THE JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

VOLUME 48 ♦ NUMBER 2 ♦ AUTUMN 2007

ARTICLES

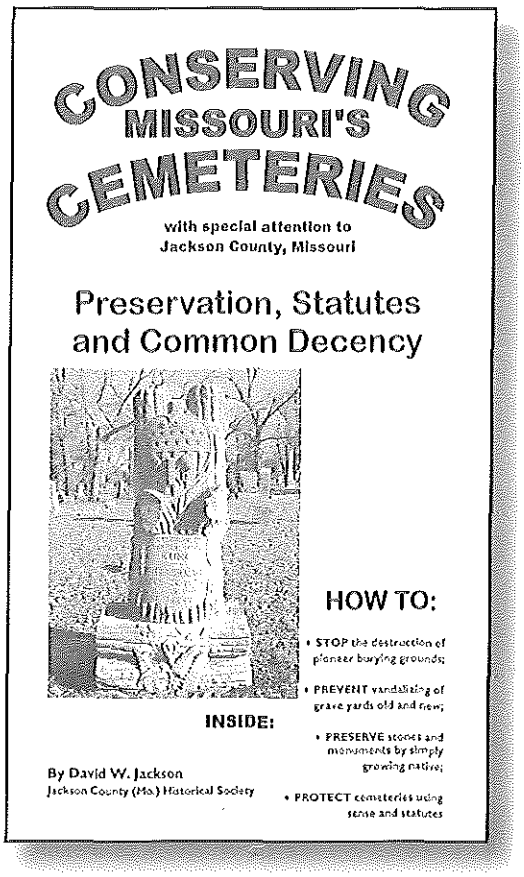
DEPARTMENTS

The Society announces one of its newest publications, *Conserving Missouri's Cemeteries: Preservation, Statutes and Common Decency.* This 16-page booklet was produced out of a growing demand.

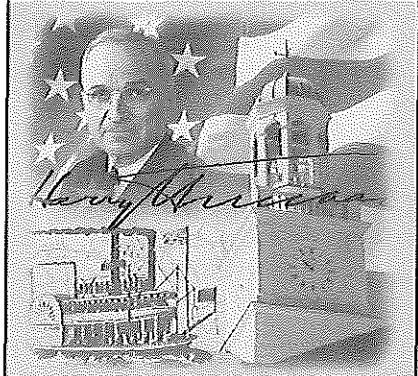
Ever-expanding development throughout suburban America is encroaching and overtaking what were once **natural spaces** and **undisturbed scenic vistas.** This makes the protection of **historic places** and **sacred burial spaces** of paramount importance.

The Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society answers calls REGULARLY from concerned citizens who express *"grave concern"* that small, local, pioneer graveyards are either being neglected, or are in jeopardy of being lost or destroyed by development.

The Society lacks authority to directly intervene in such matters, but it DOES decry permanent loss, diminishing or threatened sites that have significance to Jackson County, Missouri's heritage . . . hallowed burial ground included. Raising awareness and encouraging preservation efforts at the *grassroots* level will help our fellow citizens realize what is at *stake.* This booklet is our nonprofit organization's best attempt to "drive a nail in the coffin" to destructive actions.



Future generations of Jackson Countians—possibly your own descendants—will applaud any action you take today to ensure that they have tangible **natural, scenic, historic** and **sacred burial** places to visit and embrace. Advocacy for the protection of such cultural landscapes is our goal in making this information available to you. We hope you may be inspired to save your history, take action, and that your labors are highly successful! We applaud you.



The Jackson County Historical Society JOURNAL (ISSN 0888-4978) is published semi-annually as a benefit to members of the Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society, a nonprofit Missouri educational corporation committed to preserving and promoting the county's rich heritage. Back issues available while quantities last. Members and friends of the Society are invited to subscribe to a FREE e-mail newsletter at www.jchs.org to keep abreast of the Society's latest products, services, and programs.

AN EDITOR'S EPISTLE

By David W. Jackson

Doesn't it seem that no matter how fast or hard we work, we are always behind? Projects take longer than expected. Interruptions abound. And, then there is the pursuit of perfection!

That brings me to our newest edition of the Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society JOURNAL. This issue offers readers yet another selection of finely tuned feature articles we hope you will enjoy. And, when a question is posed (like that of JoeLouis Mattox in, *"Raising Private Miner: Elevating the Rank of the Great War's Last Fallen")* or a cause initiated (like *"The Reprise of the Jackson County Truman Courthouse on Independence Square")*, we hope you will respond positively to our call to action. Our members never let us down!

CLARIFICATION & AN INVITATION TO ACT

The Spring 2007 JOURNAL presented, "Death at Jackson County's Doorstep: Potawatomi Trail of Death Crossed Jackson County," By Shirley Willard. The second paragraph below "THE TEARS BEGIN UNAWARES" on page 9 should read:

In 1836, the Potawatomi signed nine treaties, which were then ratified by the Senate of the United States and finalized by President Jackson through proclamation.

1 signed March 26, 1836 at Tippecanoe River, Kosciusko County; proclaimed June 4, 1836
1 signed March 29, 1836 at Tippecanoe River, Fulton County; proclaimed June 4, 1836
1 signed April 11, 1836 at Tippecanoe River, Fulton County; proclaimed May 25, 1836
2 signed April 22, 1836 at Logansport Indian Agency; proclaimed May 25, 1836
1 signed August 5, 1836 at Yellow River, Marshall County; proclaimed February 18, 1837
1 signed September 20, 1836 at Chippewanaung, Fulton County, Indiana; proclaimed February 18, 1837
1 signed September 22, 1836 at Chippewanaung, Fulton County Indiana; proclaimed February 16, 1837
1 signed September 23, 1836 at Chippewanaung, Fulton County Indiana; proclaimed February 18, 1837

The September 20 treaty treaty signed away all of the Potawatomi lands in Indiana. It was between the United States and To-i-sa's brother [or brothers?] Me-mat-way and Che-quaw-ka-ko, chiefs and headmen of the Patawattimie tribe. Two websites provide conflicting evidence of their relationship to To-i-sa. http://www.footnote.com/document.php?doc=6594201&title=http://www.kansasheritage.org/PBP/books/treaties/t_1836_g.html

Article 6 of the treatics states: "This treaty, after the same shall be ratified by the President and Senate of the United States, shall be binding upon both parties." For an excellent source of information about Indian treaties and explanation of proclaimed, ratified, not ratified, etc., consult the two volumes, *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy* published in 1999 by the University of Oklahoma Press; edited by Raymond J. Demallie and Vine Deloria.

After walking through this fascinating local history saga, might anyone wish to contribute funds to purchase and erect Potawatomi Trail of Death Regional Historic Trail highway signs across Jackson County? (See page 15 of the Spring 2007 JOURNAL for a picture of the signs.) Sponsors' names may be included at the bottom; or you may simply request "Jackson County Historical Society." Each sign is only $60, including directional arrows.

The 5th Trail of Death Commemorative Caravan will be coming through Jackson County in September 2008; they should reach Independence sometime on September 27. Wouldn't it be great if the Potawatomi on the caravan could bless the markers? RESPOND TODAY!

MISSION STATEMENT: *The Jackson County Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation and understanding of its county's heritage and will promote the study, appreciation and interpretation of local and regional history.*

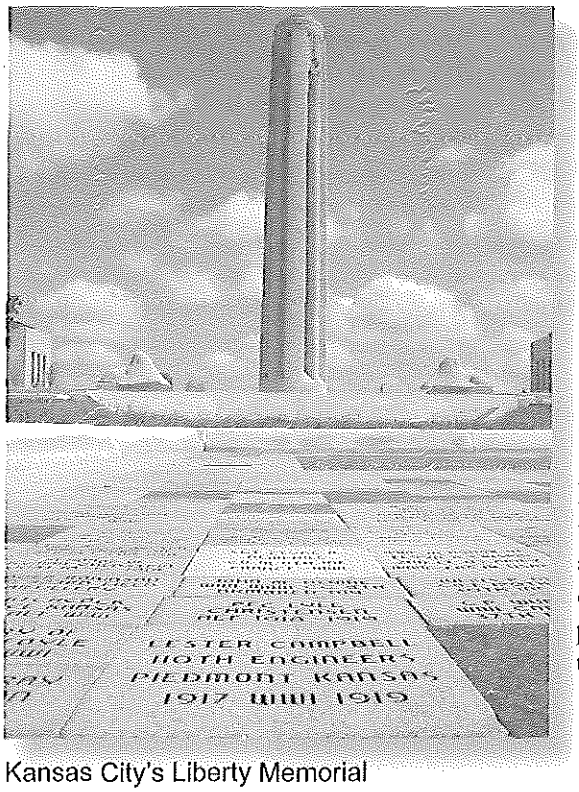
RAISING PRIVATE MINER: ELEVATING THE RANK OF THE GREAT WAR'S LAST FALLEN

By JoeLouis Mattox

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial celebrates its first inaugural year on December 2, 2007.

I was among the large crowd that gathered for the Museum's opening ceremony in 2006. It was a very dignified, impressive, soul-stirring event. Many people braved the cold weather to hear distinguished and honored speakers address the significance of Kansas City's $27 million contribution to the remembrance and study of "The War to End All Wars."

The Liberty Memorial, the Shrine to the Great War, is dedicated to the men and women who fought and died in World War I. Department of the Interior, Secretary Dirk Kempthorne designated the Liberty Memorial a national historic landmark in recognition of its role in memorializing World War I service as well as its notable design. The "The Liberty Memorial in Kansas City is one of the most compelling monuments constructed in honor of those who gave their lives in World War I," Kempthorne noted. "Its beautiful monument and museum complex exemplifies visionary city planning and architectural innovations of the early 20th century."



Kansas City's Liberty Memorial
(Photo courtesy David W. Jackson, editor)

Congress has designated the National World War I Museum as the only public museum in the United States dedicated exclusively to the history of World War I.

One of the reasons I waned to attend the ceremony and opening of the Museum was to meet the French Ambassador to the United States. I wanted him to autograph my copy of, "Harlem's Hell Fighters" (a story about black soldiers in World War I, the men of the 369th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, an all-black combat unit) by noted author and military historian, Stephen Harris. The ambassador was unable to attend the ceremony due to inclement weather.

The men of the 369th Infantry Regiment have a connection to Kansas City. One of the heroes of the 369th was Henry Johnson, the father of the late Herman A. Johnson, Tuskegee Airman, well-known businessperson, respected civil rights activist, and prominent civic leader. The recently re-constructed bridge at 27th and The Paseo is named in honor of Herman A. Johnson.

Another reason to visit the Museum was to find out if the million dollar exhibits and high-tech displays depict and recognize the patriotism blacks had for their country, even when most of them could not carry a gun, nor vote, and when smart "colored boys" were lynched for talking back to white folks. Still, black soldiers were ardent about winning the war overseas, even when the Germans reminded them of the irony of their second-class citizenship in America, the land of the free, home of the brave.

One more reason I looked forward to visiting the Museum was to find out if the attractions and storytelling would cause me to leave there with a feeling of Esprit de Corps and intuitive kinship with the 370,000 black soldiers and sailors—approximately 11 percent of the total American combat force—who served in World War I, with 200,000 of them fighting in France.[1]

Moreover, I was hoping Black History lived at the Museum and that word-of-mouth and lots of advertising in the black media would draw large numbers of local black people...and blacks from out-of-town.

The Annals of World War I record 53,513 American men and women died to "make the world safe for democracy," the idealist words of President Woodrow Wilson. The number of Kansas City's fallen totaled 420 whites (including one woman), and 21 black men.

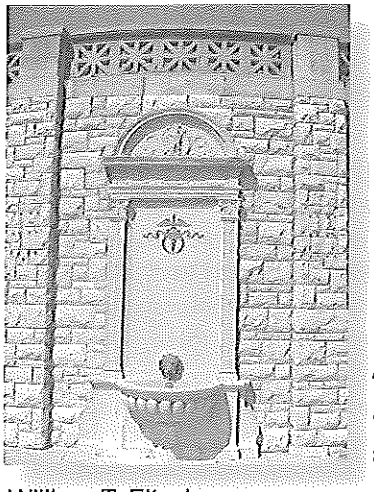
Is it curious that two men **from Kansas City** happened to be the **first and last** casualties of the Great War.

Surely, these veterans deserve some extra recognition beyond their service to country.

WWI FIRST OFFICER CASUALTY—A WHITE KANSAS CITIAN

One of the Kansas City service members whose name was mentioned during the opening ceremony of the Museum was First Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimmons. He was a graduate of the University of Kansas Medical School, and in the U.S. Army served as a physician with the 5th Base Hospital.

Fitzsimmons was **the first American *officer* to die in World War I.** He was killed in action in France on September 4, 1917, and was buried in the Somme American Cemetery at



William T. Fitzsimmons memorial on the south wall of The Paseo Pergola at 12th Street. (Courtesy David W. Jackson, editor)

Bony, France (Plot B, Row 9, Grave 14, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission).[2]

In Kansas City, a veterans post bears Fitzsimon's name, and two memorials have been erected in his honor: one at 12th Street and The Paseo; another at 47th Street and The Paseo. At St. Mary's College in St. Mary's, Kansas, a memorial arch stands in his honor. In Denver, Colorado, the Veterans Medical Center bears Fitzsimmons' name.

Fitzsimmons was a European-American Kansas Citian.

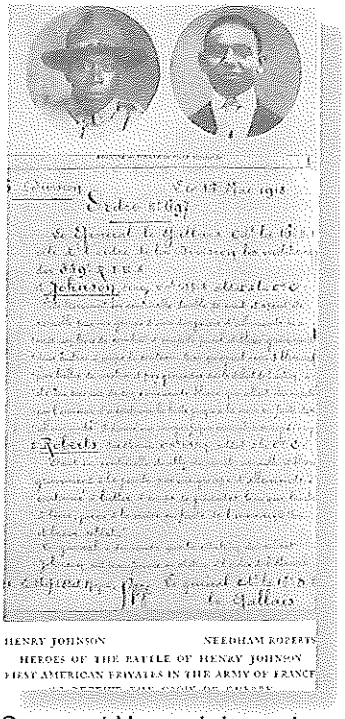
Lieutenant Fitzsimmons was promoted to the rank of Captain posthumously.

WWI LAST CASUALTY—A BLACK KANSAS CITIAN

I was surprised that Private Wayne Miner's name was not mentioned during the grand opening ceremony of the National World War I Museum last December.

