

THE RED-EYED RAVEN GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Author Tim Ritter



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chasing the Chadwick Line Update

What Else Are You Working On, Tim?

Presentation Update

WELCOME!



Welcome to the September issue of the Red-Eyed Raven Gazette!

Is everybody ready for Fall? I certainly am. I'm looking forward to seeing those first few leaves drop to the ground, as a harbinger that the big shift is coming. To me, fall is a wonderful time of transition, full of spooky evenings, cool winds, and weather-changing storms.

Yes, the Halloween decorations are in the yard! I finished up the spookifying of Frog Acres this past Friday. Keep an eye on my Facebook page for photos. Sometime in late October, I'll do a live broadcast to walk everyone through the craziness.

As always, thanks for your encouraging messages sent when these newsletters are released. Your support is very much appreciated.



Author Tim Ritter

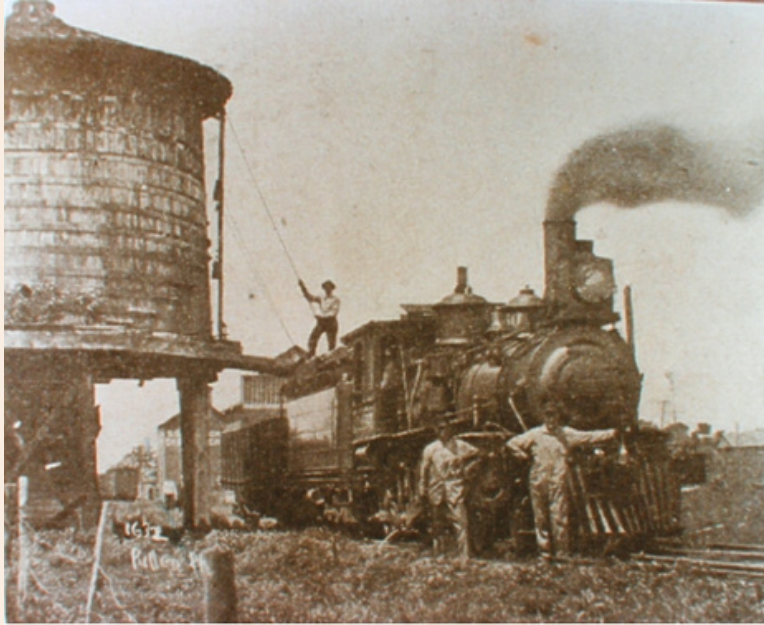


authortimritter



@TimothyLRitter

www.timritter.net



"CHASING THE CHADWICK LINE" UPDATE

Work continues on my next book, *Chasing the Chadwick Line*, about the iconic train that ran daily between Springfield and Chadwick from 1882 until 1933. I gotta tell you, the journey to write this book has been an adventure, and even at this point when I'm working to put words and images on paper, the research never ends.

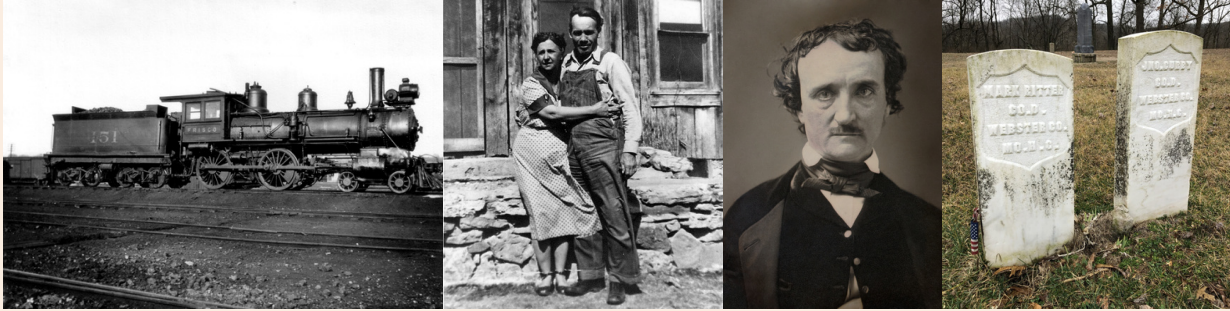
To properly publish a book like this, citations are a must, meaning I have to add notes to cite the source(s) of the information. While double-checking sources and notes, I came across an inconsistency that led me to spend DAYS digging through old newspaper articles.

Long story short, I discovered something interesting about how the train chugged out of Springfield. My previous understanding about how the line serviced both Springfield and North Springfield ended up being incorrect. My original concept was pretty simple: The train started at the North Springfield station, traveled west to the north/south link known as the West Belt, chugged south then turned back east along Phelps Avenue to the Springfield depot located on that street. Oh heck no! I've discovered it was much more interesting than that, including some interesting curves, a couple of switches, and some time running in reverse. I'm currently working on some graphics to show the route.

