

BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY



HOWARD COUNTY PREPARES FOR WAR

KIT CARSON'S DAUGHTER COMES EAST

HONORING BASEBALL GREAT JOHN DONALDSON

VOL. 19 No. 3 — FALL 2020

BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL

Editor's Page

War Clouds, Kit Carson's Daughter and a Baseball Great

THE STUDY OF HISTORY is full of interesting nuggets – a small item or piece, often something abstract such as knowledge or information that is regarded as very precious. Journalist and historian Jim Steele's recounting of life in the Boonslick area more than eight decades ago, "Howard County Prepares for War" (page 4), offers many of these interesting historical footnotes on life in the Boonslick in the years leading up to World War II.

For example: The Charlie Armstead Orchestra was one of the popular swing bands in the late 1930s and early '40s that mid-Missourians danced to. The band was started by Armstead when he was a student at Central in the 1930s and went on to perform all across the country. Sometimes, Central College (now CMU) music students played with the band when it was in the area. One of these was Andrew Jackson Higgins (1921-2011), Class of '43, who went on to also earn a law degree from Washington University and become a Missouri Supreme Court associate justice in 1979, serving as chief justice from 1985-87.

Other little-known facts of Boonslick history include that famed mountain man and scout Kit Carson lived in Franklin as a youth and later sent his daughter, Adaline, back to Fayette from the frontier West to be educated. Rocheport historian and writer Timothy Carson, a seventh cousin to Kit, tells us the story (page 10).

And that Glasgow was the birthplace and home of a young African American who went on to become one of the greatest pitchers in the history of Negro Leagues baseball—some baseball authorities proclaim that John Donaldson (1891–1970) was the "greatest left-handed pitcher, black or white" in the history of the game. Glasgow proudly honored Donaldson September 4 with the dedication of a bronze statue of him and a new ball field (page 12).

Future BHS Meetings on Hold Due to COVID-19

Members of the BHS Board have decided to not hold an annual meeting and banquet this fall because of the continuing health concerns raised by the coronavirus epidemic, COVID-19. Decisions about holding membership meetings and events (normally three a year) in 2021 will be made after periodic assessment of the threats posed by COVID-19 as the new year unrolls. We sincerely hope that, as the possibility of widely available effective vaccines increases, we will have an opportunity next year to resume membership gatherings at places of historical interest in the Boonslick.

BHS Board Nominations

The two-year terms for five BHS board members are up for renewal, effective January 2021. The five are Brett Rogers of Boonville, Sue Day of Pilot Grove, Larry Harrington



of Fayette, Cathy Thogmorton of Fayette, and Jacqueline Schaller of New Franklin. Schaller is leaving the board, and Sue Thompson of New Franklin has been nominated to replace her. All have indicated their willingness to serve for two years.

Thompson and her husband, Kerry, have lived in New Franklin for the past 50 years and have three grown sons. She graduated from Pilot Grove High School and has an associate degree from Kemper Military School and bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Missouri. She worked for 35 years in elementary and gifted education, in Pilot Grove and Boonville, before retiring in 2015.

"I have always been fascinated with history and our area is rich in history," Thompson says and adds, "I belong to the South Howard Historical Society in New Franklin and enjoy working in the museum and finding out more about our local history."

Ten board members are the maximum allowed. Other board members whose terms end in December 2021 are: Jim Steele of Fayette, president; Sam Jewett of Boonville, treasurer; Carolyn Collings of Columbia, secretary; Don Cullimore of Fayette; and Mike Dickey of Arrow Rock

Board membership is open to all members. Anyone wishing to nominate someone for consideration as a board candidate should contact BHS President Jim Steele at 660-537-0484 or jsteele@woodcreekmedia.com. A brief bio of the candidate being nominated should be provided to Jim.

Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly Online Temporarily

Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly has been placed online for the foreseeable future. This is being done in consideration of potential health problems related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic currently sweeping the United States.

We will return the magazine to a hard copy version when the epidemic ceases to be a public health problem. Until then, copies of future issues may be seen online at the BHS website: www.boonslickhistoricalsociety.edu. Use the "Quarterly Journal" tab to access all issues published since 2012. You can download any issue to your computer and print it out.—*The Editor*

—Don B. Cullimore

Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly is published four times a year by the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

We encourage our members and others interested in history to contribute articles or other information of historical interest, including family histories, pertaining to the region. Please address all contributions and correspondence related to the periodical to the editor, Don B. Cullimore, 1 Lawrence Dr., Fayette, MO 65248, or email to: Don.cullimore40@gmail.com, phone: 660-888-3429. Editorial guidelines may be obtained from the editor. Publication deadlines are February 1 for the March (Spring) issue; May 1 for the June (Summer) issue; August 1 for the September (Fall) issue; and November 1 for the (Winter) December issue.

The Boonslick Historical Society was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy programs about historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Members of the Society have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. They supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hanna Cole's Fort and have restored a George Caleb Bingham painting on loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette.

Membership dues are \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50-Sponsor, \$250-Patron, \$500-Life. The dues year is January through December. Receive our publication, *Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly*, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

Officers and Board Members 2020

- Jim Steele, Fayette, President
- Brett Rogers, Boonville, Vice President
- Sam Jewett, Boonville, Treasurer
- Carolyn Collings, Columbia, Secretary
- Don Cullimore, Fayette
- Sue Day, Pilot Grove
- Mike Dickey, Arrow Rock
- Larry Harrington, Fayette
- Jacqueline Schaller, New Franklin
- Cathy Thogmorton, Fayette

Editorial Staff

- Don B. Cullimore, Editor
- Cathy Thogmorton, Graphic Designer

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Top, the new state-of-the-art John Donelson ball field by the Glasgow High School. Left, cover of one of the many Dime Novels that made Kit Carson famous. Above, the Howard Hotel, which was located on the southwest corner of the Fayette Courthouse Square, circa 1940.

