

O'FALLON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

O'Fallon, Illinois

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2

Fall 2012

William Holden inducted into St Louis Walk of Fame

O'Fallon native William Holden was inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame Aug. 9.

The ceremony took place in front of his star and plaque set into the sidewalk at 6150 Delmar in St Louis. A four piece ragtime band provided music. OHS President Brian Keller was on hand to accept a presentation plaque from Walk of Fame founder Joe Edwards. The bronze on white marble plaque is on display in the museum.

William Holden was born William Franklin Beedle, Jr., in O'Fallon, Ill., April 17, 1918. During the 1950s, he was one of the biggest box office draws, starring in such blockbusters as *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, and the *Towering Inferno*. He won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the movie *Stalag 13*.

After the ceremony, O'Fallon Historical Society members and guests were treated to lunch at the Eclipse Restaurant in the Moonrise Hotel across the street. St. Louis TV stations and KMOX radio, in addition to the Belleville News-Democrat and O'Fallon Progress, covered the event. On Oct. 20, Brian took the presentation plaque to the O'Fallon City Council meeting for all to see.



Upcoming events

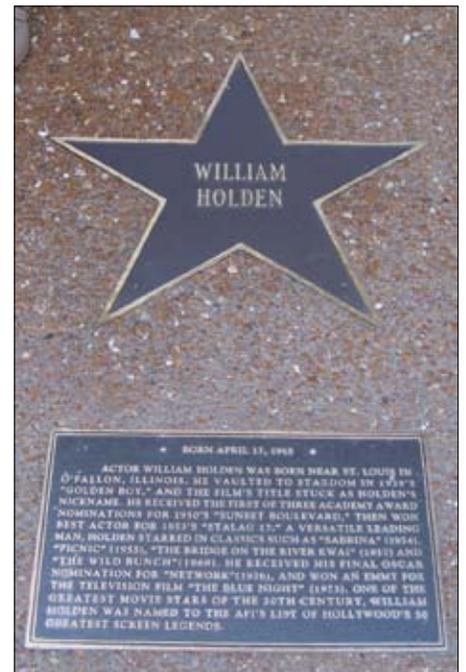
Meeting programs:

Oct. 16, 2012 – Show and Tell – bring an item with an autumn theme (which can include Halloween)

Nov. 20, 2012 – Veteran's Day program

Dec. 18, 2012 – annual Christmas party

Right, William Holden's star adorns the St. Louis Walk of Fame. (Photo by Dan Kelley) Above, William Holden was an Oscar-winning actor, born in O'Fallon.



Preservation committee adds historic church added to landmarks

The old Methodist Church building at 403 S. Lincoln, now occupied by the O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly, was designated an historic landmark by the O'Fallon City Council in March, on recommendation of the O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission. Built in 1865, it is the oldest existing house of worship in O'Fallon. A landmark plaque was presented to Bishop Gregory Wells, Sr., of the O'Fallon Apostolic Assembly by Commission Chairman Stephen Brown at a service of dedication on July 29. (Photo by Brian Keller)

