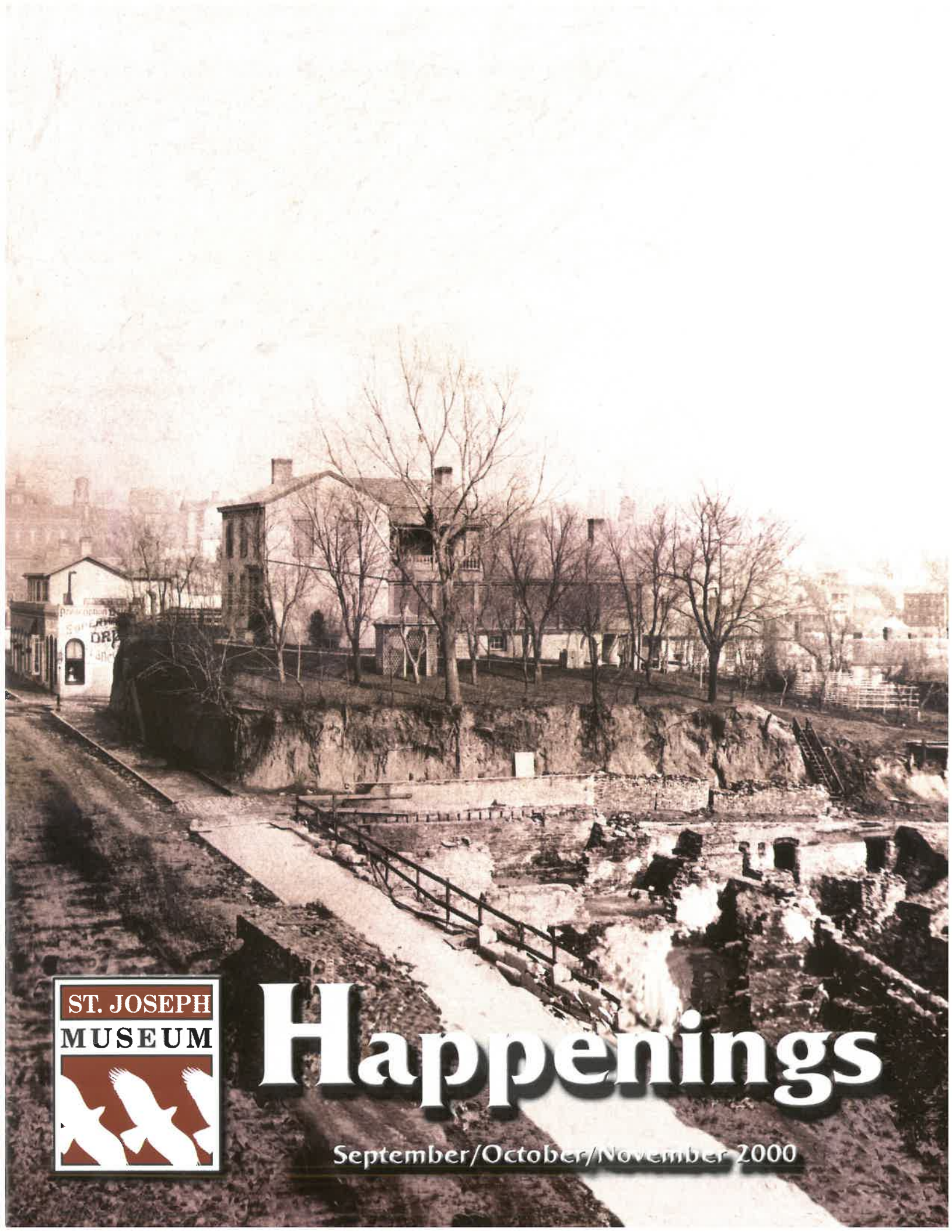




Happenings

September/October/November 2000

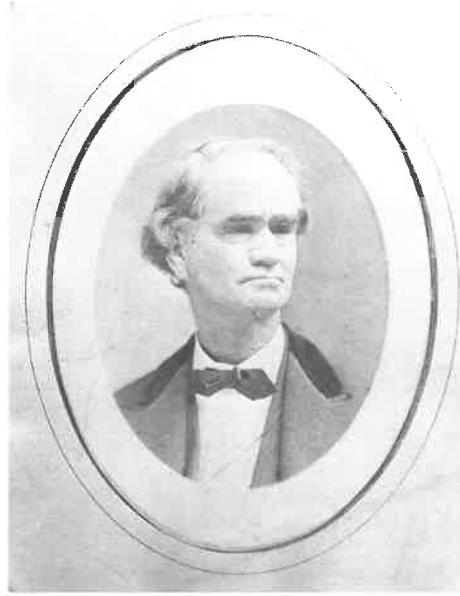
PHOTO COLLECTIONS

Sixth and Felix Streets 1879

On January 29, 1879, James Kay's business burned to the ground, and his home narrowly escaped being destroyed too. The Kay home, pictured on the cover, sat at the southwest corner of Sixth and Felix Streets. Just west of the home was the Louis Hax Furniture Co., and west of that building, at the southeast corner of Fifth and Felix Streets, was Bailey, Townsend & Co. Bailey, Townsend & Co. was the outgrowth of Bailey, Kay & Co. which had been established in 1851 by Mr. Kay and his brother-in-law, J.W. Bailey. (The steamboat "Arabia" was carrying wares destined for Bailey, Kay & Co. when it sank in 1856.)

