

## Notable People from Howard County Missouri.

There are many “notable” people from Howard County and this is only a small sampling. I have limited myself to a short history of each of the selections. All of the people are connected with the modern borders of Howard County which is a 472 Square mile mere shadow of the original Howard county which covered 22,000 square miles until the current borders were established in 1825. The “famous” or notable people are listed in chronological order by birthdate.



The first evidence we have of any non-Indian persons being in the Boone's Lick country for any length of time is in 1807, when Nathan and Daniel M. Boone, sons of Daniel Boone, the great pioneer, who lived with their father in what is now St. Charles County, about twenty-five miles west of the city of St. Charles, on the Femme Osage creek, came up the Missouri River and manufactured salt at Boone's Lick in Howard County. The image is of the salt spring.

Benjamin Cooper, of Kentucky, moved to Howard County in the spring of 1808 and he states that when he arrived in what is now known as Boone's Lick in Howard County there were no settlements in this part of the state.



Col. Cooper arrived in the Boone 's Lick country with his family, consisting of his wife and five sons, and located two miles southwest of Boone's Lick, built a cabin, cleared a piece of ground and made arrangements for a permanent home and a secure fort.. But he was not permitted to remain, for Meriwether Lewis, governor of the territory, issued an order directing him to return to below the mouth of the Gasconade River, as the governor thought he had advanced too far into the Indian territory and too far from any white protection in case Indians should go on the warpath. So he was forced to return to Loutre Island, about four miles south of the Gasconade River, where he remained until the year 1810, when he again returned with his family to the Boone's Lick country.

The image is the site of Cooper's Fort today.

Two years after the settlement by Benjamin Cooper and his removal to Loutre Island the first permanent settlement was made in the Boone's Lick country and this party was the forerunner for many others who soon followed. Most of the emigrants who came to the Boone's Lick country were former citizens of Madison County, Kentucky, and we will give the names of a few of the most prominent pioneers whose names are indissolubly linked with the early history of Howard County: the Coopers, Hancocks, Berrys, Browns, Thorps, Jones, Woods, Bynums and many others who left good homes in Kentucky and Virginia and came to the far west (Yes, Howard County was the FAR West of the time.).

**Benjamin Howard (1760 – September 18, 1814,)** was a Congressman from Kentucky, the first Governor of the Missouri Territory and a Brigadier General in the War of 1812. He was elected to the 10th and 11th Congresses (D-R-KY), serving from 1807 until April 10, 1810. One week later, on April 17, 1810, President James Madison appointed him as Governor of the Louisiana Territory (the Louisiana Purchase district north of modern-day Louisiana). It was later renamed as the Missouri Territory in June 1812. During the War of 1812 Howard resigned his post and was commissioned as a Brigadier General of the Eighth Military Department.



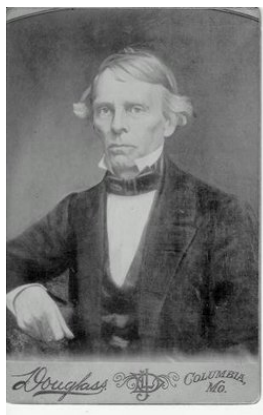
Howard fell ill while returning to St. Louis and died in the city. His original burial location is unknown, although likely somewhere in downtown St. Louis. Sometime between 1817 and 1844, his remains were reinterred at the Old Grace Church Graveyard just north of downtown St. Louis (11th and Warren streets). He was reportedly transferred to Bellefontaine Cemetery sometime after 1851, but the cemetery has no record of Howard's interment. The true location of his body is unknown.

Some web information reports him as the **FIRST** Governor of Missouri and others as the **THIRD**. Both can be considered correct. He was first appointed to be the Governor of the Louisiana Territory. He was the **THIRD** to govern, following Meriweather Lewis. During his term, the Territory was renamed the Missouri Territory, making him the **FIRST** Governor of Missouri. He was followed by William Clark, so he was in between Lewis & Clark of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Even though Howard County was named for him, he almost certainly never visited the area. Howard County was created in 1816, two years after his death.