Private Miner is distinguished among all other World War I veterans as he was **the last American soldier to die in World War I.**

In 1919, Kansas City's American Legion Post Number 149 was organized and named in honor of Private Wayne Miner. According to an article titled, "Negroes Form a Legion Post," in the September 20, 1919, edition of the *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Star*: *"The first Negro post of the American Legion was formed last night at the War Camp Community Club, [northwest corner] 18th and Vine Streets. There are approximately 600 Negro former servicemen in the City and all of them are urged to enroll in this post. Homer Roberts, post commander; J. H. Crutchfeld, vice commander; William Edwards, Adjutant; J. G. Driver, finance officer; William Anderson, chaplain; A. O. Mitchell, historian. Roberts was also elected a delegate to the State convention."*



HENRY JOHNSON NEEDHAM ROBERTS
HEROES OF THE BATTLE OF HENRY JOHNSON
FIRST AMERICAN CASUALTIES IN THE ARMY OF FRANCE

Sergeant Henry Johnson's Commendation, 369th US Infantry (Courtesy New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center; New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs: Military History, as viewed at http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/wwi/infantry/369thInf/369InfCommJohnsonLarge.htm)

The officers listed in this newspaper article differ from those enumerated on the official application for a permanent charter into the American Legion (dated September 29, 1920): "T. E. Gaillard, commander; James O. F. Thomas, adjutant; Marshall Jackson, treasurer; T. E. Gaillard, service officer; David E. Jones, employment officer; Norval Lemons, chaplain; B. H. Muldrew, historian; Dr. E. H. Lee, athletic officer; and, H. B. Holman, Sergeant-at-Arms." Each year on Armistice Day (Veteran's Day), the Wayne Miner Post of the VFW conducts a memorial ceremony at Highland Cemetery.

Sergeant Henry Johnson, 369th Infantry ("Harlem Hellfighters"), who single-handedly fought off a German raiding party to save his comrade, Private Needham Roberts, 1918. Here, Johnson (standing) passes along Fifth avenue during a parade. (Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, 1860–1952; ARC Identifier: 533524; Local Identifier: 165-WW-127(39))

The *Wayne Miner Court* apartment complex was built in 1962 with five high-rise buildings surrounded by two-story apartment buildings (a total of 738 apartments for low-income Kansas City residents) at 11th and Woodland Avenue.[3] Only 27 years later, *Wayne Miner Court* was the victim of crime, neglect, and deferred maintenance.[4] The Housing Authority decided to implode the high-rise buildings in 1987.[5]

Although the Wayne Miner Community Center remains a viable, posthumous tribute to the man, the Wayne Miner Health Center was renamed the Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center in 1988 after Dr. Samuel Rodgers.

Miner also happened to be an African-American Kansas Citian.

Might Private Miner be promoted to the rank of Sergeant posthumously?

MINER, THE SON OF FORMER SLAVES

Wayne Miner's parents, Ned and Emily Minor, were former slaves, having been born in Missouri between 1852-1854.[6]

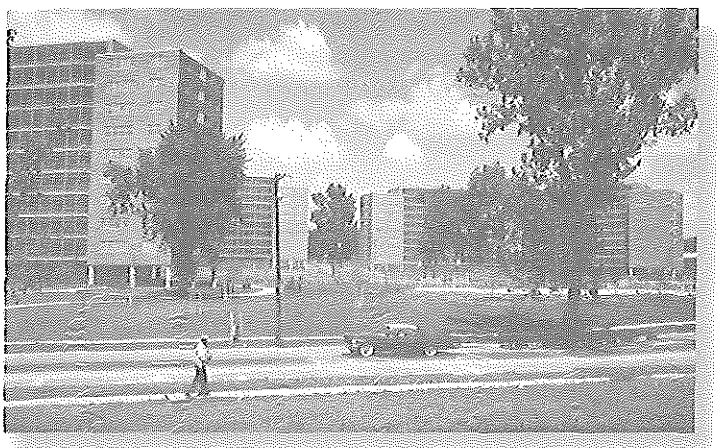
Note the variation in the spelling of the surname. In most of the early records uncovered so far, the family's name was recorded as "Minor." That is the convention used in this article, except when specifically mentioning Wayman "Wayne" Miner, which is the way his name was spelled on his World War I enlistment card.

Five years after Emancipation, 18-year-old Ned Minor was enumerated in the 1870 Census in Clinton, Grand River Township, Henry County, Missouri. The former slave was living in the household of an African-American family, John (age 72) and Polly (45) Royston (both Virginia natives), and their family: Ann (29; born in Kentucky); Addison (19; born in Missouri); Maria (12; Missouri); and Robert (10; Missouri). Ned and Addison were likely farm hands, though the Census did not list an occupation for anyone in the household. There is also a remote possibility that Ned was related to the Roystons in some way.

Ned Minor met and married Emily in Henry County between 1870 and 1872 (Judging from the age of their oldest child. In the 1910 Census, they reported having been married 41 years, which computes to 1869).

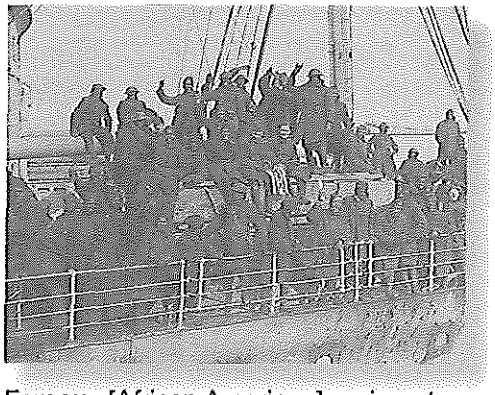
When the 1880 Census enumerator visited their home, the couple resided with their young family in Calhoun, Tebo Township, Henry County, Missouri. Ned was a 27-year-old potter along side 26-year-old Emily, who was keeping house. They had four children: Minnie, age 7; Lizzie, 5; Allena, 3; and Curtis, five months (born December 1879).

The Minor family of Calhoun, Missouri, continued to grow, although they also suffered loss. Emily reported in the 1900 Census that she was the mother of 12 children, 10 of whom were then still living. One of those who had died had been Ned and Emily's eldest daughter, Minnie, who had married Wiley Shockley. Minnie died on 6 July 1894 and is buried in the Calhoun Cemetery.



Wayne Minor Court (Courtesy Kansas City Public Library)

Ned Minor owned his Henry County farm by 1900. When the Census was taken that year, his eldest son living at home, Clarence (age 17; born Feb 1882) was a farm laborer. The other children in the Minor family were: Arthur (14; Mar 1880); Beula (10; June 1890); **WAYMAN (8; Aug 1891);** Joseph (6; Aug 1893); Finas (4; Aug 1895); and, Regina (11 months; June 1899). Wayman is the subject of this sketch, Wayman "Wayne" Miner.



Famous [African American] regiment arrives home on the France. New York's famous 369th (old 15th) Infantry [African American] troops arrive at Hoboken, New Jersey. (Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, 1860–1952; ARC Identifier: 533528; Local Identifier: 165-WW-127(42))

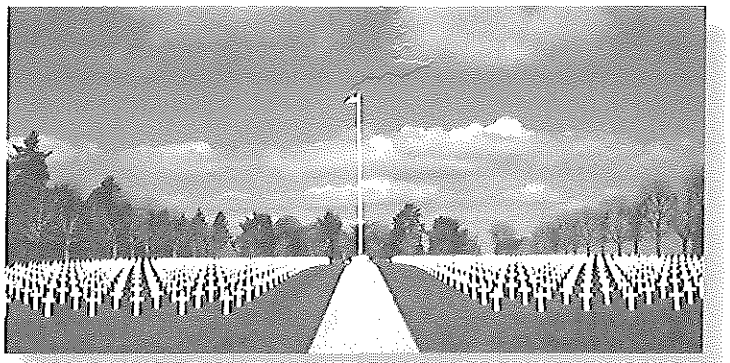
Sometime between 1900 and 1910 when the Census was taken again, the Minor family moved to Johns Township, Appanoose County, Iowa. **WAYMAN "Wayne" was the eldest child living at home (age 18);** followed by Joseph (16); Finis (14); Virginia (Regina) (10); and Tobias (8). While Ned was engaged in farming, and Emily was "keeping house." Joseph and his older brother Wayman "Wayne" Miner were coal miners (no pun intended).

According to page 19 of the 1915 *Appanoose County Plat Map*, "N.M." owned a 10-acre farm in the Northwest ¼ of Section 25 Township 69 North, Range 19 West. This was about three miles east of Plano, Iowa.

All of Ned and Emily's children were living outside the family home except Tobias, who was an 18-year-old coal miner, when the Census enumerator visited their home in January 1920. At that time, Ned and Emily were 68 years old. They had just suffered the loss of their son Waymon "Wayne" in the Great War. Records beyond 1920 have yet to be uncovered for this family.

Although neither Ned nor Emily Minor ever learned to write, in her later years, Emily admitted being able to read. Apparently, Ned never learned to read either.

In two U. S. Census reporting years (1880 and 1920), Ned and Emily claimed their parents had each been born in Missouri. However, in 1910 they said Kentucky, and 1900 they testified not knowing the birthplace of their parents.



Images of Saint Mihiel Cemetery where Wayne Miner is buried. (Images courtesy American Battle Monuments Commission viewable at http://abmc.gov/home.php)

Considerable added research into Ned and Emily Minor's offspring and parentage is needed. While there descendants may be discovered, given the complexities surrounding the genealogy of those who endured slavery, and the scant record sources available, it may be a long journey towards discovering more about their ancestors.

WAYNE MINER IN "DEEDS, NOT WORDS"

Wayman "Wayne" Miner was born on August 17, 1894.[7] He married Belle Carter between 1910 and 1918.[8] They did not have any surviving children.

U.S. Army infantry troops, African American unit, marching northwest of Verdun, France, in World War. (Photograph by U.S. Army Signal Corps No. 25042, courtesy Library of Congress CALL NUMBER: LOT 8876-A [item] [P&P]; Digital ID: cph 3c16442; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-116442 (b&w film copy neg.))

Miner (Serial Number 2167915) enlisted in the United States Army in Kansas City on October 26, 1917. He reported that his address at the time was RFD 3, Centerville, Iowa. Miner's basic training was completed at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

On January 1, 1918, Miner was appointed Private First Class, and on June 15, 1918, he shipped out to France with Company A, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division. This was an all-black combat unit that had as its shoulder patch insignia a charging buffalo, whose slogan was, "*Deeds, Not Words.*"[9]

Miner was in one of two segregated African American combat divisions in the American Expeditionary Forces.

92nd Division, National Army (Buffalo Division)
- 183rd Infantry Brigade
  - 365th Infantry Regiment
  - 366th Infantry Regiment
  - 350th Machine Gun Battalion
- 184th Infantry Brigade
  - 367th Infantry
  - 368th Infantry
  - 351st Machine Gun Battalion
- 167th Field Artillery Brigade
  - 349th F.A. Regiment
  - 350th F.A.
  - 351st F.A.
  - 317th Trench Mortar Battery
- Divisional Troops
  - 349th Machine Gun Battalion
  - 325th Field Signal Battalion
  - 317th Engineer Regiment
  - Headquarters Troop
  - Supply and Medical Trains, including Dental Corps

The 92nd Division was in battle for 17 days. They occupied the Marbache Sector, October 9 - November 11, and participated in the attack of the 2nd Army November 10-11. The 92nd had 1570 battle casualties.

93rd Division, Provisional
- 185th Infantry Brigade
  - 369th Infantry
  - 370th Infantry
- 186th Infantry Brigade
  - 371st Infantry
  - 372nd Infantry[10]

A copy of Miner's official military personnel file was procured from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. That the file survived at all is remarkable, given that on July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel files (including 80% of Army personnel discharged from November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960).

Miner was one of the 21 black soldiers from Kansas City who gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War I.[11] He was killed three hours before the armistice was signed at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Early that day, Miner, serving in the Marbache Sector, had been the first of four men to volunteer to carry machine gun ammunition to an out-post. Miner died in action, a brave soldier trying to carry out his last mission.

Kansas City, Kansas, veteran First Lieutenant William H. Clark, compiled the story surrounding of the death of Wayne Miner, as follows:

"Forty-five years ago, November 11, 1918, the 92nd (all Negro) division 30,000 strong was attacking the village of Caney, 11 miles southwest of the highly fortified city of Metz, Germany.

"I was commanding the foremost advancing units of Company A, 1st Battalion of the 366th Infantry. Wayne Miner was a private in the First Platoon. I commanded the First and Fourth platoons, 124 men strong. We were spearheading the regimental position of the entire Allied line. To the east of us was the Vooges mountains and a network of rivers that in all wars between France and Germany, no army had ever attempted to cross.

"Five hours before jumping-off time, I received my battle orders from Captain George A. Holland, our company commander. Second Lieutenant William Jones was my second-in-command leader of the Fourth platoon. We were on high ground in the village of Montfaveon, overlooking the Bois Vivrotte (woods of the Vivrotte), our first objective about one mile away and known to be occupied by German outpost units.

"On our left were units of Company F led by First Lieutenant Mallileau W. Rush and to his left was First Lieutenant Oscar Brown, commanding the 351st Machine Gun Company, supporting both of us.

"One-half hour before jumping off time, Lieutenant Brown sent through an appeal relayed by our companies for four men from each company to assist in carrying machine gun ammunition. This was an unwanted assignment and I called for volunteers.

"I made a strong appeal but for a minute or two, no one stepped forward to accept. I told the boys they were letting me down and I would use the lottery system. As I was about to execute that method of selection, Private Wayne Miner stepped forward as the first volunteer; then another, and others until the four had responded.

First Lieutenant William H. Clark (Courtesy Mrs. Shirley A. Perry, Clark's daughter)

"When Wayne Miner stepped out, a lump-like feeling accumulated in my throat. He was a highly cultured and courageous soldier, respected by the entire company of 250 men. I had used him on every patrol I had made, including one on October 16 of this same year, when the members of the patrol were so pleasing to Division headquarters that Brigadier General Barnum came to the company and assembled the seven of us who carried it out, praised us highly and had our company clerk to type out a personal eulogy that he gladly signed. It was my most-prized possession until I lost it going through a Delousing plant.

"An ammunition carrier slings his rifle, his main defense, across his back and becomes a packhorse. The terrain was of such a rough nature that Lieutenant Brown had to use his method as mules and ammunition vehicles could not be used.

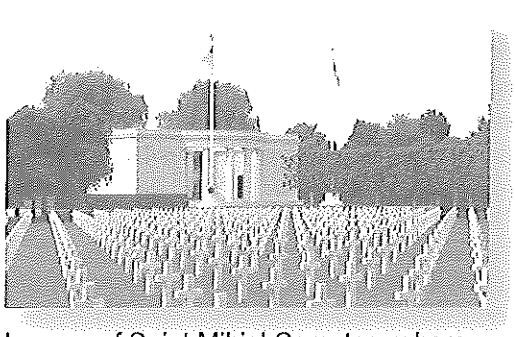
"I never saw Wayne Miner again. From my hospital bed at Tours, France, where I was carried after we occupied our first objective, I learned he was killed by bursting shrapnel. I recommended him for the Distinguished Service Cross. Somehow, my captain through whom it was sent, never received it and a brave sacrificing and deserving soldier did not receive his just reward even posthumously.