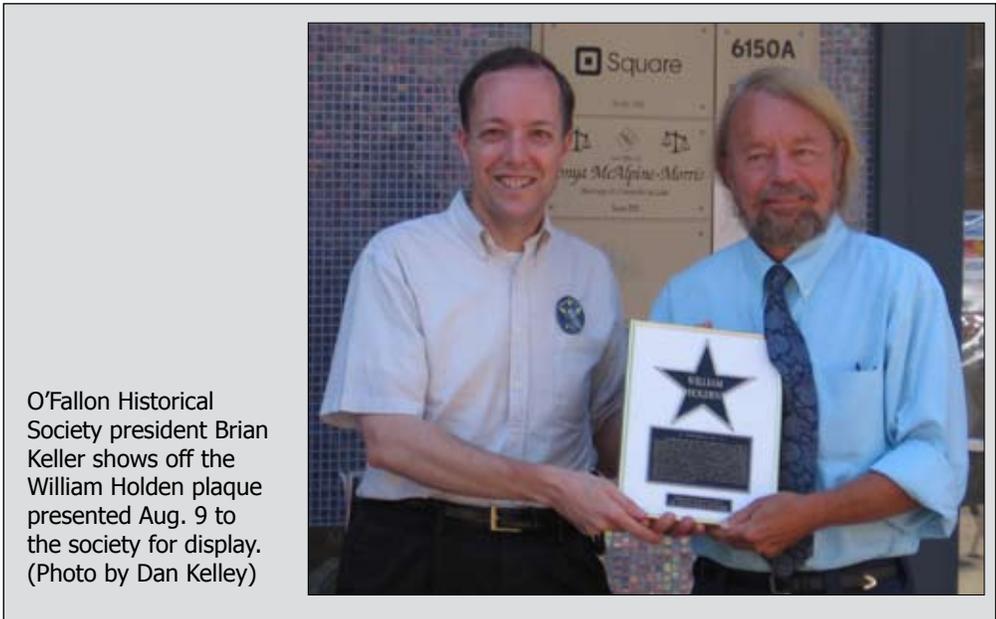


Society holds elections

At September's meeting, members voted for new board members. Remaining in their current positions are Brian Keller, president; Linda Potter, vice president; and Maurice Hesse, Treasurer. Greg Zelinski graciously offered to take over as secretary.

Gerald Worms also extended his service, taking on another three years as a director.

Gratitude is extended to retiring board secretary Dorothy Falk, who for years has tirelessly kept track of the society's meetings. Thanks, Dorothy!



O'Fallon Historical Society president Brian Keller shows off the William Holden plaque presented Aug. 9 to the society for display. (Photo by Dan Kelley)

The O'Fallon Historical Society Quarterly is a publication of the O'Fallon Historical Society, founded in May 1988 and is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

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Website: www.ofallonhistory.net
Meetings with programs - 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Officers

Brian Keller, President
Linda Potter, Vice President
Greg Zelinski, Secretary
Maurice Hesse, Treasurer
Andree Swanson, OHS Newsletter Editor

Directors

Diane Zelinski, 2014
Gerald Worms, 2015
Bill Peach, 2013

Museum Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 1-4 p.m.
Member--Illinois Association of Museums



Annual picnic at Joseph’s farm was good food, fun, and friends

Kenny and MaryAnn Joseph hosted the O’Fallon Historical Society June potluck at their farm June 19. Kenny supplied attendees with homemade ice cream and showed off a restored antique wooden table top butter churn.



Cemetery Walk coming in October

The O’Fallon Historic Preservation Commission will sponsor the 2nd annual O’Fallon City Cemetery Walk on Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. This year, local actors will portray the following:

- Edward Yoch (Yoch Coal Co), talking about the death of one of his employees, an itinerant, Louis Aubert
- Dr. J.B. Scruggs, talking about the death of three children: Irene Campbell, John Lorenz and Thelma Zimmerman
- Homer Welch, a coal miner
- Dietrich Tiedemann, a Civil War Union officer

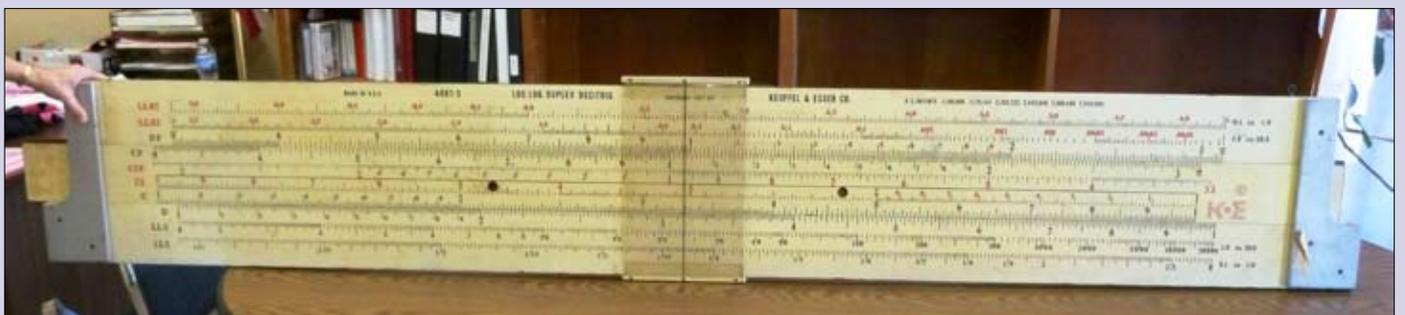
(reprisal from last year, same actor)

