Award Recipients Ward and Hawkins Share Stage with

Madame Eliza Haycraft at HCJ’s 2015 Annual Dinner Meeting

By Carolyn Bening

The Year was 1871 as fancy-costumed ladies and glittery tables filled with oil-fed lamps and candles, feather boas, and painted fans greeted HCJ members to the 32nd Annual Dinner Meeting on Sunday evening, March 29. Some 120 attendees mingled with wine glass in hand as they viewed the Golden Hammer photo exhibit and HCJ book and gift items while greeting HCJ members and guests.

Master of Ceremonies Dick Preston introduced the Year in Review following the Cornish hen and pork roast dinner by Quality Catering. The 2014 HCJ year was full with interesting programs, six Golden Hammer awards, a Summer Social, two receptions, and Civil War Tours, talks and re-enactments.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Laura Ward, an energetic HCJ member. Laura is our web master and coordinator of the Golden Hammer awards. Laura commented that her proudest moment is “continuing the worthwhile Golden Hammer program that returns in May and that recognizes community residents who give so much of themselves in revitalizing their neighborhoods.”

HCJ Foundation President Nicholas Monaco reminded members of the rewarding effects of their tax-deductible contributions to the HCJ Foundation, resulting in “all members being restoration-award winners.” President Steve Veile recognized Cathy Bordner for her unflinching reporting in her four-part newsletter series on Jefferson City’s “Abandoned Buildings: Old Town at Risk.” As a result of her researched depiction, and Steve Veile’s persistence, the issue of deteriorating structures has been exposed to the light while a more effective historic preservation ordinance is now being crafted.

Robert L. Hawkins, III, a resident of Nashville, Tennessee, returned to Jefferson City to receive the 2015 Preservation Pioneer Award for his major efforts in saving the Marmaduke House on East Capitol Avenue. Hawkins is cognizant of the city’s “sense of history and preservation in Jefferson City. There is as much heart and fight here as anywhere I have been in our stand for preservation because of the ordinary people banding together to make a difference…Preservation is all about one person at a time, one house at a time, one neighborhood at a time.”

Members who have left us, and are greatly missed, were recognized by Veile: Helen Walker, David Walther, and Linda Trippensee. New Members to the Thomas Lawson Price Society include Dave and Tammy Boeschen, Louise Schreiber, Mark and Debbie Schreiber and Greg and Vicki Schildmeyer. Members unanimously elected HCJ’s slate of officers for 2015-2017 Board of Directors: President Tammy Boeschen; Vice-President Kevin

(Continued on page 2)
McHugh; Secretary Katherine Owens; and Treasurer Sue Hig- gins. Retiring Board Members, but not retiring from HCJ, were recognized: Mary Ann Hall, Mark Blume, Sally Morrow, Tammy Boeschen, and Steve Veile. To replace several HCJ Board vacancies, members elected, again by acclamation, Pam Taylor, Terri Rademan, and Tim Morrow. Terri commented that she wanted “to become involved with HCJ when she met members involved with saving the old Cole County Jail and Sheriff’s Residence.”

Our organization, Historic City of Jefferson, could not have accomplished so much without the passion for historic preservation and tireless leadership of retiring president Steve Veile and past president Mary Ann Hall. A photo tribute highlighted the numerous, indefatigable hats the two wore for the last several years as leaders in HCJ. We owe both many thanks for their time and talents!

An Evening with Madame Eliza Haycraft did not disappoint! Keynote speaker Elizabeth Pickard, director for Interpretive Programs at the Missouri History Museum, St Louis, brought the “lady of the night” Eliza Haycraft to life on stage, even to the woman’s supposed dialect. The independent-spirited Eliza, born in Callaway County in 1820, eventually parlayed her post-Civil War success into five working establishments while diversifying into property investments, eventually owning most of downtown St. Louis. However, Miss Haycraft was known more for her generosity to the city’s poor, her “generous impulses,” than for her shady occupation, which as Pickard pointed out, was of necessity for many destitute women at the time. She left an estate valued at $30 million in today’s market to her sisters, stipulating the monies be “free from interference” from husbands. Pickard suggests through dialogue that her true-to-life character Eliza was wise and insightful beyond her contempo- raries, especially the men!

