

# Jailhouse Journal A PUBLICATION OF THE Jan 2024

Volume 33, Issue 1

# **Simpson County Historical Society**



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HISTORY CENTER
HOURS:
TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY
9 AM TO 4 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM TO 2 PM
CLOSED ON SUNDAY &
MONDAY

### **News from our Historical Society President**

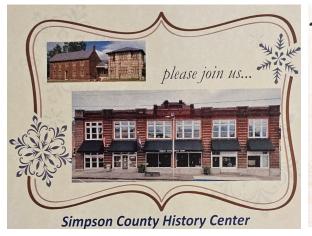
I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving. We as a Historical Society have much for which to be thankful. Especially for our size, we probably have one of the best collections of research materials and museum items and one of the finest facilities in this area. We continue to grow as a work in progress. Billy has done a fabulous job with our 2nd floor exhibits. The only problem is figuring out how to find enough space. Our new upstairs toy exhibit is special for Christmas. Hope you have time to see it.

In 2023 we have had visitors from about 40 states and 17 countries. All seem to be impressed with our community and what we have to offer. We have also had lots of school groups and visitors from Franklin & Simpson County. Many spend time researching their family tree. Ellen is always willing to help them find things they couldn't find or get them started. Several residents have asked about the history of their new to them property/house. We do all we can to help with that. Remember we do offer you Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, and Fold3.com (military info) at no charge. Several groups have also rented and made use of our meeting room.

We are constantly receiving donated items as people have decided that we are the place to preserve items for future generations. We also appreciate monetary donations, and remember if you have to take withdrawals from an IRA, you can have them sent directly to the Historical Society and avoid paying tax on that withdrawal. We also have room to add a few more to our Legacy Society for those including the Historical Society in their will. We do have some items for sale that would make nice Christmas presents. Hopefully you visit our Facebook page and look forward to our new webpage soon. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer at the History Center.

I hope you will attend our Christmas Open House on Dec 16th, food & tours will be available. The L&N Railroad will be featured at our next meeting on Tuesday, Jan 9th at 6:30 pm at the History Center. Please come and bring a friend. I hope and pray you will have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Hopefully 2024 will bring us a wonderful positive year.

James Henry Snider Ed. D.



... for a Christmas Open House!

Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Simpson County History Center Simpson County Historical Society 207 North College Street Franklin, KY 42134

Refreshments and tours available



Pg 1: Message from our President.

Pg 2: Dec 21, 1950, Dewey Edwards

Pg 3: Merry Christmas.

Pg 4: Christmas is...

Pg5: Happy New Year!

Pg 6 & 7: Doctors in

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**Early Simpson County.** 

Pg 8: Hillsdale

Pg 9: Ice Storm of 1994

Pg 10: Donations.

Pg 11: Membership

Form & Cedar/College

Corner Pic.

Pg 12: Pic on Ky St









# Franklin Favorite Dec 21, 1950



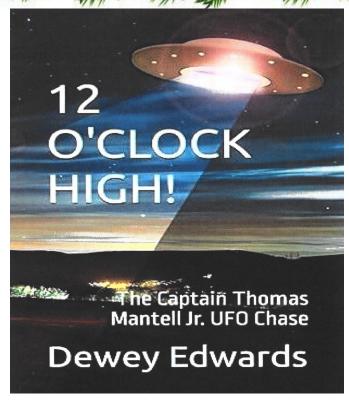
### Christmas, 1950: What does it mean?

It means a new gentleness in a troubled world, as all the world gives thanks that a humble Carpenter dwelt here. It means peaceful hearts, if but for awhile. It means the ringing of the bells, the sharp crunch of snow underfoot, the singing of carols. It means a day when boys & girls, men & women now, with daughters & sons of their own—hurry homeward to share their joy with Gramps & Granny. It means the gladness of little children: it means peppermint canes in bulging stockings, glowing lights in green branches, wondrous gifts in gay wrappings: it means a carpet littered with tinsel ribbon & tattered paper: it means shouts & laughter and the scamper of busy feet. It means starched aprons, warm fragrances wafting from the kitchen, and the tinkle & clatter of a great table being made ready. It means good food & good talk. It means a happy family gathered 'round the old piano for some Yuletide songs. It means goodbyes, and a strange stillness in the house. It means one last hour of contentment before a blazing log. It means thoughts of others, of the year that is being left behind, of the year that lies ahead. It means a moment of prayer for those brave men who even on this Holy Day must fight in foreign lands. That is what Christmas, 1950, means to me.