Cover Photo:The Howard County Courthouse as it appeared in 1940.The photo was used to create a postcard sold in local shops. The car in front is a 1939 or '40 Ford. Image courtesy of Jim Steele

Howard County Prepares for War

By Jim Steele — September 2020

Images courtesy of the author

OBSERVANCES AROUND THE NATION THIS YEAR have marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Older persons living in the Boonslick are among those who may have paused to recall those historic celebrations in 1945 which signaled the coming of peace. But much had taken place in the years leading up to that historic date, and so now we'll attempt a backward glance to focus on that period preceding the war and how those years impacted persons living in Howard County.

The coming of World War II didn't happen overnight. By the late 1930s, those living in this county, like others across the nation, hoped we could stay out of wars raging in Europe and Asia. Nonetheless there was a growing realization this might not be possible.

By utilizing two years of files from the *Democrat-Leader* and the *Fayette Advertiser* we hope to provide some sense and flavor of what was happening in this area as the nation hovered on what would turn out to be the seminal event of the 20th century.

First, let's turn the clock back to a time more than 80 years ago.

Depression Beginning to Ease

With the growing rearming of U.S. forces, the Great Depression was finally beginning to ease. Americans were earning more and buying more, thus fueling the economy. But outside this country the world situation was not good at all as Germany invaded Poland, followed by France and the lowlands. This meant that most of Western Europe ultimately was controlled by Germany and Italy, except for England.

For most of us, around the nation and in Howard County, life was still relatively normal and the good feeling of leaving the Depression behind had fueled the making of some great movies including *Gone With the Wind* and the *Great Dictator*; among others. Jazz and big band sounds were the popular music of the day — from the likes of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Count Basie and the local Charlie Armstead band, amongst others. Nylon stockings, invented in 1938, were all the rage with women. FDR was elected for an unprecedented third term, and in homes across the country radio was king.

In spite of these diversions, Americans locally and elsewhere were beginning to believe they should help Britain in its fight for survival against Germany. The first peacetime draft occurred in

September 1940 and this had ominous overtones for the future. Beginning on September 7 that year, Britain was being bombed incessantly (the "Blitz"¹ by the Luftwaffe and many believed it would only be a matter of time before America would be involved.

Economic conditions were better than at any time since 1929. A worker in the new defense factories springing up could earn up to \$1,250 per year, the equivalent of about \$23,000 today. Typical prices were \$3,920 for a new house, with the average annual wage being approximately \$1,700 and the average cost of a gallon of gas around 11 cents. The average cost to rent a house was around \$30 a month. A new car would run about \$850 for a Chevrolet or Ford, and a flashlight battery at Dimmitt's Department Store at Main and West Davis in Fayette might run 10 cents. A new Hoover vacuum cleaner would cost about \$50, and so it goes.

Growing Crisis in Europe & The Pacific

But truly significant news was the growing crisis in Europe and the Pacific. Tensions had been escalating throughout the 1930s, and intensified with the Munich crisis² of 1938, followed by the formal outbreak of war in September 1939 as Germany invaded in Poland.

Already, the *Fayette Advertiser* and *Democrat-Leader* were devoting a full column on the left-hand front page of each issue reporting news of the world, especially war developments. It probably would be a safe bet to say that, as the new decade opened, most Howard County residents were still clinging to isolationism. But as news unfolded during the next two years, it was clear that most folks here and elsewhere had to face the reality that sooner or later we'd need to get into the fray.

Daily newspapers from St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia kept readers abreast of the latest developments — as did radio reports from Missouri stations affiliated the NBC Red, NBC Blue, and CBS networks — including KMOX and KSD in St. Louis, WDAF in Kansas City, and KFRU in Columbia.

Although the Fayette papers were carrying the world news summary as noted, the early months of 1940 would find the twice-a-week

front page news largely devoted to homegrown concerns. January 1940 was cold and bitter, with record low temperatures. Local weather observer Irving Schnell, the local florist, reported one reading that month of 16 degrees below zero. It was said to have



The Charlie Armstead Orchestra was a popular swing band in Central Missouri. Created in 1935 by Armstead, a Central College graduate. Band members were often Central College music students, such as Andrew Jackson Higgins who became Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court.

been the coldest month in many years.

Fayette still was host to a CCC camp (Civilian Conservation Corps), but already several of the boys in the local CCC organization were going into St. Louis for a final health-check before enlisting in the U.S. Navy or Army. And because of the severe weather, anti-pneumonia shots were administered to a number of those in the CCC camp as the Army worked to check the effectiveness of the new vaccine.

Citizens Take Note of World Affairs

As the year progressed, there were indications Fayette citizens were taking note of world affairs. The Soviet Union – then still aligned with Germany – had invaded Finland and contributions of aid for that stricken country were being solicited under the chairmanship of L. W. Jacobs Jr. of the Commercial Trust Company. Later in the month, Howard Countians danced to the music of Charlie Armstead's Orchestra in the Fayette Armory as they gathered on FDR's birthday for the annual President's Birthday Ball — this to raise funds in the fight against infantile paralysis. (The Armory was located on the second floor of the Opera House at Main and Morrison; the building now owned by Rick and Shelby Alexander and awaiting future development.)

