

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

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

April – May - June 2007

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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

Throughout our existence, the Archives has partnered with various organizations to obtain historical material and to preserve and organize it in a way to make it accessible to the public for research. The most influential "partner" has to be the Clay County Government, as they have generated the most historically significant and voluminous collection.

The County has provided many documents over the years including Probate and other court records. But one "collection" we have been eyeing for some time has been the Criminal Court case records starting with 1822 (which was, as most of you know, the year Clay County was chartered) into the 1950's. There have been many significant criminal court cases in those years that have been effectively "lost" to all but the most diligent researchers willing to slog through the largely unorganized material.

So a few years ago, the County decided to go ahead and give us those records, provided we work with them to preserve them beyond normal means. The plan was to scan them electronically, thereby preserving the content and making them available with current/future technology. Traditionally, they would be microfilmed (and the State currently requires this for most documents) but the County and the Archives wanted to graduate beyond that archaic technology. Besides, to adhere to State requirements, the County has the equipment to transfer these electronic images to microfilm whether anyone actually uses the microfilm or not.

These records consist of individual packets containing the filing papers and other such items and also large bound books in which the court docket entries (basically these are the "minutes" of the case court sessions and include the disposition of the case) were written. The entries in the docket books were made in the order of appearance in the court sessions and not ordered by case so that to see the totality of a case, one would have to read the case file (packet) and then wade through the relevant docket books looking for each reference to that case which could span days, weeks or even years. So, part of the project, after the case files and docket books are

(Continued to Page 10)

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 printouts	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

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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

The following websites contain over 13 million cemetery and burial records that you can search by location, claim to fame or birth or death dates:

www.interment.net
www.accessgenealogy.com/cemetery
www.findagrave.com

Brown County, Kansas Genealogical Society Newsletter, January—February 2007

"Confederate Veteran Magazine" was published from 1893 through 1932 and contained articles relating to various local Confederate veterans' organizations as well as obituaries, biographical sketches, etc. The magazine is available online through the Library of Virginia at <http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us> or do a Google search on Confederate Veteran Magazine.

The grave locations of more than three million veterans and their dependents buried in national cemeteries can be found more easily now because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has added maps of burial sections online than can be printed from home computers and at national cemetery kiosks. See at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

*"Show Me" State Genealogical News,
Newsletter of the Missouri State
Genealogical Association, Spring 2007*

The Missouri State Genealogical Association (MoSGA) has announced its 2007 Annual Conference, to be held in Jefferson City on August 3rd and 4th. It will feature Michael John Neill as the keynote speaker. Mr. Neill is a writer, a leader of research trips and an accomplished speaker. For more information go to www.mosga.org or contact Nancy Thomas, 3204 Wooddale Lane, Columbia, MO 65203; 573-443-6052; or nancywt@socket.net.

(Continued to Page 9)

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

Monday, May 7, 1855

Heard at Robt. Dunlaps of the Death of Robert S. Dougherty!! He died at old Fort Kearney or Table Creek in Nebraska Territory with pneumonia. Poor boy!! I raised him from quite a small boy, and entertained the opinion that he would make no ordinary man. I have never known a youth for whom I entertained more exalted feelings, and for whose welfare, I felt so much solicitude. Little did I think, the last time I saw him, that the poor fellow would so soon be numbered among the dead. Peace be to his ashes.

Note: Robert S. Dougherty was a first cousin of Dr. Dougherty. He was born March 3, 1835 and died April 22, 1855. He was the son of Robert Sylvester Dougherty and Elizabeth Pierce. Robert Sr. was dead by 1845, when his son was only about 10 years of age; thus his life paralleled the Doctor's, who also lost his father at a young age.

Wednesday, July 4th Independence Day, 1855

Mr. Burnett and I went in the buggy up to the lake to Mr. Pembertons to a Barbecue, but the crowd being small and not very congenial, we staid about ½ hour and left for home – got home to dinner, which relished about as well as if we had partook of the barbecue meats etc. After dinner, we took Mary & several ladies over the river in the skiff after Raspberries, on the other side of the slough. Had a very pleasant time; gathered a good many berries. Heard this evening that they turned the Barbecue at the lake into a general fight. Have not heard the particulars.

