

## Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society

218 W. Walnut St., Nevada, MO 64772

Email: [Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net](mailto:Cedar.VernonCoMO@centurytel.net)

Website: <https://vernon.mogenweb.org/>

### June 2024 Newsletter ©

#### Society Meeting: Wednesday, 19 June 2024.

The Cedar & Vernon Co MO Genealogical Society meeting will be held Wed, 19 June 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. at the El Dorado Springs Library, 808 S. Main St., El Dorado Springs, MO.

The program will be *Researching Women in Your Family Tree*.

**Researching Women in Your Family Tree**

Wednesday, June 19, 10 a.m.  
El Dorado Springs Library  
808 S. Main Street  
El Dorado Springs, MO

Genealogy meeting & program  
Cedar & Vernon Co Genealogical Society  
Email: Cedar.VernonCoMO@gmail.com  
Website: <https://Vernon.MOGenWeb.org>  
For adults

Programs planned for the remainder of the year can be seen on the Vernon Co MO GenWeb internet page at <https://vernon.mogenweb.org/>

**Sheldon Enterprise Newspaper.** Contact was made with The State Historical Society of Missouri when it was recently discovered that this local paper was not presently available at the historical society's Digital Newspapers Project as was reported in the March 2024 society newsletter. When updated information is received from staff at the State Historical Society, it will be shared in the newsletter.

An abstracted index finding aid of many genealogically significant items from the 1901-1948 issues of the *Sheldon Enterprise* is available at the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept and several other libraries across the country; it is also available for purchase from the Bushwhacker Museum in Nevada, MO. A full set of microfilm is available in the Nevada Library Genealogy Dept.

**Sorting Your DNA Matches.** Sorting your DNA matches into groups that match each other is the key to identifying where they fit into your family tree. Identifying how matches match each other will help identify how they match you and possibly identify previously unknown ancestors.

The **Leeds Method** is a simple and colorful way to organize your matches using color-coded clusters. <https://www.yourdnaaide.com/leeds-method> This method can be used with your matches at the FamilyTreeDNA.com and GEDmatch.com websites. Although both MyHeritage.com and Ancestry.com offer methods to cluster your in-common-with matches, you can combine matches from all of the various websites by using the Leeds Method. Give it a try! And continue to build out your family tree sideways as you work with clustering your DNA matches.

**www://Findagrave.com.** If you do not want a website to capture and sell your personal information, you must specifically tell it not to or set your internet browser to block capturing and selling your personal information. On the findagrave.com website, scroll to the bottom of a page and click the "Do not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link and follow the prompts to opt out. The website information states that "Certain third parties to which we sell or share personal information may re-sell or re-share your personal information for the purpose of delivering ads tailored to your interests." Click to tell findagrave NOT to share your personal information if they are doing so.

## The Workman Store...the Walmart of Iantha and the Perfect Christmas Present

By Ben Reed



.....I was only six....But when I saw it....I knew I just had to have it.

.....Back in the 50's we did a lot of our grocery shopping at the Workman Store...the Walmart of Iantha. It was a small country store, but they had all the necessary living essentials that a farm family could ever need...and they also had one small display case with some women's jewelry. ....and it was there that I spotted the perfect Christmas present for my Mom...It was a cameo necklace.

.....She was absolutely going to love it. I could already picture her wearing it to our annual Christmas Eve church service. ...and so while Mom was busy gathering up her grocery list, I tip toed around to talk to the lady that ran the store, Helen Jean Workman. I whispered to her that I wanted to get that necklace for my Mom for Christmas. She winked at me and said "Okay" ...and then she whispered to me that it was .89 cents and how was I going to pay for it...

.....Even at six years old, I had tagged around with my folks long enough to know how to buy stuff....I looked her square in the eye and whispered back, "Just put it on my bill." I think I might have surprised her that I already knew how to buy stuff because one of her eye brows kind of arched up and with a smile she asked, "Do you have a bill?".....and I said, "I think so."

.....Helen Jean reached into the case and picked up Mom's necklace and handed it to me....and then she kind of explained how the real world of hard times actually worked. There would come a

time when she would need real money from me. Money!!! There was no money!!! Where in the heck did Helen Jean expect me to find real money!!!....Good Grief! ...I was only six.

