

FALL GENERAL MEETING

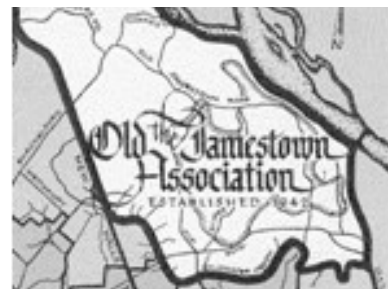
7:30 P.M., Thursday, November 10, 2016

Black Jack Fire Protection District—5675 North Highway 67

PROGRAM

SCOTT MIRLY FROM LACLEDE GAS WILL DISCUSS LACLEDE GAS UNDERGROUND STORAGE IN THE OLD JAMESTOWN AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING OFFICER UPDATE ON AREA ISSUES
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED-BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS!



Dues are ten dollars per single membership and fifteen dollars per family.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ELLEN LUTZOW



By the time we meet for our Fall General Meeting, the 2016 Election will be history and the focus for many will shift. For the Old Jamestown Association, we will be looking forward to 2017 and the upcoming release of a book documenting the history of our Old Jamestown area. We will be making plans to publicize this big event and celebrate the distinct character and nature of our home in North St. Louis County. (You will find more information about this planned publication in this newsletter.) We invite you to look back with us at Old Jamestown through its stories documented in the upcoming book.

As we plan for publication of our Old Jamestown history, we are reminded of the need to look to our future. In 2017,

we are planning to spend some time brainstorming on how to grow our organization. To do that we will need to raise awareness of our group and its role in our community. The publication of our history is a step in this direction. From its origins, OJA has sought to be relevant and supportive of our community's needs. Our focus may have shifted since the origin of OJA but not its commitment to making our community strong. We recognize the need to re-energize our organization.

We invite our members to share your ideas to bolster our efforts to continue to be an organization with purpose and meaning to our members and to the OJA community. We recognize that our resources are limited and we need to work to realistic expectations but we encourage your input. If you have ideas to share with us, we welcome your input and you may send to our e-mail address:

oldjamestownassociaion@outlook.com

BOOK

Old Jamestown Across the Ages: History, highlights and stories of Old Jamestown, Missouri

On July 10, I sent a review copy of the first draft -- text only and without appendices -- to several OJA people. I was just looking for comments on content and flow. Jim Leightner and Mary Stellhorn reviewed it and each sent several minor recommendations.

Yesterday I finished going through a print copy myself and identified other changes. Today I've started going through making those changes for the next draft with hopes to complete this by tomorrow.

I asked Esley Hamilton if he would consider writing a foreword and said I would send him a draft before he made any decision. He said that he would look at it but wouldn't be able to get to it for a while...no problem. I won't have a final draft ready for at least a month or two. I'm hoping to get my changes made and the current draft to Esley by tomorrow or Friday.

I'm still aiming to start with a

Pdf file to be available on the OJA web site, but I'm not sure whether the file size will cause problems or if I will need to split the file. The County Library has a newer service that looks very promising. You can upload your pdf book to them and they will lend? it out. If it is determined appropriate by a review committee it could also be shared with many other libraries. I definitely plan to pursue that.

I have a list of many, many minor open questions, permissions I still need and photos I need to get good resolutions of and permissions for. Not sure how long it will all take, but I'm aiming for mid-October, so maybe it will be before January or whenever.

Thanks,

Peggy Kruse



Prominent Early Residents of the Old Jamestown Area and the Old Jamestown Association

By Bev Girardier

In March of 1942 the Old Jamestown Association was awarded a *Pro Forma Degree of Incorporation*. The first officers were Henry C. Morrison as President, Francis A. Mesker as Vice-President, Harold W. Jennings as Secretary and Paul Hammerschmidt as Treasurer. Some of the noted members of the Association and of the area were the following.

Dr. Graham (1883-1957) was one of the most respected and honored physicians in St. Louis history. Professor of Surgery at Washington University from 1919 to 1951 and surgeon-in-chief of Barnes Hospital, he was called the dean of American surgery.