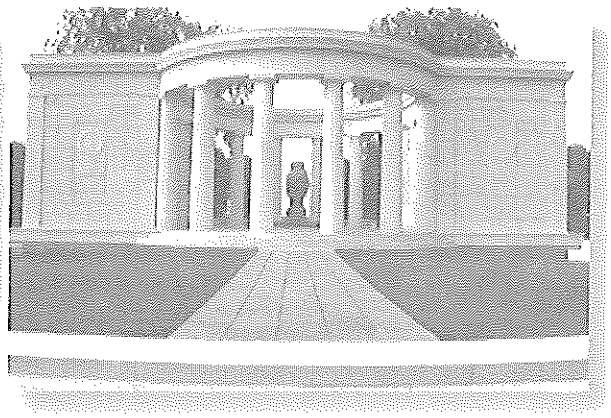
"We went over the top as scheduled at 5:09 p.m., advancing at a brisk walk, ten paces apart. The artillery from the enemy was intense. Fokker planes of the Germans dominated the skies at the beginning and pinpointed our advance. Singing shrapnel passed within a few feet of me and cut down a corporal. His last words were, "Oh Lordy, Lieutenant, they've got me."

"I assigned a soldier to help him until the hospital corps arrived. I was told he died before other help reached him. Our objective, the Bois Vivorette, could not be achieved as Lieutenant Rush, a graduate of a college in Atlanta, advanced three minutes ahead of us and with the woods seemingly offering cover, we were pushed east in the open.

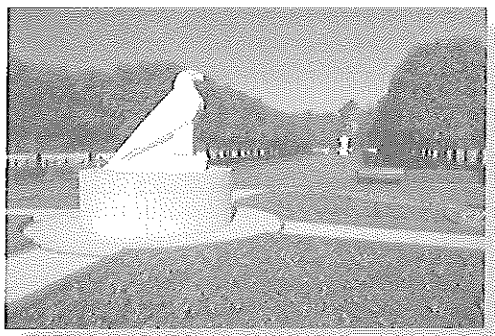
"This proved to be a God-send for my company. The Germans cut lose on those woods with the most thundering artillery barrages we had ever heard. Lieutenant Rush was mortally wounded. He wandered unconsciously into our position and fell. His stature of being the tallest officer of our regiment was his undoing, as shrapnel cut straight through the middle of his head.

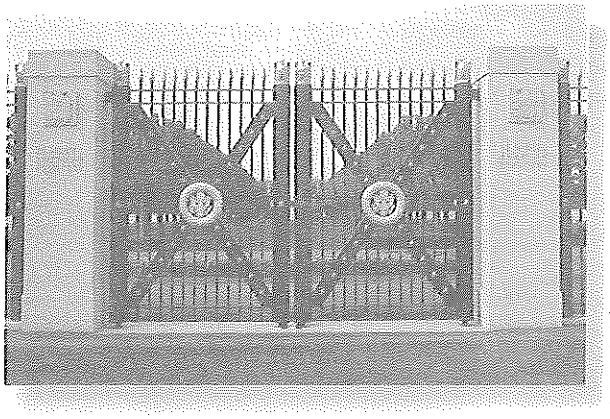
"Captain James Kennedy, chief medical officer of our regiment, reached him before he was carried to the hospital. I had put a dead man's coat under his head. Captain Kennedy received the Distinguished Service Cross for this act, but in spite of all, Rush died after four days, without regaining consciousness.





Images of Saint Mihiel Cemetery where Wayne Miner is buried. (Images courtesy American Battle Monuments Commission viewable at http://abmc.gov/home.php)





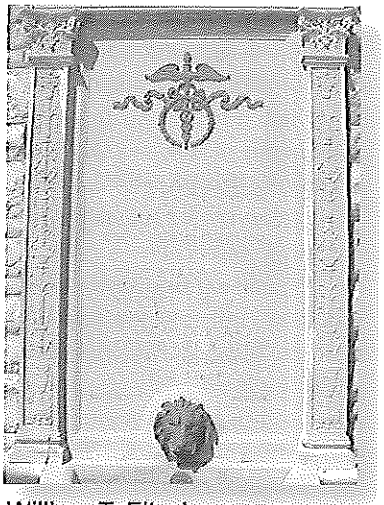
"Shrapnel nipped my shin just enough to glance off the bone. I tried to conceal it as I knew they would take me away from my men. I treated it with iodine and dirt and wrapped it well but tore my gas mask diving into shell holes. I fortunately had a French Reserve mask in my bosom, yet I got enough gas to last a lifetime."[12]

A December 6, 1918, issue of the *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Star,* ran the headline, "An Oversea List of 870: Five Greater Kansas City Men are Included." Among the roster was Wayne Miner, who was buried in the World War I St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial (Plot B, Row 14, Grave 17, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission), at the west edge of Thiaucourt, France.[13]

"The mustard gas from exploding shells was so intense it was dripping from bushes. The machine gun fire had whipped the weeds as naked as straws, and had we been a little later digging in, our losses would have been much heavier. As it was our casualties were above 40 per cent. Company A's was higher.

[African American] Officers of 366th Infantry Back on Aquitania. Left to right: Lieut. C.L. Abbot, South Dakota; Capt. Joseph L. Lowe, Pacific Grove, California; Lieut. A.R. Fisher, Lyles, Indiana, winner of Distinguished Service Cross; Capt. E. White, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. (Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, 1860–1952; ARC Identifier: 533490; Local Identifier: 165-WW-127(6))

St. Mihiel contains 40.5 acres where the graves of 4,153 of our military dead may be visited. The majority of these died in the offensive that resulted in the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient that threatened Paris. The burial area is divided by Linden alignment trees and paths into four equal plots. At the center is a large sundial surmounted by an American eagle. To the right (west) is a statue of a World War I soldier and at the eastern end is a semi-circular overlook dominated by a sculpture representing a victory vase. Beyond the burial area to the south is the white stone memorial consisting of a small chapel, a peristyle with a large rose-granite funeral urn at its center, and a map building. The chapel contains a beautiful mosaic portraying an angel sheathing his sword. On two walls of the museum are recorded the names of 284 of the missing. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. On the wall facing the door is a large



William T. Fitzsimmons memorial on the south wall of The Paseo Pergola at 12th Street. (Courtesy David W. Jackson, editor)

map of inlaid marble depicting the St. Mihiel Offensive.[14]

At the time of his death, Wayne Miner's widow, Belle, lived at 571 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri. By the time the 1920 U.S. Census was taken, Belle, age 25, was living with her 29-year-old brother, Archie Carter, in Bellair Township, Appanoose County, Iowa.[15]

POSTHUMOUS ACCOLADES?

As we look back at World War I, it appears that the "Bookends of The Great War," its Alpha and Omega of Yanks dying over there are the deaths of a white officer, Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimmons, and a black enlisted soldier, Wayne Miner, both from Kansas City. One was the first (officer) to die, the other the very last one to die in the cause of freedom.

At the Liberty Memorial, when we talk about bravery, courage, honor, patriotism, sacrifice, valor, and examples of "men who set the fashion for American manhood" in World War I, let us always remember Fitzsimmons and Miner.

Hopefully, coming soon to the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial will be a permanent exhibit about black soldiers in World War I, with special emphasis on Wayne Miner.

Lieutenant Fitzsimmons was promoted to the rank of Captain posthumously.

I close by reiterating this question in hopes that anyone with the ability to make it happen might read this plea:

Might Private Miner be promoted to the rank of Sergeant posthumously?

Might First Lieutenant William H. Clark's recommendation that Miner be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross also finally be honored?

ADDITIONAL RELATED INFORAMTION IS POSTED ON OUR ONLINE JOURNAL AT JCHS.ORG

JoeLouis Mattox, a local historian, majored in history and government at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. He is an independent scholar at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center in Kansas City, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Historic Kansas City Foundation and the Kansas City Landmarks Commission. He is also a published author, having had numerous articles in newspapers and magazines, including past issues of the *Jackson County Historical Society JOURNAL*.

1 Ross, Marie. "Kansas Recalls Last Day of World War I When W. Miner Died," *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Call*, February 1965.

2 World War I Honor Roll database posted at http://www.abmc.gov (viewed 8 Nov. 2007).

3 "Wayne Miner's $6M renovation complete," *Kansas City Business Journal*, 19 Mar. 2003 (as viewed on 15 Sept. 2007 at http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2003/03/17/daily20.html).

4 See the editorial in the *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Times*, 21 Mar. 1957; photo and caption in the *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Star*, 18 Aug. 1960; and, http://www.kitesingleton.com/nahc.htm (viewed 15 Sept. 2007).

5 "Wayne Miner's $6M renovation complete." Renovation of the 74-unit, 15-building housing complex started in October 2001, said Kevin Crockett, a Housing Authority spokesman. Lenexa-based Straub Construction Co. Inc. and Kansas City-based WGN Associates Inc. worked on the project. The Housing Authority of Kansas City marked the completion of a $6 million revitalization of the Wayne Miner Court Apartments at a ceremony at the Wayne Miner Community Center on March 19, 2003.

6 As with many people in the 19th Century, particularly emancipated slaves, exact birthdays were not known. The only two Census returns for Ned Minor that correlate in age are the 1870 and 1880 Census returns when he reported being 18 and 27 respectively. In 1900, he said he was 51 (he even reported March 1849 as his birthday), when he was most likely 47 or 48. In 1910, Ned said he was 63. Ten years later in 1920 he reported only gaining five years in age when he said 68, which, at that time aligned most probably with his true age. Emily had the same disparage in age reporting over the decades. In 1880, she was 26; but, 20 years later in the 1900 Census she said she was 56. Then years later, she reported being only 55. Like Ned, Emily's age in the 1920 Census correlates closest to the earliest reporting years when she said she was 68 (she was likely closer to 66).

7 World War I index card that is part of Miner's "R" file at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1985, pursuant to a request for Miner's file by a representative of the Kansas City, Missouri, Housing Authority, a Mr. D. Petree at the National Personnel Records Center attempted to located additional information about Miner from the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Federal Archives and Records Center (FARC) in Chicago, Illinois. Deborah L. Haverman, Chief, Records Reconstruction Branch, delivered to Petree the report from FARC that, "they were unable to locate an XC-folder."

8 Judging from the 1910 Census and his 1918 enlistment. The actual marriage record has not yet been secured; it was *not* in Jackson County, Missouri, but likely in Iowa.

9 The 92nd Infantry Division (colored) was a unit of the United States Army in World War I and World War II. Nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers Division. According to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/92nd_Infantry_Division_(United_States), this unit was activated in October 1917 and went overseas on 18 July 1918. Their major operations were in Meuse-Argonne (less FA). There were a total of 1,647 casualties. (120 were killed in action; 1,527 were wounded in action under commanders Major General Charles C. Ballou (29 October 1917) and Major General Charles H. Martin (19 November 1918).

10 Courtesy www.libertymemorialmuseum.org/FileUploads/AFRICANAMERICANSANDWORLDWA.doc (viewed 8 Nov. 2007).

11 From documentation found by the author at the Kansas City Public Library Missouri Valley Special Collections Department; the National World War I Museum Research Center; the Combined Arms Research Library at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the American Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana; and, the library of Delbert White, past Commander of the American Legion Fifth District (who is a member of the Wayne Miner Post Number 149).

12 Ross, Marie.

13 World War I Honor Roll database.

14 http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/sm.php (Viewed 8 Nov. 2007).

15 A 19-year-old Archie Carter was found in the 1910 U.S. Census for 15th Ward of Kansas City, Missouri. This is likely Belle's brother given the unusual name and exact age match between the two decades of data; but, it is difficult to say for sure as there was no other easily identifiable family connections in his enumeration. Archie was listed as a "boarder."

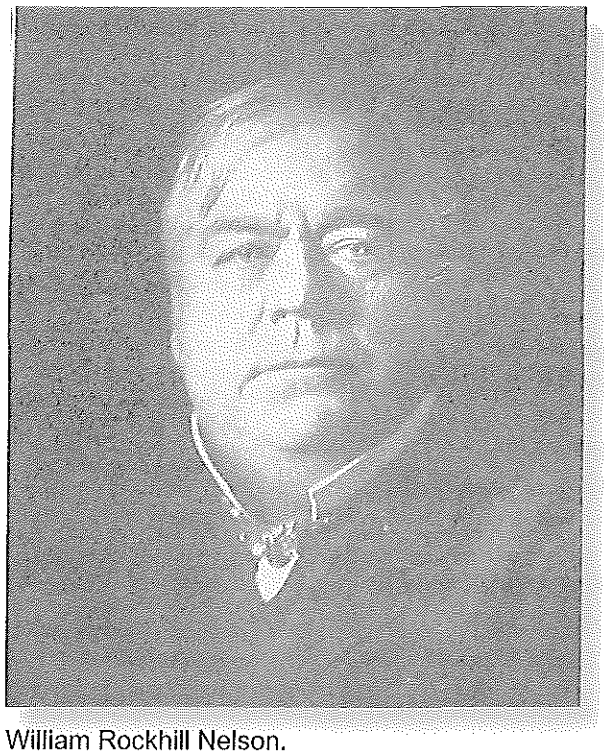
TWILIGHT TWINKLER: KANSAS CITY AND ITS *STAR*

By Harry Haskell

[EDITOR'S NOTE: With his own savings and a little borrowed money, William Rockhill Nelson, an Indiana native, came to Kansas City in 1880 and started a 4-page paper, *The Kansas City Evening Star*. Rivals contemptuously dubbed it the "Twilight Twinkler," but they were soon outshone. Nelson celebrated with *The Star* on its 25th Anniversary on September 18, 1905.[1] In this brief sketch, Haskell raises issues about the short-lived progressive era, the reasons behind its untimely demise, and its enduring significance within the context of Kansas City's rising *Star*.]

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Kansas City Star was a trust-busting newspaper, acclaimed far and wide for its crusading progressive spirit.

Fifty years later, *The Star* itself was a busted trust, targeted by the federal government in the most important antitrust action ever brought against an American daily. Today's *The Star* still carries the name of its legendary founder, William Rockhill Nelson, at the top of its editorial page. But, the paper has shrunk to a shadow of its former self, slimmed down by a succession of corporate owners fixated on the bottom line.



William Rockhill Nelson.

The story of *The Star*'s transformation from a beacon of journalistic independence to a pawn of corporate culture is the theme of my book *Boss Busters and Sin Hounds*. Rather, that is one of the themes. For the book is as much about Kansas City as about *The Star*. The two have been inseparable almost from the beginning. So closely identified were the city and its leading paper, the great liberal editor Oswald Garrison Villard once wrote, that it was virtually impossible to determine "whether the *Star* made Kansas City famous or Kansas City the *Star*, or even to try to figure out just how much each has contributed to the development of the other."[2]

In the words of an old promotional slogan, "The *Star* is Kansas City and Kansas City is the *Star*." That was the mantra employees used to rally community support for their bid to buy the newspaper from the Nelson estate in 1926. The sale price of $11.5 million—the seed money for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art—was the second highest ever paid for a daily newspaper.[3] Founded in 1880, *The Star* had long been recognized as what the *New York Times* called an "aristocrat" of American journalism. My father, Henry C. Haskell, used to tell about his stint in the twenties as a reporter on the *Times* of London, then the most prestigious paper in the English-speaking world. All doors were open to the "gentlemen" of the *Times*, he recalled, but then the same was true for the lowliest reporter on *The Star*.