....Christmas kind of came and went and Mom really did like her cameo necklace a lot...and yes she really was the prettiest woman at our church Christmas program....and I am sure she wondered how I had managed to pull off buying that necklace for her and probably hoped and prayed that I hadn't actually stolen it.

.....I don't mind saying that I fretted a lot the next few days on how I would ever be able to pay Helen Jean her .89 cents in just one lifetime....and I for sure was dreading showing my face back in the Workman Store ever again.

...And then out of the clear blue, Lady Luck came knockin' at my door....I was stretched out at my Aunt Mary's house one Saturday night watchin' Gunsmoke and my hand kind of dipped down behind the sofa cushion and I felt something round and hard....It was a nickel....Holy Moly! I had hit pay dirt!

.....The more I fished around... the more ...nickels....dimes....and pennies I found. My Gosh! I had hit the cold hard cash mother lode....In just mere minutes I was half way to becoming debt free. Over the next couple of days I checked out every chair, couch, truck seat that I could find...I was operating under the "Finders Keepers" philosophy...and sure enough in less than a week I was able to pay my very first bill off to Helen Jean Workman....I think I might have kind of impressed her on how fast I came up with the money....and like Mom, she might have been hopin' and prayin' I hadn't stolen it.

.....Today Mom is no longer with us, but I still have her cameo necklace...and when I look at it...of course it reminds me of Mom and also reminds me of a special Christmas...But it also takes me back to a simpler, kinder, and yes maybe a somewhat poorer way of life. I miss that life...I miss the Workman Store....and I miss Helen Jean Workman and all the other friends and neighbors that had some interaction in my life that made me who I am today...At a time when money was scarce and nearly impossible to come by, the real value of a rural community was our trust in one another.

.....Yes my family was poor and there were hard times when we had no choice but to ask for help in the way of credit... And thank God there were good decent caring folks like Helen Jean

Workman that understood our situation....and the situation of so many others. She knew we were hard working people and had the faith and trust that....if given the chance ....if given enough time...we would pay our bills.....and we did. Merry Christmas everyone.....Believe in one Another

**Mr. Reed's charming family story was originally posted on Facebook in December 2018, and permission was recently given to publish it in the genealogical society newsletter with some of the Reed family history. Ben Reed is the author of *Truth With Stretch Marks*, published 2013, a laugh-out-loud collection of creative short stories based loosely on life experiences...and possibly just a bit enlarged beyond bounds or the truth. A copy was gifted to your editor and will be available to borrow at the next and future genealogy society meetings.**

So...what does the above story have to do with Vernon County or the genealogy society? As family history researchers, we know that county lines did not confine our ancestors. As families grew, children married, and the older generations retired, families often moved...and often it was to nearby communities.

The newest member of the Cedar & Vernon County Genealogical Society is Frances Workman. Her husband was the oldest child of Helen Jean Workman and her husband. Frances, who is known to many as "Pistol" and her husband, Jack, lived in Nevada, MO. Pistol Workman is the great granddaughter of Garret Henry Summers (1875-1955) who was well-known in Vernon County government for many years. She is also the great-great-great granddaughter of Allen Summers and his wife Elizabeth Wright Summers, first pioneer settlers in Vernon County, along with his brothers Moses and Jesse J Summers and their families.

- - - - -

### **The Jewell Bertice "Cotton" Workman and Helen Jean Faubion Workman Family**

Helen Jean Workman was the daughter of Delbert Ray Faubion and Reba Bell Schneider. She was born 26 Apr 1922 at Sheldon, MO and lived in Barton County, Missouri, most of her life.

On 27 Aug 1938 Helen Faubion was married to Jewell Bertice "Cotton" Workman in Lamar, MO. Their first child, Jack Darrell Workman, was born 13 Dec 1939 in Lamar, and four daughters were born over the next ten years.



**Jewell Bertice Workman & Helen Jean Faubion  
Wedding Day ~ 27 August 1938**

Jewell "Cotton" Workman was born 11 Dec 1918 in Miller Co, MO. His parents were William Lonzo Workman and Chloe Agnes Cornett Workman. The Workman's were farmers and moved from the Camden Co, MO area to Barton County in 1931.