The evening’s program was so successful thanks to Chair Deborah Goldammer; Hostesses Jeanette Dulle and Connie Hubble; Planning/Decorations by Kay Martellaro, Jeanette Dulle, Sue Higgins, and Janet Maurer; Stage “parlor” set by Mary Ann Hall and painted fans by Clara Bryant; Gov B. Gratz Brown by Stephen Stark and Sheriff by Mark Schreiber. Memories of Veile and Hall photos by Jenny Smith and Lois Heldenbrand; Music by Jim Logan; Photographers Tony Smith and Mark Blume; and, certainly not least, the Wine Stewards Dennis Heldenbrand, Fred Brown, and Tony Smith.
Now that we have enjoyed another wonderful Annual Meeting, my service gains momentum. As I mentioned at that meeting, I have big shoes to fill in following past-President Steve Veile, who was “at the helm” for 7 years. During his reign, many programs continued to flourish, and additional associations, such as the Thomas Lawson Price Society and the HCJ Foundation, were formed. During the last few years, our organization has achieved greater recognition and respect in our community. Also, I have noticed a shift with our city and county leaders in general regarding their awareness and sometimes support for the preservation of Jefferson City’s history. This is the capitol of Missouri – we have much to be proud of!

Together with our officers and Directors, we will continue in the organization’s purpose: educate the public, record significant cultural and architectural heritage, provide assistance (may include financial) to encourage preservation, and protect and preserve what remains of our history.

I am excited about this year! We hope to gain approval for a preservation ordinance in Jefferson City (this would be a first!) and will continue to be publicly involved in preservation efforts. I encourage more of our members to become active in our “day-to-day” activities and assist with special events – did you know that we boast more than 260 members? On our website, we now offer on-line dues payment (bringing us into the 21st century!) and plan to add additional links and content. We’ll offer resources about how to research the history of your property, and links to financial resources if you are fixing up a historical property. And watch for the long-anticipated second set of playing cards featuring additional historic properties and sites in Jefferson City!

My “door” is always open. If you have additional ideas, concerns, or comments, please contact me or another member of our Board. This organization continues to be blessed with great leaders – and great members!

--Tammy
The Historic City of Jefferson has devoted a series of articles on the sad decline of Capitol Avenue, one of Jefferson City’s oldest and most stately neighborhoods. A review of the history of this street serves to remind us how integral it has been in our city’s development and identity as home to the state capitol.

A history of Capitol Avenue is intimately intertwined with the history of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) and Missouri state government itself. The successful entrepreneurs who built and resided on the avenue located here because of the profits that could be made on the backs of cheap prison labor. And the prison was here because Jefferson City was the site tenuously selected in 1825 as the capital of the newly ratified state. Against this backdrop an elite class of successful profiteers emerged, settling into a genteel life on Capitol Avenue, named East Main prior to 1920. Conveniently located between the State Capital, the downtown mercantile streets, and MSP, they used their handsome profits to build large and elegant homes.

Very little remains of the first settlements on Capitol Avenue between the prison and the capitol. But we can get a feel for street life from a remarkable collection of essays written in 1900-1901 and published in *The Missouri State Tribune* by long-time street resident Dr. Robert E. Young. The essayist Young captures the vibrancy of the street, the people who resided there, as well as the architecture, including the log cabins and early structures that originally lined the street. His essays were collected by a great-great-great nephew, Ed Ziehmer, in a volume called “Pioneers of High, Water and Main.” Water Street is now State Street.

Robert Young was born in 1840 to W.C. and Ann Young, who first lived at the corner of Jefferson and Capitol. Young attended Hereford House, a primary school located across from the Governor’s Mansion, also attended by classmate Celeste Price, daughter of Thomas Lawson Price. Young describes his teachers and antics of his youth, including swimming in Ware’s Creek and the Missouri River.

As a young man he enlisted in the Confederate army, seeing battle at Wilson’s Creek and Lexington. Young describes the tension that developed between Rebel and Union sympathizers co-existing on the same street. The historian relates a remarkable story of how the Union leader Gen. Thomas Lawson Price extended amnesty after the war to General Gustavus Parsons and other Jefferson City Rebels whom Price had known personally for many years.

In 1871 Young’s parents built a house at 514 Capitol. After the war, Robert and his bride lived next door at 516 Capitol. It is from these neighborhood experiences, as a child and then as a young family man, that Robert Young built his memoirs.

**The First Settlements on Capitol**

In the early to mid-1800s the residents were mostly working-class families of state workers, prison guards, railroad employees,
tradesmen and city officials with perhaps a few merchants scattered throughout. With livestock and vegetable gardens on their properties, the street did not yet comprise the Avenue of the privileged that it would later become. However, the 200 and 300 block of Capitol was diversified with liversies, businesses, a few residences, and churches.

