

July 2016

Celebrating our 48th year serving the public

MUSEUM MESSENGER

Published by the William Clark Market House Museum... founded in 1968 for the dual purpose of education and preservation, and still serving the community with pride today.



Happy Birthday, America!



SEE PAGE FOUR FOR THE STORY BEHIND UNCLE SAM

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Celebrate the Fourth, but you'd better not break that law...

Everyone celebrates the Fourth of July...it's the American thing to do. Picnics, barbeques, ice cream suppers and fireworks all testify to that. But just in case your party might get a little out of hand, be reminded of some of the City Ordinances of 1902, many of which are still on the books!

1. It was unlawful for any woman to enter in any manner, bars or saloons, or places of business that sold intoxicating liquors. (It's easy to see what gender came up with this law. Of course, a man didn't want to be followed into the bar by his stressed, careworn spouse. That would be a wet blanket on the party, for sure!)
2. It was unlawful for any

person, firm or corporation to rent, lease, or let to any person, any building, house, or room as a bawdy house or to be used as a place of prostitution or assignation.

3. Flying kites from a city street was prohibited, as was driving or riding any horse, mule, or ox on any street in any gait faster than an ordinary trot or pace (No speeding!)
4. It was unlawful to ride a velocipede (those unwieldy large wheeled bicycles) on the sidewalk, and was against the law to throw stones or flip pebbles in the streets.
5. It was unlawful for any person in the daytime to

take off his clothes and expose his person and go into the river in front of the City of Paducah, or make any indecent exposure of his person elsewhere in the City. (It didn't say anything about indecent exposure at night, though!)

6. It was against the law for any person to allow their goat to go about or run upon any of the streets, alleys, or un-enclosed lots of the City.
7. It was unlawful to make offensive noises in the presence of ladies or to accost an unwilling female. (Which makes one wonder, how would a man know if she was willing or not, unless he accosted her?)

Clarence 'Big House' Gaines remembered by Paducahans

Clarence E. Gaines, known fondly as 'Big House,' was the head coach of Winston-Salem State University from 1946 to 1993. He was called the 'winningest college basketball coach in history,' with 828 victories to his credit!

Gaines was born in Paducah on May 21, 1924. He attended

Morgan State University on a football scholarship after having experienced a successful academic career in high school.

All of 6 feet 5 inches tall and 265 pounds as a freshman, Gaines earned his nickname from the team manager. It became his trade name for the rest of his life.

Gaines made All-American twice as a football player. He later was named NCAA Coach of the Year. Few people ever remembered he had received a college degree in chemistry.

Gaines died in 2005, at the age of 81, after suffering a stroke. Touching eulogies were a testament to his athletic spirit.

The wit and wisdom of President Harry Truman

Here are some little known selected tidbits from the life of President Harry Truman.

Buzzing the White House: The DC-4 that used to fly Truman about the country was nicknamed the *Sacred Cow*. "Do you suppose we could buzz the White House like a jet fighter? I've always wanted to do that," Truman said to the pilot.

"Someone's going to catch hell, but if you allow me to tell them you told me to do it, I'll be glad to do it," said the pilot, Hank Myers.

"I've got broad shoulders," Truman smiled, "go ahead."

They did, dropping from 4000 feet to 500 feet, and rattled the windows of the venerable old mansion. When the huge plane roared over a sec-

ond time, Bess and Margaret were up on the roof, jumping up and down and waving wildly at the plane. Harry was smiling back at them, his face pressed against a small window, even though they couldn't see him, and laughed back.

Just Whistle: In a famous news photo, a young Lauren Bacall lounged with a come-hither look on top of a piano being played by Harry Truman. (He was playing when she hopped up there on a dare.) The photo made all the major papers. The president looked sheepishly over his shoulder in the snapshot. When asked what Bess said when she saw the picture, Truman replied, "She said she thought it was time for me to quit playing the piano."

No Manure: In one story that

made the Washington rounds, a woman pleaded with Bess to clean up her husband's language. He'd recently called someone's comment "a bunch of horse manure." The First Lady was said to have smiled when she heard this a commented, "You don't know how many years it took to tone down to that." Harry had been a farmer for many years and knew manure when he saw it, she said.

On President Eisenhower: After Harry left office, his White House successor seemed reluctant to engage Truman in conversation. When asked by friends why he didn't stop by the White House when in town, Truman said, "Eisenhower's too busy to see every Tom, Dick and Harry that comes along."



A Mark of Honor

During the storm known as Hurricane Isabelle, in 2003, the ABC evening news reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer. Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting winds, they affirmed that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, but the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson.

