

Ohio River Scenic Byway

America's Story — Your Story



**AMERICA'S
BYWAYS®**



ILLINOIS

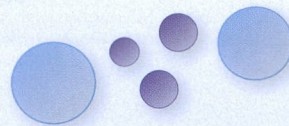
MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE®



The Southern Illinoisan

An empty hammock invites someone to come relax and enjoy a wonderful view of the Ohio River.

Rhonda's letter



Dear Byway Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you on this Maiden Voyage for the Ohio River Scenic Byway's adventure "America's Story -- Your Story"! These pages of excitement await you in this first issue and in those to come. We are all about the Region and the River and hope to bring stories of history, interest and all that lies in store along the banks of the mighty Ohio River!

You will meet, see and hear of the talents and treasures that abound in and around our 188-mile Ohio River Scenic Byway stretch in Illinois and beyond. The Ohio River is shared with Indiana and Ohio and those stories

may at times reach far and wide to tell the complete story of the River. So sit back and relax and take the Scenic Ohio River Route ... and as one song about our River says, "I'm Thinkin' 'bout you on the Ohio"!

Sincerely,
Rhonda Belford
Ohio River Scenic Byway President



Rhonda Belford

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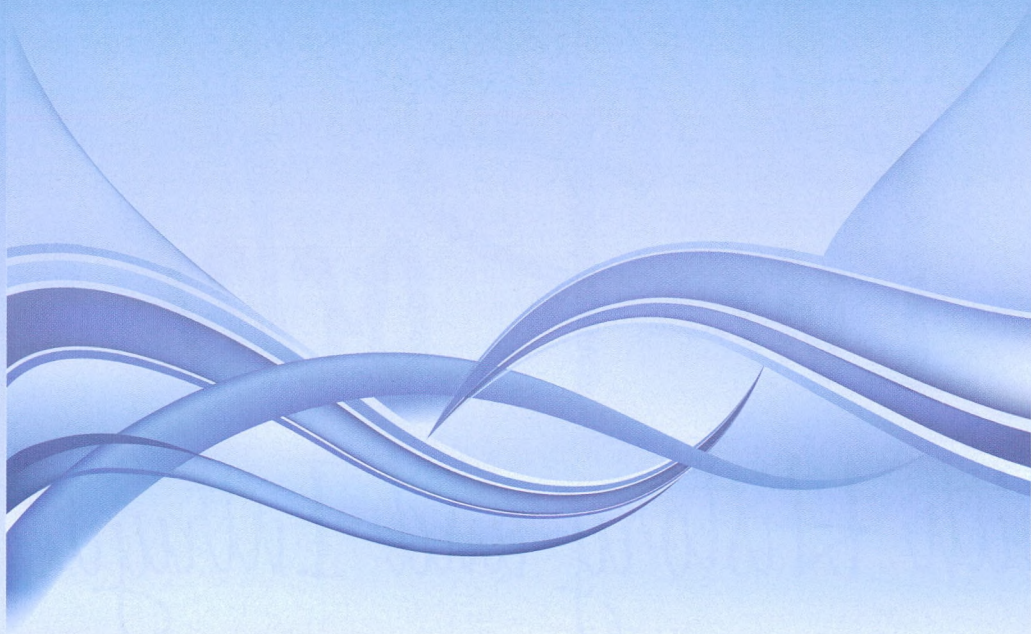
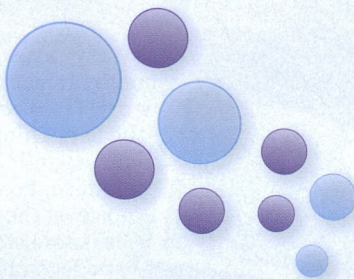


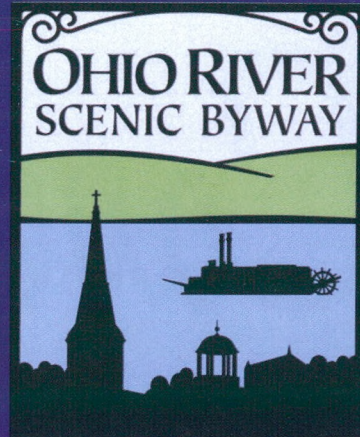
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FROM THE COVER:

Photo: A barge floats down the Ohio River near Cave-in-Rock on an overcast day.
The Southern Illinoisan



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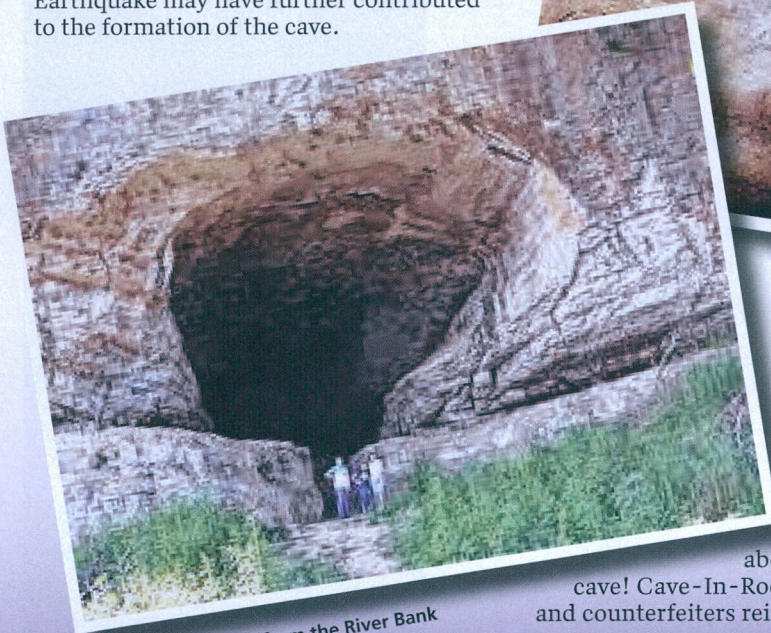
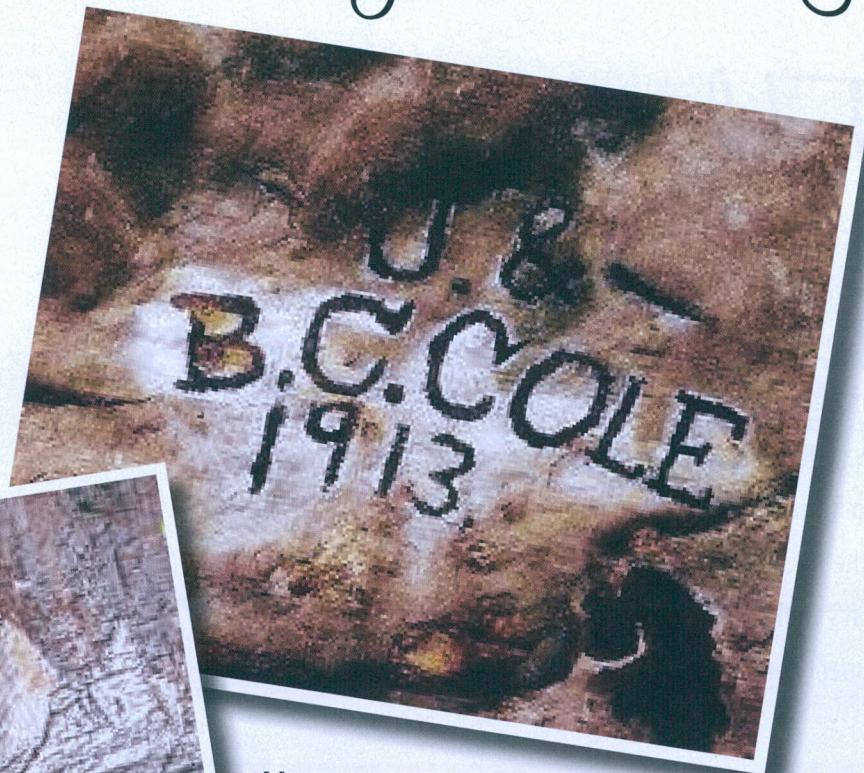
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Cave-In-Rock