The Hax Furniture Co. caught fire the morning of January 29, and the fire quickly spread to the neighboring Bailey, Townsend & Co. The two businesses burned to the ground, but as the picture shows, the house was untouched by the fire. Both businesses were rebuilt, but Bailey, Townsend & Co. reorganized as Bailey, Fairleigh & Weil with Mr. Kay taking a less active role in the company. Through the years, the building on the "Bailey corner" housed many other businesses including Jones, Townsend, and Shireman Clothing; Townsend and Wyatt Dry Goods Co.; Sears; Einbenders; and most recently—Horn's Antique Emporium.

Reuben Kay, one of the sons of James and Eliza Bailey Kay, did not have a great deal of time to



**James Kay
1816 - 1893**

enjoy his parents lovely home at Sixth and Felix Streets. When Mr. and Mrs. Kay moved to St. Joseph from Tennessee in 1851, Reuben stayed behind to attend military school in Kentucky. He did not join his parents until after graduation. On June 29, 1858, the local newspaper reported that "Mr. Reuben Kay has arrived here safely after a long journey up from Frankfort, Kentucky. Mr. Kay will be



**Reuben Kay as a cadet at
Kentucky Military Institute.**

employed by his father, Mr. James Kay, Dry Goods. Mr. Reuben Kay is a graduate of the Kentucky Military Institute and is unmarried."

With his military training it was logical that Reuben would become active with a local militia group. With his southern roots it was inevitable that he would fight for the South when the Civil War broke out in 1861. In the summer of 1862, Reuben was captured by Union soldiers. He spent less than a year in a Union prison, but developed health problems that plagued him for the rest of his life.

After the Civil War, Reuben returned to St. Joseph to work for his father, but his loyalties were still with the South. He returned to live in



**Reuben Kay as a 40-year-old merchant in
Frankfort, Kentucky.**

Frankfort, Kentucky, where he was a prosperous dry goods merchant until his death on December 13, 1883, at the age of 45 years.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kay lived in the house at Sixth and Felix Streets until 1880 when they moved to 424 North Ninth Street. Mr. Kay was 77 years old when he died in 1893. Mrs. Kay lived until her ninetieth year—1909.

EVENTS

Thank You, Commerce Bank



Pictured with the model of the "Corps of Discovery" monument, from left to right, are Jim Lehr, Jonathan Kemper, Rich Nolf, Emil Sechter, and Marci Bennett.

The St. Joseph Museum was filled with excitement as Commerce Bank, N.A. of St. Joseph was honored at a reception for its recent donation of the model of the "Corps of Discovery" monument. On September 20 approximately 100 people turned out to see the recent acquisition and enjoy fine food and drink. A Lewis and Clark exhibit, which



Ed Black is pictured here with his Newfoundland, Bailey.

opened the night of the reception, surrounds the statue.

The star of the evening was a three-year-old Newfoundland dog named Bailey who is owned by Ed and Holly Black of Atchison, Kansas. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was accompanied by Lewis's Newfoundland, Seaman.

SUPER SCIENCE DAY JANUARY 27

Visit the St. Joseph Museum on Sunday, January 27, 2000, from 10 to 4 for some scientific fun. Students from Benton, Central, and Lafayette will be presenting science demonstrations and experiments throughout the building.

Museum trustee and Missouri Western biology professor Dr. John Rushin and St. Joseph Museum staff members have been coordinating the event. Teachers Jay Meyers, Sean Nash, Betsy Harness, and Denise Wagner are planning the demonstrations with the aid of their students.

There will be lots of hands-on activities. Bring your children or grandchildren. It would also be a good outing for a Scout troop.

The special science day is in recognition of the role played by the St. Joseph Junior College Natural Science Club in the founding of the museum in 1927. Please come and support the museum and show our St. Joseph students and teachers that our community recognizes the importance of the study of science. There will be something of interest for people of all ages.

REMEMBER THE 1950S AND 1960S?

The 20th Century is part of our history now, and the collections of the St. Joseph Museum need to be brought up to date! We are seeking donations of items that depict life in St. Joseph from the 1950s and 1960s - clothing that was in style, appliances, household items, advertisements, tools, etc. Please look in your attics and closets and help us fill in our collection gaps. Your donated items will be well cared for so future generations can enjoy them and learn about life in the middle of the 20th Century.

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Memorials

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***Memberships and donations
 received after October 31 will be
 recognized in the next issue.***

My gift is in memory of _____

My gift is in honor of _____

Gift amount \$ _____

____ My check made payable to the St. Joseph Museum is enclosed.

____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Discover ____ American Express

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EVENTS

Michiko Takaoka Is Honored with Foreign Minister's Award



***L. to R.: Michiko Takaoka
receives the Foreign Minister's
Award from Seattle Consul
General Yoshio Nomoto.***

Mrs. Michiko Takaoka, Director of the Japanese Cultural Center in Spokane, Washington, has received the prestigious Japanese Foreign Minister's Award for distinguished achievements in the promotion of

cultural exchanges between the United States and Japan. Mrs. Takaoka was instrumental in the visit of Miss Hyogo to her homeland in 1997 where she was viewed by more than 10,000 people. As many museum members will recall, Miss Hyogo was one of 58 dolls sent to the United States on a friendship mission in 1927. After a tour of the country, the dolls were sent to permanent homes in museums throughout the United States, and Miss Hyogo came to stay at the St. Joseph Museum. Michiko has arranged for many of the surviving friendship ambassadors to return to their homeland for a visit.

We wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Michiko for this well-deserved honor.



***Miss Hyogo has a visitor. Miss
Miyagi (on the right) is visiting
Miss Hyogo (on the left) until
the first of the year. This is a
rare opportunity to view two
friendship dolls together. It is
only the second time that two
friendship dolls have been
together in the United States
since the dolls were sent to
various museums in 1929.***



St. Joseph Museum
1100 Charles Street, PO Box 128
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0128
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays & Holidays 1-5 p.m.

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