



SALLEE BARN

This painting, done in the 1950s by St. Joseph Museum staff artist Harry Wright, shows the barn that was on the property of the William Sallee family. When the barn was built around 1840, it was southeast of St. Joseph. As the town grew, it surrounded both the Sallee barn and the property, originally about 800 acres. Over the years, sections of the farm were sold, but it was not until 1955 that the last of the property

passed out of the ownership of a member of the Sallee family. When Quantrill Sallee Stigers, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. William Sallee, died on March 4, 1955, at the age of 88, she still owned a part of the original 800 acres of the Sallee farm.

Several months later, Mrs. Stigers' heirs accepted \$25,000 from the St. Joseph School District for the

(continued on page 2)

HAPPENINGS

St. Joseph | Museum

June/July/August 1999

acreage remaining in the Sallee family's possession—about six square blocks. The school district purchased the land for expansion. In 1971, Parkway School was constructed at 2900 Duncan on land that had been Sallee property. Today, a bicycle/walking trail adjacent to Southwest Parkway has also been constructed near the former Sallee barn pictured on the cover. The bike trail passes very close to where the barn was located before it was torn down in the 1950s.

Several of the tales about St. Joseph's fascinating past concern the Sallee barn. It has been said (but not proven to date) that the barn was used as an arsenal during the Civil War by the guerrilla band of William Clarke Quantrell. Quantrell, who was killed by Federal troops in June 1865, was in St. Joseph in 1862, according to *Noted Guerrillas, or the Warfare of the Border*. Written in 1877 by John N. Edwards, a Sedalia newspaper editor, the book stated that Quantrell and his trusted lieutenant George Todd were in St. Joseph for three days in May 1862 secretly buying and amassing arms and ammunition.

In an interview on June 7, 1956, Don Reynolds, retired assistant director of the St. Joseph Museum, talked to William Herbert Sallee, son of Joe Sallee and grand-son of William Sallee. W. H. Sallee said his grandfather, "a staunch rebel," told him that he kept powder in the barn during the war. Add all this information to the fact that when the Sallees' youngest child was born on February 10, 1867, the infant girl was named Quantrell Sallee, and one could believe that rumor may indeed be based in fact.

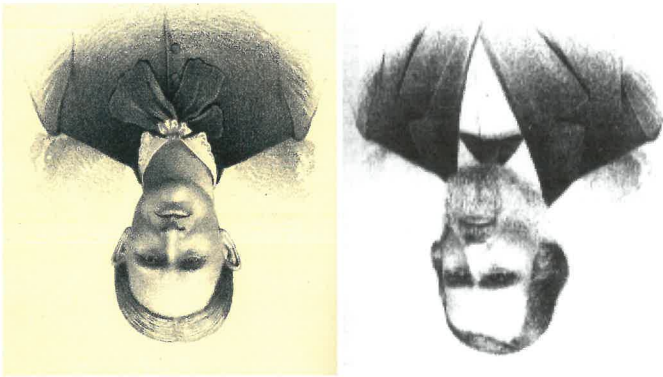
The great-grandson of William and Josephine Sallee lives near the St. Joseph Museum. During a July 1,

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1999, interview with a museum staff member, Louis Sallee said that "Aunt Quantie" sometimes talked about the family's history. She said her father talked about using one of his haystacks to hide guns and ammunition that were to be delivered to Confederate General Sterling Price

Louis Sallee also said that it was common knowledge in his family that his great-grandparents often provided shelter for various members of Jesse James' family at the farm. There may have been a long-time friendship between the two families. Jesse James' father was Robert Sallee James. According to *Jesse and Frank James: The Family History*, Robert James middle name was given to him by his parents in honor of a Baptist minister whom they admired.



Photos of William Sallee, who built and owned the

barn, and his wife Josephine. William Sallee was one of the first settlers to come to Buchanan County. Born in Kentucky in May 1823, he came here in 1839 and claimed land out in the country—where Parkway School is now. On Christmas Day 1845, he married Josephine Hunter, who was also born in Kentucky before moving to Northwest Missouri with her family. William Sallee was one of the successful '49ers who trekked across the California Trail to hunt for gold. After 11 months in the gold fields, he returned home \$6,000 richer. William and Josephine were the parents of 12 children. She died in August 1897, and he died ten years later in October 1907.



