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The concept of teacher education (at least here in America) dates to the early 1840’s with the establishment of the first “Normal Schools,” a term derived from the French “Ecole Normal.” As applied to a school for teachers, the word "normal" meant an institution where correct standards or "norms" were taught, and where the art of teaching was demonstrated. Massachusetts established first Normal School at Lexington with three students on July 3, 1839. New York established one in 1844 and Connecticut followed in May 1850.

In addition to formal academic preparation, there was a strong movement toward teachers conventions at which the newer approaches were introduced and discussed. Such formal training tended to be limited to teachers in the settled and urbanized areas. For those in isolated situations, self-education was often the only option.

A number of periodicals for teachers also appeared that provided support and encouragement, instruction in specific aspects of teaching, and recommendations regarding professional books teachers should read. The books could be ordered by mail, so even in the most out-of-the-way settlements, dedicated teachers could keep up with the developments in their field.

The bookshelf of a committed teacher would contain some or all of the following titles:  
- School Architecture: or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses, Henry Barnard, New York, 1848  
- Confessions of a School Master, William A. Alcott, New York, 1839  
- The Teacher's Manual, Thomas H. Palmer, Boston, 1840  
- Lectures on School-Keeping, Samuel Hall, Boston, 1832  
- The Teacher Taught; or The Principals and Modes of Teaching, Emerson Davis, 1839  
- Lectures to Female Teachers on School-Keeping, Samuel Hall, Boston, 1832

These books contain much that is relevant to good teaching even today. Museum people who peruse them get to share in the thinking that motivated 19th century teachers, and secure a first hand look into the day-to-day workings of their schools. It’s worth your time to take a look.

Accessing Resources Online

All of the books listed above are available at no cost through Google books. Clear images of the original publications can be downloaded to your computer or electronic reader. Go to the Google Books site at http://books.google.com. When the main page opens, there will be the question: “Researching a topic?” with a window under it. In this window type the name of the book you want, and hit “enter”. A list of sites will be presented that offers the book. Look for the notation “Free Google eBook – Read” under the title.

You can browse through the book, print a copy or save it for later. It’s a modern electronic version of the school-master’s bookshelf. As the originals helped frontier teachers do a better job in their one room schoolhouses, the electronic versions can help you to be a more informed interpreter in your restored school-house.
Word from the director … National Conference Great, More to Come

ON THE COVER
This issue’s cover photo is of the one-room school at Silver Dollar City during the 2011 Christmas season. If you are at the park, it is worth taking time to visit the building in the Homestead area and to sit a while in the desks. See additional photos of the school on pages 4-5.

CHANGE OF PLANS
Budgets are such that the OCSA program is going to hibernate. More demands are being placed on my time and while I can still serve as a resource, and while I’m not ruling at the possibility of future programs where rural schools fans will be invited, things are going to slow down some.

There is a national schools organization but I also hope that during 2013 we see the launch of a statewide Missouri schools group. I’ll keep members posted via email about MoSchool.

LAST PRINTED NEWSLETTER
This is the 9th and last issue of this popular printed newsletter. Future news and announcements will be shared via email. Please make sure you are connected with me via email or following this organization on Facebook.

FUTURE IDEAS
I have been talking this year with a couple of other groups about supporting our efforts by hosting state meetings. I’m hopeful that something will develop in the future and I will keep everyone advised.

I expect an announcement about the formation of the Missouri Historic School Alliance, or MoSchool to be made in 2013. Readers of this newsletter will receive announcement information and details on memberships. The group will still be connected to University of Missouri Extension.

2012 CONFERENCE
Bill Sherman of Des Moines, Iowa did it again! He gathered colleagues and schoolhouse enthusiasts from across the United States, Canada, and Norway to meet in America’s heartland on behalf of country school preservation. Participants celebrated their schoolhouses and left Ankeny with new friends, new ideas, and photographic memories to mark the 12th Annual Country School Association of America Conference, held this year at Faith Baptist College.