- Benjamin B Schmitt, a O’Fallon City Marshal (reprisal from last year, different actor)

- H. Edward Fischer, first O’Fallon casualty in World War I (reprisal from last year, different actor)

- Drusilla Andrews Mace, talking about her family killed by Indians (reprisal from last year, different actor)

The cemetery walk is free. Attendees should meet by the sign at the main entrance to the cemetery, end of North Oak Street. Wear walking shoes.



OHS member Jerry Worms recently donated this gigantic slide rule to the museum. The slide rule used to hang in Marie Schaefer school when it was O’Fallon’s high school.

"O'Fallon," an excerpt from the *Historical and descriptive review of Illinois*.

*Editor's note: This excerpt is unedited. To see the original text, go to <http://archive.org/details/historicaldescri00illi>. *Historical and descriptive review of Illinois*, John Lethem, St. Louis: Chicago, 1894, pp. 50-53.*

O'FALLON

This town was named by the property owners of the city in deference to Col. John O'Fallon of St. Louis and his heirs whose landed property lies immediately west of O'Fallon. The town was settled and surveyed in 1854. A village charter was granted Jan'y 29, 1874 — Government: A President and Board of Trustees, (6), constituting Village Council; Village Clerk and Police Magistrate, all elective; a village Treasurer, Constable and Street Inspector appointed by Council.

CHURCHES.

Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist and Methodist. One graded school— 200 pupils; principal and three teachers.

POPULATION.

About 1200 largely German and German descent. Industrial mainly.

ADVANTAGES, COMMERCIAL AND NATURAL. Situated on the great trunk line B. & O. S. W., R. R., at the intersection of the L. & N. R. R. 18 miles east of the city of St. Louis in the heart of a rich agricultural region, coal deposits in vast quantities in close proximity on all sides, and an inexhaustible supply of pure water, obtained from a subterranean lake or river; altitude, 550 feet above the Mississippi, rolling land surface with here and there areas of growing forest growths, soil, sand alluvial, streets and highways in a fairly good condition. The people are hospitable and social to a marked degree.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The village hall and fire station, a handsome modern brick building with Shell tower, two high stories 40x60 feet, contains prison hall and theatorium — public school 50x90 feet in dimension, two stories,— Odd Fellows and Masonic halls — three hotels; Richland, St. Clair and O'Fallon.

Streets lighted with oil lamps — a public park adjacent to village hall. A movement on foot to instal electric light plant, for lighting and power, also a system of water works — water supply now obtained from excellent wells and cisterns.

CHARLES TIEDEMANN MILLING COMPANY. Home Office, O'Fallon, Ill. — The milling industry of the United States is not confined to large cities but on the contrary many of the most important enterprises of this class are to be found in the rural districts around which cluster thriving and prosperous villages. A notable example which may serve to illustrate this fact is seen through the Richland mills at O'Fallon. They were founded in 1861 by Charles Tiedemann, who died four years ago and whose career of usefulness will long be remembered by the people of this community. The business was incorporated under the State laws in 1891 with a paid up capital of \$50,000, and officered as follows: Jennie Tiedemann, president; Samuel C. Smiley, vice-president, and Louis F. Fischer, secretary and treasurer; the corporate name being Charles Tiedemann Milling Company. This company maintains two fine plants. The Richland Mills, established in 1861, located at O'Fallon, having a capacity of 400 barrels per day, and the Valley Mills established 1882 at Collinsville, Ill., with a capacity of 300 barrels daily. These plants are operated by the roller process and the product is of such a character as to warrant the statement that it is not excelled and seldom equaled in this or any other market for purity, fine flavor and high nutritive quality. Phil. E. Heyde is the miller. The company was awarded