'Firsts in Paducah'... a backward glance at yesteryear

Here are a few items worthy of note...so have fun while sharing some of these fascinating trivia facts with our visitors!

First brick house was built in 1826 on Water Street

First general store opened in 1826, on the northeast corner of 1st and Broadway

First private school was formed by Professor Robert Ball, at 1st and Ky Avenue, in 1829

First election was held in 1831 in which Francis O. Harrington received the most votes, and was named chairman of the Board of Trustees of Paducah

First Board of Health was formed in 1833, and consisted of Dr Samuel Withers and Dr Joseph Morrell

First church organized was

Broadway Methodist, in 1834

First Theatre was built by Captain John Betts between 1st and 2nd Street, in 1834

First firefighting equipment was purchased in 1835 and consisted of four fire hooks and two ladders

First Market House was built in 1836 on the present 1905 Market House site

First floating showboat, called the 'Floating Pavilion' was owned by Mr. R. Letton in 1837

First hospital was constructed in 1849, and was the Marine Hospital, which Paducah's Fort Anderson was later built around

First mayor elected was Mayor Jesse Gardner, in 1856

First public school was begun in 1864, with four teachers and

350 students

First graduating class had four scholars with commencement exercises held in 1874

First telephone belonged to R C Terrell and was installed in 1880

First automobile was owned by Dr J D Robertson, bought in 1901

First motorized firetruck was purchased second hand by the city in 1920 (and is the 1913 model LaFrance on display at the Market House Museum)

First radio station began broadcasting in 1922 when WIAR went on the air

First airplane was owned by Paducahan Charles Iseman, bought in 1927

Did you know that during one open house in 2008, over 1200 visitors toured the facility on one day?

The White House and our Kentucky Governor responded to our invitations. We were thrilled!

Great books will pass many a happy hour

If you like to read in your spare time, here are several books you might want to sample. Shop in our gift shop!

Monarch: The Life and Reign of Elizabeth II by Robert Lacey is a wonderful book; it describes the coming of age of the Queen, background upon her family life and an insight into the relationships between family members, not the least of which was the association with the late Princess of Wales. The book covers the early life of the Queen, the abdication of her uncle David (Edward VIII) whose abdication paved the way for

her father to inherit the throne, and her own subsequent crowning years later. Elizabeth grew into the role she today occupies. This is a superb insight into how and why the royal households operate as they do. The book illustrates the warmth of the Queen, not always seen by the public.

Winning Words: Quotations to Uplift, Inspire, Motivate, and Delight by Allen Klein is a great little edition which will add pep to your step and understanding of the things most of us have to deal with on a daily basis. A sense of humor is the surest

way to deal with growing old, and coping with life's trials. See if this book doesn't make your day in more ways than one!

Dearest Friend: A Life of Abigail Adams by Lynne Withey is a lively, sensible, and forthright look at the wife of John Adams. It offers an illuminating glimpse of a very patriotic and dedicated American, who was her husband's support through every trial. While raising children on both sides of the Atlantic, she was indeed a lively helpmeet. The book also illustrates the hard life of a New Englander in a very turbulent time.

A backward glance...

Daily Paducah News, January 4, 1873

Mayor Weil informs us that "several cases of small-pox have been developed in the city during the past few days, all, so far, among the colored population. He has promptly established sanitary measures, placed all affected houses in quarantine, and fitted up pest-houses for the accommodation of those who have no homes."

Hash Brown Potato Casserole hits the spot

What a delicious side course to any meal! This recipe is as good as it gets. Try it and see if you don't agree! It is wonderful alongside a simple main course such as meatloaf or equally special as an accompaniment for steak. And it is even scrumptious on the second day, heated in the microwave!

Ingredients:

32 oz frozen hash browns, crumbled	1 small onion, diced	
1 8 oz carton sour cream	1/2 cup celery, chopped	
1 can cream of chicken or cream of celery soup	1 to 2 cups grated Velveeta or cheddar cheese	
1 stick margarine	1 to 2 cups Ritz cracker crumbs (or corn flakes)	
1 tsp salt	1 teaspoon pepper	

Directions:

Melt 1/4 stick margarine in skillet. Saute onions and celery until tender. Mix with remaining ingredients (except cracker crumbs). Place in 9 x 13 greased casserole dish. Top with cracker crumbs (or corn flakes.) Dot with rest of the butter. Bake at 350 till done.



Those music making Wurlitzers

When you visit the museum, you may hear wonderful music in the background that sounds very much like a great movie theatre of the 1920s or 1930s.