The St. Joseph Museum has been chosen by the daughters of the late J. Mett Shippee to be the repository for the extensive collection of archaeological artifacts which their father gathered throughout his life. Joan Wagner, Barbara Shippee-Larson, Helen Raven, and Jane Rhule spent several years researching various museums and universities before choosing one for the collection's permanent home. They are very proud of their father's contributions to archaeology and prehistory, and their objective was to choose an institution with a reputation for excellence.

Mett Shippee, who died on March 26, 1985, at the age of 89, was the authority on archaeology in the Kansas City area for more than half a century.

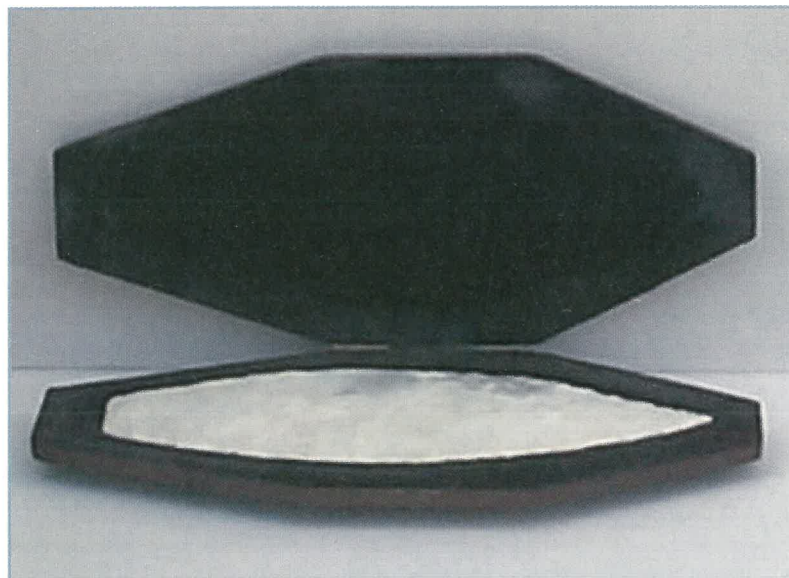
However, his career and discoveries far transcend that local area and even the boundaries of the State of Missouri. Mett Shippee's career as an archaeologist took an exciting turn in 1937 when he wrote to the Smithsonian Institution describing his archaeological finds in the area. His correspondence resulted in Waldo Wedel, a Smithsonian archeologist, coming to Northwest Missouri to conduct digs in 1937 and '38, and led to important discoveries and contributions to knowledge about the prehistory of the area. The data resulted in the identification of two important cultural occupations in the area—Kansas City Hopewell (0 to A.D. 600) and Steed-Kisker (A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1300).

Mr. Shippee continued working with Waldo Wedel, until 1953, when he accepted a position with the Nebraska State Historical Society. The next year, he began a long association with the University of Missouri. He was a member of the University of Missouri team that worked with the St. Joseph Museum in 1961

to excavate the Oneota village site on King Hill in St. Joseph. He retired from MU at the age of 77 and then worked part time for the Kansas City Museum.

Mett Shippee's contributions to Missouri archaeology have been recognized many times with numerous awards: among the first he received was one from the Missouri Archaeological Society in 1953 when he received a life membership in the society; the Kansas City Museum Association made him a fellow of anthropology in 1972; he was presented an honorary doctor of science degree by Park College in 1983.

Marilyn Taylor



One of the 20,000 artifacts in the Shippee collection. Mett Shippee made a special case to hold this knife blade which he found in the 1930s. The blade probably had a ceremonial function.

The collection, which was amassed over a period of nearly 80 years, is fully documented, making it an extremely valuable contribution to science. The major portion is Archaic period material dated 7500 to 600 B.C. Mett Shippee is noted for the identification of the Nebo Hill phase (3000 B.C. to 1500

B.C.) of the Archaic period. He wrote about that discovery in an article in *American Antiquities* in 1948. The Woodland Period (600 B.C. to A.D. 900) and the Mississippian Period (A.D. 900 to historical contact) are also well represented in the collection.

During the coming year, the J. Mett Shippee collection will be cataloged by adjunct archaeological staff members Mike Fisher, Ed Barlow, and Jim Feagins. After cataloging, they and other members of the museum staff will design and construct an exhibit relating to the material and J. Mett Shippee. Also after cataloging is complete, the collection will be available for study by interested scholars.

The St. Joseph Family YMCA, the Missouri Riverbluff Ramblers, and the St. Joseph Museum are again sponsoring a year-round, 10K volkswalk. The volkswalk route for 1999 goes past most of St. Joseph's museums with the final section winding through the historic Harris Addition. People wishing to go on the volkswalk may sign up at the museum and receive a booklet containing a route map, course directions, and historic information about the sites along the way.