1st premium at the World's Fair at Chicago and their product finds a ready market all over the United States and is rapidly gaining favor with foreign purchasers. Both plants have complete modern equipment and the closest inspection is given to the product turned out so as to insure the highest satisfaction. The staff as well as the officers of the company are stockholders and devote their whole time and energy to the success of the enterprise. The commercial importance of O'Fallon has been largely enhanced by the possession of such an establishment and the rich agricultural districts adjacent are also highly favored by this great industry. The officers and stockholders of this company are of wide experience and ability. They are favorably recognized in commercial as well as social circles.

BUNSEN & MCGEEHON BROS, Cash Dealers in General Merchandise. — This enterprising house is a recent accession to O'Fallon's commercial growth, having been established May 15th, 1893. The individual members of the firm, Messrs. A. D. Bunsen, Brice McGeehon and Sam. McGeehon, are all young and progressive men, who believe strictly in the old and well established business principle of "quick sales and small profits." They deal for cash in general lines of merchandise, including groceries, dry goods, hardware, household supplies etc. Their stock is selected and in accordance with the best modern methods in the conduct of business they study the demands and requirements of the trade and the consumer in particular. They carry a very large and highly diversified stock and control a leading trade in the village and throughout the surrounding country districts among the farmers and miners. The premises occupied for business purposes embrace a frontage of 50 feet by a depth of 75 feet, a portion of which is set apart for reserve stock. The firm also utilize an extra warehouse in another part of the village owing to the necessity of meeting the constantly increasing demands made upon them. The location of the store is central under the Masonic Hall and in its interior arrangements and the display of goods and ware will compare favorably with the most pretentious metropolitan stores in point of taste and convenience. Mr. A. D. Bunsen was born and raised in the vicinity of O'Fallon. He is chief clerk St. Louis Division P. O. Inspectors at the Custom House in St. Louis and is a member of the Masonic order. The McGeehon brothers are also natives of St. Clair County and upon them devolves the active management of the business, Mr. Bunsen being in the St. Louis Post Office, but his counsel is always available when the necessity arrives and perfect harmony prevails among the members of this enterprising young firm. Mr. Brice McGeehon is member of the Town Board, elected in 1892, and is an ex-post master of the village. The Bros, apprenticed to the business at Tiedemann's store, and in dry goods at Nugent Bros, in St. Louis.

JOSEPH LANDGRAF, Saloon. — This gentleman is the pioneer resident of these parts, having come here 1850 when the place was a tank station on the O. & M. B. K. He is a German by birth, but has always been closely identified with the progress and development of the place of his residence. He has held the position of School Director five years, a member of the Board of Trustees twelve years and Constable six years. He established himself in business in 1864. His place is a favorite resort, the stock carried being the best that can be procured. Mr. Landgraf is an active member of the I. O. O. F. and is possessed of considerable property in the village.

LEVI SIMMONS, Police Magistrate. — This representative citizen of the village has been a resident upwards of thirty-six years with but slight interruption. He was born at Red Bud, Randolph County, Ill. His experience in the commercial field covers a period of ten years in general merchandizing. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1861 and upon the incorporation of the village in 1874 he became Police Justice which position he has administered ever since. He also deals in real estate, effects loans and does collections. He was President of the Board of Trustees three years. Township Supervisor two years, assessor for eight years and also held other offices. His long residence and various public services have eminently fitted him as an exponent of the public welfare in all its departments and in the discharge of his official trusts he has ever been above suspicion.