Friday, July 13, 1855

Cool and pleasant today. S. B. Henry Lewis passed up to day. Recd a letter from J. C. Thornton to day; he is well and talked of going home soon. It has become quite warm this evening – Golden State up this evening. River falling fast, getting down to low water mark.

Note: The Steamboat Henry Lewis was probably one of a family of boats that carried the Lewis name. The Steamboat Golden State was in operation from 1855 to 1857. In the spring of 1855 it left St. Louis with

Several hundred Mormons and their freight bound for Salt Lake via Fort Leavenworth. On this trip many died of a catastrophic cholera epidemic. The steamboat burned at St. Louis in 1857.

Sunday, September 2, 1855

This is my birthday. I am just 35 years old to day. How Time flies. It seems but the other day, and I was a careless boy, and yet it has been a third of a century ago. I have had many ups and downs in the last 15 years – oh, who can tell them – many of them are indelibly written upon memories page. ‘Tis a good time to pause and reflect, had I time I would record a few, but business calls and I must defer for the present.

Monday, September 3, 1855

This is Ella's birthday, rather a coincidence, so near my own. She is 4 years old to day – getting to be quite a large child – soon will be a young lady, should she live. The Lord Grant she may have many a happy Birthday. May she always be as free from pain, sorrow, and trouble as she is today.

Sunday, September 9, 1855

Went to Camp meeting to day in the buggy; took Mary & the children; very warm & the flies very bad; but I used a remedy I heard of yesterday which has done some good in preventing them from biting so badly – greased all over with old bacon rind, and then rub over with green tomatoe (sic) vines. Tis pretty good.

Friday, October 12, 1855

Went to Weston today and Recd my appointment as P. M. (Post Master) of Iatan, also the key.

Note: He is now the postmaster of Iatan, in addition to running a drug store, and maybe general store as well, and being a doctor.

Sunday, February 3, 1856

Well, we have it at last; the mercury stood 32 degrees below zero this morning about day light. That certainly was the coldest weather I ever felt. Indeed it is almost impossible to keep from freezing by a large fire. 2 bright sun Dogs on each side of the sun this morning.

Note: Sundog is a common name for a parhelion, a mock sun appearing in the form of a bright light near the sun.

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

Articles from the *Smithville Democrat Herald*

May 17, 1918

About Our Soldier Boys

Cards were received here Saturday and Sunday announcing the safe arrival overseas of Guy Walker, Ernest Hess, Vivian Benson, Will and Ben Woods, Austin Ashburn, Wilkerson Beery, Emmett Tritt and Henry Burnam. The boys are members of the 35th Division, that participated in a big parade in London Saturday, passing in review before King George and high officials of the British government, creating a most favorable impression for their appearance and soldierly bearing.

June 21, 1918

Good for Smithville

All streets in Smithville, except just a few side streets, have been oiled, and the people down there are tickled over it. Some who fought oiling say now they were mistaken and it is generally conceded that it was a fine thing to do.

Are we asleep here in Plattsburg? Could we sleep if we would on account of the dust?

Clinton County Democrat

July 5, 1918

J. M. Sodeman has returned from Ft. Leavenworth where he has been stock clerk at the military prison the past 5 weeks. One of his duties before he came home was to count the chickens on the prison farm. There were only a few over 24,000 so he didn't mind it very much.

July 12, 1918

No Sugar for Red Cross Socials

Owing to the extreme scarcity of sugar and to the fact that the Food Administration desires to reserve as much sugar as possible for canning and preserving, it will be unwise at this time to allow sugar to be used at events given at Red Cross benefits throughout the country. The sugar used in lemonade, cakes, etc., is consumed in a comparatively uneconomic way.