Volkssport events are open to everyone, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. The 1998 year-round volkswalk attracted 87 participants from states all across the United States from New York to Hawaii and from Michigan to Texas.



The year-round volkswalk is free unless the award or volkswalk credit is wanted. The 1999 award is an embroidered patch featuring the "Aunt Jemima house," in the Harris Addition.

VOLKSWALK 1999

Events

This spring George Ford of Las Vegas, Nevada, wrote to the St. Joseph Museum: "I recently was given a picture of my grandmother's wedding dress being worn by someone in 1940, and below it said it was donated to the St. Joe Museum. Would like to know if it was still there or any facts you could tell me about it?"

Since the St. Joseph Museum collection records showed no donation under the Ford name or his grandmother's name of Cline, we asked Mr. Ford if he could send a photocopy of the picture of the dress. From the photocopy, we easily identified the dress. It is the beautiful green wool dress, in perfect condition, shown to the right. The donor was Elizabeth

The 1883 wedding dress donated by Elizabeth Campbell.



Jackie Lewin

Mr. Ford, an aunt of Campbell, noted that the garment was a wedding dress when she donated it in 1957, but Mr. Ford was able to add to that information. The bride was Rebecca Ann Sherwood who married Ben Cline on March 10, 1883, in Buchanan County. In the photocopy of the original wedding picture, the bride appears to be wearing a white fur collar and matching hat.

Reproduced from a photocopy of the wedding picture of Rebecca and Ben Cline.



Jackie Lewin

FOCUS on COLLECTIONS

Artifacts



The museum staff has found a computer collections program that is ideal for the museum's requirements. The program, Past Perfect, was recommended by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). As an AASLH member, the museum was able to obtain the program at a very reasonable cost. The staff had been searching for a collections program for a several years, but found everything available was extremely expensive. FoxPro, a reasonably priced database program, was being used to record information about the collections, but it was not specifically tailored for museum collections.

An added advantage of Past Perfect is that it is based on FoxPro, so all data already entered was easily converted to Past Perfect. Past Perfect is also being used for membership tracking. Membership information was being managed with FoxPro so the conversion of that data was very easy.

Past Perfect allows images to be added to each artifact record, so a recent purchase for the museum was a digital camera. The staff is working on photographing the entire collection. This has already proven to be a great asset in planning for new exhibits.

A demo disk for Past Perfect showed that it would make retrieving information about artifacts very easy.

RECENT DONATIONS to the COLLECTIONS



Mary Lou Geissert - Several articles of children's clothing once belonging to the Groh family of St. Joseph.

Mrs. Eddie Kerns, Ronald Shady, and Lewis Shady - A large photographic collection of a variety of subjects including St. Joseph and the surrounding area, clubs and businesses in St. Joseph, and photographs taken for postcards and directories. The photographs in this collection were taken by Lewis Shady who was a photographer for the *St. Joseph News-Press*.

Esther Kreek - Sheet music by Jerry Hall, "In Dear Old St. Joe Town," and "In a Covered Wagon With You" by Ned Norworth and Harry Stover. Also donated were several books on a variety of subjects including the Oregon Trail.

Pat Linder - A book, *Portrait and Biographical Record*, published in 1893.

E. J. Nash - A typed copy of a journal kept by E. C. Koontz in 1849 while emigrating to California. The donor is a great-great grandson of Mr. Koontz.

Nancy Sandehn - Several invoices and statements from local business dating back to the 1940s; a book reprinted in 1990 which tells about the Hotel Robidoux; and a letter that refers to a fish hatchery that was once south of St. Joseph.

Robert A. & Patty Scully - A sketch book, *In Memoriam Mt. Mora* with drawings by Jean M. Enos.

Joan Wagner, Barbara Shippee-Larson, Helen Raven, and Jane S. Rhule - A large archaeological collection of artifacts found by their father, J. Mett Shippee. This collection includes pieces found in Northwest Missouri during their father's nearly 80 years of collecting.

Morris Werner - Several books about the Oregon Trail, Pony Express Trail, and local counties.

John Wilson - A glass olive oil bottle from C.D. Smith Co.