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census shows that both the William Workman and Jewell Workman families were farmers in Central Township, Barton Co, MO. Cotton and Helen Jean Workman rented their home at that time, and their first-born, a son, had just arrived in Dec 1939.

The Nov 1940 *Liberal News* shows that Jewell Bertice Workman, R 1, lantha, was number 42 on the Barton Co Selective Service List as the country moved closer to World War II. He was scheduled to leave home for a pre-induction physical on May 12, 1944. And Japan surrendered 2 Sep 1945.

In 1946 Cotton and Helen Jean purchased the lantha Grocery store which became widely known as the Workman Grocery. The family lived in the back part of the store for the first few years. They

later fixed the upstairs, and the family lived there, but the kitchen was still downstairs.



**Cotton and Helen Jean in front of their store**

Five Workman children were born to Cotton and Helen Jean between 1939 and 1948. It would have definitely been a handful to have five young children and run the store at the same time! A family story is that one day while Helen Jean was busy working in the store, the children went exploring in lantha and discovered a window that had been broken out in the back of a Drug Store that was closed, just down the street . When the druggist died, the front door was padlocked and it simply remained that way with all of the merchandise left on the shelves in the closed store. The adventurous children snuck into the building. They were awed by all of the things that were still in the store—coloring books, school supplies, and many other items. If their parents had ever caught them, they would have certainly been in BIG TROUBLE!

Cotton and Helen Jean sold their store in 1967, and many people still recall the store and the gas pump in front of the Workman Grocery in lantha.



**Helen Jean and Cotton Workman**

Mrs. Helen Jean Workman passed away on 17 Jun 1997 at the hospital in Lamar following a short illness. She was much more than the owner of the Workman Grocery Store in lantha, MO. She was a wife and mother who ran a business in the 1950-60s when it was not as common as is now for mothers of small children to also operate a business. She wore many hats and touched the lives of many people. Burial was in the lantha Cemetery.

When Cotton passed away 22 Dec 1997, his obituary said that in addition to farming and operating the Workman Grocery, he worked for Lawn Boy for a few years and for the Howard Construction Company during the construction of Highway 71 and 43. He was laid to rest beside his beloved wife in the lantha Cemetery.

Jack Darrell Workman, son of Cotton and Helan Jean and husband of Frances Workman, passed away 23 Oct 2023 in Nevada, MO. After attending Liberal High School, Jack went to barber school in Kansas City. He worked at Bob Allen's Barber Shop and retired from the Nevada State Hospital as a barber, being the first licensed barber to work there. Jack's full obituary can be seen at <https://www.dfhlar.com/obituaries/jack-workman>

William Workman, Cotton's father, had passed away in 1954. His obituary says that Mr. Workman and his wife Clara Cornett Workman had ten children living at the time—five sons and five daughters. They were Leonard and Wayne

of Liberal, Jewell and Don of Iantha and Earnest of the home, Mrs. Eunice LeVaugh of Iantha, Mrs. Ellen Ambler of Golden City, Mrs. Elsie Clark, Mrs. Pauline Wilson, and Mrs. Nadine Ireland of Kansas City. Missouri death certificates show that two children had died in infancy prior to the Workman family moving to Barton Co.

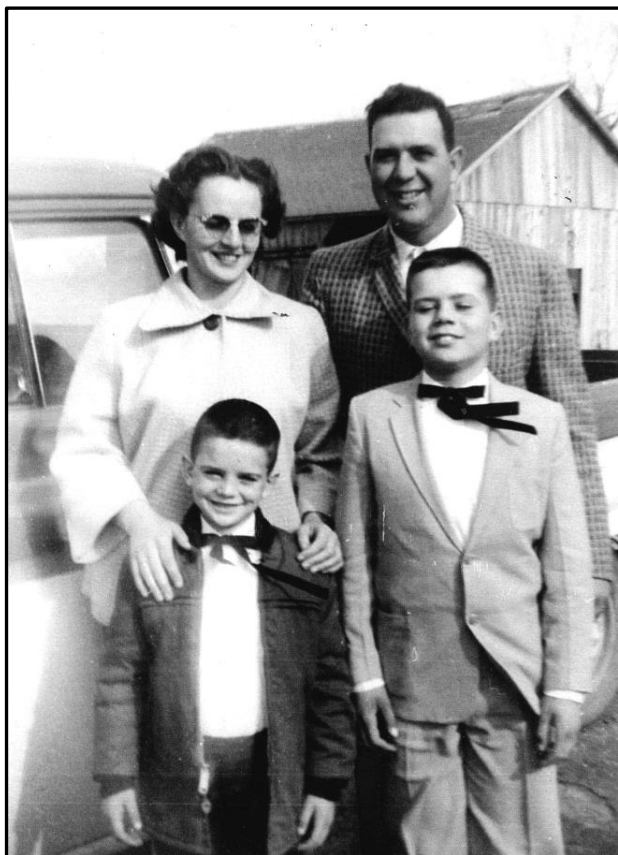
Many of the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of William and Clara Workman intermarried with families in the area, many stayed in the area, and many of them are also at final rest in the Iantha Cemetery.