RICHARD REMELIUS, Constable and General Collector; Dealer in Agricultural Implements. — This house is one of the oldest and most widely known to the farming community in this section of the state. Mr. Richard Remelius founded the business in 1870 and for nearly one quarter of a century he has continued its successful conduct. He deals extensively in agricultural implements and machinery, household goods, general

hardware, etc. His large store and warehouse immediately opposite are stocked to repletion with these goods and wares and there is nothing needed by farmer or miner but may be readily obtained at this establishment and at prices that defy competition. Mr. Remelius gives his personal attention to the details of the business and there are none his superior as to the knowledge of what the trade or the consumer requires. He is a German by birth but was raised in this vicinity. He served during the civil war in the 13th Mo. Volunteer Infantry. Left an orphan in early youth he has demonstrated his ability as a self made man by energy and frugality, amassing a considerable amount of property. He owns the premises occupied for business purposes and residence having a frontage of fifty feet on both sides of the street. A special feature of Mr. Remelius business is the supplying on short notice, threshing machine outfits, portable sawmills, combination wire and picket fence, also drain tile and sewer pipe.

MATHIAS SCHWARZ, Undertaking; Dealer in Furniture. — A recent and most Important accession to O' Fallon's commercial growth is seen in the establishment by Mr. Mathias Schwarz, March 1st 1894 of a model furniture store to which he has added a very complete undertaking department. The business was formerly owned by Ruedlin who had conducted it for upwards of twenty years and since Mr. Schwarz has taken control, he has adopted a better system in the conduct of the business and added materially to the stock in lines of household requisites. In the undertaking department Mr. Schwarz spares no pains or expense in his endeavors to administer in a becoming manner the last sad rites of burial. He keeps in stock a select variety of coffins, metallic caskets, funeral goods, etc. and his place as a consequence is becoming very popular among all classes of the community. Mr. Schwarz is a German by birth but was raised in O' Fallon. He formerly was engaged with his brother in the shoe business at Anna, Ill., from which place he came to embark in his present enterprise. Since the incorporation of the business here he has met with splendid success and the future is promising still better results. The premises occupied have a frontage of forty feet and two floors are utilized; embalming is also done in the much approved modern style by Mr. Schwarz and he already numbers among his patrons some of the best families of O' Fallon and vicinity.

E. H. SMILEY, Druggist. — From the very earliest ages the art of preparing the compounds that arrest and remove pain and heal the sick has been regarded as among the highest of human functions. A leading representative of the pharmaceutical profession in this section of the state and the only reliable one in the village of o' Fallon is Mr. E. H. Smiley who, about seven months ago, purchased the business formerly conducted by Mr. G. E. Renick. Mr. Smiley was born and raised on a farm in the vicinity of O' Fallon. He represents the intelligent and progressive element of the rural districts of the state. Mr. Smiley graduated at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and since embarking into Ills present enterprise has equipped his store with every modern device and facility for the proper conduct of the business. His laboratory and prescription department are models of their kind. The freshest drugs and chemicals only are dispensed, and his personal attention is given to compounding of prescriptions. A separate department, where wall papers, paints, glass, oils, etc., is also maintained, constitutes within itself a complete store and is presided over by an efficient assistant, Mr. Bradly Umbarger. Mr. Smiley is an active member of the Masonic Order and is popular in social as well as business circles.

JOSEPH TAYLOR, Proprietor Ridge Prairie and O'Fallon Coal Mines, St. Clair County. — In reviewing the active business interests of this section of the state especial mention is due Mr. Joseph Taylor, who established his business here some five years ago, coming from Alma, Ill., where he was in coal mining and in which business he has been actively engaged twelve years. He is now opening a new mine two miles west of O'Fallon which will have a dally out put capacity of twenty car loads. He is also proprietor of the Ridge Prairie and O'Fallon Coal Mines in St. Clair County. Mr. Taylor conducts a general store in the village and carries a very large stock, embracing dry goods, groceries, household goods, boots and shoes, etc., and occupies premises 50x50 feet in area in a location convenient to the railroad station. The trade of this house is mainly with the miners and to a considerable extent with the farming community in the vicinity of O'Fallon. Mr. Taylor is possessed of considerable property in the village and is treasurer of the local Building and Loan

Association. He is also the village treasurer. He is the promoter and strong advocate of a plan for the Installation of an electric light and power plant, also water works for the village of O'Fallon. A few more of his class in the village would soon develop its commercial advantages and natural resources. Mr. Taylor is an Englishman by birth and like most of his countrymen is possessed of Indomitable personal courage and commercial thrift, the essential elements to modern progress. He has been a resident of this country for thirty years and closely follows American business methods. Mr. Henry Selter of Lebanon runs a private banking house in a part of Mr. Taylor's premises.

