

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
July-August-September 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

You all know a history buff or two. For all I know, you might even be one. You know the type; one who has become fascinated with what life must have been like before they were born. To wonder what it was like to live before the modern conveniences we now enjoy. In some ways life was much harder but in other ways much simpler.

We look at life in general but also at our community. How did individuals come together to form this particular group of people in this particular place to achieve these particular things? These places, achievements and the community now seem so solid and grounded; it's as if they always existed. When the settlers first arrived, did they really have any idea how it would all turn out? How we today would just take all of their accomplishments for granted?

But maybe the strongest draw to the past is wondering how our ancestors contributed to who we are today. How did a decision made in the 19th century, for instance, by a great-great-grandparent, affect me, influence me? We look at the activities of our more recent family members and we may have some clue; "You get that from your grandfather," your mother may say. Well, what traits did his parents pass down to him? And the parents of his parents? You get the idea. A thread through time. One that leads right to you.

Well, in the ripe old year of 1979, a group of people, driven by these and probably many other motives, decided that what we knew about our collective history was too important to lose as many of the records were in great peril. There was no viable way to save them unless THEY stepped in. Who were THEY? Well, there are specific people who have become very important in the history of the Archives but maybe a better way to describe them would be to use a word that applies even today to those who toil in the effort to preserve these records, obtain even more and to make them all more accessible and usable. That word would be VOLUNTEER.

Those who stepped in to incorporate this organization thought the job was so important that they VOLUNTEERED. Nobody was given any hope

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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 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 St. Louis Genealogical Society will present "Putting the Genes in Your Genealogy" featuring Bennett Greenspan, President and CEO of FamilyTreeDNA.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Viking Holiday Inn, 10709 Watson Road, St. Louis, Missouri.

Registration includes full-day workshop and lunch. The cost is \$60 for St. Louis Genealogical Society members and \$70 for non-members.

Mr. Greenspan will discuss both the deep anthropology and the recent genealogical information that you have stored within your DNA, from learning about the migratory patterns of your ancestors thousands of years ago to confirming your personal heritage within recent generations.

You will learn, in terms understandable to any non-science major:

- What DNA is,
- What DNA testing offers genealogists,
- How DNA testing can advance your knowledge of your ancestry,
- How to interpret results,
- And much more.

To register, call 314-647-8547 or go to www.stlgs.org.

A great article on recording tombstones and grave markers with a digital camera can be found at <http://www.interment.net/column/records/digital/digital.htm>. The article includes tips on taking good photos, getting good photos of hard to photograph markers and stones, and selecting the right camera.

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

Monday, September 8, 1856

Lost my pole, line, hook and all last night, and this Evening about 4 P.M. saw a pole floating up the eddy, watched it closely, seemed strange to be so far out in the river and yet floating up, I suspected something took the skiff and made a dash for it, it moved rapidly. I then pulled for the pole when I got near it, it went clear under, I then knew it was my pole and line, with a fish to it. After the pole raised, I caught it, and played it around for some time when it broke the line. I came to the shore very much disappointed. Late in the evening I caught a fine blue Cat, weighted about 11 lbs. My bate (bait) was pawpaws.

Tuesday, September 9, 1856

Early this morning I found a fish had my hook. I called on my friend Maj. Christopher to assist me. He came down, and we pulled out with the assistance of some others, a catfish weighing 146 lbs. And stranger to tell, he had my hook and piece of the line, I had lost the morning before in his mouth, the same one I had been chasing about the River last evening.

Wednesday, September 10, 1856

The news from the Territory is that Lane is carrying every thing before him. He is expected to attack Leavenworth City.

Note: James Henry Lane was a leader of the free soil forces in Kansas. He emigrated from Indiana in 1855 to Kansas, and became involved both in a political and military way, becoming second in command. He was one of the Free State leaders indicted for treason, and a participant in the domestic feuds of 1856-57. After Kansas was made a state, Lane was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1861. He later committed suicide in 1866, after an accusation of fraud in Indian contracts.

Monday, October 6, 1856

Today is the election in Kansas. Many have gone over. Expect trouble.

