

*Preserving the Past  
Enlightening the Present  
Living Vision to the Future*

*Villisca Historical Society, Inc Newsletter*

Volume 5 Issue 1, April  
2012

*Today is tomorrow's history!*

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**Editors Forward:** My sincere appreciation to those that provided the basis of much of what is contained in this issue regarding Tenville. Many thanks to Elaine Artlip for her hard work in documenting the history of the area in and around Tenville, long before it was known by that name. Jim Findley provided some pictures of the Junction station that his Dad operated in the late 50's and into the 60's. I found some great pictures from the Review picture archives to include references to family farms on the bottom road around 1908. A recent picture from Face Book celebrating the Artlip 70th Anniversary is also included. Thanks again to all for sharing your thoughts and memories.

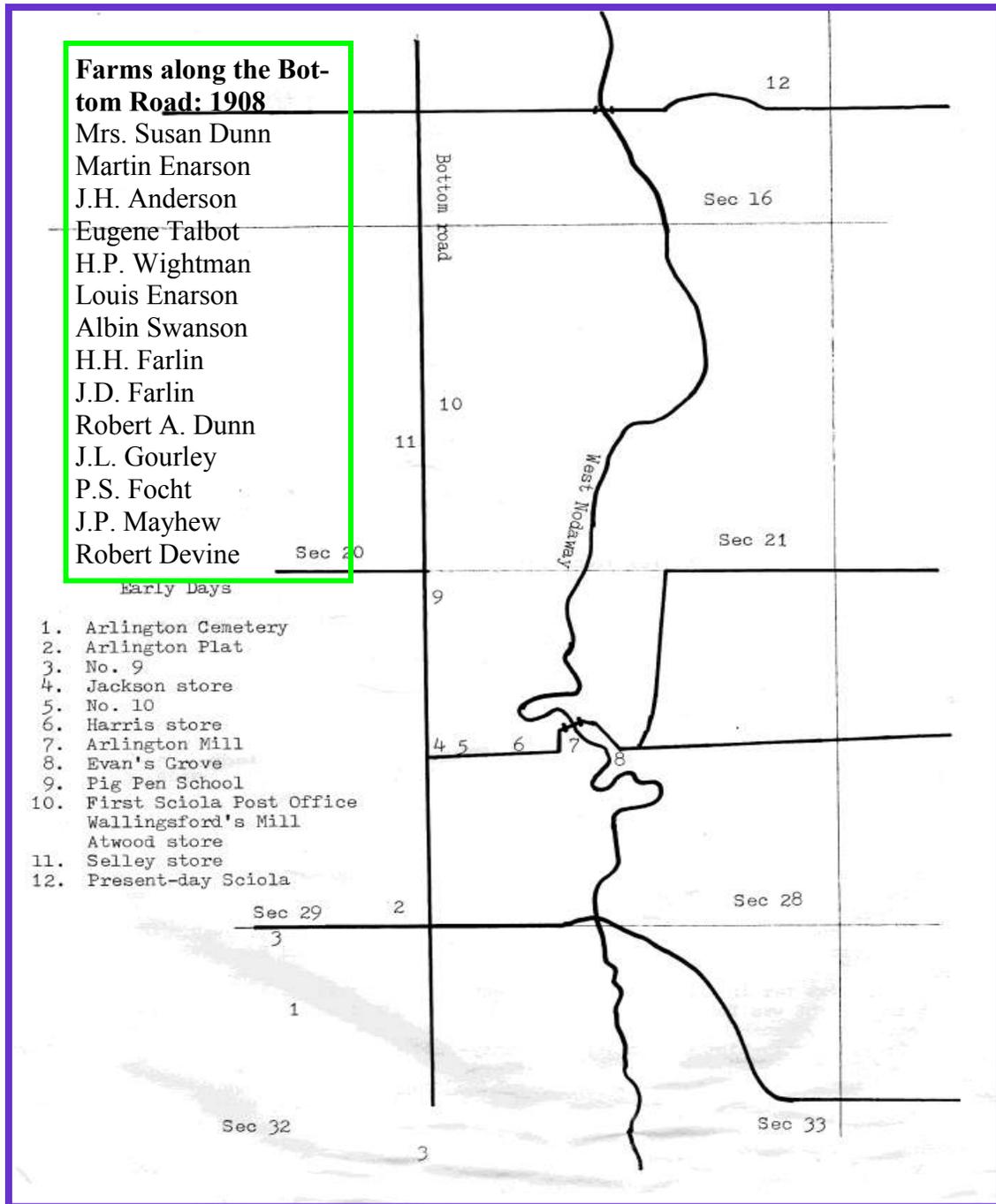
## A LOOK BACK - TENVILLE



Most of us grew up with Tenville as a view from our family's car window as we drove through there on the way to the big cities of Red Oak or the bigger ones to the West. Long before the junctions of 34 and 71 there