Up on the hill at Central College (now Central Methodist University), war news often was a topic of discussion. For example, during a chapel service in March, a visiting rabbi encouraged students to embrace tolerance, calling for unity without uniformity. That same spring the Fayette newspapers bragged a bit after taking delivery of a brand new Linotype machine.³ And the county judges — what we now know as county commissioners — announced the hiring of a new county health nurse. At about the same time, the CCC camp – located at the approximate site of what later was the National Garment Company on Elm Street in Fayette – celebrated the seventh anniversary of that New Deal organization, noting that the camp here had nearly 200 men working on various conservation projects around the area.

On a lighter note, Fayette Theater manager Irvin Tucker announced that *Gone With the Wind* would show from April 10th to 13th. (Later in 1960 the theater was renamed The Grand and eventually was demolished in 1992 for bank expansion.)

Two projects were often part of front page news during the year of 1940—the possibility of securing a new armory (which never happened) and soliciting funds for a local factory. There ultimately was some success with the latter project when a clothing manufacturer set up shop in the armory building at Main and Morrison.

Many Patterns of Life Same as Today

Clearly, many of the same patterns of life we experience today were in evidence. In late March, the paper noted the mass exodus of faculty and students as Central College paused for spring vacation. In going through newspapers from those years, some rather sad themes emerge nearly on every page – unexpected and untimely deaths, in addition to farm and industrial accidents, and horrific automobile accidents – many involving fatalities. (As someone once noted, the best thing about the “good old days” is a bad memory.)

A good percentage of the four or five deaths reported in nearly every issue involved people whom we'd consider relatively young today. Many of these were unexpected heart attacks which now likely would be prevented. While many citizens, then and now, were highly critical of governmental regulations, the fact is that many of the automobile, farm and factory accidents would have not happened (or would have been less severe) had there been modern government-imposed safety standards.

Back to the news of 1940. As spring arrived, there were additional indications that Howard County was taking note of the need for national defense measures. Contributions were being sought for the Red Cross War Relief Fund and word came that Fayette physician William J. Shaw Sr., M.D., a major in the Army reserves, had been named to head the military affairs committee of the Missouri Medical Society. On a lighter note, the same Dr. Shaw makes news in another way. In a Fayette Advertiser survey, he was voted the city's best dressed man for 1940 - followed (in order) by druggist J. Leon Ross, Dr. W. A. Bloom, shoe store owner Robert Ricketts, Central Professor K. P. Stevens, Howard Bruner, undertaker Guy Halley, banker L. W. Jacobs Jr., J. R. Denny, and Raymond Sands. Central College Dean E. P. Puckett was listed as a runner-up.

As the year progressed, FDR recommended bolstering defense by calling

for production of 50,000 planes while at the same time air hero Charles Lindbergh claimed that defense preparations were hysteria and that air defense of the Americas would be easy.

Company M Drills in Minnesota

Closer to home, Brig. Gen. Lewis Means of Fayette, commanding general of the Missouri National Guard, called on employers here and elsewhere to accommodate members of the local Company M as they prepared for a three-week summer encampment at Camp Ripley in Minnesota. In Fayette, the subject of a new armory again was in the news as the county court, the city council, and the chamber of commerce endorsed trying to raise \$10,000 locally toward an anticipated cost of \$60,000, with the



The Fayette Theatre, located on the east side of the Courthouse Square, later became the Grand Theatre. The space was eventually incorporated into the Commercial Trust Company Bank.



KEY PLAYERS IN THE COMMUNITY (L-R from top): banker L. W. Jacobs Jr., Brig. Gen. Lewis Means, Lt. Col. B. I. Lawrence, Central College band director Keith K. Anderson, Dr. William Bloom, businessman R. M. Bagby, Central College Dean E. P. Puckett, and Dr. William Shaw Sr.

remainder to (hopefully) come from state and federal sources.

Most likely little of this was on the minds of Fayette High School seniors as plans moved forward for the annual FHS commencement May 23, with 46 students slated to graduate. Nonetheless news of defense preparations continued to find its way onto the pages of the Fayette papers. Combined National Guard units from Howard, Cooper, and Boone Counties took part in a tri-county war games demonstration, staged in Fayette before the Reserve Officers Association of Columbia. At about the same time, Fayette's Dr. William Shaw was named national surgeon of the U.S. Reserve Officers Association.

In other 1940 developments, Fayette got some good news from preliminary results of the U.S. census. Even though in many rural areas there had been some reverse migration during the Depression, Fayette lost only 31 persons between 1930 and 1940 — with the population continuing near the 2,600 mark. (Keep in mind that, in those days, the college and the CCC camp were not counted — and also that many more persons were living in the countryside and doing their shopping in Fayette.)⁴

As the year wore on, additional ideas emerged concerning a new armory — with Central College even offering to provide a lot on Mulberry Street at no charge, while the chamber of commerce called for locating the facility in the city park.

Women Join Defense Effort

The community's women also began to take note of the stepped-up defense effort as the local chapter of the American Association of University Women pledged to work with the national organization in war relief work for those left homeless and destitute by the conflict raging in Europe.

As spring moved into summer, FDR — to no one's surprise — accepted a third-term draft in light of the world situation, and demanded that delegates to the national Democratic Convention in Chicago accept Henry Wallace as his running mate.

More to the point locally, when August rolled around, nearly 80 men from Company M here departed for three weeks of maneuvers in Minnesota. A special train carrying guardsmen from neighboring towns rolled into Fayette at 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning, and it was announced that Company M would be made into a heavy artillery unit. Newspaper accounts noted that it was still too early to know how FDR's request to Congress for a one-year mobilization of the National Guard would impact soldiers from Howard County. As the men arrived in Minnesota, some good news came with announcement that Fayette's top-ranking military officer, Maj. B. I. Lawrence, had been promoted to lieutenant colonel. As the summer of 1940 began to fade into memory, Central College had its own "army" as Prof. K. K. Anderson's annual band camp opened on the lot next to the observatory, with young musicians from some 20 surrounding towns slated to take part.

