

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.

October – November - December 2006

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Linda Smith
Calvin W. Hawkins
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Mosaic by Internet

If you would like to receive your future newsletters by internet, we will need to have your e-mail address.

Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Arguably the most recognized Clay County native son is Jesse James. Yes, the man of legend, made famous in deeds, tales, newspapers, books, movies, television, comic books and countless other outlets. Even in these times of "overexposure," Jesse has been, to many of us, the king of overexposure for over 100 years. So much so, that we local folk can become jaded by it (even though we still get frequent Jesse James inquiries).

But then, coming seemingly out of nowhere, two separate but similar projects are rejuvenating the "Jesse James mystique" in us. A very simple, but consuming, task is organizing our myriad Jesse James collection. Over the years we've dutifully gathered the material as it came our way, but we never took the time to properly abstract it; it just ended up in the "Jesse James" drawer in a filing cabinet (not very accessible, I'll say). But we're now in a winter "clean up" mood and this was next on the list. Shirley Fansher and Kevin Fisher are transforming a "drawer full of stuff" into an indexed, useable, researchable collection. We're discovering facts and stories long since forgotten.

But even that isn't enough. As interest is piqued, they are searching the on-line collection of newspapers (both period and contemporary) for other relevant James family articles. Now not only is the collection more accessible, it is also growing.

The other project was brought to our attention in a roundabout way. But suffice it to say that a gentleman named Daniel Pence, who has ties to Clay County and who lives in Washington, D. C., has in his possession a 700-page journal that was handwritten by his grandfather, Samuel Pence.

Samuel Pence worked for the Kearney Trust Company in the nineteen-teens. He was interested in preserving the oral history of Kearney and some of its more famous inhabitants (which would include, don't you know, the Jesse James clan). So he set out to interview as many of the local town folk as he could. They told him first-hand stories, both short and long, about the colorful history of the area and of the colorful characters therein. Some of these anecdotes are well known by the descendants of these "story tellers", but other interesting stories have not

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GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Wednesday -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
First Wednesday of Month -- 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed on National Holidays

MEMBERSHIP FOR CALENDAR YEAR

Individual & Family (one address) -- \$15.00
(Memberships paid after October 1 will apply to next calendar year.)

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Unlimited *On-Site* Research
Subscription to *The Clay County MOsaic*, our quarterly newsletter.

RESEARCH POLICY & FEES

Non-members pay \$5.00 per day for on-site research. Member and non-member research requests by mail are accepted. Each request must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope and an initial research fee of \$10.00 per surname for one hour of research. Additional hours are \$10.00 per hour.

COPY PRICES

Original records (such as probate material)	\$1/page
Other published material	15 cents per page
Microfilm printouts	25 cents per page
Computer print-outs	5 cents per page
Outsize copies	50 cents per page
Photographs	
Standard Quality	50 cents
Archival Quality	\$5.00

Personal imaging will be charged at the above rates.

ARCHIVES PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

(All prices, postage paid)

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	13.00
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas	13.00
Clay County Births, 1883-84	7.00
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84	7.00
DAR Sesquicentennial Book	18.00
Every-name Index to DAR Book	11.00
“The Story of Liberty, Missouri” (Film)	
DVD (including handling fee)	17.00
Cassette (incl handling fee)	12.00
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	
“Doctor on the Western Frontier”	27.50
[See Page 3 for ordering info.]	
Clay County Marriage Indexes	
[See Page 3 for ordering info.]	

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

Benefactors -- \$1,000 & up (cumulative)

Patrons -- \$500-\$999 (cumulative)

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

BENEFACTORS

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2006 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

Carol and Steve Olson
 Lewis Spear

FRIENDS

Elizabeth G. Beckett
Bettie A. Kirkland
 Louisa Rader

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At our annual membership meeting we elected the following people as 2007 Archives' officers:

President – Stuart E. Elliott
1st Vice-President – Steve Olson
2nd Vice-President – Calvin W. Hawkins
Corresponding Secretary – Linda Smith
Recording Secretary – Donna Root
Treasurer – Scott R. Cole
3-Year Director – Sallie Hobbs
3-Year Director – Raymond Brock

MARRIAGE BOOKS AVAILABLE

CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1821-1881
Register of Marriages, Recorder's Office
Clay County Courthouse, Liberty
Books A thru E, Colored (1865 - 1891) and
Unrecorded
Compiled by Rudena Kramer Mallory

CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1881-1904
Register of Marriages, Recorder's Office
Clay County Courthouse, Liberty
Books F to I
Compiled by Rudena Kramer Mallory

Each Book, Softbound \$24.50 ppd
(MO residents add \$1.80)
Each book, Hardbound \$29.75 ppd
(MO residents add \$2.19)

Make your check payable to Rudena Kramer Mallory
and mail to:

Rudena Kramer Mallory
c/o Clay County Archives
P.O. Box 99
Liberty, MO 64069

THE STORY OF LIBERTY

...from settlement to suburb

Footprints in Clay, a video history project of the Clay County Archives, announces the availability of the video of our production, "The Story of Liberty...from settlement to suburb."

