

Ohio River Scenic Byway

America's Story Your Story





Rhonda Belford

Rhonda's Letter

Greetings Once Again Dear Byway Friends,
I hope you have enjoyed the previous two publications of "America's Story — Your Story" and have found wonderful tidbits and historical treasures that abound across the 188 mile stretch of the Ohio River Scenic Byway. I believe, however, that this particular publication may be some of the most heartfelt and emotional stories to be told. We, here at the Ohio River Scenic Byway believe that these stories should be documented for the next generations to come. Some of the events that transpired within the next few pages changed not only history and the law but many lives and communities forever. My own life was impacted by the events that transpired and perhaps many of yours were too. This third issue of "America's Story — Your Story" is an issue of community and resilience and what real over-comers can achieve.

May God Bless you all along the Ohio River Scenic Byway and Beyond. And remember, "I'm Thinkin' bout You on the Ohio"!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Belford

Ohio River Scenic Byway President

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The gazebo at the Grand Rose
Hotel Bed & Breakfast on the
Ohio River in Elizabethtown.



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FROM THE COVER

Front Cover Photograph
Provided by Eric and Sherry Livingston:
Vivid Blue Fluorspar

Making Friends from All Over the World!

High School sweethearts, Bill and Robbie Jenkins, never dreamed they'd spend their retirement greeting international travelers!

In 1976, when America celebrated its bicentennial, over 4,000 bike riders set out to ride a distance of over 4,200 miles across the nation from Yorktown, Virginia to Reedsport, Oregon. "Bikecentennial '76" was so popular that the route, which goes right across Southern Illinois, was mapped and marked and is called the TransAmerica Trail.

The TransAmerica Trail is still in place today, and while it is anybody's guess how many bikers take the ride each year, we know that the ferry at Cave-In-Rock is promoted as an important link to get the bikers from Kentucky across the Ohio River to Illinois. The Trail and the ferry are mentioned in hundreds of blogs and in numerous promotional maps distributed to interested travelers who come from all over the world.

Bikers cross the Ohio River on the Cave-In-Rock Ferry from all over the world and Robbie and Bill Jenkins have met plenty of them. Robbie keeps a list and it includes U.S. locations stretching from Baltimore to Reno. It also includes Switzerland, Ireland, Germany, Bolivia, Finland, Canada and England.

Robbie and Bill had been visiting with bikers coming up the hill in front of their home for years, so they decided it was time to officially offer a greeting. So, four years ago, the



A welcome sign encouraging cyclists to stop and refill their water bottles.

Jenkins Bicycle Rest Stop was born and their welcoming personalities are depicted with friendly signs and comfortable seating under big shade trees.

They offer a water stop and they keep plenty of food like peanut butter and jelly handy for hungry bikers who need sustenance. Robbie says that if she's cooked a big meal, she and Bill are apt to share that with bicycle guests. That's what you call Ohio River Scenic Byway hospitality!

Every biker has a different story to tell. One couple described that they just quit their jobs in New York City; put all their belongings into storage and started out to see the U.S.A. on their bikes. Another 72 year old lady was riding for a cause, to feed the hungry. Often times, groups from churches or other organizations top the hill at the Jenkins Stop.



Robbie and Bill Jenkins have been busy offering relief to cyclists.



Tree art welcomes bikers.

Sometimes riders end up pushing their bikes up the hill leading to the Jenkins' home.

Bikers typically camp, although some stay in area churches. All of them

express their appreciation to Robbie and Bill for the hospitality. They say the stop is a "haven" and a "joyful place". "A great place to rest" and the "highlight of

trips" are frequent comments.

Bike riders are special people who have a special 'oneness' with their natural surroundings. Robbie and Bill know that from experience because they are avid motorcyclists. Although they don't do much cycling anymore, they used to take their family vacations on motorcycles. Like many residents of the Ohio River Scenic Byway Region, the Jenkins moved away for a few years, but returned to retire. While they lived in Hillsboro, Illinois, they vacationed in Gatlinburg, Tennessee many times. They typically traveled by motorcycle.

Robbie said they'll always love motorcycles. Recently, the entire family was involved in putting together a cycle that had been in a box for 30 years! She said it took a year to complete the project, but it was well worth the effort.

Bill and Robbie Jenkins really were High School sweethearts and they were married right out of High School. Bill said Robbie was looking for a "knight on a white stallion", but she got a "frog on a white Harley" instead! What a love story! The love between Robbie and Bill is very obvious and it is also obvious that they love sharing their hospitality with perfect strangers! They are, indeed, perfect ambassadors for the Ohio River Scenic Byway!

Cave-In-Rock Welcomes Bikers with Bikes!

John and Ramona Douglas



Many colorful bikes line the streets of Cave-In-Rock to welcome visitors.



Many colorful bikes line the streets of Cave-In-Rock to welcome visitors.

live in Cave-In-Rock right in the middle of town, and they love their town. John recently told me that they'd do just about anything

to benefit Cave-In-Rock. John has several collectible bikes including a British Paratrooper's bike that folds in half. It is a pretty

interesting bike that brings up all kinds of questions. Did the paratroopers carry the bikes with them? Did the bikes go in a separate parachute?

John and Ramona want Cave-In-Rock to be especially welcoming to the hundreds of bikers that come across the Ohio River on the ferry. They've covered the town with a fantastic display of brightly painted bicycles of all kinds. Each bike dons a cute basket of silk flowers and they scream, "Welcome to Cave-In-Rock!"

We're finding more and more true ambassadors of the Ohio River Scenic Byway and John and Ramona Douglas are certainly on that list!

Southern Illinois by Bicycle

Melinda Spohn, PhD

A Baby Boomer of the '60s, I grew up embracing the essence of youth and a free-spirit, so when I turned 60 this year I decided I would ride my bicycle over 3,000 miles from Virginia to Washington State. Joining me on this adventure was my younger sister. This was not our first "road trip" having completed shorter tours in British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Cycling long distances is not new, a few adventuresome men cycled around the country and the world in the late 1800s. While it was not socially appropriate for women to attempt such long distances, there were a few women who dared to move into this predominately male arena. Suffragette Susan B. Anthony was a fan of the bicycle stating, "Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel ... the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood" (1896). One hundred and eighteen years later, cycling and cycle-touring is a growing sport for women of all ages.

Having shipped our touring bikes and gear ahead, we flew to the east coast and on May 3rd we set out from Yorktown, Virginia following the TransAmerica Trail. With my first pedal stroke I felt like a child with



Melinda Spohn on the ferry at Cave-In-Rock.

my eyes wide open as this was my first experience in many of the eastern states. As we rode I was fascinated by the history which presented itself around most every corner. Virginia and Kentucky

were beautiful, the people genuine, gracious and welcoming. Physically, we were challenged by the hills and steep road grades so we were glad to head toward flatter terrain in Illinois.

I was excited as I wheeled

my bike on to the ferry that would take us across the Ohio River, into Illinois, and the town of Cave-in-Rock. From the ferry we rode a short distance to see the naturally-formed cave that gave the town its name.