Politics also was in the news as both Democratic candidates for Senate — Gov. Lloyd Stark and incumbent Harry Truman — squared-off in the primary, with the Fayette papers appearing to favor Stark. Ultimately, Truman won by a slim majority and of course the rest is history.

Various articles and photos told of Company M's experience in Minnesota and several men echo Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's observation that "War is Hell." Even though the train bringing the men back from Fayette was eight hours late, a crowd greeted them at the station, located at the end of South Main Street. The men marched up the street to the square and were dismissed.

Newspaper articles noted that additional recruits were needed.

First Peacetime Draft Approved

Meanwhile in Washington, by a slim vote, Congress approved the nation's first peacetime draft with all men between 21 and 38 required to register with Selective Service. Locally, legendary Central College Dean E. P. Puckett wrote local congressman suggesting that provisions be made for military training in colleges, noting that this could be undertaken without interfering with regular college work. Also at Central, Coach C. A. Clingenpeel, another legendary figure, stated the college's football fortunes in 1940 could depend on the fate of Company M.

But not all news that fall was war-related. The 1940 crop of freshmen descended on the Central campus and the annual Fall Festival on the square was judged a huge success. Also that fall, the city council proposed a \$25,000 bond issue to finance a new water works which ultimately received voter approval in November, with contracts let shortly afterward and work beginning early in 1941.

Lt. Col. B. I. Lawrence now was the commanding officer of the Missouri National Guard's 138th infantry and was assigned to Fort Benning in Georgia — and ultimately to Camp Robinson just outside Little Rock, Arkansas.

Other local developments included launching a free-lunch program to serve Black students at Fayette's Lincoln School. Meanwhile, it was announced that registration for the draft would be Oct. 16, with the county clerk directing registration to take place at the usual polling places throughout the county. The governor ordered schools closed on that date.

Nearly 1,300 Sign Up For Draft

Ultimately, the total number who sign up in Howard County is 1,273 and at about the same time it was announced that Miss Viola Brown had been named chief clerk of the local draft board, with Fayette attorney R. M. Bagby selected as local appeals agent. When the first draft drawing takes place in October, Ronnie Lee Rugg of Boonesboro was the first Howard County name to be drawn.

In other news, word was received that a contract had been let by the REA for 40 additional miles of rural electric lines in the amount of about \$25,000, but soon REA expansion would be on hold because of defense priorities.

Other developments that fall included the notorious Central

College-Missouri Valley incident at Marshall, an intercollegiate fight which in some quarters was described as a riot. The melee caused cancellation of the Missouri Valley-Central College Homecoming contest in Fayette and brought strained relations between the two schools for several years to come. The newspapers offered, without comment, two versions of the incident — one from the *Central Collegian* and another from the *Marshall Democrat-News*.

Thanksgiving plans also were in the news. FDR's idea of having the holiday a week earlier was being observed here (as it was in 1939), but the change was widely unpopular and later Congress passed legislation returning the holiday to the traditional date — i.e., the last Thursday of the month.

Word also was received that the Missouri Selective Service board was calling for volunteers to serve one year in the military,

noting that young men between 18 and 21 could do so as long as they had their parents' permission. Meanwhile, the county's quota for midyear 1941 was set at 169 men.

On a happier note in fall 1940, a huge late-October celebration took place in New Franklin as the new M-K-T Highway 5 viaduct was opened. Less-happy news came a few weeks later when the Katy New Franklin depot burned to the ground.

Company M Activated

War news again moved to the forefront in December as it was announced that Company M here would be activated. Except for

those who lived in Fayette, men would live and eat in the armory building until being shipped out to Camp Robinson in Arkansas. Men were permitted to be home for Christmas. Preparations were described by the men as "strenuous but enjoyable."

The departure date was announced for January 4, 1941, and as the men departed, there was a brief ceremony and every man was given gifts of candy and cigarettes from the chamber of commerce. At the same time, names were released to the paper telling of men who were being drafted under the new law. The first of 437 Missourians to be called into military service included two from Howard County, the paper reports.

As war got ever nearer, Lt. Col. B. I. Lawrence resigned from the Fayette city council and his teaching duties in Central's education department were taken over by his wife. The first issue of 1941 noted that Howard County's first volunteer for military training through the local draft board, Homer Cook Unior, was back in town for a visit with his parents. He was stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas and said the food was good and that the officers were not as "hard boiled" as some had reported.



COMPANY M, under the command of Lt. Col. B. I. Lawrence, was located in the old opera house on the southeast corner of the Courthouse Square, which served as a temporary armory.

Meanwhile Tom Tatum Ketchen, who had undergone training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Chicago, now was assigned to the battleship New York, berthed in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Howard Countians Eye 1941 Cars

But for most folks locally, life was still pretty much the usual routine as some of the glimmers of prosperity continued to emerge after the Great Depression. General Motors' number-one car was the Chevrolet, and Fayette's Omar Foly Chevrolet thanked customers for a great year in 1940, as sales of the popular 1941 Chevrolet



1941 Chevrolet two-door coupe, with 85 HP, 6-cylinder engine with 216.5 cubic inch displacement.

Google Images

were exceptionally strong.

As noted, the draft was passed by a narrow margin in October 1940 as FDR, joined by Secretary of War Henry Stimson, pulled out the first name from a large fishbowl. In Fayette, there were increasing references to work of the local draft board. An article in the first Fayette Advertiser of 1941 reported that Sheriff Korman Ashcraft, who had been defeated in his bid for re-election in 1940, intended to stay on as a member of the draft board.