**Kit Carson (1809 - 1868)**, is the famous scout who piloted the exploring company of men under the lead of Gen. J. C. Fremont to the Pacific coast. He was born in Madison County, Kentucky, in 1809, and was brought by his father, Lindsey Carson, to Franklin in the Boone's Lick country in 1810 when Kit was only one year old. Young "Kit," when barely seventeen years old, joined a party and left his home in Howard County to seek his fortune in the far West, where he remained until his death.

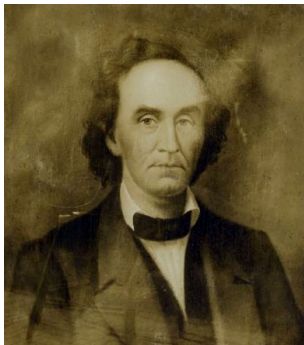


**Abiel Leonard (16 MAY 1797 - 1797-2828 MAR1863)** was born in Vermont. After studying at Dartmouth College and New York, he began his legal practice in Franklin, MO. In 1824, he was appointed as prosecuting attorney for the 1st judicial district of Missouri. After a public humiliation by rival Tyler Berry, he fought Berry in a pistol duel and killed Berry. Following the duel, Leonard's practice began to flourish. While the duel established his courage and strong sense of honor in a Southern society that valued such qualities, his success as a lawyer and judge was due to his brilliant and logical mind, intellectual honesty, and profound knowledge of the law. During his lifetime he was widely regarded as one of the most capable lawyers of his day. He demanded the highest fees for his services and carried on his practice statewide. In 1833 the Leonards moved from New Franklin to Fayette. There, in 1835–1836, they built their beloved home, Oakwood, a stately Federal-style brick house that has now been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It stands at 1 Leonard Ave.

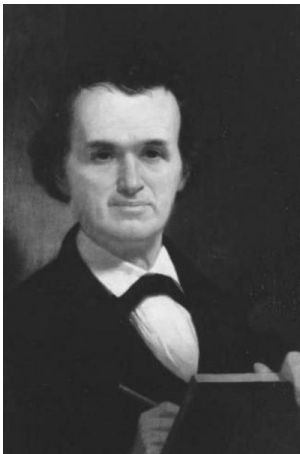




**John B. Clark Sr.(17 APR 1802 - 29 OCT 1985)** was born in Madison County, Kentucky, a nephew of Congressmen Christopher Henderson Clark and James Clark. He attended the country schools, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1824. Establishing a law practice in Fayette, Missouri, he served as clerk of the Howard County Courts from 1824 until 1834. Clark served as a senator from Missouri in the First Confederate Congress and a Representative in the Second Confederate Congress. He also served in the field as a Brigadier General in the Missouri State Guard.



**Clairborne Fox Jackson (4 APR 1806 - 6 DEC 1862)** moved in 1826 with several of his older brothers to Missouri, settling in the Howard County town of Franklin. The Jackson brothers established a successful general mercantile store. He was elected as the 15th Governor of Missouri, serving from January 3, 1861, until July 31, 1861, when he was forced out by the Unionist majority in the legislature, after planning to force secession of the state. His home in Fayette still stands.



**George Caleb Bingham (1811 - 1879)** Two passions, art and politics dominated Bingham's life and career, and he was more successful at the former than the latter. In 1819 his family moved to Franklin, Missouri, on the Lewis and Clark Trail, where he grew up and became an itinerant preacher and portrait painter. He later resided in several Missouri towns including Boonville and Arrow Rock. He traveled extensively and painted portraits of many residents of Howard County and other Missourians. During the Civil War, he became very interested in politics. Shortly before his death, he was appointed a professor of art at Missouri University. He is buried in Union Cemetery near his final home in Kansas City, MO. The image is a self-portrait.