Monday, October 20, 1856

Started early from Davis, and got to St. Jo by 9. Concluded to stay and see the tournament – did so, quite an affair, very interesting to those who never witnessed any thing of the kind.

Note: Several counties had those tournaments. Usually a young lady was crowned Queen of Love and Beauty. The contestants were costumed like knights, although not in complete armor, and usually fought with long poles. Liberty had one at about this same time.

Wednesday, November 19, 1856

The weather is tolerably fine for the farmers to gather corn and prepare their hemp.

Note: In August hemp plants would be pulled up by hand and the stalks laid out for the sun and rain to alternately dry and loosen fibers from the pulp. In October the stalks were shocked like corn to dry. In mid winter the fibers were “broken out” which was to remove them from the pulp. The fibers were then “hackled” which meant pulling them through large combs called hackles. After the fibers were cleaned and silky smooth, they were either made into rope or baled for shipment.

Wednesday, December 3, 1856

Dressed 2 Coon skins to day with Alum & salt; for my over coat. Mary has knit a sock foot to night, while I have been writing.

Saturday, December 20, 1856

Ella is quite sick, worms & cold, very near pneumonia. I feel quite alarmed about her. She is delirious, breathing hurried and laborious, pulse about 160. Been giving colomel & Deves ... followed by oil & turpentine. Got Kerr’s invitation to the wedding. He marries Miss Irene Reed, or rather was married on the 18th inst.

Note: John Kerr Dougherty died during the Civil War in the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Nearly 4000 Confederate soldiers were killed during this action; he was one of the few who were identified. His brother Lewis was severely wounded and captured. Lewis was able to leave a note on John’s body giving his name and home location. Irene was given permission from President Lincoln to search for her husband’s body. She was the daughter of Allen Reed and Lucinda Adkins Reed.

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

Articles from the *Smithville Herald*

November 7, 1902

A Kansas City court has decided that a woman has a legal right to stab a man with a hat pin if he annoys her. A number of men who are not stuck on this decision at this time will be later on, probably.

August 29, 1902

The Kearney Clipper says that the man who now occupies the Samuels farm near Kearney where Jesse James was first buried, is troubled with spooks. This man Barr has taken several shots at the specters but he can't hit them.

February 14, 1902

A farmer in Platte county was kicked by a mule and died. A son by his former wife married the widow and is now said to be hunting for the mule, too.

September 6, 1901

It costs 50 cents a ride in a carriage from Excelsior Springs to the James home. Hundreds of people make the trip every week.

Articles from the *Richfield Monitor*

April 26, 1856

News Items:

- The St. Louis Republican is urging the necessity of a bridge across the Mississippi at that place.
- During the recent cold weather at Fort Snelling (Minnesota), the thermometer fell to forty-five degrees below zero, congealing the mercury.
- The Legislature of Texas, at its late session, adopted a bill donating to Mrs. Elizabeth Crockett, widow of Davy Crockett, one league of land.

March 29, 1856

I have ever been a democrat, love its doctrine, fully endorse the Baltimore Platform, but I object to the new plank added thereto in 1856, the 7th article (placing foreigners upon an equality with natives); believing as I do that this Union and the Constitution are far safer in the hands and management of native born Americans than any others. . .

Articles from the *Richfield Enterprise*

September 7, 1855

The people live uncommon long in Vermont. There are two men there so old that they have quite forgotten who they are and there is nobody alive to remember it for them.

Articles from the *Kearney Clipper*

July 28, 1883

A two cent stamp will carry your letter to any part of the United States after October 1st. "Remember the day and date."

The body of a man with pencil behind his ear, a pair of shears in his right hand and his pockets filled with gold has been excavated in Pompeii. He is supposed to have been an editor.

Articles from the *Liberty Advance*

October 27, 1893

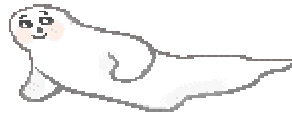
A cow with brindle face and corkscrew tail took possession of Charlie Wymore's plantation last week, and held undisputed sway until John Wymore came upon the scene and put her in a condition to bring from 12½ to 17½ cents per pound.