This one-hour documentary of Liberty's history spans the years from pre-settlement to present. It premiered on May 27th, 2004, at Liberty Cinema 12 to two full houses with a reception at the intermission.

The movie is available in two formats:

DVD -- \$15 each
S-VHS -- \$10 each
(add \$2 for shipping and handling)

The VHS version is available in two formats, for older model players & for the current model players. Specify which of the formats you desire.

To order your copy, submit your request in writing, indicating quantity and format.

Make your check payable to:

Clay County Archives
and mail to P.O. Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069.

GREETING CARDS FOR SALE

Christmas cards -- 12 for \$10.
Note cards -- 10 for \$5.
Both available at the Archives.

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty,
1854-1880

You can own your own copy of Dr. Dougherty's
diary!

Publication Price
\$22.50 at the Archives
\$27.50 if mailed

Make your check payable to the Clay County
Archives
and mail to P.O. Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069.

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

Secretary of State Matt Blunt recently announced that the Coroner's Inquest Database is available on the office website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov>. The database currently offers the records of six Missouri counties, the City of St. Louis, and the St. Louis Medical Examiner; with records dating from 1842 to 1932.

Note: From the address shown above, select Archives & Records, then Missouri State Archives, then Research & Resources, then Online Resources and Databases. Not every county/source shows records for all years listed above.

The Mid-Continent Public Library has announced plans to build what it calls a "world-class genealogy center" in Independence, Missouri. Construction is expected to start next May and be completed in the spring of 2008.

The new center will house a collection of family history from Missouri and Kansas, as well as national and international collections. It will also provide a lunchroom for researchers and a separate room in which the library will conduct genealogy classes.

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NEW HOURS

Effective January 15, 2007 the Archives will open an hour earlier each day. Our new hours are: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

**EXCERPTS FROM OUR LATEST
PUBLICATION, “DOCTOR ON THE
WESTERN FRONTIER: THE DIARIES
OF DR. WILLIAM WALLACE
DOUGHERTY,
1854 – 1880”**

Note: Readers will remember that when we left off in our last issue, young Miss Sarah Edwards was dying, despite Dr. Dougherty's best efforts, of what he thought to be meningitis.

Monday, January 22, 1855

Miss Edwards is still alive, and that is all; I think she will not survive tomorrow.

Tuesday, January 23, 1855

Sarah Edwards died this morning, before 5 o'clock; Poor girl! She is gone. Gone the way of all the earth; gone to her long home severed from all the earthly objects, to unite with them no more. Gone in the youthful bloom of sweet joyous girl hood – just budding forth, soon to put on the charming tints of the blushing rose, and her place among the lively, gay, and joyous of earth and ran her giddy sound of earthly pleasure. Poor girl! Cut off so soon in the early dawn of life, before she had even tasted of the pleasures that await many of her sex. But, on the other hand, she is also done with all this worlds sorrows and afflictions, pains and misfortunes – ere her young spirit had been tried in the afflictions earthly misfortune. Perhaps 'tis better for her. She is now gone, and Peace to her ashes. Dr. Ritchey and myself had a post mortem examination of her, and found considerable uterine derangement – indeed it was the source of all her sickness, pains and death.

Note: Sarah Edwards was the daughter of John Edwards and Lavina Roberts Edwards. John is listed as a cabinetmaker in Liberty on the 1860 Census. She was buried in Mt. Memorial Cemetery, located on the campus of William Jewell College.

Tuesday, January 30, 1855

Still cold, but not so cold as yesterday, too cold to snow, or else we'd have plenty of it. It is & has been so cold that I keep very little fire at the shop, sales being very dull, and wood costing considerable, it will not justify burning much. Will D. came in yesterday, with Uncle John, and will remain for sometime. He says they had a very pleasant time to Uncle Jo's. got home on Saturday evening. Heard to day that some fellow had jumped my claim in Decalb

(sic) Co. Hope he did not hurt himself in the jump. Must attend to the matter, or I'll lose it. Called to day to see Mr. Ruckles two children; the case is fever from irritation of stomach, produced from worms or some indigestible substance there, and the effects of cold.

Note: Uncle Jo, refers to his uncle Joseph L. Dougherty. He lived in Andrew County, Missouri and was a brother of Major John Dougherty. Joseph Dougherty had lived in Clay Co. and married Roxy Ann Rich here on September 10, 1839. According to family history one of his sons died while serving in the Union Army in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Dougherty family, like many others in Missouri, had family members fighting on both sides of the Civil War.

