

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
January-February-March 2010

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MOsaic by Internet

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

Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's 2010 already? According to magazines, books and movies of the last century or two, we should all be living in space by now, having solved all of our earthly problems, having overcome all of our human foibles and faults. We should have all benefited from the myriad labor-saving devices we've invented to be able to use our manufactured leisure time to concentrate on bettering ourselves; bettering the human race. So, I'll have to make this short for I have to book a flight on the next Soyuz. Got \$35 million I could borrow?

No? Well, maybe it was just a flight of fancy, anyway. Maybe I need to slow down a bit and reflect on... hmmm... "slow down"... Doesn't that sound delicious? Just how distant does "slow down" sound about now? That sounds so quaint, doesn't it?

From my view, the world seems to be spinning out of control and it also seems so small. When something of significance happened in the world just 100 years ago, the news would take weeks or months (or years?) to travel to the settled civilizations around the globe. By the time the news was received, the pace of life gave us time to digest it and consider our response. Now, news is disseminated in just hours or minutes or even seconds. It's as if these significant events demand a response as swift as they were sent. We no longer have time to "digest and consider" a proper reply.

I think we've lost something in all of our sophistication and haste. We've traded the privilege of reflection and meditation for a fast-paced, on-demand existence where our immediate desires are met instantaneously (and usually frustratingly) and we jump from one thing to another without as much as a pause. So, before we know it, the day is over, the year is over, our lives are over.

Wow, what a diatribe! I guess what I mean by all of this is that we should put forth an effort to recognize and resist this tendency and "slow down" a little (ok, maybe a lot!). To take our noses off of the grindstone occasionally and pull up our heads and just look around. The world can still be a beautiful place if we take the time to notice.

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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.

NEW PUBLICATION

The Archives is pleased to announce a new publication for sale. It's "*Blue Skies: Memories of Sam and Emily Barr (As told to Pete Kingery)*". Pete is a well-known local author, who has donated the book to us to sell as a fundraiser. If you are interested in the history of Kearney, this book is for you.

The book, a soft cover with spiral binding, is available at the Archives for \$12.00. If you wish to have it mailed to you, the price is \$15.00.

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

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2010 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

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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

BLUE SKIES, a newly published book. See page 2 for more information.

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty, 1854-1880 **CLOSEOUT—NEW PRICE**
\$12.00 at the Archives
\$17.00 if mailed

I KNEW FRANK...I WISH I HAD KNOWN JESSE
Family, Friends and Neighbors in the Life and Times of the James Boys

Hardback: \$55.00 members
\$60.00 non-members
Soft cover: \$17.00 members
\$22.00 non-members

GUERRILLAS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES

Bud, Donnie and Me
Soft cover: \$15 members
\$17 non-members

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS (all postpaid):

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	15.00
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

Due to a 25 percent withholding in its fiscal year 2010 state appropriation, the State Historical Society of Missouri has decreased its hours open to the public to Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Society will no longer be open for research on Fridays or Saturdays.

In addition, the Society's 22 staff members have voluntarily taken a 20 percent pay reduction, and three staff positions have been eliminated. The Society will seek private funds to continue its newspaper microfilming program, which annually preserves over 250 Missouri newspaper titles.

You can read excerpts from the diaries of WWI soldiers at <http://www.doughboydiaries.blogspot.com> If you have a British ancestor who fought in WWI, try this site:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/medals.asp

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/> is a directory of links to online military indexes and records for USA genealogy research. Included are rosters, databases of soldiers, and listings of military and war casualties. Also included are some links to sources for military records in other countries (for World Wars I & II).

Try <http://www.genealogywise.com/> for the genealogical version of Facebook. A genealogist could spend a lot of time here.

If you're looking for a St. Louis area obituary, try this as a Google search: www.slpl.org/love1922 (Love and 1922 are for my ancestor; insert the name and date you are looking for in their place.)

Scottish ancestors? Try <http://scotgen.blogspot.com/>

From "Show Me State Genealogical News," the newsletter of the Missouri State Genealogical Association, Winter 2009

The Ozarks Genealogical Society will hold its 30th annual genealogy conference on September 10th to 11th at the Clarion Hotel in Springfield, Missouri. The featured speaker will be J. Mark Lowe, a full-time professional genealogist, author and teacher who researches primarily in the South. For more information, call (471) 831-2773 or check their website: <http://www.ozarksgs.org>.

From the Ozarks Genealogical Society Newsletter, March 2010

The "Platte County (Missouri) Historical and Genealogical Society Bulletin" includes in its latest issue a "Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament," copied from an April 2008 newsletter of the Northwest Iowa Genealogical Society.