Two or three lone Indians who have strayed from Pine Ridge agency have caused the War Department to have the jimjams, the past week. The traders must find business slack.

REMINDER

Archives memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. We are now accepting renewals at the same great price of \$15 per year. We welcome your support.

Ghost Towns of Clay County



In this issue we conclude 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 3)

By Shirley Fansher

(As last issue's installment ended, Jim Rhodus had shot Frank and Jesse James' half-brother, John Samuel in a gunfight. The Rhodus family worried that Jim might come to some harm in retaliation, but neighbors and friends made it clear to the James-Samuel family that if Jim were harmed, they would know whom to blame.)

John was still recovering from his wound when his brother Jesse James was murdered in St. Joseph. John was too ill to attend his brother's funeral, some three months after his gunfight. According to newspaper articles, the body of Jesse was brought by the house for John to pay his last respects.

Throughout the following years, John Samuel had only some small troubles with the law. He lived a long life, which ended in Long Beach, California in 1932, where he had served as an alderman. Some stories state that he felt that the near death experience, along with the death of his brother Jesse, helped him turn his potentially lawless life around. Uncle James Rhodus also lived a long life of nearly 76 years, dying in his bed at his Greenville home in 1904.

For many years there were articles in the local newspapers from the Greenville (Claytonville) area under the line of "Rough and Ready." The articles are full of colorful current events and old memories of the town. Mr. Thomas Gash, the old postmaster, penned the articles and in one asked if anyone out there was interested in the office of postmaster, which he was willing to yield to anyone that would "raise their hand." His articles may be found at the Archives in the newspapers on microfilm.

The village survived for many years after the introduction of the rail system in Clay County. But today there is very little to mark where Greenville once stood.

In modern times the old Rhodus home stood nearly alone and in a crumbling state. It was burned nearly to the ground in the summer of 2006. Now all that is left of the old village of Greenville is the polling place. It is always hard to imagine that a town could be swallowed up by time, but there are so many examples of these small towns that have vanished.

Now that the population is growing again in that part of the county, this uninhabited farm area is now coming to life again. I wonder if the old sense of community will once again be found for these newest pioneers of urban sprawl.

Thank you to Shirley for sharing Greenville's story with us. The Archives would welcome any additional information, stories or corrections about the town or this article. Watch for another interesting ghost town in the next MOsaic.

You Know You're Addicted to Genealogy When . . .

- You brake for libraries.
- You get locked in a library overnight and you never even notice.
- You hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.
- You'd rather browse in a cemetery than a shopping mall.
- You think every home should have a microfilm reader.
- You'd rather read census schedules than a good book.
- You know every town clerk in your state by name.
- Town clerks lock the doors when they see you coming.
- You are more interested in what happened in 1895 than 1995.
- You store your clothes under the bed and your closet is carefully stacked with notebooks and journals.
- Mitchell, Davis and Tenney are household names, but you can't remember what you call your dog.
- You can pinpoint Harrietsham, Hawkhurst and Kent on a map of England, but can't locate Topeka, Kansas.
- All your correspondence begins "Dear Cousin."
- You've traced every one of your ancestral lines back to Adam and Eve, have it fully documented and still don't want to quit.

*Reprinted from the GSCM Reporter,
Genealogical Society of Central Missouri*

**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.

July 5, 1907

The body of Walter **Goff**, the man who was drowned at Kansas City June 18 by a gasoline boat striking Winner Pier and capsizing, was taken from the river near Cooley Lake Monday. It was found in a slough by Jim **Munkres**. Coroner **Isley** and Constable Andy **King** took the body to Excelsior Springs, and an inquest was held there. In a pocket was \$21.80. A reward of \$100 was offered for the recovery of the body. A brother in St. Joseph went after the body.

Uncle Tapp **Soper** was in from Gilead Monday and was happy over the news of having another grandchild, making his 14th. A fine son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Morton **Oringdolph** of Benson, Nebraska, June 22.