Dr. Graham was born in Chicago, the son of a surgeon. He graduated from Rush Medical College in 1908 after obtaining his undergraduate degree from Princeton. During World War I he served as a major in the Medical Corps. As a surgeon he was particularly well known for the test he developed for gall bladder disease and for being the first, in 1933, to remove an entire lung. He was co-editor of the *Archives of Surgery* and editor of the *Journal of Thoracic Surgery*. He received awards from the American Roentgen-Ray Society, the Southern Medical Association, the St. Louis Medical Society, the Mississippi Valley Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He received the John Scott Medal from the City of Philadelphia and the Lister Medal from the Royal College of Surgeons. In the summer of 1939 he became the first American to head the teaching unit of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and that fall he was elected president of the American College of Surgeons. IN 1941 he was elected to both the National Academy of Science and the Royal Society of Sciences in Sweden. He received honorary degrees from Princeton, Yale, Western Reserve, the University of Chicago, and the University of Glasgow.

Harris Armstrong (1899-197), long considered the dean of modern architects in St. Louis, designed a home for Dr. and Mrs. Evarts A. Graham at 14 Jamestown Acres.

After retiring, Dr. Graham, concentrated his research on the relationship of cigarette smoke to lung cancer. His findings, published in 1953 in *Cancer Research*, found positive evidence of such a relationship through studies of mice. A follow-up report in 1956, found similar evidence in rabbits. These studies form the cornerstone of subsequent research, legislation and public education on this subject. Dr. Graham died of lung cancer in 1957.

Dr. Helen Graham, the former Helen Treadway, was an associate professor of pharmacology at Washington University and highly respected in her own right. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, she received her Ph. D. from the University of Chicago and became a specialist in histamine and its relation to allergies. She served as president of the St. Louis League of Women Voters and the St. Louis Branch of the American Association of University Women, and she was active in the ACLU. She retired from teaching in 1959 but continued to do research until her death in 1971 at age 80. The Grams had two sons, Evarts, Jr., who became managing editor of the *Post-Dispatch* and David, a physician at the University of Wisconsin.

Jamestown Acres, was the home address of the notable Episcopal Bishop William Scarlett. Bishop Scarlett, became diocesan bishop in 1933. He became nationally known for his concerns with social issues and social justice, often working behind the scenes to bring awareness to the needs of America's poor. (It is through this work he became a mentor and a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt.) He was a force for change in the church and ecumenism. He would lead the Diocese

through the depression years and World War II.

And Dr. and Mrs. Alexis F. Hartmann built a summer cottage on Jamestown Acres. Dr. Hartmann was a pediatrician and head of the Children's Hospital in St. Louis. Their son, Dr. Alexis Hartmann, used the cottage until his death in 2008.

Portage Road (Portage Road was a private development, organized in 1931 by Marion Blossom, owner of the land, Ellis Fischel, and Vilray. In 1933 they revised their indenture to include Francis Mesker.) had their share of notable residents. The Fischel guesthouse was used during the 1940's by Frank Mesker (1859-1952) as his summer home. Frank Mesker, who, with his brother Bernard Theodore Mesker (1852-1936), had founded an iron company in 1879 and incorporated in 1912 as Mesker Brothers Iron Company. **Mesker Brothers Iron Works** and **George L. Mesker & Co.** were competing manufacturers and designers of ornamental sheet-metal facades and cast iron storefront components from the 1880s through the mid-twentieth century. The Mesker Brothers Iron Works was based in St. Louis, Missouri, and was operated by brothers Bernard and Frank Mesker. The George L. Mesker Company was operated by a third brother, George L. Mesker, and was based in Evansville, Indiana. The Mesker brothers were the sons of John Mesker who operated a stove business in Evansville and later galvanized iron for buildings. The three brothers learned their iron-working skills from their father.

The companies' products are often referred to as "Meskers." The companies also produced tin ceilings, iron railings, stairs, roof cresting, ventilation grates, iron awnings, skylights, and freight elevators. (A number of their works are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.)

The Meskers marketed their products through catalogs displaying their designs. The catalogs were so successful they expanded print runs from 50,000 to 500,000 one year later. According to a 1915 catalog, there were Mesker storefronts in every state, including 4,130 in Indiana, 2,915 in Illinois, 2,646 in Kentucky, and even 17 in the territory of Alaska.