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

Sunday, February 27, 1870

Have vaccinated (*for smallpox*) nearly all the people in town, black & white.

Wednesday March 2, 1870

Not many in town, as the people are afraid to come owing to the Small pox.

Thursday, March 3, 1870

Negro child at Allison's died with small pox.

Friday, March 4, 1870

Presented accts. to the City Council at their regular meeting to day. 300 persons vaccinated, 100 visits to the small pox patients. The Council thought it a large bill, and asked further time to consider.

Saturday, March 5, 1870

The Council met again, as I did not attend, they allowed me \$100 for the present.

Sunday, March 6, 1870

New case of small pox this evening, Mr. Dearing come up and told me a negro man was on the street, broke out – we went down and had him taken to the fair grounds.

Monday, March 7, 1870

Boy Dave at the fair grounds, is doing quite well.

Saturday, March 12, 1870

Small pox doing very well. The county pays for the two cases at the fair grounds.

Note: When Dr. Dougherty mentions that the county would pay for two cases at the fairgrounds, he indicated that he was working for the county as well as Liberty. In spite of the danger from smallpox and the 24-hour duty he had to observe, both the county and the city would cut his bills, usually by 1/3. There seemed to be a feeling that doctors did not really know how to do anything but charge. He was frequently in lawsuits to recover what he felt were fair charges.

Sunday, March 20, 1870

Have not been to church for some time as I don't like to go into a crowd of women & children.

Friday, March 25, 1870

Hired Henry, a sweede to work for me at \$5.00 per week. A good boy I think.

Friday, April 1, 1870

Presented my acct to City Council, had a very warm time in getting an allowance & finally got \$200.⁰⁰ in city warrants.

Thursday, April 11, 1870

The County Court allowed me only 100.⁰⁰ for services as small pox patients, too little. I did not take it.

Sunday, April 24, 1870

Took a buggy ride with John and Charlie to Valentines to see his perpetual motion. He has destroyed it.

Monday, May 2, 1870

Had a talk with Judge Groves, in reference to my small pox claim.

Thursday, May 5, 1870

County Court allowed \$100 more and say it is all they will allow.

Thursday, May 12, 1870

The Baptists are having a protracted meeting, and are sending out the young college students after all the girls in the town & country. Making a great effort indeed.

Note: One of Dr. Dougherty's deepest interests was religion. He attended every church in town, except the Catholic Church. His remarks about the Baptists in this portion of his diary show his appreciation for their enterprise in getting young ladies to join their church.

Thursday, May 26, 1870

Some little sickness, but not enough to keep me very busy. My patients are generally getting well, and the consequence is I'll soon be out of employment.

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

Articles from the *Liberty Tribune*

May 5, 1882

Bob Ford's Say. We take the following interview with Bob Ford, from the *Globe Democrat*:

In a conversation the other day Bob Ford made the following statement: "I was with Jesse James nine days proceeding his death, constantly seeking an opportunity to insure his arrest or kill him. On Sunday, the day before the shooting, I decided to take a buggy ride in St. Joe by myself, and while away from Jesse send a telegram to Gov. Crittenden and Sheriff Timberlake, informing them of Jesse's presence in St. Joe; but shortly after making this decision I thought the matter over, and concluded that such a course might result disastrously to others as well as myself. Such a telegram, I knew, would cause the governor or sheriff to send a posse of men to surround Jesse's house, and in this event a desperate fight must ensue, in which perhaps a half-dozen men would be killed and maybe Jesse would also die in the struggle, for he could never have been captured alive; there was also a possibility of his killing several of the posse and then escaping, in which event I would have been an object of Jesse's vengeance, and doubtless be shot. I, therefore, changed my mind, and getting the drop on him, made certain of the work I had on hand. I will say positively that neither Gov. Crittenden, Commissioner Craig, Sheriff Timberlake, nor any other law officer knew that Jesse James was in St. Joe, or had any intimation of the fact,

UNTIL AFTER I SHOT HIM,
and further, that I had no direct orders to kill him from anybody."

Articles from the *Smithville Democrat Herald*

May 5, 1882

Clean Your Walks.

There is a city ordinance against leaving snow on your walks. This is to call your attention that the ordinance will be strictly enforced so you had better get busy and clean your walks. B.A. Smith, Marshal

May 22, 1914

Buster Drew Big Crowd. Pleased and Entertained Both Big and Little Folks.

The coming of buster Brown and his dog Tige to Morton's store Monday afternoon had been

well advertised and a big crowd of little folks and grown-ups, too, were on hand to greet the pair that have been made famous by Outcault's cartoons.