was to the west following the line of the West Nodaway the Bottom Road. The earliest settlements were to the west of the area that is known as Tenville and concentrated in the general area known as Arlington. The bottom road, paralleling the river from Villisca all the way to the Grant area was the primary route of commercial and personal travel along the north and south route. The route of Highway 71 up through Tenville to the Junction of 34 was in fact laid upon the failed southern extension of the Atlantic Southern Railroad. Tenville's early promise, like many other towns, was built upon the future of the railroad and it probably reached it's hay day in the years dedicated to the building of mill's, lumber yards, service stations and general merchandise stores. A sorghum factory was in place in the general vicinity at a very early stage in the late 1800's. It was a thriving com-

An early depiction of the settlement, primarily based along the Bottom Road, running north from Villisca area to Grant and beyond. It also went south to Page county. Horse and Buggy and Shank's mare were the primary means of transportation.

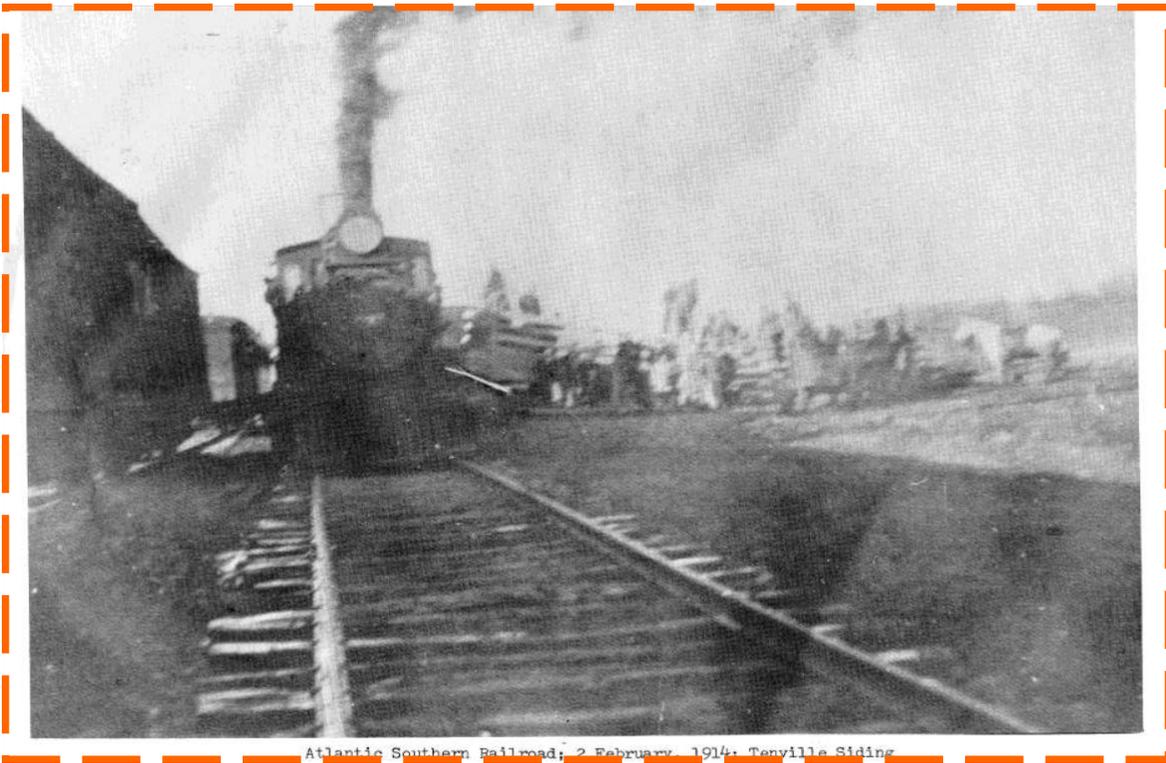
Sketch From "The Way It Was, Tenville"



