



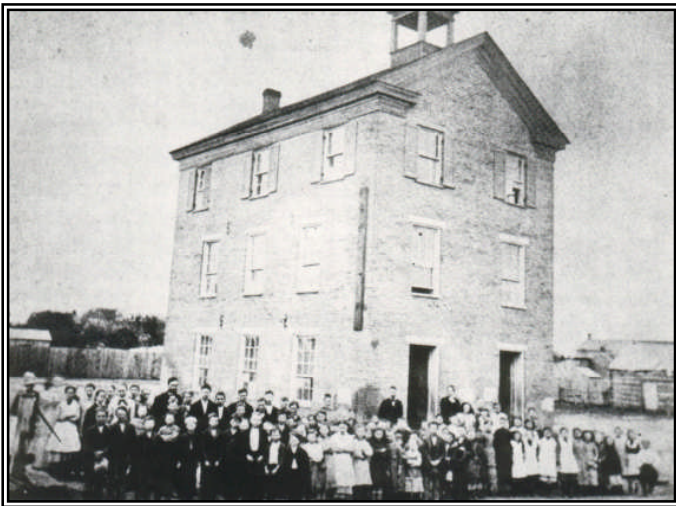
BELL DONATED
IN MEMORY OF
LEWIS W. "SALLY"
JACOBS
BY HIS DAUGHTER LANIDA FRIZZO

History of the Staunton Elementary School Bell

The magnificent bell, which hangs in the tower near the entrance to the Staunton Elementary School is rung each morning to signal the start of the school day. It was cast in the early 1850's by David Caughlan-Saint Louis, MO.

WHERE HAS IT BEEN

The history of the Staunton school bell began when it was first used in the three-room public brick school building erected in Staunton in 1855 on the north-west corner of South Edwardsville and West Mill Streets. This spot was later occupied by the Presbyterian Church and is now a vacant lot.



1855 SCHOOL

By 1880, the educational needs of the community had grown and a new school, later known as the South School was built on Henry Street at South Hibbard Street, where the first classes were held in 1881. The location was later occupied by The Alley's bowling facility and is currently the location of RP Lumber Company. The bell was moved from the original building to the bell tower located at the north end of the South School. The rope from the bell extended through the ceiling of the Principal's office, from where it was rung. In 1907 a High School addition was attached to the south end of the 1881 structure and a separate Primary Building was added on the same property in 1909.



1881 SCHOOL

By the early 1950's, the South School and its additions which had served the community very well were replaced by the original section of the current Elementary School complex where the first classes were held in 1956.



CURRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At the close of the 1955-1956 school year, the bell went silent, as there were no plans to use it at the new modern facility. The old schools were demolished, but the bell was saved from the scrap pile and came into the possession of Lewis "Sally" Jacobs, who was a long time Staunton Board of Education member.

The bell was stored in the Jacobs' garage, where it sat in silence for over 50 years, waiting for the day when someone would realize it had a lot of beautiful sound left in it. In 2005, Lanida (Jacobs) Frizzo was preparing to dispose of her parent's property. She wanted the bell to have a

good home and felt that returning it to the Elementary School where it had served for so many years would be exactly what her father would have wanted. Principal Mark Skertich was contacted and was delighted with the offer of the bell. He agreed to arrange for the erection of a structure to house it, so Lanida agreed to donate the bell to the Staunton School District in memory of her father.

THE CARETAKERS



**LEWIS W. "Sally" and
BELVA (COALSON) JACOBS**

"Sally" and Belva Jacobs were lifelong residents of Staunton and most likely attended the South School for at least part of their elementary years. Lanida, their only child, spent her elementary school years at the South School as well.

Mr. Jacobs, who died in 1998, followed by his wife Belva in 1999, was a dedicated and trusted husband, father and public servant. He served as a Member and President of the Staunton Board of Education, 4th ward Alderman and Treasurer of the City of Staunton.

RESTORATION

Although structurally sound, the bell needed to be cleaned, so Jarid Ott, a nephew of Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs offered to take on the restoration project and also designed the bell tower.



BEFORE



AFTER

After many hours of work, the old bell took on a new look and was ready to take its place in the 21st Century and the future of Staunton Elementary School.

It was delivered to the school on January 18, 2006 and stored in Principal Mark Skertich's office.



MR. SKERTICH, MRS. FRIZZO, MR. OTT

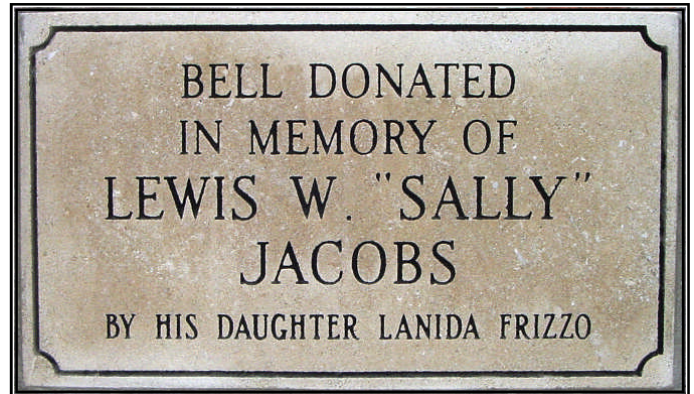
QUEST CLASS RAISES FUNDS

Over the next four months the 7th & 8th Grade Elementary School Quest Classes under the leadership and guidance of teacher Kevin Gockel raised funds to pay for the tower and landscaping materials. The Quest class is a regularly scheduled class for grades 6 through 8 which addresses life choices such as smoking, use of alcohol and/or drugs and many other concerns for young people. The 8th grade class is also involved in fund raising for charitable projects of their choice. These projects range from helping a fellow student with medical expenses, providing financial support for a chosen charity, helping people in need following a disaster or taking on a project such as the tower. Throughout the school year they hold dances, sleep-overs and other functions attended by groups of students. They charge an attendance fee and sell food. Profits from these functions are then used to fund their chosen projects.