Some 101 participants enjoyed a diverse program of presentations that covered preservation efforts, aspects of schoolhouse life, re-enactment ideas, grant and historical registry resources, renovation and restoration projects, schoolhouse history, and marketing.

The two day program was set against the backdrop of a traveling schoolhouse museum display collected by Jane and Paul Moody of Quincy, IL. Artifacts from all phases of instruction and daily life in a one-room school have been preserved by the Moodys, authenticated for dates and uses, and accompanied by detailed descriptions and photos.

After two full days of presentations, attendees were treated to dining and fun in the Des Moines area. A trip to the Iowa Hall of Pride was included in the bus trip to visit Iowa country schools and three living history villages: Nevada Historical Complex, Living History Farm, and Guthrie County Historical Village.

The 2013 CSAA Conference will be held at Berry College in Rome, GA. Watch for updates at www.countryschoolassociation.org.

Coleman Corner

PRESERVATION MISSOURI
David Burton and Tiffany Patterson spoke about one-room schools at the Missouri Preservation meeting in St. Louis, Oct. 24-26. Several folks with historic schools attended and shared fundraising ideas along with ideas for the current use of historic one-room schools in Missouri.

2014 CONFERENCE IN MISSOURI
The national conference of the schools group in 2014 will actually be in Missouri, either in the Kansas City or St. Joe area.

BUSINESS PLANS
I’ve had questions from local groups wanting to plan for the future of their school. A great place to start is with a business plan and MU Extension can help your group get started.
Pictures from Oak Trail Schoolhouse at Silver Dollar City. Structure is modeled after an 1880s school.
Oak Trail Schoolhouse was built at Silver Dollar City in 1962 to resemble a typical schoolhouse in the 1800s.
Family Pony Also Served as Family School Bus for Family in Brookline
Jackie Warfel

Even though it was during the depression, Daddy (Karl Schmitt) was able to buy Pony Boy for us because Pony Boy didn't like boys. He had bitten the finger off the boy who had previously owned him. He hated boys. With girls, he was fine. The boys at school knew this and they knew they had to stay away from him or he would chase them and kick or bite them. Apparently he had been mistreated by the boy and remembered it. Pony Boy lived to be 45 years old. He died on my Grandfather Schmitt's place on old highway 13 just north of the road to Fantastic Caverns.

As far as I know, we were the only kids at Brookline who had a pony, so we thought we were pretty special.

Marjorie is 2 years older than I am but mother was sick a lot and so I just went to school with Marjorie when she was in the first and second grades at Brookline; when Superintendent Coward visited the school he would send me home because he said I was not old enough to be in school. The teacher, Miss Norman, would always let me come back the next day. When we moved to Nichols I just went to school with Marjorie in the 3rd grade, there were three classrooms and we were in Miss Bradley's 1st through 3rd grade classroom. No one said anything about me being too young and so Marjorie and I were in the same grade all the way through College.

Getting to school was an adventure. Our maternal grandparents, Charles W. and Dorothy Kates, lived two miles west of Brookline at what was left of Little York, so Pony Boy—with or without cart or sled—was our means of transportation. We could go see them on Pony Boy. They lived at the end of a lane and were a mile west of the electric lines so they never did have electricity.

In the winter the cart was replaced with a home-made sled. Mostly we walked to school at Brookline but on occasion we were allowed to use Pony Boy and staked him out to graze while we were in school.

These days, Jackie Warfel is very active with the Greene County Historic Sites Board.
Caldwell, KS Couple Saves Belleview Schoolhouse and Find Friends at CSAA
by Valerie Brunhoeber

This June, I was so excited to go to the Country School Association of America Conference in Ankeny, IA that I was packed and ready to go at least two weeks in advance! The night before I was to leave I could not sleep. My husband Mike and I own a one-room schoolhouse and we are always looking to improve our school's appearance and make things as period appropriate as possible.