munity with many activities in addition to business enterprise there was a community orchestra, several baseball teams as well as churches and the Arlington cemetery which is still in use. Adjacent to the West Nodaway was the Evans Grove which eventually became Mill Grove Park. There were two parks one on the East side and an earlier one on the West side. The river was dammed and grist mills were in place to provide the area with flour. A walk through the cemetery will reveal the names of prominent settlers, those that comprised the community and adjacent farms. The map on the opposite page reveals the names of well known families of the time and even carry forward to this time.

The railroad was the future and in 1910 a silver spike was driven in the newly completed railway that ran from Kimballton to Villisca, a distance of 55 miles. A rail siding was in place at Tenville for passengers and servicing of the railroads equipment. The Atlantic Northern and Southern Rail was completed and the spike driven at a point 1 1/2 miles from Grant at a cost of \$800,000 dollars.

*Photo courtesy of Elaine Artlip, from "The Way It Was, Tenville"*



Atlantic Southern Railroad; 2 February 1914; Tenville Siding

From the start the railroad suffered financial problems, was in and out of receivership over a short period of time. In November 1914 the passenger train ran for the last time and the freight service continued for another 13 months terminating in Dec 1915. In September of 1915 citizenry from Grant area rose up in protest and filed a suit to stop the shut down. The railroad was ordered to continue operation with extended court proceedings to finally decide it's eventual demise. In May of 1916 a district court ruling specified that the railroad would not be compelled to operate the southern

extension of the line. In 1917 the rails were torn up and sold. The only remains at the present time is the water well which was still serving Tenville in 1976.

Right of way work began and Highway 71 was constructed over the abandoned rail line, which probably resulted in lesser construction costs for the new north south highway. The automobile came into prominence and the need for services normally associated with a major highway junction were filled at Tenville. Several service stations along with the “The Pines”, Braden construction and a set of cabins were provided by the Green Gable Cabin Franchise were put in place both on the East and West side of the junction. Farm based businesses to include creamery service, hardware and livestock production and hauling were also prevalent in the community.

*A Recent Photo of the Citizenry of Tenville, probably includes some visitors as well*



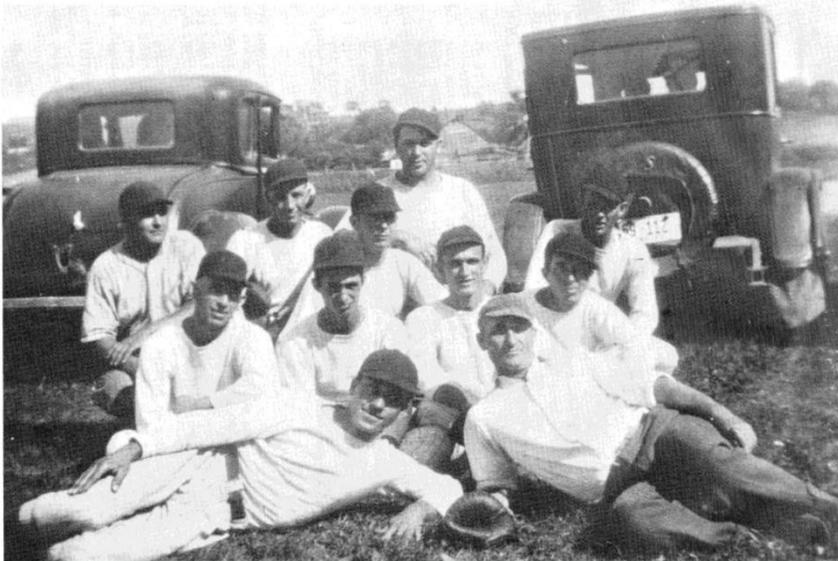
A celebration of Elaine and Charles Artlip's 70th wedding anniversary, 2012

