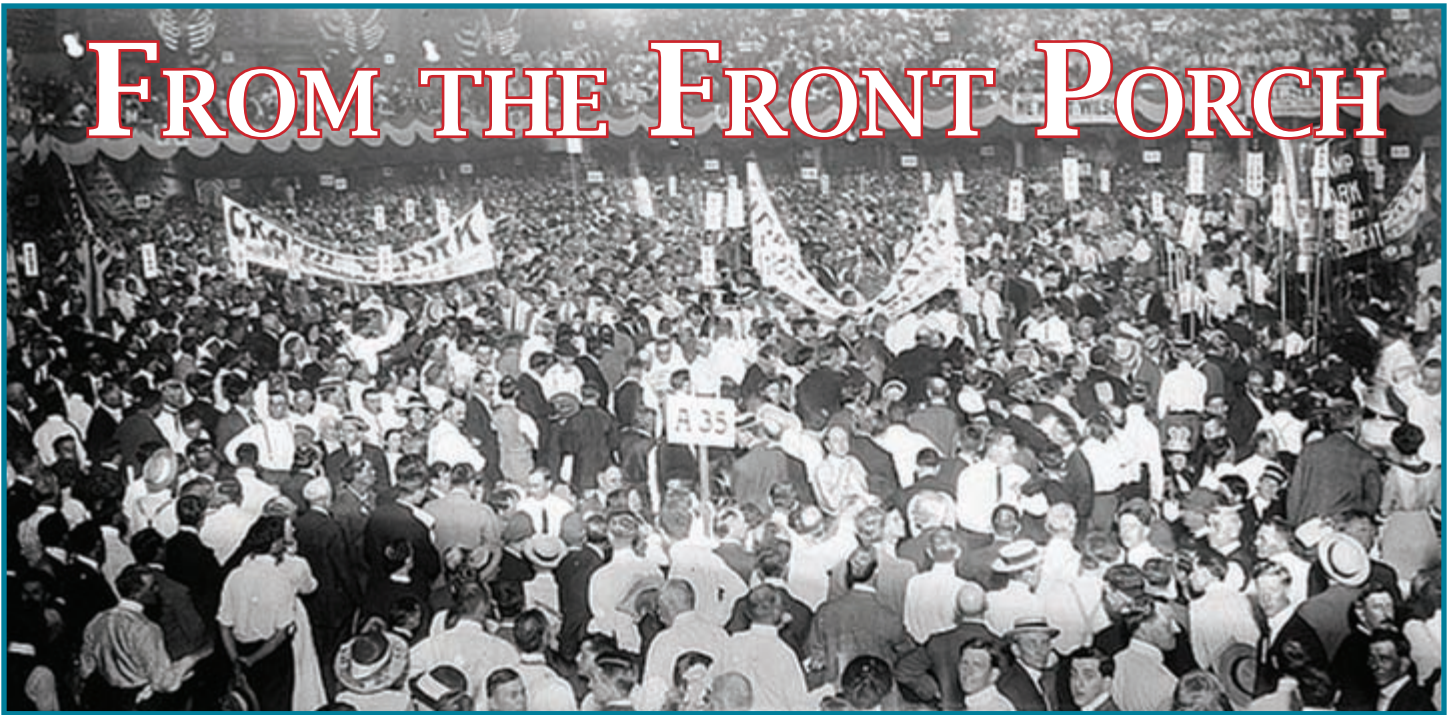


# FROM THE FRONT PORCH



Champ Clark supporters rally during the 1912 convention

## *1912 to be at forefront of annual banquet Ben Clark to keynote Oct. 25th event*

Honeysuck will host its annual banquet Thursday, Oct. 25 at Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church. RSVPs are encouraged by Oct. 19. The event will serve as a culmination of Champ Clark's 2012 presidential campaign, with the help of his great-grandson, Ben Clark.

Champ Clark Heritage Festival provided the platform as Champ Clark's campaign for president of the United States, "Champ Clark for President, 1912-2012", was announced. Constituents need not be concerned that Clark passed away in 1921, it's a simple homage to the prominent Pike County citizen and his run for the 1912 presidency – and a way to heighten awareness of his accomplishments.