Clay County has used already over 57,000 pounds of sugar during this season for canning and preserving alone, so one can see what an enormous amount of sugar is necessary for the whole country for this one item, and it also shows the necessity for denial along other lines that this sugar may be used in the saving of food that must otherwise go to waste.

Just at present it is much more patriotic to do without sugar than it is to drink Red Cross lemonade and eat Red Cross cake.

No permits will be given by the Clay County Food Administration for sugar to be used at Red Cross socials.

Robert S. Withers
County Food Administrator

Articles from the *Liberty Tribune*

May 1, 1908

The story is told of a fond parent who sent a note of excuse to the teacher reading as follows: "Please excuse Willie, as he has torn his trousers on a nail. Hoping you will do the same, I am, yours truly."

August 7, 1908

Photographs Stomach

An important apparatus has been made by Dr. Fritz Lang of Munich by which the inside of the stomach can be clearly photographed, an exchange states. The camera is actually swallowed by the patient, and when it reaches the stomach the walls thereof can be illuminated by a small electric lamp attached to the apparatus. At the bottom of the camera is wound a photographic film 20 inches long and a quarter of an inch wide. All the surgeon has to do is to pull the cord, and thus run the film past the lens. The electric light is then turned on, and after the sensitive film has been impressed with the image the current is turned off and another section of the film is brought into play, until the required number of pictures have been obtained.

Articles from the *Liberty Advance*

April 2, 1928

A woman slapped a man several times this morning, causing quite a commotion on Broadway in Excelsior Springs. She then, according to witnesses, told the man he had to marry her.

Ghost Towns of Clay County



In this issue we continue the story of Greenville, the first in an ongoing series of articles about towns in Clay County that are no longer in existence

Greenville

(Part 2)

By Shirley Fansher

For many years Greenville was prosperous enough to support the "Lewis Institute." The school was built in 1858 by Leven M. Lewis as a 24 by 50-foot two-story structure.

The advertisement found that year in the *Liberty Tribune* stated that the "institution is located in the pleasant little village of Greenville on the state road between Platte City and Richmond. Believing that retirement is absolutely necessary to the acquisition of a sound education, we have selected the above place away from the allurements to vice and immorality presented by the larger towns of our State, among the green hills and in the grassy vales surrounding Greenville, nothing is presented save what tends to elevate and refine the feeling of Young Ladies and Gentlemen."

According to the *Lewis Collegiate Institute*, the attendance in 1859 was 80 students. The Academy, as it was commonly called, was closed during the Civil War, but did reopen in 1865 as the Greenville High School. When it closed, the Masons used it until their move to Excelsior Springs in 1884. By the 1930's it had "practically fallen to ruin." Today not even the foundation to the academy can be found. The only other head of the school, in addition to Lewis, was Prof. A. M. Chase.

Greenville could be found on maps as early as the 1860 Map of Missouri by John T. Fiala of St. Louis. Greenville was platted into nearly 40 city lots by the publication of the 1877 Clay County Atlas. The United States Post Office was listed as Claytonville, no doubt because Missouri already had a Greenville, the county seat of Wayne County.

For the most part the history of Greenville was that of a quiet western town. But as the tide for Civil War was gathering, a large "Union Meeting" (Constitutional Union Party) was held in Greenville on Oct. 18, 1860

At the meeting, Judge Edward Samuel spoke about the hopes to keep the Union strong and an opposition to the dissolution of that Union. The Constitutional Union Party name comes from its extremely simple platform, a simple resolution "to

recognize no political principle other than the Constitution...the Union...and the Enforcement of the Laws."

They hoped that by failing to take a firm stand either for or against slavery or its extension, the issue could be pushed aside.

The party did not survive the election of Lincoln and the attack on Fort Sumter. The Clay County members of this party were opposed to the splitting of the Union. Many of them supported and fought for the Union Army, even some of the citizens that had owned slaves before the Civil War. There were in Greenville, as in many parts of the county, several accounts of violence, ambushes and even deaths from this violence. The end of the Civil War was not necessarily the end to the trouble.