As a member of *The Star* "family," I was born with printer's ink in my veins. My grandfather, Henry J. Haskell, went to work for the *Kansas City Star* 1898, my father some three decades later. Both cherished their memories of "Baron Bill" Nelson, among the last of the great "personal" editors from journalism's golden age. And both took it for granted that Kansas City was destined for greatness as well. In 1950, four years before I entered the world, my father and a colleague at *The Star* wrote a centennial history of Kansas City called *City of the Future*. Contrary to popular accounts of the city's long subjugation to boss rule, it depicted a raw-edged but eternally progressive metropolis as seen, naturally, from the vantage of *The Star* newsroom at Eighteenth and Grand.

The city I grew up in was a less confident and forward-looking place. It billed itself not as a "city of the future" but, more modestly, as a "livable" city. Nor was *The Star* any longer regarded as an indispensable civic asset. I joined the staff just in time to witness the paper's sale to Capital Cities Communications in 1977 for the record-breaking price of $125 million. This time, there was no hue and cry about letting the company fall into outside hands. Bill Baker, the last president of the employee-owned *Star*, recently recalled that he received only a few phone calls and letters from civic leaders expressing concern about the sale. "It was as though they were spectators watching what was going on," he said. What, I wondered, had changed in the half-century since 1926? How had the organic ties between the newspaper and the community it served been allowed to dissolve? And once broken, could they ever be restored?

There are no easy answers to these questions, but history suggests that they need asking today more urgently than ever. Just as American cities and newspapers grew up together in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, so they grew

apart in the age of corporate journalism and urban decay—two phenomena that are more closely linked than many people realize. I have come to believe that there is much to be learned from the faith, optimism, and resilience that characterized Nelson and his fellow "insurgents." Few people, I suspect, would willingly turn back the clock to a time when *The Star* professed to be virtually identical to Kansas City. But we may yet think again. If there is a more powerful engine for community building and civic renewal than a strong local newspaper, it has yet to be invented.

It's no accident that a hundred years ago Kansas City was among the most progressive cities in the nation. Mark Sullivan, one of the original journalistic muckrakers, observed that, "the liberal and progressive movement which arose in the Middle West" in the first decade of the twentieth century "centered largely around the *Kansas City Star* and the other forces of public opinion which took their leadership from the *Star*."[4] Nelson's close friendship with Teddy Roosevelt culminated in the great Bull Moose campaign of 1912, the high-water mark of the progressive reform movement. Three years later, Nelson was dead, the national Progressive Party was foundering, Tom Pendergast was consolidating his power as the city's boss, and *The Star* was slowly refashioning itself into what Villard would call, "a glorified organ of Main Street."[5]

By the time my grandfather, Henry J. Haskell, became editor in 1928, the paper's hard-won reputation for political independence had fallen by the wayside as well. That was the year Kansas City hosted the Republican national convention that nominated Herbert Hoover for president, with *The Star*'s unstinting support. In many ways the paper was more respected and authoritative--and profitable--than ever under the new employee-ownership regime. But the reformist zeal that had distinguished the old "Daily W.R. Nelson" steadily waned as the new managers concentrated on being good corporate citizens as well as journalists.

The Star's palatial new quarters at 18th and Grand Boulevard, shortly after opening in 1911. (Unless noted, all images courtesy the author)

(Left to right): Theodore Roosevelt and William Rockhill Nelson in an unposed snapshot.

Ironically, the harder *The Star* strove to position itself as part of the establishment, the clearer it became that Nelson's system of "government by newspaper" was no longer workable. Indeed, some questioned whether the big, wide-open city that Boss Pendergast ruled by hook and crook could be governed at all. Nelson had connived with the Democratic machine from time to time, but no one questioned his credentials as an intrepid boss-buster. His successors at Eighteenth and Grand were cut from different cloth. In election years, they fulminated against vote fraud and corruption; between times they and their fellow businessmen tried to make peace with Pendergast and his cronies. The boss's downfall in 1939 wasn't the journalistic triumph *The Star* made it out to be.

Thanks to its vise-lock on local advertising dollars, *The Star* enjoyed an effective monopoly long before its last competitor, the *Kansas City Journal*, bit the dust in 1942. Nelson was fond of saying that the only monopoly he recognized as legitimate was "the monopoly of excellence." To play it safe, however, he instructed *The Star*'s business force to threaten advertisers with sanctions for patronizing the competition. Both advertisers and subscribers were forced to buy thirteen morning and afternoon papers a week under a controversial "combination-rate" plan. These strong-arm tactics, which the employee managers had practiced with all due diligence, would finally be exposed when the U.S. Justice Department successfully prosecuted *The Star* under the Sherman Antitrust Act in the early 1950s.

The nearly $3 million that *The Star* shelled out in fines, legal fees, and out-of-court settlements was humiliating enough. But what really hurt was the realization that *The Star* could no longer count on Kansas Citians to stand by it in its hour of need. Roy A. Roberts, the paper's heavyweight editor and publisher, emerged from the ordeal a broken man. Nelson, his role model, had refused on principle to answer attacks on his character, reasoning that if his neighbors in Kansas City thought he was a "rascal," a court ruling wouldn't change their minds. A jury of Roberts's fellow citizens had

Henry J. Haskell and his friend William Allen White, editor of the Emporia Gazette

indicated in the clearest possible way that they considered him a rascal. Neither he nor *The Star* would ever strut quite so proudly again.

The city's image had suffered too. A decade of "reform" government had failed to refurbish its battered progressive image. In the midst of the 1950 centennial hoopla, *Holiday* magazine ran a feature on the "rowdy, prosperous city noted for its meat, mills and sin," likening Kansas City to "a middle-aged reprobate come into the arms of the Lord" and still unsure of salvation. As mobsters muscled in on the remnants of the Pendergast empire, some heard disquieting echoes of the Roaring Twenties, when the Chamber of Commerce had done its best to conceal the city's notoriety as a murder capital of the nation. With impeccable timing, Roberts sent a copy of *City of the Future* to James Reston of the New York Times just after gambling kingpin Charles Binaggio was assassinated in a gangland slaying. Reston wrote that he "was mildly disturbed to find that even you cannot control affairs in your home town well enough to keep the local plug-uglies from getting in the news just at the time your book was coming out." Roberts was not amused.

Then came the devastating flood of 1951, which dealt the old industrial district a mortal blow. Suddenly, both *The Star* and the city were thrown on the defensive. Roberts took out full-page ads in major papers around the country, pleading for increased federal spending on flood-control measures. "We know America will provide it because it makes sense," he declared. "The courage, the unbeatable spirit of the people out here have made us more proud than ever that *The Star* is serving such a community and trade territory. We are going ahead, bigger than ever. Just watch." *The Star* won a Pulitzer prize for its coverage of the disaster, but that was about the only silver lining discernible in the storm clouds that loomed on the horizon. Nelson had boasted that "the *Star* never loses." The antitrust trial—which may or may not have been instigated by Roberts's archenemy, Harry Truman, just before he vacated the White House—made such boasts ring hollow.

The sale of *The Star* to Capital Cities in 1977 was the result of a long-term shift from an entrepreneurial to a corporate business model that, in broader journalistic terms, was already under way in Nelson's lifetime. Since then the paper has changed hands no less than four times, culminating in its purchase in 2006 by the California-based McClatchy Company. CEO Gary Pruitt has been quoted as saying that "good journalism is good business" and speaks inspiringly about putting newspapers back at the heart of the "national conversation."[6] Yet McClatchy's stock price plunged sharply after it paid $6.5 billion for the thirty-two papers in the Knight Ridder chain.

Will the 'new' Star be any more successful than the old one in defending traditional journalistic values against the harsh dictates of the marketplace? Pruitt and his colleagues are betting that it will. And, all of us who believe newspapers still have a central role to play in our democracy will be cheering them on.

ADDITIONAL RELATED INFORAMTION IS POSTED ON OUR ONLINE JOURNAL AT JCHS.ORG

A former music critic for the *Kansas City Star*, Haskell is author of *The Early Music Revival: A History* and *The Attentive Listener: Three Centuries of Music Criticism*. Importantly, Haskell was the third generation to work for the Star. He is the grandson of Henry J. Haskell, who became its editor-in-chief, and the son of Henry C. Haskell, an editorial writer who specialized in foreign affairs from 1929 to 1968, and who also served as foreign editor and art editor (He also co-authored with Richard B. Fowler the book, *City of the Future: The Story of Kansas City*, published in 1950). Haskell's newest new book, *Boss Busters and Sin Hounds: Kansas City and Its "Star,"* is published by the University of Missouri Press. Haskell is guest lecturer for the The Charles N. Kimball Lecture, titled, *"City of the Future: Kansas City's Progressive Utopia,"* Thursday, April 10, 2008, 4 p.m.; Pierson Auditorium, University Center, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

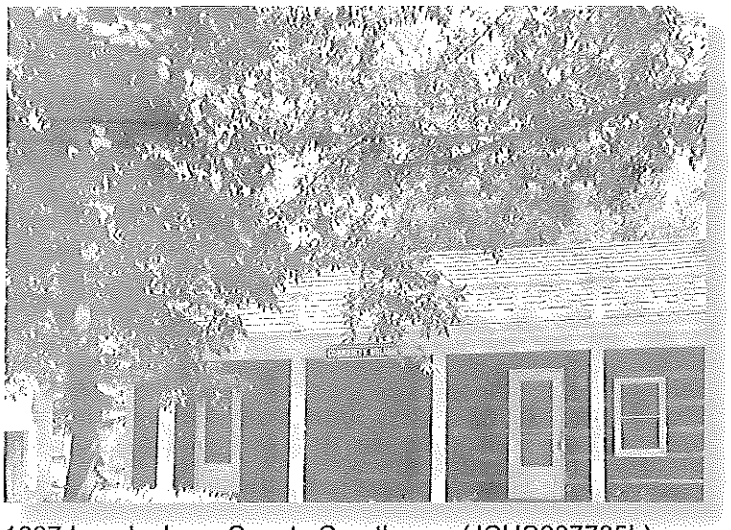
1 "It's Incessant Activities: The Star's Twenty-five Years of Endeavor and Attainment," *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Star*, 18 Sep. 1905, p. 9.
2 Villard, Oswald Garrison. "The Kansas City Star: A Waning Luminary," *Nation* 115 (20 December 1922).
3 This would amount to $135 million in 2007 dollars, according to The Inflation Calculator (http://www.westegg.com/inflation/ viewed on 29 Sept. 2007).
4 Kansas City Star staff. *William Rockhill Nelson: The Story of a Man, a Newspaper, and a City*. (Cambridge, Ma.: Riverside Press, 1915).
5 Ibid.
6 Pruitt, Gary. "Newspapers Are Still the Center of the Media Galaxy," *Kansas City* (Mo.) *Star*, 18 Mar. 2006: B7.

THE REPRISE OF THE JACKSON COUNTY TRUMAN COURTHOUSE ON INDEPENDENCE SQUARE

Compiled by David W. Jackson

Jackson County's Courthouse on Independence Square is a monument to the past and memorial to our future.

In 2011, the 1836 nucleus of the present structure will be 175-years-old. With this auspicious anniversary approaching, there is real momentum behind the building's continued restoration and adaptive reuse for the benefit of future generations of Jackson County citizens...and the many tourists who visit each year.



1827 Log Jackson County Courthouse (JCHS007785L)

The boutique shops around historic Independence Square are also enjoying revitalization today. And, there are 'concrete' plans to remove the hardscaped terraces and retaining wall surrounding the County Courthouse and re-install the beautiful, natural landscaped courtyard of 1933.

What a perfect time to "wind the clock" (a saying used by teenagers in the 1930s through 1960s who cruised one-way around the Courthouse Square) on the history of Jackson County's illustrious courthouse?

More than one third of Missouri's 114 counties boast courthouses over 100 years old, representing the most architecturally significant building in their county at the time of construction. These seats of government, called "county seats" boasted imposing, often elaborate structural ornamentation, domes, and clock towers alluding to the prosperity and pride of its citizenry.

Jackson County has the rare distinction of claiming not one, but *two* surviving 19th century courthouses. Brad Pace, past-president of the Jackson County Historical Society, and author of, "*Survivors: A Catalog of Missouri's Remaining 19th Century County Courthouses*, said, "There can be no doubt that they are today among the county's most tangible links with its past."

1827 LOG COURTHOUSE

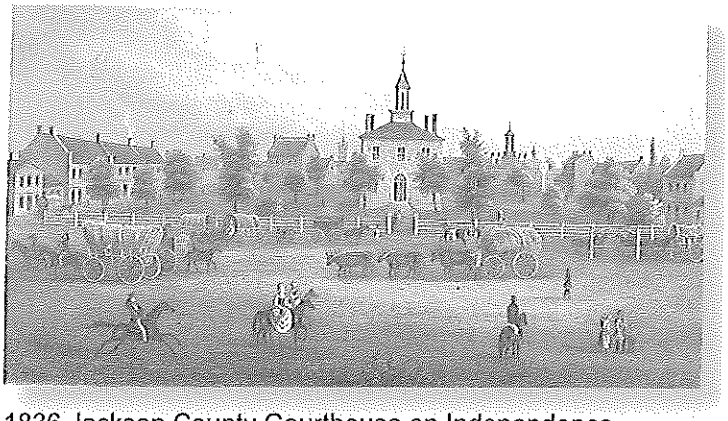
The first meeting of a Jackson County Court (analogous to today's County Legislature) occurred in a private home on May 21, 1827, in Independence.

Soon thereafter bids were requested for construction of a temporary log courthouse. The Court appropriated $175, but accepted the low bid of $150 from Daniel Lewis. Construction of the two-room log house featuring two rock chimneys and a puncheon floor--logs with one side hewn smooth--appears to have been completed by 1828.

It is said that at the time of its construction it was the last county courthouse between Independence and the Pacific Ocean. Although serving only briefly as a courthouse, this "temporary" structure has had many uses through the years, including that of a private home. For a more complete history of the 1827 Log Courthouse, consider taking a guided tour!

The structure was donated to the City of Independence in 1916 by Christian Ott, Jr., Mayor. The building originally located one block east of the Square (Lexington and Lynn) was moved in 1916 to the old City Hall property one block south of the Square (107 West Kansas).

In the 1920's and 30's the Log Courthouse housed the headquarters of the Community Welfare League, with Bess Truman serving as honorary vice-chair.



1836 Jackson County Courthouse on Independence Square from original engraving in the Jackson County Historical Society's print and photographic collections (JCHS004862L)

1836 COURTHOUSE

Though most recently remodeled nearly 75 years ago (1933) under the planning and supervision of Harry S Truman, then Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Court, the landmark Jackson County Courthouse on Independence Square, listed in 1972 on the National Register of Historic Places, contains remnants from five earlier courthouses dating to 1836.