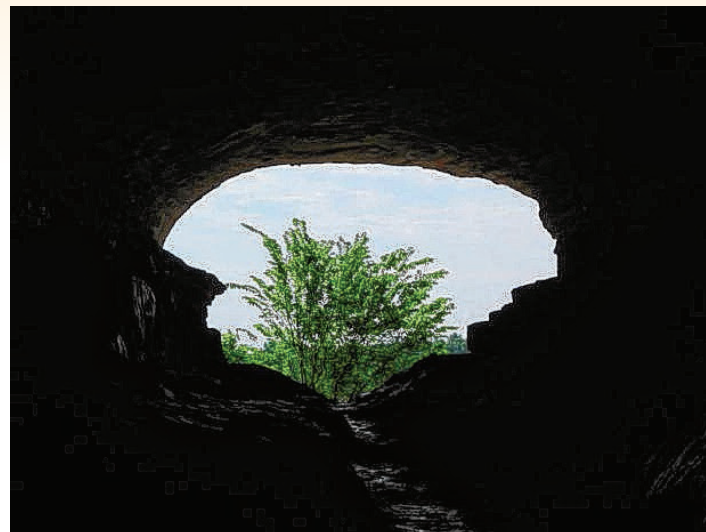
The mouth of the cave faced the river and swallows danced around the high rock cliff flying to and fro from their mud nests. The cave was deep and had a mystical quality. There was a split in the cave's ceiling allowing the sun to shine in illuminating a slice of the earth. What is known about the cave is it was once a haven for river pirates, pioneers, outlaws and gangs in the 1800s. Today, the cave and its unique history is part of an Illinois State Park and can be enjoyed by all without the fear of pirates or scallywags.

Leaving Cave-in-Rock we headed toward Elizabethtown near the banks of the Ohio River stopping for lunch at a local restaurant. Residents were eager to hear about our journey and we were happy to share our experiences. After lunch we continued riding toward the town of Golconda. Unfortunately the state park where we were planning to camp was temporarily closed. However, a local resident noting our plight, invited us to camp in her backyard, shower in her home, and do our laundry. Ah, the wonderful generosity of strangers.

In the early morning we began our ascent to Eddyville. There were three steep climbs to get over and having had no breakfast our first order of business was to find a restaurant. An elderly gentleman, out for his morning stroll, pointed us to a local diner where we enjoyed delicious omelets and hash browns then set our sights on the town of Goreville. En route we encountered many rolling hills and kept a close eye on a thunderstorm building in the distance. Eventually the clouds opened up and we took shelter under a carport. The rain finally subsided and we continued, albeit wet, to Goreville camping that evening.



ABOVE: A turtle crosses the road.



LEFT: A view from inside the cave at Cave-In-Rock.

In the morning we headed toward Carbondale, and I saved my first of many turtles. Turtles seem to enjoy warming themselves on the road which makes them vulnerable to cars so we would stop and move them off the road. In Carbondale we took a rest day and enjoyed eating at local restaurants. In addition, I was happy to see a variety of bike shops as my gears needed some tweaking.

The following morning we rode toward the town of Chester. The road was flat because we were on the Mississippi flood plain which held dark rich soil and acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat. We passed marshes

with beautiful brown and white cranes focused on the water before them eager to catch a meal. The wheat fields were dotted with black spots. A closer look revealed they were red-winged black birds perched on the strong stalks of wheat looking for insects to fill their bellies. As we neared the Mississippi River we turned on to a levee, it was there we spotted a large mud turtle sunning himself. He possessed a sense of authority, not hiding in his shell like so many other turtles, and I think he was a bit indignant that we were on his road. When he suddenly turned and bit at one of our tires,

we quickly continued on our way. By mid-afternoon we entered Chester known for cartoonist Elzie Segar who created the Popeye character.

The next day we would ride to Farmington, Missouri and begin crossing our fifth state. Our experience in Southern Illinois was filled with many visual delights, fascinating history and geography, warm welcoming people in addition to challenging rollers and easy flats on which to ride. We continued our journey across five more states ending in Washington State in mid-July.

Touring by bicycle gives one a unique perspective of the landscape, nature, the vastness of our beautiful country, and the opportunity to engage with people from all walks of life. But be careful; once the bicycle touring bug bites, you will succumb to its tantalizing venom.

Dr. Spohn is a travel blogger. To read the entire blog go to: transamerica2014.wordpress.com.

History lives at the John Marshall House

Bank Museum is an important piece in Illinois history

Story and photos by
Christy Short

Keeping history alive at the John Marshall Home/Bank Museum in the 21st century is challenging and fun. There is much written about the John Marshall home/bank in "Old Shawneetown" where it still stands today. The Gallatin County Historical Society is the owner and caretaker of this historical building, which stands close to the levee on the western side of the Ohio River. Originally built on the banks of the Ohio River, neglect and decay of many years made it imperative to relocate the building. So in 1974 it was relocated some fifty feet west of its original location.

The original two-story brick home was built in 1808 on the banks of the Ohio River by John Marshall (1784-1858). In about 1800 while living in Ireland, his father Samuel Marshall had purchased land in America, specifically Old Shawneetown, Illinois. Samuel's three sons claimed these lands after arriving in America in 1804. John became a merchant and businessman in Old Shawneetown. It was in 1808 that John built his two-story brick home which at that time was the first brick home in Old Shawneetown and the third brick home in the upper Mississippi Valley.



John Marshall House

Immigrants were coming to the Ohio River Valley from Virginia and other eastern states to start new lives and build new homes. The government had established a land office and businesses were expanding in Old Shawneetown. The home of John Marshall and his wife Amira "Amy" Leech (1784-1874) soon became the center of social, business and political activities.

In 1816, this home became the state's first bank designated as the Bank of

Illinois. At this time most of the homes built were crude wooden structures and log cabins. The bank was authorized by the Illinois territorial legislature at Kaskaskia, but because the territory did not back it, the bank issued its own certificates. Originally the bank had a man sitting in the basement under the banking room, which had a hole in the floor with a grate over it, the gentleman sat guard with his gun to protect the bullion, 24 hours

a day. Soon the new bank acquired a safe which was a heavy timber box, iron bound and thickly studded with iron spikes. It remains in the John Marshall Home/Bank Museum today. According to a local story, in the 1830s a group of Chicago men came to Old Shawneetown to borrow \$5,000-\$10,000 to get their new settlement started. Old Shawneetown banking officials denied their loan stating, "Gentleman, we are sorry we can't grant your

loan. You are too damned far from Shawneetown to ever amount to anything." After the panic of 1837 the bank could not meet the demands of its creditors and a few years later was forced to close. Over the years the home has been occupied by several families and has been repeatedly affected by the numerous floods coming from the Ohio River.

At the present time the historical society holds only two events throughout the year. The annual Pie and Ice Cream Social held in July or August at the local Lions Club, which brings the community together and acts as social media ... and the annual Old Fashioned Christmas Event, which is held in the Bank/ Museum the first or second weekend in December. Hot cider and Wassail is served, free of charge, along with homemade cookies. Homemade sweets are sold along with crafts, post cards and other gift items. These seasonal events are held to help support the local historical society and share in the preservation of local history.

Over the years the historical society members have participated in local parades by entering floats, as well as, putting together the Sesquicentennial Celebration (1810-1960) and the Bicentennial Celebration (1810-2010) for Old Shawneetown. We also send out an annual membership/ year in review letter. Yearly



Christy Short in period attire at the Gentleman's Desk.



Original safe in the Bank Room.

membership dues are \$5 and donations are always welcomed.

Today the John Marshall

Home/Bank Museum is open to the public each Sunday from noon to 4 pm beginning on Mother's

Day in May, through the end of October. Group tours are also available by appointment. There are no restrooms or running water in the John Marshall Home/Bank Museum. You may contact Art Heath, President of the Historical Society at 618-269-3716 for further information. As the historical society's membership chairman and an NSDAR member, I would encourage you to take that trip you've been talking about down the Ohio River Scenic Byway and stop in Old Shawneetown to share some history with us. We'll be waiting for you. And don't forget to check us out on the web at gallatincountyhistoricalsociety.webs.com and on Facebook.