July 12, 1907

Oscar **Thomason** died at his home in Liberty last Friday afternoon. The burial took place in Fairview Cemetery Saturday afternoon. He was a son of the late Captain John Thomason who was a sheriff of the county at one time. Oscar served two terms and was deputy under his brother, William H. Thomason, the present sheriff. He was a fearless man and with his father gave much time to efforts trying to capture the **James** boys. They had a fight once with them when the Captain's horse was killed. Oscar married Miss Sally **Carson** of Missouri City. Mrs. Thomason and eight children survive. Mr. Thomason would have been 60 years of age next October. He was a native of Clay County, having been born at the old home place, 2 miles northwest of Liberty.

Dr. **Matthews** attended the arrival Thursday morning of a fine 11½ pound boy at the home of Marvin **Hayes** and wife.

Please see the "flyer" page at the end of the newsletter announcing an exciting new book by Samuel Pence called "*I Knew Frank... I Wish I Had Known Jesse*", a 50-year old manuscript on the James boys.

July 19, 1907

William **Roush** died at his home in Liberty Thursday morning. He had been low for several days. Mr. Roush was 85 years of age and had been a resident of Liberty for a long time. He conducted a brickyard in the southwest part of town many years, and he did the brick work in the early days on the **Arthur House** which was destroyed by fire a few years ago. Uncle Bob **Miller** states several other buildings about the square were built by Mr. Roush. He leaves a wife and four children: 2 sons, Sanford and Andy; and 2 daughters, Mrs. **Bowman** and Mrs. **DeYoung**. Mr. Roush was born in Virginia, Feb. 11, 1822, and was an early settler in Missouri. The funeral will be held at the residence Friday afternoon, the services to be conducted by Rev. H. P. **Cline** and Elder Fred B. **Loos**.

Miss Myrtle **Martin** committed suicide at her home near Randolph Saturday evening. She is a daughter of Thomas Martin and wife who live on the John F. **Howell** farm. She was at the house alone with she took the poison. A brother about 12 years of age was near the house, and he heard her screams. Dr. Matthews of Liberty was telephoned, but the young woman died before he reached there. Miss Martin was nearly 19 years of age and stayed in Liberty with Mrs. Allen **George** for a while. She was also employed in the telephone office and in the law office of Col. W. H. **Woodson** at times. A sister died of consumption, and she had fears of it. The service was held Monday afternoon, and burial was at the **Crowley Burying Ground**, north of Randolph.

July 26, 1907

W. W. **Bullock**, an old Federal soldier, was admitted to the Soldiers' Home in St. James, Missouri, this week. Mr. Bullock is likewise an aged preacher. Elder **Loos** had been looking after his case for several years. His application was twice refused, but the parson took the matter up with the governor and had Mr. Bullock admitted.

There were two deaths this week among the colored folks: Jim **Talbott** and a son of Andrew **Jackson**.

August 9, 1907

An infant of Mr. and Mrs. George **Quisenberry** died in Woodland neighborhood Saturday of summer complaint. The funeral was held Sunday.

(Continued to Page 8)

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

(Continued from Page 7)

Ben **Robertson**, an old black man who had lived at Missouri City for many years, fell down the steps at his home Monday and was killed. Ben belonged to the late Andrew Robertson of Walnut Grove neighborhood in the early days.

August 30, 1907

Kearney, Route 2: Mr. and Mrs. John **Bogart** are the proud parents of a fine 8-pound baby girl born August 19. Grandpa Charley steps very high now.

September 6, 1907

On the 25th of last month, in Seattle, Washington, Mr. Benjamin R. **Watkins**, son of James M. Watkins, and brother of Laben S. and Edgar Watkins and Mrs. Amelia **Groom**, Mrs. James **McConnel**, Mrs. W. A. **Crouch**, and Mrs. W. W. **Francis**, departed this life, age 68 years. Mr. Watkins was born and reared in Clay County, removed to Colorado in 1873, thence to Washington. He had been an invalid for four years, caused by falling from a load of hay. He was a soldier in the Confederate Army. He leaves a widow, one son, and one daughter to continue the battle of life and then join him in the grave.

