

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
January-February-March 2008

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Linda Smith
Shirley Fansher

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

Unbeknownst to us, there were machinations afoot. Plots were being hatched; agreements were being struck. It wasn't until we noticed an innocent looking newspaper article that we realized that things were about to change . . .

Now, to be honest, we had been fooled by newspaper articles before. Last year, for instance, it was reported that the county would provide funds to us to process original county records (the criminal records) only to find out later that those funds would not be coming to us at all; those funds were budgeted to the Circuit Clerk for this project. We have had a wonderful relationship with the Circuit Clerk's office so we have absolutely no complaints on that issue. But the point is that we were led to believe one thing when another was actually true. Naïve, I know. We are a group of Pollyannas. Ever hopeful. Rose-colored glasses. Don't burst our bubble. You get the idea.

But, in this case, we are about to be vindicated for our initial excitement. One of our board members, Ray Brock, had been dropping our name to the City of Liberty officials to keep the Archives' needs in mind. Then, earlier in the year, some contractors were escorted through the Frank Hughes Memorial Library Building (our home for nearly 25 years) by city employees (the city, as you may know, is our landlord). No explanation was given and none was expected since this venerable old building is in need of periodic "attention." For instance, the furnaces and air conditioners are getting quite long in the tooth and, during heavy rain, the roof leaks and the basement floods. The city has done great work keeping up the building's needs but their resources are limited.

Then the article appeared. It said that \$40,000 would be made available from the City of North Kansas City to the city of Liberty earmarked for improvements to the Hughes building. No longer being one to "believe everything I read", I called Jonna Wensel (our liaison to the city) but she was not familiar with any of this. So she said she'd find out.

(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.

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

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BENEFACTORS

(Continued)

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2007 PROGRAM

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ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1821-1881
CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1881-1904
Each Book, Softbound \$24.50 ppd
(MO residents add \$1.80)
Each book, Hardbound \$29.75 ppd
(MO residents add \$2.19)

THE STORY OF LIBERTY...from settlement to suburb, a movie 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.

GREETING CARDS

Christmas cards – 12 for \$10
Note cards 10 for \$5

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty, 1854-1880
\$22.50 at the Archives
\$27.50 if mailed

I KNEW FRANK...I WISH I HAD KNOWN JESSE
Family, Friends and Neighbors in the Life and Times of the James Boys
\$65.00 Hardback – Contact Archives for information

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS (all postpaid):

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

Please make your check payable to:
Clay County Archives

And mail to:
P. O. Box 99
Liberty MO 64069

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

U. S. Civil War Bookstore – This website provides a place where people can find not only Civil War merchandise, but also information about Civil War roundtables, Civil War reenactment units, regimental histories, Civil war battles and websites for Civil War battlefields and Civil War historical sites. Go to <http://www.thecivilwarbookstore.com>.

Central Illinois News, January-February 2008, a publication of the Decatur IL Genealogical Society

At www.maps.google.com you can search for places by simply typing in an address. I tried my own address, clicked “Street View” and got my neighbor’s house. However, clicking on the arrows made the picture spin around to my house. If you click on “Satellite” in the upper right corner, you get an aerial view that you can zoom in on. You can get the same information by entering the latitude and longitude values if you know them. This way, if someone gives you latitude and longitude for a cemetery, you can verify that information online without having to travel there yourself.

Central Illinois News, January-February 2008, a publication of the Decatur IL Genealogical Society

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy (<http://www.eogen.com/>) serves as a compendium of genealogical tools and techniques. It provides reference information about everything in genealogy except people. Look to the Encyclopedia of Genealogy to provide explanations of how to look up your family tree, explanations of terms found in genealogy research, including obsolete locations where records may be found. It also will describe how to research Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian and other ancestors. In short, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy will serve as your standard genealogy reference manual.

Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, March/April 2007

The North Carolina Collection Biographical Index www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/ncc_bio/index.html is a comprehensive index of more than 500 books containing biographical sketches of North Carolinians. The index now contains over 150,000 entries

Central Illinois News, a Publication of the Decatur Genealogical Society, September-October 2007

(Continued to Page 9)

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

Sunday, April 12, 1857

O’Fallen & I went to Liberty this morning, I stopped at Sam Simmons, who is living in my house – oh! How my property has been abused. Staid all night with him. Saw many friends, all anxious for me to return.

