

Doctors

The first doctor to practice in Livingston was Dr. C.H. Kring who had his office in an upstairs room in the Company Store. He later went to New Douglas.

Dr. F.C. Vogt was in town from 1908 – 1913. He moved to Arcadia, Florida, but the climate didn't agree with his two-year old daughter, so he moved back to practice in Staunton.

Dr. R.C. Berry whose hometown was Harrisburg came to Livingston in 1914. He took his pre-medical studies at McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois, where he met Cora Gedney who would be his wife for more than fifty years. After receiving his Doctor of Medicine Degree from St. Louis University in 1910, he began serving the citizens of Vandalia, Illinois as their doctor.

During his time in Livingston Dr. Berry delivered more than 1,500 babies; he never refused a patient. During WWII, he took the examination for the Medical Corp of the U.S. Navy and was commissioned, but the war ended before he was called to serve.



The picture above shows the enormous crowd of well-wishers that attended Dr. Berry Day.

On March 24, 1943 a fire of unknown origin consumed his office, most of their home, and the Farhat business and residence. The office had just been remodeled, installing new equipment and furnishings. The Livingston Fire Department assisted by Staunton tried to save Mrs. Berry's piano but were unsuccessful.

On July 25, 1948, many residents gathered on the grounds near the city hall to celebrate "Dr. Berry Day." The event was planned by civic and fraternal organizations to honor the doctor for what he had done for the people. Henry Malench who represented the organizations sponsoring the event introduced Master of Ceremonies Judge Jessie R. Brown of Edwardsville and E.H. Droste of Mt. Olive was the keynote speaker. Village

President Anton Karnosky presented Dr. and Mrs. Berry with large baskets of flowers from the residents of New Douglas, Worden, Livingston and Williamson.

The Reverend Father McCarthy of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Reverend M. Rothe of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the Reverend J.T. Finnan of Staunton and the Reverend M. Shelby of Roxana gave brief talks. Vocal selections were rendered by Miss Joann Schwartz and Mrs. Maurice Burgett; Doyle Heim and Steve Kuba presented accordion selections, and a program was presented by some children under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Balen. A monument was erected on a prominent lot on Livingston Avenue and later placed in front of the current city hall.



Dr. Berry Day dedication ceremony. On stage from left to right: Mrs. and Dr. Berry; Master of Ceremonies Judge Jessie Brown and Village President Anton Karnosky. Unveiling the memorial stone is Rev. John Henderson of Staunton. At right of stone, Marion, son of Dr. and Mrs. Berry and Marion's daughter, Jane.



Dr. and Mrs. Berry along with son Marion.

In 1950 Dr. and Mrs. Berry built a new home in Lebanon, her hometown, and left Livingston to retire. Dr. Berry played golf and was treasurer and a member of the Board of Trustees at McKendree College. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in 1961 and lived in Lebanon until their deaths. They were survived by a son Marion, daughter-in-law Thelma, granddaughter Jane, her husband, and their two sons.

Dr. W.C. Runyon served as doctor until he sold his practice in February 1917 to Dr. W.K. Vaught of Lawrenceville. Dr. Runyon went to Elvaston to practice with his father.

Dr. J.A. Oliver sold his practice in 1919 to Dr. H.C. Tietze of West Salem, Illinois. Dr. Oliver moved to Hincley, Illinois. Later Dr. Tietze left Livingston to practice in Edwardsville.

Dr. William Russell Greenwood purchased the practice of Dr. R.C. Berry in 1950. Dr. Greenwood came from Champaign, Illinois where he worked at the University of Illinois. He passed away in 1962. Dr. Quentin Wick of Highland who worked with Dr. Greenwood stayed in Livingston for a few years after Greenwood's death.

Livingston was without a doctor until 1997 when Livingston Family Practice was opened with ribbon cutting on August 6, 1997 in a new building just north of the high school. It was served by the following people from Staunton: Dr. Gregory Deters, Dr. Raj Jain, Dr. Manish Mathur, Dr. Bryan Siegfried, and Nurse Practitioner Sheri Banovic.

The practice closed in July 2003.

Funeral Homes

T.H. Beynon who had been a funeral director in Livingston sold his business to the Joshu Brothers in 1918. Beynon was associated with Huntman Funeral Home in Staunton. Those were the days when bodies were taken to the funeral home to be embalmed and then brought back to the family home the day before the funeral for the visitation. After the visitation, relatives or friends would sit-up all night with the body while the family slept – thus the term “wake.” The next day there would be a small service in the home followed by a church service and a small service at the cemetery.



Hugo Latowsky, who had a funeral home in New Douglas, opened a funeral home in Livingston in the Malench Building in 1931. It was at this time he stopped using the horse-drawn hearse and bought an ambulance. His daughter Uldene became the ambulance driver.

Maurice and Mary Alice Burgett joined Mr. Latowsky in 1946. When Hugo Latowsky died in 1953, the Burgetts took over the business. The present funeral home on North Second Street was built in 1954.