Wednesday, January 31, 1855

Not so cold to day; indeed it looks now as if we might have a pretty general thaw. People are in great excitement about putting up their ice for the coming summer, being very little freezing heretofore, and ice scarce.

Friday February 9, 1855

Meeting still in progress. Bro. Develin preached at 11, and then left for home. Bro. Rich preached at night, and has closed the meeting. Mr. Payne joined the church to night and John Estes went to the mourner's bench. The meeting has not produced the results some thought, though I am not much disappointed myself.

Note: “John Estes went to the mourner's bench” normally meant that the person in question was not quite ready to join the church but was favorably disposed, if his sins could be forgiven. This did not usually involve a public confession of sins, but an indication that the revival had made him think about his soul.

Tuesday, February 13, 1855

I heard this evening that Maj. Lightburne's negro boy Peter has been slaughtering, cutting, and maiming a white man so that his life is despaired of, his name, I believe is Russell. I would not be surprised and (if?) they inflicted summary punishment upon the negro. 'Tis a high crime.

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**MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS
FROM MICROFILM
OF EARLY CLAY COUNTY
NEWSPAPERS**

*Articles from the Smithville Herald/Smithville
Democrat Herald*

November 8, 1901

The curtain of death has fallen upon the last act of William Thomas' life, and when everything is taken into consideration, it is indeed a very sad thing. Last Saturday evening, Nov. 2, in company with Steve Wilson and a negro named Henry Garrison, he started home with Mr. Wilson to spend the night. They were in Wilson's wagon and did not leave town until rather late, and having about five miles to go, it therefore became necessary for them to make part of the trip after dark. Our people will remember that a cold rain began falling early and before morning turned into a cold blowing wet snow, which made it very uncomfortable for those not exposed at all. We are told that the parties mentioned above had been drinking freely preceding their departure from town and consequently were in an intoxicating condition long before reaching their destination. The night being not only very disagreeable, but also very dark, therefore they lost their way and in some manner the wagon got hung to a tree. Not being able to free it, they decided to leave it until morning and at once proceeded to unloose the team. After this time Mr. Wilson started home and thought Mr. Thomas had started for town. . . .

Sunday evening about 4 o'clock Thomas was discovered by Billy Still who lost no time in giving the alarm. . . . There were no funeral services but on Tuesday evening he was quietly laid to rest in the Goss cemetery.

February 20, 1914

In removing to the new county home building Superintendent Baldwin says the old clothing of his charges were replaced by new ones, a good bath first being given them. One of them objected at first against the bath, but after it had been given him he said: "By gosh, Mr. Baldwin, that's the first time I've been wet all over since 1844, when I swam the Missouri river at the high water mark, and this reminds me greatly of that plunge."

May 22, 1914

John F. Michalucine, who died last week, was one of the most methodical men in keeping a

record of his life we ever heard of. He kept a set of books showing every cent he ever received or spent in all his life after he grew to self support. He kept the books balanced daily until April 25th, when he was stricken with his last illness.

Horseshoeing Prices

Having purchased the blacksmith and woodworking shop of Jack Arnold, we want to meet all the old friends and customers again. By way of an introduction we are quoting you a few prices on horseshoeing at a time you need your horse shod.

4 new shoes.....	\$1.25
2 new shoes.....	.64
4 old shoes.....	.70
2 old shoes.....	.35
1 old shoe.....	.20
Never slips.....	1.75

Come in and see us
YOUTSEY & BASH

*February 6, 1914 ad from Smithville Democrat-
Herald*

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that long before the Pony Express, the U. S. Army maintained a herd of camels that they used to carry messages and supplies in the Southwestern states?

According to a *Liberty Advance* article dated May 2, 1927, Secretary of War Jefferson Davis spearheaded the 1855 effort to acquire a herd of 70+ camels at a cost of \$30,000. By 1859 the first camels had arrived in Los Angeles from Texas bearing government dispatches at "a swift and altitudinous gait."

The camels could carry several times the load that a horse could manage, according to *American Heritage* magazine, which ran an article on the same subject in its February/March 2005 issue. Plus they could go days without water while subsisting on meager desert forage, could handle muddy roads and mountain trails better than a horse and were much better swimmers.

But horses bolted at the sight (not to mention the powerful scent) of the camels, and the Army's animal tenders showed little interest in learning their ways. Some got the impression that camels could survive on no water at all and drove them until they died of thirst.

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**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

Archives volunteers Jane Milner and Beverly Whitaker are abstracting genealogical and historical information from the Liberty Tribune, a continuation of the Genealogical Notes by Hodges and Woodruff which ran prior to 1900.