Wednesday, April 15, 1857

I have concluded to remove to Liberty, I think I can do better, though I believe I would do well here if would stay.

Sunday, April 19, 1857

The people here are very anxious for me to remain with them, they say I will do well & prepare to build me a house etc.

Friday, May 22, 1857

Was called to see Mrs. Armstrong at Mr. Haynes, my first patient since my return.

Saturday, May 23, 1857

Cut off my whiskers.

Thursday, June 25, 1857

Went down town early this morning, but not feeling well, I was compelled to return home and take my bed. Awful headache & pain in the small of the back. Got worse till about 2 P. M., when I took Calamel, jelly and Rhubarb. What an awful day I passed! What torture I can not soon forget. Chilly & fever together. About 8 the medicine operated, my head got some easier, I then took quinine & morphine, when I got easy, and spent a tolerably easy night.

Friday, August 28, 1857

The nights are still cool, almost cool enough for frost. Some indications of flux, and fine for bilious disease.

Wednesday, September 2, 1857

This is my birthday. 37 years old. How Time flies!

Thursday, September 3, 1857

Pulled a tooth for Henry Haynes. This is Ella’s birthday – 6 years old. Quite large to her age, and can spell her abc’s. Is it possible that we have a child six years old, and it seems but yesterday when we were married. How time, on its restless rising flies by. A few more years, and she will be a young lady! How shall we train her that she may ornament her sex, and be an honor to her parents! Oh! for the power to train her right – that she may be kind, amiable, and affectionate. We are not aware of the great responsibility that attaches to us in the training of children, else we would be more cautious how we speak, and when we speak. I feel that she is now receiving ideas that are to last her through life and oh! how careful we should be in giving those ideas.

November 1858

Again I take up my journal to note the passing events, which are most remarkable. I am truly sorry that I did not continue the record (sic), as it furnishes much that is pleasant and interesting when we have cause to refer to the memorable past.

More than twelve months have past since I last wrote in this book, and how shall I record the interesting and sterling events during that period of time? Alas, I am not able now, but must content myself with a very meager synopsis of the time.

More than twelve months since the last line was written in the book. Well, there has much transpired since that time, which will be kept green in the memory of many of our citizens. I have been sick during that time, and very nearly called to the eternal world. How I escaped is more than I can tell, but the kindest Providence of God, I was saved. My disease was Typhoid fever, inflammation of the brain, and Jaundice; a complication which came nigh caring me off... Mr. Majors killed a man by the name of Trabue – some time in Oct. or the last of Sept.

Note: “Liberty Tribune” September 3, 1858: “A difficulty occurred in Centerville on Tuesday last between Mr. J. (John) A. S. Majors & S. R. (Samuel) Trabue, which resulted in the death of the latter from a pistol shot in the heart. They were both highly respectable gentlemen, and the affair has thrown a gloom over the friends of both parties. Mr. Major surrendered himself up, and the case is now undergoing judicial investigation. We abstain from comment.”

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

Articles from the *Smithville Herald*

January 15, 1904

An Awful Deed: One of our recently married young men committed an act night before last that caused considerable excitement in this community. In the middle of the night he stole softly out of bed and tip-toed to the woodpile in his night clothes where he secured an ax; then with stealthy tread he returned, and approaching the bed where his wife was sleeping, he listened intently, when catching the sound of deep breathing which indicated that she was in deep slumber, he stepped back, swung the ax to give it the desired momentum for one terrific crash once – twice – thrice – and brought it down on his wife's first loaf of bread. The fire flew and he had the satisfaction of making one perceptible dent, but that was all. -- Stolen

April 6, 1906

After April 1st, druggists who desire to sell certain patent medicines will have to take out a retail liquor license. Analysis of some of the "cure all" medicines reveal the fact that they are about 95 per cent alcohol with just enough drugs put in to give the merest semblance of medicine. – Lathrop Herald

August 24, 1906

Liberty MO, Aug. 16 – Dr. Fred V. Loos, member of the state board of charities, who is preparing a bill for the abolition of capital punishment to be presented to the next legislature, is also at work on a bill which will revolutionize the marriage customs of this state if it becomes a law. It will require a physician's certificate to be filed with the application for a marriage license showing the applicant to be free from tuberculosis, cancer and insanity, either present or hereditary.