After an interesting talk on the value of "Buster Brown" shoes, Buster put Tige through his various tricks to the amusement of everyone, and distributed souvenirs of the occasion to the youngsters. The crowd is estimated at between 500 and 600. This certainly is a clever advertising stunt for the Brown Shoe Co.

October 9, 1914

Suicide Recalls A Tragedy. Prominent Westerner was a Former Smithville Boy.

The story of how a former Smithville boy left home with a cloud on his name, and achieved success and prominence in a faraway western state, is first made public in this paper this week. About 8 weeks ago F. P. Young received a telegram from Seattle, Washington, saying that the body of his great-uncle, John Young, was being sent here for burial by the side of relatives. The body never came however, but was buried in Washington. Mr. Young did not know any of the particulars of the case further than that many years ago, his great-uncle, then a boy of tender years had killed a man by the name of Harris in an altercation, and immediately disappeared as completely as if dead. It now develops that he assumed the name of Harry L. Forrest and won a name and fame for himself in Washington. There he married and reared a family, and only a short time before his death, did his family know the secret he had carried carefully locked in his breast for many years.

The following story of his life in the west and its dramatic ending are taken from a Seattle paper, which has just been received by Mr. Young:

"Not until yesterday when his remains were interred in the Pleasantville Cemetery, was it learned that Harry L. Forrest aged 62 years and a prominent lawyer of Seattle, Washington, had committed suicide at a beachfront hotel Monday soon after midnight, with the sounds of revelry from the café on the floor beneath ringing in his ears.

"Of a quintet of entertainers engaged in providing amusement for the great throng gathered in the café, one was Forrest's son-in-law. Forrest's daughter, a sixth member of the company, lay seriously ill only a few rooms distant.

"While the gayety on the floor beneath was at its height, Forrest took up his station before a mirror for greater accuracy, and sent a bullet crashing through his brain.

"Mr. Forrest had been a leading member of the Seattle bar for the past 33 years, and at the last State election, was candidate for Governor on a fusion ticket in the early stages of the campaign. He withdrew, however, in favor of Governor Rogers, who was elected by a large majority. Mr. Forrest was
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**MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS
FROM MICROFILM
OF EARLY CLAY COUNTY
NEWSPAPERS**

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also prominently mentioned for the post of Supreme Court Judge a few years ago. For many years prior to his admission to the bar, he served as school teacher, and claimed the distinction of being at one time the most youthful public school instructor in the country. He came here a year ago for the benefit of his health, and a material improvement in his condition was noted until recently."

The tragic death of John Young recalls to the minds of the older residents the tragedy of almost half a century ago, which caused him to take up his abode in a new and faraway land, and sever all connection with kindred and home. We are indebted to Col. W. H. Patterson for a brief account of the trouble. He said: "I think it was in 1868 that the trouble occurred between John Young and Reub Harris which resulted in the death of Harris. Young was only a boy and one of the smartest young fellows I ever knew. He couldn't have been more than 16 years old at the time, and Harris was in the neighborhood of 55 years old, a hard drinker, but not particularly offensive as I remember him. Just what the trouble was I never did know. It started in the saloon run by Tom Osborn in a building standing where J. M. Owen's pool hall now is, and ended in front of the saloon when Young suddenly whirled, and with a pocket knife made three vicious wounds in Harris' side. Harris was taken to his home near the old Smith place and given surgical attention by old Dr. Patton, but died from the wounds in three or four days. Sympathy was pretty much with the boy and when he disappeared no effort was made to trace him. Officers of the law were a scarce article in those days and so he went scot-free."

October 16, 1914

Recalls the Harris Murder.

The article in last week's paper about the suicide of John Young, alias Harry Forrest, brought us an eye-witness to the tragedy of half a century gone. O. L. Kerr tells us the following: "I was only a little lad, much smaller than John, but he stayed at our place on West Main Street where L. S. Miller now lives. The morning of the killing mother wanted me to come to town after some thread but she was afraid I would forget what number she wanted so John said he was going to town and I could go with him and he would see that I got the right number. I can remember it as well as though it happened yesterday. We started up town, and I held tight to John's forefinger as I trudged along at his side. As we passed the saloon, Harris came lurching and

staggering out the door and fell against John. John never said a word, but reached down inside his clothes and drew a dirk knife, reaching under my arm struck Harris viciously in the side. Harris leaned up against the post that supported the saloon sign and held his side. John threw the knife down and left me, and until I read the article in the Democrat-Herald, I never knew what became of him."

**AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR
PATRIOT WILLIAM C. CORUM**

William C. Corum was an American Revolutionary War Patriot and a Pioneer of Clay County. Mr. Corum died August 5, 1853. His final resting place is the "Old Farm Cemetery" or "Corum - Judy Cemetery" near 132nd Street and North Virginia, along with his wife Barsheba Bloyd Corum. His estimated age is engraved on his headstone "Aged About 90 Years." He was born in Virginia to John Corum of England and Nancy Cookskin or Cookshin of Virginia.

As the Revolutionary War unfolded, Corum, a teenager, served on the Virginia Line and was transferred to Morristown, New Jersey, May 1, 1777, where he was assigned to the Commander-in-Chief's Guard.

The Second Continental Congress, governing body of the United Colonies during the American Revolution, created the Continental Army on June 14, 1775 and appointed George Washington as General and Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief's Guard (or LIFE GUARD) was authorized March 11, 1776 and organized the next day at Cambridge, Massachusetts. The guard was comprised of soldiers for the security of the Commander-in-Chief and his baggage. The Colonel or Commanding Officer of each regiment furnished him with four men. His Excellency, General Washington, "depends upon the Colonels for good men, such as they can be recommended for their sobriety, honesty and good behavior. He wishes them to be from five-foot-eight inches to five-foot-ten inches; handsomely and well made..."

The 'GUARD' was disbanded in February, 1777 after a plot to assassinate General Washington. A Sergeant in the guard, Irish-born Thomas Hickey, a British deserter, was later hanged for this plan. In April, 1777 the reestablished Command-in-Chief's Guard had a few changes, including the uniform, the requirement to be Colonial Natives and to be at least five-foot-nine inches and no taller than five-foot-ten inches. General Washington, tall for the times, stood six-foot-two inches. Private Corum was reinstalled in The Guard.

Corum was involved in the Battle of Brandywine, Deleware, on September 11, 1777, then

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AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT WILLIAM C. CORUM

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fought the Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania and was heavily engaged at the Battle of Connecticut Farms, New Jersey, where he participated in a bayonet charge against British Infantry and Hessian Jaegers. Pvt. Corum battled at the skirmish of King's Bridge, New York in 1781 and was ordered by General Washington to rush forward and support infantry, which was being heavily assaulted by the British. Private Corum, with the Guard and the Colonial Troops marched to Yorktown, Virginia in 1781 with a number of troops wounded. When British General Cornwallis surrendered, Corum continued supporting the Commander-in-Chief. Corum was promoted to Sergeant on June 4, 1783, where his pay was increased from six and two-thirds to ten dollars a month.

After his service William married Barsheba Bloyd of Somerset County, Maryland some time prior to 1804. Barsheba was about fifteen years younger than William. They, along with their first son, Thomas, moved to Greene County, Kentucky in about 1805. Five more Corum children were born in Kentucky – sons John, Milton and Wilkerson and daughters Nancy and Susan. In about 1820 the Corum family relocated to Cooper County, Missouri and then to Clay County in 1825, three years after the county was incorporated. The Corums farmed several hundred acres in rural Clay County and conducted business in Liberty, Kearney and Smithville.

Near the entrance outside the newest Clay County Courthouse, the name William C. Corum is on a marker with the names of nineteen Revolutionary War Veterans that once resided in Clay County.

Hundreds of Corum descendants have called Clay County their home.

Some of William C. and Barsheba Corum's descendants include U. S. Congressman from Missouri Ike Skelton; former U. S. Senator, Oklahoma Governor and now President of the University of Oklahoma David Boren; the late Clay County Judge and Retired Army Brigadier General R. Kenneth Elliott; former Archives Board Member, the late Kenneth R. (Bud) Corum; former Clay County Sheriff Jack Corum; current Clay County Archives President Stuart Elliott and Board Member Robert (Bob) Corum, most of whom are or were Compatriots of the William C. Corum Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) of Liberty.

Information on the Corum family or the William C. Corum Chapter, SAR, can be obtained from Bob Corum at rjcorum@aol.com or 816-792-3859.

Thanks to Bob Corum for this article

RECENT ACCESSIONS

“Wheel Within a Wheel – The Rotary Club and Liberty, 1935 – 2010,” a newly written and published 232-page book, donated by the author, Jim E. Tanner. (See article, Page 12 of this newsletter.)

Book of minutes of the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church; selections from the “Ray County Mirror,” (1974 – 1985) a publication of the Ray County Historical Society; and two articles by Vera Eldridge, all donated by Bonnie Knauss.

Cookbook “Savory Recipes from the Briarcliff Community,” donated by The Briarcliff Community Alliance. (See article on Page 12 for more information.)