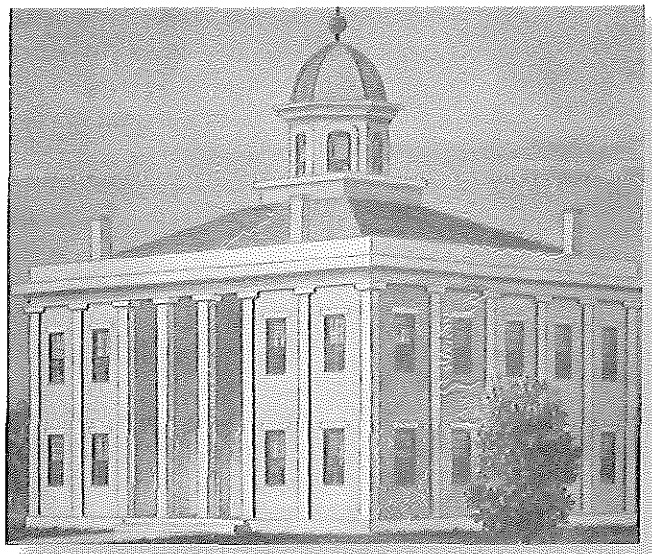
Immediately after the 1827 Log Courthouse was erected, construction of a more permanent brick and stone courthouse began that year. Though completed in 1831, the building was improperly constructed and suffered maintenance problems from the start, according to available records. The structure foundered and the County Court ordered construction of a completely new building in 1836.

Entombed behind the marble walls of the current structure's central lobby and the second floor Circuit Court courtroom, stands the two-foot-thick walls of this 1836, two-story, two-room brick building.

The 1836 Courthouse had four chimneys, one at each corner of the building so that fireplaces could serve both floors. You can get a sense of their locations when you stand in the second-floor Circuit Courtroom; at each of the four corners are the old fireplace flues, bricked up and plastered over. Better yet, a corner closet in the former marriage license bureau on the first floor was once one of four original, tall fireplace flues.

In the basement, you can still see a brick-lined tunnel from this first structure.

A tall, thin, sharp-pointed spire added in 1846 (the year the ill-fated, 250-wagon Donner party left Independence Square for California) was visible for miles in every direction on the pioneer landscape for the next six years. Of course, it didn't hurt that Independence Square situates on very high ground.



1848 Jackson County Courthouse from the 1868 Bird's Eye View of Independence (JCHS004816S)

[1848] COURTHOUSE

Though commonly recorded that Mexican War veterans returning to Jackson County in 1848 found the courthouse enlarged in all four directions and newly resurfaced into a modified Greek Revival style popular at that time, County Court records document this enlargement taking place between June 1852 and May 1853.

The balanced, symmetrical façade included columned entry porches on the north and south, and evenly spaced, simple pilasters projecting slightly from all four walls. The wooden fence previously enclosing the quarter acre, was removed.

A stunted, domed cupola atop a low-pitched hip roof replaced the prominent 1846 spire.

49'ers rushed by this courthouse post haste for gold in California.

Its walls quartered soldiers and endured bullets fired in Civil War battles that raged through Independence Square. The 1868 Bird's Eye View of Independence (for sale by the Jackson County Historical Society) shows two views of this version of the Jackson County Courthouse on Independence Square.

1872 COURTHOUSE

A burgeoning post-war reconstruction boom necessitated larger quarters for Jackson County government.

[In 1872, the first Jackson County Courthouse was constructed in Kansas City at 2nd and Main; it's charge was (and still is) to handle the affairs of citizens conducting county business in Range 33 along the Missouri-Kansas border.]

Also in 1872, $48,000 resurfaced the Independence courthouse with red brick into a Second Empire style. An extended square east wing featured a concave mansard-topped clock tower with pointed belfry; a balustrade and Grecian urns surrounded the adorned cornices of the roofline. Two-story, ornate balconies and classical pediments were built on the north and south entrances. And, an iron fence surrounded the landscaped perimeter.

1887 COURTHOUSE

Fifteen years later in 1887, ornamentation was removed to streamline building maintenance issues.

The clock tower wing was enlarged for office spaces; the 6-foot tall clock face was painted black with gold leaf Roman numerals.

A porch was added to the east entrance.

And, a $35,000 annex was built adjacent on the west, connected by an iron bridge from the second floor.

[In Kansas City that same year, construction began on a new County Courthouse that took up the city block between 5th and Missouri, Oak and Locust Streets; patterned after the state house at Denver, it was opened in 1892.]

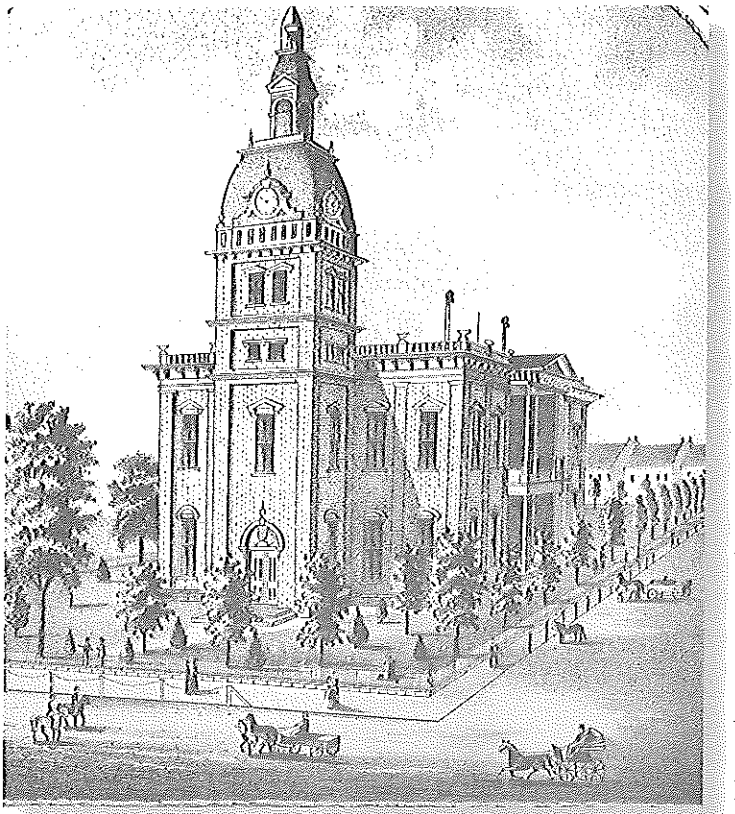
In 1897, the Independence Courthouse had a new timepiece was installed, plus a bell salvaged from a Missouri riverboat. Though it does not presently toll, the 1897 bell is still up there.

1907 COURTHOUSE

In 1907, $100,000 in general revenue funds helped to raise and restyle the Second Empire tower.

The 1872 clock face was retained, but the movement was replaced with one recycled from the city of Independence after a 1,500 lb. weight snapped from its cable and destroyed two joists before breaking it's freefall.

North and south balconies were enclosed, thus expanding the upstairs courtroom.



1872 Jackson County Courthouse from the 1877 *Atlas of Jackson County, Missouri.*

The entire building was resurfaced, this time with buff-colored brick, and the surrounding 1872 iron fence was removed.

1933 TRUMAN COURTHOUSE

The 1907 courthouse on Independence Square served Jackson Countians 25 years until they, at the beginning of the Great Depression, passed a multimillion-dollar bond issue that allotted $200,000 for a new County Courthouse on Independence Square.

[The bond issue also allowed for the construction of a new, 28-story $4 million county courthouse in Kansas City, among numerous other public works.]

Dedicated September 7, 1933, the new building in Independence incorporated significant remnants from prior remodels back to the original 1836 brick courthouse. This decision was made at the insistence of the then Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Court, Harry S Truman.

One of the persons who personally vouched for the "historic treasure" was Dwight Brown, Kansas City Architect. Brown, as a young professional just out of college "cut his teeth" working on the complicated rehabilitation project in 1932-1933. "The Independence Hall patterned clock tower is supported by the center core of the original [1836] structure, which was 40 by 30 feet," Brown said in an article appearing in the March 1974 *Jackson County Historical Society JOURNAL.*

Brown was working with the late David Frederick Wallace, Mr. Truman's brother-in-law, whose special interest, talent, and training were in colonial architecture, Brown said. Wallace's concept of design was the one from which the courthouse architectural firm, Keene & Simpson, made the working drawings.

Naturally, there were no blueprints of the 1836 Courthouse and they could find no working drawings of the 1887 and 1907 remodelings, Brown added.

The County Court had voted to raze all of the structure, save the 1836 original, Brown said. This meant demolition of the east portion which supported the square clock tower and wing on the west, which had been added in 1887.

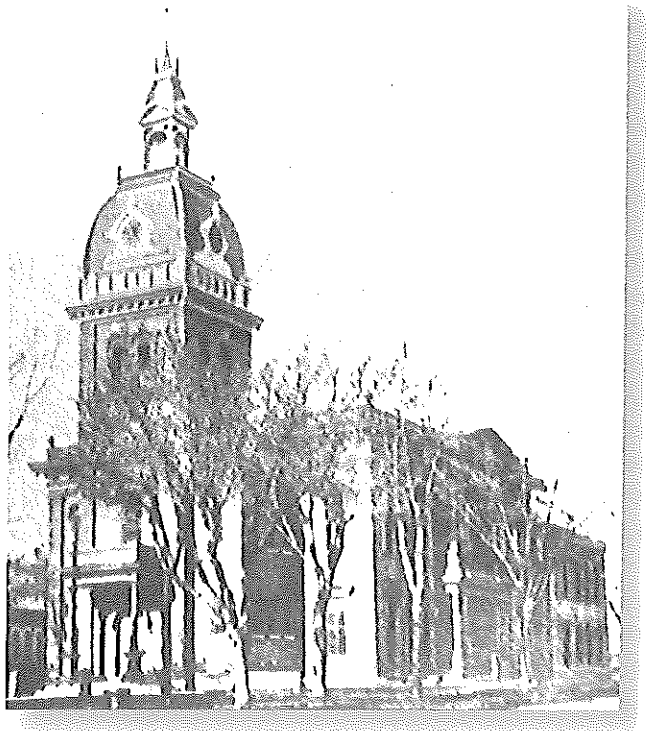
Brown said his assignment was to make a drawing of the nearly century-old unit (at that time). "*I measured the old building inside and out—every wall, partition and beam,*" Brown said. "*I can testify to its antiquity.*" Brown recalled that some of the beams were joined with wooden pegs and that the plaster was "horse hair" vintage. "*Wallace drew his plans to enclose the 1836 unit,*" Brown added.

The buff brick facing, which had given the courthouse a new look in 1907, was removed.

During the remodeling, Jackson County Court sessions were relocated to the 1828 Log Courthouse.

J. Bradley Pace, past-president of the Jackson County Historical Society, and author of, "*Survivors: A Catalog of Missouri's Remaining 19th Century County Courthouses,*" described the end-result of the 1933 remodeling as, "a pleasing and elegant structure inspired by Independence Hall and resembling a Colonial Virginia meetinghouse."

Red colonial brick and white Indiana limestone trimmings punctuate classical columns and porticos on north and south.

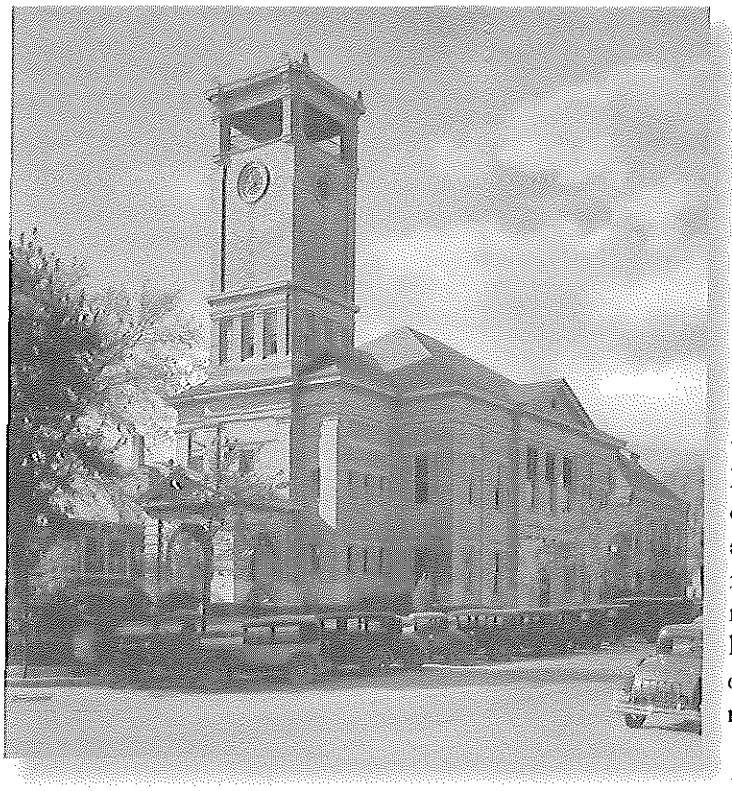


1887 Jackson County Courthouse (cropped from JCHS003614XX)

Above the east and west entrances are stone reliefs of an American eagle surrounded by a symbolic wreath of victory and progress. The seal of the State of Missouri can be found above the north portico, and the seal of Jackson County above the south portico.

After the 1872-vintage black clock face was painted white, and 14-inch long black Arabic numbers replaced gold leaf Roman numbers, it was incorporated into the new 45-feet-high, 15-feet square cupola that perches on steel girders directly above the 1836 load-bearing walls. As mentioned before, the 1897 bell was reinstalled, though it is not presently in use.

Local historian Nancy Ehrlich said the flooring of the hallways is the best grade of "battleship linoleum" imported from Norway. Newspapers at the time of the dedication boast how the building and its furnishings were "fire proof."



1907 Jackson County Courthouse by Dick Millard, as printed in Results of County Planning, by the Jackson County Court under the direction of Presiding Judge Harry S Truman (JCHS009332X)

THE COURTYARD AT THE COUNTY SEAT

When the first settlers to Jackson County began arriving in growing numbers by the mid-1820s, they selected the site of Independence Square as the County Seat for its abundance of fresh springs and majestic forest of elm, oak, walnut, and hickory where Native-Americans had camped for ages.

Early European- and Native-Americans alike respected the beauty of stately trees; neither felled a tree unnecessarily, which is a stark contrast to the clear cutting that typifies modern development. Founders cut only those trees that had to give way for streets and buildings. Trees so concealed the fledgling Independence Square that strangers were unaware of its existence until they came to the clearing in the woods. Our forbearers also planted new trees when old growth stands were harvested, so that Independence and Jackson County is still rich with bountiful foilage.

But, even trees planted long ago and that have survived the woodsman's ax have a natural lifespan. And, external forces like drought, sleet, wind, disease, and pests can hasten the demise of these stately treasures.