At Poole & Creber — one of nearly a dozen groceries in Fayette — tomatoes in a number-two can were selling for 5 cents, and a 4-pound container of lard was a quarter. Meanwhile, the *Democrat-Leader* was advertising high-quality printing at a fair price. In the following issue, a rare (for the time) photo montage depicted Company M marching, getting vaccinations, and taking meals in the armory on the southeast corner of Main and Morrison. During the Saturday morning departure from the courthouse lawn, the Fayette Chamber of Commerce sponsored a major send-off event, complete with special treats and gifts. Also in the news, the population of Howard County now was just over 13,000, the census confirms. (current population is 10,001)

Meanwhile, the *Democrat-Leader* received notice from the Missouri State Highway Department that construction would get under way in 1942 on badly-needed improvements on Highway 5 - running north from Fayette and then proceeding to Glasgow. The project was to include "cutting the road through" from Spring Street on past the current high school location and then connecting with Church Street. (At that time northbound vehicles turned

on Morrison and proceeded to join Church Street at the square and continued to the triangle near the city park.) We know now that the war and other factors prevented this from happening until around 1949.

War Clouds Continue to Gather

War clouds continued to gather and in mid-January 1941, the Army called for 3,200 conscripts from Missouri. The aura of military discipline even appeared to enter the already highly-disciplined workings of "Anderson's Army," better known as the Central Band, under direction of the legendary Prof. K. K. Anderson. Any unfortunate musician who chanced upon a "blue-note" (a note played slightly flat) would be required to wear a lyre around his or her neck until it could be passed on to some other unfortunate performer who had offended the ears of the perfectionist director.

As life continued into the winter, Dr. William Shaw Sr. — who later would see distinguished military service in the Pacific — announced that he did not expect a flu epidemic at Central College. And to make sure that college students, at least those over age 21 were well-served, Earnest and Charles McMillan announced they again were actively engaged in the management of McMillan's Cafe — with the best of short orders, sandwiches and regular meals.

To fast-forward to later in January, photos depicted daily life at Camp Robinson in Arkansas as Howard County soldiers in Company M dug ditches and made furniture as they adapted to Army life. Meanwhile, aforementioned Fayette physician, W. J. Shaw Sr., prepared for induction into the regular army, departing to Fort Leavenworth in Kansas to get his physical and then on to duty at Camp Warren in the state of Washington where he would be a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Before leaving, Dr. Shaw stepped-down as examining physician for the Howard County Selective Service Board and recommended his colleague, Dr. W. A. Bloom, to take his place.

Like others around the nation, Howard County residents were keenly eying the 1941 automobiles — mindful that likely there would be no more new cars to be had if the nation was dragged into war. Lewis Collier's Fayette Body & Paint Works on South Main advertised the new Nash which claimed it would save \$1.50 to \$2.00 on every tankful of gas. And while no one had a crystal ball at the time, folks who bought a Nash, or an equally gas-stingy Studebaker, would come to appreciate their wise purchase when gas rationing became reality.

War news continued to seep into the newspaper pages as the situation became increasingly grave in 1941. Most observers by now realized that the U.S. probably could not keep out of the conflict, but for many there was still hope. In February 1941, about 40 men from the local CCC camp were sent to defense units and, in hindsight, it was only a matter of time before the nation's venerable CCC program became history in Howard County and elsewhere.

Manpower Shortages Emerge

Fortunately, work was under way on the new Fayette water plant in time to be completed before war needs made it impossible to continue with civilian projects. Already, manpower shortages were beginning to develop and a March 1941 news article noted that representatives from the Missouri State Employment Service would be in Boonville to register skilled and semi-skilled workers

for defense work.

In Fayette, the Defense Savings Committee — acting on a request from the Treasury Department — erected a small “Victory House” building on the courthouse lawn to display patriotic posters, in addition to handing out literature and selling defense bonds (later known as war bonds). Also, the draft board was notified of the formation of a nine-county medical advisory board to conduct advance physical examinations in Mid-Missouri. In some cases this would help registrants know whether or not they would pass the final physical exam when inducted.

Sadly, the county’s first casualty was noted when word was received that Navy ensign William R. Fleece was killed in a plane crash off the island of Oahu, Hawaii, in April 1941. News articles also told of continued plans to improve Highway 5, and the city council made it clear they didn’t want the new roadway going through the city park. They got their way, but the war prevented any work from being carried out until 1949 when the highway, as noted earlier, was “cut through” in the configuration we know today.

Later in April 1941, defense bonds and postal savings stamps went on sale at the Fayette Post Office. Draft news continued to be part of most every issue of the paper, with local officials asked to be lenient on farmers who needed to get their crops in the field. By mid-May, nearly 11,000 men had been drafted in Missouri and another big draft call was anticipated for June. FDR called for a second draft call-up on July 1, and as Central College prepared to award about 60 degrees in late spring, President Roosevelt declared the country is in a full emergency. Later on July 1, fully 52 Howard County men — those who had turned 21 since the original draft call-up the previous October — were registered. The army was expected to soon call-up a goodly number of the new registrants. Activity also geared up here on the home-front as Howard County housewives were asked to pony-up scrap aluminum.



Original Draft Act Extended

Later in July, FDR asked Congress to extend the original one-year period of active service for those who were called up in October 1940. Congress gave the OK, but only by a one-vote margin and now the length of time in the service of men who were drafted would be extended by a period of 18 months or more. Locally, more bureaucracy was put in place to coordinate manpower needs. J. Lewis Schnell was named to head the new Agriculture Defense Board in Howard County.