is Filled with History and Intrigue

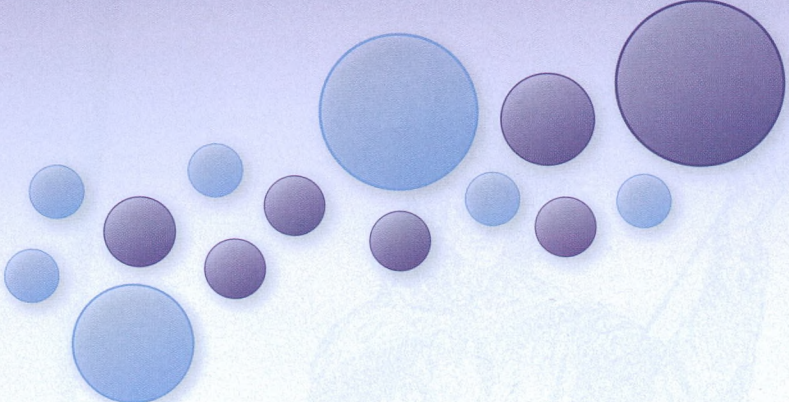
Hardin County, Illinois was formed in 1839, but the natural centerpiece of the whole county was first seen by European eyes a hundred years before. In 1739, the French explorer M. De Lery found and mapped the cave and gave it the name it still bears today. The cave had, of course, been in existence for thousands of years. It was worn into the bluffs by Ohio River flooding, probably extensively during the melting following the Wisconsin Ice Age. The effects of the 1811-1812 New Madrid Earthquake may have further contributed to the formation of the cave.



View of the cave from the River Bank

Many caves are the topics of stories told about the happenings in and around the premise. Possibly no cave, though, has more stories and legends told about it than this cave! Cave-In-Rock outlaws, pirates and counterfeiters reined for fifty years

beginning in 1790. As is true with most legends, facts are few and sometimes even local folklore is hard to document in any credible way. However, legend holds that notorious counterfeiters Philip Alston and John Duff used the cave as a meeting place in the 1790s. Through a relationship with Duff, Samuel Mason moved his base of operations to Cave-In-Rock in 1797. Mason had been a Revolutionary War militia captain and later served as an



Cave-In-Rock outlaws, pirates and counterfeiters reigned for 50 years beginning in 1790.

associate judge in Pennsylvania, before moving his family to Kentucky. After arriving in Kentucky, Samuel Mason became the leader of a gang of river pirates and highwaymen outlaws who wreaked havoc around Cave-In-Rock, Stack Island (a point on the Mississippi River about 200 miles north of New Orleans) and along the Natchez Trace. Mason's gang's practice was to rob travelers going down the rivers. They also pirated boats carrying merchandise and supplies down the rivers. It was common practice for men to move supplies down the rivers, abandon the flatboats at the end of their journey, then return home along the Natchez Trace. If the Mason gang missed robbing them on one of the great rivers, they'd have yet another opportunity to rob them on land along the Natchez Trace.

Samuel Mason used Cave-In-Rock as a central point of his base of criminal operations which stretched all the way to New Orleans. His tavern in the cave created an easy lure for travelers to stop as they passed by, but the combination with gambling den, brothel and refuge for criminals made it the perfect trap.

There is some belief that the first recorded serial killer in American history might have spent time at Cave-In-Rock. Micajah and Wiley Harpe, known as "Big"

and "Little" Harpe, were active during the last decade of the 18th Century. The

Harpe brothers (who may actually have just been cousins)

spread killing and despair wherever they went. While they operated primarily in Kentucky and Tennessee, there are some accounts of their horrible activities on the Illinois side of the Ohio River.

"Big" Harpe was the first of these three bandits to lose his head to captors, but eventually Samuel Mason and "Little" Harpe were captured, killed and beheaded. Their heads and skulls were left in strategic places in plain view to deter any future outlaws. Their departure only made way for the next generation of thieves and counterfeiters!

In the early 1800s, the Sturdivant Gang and the Ford's Ferry Gang made appearances in the region. The Sturdivant Gang originated in Colonial Connecticut and by 1810, third generation counterfeiter Roswell S. Sturdivant lead his gang, which was primarily based in St. Clair County Illinois, but also occupied a fortress in nearby Pope County. The Ford's Ferry Gang had a more local foundation. James Ford (1770-1833) was a business and community leader in Kentucky and Southern Illinois, in the areas on both sides of the Ohio River. The other side of his dual personality was that of a gang leader, and his bandits high-jacked flatboats for a couple decades!

Two of the most colorful characters in our story are perhaps Isaiah Potts and his wife Polly who owned a tavern near the Ford's Ferry. Ferry goers would depart the boat then take the short trek to the tavern as they ventured inland. It was a common

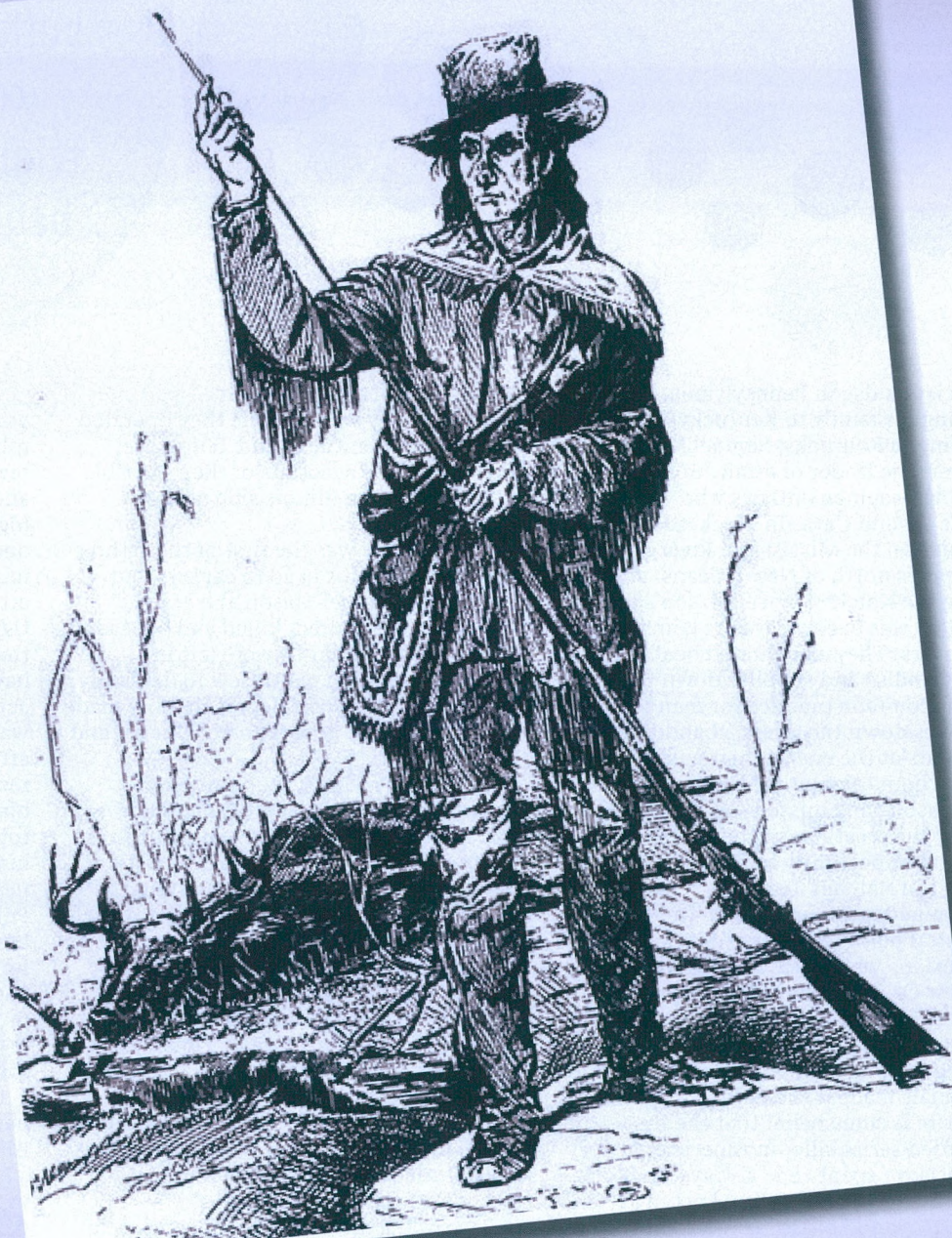
occurrence for the travelers to be attacked, robbed and killed along the route to the tavern. Although one descendent of Isaiah and Polly believes their behavior has been highly exaggerated over the years, there is one story that seems to live on. Did they murder their own son, when he returned after having been gone for years? While there is no credible evidence, legend holds that young Billy Potts left home after having been caught by locals while in the act of murder. Young Potts changed his ways and prospered. He returned home after many years, but his parents didn't recognize their well-dressed son and lured him to the infamous spring for a drink, robbed and murdered him. They buried him, as they had often done, in a shallow nearby grave. The next day, friends of Billy Potts came looking for him and described having seen him the day he got off the ferry. Isaiah and Polly realized what they had done. They dug up his grave and found a young man bearing a birthmark just like their son had. If it is true; it is a sad ending.

