

Upcoming Speakers

June 2015

06/10 - Dr. Barbara Veazey and Lisa Stephenson - CSP
06/17 - Gary Zheng, Paducah Power

Club Leaders

Jamie Futrell

President

John Williams, Jr.

President-Elect

Phyllis B. Russell

Secretary

Glen Anderson

Vice President

Thomas Scott Taylor

Treasurer

Chris McNeill

iPast President

Melanie McNeill

Membership Chair

Debbie DeWeese

Club Executive Secretary

Birthdays

Richard J. Grana

June 13

Joe Framptom

June 14

Jill T. Chambers

June 16

Dee Dee Whittaker

June 19

Steve Shrewsbury

June 20

Ashley Grooms

June 24

Debbie Wattier

June 25

Richard R. Veazey

June 29

Michael K. Stone

June 30

Lee Powell

July 04



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

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Western Kentucky: A Birthplace of Steel

June 3rd, 2015



Thanks to Murray State University Chemistry Professor Dr. Bommanna Loganathan, and the WKMS News Director Chad Lampe, an hour long documentary has been produced to tell the intriguing story of William Kelly, who discovered how to process iron ore into steel in Lyon County. History has long given much of the credit for that discovery to a British citizen, Harold Bessemer.

During the 17th and 18th centuries iron ore furnaces were common in what is now the Lakes area and Land Between the Lakes, but they were producing a lower quality of iron, which was labor intensive and tedious. The furnaces were kept burning 24 hours a day six days a week. Then Pittsburg born William Kelly moved to Kuttawa with his wife, a native of Lyon County. He purchased 14,000 acres there in 1847, which now lies under Lake Barkley. By 1851, he was experimenting with a number of furnaces he built to process a high quality iron with less fuel. In short, most people, including his father in law, thought him to be insane.



His thesis was a blast of colder air into the furnace would produce the desired outcome. However, Bessemer had claimed to have discovered a similar process while attempting to make a better iron for artillery during the Crimean War. He was later granted both a British and a U.S. Patent in 1856. Kelly was successful in having Bessemer's U.S. Patent overturned and credited to him.

In a fascinating twist, Kelly believed two British employees who worked for him in Kuttawa disappeared without collecting their paychecks and returned to England. Bessemer denied this, or the rumor that he himself had ever traveled to the U.S. Kelly never gained the upper hand of history against Bessemer, a much more shrewd businessman. He moved to Louisville and passed away in 1988.

Dr. Bommanna Loganathan, said Kelly was a "genius," who moved the world from the Iron Age to the Steel Age, which brought about railroads, bridges, skyscrapers and millions of jobs. "His life is an inspiration to our generations and beyond," he said.

Dr. Loganathan felt so strongly about Kelly's contribution he applied for, and received a National History Chemical Landmark Status for Kelly's furnaces. Plaques were installed last month at both MSU and at the Eddyville Public Library. He along with, WKMS News Director Chad Lampe, have done a tremendous amount of research in producing the documentary for WKMS-FM at MSU.

To listen to the program visit

<http://wkms.org/post/western-kentucky-birthplace-steel-wkms-news-documentary>

Announcements

June 3rd, 2015

Rotarians got a musical treat from Mary Poppins, which opens Thursday at the Market House Theatre.

President Jamie is asking Club members for assistance with a project to build a dedicated website for the Annual Rotary Antique Quilt Show. Please contact Jamie or Melanie McNeill, if you can help.

Also the end of the Fiscal Year is rapidly approaching so all outstanding dues invoices should be paid by June 30th. Presidents Day will be held at the June 24th Club meeting.

Rotary 6710 District Governor attended this week's meeting to personally thank the Club for all their hard work in making the recent District Conference held in Paducah, which was deemed a huge success.

Todd Anderson announced May attendance totaled 55.5% and the winner of the prize drawing is Gerry Montgomery, who received a \$20 gift certificate.

Debbie Wattier received the beautiful June Birthday floral bouquet.

Landee Bryant-Greene received a donation from the Club on behalf of the Paducah Film Society.

Guests

June 3rd, 2015

Chad Lampe, News Director, WKMS (SPEAKER)

Dr. Bommanna Loganathan, MSU, Professor of Environmental Chemistry (SPEAKER)

Landee Bryant-Greene, Paducah Film Society

Jayne Crisp, District Governor, Murray Rotary Club – guest of Club

Dakota Durrett, Intern at CVB – guest of Mary Hammond

Cindy Miller & Mary Bowden – guests of Michael Cochran, provided music

Roy Riley, guest of Joe Framptom