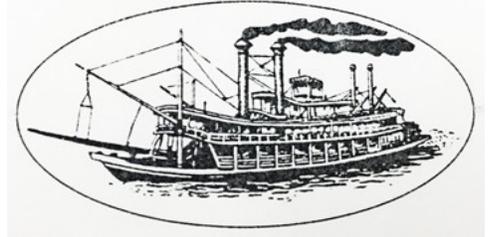


Friends



An quarterly publication of the Friends of Rocheport Society

February 2019

February general meeting. . .

Bill Clark to review Rocheport's river boat beginnings Feb 17

Before there were established businesses in Rocheport's formative years, the river boats had identified the river port as a good place to stop.

FOR board member and local historian and internet columnist, Bill Clark, will discuss Captain John W. Keiser, considered one of the leaders in Rocheport river history.

We'll learn about Captain Keiser, along with his son, David and their role in the naming of Wilson Avenue in Columbia. Clark will blow a common myth that Keiser was the owner of the now-famous excavation of the "Bertrand" river boat north of Omaha, NE.

Keiser also was a delegate from Boone County to the St. Louis Railroad Convention April 20, 1836, along with James S. Rollins.

In 1833, Keiser and others established the state's first paper mill at the present site of Rock Bridge State Park. They began producing paper in 1834, providing stock to the Franklin Intelligencer newspaper.

The traditional format for the quarterly general meetings remains as a carry-in dinner at 5:00, followed by the program, then a meeting of the membership. This time only, a board meeting will conclude the evening.

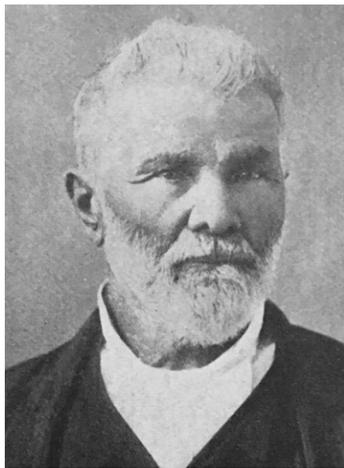
Payne, Caldwell selected for Hall of Fame

The second Rocheport Hall of Fame event is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2019, at the Rocheport Community Hall. Two leaders from the community's past will be inducted, bringing to four the number so honored.

In accordance with nomination procedures, one person from the first hundred years of Rocheport history, and one person from more recent times will be inducted.

Moses U. Payne has been selected as the early-history inductee; **Dorothy Caldwell** was selected from a list of nominees from the community as the more recent inductee.

Payne, nicknamed "Boone County's Millionaire Minister," arrived in the county in 1828 and engaged in the mercantile business with his brother, J.N. Payne. He also was a Methodist minister. He



went to New Orleans from 1850 to 1858, and with the impending Civil War, he returned to Missouri and began purchasing land in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

Payne is best remembered locally for his home on Roby Farm Road just south of I-70, which is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. He accumulated great wealth, and was very philanthropic in the areas of the church and education. He is responsible for the survival of several colleges, including Central Methodist University in Fayette.

Payne moved to Iowa during the Civil War, taking his slaves with him, freeing them and retaining them as employees. He died in 1895 and

(Continued on Page 2)

Born in Boone County

William Copeland Philips January 14, 1823-November 16, 1906

The following information is reprinted from The Handbook of Texas Online.

William Copeland Philips, Texas secretary of state, was born in Boone County, Missouri, on January 14, 1823.

In 1846 he married Martha Ann Robertson. He was graduated from Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, on March 5, 1847, and practiced medicine in Missouri until 1850, when he went to California. In December 1853 he moved to Austin, Texas, and set up a medical practice.

He was a strong Unionist who wrote under the pseudonym of Vesicula Calculus and was elected president at the Union Club's first meeting in September 1860. He left Austin during the Civil War, but returned about 1866. In 1867 he was appointed secretary of state under Governor E. M. Pease.

He was chief clerk in the office of the state comptroller in 1871. In 1876 he brought a celebrated racehorse, Silent Friend, to Austin, where he and his son John Hall Philips offered the horse as stud from the Elmonia Stock Farm.

Philips continued his Republican party activities in the state, attending the inauguration of President James A. Garfield in 1881 and serving as delegate to both state and national Republican conventions until 1886.

In 1887 he and his daughter moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he worked as paymaster-inspector of the Metropolitan Street Railroad Company. He was living in Rocheport, Missouri, in 1906 when he committed suicide. He left a note asking that his only epitaph be, "He was Secretary of State in Texas under Governor Pease."

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Austin American-Statesman, May 7, 1982. Frank Brown, Annals of Travis County and the City of Austin (MS, Frank Brown Papers, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin). Pease-Graham- Niles Family Papers, Austin Public Library.

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tiding of antiquity.

Cicero



Philips rests between is wife and daughter in the Rocheport Cemetery, with his desired epitaph on his grave marker, "Sec. of State under Gov. Pease of Texas."