**Our thanks for the Workman family information and pictures which were provided by society member Frances Workman and her sisters-in-law, and additional research by the newsletter editor.**

- - - - -

**Benjamin Reed and his Ancestors**

Ben Reed is the son of James Anthony Reed who was born 27 Mar 1926 in Barton Co, MO and his wife, Donna Lee Schell who he married 30 Jun 1947 in Tacoma, WA. She was born 4 May 1929 in Barton Co.



**James A. Reed and wife Donna (Schell) Reed  
Ben Reed and his older brother Terrel Reed**



**James A. Reed and wife Donna (Schell) Reed**

James Reed died 31 May 2002 and Donna Reed died 28 Mar 2015. They are both buried in the Barton City Cemetery, northeast of Liberal, MO.

Ben's great, great grandparents came to southwest Missouri shortly following the close of the Civil War. The families were primarily from Pennsylvania and had moved west into Ohio and then Illinois. From Illinois, they moved down into southwest Missouri, and several settled in the northwest portion of Barton County.

Family surnames include Reed, Gilmartin, Fast, McWilliams, Schell, Miller, and Parker. Many of the family members and associated families are buried in the Barton City Cemetery, just northeast of Liberal, MO. Some of the surnames by marriage include Smith, Saathoff, and Farmer.

Ben Reed's great great grandfather Benjamin Cruizer (B.C.) McWilliams was born 13 Oct 1843 in Northumberland Co, PA. During the Civil War he served in the Pennsylvania Cavalry and was captured and imprisoned at the Confederate Andersonville Prison near Andersonville, Georgia. He helped dig the first five graves there. B. C. McWilliams kept a handwritten diary which was transcribed, and now both the original diary

and the transcription are lost to Ben after someone borrowed the diary transcription and failed to return it. B.C. McWilliams had 14 children, including twin sons who served in the Spanish American War.

**We thank Ben Reed for generously sharing pictures of his parents and brother and family stories about some of his ancestors.**

**Iantha, Barton County, Missouri**  
**Just a few miles south of the Vernon County Line**



As the train lines were laid throughout this area of Missouri, bustling small towns sprang up with stores, hotels, eating houses, churches, school, train depot, stockyards, and everything necessary to support the many family farms and businesses in the rural area. One such town was Iantha, located in Central Township, Barton Co, MO. It

was laid out on the Ft. Scott, Kansas City and Gulf Rail Road by M. N. Willis in 1881.

Iantha business men in the early days included W. C. Baker, dealer in baled hay; J. A. & C. Bonine, builders; J. W. Gandlin, dealer in live stock; P. H. Harper, dealer in lumber and grain; Dr. A. B. Stone, physician; John Osborn, hotel proprietor; J. Richardson, blacksmith; and J. M. Warden, agent for the railway. Merchants in 1888-89 included George Wolf, A. B. Stone, Summers & Reid, J. P. Redlinger, Petty & Day, Ellis & Arton, and Harper, Fricke & Co.

Iantha's population was about 300 by the end of the 1880s.