In August, Fayette’s water filtration plant went on line and Henry Brown was named as superintendent of the new facility. A short time later, the state gave its formal approval of the water works. As war clouds drew near, Gen. Lewis Means and Lt. Col. B.I. Lawrence were shown conferring with high ranking military officials during war games at Prescott, Ark.

Back home in Fayette, word was received that citizens could now purchase war defense stamps at local stores around the

square. As might be expected, local Boy Scouts began to collect waste paper for the war effort. Some people suggested that Howard County should do more, including Dean E. P. Puckett who asserted that, to-date, little had been done here for the defense effort. Not long afterward, a Howard County Defense Council was named, with Puckett serving as secretary and J. R. Rowland as president. Women also became active. The Howard County Women’s Home Guard provided a complete set of furniture for a Company M’s club-room at Camp Robinson.

War Comes as Pearl Harbor Attacked

Finally the day comes that stunned the nation when Japanese naval and air forces attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. The following day, declarations of war came against Japan, Germany and Italy. All military leaves and furloughs of men in the 35th division (of which Company M was a part) were canceled. A full 8-column banner headline, a rarity in Fayette newspaper layout in those days, brought word of the attack.

News also noted that many people from Howard County were in harm’s way in the Pacific War Zone. Local Red Cross quotas were raised and officials called on residents to buy war bonds and stamps. Soon, small “V” for Victory symbols appeared at the end of every news story in the Fayette paper.

The early news was grim and indeed. Howard County — along with the rest of the nation — would be at war for the next 3½ years.

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NOTES

1. “The Bombing of London” and “London Blitz” was a German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 and 1941, during the Second World War. The term was first used by the British press and is the German word for “lightning.” The Germans conducted mass air attacks against industrial targets, towns, and cities, beginning with raids on London towards the end of the Battle of Britain in 1940 (a battle for daylight air superiority between the *Luftwaffe* and the Royal Air Force over the United Kingdom). By September 1940, the *Luftwaffe* had lost the Battle of Britain and the German air fleets (*Luftflotten*) were ordered to attack London, to draw RAF Fighter Command into a battle of annihilation. Adolf Hitler and *Reichsmarschall* Hermann Göring, commander-in-chief of the *Luftwaffe*, ordered the new policy on 6 September 1940. From 7 September 1940, London was systematically bombed by the *Luftwaffe* for 56 of the following 57 days and nights. (Sources for this information include Wikipedia)
2. The Munich Agreement or Munich Betrayal was an agreement concluded at Munich on September 30, 1938, by Nazi Germany, the United Kingdom, the French Third Republic, and the Kingdom of Italy. It provided “cession to Germany of the Sudeten German territory” of Czechoslovakia.
3. The Linotype machine was a “line casting” machine used in printing sold by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company and related companies. It was a hot metal typesetting system that cast blocks of metal type for individual uses.
4. The CMU census is now included in the current count every 10 years. College students who live away from home are counted at the on- or off-campus residence where they live and sleep most of the time, even if they are at home on April 1, 2020. This includes students who are home early because of the COVID-19 situation. Foreign students living and attending school in the United States are counted at the on- or off-campus residence where they live and sleep most of the time.

Go East, Young Woman!

How Kit Carson's Daughter of the West was Raised in Missouri

By Timothy L. Carson

WHEN I GREW UP, I INTERNALIZED at least one aspect of the American frontier mythology, namely that everything flowed westward. While a flood of westward movement indeed took place in the 19th century, that was not the only direction of travel along the Boone's Lick Road or great western trails. The Missouri "transcontinental road" was a two-way corridor.

Long before Americans headed west for exploration, commerce or settlement, the Missouri territory was a multi-directional through-way for the Native Americans, Spanish-Mexican, French, and English. Their travel plans often took them back and forth, east and west, for commerce, education, ecclesial mission, military maneuvers and governmental communication. Americans also moved east and west by trail and river.

In some cases, the trip east had to do with providing for children, especially for their educations. And that is part of the answer to the question: Why would Kit Carson bring a five-year old daughter all the way back from the west to grow up in Missouri?

Carson's Early Life

Because Kit Carson was not literate (though he spoke French, Spanish and several Indian dialects), nothing of his personal writing survives him. His dictated autobiography is sparse, the result of a plainspoken man who relied on an economy of words. This, however, left much unsaid about his wives and children.

Kit Carson was born in 1809 in Madison County, Kentucky. His parents and family moved from Kentucky to Franklin, Missouri, in 1810. After his father, Leslie, was tragically killed in 1818 when a tree fell on him as they cleared land, Kit inherited a new step-father. This did not go well. As a solution, his mother set up an apprenticeship with a saddle maker in Franklin, David Workman. However well-intentioned was that arrangement, it would not work for Kit for long. By 1826 he had escaped to the western trails, working as hunter, cook and trapper. By 1829 he was working the far west in the fur trade.

This way of life included a common practice of mountain men of the time, partnering with native wives. These relationships were not only the source of companionship, but also practical; native wives helped with the furs and acted as interpreters, guides and bridges between cultures. And the children of these

unions became the physical embodiment of the complex cross-cultural tapestry of 19th-century America.

Kit most likely connected with his Arapaho wife, *Waa-nibe* (Singing Grass), when he attended the Green River Rendezvous in 1835. He was 25 years old at the time. During their several years together, they had two daughters. Sadly, *Waa-nibe* died in 1839 of an unknown cause, the source of no little conjecture. Carson's second wife was most probably the result of convenience; the Cheyenne woman, *Making out Road*, cared for his children while he was gone trapping in the mountains. It was a short-lived arrangement and upon returning from one of his trips he found his possessions outside her tipi, the sure sign that it was over. That precipitated a crisis for Carson in regard to his two children.