Little remains of the pre-1870 built environment on Capitol that Young describes; those that do remain are some of the oldest structures in Jefferson City. The Parsons House at 105 Jackson built in the early 1830s is the most significant. General Gustavus Parsons, a personal secretary to Thomas Jefferson moved to this Capitol Avenue residence in 1847. He and his son Mosby M. Parsons both served the Rebel cause in the Civil War. His daughter Mildred married Colonel Austin Standish, also a Rebel, who, in the 1850s, built the house that is still standing at 103 Jackson.

The Buescher House at 429 Capitol, mentioned by Young in his essays, was built where a log cabin once stood. John Gordon, who had originally lived in the 700 block, moved a few blocks to construct this home during the Civil War. The Gordon name pops up in many early histories of Jefferson City.

Capitol Avenue Becomes the Street of the Elite

The housing boom on Capitol Avenue started in earnest after 1870, replacing most of the log cabins and clapboard homes. The country was moving on after the end of a brutal war.

After 1870 Capitol Avenue became home to many prominent Jefferson Citians, including governors, mayors, high-ranking government officials, industrialists, and bankers. It quickly became the preferred elite residential area of the wealthy. Their common bond was their connection to state government while the wealthiest among them were the entrepreneurs who contracted for prison labor.

Lester Shepard Parker built a grand home for his family at 624 Capitol. He had moved to Jefferson City to manage the Jefferson Shoe Co, a prison industry. Seeing that profits were to be made here, he soon established his own business, the L. S. Parker Shoe Company. Parker was a renaissance man, dabbling in many enterprises: watercolor artist, playwright, and song writer.

James Houchin was first employed as a bookkeeper for the Star Clothing Company. After he rescued the company from near collapse in the mid-1890s, he was placed in charge, turning the company into a huge success. His home at 611 Capitol was built in 1905, largely from convict labor. Reportedly it was built in a ravine that required tens of thousands loads of fill hauled in by inmates. The Houchin home became a venue of many elaborate parties attended by the Jefferson City elite.

Charles Carson came to Jefferson City in 1905 after investing in the Central Broom Company. He bought the home at 606 Capitol from Judge Gavon Burgess, a Missouri Supreme Court judge. Carson was a “tinkerer” who designed a unique turn-table in his car port, similar to the railroad’s turn house formerly on West Main in the Millbottom. He could park his car, then rotate it 180 degrees so it was pointed outward.

W. C. Boone, who operated a successful chair factory inside the prison, lived with his family at 718 Capitol. There were a number of bankers living in the neighborhood: W. Q. Dallmeyer (600 Capitol), W. C. Young (514 Capitol), J. S. Fleming and W. A. Dallmeyer (615 Capitol). Governor Lon Stevens lived in Ivy Terrace at 500 Capitol. Two former mayors lived on adjacent Cherry Street. Numerous state officials, Supreme Court justices, newspaper editors, lawyers, doctors, prison wardens and superintendents also resided in this up-scale neighborhood.

(Continued on page 6)
**Tour of Homes Designed by Architect Hurst John Set for September**

This year’s Homes Tour will take a different direction from the old historic neighborhoods to focus on a particular architectural style of homes built over 50 years ago. Between 1955 and 1979, prominent Columbia architect Hurst John designed over 45 homes built in Jefferson City with a very distinctive style that includes wide eaves, bend in the roof line, sky lights and lots of windows.

A drive-around tour of where homes are located is being planned for the fall Homes Tour **September 20**. The event will include visits to some of these extraordinary homes along with a reception and program honoring the work of Hurst John.

For further information contact Mary Ann Hall 635-8512.

A Hurst John home at 1400 Greenberry Road Built in 1956 by contractors Elmer Goldammer and Elbert Raithel for the Lloyd Basler family.

---

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE!**

If you have not been to the Historic City of Jefferson web site recently you will find it chock full of useful information. The biggest news is that you can now pay your membership dues securely on-line! This tab can also be used for donations. It has never been easier.

You can keep abreast of up-coming HCJ events, find out all the past Golden Hammer winners (with photos), view Jefferson City ordinances relevant to Historic Preservation, and see photos of past home tours and annual dinners. Did you know you can see the past newsletters from 2007 to present?

Perhaps you have a friend considering membership in HCJ? You can direct them to our downloadable form under the “Become a Member” tab. Or maybe you want to know how to become a Thomas Lawson Price Society member, or leave a bequest to HCJ under the HCJ Foundation tab, or to find out more about the Oral History Program? You can also find out where to buy Jeff City Landmark Playing cards and other HCJ items.

Do you remember the interesting program last year given by Latin scholar James Farris who translated the memoirs of Fr. Ferdinand Helias? The transcript of this historical document can now be viewed on the HCJ web site, with plans to add more to this tab.