In 1961, the Burgetts sold the business to George and Clara Lesicko. They ran an ambulance service until 1977 when Staunton Area Ambulance service was formed. Jerome Lesicko, their son, joined them in 1984 and took over the Livingston Business in 1995. George and Clara help Jerome and also run the New Douglas business.

Double K Tavern and Dance Hall

The Double K Tavern and Dance Hall was built in the mid 1930s by the Andy Warlock Family. It was located at the intersection of Livingston Avenue and Veteran's Memorial Drive on the northwest corner.

The building and business were purchased by Gus Krek and Dan Kuketz hence the name Double K. They operated a tavern on the north lower level for many years. A dance hall was located on the second floor.



It was well-known for its Sunday dances and was the sight of the Livingston Fire Department's yearly masquerade ball held around Valentine's Day. The last celebration held in the hall was the wedding reception of Frieda (Covi) and Robert Augustine on June 14, 1947.

Albert Graiff and his brother-in-law Emil Libbra operated an automotive shop on the south lower level with two gas pumps outside for many years. The building also housed the heavy equipment used during the construction of the short-cut for Route 66 south of Livingston.

In the early 1940s, Vic and Wilma Krek purchased the building. Vic ran the tavern and they converted the upstairs into living quarters. In the 1960s Wilma had her beauty shop downstairs.

The building changed hands over the next several years. It was severely damaged by fire and razed.

Jer-Rea's Ceramic Shop

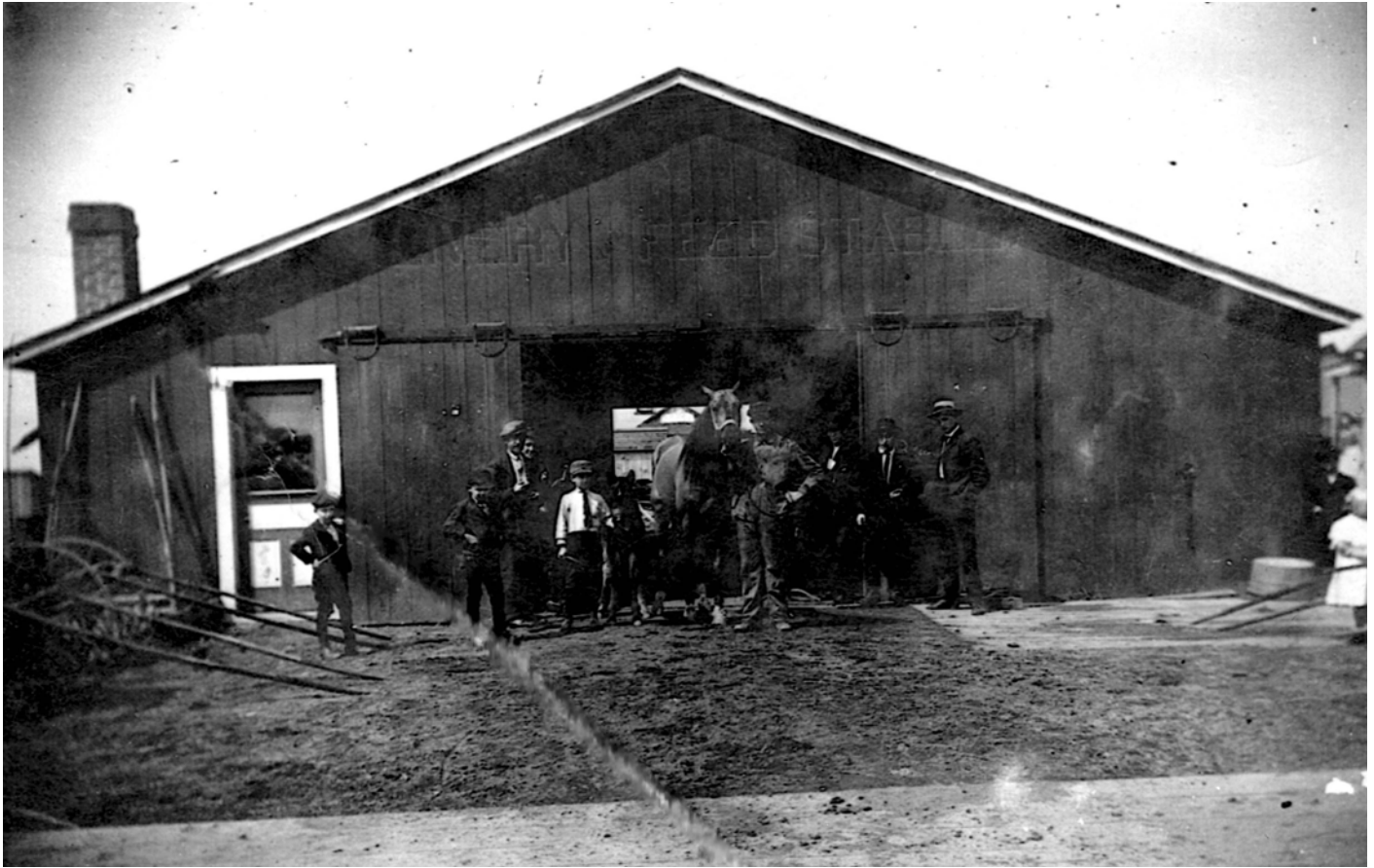
718 Oak Street

Marie (Hainaut) Deininger was born and raised in Livingston. She and her son, Jerry Dale, began doing ceramics as a hobby in 1978. Jerry Dale had just graduated from Jacksonville School for the Deaf, and Marie felt he needed something to keep him busy. The hobby lasted more than twenty-eight years.

