

## PHOTOGRAPHERS IMPORTANT IN MOUNT PULASKI'S EARLY HISTORY

### DuBoce and G. J. Lobberecht Are Best Remembered.

By Ruth von Lobberecht Bender

Daguerre discovered the method of making photographs in 1839 so all pictures up to this time were drawings and paintings made by artists and a lot of the time by itinerate craftsmen traveling around the country. It was quite a bit later before the new art was perfected commercially, so it was several years before folks were able to have these new kind of pictures of their families. These were better likenesses than the usual run of drawings and paintings were apt to be.

One day I asked Mother Bender how come she had baby pictures of some of her children and none at all of the boys. She then told about the traveling photographers who had wagons outfitted as tiny studios. These artists, as they like to think of themselves, wandered around the country and came to town every few years and it so happened there were none when some of the children were babies.

About 1880 "Galleries" were opened up in towns and the photographers could stay in one place; so the wagons began to disappear. History is now repeating itself, for we are repeatedly being "canvassed" regularly, by photographers who come to town making pictures.

#### First Photographer

The first photographer to settle in Mt. Pulaski, that I know of, was a Mr. Alexander. I know little about him. He died about 1911. We know he photographed Abe Lincoln before he was president, for when his old equipment was found there was a show case and the Lincoln picture was in it. Frank Snyder broke open the case to get the picture and his heirs have it, I believe. The old case would be priceless if left intact.

There were old cameras and darkroom articles and the little cases the pictures were put in. He made the earliest type of photographs, Daguerreotypes, and Ambro-types. The tintypes were the last to be developed and he seemed to have few of them in his samples. How long he followed the trade I do not know. Few people seemed to know him and Dad (my father) never knew till after his death that he had been a photographer, and anyone knowing Dad, would know he would have been quick to go see Mr. Alexander. Donald Beidler placed the equipment in the Field Museum in Chicago.

The first photographer to live in town and have a "Gallery", as they were called in those days, was Marcel A. DuBoce. He was from France and served in the Civil War. He had a nice little studio and made many pictures of the folks in Mount Pulaski vicinity. He had seven children, Flora, Carl, Jean, Josie, Rodman, Victor, and Louise. He died possibly about 1910 to 1912. Carl was the only one of his children to follow his father's trade.

In the late 80's or early 90's there was another photographer in town. He was an itinerate who decided to stay so his children could go to school. He still used his wagon which he had on the northwest corner of the square where the Standard Oil Station now is. On the wagon was the sign "Sweet Art Car". Mr. DuBoce was in business in town at that time, also. Paul Beidler remembers having his picture made by Mr. Sweet. He doesn't remember how long he stayed in town.

#### G. J. Lobberecht

The next photographer to come to town was G. J. Lobberecht, who came to Mount Pulaski from Decatur, Ill. in 1901. He got the studio in payment of a debt owed him. He decided he would like to stay, so in September the family moved to town. Four children were added to the school, Ruth, Ariel, Dorr, and Esther.

Dad (Mr. Lobberecht) was 14 years old when he got his first job in a gallery in Pella, Iowa,

running errands of all kinds, carrying water, coal, ashes, and sweeping; anything a boy could do. The gallery was upstairs with no running water, and as photographs need a lot of water to be finished, he had a lot of trips to make up and down those back stairs once a week. By this time, 1879, there were changes being made in the methods used. A few tintypes were still being made, but paper, was becoming the best picture material and paper needed lots of water.

Also retouching the wrinkles and freckles became procedure, and if a photographer did not have good eyes, he was in trouble. Dad nearly lost his sight as a result of all this close work. He left Iowa for Mississippi and after a few years came to Decatur, and then to Mt. Pulaski. Many people remember the studio on the south side of the square where he was for 16 years. The family moved to Carlinville, Ill. Dorr came back to Mt. Pulaski during the War I years. After Dorr returned to Carlinville, they decided to go to Texas. Ariel and Esther were married and already there. I stayed in Mt. Pulaski. After a few years Dad returned to Illinois and located in Ottawa, Ill., where he died in 1936. A granddaughter, Dorothy Bender, has his old studio in Ottawa and Dorr is located in Alice, Texas, where he has a studio. They are the only ones who followed this work.

### Recalls Ye Good Old Days When Residing Here

(Sept. 25, 1952)

Will Addleman, 401 Harwood St., Joliet, Ill., a resident of Mt. Pulaski when a boy, recently wrote of his boyhood days to another native of Mount Pulaski, Miss Katie Yeager, now of Springfield, which was published in this paper recently.