100 Years Ago This Quarter

October 5, 1906

Carey **Snyder**'s body was found near Hillsboro, Oregon, this week. Snyder had much trouble in Kansas City, and his father bought his son a farm in Oregon. December 2, 1905, the Merchant and Trader's Bank at Forest Grove was dynamited by robbers, \$95,350 was stolen. Snyder disappeared from his farm near Hillsboro shortly after the robbery and had not been seen afterward. His wife is in the asylum.

Dr. **Sevier** reports the birth of a daughter to Earl **Smith** and wife of Big Shoal Wednesday.

Liberty Route #1: The community was saddened by the death Tuesday night of Miss **Allie Wilson** of Chandler. Her sufferings were intense, but she bore them bravely.

Kimbrough **Stone**, son of Senator William J. Stone, and Miss Lucille **Cockrill** of Platte City were united in marriage there Wednesday.

October 12, 1906

George B **Foley**, who had been a resident of Clay County 55 years, died at his home 5 miles east of Liberty, Thursday of last week. He was 68 years of age and was a native of Fayette County, Kentucky. He was afflicted with stomach and heart trouble. The funeral was held at the grave in the Missouri City cemetery. George Foley was the son of Richard Foley who came to Clay County with his family in 1851 from Kentucky. George was one of ten children – 8 sons and 2 daughters. All of them lived to be over 50 years of age, but only one is now living – Henry C. Foley of Liberty, who is now 73. Mr. Foley's marriage was to Miss Bettie **McGinnis**, daughter of the late Strother McGinnis. Mrs. Foley died about ten years ago. Eight children were born to them -- Mrs. Cal. **Kidd**, Mrs. Nannie **Parr**, Mrs. Will **Fowler**, Noel B. Foley, Mrs. Annie **Davis**, Mrs. Dan **Keller**, Mrs. Ella **Roberts**, and Richard Foley. All are living and reside in Clay County except Mrs. Parr whose home is in Jackson County.

Providence: Our Sunday School will be without a superintendent for a while as our superintendent, George **Warren**, will stay close to home to tend his big fine boy that arrived at his home Sunday morning, October 7.

Mollie **Estes**, an old colored woman, died last Friday. She was the mother of Warrior Estes, who was acquitted of murder in Clinton County some months ago.

October 19, 1906

John **Bogart** and Miss **Nellie Cave** of Kearney vicinity were married by Elder **Loos** at his residence in Liberty, Wednesday.

Mrs. George D. **Warren** died in Providence neighborhood Monday, October 15. The funeral was conducted in Providence Church Tuesday by Dr. T.P. **Stafford**. Mrs. Warren's name before her marriage was Lula Jane **McConnell**, and she was born in Platte County, January 13, 1878. Her age therefore, was 28 years, 9 months, and 2 days. She was married to Mr. Warren March 7, 1895. She leaves a husband, 3 sons, a mother, 3 sisters, and a brother.

Mr. Guy **Senter** and Miss **Maybelle Miller** were married at the home of Mrs. Sallie Miller, the bride's mother, Monday evening. The bride was born in Liberty and has lived here all her life. She graduated from Liberty Ladies College last year. Mr. Senter came to Liberty some 8 years ago from the haunts of Tennessee. As a student in W. J. C., he earned for himself a good name among the student body as well as among the professors. After obtaining his A. M. degree, he made a special study of the natural sciences at Harvard University, for one year, returning to Liberty to accept the principalship of the high school.

Thursday morning of last week, Mrs. Jesse **Webb** shot her husband, an invalid, and then herself. She died almost instantly, but Webb is still living. Webb had been a guard at the state asylum in St. Joseph and his wife an attendant there before their marriage recently. Sheriff **Wymore** said the general opinion at Smithville was that Webb did the shooting, and not his wife. Jesse Webb is a son of Tom Webb of Plattsburg and his a brother W. L. Webb living at Edgerton. He was 26 years of age and was suffering from tuberculosis. His wife was also in poor health and in a note to the hotel management, this fact is given as the cause of their desire to die. The couple were married in Topeka, Kansas, a week ago. Mrs. Webb's name being Inez **Walkup**, and her home in Fairfax, Missouri. They had evidently come to Smithville with a pan of self-destruction arranged.

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**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

(Continued from Page 6)

November 2, 1906

Uncle Brack **Holton** died at Kearney Tuesday night. He was a well-known citizen of Fishing River Township for years and the first postmaster of Excelsior Springs.

Asa L. **McComas** and Miss Effie M. **Broadhurst**, a popular young couple of Linden vicinity, drove to Liberty last Sunday afternoon, and were united in marriage by Rev. R. E. **Dickenson** at the Methodist parsonage.

