

Now's the time for your family to make history!



Monroe County, Missouri

Then and Now

1831 - 2006

Now is your chance to document the role your family has played in the history of Monroe County! The Monroe County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, is sponsoring, compiling and publishing *Monroe County ... Then and Now* in commemoration of the county's upcoming 175th Anniversary in 2006.

Our purpose is to preserve the story of life in Monroe County for the education and enjoyment of future generations. We have a great story to tell about our earliest settlements, the peak population of 1900, survival during the Great Depression, the impact of technological, social and economic changes after WWII and the changes our small rural communities face in the high tech world of the 21st Century. We need your help to make this book a complete and accurate historical record of the people and events of Monroe County then and now.

If you or your family are currently living in Monroe County or if you or your family has lived in Monroe County, we want to include your family biography! There is no cost to publish your family's biography with one photo within the 500-word limit. Biographies over 500 words are charged 15¢ per word for each word over the limit. Additional family biography photographs may be included for only \$5.00 each. However, residents are urged to submit any interesting historic photos, materials, or articles for possible inclusion in the history chapters of the book free of charge. Material will be reviewed for content and included in the publication based on space availability. Please include a caption, along with your name and address on the back of all items submitted.

In composing your family biography, please write it in third person (he, she, they) and submit it in typed, double-spaced format on plain paper. If word processed please include a labeled disk or CD. Include such infor-

mation as the date your family came to the county and from what county, state or country your family originated. You may opt to include interesting stories; vocations before and after settling in Monroe County; dates of marriage; births, and deaths; military service; education; organizations or churches in which your family is involved. Other suggestions include types of businesses owned; immigrant information such as port of entry or name of ship; or any other special information. Please include dates and places if possible. Review the sample family histories included in this brochure for examples.

This limited edition 8.5" x 11" coffee table size hardbound history will contain several hundred pages printed on acid-free paper for superior photo reproduction and durability. *Monroe County ... Then and Now* will include not only family biographies, but also the history of towns and villages, the churches, schools, organizations and businesses complemented by hundreds of photographs – truly an heirloom to pass down for generations to come.

Because there will only be a limited number of books printed, it is necessary to collect book orders in advance. All revenue will be held in escrow at a local bank for payment to the publisher at a later date.

These collector books are numbered as they are published, so order now to be assured of valuable early numbers. *Monroe County ... Then and Now* is available at the special pre-publication price of \$49.95. The price will increase after publication, so order your copies today.

Sincerely,

Nancy Stone

Monroe County Historical Society

Deadline September 30, 2004

Sample Family Biographies

Use the following biographies as examples when writing your family's biography

DR. NELLIS AND CHARLOTTE CHRISTMAN – On June 5, 2004 friends and relatives of Charlotte (Bernhart) Christman helped celebrate her 100th birthday at Monroe Manor in Paris. Many guests were among the approximately 400 babies she helped deliver as her husband's able assistant during his 38-year practice in Paris and Monroe County. He was the doctor. She was the heart, listener and book-keeper.



Dr. Nellis and
Charlotte Christman

Nellis Glenn Christman, son of Oliver and Catherine Christman, was born May 1, 1897. He graduated from the Ohio State University School of Pharmacy at Columbus in 1923 and worked as a chemist in the Republic Steel Mill in his hometown of Massillon, Ohio. While in Columbus he met Charlotte Mary Bernhart, daughter of Austin Adam and Emma (Linke) Bernhart. They were married October 1, 1924.

Their daughter Kathryn Emma (Epple), was born January 24, 1926. Nellis entered the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in the fall of 1929. He graduated in the spring of 1933 and Marilyn Romaine (Sudbrock) was born October 29, 1933 in Ohio. (Their profiles appear separately in *Monroe County...Then and Now*.)

In the spring of 1934, a former classmate told Dr. Christman that Paris needed a doctor. The family loaded their possessions in an old truck with open sides and a two wheeled trailer, moved their young family to Paris, and rented an office/home above Shaw's Book Store on Main Street. After a brief move across Main Street to a location above Temple Stephens Grocery, they purchased a building at 109 West Caldwell St. That house would be both home and office from 1939 until Nellis died suddenly in 1972. Charlotte stayed in their home until she moved to Monroe Manor in 1999.