HENRY A. SCHILDKNECHT, Saddler and Harness Maker, Dealer in Everything Pertaining to the Business. — This old and reliable establishment was founded in 1858 by Mr. Philip Schildknecht, the present proprietor, a son of the founder succeeding him in 1878. Mr. Henry A. Schildknecht was born in the Fatherland and came to America, when he was but two and a half years old. He was carefully trained in the business under his father's teaching. Repairing is done at reasonable prices and the farming community and mining classes may be congratulated upon the assurance of having their wants properly supplied. Mr. Schildknecht also served as village clerk five years, one term town clerk, one year village marshal, two terms town collector and is now clerk of the Board of Education. He also holds a notarial commission.

GEO. SCHER, Merchant Tailor. — Tailoring has its most popular exponent in this village in the person of Geo. Scher, who established business here November 1st 1887. Mr. Scher is from Belleville, Ill. where he learned the trade in the leading tailoring establishment there. In all, his experience in the tailor's art covers a period of sixteen years. Mr. Scher did journeyman's work in the leading tailoring houses of St. Louis and in all branches of the craft he is thoroughly posted and is considered authority on what constitutes a perfect fit and nobby style in gentleman's clothing. He employs from three to five assistants and all work turned out is guaranteed. The prices quoted are reasonably low and the stock carried is the best that can be procured as to style and substantial wear. Mr. Scher is a native of Belleville. Since his advent in this village, he has made a host of friends and his success is due to skill and the exercise of honorable methods in his relations with patrons.

H. SCHMELZER, Bakery, Confections and Ice Cream Parlor. — The advent of this gentleman in O'Fallon this last spring is another indication of the progress of events. Mr. H. Schmelzer, although a German by birth raised in Russia and in America thirty years, is essentially a western man of education and experience, having traveled all over the far west where he was employed in the business that he has here embarked in on his own account. Upon his arrival here he purchased the Hammer property and immediately set about erecting his modern building with every Improvement and accessory. The business comprises a completely equipped bakery, the only one in the village, fine confections and a cozy ice cream parlor. The premises have an open front, on a level with the sidewalk and in all respects the place would do credit to a town of more pretensions than O'Fallon. The product of the bakery is the best and freshest that can be offered for sale. The stock of confections is the most toothsome and as to the ice cream the many patrons of Mr. Schmelzer's parlors can cheerfully attest its merits. He is a gentleman of energy and business tact who expects to treat everybody right, giving value received and expecting in return a due appreciation of his services to the public. The liberal patronage he has received at the hands of people of O'Fallon is deserved and his continued success is assured.

THOMAS MACKIN'S, Wine and Beer Saloon, For Choice Wines, Liquors and Fine Cigars — The subject of this sketch came to this locality in 1858 and may be justly classed among the pioneer settlers of this portion of the Empire state of the west. His congenial disposition eminently fits him in the conduct of a well regulated wine and beer saloon in which business he has been engaged for over thirty years. He has occupied his present stand fourteen years and owns the premises besides other resident property in the village. In the conduct of his business Mr. Mackin pays studied attention to the quality of his stock, handling and dispensing only the very best wines, liquors and cigars. Mr. Mackin was one of the first members of the village council under the original charter.