# MILL GROVE PARK

1899-1927



Mill Grove TIGERS; 1931  
 Front row; left to right: Joe Units; Floyd Carlson  
 Second row: Ed Courley; Glen Jackson; Ed Hardisty; John Thorson  
 Third row: Ed Weeks; Jack Archer; Guy Cornelison; Weldy Larson  
 Back: Orlo Calvert



Originally named as Evans Grove this popular park that rested on the East side of the West Nodaway was used for picnicking, school celebrations and family get togethers. It was later named Mills Grove Park when it changed hands as a part of a family farm. The straightening of the river placed it on the West side. It was rumored per the Artlip book to contain the body of Chief Mahaska although the county historians could never confirm that and placed his body at another nearby location. The timber was cleared

from the park in the winter of 1827 and the park's existence came to an end. The Mill Grove name would live on in a newly formed baseball club in 1931. A diamond was constructed at the Southwest corner of the intersections of highway 34 and 71. The backstop located at the North East corner of the diamond. 4th of July celebrations were a popular time for baseball games to be played there.

## THE VILLISCA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT—1976



**Front Row, Kneeling, L-R, Jim Milligan, Kenny Blank, Bob Dickey, Herb Phillis**  
**Seated: Wade Scholey, Stan Schafer, Ken Higgins, Dick Wright, Tom Enarson, Dick Strickland, Leo Heard, Paul Sutphen, Harold Winters and Fred Shantz**  
**Standing, 3rd Row: Dick Marsh, Irvin Sierp, Yale Wright, Clyde Pershing, Bill Moore, Collis Moore, Lee Means, Judd Means, Paul Fisher and John Palmquist**  
**Back Row: Jerry Greenfield, Glen Schafer, John Clark, Bob Brown, John Newberg, Ron Brown, Mike Jackson, Don Baker, Gayle Heard, Jack Wright and Ron Carlson**

Most of the readers will remember these faces in our day to day routines while growing up in Villisca. It reminds us of the quality of character that was bountiful in those times.

**RESTORATION OF MIRRORS FROM THE STICKLER BARBER SHOP  
BY  
Fred Stickler**

When my father, Donald Stickler, closed his barber shop and retired in the mid 1960's some of the fixtures and items used in the business were left in the shop, which was located in the basement of the Nodaway Valley National Bank.

Delbert Schroeder as an employee of the bank and long time shop customer knew of the remaining items and once asked if I wanted, for example, my Dad's shaving mug. My response was "yes", and he has given me some additional items.

Delbert worked in the bank from 1964 through 1988 when Walter Hyink sold the business to the Citizens State Bank, and he worked an additional 5 years for the new ownership..

When the new Citizens facility was built and the old bank was vacated, my good friend Delbert seized the opportunity to obtain additional items, including three mirrors (24 X 24 Inches) installed in a wooden frame. They were originally hung on the west wall. He told me about them and we agreed I would pick them up later. My one or two trips to Villisca for several years were with my pick-up- not a good means to transport them the 300 miles back to Moline.

During a July, 2011 visit to Villisca, Delbert reminded me that he still had the mirrors and that I should take them home. Some quick planning along with the help of Jerry Greenfield allowed retrieving them from his garage, removing them from the frame, and loading them in the rear of our Chevy Equinox.

They were safely transported to Moline. Having three children made placing the three mirrors in the hands of the next generation easy- each child would receive one, and thus some history from the barber shop.

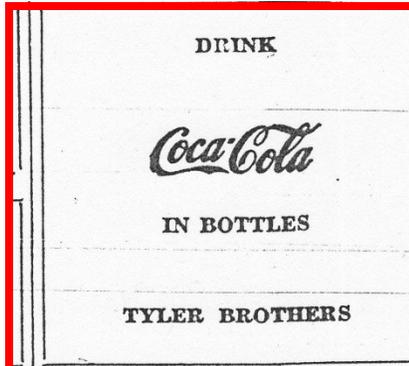


Our oldest son, Mark is an excellent wood-worker/cabinet maker, and he agreed to design and construct a frame for each mirror. The picture shows the results - left to right, me (Fred), daughter Lisa, son Mark, and son Kent. The picture was taken Christmas day, 2011.