o' Clock High" The Captain Thomas Mantell Jr. UFO Chase, now available on Amazon! On January 7th, 1948, WWII hero and pilot in the Kentucky Air National Guard Captain Thomas Mantell, Jr. was attempting to intercept an Unidentified Flying Object in the skies over Kentucky when he crashed his P-51D Mustang fighter plane just outside of Franklin, Ky. Captain Mantell became the first person to lose his life in pursuit of a UFO. It occurred just six months after the famous Roswell, NM, UFO Crash. No stones unturned and years of research went into 448 pages of history, packed with photos, drawings, newspaper accounts, Project Bluebook documents, and official Military investigation reports.

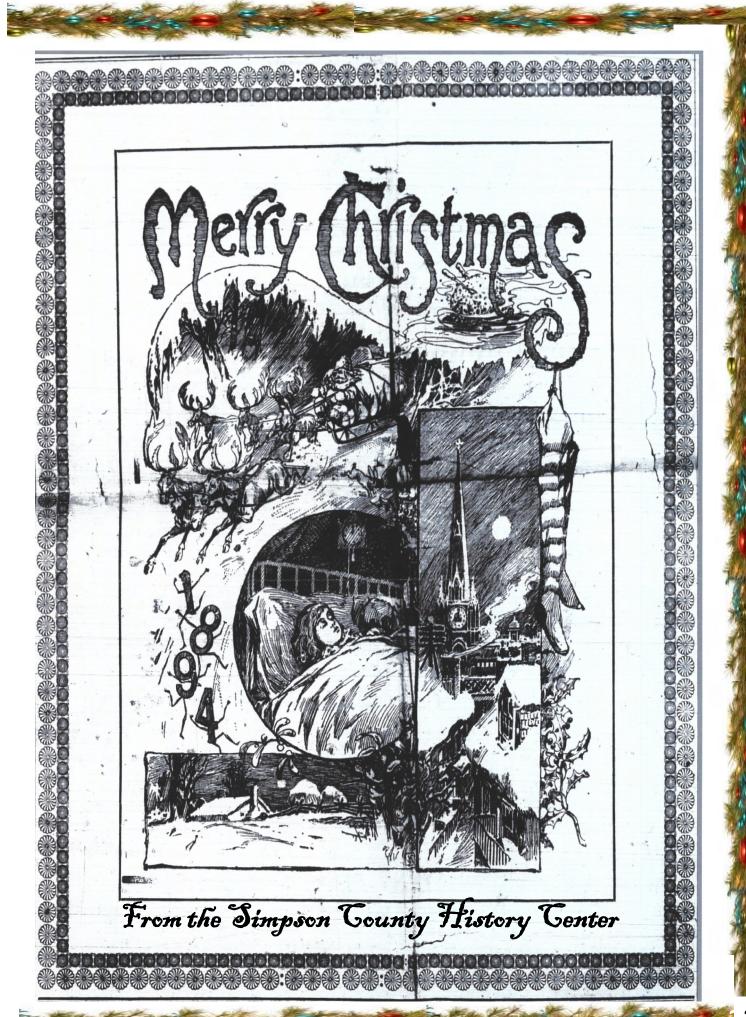
The book will hopefully be available before Christmas. If you desire a signed copy of this or any of his other books, send an email to ghosthunter@gmail with "Book Order" in the subject line and include your address. He accepts PayPal, Venmo, and Cashapp. We may have a book signing at a later time at the History Center.





