

Andrew Biffer House c. 1886, 1847 S. Garrison Ave, Carthage, MO

We begin our journey at the Andrew Biffer House, a Georgian home on Garrison Avenue in Carthage, Missouri. Andrew was born in October 1841 in Bavaria and sailed to America in 1857 at age 16.

Andrew lived with his family in Kirksville, and Charles, Missouri, before moving to Carthage in 1886. Three years later, he began building this home, using square wrought iron nails. When originally built, the lot also included a cistern, a rock-walled well, and a horse barn. In the 1900 Federal Census, Andrew is listed as 59, and his wife, Katherine (Fraser) Biffer, is listed as 49, with two children, Frank and Mary. Just a year later, in 1901, Biffer would move his family to Los Angeles.

Slide 1 - Early photo of the Andrew Biffer House

Slide 2 - Current photo of the Andrew Biffer House

Blevins House c. 1895, 715 Oak St, Carthage, MO

Edwin and Miss E.E. Smith were the owners of the original home that stood here. The blue house you see in its place was built in 1895. The Smiths are listed in the 1888-1889 Carthage City Directory, both working for the Cowgill Mill, with Edwin specifically as a night watchman, alongside Carl Lowenstein.

Carl was born March 17, 1869, in Jasper County, and would only live to 42, killed by tuberculosis and the mines. The son of a German man and a Georgia belle, he married Lorette Gooden—a local girl from Avila—on February 16, 1898. They would have one daughter, Edna.

It was in the middle of the night and quiet at the mill when Carl heard his name called outside the door. Sunday, three in the morning, was an odd time for visitors. Out of curiosity, but he opened the door, and POP Carl got shot in the knee.

Hurst and Gutlauey, other millworkers, heard his yelps and rushed to wake Dr. Ketcham so they could dress the wound. The entrance of the bullet was shot impossibly from above, leaving some to think that Carl shot himself by accident.

This story is peculiar, in particular, due to the mention of Dr. Ketcham. At the time, the two prestigious and trailblazing doctors married and lived in Carthage, so which doctor was it?

Slide 1: Current photo of the Blevins House

Slide 2: (1888-1889) Carthage City Directory with Edwin and his wife listed

Slide 3: (1888-1889) Carthage City Directory discussing the mills in Carthage

Slide 4: Advertisement for the Carthage Woolen Mill

Dr. Hall

Dr. Elizabeth L. Hall Ketcham was born in 1868 in Salem, New Jersey. Her father, Morris Hall, manufactured oilcloth in Salem County before moving to Carthage. After completing her general

education, Dr. Hall decided she wanted to study medicine and was, naturally, opposed. Eventually, she would study at the Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia, where she graduated in 1892. Dr. Hall spent a year working in a Boston hospital before moving to Carthage. At first, her practice was very small, but she grew to be a trusted and knowledgeable doctor. She was also a member of the Cosmos Club, a private social club for individuals distinguished in science, literature, and the arts.

Dr. Cassius Merritt Ketcham was born in September 1863 in Goodland, Indiana, and lived to the age of 66. Dr. Ketcham worked as a clerk in the General Land Office of Washington City for four years under Presidents Cleveland and Harrison. In his spare time, he studied medicine. He graduated from George Washington University in 1893 and also attended the New York Post-Graduate Institute. Before meeting Dr. Hall, in June of 1892, Dr. Ketcham married Myrtle Johnson of Alberta Lee, Minnesota, but sadly, she would die seven years later.

Dr. Ketcham moved to Carthage the next year to begin his practice, his office located in the Snyder building, built in 1901. It was equipped with a modern static machine, X-ray coil, and more. He also served as a medical examiner for a large number of insurance companies. He was one of the pioneers of the use of X-rays, installing his first machine in 1902.

It wasn't a match made in doctoral heaven. Dr. Hall was eventually granted a divorce from her husband and charged him with "desertion, non-support, and incompatibility of temperament," which had caused "much unpleasantness" between them.

In the 1905 census, Dr. Hall lived at 1004 S. Main Street in Carthage. Her occupation was listed as Physician, and she is listed as the wife/widow of Dr. C.M. Ketcham. Dr. Hall would live to be 80.

