

THE RED-EYED RAVEN GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Author Tim Ritter



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WELCOME!



Welcome to the June issue of the Red-Eyed Raven Gazette! Hope you enjoy it!

Are you enjoying your summer? I'm enjoying the air conditioning! With the lack of rain, there's been no mowing taking place here at Frog Acres. That's pretty typical for this time of year. Last year I didn't mow for two months. Fortunately we got a little rain a couple of nights ago, with more in the forecast for tonight. So by the time I'm ready to remove the patriotic decorations from the yard, I might actually have enough grass growing to warrant dragging out the mower. Let's hope.



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In the meantime, I'm looking forward to Fall and all the changes it brings, including Halloween decorations. I'm already working on some new decor for the yard and will start posting some views next month on Facebook.

As always, thanks for your encouraging messages sent when these newsletters are released. Your support is very much appreciated. Stay cool and drink lots of water.



"SARAH AND ORVILLE" UPDATE

While I continue to work on the Chadwick Railroad book ahead of "Sarah and Orville", I have some amazing news pertaining to the overall saga of the Ritter bunch and the old farmhouse near Ava, Missouri, where they lived.

During my research for *Sarah Burning*, I spent considerable time talking with my cousin Dennis Ritter. He is the oldest living cousin, and has shadows of memories of being in and around the old farmhouse prior to its demise. His father was Norman, who was the oldest child in the family. Norman's struggle dealing with suddenly becoming the patriarch of the family is featured in the book.

Dennis told me that his father often took 8-mm movies of different places they visited, so there was quite the collection of reels of film. Sometime after the fire, he saw Norman take one of the reels, wrap it in foil and multiple rubber bands, and hide it deep in the recesses of a closet at their house. He said he never asked his dad about it, but assumed it had footage of the farmhouse that was too painful for Norman to watch, so in his grief he tucked it away, and may have even threatened to throw it away. Dennis said he had no idea what happened to that reel, but would have loved to see it.

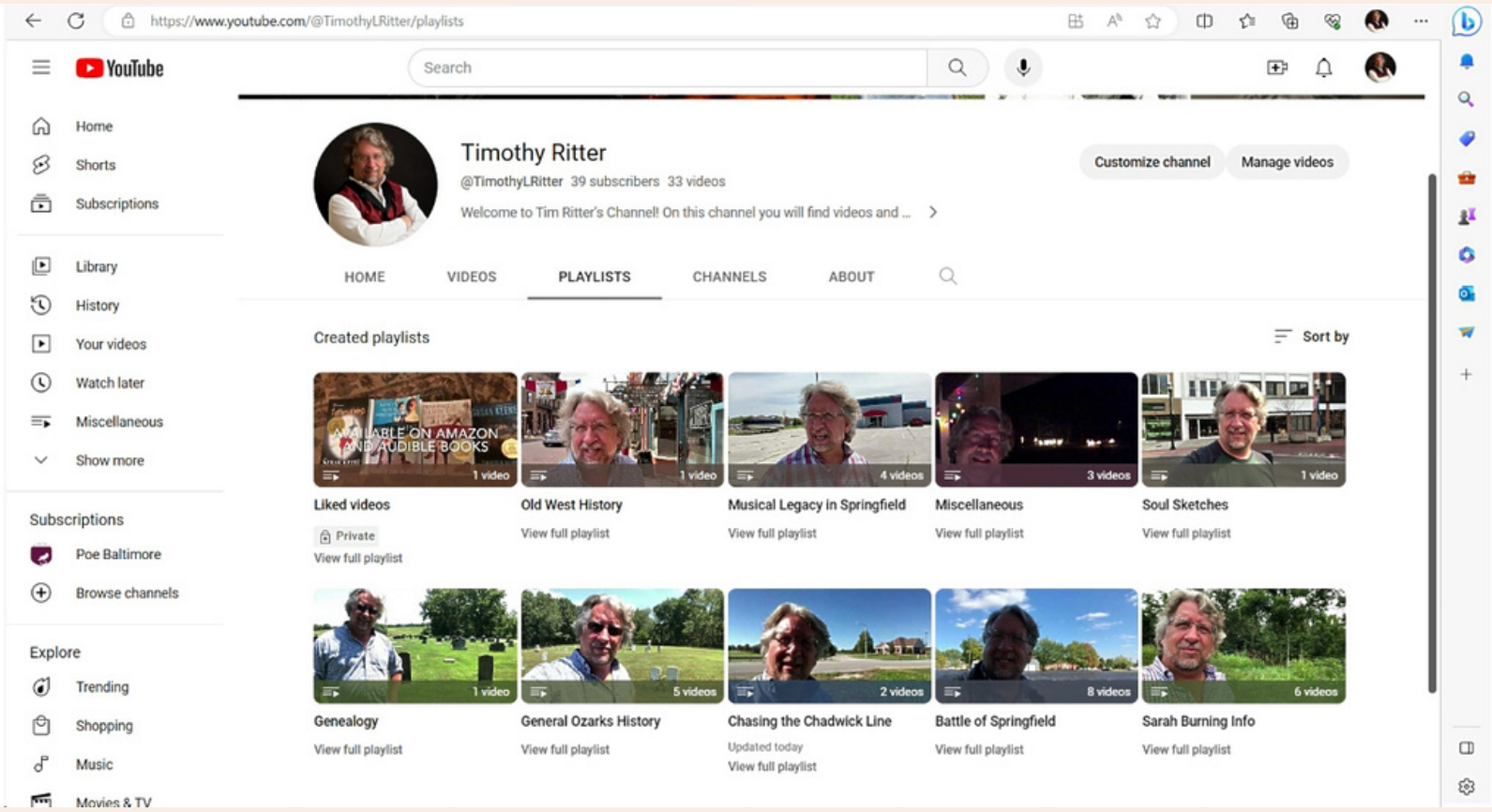
This past July 4th, Lisa and I invited Dennis and his lovely wife Gail, as well as Dennis' sister Teresa with her husband Duane, to come out to the house and enjoy the fireworks and food. Early in the visit he pulled me aside and said he had something to tell me...