While we attended the 12th Annual CSAA Conference from June 17th through June 20th of 2012 I came away with much information. We learned the true purpose of the “stage” in the front of some one room school classrooms and why some had them and some did not. We also learned how to identify an older lunch box and that a lunch box is also called a berry bucket. We found out that a church bell, a school bell, and a house bell all had different sounds.

But the subject I personally found most interesting was the kid hack! Of course I am a horse person, so anything involving horses I enjoy like nothing else. What was cool about that is that the area farmers would sometimes bid to play bus duty.

We have an old farm wagon and some horses we plan to use with our school and I was concerned because the older generations who visit tend to say, “There wasn't anything like that around here!” Now I can rest easy knowing that there certainly COULD have been, because there were in other places in the USA.

These conferences give you the opportunity to view other one-room schoolhouses, more then a person can see in their own little world like in our small town of Caldwell, KS! We visited six on the conference tour.

Before this conference I was uncertain about how to register our schoolhouse project as a non-profit organization with the IRS until I learned from one presenter that it really should be a non-profit for its own good. In October 2009 when we started working to restore our school, I called the IRS office to send me information on applying for non-profit status, 501(c)3. I received a one-inch thick book of instructions with applications, and read that you have to have the help of an attorney. I called a few local attorneys and even those that I knew personally said they do not do non profits. I was feeling helpless that no one was willing to aid me with this huge task. I filed that packet and didn't look at it again until we got home from this 2012 conference. I decided to give it a shot with CSAA Director Richard Lewis's help through email.

I am so thankful to everyone at the conference for giving me the confidence and the drive to give our schoolhouse project all I've got. Hopefully the 501(c)3 status can assure people that their donations are going to go where we say they will go.

And, what I loved the most about the CSAA conference were the late nights lounging around reviewing all the helpful information and tips we learned, and sharing pictures and stories with our friends and newly found “family” of the CSAA. I no longer feel alone in this enormous project of preserving a piece of our educational history!

**Note of interest:** The Brunhoebers have acquired a second schoolhouse for their property.

**Photos:** Exterior and interior photos of the Belleview School.
Mount Hope School at Historic Daniel Boone Home in Defiance, Mo.

A schoolhouse at the Historic Daniel Boone Home and village in Defiance, Mo., is generally open for special events but can also be visited during special events.

The school house was originally located in the town of St. Paul, Mo. which is just outside the city of O'Fallon, Mo. Although the year in which the school was built is not known, documents show the land was donated to the town in 1837, making it safe to assume that the school was built sometime near that year. The school is a one room log building featuring wood benches and desks.

School was different in the 1800's than it is today. Most of the time, it was not mandatory and attendance varied depending on the time of year. School terms were soon created around the busiest times on the farm; the planting and harvesting season. Originally, teachers were schoolmasters and were males. However, overtime, teachers became predominantly female and were called schoolmarms."

“From what we gather, this school was once what is now known as West Liberty School but was more commonly known as Mount Hope. It was used as a school into the first few decades of the 20th century,” said Meredith Rau, financial and educational coordinator for the Historic Daniel Boone Home.

The building is a log building made with mortar. Originally there was a fireplace located along the back of the wall and used to keep the school house heated. Later a potbelled stove was installed. The stove has been removed since then and the fireplace rebuilt.

Inside the school house are wooden desks and benches. They do not have backrests and were very hard and uncomfortable to sit on.

Daniel Boone Home & Heritage Center
1868 Highway F
Defiance, MO 63341
Phone: 636-798-2005
Fax: 636-798-2914
Email: BooneHome@lindenwood.edu
Mt. Gilead School in Kearney, Mo., Part of Jesse James Farm and Museum

Mt. Gilead School located just west of Kearney, Mo., operated for over 100 years until it closed its doors in 1946. The present two story school was built in 1879.

Historians believe that Mt. Gilead was the only school in the area to continuously hold classes during the Civil War.