In the early 20th century, Dr. Hall was the only woman practicing medicine in Carthage, and no other women in the state had been practicing as long as she had.

Stay tuned for more on Dr. Ketcham...

Slide 1: Dr. Hall, c. 1905.

Slide 2: Morris Hall, Dr. Hall's father.

Slide 3: Cosmos Club clubhouse in Washington, D.C.

Slide 4: Dr. C.M. Ketcham, c. 1905.

Slide 5: Snyder Building, c. 1900s

Slide 6: Snyder Building, current.

Slide 7: Early X-ray, c. 1902

Slide 8: Dr. Hall's home in 1905, no longer standing.

Carthage Killers - baseball team

Back to Dr. Ketcham. Following the research, I found an excerpt about the 1895 Carthage High School football Team.

Henry Cowgill (of Cowgill Mills) was the quarterback. 'Too Big' Clark played center with Jeff Davis, Reg Coffin, Bob Sweat, and Fred Roup in the defensive line.

Carthage had its first professional baseball team also at that time; the 'Carthage Killers' began their season in the 1890s. A former resident reflected back on the time, mentioning that most of the players had "whiskers." He went on to question the reader, "Don't whiskers remind you of John Henkel and Ed Murdock and Geiselhart and Al Laingnor and the Marsee boys?" The writer continues, "When we had Ketcham & Freed, doctors; Frank Greenwood in the lumber business; Timothy Oats, farmer; Mrs. Ragsdale, dressmaker; Clarence Shivers, secretary of the Ice and Cold Storage Company; the Knells, undertakers; and Jimmie Rainwater and Jimmie Maderia in the saloon business."

The punny relation of the name to the occupation seems to be a joke, but the Knells did own the funeral home and still do.

Sorry, Dr. Ketcham, I've got to learn more about **Jimmie Rainwater** and **Jimmy Maderia** and their saloon.

Slide 1: Henry Cowgill's home (c. 1887) at 1151 Grand Avenue in Carthage, MO.

Slide 2: List of ice dealers in the 1888-1889 Carthage City Directory.

Slide 3: E. Knell is listed in the directory as working in "undertaking & furniture."

It's November 1904, and a headline in *The Patterson Weekly* shouts, "SHOT HIM FROM HER SATCHEL." The journalist continues, "Just as he was about to leave on the Missouri Pacific Train for Kansas City at 2:30, James, also known as Jimmy Rainwater, was shot mortally through the stomach by Miss Pearl Skyles at the railroad station. Rainwater's uncle had just purchased a railroad ticket for his nephew to go to Kansas City, where he was to enlist in the Navy."

History tells us that **Pearl Skyles** was a poor girl who worked in the cotton mill, and James was desolate, unemployed, and an alcoholic. Despite his problems, James was very charming, and Pearl fell under his spell—assuming they were engaged. It was late October when Pearl rushed to James, frantic. She was pregnant.

She was not, but he didn't know that, nor did he seem to care. James replied that he had "robbed and ruined more than one girl" and was not planning on marrying her. Unbothered, James, ticket in hand, remained on the platform. Pearl made one last plea, begging him to stay, begging him to marry her. Again, he refused. Pearl shot him in the stomach, and James Rainwater died the next day.

A year later, a jury found her not guilty. It's March 1905, and *The Butler Weekly* announces, "GIRL WHO KILLED SWEETHEART FREED. Miss Pearl Skyles, the young woman who shot and killed her sweetheart, James H. Rainwater [...] because of unfaithfulness, was acquitted by

the jury in the Circuit Court here today after 12 men had been out almost 12 hours.” Pearl, born Cordelia Baldwin, June 18, 1878, would only live to be 45.

The 1900 Census tells us a lot about the Rainwaters. Another James Rainwater (different but related) lived at the Harrington Hotel in Carthage, Missouri. This hotel was a big deal. On August 25, 1900, in Cincinnati's *The Billboard*, a “Gossip” column even states that a W. E. Franklin stayed at the Harrington Hotel on his trip to Carthage. On the census, Charles Harrington is listed as the head of household, hotel proprietor, and literate, and James is listed as a boarder, saloon keeper, and literate as well.

