

Tolu basketball become winners despite no gym

These interesting stories from the past are wonderful collections from the Dean family that I have collected and saved. A lot of Crittenden County history has been saved and shared by this colorful family that lived in and around the Iron Hill/Deanwood area. Here are a few.

The Haunted Bridge

Near the turn of the century (1890-1910) there was in Crittenden County a small bridge which was known for miles around as the ha'nted bridge.

Where was it located and what were the circumstances which led to this strange phenomenon? Well, it was on the old Shady Grove road, then a dirt road, between Deanwood and Shady Grove.

Traveling toward the latter from Deanwood, you crossed Piney Creek by way of the iron bridge, long since gone, turned rather sharply to the right for a short distance, then to the left, and began the long climb up Piney Hill.

About midway up this rocky steep, a stream cut through a sort of gorge on the left and made a swath across the road. This necessitated a crossing which resulted in a loosely thrown up bridge with wide cracks between the heavy boards. Often when I crossed it, I wondered what kept horses from stumbling there.

It was in a ravine just to the right of this spot that the ha'nt reportedly appeared, in the shape of a person, headless, arms outstretched and draped in gauzy white. It floated back and forth, sometimes higher, sometimes lower, but always at a distance.

Now this unidentified floating apparition never harmed anyone in any way, shape or form, during all the years of its habitation there, and probably would never have been remembered except for the difficulty it caused passersby who were riding or driving horses. In such cases, always at night, the horses would rear, try to turn back and in some instances absolutely refuse to go another step.

A doctor once had to return to his home and ask a friend to accompany him on his call. It seemed that when two or more persons crossed the bridge together, the ghost remained in hiding.

Whether this non-understandable phantom was the result of trickery and or deviltry played by human hands, or whether it was an inexplicable phenomenon of nature, has not been determined to this day.

In fact, it has been

years since I heard anyone even so much as mention the ha'nted bridge. But, sometimes, when and if you are traveling eastward on the Shady Grove road, at night and alone, and get about halfway up Piney Hill, you might just take a peek into the ravine to the right of the culvert there, which bridges the self-same stream at the self-same place as did the haunted bridge, and see if by any chance you see

any signs of a headless form in white. Who knows? This ha'nt might at some point in time, at its own discretion and pleasure, choose to revisit old haunts!

The Panther, Fascinating Legend Of Fear Retold From Memories.

In the early days of our county, the panther and/or catamount silently roamed our virgin forests, every once in a while making themselves known to an unsuspecting traveler. Sometimes the story would be handed down through the family.

It was a dark afternoon in early February, about 1875. A few snowflakes fluttered through the air but not enough to stop John Lamb from chopping out fence rows and cutting bushes.

In the shelter of the big family room warmed by a log fire, Sara Ann was knitting. Little Annie Maria, no more than four, had been playing with her brothers, Bob and Edgar, until suddenly their activities were not in accord with her mood. So she pulled up a stool at her mother's feet and said, 'Ma, tell me about the panther.'

Well, said Sara Ann, when your grandmother, Evaline Phillips, was a young woman she had to ride quite a distance one afternoon on horseback to take care of an errand for her father. She was riding through a thickly wooded section, and before she reached home the shadows began to lengthen, then all of a sudden it seemed almost night.

Oh, Well! She wasn't afraid or was she? For there on the branch of a tree just ahead she saw a darkish figure sprawled. It was not a raccoon, nor



It is said that the old Piney Bridge near Deanwood was where the spirit ghost once appeared to travelers crossing the bridge.

a possum, nor a mink. No, no it was much too large. It looked more like a cat had it not been quite so big.

She would have preferred to turn her horse and ride back in the other direction, but there was no other way home. Suddenly she had no choice. The horse wheeled and changed directions. At the same moment, the animal disappeared. Although she had difficulty persuading her horse to right about face, she finally did. But what was that touching her from behind? It felt soft. Then she felt nothing. In both mind and body she seem to become numb.

Sara Ann continued, what light there was had now faded into darkness. Her horse took the initiative now and galloped off.

When he reached the big gate which led into the barn lot, he stopped short. Evaline came to herself in time to hear a THUD behind her. Looking quickly she thought she saw something shiny and black slink away into the night. Just then she saw her father coming toward her carrying a large lantern.

"Evaline, Evaline! What happened," he said, "Why are you so late?" "Father," she said, "I think a panther rode behind me all the way from Dawson's Wood."

Annie Marie said, "Oh Ma! Do you think it really did?" Sara Ann replied, "Well, we'll never know for sure." (Little Annie Maria Lamb grew up and married J. N. Dean. This article was written by Ruby Dean, daughter of J. N. and Annie Dean).

