

# MUSEUM MESSENGER



## Enjoy Spring!

The Market House Museum will celebrate its 49th year of service to the community in June.

It is hard to believe next year will mark our 50th anniversary of opening our doors to the public in 1968.

(We were organized in 1963, and collected artifacts for five years before opening for admissions.)

*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.*

## Back door traders made life a little easier

Sometimes, peddlers would be widely scorned, but in small rural towns, where folks lived a little way out from town, they could be a lifesaver, and after a few years, became a trusted part of frontier life.

In frontier America, where towns could be 'a far piece off', the peddler served a valued place in everyday life. Every couple of months, he would come around and see if the homeowner had need of his wares, which could vary from grocery staples, to tinware, housewares to kettles, furniture, bolts of cloth, thread, tools, spices, and the like. It made life a little easier not to have to wait to go into town and get what one needed to get the job done.

Most of the early peddlers hailed from New England, particularly Connecticut, where many of their products were manufactured. In the first three decades of the 1800s, at least half the men in Hartford are thought to have tried peddling door to door. It was, after all, a job that required no apprenticeship and little investment. When European immigrants began pouring into the country at mid century, many turned to peddling for similar reasons.

Often travelling on foot with a 60 pound bag slung over their backs, these strong legged merchants trudged into the most distant settlements, selling their wares. Since customers did not always have ready cash, they often bartered or traded for

what they needed. Later, horse or mule drawn wagons made the peddlers work easier and enabled them to carry other items they couldn't carry but that were needed by the settlers.

By 1860, the ranks of peddlers had swollen to around 17,000 nationwide. They were known to carry news to the towns that they visited, and were known for their quick wit and the occasional shady deal. But they always brightened the day of the pioneers when they arrived, and were often invited to share a meal with the farmer's family.

Today's easy transportation has made it easier to shop, and easier to obtain goods.

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## New items have arrived in Museum's gift shop

Have you looked in the Museum's gift shop lately?

Past Times Gift Shop now features hand quilted aprons made by Graves County Amish ladies. Each apron has a quilted bodice in various designs, nine patch, pinwheel, courthouse steps, etc.....with matching

pockets and apron stings. Each apron comes complete with a wooden spoon and an Amish recipe. They have proven to be very popular during the recent quilt week.

Also new in stock are several pet related items, cat mugs, dog puzzles and scarves, and

more!

Our new calico handbags, called Gadabouts, are unique and one of a kind, with cute details and trim.....with no two being alike. They are 20% off during May!

Check it out!

## Civil War trivia quiz can be a real eye opener

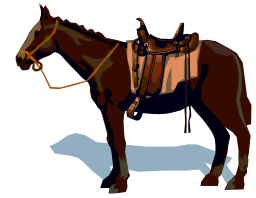
Civil War history can be fun! See how well you score on this multiple choice quiz. Answers are found at the end of the quiz.

- This photographer was one of the Civil War's best, even though his eyesight was extremely poor. **A) Matthew Brady, B) Thomas Nast, or C) William Overton.**
- This man was the first democrat to be made a Brigadier General by Abraham Lincoln. **A) George B. McClelland, B) Benjamin Butler, or C) Ambrose Burnside.**
- Alexander Gardner took a famous last photograph on April 10, 1865. Who was the subject? **A) Robert E. Lee, B) Abraham Lincoln, or C) William Tecumseh Sherman.**
- Who was known as the 'Little Giant' during a series of pre Civil War debates? **A) Stephen Douglas, B) Booker T Washington, or C) President Jefferson Davis.**
- What was the name of the favorite horse of Robert E. Lee? **A) Old Baldy, B) Traveller, or C) Boomerang.**
- Why were Confederate cavalrymen allowed to keep their horses after the surrender at Appomattox? **A) so they could ride home, B) so they could plant spring crops once home, or C) so they could sell them and begin again afresh.**
- An old bluegrass song was written about "My Darling Nellie Gray." Who was Nellie Gray? **A) the mare belonging to Major General Fitzhugh Lee, numbered among the dead at Opequon, B) a sweetheart of a soldier who pined away of a broken heart, or C) the wife of Major General Philip Kearny.**
- There was an unusual laxity of morals surrounding General Hooker's military camps. What term developed from this laxity? **A) Hookers, B) Card Sharks, or C) Dens of Iniquity.**
- Whose wife was always pictured in a side profile because of her crossed eyes? **A) General James Longstreet, B) U S Grant, or C) General Richard Garnett.**
- A famous general was known for his bravery, wisdom, and 'saddle smarts.' Dodging death during the war...he retired to his home, to die of diabetes in 1877. Who was this general? **A) Longstreet, B) Forrest, or C) Ewell.**
- One man had risen from an extremely nearsighted newspaperman to politician, before becoming a general. Who was this general? **A) Felix Zollicoffer, B) George Crittenden, or C) Stonewall Jackson.**
- A famous personage was quoted as saying "I have just two favorite tunes; Yankee Doodle and the other one." Who made this quote? **A) Robert E Lee, B) General Joe Johnston, or C) Abraham Lincoln.**

### Answers:

1-A; 2-B; 3-B; 4-A; 5-B; 6-B; 7-A; 8-A; 9-B; 10-B; 11-A; and 12-C.