Happily, outlaw folklore isn't the only history associated with Cave-In-Rock! Although not too highly revered today as a highly educated researcher or author, in 1833 Josiah Priest wrote about cave paintings he observed at Cave-In-Rock. Priest described the paintings to include plants, animals, humans and the sun, moon and stars. He described the humans as wearing clothing similar to that worn by the early Greeks or Romans.

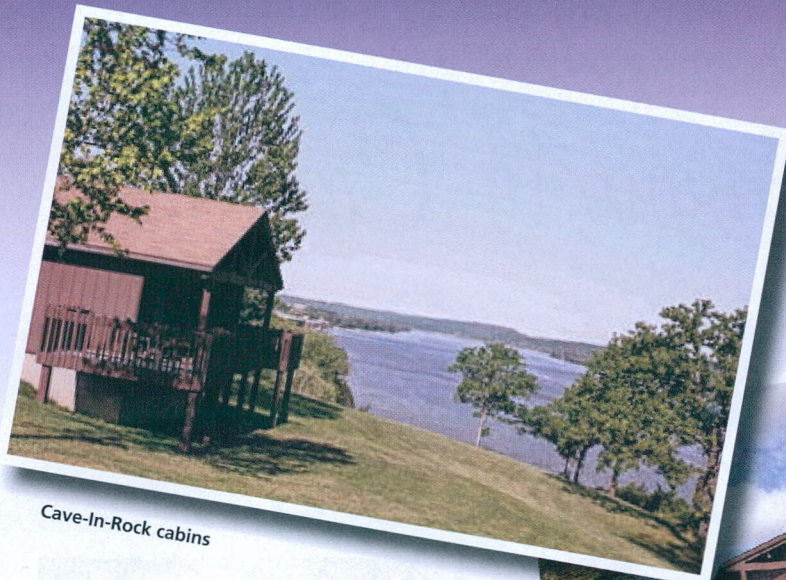
He wrote, "On the Ohio, 20 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, is a cavern, in which are found many hieroglyphics, and representations of such delineations as would induce the belief that their authors were, indeed, comparatively refined and civilized."

In 1848, another writer visited the cave. William Pidgeon was a well-known antiquarian and archaeologist. He became famous for his 1858 work, *Traditions of Dee-Coo-Dah and Antiquarian Research*, although at a later time his work was critically deemed to be partly almost science fiction. He described the curious pictographs at Cave-In-Rock as humans that looked like ancient Egyptians. Pidgeon wrote about his belief because of artifacts he had found, that there was an entire network of a mound-builder race occupying sites in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota. At the time, many in the science community made fun of him. In the past 150 years, history and prehistory have unfolded themselves and we now know that the Ohio River Scenic Byway region was just such a place!

The pictographs described by Pidgeon and Priest have long been destroyed, but more recent graffiti tells the stories of other visitors to the cave. In 1913, the Ohio River flooded and B.C. Cole paddled his boat into the cave, stood up and carved his name into the ceiling of the cave. Who was B. C. Cole?



Samuel Mason



Cave-In-Rock cabins



In 1929, Illinois bought the 64.5 acres of land that includes the cave. Additional parcels were purchased later and all combined form the current 200-acre Cave-In-Rock State Park. The beautiful park stretches from the Ohio River's shoreline to the top of a 60 foot tall bluff. It is maintained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the lodge and cabins are managed by Marty Kaylor, a Cave-In-Rock lifetime resident. Kaylor recently reported that IDNR reports that in 2012, 514,000 people visited Cave-In-Rock State Park. Kaylor said number that showed a significant increase over the 2010 number of 227,000 people.

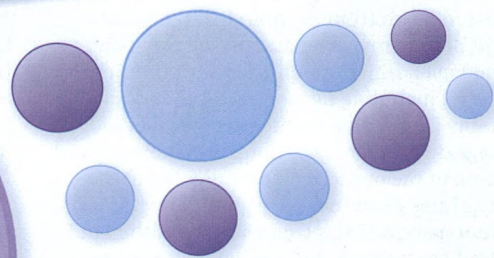
Cave-In-Rock State Park includes river access, camping, picnicking and beautiful hiking trails including the one that leads to the opening of the cave right on the banks of the Ohio River. Lodging is available at the park and the beautiful duplex cabin suites contain deluxe baths, a dining area with wet bar, a large bedroom and living room. Each has a private patio deck that overlooks the Ohio River. One of the cabins is handicapped accessible.

The restaurant in the lodge is popular

"On the Ohio, 20 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, is a cavern, in which are found many hieroglyphics, and representations of such delineations as would induce the belief that their authors were, indeed, comparatively refined and civilized."

**Josiah Priest, American
nonfiction writer**

for serving home style food and is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings and on Saturday and Sunday. This summer, locally produced wines may be added to the menu.



For information about Cave-In-Rock State Park, the lodging or restaurant, call 618-289-4325 or 618-289-4545.

Sources of historical information:
Rothert, Otto A.. The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock (Shawnee Classics). Glendale, California: The Arthur H Clark Company, 1924.

W. D. Sniveley, Jr., and Louanna Furbee. 1868. Satan's Ferryman: A True Tale of the Old Frontier: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co.

Isaiah L. Potts (Billy Potts, Sr.) and Polly Blue of Potts Hill (Potts Inn), by William R. Carr

From Pageant Gown to Camos ... She's a Byway Original!

Alli Armstrong

At 16 years old, I have lived near the Ohio River all my life and I wouldn't have it any other way. I started hunting with my Daddy when I was four years old and I've been hooked ever since!

My passion for the outdoors and hunting was passed down from my grandpa to my dad and then to my sister and myself. My family and I even film our hunts for various hunting shows, including Legacy Trails and for our family DVDs. I also write for several outdoor magazines and blogs. Along with hunting and being in the outdoors, I participated in the 2012 Miss Fluorspar pageant and won Miss Fluorspar and Miss Congeniality. Although I loved the pageant and the whole experience, my passion still lies in the outdoors.

One of my favorite and most memorable hunts is one that takes place on our farm that we call "The Bend of the River" near Cave-In-Rock, Illinois. It was second gun season, I was eleven years old, and I had decided to take my muzzleloader. Dad got me out of school an hour early that day so we could get to the tree stand in plenty of time. We went home, quickly dressed and gathered our gear. Then we headed for "The Bend of the River." We got to the edge of the field, parked the truck, and put on our orange before heading to the stand. There was a stiff wind out of the north, and at the time it felt like it had swept across the surface of an iceberg before reaching us.

We walked across the picked bean field and

made our way to a two-man ladder stand. Once we were in the stand, we attached our Hunter Safety Systems and I ranged various spots with my rangefinder where a deer might appear. Dad got the camera set up and we were ready for some big buck action!

That evening was cold and to make things feel even colder, the river was lapping up on the bank behind us. While we were waiting, we watched two barges trudge their way up the river to an unknown destination.

