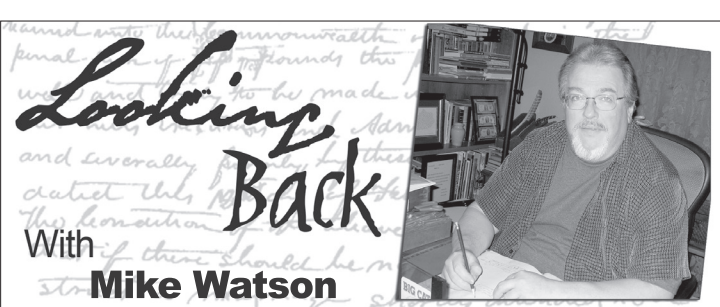


EDITORIAL



April 29, 1872, Jesse wasn't here—

The Bank of Columbia in operation in Columbia today was chartered in 1866 and has been in continuous operation since that time.

An exciting event occurred in Columbia on the 29th day of April 1872. The Deposit Bank of Columbia, soon to be known as the Bank of Columbia, was robbed by a band of five well-dressed men. They rode into town on the Burkesville Road just before noon riding fine horses. Three of the men hitched their horses alongside the bank, then located on the corner of Burkesville Street and Jefferson Alley. The men entered the bank while the other two waited out in front.

The cashier, Robert Alexander Campbell Martin, native of Shelbyville, was behind the desk. Judge James Garnett, James T. Page, William Henry Hudson, and Thomas C. Winfrey were in the bank, sitting or standing near the fireplace, as it was a cool day.

When the men entered the bank, the bandits drew their weapons. A scuffle ensued between them and the citizens. Judge Garnett was shot in the hand when he raised it to knock away the pistol of one of the men. But all escaped without further injury, except Martin. He was mortally wounded by one of the robbers, shot through the body. Martin was commanded to open the safe, but either refused or was already too near death to comply. The bandits were left with only the cash in the drawer.

When the first shots were fired inside the bank, the two men out front began to ride around the Public Square, firing at anyone who exposed himself to their fire. Since it was near noon, most folk had gone home for lunch. Some citizens were in the stores, but feared to venture into the fray. The two horsemen rode around the Square at a gallop, firing away to cover the exit of their comrades.

The men exited Columbia the way they came, by the Burkesville road, but circled around and headed toward Glensfork. As was the custom of the time, most public roads crossed family farms and gates were many. The riders came to a gate on the road that entered the farm of William Conover.

Tradition states that Mr. Conover and a hired hand were working in the field near the gate. When the men galloped up to the gate, one called out to the workers to open the gate! Mr. Conover, not much accustomed to such a tone, told the men to open it themselves! One or more of the men then drew pistols, leveled them at Mr. Conover and made the request once more. This time the gate was opened. It

is not now recalled whether Mr. Conover opened the gate or had the hired man to do it. From that day until the day of his death, this farmer was known to all as "Open-The-Gate-Bill Conover." The men rode through, and on a circuitous route to elude a posse headed by James R. Hindman, future lieutenant governor of the state, and numerous men of the town.

It appears the men had been in the vicinity of Columbia for a day or perhaps more. They had stayed at various farms in the area and gathered information. They posed as drummers, cattle buyers, and one as a tombstone agent. One of the men had a meal with William Henry Hudson, who lived just outside of town on now highway 206 across from the fairgrounds. When Mr. Hudson made comment he was going into town to the bank, the guest is reputed to have said "I will see you there."

Two of the men had spent the previous night with the family of Green Acres who lived between Columbia and the Russell County line. Mr. Acres' mother had loaned one of the men a religious text to read before going to bed. When told of the robbery later, she stated it could not have been the same men who had stayed the night, as no man who would ask for and read good Christian books could be a bank robber!

The bandits did get away with a sum of money that was never recovered. The exact amount taken was never revealed, but estimates of about \$600 and up are considered to be near accurate. A warrant was issued against the men, using the aliases they had used around the county, for the murder of R.A.C. Martin, and kept on file through the 1930s.