That is exactly what you are hearing!! The museum was fortunate in receiving some recordings from a friend, John Shanahan of Harrisburg, Illinois. The mighty Wurlitzer with five keyboards and full pedalboards can be heard quite often as

our visitors stroll through the museum reading the storyboards and looking at our wonderful artifacts and displays.

John knows his music and his organs: when in his twenties, he was hired to take them apart in the big movie houses and move them to other locations, sometimes in private homes of well to do people who could afford the huge instruments with all the pipes and the bells and

whistles. You had to have a lot of room to install one as well!

Later, Wurlitzer went into making colorful jukeboxes and they reached their heydays in the 1940s and 1950s. They were moneymakers for restaurants, soda shops, and other establishments, providing several plays for a nickel.

Thanks for sharing with us, John. We love the old theatre sound...and many others have commented as well.

The 'winning entrants' in the 1940 Strawberry Judging Contest included five different members of the Harris family.

Small wonder the most recognized of all the u-pick strawberry farms in West Kentucky were owned by them.

Yum, Yum!

Museum Messenger

PO Box 12
121 South Second Street
Paducah, Kentucky 42002

Phone: 270-443-7759 Museum
during business hours
Tues-Sat 10-4 CST unless posted otherwise
Closed major holiday weekends

Group or school tours during morning hours by
prearranged appointment, please.

Need to send an e-mail?
info@markethousemuseum.com

Want to learn a little more about Paducah
history? Visit our website! Lots of fun and
games, history and trivia will be found there!

www.markethousemuseum.com

*A real person was behind
the legend of 'Uncle Sam'*



Uncle Sam Wilson and his brother, Ebenezer were storekeepers in Troy, New York. They acquired contacts with the Army and during the War of 1812, supplied the troops with foodstuffs. Many of the soldiers were from New York, and knew the Wilson's. When big barrels of foodstuffs arrived for the troops, the mark "US" on the side of the crate might have stood for 'United States,' but the soldiers laughed and said it represented Uncle Sam, who was truly feeding the Army.

Unbelievable tombstone inscriptions

Read these and have a laugh or two. These headstones are proof that we might, or might not, have the last word. All are actual inscriptions on headstones found by a genealogist.

Thurmond, MD: Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up and nowhere to go.

East Dalhousie, Nova Scotia: Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102. Only the Good Die Young.

London, England: Here lies Ann Mann, who lived an old maid, but died an old Mann.

Ribbesford, England: (Anna Wallace) The children of Israel wanted bread, the Lord sent them Manna. Clark Wallace wanted a wife, and the devil sent him Anna.

Ruidoso, New Mexico: Here lies Johnny Yeast...pardon me for not rising.

Uniontown, PA: Here likes Jonathan Blake, stepped on the gas, not the brake.

England: (Sir John Strange) Here lies an honest lawyer, and that is Strange.

Wimbourne, England: (John Penny's epitaph) Reader, if cash thou art in want of any, dig 6 feet down and thou wilt find a Penny.

Vermont: (Anna Hopewell) Here lies the body of our Anna, done to death by a banana. It wasn't the fruit that laid her low, but the skin of the thing that made her go.

Nantucket, MA: Under the sod and under the trees, lies the body of Jonathan Pease. He is not here, there's only the pod. Pease shelled out and went to God.

Along the Oregon Trail: Remember, man, as you walk by, as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be. Remember this and follow me.

Tombstone, AZ: Here lies Lester Moore, four slugs in a 44, no Les, no more.

Hartscombe, England: On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune.

Albany, New York: (Harry Edsel Smith, born 1903, died 1942) Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on its way down. It was.

We are very appreciative of all the hard work our Board and staff have done and are doing on behalf of the Museum...isn't it wonderful that we are here and providing such a valued service to the community and its guests? It is my wish that we perform well, and that our mission statement is carried on, for many decades into the future. Here would be my slogan (but not our epitaph) , **"Gave their best... and excelled the rest."** Let's keep us the high standard!

—Penny Baucum Fields

Slogans seen on tee-shirts and bumper stickers make us think

Note to Self: Just because it pops in my head does not mean it needs to come out of my mouth.

When I was a kid I wanted to be older. This is definitely not what I expected.

I'm so busy I don't know whether I found a rope or lost my horse.

Prayer...the world's greatest wireless connection.

I keep throwing buckets of water on my mother in law, but she doesn't melt.

I have stopped listening, so why are you still talking?

The only thing we have to fear is

fear itself....and spiders.

Some people are like clouds, once they disappear, it's a beautiful day.

Inside every old person is a younger person wondering what the heck happened.

God answers his 'Knee Mail'.