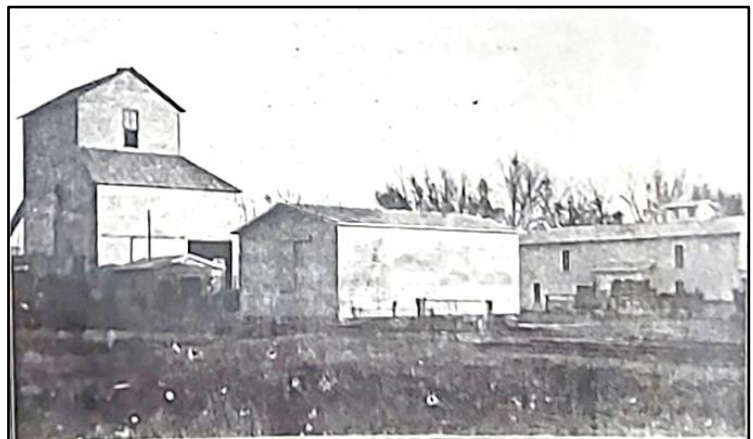
As many passenger trains were discontinued in the 1950s, small family farms were bought up by larger enterprises, and local schools were consolidated and eventually closed, the small towns that were once thriving communities began to decline.

**Iantha information and pictures provided by the Barton County Historical Society, Ben Reed, members of the Workman family, Goodspeed's Barton County History 1889, Barton County, Missouri History & Families 2015, Barton County Schools Calendar 2004.**

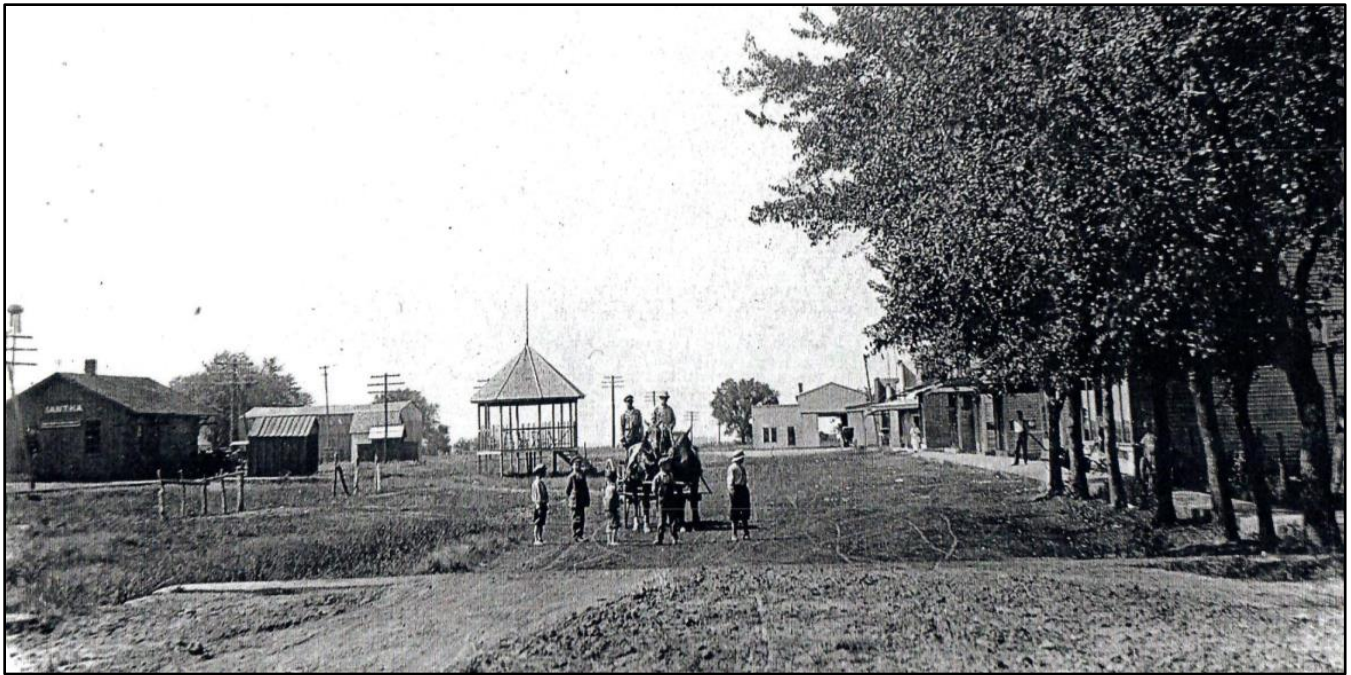
Maps of Central Township, Barton County Missouri and the town of Iantha are [at this link](#).