One of the last families to live in the village of Greenville was the James Andrew Rhodus family. My great uncle James Rhodus came to Clay County from Kentucky early in the 1860's. He owned land on the hill above Greenville and built a large, two-story home there in 1881.



The James Rhodus' home. The last remaining 19th Century house in Greenville, it burned in 2006.

As part of a celebration his family had a house warming and New Year's party in 1882. It was normal for family and friends to come from near and far and stay for days. An uninvited neighborhood youth by the name of John Samuel attended the party with a couple of his friends. John was best known by his neighbors as the younger half-brother of Jesse and Frank James. John had been drinking and was not welcome in his rowdy state. Uncle Jim asked the young people to leave the party. John was not happy about this affront and as he was leaving, turned and shot at the home with his gun. Uncle Jim Rhodus felt obliged to stop this, and the final result was that John was shot in the chest, and was nearly mortally wounded.

(Continued to Page 10)

**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.

April 5, 1907

Charlie **Reece**, a well-known character about Liberty, died last Saturday, and Dr. H. G. **Frank** conducted the funeral services at the home of the deceased in the northwest part of town Sunday afternoon. Burial was at Fairview. He leaves a wife who was Miss Frances **Grady**. He has a sister, Mrs. Susana **Reynolds**, in Chicago. He was born in Baltimore, September 27, 1839, and spent a number of years in Fayette County, Kentucky. He was one of Morgan's Men, part of the time during the War.

April 12, 1907

Hugh B. **Wood** died last Sunday morning at his home in Missouri City from injuries received the Thursday before while hauling rock. He was working the road with T. B. **Nowlin** and others on the hill above the coal mine when his team backed off the side of the road and came near going over into the railroad cut. One of the horses stepped upon him, and he stated at the time he was badly hurt, but he was able to get in a buggy and ride to his home. Mr. Wood came from Ralls County and had lived at Missouri City a number of years. He was 59 years of age and leaves a wife and 5 children – 3 daughters and 2 sons. Mrs. Wood is a daughter of the late Thomas **Kidd**. Mrs. R. J. M. **Laffoon** of Kearney vicinity is a sister of the deceased.

The 3-weeks-old infant of J. T. **Miller** and wife died Friday, and the remains were sent to Elmira for burial. Mr. Miller is Superintendent of the Odd Fellows Home farm.

Mrs. Mary **Thornton Donnell** who died in New York City last December set aside \$10,000 to be invested, and when the accumulations amount to \$50,000 the amount is to be used to establish and maintain a historical library at William Jewell College. Mrs. Donnell is the widow of Robert W. Donnell, the well-known banker. She was born at the Thornton place southwest of Liberty. A lengthy article by D. C. **Allen** about Mrs. Donnell was published in the Tribune, March 22.

May 3, 1907

Missouri City: Clarence **Kirtley** and bride, deaf mutes, left for their home at Savannah Thursday morning amid a shower of rice and their baggage appropriately decorated.

Missouri City: Dale **Johnson** of Kansas City, who visits Missouri City, surprised all of his folks by quietly marrying Miss Madge **Wilson** of the West Side, Kansas City, April 21.

May 10, 1907

Again the death angel has been in our midst and took Mrs. Dottie **Rogers Lilly**. She was one of God's own creatures, just borrowed from him for almost 19 years. She was married to Mr. Walter Lilly, August 18, 1906, and was a faithful and devoted wife the short time she was spared to him. Interment in Fairview Cemetery.

May 17, 1907

Missouri City: Dr. **Cox's** little boy ran across an old mail order catalog not long since, and seeing some girl babies, he wrote out...an order for one immediately. But the stork beat him and left a nice boy baby there Sunday.

May 24, 1907

Quite a romantic wedding took place last Sunday afternoon under the trees of Mr. Olivet Church. It was the marriage of Mr. John T. **Groom** and Miss Anna May **Grimes**, both of near Liberty. It was Elder **Loos'** day at Smithville; so the contracting parties drove halfway and Elder Loos met them at Olivet.