Clay County Historic Sites offers a unique field trip opportunity to experience history in a one-room school. A teacher in period costume instructs the class in late 1800’s style with McGuffey’s readers, and pupils practice penmanship and perform arithmetic problems using slates. The four-hour program accommodates up to 25 and complements required school curriculum.

Elizabeth Gilliam Beckett
Clay County Historic Sites Director
21216 Jesse James Farm Road
Kearney, MO 64060
816-736-8502
bbeckett@claycountymo.gov

Jesse James Farm & Museum
Jesse James Bank Museum
Mt. Gilead Church & School
Pharis Farm

jessejamesmuseum.org
follow us on Twitter @clayhistsites
facebook.com/jessejamesfarm
Newcomer School, Shelter Gardens in Columbia

There are five acres of paradise in Columbia called Shelter Gardens, created and cultivated by Shelter Insurance. In it stands Newcomer School. Seven farmers met in the Newcomer School near Brunswick, Mo. on March 10, 1914, to form an organization which grew to become the Missouri Farmers Association. This replica of Newcomer symbolizes public education which has done so much to make America the land of the free. Shelter Gardens has been built as a memorial to our state and nation, to the agricultural industry which created us, and to those who founded and built the MFA. Newcomer School was dedicated on Aug. 4, 1975.

The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
Various images from Newcomer School: The stove contains the Missouri seal on its doors. This school stands inside Shelter Gardens at 1817 W. Broadway, Columbia, Mo. The public garden is home to hundreds of varieties of trees and shrubs and thousands of varieties of annuals and perennials. You can escape the stress of the day from 8 a.m. to dusk as you explore the waterfall, rock garden and rose garden. Enjoy a peaceful stroll and visit Newcomber School in this paradise for plant lovers. On the left page there is also an aerial view of the garden and its paths.

*The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension*
Franklin Academy
Located at Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and State Historic Sites
26600 Park Board N.
Lawson, Mo. 64062
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri State Parks

Located northeast of Kearney, the Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site is operated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources’ Division of State Parks. The site provides important information about work and life in the 1800s, including farming, homesteading, business, craftsmanship, technology, wool yarn and cloth production, women’s roles, and the history of the industrial revolution in rural America. The woolen mill contains the finest collection of mid-19th century textile machinery in situ in North America and includes some of the most significant textile artifacts known to survive.

The Franklin School, or Octagonal School was built in 1856 and was used by the Watkins family and their employees until the mid-1870s, when it became a residence for mill workers. The unusual octagonal building was built of locally manufactured brick on Watkins land. The school building itself was restored in 1981.
The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
The school bell rang loudly and clearly on a recent Sunday to mark the restoration of the landmark one-room Swain School house near Chillicothe.

Livingston County’s Liberty 4-H Club members and their families marked a yearlong renovation of the 1878 building that has served as the club’s meeting place for six decades. The Community Homebuilders Extension Club bought the school in 1948.

The Missouri 4-H Foundation, Doane Endowment, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. and William Kemper Foundation, aided by generous contributions and efforts of 4-H members and individuals, provided funding to restore the historic structure.

Members of the 4-H Club hired a group to pour a new foundation for the structure in July 2011. The building was moved to the new foundation. Members and their families worked to secure funds through grants and fundraising totaling approximately $40,000, and invested 400 adult and 440 youth volunteer-hours to renovate the structure.

The inside of the building was painted and new siding, windows and a heater breathed new life into the building. Renovation included repairs to the outhouse and the addition of a sidewalk and flagpole. The heater allows meetings to be held year-round.

There are 45 members of the Liberty 4-H Club. They represent 21 families; most live within a 5-mile radius of the schoolhouse. For three consecutive years, the club has received the “Contest Day” and “Move Across Missouri” awards for the most participation of any of the 14 clubs in Livingston County. The club meets at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month.