Speakers Bureau

May

25 St. Joseph during the Civil War

Noyes School

June

9 Trunk

Stanberry School Summer Academy
Saxton's

River Bluffs Regional Library - Carnegie Branch

Downtown Sertoma

River Bluffs Regional Library - Washington Branch

Wesley Child Care

Saxton's Tiffany Woods

AARP

River Bluffs Regional Library - Central Branch

River Bluffs Regional Library - Washington Branch

Kiwanis

June

9 Trunk

St. Joseph History

Native Americans in the Area

Gold Rush

Trunk

St. Joseph History

Gold Rush

Trunk

Bears

St. Joseph Museum

July

St. Joseph Museum/Hot Dogs/

Saxton's

Oak Grove Club

Wesley Child Care

Bliss Manor

Gold Rush

Saxton's Tiffany Woods

Ice Cream

St. Joseph Museum/Hot Dogs/

Green Acres

St. Joseph History

Native Americans in the Area

Trunk

Bears and Turtles

Trunk

August

11

Wesley Child Care

After 5 Club

School Groups coming to the St. Joseph Museum

Most requested the "Meet the '49ers" Program

May

27 Crestview Elementary

June

3 Linn County R1

Stanberry School Summer Academy

Hyde Summer Enrichment

Cathedral Day Care

Camp Geiger

Lafayette

Mirabile School

Northwest Missouri State University

North Andrew Elementary

Camp Geiger

Peter Rabbit

Mid-Buchanan School

August

19

Pershing

July

6

Camp Geiger

Child Care Center

Boy Scouts

Kids Korral

Westside Child Care

Westside Pre-School

Gallatin R5



Web hits
15,418
May/June/July

MEMBERS NEW and RENEWED

Dr. and Mrs. R. Philip Acuff
 Mary Elizabeth Banks
 Ed and Betty Blakeley
 Barbara A. Braxdale
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Brown, Jr.
 Larry and Kathy Bunse
 Roger and Connie Burri
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Corken
 Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Dannen
 Eastowne Power Equipment
 Pattie Enright
 Jim D. Feagins
 Flora G. Fulton
 Jerome L. Goolsby
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gray
 Randy and Mary Herzog
 Lt. Col. and Mrs. Carrol Hicks
 Martha L. Hill
 Mary M. Hillix
 Hyde Forge Questers
 Carol Jean Laurent
 Allan and Enid Lowenberg
 Dr. and Mrs. Jim Marston
 Dr. and Mrs. Wallace McDonald
 Mrs. Wilbur McDonald
 Dr. James A. McMillen

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nolf
 Jane A. Pertain
 Ken and Wanda Rhodes
 River Bluff Architects, Inc.
 Barry and Gail Rose
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Russell
 The Trust Company
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Thomas
 Jack Tootle

MUSEUM HILL MEMBERSHIPS

Alano Club Inc.
 Rudy and Martha Clark
 Robert and Jane Boyd
 Elisha and Steven Carrillo
 Darin Grohs
 Ted and Karen Hauser
 Kathleen Holeman
 Bryan Kness
 Louis and Marilyn Lindley, Sr.
 Tom and Virginia Rinderknecht
 Gregory and Robyn Sekula
 John and Karen Wood

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Bliss Manor - Verda M. Barnes

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

MEMORIAL/DONATION FORM

My gift is in memory of _____

My gift is in honor of _____ on the occasion of _____

Gift amount \$ _____

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

____ Please charge my ____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Discover ____ American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please clip out and return to: St. Joseph Museum
 PO Box 128
 St. Joseph, MO 64502-0128

EVENTS

Sarah Elder



Curators Robbie Sipes and Carol Wills clean the Pony Express statue. Each spring and fall the statue is cleaned and coated with a protective substance to protect it from environmental damage. The statue is maintained through the cooperative efforts of the St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Department and the museum.

Earlier this year, the St. Joseph Museum presented "Jump-Off at St. Joe," a

Storyliving program, in approximately 50 classrooms. Each student who participated in the program received an entry blank for a drawing to win one of two Sony CD AM/FM stereos. Walgreens Drug Store, one of the sponsors of the program, donated the

stereos and conducted the drawings. The first winner was pictured in the previous *Happenings*. Stephen Wyble, a third grader at Cathedral School, won the second stereo. Congratulations, Stephen!



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| August 20-22 | Trails West! | Recognition of '49er Families on Sunday. |
| September 6 | Labor Day | St. Joseph Museum open 1-5 p.m. |
| September 23 | Basket Exhibit and Evening Reception honoring Margo Reck. | |
| October 31 | Trick or Treat at the St. Joseph Museum, 5 to 7 p.m. | |

For more information call the St. Joseph Museum at 232-8471.



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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