**Spotswood Rice (NOV 1819 - 31 OCT 1907)** was born a slave in Madison County, Kentucky in 1819. At a very early age his owner moved with his parents to Howard County, Missouri. Spotswood was later owned by Benjamin Lewis of Glasgow and was the foreman of Lewis' tobacco business. He joined the Union Army when the Civil War began and is famous for a strong letter he wrote to the owner (Kitty Diggs) of his wife and children demanding her freedom. After the war, he became an AME minister and founded several AME churches





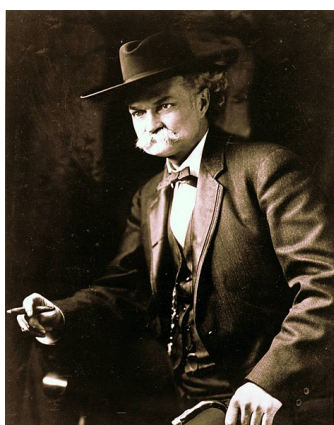
Carr Waller Pritchett and his son, Henry Smith Pritchett, in front of the original Morrison Observatory in Glasgow, MO.

**Carr Waller Pritchett Sr. (1823–1910)** was an American educator and astronomer. He served briefly as president of Central College just before the American Civil War. He then became the first president of Pritchett School Institute in Glasgow, Missouri, after the war, and he was the first director of the Morrison Observatory, also in Glasgow. (The observatory was moved to Fayette, Missouri, in the early 1930s.)

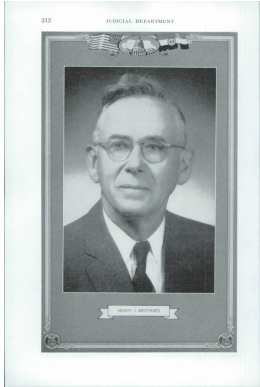


**John B. Clark Jr (14 JAN 1831 - 7 SEP 1903)** was born in Fayette, Missouri, the son of John Bullock Clark, a three-term member of the United States House of Representatives. He attended Fayette Academy and Clark moved to the East and graduated from the law department of Harvard University in 1854. He was admitted to the bar and practiced in his native Fayette from 1855 until the commencement of the Civil War.

He entered the Confederate army as a Lieutenant and was promoted successively to the rank of Captain and then Major in the 6th Missouri Infantry. He was rewarded with a commission as a Brigadier General on March 6, 1864. He then fought under John H. Marmaduke and Jo Shelby, including Price's Raid. He and Shelby were the Confederate commanders who attacked Glasgow. After the war, he resumed his law practice in Fayette and was elected to the forty-third and to the four succeeding Congresses, serving from 1873 until 1883.



**Willard Duncan Vandiver (30 MAR 1854 – 30 MAY 1932)** was a member of the United States House of Representatives from the state of Missouri. The Vandiver family moved to Fayette in 1872. After his graduation from Central College, he studied law and was involved in several academic positions before becoming a U. S. Congressman in 1896. He is popularly credited with the authorship of the famous expression: "I'm from Missouri, you've got to show me," which led to the state's famous nickname: "The Show-Me State". In an 1899 speech, he declared, "I come from a state that raises corn and cotton, cockleburs, and Democrats, and frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I'm from Missouri, and you have got to show me." This attribution is doubtful, however, as the phrase was used earlier, so it appears that Vandiver merely popularized it. He is buried in Columbia, MO.



**Judge Henry J. Westhues (1888-1969)** was born in Westphalen, Germany June 5, 1888. His parents were William and Teresa Peters Westhues, the father being a soldier of the Franco-Prussian War. In 1892 the family came to America and settled on a farm near Glasgow, Howard County, where William Westhues died October 6, 1921.

As a child, Henry announced that he would be president someday. He was told that, since he was born in Germany, that was impossible. He was sad for several days,. Then he announced that he would be a judge. He graduated in law from St. Louis University and became a member of the Missouri Supreme Court in 1930. He was eventually the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court.



