

his Pulaski County office and to the "Lost Cause." Williams also owned the Old Stagecoach Stop from 1888-1890. One of the many unique things about the Old Stagecoach Stop is that it was owned by a one-legged rebel.]

April 22  
Dixon Pilot

### Enforce Stock Law.

The stock law enforcement proposition, which carried by a great majority at the November election and which a few "free rangers" endeavored to have knocked out though court action at the March term of Circuit Court, has been upheld by Judge Woodside, who took the matter under advisement and rendered his decision latter part of last week.

Attorneys J. R. Kirkham of this city and J. J. Crites of Rolla were on the winning side of the case and the antis were represented by Atty. F. H. Farris of Rolla. Thus, after several years hanging in the balance the stock law idea for Union township has become a settled quantity—and the free rangers are investing in fencing wire. *[The stock law controversy had been raging for years, at least since 1904 when we began reading the county news. It began mostly in the towns where some citizens wanted to get the pigs and cows off the streets. Missouri law provided that the citizens of a county or township therein by vote could end the free range of stock. Dixon was in the forefront in passing an ordinance in 1906 that prohibited animals from roaming the city streets. Waynesville did likewise in 1911. A county-wide stock law was soundly defeated in 1906 and again in 1908. Phelps County began restriction with stock laws in eight townships. In 1910, Tavern Township in Pulaski passed a stock law. Liberty Township passed a stock law in 1916. After being defeated in 1910 and 1914, Union Township voted a stock law in 1920. However, the "free rangers" mounted court appeals.]*

May 6

### Stock Law Held Up.

The enforcement of the stock law in Union township has been held up again. Circuit Clerk Frank Manes received a letter from Judge L. B. Woodside Monday stating that he had held the stock law in Union Township to restrain stock from running at large valid as noted at the last general election. But the same could not be enforced owing to the fact that the plaintiffs had filed a bond and motion for an appeal which has been granted to the Springfield Court of Appeals.—*Pulaski County Democrat.*

May 12

Crocker News

### Waynesville Mill Burned

The Waynesville Mill, owned by Will Trower, was destroyed by fire shortly before midnight Saturday night bringing heavy loss to the owner. Mr. Trower had just recently come into ownership of the mill, having bought out the others interested in the business. The mill was built and equipped with modern machinery about two years ago and we understand that Mr. Trower had about 3600 bushels of wheat in the mill when the fire occurred. Another small building near by, which was used as a store house for feed, was also destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown, as the building was a mass of flames when the fire was discovered, but we are informed that it is thought the fire caught from an exhaust pipe. About two-thirds of the loss of some \$32,000 is said to have been covered by insurance.

June 16

Crocker News

### Cannibals Once Lived in Missouri Caverns

Did the aboriginal American who inhabited the mounds and caves in the Missouri Ozarks feed upon his young or the young of his enemies? Or did this wild district once comprise the haunt of some lost cannibalistic race, exterminated

ere the white man pushed his way across the continent from the Atlantic seaboard colonies? Recent discoveries in this district point unmistakably to the practice of cannibalism in the past, but by whom remains unanswered.

Thousands of these mound houses and caves exist in the upper swamp region of Missouri, and no one now knows from whence they came. Groups of them have been located in Dent, Oregon, Phelps, Osage, Pulaski and Morgan counties, the latter along the Benton county line.

Their origin is unknown, and archaeologists have long been at a loss to account for them. Until recently, according to a bulletin of the Smithsonian Institution, it had been supposed that these mound and cave dwellings were confined to the southeastern portion of the state; later, through the explorations of Gerard Fowle [*Fowke*] of the bureau of American ethnology, it was found they extended to the north and the west as well.

In conducting his work of exploration, Mr. Fowke spent the greater part of his time in Missouri in the exploration of two large caves in Pulaski county. The first, known as Miller's cave, is located about three miles northeast of the Big Piney river postoffice. When he had cleared away the soft wood ash

that covered the floor of the cave, Mr. Fowke found more than twenty skeletons in various stages of decay. Two were of aged individuals—the remainder children's. Some of the human bones, in fact most of those of children, were charred and broken and mingled with the debris of animals and fish bones as if the flesh had been used as food and the bones tossed aside with the refuse. There was no indication or evidence whatever of the cremation of bodies, and the condition of the bones pointed unmistakably to the practice of cannibalism.