November 9, 1906

Providence: Earnest **Warren** and wife are keeping house for George Warren since the death of his wife and taking care of the two little boys. George's mother, Mrs. Jim **Marr** of Liberty, has the little babe.

The funeral services over the remains of Uncle Brack **Holton** who died at Kearney last week were conducted in the Christian Church there Thursday with interment near Excelsior Springs. He lived in Excelsior Springs vicinity years before it was a town, and one of his favorite jokes in talking to visitors, was that he had gained 160 pounds since he began drinking the waters, after explaining that he drank the water when he was a boy. In late years, Uncle Brack traveled over the county as agent for a nursery. Mr. Holton was born in Mason County, Kentucky, in 1831, came to Clay County when 13 years of age. He married Miss Fannie **Vaughan** in 1853. Ten children were born to them, six of whom are living. They are: Mrs. W. G. **Dollis** of Kearney; James V. of Seattle, Washington; Arthur E. of Oakland, California; John C. of Climax Springs, Missouri; Mrs. Mollie **Ferguson** and Edward P. of Butte, Montana.

November 16, 1906

Mrs. Corinne E. **Wood**, widow of Dr. Joseph M. Wood, died at her home in Kansas City, 1317 E. 9th St., Monday night. The funeral and interment were held Thursday in Kansas City. Mrs. Wood was 83 years of age last March. She was born in Kentucky, but was reared at the old **Arthur** home southwest of Liberty. Her father was Michael Arthur. She leaves 3 daughters: Mrs. Annie **Harris** and Mrs. R. M. **Stewart** of New York; and Mrs. **Broadwell** of Kansas City, with whom she made her home. Mrs. Wood was a sister of Mrs. Ann **Miller** of Liberty; Mrs. Captain **Lloyd** of Kansas City and

Dr. John Arthur of Kansas City. The building on the north side of the square in which W. W. **Whiteside**'s jewelry store and **Laipple** and **Hummel**'s grocery store are located was owned by Mrs. Wood.

Judson **Cockrell** died at his home in Kansas City, Wednesday. He was a resident of Liberty for a long time and made regular trips back to his old home after moving to Kansas City a few years ago. The remains were brought to Liberty Thursday morning and interment took place at the old cemetery on College Hill. The old home of the Cockrell family was on the site where President **Green**'s home is now. Judson Cockrell was a cousin of Honorable Francis M. Cockrell; their fathers were brothers. Mr. Cockrell's father was John W. Cockrell. The family came to Clay County in 1846, the year Uncle Bob **Miller** established *The Tribune*. Judson was born in Virginia September 14, 1845. He was educated at William Jewell College. He followed the example of his father by learning brick-making and to be a brick mason. Later he engaged in the grocery business, and for years had a store in the Cockrell Building in the southwest corner of the square. Mr. Cockrell's first marriage was to Miss **Mereness**; she died in 1868. The second wife survives him.

An *Exchange* said, "Old Bill" **Brennan**, a survivor of the Jesse **James** gang, is working in a livery stable at Denver. He claims that he helped bury \$22,000 in gold in Clay County "about 9 miles from Independence."

December 7, 1906

Mrs. Ella **McCoun Withers**, widow of the late Conn Withers, died at her home near Liberty, Tuesday morning, December 4, 1906, after a lingering illness. She was born in Liberty October 9, 1850, and all of her life was spent in and near this place. She was a pupil in Professor **Love**'s School, and for a short time prior to her marriage taught school herself. She was married to Mr. Withers August 6, 1872. Three children – Robert, Webster, and Miss Kate, now Mrs. Major **Lightburne**, were born of this marriage. Mrs. Withers was a member of the Liberty Christian Church, and her funeral services were conducted by her pastor Rev. R. G. **Frank**, from her beautiful country home. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery

December 21, 1906

Aunt Eliza **Neff**, a good old colored woman, died at the home of Price Neff in Kearney vicinity last week. She was 76 years of age and had been a faithful servant in the family of Isaac Neff. Price Neff was a small child when his mother died, and Aunt Eliza tenderly cared for him.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

survived, until now.

Dan is currently transcribing this tome and has even received the attention of at least one publisher. Scott Cole, certainly a Jesse James aficionado among us, has become the Archives "point man" for Dan. (In fact, Scott spoke of this project in a recent MOsaic newsletter.) And Dan has graced us with a copy of this work-in-progress so that we can make a contribution by adding relevant photos and footnotes that will give this book valuable context even for the most casual reader.

But when this project is finished, I understand Dan won't just sit on his laurels. I was told that he has a journal about the exploits of Quantrill that is just itching to be "exposed."

I suppose that means that the James gang rides again. . .