Weather permitting, we have a **special program planned for Tuesday, Jan 9, 2024**, at the History Center. Dr. Miliska Knault will present the "History of the L&N Railroad in Kentucky with a focus on the people involved." The presentation will be on the L&N Railroad with a focus on the people involved with or employed by the L&N Railroad. Say you have a family member that worked for the railroad in Kentucky. By understanding more about the history and events surrounding the L&N you may be able to capture dates and places of events that might be your family members' life events. This could lead to information on other types pf records that might be available for further research.

Since 2009, Miliska Knauft, EdD, MBA, has volunteered at the Historic Rail Park & Train Museum in Bowling Green, KY, as a docent, on the Museum Committee, as a board member, and has performed a lot of other duties as assigned. Learning about railroading, especially the L&N Railroad, has been quite rewarding. Her hope is to share some of what she has learned with you. The public is invited and there is no charge.











By: Stan Portmann, Past Editor of Franklin Favorite.

Christmas is...For adults, the mad rush...the long hours...the snowstorm and crisp cold...the party whirl ...the carolers...a crash course in toy engineering...near panic...the frustration of exhaustion...and the hovering threat of fiscal disaster...the renewal and affirmation of old friendships both near and afar...the rosy glow of an open fire...the toast-warm, feather soft feel of a sleepy child...the deep satisfying warmth of a hot drink at the end of a long day...and a warm bed...the whimsical humor of a child's Christmas pageant...the peace of a candlelight service on Christmas Eve...the renewal in the wonders of parenthood...the brotherhood of man...the ultimate blessing of giving...the favorite gift that just happens to be a dime store bauble bought with meticulous care from hoarded allowances and wrapped with clumsy love...and any gift, big or small, made with feeling from a beloved mate.

Christmas is...For the children, the Christmas parade...the hustling, bustling store...the escalator...visits to Santa...decorating the Christmas tree...incredulous wonder...the snowball fights...the sled ride...unbearable anticipation...the spirit of giving and sacrifice...forbidden goodies now openly displayed for the taking...slightly veiled hints and late night peeps into pre-scouted hiding places...the Christmas play and party...and the exhilarating thrill of constant confusion...and then on Christmas Eve, oh, the





# Happy New Year



New Year's Day is celebrated on Jan 1 in most places around the world. It is a time when people welcome in the New Year with friends and family by following traditions & making resolutions to improve their health and lifestyles.

New Year's Day celebrations are not just a modern tradition; they date back to the Babylonian Time of 2000 BC. In Ancient Babylon, the beginning of the New Year fell in the Springtime with the Vernal Equinox, or the first day of Spring. New Year's resolutions date all the way back to the society, when a common New Years resolution was to give back a neighbor's farm equipment that had been borrowed. The Romans also celebrated New Year's Day in much the same style as we do today. Jan 1 was first declared the New Year in the Roman Society.

Today, New Year's Day is celebrated with many famous events. The first Tournament of Roses Parade occurred in California in 1886 to celebrate the ripening of the orange crop. The Rose Bowl was added to the tradition in 1902 and is still a popular celebration currently. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival. The famous Waterford Crystal Ball drop in New York's Times Square is televised each year and is watched by people around the world. A smaller, but similar festivity is the Peach Drop in Atlanta, Georgia.

Many Americans believe that it brings good luck to eat black-eyed peas on January 1st. It is particularly lucky if, on Jan 1st, the first person through your front door is a dark haired man. In the Netherlands, donuts are eaten on the first for good luck. In many parts of the world, people ring bells to announce the new year. "Ring out the old, Ring in the new." Of course, everywhere, there are fireworks lighting up the night skies. The use of an image of a baby with a New Year's banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to early America by the Germans.

However you celebrate this holiday, it is a time to start over and look forward to a new year full of good things!

By: Ellen Mayes-Smith







Jappy New N



The song "Auld Lang Syne" is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700s, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. An old tune from Scotland, it literally means "old long ago" or simply "the good old days."



## Mandrake Pills, which were actually poison, was used for pain, infertility,

CANDY CANES 33°





ers and midwives. This knowledge they had was passed down the maternal line for many generations.