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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To just sit and imagine. To enjoy the company of our friends and loved ones. To mull things over. To just wonder about our precious life and let our creativity out to play!

What does all of this have to do with the Archives? Just that it can provide an environment in which we can indulge our better nature, where we can reflect, imagine, ponder and wonder. It gives us something more meaningful to contemplate (where we came from can be just as important as where we're going) than the non-stop claptrap that seems to come at us from all sides. It is a place where we can slow down and give ourselves time to live our lives; actually “live” our lives.

I know that sounds so grandiose; as if the Archives is an oasis in the desert of our hurried existence. But I hope that you can savor your life wherever and whenever you can.

Stuart E. Elliott

DID YOU KNOW?

The world's first effective cancer drug, HN2, was originally developed by the U. S. in the 1930's as a kind of deadly mustard gas. A pair of Yale researchers discovered its lifesaving abilities to retard the growth of tumors, and chemotherapy was born.

**100 YEARS AGO
EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

Friday, January 14, 1910

Phone Merger is Off. No Further Efforts for Franchise and Liberty Will Still Have Two Systems.

The plans to consolidate the two telephone companies having exchanges here have been dropped and the companies will continue to be operated, for the present, at least, as they have been.

It was thought the people prefer to have one phone system, and no doubt most of them do, but it seems impossible to get a franchise under which enough money could be borrowed to handle the consolidation process...

In point of toll business, Excelsior Springs is said to stand fourth, among the cities of the state, next to Saint Joseph. The great number of visitors affords much toll business...

Friday, January 28, 1910

To Improve Old Cemetery.

At a meeting last Friday night it was decided to push the matter of raising funds to put Old Cemetery, on college hill, in good condition and see that it is not neglected, as it has been for so many years...

A great interest is felt among members of families in Clay county and elsewhere who have dead buried there... In fact, nearly \$1000 has already been subscribed as a result of agitating the matter and the work of a few good women.

It is felt that a concrete fence 3½ or 4 feet high, would be best to build around the cemetery, as it would last for centuries, but the kind of fence would have to be determined by the money that can be raised...

It has been the idea not to build a fence along the south side where there is a high bank, but terrace it nicely and have broad steps leading up at the center...

Col. D.C. Allen has an article this week in the paper about the old cemetery that will be read with interest.

See Page 11 of this newsletter for excerpts from Col. Allen's article.

Mr. Roberts' Sudden Illness.

David C. **Roberts**, county treasurer, was taken ill Monday shortly before noon while alone in his office at the courthouse. He was found unconscious on a bench near the door, on the upper story by Janitor Steve **Swader**. Dr. E. H. **Miller** and Dr. **Allen** attended Mr. Roberts and revived him sufficiently to be taken home on a cot. He has been

improving nicely since. Mr. Roberts says he felt the illness coming on him and made an attempt to call County Clerk **Stean** over the telephone but became blind and knocked the telephone over. He managed to get out the door in some way to the bench.

Prof. Weber to Be Here

Prof. Louis **Weber**, formerly of Clay county, and who has had good success both as a composer and pianist, will be in Liberty Saturday, and will play his own compositions at Mrs. **Duncan's** millinery parlor. Everyone who enjoys music should go and hear him. His compositions will be on sale at Mrs. Duncan's at 15 cents a copy.

Prof. Weber's music has had good sales at Jenkins', Hoffman's and at other Kansas City music houses. He is an excellent musician, and his compositions are full of melody and harmony. Do not fail to hear him Saturday.

For Sale – At a bargain, one incubator and one bone cutting machine. Inquire of Dr. **Casey**, Liberty, Mo.

Friday, February 4, 1910

"Mary Bloggins, the lawful wife of the prisoner next appeared in the witness box," wrote the reporter of the bigamy trial. But the compositor left out the "l" in "lawful," and Mrs. Bloggins called up the next day and gave the editor a piece of her mind.

Dr. Hyde Known Here.

The **Swope** investigation came to a head Monday when the Chicago chemists announced the finding of poison in the stomach of Col. Swope and Chrisman Swope, who died at Independence. Another member of the family died and others were ill with typhoid fever, and it was alleged the disease was due to the germs being purposely brought into the home. The same day Dr. B. Clark Hyde, who married a daughter of Mrs. Logan Swope and a niece of Col. Swope the millionaire, and Mrs. Hyde made statements for publication defending the doctor against the whispering connecting him with the matter. Dr. Hyde brought suits for slander and libel amounting to \$700,000. He is well known in Liberty, having graduated at William Jewell college, and has many friends who believe his innocence. Dr. Hyde and wife were here during commencement last June.