Sources: Old Illinois Houses by John Drury reprinted by The University of Chicago Press Chicago and London, 1977 The text is in the public domain; Newspaper articles stored at John Marshall Home/Bank Museum; Legends & Lore of Southern Illinois, Area Services Division Southern Illinois University Carbondale 1963, by John W Allen



Docket for Justice of the Peace, John Marshall.



Old World Saint Nicholas visits Historical Society Members. (L to R) Art Heath, President; Christy Short, Membership Chairman; Mary Heath, Treasurer; Betty I. Head, Historian; Helen Newton, Director; Butch Rider, Saint Nicholas; Diane Patrick Monroe, Secretary



Master Bedroom with trundle bed for children.



The parlor welcomes visitors to the John Marshall House.



Marshall House dining room.



The beautiful stairwell leads to the ground floor.



Grace Camo and Lace ... A way of life

Alli Armstrong

Grace Camo and Lace started out as my blog about hunting adventures and experiences in the outdoors. The blog still continues, but the name is growing into bigger things. The past couple of years, I have been working on perfecting my jewelry line called Grace Camo and Lace. As of right now, this line features four different unique designs of bracelets "Return to Faith" which features a bling cross, "Majesty of the Mountain" which features a bugling bull elk, "Dream Buck" which features a rugged European mount whitetail buck, and "King of Spring" which features a strutting,

To learn more

For more information about Grace Camo and Lace and to get a bracelet for yourself, check out gracecamoandlace.com

long beard turkey. They are all genuine, handmade leather cuff bracelets perfect for any outdoorswoman who hunts or anyone who simply loves the country lifestyle. These cuffs are available in two different colors of leather, black and brown. They are also available in two sizes small/medium and medium/large.

My passion for hunting and the outdoors combined

with my love for fashion and getting dressed up inspired the line and the name. Grace stands for the Grace of God and represents my love for Him. Grace also stands for the gracefulness of women. Camo is meant to show my love for the outdoors and my passion to hunt. Lace is included because women who hunt can also be girly and enjoy getting all dressed up. These bracelets were designed specifically for those women. They can be worn out in the woods or out on the town with your friends! These designs have been the most popular, but more will be added for special times of the year and different occasions.

Grace Camo and Lace is truly a way of life for me. I have grown up loving the Lord, loving the outdoors and hunting, and loving being a girl and embracing it. Living where I do has definitely contributed to all of those parts of my life. This area teaches us to appreciate the beautiful land and creatures God has created for us to enjoy. Living near some of the best hunting ground in the country encourages me to be in the woods every day that I can be. This area also teaches us respect for others, the land, and for ourselves. Where I live has, without a doubt, contributed to my success and creativity.

What's Cookin'?



Mary
McSparin

Mary McSparin

Fall is a busy time of year. Children head back to school and many activities fill up the evenings. That's why we need recipes that are easy to make (very few steps involved).

One of my favorites is chicken and noodles. It is a one dish meal that can be served alone, or if you like, add a salad and rolls. Before leaving for work, put the chicken and broth in the crock pot to cook all day.

When you get home, boil the broth mixture with the noodles and chicken pieces — and you have a delicious hot meal in about 30 minutes or less. Many times I need something I can make quickly to take to someone who is ill or has had a death in the family. Chicken and noodles tastes like you've really fussed — but it is so simple to make!

CHICKEN AND NOODLES

3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

64 oz chicken broth

12 oz egg noodles (med or wide)

6 tsp corn starch

Put 32 ounces of chicken broth and 3 chicken breasts in crock pot. Cook on low for 6-8 hours. Transfer broth from crock pot to a large stovetop pan. Add another 32 ounces of broth. Bring to boil. Add all of the egg noodles and boil for



Chicken and Noodles

approximately 10 minutes, until noodles are done but still firm. Break chicken into smaller pieces and add 5 minutes before noodles are done. Mixture may not be thick enough. To thicken — mix 3-4 teaspoons of corn starch with a small amount of water; then stir into the

noodle mixture. If this is not thick enough do this one more time. Yield: 4-6 servings that are 1 ½ cups each.

Who doesn't like no-bake cookies? They have been around as long as I can remember. Some folks even

call them Illinois cookies. They are made on the stove top and total time to prepare is approximately 30 minutes. They fit the bill when you have a craving for something sweet or something chocolate, and are great for lunch box snacks.



Chocolate No-Bake Cookies

CHOCOLATE NO-BAKE COOKIES

2 c sugar
 ¼ c cocoa
 ½ stick butter or margarine
 ½ c milk
 2 c minute oats
 ½ c peanut butter
 1 tsp vanilla

Mix sugar and cocoa in saucepan. Add butter and milk; bring to a boil. Boil for 1 minute and 30 seconds. Remove from stovetop and add oats, peanut butter, and vanilla. Mix well. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper. Yield: approximately 3 dozen if using rounded teaspoon.

Mary (Willie) McSparin spent most of her growing up years in Hardin County, attending grade school in Rosiclare and graduating from Cave-In-Rock High School. As a fourth grade student, her interest in cooking began when she attended 4-H meetings held at the homes of leaders Ruth Lamar and Catherine Hurford. Mary's love for cooking has grown over the years and she is happiest when she is cooking a meal for somebody else! Mary recently wrote her first book: Taste & See: A Devotional Cookbook. She works full time in Harrisburg, and she and her husband, Tom, live in Eldorado. Mary is the mother of two adult sons.

Hardin County's historic Fluorspar industry

Finding progress and joy in tears of grief

Debbie Moore

"Tragedy always brings about radical change in our lives, a change that is associated with the same principle; loss."

— Paulo Coelho

People go to work every day, stepping into dangerous professions: Loggers, electrical power line workers, soldiers, law enforcement officers, firemen, miners. Their families are familiar with the danger. They say an extra little prayer and go on with daily life. We are a better society because of the bravery of these strong people.

Jerry Jenkins and Randel "Jock" Belford were good friends

outside of their work at the Barnett Complex Fluorspar Mine owned by the Ozark-Mahoning Company at Rosiclare, Illinois. They had many things in common including the fact that they were devoted to their young families. Both were active in the community. Jock was on the school board and he and his wife Jane and their two young boys had moved into a new home in December 1970. Jerry was an electrician

and he and Jock both were known for their abilities to fix anything that was broken. Jerry lived a life that included enjoying simple things like playing canasta and going to the movies. Jerry and his wife Linda had three children and one was a new baby.

Early morning on April 12,

1971, the two men talked on the telephone before they reported for work at the mine. They were both above ground workers, but that day they knew they had to go down into the mine to address an issue with a ventilating fan that wasn't working. On Friday of the previous week, a pocket of sulfur water had been cut accidentally and as the water drained, hydrogen sulfide gas was released into the drift. At some point over the weekend, the ventilating fan stopped working and without the fan, the drift filled with the fatal gas.

What mine officials called a "freak accident"



might have been the worst mine disaster in the history of the fluorspar industry. Seven men lost their lives the day after Easter in 1971 in the Barnett Mine Complex north of Golconda, Illinois. Seven families lost their life lines, their anchors. Seven wives lost their soul mates. Fatherless children were left behind.