In 1819 & 20, when Simpson County was formed and Franklin was made the county seat, people that lived far out in the boondocks mostly had to doctor themselves and their families. The women of the household usually cultivated herbs and such in gardens or foraged in the woods for needed plants. Family and friends were treated with poultices, teas, etc. Somewhere in the area there was usually a "granny woman" or "wise woman" that was advanced in the knowledge of herbal remedies, often called heal-

Even when a doctor was to be found, many people feared them and the medicines, often actually a poison, and the treatments they used, or rather inflicted, on their patients. Some of these were bloodletting, leeches, blistering, etc. In rural areas, doctors & healers were often paid with whatever the family had, a chicken, a ham, eggs, flour, etc.

It was a time when dangerous diseases stalked the land including smallpox, cholera, typhus, dysentery, yellow fever, scarlet fever, syphilis, measles, malaria, diphtheria, tuberculosis, influenza, and many others. In the early 1800s, one in five children died before their 1st birthday. If they made it to age one, 15% would die by age 5. Child mortality was worse the farther south you went. Overall life expectancy in the 1830s was 45 years. Surgery was rare. People with peritonitis (appendicitis) were simply allowed to die.

No one knew about bacteria, viruses, or parasites. This would not gain acceptance until late in the century. People believed they got sick from inhaling miasmas (foul vapors), air from swamps, rotting vegetation, or just any stench.

Medical schools were few and rudimentary. It was rare for a doctor in a rural area to actually possess a genuine medical degree. The doctors were most always male and scorned for being "too stupid for the bar and too immoral for the pulpit." Most began by reading, if they could, whatever medical books they might own and hanging out a shingle (sign). They would supplement their income by farming, running an apothecary, or treating animals.

Before 1845 surgeons often used their own spit to help get thread through the eye of a suturing needle. There are accounts of medical men sharpening their scalpels by scraping them on their boot heels. Surgery was performed with no regard for cleanliness. Doctors wore filthy coats from the autopsy room straight to the operating room with pride. Hand washing didn't become commonplace for doctors until the 1850s. The only anesthetics were alcohol, mainly whiskey, and opium.

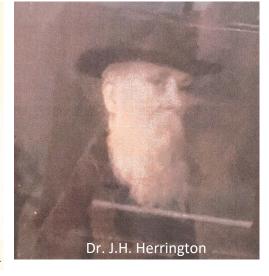
An epidemic of Cholera hit Simpson County in 1872-73. Between June 12th & 28th, 1873, in the space of 16 days, averaging 3 a day, the grim reaper gathered 50 souls. In Nov 1882, smallpox gripped Gallatin, TN. Anyone from Gallatin was forbidden to come into Franklin/Simpson Co. In 1918, an epidemic of Spanish Influenza creeped into Franklin. People were told to remain in their homes and "off the streets and public highways". This sounds familiar to what occurred recently when Covid reared its ugly head in 2019-2020.

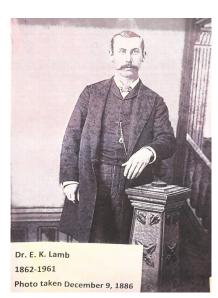
Many doctors have lived and practiced in the area since Simpson County was formed. The first known was Dr. John A. Crowdus, who practiced when Franklin was but a small hamlet. His office/home was where the southern side of the present square is. His home was eventually replaced by the Patterson-Knapp building. He retired in 1844. He then operated an apothecary.

On the next page are listed the doctors that served Franklin/Simpson County through the years with their birth/death dates. Some were here for many years, others only for a short while.









Dr. John S. Lain was one of Simpson County's early doctors.