Wm. A. Jeffers was appointed Postmaster 8 Oct 1909 and served until Orley M. King took over as the Postmaster 30 Sep 1914



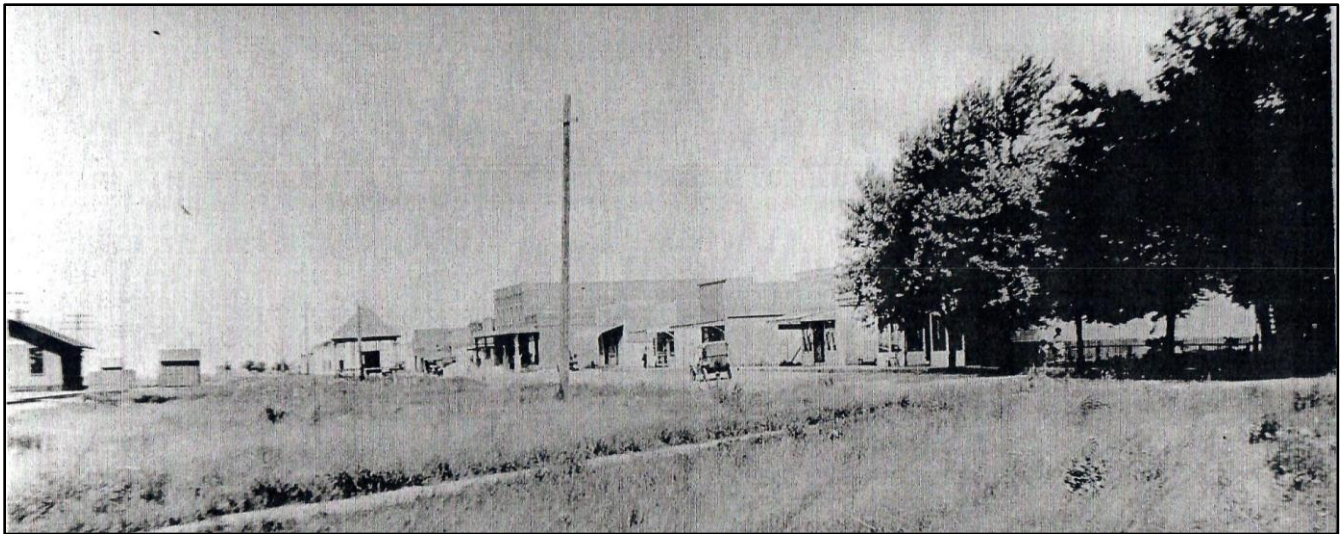
Iantha Grain Elevator, Hardware and Implement House



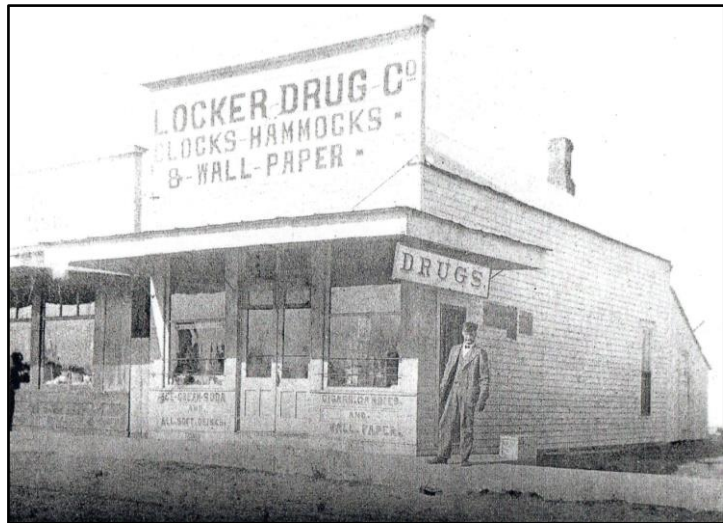
Iantha, MO train depot on left. c. 1910 (Looking west on Main St)



A picture from the south side of the Iantha Depot. Note the train signal pole which can also be seen in the above picture. Business stores on the north side of Main Street are in the background.