The story of this tragedy is heartbreaking, but at the same time, it is filled with the harmony of brotherhood and notes of extreme bravery. It begins with the search for a tool. Bill Long entered the exposed end of the drift to find a slide stick that he had left there a few days before. Bill Long did not come back. His brother, Wayne Long who was the foreman, went in to find him. Wayne Long did not come back. One by one, men went into the depth of the gas-filled drift to search for the others. Gale Bates; James Lane; Orval Holbrook; Jerry Jenkins; Randel Belford ... did not come back.

In a recent interview with Jock's widow, Jane (Belford) Stunson, it was revealed that family members were not surprised when these details unfolded. Mrs. Stunson said that while we would expect a man to go look for his brother, we need to understand that all these men were brothers in spirit. They cared deeply for each other and worked to protect each other on a daily basis. She said she would have expected nothing less of this group of men.

James Lane and Randel "Jock" Belford were actually alive when they were brought out of the mine. They were taken to the Hardin County General Hospital where both died within hours. Rosiclare was blessed with a fine physician, Dr. Alexander Goldstein. Dr. Goldstein was a survivor of the Holocaust and after regaining his freedom after World



Linda Spivey and Jane Stunson



Jock Belford's bronzed boot is always on display in his son's home.

War II, he received his M.D. in Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1951 and served in the Medical Corps during the Korean War before he came to Southern Illinois and started his medical practice that lasted for over fifty years. Goldstein had experienced the worst kinds of atrocities, but he quickly went down

into the Barnett Mine to treat these men. His bravery has not been forgotten.

Jane Stunson said that Dr. Goldstein treated the two survivors at the hospital, as the telephone rang numerous times. The media and others were trying to reach Goldstein for comments and information. Dr. Goldstein was quick to say that he wasn't going to take time to deal with telephone calls. His commitment was to his patients and their families.

Jerry Jenkins was not alive when he was brought out of the mine. His widow, Linda (Jenkins) Spivey, recently shared her memories of the tragic day. She knew the details of the telephone conversation her husband had with Jock Belford that morning, so she knew her husband was going into a serious situation. When she received a call telling her something was wrong at the mine, she quickly went to the site and was there in time to see her husband carried out of the shaft. She thought she saw his arm move; a glimmer of

hope. But soon came to the realization that he had died, overcome by the gas.

Four decades later, both Mrs. Spivey and Mrs. Stunson tell this story as if they relive it day after day. The details are vivid and listening to them discuss this lost part of their lives makes us realize that we are given strength during tragedy and that strength carries us through. Both ladies married a second time, raised beautiful families and have enjoyed their blessings, but it is very clear that in their hearts there is a pocket of loss that they shared with five other women.

The loss of these seven men deeply impacted families and friends, but it also impacted the region. Friends, church congregations and many other groups collected money and tried in many ways to support the survivors. All of those efforts were important and appreciated, but this tragedy also impacted our state and our nation.

A plea to Illinois Governor

Richard Ogilvie from the Hardin County Board of Commissioners for a mine safety station at Rosiclare was answered. Later Ogilvie signed off on changes in metal mine legislation. State Representative C. L. McCormick pushed the legislature to establish a policy that required immediate notification of a dangerous situation in a mine. Had notification of the break in the sulfur water pocket been made to the state safety agency, this tragedy might have been avoided.

On a national level, mine safety laws were changed drastically. In 1891, the U.S. Congress created the first legislation regarding mine safety, which essentially prohibited mines from employing children and required mines to have ventilation. In 1910, following a decade of over 2,000 mine fatalities annually, Congress created the Bureau of Mines to further regulate safety rules in coal mines. In 1952, the Federal Coal Mine

Safety Act was established to enforce inspections of some underground coal mines and to establish penalties for safety violations. In 1966, Congress extended that coverage to all underground coal mines.

It was also in 1966 that Congress created legislation to enforce similar regulations for metal and nonmetallic mines including fluorspar mines. Unfortunately, this legislation was not enforced. That, too, might have prevented the Barnett Mine tragedy.

It was not until 1973 that the Secretary of the Interior created the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration, an entity separate from the Bureau of Mines which until that time was responsible for

regulating itself. Finally, in 1977, Congress created the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act. This Mine Act expanded the rights of all miners and protected them from retaliation when they exerted their rights. It called for enhanced protection of all miners and resulted in a 70% reduction in mine fatalities over a twenty-year period of time. The introduction of this legislation specifically cited the 1971 Barnett Mine tragedy and the deaths of seven miners in succession in this non-coal underground mine near Rosiclare, Illinois. It specifically indicates that the 1966 legislation was too weak to save the lives of these seven men.

"Tragedy always brings about radical change in our lives, a change that is associated with the same principle: loss." — Paulo Coelho The loss

was devastating, but through that loss ... the lives of countless others have surely been saved. The seven men who died on April 12, 1971 were not the first to die in the fluorspar mines around Rosiclare. There were others, and no life is more valuable than another, but these losses resulted in important positive changes that have protected lives to come. It is in that spirit that the Board of Directors of the Ohio River Scenic Byway will build a monument memorializing these miners and telling the important story of the fluorspar mining industry in the Byway Region. This effort was made possible by state and federal funds and the cooperation of the City of Rosiclare and the assistance of the Rosiclare Improvement Committee. The Fluorspar Miners' Memorial groundbreaking will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, October 4, 2014 at the 50th Anniversary of the Hardin County Fluorspar Festival in Rosiclare.



The history of Fluorspar in the Ohio River Region

Georgius Agricola was born in Glachau, Saxony (Germany) in 1484. He is known as the "father of mineralogy". Agricola was interested in learning new things and he began the study of medicine, physics, chemistry and geology. In 1556, Agricola's book, *De Re Metallica*, was published. He had already died, but

he was certainly given full credit for his study of metals and minerals and his depiction of mining techniques of the time. It was in that book that Agricola named fluorspar, which means "rock that flows".

Rosiclare native and Harrisburg resident, Joe Simmons (1947–2012) wrote

a very detailed article about the history of fluorspar around Rosiclare. Simmons notes that the mineral was first found in 1818 near Shawneetown and again in 1822 thirty miles southwest of Cave-In-Rock. The mineral was first used in the United States in 1823 when it was mixed with sulfuric acid to make hydrofluoric acid.

In 1839, while digging a well on the farm of James Anderson near Rosiclare, lead ore was discovered. In 1842, fluorspar was discovered with lead ore on William Pell's land near Rosiclare at a place called "Harrison's Diggings".

In 1843, James Barbour leased some of Anderson's land where he found the

most beautiful deep blue fluorspar. That location was known as "Blue Diggings". Later, Barbour leased additional land from Anderson and sunk the "Good Hope Engine Shaft" to a depth of 130 feet. Investors and companies came and went. Mergers and partnerships formed and dissolved. Digging started and stopped and by 1870, lead was in demand and fluorspar was discarded as waste.

By 1874, when Rosiclare incorporated as a village and merged the names Rose and Clare together, mining was going full force again. There were six mines operating: The Pell Mining and Manufacturing Company, the Rose Clare Lead and Fluorspar Company, the Good Hope Lead and Fluorspar Company, the Hardin County Lead and Fluorspar Company, the Cincinnati Lead and Fluorspar Company and the Mineral City Lead and Fluorspar Company. In one month, April 1878, the Pell Mining and Manufacturing Company shipped 500 barrels of gravel spar (too small to be used for anything but gravel) on the Ohio River on the steamboat named Bell.

What was Rose Clare like in 1870?