As the shadows got increasingly longer, a flock of turkeys crossed the field to go to roost. I decided to grunt with my mouth call a few times and all of a sudden, like a ghost, a dandy buck appeared! The buck was 150 yards away and once I got him to stop, I squeezed the trigger and took the shot. After the smoke cleared, I watched the deer go down. The buck was a beautiful 140-inch 8-point.

This hunt near the river will always be a favorite memory of mine. If you're ever going down the river, and you see blaze orange up in a tree that just might be me!

For more information about Alli and her family, visit www.armstrongsoutdoors.com



Sixteen years old and having fun in the outdoors.



Alli was just 11 years old when she took this 8-point buck at the Bend of the River.

"As the shadows got increasingly longer, a flock of turkeys crossed the field to go to roost. I decided to grunt with my mouth call a few times and all of a sudden, like a ghost, a dandy buck appeared!"



Alli on the runway after being crowned the 2012 Miss Fluorspar.

From Shawneetown to Londontown!

Debbie Moore

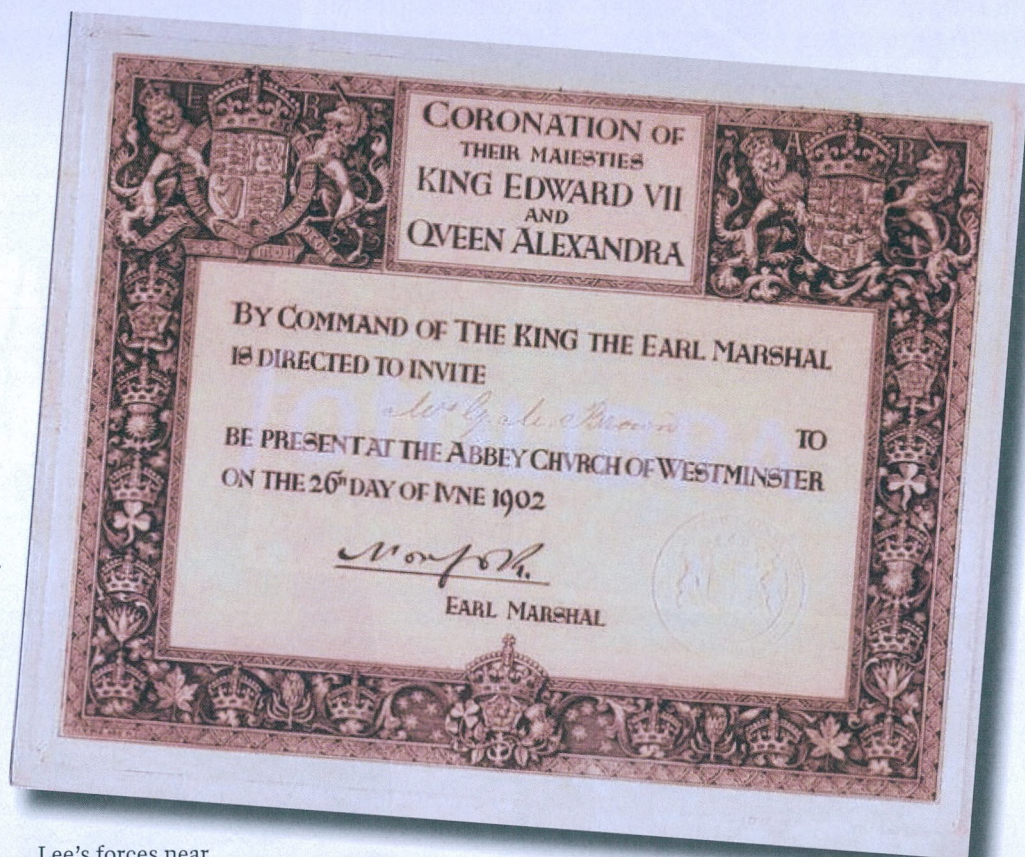
There were several Southern Illinoisans that reached the ranks of General during the American Civil War. In 1973, the Illinois State Historical Society joined the Gallatin County Illinois Historical Society to place a historical marker in Shawneetown, which commemorates the importance of one of those Southern Illinoisans, James Harrison Wilson.

Wilson was born in Old Shawneetown in 1837. He attended McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois and then graduated from West Point in 1860. He was ranked number six in his class of 41 students and received a commission as Brevet Second Lieutenant in the Topographical Engineers. His first assignment was in Oregon at Fort Vancouver. The Hudson Bay Company controlled the rights to fur trapping in western Canada and they used the fort as the hub of their operations. This continued for decades and there was no clear boundary between the United States and British ruled Canada, but American pioneers traveled the Oregon Trail and eventually settled in this area in large numbers and the U.S. Military became prominent. In 1860, the Hudson Bay Company vacated Fort Vancouver and the U.S. Military took control. *Southern Illinois' James Wilson was there.*

At the onset of the Civil War, Wilson became the engineer for the Port Royal Expeditionary Force and took part in the Battle of Ft. Pulaski, at the mouth of the Savannah (Georgia) River. He was then transferred to the position of topographical engineer for the Army of the Potomac and was aide-de-camp to General George B. McClellan. McClellan commanded the Army of the Potomac and mounted a series of successful assaults against Robert E.

Lee's forces near Sharpsburg, Maryland on September 17, 1862. There were several back and forth attacks through Miller's Cornfield and the West Woods. Later in the day, McClellan's men pierced the center of the Confederates and finally, the Union Army pushed over a bullet-shattered stone bridge over Antietam Creek. The day-long battle was bloody and ended with the Confederates retreating. This gave President Lincoln the victory he needed just before issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. *Southern Illinois' James Wilson was there.*

After Antietam, Wilson was transferred to the Western Theater and joined Major General U.S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee as a Lieutenant Colonel. During the Vicksburg Campaign, Wilson was the Inspector General for Grant's Army and on October 30, 1863, he was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers. He was the only officer promoted to troop command from Grant's regular staff. In 1864, Wilson switched from engineering to the cavalry and was assigned as the Chief of the Cavalry





King Edward and Queen Consort Alexandria



Civil War Gen. James H. Wilson

Bureau in Washington, D.C. His true talents were as a combat leader, so Grant promoted him to Brevet Major General in May 1864 and assigned him to command a division of cavalry under Major General Sheridan. He was bold and aggressive and his skills proved successful in many battles during the overland campaign. He was very successful at the attempts to cut off Confederate supply lines at Petersburg, Virginia. He was promoted again to Major General in May 1865 and his men were part of the group that captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Captain Henry Wirz, who had been the commandant of the horrendous Andersonville Prison.

At the end of the war, Wilson took back his old rank of Lieutenant Colonel and accepted

duties with the Army Corps of Engineers until his resignation in 1870. Wilson returned to civilian life as a railroad engineer and moved to Wilmington, Delaware. He was not to remain a civilian, however.

In 1898, the United States stepped into the Cuban war for independence. *Southern Illinois' James Wilson was there.* Wilson served again as Major General of Volunteers in Cuba and Puerto Rico during the Spanish American War.

In 1900, an international force of soldiers was sent to China to subdue the Boxer Rebellion. *Southern Illinois' James Wilson was there.* He served as Brigadier General during the Boxer Rebellion.

After a reign of over 63 years, Britain's Queen Victoria died and her eldest son,

Prince Albert was in line to take the throne. Preparations were quickly underway for the coronation of the new king on August 9, 1902 in Westminster Abbey. *Southern Illinois' James Wilson was there.* James Harrison Wilson represented President Theodore Roosevelt at the coronation of Great Britain's King Edward VII.

Born in Shawneetown, Illinois on September 2, 1837, James Harrison Wilson died in Wilmington, Delaware on February 23, 1925. He is buried in the Old Swedes Churchyard in Wilmington, but you can visit the historical marker about Wilson in (New) Shawneetown, Illinois. The marker is located on the southwest corner of the downtown mall between East Lincoln and West Lincoln Boulevards.

