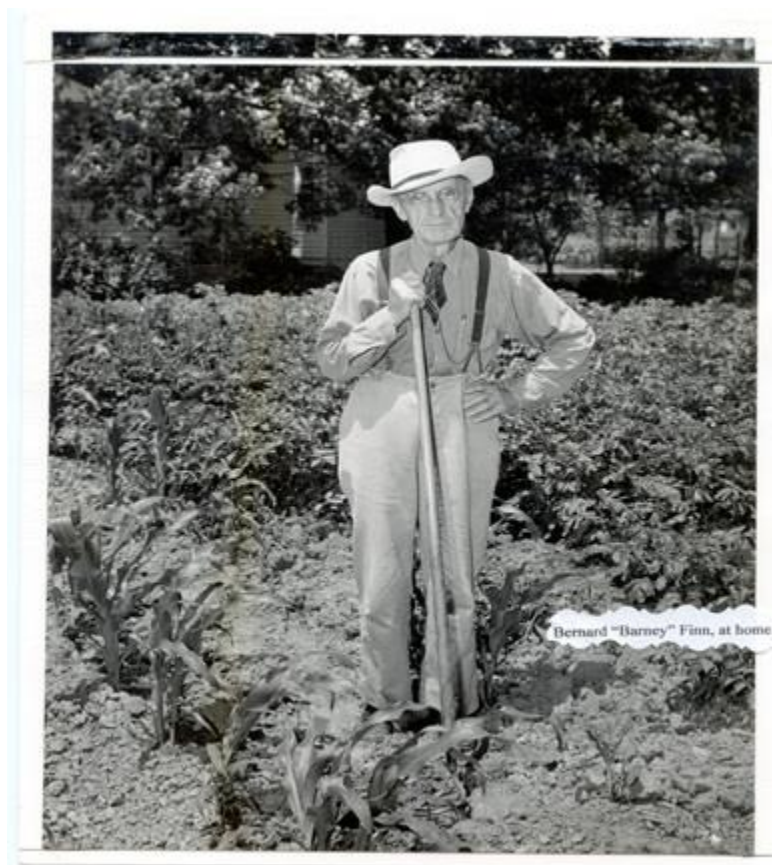


Bernard "Barney" Finn



Information provided courtesy of the Sarcoxie Record files. Moyer Finn, William "History of Our Moyer, Finn, Sutton, Russell and Related Families", Vol. 1. 1979. Photo courtesy of Benita Ruth "Barkley" Shields.

Originally born in Sligo, Ireland in 1870, Bernard Finn, a veteran newsman, came to Sarcoxie in July 1901. He was drawn to Sarcoxie when in 1899 he received a letter from Mrs. Josiah Vaughn telling him that their printing equipment had been destroyed in a fire and there was now an opening for a newspaper in Sarcoxie. Finn arrived in Sarcoxie and was immediately drawn to the welcoming nature of the town, he recalled in later years. He had been living in Ava, Missouri, where he published the Farm Record. Without hesitation after his visit to Sarcoxie, Finn returned to Ava, sold his household items, gathered his printing equipment and moved to Sarcoxie. He established The Sarcoxie Record, which he published until September of 1945. Finn died in 1955 at the age of 85. He and his wife, Henrietta, had one daughter and two sons.

Seeing many needs in the growing strawberry capital, Barney quickly became active in the community. He served as Sarcoxie's mayor on three different occasions in the early 1900s. While mayor in 1906, there were several cases of typhoid and general unsanitary conditions. Seeing the need for a municipal water system to be built, he pushed for a \$10,000 bond to help in this endeavor. He was a member of the Commercial Club. He was a stockholder and served on the Board of Directors for the First National Bank during the 1940s. Through his civic involvement over the years, he played an active role in Sarcoxie's changes.....from dusty streets to paved roads, from wooden walks to concrete sidewalks, a new grade school and high school with an improved curriculum and a new sewer system.

His meticulous journalistic reporting provided valuable printed documentation of the town's history for future generations to reference. Yes, Mr. Finn was more than an editor of a small town paper, he made a real difference in his community!