

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

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

January, February, March 2012

2012 Executive Board

Officers

President.....Stuart E. Elliott
1st Vice President.....Steve Olson
2nd Vice President.....Shirley Fansher
Corresponding Secretary.....Ann Henning
Recording Secretary.....Donna Root
Treasurer.....Scott R. Cole

Directors

<u>Through 2013</u>	<u>Through 2011</u>	<u>Through 2012</u>
Bill Matteson	Raymond Brock	Patricia Rendon
Joyce Schumacher	Bob Corum	Frank McMillian

Committee Chairs

Records Use & Preservation.....Carol Olson
Membership.....Shirley Fansher
Properties.....Steve Olson and Scott Cole
Cemeteries.....Kenneth Neth
Computer Use.....Stuart Elliott
Volunteer Coordinator.....Carol Olson
Way and Means.....

Organizational Representatives

Clay County Parks.....Elizabeth Gilliam Beckett
William C. Corum Chapter SAR.....Bill Matteson
Clay Co. Patriots Chapter DAR....Beverly Corum
Alexander Doniphan Chapter DAR.Nancy George
City of Liberty.....Jonna Wensel

Newsletter Staff

Shirley Fansher
Ann Henning
Stuart Elliott

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

Welcome to 2012. Let's hope the early spring is a sign of good things to come.

We have some new volunteers this year. Keenan Barker will be the new Mosaic newsletter editor and she will start her duties for the summer edition. We are looking forward to her involvement. Jane Shepherd is also volunteering on Wednesdays and one of her projects is updating our photograph collection that is need of some her TLC. Also joining our little family is Tony Myers and Bob Hazlett.

A former volunteer, Wylie Brooks, has passed away and his family has offered to donate some of his personal belonging to the Archives. Among other items, they include some lecterns and a file cabinet. Though we sorely miss Wylie at the Archives, we are grateful to his family for these donations.

The front steps and center rail of our building has been repaired by the City so that has spruced up our "curb appeal" and it has made ingress and egress safer.

Our newspaper collection has increased due to a donation from the Liberty Tribune. They have given us 34 papers from North Kansas City. The County Court is also ready to give us 95 more boxes of Probate records.

The Archives Display Board has been shown at various places around Clay County including some Hy-Vee locations and most northland libraries. Thank you Frank!

We have more 1865 color atlas' printed and ready for purchase. If you haven't gotten yours yet, come on in and give us a visit.

A new publication entitled, "Explore Liberty" has been printed by the Liberty Tribune, the City of Liberty and Historic Downtown Liberty, Inc and distributed by the Tribune. It is a very well done issue and includes articles for local recreational, educational, historical and cultural organizations. It has a prominent picture of our building on page 11 with a description of the Archives and what we do.

-- *Stuart E. Elliott*

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	25 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.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Mitchell's 1849 School Atlas donated by John and Mary Bentley.

50th Anniversary CD and 50 Year Summary Sheet for Fellowship of the Concerned donated by C. L. Knouse.

Topographical Maps donated by Michael R. Wilson.

Order & Letter Book, Missouri State Guard, Gen. Sterling Price- May 15, 1861 to March 25, 1862 donated by Keith Nelson.

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

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

BENEFACTORS

Martha Yancey Alison
Arlyne K. Boggess and Waller I. Huffman
Dan E. Boone
Clay County Protective Association
Scott and Ann Cole
Kathryn Duncan
Stuart E. Elliott
Linda K. Erkelens
Shirley Fansher
Jerry and Pat Henderson
Dail R. and Sallie Hobbs
Daniel and Mary Pence
Beverly Sue Raile
Patricia J. Rendon
Leonard and Jane Pickett Sharon
Jack Watson
Sylvia Wees

PATRONS

Doug Bogart
Ray and Linnea Brock
Millicent Daugherty
Kathryn Duncan
William W. Fish
Ken Neth
Carol and Steve Olson
Ed and Kathi Rule (Corner Café)
Karen Warren

2012 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

Alene Hagerbaumer
Bill & Mary Lou Matteson
Jim & Diane Patterson

FRIENDS

Elizabeth Beckett
Alberta Corum
Mrs. R. Kenneth Elliott
Glenn & Dennis Irminger
Karen & Mark Mathes
Jack Moselle
Jill & Michael Weiland

ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

OUR NEW PUBLICATION

Reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas, with features in **color**, just like the original! Cost is \$20, which includes sales tax, plus \$2 for mail delivery.

