

Dixon Business Leaders Of 1896

By Gary Knehans

The "Maries County Gazette" in its December 31st, 1897, edition presented profiles of some of the top businessmen in Dixon. The list apparently was subjective, limited to those who had placed advertisements in the "Gazette". Profiled were Henry J. vonGrempe, A. J. Franklin, Frank J. Holland, and James Mc Gregor.

VonGrempe, a medical doctor who served Vienna as well as Dixon, was born near Vienna March 30th, 1863. He attended Vienna public school, the Weaubleu Institute, and Missouri State University in Columbia. After studying medicine and surgery under Drs. Moss and McCalester, vonGrempe took a vigorous three year course in the medical department of Missouri State University. He took a hospital course at the Missouri Medical College in St. Louis, where he graduated in March, 1887. VonGrempe set up practice in Dixon in 1887 and also was in charge of W. L. Wilson's large drug store for three years. In 1894, the good doctor purchased Wilson's stock and business and changed the firm's name to vonGrempe Drug Company.



Grempczynski's Store in Dixon.

A. J. Franklin came to Maries County with his father in 1859, working on a farm two miles from Vienna until 1862. After assisting his father in business in Vienna in 1863 and 1864, Franklin established his own general merchantile store in Dixon in 1869. In 1880, he started a lumber and furniture business.

Frank J. Holland was born in New York state in 1860, moved to Cleveland in 1865, and relocated to Barry County, Missouri, in 1878, working on a farm there for ten dollars a month. He unsuccessfully tried teaching in Barry County the following year. Successive jobs included marketing cord wood, and construction worker and brakeman for the Frisco Railroad. In 1884, Holland returned to Pierce City near where his parents lived and worked as a janitor in a hardware store at a salary of 20 dollars per month, 12 dollars of which went for board. He gradually worked himself up to the position of manager, but resigned this good paying position in 1892 to join C. W. Rinehart in establishing Rinehart and Holland, a mammoth hardware store in Dixon. Holland managed the store,

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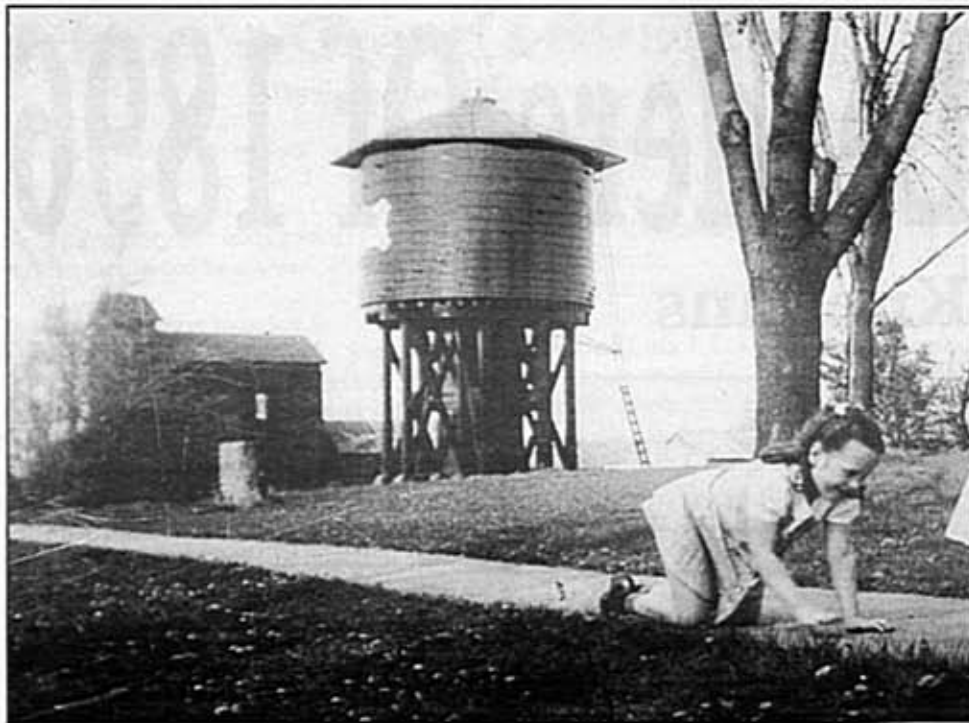
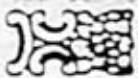
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Photo Courtesy of Eunice Sooter