### How well did you score?



### Civil War Horses that were ridden by Civil War generals

**Beauregard**-survived until 1883, ridden by Captain W. I. Rasin.

**Dixie**- killed at Perryville, Ky, ridden by Major General Patrick Cleburne.

**Little Sorrel**-ridden by Stonewall Jackson when he was mortally wounded.

**King Phillip**- possibly the favorite horse of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

**Fire Eater**- ridden by General Albert Sidney Johnston when he was killed at Shiloh.

**Virginia**- ridden by Major General Jeb Stuart. Stuart also rode a horse named **Highfly**.

**Sardanapalus**- favorite horse of partisan M. Jeff Thompson of Missouri.

And did you know, **Traveller**, the favorite of Robert E Lee, is credited with having ghost written a book on the Civil War, as seen through equine eyes!

## British Coronation china becomes popular with collectors

In recent years, many new areas of collecting have been rediscovered. One such item is British coronation china, made for the crowning of each individual monarch.

A mug from the coronation of King Edward VII, who succeeded his mother, Queen Victoria, and dating to 1901 bears a likeness of the genial King on both sides. It can be

found in the \$45 to \$50 range in antique shops.

King George V and Queen Mary were a very revered royal couple, and a teacup and saucer made for their coronation by Royal Doulton, dating 1910, will bring about \$75 on the market, in mint condition.

Those most sought after are items relating to Edward VIII, who abdicated before his coro-

nation. These mugs, cups and plates are marked May 12, 1937. Since Edward left the throne in December 1936 to marry a twice divorced American, Wallis Warfield Simpson, they will bring a much higher price, about \$75 to \$100.

A mug from George VI and Elizabeth (they took Edward's place as monarchs) made by Maley and Sons recently sold for \$62 in a local auction.

## Penny Field's Chicken Costa Brava is a tasty treat

Your family and friends will clamor for this dish once they get a taste of it. It has long been a favorite with my guests and is so different, that it is a break from the usual meal. I found the recipe on the back of a Dole Pineapple can about 20 years ago. It is one of our family favorites!

### Ingredients:

1 20 oz can pineapple chunks, juice reserved  
 1 large onion, quartered and quartered again  
 1 8 oz stewed tomatoes  
 2 boneless chicken breasts, cut up  
 1 cup each ripe and green olives  
 1 t each cumin and cinnamon

1 T oil  
 2 t cornstarch  
 1/2 cup mild salsa  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 1 large bell pepper, slivered

**Directions:** In an oiled extra large skillet, or electric skillet (preferable), brown chicken lightly in oil, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Combine spices, then add to chicken mixture. Stir to mix; add garlic and onion and sauté until crisp-tender. Add reserved pineapple juice with tomatoes, olives, and salsa. Cover and simmer over medium low heat about 25 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent sticking. Mix cornstarch with 2 T water. Stir into pan juices with slivered bell pepper. Cook until sauce boils and thickens. Add pineapple just to warm. Serve over white rice. This recipe will serve 4-6.

### Quotable Quotes

To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by just one bee.

—William H. Walton

By concentrated perseverance did the snail finally reach the Ark.

—Charles Spurgeon

Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes.

—Henry J. Kaiser

## Presenting Paducah's history...a few artifacts at a time

It never fails to amaze our Museum guests that so many wonderful artifacts have been acquired by the facility through private individuals, who once had or still have a connection to Paducah.

The Museum has been fortunate in cultivating an admirable reputation for acquiring selective artifacts which tastefully highlight many facets of Paducah's history. The pride in the facility is clearly reflected in the objects which are accepted; those of a high quality, with a solid connection to Paducah's

past.

But how to best display these unusual or interesting artifacts?

Long ago, Mr. P T Barnum's Museum was a hodgepodge of curiosities. Visitors trudged on and on. Brains became numbed. Exhibits were so cluttered, visitors forget the subject they centered upon. Emphasis was focused on the quantity, rather than the quality of the exhibits. Thankfully, over time, this method of curatorship has become a thing of the past.