Byway Quilts on Display in Alexander County, Illinois

Debbie Moore

I am so happy that winter has rolled itself up and made way for spring and summer, but I was really happy that while the outside temperatures reached zero last January, I had Grandma's quilt on the foot of my bed! Grandma made that quilt in 1930 and it has rested on the foot of the same old four-poster bed since that time. Yes, the bed was moved from her home to mine in 1976 and the quilt came with it.

My husband's Grandmother Verna Jones and her husband Charley raised their family of three children in Cairo, Illinois. They moved from Minnesota to Cairo in 1915. Charley was a member of Federal law enforcement and Verna was a homemaker who loved needle crafts, especially quilt making. My family heirlooms include scores of tatted tablecloths, doilies, dresser scarves and ladies handkerchiefs edged with inches of curly tatted lace, but the prize of the cache is a stack of seven handmade patchwork quilts.

The origins of quilting are not known, but archaeologists identified what appears to be a quilt carved on an ivory figure of an Egyptian Pharaoh from the First Dynasty. Crusaders carried quilting from the Middle East to Europe in the late 11th century. The earliest surviving bed quilt is on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and is thought to have been made at the end of the fourteenth century.

When the earliest settlers arrived in America, they came with quilts. Household inventories from the seventeenth century reveal listings including quilts. Colonial America's quilts were extremely valuable. Thread, needles and cotton fabric were things held only by the wealthy. All that changed

though, when in 1793 Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin! Textile mills began to flourish and as America grew westward, so did the industry of making wool and cotton. The Ohio River Valley was dotted with mills and the availability of cotton fabric to America's pioneer families was considerably expanded.

Quilt-making peaked in popularity in the 19th century, but early in the century the styles were still a little more expensive than settler families could afford. Single piece quilts featuring medallion designs sewn into the quilting pattern were very popular. Applique, an art form of applying intricately cut designs directly to the whole piece quilt top,

was equally popular. The cost of fabrics specifically used for this purpose, as well as, the luxury of having spare time to devote to making such quilts were simply out of reach of the normal pioneering family.

By 1850, those styles had peaked and pieced quilts became the most popular. Luckily, for the typical American pioneer home keeper, using scraps of fabric left from making clothing was the most popular method of crafting what has become one of America's favorite forms of folk art!

Women made quilts for utilitarian purposes, but they also enjoyed the opportunity to create what would become family heirlooms. They made quilts for each of their children to have when they left home to start their own families; they made quilts to commemorate community events; they

made quilts to gift to new ministers, teachers and doctors as they arrived on the frontier.

Actual quilt patterns hold great history. By the time of the Civil War, it was common for soldiers to be sent away to war with a quilt from home. Often the pattern illustrated a family's livelihood or ancestry.

Patterns depicted religious affiliations. Many patterns are now known to have been important markers along the Underground Railroad. While quilts hanging on porches guided runaway slaves to freedom, quilts also wrapped the souls of fallen Civil War soldiers in their burial.

After the Civil War, quilt-making continued to be an important

part of the lives of American women.

Their fine handiwork skills were a source of pride. With the Nation's industrialization, leisure time became more available and that time was spent with needle crafts. Victorian times brought crazy quilts, which were creations of odd patterns pieced together with fancy styles of stitching. Silks and brocades were added to the patterns, even if those pieces were few and small in comparison to the typical cotton fabric pieces. By the time of World War I, quilting took on another cause. Soldiers needed blankets, so families were encouraged to use everything they had to make quilts to use at home. Old blankets and clothing were used over and over again to create bed coverings for home, so the soldiers could have the milled blankets.

With the Great Depression came the feed sack quilts. Making do with what you





(Women's) fine
handiwork skills were
a source of pride
(after the Civil War).

had was a common practice and when feed companies realized American families were using the sacks to make clothing and quilts, they started using colorful prints for their sacks. World War II launched a whole new approach to quilt-making. Signature quilts became the perfect fundraiser, especially for the Red Cross. Community women would sell business owners the opportunity to have their name embroidered on a quilt square. The squares were then pieced, quilted and the final product was raffled

off. Today, signature quilts from this era hang in museums, city halls and libraries all across America!

The art of quilting waned for a couple decades, but by the time America celebrated its Bicentennial in 1976, it had become a popular past-time again. How fortunate we are that the daughters, grand-daughters and great-grand-daughters of some of our earliest quilters have chosen to take up the art form again!

On May 31, 2014, you have an opportunity

to see the works of some of those artists! The Alexander County Tourism Group is hosting their 4th Annual Country Quilt & Memories Show. The event will be held at the Egyptian School in Tamms, Illinois and will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features a beautiful display of quilts, but it also includes vendors, demonstrations and door prizes. The \$10 donation includes lunch. For more information about this fantastic event, call 618-776-5893, 618-776-5966 or 618-776-6063.

Ohio River Scenic Byway

Take an Artful Byway Road Trip

Stephanie Rhodes

The river, the road, the scenery — these are things that have drawn people to travel the Ohio River Scenic Byway. These are things that locals admire and enjoy about the route, too. The locals also love the art and culture along the river. Yet, many travelers don't fully understand the vast collection of art and cultural assets nestled along the byway.

The Ohio River Scenic Byway Art Trail is an ever-changing list of attractions, shops, galleries and events showcasing past and present artisans' works. With summer right around the corner, there is no better time to begin planning a trip to enjoy these artful treasures along the Ohio River.

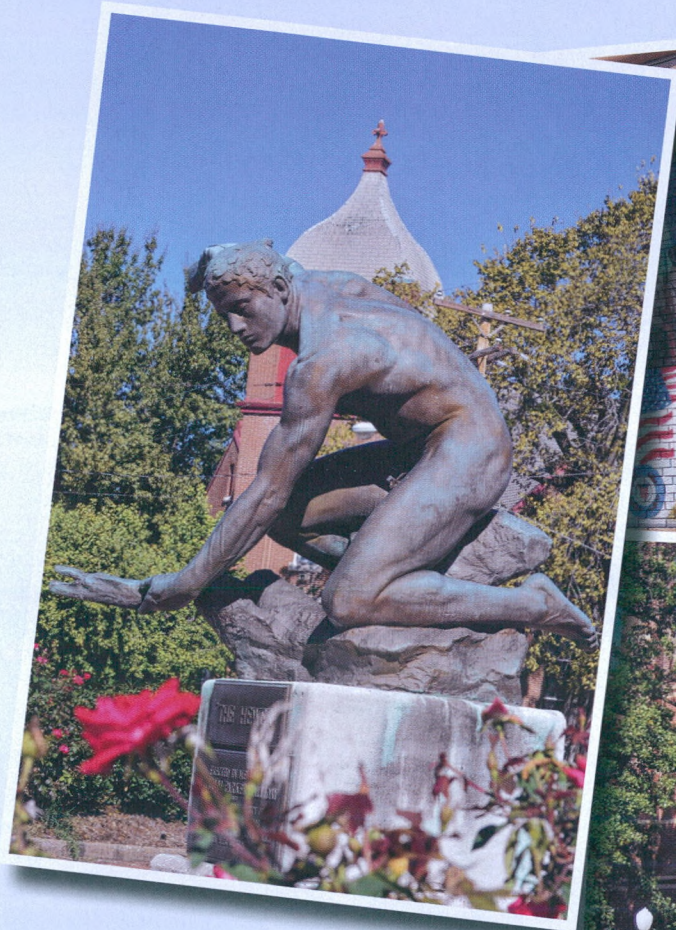
Springtime in the Shawnee

The life-size, detailed statue honors the great Shawnee Indian leader *Tecumseh* and is the only bronze statue of the famous chief. Located in the Saline County Fish and Wildlife area and home to Glen O. Jones Lake, the statue stands near the Cave Hill trailhead. Tecumseh, by some accounts, is believed to be one of the most legendary figures of America's past, certainly one of the most legendary of the Byway's past. The slender statue depicts

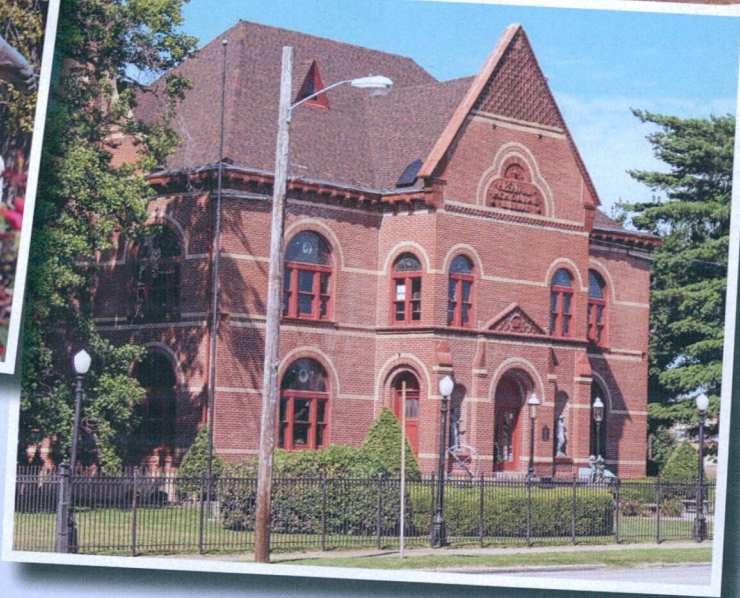


Tecumseh

Art Trail Has Arrived!