The youngest daughter was born in 1839 and her name is unknown. She was left in Taos with Charles Bent and his family. But Carson had other plans for his eldest daughter, Adaline (*Prairie Flower*, if one is to accept this as the English translation of her original Arapaho name), who was born sometime in 1837.

Though wealthy and elite families in the west often chose to send their children back east to St. Louis for their educations, that was not Kit's motive. He was neither wealthy nor a part of the elite. In 1842, just a few years after *Waa-nibe's* death, Kit joined a merchant caravan led by Charles Bent heading back to Missouri. He brought Adaline in order to place her with extended family. They would provide the security, family oversight and education that he could not. By 1843 Carson was married to his third, younger and final wife, Maria Josefa Jaramillo, a sister-in-law by marriage to Charles Bent. It was with Josefa that Kit had the remainder of this children and built his life in Taos.

In her earliest years of life Adaline had grown up with her mountain man father and Arapaho mother in an exclusively native and frontier culture. Moving to Missouri, the land and culture of her Father's childhood, was absolutely foreign to her. Arrangements for Adaline were first made with Kit's younger sister, Mary Anne Carson Rubey, but her last home was found on the farm of Leander and Elizabeth Amick.¹ Elizabeth

was one of Kit's nieces, the daughter of his sister Elizabeth Carson Cooper. The Amick farm is located on the rolling farm land of present-day Route E between Fayette and Glasgow.² The location of Adaline's education has been widely debated. It is likely she



Kit Carson portrait, 1847 woodcut. Courtesy of the author. Artist unknown.

attended the Rock Springs School near the Amick farm.³ Other sources mention later attendance at the Howard High School in Fayette.⁴

Carson visited his daughter on at least two occasions, a year apart in 1847 and 1848. He was travelling back and forth from New Mexico to Washington, D.C. The Amick family history includes stories of these visits, recounting the way Kit brought gifts to the Amicks because they would take no monetary support for their trouble.

One of those gifts was a hand-made mahogany rocking chair which the daughter of Leander and Elizabeth Amick, Mrs. L. P. Slaughter of Kansas City, later inherited. The recollections of Mrs. Slaughter not only included the rocking chair. She also remembered that Adaline was dark complexed with dark eyes and hair. She recalled that Adaline attend the Rock Springs School, that Kit visited their home when Adaline was with them, removed Adaline from the Amick home during his second visit when Adaline was 11 years old, and place her in High School in Fayette.⁵ That sequence of starting at the Rock Springs School, completing eight years, and then moving to either Glasgow or Fayette for High School, was a fairly typical one.⁶

In 1851, Carson moved Adaline back to Taos. She was about 15 years old. She married a considerably older man, Louis W. Simmons, when she was 17. Simmons was connected with the Bents and Carsons in Taos. When Kit and Missouri relatives conducted a sheep drive to California in 1853, Adaline and Lewis went along. She eventually parted ways with Simmons and took up with a man by the name of George Stilts. She and George engaged in gold prospecting at Mono Diggings in 1858-59. She remained in California until she died near Mono Lake in 1860.⁷ In fact, her final resting place may be seen from the Mono Inn itself.⁸

Adaline Returns to the West

Though Adaline travelled east as a young girl and lived among Kit's Missouri family, she would not stay there. Like her father, she would be on the move. From the Amick's farm she would move to be near her father in Taos. And then, tagging along with Kit again, she would head even farther west, to California.

It would be tempting to say that Adaline was unique in this regard, but that would be an exaggeration. It is more accurate to say that Adaline was emblematic of the times. As so many others in the tumultuous era of 19th-century America, she crossed many boundaries. She not only moved geographically from west to east and east to west. Her sense of "family" and "home" shifted often. She moved across many cultures and that experience included native American tribes, white mountain people, French trappers, settled frontier people, Missouri farmers, Mexicans, Mestizos, and Californian speculators.

Though she only lived into her early twenties, Adaline lived in and between all these spaces and places. If ever there was a multicultural world, it was the one Adaline inhabited. Like her father, we do not have her story in her own hand. Like many other women of the day, we do not hear her story in her own voice. What we do have is a story of Adaline that is so partial and so complex that it defies any simple, two-dimensional portrayal.

Timothy L. Carson lives on the gamma trace of the Boone's Lick Road in Rocheport, Missouri, just a short drive from the original Kit Carson

homestead near Franklin. Carson is a seventh cousin of Kit Carson.

SOURCES

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Sides, Hampton. *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West* (Anchor Books, 2006)

Simmons, Marc. *Kit Carson & His Three Wives: A Family History* (University of New Mexico Press, 2003)

Quaife, Milo Milton. *Kit Carson's Autobiography* (University of Nebraska Press, 1967)

NOTES

1 Leander Amick was born in 1807 in Randolph County, North Carolina, married to Elizabeth Cooper of the Boonslick in 1834, died Dec 8, 1880 and is buried in the Concord Cemetery at Speed and Bunceton, Missouri. Their children included Lucy Jane Amick, Wesley Compton Amick and Elizabeth Amick.

2. According to the Howard County Government Land Patents Office of the County Clerk, Howard County Courthouse in Fayette, Missouri, Leander Amick patented land in Howard County on October 23, 1840, at the Northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of the section 14 T50 R17.