**About Swain School**

The school was named for Rev. Swain, a Chillicothe preacher and landowner. Few records of the school exist, but according to a publication by the Community Homebuilders Extension Club of Liberty County, in 1899 a man named William Dorney was president of the board, and the teacher, Berta Jones, was paid $35 per month. According to the publication, 32 families paid property taxes in 1899 and by 1901 the number decreased to 25 families.

Early Missouri schools not only provided children with an education but also served as the social center for rural communities. The schoolhouse was a gathering place for box suppers, political events and church meetings, and helped to knit together the scattered residents of rural communities. There were 91 rural schools in Livingston County at one time.

**About 4-H**

There are 104,157 youth between ages 5 and 18 who participate in Missouri 4-H, a volunteer-led organization that uses hands-on learning experiences to teach subject matter and life skills such as cooperation, leadership and decision-making. The H’s stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.
The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension.

At left, members of the Liberty 4-H Club helped to raise funds for the restoration of the Swain School building. More than 400 adult and 440 youth volunteer-hours were used to renovate the structure, with help from Doane Endowment, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. and William Kemper Foundation community grants and the Missouri 4-H Foundation.

Missouri 4-H is sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension in partnership with state, federal and county government in each Missouri County. Nationally, 4-H is part of the Cooperative Extension System of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Missouri 4-H Foundation raises more than $800,000 annually from private sources, member fees and investment income to support Missouri 4-H programs. For more information about 4-H visit extension.missouri.edu/4h or contact your local MU Extension office.

Following a Liberty 4-H Club meeting marking the restoration of the schoolhouse, those in attendance gathered outside for homemade ice cream, desserts and games.
Story's Creek School at Alley Spring Preserved and Open to the Public

On the grounds of Alley Spring stands an original one-room school house, Story's Creek School. The schoolhouse was built in 1896 on the Sam Smith farm about four miles northwest of Eminence and was used until 1957 when the local school district was consolidated.

The school was donated to the state by Edna Staples, granddaughter of Sam Smith and was moved to Alley Spring Park in 1971.

To walk through the doors of Story's Creek School is to walk back in time. McGuffey Readers are still open on the wooden desks, as if the desk's occupants had just left for a brief recess. Cane bottom chairs await the students' return and a wood burning stove stands ready to warm them on harsh winter days.

At the front of the classroom is a wall to wall chalk board and on it are over 100 signatures of visitors over the years. Near their names, the guests have recorded the dates that they attended Story's Creek School. In an effort to preserve that information, there is now a Plexiglas "bubble" attached to the board that protects the history.

The drive to Alley Spring from the Dexter area takes less than two hours and is well worth the short journey. Although donations are accepted, there is no charge for any aspect of the park. Hurry, though. After Labor Day, the doors to the mill and the schoolhouse will close until next spring.

There is no formal visitor center for the park, although the Alley Mill is open to provide information in the summer, and the park headquarters in Van Buren is open year round during business hours.
Photos from Story’s Creek School and Alley Spring Mill
The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension

Wooley Creek School Leads from Cape Fair

On a high Ozarks ridge overlooking the James River (and Table Rock Lake), less than four miles west of Cape Fair, Mo., the Wooley Creek Community gathered for generations. The center of this community (named for the Wooley Family who settled here from Tennessee in the mid-1800s) was the old, one-room school house.

The exact date the Wooley Creek School was built is unknown. However, the property was deeded over by Anthony Myers in 1903 (it is likely the school stood before then).

Originally a wood-frame structure, Wooley Creek School was “rocked” in local stone in the late 1940s, giving it a distinctive “giraffe rock” appearance, common in the Cape Fair and Reeds Spring area. Classes were held here until the spring of 1952 when it was consolidated with the Reeds Spring Re-organized School District #44. For over 50 years, the school sat, untouched and largely unused.

In 2005, members of the Wooley Creek community banded together to preserve the structure and open its doors as a center of the community again.

