

# Visiting Vienna In The Kingdom Of Maries

In early October, 1897, C. M. Mc Crae, the editor of the *Rolla Herald* visited Vienna. This was his first trip there since 1885. And, while he praised the community, Mc Crae threw barbs at some of the elected officials there.

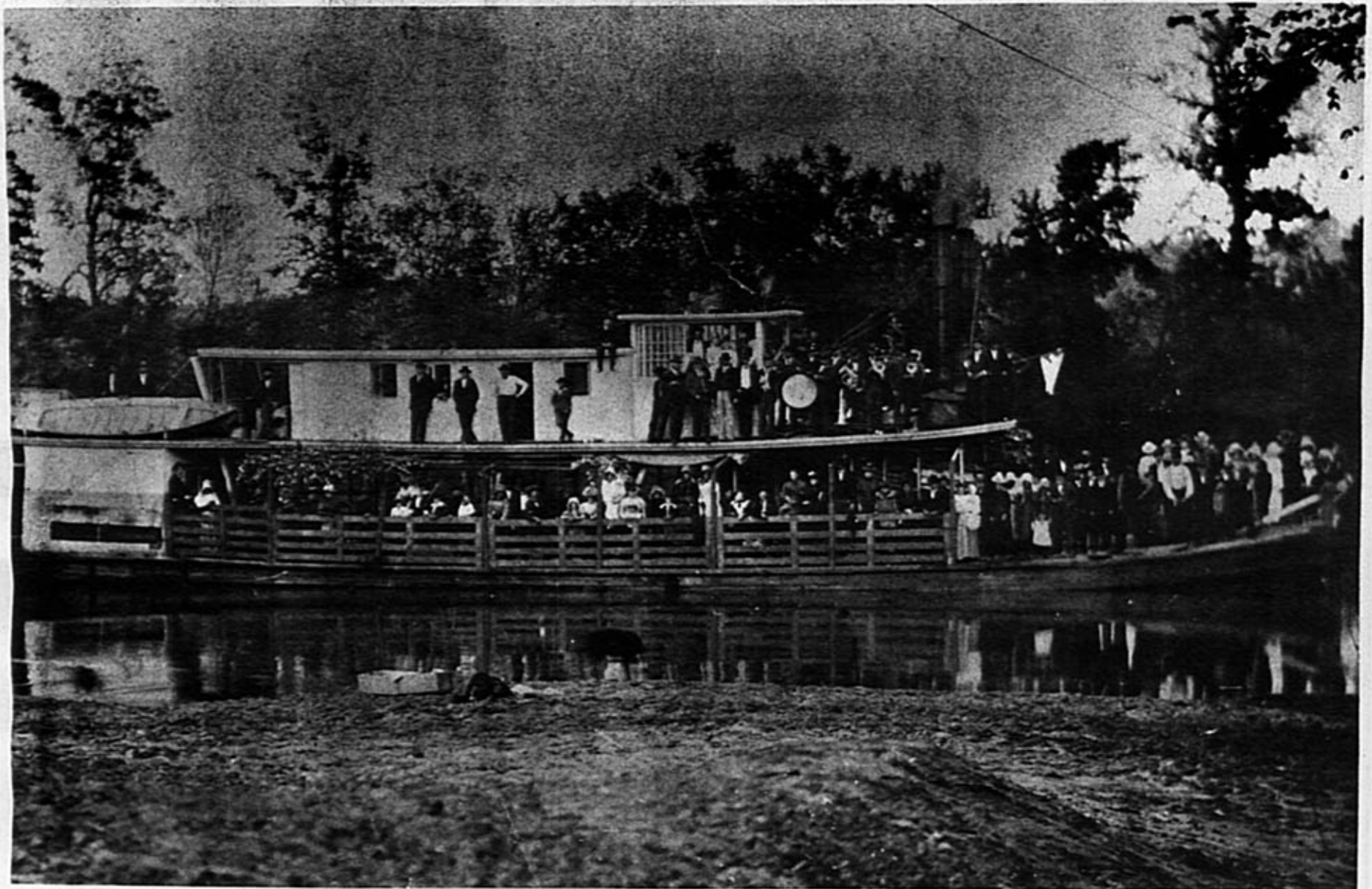
Vienna has made wonderful improvements in late years and is now a thrifty, flourishing city of 500 or 600 people of as genial and hospitable a nature as one would care to meet. While there we met Judge Shackelford, of Booneville, a

brilliant jurist and an affable gentleman, the present judge of that circuit. The lawyers in attendance were Hon. W. S. Pope of Jefferson City, Judge Murphy and son of Crocker, Arthur Corse of Rolla, and the local attorneys, Hon. W. M. Barr, Hon. Jack Slate, Judge Holmes and Pros. Attorney Mosby.

Maries has a wonderful set of County officers, the broad and long of it, or rather the "before and after taking." The before are jolly,

happy Circuit Clerk Grep and County Clerk Roberts—the afters are the smileless, sober-looking B. F. Branson, collector, Jos. H. Doyle, sheriff, and assessor George Terry. The latter would prefer death on the guillotine to laughing at a good story. Again, Vienna is the home of two editors—Jack Slate of the *Times* and Dab. Rainey of the *Gazette*. These two personages are as near alike in their social compositions as two pumpkins. Both look at a stranger with an expression of

death—but they don't mean it. They are the most peaceful of men and have a splendid local reputation as law-abiding, genial gentlemen. Mr. Slate served his people in the last legislature which may have had something to do with his looking so ferocious but Mr. Rainey has no excuse. The latter "caned" and the former "feasted" us, and we hope the time is not far distant when we will be given a change to reciprocate. We enjoyed our visit.



PIN OAK STEAMER DOCKED AT INDIAN FORD on the Gasconade River east of Vienna, sometime from 1880 to 1895. There is a band with instruments on the upper deck. Indian Ford was the farthest point upstream that these boats navigated, although one steamer once travelled as far as Arlington. Courtesy of the Historical Society of Maries County.