Since then Mr. Addleman has written the Times-News, as follows:

"Dear Mr. Wible: Now that Old Settlers' Day is over on the Hill, and you have let out a secret of my dream, no doubt a lot of the old timers are sitting in their rocking chairs and dreaming of the good old days gone by, but not forgotten.

"Say, Harry, they are getting old if they can remember when there was a broom factory on the east side of the square, when there was a factory that made clothes racks, when they cut ice on Vanhise's pond and stored it for the summer, and when the Schick's had one of the first phonographs, and on Sunday evenings the folks gathered on their lawn to hear it.

"When we had the best baseball team and the Miller brothers, twins, were the pitcher and catcher, and when Jake Stahl of Elkhart, who played with the Boston Braves, used to play on our team.

"When John England and Bob Buckles were the champs in trap shooting (John always brought home the bacon), and they had trap shoots at Obermiller's park and shot at live pigeons.

"When the old electric light plant, built by I. H. Snyder, was taken over by Ira Veal and Clarence E. West; when we had a coal mine and two lumber yards; when there were two livery stables up town; when Mr. Lucas and Mr. Crowe were Illinois Central agents, and "Poddy" Seyfer was agent at the old P.D. & E. station, and Chris Richmond was a conductor, also Al Copeland working as an engineer on the Illinois Central.

"When Frank Beidler had a pop factory, and Mr. Whitney had a cider mill and we had several cigar factories, all making good cigars; and when we had brick and tile factories.

"Yes, Harry, these things helped make Mount Pulaski what it is today.

Very truly yours,  
Will Addleman."

### Second House

Christian Danner built a frame house soon after his arrival, it being the second in the place. Mr. Capps had erected one about a year and a half after his arrival, the upper story being used for a dwelling, the lower for a store. The carpenters found work enough among the surrounding settlers.

In 1840 Dr. John Clark located in the village.

The second store was built by Benjamin Davis, which stood near the corner of the square, on the ground now occupied by The Farmer's Bank. This store was in all respects like its predecessor, and contained many of the articles demanded by the settlers. Jefferson Scroggin built a house about this time, in which he accommodated travelers. Frank Schick, a German, was among the earliest residents of Mt. Pulaski.

The only tannery in the vicinity was at Carter Scroggin's — a "trough" tannery. The location of the persons and industries mentioned had given the frontier village quite a business appearance, and made it a good trading place.

The first brick house was built by Alexander Morgan and used as a hotel. Brewer Bunn, since then a prominent lawyer in Decatur, carried brick and mortar as a day laborer during its erection. The first brick business block was built by Dr. Robinson. A brick house not long after built by Mr. Zimmermann, also one by Mr. Craig.

Dr. John Clark, son of David and Sallie (Winans) Clark was born in Miami County, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1810. Dr. Clark began the practice of his profession in Mount

Pulaski in 1842. He was County Commissioner of Logan county for four years and Justice of the Peace 17 years. He died Jan. 28, 1877 and is buried in Mount Pulaski Cemetery.

## MOUNT PULASKI Has Not Stood Still

And we are proud of the fact that this little city has ever been on the move, going forward and keeping pace with the ever-changing world of today.

It has been our privilege to assist in the continued growth and welfare of the Mount Pulaski area by helping those wanting homes and properties to meet with those who have them for sale, and to arrange a transaction suitable for all concerned.

### A. W. SCHAFFENACKER

REAL ESTATE — INSURANCE

Phone SW 2-5655

Mount Pulaski

## Greetings from Logan County's Oldest Banking Institution

The Farmer's Bank of Mount Pulaski is the oldest bank in Logan county, with a record of continuous service since 1872.

Originally incorporated as a private bank by Leonard K. Scroggin, this bank was chartered as a state bank with its present name, July 1, 1914.

During our 89-year history, we have shown a steady record of growth and expansion of services to meet the increasing needs of the area. We feel deeply indebted to the many people whose confidence we have earned.

Today, we provide a complete range of banking services, including: savings accounts, checking accounts, business loans, personal loans, and safe deposit boxes.

We are indeed proud of Mount Pulaski and of the part we have had in the building of this community. As our city celebrates its 125th Anniversary, we offer congratulations to each and every resident on the progress and growth of the city.

You are invited to stop in at the bank during Sil-Tennial week—or at any other time for that matter—to get acquainted with our personnel and the many services we offer.

## Farmers Bank

MOUNT PULASKI, ILLINOIS