# ENTRANCE TO DOCTOR'S OFFICE



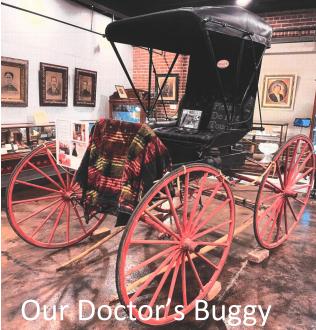






Dr. John A. Crowdus	1785-1847
Dr. Charles Neely	1803-1874
Dr. James S. Mulloy	1816-1903
Dr. Robert S. Bowling	1813-1855
Dr. Henry D. Thompson	1828-1872
Dr. A.C. Vallandigham	1824–1896
Dr. George W. Duncan	1826-1905
Dr. W.R. Bryan	1828-1881
Dr. Charles H. Edwards	1834-1892
Dr. James H. Milliken	1830-1913
Dr. John Stanfield Lain	1834-1905
Dr. Oliver P. Summers	1835-1891
Dr. James E Neely	1838-1931
Dr. Lafayette J. Jones	1839-1904
Dr. George Gaines	1840-1906
Dr. W.H. Williams	1841-1927
Dr. Charles W. Neely	1841-1928
Dr. J.H. Herrington	1842-1928
Dr. Jacob B. Walker	1847-1922
Dr. J.C. Douglas	1847-1925
Dr. Elbanah B. Head	1848-1937
Dr. Rowan Claypool	1862-1950
Dr. Green S. Booker	1852-1898
Dr. Albert M. Key	1848– 1929
Dr. Duff Hodges	1856-1937
Dr. Elzory K. Lamb	1862-1961

1863-1938





Dr. William A. Guthrie 1864-1933 Dr. J.W. Hays 1864-1910 Dr. Morton M. Moss 1867-1939 Dr. Charles L. Venable 1867-1921 Dr. John T. Carman 1869-1958 Dr. William Gossett 1870-1944 Dr. Benjamin Burrus 1876-1931 Dr. Joseph G. Gray 1877-1937 Dr. Notley Conn Witt 1880-1962 Dr. Festus Bandy 1880-1967 Dr. Wilson Vickers 1884-1945 Dr. Roy M. Armstrong 1884-1948 Dr. S.R. Guthrie 1887-1920 Dr. Sterling B. Hinton 1892-1934 Dr. Walter F. Beckett 1898-1991 Dr. John S. Bralliar 1906-1959 Dr. L.R. Wilson 1911-1969 Dr. Hackney /Dr. M. Brown

#### Dr Edwin C. Morgan 1877-1955 By 1970 THERE WERE 7 DOCTORS:

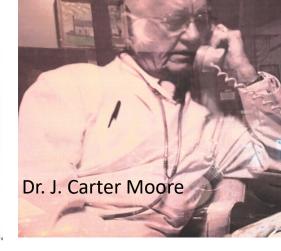
Dr Sam Persad 1947-Dr. Douglas Alvey 1935-Dr. L.F. Beasley 1908-2011 Dr. J. Carter Moore 1908-1979 Dr. Roy J. Vermillion 1937-2005 Dr. F. V. Wilwayco 1930-2022

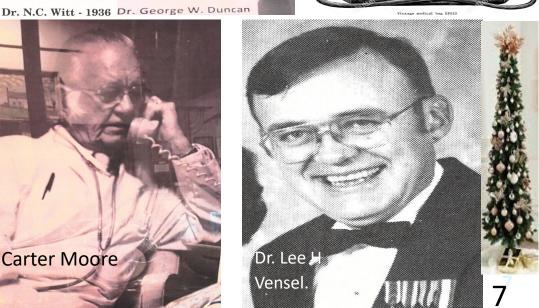
Dr. Lee H. Vensel 1927-2014





Dr. Willis London





Dr. Benjamin Burrus.

## Hillsdale

The community of Hillsdale has supported 3 country stores, a grist mill, blacksmith shop, post office, telephone switch board, creamery, distillery, school, and churches. In 1897, J.E. Link operated the large weather-boarded grocery located to the right of the road. The post office was located inside the store and he was postmaster. He advertised having dry goods, groceries, hardware, and medicines. There was located at the same time a smaller grocery on the left with a mill beside it, and a blacksmith shop further down the road on the property owned by the Methodist Church in 1976. All grocery stores housed living quarters in the back for their owners. In 1908 when Ed Pearson owned the larger store, Mitch Holloway operated the smaller store. Burt Buchanon was running the mill, which only ground corn at that time but later ground feed. Buchanon quit in order to buy Holloway's Grocery, who in turn had purchased Pearson's Grocery in 1909. Buchanon was the last known owner of this grocery before it was turned entirely into a dwelling. The mill seems to have belonged to whoever owned the store, being operated by local help. Jim Barger helped in the mill and blacksmith shop when Sadler & Halcomb were co-owners about 1913 with Tom Harris & Paul Link following. The blacksmith shop was owned by Henry Link in the early 1900s. The earliest remembrance of a blacksmith in the community was Devoe Lee, who moved to Hillsdale as a teacher with his family of thirteen children.