In 1872, a prospectus of the Rose Clare Lead and Fluorspar Company was prepared by John P. Morton and Company, Louisville, Kentucky. The content of this prospectus tells a vivid story of a booming community that had become a primary provider of fluorspar, which was just becoming known as the perfect flux to be used in the production of glass and iron and in smelting other ores. Until this time in history, fluorspar had been imported to the United States. That changed quickly as the quality of Rose Clare's product became



The Incline — Tram tracks between the mine and loading point on the Ohio River.



Early Rosiclare Business District.

well known. In the year prior to the completion of the prospectus, the Rose Clare Company had sold 750 tons of fluorspar, supplying smelters, refiners and glass makers nationwide. Most all of it was shipped on the Ohio River. It was believed that there was an inexhaustible supply of fluorspar in the mines around Rosiclare.

The main vein of lead in the Rose Clare Mine was determined to be a better quality than any other found in the United States. The quality was compared to the mines in England, Wales and Germany which

had been worked for 600 years at the time of the writing of the prospectus. All concerned expected that the mines around Rosiclare would provide the same excellent quality and continued employment for future generations.

The Rose Clare Mine wanted to provide all aspects of production of iron. The mine was bringing up unheard quantities of lead and spar and they wanted to do their own smelting and produce pig iron. In order to accomplish this, the company brought in Captain James Jones, who was a descendent of Edward

Jones (1676 – 1771) and part of a large extended family of expert smelters and refiners from England. Jones supervised the construction of the furnace, trained workers and supervised the process of smelting.

Every miner at the Rose Clare Company was expected to mine and send up a ton of product each day. Twenty-five miners worked 300 days a year and generated 7,500 tons of ore each year.

The Town and the Ohio River

Rose Clare was identified in the prospectus as a



Rose Clare Lead and Fluorspar Company in Rosiclare.

beautiful community pleasantly located on high rolling ground. The mild climate in the southern portion of Illinois was said to be perfectly healthful and favorable for year-round outdoor work. It was stressed that packet boats moved mail, merchandise and people up and down the Ohio River, making access to Rose Clare easy.

It was the Ohio River, however, that might have been the most important aspect of the mining operation. The Ohio River provided the incoming transportation for the coal used to fuel the mining operation. More importantly, it was the Ohio River that provided the

outgoing transportation for shipping all the product that came out of the mines around Rose Clare. The River was identified as having always been navigable with a strong stone bank, and it was just a half mile from the Rose Clare Mine. The importance of the Ohio River remained an integral part of the mining operations.

In a New Century the Railroad Came

By 1900, the demand for fluorspar had grown greatly, and the mines around Rosiclare became more productive, producing about 25 tons of spar gravel each day. It was barreled and sent on a narrow gauge electric tram to a

packet boat docked on the Ohio River. From Rosiclare, the spar was shipped to Evansville, Indiana and then transported by train. In July, 1919, a line of the Illinois Central Railroad that already reached Golconda was extended to Rosiclare. From then on, most of the spar was shipped via railroad. However, the electric tram had been replaced by a gas engine tram and it continued to operate until 1957.

During World War I, American fluorspar production increased to supply the war effort, but it was during World War II that the industry really expanded. The population of Hardin County was over

7,000 people and many of them worked in the mines. The U.S. Government built 150 homes for mining families in Spardale, a small community adjacent to Rosiclare.

Fluorspar production in the Rosiclare mines reached an all-time high during the Korean War. Illinois produced 200,000 tons in 1951, and most of that came from Hardin County. After the Korean War, production dropped considerably and the number of miners in Hardin County dropped to just 655. Fluorspar was still a viable and important industry, and in 1965, the Illinois General Assembly designated fluorspar as the official state mineral.

Rosiclare: The Fluorspar Capital of the World!

Rosiclare and Hardin County had been known as the Fluorspar Capital of the world. But in the 1990s, fluorspar mining suffered a devastating blow as its major mining operation decided to close their doors in the Rosiclare area. However, through the efforts of the Hastie

Mining Company, some fluorspar mining does continue in Hardin County. Fluorspar is also imported from China and Mexico. Many believe that if pricing were to become more competitive in the future, more exploration and mine production in Hardin County and the surrounding area

will again flourish. Until then, the Fluorspar Festival Committee will continue the annual festival that was once sponsored by the Ainad Shriners celebrating this important industry. The 2014 event is the 50th anniversary of celebrating this Historic Industry. The event includes a pageant,

parade, great food, kids' activities and plenty of entertainment. The event is always the first weekend in October.

The heritage and history of the fluorspar industry can also be enjoyed year round! The American Fluorite Museum in Rosiclare, Illinois, was put together in the

The American Fluorspar Museum in Rosiclare.





Rosiclare High School Band.

late 1980s by an enthusiastic group of mining people that wanted to preserve the wonderful area history and legacy and present the colorful mineral, Fluorite (and associated accessory minerals) for everyone to appreciate.

Currently, the museum has an extensive collection, along with mining histories and memorabilia, all housed in and around a former mining office complex. The fluorspar industry has been a colorful and important part of the history and lives of many people throughout the area for several generations, and the American Fluorite Museum will preserve that history for generations to come.

Museum hours are seasonal from May through

October. It is open Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children 6 to 12 years old. It can be opened by appointment, also. Arrange that by calling 618-285-3513.

The American Fluorite Museum is staffed by an ever-shrinking group of volunteers and is funded by admissions and small gift shop items and occasional donations. The museum is a non-profit organization and is solely supported by the generosity of visitors. If you would be interested in volunteering at the museum or if you would like to donate to the preservation of the museum, please call 618-285-3513.

Sources:

Paulo Coelho, is a Brazilian lyricist and novelist. He is the recipient of numerous international awards.

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Good Luck Glove Factory.

Many people contributed to this article. Special thanks to Jane Stunson, Linda Spivey, Rhonda Belford, Don Hastie, Margo Stoker, Eric and Sherry Livingston, Jim and Melba Cullum and Julie Smith.

The article written by Joe Simmons (1947-2012) was especially helpful in understanding how the fluorspar mining industry evolved over a long period of time. Jane Stunson's

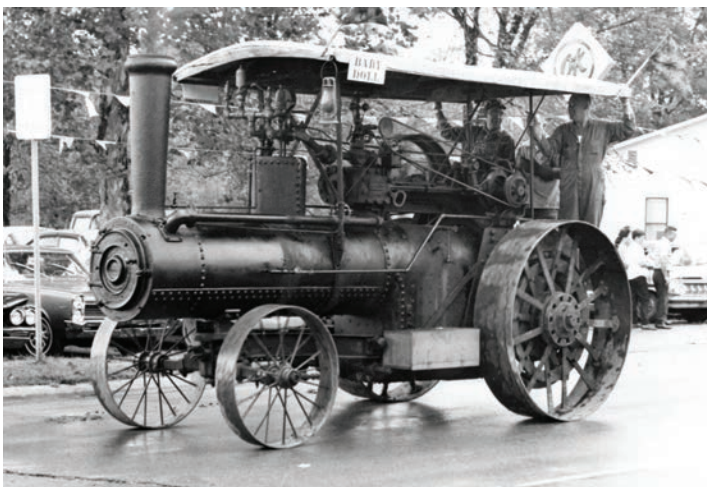
sister, Jackie Frailey, passed away on August 14, 2014.

Jackie was present just two weeks prior, as I interviewed Mrs. Stunson and Mrs. Spivey about the loss of their husbands in this mine tragedy. Jackie's loving spirit and the reality in her description of the impact this tragedy had on a community of mining families made me clearly understand this vast and crushing loss.