I will not pull Vada Stone's pig tails.
I had to write this 100 times and say I was sorry.
Signed
Earl Jones
Student Fundraiser Helps Make “Pony School” Possible at Pony Express Museum in St. Joe

Media release of the announcement to build the school in 2010:

The Pony Express National Museum unveiled plans today for its newest addition, an 1860’s era one-room schoolhouse exhibit. Named the “Pony School,” the project is a partnership between the museum and the St. Joseph School District.

“The school will be the most significant new exhibit we add to the museum in 2010,” says Dick DeShon, President of the Board of Trustees. “It is part of a larger capital improvement initiative launched in 2008 to ready the museum for the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express on April 1 – 3.”

The ground breaking for the schoolhouse will take place at 9:00 a.m. on April 2.

The St. Joseph School District is collaborating with the Pony Express National Museum on the project because of its value as an educational resource. “Over one-third of the museum’s 38,000 visitors are school children, most of them from the St. Joseph School District,” added Melody Smith, Superintendent. “Our partnership with the museum will benefit thousands of school age children for years to come.”

Hillyard Technical School students under the direction of instructor George Hoeffner will build the schoolhouse on the southwest corner of the museum grounds. The museum will furnish it with period artifacts and replicas. When its finished, the 25’ X 50’ interactive exhibit will be open for tours and classes. Cindy Daffron, the museum’s director of development said, “Students come for the history moment. This addition will enhance and expand their learning experience.”

Not only will students build the schoolhouse, they are also raising funds for it. The ‘Pennies for the Pony School’ drive kicked off in late February and will run through the end of March at area public and private schools. Elementary and middle schools are participating in a friendly competition. The elementary school that collects the most money on a per capita basis will receive a visit from Pony Express rider Johnny Fry on his horse Sylph. Middle school classes will receive trophies for their school.

PTAs, area businesses and the public can participate in ‘Pennies for the Pony School’ too. “There are several ways to help,” says campaign coordinator Heidi Hornaday. “Make a donation to boost your children’s school total. Send a contribution to the museum for a list of objects needed to furnish the Pony School.”

Address: 1219 S. 9th Street, St. Joseph, MO. 64503
Available by appointment only. Call the Pony Express Museum 816-279-5059 for more information.
Hard Working Ozarker’s Defy the Stereotype

By David L. Burton

To outsiders, the term “Ozarks” is a reference to a geological area in Missouri and northern Arkansas bounded by the Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas Rivers (roughly). This unique geographic location and elevation did lead to “isolationism” for this region. In fact, I believe isolationism is the single largest factor in the development of the Ozarkian mindset, behavior and traits. If this region had not been isolated from outside influences, residents might not have developed their self-sufficient, hard working attitudes and I am sure the Ozarks culture would have more quickly disappeared, or perhaps it would not have independently developed at all.

To me, use of the word “Ozarks” is a much more personal statement, something that refers to more than just geology. I consider it a term or reference to a group of hill people with a rich and vibrant history as broad as the land itself. In this class we have read about incredible Ozarks residents but for me, a lifelong resident of the area, I always relate the term “Ozarkian” back to the lifestyles and beliefs of my grandparents, and great-grandparents, all of whom lived in the Ozarks.

Is there a typical Ozarkian? My first response is to say “no,” not any more than there is a typical African-American or a typical Native American. Still, with that statement made about generalization and stereotypes, I’d have to say there are some common characteristics among Ozarks residents. Here are a few of those traits.

Ozarkers are hard workers. This trait stems from survival on this hard, rocky soil but I think it also stems from the Protestant work ethic. I think of Barry McKenzie, a nuclear scientist who becomes an expert chip carver and David Hughes who turned a cave into a BBQ joint. And I think of many Ozarks natives who picked rock, plowed fields and worked as long as there was light in order to provide for their family.