A NEW HOME FOR THE BELL

Over the next several months Duane Lowery and his family donated their labor and constructed the simple tower to house the refurb-

bished bell which was installed on May 18, 2006. A concrete cap and sill stone were installed and at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, the area around the new bell tower was landscaped by the Quest Classes and the engraved plaque was installed.



A dedication ceremony with the group pictured below was held on April 27, 2007.

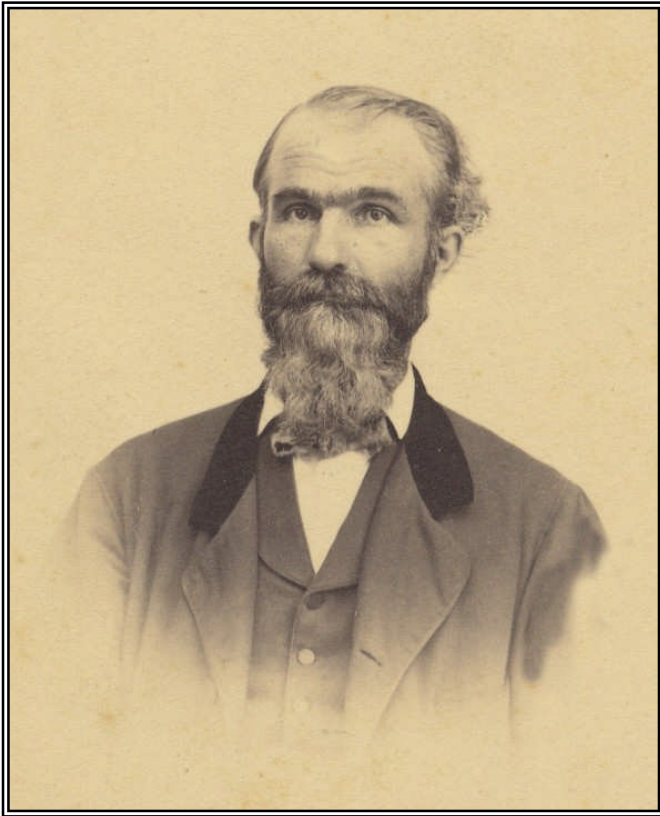


Those pictured in front are left to right, Gene Frizzo, Teacher Kevin Gockel, Lanida Frizzo, Jarid Ott and Elementary School Principal Mark Skertich. The students in the background are members of Mr. Gockel's 8th grade Quest Class.

It is the hope of everyone involved in this restoration project that this beautiful bell will continue to serve the students of the Staunton Elementary School and the community, that its beautiful sound will be heard for another 150 years and that it will be an ongoing legacy to all who have been a part of the educational experience in Staunton.

Notes on DAVID CAUGHLAN St. Louis, Missouri Bell Founder

**By Mary Caughlan Kelley
Great-granddaughter of David Caughlan**



David Caughlan was born in Buckingham County, Virginia in 1824 to a native Virginian mother who was descended from John Rolfe and Pocahontas as well as the Virginia Byrd family, and a father who came from County Cork, Ireland by way of Baltimore. The family moved west to St. Louis, arriving by 1835 when David was eleven years old and became a member of the Fourth Street Methodist Church. He was an industrious boy, eventually working in his own carpenter and bedstead businesses in Alton, Illinois. In 1844 he married Ellen Beall in Alton, where both were members of the Alton M. E. Church.

He probably apprenticed to a bell maker in St. Louis and may have produced his own bells as early as 1849, the year the Danville, Missouri Methodist Church took up a subscription to buy a Caughlan bell for their church. His foundries were at various locations in St.

Louis. At the time of the Civil War, a roving mob torched his foundry in retaliation for his strong stand against slavery. The foundry was a total loss. He was insured and rebuilt. Simultaneously with his foundry work, he served as a lay preacher across the river in E. St. Louis at a Methodist church he founded in 1857.

He produced many fine, cast bronze bells for many purposes including use in churches, steamboats, schools, colleges, firehouses, factories, and stage depots. One bell went to the Staunton School circa 1855 and another to McKendree College in Lebanon in 1858.

About 1867, his foundry was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. This he interpreted as a sign that he was intended to go into the ministry full time, and thus he began a life of service preaching in the Southern Illinois M. E. Conference. He was stationed to Elsah, Staunton, Walshville, Pocahontas, the Edwardsville Circuit, Shiloh, McLeansboro, O'Fallon, Trenton and a number of other Illinois towns.

Technically, he retired in 1889 but he was riding through a cold winter rain between two churches where he was preaching in 1890 when he caught the pneumonia that led to his death that year.

His lovely bells live on. The locations of twenty-nine of them are presently (2006) known. Others undoubtedly reside unseen in Missouri, Illinois and Kansas, quietly awaiting discovery.

Irvington, Virginia 22480
January 17, 2006