RICHLAND HOTEL, Opposite E. Tiedmann Grocer Co. — Hotel facilities of a superior order are to be found in O'Fallon and a conspicuous representative of this class of public institutions is the Richland Hotel

owned and conducted by Mr. John Anstedt who opened for business at his present quarters March 1893. The place has always been known as the Richland House, but had not acquired popularity until Mr. Anstedt assumed its management. For a period of four years he had run the O'Fallon House prior to purchasing his present eligible business stand, which he has completely renovated and refurnished. Accommodation for one hundred guests with well lighted and ventilated rooms are here available. Mr. Anstedt gives his personal attention to the management assisted by his son-in-law Mr. Wm. Quinn. Mr. Anstedt was born and raised on a farm in the vicinity of this thriving village and has always been held in high estimation among his neighbors and friends.

JULIUS A. SCHALTER, Shaving and Hair Cutting Parlor. — The genial artist, Julius A. Schalter was born and raised in O'Fallon. Prior to engaging in the business at this point he practiced the art at Belleville, Ill. His establishment is conveniently equipped, four chairs are at the disposal of visitors who can receive the cleanest shave and most fashionable haircut from polite and expert operators, the work being executed with dispatch, Mr. Schalter presiding at the chairs with his three assistants. He is a popular young citizen of the village whose talent and energy have so favorably impressed his fellow townsmen that they elected him to the position of village clerk in 1889, 1890, 1891 and 1893. Mr. Schalter is an active member of the I. O. O. F. By frugality and business foresight he has amassed considerable village property and contemplates building a home for himself and family in the near future.

ST. CLAIR HOTEL, Henry Bernhardt, Proprietor. — This popular house was opened some fifteen years ago by Mr. Michael Bernhardt father of the present proprietor. Prior to the advent of the Bernhardts in O'Fallon they were engaged in the same business at St. Jacobs, St. Clair County, Ill., where Mr. Henry Bernhardt was born and raised. He is a young and enterprising man, recognized among his friends and patrons as eminently adapted in the conduct of his present business occupation, being affable and congenial. The "St. Clair" is located convenient to the railroad station, has twelve elegantly furnished and equipped guest rooms and a well-stocked saloon where choice liquors are dispensed. Mr. Bernhardt gives his personal attention to the business so as to insure the best satisfaction to his patrons. The house has always controlled a liberal patronage from the traveling public as well as from the local industrial classes, and is a favorite resort of the younger element in social and business circles of O'Fallon and vicinity. The building has a frontage of 70 ft. and is three stories high, well lighted and ventilated. In short it is a most agreeable place to stop and the liberal patronage it enjoys is well deserved and always appreciated.

Wm. LEHMAN, Barber. — A gentleman whose skill is attested by a large patronage from the citizens of O'Fallon is a native of Terre Haute, Indiana. He has been a resident of the village twenty-two years and in his present occupation for the past eight years. He was elected a member of the village council April 17th, 1894, to serve two years, in further proof of his popularity as a citizen of ability and worth. Mr. Lehman's tonsorial parlor is said to be the finest in the town, and as to service, the writer begs leave to express the highest gratification from personal experience. Mr. Lehman has one assistant; promptness being the rule of his establishment. He is an active member of the K. of P. and the order of Modern Woodmen; of the latter organization he is a charter member and has been clerk for two years.

C. H. DARROW. — Was born within a mile and a half of O'Fallon on a farm and followed this pursuit till he established himself in business here in 1878, dealing in farm machinery; in 1880 he added insurance and in 1882 a tin and sheet iron shop. His grandfather was Zeadock Darrow, who settled here in 1826. He was a farmer and a cabinet maker by trade. Mr. Darrow is the present Mayor of O'Fallon.

W. N. HAMILTON, Local Agent B. & O. S. AV. R. R. — Mr. Hamilton is a young man of sound judgement and ability. He was appointed to his present position April 14th, 1893, but was formerly in the company's service for three years connected with the train dispatcher's office at Flora, Ill. His railroad experience covers a period of ten years. Since his appointment to the position he has become a resident of O'Fallon and it may be said to his credit that through his management, notwithstanding sharp competition the B. & O. S. W. has the largest share of the business both passenger and freight traffic.