Stuart E. Elliot

RECENT ACCESSIONS

The book "The Soper – Newlee Families – From Prince George County, Maryland to Cass County, Missouri, 1676 - 1966", donated by the author, Rolland Lee Brous.

Miscellaneous history books, donated by Cecil Odell. This donation includes over 50 books with historical and genealogical information from Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, along with other miscellaneous books.

The 16th annual yearbook of the Clay County Sheriff's Posse, dated 1966, donated by Teresa L. Gipson of the UMKC Library.

The book "The Groomer Family" donated by Ed Mason.

An 1859 "To Rent" sign for Clay County Fairgrounds, donated by Brandon George.

Two scrapbooks of James G. Lawson and miscellaneous writings of Judge Martin E. Lawson, donated by Russell S. Jones and Ray Brock. James Lawson, the son of Martin Lawson, died in the flu epidemic of 1918.

Subjects are from Liberty grade school and high school and William Jewell College. Included are many old family names in the Liberty area in various articles, pictures, graduation and performance programs.

A book on the history of the Thorp family, donated by Richard S. Thorp.

A cabinet-mounted Hicks photo of Thomas Rothwell McKown at age 16 months, donated by Tim Kafka.

Books "Highland Cemetery, 1909 – 1950, Vol. I." and "Cass County Missouri Confederates", donated by the Sonny Wells collection.

All of these donations are available for our patrons to use in their research. Thank you to these generous donors.

THE RICHFIELD ENTERPRISE

The Richfield Enterprise was published Every Saturday morning by George W. Withers, describing itself as "a newspaper devoted to Science, Agriculture, Mercantile affairs and useful reading." The following ad is from the Nov. 25, 1854 edition.

Hale and Wallis have received sixty bbls. Cincinatti double rectified whiskey which can be put up in packages of from one to twenty gallons. They've also received 3 half pipes of assorted French brandy, for medicinal purposes!

Note: Richfield is known today as Missouri City. "Bbls" is an old abbreviation for "barrels."

DID YOU KNOW?

(Continued from page 5)

When the Civil War broke out, the Confederates seized the camels, selling some and using others to carry mail and cotton. Others escaped and at least one was used by one of Sterling Price's captains to carry his company's baggage.

By the end of the 1860's the spread of railroads had rendered the camels unnecessary. The few remaining captives were released into the desert, where in some cases they survived for decades, "occasionally popping up to frighten settlers and provide material for campfire tall tales."

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

We recently heard about the system that volunteer Joyce Schumacher uses to organize her genealogical research. It is a simple method that allows the user to record newly gathered data and shows at a glance what information is still needed.

Joyce keeps her research in 3-ring binders. Each ancestor has a tabbed section. She keeps documents like marriage licenses in clear page protectors immediately behind the divider for that person.

She prepares a page for each person, which looks like this:

Son of Adam Jones and _____(maiden name) Jones	Bernard Jones	1 st wife Catherine (Smith) Jones
	b. 1800 (KY)	b. 1800 (VA)
	d.1850 (Clay Co MO)	d. 1860 (CA)
		Married 1830 (KY)
	Children:	
	(1) Delilah Jones b. 23 Mar 1835 (KY)	
	(2) Edward Jones b. ____ ()	
	(3) Frank Jones b. ____ ()	

Joyce then fills in the blanks as the information becomes available.

The Family History Archive (<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc>) is a collection of over 3500 digitized family histories held by the Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University and other participating institutions. Searching the database is easy using keywords or a combination of author, title surname and geographic terms. Visitors to the database are encouraged to donate their family histories to the growing collection.

From the "Show Me" State Genealogical News, Fall 2005

GUESS THE TOWN???

What town am I?

I am situated on a northwest-southeast prairie ridge and in the lands on either side, an area drained by the headwaters of the Fishing and Crooked Rivers.

My story begins with the arrival of the first Kentuckians, Virginians, Tennesseans and North Carolinians in 1822. The land cost \$1.25 an acre, which was mostly paid for in deerskins, furs, venison, beeswax and wild honey.

For more than a decade my District Fair was the most important annual event in the area. It was organized by John Crowley, S.T. Robinett, W. W. Smith, Frank Brock, R. M. Hunter, W. K. Rippy, Charles Rust, P. J. Rust and several other local men in 1886. Getting ready for the fair was a matter of months for all concerned. The products of field and kitchen had to be grown or prepared by skilled hands for its brief moment of glory. Preparation for the races provided the local men and boys with free entertainment all summer long, because the trainers arrived early and settled in the stables beyond the track that ran around a pond at the back of Kelly Smith's house.

On the fair's opening day, the crowd began gathering long before sun up, long before the band had tootled its first note on Pennsylvania Avenue, in preparation for leading the parade through town and out to the fairgrounds. During the fair, the homes, the hotels and all the boarding houses in town were straining at the seams.