—Debbie Moore



Historic photos from previous Fluorspar Festival parades

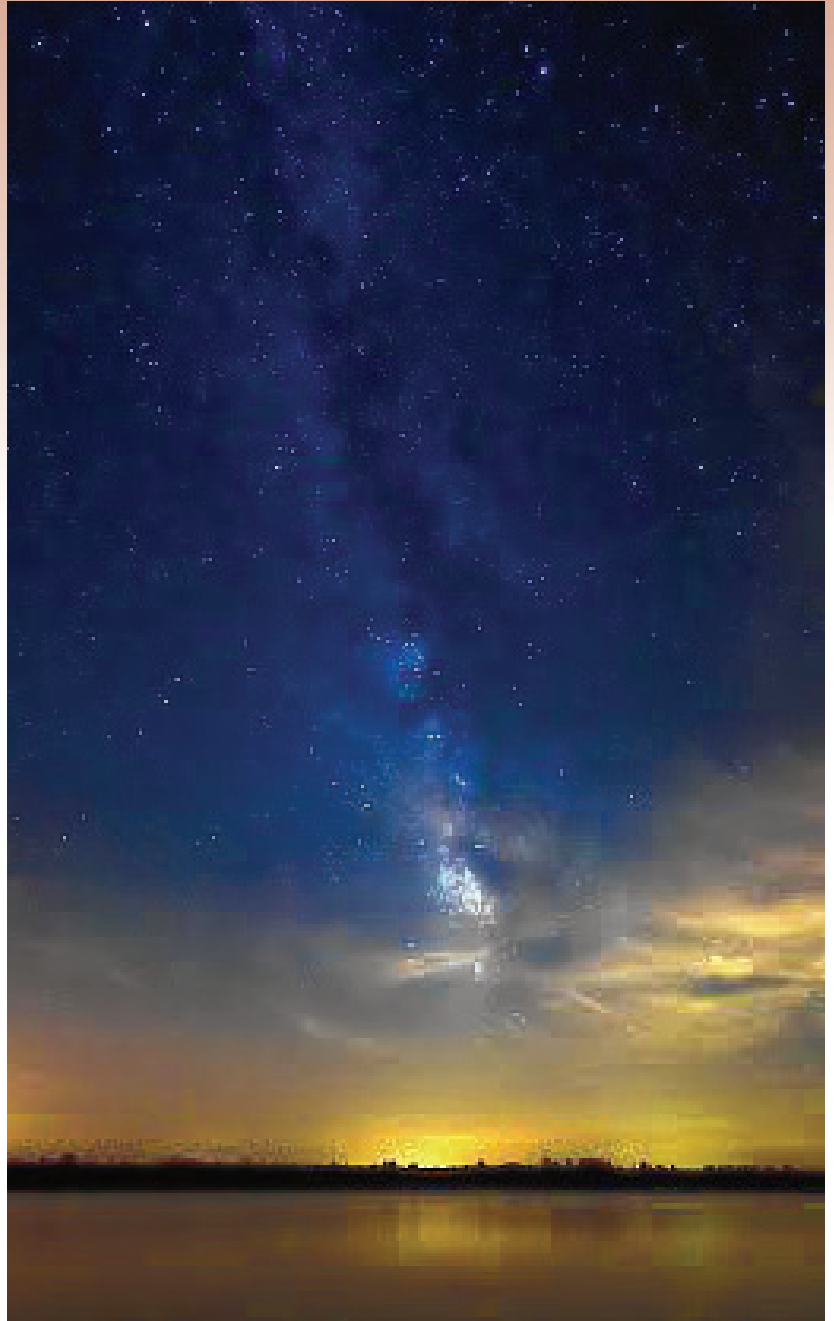


Everhome

Wilma Gibbs

When I awake you're on my mind
And when I sleep then, too, I find
There in my dreams you'll always be
You're everhome in heart with me.
My days are filled with memories
Each treasured moment echo these
A rainy night, a sunny morn
Within my thoughts are gifts reborn.
The living pleasures I recall
In summer, winter, spring or fall.
Of places past where we have been
These blessings I relive again.
A distant year or yesterday
When all of this comes into play
I return thanks for welcomed scenes
So grateful for what intervenes.
Though some tomorrow may hold pain
I live this moment not in vain
But know this surfaced memory
Declares you're everhome with me.
When time and tide has changed our course
Remember love, the strongest force
And, know that nothing can destroy
The memory of that heartfelt joy.
In sickness, pain – in life or death
With every heartbeat, every breath
In pleasant dreams, awake – asleep
Each souvenir I'll ever keep.
Then when I walk that final mile
I'll hear your voice and see your smile
From here and through eternity
You're everhome with God and me.

Photo provided by Chris Frailey
The Milky Way over the Ohio River at Cave-In-Rock.



Wilma Goolsby Gibbs, lifelong resident of Hardin and Pope Counties, has been writing poetry for over sixty years. She won her first rhyming contest in third grade at Stone Church Grade School, writing her first poem in the eighth grade there also, entitled "I Now Have A Home". When she met and married Kenneth "Doc" Gibbs, they lived in Pope County for thirty years, moving back to Rosiclare in 2013. Poetry is her passion and she has won numerous awards in the last two decades. She says she is honored to be included in this issue of the Ohio River Scenic Byway publication. We are honored to have two of her poems in this publication. Thanks so much, Wilma, for sharing your talents!



Photo by Margo Stoker

View of the Ohio River from San Damiano.

Hardin County: Home Sweet Home

Wilma Gibbs

Hardin County, home sweet home
Where rolls the hills of green
A playground for the young and old
At every lovely scene.
Where family castles stately stand
Beneath her skies of blue
From dawn to dusk you'd be hard pressed
To find a clearer view.
There's fishin holes and sparkin zones
With secrets all their own
Those oaks that once were just a twig
Have now become full grown
A river taxi pleasure boats
And barges come and go
Where locals daily watch in awe
Beside the Ohio.

Amid the scenic places
There's historic sites and more
With slightly slanted versions told
Of Hardin County lore
In every family album there's a memory tucked away
To give their children's children
A review of yesterday.
What used to be, what's happenin' now
The difference change has made
Some moved away, some soon returned
While others humbly stayed.
No matter when folks left of why
Or where they chose to roam
The green of Hardin County's hills
Soon call them all back home.

