

The Peers Store

Established 1896



© William Fields, Art Photography 2015

THE KATY LAND TRUST

PRESERVING FARMS AND FORESTS
ALONG THE KATY TRAIL

www.katylandtrust.org

In the 1890's, the countryside along the north bank of the Missouri River was alive with activity and anticipation. After years of discussion, the Missouri Kansas Texas Railroad (the MKT) was finally nearing completion. It would provide a link to St. Louis and other eastern markets and to points as far west as Galveston, Texas. During that time, the Peers Store -- as well as general stores in the neighboring towns of Treloar and McKittrick - - were opened to meet the needs of these growing communities.

The Katy railroad operated until 1986 when the right-of-way was abandoned and rail service was discontinued. In 1990, with the advocacy and sponsorship of Ted and Pat Jones, the former railroad right-of-way became the Katy Trail, which is today Missouri's most popular State Park.

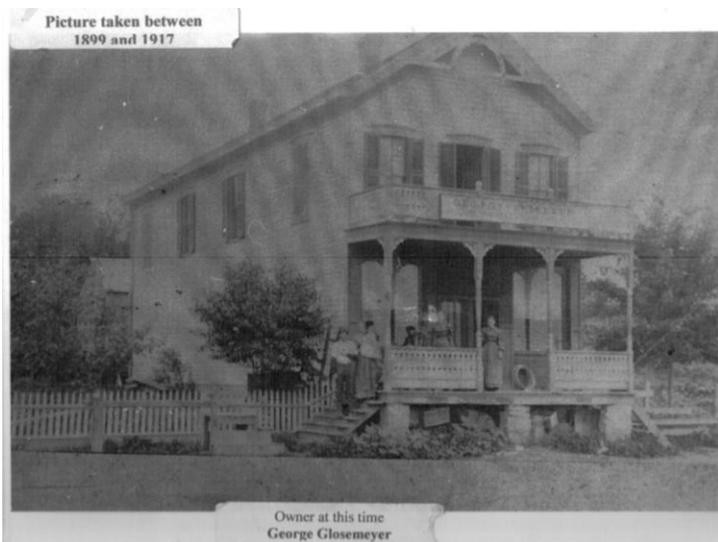
Eventually the demand for the products offered by the Peers Store and neighboring stores declined, and they were closed. Following decades of operation by the Glosemeyer family, the Peers Store closed in 2012.

The Peers Store was located in an ideal place to access the railroad and, initially the River. Unfortunately in 1903, the river channel shifted two miles to the south and Peers was no longer a riverfront location! The Peers store was however still in the Missouri River floodplain. It has been inundated on many occasions including 1941, 1947, 1951, 1986, 1993 and 1995. The front of the store has an official Corps of Engineers marker indicating the water level from the 1951 flood.

The store was acquired in 2014 by Dan and Connie Burkhardt, founders of the Katy Land Trust. In 2015 they installed a new floor to replace the flood-damaged original and applied a fresh coat of paint. This rejuvenation celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Katy Trail and reminds us of the value of conserving the culture and natural history of the Missouri countryside – which the Katy Land Trust advocates.

The Peers Store is a testament to many things: the craftsmanship of those who built the store 120 years ago; the need to respect our floodplains and the consequences of building in them; the changing nature of our economy and transportation system; and the history and beauty of the landscape of the Missouri River Valley.

The Katy Land Trust wants to educate all Missourians about the value of our rural landscape and farmland and to provide landowners an opportunity to keep their land permanently in agricultural, forestry or recreational use.



Summer/Fall 2015 at the Peers Store

We are pleased to announce that Bill Fields, Fine Art Photographer from Hermann, will be our host at the Peers Store on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, June through October. Bill spends most of his free time exploring the Missouri River Valley and has captured the river's personality in stunning photographs. He will greet visitors and discuss his work, as well as that of four outstanding Missouri painters – Bryan Haynes, Billyo O'Donnell, Julie Wiegand and Gary Lucy.

Many contemporary artists are inspired by the history and beauty of Missouri River Country. The Peers Store will display Bill's photographs and the artwork of four of Missouri's best artists.



Treloar Elevator MM 84.7
"Fencebuilders" by Bryan Haynes

McKittrick Coal Tower MM 100.8
"Missouri River Bluffs" by Billyo O'Donnell

Artwork Along the Trail

Since 2011, the Katy Land Trust has worked with Missouri State Parks to display artwork along the Katy Trail. The creativity of these artists and their love of the Missouri countryside enhances the experience of hikers and cyclists from around the world.