

History of the Antique Desk

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When President Monroe, in 1821, proclaimed Missouri the 24th State, its Capitol was located at St. Charles where it remained until 1826 when it was moved to Jefferson City, a more central location.

This antique desk was used in the first Capitol Building at Jefferson City, Missouri and it is believed was brought to Smithville, Missouri, about 1900 by J.W. (Bill) Wilkerson, Smithville publisher, who acquired it when a change of furniture was made in the Capitol. At that time the desk was probably 50 years old.

When Charles L. Shinn sold the newspaper, "The Democrat-Herald" in 1968 after owning and publishing for 46 years, he gave this desk to The Smithville Historical Society and restoration, sectionalizing and rehabilitation is being made by Walter B. Bullock for use in the Patterson Memorial Museum.

The chair which belonged with the desk was lost in the flood of 1965 and a chair which had also gone through the flood was restored and given to the Historical Society by the Smithville Christian Church.

In the sectionalizing, restoration and rehabilitation of this walnut antique desk in the year 1971 by Walter B. Bullock assistance was furnished by Mr. Leonard Dick, owner of the The Wood Products Shop, Trimble, MO who did required woodcarving and Mr. Tommie Porter craftsman in the shop who cut and furnished trim items which were missing from the desk.

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