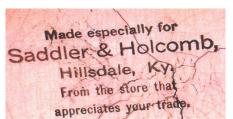
When Holloway bought the store at Temperance, Bob Durham & Johnnie James jointly purchased the store but Durham soon became sole owner. Fulton Goodrum was hired to operate the mill and help at the store. Durham had the house built directly across the road for his family residence making room at the back for a creamery and a place to candle eggs. The creamery operated three days a week in the summer and two days a week in winter. Lightning struck the building around 1924 completely destroying the large building. While a smaller straight back wooden structure was being built, Durham sold groceries from his garage. In the early 1930s Goodrum bought the store, residence, mill, and blacksmith shop. After the death of Link's young son, Paul, in 1929, the older son, George, moved from Franklin to help his father but the elder Link passed away soon after in January 1932. After Goodrum purchased the blacksmith shop, George moved to Tennessee. John Camerson, who was married to Henry Link's daughter, & Johnnie Payne rented the shop. The business continued until 1946. The store again burned in the early 1930s with Frank Payne rebuilding the present day (1977) rock structure. A smaller building located at the back was the creamery with Everette Barger testing cream two days a week for the 3 years of its operation from 1932-34.

Hubert Gibson also built a small store around 1930. Gibson, a talented but eccentric person, entertained the community by telling fortunes with a crystal ball. He was also a ventriloquist and made his own puppets, some of which were displayed in the Kentucky Museum in 1976. He was also an excellent fiddle maker which might explain the Moonlight Parties held at his store on Saturday nights. There the community would gather for cake walks, ice cream suppers, and music making. Since Gibson only sold staples, his business was short lived. In 1948 he sold to Glenn Wright. The mill was sold to John Jarman, who moved it to his farm for personal use. Bobby W. Mayes ran the store for 18 months before leasing the building and selling the stock to Henry West. After West went out of business, the building was sold to Allen Summers for a dwelling. The first knowledge of a church was called Union Church. After it burned, the two separate Baptist and Methodist Churches were built across the road from each other.

While it was legal (or not) a very active place was Stillhouse Hollow located on Lick Creek. Apples and peaches were hauled here by wagon loads to be turned into brandy. Whiskey was also processed here, some supposedly to be used for medicines. Community Beef Clubs were popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Communication was ample with some homes having 2 phones. Before the switchboard at Hillsdale, the community was linked with Temperance. This service was called Home Telephone. Longer distance calls could be made on the Cumberland Telephone with the switchboard being located at Gold City.

Only the hills know the true stories of the Revenue Men searching for illegal stills; the hanging of an innocent man causing the area to be haunted; a mountain lion pouncing on a beef club member's wagon after meat; and if Jesse James' gang really used this area as a hideout. Folklore or fiction, no one knows for sure, but watch for barrels roll-

ing uphill at the haunted hanging tree!



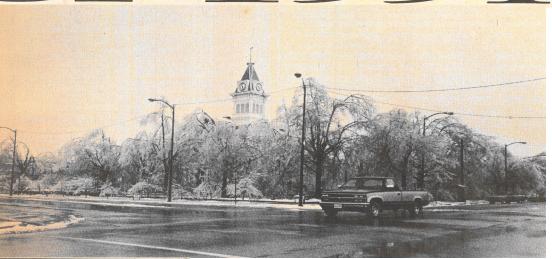


## Ice Storm of 1994

The weight of the ice peeled the trees down so the tower of the courthouse could be seen by all. A few limbs broke but mostly they bounded back.