September 13, 1907

The Journal in a report of the death of Major Ad K. **McClintock** which occurred at the home of a daughter in Kansas City recently, gave this sketch of his life: Major McClintock was born in Staunton, Virginia, November 13, 1821, and came to Clay County, Missouri, in 1840, where he lived mainly in Missouri City, until 1874. In 1846, he volunteered for services in the Mexican War. He was a member of Capt. Oliver P. **Moss**' Company from Clay County. He married in Clay County, August 26, 1848, Mrs. Catharine **Lurty**, widow of a noted merchant of Liberty, who survives him. She was the daughter of Capt. **Laidlow**, who died in Clay County in 1851. . . Her mother was the daughter of a Sioux Chief. . . In 1874, Major McClintock removed to Lexington Junction, Ray County, and there lived for 32 years. A year or so ago, he came to Kansas City for the society of his daughters and children, Mrs. Annie **Cole**, Mrs. Louella **Darnal**, and Mrs. Catharine **Irvine**.

STONEWALL JACKSON'S ARM

Did you know that Stonewall Jackson's left arm is buried separately from the rest of his body?

Thomas Jonathan Jackson graduated from West Point in 1846, served in the Mexican War and then became a professor at the Virginia Military Institute.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he was commissioned a colonel in the Virginia forces. He was nicknamed "Stonewall" for his distinguished and inspiring conduct at the First Battle of Bull Run (or Manassas, where a heroic statue of Jackson stands today.) He distinguished himself repeatedly as a brilliant tactician and relentlessly aggressive commander, winning major victories at the Shenandoah Valley, Second Bull Run and Antietam.

At the battle of Chancellorsville, fought May 2, 1863, he achieved one of the greatest victories in his stellar career. But the victory would come at a high cost. Examining the front of the lines that evening, Jackson and his officers were mistaken as hostile cavalry and fired upon and hit by Confederate pickets. Though his shattered left arm was amputated in the hopes of saving his life, he died eight days later.

Arms and legs amputated after a battle were usually cremated, but there was some hesitation about throwing Stonewall Jackson's arm in with the rest of them. So his chaplain, Beverly Tucker Lacy, took the mangled arm and at four o'clock in the morning walked down the road to his brother's plantation, called Ellwood, banged on the door and got his brother to help him bury it in the family plot behind the garden.

Today, beyond the once-grand garden of Ellwood, in Orange County, Virginia, among some very old tombstones, is a newer one that reads "Arm of Stonewall Jackson."

General Jackson died on May 10, 1863 from pneumonia. He is buried in Lexington, Virginia. Except for his arm.

*Information for this article came from:
www.civilwarhome.com; www.americanheritage.com
and The History Book Club*

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Check out these cards from the early 1900's at
www.twogatos.com/vintage/christmas

TREASURY NOTES

Tidbits from Treasurer Scott Cole to keep the membership informed as to the state of financial affairs within the Clay County Archives and Historical Library.

*Thanks to Karen Warren for her recent donation of \$500. The lady does it all...hard working volunteer, benefactor and...she keeps the candy dish stocked.

*The long awaited "Pence book", *I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse*, special collector's edition, is scheduled to be delivered by the publisher on September 27th; the paperback version expected in mid-October. *I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse* is the baby of Dan Pence of Washington, D. C., guest speaker at the Archives' annual meeting last November. Starting with a raw, 700+ page manuscript written by his grandfather, Samuel Anderson Pence, Dan has spent more than a year preparing the work for publication, including a return trip to Clay County in late August for a search through the Archives' digital photo base, last minute research and submission of the final work to the publisher. Speaking of photos, the collection amassed by Dan for the book is impressive, including some never before published.

So how does the publishing of *I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse* affect the financial affairs of the Clay County Archives and Historical Library? The effect should be significant, as Dan has generously donated all of the book's royalties to the Archives. Major booksellers have already shown interest in the book. Dan tells me that Barnes and Noble is pressuring the publisher to deliver the paperbacks earlier than October. I know that I speak on behalf of everyone at the Archives in thanking Dan, not only for the financial support, but for the opportunity to be part of this exciting project.

I should mention that the specially bound, collector's edition of *I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse* will be available at the Archives beginning October 1st. It will sell at a yet to be determined cost to active members and at full retail price to non-members. And of course, they will all be signed by Dan. Our supply is limited. See the insert in this MOsaic to order directly from Dan.