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 \$12, plus \$5 for mail delivery

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

Liberty Tribune, January 18, 1907; When an Oklahoma man telephoned in to deny the published report of his death, the editor said: "Sorry, but if we said you were dead, you're dead. The best we can do for you is to put you in next week's birth column."

The Civil War In Missouri

This material is from several sources and is an effort to report the daily activity of the Civil War in our area. While the more famous battles where taking place in the east and south we had many actions taking place nearer. These incidences occurred in the first three months of 1862.

January 1, 1862, Measles out break at the prison located at McDowell's College, St. Louis. "An alarming mortality rate will be forthcoming unless something is done."

January 3, 1862, Skirmishes at Hunewell, Shelby Co.

January 4, 1862, Calhoun, Green County

January 5-12, Skirmishes in Johnson and Lafayette Counties.

January 6, 1862, Part of General Josphe Shelby's command arrested and release at Sedalia. Joe

January 7, 1862. From Bird's Point, Col. Nicholas Perczel placed his command on the train to find a Tennessee Calvary numbering 1000 near Charleston.

January 8, 1862. Seven miles south of Huntsville, Randolph Co., information came to hand that Col. J.A. Poindexter and his Confederate force were camped at Roan's Tan Yard on Silver Creek. Detachments from various Union units gathered and headed towards the Confederate camp, about 14 miles northwest of Fayette. After finding the camp, the Federals attacked and routed the enemy. Those that were not killed, wounded, or captured fled for safety. Afterwards, the Union troops destroyed the camp to prevent its further use. This small action cost the Confederates Randolph County as a base for recruiting and raiding. Maj. W.M.G. Torrence headed the Union. Elements of three Union cavalry regiments totaled 450; Southern strength is not known. The Confederates lost about 80, the Union a dozen.

January 8, 1862,Charlestown

January 9, 1862, Columbus

January 10, 1862, Bird's Point

January 22, 1862, Occupation of Lebanon

January 22, 1862, Knob Noster

February 6, 1862, Bloomfield

February 8, 1862, Bolivar

February 1862, Occupation of Doniphan

February 9, 1862, Marshfield

February 12 & 13, 1862, Springfield

February 14, 1862, Crane Creek

February 15, 1862, Flat Creek

February 17, 1862, Keytesville

February 17, 1862, Sugar Creek

February 18, 1862, Independence

February 19, 1862, West Plains

February 19, 1862, Bentonville

February 23 1862, Independence

February 24, 1862, Mingo Creek and New Madrid

February 25, 1862, Keytesville, Barry County
 February 28- April 8, 1862, New Madrid, Siege
 March 1, 1862, Sykestown
 March 2-6, 1862, New Madrid
 March 7 1862, Point Pleasant, Bows Creek, and Fox Creek
 March 9, 1862, Big Creek, Mountain Grove Seminary
 March 10, 1862 skirmishes in Lexington, Lafayette County.
 March 11-14, 1862 the capture of New Madrid. "The National forces led by General John Pope moved down the west bank of the Mississippi against he position (lead by General Leondias Polk of Louisiana) at New Madrid. By the second day this battle virtually raged...Many lives were lost during this torturous rout." The confederate army "was caught between impassable swamps and the Union Army at the end of the bloody contest. General Pope captured virtually the entire command; three generals, two hundred and seventy-three officers and sixty seven hundred soldiers. He also carried away or turned around for their own use and protection, one hundred and fifty-eight guns, seven thousand muskets and rifles, a gun boat, a floating battery, six steamboats, and all the little plunder of a victory." Only a few Confederates escaped across the river and further down river to safety.
 March 12, 1862. Near Lebanon
 March 15, 1862. Two days of skirmishing at Marshall, Saline County.
 March 16, 1862. Skirmish at Gouge's Mill
 March 17, 1862. Action at Riddell's Point. Work on a canal six miles long.
 March 18, 1862. Point Pleasant
 March 18, 1862. It was thought that Quantrill was severely wounded, perhaps mortally. Two recruits in the State Militia in Liberty were captured, one was shot "in cold blood" after being taken prisoner. The flag was raised by General Prentiss was torn down and a secession one raised. Colonel Catherwood, finding the flag tore it down and raised the Stars and Stripes again. Taken prisoner by Catherwood was President Thompson of William Jewell.
 March 18-30, 1862 Operations in St. Clair County. (Federal)
 March 18-30, 1862 Operations in Henry County. (Federal)
 March 19, 1862 Skirmish in Leesville.
 March 19-20, 1862 Expedition to Carthage.
 March 19-30, 1862 Operations in Johnson County. (Federal)
 March 21, 1862, Affair in McKay's Farm.
 March 19, 1862, Leesville
 March 22, 1862. Independence
 March 26, 1862, Gouge's Mill
 March 26, 1862,Warrensburg
 March 28, 1862,Warrensburg