The Hewer



Cairo's Safford Library

the metaphor of unity that was important to this great chief as he holds a bundle of sticks together in his left hand representing various tribes that he believed should put aside their differences and band together. A single stick could be broken, Tecumseh said, but a bundle could not be broken. A tomahawk rests in his right hand. The dignified statue is a reminder of how U.S. history may have been much different had Tecumseh survived the Battle of Thames in 1813.

Shrine of the Good Shepherd

The 35-foot-tall, lost-cast bronze statue stands on a knoll rising above the walking paths leading to it and is surrounded by two large outstretched garden arms of God. The entire area is immediately above the Ohio River on a 225-foot limestone bluff. The statue depicts Christ's rescuing the struggling lamb and holding it with tenderness in his arms. The statue's creator was the ambitious artist Robert Cassilly, a famous American sculptor from St. Louis, who also founded the well-known City Museum in St. Louis.

Metropolis – Super City, Super Art

The towering *Superman* superhero stands in front of the Metropolis Courthouse, on Superman Square. This full-color bronze “pop-art” statue honoring one of the peoples’ favorite flying heroes was built by the same company that created the Emmy statue outside of the Academy of Television Arts in Hollywood.

A series of six murals are painted on buildings along Ferry Street and Market Street in downtown Metropolis. Each mural reveals a different story and brings the city's heritage to life through artistic renderings of local historical events in this Ohio River community. Interpretive plaques are displayed next to the colorful scenes to describe the historical significance of each mural. The murals were produced



The Fighting Boys



Superman



Work of David Disney

by Lady Van Tiger of Paducah, along with The Southern Illinois Artist Group – Colleen Thompson, Kris Killman, Benjamin Watterson and Becky Thompson. Van Tiger, well-known Master Muralist, led the project team to complete and unveil the six murals in 2007.

Step Back in Time in Cairo

A source of great beauty and pride in the community, the *A.B. Safford Memorial Library* has changed very little through the years. This red brick, Queen Anne structure was presented to the City of Cairo by Mrs. Anna Eliza Safford seven years after her husband A.B. Safford died, in his loving memory. The first floor of the library is lined with thousands of volumes of books, colorful glass windows, elegant fixtures, rare paintings and other historic artifacts. A unique drinking fountain





Massac County artists Diane and Monte Bremer create a wide selection of pottery, paintings, wood vessels, rolling pins, walking sticks and cutting boards.

in the vestibule is a product of the WPA Arts Project.

The bronze fountain in front of the library, *The Fighting Boys*, is an original work of art by Janet Scudder (1869-1940), one of America's foremost female sculptors. The bronze sculpture depicts two young boys fighting over a fish. Scudder was inspired by the increasing popularity of beautiful gardens in America and created many sculptures with fountains. *The Fighting Boys* sculpture was very popular among Scudder's admirers. Created in 1911, the fountain was commissioned and presented to the library by Miss Mary E. Halliday.

In 1901, Miss Mary Halliday commissioned her friend, sculptor George Grey Bernard, to create *The Hower*. Bernard completed and

exhibited *The Hower* first at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. This heroic six feet high bronze nude sculpture stands between 9th and 10th Street on Washington Avenue. A letter to Miss Halliday shared with the Cairo Library revealed that the sculpture was originally conceived in marble. However, knowing the sculpture would eventually be placed in Cairo where winters would be cold, the sculpture was created from bronze rather than marble.

In 1906, Miss Halliday presented *The Hower* to the city of Cairo in memory of father, Captain William. P. Halliday. A priceless work of art in that time, Lorado Taft declared *The Hower* to be one of the two best nudes in America.

WPA On the Byway

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration was created to provide economic relief during the Great Depression. The WPA employed millions of Americans who primarily constructed buildings and parks. The Federal Art Project was a subset of the WPA and provided employment opportunities to 5,000 artists who eventually produced a quarter million pieces including sculptures, murals and paintings, all of which were designed and placed in an effort to provide the general public the opportunity of enjoying the cultural works of the time. Southern Illinois became home to many of these artists and the Ohio River Scenic Byway is home to some significant murals created to reflect the history of the region.

FAIRFIELD

The Fairfield post office features a WPA mural entitled "Old Settlers" painted by William Schwartz in 1936. Born in Russia in 1896, Schwartz immigrated to the U.S. to study art briefly in Omaha before moving to Chicago where he would study and graduate with

honors from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). During the Great Depression, Schwartz was supported by the Federal Art Project as he produced works in Chicago and was awarded WPA commissions to complete murals for Illinois post offices in Fairfield, Eldorado and Pittsfield.

ELDORADO

The Eldorado post office contains a WPA mural entitled "Mining in Illinois" painted by William Schwartz in 1937. The mural reinforces the value of mining to the culture of the south central Illinois community. This mural has been recently restored.

CARMI

The Carmi post office contains a WPA mural entitled "Service to the Farmer" painted by (William) Davenport Griffen in 1939. Prior to the Carmi mural, Griffen completed another WPA post office mural in Flora, Illinois.

MCLEANSBORO

The McLeansboro post office lobby contains a WPA mural entitled "First Official Air Mail

Flight" painted by Dorothea Mierisch in 1940. The mural commemorates the first "official" airmail flight, with mail being dropped over colorful tents and the welcoming McLeansboro community in 1912.

SHAWNEETOWN

The WPA Murals displayed in the Gallatin County Courthouse in Shawneetown were painted by Earl Ledyard in 1941. The murals were originally adhered to the walls using a sorghum molasses based glue. The murals depict the earliest times in the Illinois Territory, illustrating the processing of salt, Illinois' first industry; Gallatin County's namesake, Albert Gallatin who was the Secretary of the United States Treasury under Presidents Jefferson and Madison; and General Thomas Posey, who died in Old Shawneetown in 1818 and is buried in the community's Westwood Cemetery. Posey was born on the farm next to George Washington's Mt. Vernon and served at one point as Washington's Aide-de-Camp. His final duty was an Indian Agent in the Illinois Territory.



'Mining in Illinois'



Shawneetown Mural



Mural of the Ohio River Scenic Byway



Work of John Graves

Stop by Our Visitors' Center

The Ohio River National Scenic Byway Visitors' Center is located on the corner of Lane Street and Calhoun Street in downtown Equality. Exhibits there explore history and attractions along the Byway. Friendly volunteer staff are there to help you with information to plan your trip and explore the Byway as well as plan an overnight stay. The Center is open April-October, Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m.

Mural at Ohio River National Scenic Byway Visitors' Center

Completed in July 2005, the mural depicts

historic and natural attractions along the Illinois leg of the Ohio River Scenic Byway. New Orleans scenery artist Michelle Mondo was chosen in a juried competition to complete the mural for the Gallatin County Tourism Committee. Dedicated volunteers staff the interpretive center and provide information to help visitors, including brochures and maps. Historic artifacts representing Byway history and local attractions are displayed in the Center. Local art is sold in the visitors' center as well.