2012 has largely been defined by politics, accentuated by a number of local races and headlined by the rapidly approaching presidential election. For The Champ Clark House, the year is of particular significance as it marks the 100-year anniversary of a president who almost was: Pike County's own Champ Clark. Stars, for a time appeared to be aligning for the hopeful. Clark entered the Democratic Convention as the odds-on favorite to serve as the party's nominee. And when the Republican party fragmented into the Progressive, or Bull Moose, and Republican parties - adding to a somewhat viable Socialist effort - it was apparent the presidency was destined Democrat.

Turns out, Pike County would be denied residency in the White House. But before the presidency was won by Woodrow Wilson, 1912, and the events therein, were worthy of theater. 1912.

It was a year dotted with tragedy and high drama.

An unsinkable ship named the Titanic proved, well, sinkable.

And the nation watched as four political parties vied for the presidency, with Woodrow Wilson earning the Democratic nomination, and ultimately, the office.

Wilson emerged from a

field of candidates, including, but not limited to, Missouri's own - Bowling Green's own: James Beauchamp "Champ" Clark.

Clark mounted a formidable campaign, finding support in the heartland and beyond. When the Democratic party gathered at the Baltimore convention, undercurrents swirled and later exploded.

Emotions were high, with Clark leading in early balloting, but he could never secure the 2/3 majority of delegates. And when William Jennings Bryan shifted his support to Wilson, under the auspices that Clark was a product of Tammany Hall,



A 2012 Champ Clark campaign button

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 2**



*Ben Clark helps usher in the 2012 Champ Clark Heritage Festival, flanked by Champ Clark for President yard signs.*

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Clark's chances dimmed and ultimately, faded. It would take 46 ballots for Wilson to earn the nomination. And under the churning of events, Wilson was at one point considering his concession speech.

But concession would not be necessary and Wilson would be the 28th president of the United States. Champ Clark would serve as the nation's speaker of the house until being defeated in 1920.

One hundred years have passed, and as America is embroiled in another presidential election, parallels abound.

"Many of the issues swirling then are still with us now," says Ben Clark. Clark is a partner at Bryan Cave, LLP, in St. Louis, and a member of Champ Clark Honeyshuck Restoration. He will keynote

Honeyshuck's annual banquet. Long active in the Honeyshuck effort, Ben will discuss some of the happenings of that year, and the Baltimore Convention.

**The dinner is slated for Thursday, Oct. 25 at Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., with dinner at 6:30. Dinner will be catered by Karen's Catering. Cost for the evening is \$20. The hall will be decorated in patriotic colors and 1912 memorabilia, in honor of Champ's 1912 presidential run.**

**\*For reservations, contact any board member, return the coupon on this page with payment in the enclosed envelope, or call Charlene McCune at 573-324-3154. Reservations are needed by end of day Friday, Oct. 19.**

A vintage Champ Clark cigar label will be of-

fered at live auction. John Stoeckley, well-renowned artist, and long-time Honeyshuck supporter, framed the piece at cost. At the conclusion of the evening, it will have a new home.

Ben Clark has immersed himself in his family's story and is currently working on a Champ biography.

"Researching the biography I am writing on Champ has led me to 'know' and understand him even better than before," he says.

In addition, Ben has had recent writings about Champ published in the St.

Louis Post-Dispatch and Columbia Tribune, among others.

"Champ stood for Midwesterners, and the common person, and particularly the farmer, and against big business and Northeastern economic power," Ben points out. "He favored strict antitrust laws, an income tax on the wealthy, women's rights, and staying out of foreign wars.

"These issues still resonate."

Active in Honeyshuck since the early '80s after being called upon by Judge Bill Hungate, the home's founder, Ben has a true appreciation for the home and his family.

"Involvement with the Honeyshuck project has made me aware of how important the legacy of Champ and his family is to the people of Bowling Green and thereabouts," he said.