Francis A. and Pauline Mesker built their palazzo (the entire house is built of iron, making it virtually fireproof) in 1935 at #6 Portage. Francis Mesker, the oldest son of Frank Mesker, was vice president of the family company until his retirement in 1966.

John B.G. Mesker, brother of Francis, built his first home at 19 Portage Road. He succeeded his father as president of the firm, which went out of business in 1966.

Other residents of Portage Road, but not members of OJA were Villay P. Blair and Ellis Fischel. At 16 Portage, Villay Blair added on to a much older home (built around 1850 with an addition in 1880) between 1931-32. Blair was a descendant of Pierre Laclède through the Papin family. During World War II Dr. Blair was in charge of Plastic and Oral Surgery in the U.S. Army. An excerpt from *The Founding Family of St. Louis* states that, "He startled the world at that time with extraordinary work restoring shattered faces and skulls. Blair was associated with Washington University's Medical School.

Ellis Fischel never built the large house he had originally planned, but he did build a large, beautiful guest house in 1932. Dr. Fischel was a noted surgeon and leader on cancer research and treatment.

Fischel, graduate of Harvard (1904) and Washington University Medical School (1908), began private practice in 1913. He married Marguerite Kaufman, daughter of John Kaufman, whose home place became the site of the Chase Hotel. She was an expert on spastic children and a composer.

Dr. Fischel was on the staff of the Barnard Free Skin and Cancer Hospital and taught at St. Louis University and Washington University. He led a campaign to establish a state cancer hospital which led to the enactment of such legislation in 1937. He was appointed chairman of the State Cancer Commission to locate, plan and construct a state cancer hospital. Tragically, he was killed in an automobile accident in 1938. In 1940, the Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital, named in his memory, opened in Columbia, MO. It was the second of its kind in the U.S. and the first west of the Mississippi. The hospital has attracted many scientists and physicians of international renown over the years.

OLD JAMESTOWN ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

Rich Young, Bev Girardier and Barb Doner — Terms expire in 2017.

Olga Smith, Jeff Ackerman and Chan Mahanta — Terms expire in 2018.

Ellen Lutzow, Jim Leighninger and Manmilan Singh — Terms expire in 2019.

Pink Spanish style home on New Halls Ferry. One of several along the road that have now been hidden from view by trees and vines.

LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

In August, the St. Louis County Library held a Local History Fair. About 60 people attended. Most were interested in, but many knew nothing about Old Jamestown. Some thought it had something to do with Jamestown, Virginia. It was especially interesting to those who live or have lived north.

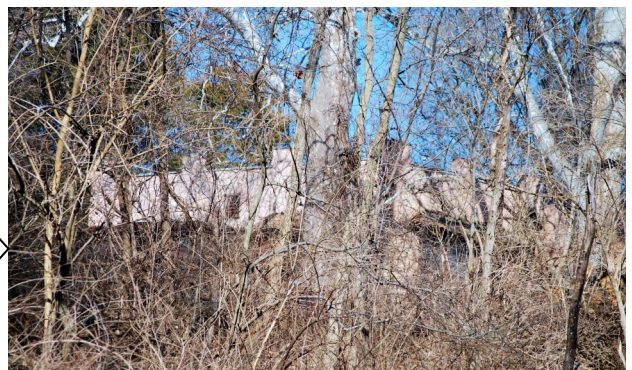
Our local library, the Jamestown Bluffs Branch, has an area devoted to Old Jamestown in the local history section.

Peggy Kruse made some nice flyers about the Association's History Committee, which will be available at the Fall Meeting.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We are a small organization with a limited budget, and one that is entirely volunteer run by your neighbors within the Old Jamestown area. We have no offices and no clerical staff. As such, we will no longer be able to send personalized membership renewals to each member. We are including a membership expiration date on all address labels for our mailings. And unlike other memberships you may have, no services stop and no doors slam shut at midnight on the day your membership expires! We want you to stay with us!





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Old Home on Laclede Property
Sinks Road