May 31, 1907

The annual meeting of the few remaining old soldiers in Clay County who were in the Mexican War was held at the boarding house of James H. **Riley**, last Saturday. Of the 130 who went from Clay County, only 7 are living, and another – J. Add **Smith** of Lawson – always meeting with them. Only 4 of the 8 were present last Saturday – M. D. **Gow**, Morgan **DeLacy**, John S. **Story**, W. T. **Stevenson** Sr., and Mr. Smith. The others are Captain John W. **Shouse**, Captain William H. **Pence**, and Judge W. **Francis** who could not be present.

June 7, 1907

A fine 11-pound boy to Mr. Bert **Cossiart** and wife May 29.

(Continued to Page 8)

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

(Continued from Page 7)

June 14, 1907

Samuel Augustus **Ringo**: The subject of this meager sketch died five or six weeks ago in San Francisco. His home, however, as is believed, was in Alameda, California. Mr. Ringo was born in Liberty, Missouri, February 4, 1834. He was a son of Samuel Ringo Sr. and wife, Mrs. Mary Ringo. She was a Miss **Wirt** before marriage. Samuel Ringo Sr. settled in Liberty near the year 1825. In old times, he was one of the leading merchants of Liberty and noted for his solid judgment, sterling qualities, and undoubted integrity. They had six children: Dr. Jno. W. Ringo, Richard A. Ringo, Charles S. Ringo, Samuel Augustus Ringo, Mrs. Florence **Hall**, and Edward Volney Ringo. Of these children, all are dead except Charles S. Ringo, now of Parkville. Samuel Ringo Sr. died at his residence – now owned by Dr. **Casey** – near the southwest corner of Liberty, in mid-summer 1854. His wife died at Parkville some years ago. Mr. Ringo was educated in part in the Academies of Liberty, and during 1850 and 1851 in William Jewell College. In September, 1851, he entered Center College, Danville, Kentucky, and there graduated in 1853. On November 29, 1853, Mr. Ringo was married to Miss Mary E. M. **Ellis**. She was a daughter of the late Dr. Ellis, for many years a citizen of Gallatin, Missouri. After marriage, Mr. Ringo, aided by his wife, conducted for a year or over a female institute in Liberty. He then entered into mercantile pursuits at Richmond. In 1872, he removed to the state of Nevada and later to California. His first wife dying, many years ago, he married a second time. His second wife survives him. He left seven children.

June 28, 1907

Kansas City Times: Abraham **DeCamp** of 514 Gillis Street appealed to the police Monday for aid in finding his brother, Seibert, who had been missing from their home near California, Missouri, since 1880. The police found that a man named DeCamp had been murdered near Liberty, Missouri, 10 years ago. A description was obtained of the man, and the brother is now satisfied it was his long-lost brother. (The officers here do not know of a man by that name being murdered. An unknown man was killed near Harlem about the time stated.)

LINCOLN: INDIAN FIGHTER

One hundred seventy-five years ago, on April 5, 1832, Black Hawk, a chief of the Sauk tribe, accompanied by several hundred warriors and their families, crossed the Mississippi River and set out for Rock Island, in Northwest Illinois. Back in 1804 Sauk and Fox leaders had agreed to abandon their lands east of the river, but Black Hawk and others denied the validity of that treaty. Now he and his followers hoped to reclaim their ancestral village.

Governor John Reynolds called for volunteers to repel the invasion and on April 19 word reached New Salem, the central Illinois home of Abraham Lincoln. Two days later about 60 local men formed a company and elected the 23-year-old Lincoln as their captain. The next day they traveled to Beardstown, where troops had been told to assemble. In a wrestling match with a member of another company, held to determine which unit would occupy the better campground, Lincoln was defeated in two straight falls.

Lincoln ran his charges through some perfunctory drills but spent most of his time on administrative details. On April 29 some 1500 volunteers began moving north, and at dusk on May 7 they made camp near the scene of Black Hawk's invasion.