Friday, February 25, 1910

Census Taker Questions. How the People Are to Answer the Enumerators When They Come Around.

The character of the questions concerning color or race, age at last birthday, conjugal conditions, number of years of present marriage, the

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THE WABASH WRECK AT MISSOURI CITY

By Steve Olson and Charles Childs

It was dark and stormy in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 23, 1887 as Wabash westbound train Number 5 pulled out of Moberly, Missouri at 2:39 a.m. It was running late as it departed with mail, coaches and Pullman cars for Kansas City, nine cars total. In the lead was engine 1299, an American wheel arrangement, with 62-inch drivers. Although the engine was referred to as a "small Healey," it was capable of speeds over 50 MPH on good track, and had been rebuilt not long before. At the throttle was engineer John Mathias, an experienced trainman, not knowing this would be his last run.

The train continued to lose time as it worked its way across Missouri. The dispatcher had records showing them 20 minutes late at Brunswick, 23 minutes late at Carrollton and 25 minutes late at Lexington Junction.

The storm had moved on and the rain had stopped as they entered the city limits of Missouri City just before 7:00 a.m. The fireman was in the process of oiling valves as they approached a small bridge over a stream running from right to left into the Missouri River. The engineer saw the tracks ahead were out of line and applied the air brakes and the steam brakes on the engine.

The fireman knew there must be a problem and prepared to jump, but looked back into the cab in time to see engineer Mathias stand up. The fireman thought Mathias was attempting to throw the engine into reverse. The fireman jumped to safety and the engine plunged into the chasm with the collapsing bridge. The mail car followed and laid over the engine, then the express car with one end of it still on the embankment. Mathias was pulled from the wreckage by his coworkers with a mashed shoulder and a badly cut scalp. He would die a few minutes later.

The coroner was called, and he hurried to Missouri City. But when he arrived, he found that the body had been moved to Liberty. Having been sent on a wild goose chase, his opinion expressed at the coroner's inquest may have been biased. He stated that the accidental death had been caused by the railroad's faulty bridge.

John's wife, Martha Mathias, hired a Moberly lawyer and brought suit against the railroad for \$5000. It was filed in Clay County on February 2, 1888. She contended that the bridge had been negligently designed and built, and that it had not been well maintained. She also contended that, according to railroad rules, after a heavy rain the Section Foreman or one of his men should have inspected the bridge before any trains were allowed to pass over it. Obviously no such inspection had been made.

Depositions were taken from witnesses and the case came before the court in the June 1888 session. A court recorder captured the statements made before the judge and jury. The Wabash was not about to pay \$5000 without putting up a fight. Was the rain exceptionally heavy, exceptional enough to require an inspection? Was the overnight rain only locally heavy, and did the Section Foreman know to make an inspection? Was the bridge really faulty, or just overcome by nature? Then a big can of worms was opened: how fast were they going?

It seems that the city of Missouri City had a 6 MPH speed limit. If the engineer had been traveling at that speed, he should have been able to stop the train in 200 – 300 feet from where he could have first seen the bridge with the misaligned tracks. The Wabash contended, and the fireman testified, that the train was running probably close to 25 MPH. So, if the engineer was speeding, he had caused the accident himself.

The widow's lawyers brought in expert witnesses: former engineers, who stated that, according to the timetable, the railroad had not allowed extra time for their trains to observe the slow speed limit and had thus required their employees to ignore it. Officials argued that being on time at the next station was not as important and that the seven or so minutes lost at Missouri City could easily be made up before the next major point in the schedule. They admitted that there was a fine when the mail was late arriving in Kansas City, but did not know how late the train had to be before the fine was levied or how much the fines were.

Exhibits A and B were the official employee timetables issued by the railroad. One was taken from the bulletin board in the engineers' and conductors' register room in Moberly. It showed not only the times the trains were to arrive and depart each point, but also the rules of operation, including maintaining and inspection of bridges.

The jury was given their instructions about how to decide the major questions. Were the bridge inspection and maintenance negligently faulty? Only if the widow had shown proof that it was. Was the engineer obeying the town speed limit? Based on testimony given, the jury must decide.

The verdict? The case against the Wabash was dismissed at the plaintiff's (Mrs. Mathias') cost of \$170.65.

Was justice served or did the lawyers for the railroad just do a better job of presenting their case? Several issues remained uncertain, but the burden of proof was on the plaintiff. More than a century later, it is impossible to second-guess the jury's conclusion.

Thanks to Steve and Charles for this article. We always welcome story submissions. Steve is an Archives' volunteer and Charles is a member of the National Railroad Historical Society.