March 22, 1862, A detachment of the Sixth Kansas overtook Quantrill's raiders near Independence, killing seven. The survivors headed southeast.
 March 22, 1862, Skirmish at Post Oak Creek
 March 22, 1862, Skirmish at Little Santa Fe
 March 23, 1862, Skirmish at Carthage
 March 23, 1862, Expedition to Little River. (Federal)
 March 23, 1862, Skirmish, Sink Pole Woods
 March 24, 1862, Scout, St. Clair County (Federal)
 March 24, 1862, Scout, Henry County (Federal)
 March 25, 1862, Skirmish at Monagan Springs.
 March 25. A Glasgow Baptist minister named Caples, a prisoner on parole, is not able to preach the gospel. It was understood that his teachings have been most productive in making trouble in Chariton, Saline and Howard counties. He is no longer to function as a public speaker or minister of the word in these counties by order of the Federal government.
 On this day President Thompson and Henry Routt were take to St. Louis under guard to be imprisoned.
 Mathew Houx, a rebel guerilla leader, asked for terms to be able to return to their homes. He represented about 300 men. However if they are to be treated as outlaws "they vow to ruin the country, burning houses and murdering loyal men."
 March 25-28, 1862. Expedition in Moniteau County. (Federal)
 March 26,1862. Skirmish, Humansville, Polk County.
 March 26,1862. Action, Post Oak Creek.
 March 26, 1862. Skirmish. Mouth of Briar.
 March 28, 1862. Skirmish, Warrensburg.
 March 28, 1862. Bernard G. Farrar (Missouri's Union Provost Marshal General) issues a circular ordering all voters to take the oath of allegiance. Any election officials allowing anyone to vote without the oath will be arrested, tried by court-martial and election declared void.
 March 28, 1862. Report by Henry W. Halleck stating that Jefferson Barracks is to be evacuated and turned over to the Medical Department for use as a military hospital for 35,000 Union soldiers presently on the sick list. " Halleck also recommends Kansas troops be transferred away from the Missouri border, as they are "committing murders and robberies." He states Kansas troops are "worse than useless" as they require the Federal government to keep troops from other states on the Missouri border to prevent these atrocities from happening.
 March 29, 1862. Skirmish near Warrensburg.
 March 29, 1862. Skirmish on Blackwater.
 March 30, 1862. Skirmish, Clinton.
 March 31, 1862. Skirmishes, Pink Hill.

Did you Know? Sometime in either 1863 or 1864 a famous actor saved a young man from falling between a railroad platform and a moving train by

grabbing his collar and pulling him to safety. The famous actor? Edwin Booth, older brother of John Wilkes Booth. The young man? Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln. *From the January/February 2012 issue of The History Channel Magazine.*

Clay County Calendar

January 10, 1843--Alexander Franklin James born in Clay County.

January 20, 1864--A company of 40 thieves led by a man calling himself "Major Sanders," of Jennison's regiment of Kansas jayhawkers, crossed the river from Jackson County and captured Missouri City.

February 11, 1822-First county court of Clay County convened at the house of John Owens, which stood on what is now lot 186 on the northwest corner of Water and Mill streets, in the city of Liberty.

February 12, 1855-William O. Russell, who lived 3 miles SE of Liberty, was mortally wounded by a Negro slave named Peter, the property of Major Alvin Lightburne, as a revenge for severely whipping his wife. Peter was lynched despite urging of Rev. Moses Lard and others on March 5, 1855

February 13, 1830- Mount Gilead Church organized at the home of Benjamin W. Riley, who became the first pastor.

March 4, 1822-- First circuit court of Clay County was held at the house of John Owens in Liberty.

March 6, 1909—Alexander Doniphan Chapter, DAR, formed in Liberty.

March 7, 1853-- Elder William Throp died at age 81 years, 1 month, and 10 days.

March 29, 1865 - William T. Reynolds, a prominent merchant of Liberty and a well known as a Union man, having severed in the military under Col. Moss, was shot in his store by a Federal soldier, and died from the wound on April 20, 1865.

Liberty's (Almost) Connection to a Tragedy at Sea

(This is a reprint of an article that Linda Smith wrote for the Liberty Tribune several years ago. She thought since it is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic that it would be a good time to revisit the story.)

