

The Peers Store

Established 1896



All sales at the store benefit beautification
and conservation along the Katy Trail.

THE
KATY LAND TRUST

In the 1890s, 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.



Music on the porch at the Peers Store

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 its doors 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 celebrated 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.

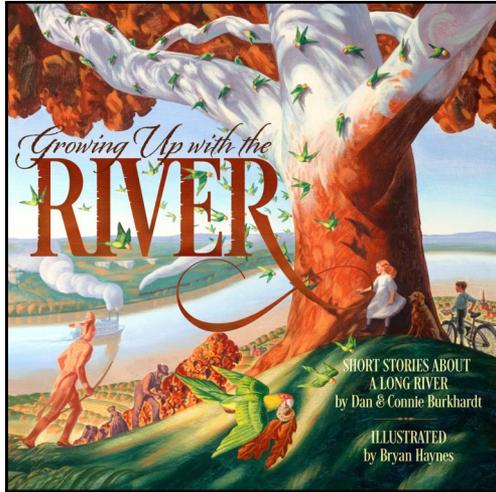
The Peers Store is a testament to many things: the craftsmanship of those who built the store 120 years ago; the need to respect our floodplains and the consequences of building in them; the changing nature of our economy and transportation system; and the history and beauty of the landscape of the Missouri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

The Katy Land Trust seeks 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.

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2017 at the Peers Store

This season, we're celebrating the new book, *Growing Up with the River: Nine Generations on the Missouri* by Dan and Connie Burkhardt. Gifted Missouri artist Bryan Haynes created original illustrations for the book and they are on display in the store this year. Gift items related to the characters and stories in the book are also available, as are snacks and soft drinks for the Trail.



The Peers Store is open weekends from noon to 4 pm – April through October. Stop by to have a cold soda or ice cream as you listen to some of the area's best musicians playing old-time music.

Nearby you'll see the Peers Pollinator Garden where butterflies and other wildlife will find a home in a couple of years. Pipecorn grows for corncob pipes in a field close by. Check out the artwork of Bryan Haynes on Treloar's grain elevator (3 miles up the Trail from Peers) and Billyo O'Donnell's banners on the historic coal tower in McKittrick. There's so much to explore in Missouri River Country!

The Peers Store
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KatyLandTrust.org