In the mid- to late-1930s, during the drought and deprivation of the Great Depression, large elm trees that shaded the bluegrass of the Jackson County Courthouse on Independence Square were cleared. The 75+ year-old-trees had been carefully protected during the remodeling and expansion of the Courthouse between 1933 and 1934. But, with two older trees on the south side of the Courthouse having died, and five others described as being, "scraggly veterans showing clearly the marks of intentional prunings and the scars of seasonal tilts with sleet and wind," a decision was made to replace all 13 elm trees with 18 uniform hard maples.

Urban renewal in the 1970s added lots of earth and a concrete retaining wall around the Courthouse. Landscaping that once sloped naturally and gradually away from the building to street level was replaced with a concrete courtyard. Trees and landscaping suffer from inadequate water and nutrients, plus the reflective heat from expansive concrete of the courtyard (not to mention the buildings).

Current plans to reverse urban renewal hardscape might allow a more natural landscape to survive.

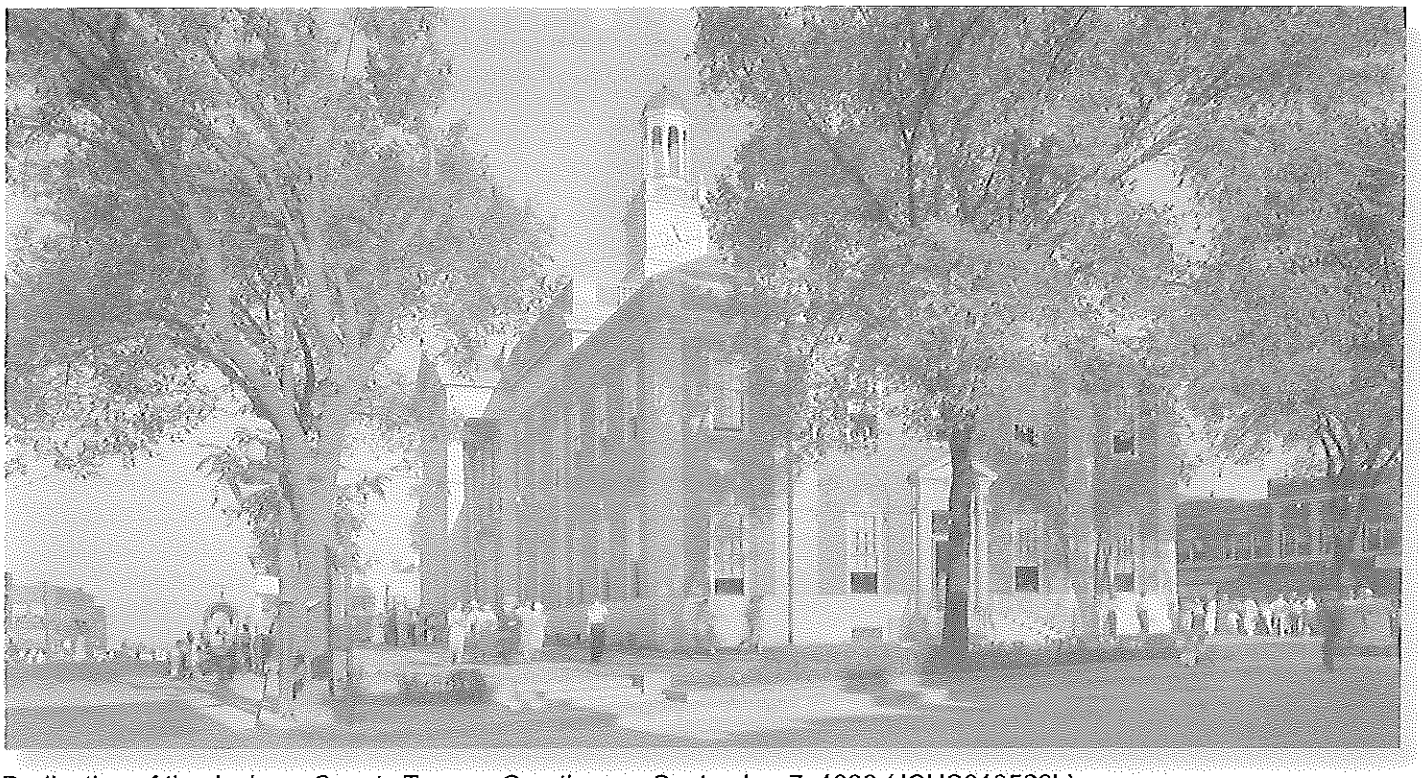
Perhaps decision makers on this project will consider "Going Green," and "Growing Native" to not only respect the environment, but also pay homage to Jackson County pioneers.

"Going Green" means planting trees and native flowers, grasses and sedges...and capturing rainwater runoff for re-use, or in water gardens. The advantages of planting a diverse variety of hardy, native trees are many, including: shade (and lowering utility costs); windbreaks; providing havens for birds; producing oxygen for all animals (this means you). Then, there's beautification, including spring flowers and autumn leaves.

Turf (needing continual mowing, weed whipping and edging) might be replaced with native grasses and sedges. Once their long roots are established, they are drought resistant and virtually maintenance free.

Native flowers are perennial, and would be a carefree alternative to the annuals that are now installed each season. Say, the Purple Coneflower is the official flower for the City of Independence...and it's a native of our area!

I wonder if flowers and trees could be installed that have *significance* to Independence (the Burr Oak is the City's official tree); to Missouri (State tree is the flowering dogwood); and



Dedication of the Jackson County Truman Courthouse, September 7, 1933 (JCHS013522L)

to Jackson County (since we are named after Andrew Jackson, what about the redbud or a variety of southern magnolia like those planted on his Tennessee estate, The Hermitage)? How about honoring the Lewis and Clark Expedition with a tree they 'discovered' (the Osage Orange is one; if foresters think it could work on the Square).

The grounds surrounding Jackson County Courthouse on Independence Square have long featured selected monuments and statues of interest, including: a west-facing equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson, Jackson County's namesake, presented to Jackson Countians by Harry S Truman upon his election as President of the United States in 1949. Originally, the equestrian statute was on the east side of the Courthouse (traditionally, the 'front' of the Courthouse) and faced east.

However, a statue of Truman himself was dedicated May 8, 1976, by President Gerald R. Ford, after being installed on the east side (the former location of the Andrew Jackson monument).

Other markers commemorate Jackson County pioneers and the westward trails that funneled through Independence Square from the 1820s to 1860s. There's even an elevation marker worthy of a feature article all in itself.

COURTHOUSE FUTURE IF BRIGHT

Over the years many politicians, including several U.S. Presidents, have traveled to this historic landmark to politic, announce public policy, and pay homage to President Truman. No doubt, this tradition will continue as long as the building stands.

The building, no longer used as a hall of justice, is being renovated and converted into a visitor orientation center. Pace quoted travel expert Arthur Frommer, who said, "Tourism does not go to a city that has lost its soul." Pace added, "The Square--and the Courthouse in particular--are certainly a big part of the soul of Independence and Jackson County."

Phase I of this project, now complete, stabilized the exterior of the structure. This included an exterior paint job; a new slate roof; brick tuck-pointing; and new energy-efficient, historically accurate windows.

A citizen's task force co-chaired by Chuck Foudree and Barbara Potts are forging ahead with Phase II planning that includes removal of tons of Urban Renewal concrete surrounding the Courthouse that will also serve to relieve water pressure on the Courthouse foundation. *"Restoring the courtyard to the 1933 design will add sidewalks and nearly 70 parking spaces around the Courthouse,"* said Potts, who is also former Independence Mayor and Executive Director of the Jackson County Historical Society.

Meanwhile, the newly formed *Friends of the Courthouse* are assembling contributions that will help fund restoration. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to "Independence Square Courthouse Fund" at the Truman Heartland Community Foundation.

From the Civil War and the Great Depression to Urban Renewal—Jackson County's Courthouse on Independence Square is a survivor.

"Wind the clock" today ...patronize renovated boutiques...enjoy the Courthouse and grounds...and, consider joining and/or volunteering with the *Friends of the Courthouse.*

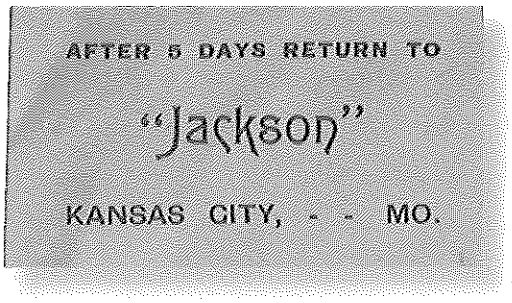
Together we can overcome hurdles so that best laid plans may become a reality.

A Goddess and a Grand Tradition Return to Kansas City, At the Invitation of Mystery Host, "Jackson"

By David W. Jackson

For the last three years (2005, 2006, and 2007), Kansas Citians have been welcomed at Union Station to an enchanted Autumn evening where they have delighted in a sensual outpouring of sights, sounds, smells, and tastes leaving them satisfied, yet in quixotic anticipation for the next *Priests of Pallas* ball, hosted by the Jackson County Historical Society and her allies.

They allowed themselves to enjoy an uninhibited evening of letting go for a wild, enchanting evening, and let whatever happened transpire without judgment knowing that they were with others who know with lucent certainty, and heartfelt feeling that Kansas City is *THE PLACE* to live, work and play.



Return address from the Priests of Pallas mystery host. (Unless noted all images from Jackson County Historical Society's collections.

HIGH SPIRITS AT HARVEST

There was a time in our fair city's history when all citizens in and around Kansas City anxiously awaited the arrival of the *Priests of Pallas* fete.

Kansas City in the late 1880s was straddling two eras. Though poised on the cusp of the industrial revolution, she was still firmly rooted in her agrarian economy. The farming and cattle industries of Jackson County and its neighboring communities remained the region's lifeblood.

Yet Kansas City was coming into her own as a metropolis and an important commercial and social center for a vast region spanning several states. It is against this backdrop that the *Priests of Pallas* festival was born.

The first *Priests of Pallas* celebration was in 1887, and each year thereafter for the next quarter century, this majestic fall festival was the largest social event of the city.

The original, weeklong *Priests of Pallas* events took place after harvest, as farmers and ranchers within a 200-mile radius of Kansas City converged on the city to market their bounty and celebrate. For the farmers, this autumn trip to Kansas City was the culmination of a year's toil. For local businesses, the influx of visitors meant an annual economic boom. For the city's merchants and for its residents, it was a time of year that symbolized abundance and prosperity.

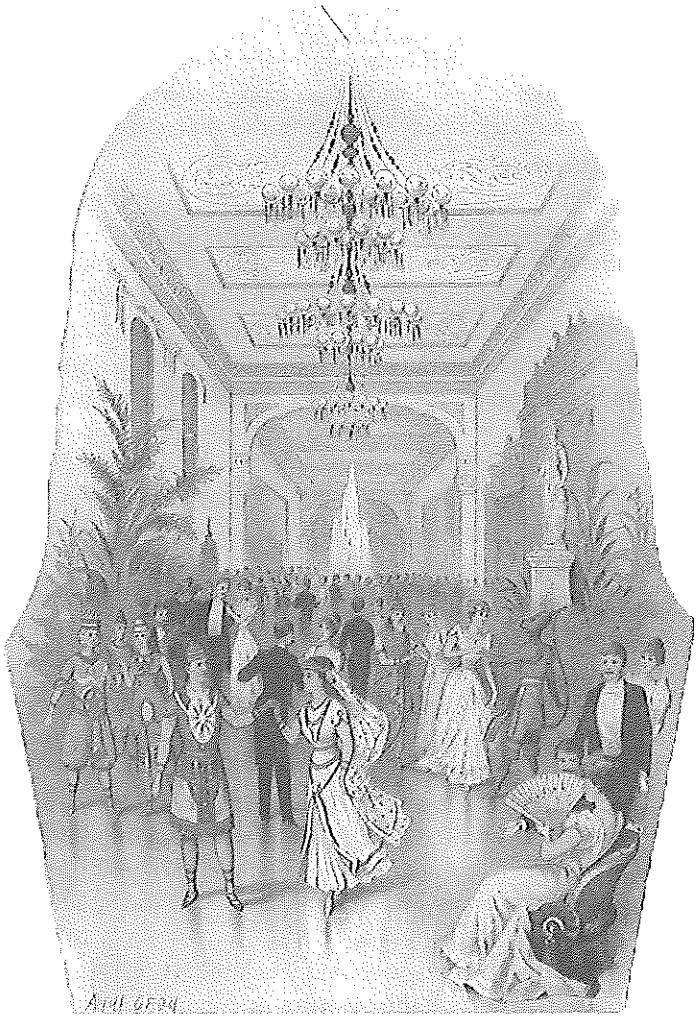
Everyone had a reason to exult, and the carnival-like atmosphere of the *Priests of Pallas* fueled—and was fueled by—this harvest-time spirit of revelry. The festival was perfectly positioned to capitalize on the fusion of a bountiful harvest and a robust market.

INSPIRED BY AN ANCIENT GODDESS

Priests of Pallas mimicked autumnal festivals in other cities across the nation. Emulated after the Veiled Prophet that originated in St. Louis in 1878, and Mardi Gras, renown in New Orleans since the 1850s.

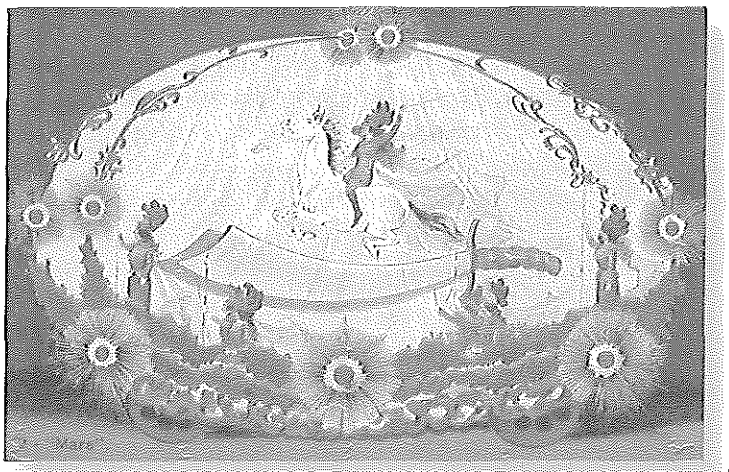
The *Priests of Pallas* festival paid homage, at least symbolically, to Pallas Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, prosperity, household arts and crafts, weaving, spinning, and textiles; inventor of the flute, the ox-yoke, the plow, the horse bridle, and the chariot; guardian of warriors, protector of arts, and champion of justice and civil law.

The message *Priests of Pallas* organizers conveyed was that as long as Kansas Citians revered Athena, she would ensure the city would remain secure, enjoying peace and prosperity as it evolved into a modern metropolis destined for success. Still, today, Kansas City is moving and shaking. Like never before, we are grasping that our strength for a prosperous future comes from a respect and protection of our past. Take heart, and more importantly, take part in the metamorphosis transforming Kansas City and surrounding



communities today.