In mid-April 1912 Dr. J.E. Cook, Treasurer of William Jewell College, received a letter from an English divinity student named Sidney C. Stuart Collett. In it, the 25-year-old man said that his journey to Liberty had been delayed by a coal strike in England, but he would at last be sailing to the United States on the liner *Titanic*. The letter reached Dr. Cook on the same day that newspapers gave their first report of the liner's sinking. He was undoubtedly relieved to get the following telegram a few days later: "Steamer *Carpathia*. Safe. Collett."

According to a Liberty Tribune article dated April 19, 1912, Collett was to attend the college because "William Jewell ranked so high among the Baptist colleges of the world and has the Spurgeon library". Upon reading the article in their microfilm files, researchers at the Clay County Archives wanted to learn more about this young student and his brush with an icy death.

They have discovered that Collett's story is an interesting one. He was in Second Class on board the *Titanic* when it left Southampton, England on April 10. From there it traveled to Cherbourg, France and Queenstown, Ireland. Also aboard were such dignitaries as Benjamin Guggenheim, a wealthy American industrialist and his aide; Isador Straus, the founder of Macy's, and his wife; John Jacob Aster IV, the wealthy great-grandson of the famous American fur trader; and, of course, the "unsinkable" Margaret (Molly) Brown. More than half of the passengers were in third class, as it was the most inexpensive for the many immigrants leaving Europe and going to the United States to start a new life. The official count of the number on board as the ship left Ireland was 1316 passengers and 892 crew members, for a total of 2208. It had 16 wooden lifeboats and four collapsible boats, which could hold 1178 people, a difference of 1030.

Collett's name appears on lists of those on Lifeboat Number 9, which was lowered from the sinking ship at around 1:20 a.m. on the morning of April 15, approximately one hour and 40 minutes after the *Titanic* collided with an iceberg and about one hour before it plunged to the bottom of the ocean. At 12:25 a.m., Captain Edward Smith had given the order to load women and children into the lifeboats. In a stroke of luck, Mr. Collett went to the starboard side of the ship where First Mate William Murdoch was

loading the lifeboats. Murdoch was adhering to the “women and children first” rule. On the port side, however, Charles Lightoller was loading the boats based on “women and children only” (except for crew members).

In Mr. Collett’s own words, “The officers were just lowering Boat Number 9, the third from the last to be put off. The ladies stepped in, then the officer with drawn revolver said to me, ‘Well, what of you, where are you going?’ I replied that I have these young ladies in my charge and felt it my duty to take care of them. ‘Get in,’ said the officer and a moment later the boat was lowered.” The only possession Collett took with him was a Bible that he had promised his brother that he would always carry until they met again.

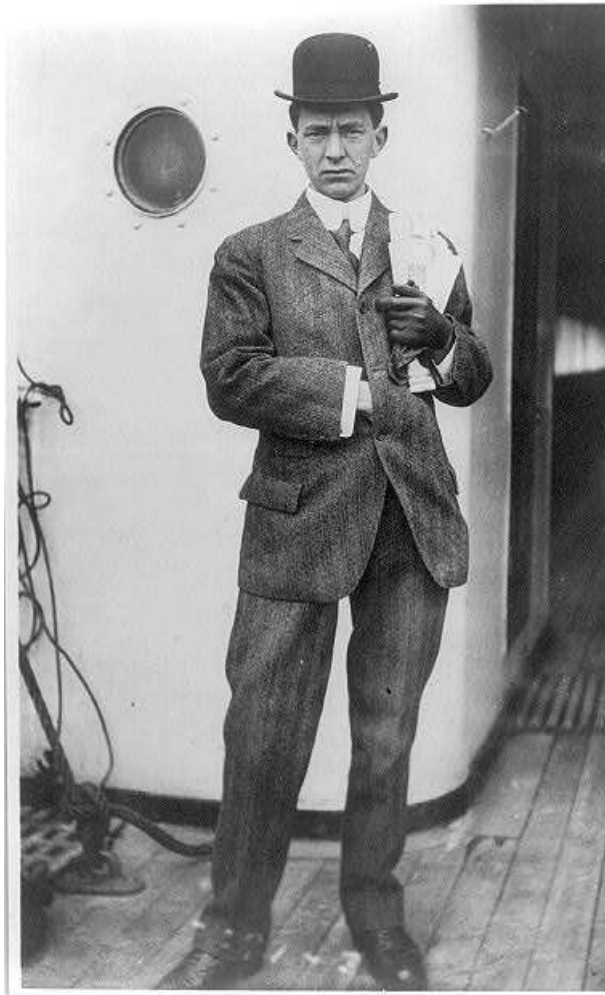
Accounts vary as to numbers of occupants of Boat 9, but we do know that there were male and female passengers from First, Second and Third Classes and a number of crew members. But like the other lifeboats and collapsible boats, it was not filled to capacity. Many more lives could have been saved had they all been filled, but many people refused to believe that the *Titanic* would actually sink or, at least, felt that it would float for hours. Some women, like Mrs. Strauss, chose to die with their husbands.