Things were fairly peaceful, as federal regulars had already arrived in the area, causing the invaders to halt their advance. The newly arrived volunteers set out in search of Black Hawk. They didn't find him, partly because their guides were Winnebagos, who sympathized with the Sauks.

The game of hide-and-seek turned into a shooting war on the evening of May 14, when unruly volunteers attacked and killed a pair of emissaries from Black Hawk who sought to discuss a peace. In the ensuing battle, 12 whites were killed and the rest fled. Lincoln and his men arrived the next day and found the mangled and scalped bodies.

After two more weeks of marching around northern Illinois, Lincoln's company was mustered out. He re-enlisted for 20 days, performing reconnaissance.

On July 10 Lincoln's military career came to an end. He had served a little less than 12 weeks without seeing combat. The troops he left behind decisively defeated Black Hawk's band, massacring many Indians and taking the chief himself prisoner. Meanwhile, Lincoln pursued his previously announced candidacy for the state legislature, finishing eighth in a field of 13.

*From American Heritage Magazine, May
2007*

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Searching for Illinois Vital Records? Try the Illinois Archives Database Site at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html> * You can do a “Global Search” of all the databases to see if a name comes up.

Central Illinois News, March – April 2007

**Note: For some reason I could not make this web address work. If it doesn't work for you, try this:*

1. Go to <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>
2. Click on Departments (near bottom of page)
3. Click on Illinois State Archives
4. Click on Databases (near top of page)
5. Click on Global Database Search (top of page)

The state Historical Society of Missouri has a new secure link on its web page where patrons who wish to receive assistance in finding an obituary can make a request and pay with a credit card. The secure link is only for requesting copies of obituaries found in newspapers from Missouri held in the Society's newspaper collection.

To make a request, go to <http://www.umssystem.edu/shs/researchrequests.shtml> and then “Obituary Search.” The full name of the deceased, the exact date of death and the residence at the time of death is required. The cost per request is \$5.00 for State Historical Society members and \$10.00 for nonmembers. The fee includes one photocopy of researched material and mailing costs.

Before filling out the form, you may want to investigate the list of Missouri newspapers on microfilm which is now available online. The publication *Missouri Newspapers on Microfilm at the State Historical Society* is arranged alphabetically by county and includes dates available for each newspaper title. A printed (paper) copy is also available for purchase or you may find one at your favorite library.

Ozarks Genealogical Society Newsletter, April 2007

Family Search, in conjunction with the Genealogical Society of Utah and the Utah State Archives and Records Service, announced recently that the state's free online index to death certificates is now linked to original images of the historic documents. The integration of the index with free digital pictures of the death certificates issued from 1905 to 1954 by the state will open doors to additional information for family historians and genealogists with Utah ties. To search the index and

view the certificates, users need to go to <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/index.html>.

*Ozarks Genealogical Society Newsletter,
April 2007*

THE GREAT FEATHER CAPER OF 1865

(Yet Another Tale From the Clay County Criminal Court Files)

It was September, 1865. Reconstruction following the Civil War was under way. Local citizens were clamoring for a bridge over the east fork of the Fishing River. And James Allen came from Ohio to bilk unsuspecting Clay Countians out of their feathers.

Clay County resident Isaiah Craighead saw the stranger arrive in a wagon with another man. James Allen had an interesting proposition for Isaiah – he would trade him “pound for pound” new feathers for old ones. Allen would take Isaiah's old feathers and leave him 35 cents per pound for them. Then when he came back with the new feathers, ten thousand pounds of which were in storage in Kansas City, Isaiah was to give him back his 35 cents per pound. But why, Isaiah asked, did he not bring the new feathers with him now? Allen had a ready reply: he had tried that once, but each time he got old feathers from a customer, he had to take the new ones off the wagon to put the old ones on the bottom.

Isaiah told James Allen that this was a “very novel kind of a trade” and he “didn't hardly know what to make of it.” Allen agreed that it was, but said that he had been sent out by a steamboat company to get old feathers to make mattresses for steamboats. He wanted old feathers that had been used for a number of years so the “kinks” would be out of them.