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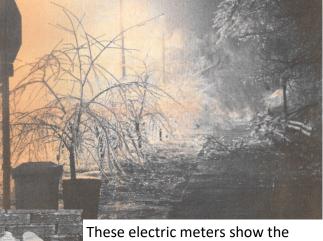




The street lights on the square cast chilling shadows onto the sidewalk and benches.



On Feb 10th, 1994, what started with a slow rain wound up as a coating of 3 or more inches of ice & was dubbed the most devastating ice storm since a 1951 storm that left Franklin residents without power for as long as 10 days.



A Looking East standing at the corner of Madison & Water (now Court St).



These electric meters show the frozen over state of the entire county.

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<u>Lucy Jernigan:</u> Several Yearbooks, 1948 class reunion **Donations** pictures, Spears Machine Co fan, Families

Past & Present, 2 books, etc.

Karen Byrum: 5 bibles, 8 cookbooks & Picture of house, hat box, coal bucket, ball foot piano stool, 2 Peggy Brewer paintings, meat hook, antique cow bell, ice hooks, war bonds & holder.

**Jeff & Faye Wilkerson:** Showcase, foot locker, box of rags, 2 boxes of paint, sled, work horses, and plastic alien head.

Sal Lizard: Book—Being Santa Claus, 2 movie DVDs, Starfleet Cap.

Jonell Hester: Peden Mill & Courthouse framed prints, 9 framed H Price Smith prints, pram (early 1900s baby carriage), 3 small dolls, baby bowl.

**Danny Perdue:** Left handed bowling ball, shoes and bag. Used when bowling alley was in Franklin.

**Ellen Mayes-Smith:** Operation Desert Storm: Simpson Co. KY T-shirt. Two 36x60 in Flags> 1: We Support Our Troops 2: Welcome Home From The Persian Gulf.

**Debbi Vaughn:** Ricky Vaughn KY Duck Calling Champion Plaque 1978, Red River Meeting House Paper.

Betty Ruth Ditmore: Items from Franklin Homemakers, 4 crewel stitchery pictures, Della Robia Wreath, 2 compacts, 2 flat irons and handle, pictures of meetings, WRECC booklet, pink cross-stitch pillowcase etc.

**Judy Finn Chandler:** Replica of J W & Blanch Payne house at Hillsdale, green w/ flowers pitcher from Euree Cline estate, cricket cage, jar of old watermelon seeds in jar found in old barn, green dress that belonged to Lelia Bass Finn b 1877 d 1959, 2 children's books.

Mark Hinton: Mt Tabor Church minutes book from Cold Water.

**Kay Hurt:** Hand carved & dated 1904 walking stick/staff made by Jesse Franklin Tarpley b. 1-21-1864 d. 6-13-1938 (Epperson Springs, Tn)



Daniel Wilson Meador (age 92) and "Kate" (mule)





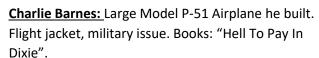












**Dave Black:** "A Man Afoot " book, Duncan genealogy. Locust Grove Church of Christ: Old register books, Financial records, Bulletins, Sermon Titles, Guest book 1995 etc

Mary June Suttle: Calendar, Christmas Club papers, Savings account book.

Helen Pearson: Bow & arrows made by Paul D. Aton Pat Ellis, Chuck Stephenson: 1962 & 63 FSHS annuals, 1953 1st grade readers, 1942 novel, double tree yoke, 100 yr old bible owned by Harold Blalock. Pictures.