# The History of the Tyler Family

By Dorothy (Ashmore) Lunn

**Tyler Brothers**, now Atlantic Bottling Company, has been a big part in the history and heritage of Villisca. Frank Piers "Perk" Tyler followed Flora Pasco to Villisca, IA in 1877 from Jefferson City, WI. For a while, they both taught school in Villisca. Frank and Flora were married in 1878. Frank started several local businesses in the 1880s and 1890s to support his family. He made barbed wire and bricks. As chased a local amusement park with winter, Tyler began making and that became known as Tyler's Ice sons Royal, Harry, and Henry Tyler by producing flavored soda named



Three years later, when the brothers business, they acquired a creamery they found a Coca-Cola franchise Tylers had heard of this product and familiar with it. The Tylers began to the cases of Tyler's Flavors. In no time, Iowans were requesting more Coke.

harvested ice, delivered oil and coal, and his entrepreneurial success grew, he purchased a lake. Using ice cut from that lake in selling ice cream in a family enterprise Cream. In 1909 he sold the business to and in 1915, they expanded the enterprise "Tyler's Flavors."

needed more space for their budding in Clarinda, Iowa. As luck would have it, contract while cleaning out a safe. The its success elsewhere, but Iowans weren't making Coca-Cola, adding a few bottles

In 1923 Royal sold his interest to Harry and Henry, who continued expanding the business by purchasing four additional bottling companies in Shenandoah, Atlantic, Creston, Iowa and Grand Island, Nebraska. In 1929 they acquired the franchise rights for Atlantic to bottle and distribute Coca-Cola.

By 1930 the Tyler Brothers had sold their ice cream business and concentrated fully on soft drinks. In 1949 Harry and Henry divided the business for estate purposes. Harry kept the Atlantic and Creston bottling plants and Henry acquired Shenandoah, Clarinda and Grand Island plants. With such success in the Coca-Cola brand, the Tyler brothers decided to stop selling Tyler's Flavors in the 1960s and focus on national brands.

Harry and Henry raised their families in Villisca and their children were graduates of Villisca High School. Harry and his wife Lois' children were Joyce and Jim. Henry and his wife Ethelda's children were Geraldine, Donald, Robert, Kenneth, Carolyn and Marilyn.

Harry's son Jim at age 6 could be seen walking up and down local streets with a cart full of icy drinks, shouting "Coca-Cola, 5 cents!" Jim joined the business as a bottle washer and eventually became president of the company that on April 1, 1975 also took over the huge Des Moines Coca-Cola franchise. Kirk Tyler, Jim's son, joined the organization full-time as a new college graduate in 1974. Jim Tyler is chairman of the board and Kirk Tyler, his son, became president of the company in 1991.

Kirk Tyler himself has spent more than 30 years as a full-time employee of the Atlantic Bottling Co. And except for time spent as a pilot during World War II, his father, Jim, now 85, can say the same. Tyler hopes that his own son, a recent graduate of the University of Iowa who is now in a management program in Salt Lake City, will follow in his footsteps as well.

The Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2009. Today, the Atlantic Coca-Cola Bottling Company is one of 70 entities authorized to sell Coca-Cola products in the United States.





## The Tan Beret! By D. L. Higgins

It traces back to the famous Rogers Rangers of the French and Indian Wars, the color was predominant in the weathered and worn buckskin clothing of that era. It has evolved over time to its present day use where it is exclusively worn in the form of a beret by members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, the Army's Elite Raider force. Col. Keen, 75<sup>th</sup> Regimental commander in 2001 wrote in his request for the Tan Beret to the Army Chief of Staff—"Rangers have never been measured by what they have worn in peace or combat, but by commitment, dedication, physical and mental toughness, and willingness to Lead the Way - anywhere, anytime," Keen said. "The beret has become our most visible symbol -- it will remain so.