In the mound dwellings no evidence of this exists, at least none was uncovered in a less thorough examination, although some scientists contend the same race that dwelt in the caves of the Ozarks were the builders of the western and northern mounds. Another theory as to the mounds, however, treating them separately, is that they were left by the Pawnees, whose line of migration was through the area in which they occur. These mounds are similar to known Pawnee earth houses, and it is believed that when this tribe passed beyond the region in which suitable timber could be procured for supporting the weight of the earth and the earth adapted to that usage, they were compelled to substitute for them small poles



The large opening of Miller Cave, 64 feet wide, is halfway up a 200 foot tall bluff with a nearly vertical face. The cave is located in the southeastern corner of Fort Leonard Wood on the Big Piney River.

overlaid with grass. Such are the mounds of Missouri.

In the second cave explored in Pulaski county the same conditions were found. Here 14 skeletons were found, under circumstances similar to those in Miller’s cave. The shape of the skulls in these caves seemed to add stress to the theory that the caves were inhabited by a now extinct cannibalistic race, although some skulls were found that vary but slightly from the modern Indian’s. The majority were low, small and flat.

The opening to Miller’s cave is in the vertical face of a high cliff fronting Big Piney river, with a steep slope beginning 30 feet below the floor of the cave and extending to the water edge. The perpendicular wall with projecting ledge above which forms the roof, prevents direct entrance. The interior can be approached only through another cave, which has an opening in a ravine near by. A narrow passage, barely large enough to admit a man in a crawling or crouching position, connects the two caves, and only through it can access be gained to the main cavern. The inmates were absolutely safe from molestation, as one man could defend this opening against a great number.

A bed of clean, pure ashes, whose depth ranged from three to six feet, covered the floor of the cave from wall to wall, an average distance of about sixty feet. In some places this was so loose as to be almost like a snowbank; in the main part it was as compact as tramped wet snow. All

the wood burned to make this ash had to be carried from either the top or the bottom of the hill, which rises 400 feet.

When it is considered that only a little fire is required by an Indian household, and that the small space within the cave would not provide room for more than half a dozen families at a time, the great amount of wood ash indicates a long occupancy. Even with continuous habitation, several centuries would be required for such a great amount to accumulate. If the residence was intermittent, as was the custom among the roving and hunting tribes, the period would have been longer.

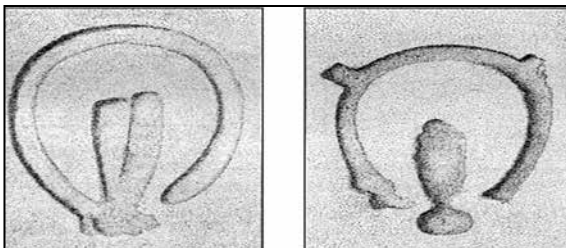
The fact that the remains of articles found in the ash were of the same character from top to bottom tends to show that one race held the cave throughout the centuries, and that practically no advancement in their civilization was made. The explorer found about 75 mortars, 200 pestles, hundreds of flints, flint knives or spear heads, numerous implements of bone, antler and shells; quantities of crude pottery fragments, a few tomahawks and several pipes. While the mortars and the pestles indicated use of grain, seeds and nuts by the occupants, the chief item of food was animal flesh, as indicated by the great number of bones.

In the country surrounding this haunt of cannibals, game was plentiful; the river abounded with fish, and the low fertile bottom lands supplied much corn and other

agricultural products.

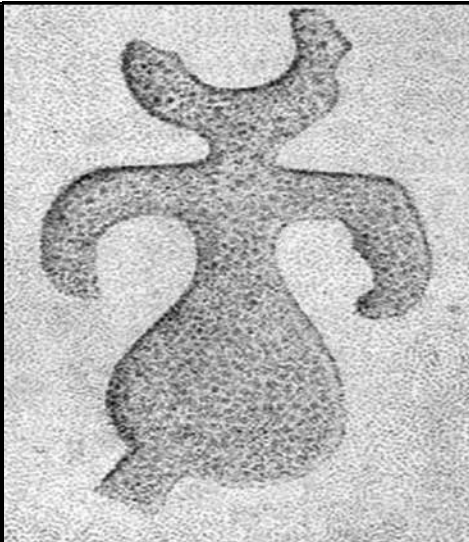
A ditch and embankment across an isthmus guarded a peninsula on the opposite side of the river, and on both sides low house mounds and abundant debris furnished the proof of two large village sites.—*Springfield Leader*.

[See more about Fowke’s work on page 14.]