Art for Sale

David Disney and John Graves, both artists on the Byway, exhibit and sell their art

in the visitors' center.

Purr, cluck, yelp and putt with turkey "scratch box" calls carved by Disney of Ridgway. He carves calls from Honduras mahogany in his woodshop located in Ridgway. Disney's calls along with other wood creations are sold at the visitors' center.

Graves makes pottery from stoneware clay. All the pottery is lead-free, food-safe, as well as safe for the oven, microwave and dishwasher. A retired teacher and potter of 35 years, Graves calls Omaha in Southern Illinois his second home where his teaching and working studio are located.

Satisfy Your Art Cravings

The Ohio River Scenic Byway Art Trail showcases the region's art – past and present. Several artists of the present live and work all along the Byway. Local business owner and artist Angie Sivori had a vision for a creative space where locals and travelers could shop for local art from many of the area's artist. She wanted to have a shop that featured all

things creative and handmade and offer a venue for other local artisans to sell their wares. From that vision, Angie's Originals was born!

Angie's Originals is an artisan boutique, located in Metropolis. In this unique boutique, visitors will find handcrafted pottery, jewelry, scarves, wooden spoons, cutting boards, wood vessels, unique aprons, soaps, lotions, greeting and note

cards, photography, books by local authors and more. Shop hours are Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., by appointment and anytime you see her flag flying out in from of the shop!

Angie's Originals
312 E. Fifth Street, Metropolis
Telephone: 618-524-8789
www.angiesoriginals.com



Craig Rhodes of Brookport is a well-known potter. Both decorative and functional, all of Rhodes' stoneware and porcelain pieces are microwave, dishwasher and oven safe. Several of Rhodes' pieces can be found for sale at Angie's Originals.

By the By ... Way!

There are so many stories about the places and the people associated with the region of the Ohio River Scenic Byway that it is understandable why we sometimes forget them or misplace them!

Did you know ... that Cairo, Illinois has been written about in numerous song lyrics? One of the most popular American songwriters of all time, Stephen Foster, composed "Way Down in Cairo" and in 1916, Ragtime artist Billy Murray had a No. 10 recording of "When you Drop off at Cairo, Illinois." In 1929, "Cairo Blues" was written by Henry Spaulding and performed by Henry Townsend.

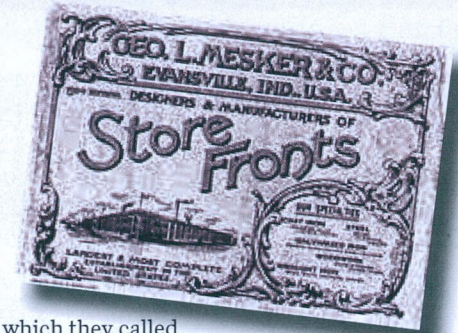
New Haven is the first community located on the North end of the Ohio River Scenic Byway in Illinois.

Did you know that American frontiersman Daniel Boone's older brother settled what we now call New Haven? We don't know a lot about Jonathan Boone but family tree records show that he married Mary Carter in 1750. An excerpt from the well-known Draper Manuscript (an 1858 statement from Enoch M. Boone, a nephew of Jonathan Boone) reveals the following, "*Jonathan Boone came early to Kentucky and was at Squire Boone's Station as early as 1783. He tended Squire Boone's Mill. After a few years, he settled on Green River and after living there several years, settled at the Big Falls of the Wabash River near Mt. Carmel on the Illinois side, not*

more than fifteen miles above the mouth of the Wabash, where he built a mill. There he died about 1808. Don't know where his wife died or how old she was. Left several daughters, got mostly married on Green River; and left three sons, John, Joseph and Daniel, who settled in the lower country."

The R. W. McCartney Music Hall was built in Metropolis in 1894 by Judge Robert W. McCartney. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. The façade of the building was created by Mesker Brothers Ironworks. There is a building with a similar façade in Golconda and yet another one at the other end of the Byway in New Haven. There are buildings all over the United States with similar facades! In fact, there are more than 3,000 historic buildings still standing with storefronts created by George, Bernard and Frank Mesker! The brothers operated two companies, one based in St. Louis, Missouri, and the other based in Evansville, Indiana. The brothers had learned their ironworking skills from their father who built stoves. Their companies produced tin ceilings, iron railings, stairs, awnings, gates and freight elevators in addition to the detailed façade work for store fronts.

What is "Kitchemuske-nee-be"? The history of Dixon Springs State Park is significant. It was occupied by various tribes of Algonquin American Indians who settled near the mouth of the Wabash River. The site of the park was a favorite camping ground,



which they called "Kitchemuske-nee-be" meaning "Great Medicine Waters". The "Grand Trace", an early well-known Indian trail, passed just west of the park and continued south to Fort Massac. (The Trace followed what is Illinois 145 today.) Dixon Springs is named for William Dixon, one of the first white settlers in the area. He obtained a school land warrant in 1848 from Illinois. The community grew up around his log cabin and included a general store, post office, blacksmith shop, grist mill and several churches. In the 19th century, Dixon Springs became a popular tourist destination as a health spa that included 7 springs of mineral rich water. A bathhouse provided mineral baths. Dixon Springs State Park includes picnic sites, a swimming pool, hiking trails and several points of interest. Telephone: 618-949-3394

If you want to take your kids to a place where you can step back in time about fifty years, visit the Huebottler General Store in Grand Chain, Illinois! This little store still



Dixon Springs State Park

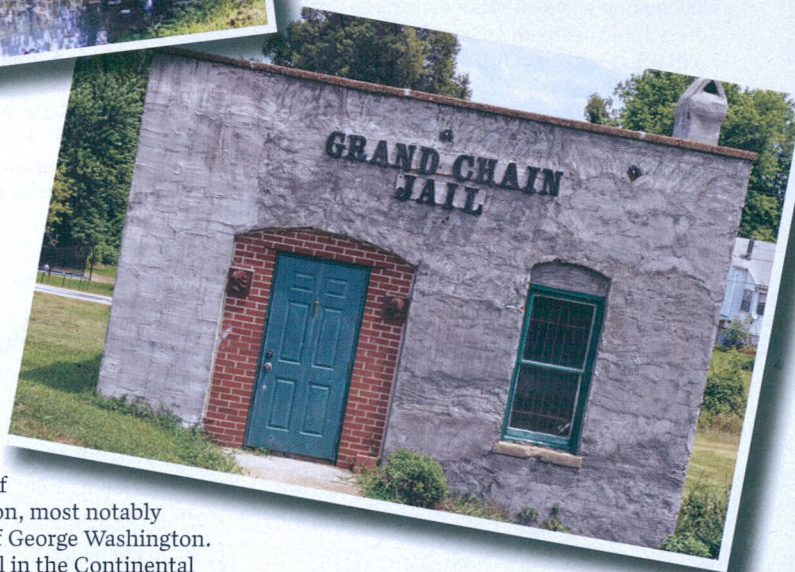


serves the residents of Grand Chain, but contains unique inventory from times gone by! Owners believe the store dates to the early 1900s. While you're there, step across the street to visit the tiny jail, which was purchased by a local resident specifically to save the piece of history! There are perfect photo opportunities at these locations.

Have you ever wondered why Americans celebrate a Polish hero soldier or why we have a county named after a man from Poland? The answer is pretty simple, really! General George Washington recruited successful military figures from other countries to assist American Colonists in the American Revolutionary War. Pulaski was one of those men. He was one of the leading military commanders for the Bar Confederation and fought against Russian domination of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. When this uprising failed, he was driven

into exile. Following a recommendation by Benjamin Franklin, Pulaski emigrated to North America to help in the cause of the American Revolutionary War. He distinguished himself throughout the revolution, most notably when he saved the life of George Washington. Pulaski became a general in the Continental Army, and created the Pulaski Cavalry Legion and reformed the American Cavalry as a whole. At the Battle of Savannah, while leading a daring charge against British forces, he was wounded, and died shortly thereafter. Pulaski became an American hero!

If you have something to share in By the By ... Way, contact us at ohioriverscenicbywayillinois@gmail.com.



What's Cookin'?