Depot at the left edge of the picture; c. 1925 (Bandstand cannot be identified in this photo; looking northwest to Main Street and store/business buildings)



Locker Drug Co. Clocks – Hammocks - & Wall-Paper  
Ice Cream Sodas and All Soft Drinks.  
Cigars Candies and Wall Paper. Photo c. 1910



King & Wolf Mercantile Co.  
Buys Any THING  
Sells Every THING



Lantha School • 1908 • 2 Teachers: Hallie Ferry-Rhoda Condict

The Post Office was to the left (west) of the King & Wolf Mercantile Company building. Some pictures seem to show that during the early part of the 1900s, stores were not side-by-side but had an open space or lot between them.



Main Street, Iantha, MO c. 1900 C. W. Palmer & Son General Merchandise on left. (Looking east on Main Street; the train depot would be off the right edge of the picture)

**Some current-day pictures**



2024 photo. Looking west on Main St. Can you identify any of the buildings in this photo?

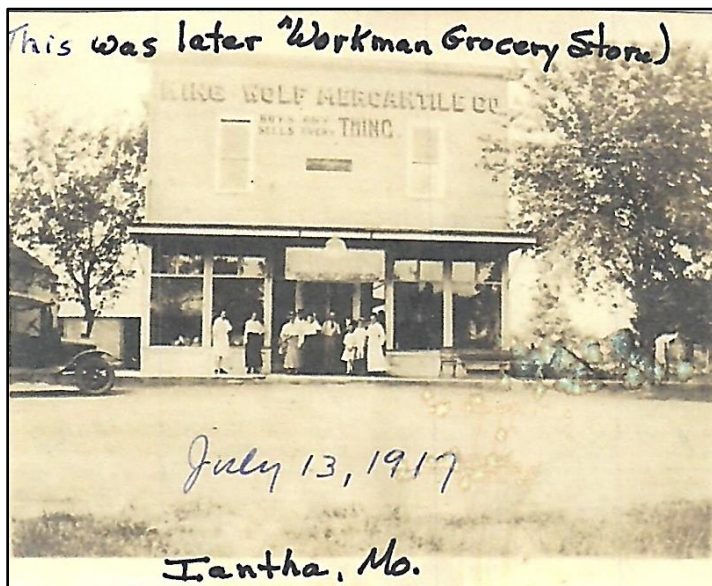


This picture is from Google Maps Streetview before the trees and brush that have now grown up in front of the dilapidated structure. This is the large brick building that is literally falling down, near the west end of Main St. This building previously housed the Iantha Bank (west end), Drug Store (center), and Post Office (east end). After the Bank closed, the building was sold. The new owner wanted the bank vault and also an area to store some of his cars. This picture shows the front of the building with a couple of garage doors installed to accommodate getting cars in and out. The shorter structure on the east side would be the Post Office portion with a front canopy or overhang roof. Was the front door entrance to the bank the center boarded up area, and the bank used both that and the west section of the building? Was the drug store front entrance where the garage door is, next to the shorter Post Office building? The back of the Drug Store is where some young, local explorers found a window that had been broken out.



2024 photo. East end of Main St.

**Which Store Building became the Workman Grocery with a Gasoline Pump Out Front  
...where a Young Ben Reed found the Perfect Christmas Gift for his Mother?**



**It is the King & Wolf Mercantile Co. Building!  
Note the second story windows where the family lived**

**Who Are YOU Researching?** Members are invited to submit articles about their research for publication in the newsletter.

If you have an **Historic Family Picture and Story** that you would like to share in a future newsletter, please email the picture and story to the society at the above email address or bring it to a meeting to be scanned and published. We would like to share some in each newsletter.

# # #

This newsletter is published by the Cedar & Vernon County Missouri Genealogical Society, a 501(c)(3) organization.

2024 Officers of the Society are  
 President, Valo J.  
 Vice President, Nancy T.  
 Recording Secretary, Lynda B.  
 Treasurer, Marty P.  
 Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, Nancy T.

Calendar year 2024 Society Dues are \$10 per person (\$15 per couple in the same household), and can be mailed to:  
 Cedar & Vernon Co MO Gen Soc  
 Attn: Membership  
 218 W. Walnut St.  
 Nevada, MO 64772

Dues received Sep-Dec include the following year's membership. The monthly emailed newsletter and free lookups in the new cemetery database are benefits of membership.

*Thank You for your membership in support  
of the work of the Genealogical Society*