Dr. Loos today stated that a very large percentage of the state's charges in the insane asylums and other institutions are directly traceable to result of marriages contracted where one or both of the parties are subject to these ailments. Dr. Loos has accomplished much good for dependents of the state since he was appointed a member of the board by Governor Dockery. Governor Folk has just appointed him to represent the state at the meeting of the National Prison Association at Albany, N.Y., September 15 to 20.

Articles from the *Smithville Democrat-Herald*

January 23, 1922

Your Graveyard: Every man should have a graveyard of his own. In it he should bury all his mean thoughts, his hatreds, his animosities and evil aspirations, and bury them deep so that there can be no resurrection. If you hear a bit of malicious gossip, bury it deep. If you have been nursing a feeling of hatred toward somebody for years – then bury it. And when you have finally filled your graveyard with the worst that was in you – you will find the world and all that goes to make it a much better place than ever before.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

"The King Family of Clay Co., MO", a CD and printed copy of history, donated by James H. Head.

Deed, discharge and application documents for James A. Hall from the Civil War, donated by David N. Carey.

Numerous books covering the Chastain, Graves and Winans families, genealogical research, Connecticut, Minnesota and New York history, local history, Mayflower descendants, maps, and much more, donated by Jane Milner.

Maps of battlefields of the Civil War and the book "Recollections of Andersonville", donated by Bob Askren.

Plats of Painter Heights and Campbell Drive Court, City of Glenaire, donated by Ron Ethridge.

History of Cerner Corporation "Cerner from Vision to Vision", donated by the Cerner Corporation and Scott Cole.

Book "The Torch is Passed" and article on Dr. Haley Vanderstel (dentist), donated by Bettie Kirkland.

Pictures and programs dating back to 1929 relating to the Presbyterian Church, donated by John Jackson.

Abstract of Winnwood Beach and book "Views of the Great Kansas City Flood of 1903" donated by Dottie Green.

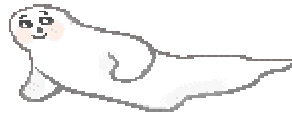
Newspaper articles about Clay County cemeteries, donated by Kermit Karnes.

Book "Mormon Historical Studies", donated by Alexander Baugh.

CD of historic Gladstone, photos including city council, prominent citizens, etc., donated by Richard King, for the City of Gladstone.

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

Ghost Towns of Clay County



First Prairie wasn't exactly a ghost town. Nor was it really a town, although Arley grew out of it.

(Author's Note: Since the first installment of this article appeared in the last issue of The MOsaic, it has been found that Newman York's blacksmith shop mentioned in that part of the article was not located on the prairie, but was south of the First Prairie area. In 1827 it was near the intersection of Manchester's Mill road and the ridge road from Liberty, which would put it at the northwest edge of the Liberty of that day. This information was founding the court proceedings book for 1827. The author apologizes for the original misstatement.)

First Prairie: The Early Years

(Part 2: 1850 to the Present)

By Donna Root

The German families who settled First Prairie held church in their homes for a time and then built a two-room log cabin, one room of which was lodging for the preacher, the other for church services. The services were conducted in German and the circuit preachers who served were either born in Germany or were of German or Swiss descent.

The preachers traveled a circuit, which included the Zoar church, 3 miles southwest of Liberty on the bluffs above the Missouri River. A small community existed there made up of some of the German-Swiss people who arrived in the 1840's. The people of the Zoar church and the First Prairie church knew each other, many of them having traveled to this area together. There were many marriages between the families of both communities. There are a lot of people in Clay County today who trace their ancestry back to these Zoar and First Prairie intermarriages.