*Kevin Fisher and Steve Olson continue to accomplish a lot with very little. They are constructing additional shelving (at minimal cost) to accommodate the boxes of records pouring in from the County.

Scott

THE ORPHAN TRAINS

Between 1841 and 1860, America welcomed 4,311,465 newcomers, immigrants who left their homelands because of poor harvests, famines, political unrest, revolutions and promises of free land in the "land of opportunity" that steamship lines and railroad companies portrayed America to be.

Port cities became overcrowded for even temporary housing. Tenements often housed ten or more persons to a room. Food became scarce. Jobs were hard to find and labor cheap. Workplace safety was not a priority and many men were killed in accidents, leaving women and children to make their own way as best they could. Children as young as six years old were working to help support the family. Diseases from living in unsanitary quarters led to early deaths of overworked mothers. Orphanages were built to care for as many children as could possibly be taken in. Those without adults to pay for their care became wards of the court and were "disposed of" as the social workers saw fit.

Having fallen through the cracks of society, these children, often referred to as "Street Arabs", were saved largely through the efforts of one man, a minister named Charles Loring Brace. In 1853, Brace and a group of businessmen formed a new organization to help care for neglected children. They called it the Children's Aid Society of New York, with Mr. Brace as its first secretary.

He believed that in the west and Midwest, solid God-fearing homes could be found for these children. Food would be plentiful with pure air to breathe and a good work ethic developed by living on a farm would help them to grow into mature, responsible adults able to care for themselves. Thus, the "free-home-placing-out" of children began.

Railroads were the most inexpensive way to move the children westward. From 1854 to 1929, more than 250,000 orphaned, abandoned and homeless children were placed out in what is known today as the Orphan Train Era. Children were relocated from New York City and other overcrowded eastern cities to 47 states and Canada, with the majority going to the Midwestern states.

Agents would plan a route, send flyers to towns along the way and arrange for a "screening committee" in towns where the children might get new homes. When the train arrived, the children were lined up at the town's meeting hall and local residents selected as possible parents by the screening committee could choose which child they wanted. Those who were not selected were sent on to the next town.

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THE ORPHAN TRAINS

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Some of these children were adopted into loving, caring homes and did quite well; one, John Brady, eventually became the Governor of Alaska. Others were not so lucky, being thought of as only a source of free farm labor.

It is estimated that 1 in 25 people is connected to an Orphan Train rider. I'm proud to say that I am one of them. In 1878 at the age of 6, my grandfather, James Neal, left New York City with his two older brothers and came to Cooper County, Missouri. He and his 11-year-old brother Edward went to live with Mr. Sylvester Calvert of Overton, described as a farmer of means, who "seems delighted with the boys." Eight-year-old William was selected by Mr. J. J. Ragland of Gooch's Mill, within a few miles of his brothers. By 1895 Mr. Calvert had died and my grandfather had gone to live with a Mr. Boggs. Mr. Boggs' niece would later become my grandmother.

The brothers had been surrendered to the American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless, because their mother had died and their father was "intemperate". A few days before they left on their journey west, the home gave William a little Bible, with a drawing of its facilities inside the front cover. It survived all the years and found its way to my aunt and then to me.

A few years ago I donated it and information and pictures of the boys to the Orphan Train Museum. Earlier this month I attended the grand opening of their new facility in Concordia, Kansas.

I was very surprised and pleased to see that my family was spotlighted in its own display. But the most exciting part for me was to see the actual handwritten ledger from New York open to the pages of information about my ancestors. I literally dragged total strangers over to look at it.

The complex, which consists of the museum and a separate research center, is located in a restored train depot and an adjacent new building in Concordia. Anyone interested in this topic can contact me at the Archives for more information.

Linda Smith

Information for this article came from the book, "Waiifs, Foundlings and Half Orphans" by Mary Ellen Johnson; the website: www.orphantrainriders.com; and a pamphlet from the National Orphan Train Complex, 300 Washington Street, P. O. Box 322, Concordia, Kansas 66901.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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of compensation or, to my knowledge, any desire for such. They were simply driven by the insatiable human desire to MATTER and to matter, well, we need the collective human experience. We all have our place in it. If we are to matter, then our ancestors must matter. Otherwise, no one does.