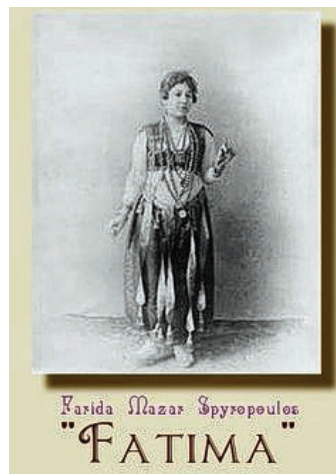
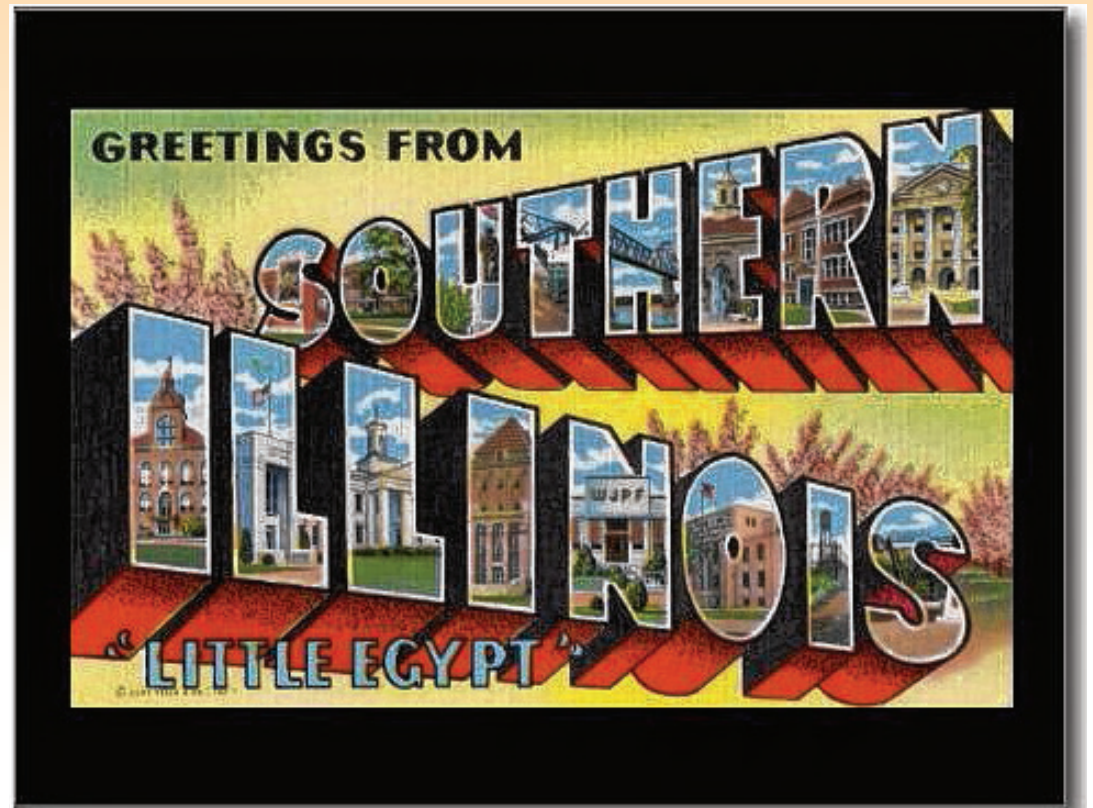
By the By ... Way!

We invite your questions! Recently a visitor asked us ... Which came first: Southern Illinois' nickname of "Little Egypt" ... or the several Southern Illinois towns named for Egyptian, Middle Eastern and Greek cities? Probably the name of at least one town: Cairo came first. Southern Illinois was actually nicknamed "Egypt" as many as a hundred years prior to having had "Little" tacked on to the the name.

There are many historians from the Southern Illinois region, but when it comes to telling this story, Barbara Burr Hubbs may have told it best. The French Colonial settlers on the Mississippi River side of Southern Illinois found themselves in a rich fertile land where grain crops grew very well. Mills were established and it wasn't too long before they were shipping wheat and other grains down the Mississippi to New Orleans. They fed New France in a way similar to the way Egypt fed the nations in ancient times.

The nickname was furthered when, in 1818, developers bought the land at the southern tip of Illinois. They thought this delta was similar to the delta region of Egypt's Nile River. The developers named their delta "Cairo" after the Egyptian city on the Nile. After that time, other communities copied the names of Egyptian, Greek and Middle Eastern places.

In 1833, Southern Illinois "Egyptians" were given a real opportunity to prove that we could feed the



nations ... or at least part of the state! After a poor growing season, northern Illinois didn't have corn, so wagon trains formed and came to Southern Illinois where the mild temperatures had produced plenty. Perhaps those pioneers drew a correlation

to the Biblical story of Jacob's sons traveling into Egypt to get corn during the famine.

In 1893, Farida Mazar Spyropoulos, a belly dancer performing under the name of "Little Egypt" appeared at the "Street in Cairo" exhibition on the Midway at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. She made the name popular, but neither she nor the exhibition had any connection to Southern Illinois. Nonetheless, it was after that time that Southern Illinois' nickname changed. A 1912 newspaper article in the Troy Weekly Call referred to our region as "Little Egypt", and in 1920, a Chicago Tribune article did the same. From 1893 to 1958, a syndicated

comic strip, "Moon Mullins", named "Little Egypt" as a girlfriend! Its creator, Frank Willard, was a native of Anna, Illinois!

Many people dislike the fact that the original nickname was changed, but legend is legend! Many other legends reveal themselves when studying the place names of the Ohio River Scenic Byway Region's communities!

Mound City was originally named for the Prehistoric Native American mound that was near the location. Major General Moses Rawlings built a hotel in Mound City and his guests would spend summer nights sleeping on the mound in an effort to catch cool breezes and keep the mosquitoes away!



One of the oldest settlements in Illinois was named for a chain of rocks stretching six miles along the Ohio River. The rocks presented serious navigational hazards but the community of Grand Chain still evolved. Rosiclare was named after two sisters, Rose and Clare. Their father was an early settler. Rosiclare was incorporated into a village in 1874 and became a city in 1932. The village of Elizabethtown was built in 1812 around the McFarland Tavern, which is now known as the Rose Hotel. Elizabethtown was named after James McFarland's wife. Up the Ohio River, Cave-In-Rock was obviously named for the popular cave. The first permanent settlement in Pope County

was located at what is now Golconda. In 1798, the ferry point across the Ohio River was called Lusk's Ferry after Major James Lusk who created the crossing and built much of an overland road that connected this Ohio River point to Fort Kaskaskia on the Mississippi River. This road was greatly important in the early settling of Illinois, but perhaps most important in 1778 when George Rodgers Clark brought his Army of Virginia into Illinois. They entered Illinois at Fort Massac, then traveled a few miles north and intersected with the Lusk Ferry Road and followed it to surprise and capture the British at Fort Kaskaskia.

Lusk died while his road was being constructed, and his wife Sarah took over the

operation of his business. When Golconda was first organized in 1816, it was called Sarahsville after Mrs. Lusk. Just a year later, the change was made and the community was named after the ancient city of Golkonda in India.

Shawneetown (now called Old Shawneetown) probably began as a Shawnee Indian settlement and trading post. The village was likely established by the Pekowi Shawnee with their Chief, Peter Chartier in 1748. Chartier (1690-1759) was a Shawnee chief who led his people from Pennsylvania to resettle in Illinois, and died in Shawneetown in 1759. His father was French and his mother was of the Pekowi Shawnee people. The Ohio River helped

Shawneetown grow into a viable river port town that was known as the first "Gateway to the West".

"Elder-Reado" is a combination of the last names of the town's two founders, Judge Samuel Elder and Joseph Read. According to legend, a sign painter for the railroad thought the name was a mistake, so he painted the name "Eldorado" on the train depot. As a result, the spelling and pronunciation was forever changed.

The Ohio River Scenic Byway Region is filled with legends and lore that help define who we are! If you have a story to tell or if you know another version of one of the stories we have already told, email us at ohioriverscenicbywayillinois@gmail.com.

The Chocolate Factory

Serving up the sweet stuff for Ohio River Scenic Byway visitors

Debbie Moore

The men in my family love deviled eggs and it is always a race to the buffet table at my house to see who can get the most on their plates! On Easter a few years ago, I forgot to put the deviled eggs on the table. Not really. I deliberately held them back and after everybody filled their plates and found their places at the table, I emerged with a platter of Linda Meherg's deviled eggs. I carefully served each person a couple eggs, begging forgiveness for having forgotten to put them on the buffet!

I waited.