Today, when visiting the Ken-

tucky State History Museum, one notices that intriguing exhibits will feature only three or four impressive artifacts, with appropriate signage, in each individual case. This lends a special significance to the artifacts that are shown.

The Market House Museum has followed this method of exhibit policy for the past eight years. Ensuring that our guests enjoy a rewarding (but not exhausting) museum experience is our main objective. Many positive comments from our guests underline our efforts.

### Laughter is the Best Medicine

I used to eat a lot of natural foods till I learned most people die of natural causes.

There are two kinds of pedestrians, the quick and the dead.

Give a person a fish, and you will feed them for a day; teach them to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

When weeding, the best way to make sure that you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, you know it is a valuable plant.

## Watch out for that inaugural address, it could be a killer

A little known presidential fact concerns William Henry Harrison, our ninth president. He was also the shortest lived; dying after just 31 days in office!

It seems that Harrison gave a staggering two hour inaugural

address at the Capitol in freezing winds and stinging sleet. He insisted on not wearing his top-hat, as he thought it too formal.

After retiring to the White House to warm himself before a roaring fire, he ordered a bowl of iced cherries and a glass of

milk, and went to bed. Shortly afterward, he experienced a terrific stomach ache, and developed a cold on his chest.

Harrison was succeeded by John Tyler, whose pretty young wife, Julia, captured the hearts of the nation.

# Museum Messenger

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**Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10-4 pm,  
from the first Saturday in March till December  
15th each year.**

**Closed Sundays and major holidays.**

**Open mornings by pre-scheduled appointment  
for school and group tours.**

**Located at 121 South Second Street**

**Mailing address: PO Box 12**

**Paducah, Ky 42002**

**Telephone 270-443-7759**

For more fun and games, and historic related  
trivia, check us out on our wonderful informa-  
tive website!

[www.markethousemuseum.com](http://www.markethousemuseum.com)



**Quilt Week 2017  
was a success!**

Send us an email: [info@markethousemuseum.com](mailto:info@markethousemuseum.com)

## Message from the Executive Director

Knowing of my interest in the Civil War, several people have recently asked me why I have stopped going to reenactments. Reason number one is that the museum keeps me very busy with its own Civil War history and other activities. In actuality, sewing on a complicated new dress till midnight for a month, then transporting everything by vehicle and shuttling back and forth from sleep site to camp site could be very tiring. But it could be a lot of fun, too, as evidenced in the following story. (Plus getting older does slow one down!)

The ladies in our Civil War Association group were sitting in a field piecing a quilt on our laps at a reenactment at Lebanon, Tennessee in June, 2002. It was a beautiful day; the sun was shining. We were enjoying the outing and each other's company.

We heard a commotion several feet away, and saw a soldier kicking and shouting as he exited his tent. "It's a darn snake!" he bellowed forth. The snake must have fled from the confrontation, for after a moment or two, the man returned to the scouring of his frying pan left from breakfast.

About an hour later, we heard additional yells. It seemed the snake had come back into the perimeter of the camp. We ladies looked at each other. This might prove to be serious. The thought of having a snake get under our hoops was not a pleasant thought.

That afternoon, all the soldiers went off to the day's battle. A lull descended upon the almost deserted camp. But soon, the snake was back; all five feet of him, slithering right towards us! The bonneted ladies, screaming, were nimbly jumping on top of hay bales they had previously been sitting on. I picked up a tobacco stake from the nearby barn and beat the snake into deadly submission.

A soldier came up behind me. "Do you think I killed him?" I asked anxiously, "He's still wiggling a little." The soldier, still in first person portrayal, spat a squirt of tobacco and looked a little closer. "Yep, lady, he's dead all right. I'd say he could pass through a keyhole in about ten places."

—Penny Baucum Fields

## The sensational seedsman

For countless American country folk, the inception of free rural delivery during the 1870s meant a release from near total isolation. For Washington Atlee Burpee, it meant a golden opportunity.

The son of a Philadelphia doctor, Burpee had been studying medicine but found he couldn't stand to see human suffering. So he dropped out after a year of med school, and starting selling poultry and purebred livestock. He also offered seeds in his catalogs, and much to his surprise, the seeds outsold his livestock and poultry busi-

ness!

He aggressively started pursuing the seed business..... and eventually was testing 7,000 seed samples a year on his Fordhook, Pennsylvania farm. He named his best butterbean after his hometown!

Soon, in 1891, full color seed catalogs were flooding America, making crop growing easy for farmers nationwide with the largest mail order business shipping 5,000 to 6,000 orders each day.