Each year a different theme was chosen, and elaborate floats illustrating the them were constructed on the flatbed chassis of streetcars, and motored through downtown streets on rails. Before 1902 when the trolley system was in place, flat wagons disguised with ornamental floats were pulled by mules; dangerous torches were the source of light. Using streetcar wires overhead, floats could be electrified with Edison light bulbs; electricity at that time was quite a new spectacle.



MARS: one of a set of postcards from the 1909 Priests of Pallas. (Courtesy Steve Noll)

The "Fete of the *Priests of Pallas*" theme kicked off the tradition in 1887. Some other themes in the years to follow included: "Parade of Nations" (1889); "American History" (1890); "Grand and Comic Opera" (1895); "Story of the Stars" (1904); and a *very futuristic* theme, "A Trip to Mars" (1909) that included one float titled, "Wireless Messages."

Can you think of any creative contemporary *Priests of Pallas* themes we might initiate in years to come? The best themes we could come up with on the fly include: "Reversing a 21st Century Ice Age" (in 2008); "Past and Future Unite in Present" (2020); "The Fall of Rome" (2045); "Harmonizing Global Climate Change" (2009); "History History Repeats Repeats Itself Itself" (2012); "Colonizing a Space Station" (2011); "World Peace at Last" (2050); "Tiptoeing Through Tulips" (2034); or, "Solar Fusion Saves a Planet" (2007). As you can see, you'd better pass along ideas so yours might triumph.

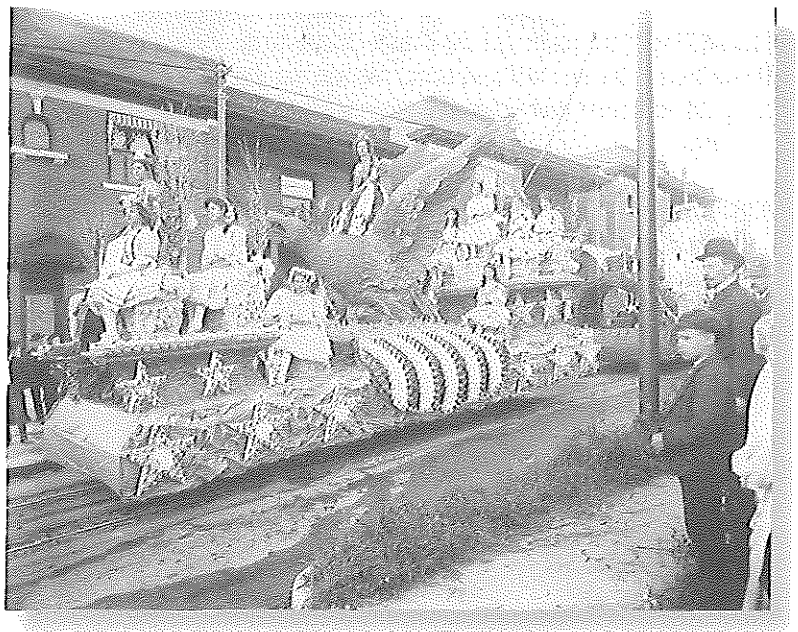
Beginning in 1896, organizers began producing an artifact souvenir. These items (ranging from postcards to figurines, candlesticks to bud vases) are considered collectible today. For the benefit of future generations, the Jackson County Historical Society is striving to assemble through generous donations a complete collection of historical *Priests of Pallas* artifacts.

Over its history the annual pulse-pounding *Priests of Pallas* carnival ala. festival drew hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors, which paid off in astronomical dividends for our burgeoning city. Founders of the *Priests of Pallas* sought economic gain for sure. That the event entertained and had a 'shock and awe' effect on public was likely a secondary achievement.

If the parades were a draw, the *Priests of Pallas* masquerade ball eventually became the festival's piece de resistance. According to Thomas Spencer's manuscript deposited in the Jackson County Historical Society's Archives titled, *A Bit of Mardi Gras in Kansas City: The Priests of Pallas Celebration, 1887-1924*, "Like in other similar celebrations, the ball had become vitally important to the members of the organization. Every year the celebration took place the newspapers were filled with pages of descriptions of the ball, even after coverage of the parade had declined to a brief list of parade floats." (See also Spencer's "Priests of Pallas: Kansas City's Forgotten Fall Festival," in the Autumn 2003 issue of the *Jackson County Historical Society JOURNAL.)*

Virginia Davis, Walt Disney Studio's first authentic star, remarked briefly about the *Priests of Pallas* ball in an interview, "I was a good dancer and star of the *Priests of Pallas* Ball.... I came down from the very high ceiling on a wire and danced...."

Beginning at midnight, and limited to one thousand guests, the ball was clearly the most exclusive social event of the area. Other than Davis' quote, we've not yet uncovered a written, first-hand, detailed description from someone who attended a *Priests of Pallas* ball to find out from personal experience, but we surmise that the dances were magnificent soirées for Kansas City's exclusive class, or social elite. If there's anything more that pleases organizers of today's *Priests of Pallas* Masqued Event is that our modern *Priests of Pallas* is for any and all who truly seek and celebrate the unique in themselves, and who allow the individuality in others to thrive.



A Priests of Pallas parade float. (Courtesy Missouri Valley Room Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library)

All good things must come to an end. The historical *Priests of Pallas* eventually faced some challenges and took a decade-long hiatus beginning in 1912. Resurgence in *Priests of Pallas* in 1922 included a parade, ball and fashion show to appeal to younger women. According to Spencer, "While the organization's estimates of 400,000

spectators seem a bit exaggerated, the celebration in 1922 appeared to be well received." But, crowds continued to dwindle and the life span of *Priests of Pallas* came to an end after the 1924 festivities, even with attendance estimates ranging from 125,000 to 200,000 people, according to Craig Bryan, who has compiled and deposited with the Jackson County Historical Society a year-by-year synopsis of the historical *Priests of Pallas*.

After nearly a quarter century, the decline and demise of the celebration was hastened by the development of a culture of leisure in the 1920s. Kansas Citians had a variety of entertainment choices including amusement parks, movie theaters, even the American Royal. Then, too, was the exciting, new-fangled automobile industry and the birth of the "road trip" rendered the heartland's population ever more mobile, opening up a world of diversions that must have made the notion of a harvest festival seem quaint.

In the early 20th century, unable to keep pace with the tastes and sensibilities of a rapidly changing culture, the *Priests of Pallas* disappeared for a decade. It returned for two years as if taking a final breath, and then vanished from Kansas City's social calendar and, eventually, from her people's collective memory.

REVELATIONS ABOUT YOUR HOST, "JACKSON"

Priests of Pallas rocked Kansas City for more than 25 years, and each year's festivities started with an ornate, otherworldly invitation mailed from an elusive host named, "Jackson."

"Jackson" remains somewhat of an enigma. He (or, might we suggest "She") first began inviting Kansas Citians to the *Priests of Pallas* balls in the late 1880s. At least, that was the singular name on invitations; there was never an actual person identifiable as, "Jackson."

CHARLES A. JACKSON

Some speculated years later that "Jackson" was a nod to Charles A. Jackson, who had worked as a janitor for the newly founded Commercial Club of Kansas City, located in the Exchange Building on the northwest corner of 8th and Wyandotte (the Commercial Club was reorganized as the Chamber of Commerce in 1913).

Remember the old saying that goes something like, "If you want to know something, ask the janitor (or hired help)?" Subordinates see just about everything that goes on above and below the table, behind closed doors, and in every nook and cranny. They are the ones who often work in the shadows and have the opportunity to overhear and observe on a full-time basis what casual patrons might not notice. Could it have been that Charles A. Jackson was known by the Commercial Club's members as being the one and only person "in the know" about a multitude of public and private privileges? With this paradoxical dynamic in place, might *Priests of Pallas* organizers--adhering to the complex racial etiquette of their time--have found it amusing to designate Jackson as the unofficial *Priests of Pallas* mystery host...not as a veneration, but rather subtle denigration?

You see Charles A. Jackson was African American. And, in the 1890s amidst Jim Crow laws restricting social and economic rights of African Americans, whites expected blacks to demonstrate their inferior social status through outward signs of deference.[1] In fact, racism between the 1880s and 1890s resulted from an interaction between racial stereotypes already embedded in the culture, and from the tensions associated with class and status formation in a rapidly industrializing, capitalist society.[2]

Understanding full-well that we learn best about our past by examining original or primary documents, photographs, and taking into account secondary printed sources and personal recollections, we looked into the *Priests of Pallas* legend of "Jackson." Here's what we've uncovered from the vaults ... and veils of history *so far*....

From the *Fifth Annual Proceedings of the Commercial Club of Kansas City*, September 27, 1892, we discovered from remarks by William B. Grimes, first president from 1887-1888, that the Club was formally organized at a general meeting of 57 businessmen held in the Brunswick Hotel (located at 10th and Broadway) on July 18, 1887, with formal introduction of the young business organization celebrated by an inaugural banquet on October 18, 1887. Grimes said, "The Commercial Club at once assumed a strong position in our community, and even in its first year assisted in promoting many important measures." Isn't it peculiar that *Priests of Pallas*, while not mentioned by Grimes during this anniversary address, had also made its debut at the same moment in the time space continuum as the Commercial Club?

The Club's second president, serving from 1888-1889, Col. L. K. Erwin, added that, "Kansas City had advanced rapidly in those years, from 1880-1887, and had increased her population 75,000. She was like a great, healthy, muscular, active man, but lacking the soul, the heart, the intellect to direct the action of her young, progressive business men; that was the occasion and that was the necessity of the organization of the Commercial Club." With all of these deliberate gender allusions, its interesting that *Priests of Pallas* organizers sought to energize the burgeoning city by invoking the heart and soul of an ancient mythological Greek Goddess when they selected Pallas Athena.

In 1900, according to United States Decennial Census Enumerator Warren Mullet, Charles A. Jackson, who was born in Ohio in January 1852, was a janitor in a "club room." At that time, the 48-year-old African American reported having married about a decade before to South Carolina native Mrs. Frances J. "Fannie" Bradshaw, a 38-year-old hairdresser, as reported in the Census. Jackson County marriage records confirm that the couple married December 23, 1888. Living with the couple in their rented home at 1021 Flora in Kansas City was Frances' 18-year-old daughter, Ruby (or Ruba) E. Bradshaw, born in Tennessee during her previous marriage.

By 1910, Charles A. Jackson owned the house at 2434 Montgall Avenue. The Jacksons were enumerated as mulatto, or of mixed race, and they had a 15-year-old mulatto "house girl" named Minnie L. Williams, who was from Tennessee. Both Charles and Frances indicated to Census Enumerator M. M. McCarty that their 24-year marriage was the second for each of them. The couple celebrated Ruba's marriage on June 22, 1911, to 30-year-old Slater A. Logan, a resident of Columbia, Boone County, Missouri.

Everyone lived in the same household when the 1920 census enumerator visited their door, and listed them each as African American. Charles was then a watchman at the Altman Building. Fannie was enumerated as matron at the County Home [for Aged and Infirm Negroes], located at 1408 Vine Street. Slater Logan was a

butcher in a packinghouse in the West Bottoms. One of two "lodgers" was 43-year-old Caroline Brydie, a Kansas City schoolteacher. Note below that 10 years later, Caroline was listed as Frances' *daughter* in two different record sources.

One of the Priests of Pallas Committees, undated. (Courtesy Chip Schmelzer)

Six years later, on June 8 Charles A. Jackson died. His 1928 death certificate, completed by Frances, revealed that he was born on January 19, 1852. His mother was Julia Jackson; she and her husband (unnamed on the death certificate) were both born in Ohio. Charles A. Jackson died in Wheatley Provident Hospital, and is interred in Highland Cemetery.

Upon a trip to Highland Cemetery on Blue Ridge Boulevard, we also found from her tombstone that Jackson's wife, Frances, died on August 28, 1930. A search for her obituary yielded some interesting facts not found elsewhere, namely: that the family were members of the St. Augustine Church at 11th and Troost (an African American congregation that continues today).

Also, Frances' obituary listed *two* surviving daughters, Mrs. John H. Graves, of 2210 Charlotte, and Carolyn E. Brydie, of the home on Montgall. Returning to Jackson County's marriage records, we indeed found Ruby Logan marrying Graves on Christmas Day, 1929. Graves was a chauffeur for a teaming company according to the 1930 Census, which listed the newlyweds at 423 East 23rd Street.

The 1930 Census also listed Frances Jackson and *daughter*, Carrie E. Brydie, a 52-year-old Georgia native, public school teacher, who had never been married. Remember in 1920, Carolyn was listed as a "lodger." Since Brydie's parents were each listed as Georgia natives, and since Frances was born in South Carolina, either Carolyn was adopted by Frances, or perhaps the family considered Frances to be Carolyn's "play mother." (It is interesting to note, too, that two households up the street from Frances and Carrie, at 2444 Montgall, was the family of Kansas City schoolteacher John H. Bluford, including his wife, Addie, their two sons, and 18-year-old daughter, Lucille Bluford, who would become a *Kansas City Call* journalistic icon.) (See, "Truth in Black Ink: How Lucile Bluford Heard The Call and Penned Her Way Towards Black Feminist Activism," by Dr. Delia C. Gillis and Keana Jarvis in the Autumn 2006 issue of the *Jackson County Historical Society JOURNAL.)*

So, what happened to Charles A. Jackson's family through the Great Depression? What was their participation in World War II? Are there descendants living today? Are any in our area? Might they confirm or deny this hypothesis? Only time (and a lot more research) may tell.

PRIESTS OF PALLAS IN CONTEXT

1850s: Birth of New Orleans's legendary *Mardi Gras* tradition.
1878: St. Louis holds its first *Veiled Prophet* harvest festival.
1884: The Flambeau Club, a Kansas City civic organization, performs at the Republican National Convention. From this exhibition the *Priests of Pallas* festival is conceived, and planning begins.
1887: Grecian mythology reigns when *The Fete of the Priests of Pallas* debuts as a weeklong series of parties. An elaborate, dye cut invitation had several fold out panels with stunning, full-color illustrations. This tradition of elegant *Priests of Pallas* printed matter would continue for years to come.
1888: *The Story of Pallas Athene* theme carries through an extensive souvenir booklet of parade floats and advertising for Kansas City's sponsoring businesses and individuals.
1889: Organizers chose A *Parade of Nations* theme for this year's festivities.
1890: *American History* is remembered and celebrated, ushering in the Gay '90s.
1891: Kansas Citians celebrate *A Romance of the Ages*. An embossed, clamshell shaped invitation provides 6 double-sided, beautifully illustrated vignettes.
1892: *Songs and Fables* theme.
1893: *Prose and Poetry* theme.
1894: *The Ramayana* includes another intricately designed, dye cut, multi-paneled fold out with exotic, colorful scenes. When removed from the enveloped addressed from "Jackson," invitees hold a hefty invitation of Zeus' golden bust.
1895: *Grand and Comic Opera Wonders* theme.
1896: A *Wonders* theme explores the ancient Wonders of the World. This appears to be the first year that an artifact is introduced to the *Priests of Pallas* festivities. A metal tray is given to attendees.
1897: A playful *Anderson's Fairy Tales* theme would attract untold numbers of younger Kansas Citians to the *Priests of Pallas* festivities.
1898: Last year's theme proved so popular, organizers choose *Mother Goose* theme to continue the light-heartedness of the *Priests of Pallas* event.
1899: Draw your own conclusions around the theme *Picturesque and Historic*.
1900: *Scenes from History* is an appropriate theme for the new millennium. At the world focuses on the passing of time, a clock is chosen as the gift souvenir.
1901: This is the last year that torch lighted, mule-drawn wagons lead the *Priests of Pallas* parade procession; floats follow the *Mysteries* theme.
1902: The city's new trolley system carries *Animated Flowers* floats for the *Priests of Pallas* parade on its streetcars; its overhead wires power Edison bulbs to illuminate them.
1903: *A Parade of Nations* returns by popular demand.
1904: *Story of the Stars* theme invites Kansas Citians to look up to the night's sky in a day before light pollution would obliterate the stunning celestial show that rotates above us each night.
1905: Imagine floats with an *Animated Nature* theme. Roar!
1906: The sparkle of *Rare Jewels* dominate this year's theme.
1907: *Animated Circus* attract unnumbered parade gatherers. A full set of parade float post cards is also created for sale this year.