William F. Thomas, whose saddle and harness shop was one of my early businesses, had been a Pony Express rider during the year that line ran between St. Joe and Sacramento. Ad Smith had served under Doniphan in the Mexican War. General Doniphan introduced the speakers at my Democratic picnic in 1874, then gave a speech of his own, an hour and a half of eloquence.

Both sides of the Civil War were represented locally. Dr. George James had charge of a Union hospital for some months. Dr. Palmer was a surgeon in the Confederate forces. And John Titus, a merchant and druggist in my early years, carried a fragment of Union shell in his body for many years.

Townsmen organized the Good Temple Lodge here in 1874 and for several years it was a great help in building up a healthy temperance sentiment.

I am called a "three-county community" because I am located in Clay and Ray County, a mile from Clinton County. What town am I?

(Continued to Page 10)

GUESS THE TOWN???

(Continued from Page 9)

I'm Lawson. The information for this article came from the book, "From Entry Fee to 'Fifty -Three', History of Lawson's Three County Community" by Ruth Bogart Roney, which is available for use by visitors to the Archives.

AVAILABLE AT THE ARCHIVES

Looking for a great gift? We have family tree charts for sale for only \$5 each. They measure 18" by 24" and are printed in two colors on parchment paper. They are going fast, so pick yours up soon.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

A lady recently advertised that she wanted a "gentleman for breakfast and tea," while another advertises for a husband having "a Roman nose with strong religious tendencies," and a third party seeks to recover a lost "wallet belonging to a gentleman made of calf skin."

from the Liberty Tribune, Dec. 18, 1868

BLOODLESS DUEL AT EXCELSIOR

Dr. Chas. S. Simmons and N. H. Chamberlain had a pistol duel at Excelsior Springs Tuesday evening but as one stood behind a tree and the other behind a telephone pole, and as the marksmanship of both was bad, neither was hurt. The shooting was held on Broadway near the Siloam spring in the heart of the town.

The trouble was over a letter regarding Dr. Simmon's sister-in-law, it is said. Chamberlain has been employed by Dr. Simmons. The combatants were arrested, charged with assault with intent to kill.

from the Liberty Tribune, May 1, 1908

STOLE TO BUY ANOTHER'S WIFE

Oscar Morrow, who committed robbery to get \$25 with which to buy another man's wife, escaped from the county jail at Unionville, Mo., last week. He had been confined waiting trial on charges of house breaking and larceny.

from the Liberty Tribune, March 27, 1908

AN INTERESTING FIND

This interesting item is from the February/March 2005 issue of American Heritage magazine:

"In November of 1996 a Washington, D. C. General Services Administration (GSA) carpenter ... named Richard Lyons was charged with ridding a house of vagrants before its slated demolition and subsequent redevelopment. At the three-story red brick building, halfway between the White House and the Capitol, he wandered up to the top floor and looked around. Between the rafters Lyons spied an envelope turned a crisp yellow. He found a ladder nearby, climbed up, and braced himself by grabbing hold of the floor above him. When he did, thin metal clanged against the wood, and he pulled down a tiny tin sign. MISSING SOLDIERS OFFICE 3RD STORY ROOM 9 MISS CLARA BARTON, it read"

"Holding the sign, Lyons climbed higher. He found old gauze bandages, (and) three nineteenth-century women's blue shirts, one of which had a hole in the sleeve. He found thousands of Civil War-era letters, files, abolitionist publications, old photographs, inkwells and steel pen points, women's straw hats, hand-held ladies' fans, funeral bunting, and rosters with the names of soldiers listed on them. He found walls with molding white satin wallpaper and an upside-down number nine hanging on one door. All told he discovered more than 20 boxes of material."

He was told to get rid of the items, but instead he took them home and started researching. "He learned that Clara Barton, whose living quarters had been room nine, had hung white satin wallpaper in her office and ... was rumored to have once had a bullet go through the sleeve of a blue shirt she was wearing while caring for a wounded soldier. He also learned that no one knew where her old office had been located."

"Once (he) succeeded in persuading people that he had indeed found Barton's office, GSA saw to it that the property was saved from demolition." Current plans are to turn it into a children's museum.

Note: The lesson of this story for us is that fascinating historical material is still out there waiting to be found. Please remember this when you attend auctions and garage sales or are poking around old buildings. And don't forget to make a copy of your finds for your favorite Archives (us).