In 1876 the young people of the First Prairie church raised \$738.40, enough to put up a small church building on the lot where the present Arley Methodist Church and cemetery are located. This new church was built in 1877. The charter members of the First Prairie church were Conrad and Gottliebe Hessel, Sr.; Jacob and Marie Hessel; Fred and Eva Hartel; Gottlieb and Elizabeth Loeffler; Nicholas and Katherine Frick and John and Elizabeth Fisher. They had all come from Germany and went directly to the prairie to settle their families after they disembarked at Liberty Landing. They came to this western edge of civilization in response to advertisements, word of mouth information from people who had already

been west, to escape bad economic and social conditions in their homeland and to find fertile land that would supply a living for their families. Some families welcomed other members from the old country to their homes in the years after settlement was begun.

Plowing, planting and harvesting crops in their fields and gardens were just some of the things that kept the farmers and their families busy. There were also milking, feeding and keeping fences and equipment in repair that had to be done. Sunday was always a day for resting and attending church.

There were a few settlers in the First Prairie area who were of English background and, not speaking German, built a Christian church at Paradise and a Missionary Baptist church at the present Clinton County line, which they called Mt. Zion.

The First Prairie church had a youth organization in the late 1890's and early 1900's called the Epworth League. It was an educational and character building program that met every Sunday evening. Some of the parents would come to listen, sitting in the back of the room, waiting for the evening church service. They would have already been to a Sunday morning service. In the summer there would be camp meetings where several preachers would speak and people would come from miles around to listen and perhaps be converted. These meetings were held outdoors under large tents. There would be a lot of food for everyone, prepared by the women and brought with them from home. In the winter, revivals would take place inside the church.

One-room schools were built for the children and placed around the community where they were needed. Many times the children would have to slog through the muddy roads to get there.

The first general store in First Prairie was built in the late 1880's just northeast of the church, with a blacksmith shop to the east of the store. Then in 1893 a larger space was needed and a two-story brick building was erected across the road from the church. The storeowner, Rudolph Weber, and his wife Sophie lived on the second floor, as they had in the first store. Mr. Weber thought that a more specific name was needed for the store so people in surrounding communities would know where to find it. The name of the newly born son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Weber, Arley, was chosen in 1894 from several other name suggestions. The community also took the name of the store, so First Prairie became Arley.

"Tune in" next time for more on First Prairie. The Archives would welcome any additional information, stories or corrections about the area or this article

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

Archives volunteers have been abstracting genealogical and historical information from the Liberty Tribune, a continuation of the Genealogical Notes by Hodges and Woodruff which ran prior to 1900.

January 10, 1908

Mrs. J. J. **Moore** of Kansas City received a telegram Christmas day telling of the death of her brother-in-law, James Cunningham **Vertrees** which occurred at his home in Palatka, Fla. He married a sister of Mrs. Moore and will be remembered by many of the older citizens of Clay county, especially those of Liberty and Missouri City. Before the war he was elected probate judge of Clay county. The deceased was born in Grayson county, Kentucky on June 15th, 1825 but in early life moved to Tennessee where he remained until attaining early manhood when he went to Missouri. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he joined the ranks of the Confederacy acting as third lieutenant in Capt. **McCarty's** company, Fifth Missouri Infantry. In the battle of Lexington he was shot in the arm while performing an act of gallantry. On July 29, 1849 he was united in marriage to Miss Susan **Lee** in Caswell county, North Carolina and as a result of this union four children now survive: Messrs, John J. Vertrees and William O. Vertrees, prominent citizens of Nashville, James C. Vertrees and Mrs. John N. **Walton** of this city. He is also survived by one sister, Mrs. **Owens** of Leitchfield, Ky.

January 17, 1908

Allen **Munkirs** and Bessie **Walters** were quietly married at the home of his sister, Mrs. Clarence **Pennington**, Saturday afternoon where they are staying for awhile. They were delightfully entertained by a "callithumpian band" Monday night. Some might call it a charivari.

Excelsior Springs: "Uncle Dempsey" **Hurt**, colored, 82 years old, was laid to rest Sunday. He had lived with the Hurts, north of town, since his freedom and was a faithful servant during his slave days. He was buried with becoming honors.