1908: *Flight of the Hours* theme is also represented in a set of 15 colorful post cards that attendees could collect. A different style clock is offered as a souvenir this year.
1909: The futuristic theme, *A Trip to Mars*, includes a float called "Wireless Messages." Again, 15 color postcards help to document what the parade floats may have looked like.
1910: With the growing popular of human-engineered flight, *Conquest of the Air* seems an appropriate theme.
1911: *Flowers* are a delightful, yet simple theme explored this year. *Priests of Pallas* fronds show signs of wilting.
1912: If there is a theme for this year's *Priests of Pallas*, it is has not yet discovered. Maybe it was because after 17 years of designing the world's most expensive parade floats, Mr. Robinson moved to Los Angeles to work for a flower parade there? The cooling temperature for the event is represented in the souvenir gift, a stamped thermometer attached to a wooden base. This is the last *Priests of Pallas* event to be organized for nearly a decade.
1922: Recovering from the episode of The Great War, a retooled *Priests of Pallas* is planned around the theme *Peace and Prosperity*. Organizers estimated 400,000 spectators.
1923: A *Dreamland* theme attracts attendees of all ages.
1924: Trying to keep Kansas Citians enthusiasm and attention amid a sea of new entertainments and diversions, a *Flowerland* theme is created to draw crowds for young and old. Unfortunately, a fire on the "Tender Foot" float consumes a little girl named Polly Anna Dunkel. The crepe paper wand the 7-year-old uses to try to put out the fire is to no avail. The *Priests of Pallas* took a bow this year, and bid adieu Athena.
2005: The *Priests of Pallas* returns as a masquerade ball and benefit for the Westport and Jackson County Historical Societies.
2006: The *Priests of Pallas* ball is gaining in recognition and popularity. How long before it reclaims its former notoriety? Command all you know to put October 2007 into their Blackberry or palm pilots, and make plans for next year's *Priests of Pallas* masqued event.[3]

JOHN PRINCE LOOMAS, SR.

To be fair, another account suggests "Jackson" as having been John Prince Loomas, the first president of the *Priests of Pallas* board, according to Craig Bryan.

Loomas was born in Menasha, Wisconsin, January 11, 1854, and came to Kansas City in 1877 with $13 to his name and engaged in the commission business. He was enumerated as a 26-year-old, single, commercial merchant boarding with the S. R. and Susan Lee family on Campbell Street in the 1880 Census. Loomas returned to Neenah, Wisconsin, to marry his sweetheart on November 15, 1881. On June 30, 1883, John and Mary Ida (Huxley) Loomas welcomed their daughter Linda into the world.[4]

An extremely successful businessman, "his interest in the city's advancement...was deep and sincere and his labors were frequently far-reaching along lines of municipal benefit," according to Carrie Westlake Whitney in her 1908 Kansas City history compendium. "He took active part in furthering the *Priests of Pallas* parades each year and thus exploiting the resources of the city, and in 1887 had charge of the produce dealers' trades display in the first parade." The debut was so successful that he was chosen to manage all future *Priests of Pallas* parades.

In May 1899 Loomas became manager of Kansas City's grand Convention Hall. When the new building was destroyed by fire on July 4, 1900, Loomas took charge of hundreds of men in rebuilding of the monstrous structure in just three months so that Kansas City could welcome the Democratic National Convention for the 4th of July celebrations.


John Prince Loomas, Sr.
(Courtesy Chip Schmelzer)

The 1900 Census listed Loomas owning his home at 2417 E. 12th Street, along with wife, Ida, 46; Linda, 16; and, Libbie Roberts, a 32-year-old servant.

The next year on May 17, however, Loomas died quite unexpectedly, and was interred in Kansas City's prestigious Elmwood Cemetery. It was there that we discovered that John and Ida had buried their six-year-old son, John Prince Loomas, Jr., on January 13, 1895. Kansas City newspapers regaled Loomas by reprinting eloquent resolutions from the Convention Hall, *Priests of Pallas*, and Karnival Krewe directors, echoing the sentiment that "his best life's work was devoted to the elevation of public amusements and the happiness of his fellow men."

Four years after her father's death, Linda Loomas married on November 15, 1905, Ohio native Charles M. "Charley" Bush, a prominent attorney who had previously worked at 216 Sheidley Building and lived at 1027 Cherry, according to the 1900 Kansas City city directory.

Interestingly, Bush had been connected to the *Priests of Pallas* some years before. The historical *Priests of Pallas* extravaganza included the coronation of a queen, Pallas Athena, whose true identity was disguised with an elaborate, heavy mask and head dress. Most secondary sources relay that the queen of each year's festival had not been a woman, but rather a man. A sexist excuse was given that the official activities of the office were too strenuous for a woman. Initially I figured this to be a stronghold on tradition from the ancient world through the middle ages when men portrayed both genders in theatrics and vaudeville cirque. Then, Chip and Susan Schmelzer (Chip descends from Charley Bush), shared with the Jackson County Historical Society a copy of the *Kansas City Journal Post* gravure section on October 1, 1922, offering a photo spread of some "Former Queens of POP." All but one Athena were women:

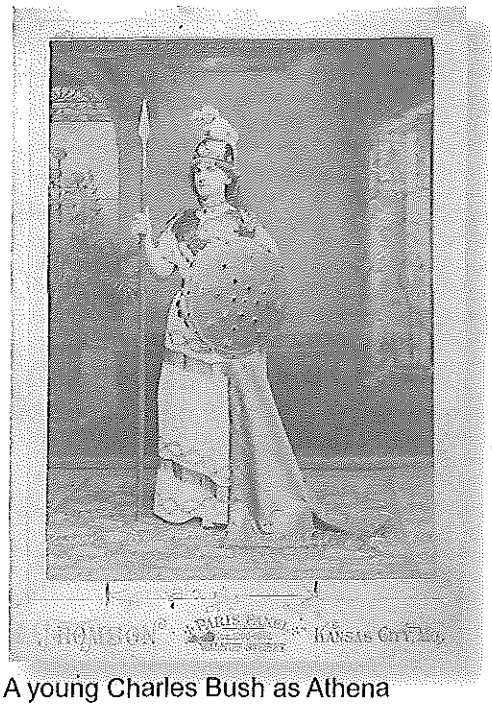
1893: Nan Nelson
1894: no photo
1895: Charles Bush
1896-1901: no photos
1902: Miss Grace Nolan
1903: Elizabeth Schmidt

1904: Olive Nicholas
1905: Mabel Wright
1906: Monte Johnstone
1907: Mary Estell Sparks
1908: Miss Elizabeth McKnight
1909: Glendora Runyan
1910: Miss Inez Kenmuir
1911: I. Barton
1912: Miss Irene Ladish

According to his July 13, 1936, obituary, Charles M. Bush, son-in-law of John Prince Loomas, confirmed that he once took the part of Athena (1895).

By 1908, Bush worked at 1000 New York Life Building.

When the 1910 Census enumerator visited their home at 716 Benton Boulevard, Linda's mother, Ida Loomas, was living in the Bush household. Within 20 years in 1930, the Charley and Linda Bush family resided at 45 West 57th Street and consisted of two teenage daughters, Mary Linda, age 16 (born about 1914), and Charline, 11 (born about 1919).



A young Charles Bush as Athena (Courtesy Charlene Schmelzer Franz)

Mrs. Mary Ida Loomas died in 1933 after an automobile accident and was laid to rest in Elmwood Cemetery beside her husband. Her son-in-law, Charley Bush, whom she was especially fond of, died tragically in 1936. By the end of the decade marked by the Great Depression, Charley and Linda Bush's daughters had established their own families: Charline married Charles Joseph Schmelzer II, on November 15, 1939, and moved to 4819 Belleview; and, Mary Linda had married Gardiner Rapelye on April 24, 1940, and moved to 624 Westover Road.

Charles J. Schmelzer II was the grandson of Charles Joseph "C.J." Schmelzer, who founded Schmelzer Arms Company in Kansas City in 1887, was President of Commercial Club in 1900. Later he was President and Trustee of the old Convention hall from 1912 until the building went out of existence. He died in 1945.

Quite a genealogy we've been spinning, but the web doesn't support proof positive that Loomas, or Charles A. Jackson was the elusive "Jackson," host of the historic *Priests of Pallas* ball. Whichever version you may or may not believe *Priests of Pallas* organizers were daringly clever to have sent invitations to the city's social elite from the desk of either humble party.

Perhaps one day, original documentation will surface that will cinch this mystery. Perhaps you may join our efforts to learn more about tonight's mystery host! Should we have a séance? Is anyone a Spiritualist? Does anyone have a crystal ball or Ouija board? For now, Jackson's ritual shall live on like a gypsy that refuses to plant roots in the soil, but roam free and unfettered!

It is also our hope that you will share this article with those you encounter so that more people will continue to learn about the importance and significance of this historical chapter in our city's history ... and become involved with its renewed adaptation in the future. And, we trust you will personally see that the reawakened *Priests of Pallas* becomes a hallmark Kansas City event.

When attendees have exited the doors of Union Station at midnight these last three years, they expect and anticipate Jackson's invitation to the next *Priests of Pallas* ball. Surely, they've boasted how they have had the good fortune of being "in the know," and know that they MUST attend the next *Priests of Pallas* ball. Won't you?

This feature article is type set with a particular typeface, or font, with an historic connection to *Priests of Pallas*. "Athena" typeface was originated at the Connors New York Type Foundry in 1888, the year following the debut of Kansas City's *Priests of Pallas*. Quinkydink? We think not.

ADDITIONAL RELATED INFORAMTION IS POSTED ON OUR ONLINE JOURNAL AT JCHS.ORG

David W. Jackson has served as Director of Archives and Education for the Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society since November 2000. He is founder of The Orderly Pack Rat (www.orderlypackrat.com), which has published his two nonfiction books, *Direct Your Letters to San Jose: The California Gold Rush Letter of James and David Lee Campbell, 1849-1852* (2000); and, *Recipes of Our Past: Morsels from Our Grandmothers' Recipe Boxes* (2003). Jackson is also author of a bi-monthly history-related column, "Portals to the Past," in the *Kansas City Star* newspaper.

1 *Encyclopedia of American History: The Emergence of Modern America, 1900-1978*, Vol. 7. online.
2 Fredrickson, George M. *The Historical Construction of Race and Citizenship in the U.S.* (Geneva, Switzerland: U. N. Research Institute for Social Development, Identities, Conflict and Cohesion Programme Paper No. 1, October 2003), p. iii.
3 With grateful thanks to Craig Bryan, whose unpublished compilation, *The Priests of Pallas Parade and Ball, Kansas City, Missouri, 1887-1924,* is available in for research in the Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society's Archives and Research Library.
4 Whitney, Carrie Westlake. *Kansas City, Missouri: Its History and Its People, 1800-1908."* Volume II. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908), 553-555.

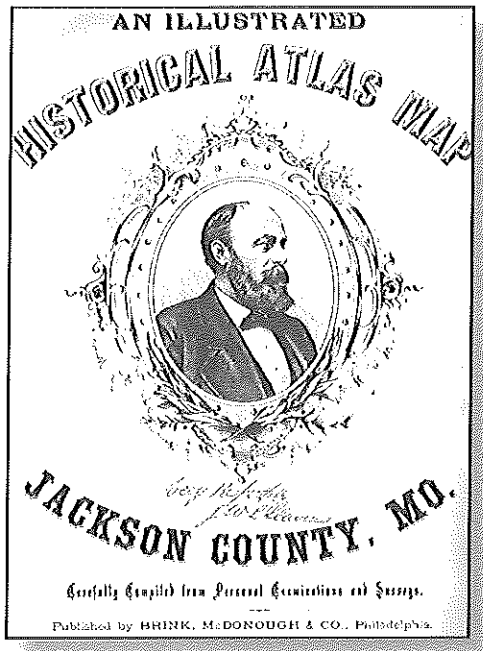
Book Notes

An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map, Jackson County, Mo.: Carefully Compiled from Personal Examinations and Surveys consists of maps and illustrations representing the earliest and most detailed artistic plat maps for Jackson County, Missouri.

The document provides an 1877 snapshot of residents, landowners, businesses, and ownership boundaries throughout Jackson County, Missouri.

In commemoration of the American Bicentennial, the Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society first made this important local history document available to the public.

Its popularity and proved use as a research tool prompted the need for another re-printing. In 2007, after more than two years of preparation, the Society reprinted its complete, original set of plat maps in a 130th Anniversary Commemorative Edition.



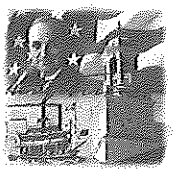
The highlight to this re-print is a newly developed, every-name, index. The robust index will be invaluable for locating thousands of people and place names as they were recorded in the 1877 volume.

The original title page offers an engraving of Slavens. To answer those who occasionally ask, "Who was Slavens? Was he the author?" the editor compiled a brief biography and presented it in the front matter of the new book. Slavens was the mayor of Kansas City at the time when the 1877 Atlas was first printed.

A Plat Map Matrix was also added opposite the original Table of Contents. This matrix was created by Henry A. Marnett, a long-time volunteer at the Historical Society's Archives. Marnett is also a founding member of the Citizens for the Archives, a nonprofit affinity group independent of the Jackson County Historical Society, and solely dedicated to supporting the functions of the Society's Archives.

This publication was made available with grateful acknowledgement to the Courtney S. Turner Charitable Trust, Daniel C. Weary and Bank of America, Trustees. They are heartily thanked for their dedication to the Society's mission.

An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Jackson County, Mo.: Carefully Compiled from Personal Examinations and Surveys is available in the Jackson County (Mo.) Historical Society's Bookshop (Retail $25), and is also available through its virtual bookstore online at www.jchs.org.



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