The rest of the Rainwaters lived at 123 N. Main St., and present in the 1900 census are as follows:

- William F. Rainwater, head of household, age 43, saloon keeper, literate
- Ella Rainwater, wife, age 25, literate
- James H. Rainwater, son, age 19 (later shot by Pearl)
- Wellie H. Rainwater, daughter, age 16, attends school
- Samuel H. Rainwater, son, age 11, attends school

Thirteen years later, we get another census for Jasper County. William is 56, still a saloon keeper, and Ella is 32. Samuel has grown up to the age of 24 and is a literate salesman in a furnishings store. Although Wellie is not present, James D. is—the bachelor who used to live at the Harrington. He still keeps the saloon with his brother. I've got to learn more about these Carthage saloons.

Slide 1: Miss Pearl Skyles

Slide 2: Carthage Train Depot, currently.

Slide 4: Harrington Hotel

Slide 5: Newspaper blurb about the Harrington Hotel.

Slide 6: Harrington Hotel lobby.

Saloon tokens! Al Parker of Carthage had his own, the coin says. In a newspaper ad from Al, he brags, “largest exclusive sale stable in the southwest,” and that he’s the proprietor at both the Peerless Bar (north side of the square) and Gold Dust Bar (East Fourth Street). Al Parker lived at the southeast corner of Grand Ave and Fairview, near Marian Days.

Another token shouts out the Palace Saloon, also in Carthage. So far, all I know is that the Palace Saloon was on 209 S. Main St. from 1896 to 1907.

Slide 1: Al Parker and family mentioned, in Volume II of *The Black Range* out of Chloride, NM, August 24, 1883.

Slide 2: Al Parker saloon token, at 12 ½ cents.

Slide 3: Palace Saloon token, front.

Slide 4: Palace Saloon token, back. Good for trade at 2 ½ cents.

Slide 5: Andy Thomas, Palace Saloon Glee Club, pen/ink, 17 x 20.

Slide 6: 209 S. Main St., estimated Palace Saloon location.

Carmean House, c. 1902, 1615 Grand Ave, Carthage, MO

Albert Foster Carmean was born in September 1863 in Iowa. At the age of five, his family moved to Miami, Kansas, and he later graduated from Baker University. Following Albert's schooling, he worked in the lumber business until 1900, when he entered the mining industry.

He must have been pretty popular because in a 1902 edition of the *Carterville Record*, "A large number of A.F. Carmean's gentlemen and lady friends 'stormed' him at his home last night and had a regular old-fashioned time in honor of Mr. Carmean's election to the office of circuit clerk [for Carthage]". He lived to be 69.

Slide 1: The Carmean House, now a bed & breakfast.

Slide 1: Post on the "Real Haunted & Hotels & Lodging" forum

Slide 2: A.F. Carmean's marriage license to Belle Ackerly from September 26, 1861.

McReynolds House, c. 1875, 631 McGregor St, Carthage, MO

Samuel McReynolds was born January 11, 1849, in Saline County, Missouri, to Allen McReynolds and Martha Amanda Cooper—both Virginians. He married Helen M., and they lived in this home at 631 McGregor. They may have both attended Kirksville Normal School in Adair County, and also reportedly taught there at some point. Samuel would be admitted to the bar in 1874 and open a law office in Carthage the following year.

Samuel was the fourth born of eight siblings. His father, Allen McReynolds, was a wealthy, slave-owning farmer. Allen was labeled a Whig who didn't believe in secession or abolition, but obviously was a Southerner in his sympathies.

Allen is listed as a slave owner in the 1850 "Slave Schedule" for Saline County, Missouri. Names of slaves are not included, but the census shows he owned three individuals: a 34-year-old female, a 22-year-old male, and a 4-year-old boy.

It was Christmas Eve 1865, and a month before Samuel's 16th birthday. Allen's wife, Martha, had gone into town with three of their children, leaving behind Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, to watch the other four children.

Within an hour of their departure, soldiers from Union Colonel Benjamin H. Wilson's regiment, disguised as bushwhackers, demanded that Allen provide them with supplies. He refused but fed the men, and they finally left, feigning safety.