Even though they used aliases, they were identified as Jesse and Frank James, Cole Younger and one of his brothers, and one other. Many have denied that the James Gang committed the robbery. That may be so. Several books of the late 1800s on the James Gang credit the Columbia robbery to them and new books coming out as late as the 1990s still give the same data. Jesse James is said to have written a note to a western newspaper denying his participation in the robbery.

However, an Adair County man was a visiting guard at the prison where Frank James was held for some years. This guard often stated he wanted to meet James, but he was a high-profile prisoner and a loner while in the prison. But, on one occasion the guard approached James and stated that he was from Columbia, Kentucky. Frank James's reply was something to the effect: "A terrible thing happened there once," and said nothing more.

A Remington Army Model .44 caliber cap and ball pistol was found about four miles from Columbia after the Gang had passed through. It was not in working order and many believed it was discarded as they made their escape. Other artifacts exist that date to the same time and may have a connection with the robbery.

Jesse James, however, was in a sick bed at the time of the Columbia robbery. And he did write a letter that was published in some newspapers at the time that denied he was present—he did not say his men were not involved. Research by James historians seem to bear this out—that Jesse was not present, but... We can accurately say "The [Jesse] James Gang Robbed the Bank of Columbia, in Adair County, Kentucky."



Sano Almanac Nash Black

Little Winters

I took a chance and put a pot of my over-wintered geraniums out on the front deck. April is heading down the home stretch and I'm ever hopeful - I've also been out the evening before a predicted drop in temperatures covering tender plants. There are many common and funny names for these "little winters" that seem to plague us in Kentucky. The names generally follow the native flora that is blooming at the time. Hence, as this is being written on the high levels the Dogwood it beginning to fade a bit while in the valleys, they blanket the woods with white clouds. We are in the middle of Dogwood winter which is the most common name for one spell of unexpected cold night temperatures. This is the one that kills tiny peaches that have passed their blooming

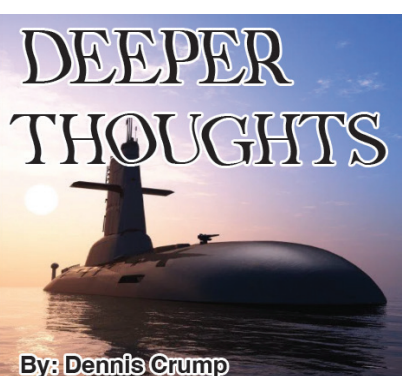
stage. Before the age of online calendars, prior to radio and TV, back before almanacs, farmers knew not to get impatient but to wait to plant their crops after the dogwoods had finished blooming. There are several more little winters yet to come though not so well known like blackberry, linen britches (when you've changed from wool to linen underwear), and stump winter (when you've burned everything but the stumps.) No, the climb from winter into spring is seldom a smooth walk. It is filled with bumps, blips and surprises. Weather people call these stumbling "singularities." For a singularity to be recognized as such it has to have occurred at least 50 percent of the time over a given period of years. But we do get impatient. We hunger for that first real home-grown tomato. You know the one - still warm from the sun, a thick slice on soft bread slathered with mayo. I bought my first tomato plant at the farm store this week, a variety I remember from childhood. I will shelter it, harden it off, protect it from cutworm and hope that sometime in late July I can enjoy my tomato sandwich. One clue to telling if there will be a sudden drop in temperatures involves watching the sky. If the sky stays cloudy the nighttime temperatures will remain above freezing. If the nighttime sky is clear and the stars are shining bright the temperatures will drop. Do a dance and cross your fingers to tempt to forces of nature to be kind to us this spring. I'd love to see a few peaches on my little tree.