**EXCERPTS FROM OUR LATEST
PUBLICATION, “DOCTOR ON THE
WESTERN FRONTIER: THE DIARIES
OF DR. WILLIAM WALLACE
DOUGHERTY,
1854 – 1880”**

(Continued from Page 4)

Wednesday, February 14, 1855

There has been considerable excitement in town to day, in the case of Lightburne’s negro Peter. There was a mob raised and came very near taking the prisoner and hanging him without judge or jury, but some of us interfered and prevented. It is hoped there will be no violence in violation of law as the law provides for the punishment of such criminals.

Saturday, February 17, 1855

This is the day set apart for determining what should become of Lightburne’s Pete, with reference to the man whom he tried to kill on Monday night last. The citizens began to pour in by 9 A.M. with the expectation of seeing the boy hung. There was a very large crowd in; the(y) all assembled in the court house, and were addressed by J. H. Moss, Esqr., Maj. J. Dougherty, John Keller, Mr. Walker, the wounded man’s brother in law, and Dr. Garlich, all concurring in the desire that the matter would be postponed till the 1st Monday in March next. The vote being taken, it was so decided, by a very large majority, Maj. Lightburne pledging himself, in the mean time that he would use no effort, on his part, to obtain a change of venue, but would have him tried by a jury of Clay Co. the matter thus passed for the present.

Note: Our criminal court records contain a very large file on Peter. The Tribune gives weekly news stories about him. The court record is in several ways in contradiction to the newspaper account, and Mr. Alvan Lightburne told some people at a meeting that his family never believed Peter was guilty.

A man named William Russell, living south of Liberty on his farm, was called to his front door Monday night of the 12th by a slave man who had a message for him. Russell went to this door and was attacked by this slave, hacking him horribly with a corn knife. The slave then disappeared. The rest of the household did get Mr. Russell to bed, but they locked the doors and sat around until morning afraid even to go for a doctor. One of the boys slipped out then and went to a Mr. Rudolf Irminger’s and asked for help. His deposition is over a page in length. The lawmen got 3 or 4 slave men, including Peter, to march in front of Russell during one of his lucid moments, and

he identified a slave belonging to Mrs. Julia Lincoln. The Lincolns belonged to the plantation elite that Major Dougherty’s did. However the doctors said that Mr. Russell was so sick he could not know what he was doing. Everybody accused Peter because his wife had been beaten by Mr. Russell a few days before. The wife testified that she was not married to Peter, hardly knew him and there was no reason he would kill Mr. Russell. The Catholic priest testified that at the time (9 o’clock) Mr. Russell was supposed to be at the mercy of the slaughtering demon, Peter was in his house getting wood and water for the household for the night. This testimony was disregarded because of religious bigotry. There was testimony that the horse hoof prints did not match Major Lightburne’s horses.

Saturday, February 24, 1855

Concluded to start this morning for Atchison and the surrounding country. Passed through Platt (sic) City, thence to Weston, and from there to Iatan, a small village on the Missouri River, 7 miles above Weston.

Sunday, February 25, 1855

Up tolerably early this morning, and after looking around for a while, concluded this was the place for me. Tis a very pretty place, a good landing and rich country around it – no drugs nearer than Weston, and only one dry goods store in the place. Saw Mr. Garnett & Mr. Alexander, who own the store here; they seemed very anxious for me not only to bring drugs, but to locate here and practice my profession. Alexander said he would insure me two thousand a year at my practice, and that I certainly would sell many drugs. ... After satisfying myself that this was the best place in upper Mo. for a business of this kind, as well as the practice of medicine, concluded to start.

Monday, February 26, 1855

I am well pleased with the country, considering the cold weather during our trip, and really think that it would do well for me to locate there. I feel quite certain it is destined to be a great point on the river, a good landing, a rich country back above, and below it, and thickly settled by sick farmers, which will make any country good. I am not very favorably impressed with the Kansas country, too much prairie, and too many poor people there to make a living.

Note: Modern day Iatan is no longer on the banks of the Missouri River, the river channel having moved several times. Today it is merely a wide spot in the road, and is known mostly as a power station for electricity.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Archives needs volunteers for a special project. The work will involve unfolding old documents, repairing tears and holes and filing the pages in a folder. The project involves a large number of documents and a fixed time frame, so our need is for many volunteers. If you are interested, please call us at 816-781-3611.

OPEN HOUSE ON JANUARY 6

As part of its History Seminar Series, the city of Liberty will host an open house at the Archives. The program "Getting to Know Your Archives" will take place on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. The public is invited.

REMINDER:

ARCHIVES TO BE CLOSED

The Archives will be closed beginning December 21, 2006 and continuing through January 14, 2007, except by appointment. This will allow our volunteers time to give our building a thorough cleaning and to catch up on their research.

We love our volunteers! During the months of September, October and November they worked 1152 hours!
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To all of our customers, from the officers, directors and volunteers of the Clay County Archives and Historical Library: Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2007!



The Clay County MOsaic

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