And these early Archives volunteers were helped along by those who came before them who, in whatever organized or unorganized way they could, squirreled away the material wherever they could until a day would come when it could be collected and organized and presented to those who appreciate it. So, that legacy endures to this day.

We have an all volunteer staff who works virtually daily to see that the work of preservation and presentation continues. But, as you can imagine, as success grows and people in the community become more aware of us, our collection of historical material has grown tremendously as well as the demand for it. And, as you can imagine, our volunteer base must also grow to be able to keep up with the demand.

This is a long story, I suppose, to lead up to this point but I feel vindicated when I consider the amount of work our staff does and how tirelessly they pursue it. I just wish there were others to share the burden. "Burden." Let me reconsider that word. I must say that the volunteers do this work because they love it. So, why not share their love of history and all that it means by volunteering yourself? I know you who live outside of the Kansas City area might have a harder time giving your time at the Archives, but for those who don't, I'd like you to consider giving even a few hours a week to the Archives. Think about what you're missing! Think about your place in history.

Stuart E. Elliott

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Lost Cousins (www.lostcousins.com) matches you with "cousins" researching the same ancestors. It's "free to search and free to join".

Footnote (www.footnote.com) allows you to view original historic documents. There is a fee for the "all access membership", but the "basic membership" is free. However, everything I tried to browse required an all access membership.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Ray County Marriage Books, Volumes 3 through 10, donated by Ken Neth.

1914 Clay County Land Atlas, donated by Jennifer Rogers.

William Jewell College "Tattler" of 1949, donated by the children of Jacob Glen and Maggie Estes of Richmond.

Book: "The Genealogy of Six German-Swiss Families" and booklet: "Supplement to the Genealogy of Six German-Swiss Families", donated by Liz Ivy.

The maternal and paternal lineage of Terry Pryor, by mother-in law Wanda Hayden, donated by Wanda Hayden.

An extensive collection of historical materials donated by Lottie Fielder Smalls. This collection is composed of family photos, scrapbooks, diaries and documents relating to the Johnson family, White Oak Chapel and Fountain Waller, early Clay County settler.

Books: "Trans-Mississippi Men at War, Vol. I" by Bartels; "More Forgotten Men: The Missouri State Guard" by Schnetzer; "The Forgotten Men: The Missouri State Guard" by Bartels; "Civil War in Missouri, Day by Day" by Bartels and "Reminiscences of Women of Missouri During the 60's" by Bartels, all donated by Carolyn Bartels.

Seventy-seven books relating to the Civil War, donated by Jo Anna Dale, to be added to the Maienschein Collection.

Family History of Anderson Cameron, son of Elisha and Sarah Cameron, donated by Bill Hanaway.

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

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"

A special "thank you" goes out to Archives member Reta Jo Mitchell, who highlighted the work of the Archives in her article "Spotlight on Volunteerism: The Clay County Archives, Where History Lives" in the September 2007 issue of *Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.*

In her article Reta Jo points out the work we have done and continue to do on cemeteries, criminal court records, schools, and other areas of historical preservation. She makes it clear that all archives staff is unpaid and that any money we raise, through sales, donations and research fees, goes toward "charitable, literary or educational purposes."

She gives special mention to our recently acquired gift of the collection of Lottie Fielder Smalls. (Read more about this donation under "Recent Accessions" on this page.)

Reta Jo's article will surely bring more attention to our work. We are most appreciative of her efforts on our behalf.

EATING RIGHT

Yesterday I went to the doctor for my yearly physical. My blood pressure was high, my cholesterol was high, I'd gained some weight and I don't feel so hot.

My doctor said eating right doesn't have to be complicated and it would solve my physical problems. He said just think in colors; fill your plate with bright colors; greens, yellows, reds, etc.

I went right home and ate an entire bowl of M&M's and sure enough, I felt better immediately.

I never knew eating right could be so easy!

From the internet

DID YOU KNOW?