Check us out at: [www.historiccityofjefferson.org](http://www.historiccityofjefferson.org)

---

**The Neighborhood and the Prison**

Due to its proximity to the prison, one would think that the Capitol Avenue neighborhood would be an undesirable place to live, but the rhythms of the prison became part of the everyday life. Prisoners were often seen doing yard work at the Warden’s and Superintendent’s houses. The guards in the towers could be heard whistling to stay awake. Prisoners returning from work details might wave and toss apples to the neighborhood kids. There were occasional concerts by prison musicians in the front yard of the Warden’s house. So it was not uncommon for the residents of Capitol Avenue to see inmates outside the walls.

Well into the 20th century, Capitol Avenue residents had little fear of that world on the other side of the wall that would become known as “the bloodiest forty-seven acres in America.” This entirely foreign and brutal world of the prison yard was separated from the peaceful life on Capitol Avenue by a mere four-foot-wide wall.

Some of the most successful and influential people of early Jefferson City lived in the Capitol Avenue neighborhood. These residents were not just movers and shakers on the local scale but on the statewide and even national scene. The street is important to us, not only because of the unique and elegant historic architecture but also because of the wealth of historic residents on the grand avenue, residents who created the capital city. Capitol Avenue is a gem, a treasure of Jefferson City. It is a part of our history and identity, a part of who we are. As proud Jefferson City residents, we should — some would say we are obligated — to consolidate our efforts to ensure that Capitol Avenue will be rescued from the current decline to survive for future generations.

Information for this article came from “Outside the Walls” by Cathy Bordner (Masters Thesis); “Heartland History” Volumes 1, 2 and 3 by Dr. Gary Kremer; “Pioneers of Water, Main and High” by Dr. R.E. Young, and “The Illustrated Sketch Book of Jefferson City and Cole County,” edited by J. W. Johnston.
Avani Bichkar, one of Ruthie Caplinger’s EER students, poses in front of the Parsons House at 105 Jackson Street. This house built in the 1830s is on the City’s abandoned building registry.

The General Gustavus A. Parsons House at 105 Jackson Street, one of the oldest structures in Jefferson City from the 1830s, is significant to the history of Jefferson City due to two prominent capital families. Gustavus Parsons had served as Thomas Jefferson’s personal secretary and later served twice as Missouri’s adjutant general, settling Indian uprisings on the Missouri-Kansas border.

Parsons and his wife Patience bought the home in 1847 from State Treasurer John Walker, recognized for his honesty, who kept the state treasury in his home’s iron box. A monument in Walker’s honor stands at the west entrance to Riverview Cemetery.

The Parsons House was built in the classic style of New Orleans French nobility. The first floor’s base is 16-inch limestone blocks topped by 12” of oak boards to hold exterior’s solid walnut clapboards. The interior woodwork was hand-carved mahogany. Originally, the home’s entrance stairs were at the front of the house with no front windows opening to the River. The windows are now boarded up.

The Parsons House loudly speaks History since it was opened by the Parsons family as a hospital for the cholera epidemic and for both Confederate and Union soldiers. Recognized in 1993 as a Historic Preservation Landmark, this important building is now listed on the City’s Registry of Abandoned Buildings.

HCJ Welcomes New Members to the TLP Society!

The newest members of the Thomas Lawson Price Society are:

Dave and Tammy Boeschen
(photo at right)

Greg and Vicki Schildmeyer
(photo at left)

Louise Schreiber
(no photo available)

Mark and Debbie Schreiber
(no photo available)

Visit our web site to find out more about how you can become a member and the benefits that come with membership.

Www.historiccityofJefferson.org
Getting to Know You

**Pam Taylor**

**Why did you join HCJ?**
I wanted to get more involved with the preservation of history in Jefferson City.

**What do you like best about being a member of HCJ?**
Working with people who are passionate about saving our history through saving old buildings.

**Do you have a favorite HCJ program or activity?**
The home tours.

**Do you think we have made progress in Jefferson City on historic preservation?**
I have only been involved for 4 years, but HCJ has made great progress. HCJ is saving the history of Jefferson City by helping to save our old buildings. They have formed the HCJ Foundation and programs to educate the public about preservation. They also work with the city council and county to keep them informed about what we are doing.

**If someone asked you the benefits of HCJ membership, what would you say?**
It is fun and rewarding working with a group of the leaders of our community for the common goal.