Dr. Christman was a true country doctor. He made house calls in town and the country. Often he was stuck in the mud or snow and found a farmer to pull him out. If he did not return home when expected, Charlotte would try to decide who to call, or later where to send a wrecker. He was often paid with produce of various kinds, especially when he first came to Paris during the Depression and in drought years.

Dr. and Mrs. Christman delivered many babies in their homes. Often they would be there hours, or over night, waiting for the baby to arrive. In later years Dr. Christman would take them to the hospital. Charlotte especially liked caring for the newborns. Over the years, she sent many of them birthday, graduation, and wedding cards and gifts. Dr. Christman was a deacon and elder of the Paris Presbyterian Church. Charlotte (also an elder) was the church treasure for over 50 years and was given a Life Membership in Women of the Church (WOC.)

Dr. Christman was a Mason, a Shriner, and member of the Paris Progressive Club. He served two months in WWI just before the Armistice. Charlotte was active in the Order of Eastern Star and American Legion Auxiliary for over 50 years, and the American Cancer Society for 25 years.

LOY AND LOUISE HOLLINGSWORTH

When Loy Hollingsworth started stocking shelves at the Pelsue Shoe Store June 1, 1940, he was a 15-year-old Paris High School student looking for a summer job. He did not imagine that one day he would be sole owner of the business.



The Hollingsworth Family

World War II intervened, and Loy served in the European Theatre from March 1943 until December 1945. Another veteran, Craig Holsheiser, had started his career with the store on September 1, 1928, at the age of 16. Both men returned to the shoe store as minority part-

ners with their boss, L.W. Pelsue. On April 1, 1966, Pelsue retired after more than 54 years in the shoe business. Holsheiser retired in January 1978 and sold his interest to his long time partner.

A 1970 Monroe County Appeal article called Pelsue's "the outstanding shoe establishment in this entire area. It is visited by customers from towns in a wide area in Northeast and Central Missouri. In addition, hundreds of pairs of shoes are ordered annually by customers from a distance who have never lived here, and from former residents."

The shoe store was not the only long-term partnership Loy formed in the post-war years. Louise Buckman graduated from Holy Rosary High School in Monroe City in 1947 and moved to Paris to work in the offices of County Clerk Carl Wood and County Collector Elliott Jones. They were married June 12, 1949, at Holy Rosary Church in Monroe City. Louise then worked at the Paris National Bank for five years.

The Pelsue Shoe Store became a home away from home for the entire Hollingsworth family. Louise helped in the office and on the sales floor. Their children, Dennis, David, Janet and Kenneth, all worked there occasionally. Loy's failing health forced the family to close Pelsue Shoe Store May 19, 1987. He died July 9, 1991.

Loy and Louise were charter members of St. Francis Cabrini church in Paris. He was also a member of the Paris Progressive Club, American Legion, and Knights of Columbus. She is active in church and community affairs.

Dennis Loy Hollingsworth, was born in Paris October 6, 1924, to Dennis Lynn and Mabel Irene (Fox) Hollingsworth, former residents of Mexico, Missouri. The father was a rural mail carrier in Monroe County. Loy had one brother, Lynn.

Cordelia Louise Buckman, born February 3, 1929, is the daughter of Albert Aloysius and Maude Elizabeth (Williams) Buckman. She was the youngest of thirteen children born on the family farm near Indian Creek. She attended Indian Creek School until the family sold the farm and moved to Monroe City in 1945.

Her grandparents, Joseph and Sarah E. (Spalding) Buckman and Joseph "Bede" and Martha Jane (Pike) Williams, were descendants of pioneer families who moved from the Bardstown Kentucky vicinity to Monroe County in the 1830s. They were part of a group of Catholic families who had gone to Kentucky from Maryland for religious freedom and more fertile land.

Monroe County, Missouri Then and Now: 1831 – 2006

Monroe County Historical Society
c/o Mark Twain Birthplace Museum
37352 Shrine Rd.
Florida, MO 65283



At home on the farm ... then and now.

Our pioneer families came to Missouri for land and an opportunity. For over a century, horses or mules were used to till, plant and harvest crops on small family farms. In the 1940s tractors started to replace teams. Rapid advances in science and technology increased the size of farms, the yield per acre and the cost of farming. Today agribusiness uses space-age technology to compete in a global economy. Members of the Dye family have been stewards of Monroe County soil since 1829. Kent and Kevin Dye continue that tradition south of Paris.

