you before you could dirty a chip." Grandfather didn't have any money, but my mother had a dollar or two in 5¢ and 10¢ pieces and she got that to give them so they would go away.

While they were counting it in front of the fireplace they dropped a 10¢ piece and the little Indian boy my grandfather was raising saw it fall. After they left he got it.

Grandfather's place was in the edge of Washburn's Prairie. Only a small part had timber. Our place was all timber. We put our corn under the sorghum waste to hide it from the Federal soldiers and that is the way we managed to live one winter.

The barn on Grandfather's place was something to see. It was 50' wide, 200' long and had huge beams portioned off for oats, wheat, etc. Along the outside of the barn was sheds to keep the youngmules in the winter.

My father and grandfather were partners. They had 50 broodmares and raised mules to sell in the South. When the mules were four years old my father took them to the South to sell. When I was nine years old my mother gave me my father's pocket book. It had promissory notes which added up to \$5,000 all written in red ink in my father's handwriting.

My father came [home] especially to see my younger brother, Sam, who had been born after he went to War. He was only home a few hours before he had to leave. My mother heard once from my father after leaving, and

he was sick in a hospital, but she never knew definitely what did happen. He never returned.

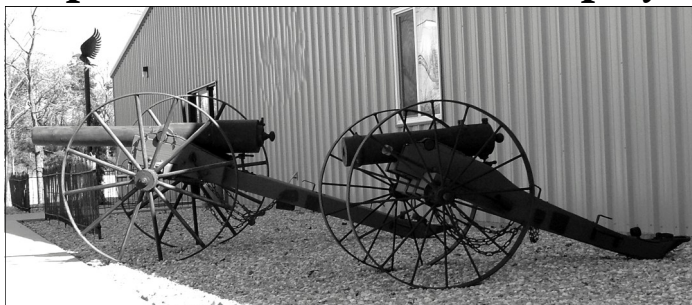
We had not had any cornmeal for a long time, so Mother put some to dry upstairs on the porch on the south side of the house. Some Federals saw it and drove their wagon close to the porch and one man fell while shoveling off the corn, hit the wagon wheel, and hurt himself so badly they had to take him away and so we saved some of the corn.

The barn was put together with pegs. No nails were used except on the roof, which had hand shaved oak shingles. They first split them 1/2" thick then commencing at the middle of the shingle they shaved them to a feather edge on both sides.

When I was about 12 my mother married a neighbor, Riley Smith Woodcock. About a year after this we moved to California. My stepfather came first and then sent for us.

The emigrant train had about 30 cars and the one we were in was about the middle of the train. It took us 11 days. There was a big coal heating stove in the center of the car and we were allowed to make coffee, fry eggs, and cook our meat on it. We would put two seats together to sleep on. Every so often the train would stop at places for 15 minutes to 1/2 hour.

Reproduced Cannons on Display



Reproduced 10 Lb. Parrott rifle, left, and 12 Lb. Howitzer, right, produced and loaned by Harold Henson.

Guns and howitzers are the weapons most people think about when Civil War artillery is

discussed. The Model 1841 12-pounder was the standard field howitzer used in the Civil War.

Because of its higher trajectory at which it was typically fired, it could fire a shell over 1,000 yards with less than one pound of powder.

Robert Parker Parrott was a famous U.S. inventor, West Point graduate, and ordnance officer. In 1836, Parrott resigned his rank of captain and went to work for the West Point Foundry at Cold Spring, New York. This foundry was a civilian operated business and Parrott, as a superintendent, was able to dedicate some 40 years perfecting a rifled cannon and a companion projectile.

The 10-pounder Parrott was patented in 1861 and the 20- and 30-pounder guns followed in 1861. By the end of the conflict the Parrott gun was being used extensively in both armies.

Mr. Henson was involved in Civil War reenactments. Although he was in the cavalry, Henson says, "I liked the guns better." He has been reproducing these guns, to actual scale, since 1972.

While the guns Henson creates are manufactured to actually fire, the barrels of the models on display at the museum have been spiked for safety.

Postage

The Barry County Museum

- Collecting, preserving and exhibiting items that illustrate the past, present and future of Barry County.
- Fields' Photo Archives - a collection of more than one million negatives available for public viewing and researching.
- Oral History Project - capturing the stories of long-time county residents to create a collective memory of Barry County life.
- Display space for community art exhibits and collections.

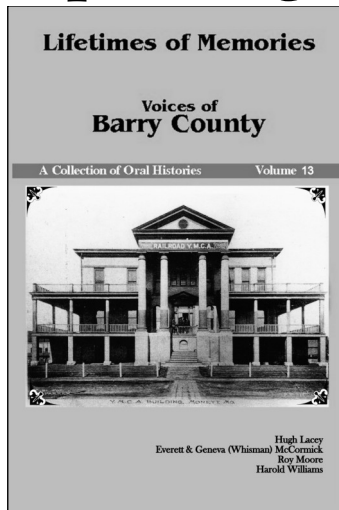
Would like to receive Barry County Reflections? Become a museum member!

Lifetime Benefactor	\$1000
Annual Sustaining Gold	\$ 500
Annual Sustaining Silver	\$ 250
Annual Sustaining Bronze	\$ 100
Annual Patron	\$ 50
Annual Family	\$ 20
Annual Senior (60+)	\$ 10

Members Receive

- 10% discount in museum gift shop
- Exclusive invitations to special events
- Subscription to Barry County Reflections

Upcoming events specials and plans



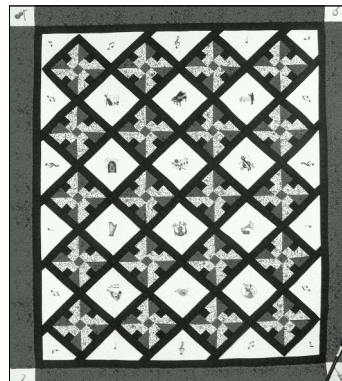
A book signing for *Lifetimes of Memories, Voices of Barry County Volume 13* is scheduled for Friday, December 3 from 3 to 6 P.M.

Latest narrators featured are Hugh Lacey, Everett and Geneva (Whisman) McCormick, Roy Moore, and Harold Williams.

Narrators and family will be in attendance, and light refreshments will be served.

Currently offered on the *Lifetimes* series is a buy three get one free special. This is a great opportunity to complete your collection.

In addition to the book



signing, the drawing for the *Notes of Harmony* quilt will be held. It's not too late for you to win! Visit or call the museum gift shop to purchase tick-



ets.

Tickets are also being sold for a **Sho-Me**® camo rechargeable light available in standard or pink camouflage. Drawing for the light will be held December 17.

Our display coordinators have been working on their Christmas lists. Needed for future displays are mannequins, late 1800 to mid 1900 hats—men's and women's, and antique or old jewelry—broaches, cameos, hat pins, bolo ties, etc.



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