Volunteering at the Archives is fun and you can learn so much about local history. If you would like to volunteer, let us know. Groups are most welcome. Get a bunch of friends together and come on over one or two days a month.

If you are interested, please contact Carol Olson at 816-781-3611 or 816-452-3540.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

Two more graveyards have been added to our list. Archives volunteer Ann Henning found an affidavit in the court records about a cemetery, which we have named Trabue, a mile east of Glenridge Cemetery. Also our "James" book ("I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse") refers to a William James gravesite at Greenville.

The IOOF (Odd Fellows) Cemetery at Smithville has been renamed "Smithville Memorial Cemetery."

Several people have been in researching northern Clay County, specifically the Smithville area. They have promised to share with us any information they find.

**100 YEARS AGO
EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE
(Continued from Page 8)**

number of children born and the number of children now living, to be asked by the enumerators in the Thirteenth United States Census, beginning April 15, next, is clearly explained in the printed instructions to the census takers, which have been prepared by the United States Census Bureau...

A "dwelling" is defined as a place in which, at the time of the census, one or more persons regularly sleep. It need not be a house in the common meaning of the word, but may be, for example, a room in a factory, store or office building; a loft over a stable; a canal boat; a tent or a wigwam...

Sunday Closing.

The pastors of the Liberty churches decided to ask the meat market men to not open their shops on Sunday mornings, as has been the custom. The same request will be made of a few grocery men who have had their stores open, we understand. The drug stores will be asked to at least close during the morning and evening services.

The Rock Island's 1:00 train to the city is now due at 1:09, 14 minutes later than formerly.

At a Sugar Camp.

Sugar and syrup making has been in progress at the **Compton** farm in Gallatin township. According to the *Kansas City Star* the 300-acre grove, in the midst of which the camp is built, is made up of about two hundred and fifty trees, ranging from 75 to 150 years in age. It takes a steady old maple to give sixteen gallons of "water" a sugar season. The season lasts about twenty-four days and a harvest is from sixty to one hundred and fifty gallons of syrup. Sugar making is a simple art. About the end of February the trees are "spiled." This means inserting a tube of sumac wood into a hole bored about a foot from the base. The maple that is properly "spiled" will give sap twelve hours a day. Nothing stingy about a maple tree.

The sap is poured into a barrel on a sledge driven by "Grundy," the negro sugar expert on the farm. Unless the water runs too fast, it is poured into the kettles as soon as it is brought in. Each of the kettles requires a ladler to keep it from boiling over. As the sap boils it turns from crystal to a rich brown. The ladler is kept busy watching that the syrup does not become thick - "flake," the sugar makers call it.

The final step in sugar making is taken in the kitchen of the Compton home. The syrup is clarified by putting the whites and shells of a few eggs in the syrup and reboiling it. The impurities cling to the shells, leaving real, undiluted, maple syrup; the kind your mother used to buy for her mother. "Sugaring off" is pouring the syrup into round tins to solidify. That is how the cakes of maple sugar are prepared.

Note: The Compton farm was located where Stroud's Restaurant is now.

John **Robb** was moved last week from the home he sold to the one he purchased, the Brost place. Mr. Robb broke his leg six weeks ago and it was a very difficult matter to move him, for fear of hurting the leg afresh. He stood the trip all right and enjoyed the change. He was carried on a bed to a sled and taken on it the distance of a mile or more. He couldn't stand the jar of a wagon. Two doctors rode on the sled with him and six horses were required to pull it.

DID YOU KNOW?

The next time you use a microwave oven, thank Percy Spencer. In 1945 the Raytheon engineer was testing a magnetron when he noticed that a chocolate bar in his shirt pocket had melted. The new way of cooking was patented and history was made.

**THE OLD GRAVEYARD IN LIBERTY,
MISSOURI, AND SOMETHING OF
GRAVEYARDS. BY HON. D.C.ALLEN**
(From the *Liberty Tribune*, dated January
28, 1910)

Following are excerpts from a lengthy article written by Col. Allen. He gives biographical data on many who are buried (or their relatives) in Mt. Memorial Cemetery. In the interest of space, we have listed only the surnames. Those wishing to read the entire article can find it on microfilm at the Archives.

I have so often, been asked in speech and letter, in regard to the Old Graveyard in Liberty, Mo. – the title to it, its legal connection with the City of Liberty, etc., etc. – that courtesy demands some response from me. I give it as follows:

The Old Graveyard has an area of one acre and was conveyed to the trustees of the Town of Liberty and their successors in office, by deed from Andrew Hixon and Ann, his wife, dated July 5th, 1836...