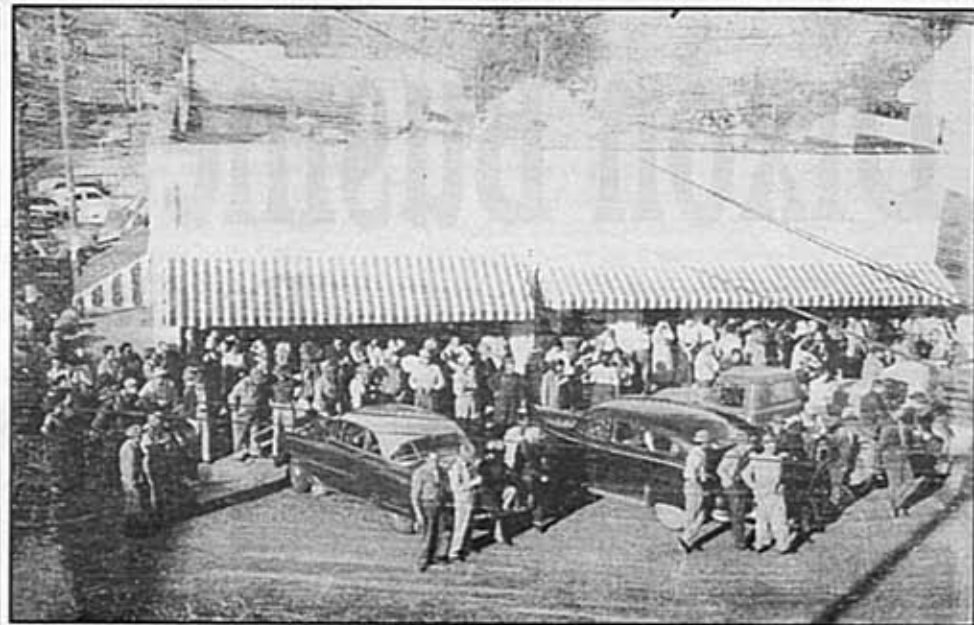
while Rinehart, the senior member of the partnership, resided in Carthage. The latter was described as "well-to-do", having earned considerable money as a traveling salesman for 16 years for Witte Hardware Company.

James McGregor was born in Linn, Missouri, on December 18th, 1862, and moved to Dixon with his father in April, 1871. He was educated in the Dixon public school. In 1880, McGregor found employment in the general store of

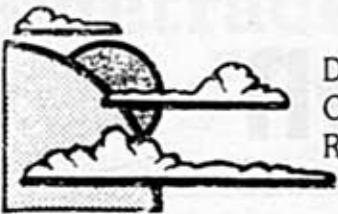
William Heller. After learning the business, McGregor purchased the business from his employer on May 23rd, 1894. A few days later, the newly established businessman married Annie Long of Waynesville.



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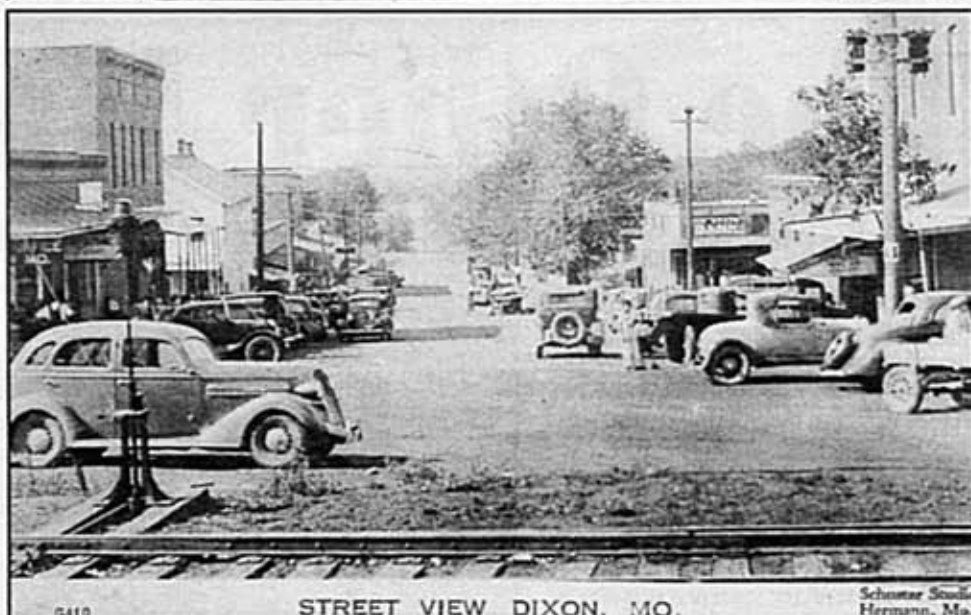
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