Marie and Jerry have their shop in the Deininger family home. Marie holds classes on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings as well as paints and sells finished items. Marie plans to retire soon.

Jerry Dale is currently working a full-time job outside the ceramic business. In addition, he began a canning business which offers items from salsas and antipasto to jams and jellies. After Marie's retirement, Jerry plans to convert the ceramic area into additional canning space to pursue his current hobby.





The above structure was located in the wedge intersecting South Third and Nichols Streets. The stable is believed to have been used by the Libbey family and later Pietro "Dove" Bononi as a livery stable and feed business. The barn was eventually razed and Mr. Bononi had a filling station on that site.

Livingston Propane

In the 1940s and 1950s the Livingston Co-op under the ownership of John Augustine sold 100 pound gas cylinders. In 1955, John's son William Augustine, Sr. began selling bulk propane for home heating. His office was located in his home on the corner of Livingston Avenue and Wall Street. Bill changed the name of the company to Livingston Skelgas.

In the 1980s the business again changed its name to Livingston Propane. In 1995 William Augustine, Jr. (Bill) took over the business from his dad and Bill, Sr. then retired. The business has remained under the ownership of the Augustines for three generations.



Above Bill, Sr.'s Skelgas truck.



Bill, Sr. and son Bill with the current business transportation.

Libbra Trucking Company

Raymond Libbra began his coal hauling business with one truck in 1936. He acquired eight trucks in the thirty years he was in business. His drivers were predominantly from Livingston and included: Eddie Faletto, Aldo Bacca, John Bacca, Ben Salter, Fritz Diesselhorst, "Skinny" Heim and Don and Norman Randle.

His wife, Dima, served as his secretary, bookkeeper, and accountant. Raymond retired in 1966.



At right are Raymond and Dima Libbra

Frieda's Beauty Shop

Alfrieda (Langer) Bolin opened a beauty shop known as Frieda's Beauty Shop in her home in 1962. She has continued in her building for the past forty-three years and is currently semi-retired. She has enjoyed working in the community and says her patrons are all very special to her.

Martintoni Hardware

Robert Lee (Bob) Martintoni purchased Busker's Hardware Store building on April 1, 1946. With the help of his father, Jack, his wife, Marian, and their four children Bobby, David, Vivian and Beverly, the business thrived.

In addition to general hardware and house wares, he sold furniture, televisions, appliances, linoleum, floor tile, wall coverings, furnaces, space heaters, air conditioners, water systems, bathroom fixtures and all pipe and plumbing supplies, and bottled propane gas.

Through the years, Bob often hired high school students to work at the store. Some of those students were: Art Heinz, Frank Dalla Riva, Jack Wall, Robert Kuba, Richard Stanko, Robert Prosser and Lloyd Wentler.

The store closed June 30, 1975 and a liquidation sale took place. The building was removed from the premises in October 1990.



Robert Martintoni in his hardware store with the many items offered.

Malench Building



The Malench Building essentially stands as it was built at 420 Livingston Avenue. There, Leopold Malench, a local coal miner, was the proprietor of Malench's Tavern. During the 1930s and 40s, Leopold and his wife Dora occupied a small apartment in the rear of the building. Their son Henry and his wife Mary occupied the upstairs apartment along with their sons, Henry and Robert.

The Olive Drug Store and Latowsky Funeral Home occupied the lower level. In the early 1950s, (Susan) Bodner Insurance Agency and Real Estate Sales moved into the lower level. Susan remained at that site for twenty years.

In the early 1970s, Tom Rensing purchased the building from Bodner and converted the building to apartments.

On March 22, 1987, Carol Scroggins Glisson opened Carol's Classic Cuts and has remained there for eighteen years.

Country Companies Insurance Financial Services Roy Merwin

Roy Merwin's insurance office has been located at 600 Livingston Avenue in the former Olive Township Building since March 1987. The building was purchased by Merwin in 1986 when the township sold it upon completion of their present building.

Merwin has been an agent with Country Companies since 1971. Before moving his office to Livingston, he had operated from the agency office in the Madison County Farm Bureau Building in Edwardsville, Illinois.

In addition to Roy, the office is staffed by Dana Miller, who is also a licensed agent and has worked with him since 1999, and Stacey McCalla who does various clerical duties while attending Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Roy, Dana and Stacey provide sales and service to clients from Livingston and the surrounding communities. They help clients with their life, health, auto, home, farm, crop, mutual funds, and financial service needs.



Roy is happy to have his business be part of the community and congratulates Livingston on its Centennial.