Mrs. (Massy) Craighead was skeptical, saying “I think that we had better not let him have the feathers till he fetched the new ones.” Allen told Isaiah that he “needn't be anywise afraid; I never went anywhere but what I can go back again.” Isaiah was convinced. He told his wife that he thought he would let Allen have a couple of feather beds. She said, “Do just as you please.”

Allen had Massy “rip the ticks open” so he could see if they were old enough. When she did, he pronounced them “just the sort he wanted.” He and Isaiah went back to the wagon, where the feathers were weighed and Isaiah was paid about \$7.00 for his old feathers. Allen said he would be back in seven to ten days with the new feathers and at that time Isaiah was to return the feather money.

(Continued to Page 10)

THE GREAT FEATHER CAPER OF 1865

(Continued from Page 9)

James Allen also visited Leroy Curry who thought it would be “a nice thing to have some new feathers” so he exchanged his old ones for 35 cents a pound and a promise of new feathers.

Now you might be wondering why the feather exchange was such a bad deal. After all, the families did get 35 cents a pound for their old feathers. Trouble was, feathers in that day were valued at 60 to 70 cents a pound. And, as you might have guessed, the new feathers never arrived.

The Craigheads and Leroy and Amanda Curry testified before Justice of the Peace Squire Cooper against James Allen, who was charged with obtaining goods under false pretenses. Several witnesses for the defense swore that he was in Ohio at the time that the Clay County folks were swindled out of their feathers.

James Allen and John P. Gaddy put up \$100 (whether each or in total is not clear) as security that Allen would appear in court. But by October 1866, he was as scarce as those new feathers. Sheriff Rickards attempted to find him for the next two years, but was unable to, and in March of 1869 the case was allowed to fall off the court docket.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

scanned, is to extract information on people, places and events, and then “marry” the docket entries for each case to the case files so that a researcher can examine the case without having to read too many separate documents.

So the Archives volunteers have been busy organizing and preparing the documents for scanning (which the County will do). Each case file is being flat folded and repairs are being made to the papers as needed. The volunteers have even found some misfiled papers and are making the effort to group them appropriately by case. The cases from 1822 through 1932 (about 85%) have been prepared so the County can start scanning as soon as they are ready. In the meantime, they arranged to have the docket books scanned by professionals because the books needed special handling (as they are bound).

So by this time next year we hope to have all of these Criminal Case records scanned and be well on the way to having them abstracted and in a form that can be used by our patrons.

Stuart E. Elliot

Ghost Towns of Clay County



(Continued from Page 6)

Uncle James was arrested but was soon released because the affair was determined to be a case of justifiable defense.



James Rhodus

John Samuel’s family was of great concern to the Rhodus family, and it was said that Uncle Jim would not leave the house after dark. Uncle Jim had fought on the Union side and was openly a member of the Republican Party. While his second wife had been a long-time friend of the James family, there was great fear for the reaction of the James-Samuel family to the wounding of their son and brother. The Rhodus family lived in fear for some time, until neighbors and friends of the family gathered with the James-Samuel family at a local church and let it be known that Uncle James was a good man and neighbor and if he was harmed in any way, they knew who to blame for that harm.

The story of Greenville will be continued in the next issue. The Archives would welcome any additional information, stories or corrections about Greenville.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

A letter from Leonidas Lawson to Col. John Doniphan, 1880, donated by Chad Means.

Oath of loyalty of Thomas Griste and T. A. McGrew, a teacher's report to the Township Clerk of Platte County, donated by Frances Hornbuckle.

Braley Line/Family History, donated by Betty Keller.

Abstract of Title from the Kenneth and Temple Goodwin Logan family, residents of Minneville, donated by Patty Logan Cornett and Nancy Logan Caruso.

Liberty Class of 1932 memorabilia: 1982 Reunion; Liberty Bell, 1930-1932 donated by Forrest Philpott.

Denney/Riley Families, family history book, created and donated by Mertie Corum Denney.