To the homestead's surprise, the soldiers returned a few hours later, taking Allen captive. Two soldiers flanked the farmer, leading him to the edge of his property.

Elizabeth heard gunshots and ran out of the house, toward the group of men in unfamiliar uniforms? costumes? and found her father on the ground.

By Allen feeding the guerrillas that were really Union soldiers, he had committed treason. Warfare was a little theatrical back then.

Slide 1: McReynolds House, c. 1875.

Slide 2: Photo of Samuel McReynolds.

Slide 2: Allen McReynolds is listed as a slave owner, with three slaves.

Slide 3: Slave Schedule source from Missouri State census records.

Farmer House, c. 1890, 202 S Fulton, Carthage, MO

Black and white photo from 1917.

Charles O. Harrington House, c. 1895, 803 Prospect Ave, Carthage, MO

Charles Harrington was born on December 14, 1833, in New York, the son of a Methodist minister. Charles married Ida A. Britton in Des Moines in 1869 and moved to Carthage the following year to raise their children.

Charles served in the military and was frequently assigned to dangerous missions, surviving multiple captures. Once, he jumped into the James River (VA) on a stormy night to escape Belle Isle, when it was a prison for Union soldiers.

Charles started the first volunteer fire department in Carthage and became its first fire chief. He also built the Harrington Hotel, discussed in a previous post.

Slide 1: Charles O. Harrington House, c. 1895.

Slide 1: Charles O. Harrington.

Slide 2: The first fire department was divided into two groups: Fire King Engine Company Number 1 and Rescue Hook and Ladder Company.

Slide 3: The Harrington Hotel c. 1903, built in 1881.

William Logan House, c. 1895, 403 E Fourth St, Carthage, MO

The top two stories of the home used to be the house itself. In 1895, the two wooden floors were built, but 15 years later, William Logan raised the house and built its first story out of Carthage Marble.

William was born on August 27, 1858, in Illinois. He was 20 when he came to Carthage and attended Carthage High School for two semesters. He dabbled in the real estate business and completed an apprenticeship as an iron moulder in the old Carthage foundry and even worked as a shoe clerk for Allen & Company. In 1887, he went into the ice business.

William started the Carthage Ice Company with business partner B.B. Allen. In the May 1905 edition of *The Carthage Evening Press*, they got a shout-out. "In commenting upon many different industries of Carthage, we must not forget that the Carthage Ice Company is among the most important. For this season, they shipped 120 carloads of crystal ice, from 12 to 18

inches thick. [...] The company keeps three wagons and six men, constantly employed delivering ice to their large run of customers. The time required daily to deliver ice is from 2 a.m. to noon. 7-8 tons of ice are sold every day. Seven ice houses are located in different parts of the city, so as to be of easy access by the delivery wagons. [...] For this coming season, they contemplate putting up a large ice packing house on the banks of the river.”

William also served as the Vice President of Carthage Stone Co., where “he planned and cast much of the mining machinery used at the mines at the time [and] helped greatly in the training of several men [...], among those being the late J.P. Legett and W.R. Logan.” In 1909, William constructed the Logan Building on E Fourth St., out of limestone from his own quarry.

The William Logan House is supposedly haunted. William passed away on the front porch from a stroke, as did his wife, his daughter, and another son.

Slide 1: William Logan House, c. 1895. Two houses in one!

Slide 2: William Logan.

Slide 2: WL House.

Slide 3: Squirrel touches.

Slide 4: Foyer of the WL house.

Slide 5: Ceiling of the WL house.

Slide 6: The Logan Building.

Knell Fairgrounds, c. 1902, Carthage, MO

On a flood-prone property northwest of Carthage, a fairground was built in 1902. The land was owned by Edward Knell and, therefore, aptly named the Knell Fairgrounds.

The grandstand stood north of where the Econo Lodge used to be located. It featured horse and auto racing on a track originally located where Arby’s currently stands. Edward even had an on-site stable for the racehorses.

Around 1864, there was a skirmish at the Snodgrass home, near where the fairgrounds would later form. Gabe McDaniel and Ferd Ozment, members of Thomas R. Livingston’s Confederate battalion, stopped by the farm—unannounced—for supper.

More on this in a bit...