Recently he and his sister gathered up all the 8-mm reels they could find and had someone convert them to DVD. He said the resulting video including lots of jerky footage of various places they visited. Then, in the last few minutes of the DVD, footage suddenly appears of Orville and Sarah outside the old farmhouse!

Naturally my eyes nearly bulged out of my head when he told me this.

Dennis believes that one of those reels they grabbed was the one that bothered Norman so much, which would make sense, since it's footage of the house and shows both Orville and Sarah. He suspects his mother removed the foil and rubber bands and saved the reel so that Norman wouldn't destroy it.

As we continued to talk about it, Dennis said he'd love to find a way to get the DVD digitized, and to isolate those few minutes with Orville and Sarah and the house. Fortunately I can do that on my laptop, so we plan to get together soon to do just that. So keep an eye on my Author Tim Ritter page on Facebook. When we get that clip digitized, I'll post it for everyone to see!



Did you know that I have a Youtube Channel? Admittedly it's one of those things I need to work at publicizing more.

I started a few years ago putting up video clips of locations pertaining to **Sarah Burning**, as well as sites around Springfield that were part of the Civil War battle there. You can also find some clips shot on location where some events from the Old West took place, including the saloon where Wild Bill Hickok met his demise, as well as Little Big Horn.

I have two clips posted so far that pertain to locations where the old Chadwick Railroad once ran. I'll feature stills of those locations in my upcoming book **Chasing the Chadwick Line**, but I thought it would also be nice to have some video footage of those spots as well. When cooler weather returns this Fall and the leaves drop from the trees, I'll post more videos pertaining to the train.



Lots more videos are coming to my channel, so feel free to drop by and subscribe so that you'll receive updates when I post new ones. Go to click [here](#) to visit the channel or click on the Youtube link on Page One of this newsletter.

PRESENTATION UPDATE

If you or anyone you know belong to a group needing speakers, please give them my contact info!



The Bridges of Madison County, Iowa



Every month in this section I highlight one of my current presentations. Here's another one:

The Bridges of Madison County, Iowa

Some of my presentations take a look at places of interest where Lisa and I have travelled. This is one such travel presentation.

In a time when covered bridges dotted the countryside, Madison County, Iowa, boasted a total of nineteen such structures. Now only six remain. The bridges gained international notoriety when the movie "The Bridges of Madison County" was released in 1995, starring its director Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep. Filmed on location in Madison County and its seat, the town of Winterset, the romantic movie includes views of one of the bridges.

This talk visits the remaining covered bridges in Madison County, Iowa, as well as a few spots in and around the city of Winterset where the movie was filmed.

SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES

July 22, 2023 - 10:30a.m.
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Joplin, Missouri
Presentation: Keynote Address

August 3, 2023 - 6:00p.m.
Polk County Genealogical Society
Bolivar, MO
Presentation: *Wild Bill Hickok and Davis Tutt - A Big Bucket of Ugly*

September 9, 2023 - 10:00a.m.
Sleuths Ink Mystery Writers Meeting
The Library Center
Springfield, MO
Presentation: *Using Mailchimp for Newsletters*

September 16, 2023 - 10:00a.m.
Republic Library
Republic, MO
Presentation: *The Baldknobbers: Terror in the Hills*

September 30, 2023 - Time TBD
Discover The Ozarks Festival
Ava, MO
Ava Civil War Tour - Host

My regular speaking engagements, twice each month, continue at the three Elfindale senior living facilities in Springfield. Also, I have now begun presenting at The Preston Senior Living Facility, as well as Elfindale Manor.