Suddenly, as if everybody took a bite of their deviled egg at the same time, screeches and laughter filled the dining room. You see, Linda's deviled eggs are candy — molded to look exactly like perfect egg white halves piled high with fluffy yellows!

Linda Meherg and two other women opened The Chocolate Factory in 1977, and Linda bought it from the other two in 1985. She has been making beautiful molded and dipped chocolates and other sweet treats all these years and she knows her customers very well. In fact, she says that among the things she likes most about her business are the people. The Chocolate Factory has loyal customers who come from Florida to California and lots of other places including Hawaii. Sometimes she sees them just one time a year, when they are traveling through the region, and then there are the customers who live



Linda Meherg greets customers at The Chocolate Factory!

within easy driving distance, so they come more frequently. Linda Meherg even knows what most of those loyal customers are going to buy. Maybe they love the comfort of orange blossoms, which taste like an old fashioned orange slice dipped in chocolate. Maybe they love peanut butter fudge or chocolate dipped English toffee. There are hundreds of reasons to become a return customer of The Chocolate Factory!

Linda and her 14 employees make nut clusters and a variety of cream filled chocolates. They make several kinds of fudge and lots of no sugar candies. Some of the most unique items are molded chocolates. If you can imagine it; Linda can probably make it! There are green frogs, colorful flip flops, red ladybugs, slices of watermelon and carpenters' tools — all molded and painted to look like the real things! You'll always find molded seasonal holiday items, too, like Easter eggs, pumpkins, turkeys and Christmas trees.

The chocolate and white chocolate terrapins are among the most popular molded items, but The Chocolate Factory has the equipment to make customized items. Business logos and celebration and wedding themes can be molded into chocolate.

If you have a picture or a graphic design, Linda has the computer software and the equipment to transform that image into a plastic mold, which is then used to make the customized design.

Linda has done lots of unique novelty items over the years, including molding Southern Illinois University's Saluki dog sports logo. She's worked with the region's wine industry and dipped bottles of wine in chocolate and made fudge using local wine as an ingredient.

Linda has a big garden at



You can get your logo in chocolate!



Candy Deviled Eggs.

home and still cans most of the vegetables her family eats. If she doesn't can 150 quarts of green beans each summer, she runs out before the season returns. Linda is dedicated to her family and when you walk into Linda's business office, you immediately notice what a family operation The Chocolate Factory actually is. A toddler's toys are lined up in the corner for her three-year old granddaughter, who frequently visits. Linda's employees are like family and she is clear to say that she could not do what she does without their help. Several of the 14 make the



Popular Terrapins in three kinds of chocolate.

chocolates, but others work the sales counter or package the finished chocolates, but everybody pitches in to get the big jobs done.

Business at The Chocolate Factory has always been good, but it has been better this summer than in recent summer seasons. Even though the economy is sluggish, it seems clear that people are tired of staying at home. As they travel through the region, they include a stop at The Chocolate Factory. Chocolate is top on the list of sales at The Chocolate Factory, but visitors also find ice cream, beverages,

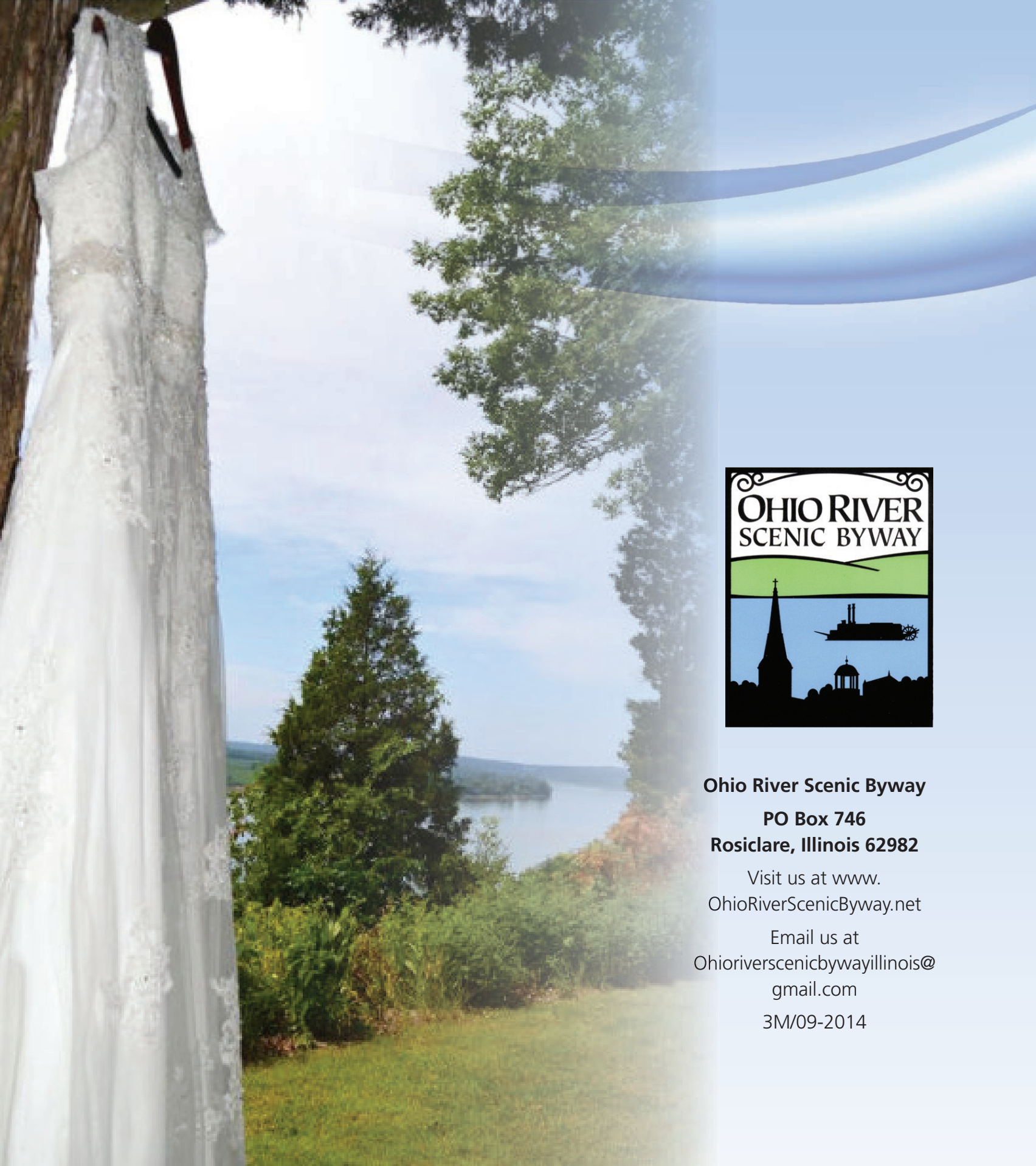


Novelty ladybugs made of chocolate.

post cards, books about the region and small but quality toys for youngsters.

If you can't visit The Chocolate Factory, you can go online and order their wonderful products. Visit thechocolatefactory.net and click the "order online" icon at the bottom of the page.

Otherwise, you'll find The Chocolate Factory near Golconda, Illinois on Illinois 146 right across from the Dixon Springs State Park. They are opened Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they are closed on Sundays. You can call them at 1-877-949-3829 or visit their website for additional information.



Ohio River Scenic Byway

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3M/09-2014

Photo by Jennifer Bainbridge from the Kopeman-Cowgill Wedding.
A beautiful wedding gown hangs in the breeze at San Damiano, waiting for the magic moment! The Ohio River flows in the background.