

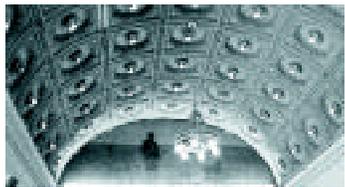
## A Curtiss Original

The building which houses the Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives was originally the Clay County State Bank and opened its doors February 28, 1906. Famous architect Louis Curtiss designed what was considered one of the most artistic bank buildings in Missouri. For 35 years, Curtiss designed more than 200 notable structures including the Folly Theatre, the Baltimore Hotel, and the Jones & Company store building in Kansas City, and the Missouri State Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Only 34 of his creations exist today.



Inside the Museum building you'll find two stunning wall murals, "The Gleaners" and "The Angelus", a beautiful 28-foot circular ceiling containing ornately-designed lights, and the original bank vault. "It is the show place of the town, a rival of the Springs in the interest of visitors. Every Saturday night the building is illuminated and thrown open to public inspection," reported in an article in a 1906 *Kansas City Star*.

In 1920, the building was extended and in 1951 an enclosed entryway was added to the facade of the building between the columns and steps were removed. In 1968 the Kemper family of Kansas City, Mo., gifted the building to the city of Excelsior Springs. After a short transfer of ownership to the local Chamber of Commerce, the building is now owned by the Museum.



## Museum History

The charter for the Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives was issued December 6, 1967, with 101 charter members. All museum work is accomplished by volunteers. Anyone interested in giving of their time to assist in museum operations should contact the Curator.

### Mission

To collect and preserve the history of the City of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, to maintain museum buildings, and to provide information regarding people who have resided in the community.

*January 8, 1881 ~ "I have had the liver complaint for eighteen months, and derangement of the tonsils and neuralgia for years. I was in a very precarious condition, my general health was so very much impaired that I was totally incapacitated for work. I have used the waters for about three months and I am now well. Seven days after commencing to use the water, I went to work and have worked ever since. I can conscientiously commend these springs to the afflicted."*  
~ J.C. Pryor

#### Summer Hours:

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

#### Winter Hours:

11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Closed major holidays.

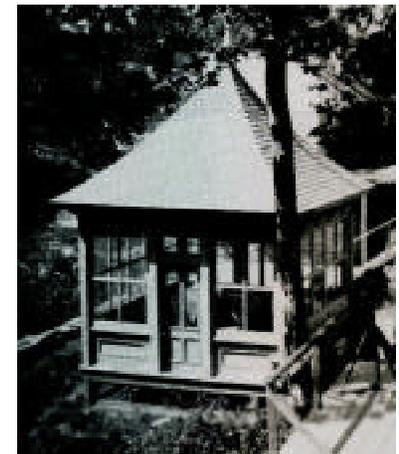
Visit Our Web Site at: [www.exsmo.com/museum/](http://www.exsmo.com/museum/)



### Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives

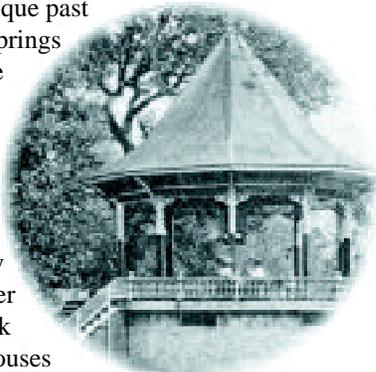
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# Keeping ALIVE the *Spirit* of the *Springs*



## Excelsior Springs MUSEUM and ARCHIVES

**D**iscover the unique past of Excelsior Springs through a wide variety of permanent and changing exhibits, educational programs, and special events. You'll step into the turn of the 20th century with a tour of the former Clay County State Bank building, which now houses the Museum. Immerse yourself in thought-provoking exhibits offering all ages interesting things to see and learn.



The Museum focuses on preserving the unique history of Excelsior Springs, beginning with its founding as a healing town with more different kinds of mineral water than can be found in any other like area in the entire world. Once the healing powers of the waters was revealed, hundreds of thousands of visitors poured into the "Valley of Vitality" looking for health, wellness, and an extraordinary place to live. The Museum keeps this legacy alive for future generations.

## Rotating Exhibits Keep History Alive

**W**ith your visit to the Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives, you'll come to appreciate the history of this corner of Northwest Missouri through the stories of its people. The Museum's mission is to preserve and share these stories. Exhibits on mineral water, Lake Maurer, and the Mineral Water Bowl Game are regular exhibits. Features on the history of prominent local businesses and citizens rotate through the museum. And the museum boasts an extensive postcard collection which traces much of the town's history.

## Fact Finding at its Best

**F**or genealogy and other research, the Museum is open and available for public use during museum hours. The museum archives include censuses from 1880 to 1930; Obituaries; City Directories; Excelsior Springs Standard newspaper archives; local school yearbooks; and extensive vertical files of families, businesses, clubs, and school events. There is also an extensive collection of photographs of early Excelsior Springs, maps, cemetery records, and photos produced by Strathman and Hoyt. Research assistance is available, as is photocopying at 25c per standard page.

## The Maurer Foundation

**E**stablished in 2006 by Mary Katherine Maurer Martz, the foundation benefits museum goals and projects with a yearly contribution.



## Teaching Future Generations

**T**he Museum offers in-school programs that convey the history of Excelsior Springs. Docents conduct historic tours of the building. Call to schedule your museum tour -- great for schools, clubs, organizations, and individuals. The Museum is an active member of the Downtown Excelsior Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce.

## Gifts that Give and Preserve History

**F**ind unique gift items at the Museum store including history books, flag prints, woven rugs, postcards, and historic CDs. All proceeds benefit the Museum.

## Help Bridge the Past and the Future

**S**ince the Museum opened its doors, it has been supported by the community through volunteerism, visitors, and members. The Museum staff encourages all those interested in preserving and enjoying history to join the Museum family. Members play a vital role in supporting the Museum's work, making it possible to preserve the past and educate all ages. You can be a partner in providing a cultural resource to families, the community, the region, and beyond. Fees are only \$3 for students; \$10 for adults; \$25 for families; \$50 for businesses; \$100 for a patron membership; \$500 for lifetime individuals; and \$1000 for benefactors. The Museum is a 501(c)3 corporation, making your donation tax deductible as permitted to the extent of the law. As a Museum member, you'll also receive the annual Phunn newsletter and use of the research facilities. Members are also encouraged to participate in all types of Museum activities including garden tour, golf tournament, research, docent work, and open house.