Ask Dr. Angelia
Dr. Angelia S. Bryant, Certified and Licensed Counselor
angelia.s.bryant@gmail.com
"I wanted to talk about it. I wanted to scream. I wanted to yell. I wanted to shout about it. But all I could do was whisper, 'I'm fine.'" -Unknown

Choose Compassion

We all have struggles in life and need help. We should give of ourselves freely and choose compassion. Compassion is simply loving people - all people. With the negative events in our world: countries at war, natural disasters, the addiction and overdose epidemic, untreated

mental illness, mass shootings, divorce where families are split apart - the list goes on and on. So many people are struggling and we need to do our best to be compassionate with everyone. We are in a continual, collective state of panic. We hide our trauma, never allowing people deeper than surface communication. We are worried about our own lives - while struggling to cover up the fact that we, too, are struggling. I honestly want to be more compassionate and my hope is that we all can be better to one another. We need to be good neighbors. We all need to have more compassion for each other. We have no idea what their stories are; we have no idea what they have gone through or what they are going through. Compassion is alive. We are meant to have connection; we are meant to support others, to uplift others, to be kind. I want to be better. The change starts with me - and You! Remember friends and readers embrace: Colossians 3:12-13, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you". Love God and People. Amen.



"LWC or LWU?"

In an email I recently received, Lindsey Wilson College (LWC) President William T. Luckey provided an update on the proposed name change from Lindsey Wilson College to Lindsey Wilson University. The LWC Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on this action item on Thursday, April 24, shortly after their Founders' Day luncheon.

What's the difference between "college" and "university"? In the U.S., the two terms are often used interchangeably to refer to higher education institutions, creating confusion for students and parents alike. For prospective international students especially, understanding the differences between the two words is essential, as the meaning of "college" varies across regions and languages. This confusion between terms may even lead some students to overlook institutions with "college" in their name.

In short, universities are public or private institutions that offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees. These institutions typically have sizable campuses and a variety of program offerings. Conversely, the term "college" can refer to community, vocational, and technical colleges. While some of these institutions offer bachelor's degrees, most only oversee associate and certificate programs.

Colleges within universities differ from independent colleges differ in certain aspects. Colleges within universities are usually smaller components of a larger institution, whereas independent colleges exist as separate entities.

Universities are known for their wide selection of academic majors and degree opportunities - including bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs and they often host research facilities. They may house several smaller colleges, such as those focused on education, engineering or health sciences. On the other hand, independent colleges typically offer more focused specializations for their undergraduate degrees. They are often private institutions with fewer students and smaller classes.

Luckey reports that, "the name change to university has the overwhelming support of the faculty (77 to 2 with 10 abstentions), the unanimous support of the Student Government Association and the Alumni Council and was approved by all trustee committees (Academic Affairs, Student Services, Buildings and Grounds and Development) at our meeting on March 25. The Executive Committee and Full Board of Trustees will vote on Founders' Day and the name change would become official on July 1, 2025."

The college has been working with a marketing and branding firm to develop a new design for its official seal and a new logo. They have held meetings on campus with students, staff and faculty as well as meetings with key alumni in the areas outside Columbia in order to better define the school's brand and share their message.

This proposed change would abandon the familiar name by which the college has been historically known. But it would also be more accurately descriptive of the institution - and it would mitigate confusion in the international community. Ceteris paribus, I think "university" would be the wiser choice.



Left to right: Chris Reeder, Sammy Baker, Tony Denton, Judge Larry Bryant, Amy Pike, Jennifer Hutchison-Corbin, Billy Coffey, Mark Humphress, and Terry Hadley at the Fiscal Court Meeting.

Fiscal Court Meeting Includes Discussion Regarding Occupational Tax

By Cathy Hoots Abell, Contributor

The Adair County Fiscal Court met for a regular meeting on April 22 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Adair County Annex Building. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag and prayer. Judge Executive Larry Bryant called the meeting to order. The court members approved minutes of the regular called meeting held

on February 25, special called meeting held on March 24, and special called meeting held March 31. No changes or additions to any of the minutes were noted. The court also approved disbursements and treasurer's report (monthly and quarterly) presented by Melinda Quinn, Adair County Treasurer.

Various committee reports were heard including the Sheriff's

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