**How long have you been a member of HCJ?**
Four years.

**How long have you been on the board?**
I was elected to the board on 3/29/15 at the Annual Meeting.

**What one thing might HCJ members be surprised to learn about you?**
I retired from Edward Jones 9 years ago and I fly to Austin, Texas frequently to be with our 3 grandbabies and daughter and her husband.

**Tim Morrow**

**Why did you join HCJ?**
I actually came into HCJ membership through the back door, so to speak. I became involved with the Civil War Tour through Stephen Stark and was so impressed with HCJ’s organization and energy on that project, that I decided to join.

**What do you like best about being a member of HCJ?**
Enjoy being around others with a lot of drive and community spirit. HCJ really accomplishes a significant amount of work for the size of the organization.

**Do you have a favorite HCJ program or activity?**
I’m still learning about all the programs HCJ sponsors, so I cannot pick one. I am amazed at how much an impact HCJ makes in the community with a relatively small number of members.

**Do you think we have made progress in Jefferson City on historic preservation?**
I have not really lived here long enough to appreciate how far we have come.

**If someone asked you the benefits of HCJ membership, what would you say?**
Joining HCJ is an excellent way to become involved in the community. Whether it’s helping with the Historic Homes Tour, a preservation project, or any other HCJ event, you receive immediate gratification and a sense of pride from the group’s efforts.

**How long have you been a member of HCJ?**
About 5 months

**How long have you been on the board?**
Since the annual meeting in March.

**What one thing might HCJ members be surprised to learn about you?**
I was fortunate enough to have Dr. Walter Schroeder as my Scoutmaster while growing up in Columbia. As one can imagine, Dr. Schroeder taught the Boy Scouts of Troop 704 quite a bit about local and state history. I credit him with instilling much of the pride and historical interest I have for our state.
HCJ Continues Work Updating City Preservation Ordinance

HCJ has been busy working on a preservation ordinance for Jefferson City. That work is continuing this spring following a meeting with other stakeholder groups who also have an interest in this issue.

This ordinance is meant to reinforce and strengthen the purpose of the present City of Jefferson Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in the preservation and adaptive re-use of our older structures and bring about a reduction in the number of demolitions, especially those that are historically significant. This may include public notice regarding certain demolition requests and the promotion of alternative education or financial options to re-purpose or restore deserving structures instead of allowing demolition. This effort was started after the Old Cole County Jail and Sheriff’s Residence were in danger of being torn down last year. Many other communities have an effective ordinance in place to protect their historic structures.

The first draft of the ordinance was presented at a public hearing to the HPC in February. Discussion at that meeting brought to light additional issues to consider. HCJ continues to seek legal advice as the ordinance is rewritten.

Once a building is torn down, its physical footprint is gone and cannot be replaced. Watch for more information about the next public presentation of the revised ordinance. And contact your city and county officials, expressing your desire for Jefferson City to preserve the buildings and sites that have contributed and continue to contribute to our rich history.

It’s Been Quite a Ride

Now that I have concluded my time as president of the Historic City of Jefferson, I want to thank all of the wonderful people who make up this organization. What an honor it has been to work with so many people who don’t just sit there - they DO things! The devotion and dedication our members show toward historic preservation, to the community, and to this organization is an amazing thing to behold. It has been such a privilege to serve as your president, and though I might have sometimes pretended otherwise, I can tell you that I loved every minute of it!

Steve Veile
HCJ President 2008-2015

HCJ HAS A NEW OFFICE COORDINATOR

We welcome Deborah Goldammer, former Board member and Treasurer, as our “Administrative Assistant”! Debbie will coordinate and complete the various clerical duties that are necessary to keep our organization running smoothly. And we give a big “thank you” to Data Comm for their recent donation of a copier for our office at 108 West Atchison! This will make Debbie’s job a lot easier.
SAVE THE DATE!

Tours of Hurst John Homes
Sunday, September 20
1:00pm to 5:00pm

Looking back . . . . . . . . . . . . Moving forward

Golden Hammer and Web Master - Laura Ward
Newsletter Editor - Jenny Smith
Education and Programs - Donna Deetz
Oral History - Janet Maurer
Publicity - Vicki Schildmeyer

Membership and Social Media - Terri Rademan
Special Events - Kevin McHugh
HCJ Foundation - Nicholas M. Monaco
History and Documentation - Katherine Owens
Finance - Tim Morrow

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a central focus for the future development in the City of Jefferson.

Yesterday and Today is the official newsletter of the Historic City of Jefferson, published quarterly in Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Send articles, announcements, inquiries to:
Editor - Jenny Smith
Co-Editor - Carolyn Bening
573-230-8245
email: tpsmithster@centurylink.net

Visit our Web site at www.historiccityofjefferson.org