Guggenheim and his aide returned to their cabins and changed into their tuxedos, vowing to “go down like gentlemen”. Even though the *Carpathia* sailed at full speed to the *Titanic*, she was four hours away, too far to save those who were not in one of the lifeboats or collapsibles.

The *Titanic* Historical Society has a taped interview of Mrs. Bertha Watts, also a passenger on Boat 9. According to the interview, Mr. Collett was in her lifeboat and complained the whole night about losing his sermons on the ship.

She also said that one lady was so upset about his complaints “that she just flew at him and said that she would pay him for his sermons if it meant that her husband and son were saved.”

Mr. Collett said the following about his experience in the lifeboat that night: “After we had floated for an hour or more there came our first real scare for our own safety. All about us we could see the backs of monster fish, their shiny skins or scales glimmering in the moonlight. They were terrible-looking monsters and we feared that they would swim under our boats and upset them, but they did not. It was a time when we were close to our Maker. I prayed constantly from the time our boat struck the iceberg until I reached New York. Never was there a wireless message that went so quickly and straight as my prayers to the throne of God. Never will I forget those horrible hours after the sinking of the ship. It was maddening. Minutes seemed like hours and hours like days.”



A few weeks later another article in the *Liberty Tribune* reported that Collett “has decided not to enter school until September on account of the states of his nerves, his physician advising against it, and he will remain in New York with his father.” William Jewell College has no record that Mr. Collett ever attended the school.

Sidney Collett became a Baptist minister in England, where he was known as an unusually pious Christian man. He married and had two daughters and a son. He died on May 8, 1941 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Hendon Cemetery in London. The photographs show him on the *Carpathia*.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

It is possible we have cemetery number 347 in our sights, but the exact location is unknown. Bushwackers killed three confederate soldiers near Smithville. They were Dock Crowley, Josh (Joshua) Estes and James Marley and were killed in April 1865. Little information is available, but we know Josh was married to Isabella Mathes and had three children; Hiram J., Julia A. (Mrs. John H. Mathews) and Joshua, Jr. Isabella remarried to Frederick Thane and had two children. In the 1877 Atlas they had land in Township 53, Range 32, Section 22 which is just east of the Five corners cross roads east of Smithville and 1 ½ mile north of 92 Highway.

Did you Know? Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, was banned from the White House by Roosevelt's successor William Howard Taft because she buried a voodoo doll of Mrs. Taft in the front lawn. *From the January/February 2012 issue of The History Channel Magazine.*

ADVENTURES IN RESEARCH AT THE ARCHIVES

In preparing names to be entered into the computer from a 1905 Civil Court case we found Luther and Matilda Keeney owed \$230 at 6% interest to the State Bank of West Union. One of the documents in the file mentions a "Monte Cristo Hotel" on North Main Street, Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

No one had heard of this hotel, so we took a break and investigated. A folder containing information about it was in the HOTELS file. There a page from the Liberty Tribune, June 30, 1905 reads, "The shooting was at the Monte Cristo Hotel, which she conducted and he had been forbidden to come there. Reading ahead "he" was Mr. Keeney and "his wife" was Matilda they had financial troubles and she had a divorce suit against her husband. The story ends predicting that she would probably recover.

Did she? We don't know. Probably somewhere, perhaps in the Criminal Court Records we can find out, but until they have been indexed it will be difficult. Can someone help us? There are many intriguing stories there that need to see the light of day. You can write your own "Adventure in Research."

Photo Corner

This photograph appears to be of a family gathering of some sort as there seems to be more than one generation present. The photo was bought at a garage sale in Weston, Missouri. The seller said it came from Liberty. Do you recognize any of the people or perhaps any landmark?



To the City of Liberty

The Board of Directors would like to express our sincere appreciation to the City of Liberty for the repair and restoration of the front steps. The appearance and safety has been greatly enhanced.

**“Summertime and the living is easy”
So the old song goes.**

**Try a new pastime this summer as a
Volunteer at the Archives
We’re a good place to stay cool and to meet
interesting people.**

The Clay County MOsaic

Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
210 E. Franklin StreetP.O. Box 99
Liberty, MO 64069(816) 781-3611
info@claycountyarchives.org