The deed indicates a previous use of the ground for burial purposes. This use, I feel sure had begun with the first death in the infant village. The beginning of Liberty – so far as we can now surely know – was in 1820 or 1821, at the southwest corner of what is now the Public Square, on the ground upon which stands the Love Building.

No one knows how many persons, white and black, are buried in that ground. From the beginning of burial there – which may be assumed to have been in 1820 or 1821 – until 1857, when the City of Liberty purchased and dedicated the larger portion of the ground now known as Fairview Cemetery, interment there, for town and city, was almost exclusive. Many from the surrounding country were admitted to the use. Nor did it cease with the dedication of Fairview Cemetery, but has continued, though in very greatly diminished numbers, ever since. In the summer of 1909, Darius Gittings was buried there, and, only a week or two ago, Mrs. Harriet A. Denny. All trace of the graves of numbers is obliterated. Most never had monuments erected over them. Among these are some of the most honorable and noted of our citizens in the old, and in, even, comparatively recent times. I believe I am justified in saying that there are all of six hundred persons sleeping in the Old Graveyard. I will add that, from the beginning, the Northern portion of the ground was allotted to the negroes.

It will, I presume, be expected that I should give the names of some of the honorable persons who rest in the Old Graveyard. To mention all, or even, the major part is now impossible – hence I will content myself...with the following:

Chauncey, Samuel, Ward, Arthur, Miller, Dorsey, Anderson, Moss, Major, Morris, Johnson, Drake,

Green, Gwinner, Tillery, Neal, Gittings, Campbell, Price, Croysdale, Marsh, Brashear, Pence, Terrel, Baxter, Hendley, Clinton, Moore, Fraher, Edwards, Fritzlen, Bright, Routt, Bird, Costello, Garlich, Leopold, Spence, McFarland

Greater effort and inquiry would very largely increase, beyond what I have just written, the list of the names of persons who sleep in the Old Graveyard. These are, however, surely enough to satisfy our people that they owe a great duty to that cemetery in the way of repair and ornamentation. In it there are a number of superior monuments, but everything about the place is utterly neglected and unkempt. The fence is a scare-crow. Nearly all of the old monuments were of marble or some ordinary stone, and greatly need attention. Indeed, some are fractured, and others are prone on the ground. The turf has not been cared for. Weeds abound. The shrubbery is gone. In truth, the present condition of that cemetery is a disgrace to our people, instead of what should be a beauty-spot, it is a reproach...

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

According to the form, “So much genealogical data is destroyed each year by families that do not know what to do with the data. A Genealogical Codicil to your Last Will and Testament stating how you want the information dispersed may help prevent this. Use this sample form as a guide.”

The form says (in part) that upon the writer’s death, it is requested that the spouse/children/executor, etc. not dispose of any of the writer’s genealogical records for a period of two years, during which an attempt should be made to locate persons willing to take custody of the material and maintain and continue the family histories.

It further says that if no such persons can be found, various genealogical organizations of which the deceased had been a member should be contacted to determine if they would accept the records.

Free sample copies of this form are available at the Archives.

From Platte County Missouri Historical & Genealogical Society Bulletin, January – April 2010

The Missouri State Genealogical Association has announced its 2010 Annual Conference. It will be held on August 13th and 14th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. Keynote Speaker will be Roger Minert. Dr. Minert is a professional family history researcher and associate professor of family history at Brigham Young University. For more information go to www.mosga.org.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Archives is proud to announce that Frank McMillian has joined our Board of Directors. Frank is the creator and publisher of WindingRiver.com, a website guide to local history and natural resources. Frank's expertise will make him a great addition to our board.

NEW COOKBOOK

Next time you're at the Archives, take a look at the new cookbook donated to us by The Briarcliff Community Alliance.

In addition to a bunch of interesting and tasty sounding recipes, it contains a history of the Briarcliff area and some drawings of neat old places that are no longer there.

For information on how you can get your own copy, go to www.briarcliffcommunityalliance.org or call 816-595-5820 or 816-454-4592.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Archives memberships expire on January 1 of each year. The membership fee is only \$15 per year.

ARCHIVES MEMBER WRITES LOCAL HISTORY BOOK

Jim Tanner, Ph.D., Dean and Provost, Emeritus, William Jewell College, and tireless researcher at the Archives, has written a new book, "Wheel Within a Wheel...The Rotary Club & Liberty, 1935 – 2010." Contained in its 232 pages is a history of the Liberty Rotary Club, of course, but also a history of Liberty itself, as it influenced the local organization. Proceeds from the book's sales go to the Liberty Rotary Foundation. Dr. Tanner has generously donated a copy to the Archives.

The Clay County MOsaic

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