Had Bryan not torpedoed Champ's effort, Ben believes America would have probably taken a different course.

For more Champ Clark, [www.champclark.org](http://www.champclark.org).

[ **YĒS!** ]  
 [ *I plan to attend Honeyshuck's annual banquet, Thursday, Oct. 25 at Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church.* ]  
 [ **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
 [ **Number attending:** \_\_\_\_ ]  
 [ **Payment is due at the door the night of the banquet!** ]  
 [ **Contact any board member, or call Charlene McCune to make reservations by phone, 573-324-3154.** ]

# Campaign picks up steam at annual Heritage Festival

Champ Clark has been making waves of late. His home, Honeyshuck, welcomed plenty of tour groups over the course of the tourist season, hosted by seasonal docent, Trevor Lilley.

Nearby, the future of the Nalley House has for present, been determined. In the past, the home served as a source of income, with rent generated being placed into the Honeyshuck coffers. With the headaches of being a landlord mounting, the board opted to renovate and integrate the house into the collective Honeyshuck experience. Its doors were formally opened in time for September's Champ Clark Heritage Festival.

Inside its walls are pieces of Bowling Green's past, proudly displayed in glass cases. Still a work in progress, it is intended to use the building as a welcome center, providing a new wing of the Honeyshuck tour. More changes are on the horizon.

Heritage Festival saw visitors come early and

stay through the afternoon. The annual festival is centered on the Bowl-



*Members of the Gateway Phonograph Society joined Honeyshuck for Heritage Festival.*

ing Green town square, in the shadow of Frederick Hibbard's Champ Clark statue. Each year, musicians, entertainers, vendors and craftsmen join in the day-long event. This year, Honeyshuck was well represented. Ben Clark, great-grandson of Champ Clark accepted the invitation to serve as the festival grand marshal. Ben welcomed guests during opening ceremonies, and announced the whimsical presidential campaign of Grandfather Champ Clark.

In an effort to reinvigorate interest in Champ, the board launched the cam-

paign. Completing the effort are yard signs, which can still be seen prominently placed in area lawns; and pinback buttons. Some 50 yard signs were minted and distributed. In highest demand were the Champ Clark for President: 1912-2012 pinback buttons. The buttons, which measure 3 inches across were given to festival visitors - free of charge. Board members spearheaded the task from their booth, and by noon, each of the 500 buttons were gone, and people were asking for more.

In the courthouse, playwright Brent Engel

led a cast of local actors, presenting a play about Champ Clark and the 1912 election. Two acts were seen by capacity crowds.

And a few blocks away, Honeyshuck's doors were open, welcoming a steady stream of visitors. Refreshments were served and tours given to folks from Pike County; Missouri; and even out of state. Sounds of yesteryear were provided compliments of the Gateway Phonograph Society, whose members brought vintage phonographs, playing records, including the hit song "Gotta Quit Kickin' My Dog Aroun'" - Champ Clark's 1912 campaign song. And visitors got to hear an actual recording of Champ Clark's voice, with his speech, "At Valley Forge."



*Champ Clark for President Yard Sign*

**Parting words...**

For those who haven't checked it out lately, the Champ Clark House website ([www.champclark.org](http://www.champclark.org)) has enjoyed some recent upgrades. Foremost are the biographies, authored

by Ben Clark, of the members of the Clark family. While Champ Clark is central to the home's continuing interpretation, the deeds and achievements of his family: wife, Genevieve; daughter

Genevieve; son Bennett; and father, John, are increasingly coming into focus. As with all things Honeyshuck, the website will be a work in progress, with much morphing anticipated in the near future.

As the Clarks' stories are told, focus will also turn to other prominent Pike politicians, including Ed Long, Elliott Major, Lloyd Stark and the museum's founder, Bill Hungate, among others.



*Thank you for your continued support of The Champ Clark House (Honeyshuck) - the Clarks*

**Champ Clark Honeyshuck Restoration Inc. • PO Box 162 • Bowling Green, MO 63334**

**[www.champclark.org](http://www.champclark.org)**



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