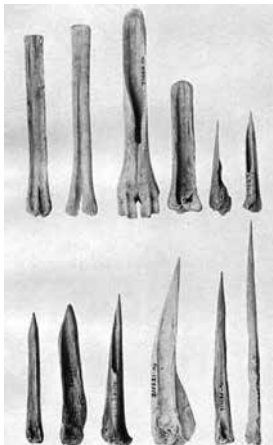


Above Two dozen bisected ovals, which are possibly fertility symbols, adorned the blocks. They were from 4 to 18 inches in length. Below Fowke measured the figure with “some resemblance to a flying bird” as 6½ by 30 inches.

All but one of these illustrations are from Fowke’s report section about Miller’s Cave. There were four plates showing skulls from the cave, along with several other assemblages of stone and bone tools. Alongside the upper trail were two large sandstone blocks pictured below. The “about 25” petroglyphs were incised into the stone with “a pointed flint instrument.” We find the rock art particularly interesting, but Fowke offered only one paragraph of description.



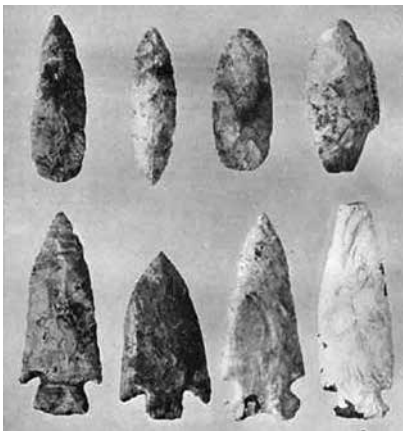
These two large sandstone slabs were incised with “about 25 figures”. Photo from the 1930s. Courtesy Missouri University Science and Technology Archive..



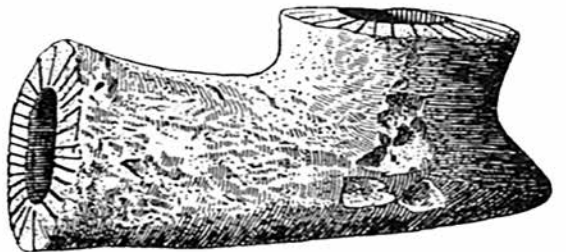
Bone implements



Axes and pestles



Chert projectile points and knives



Clay pipe



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Prominent Educator and Legislator, in a stirring, rapid fire address. “The Land at the Nation’s Throat,” with a prelude by the Sterling Entertainers, those delightful joy artists.  
**Sept. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.**

June 23  
ANNOUNCEMENT!  
Owing to the light plant [*being closed down*] we were forced to return Episode 5 of “The Sky Ranger” unused. However, we will run this episode on Monday night, June 27. Remember, the entire Wednesday program of June 22 will be run next Monday night.  
Watch for a special attraction for Saturday night.  
Respectfully  
Crocker Movie Theatre.

Missouri has 263,004 farms... the average value of land and farms \$11,646.00 and the average value of land and buildings per acre of farm land being \$88.08.  
The 11 room house of T. H. Turpin became the Ozark Hotel near the depot operated by L. C. Faust.  
July 15  
**Rooster Still Remains.**  
The old public well stand, which has been standing in the heart of

Dixon for 27 years was knocked to the ground this spring by the city dray truck owned by H. C. Brittain. Mr. Brittain had driven the truck in front of his office and left it standing and it seemed as if the brakes slipped and the truck, which was empty, started backing north when Mr. Brittain jumped into it trying to avoid the accident but to no avail. The stand was completely demolished but the “rooster,” which

was erected to the top of the pole a few years ago, remaining “unhurt.”  
**Carnival Company Here**  
The Crescent Amusement Co., an aggregation of shows and novelty concessions is showing here this week under canvas to good crowds. Geo. B. Myers, manager of the company, is a citizen of Rolla. Among other attractions they have a fine steam merry-go-round.



The city well with second-story bandstand, ca. 1908, at right center in the image. This was before a rooster was affixed to the top of the pole.



The view from the main room of Miller Cave above the 100 foot vertical drop to the Big Piney below, offers a vista of forest and a few cultivated fields. Fowke observed that, “It opens toward the southeast and thus secures protection from the cold winds of winter, receives the greatest amount of light through the day, and has the advantage of sunshine at the season when this is most needed.”

If you are interested in the rich prehistoric legacy of Fort Leonard Wood, we suggest you read Dr. Richard Edging’s article “From Dalton to Shamans: Ten Thousand Years of Pulaski County Prehistory” in the 2006 *Old Settlers Gazette*. It is available on our web site at [www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org).



The main cave was not only favorably positioned for weather, it offered protection from enemies. Fowke noted, “The only means of entrance is a small opening in the west wall...so restricted in size as to permit the passage of only one person at a time...consequently one man armed with a club or other weapon could easily guard it against any number who might attempt to enter.”