I think helpfulness is an Ozark’s trait stemming from the friendly and warm attitudes Ozark residents have for their neighbors. If you are a resident then you have a bound with the people of the community. And from that bound comes this incredible tendency to help one another. This trait may also stem from this understanding that in the life of many Ozarkers, God is first, neighbors are second and “self” is third. Here I think of my grandparents and their willingness to quietly help neighbors in trouble. They don’t help someone for attention, praise or fanfare.

That leads me to a third trait: being religiously devote. Christian faith and practice played a dramatic role in the formation of Ozarks communities. A community church and Christian belief provided a moral compass and the isolated position of this region helped to maintain the conservative religious views of Ozarks. My great-grandmother Oma Wallis never missed church, read the Bible on a daily basis, and rejoiced at the salvation of her children and grandchildren. The Bible was a central focus of our gatherings and the moral foundation upon which our families were built. Christian belief provided the “core” of Ozark’s values and helped to define behaviors.

Among Ozarkians there is also an oversized dose of healthy skepticism, sort of a “Show Me” attitude, especially when it comes to outsiders. Residents are not quick to accept new ideas (just ask a University Extension specialist trying to instruct rural residents on new cooking or faming methods) nor do they quickly accept trends or behaviors that are in conflict with their present behavior or values. I am familiar with these types of stories because of my work with a rural electric cooperative. The RECs spent a great deal of time holding meetings to convince Ozarkians that having electricity in their home would be a good thing, saving the woman of the house time.

Humbleness is a trait apparent in the lifestyle and surroundings maintained by many residents. They are often humble in heart, unwilling to brag about themselves or their accomplishments, but perfectly willing to help a neighbor. Like my grandpa Farmer always said, “If you have to brag to other people about doing something it must have not been very important to anyone else in the first place.”

The traits of being self-sufficient and self-assured also appear as behaviors or attitudes that are typical among native Ozarkians. We see these traits in the ability of native residents to use every available piece of left over meat or garden vegetable to feed the family. It is also represented in Ozark’s sayings I heard from my grandparents growing up like “waste not want not” and “if you watch your pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves.”

Have these traits continued into the 21st Century? The short answer is yes, barely. The sad reality is that with increased mass media exposure and the influx of new residents from the coasts, these Ozarks traits may disappear in a generation. That is because many of these traits or activities go hand-in-hand with other Ozark activities that are being lost. For example, without square dancing, fiddle playing loses its necessity and experts say it may not out. Likewise, with the addition of technology, white-collar jobs and money to spend on products, Ozarkers are
losing touch with the soil, the need for hard manual labor and the ability to "make do."

I have heard local teachers say students are no longer self-sufficient, no longer hard workers, devote, humble or honest. You see, the modern age, with all of its high-speed communications and technology, has shattered the isolationism of this Ozarks region. With the lost of that isolationism comes the melting and fusing of our existing Ozark’s culture, values and beliefs with those of other Americans until we reach a point that the younger generation no longer recognizes the essential traits that made up the Ozark’s mindset and lifestyle.

The land of our Ozark's region will remain the same. The soil will always be poor and rocky, the caves will always exist and our springs will continue to bubble up clear water. But, with the destruction of our isolationism and the failure of our current Baby Boom and X generations to pass along the traits of our Ozarks persona, you will begin to see the disappearance of our plateau words, the loss of our connection with the land, and an end to field work and county weekend entertainment and the erosion of those Ozarks traits mentioned previously. And, when that happens and the Ozarks persona disappears, the history and culture of this area will be relegated to the back pages of a history book and forgotten.
Herber East Ward School, Utah

“This Is The Place” Heritage Park in Salt Lake City is a 450-acre living history park. The park includes artisans and interpreters demonstrating 19th Century frontier life in a working environment. Included on site Herber East Ward School, built in 1865. This early red sandstone school was built in the northeast section of Salt Lake City and served as a school house and was open for religious functions. The school was moved to the park and furnished in 1996. The picture at right is of the hewn log benches that are in the school now along with personal slate chalkboards.