February 14, 1908

Dr. W. H. **Goodson**, the new physician at J. C. **Simmons'** drug store, will be married at Sedalia Saturday to Miss **Hoffman**, a charming young lady of that city.

February 21, 1908

Arley: A fine girl baby on the 4th inst. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. L. R. **Douglass**, a nice valentine for them.

February 28, 1908

Phil E. **Chappell**, a well-known Missourian, died at his home in Kansas City Sunday. He was born in Callaway County in 1873 and was a steamboat man in the days of big river traffic. Later he engaged in banking and was in that business up till the time of his death. In 1881 he became State Treasurer. Mr. Chappell owned what was known as the Garth farm below Missouri City.

The body of Jesse **Gross**, son of Judge A. W. Gross was received at Lawson, last week, and the funeral and interment took place Friday. The service was conducted by Reverend **Dunn** and the burial was by the Woodmen. The deceased was about 30 years of age. He left for California on a pleasure trip and in about ten days a telegram came to the Woodmen at Lawson telling of his death. He had a card of the lodge that gave his address and name. No particulars have been received by Judge Gross. A bullet wound was in the forehead and the ball lodged in the back of his head. Physicians say the wound could not have been inflicted by his own hand. When he left home he had plenty of money to meet expenses, a nice ring, and his watch. They are all missing, as were his clothes, the body being shipped in with only underwear on. The body was sent from Keltner, Cal., near Needles, Arizona.

March 6, 1908

Mr. Wm. D. **Clay** and Miss Esther Logan **Fry** were married at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Fry, in Clinton County. Rev. J. M. **Campbell** officiated. Little Agnes Gordon **Funkhouser** was the ring bearer. Mrs. Manon Fry gave Mendelssohn's wedding march. The couple was too shrewd for them (the guests) and left the house by a ladder stairway and were on the way to the train before the guests knew it.

March 13, 1908

The Burlington Wreck: The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy passenger train No. 4, leaving Kansas City at 7:30 a.m. and due in Liberty at 8:03 was wrecked just after crossing Fishing River bridge, two miles south of Kearney, about 8:20 last Saturday morning. Erastus R. **Wilcox** of Kansas City, a buyer for Wolcott, Beers and Grant, horse dealers of Kansas City, received injuries from which he died at

(Continued to Page 8)

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

(Continued from Page 7)

the hotel in Kearney at 7 o'clock that evening and a dozen other passengers were more or less seriously hurt.

March 20, 1908

David W. **Creek** died at this home in Liberty Wednesday afternoon. He was seated in a chair at the time and his death was very sudden. He had been going about as usual. He complained some during the afternoon. He fell forward out of the chair and died in about five minutes after being laid on the bed by members of the family. Uncle Dave was born in Clay County December 3, 1821, and he was among the first white children born in this part of the state. The funeral and burial will be at Providence Friday morning. The deceased was the father of 23 children and was married four times. A wife and 12 children survive him.

Rural Route 1: It took the combined strength of the Herculese forms of John **Liggett**, John **Ballew** and Jack **Hudlemeyer** to control Pete **Stevenson** when the news was conveyed to him that a little girl had put in its arrival at his house. It weighed 12 pounds. Grandpa Hudlemeyer suspended work for the day when he heard and took the whole family over to see the little miss.

STRESS DIET

Breakfast

½ grapefruit
1 slice whole-wheat toast
8 oz. skim milk

Lunch

4 oz. lean broiled chicken breast
1 cup steamed zucchini
1 Oreo cookie

Mid-afternoon snack

Rest of Oreo cookies
1 qt. Rocky Road ice cream
1 jar hot fudge

Dinner

2 loaves garlic bread
1 large mushroom and pepperoni pizza
Large pitcher of beer
3 Milky Way bars
Entire Sara Lee cheesecake

**2008 HISTORIC LIBERTY
WALKING TOURS**

Back again by popular demand! These guided walking tours take place on the first Saturday of each month, March through October. All tours begin at 10:00 a.m. at the location indicated and are free and open to the public. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes, as each tour lasts about one hour. In the case of severe weather, the walks will be canceled.