Slide 1: One of the earliest known photos of the grandstands, c. 1902.

Slide 2: Racetrack with grandstand in the back, c. 1905.

Slide 3: Edward Knell.

Slide 4: Horse-drawn Knell ambulance, c. 1908, in front of the original Knell Funeral Parlor.

Slide5: E. Knell building, built 1887, c. 1903 in the photo.

Durham House, c. 1903, 1306 S. Main St, Carthage MO

The January 26, 1912, edition of the *Carthage Evening Press* tells of the funeral of D.R. Goucher. The music for the occasion was provided by a quartet composed of Miss Mary Hunt, Mrs. John Bailey, L.S. Durham, and H.G. Fitzner. They sang two selections.

L.S. Durham was born June 13, 1870, in Indiana. He grew up on a farm, attended public school in Indiana, and graduated from De Pauw University in 1892. While a student at De Pauw, he met Miss Lula O'Keefe of Carthage. They married and came to Carthage in 1895 to start a shoe business with John A. McMillan, the McMillan & Durham Shoe Store. L.S. and John knew each other because John's wife Lucille, was a childhood friend of Lula's, and even was one of her bridesmaids.

Their store served Carthage on the east side of the square for nine years. L.S. then worked as deputy county recorder, then later for his father-in-law Eugene O'Keefe in the development of the O'Keefe estate in Joplin. He had mining interests as well.

The Durhams built their home in 1903 at 1306 S. Main in Carthage, but would first use it as a rental property. In 1910, they moved to The Oaks, a 40-acre farm in Morgan Heights, and lived there for three years. Then, they lived in San Diego for a year. L.S. and Lula then returned to Carthage and moved back in on Main.

Slide 1: Durham House, unknown date.

Slide 2: Durham House, currently.

Slide 3: L.S. Durham, c. 1915.

Slide 4: Lula O'Keefe, c. 1926.

Slide 5: Excerpt from The Carthage Press when the Durhams entertained guests in 1902.

Slide 6: Interior of McMillan & Durham's Shoe Store.

List of Haunted Carthage Spots (according to Facebook)

We'll get into these individually later on.

Slide 1: Cedar Hill Cemetery / East Cemetery, c. 1870, 1603 E Chestnut St

Slide 2: Mausoleum, Park Cemetery, c. 1915, cemetery c. 1879, 801 S Baker Blvd

Slide 3: 127 E. 3rd St, c. 1890 (old Dancer's Studio)

Slide 4: 403 S. Main St, c. 1914 (Sho-To-All Theatre)

Slide 5: 403 S. Main St, currently.

Slide 6: 325 E 4th St, c. 1900, currently (Roscoe's)

Slide 7: 1113 Grand Ave, c. 1905 (blue house)

Slide 8: 1069 S Garrison, c. 1900 (Stone Memorial Hospital est. 1931)

Slide 9: Curtis / Prigmore Cemetery, c. late-19th century, 17701 W Gum Rd

Slide 10: Tunnels between Carter Mansion, c. 1893, 1201 E Chestnut St

Not pictured: 1422 Grand Ave, c. 1890

Listed but unsearchable:

Bridge on CR 162, under the bridge at Kellogg Lake, old Family Video building, Harmony Road x Fairview, Trolley Lane by Morgan Heights - off Country Club Rd, Devil's Road

1113 Grand Ave, c. 1905, Carthage, MO

In the 1888 Carthage City Directory, Frank Pauley was listed at this address, as clerk of the post office, though that house is no longer standing. In its place is a blue federalist-ish home that is said to be haunted.

Born September 11, 1869, in Indiana, Frank moved to Carthage with his family when he was 12. As a young man, he worked in the milling business with his father and was later appointed the postmaster of Carthage. After, he tended to mining operations in Webb City before becoming a doorkeeper for the Missouri State Senate.

Slide 1: 1113 Grand Ave, c. 1905.

Slide 2: Frank Pauley listed in the 1888-1889 Carthage City Directory.

Slide 3: Frank Pauley

Slide 4: First post office in Carthage, built in 1895 by Charles Harrington of the Harrington Hotel.

Slide 5: Current post office, shown shortly after its completion, c. 1910.