**Ida M. Bowman Becks (March 28, 1880, – 1953)**, also known as **Ida M. Becks**, was an American elocutionist, suffragist, and African-American community organizer. She played prominent roles in establishing a number of community organizations, especially in Kansas City, Kansas, from the 1910s to the late 1940s.

Ida M. Bowman was born on March 28, 1880, in Armstrong, Missouri. She was the daughter of Milton Bowman.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Frank P. Briggs ( 25 FEB 1894 - 23 SEP 1992)** was born in Armstrong, Missouri. He attended the schools of Armstrong and Fayette, and was a student at Central College from 1911 to 1914. He graduated from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1915. He was mayor of Macon from 1930 to 1932, and a member of the Missouri Senate from 1933 to 1944.

On January 18, 1945, Briggs was appointed to the US Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Harry S. Truman. He served from January 18, 1945, to January 1947.



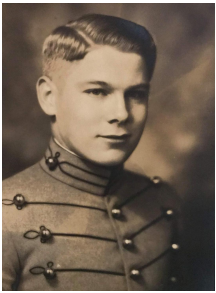
**John Wesley Donaldson (20 FEB 1891 - 4 APR**

**1970)** was born in Glasgow, MO. He attended the all-black Evans School in Glasgow and later attended George R. Smith College in Sedalia, MO. He began playing baseball in Glasgow on what is now known as Stump Island. He later played in Higbee, MO and eventually played for a number of traveling exhibition teams in more than 700 cities. He helped organize and played for the Kansas City Monarchs and was the man who named the team. Satchel Paige described Donaldson as; "... the greatest left handed pitcher who ever lived". In his 30 year career, he is known to have recorded over 5,000 strikeouts and two perfect games. He once pitched 30 consecutive innings of no-hit baseball. Donaldson refused an offer to pretend to be Cuban, change his name, and then play for the Chicago White Sox. He said that he would not pretend to be something that he was not. The high school baseball field in Glasgow is dedicated to him and there is an 8 foot tall bronze statue of Donaldson there.



**James Kuhn (July 1903-JULY 1982).** For most of the year, Jimmy Kuhn operated an apple orchard in his native Glasgow. Today, the apple trees are gone, but the street is now named Orchard Drive. In his early years, Jimmy worked in Hollywood Show business, appearing in silent movies with such stars as Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford. His last movie was filmed in nearby Arrow Rock, Mo. His main role there was as a blacksmith in the courtroom scene of "Tom Sawyer" in 1973. His greatest claim to fame, however, was the 20+ years that he spent portraying Santa Claus. In recognition of this work, the Missouri State Legislature named him as the Official Santa Claus of Missouri in 1974. No new Santa has ever been named, so he still hold that title. For years, he traveled to Kansas City each year to ceremoniously begin the Season by

turning on the large light displays at the Country Club Plaza Shopping Center. With his natural beard and long white hair, he and his team of "mule deer" brought Christmas cheer to children and adults alike.



**Elliott Amick 8 Mar 1939 - 1 Nov 1983**

Elliott Amick was born in Franklin, MO in 1939. He was a graduate of West Point. As an Infantry officer, serving as a battalion commander, he was wounded in Italy in 1944. He was awarded a silver star, two bronze stars, and two Purple Hearts. He was medically discharged in 1947, but served as a West Point instructor for 30 years as a civilian. He died in 1983 and is buried at West Point.



**Sara Evans (5 FEB 1971 - ).** She was raised on a farm near New Franklin, Missouri, the eldest girl of seven children. By five, she was singing weekends in her family's band. At the age of eight, she was struck by an automobile in front of the family home, and her legs suffered multiple fractures. Recuperating for months in a wheelchair, she continued singing to help pay her medical bills. When Sara was around 10 years old, her father took her to Nashville where she recorded a single (titled "I'm Going to Be the Only Female Fiddle Player in Charlie Daniels Band"), and attempted to sell the record at *Fan Fair* (now called CMA Music Fest).. Since then she has had great success as a singer.