- March 1: **Welcome to the Clay County Historical Museum** – An indoor tour of the Clay County Historical Museum, 14 N. Main Street.
- April 5: **William Jewell College** – Tour meets in front of Gano Chapel on the William Jewell College Quad.
- May 3: **New Hope-Fairview Cemeteries** – Tour meets at the flagpole at the corner of Shrader Street and Terrace Ave.
- June 7: **Garrison District** – Tour meets at the Garrison School, 502 N. Water Street.
- July 5: **Historic Downtown Liberty** – Tour meets at the fountain next to City Hall, 101 E. Kansas Street.
- August 2: **Dougherty Historic District** – Tour meets at the Clay County Historical Museum, 14 N. Main Street.
- September 6: **Mt. Memorial Cemetery** – Tour meets at the Miller Street entrance to the William Jewell College campus.
- October 4: **Jewell & Lightburne Historic Districts** – Tour meets at the Clay County Historical Museum, 14 N. Main St.

For more information about the walks, call the Preservation Office at 816-439-4537.

**HOW COFFEE HELPED WIN THE
CIVIL WAR**

In the waning daylight of the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, a cheer suddenly resounded from the 23rd Ohio Volunteers arrayed across a cornfield in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The tired men could see the figure of their 19-year-old commissary sergeant driving his mule team through shot and shell to their front lines bearing barrels of hot coffee and food. (And who was this young soldier? Read on.)

(Continued to Page 9)

HOW COFFEE HELPED WIN THE CIVIL WAR

(Continued from Page 8)

Arguments for how the North prevailed during the Civil War are many, but one you have probably never considered was coffee – the winners had plenty, the losers had none. The Union blockade of the Southern coast cut off the supply of coffee to the Confederates so that between 1861 and 1865 coffee prices soared. A pound of coffee, if one could be found, cost as much as \$70, far exceeding a Confederate soldier's monthly pay of \$11. In desperation, some tried roasting dandelion and okra seeds, sweet potatoes and peas, persimmons and even acorns as a substitute.

Up north, rations were generous at six cups a day. Union Army camps glowed with campfires at night, each one with a soldier roasting beans and boiling water. Caffeine-starved rebels sometimes declared an unofficial truce so they could exchange southern tobacco for Yankee coffee.

Is it possible that coffee's greatest service to the North might have been its early contribution to public health? The discovery that water-borne pathogens caused diseases such as cholera and dysentery lay more than a decade in the future. In boiling their water to brew their java, the soldiers were unwittingly sanitizing contaminated water supplies.

And the young commissary sergeant? William McKinley, who would become the 25th President of the United States.

From "American Heritage" magazine, Winter 2008

As you plan your charitable giving, please remember that the Archives is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible and a great way to help ensure that we will be able to continue to provide quality service to genealogists and historians.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Archives lost a good friend recently when long-time volunteer and board member Jane Milner moved to the St. Louis area to be near family. Jane was there at the very beginning of the Archives, over 25 years ago. If not for her and a few others with a dedication to preserving the history of Clay County and a vision of what our organization could become, the Archives would probably not exist today.



We are always looking for good volunteers. At this time, we have the following opportunities:

- Abstracting information from Criminal Court files. Some of these files contain interesting stories about the early history of the county. Volunteers search these documents for names of people and places and record them on the outside of a folder.
- Abstracting genealogical and historical information from old newspapers on microfilm. (The column "Extracts from the Liberty Tribune" on Page 7 of the newsletter comes from this source.)
- Data entry and extracting information from abstracts and marriage indexes.
- Scanning photographs
- Assisting researchers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at (816) 781-3611.

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

www.gendisasters.com chronicles the events that touched our ancestors' lives. If you search Missouri train wrecks (under Browse by Disaster or Browse by State), you can read an interesting article about a deadly train wreck at Missouri City in 1897.