Alpha Delta Kappa scrapbooks, 1977 – 2001, gavel, banner and other items, donated by Karen Warren.

The Gardiner Family, book donated by James and Teresa Morrow as a memorial to Amelia McGinness

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

THE MIRANDA WITHOUT THE FRUITY HAT

“You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law...” Heard that before? (If you have, we hope it was on TV or in a movie.) But who was Miranda anyway?

In the spring of 1962 Ernesto Miranda was spotted driving a car in the vicinity of a string of crimes in Phoenix, Arizona. The victims could not pick him out of a lineup, but the police told him they did. He confessed, was convicted and received a stiff sentence.

The courts had long held that confessions had to be voluntary. But just what did “voluntary” mean? For a suspect held in custody, where did “voluntary” end and “coerced” begin?

In a decision handed down in June 1966, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that in order for a statement to be voluntary, the suspect had to be informed of four things before being questioned:

1. His right to remain silent,
2. The fact that his statements could be used against him,
3. His right to an attorney,
4. The obligation of the state to provide counsel if he couldn't afford it.

The decision did Ernesto Miranda little good. He was retried without the confession and again convicted. He served almost 10 years before being paroled. Freed for good in 1975, he was stabbed to death in a bar brawl 10 years later. The prime suspects in his murder were read their Miranda rights, did not implicate themselves and were never prosecuted.

From Americanheritage.com

HELPFUL HINT

When making copies of old black and white photographs or newspaper articles, always use ivory paper instead of white paper. Ivory paper is more forgiving, and the copies will look wonderful. Also use a color copier; it will enhance your photos, even though they are black and white, and give you greater detail.

Some merchants will not allow you to bring your own paper. But many will. As much as possible, copy your photos and other documents on acid-free paper. Some laser copiers have an “old fashioned” setting, which is very nice for photos with a sepia (brown) tone. The ivory paper helps it look aged.

*From the Kishwaukee Genealogists,
Jan./Feb. 2007, as quoted by the May-June 2007
Central Illinois News*

(The Archives has a color copier and we would be happy to use your ivory paper.)

<p>The Archives' own Kevin Fisher will conduct the July 2007 Architecture Walk, a tour of Historic Downtown Liberty. The tour will meet at the fountain next to City Hall, 101 E. Kansas Street, at 10:00 a. m. on Saturday, July 7. Reservations are encouraged, but not required, at 816-792-6000, ex. 3036. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes.</p>

**ANNUAL VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION PICNIC**

The Archives has announced its annual volunteer appreciation picnic, to be held at the Archives, 210 E. Franklin, Liberty MO, on Tuesday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. Participants should bring a side dish or dessert to share. The Archives will provide meat, bread, condiments, drinks and table service.

Please make reservations by July 15 by calling the Archives at 816-781-3611 or Carol Olson at 816-452-3540.

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR
DONIPHAN BUSTS**

The Archives is assisting in the effort to raise \$14,000 for a series of bronze busts of Col. Alexander Doniphan, arguably the second most famous Clay Countian in our history. A life-size bust will be placed in the Hall of Famous Missourians in Jefferson City; a second bust has been proposed for the Clay County Administration Building in Liberty. Smaller busts may be presented to the Alexander Doniphan School and used for special awards.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Clay County Archives, Doniphan Project, c/o Dr. Christian Sizemore, 1417 Woodbury Drive. Liberty, MO 64068.

**NEW EXHIBITS AT ST. JOSEPH
MUSEUM**

The St. Joseph (MO) Museums, Inc. has opened a new series of exhibits commemorating its 80th Anniversary. Among them are items donated to the “new” museum in 1927 and examples of technology and new products that were introduced in the 1920’s, such as band-aids, Q-tips and aerosol products.

The new exhibits will be open through December during the regular museum hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and free for museum members. For more information, call 816-232-8471.

We love our volunteers! During the months of March through May they worked 1085.5 hours! But we can always use more. If you are interested, please give us a call at 816-781-3611. We can tailor your activities to your interests.

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