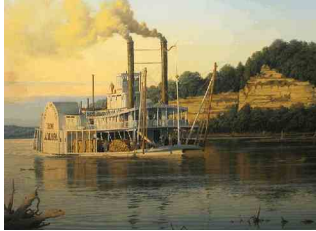


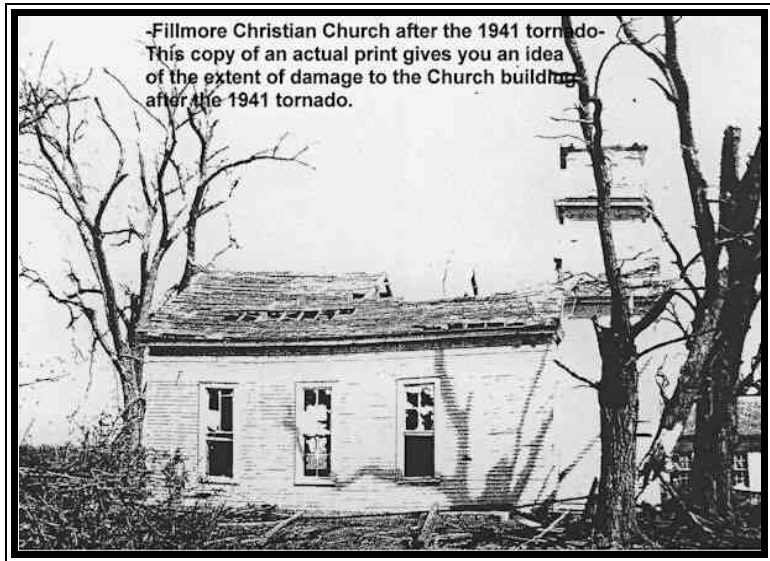
# The Story Of The FCC Bell

Fillmore Christian Church has a rich history dating back to as early as 1865 when the members of the church first met at the Lincoln Creek schoolhouse. The second building was referred to as the Stone Church which was located 1 & ½ miles south of Fillmore on the east side of the road. The present building was purchased from the Presbyterians at a later date, around 1886, when that congregation dwindled in number.



At this point we have come full circle to share the history connected with the old Church bell. According to an article in the St. Joseph, MO News-Press of January 29, 1998 the bell from the Fillmore Christian Church was salvaged from a river boat which sank in the Missouri River near Iatan, Missouri.

But this isn't the only disaster the bell has survived, as a tornado struck the town of Fillmore on April 17, 1941 and did considerable damage to buildings including the old hotel, the Baptist, Methodist and the Christian Church which were all active at that time. The tornado broke all of the windows at the Christian Church, moved the building from the foundation and blew away the upper part of the belfry. The Church Bell had been ripped away by the storm and later was found approximately 14 miles away. Following the tornado all three churches were repaired but the belfry at the Christian Church was not rebuilt. Thus, the Church bell resides in its prominent place of honor at the corner of Florence and



Church St.

By the year 2002 the Christian Church was the lone survivor among the four original Churches in Fillmore. It also was struggling at that date, but thanks to concerned members a remodeling project was completed. The members of FCC believed there should be a Church in the town of Fillmore and with this a renewal began. In a sense, Fillmore Christian Church is a community church as some of the persons connected with

the former churches are now involved at FCC.

The building and the bell serve as reminders that churches go through good and lean years. Presently, Fillmore Christian Church is seeing renewal which has come through prayer, service and God's faithful people. God isn't finished with this old church yet and the bell out front is a reminder of this fact! Both the Church and the bell have survived hard and disastrous times; yet it is a living breathing entity.

As Paul Harvey says... here is the rest of the story- You see, bells on steamboats in the 1800's had a distinct purpose. For instance, when the bell was rung furiously it signaled full steam ahead which might be needed to meet the needs of a swift current or maybe avoidance of a sandbar or log in the river. This should reminds us, as God's people to use all of our energy to serve Christ and fulfill the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:18-20: "***Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*** (NIV)

**May Fillmore Christian Church go with "Full Steam Ahead" in Service to Christ!**