Central Illinois News, a Publication of the Decatur Genealogical Society, September-October 2007

Genealogy Misconceptions (From an article by Michael John Neill in the *Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal*, No. 3, 2007)

- We all have a famous ancestor somewhere. I have found the names of over 300 of my ancestors and have yet to have any of them qualify as "famous."
- There are no "early" babies or shady stories in my family tree. Trace your ancestry completely for six generations and then we will talk.
- Census ages are always correct. You must be kidding.
- Official records should not contain errors. They do. The best way to deal with it is to try to research around it where possible.
- I got it on the Internet, therefore it must be correct. Nope.
- I got it on the Internet, therefore it must be false. Nope.
- You ought to be done with that family history by now. Well, I would be except every time I find one ancestor I have two more parents to learn about.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

By Ken Neth (Known around the Archives as Mr. Cemetery.)

A responsibility of the cemetery committee is playing “watchdog” over 302 listed cemeteries in Clay County. We have had to activate that responsibility twice in the past month.

The City of Liberty planned to reroute Glen Hendren Drive just west of Lightburne Road to match up with the intersection with Shepherd Road. We called their attention to the location of the Lincoln Graveyard, which would have been in the middle of the planned road. They correctly contacted the state and their report was that there were some 18 graves there. The road was rerouted around the graveyard.

Then we learned that the Liberty School District planned to build a new grade school to be called Kellybrook at 108th Street and Eastern. Again, they were unaware of the graveyard even though a stone is visible. They will build around the graveyard.

We have also learned of a Columbarium at Grace Episcopal Church at 520 S. 291 Highway in Liberty. It is inside the church and we are waiting for permission to copy the wall of boxes.

Bill Hawkins Memorial Fund

To honor the memory of Bill Hawkins and to further the goals of the Archives, we’ve established the Bill Hawkins Memorial Fund.

One of our biggest needs right now is to replace our aging microfilm reader/printer. We thought this would be an appropriate use for Bill’s Memorial Fund.

Please honor Bill with a gift to the Archives in the name of Bill Hawkins so that we can better serve our members and patrons with equipment that works more than just “some of the time.”

ORGANIZATIONAL NAMES

Have you ever wondered where some organizations got their names?

The Knights of Pythias was founded in Washington, D.C., on February 19, 1864, by Justus H. Rathbone. The principals established by the order were Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. Its lessons and rituals were based around the story of Damon and Pythias, historical characters living around four hundred years before the beginning of the Christian era. They were members of a school founded by Pythagoras, the Father of Greek philosophy.

The order began during the Civil War and was endorsed by President Lincoln. He thought this order might help heal the wounds and allay the civil hatred.

The Order of Knights of Pythias was the first American Order ever chartered by an Act of the Congress of the United States.

There are several different reasons given for the strange name Odd Fellows. One old and apparently authoritative history of Odd Fellowship gives the explanation “That common laboring men should associate themselves together and form a fraternity for social unity and fellowship and for mutual help was such a marked violation of the trends of the times (England in the 1700’s) that they became known as peculiar or odd, and hence they were derided as “Odd Fellows.”

The earliest printed record of an Odd Fellows Lodge appears in a reference to a lodge meeting at a Globe Tavern in England in 1748. This lodge was numbered nine, so apparently there were at least nine associated Odd Fellows lodges at that time.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows as we know it today began in Baltimore, Maryland, where five members of the Order from England founded Washington Lodge No. 1 on April 26, 1819.

From the Moniteau County (MO) Historical Society Newsletter, Fall/Winter, 2007

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

After talking to the city administrator, she called me back to confirm the story and, in fact, the administrator also called me to fill me in. Yes, indeed, North Kansas City, flush with gambling tax revenue (pun intended), was transferring that amount to Liberty for the purpose of maintaining the physical plant at the Library building.

So, this year, the furnaces and air conditioners will be replaced. Sump pumps will be installed in the basement. The roof will be extensively repaired (if not entirely replaced). There will be improvements to the electrical system. Some painting will be done to repair water damage. Maybe even some other pleasant surprises.

One of the justifications cited for the fund transfer was the fact that the Archives was residing in the building. Those involved recognized the valuable contributions we make to the whole county in collecting, preserving and presenting our heritage for all.

Many thanks to all those who were involved in this wonderful gift!