Mary McSparin

When days are busy, we find ourselves running through the drive-through at meal time. Sometimes though, you get a taste for home cooking. There's nothing better for your taste buds than mom's meatloaf combined with good old mashed potatoes, or other side dishes. Meatloaf comes in many shapes and sizes, and no two will taste alike. My recipe has become a favorite that returns to our family table again and again. It is a simple recipe that will keep folks coming back for seconds.

A sit down meal is not complete without dessert. One of my favorite pie recipes requires very little effort to make, but it is so, so good! Don't let the name fool you.

Buttermilk pie is a heavier, sweet pie that can be made with different flavorings to change up the taste. Again, it is made with every day ingredients you will easily find in your pantry. The basic recipe calls for vanilla, but butter rum, or coconut flavoring work well too. A dollop of Cool Whip goes well on top also.

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.



Mary's Meatloaf

1 lb. ground beef
1/3 lb. ground sausage
1/2 green pepper, chopped
1/2 onion, chopped
1 egg
7-8 crackers, crushed
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup milk
1/2 cup catsup
1/4 cup dry oats

Mix all ingredients and spread as a loaf into greased loaf or square pan. Put a generous amount of ketchup on top of loaf. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 1 hour. May need cooked a little longer depending on how thick the meatloaf is.



Buttermilk Pie

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 stick of butter or margarine
1 cups buttermilk
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. vanilla (or lemon, coconut, or butter rum flavoring)
2 heaping tbsp. flour (about 3 tbsp.)

Melt butter in bowl in microwave (30 seconds). Add sugar and flour and stir with whisk. Add eggs and whisk. Add flavoring, lemon juice, and buttermilk. Then whisk. Pour into unbaked pie shell and bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes to 1 hour.

"Muriel's Porch"

Margo Warmack Stoker

Their small, pristine white house had a screened-in front porch that was nearly the width of the house, and of all the places in the world I could be, I would choose to be on Muriel's porch. This loving home of my grandparents, Tom and Muriel Jenkins, was one block from the Ohio River in a small town in Southern Illinois called Rosiclare. So many memories return as I think of that front porch.



My family moved away from there in 1952 when I was 8 years old, but it has always been home to me. My father's job took us many places as I was growing up, but never have I felt at home except in my beloved Rosiclare on the Ohio River. We visited at least every summer and many holidays if we could. The joy of my youth was those summers with Gram and Gramp as feelings of love, comfort, acceptance and joy filled my heart and soul.

As you approached the house on the flagstone sidewalk, you were flanked by a border of Ageratum, a small, low-growing plant with fuzzy purple flowers. A white painted concrete pot with pink Petunias overflowing like a waterfall stood to the right of the walkway. On the steps leading to the porch were specimens of Fluorspar, a mineral found in the mines in Rosiclare. In colors of purple, gold and pink, these amazing rocks sparkled in the sunlight.

As I would step onto Muriel's porch, I could feel myself relax at the sight of the large, comfortable wicker porch swing. It was padded with a green and white striped cushion that made you want to curl up and take a nap or read a book. There was a green rocking chair and a large glider so there was room for all of us to gather there and enjoy the cool evenings. I can just see Gram sitting in the rocker after washing the evening dishes. She would be in her little housedress with an apron and, of course, she would have her stockings rolled down around her ankles. What a picture she was.

Muriel Jenkins was quite a woman. When she was 3, her mother died. Her father, William Madden Wood, bought this house when she was 16 and she took care of him until she married my grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Jenkins. Gram and Gramp continued to live in the same house until they both passed away after being married for 67 years. The screened-in porch had been added at a later time. Every Christmas Gram would make her own decorations for the porch and they were always beautiful. She could do anything and everything without hesitation. If she hadn't attempted the task before, she would figure out how to do it. Mom told me about the time when she was small and they moved to Kentucky for the summer while Gramp was working in one of the mines there. They had to live in a little

"Muriel's porch was a gathering place. Laughter and love could be found there for all. When our entire family was there, the laughter was contagious."

cabin that was rustic, to say the least, and lacking in everything. To cover the windows, Gram made "curtains" out of funny papers and cut scallops along the bottom so they would resemble real curtains.

My Gram never met a stranger and everyone loved her. If she saw you coming down the walk, you were always met at the door with a hug and a kiss. If she and Gramp were eating dinner, you were invited to stay and share.

No strangers entered into Muriel's home. She worked very hard keeping house for Gramp, tending a garden, church work, altering clothes for patrons of Goetzman's, the local clothing store, taking orders for flowers for everyone in Rosiclare and many, many other things.



When I visited in the summer, she would prepare toast and gravy and fresh squeezed orange juice for me for breakfast. It was just about the best breakfast I had ever eaten, as were all her meals. I remember one summer when I was visiting, Gram had walked down to the grocery store to get a few things, and when she returned, her apron was full of apples, not purchased at the store.

Mr. Karber lived on the corner, and he had an apple tree in the back yard that hung over into the ally. He had told Gram that she could have any apples that fell into the ally and she indeed had gathered enough for a pie. I would watch her in the kitchen as she reached into the canister and grabbed a handful of flour, then a pinch of salt, and then a little of this and a little of that and before you knew it, she has the best crust for that pie imaginable. By dinner that evening, we had the most delicious apple pie in Rosiclare.

There wasn't a florist in Rosiclare when I was a child, so Gram would order flowers from a neighboring town for everyone. They would be delivered to her and would be lined up in the glider on the porch. She ordered corsages and boutonnieres for the high school kids for proms, flowers for weddings, and many other special occasions. But, what I remember the most, are the flowers for Easter. To this day when I smell a carnation, it takes me back to Muriel's porch. She always had corsages for all of us to wear to church. I have really missed having those carnation corsages for Easter Sunday.

In the evenings after dinner, I would sit with Gramp on the swing. There was a string attached to the wall, and he would pull us back and forth. We would watch folks walking by on their way to the Capitol Theater for a movie or to Tiny's restaurant for a hamburger. That was almost all there was to see, because the levee was across the street and you could not see over it. The park and the Ohio River were on the other side. In the quiet you could sometimes hear a barge passing by on the river. If there was a breeze, you could hear it rustle in the massive Cottonwood trees in the park. Peace is what I feel as I remember those times. Oh to have the innocence of childhood again. Why are we always so anxious to grow up and become adults?

Catching lightning bugs was the highlight of the evening. I would get a jar from Gram and she would punch holes in the lid for me. It was really dark there at night with no giant floodlights from shopping centers



or parking lot lights to interfere so you could see so many of the lightening bugs. In a short time I would have a whole jar full. Good times never to be forgotten.

Muriel's porch was a gathering place. Laughter and love could be found there for all. When our entire family was there, the laughter was contagious. My mother, Geraldine, has two sisters, Rose and Emmy. When all of us were together giggling abounded. And, since Mom, Rose and Emmy also grew up in Rosiclare, all their friends would stop by to visit when they were in town. So, we could have quite a crowd on that porch.

Back in those days, late 1940's through the 1960's, life was easier and people were more interested in each other. They took time to visit and to care. They weren't being pulled so many directions like they are today. Our homes don't have porches anymore; we pull our cars into the garage at the back of the house; and, most of us don't even see our neighbors, much less sit on a porch and visit. I long for those days gone by; days of peace, days of feeling like I belonged, and a time when I knew everyone and they knew me. Small town America made this country great. There are still many small towns out there, including Rosiclare. And, if I could make a living there today, I would be back there faster than you could say, "Muriel's Porch."

Margo (Warmack) Stoker was born in Rosiclare, Illinois. Her family moved away when her father accepted a job with Chrysler Corporation. She was only eight at that time, but has always considered Rosiclare her home; even after many moves across the country, ending up in Texas for about 40+ years. So, after living in the hustle and bustle of Dallas, upon retirement she decided to move back to the place she loved, Rosiclare, nestled in the Shawnee National Forest—peaceful, serene and beautiful—perfect for retirement!



For Information about the annual Memorial Day Commemoration
Ceremony at the Mound City National Cemetery, Visit [http://
www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/moundcity.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/moundcity.asp)

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