Elfreth's Alley, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania now stands as our nation's oldest surviving residential street. It began in 1702 as a cobblestone cartway for lugging goods from the docks of the Delaware River into downtown Philadelphia, and today boasts dozens of perfectly preserved Georgian brick townhouses. For more information, go to elfrethsalley.org.

This Old House Magazine, July/August 2007

ARCHIVES' ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

The annual members' breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The location is the Liberty Christian Church at 427 E Kansas (parking provided). The cost is \$14, which includes breakfast. For more information or to make reservations, call the Archives at 816-781-3611.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD TOURS

The Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri is sponsoring a guided bus tour of the Battle of the Little Blue on Saturday, October 20, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. That afternoon you can follow the approximate route of the troops falling back to Kansas City after the battle, also on a guided coach tour, that runs from 1:00 until 5:00. The cost of each tour is \$15. If you take both for \$30, you also get a membership in the organization for the remainder of the year.

For more information, call 816-478-7648.

COLLECTONS CARE WORKSHOP

The Heritage League will present its 2007 Collections Care Workshop, "Rx: Healthy Collection Care Habits: Improving Storage" on Monday, October 15, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Toy 7 Miniature Museum of Kansas City, 5235 Oak Street.

Participants will learn the best way to store textiles, china, glass, wood books, photographs and metal objects.

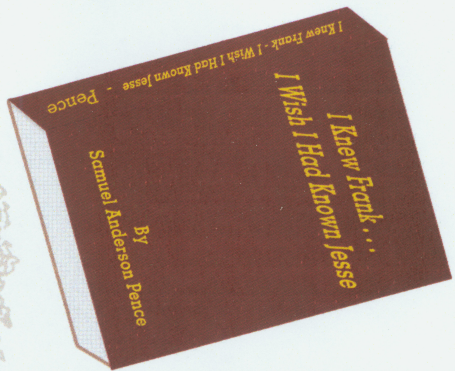
Visit www.heritageleaguekc.org or contact Jean Svadlenak at 816-361-5639 or email: jsvadlenak@kc.rr.com.

Registration fees must be received by October 5, 2007.

We love our volunteers! During the months of June, July and August, they worked 1043.5 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.

The Clay County MOsaic

Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
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Liberty, MO 64069(816) 781-3611
info@claycountyarchives.org



Daniel M. Pence, grandson of Samuel Anderson Pence has brought to publication the original manuscript of his grandfather's story about the James family, their neighbors and connections. His research unravels the intricate web of family relationships and encompasses 19th century Clay County history through the personal recollections of a native son who, along with his parents, grandparents, and guerrilla great-uncles lived through the era. Dan has also included new information and photographs never before published.

FIRST EDITION AVAILABLE Sept. 27th

The first edition run of signed, numbered copies will be made available on September 27th, 2007 at the James-Younger Reunion to be held at the Patee House Museum, St. Joseph, MO. Each volume is covered in rich burgundy fabric with gold leaf imprinting on the front and spine. This edition contains approximately 550 pages, including approximately 75 photographs and a full name index. Retail price \$65.00.

Additional hardcover copies after September 27, 2007 may be ordered with check or money order made payable to:

Daniel M. Pence
2736 Rittenhouse St. NW
Washington, DC 20015
Email: dmpence@msn.com

Include postage charges of \$8.95 in your total. All books are shipped via USPS Flat Rate Priority.

Credit card orders accepted.



SOFT COVER EDITION AVAILABLE Oct. 15th

The soft-cover edition will be edited down for commercial purposes to about 400-500 pages with the same photographs included in the hardcover edition and full index. It will be available about October 15, 2007 and may be ordered through:

Two Trails Publishing
1108 Appleton Ave.
Independence Missouri 64053
Email: cwbooklady@aol.com
Web: www.civilwarbooklady.com

Pre-publication orders will be accepted and you will be notified of actual shipping date. Retail price estimated at \$26.95 plus shipping. Missouri residents should add 7.6% sales tax. For questions concerning the publication and to place your order you may contact us by phone at (816) 836-8258. MC VISA Money Orders or checks accepted.