A brief history of the Rangers includes its modern day birth in the hills and cliffs of Scotland under the leadership of William O. Darby, its first commander. On 8 December 1941, America entered World War II when it declared war on Japan. At the time, Major William Orlando Darby, was assigned to duty in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Darby, frustrated with his lack of hands on experience as General Russell Hartle's aide, was put in charge of a new unit. General George C. Marshall envisioned an elite unit of 50 men selected voluntarily from the 34th Infantry Division. He believed Darby was the man to do the job. It was therefore on 8 June 1942, that Darby was officially put in charge of the 1st Ranger Battalion under General Hartle. Darby shaped his Rangers and they took on many of the difficult and treacherous assignments in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Europe. Rangers led the way on the beaches of Normandy and Point Du Hoc on 6 June 1944. Many volunteers were from the vaunted 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the Iowa National Guard and a few of the early volunteers were in fact from Villisca Iowa. A Ranger led assault at Omaha beach, Normandy France on D-day June 6 1944 was witnessed by Col. Norman Cote. Approaching the commander, Major Max Schneider, the colonel inquired as to what unit they were from, one of the Rangers yelled "5<sup>th</sup> Rangers, Sir". With that reply the Colonel said "Well then dammit **Rangers Lead the Way**". That motto is now embedded in the Ranger mind set and stands as their adopted catch phrase. From the breakout at Omaha beach the drive cut the German line allowing the conventional army to move in and off the beach. The 2nd and 5th battalions would go on into the Normandy campaign, working with the conventional army on special operation tasks. Rangers had other notable campaigns, including Panama, Grenada, Iraq, Somalia, and Vietnam. The Cabanatuan raid depicted in the 2005 movie, *Great Raid* freed some 500 pows deep behind enemy lines in the Philippine Islands on Jan 30 1945 when a unit of Rangers infiltrated some 25 miles, undetected. During that raid they used Ranger specific capabilities that to this day have been modernized with the latest technology and stealth mobility.

Training is paramount in the Ranger doctrine, not only during the qualification phase but throughout a Ranger's assignment to the regiment. The regiment focuses on the big 5 which is physical fitness, marksmanship, medical training, mobility and small unit tactics. RASP, stands for Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and Phase 1 is for enlisted grades E-1 through E-5. Phase 2 is for enlisted grades E-6 through E-9 and Officers. RASP, Phase 1, Class 08-11 in Mid August convened and some 190 young motivated soldiers, most of whom were already jump qualified began the 8 week course in which rigorous mental and physical challenges would confront them. It is tough and discriminating and only the strongest make it through the training. There is a 50-70% attrition rate. Those not airborne qualified are immediately sent to jump school upon completion as there are no soldiers assigned to the 75th that are not airborne certified. RLW. Side note, the 1st Battalion of the 75th Rangers deployed to Afghanistan at the end of March 2012 and they will be stationed there for approximately 120 days and then rotate out for their stateside location.

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## On Line Access to Library Reviews

Recent news from the Villisca library informs us that a project is underway to digitize the Reviews that are stored on microfiche at the library. I have long endorsed this idea and perceive it as a giant step forward in the preservation of the history of Villisca and the surrounding area. We received the following article in time for publication. I hope that all can support this worthwhile effort. Kudos to the Villisca Library for having the vision to see the importance of the effort for the community and for generations to come. The following is from Pat Means, librarian. The Villisca Public Library has received a grant to digitize the Villisca Reviews from the Montgomery County Community Foundation. It will cost \$6300.00 to do this work. The grant is for \$4,000.00. The Montgomery County Historical Society has pledged \$1,000.00 to help pay for this project. The Villisca Historical Society is pledging the same amount. If you would like to contribute funds for this project, please send your money to Mary Hansen, president of the Villisca Historical Society. The Historical Society is also helping to microfilm the paper from January 2004-June 2011. This will cost \$1000.00. When we are finished digitizing the papers, we will purchase 2 searchable hard drives. One will be at the Villisca Public Library, and the Villisca Historical Society will own the other one. The Montgomery County Historical Society plans on buying one, too. So, there will be three hard drives to help people with their research. This is a worthwhile project and will be used by many people for years to come.