Stuart E. Elliot

ORDINARY AND IMPORTANT

By Donna Root, Archives Volunteer

The longer I volunteer at the Clay County Archives, the more I realize what an extensive collection of information there is inside these brick walls. The facts you uncover here, whether searching for your own people or helping a visitor track down his ancestors, are both ordinary and important.

You can find when a house, maybe the house you are living in now, was connected to the newly set water lines. Think what a convenience that was. Something we take for granted, and that is very ordinary to us now, must have been a very much appreciated and very important development for the families of Liberty of 1906.

We have church and school information. You might learn that your ancestor was a church member or that he was ordered to "have his body before the County Court" to testify in a case. Maybe you will find that he helped decide where a road should be located and then helped to lay the logs for it.

Our probate records can tell you if he left a will and also how many pots, bedsteads, saws, mirrors, animals, farm equipment and other ordinary farm and household possessions he had at the time of his death, things that would have been very important to him. You can perhaps find out what his coffin and burial clothing cost. If you are lucky, the file will contain the names of his wife and children, which is very important genealogical information to you.

The census records will help you put him in a certain place at a certain time and if you don't already know, you can find where he is buried and maybe find his obituary in our cemetery records and newspaper microfilm.

Deed files and Abstract records can tell you if he bought or sold land, and you can even find out who his neighbors were in our Original Land Grants book.

We just might have a photo of your relative or his cabin or house in our ever-growing photo index, and if we have his diary, what a goldmine of personal feelings and events you could uncover there! Family files and family books can tell you what is already known about your lineage, saving you hours of research.

You can find out whether he took part in the 1846 Mexican War, marching across the plains from Leavenworth to California and fighting the battle of Santa Fe with Colonel Alexander Doniphan and the First Missouri Mounted Volunteers, or maybe he was an old Revolutionary veteran or Civil War partisan or perhaps a guerilla fighter.

The books that we have on the history of Clay and Platte Counties can tell you a little about the Native Americans that our ancestors co-existed with in the early days of the area.

Our forebears were ordinary people living in what seems to us now as extraordinary times, but our times would certainly seem extraordinary to them. They had different abilities then, as we do now. They had all kinds of experiences, as we do now. We sometimes think of them as one-dimensional stereotypes, riding horses everywhere, living in log cabins, fighting Indians, turning the land over with horse-drawn plows and always having a gun at hand. Those things may have been typical, but some of our records can round out an image for you. Maybe your relative didn't farm but was a blacksmith or mill owner, a merchant or tavern keeper. In their existence they lived full, ordinary and sometimes eventful lives, just as we do today. Our lifestyles, clothing, tools, communication and transportation have evolved, but in their day there were complete people with the same feelings and ambitions as we have today. It is important to learn as much as possible about them, for in learning what we can about them, we may know ourselves a little better.

Perhaps all you have in your own family records is a birth date, death date or maybe a photo and nothing more to form an image of that person as a living, breathing individual. Searching through our reference material at the Archives, you may find several clues to help open the window into the past a little wider and get a better look at your relatives.

The fun of the search is that you never know what you will find. More than likely it will be quite an ordinary fact, but one that will be very important to knowing your ancestor as the real person he actually was.

Come in and let us see what we can help you discover about your Clay County ancestor.

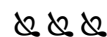
EPITAPHS FOUND ON OLD TOMBSTONES

Harry Edsel Smith, Albany, New York
1903 – 1942

Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on
the way down. It was.



Ezekial Aikle, East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia
Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102
Only the Good Die Young



Anna Wallace, Ribbesford, England

The children of Israel wanted bread
And the Lord sent them manna,
Clark Wallace wanted a wife
And the devil sent him Anna.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS SOUGHT

The City of Gladstone is looking for old photographs of the Frazier School, which was built in the 1870's and stood at approximately Shady Lane and North Oak Trafficway. If you have pictures, bring or send them to the Archives and we will make copies. Any other information on the school would also be appreciated.

We love our volunteers! During the months of January and February, they worked 586 hours. But we can always use more. If you are interested, please give us a call at 816-781-3611. (See "Volunteer Corner" on Page 9.)

Some people cause happiness wherever they go. Some people cause happiness whenever they go.

The Clay County MOsaic

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