In other news, I'm thrilled to have been given permission to include within the pages several photographs from the Pegram Collection. Bruce Pegram was a photographer in the early 1900s, and took photographs of the train, depot, water tank, bridge, and mill in Ozark, Missouri. The collection of Pegram's photos is the property of the Christian County Library, and they have granted permission to use some of the photos in the book! As a matter of fact, my contact at the library is Pegram's granddaughter. There are nearly 60 photos within the collection that relate to the train. I won't use all of them, but will definitely include several.

This is all so very exciting! *Chasing the Chadwick Line* will be the first book written about the train, and may be the first large-scale publication of photos from the Pegram Collection. Stay tuned for more!

What Else Are You Working On, Tim?



When you tell people you're a writer, they often want to throw ideas at you, or ask if you do freelance work to help them write their memoir. That's all fine and dandy, but I always have to politely pass. With all the future books I have in my head, and the regular gig of developing new presentations, I've got enough to keep me busy for the next several years.

Chasing the Chadwick Line is, as usual, taking longer to complete than expected. That's partially due to the additional research I mentioned in this issue. I really think it'll be early next year before I have it ready for print.

Sarah and Orville: The Prequel to Sarah Burning will resume work once I have the Chadwick Line completed. I've got a pretty good start on it already, but there's plenty of work yet to do.

As previously mentioned in this newsletter, ***Sarah and Orville*** will not only include the letters Sarah wrote in the months leading up to The Fire in ***Sarah Burning***, it will also include many tales about Orville. Since he was such a minor character in the previous book, and since he was such a fascinating person, I really want you to get to know him better. His portion of the book will be a collection of short stories. I believe that book can be expected around September next year. I'll make it sooner if possible.

After all that sweetness, watch out! My collection of short stories and poems entitled ***The Screamer Down the Hall: A Tribute to Edgar Allan Poe*** will be released after ***Sarah and Orville***. I know I could never hold a candle to Poe, but I want to publish this collection to thank Poe for all I've learned from him.

Many folks forget that Poe wrote more than just macabre tales. There were stories of adventure, mystery, and humor. Poems were not only about certain black birds, but also about love. So that's the plan for ***Screamer***. It'll be a mash-up of poems and stories that will tug at your heart, scare you, and make you scratch your head and ask "What?"

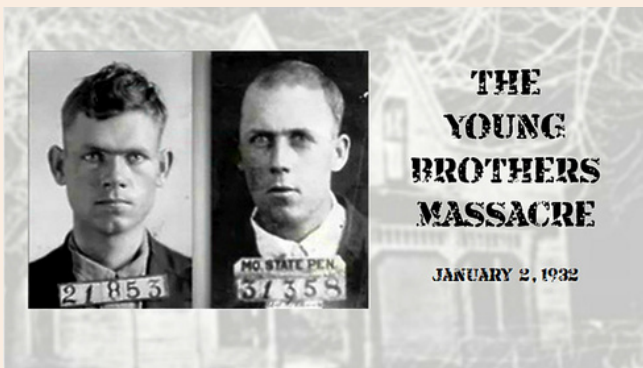
After that, I've got a couple of ideas. I wrote a love story about 10 years ago, and have thought about revisiting it to see if I could do anything with it. I've not decided yet. Who knows, it might work well as part of the collection in ***Screamer***.

Another idea: my 3rd-great grandfather was killed in a little-known Civil War ambush on the western edge of Ava, Missouri. The details of the ambush have long led me to believe that someone was a mole, and tipped off the ambushers. I've thought about putting together something fictional that could be a possible version of what happened.

More later!

PRESENTATION UPDATE

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



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

The Young Brothers Massacre

On the afternoon of January 2, 1932, ten lawmen and one civilian headed to the western outskirts of Springfield to arrest two brothers, known to be small-time car thieves and one suspected of murder. Within forty-five minutes of their arrival at the small quiet farmhouse, six officers were dead with an enraged community asking why. Buckle your seatbelt for a twisting, winding tale of what happened, what didn't happen, and what everyone learned that day.

SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES

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 - 9:00a.m.
Discover The Ozarks Festival
Ava, MO
Ava History Tour - Host

October 3, 2023 - 11:00a.m.
Glenstone Baptist Church Senior Education Program
Springfield, MO
Presentation: *The Baldknobbers: Terror in the Hills*

NEXT YEAR:
June 8, 2024 - Time TBD
Between the Pages Writers Conference
Springfield, MO
Presentation on Research. Title TBD.

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