**Debbie Hughes Family:** Glass negatives , Bible 1915. Marie Pitts: Angel Doll, wicker trash can, purse, hat, tray.

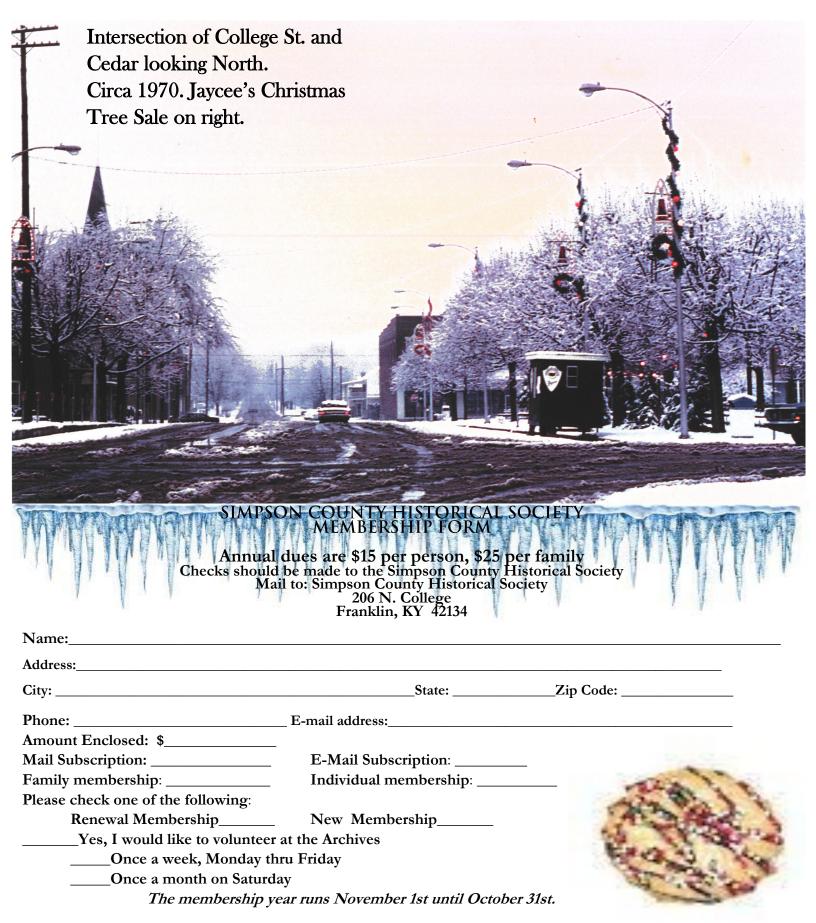
Nell Jordan: Picnic, Ball jar w/buttons, dish towel, framed paper dolls, cigar box, wreath, pressed flowers, notebook of quilting patterns, wooden cheese box.



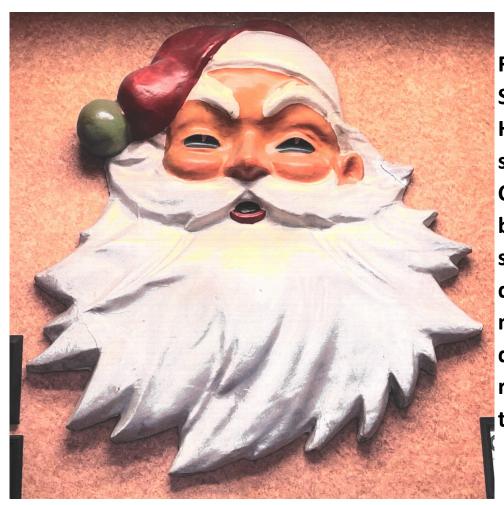
Billy Wilkerson & Ellen Mayes-Smith



Jesse T Mallory Jewelry Shop South Side of Square 1953



The Jailhouse Journal is a publication of the Simpson County Historical Society, Inc. It is published quarterly usually in January, April, July, and October of each year. All members of the Simpson County Historical Society will receive the Jailhouse Journal. The purpose of this journal is to promote the publication of articles of historical and genealogical interest relevant to Simpson County. We solicit your comments and opinions on articles for this Journal and accept queries having to do with Simpson County families. The Journal committee reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.



Anyone recognize this
Franklin Icon? Yes, I know it's
Santa but this particular one?
He hung in R.H. Moore Drug
store for decades during the
Christmas season. I remember him well as a child, as I'm
sure many Franklin natives
do. If you want to see him
now, he resides inside Sheldon's Drug Store. He is a year
round resident right behind
the register.