Payne, Caldwell

was buried in the Rocheport Cemetery. His family later moved his body to Nebraska City.

Dorothy J. Caldwell is the more recent inductee for 2019. She was a long-time resident of Rocheport, having been a founder of the present Rocheport Museum, which is named in her honor, and a founding member of the Friends of Rocheport Society. She died July 10, 1997

Deeply interested in the community's history, Dorothy prepared the application which resulted in the entire community being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. She was responsible for the purchase and saving of several historic homes in Rocheport. She also served as chairwoman of Rocheport's planning and zoning commission for 13 years.

She worked many years for the State Historical Society, retiring October 1, 1972. She served as research associate from 1955 to 1957, director of the Missouri Historic Sites Survey from 1957 to 1963, was assistant editor of the Missouri Historical Review from 1964 until her retirement in 1967. She also spoke on behalf of the Society to numerous local historical societies and service organizations.

Following graduation from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College in Kirksville, she married classmate Weldon Perry Shofstall in 1926. They moved to Columbia, where Weldon earned a PhD. from the University of Missouri and became dean of Administration at Stephens College. Dorothy went on to earn three degrees from the University, including a Masters in Journalism. She later married Joseph Conrad Caldwell in 1950.

A new feature of this year's event is a ragtime piano concert at the Methodist Church on Saturday, May 18. See flyer on next page for details.

Don't miss this!



Limited
Seating.

Friends of Rocheport Society presents its
2019 Hall of Fame Concert
America's Favorite Ragtime Pianist

Bob Milne

Saturday, May 18 -- 3:00 p.m.
Rocheport United Methodist Church

Admission: \$20

Reception at Community Hall following the concert

Hall of Fame Inductions

Sunday, May 19 -- 2:30 p.m. at Community Hall

Help Students Explore History on April 27!

If you enjoy helping others, we invite you to meet some of the Show-Me State's best students while serving as a judge at the National History Day in Missouri state contest on April 27 in Columbia.

You can expect to spend the day on the University of Missouri campus, interacting with students in grades six through twelve from across the state. NHDMO's five competitive categories—documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website—offer something for everyone!

Judges may volunteer for either a half-day or full-day shift. In appreciation, the State Historical Society of Missouri, which sponsors NHDMO, will provide a light breakfast, lunch, and a travel stipend of up to \$50 for those whose round trip exceeds 75 miles.

Nearly 150 volunteers are needed, so bring a friend and explore the Mizzou campus after you are finished helping Missouri students.

Milne Concert Tickets

Available at:

White Horse Antiques,
Rocheport General Store
Stockton Mercantile

To order:

By Mail:

Bill Clark

3906 Grace Ellen Dr.,
Columbia, MO 65202

By Email:

yeoldclark@gmail.com

By Phone: 573-474-4510

Check payable to:

Friends of Rocheport



The Friends of Rocheport Museum is the Society's primary presence in the community. A committee is meeting during the off-season to determine ways to improve the displays and make the museum more appealing to visitors from the Katy Trail, the community, and the general public. Open on weekends from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., from May through October, the museum contains a treasure trove of historical artifacts, documents, and photographs, many permanent possessions, some on permanent loan from residents, past and present. put a visit to the museum on your bucket list for this summer.

Memberships due — Please renew or pass to a friend to join.

Dear Friend,

As early as 1820 there was a warehouse on the site of present-day Rocheport. Known as Arnold's Warehouse, it was managed by Robert Hood, and was a warehouse of some note, according to Switzler's History of Bone County. It wasn't long until others were attracted to the mouth of the Moniteau, which became a favorite landing place for settlers of Eastern Howard and Western Boone Counties.

Today, nearly 200 years later, people are still discovering Rocheport as a great place to visit, or to settle in as permanent residents. One of the attractions of the town is its history and its pride in that history.

The Friends of Rocheport Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the historical legacy of the town, its early inhabitants and those who followed in their footsteps to develop and preserve that legacy

Founded in 1967, the Friends of Rocheport Society has worked to preserve the Rocheport community by purchasing and restoring a number of historic buildings and playing a key role in supporting the development of the Katy Trail State Park, including the restoration of of the Katy Train Depot. The Community Hall was preserved through funding efforts by the Friends, and a museum preserves artifacts, photos and documents from historical Rocheport.

To manage the many aspects of the Society takes both working members and funding. It takes a dedicated group of members. Membership is open to visitors as well as residents, all who want to community to flourish. Please consider becoming member to learn more about the community and to share it with others. Complete the application below to become a member.

~~~~~  
To: Friends of Rocheport  
P.O. Box 122  
Rocheport, MO 65205

I (We) would like to join the Friends of Rocheport Society in its efforts to preserve and share the history of the community.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:  Individual—\$20/year;  Family —\$30/year;  
Checks payable to: Friends of Rocheport

~~~~~  
Friends



Gene Baumann, Editor
10411 Kings Lane
Rocheport, MO 65279

573-445-1998

Email: Rocheport@aol.com