3. According to "School Days," published by the Howard County Home-maker Extension Clubs in 1984, the Rock Springs School was originally located nine miles west of Fayette, just southwest of the present-day intersection of Route E and Route HH. Just three miles west of the Amick Farm, the school was in the northeast quarter of section 11, T50, R17.

4. According to Jennifer Parsons, Archivist at the Library of Central Methodist University in Fayette, the first school, the one Adaline would have attended, was the Howard High School. Since 1823, there had been some sort of private school on the northeast corner of Spring and Main. In 1844, Howard High School was transferred to the Methodist Church as a coed school and was later segregated into male and female colleges in 1857, the Howard-Payne Colleges, clearly after Adaline's time. Those two colleges existed side by side until they merged again in the 1920s, becoming Central College (later Methodist College, then in 2004, Central Methodist University). In addition, no known records or photos of the earliest school which Adaline would have attended have survived. According to the Registrar of CMU, there are also no surviving lists of enrolled students during that time.

5. Sabin, Edwin Legrand. *Kit Carson Days (1809—1868), Volumes 1 & 2: Adventures in the Path of Empire* (A.C. McClurg & Company, 1914; Revised 1995)

6. Daugherty, Nancy. Rock Springs School District 55: M and M Extension Club (1955)

7. Mono County Historical Society, Bridgeport, California: "Adaline Carson Stilts. Born 1839 and died at Mono Diggings in 1860. Buried near the site of the town of Monoville on the shores of Mono Lake on property owned by the Wilson family and now is owned by Wallis McPherson of Mono Inn. Grave is well defined and location exact with the diary of Kit Carson. Her name in Indian language was Prairie Flower. Four Balm of Gilead trees, Cottonwoods, were planted at each corner of the plot and some are still alive. Adaline came to this site with the Wilson family and Married a boy whose name was Stilts and he worked for the Wilson family. 'The grave is to be cared for by the Boy Scouts.'"

8. McPherson, Wallis R. "Resting Place of Kit Carson's Daughter can be seen from Inn," in *Mono Inn News* (Mono Lake, Mono County Calif.)

Negro League Baseball Player John Donaldson Honored

A Life and a Sports Career that began More than a Century Ago

THE SMALL, MISSOURI RIVER COMMUNITY of Glasgow was beaming with pride Friday, September 4, as a large group comprised of baseball historians and enthusiasts, local folks, news media representatives, and politicians gathered to dedicate a bronze statue and new state-of-the-art softball and baseball field honoring a native son who some called “the greatest pitcher of his era” and others proclaimed “the greatest left-handed pitcher, black or white, who ever lived.”

He was John Wesley Donaldson, born February 20, 1891, in Glasgow, and died in virtual obscurity April 14, 1970, in Chicago. Members of his extended family, some still living in Missouri were present for the dedication. His fame and athletic prowess as a baseball pitcher in pre-Negro league and Negro league baseball in a career that lasted more than thirty years was largely unknown until resurrected by a baseball enthusiast from Minnesota by the name of Pete Gorton, who also was present for the special occasion.

Gorton created the “Donaldson Network” in 2005 with the goal of digging up records of as many of Donaldson's games as possible. To do that, the network contacted newspapers around the country to search their records for mentions of Donaldson's games. Since its creation, the network has compiled 7,854 news articles about his career.

Early years

Donaldson's early career was spent in and around his hometown of Glasgow. He played for the Missouri Black Tigers of nearby Higbee, in 1908, and subsequently for the Hannaca Blues, an all-black contingent from Glasgow during the 1909–1910 seasons.

During his long career he played for many different Negro league and semi-professional teams, including the All Nations team and the Kansas City Monarchs. He was among the founders of the Monarchs and is credited with coming up with its name. It was the Negro Leagues team that was a training ground for the Hall of Famers Ernie Banks, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson and other great players.

Statistics

Researchers so far have discovered 667 games in which Donaldson is known to have pitched. Out of those games, Donaldson had more

than 400 wins and 5,081 strikeouts as a baseball pitcher. Researchers have also documented most of his career, which stretched from 1908 to 1940. Published totals from local newspaper accounts covering his long career provide a glimpse at his prowess on the diamond. Newspaper coverage of Donaldson games reveal 413 wins and 161 losses and a winning percentage of .737. He also notched 5,081 strikeouts, an ERA of 1.37, and 86 shutouts against all levels of competition. He completed 296 of 322 starts (92%).

Donaldson can be credited with 14 no-hitters, a perfect game, and dozens of one-hitters. He also has two 30 strikeout games, 11 games with more than 25 strikeouts (including two back-to-back 25 strikeout games), 30 games with more than 20 strikeouts, 109 games with more than 15 strikeouts, and a total of 203 double digit strikeout games. Donaldson could also hit well, batting .334 in over 1,800 at bats.

After Donaldson's playing years ended, he became one of the first Black scouts for Major League Baseball, working for the Chicago White Sox, where he spotted talents like the young Willie Mays (though the White Sox didn't sign him). He mentored many players on and off the field, including Robinson. Although Donaldson spent his final years as a night-time postal worker; characteristically he spent his days teaching baseball to children in Chicago's parks system.

Baseball Hall of Fame Candidate

An earlier effort to elect him to the National Baseball Hall of Fame failed when a panel of historians

considered experts on the Negro Leagues declined to select him in 2006. At the time, many of his career numbers were still not known. No explanation was given. But Donaldson may have another chance to be recognized in December, when the Hall's Early Baseball Era Committee meets to consider a roster of players, managers, umpires and executives whose greatest contributions to baseball took place before 1950.

Any candidate whose name appears on at least 75 percent of the ballots will be inducted next year into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, joining 35 other Negro League players. The 10 candidates will be announced this fall. — *Don Cullimore*