The Catamount Screams

On a cold winter night back in February 1909 in the Iron Hill/Deanwood neighborhood during a furious wind and snow storm, John Stembridge heard what he thought to be a neighbor, Mrs. W. H. Wallace calling as if she was in distress. He knew



A mysterious animal roamed the forest in the eastern portion of the county many years ago, and there are still sightings of it today.

Mr. Wallace had gone to Marion that day with tobacco, and thinking Mrs. Wallace was alone with the little children, he hurried to their home, hearing the calls a number of times on the way.

He arrived there to find Mr. Wallace and family enjoying themselves around the fire. He told them what he had heard, and Mr. Wallace concluded that it was too bad a night for anyone to be in trouble without help, so

he went out to find the cause of the distressing calls. Going first to Murray Travis', he found no trouble, though they too had heard the calls. On his way back home he continued to hear the piteous cries and decided it was either at Willie Walker's or George Lamb's and hurried to their home only to find them surprised at his mission, as all was well with them.

Mr Wallace again started for his home, debating with himself whether to go by the way of Aunt Jinney Murray's. But when near Buffalo branch, his dog, which had followed him, suddenly became agitated and rushed into the thicket, but after a short but furious battle, he emerged from the thicket a thoroughly whipped dog and "took to his heels," his enemy following. Mr. Wallace, who is a constable, got busy with his revolver, but the creature disappeared.

About a 100 yards farther on, however, it suddenly attacked Mr. Wallace, wrapping itself about his legs, almost getting him to the ground. He managed to get his firearm into action again, one ball taking effect, as he believes, in the animal's back and it gave vent to a scream that convinced Wallace that the source of the distressing cries he had heard was near at hand. The basset seemed to roll away from him when he shot it and disappeared in the darkness.

Wallace fired his last cartridge in the direction his enemy had taken, then turned his attention to finding his leggings, which had been torn off during the attack. He

describes the animal as about the size of the average dog but with a much larger head. Its traces around over the community were plainly to be seen in the snow the next morning. Previous to this it had been seen by a number of people, who say the animal answers the description of a catamount and there is no doubt that that is what Mr. Wallace encountered. A hunt is being planned.

(A catamount (short for "cat-a-mountain" or "cat of the mountain") is a historical and regional name for a cougar (Puma concolor), also known as a mountain lion, puma, or panther. In some local contexts, the term has also been used to describe other mid-to-large American wild cats, such as lynxes or bobcats.)

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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Crittenden County Clerk's Office will be

CLOSED ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 3

to all but election-related business

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Please note, the Crittenden Co. Project Development Board (PDB) will meet the second Tuesday of November; November the 10th at 4:30 p.m. CT/ 5:30 p.m. ET, in the County Office Complex fiscal courtroom instead of their regular meeting time of the first Tuesday of the month due to election day. This meeting change requires the meeting to be a special called meeting and will be bound to the agenda as set, therefore if anyone has anything to bring before the PDB, please contact PDB Secretary, Kristi Drury, at 270-965-5251 prior to Friday, November 6th. The PDB will resume their regularly scheduled meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. CT/ 5:30 p.m. ET, in the County Office Complex beginning December 1st, 2026.

**Real Estate LISTINGS**

HOMES

2 BR, 1 bath - 118 E Elm St - **\$84,900**

3 BR, 2 Bath - 763 Lola Rd - **\$274,900**

3 BR, 1 Bath - 599 Levias Rd - **\$249,000**

4 BR, 2 Bath - 331 Lily Dale Rd - **\$244,000**

3 BR, 3 Bath - 121 E Cruce Ln - **\$289,900**

3 BR, 1 Bath - 104 Eagle Eye Ln - **\$144,900**

5 BR, 3 Bath on 8 AC
4025 Aunt Jane Tabernacle Rd - **\$319,000**

3 Bed, 2 Bath- 763 Lola Rd, Salem Ky
\$224,900

ACREAGE

95 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$435,900**

5 AC Zion Cemetery Rd **\$29,000**

6 AC 826 Lonestar Rd **\$69,000**

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NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 26-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-06
THE PAY PLAN FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Salem, Kentucky, at a special called meeting held on October 23, 2026, at 8:15 o'clock a.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Salem Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at its regular meeting of the City Council held on October 20, 2026 at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

Position	Current Pay	New Pay	Hourly Rate Increase
Water / Sewer Asst.	\$19.76 / hr	\$20.00 / hr.	\$0.24 / hr.
	After which the Assistant will be awarded \$1 / hr. for every Certificate earned.		

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk in the City Building, Salem, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Robert B. Frazer
ROBERT B. FRAZER
CITY ATTORNEY
FRAZER LAW OFFICE
ATTORNEYS -AT- LAW
P.O. BOX 361
MARION, KY 42064
270/965-2261
October 23, 2026