

# The Clay County MOsaic

*"Fitting the Pieces Together"*

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

April – May – June 2006

## 2006 Executive Board

### Officers

President.....Stuart E. Elliott  
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Calvin W. Hawkins  
Shirley Fansher  
Linda Smith

### 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](mailto:info@claycountyarchives.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last November I was elected President of the Archives, but then in December my career took a new path, so I find myself out of town quite a bit. I am able to keep up with the Archives' activities through phone calls and emails, but it's not the same as being here. I miss being able to interact with the other volunteers and make a more direct contribution. I want to thank the board members and staff for putting up with my absence. But they continue doing their jobs as they have for years. So the Archives has been humming along nicely, I think.

Thanks to the efforts of former President Kevin Fisher, a local charitable organization granted us a donation that we gratefully received on May 1<sup>st</sup> at their annual Open House. The Nearly New Shop has many volunteers who run the shop to sell second-hand merchandise, then donate the proceeds to nearby not-for-profit organizations. Our Treasurer, Scott Cole, and I represented the Archives that evening and to collect the much-appreciated check. I'm sure Scott has more to say on the subject in his "Treasury Notes" column.

And now that Kevin has been relieved of his presidential duties, he has been taking time to volunteer in other areas. He has been traveling down to the Gulf of Mexico area with groups from his church to help the victims of last year's storms. We miss having him around, but I know the people there appreciate his service. We look forward to having him back soon.

Our newly reconstituted Ways and Means Committee has had a bumpy start. Not only have I been absent, but also the appointed chairperson has had an unexpected conflict. I had asked Sallie Hobbs to take the reins of the committee and she readily agreed as long as her duties could begin after her tenure as School Board President (when the new School Board was to be elected).

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Wednesday -- 10 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 print-outs	5 cents per page
Outsize copies	50 cents per page
Photographs	
Standard Quality	50 cents
Archival Quality	\$5.00

Personal imaging will be charged at the above rates.

### ARCHIVES PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

(All prices, postage paid)

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	13.00
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas	13.00
Clay County Births, 1883-84	7.00
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84	7.00
DAR Sesquicentennial Book	18.00
Every-name Index to DAR Book	11.00
“The Story of Liberty, Missouri” (Film)	
DVD (including handling fee)	17.00
Cassette (incl handling fee)	12.00
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	
“Doctor on the Western Frontier”	27.50
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	
Clay County Marriage Indexes	
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	

## SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

*Contributors -- \$100-\$499*

*Friends -- \$25-\$99*

### BENEFACTORS

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## 2006 PROGRAM

### CONTRIBUTORS

Scott and Ann Cole  
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Jerry and Pat Henderson  
Carol and Steve Olson  
    Beverly Sue Raile  
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### FRIENDS

Elizabeth G. Beckett  
    Doug Bogart  
    Linda K. Erkalens  
    Bettie A. Kirkland  
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## MARRIAGE BOOKS AVAILABLE

CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1821-1881  
Register of Marriages, Recorder's Office  
Clay County Courthouse, Liberty  
Books A thru E, Colored (1865 - 1891) and  
Unrecorded  
Compiled by Rudena Kramer Mallory

CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1881-1904  
Register of Marriages, Recorder's Office  
Clay County Courthouse, Liberty  
Books F to I  
Compiled by Rudena Kramer Mallory

Each Book, Softbound \$24.50 ppd  
(MO residents add \$1.80)  
Each book, Hardbound \$29.75 ppd  
(MO residents add \$2.19)

Make your check payable to Rudena Kramer Mallory  
and mail to:

Rudena Kramer Mallory  
c/o Clay County Archives  
P.O. Box 99  
Liberty, MO 64069

## THE STORY OF LIBERTY

### ...from settlement to suburb

Footprints in Clay, a video history project of the Clay County Archives, announces the availability of the video of our production, "The Story of Liberty...from settlement to suburb."

This one-hour documentary of Liberty's history spans the years from pre-settlement to present. It premiered on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, at Liberty Cinema 12 to two full houses with a reception at the intermission.

The movie is available in two formats:

DVD -- \$15 each  
S-VHS -- \$10 each  
(add \$2 for shipping and handling)

The VHS version is available in two formats, for older model players & for the current model players. Specify which of the formats you desire.

To order your copy, submit your request in writing, indicating quantity and format.

Make your check payable to:

Clay County Archives  
and mail to P.O. Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069.

## DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty,  
1854-1880

You can own your own copy of Dr. Dougherty's  
diary!

Publication Price  
\$22.50 at the Archives  
\$27.50 if mailed

Make your check payable to the Clay County  
Archives  
and mail to P.O. Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069.

## DONNA ROOT'S REALLY GOOD SALAD RECIPE:

### Oriental Spinach Salad

Spinach  
Bean sprouts  
Sliced water chestnuts  
Crumbled bacon (6 to 8 slices)  
Grated or chopped hard-boiled eggs

### Dressing

½ cup sugar  
¾ cup (scant) oil  
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce or soy sauce  
1/3 cup ketchup  
¼ cup vinegar

Combine in jar and shake.

## A VACATION TRIP AT HOME

Go over next door. Sit there wishing you were at home. Remarkably like being on vacation.

Rub poison ivy on hands and think you have been to the country.

Hire some reliable robber to chase you home every night. Results same as if you visited Chicago.

Examine ruts in road by your home through magnifying glass. Looks exactly like Grand Canyon.

Poke eyes full of cinders and sleep on pantry shelf. Wonderful substitute for an upper berth.

Fill your grip with lead and run for the car every morning. Same thing as touring Europe.

Fill bath tub with water and broken glass. Ah, just like the old swimming hole.

Let faucet run in kitchen sink. Sounds as if you were summering at Niagara. – Tom Sims in Life

*from the Liberty Advance, July 13, 1925*

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

**Tuesday, August 29, 1854**

Spent the forenoon of to day in the store and at the new building, anxiously watching to see the workmen move rappidly forward so that we might get in possession of it. Recd per F. X. Aubrey some goods from Charless, Blow & Co. St. Louis our Eastern goods not yet arrived.

*Note: On July 21, 1854 the Steamboat F. X. Aubry delivered to Liberty Landing many goods, including 21 barrels of "old Bourbon" and 560 pieces of assorted stoneware. This boat was famous for both her name and speed. Francis Xavier Aubry, for whom the vessel was named, was known for his ability to quickly traverse the Santa Fe Trail. In 1848 he made a bet of \$10,000 that he could ride from Santa Fe to Independence in six days. He made the trip in five and one-half days. He then bet \$20,000 that he could make the return trip in four days. He made the trip in three and one-half days, nearly losing his scalp to hostile Indians. Mr. Aubry died in a gunfight in a Santa Fe saloon on August 10, 1854.*

**Wednesday, August 30, 1854**

Quite a difficulty occurred in Barry to day – A man by the name of Parr shot his brother in law by the name of Greenwood and killed him "right out".

*Note: Farr and Woolbridge, brothers-in-law, got into a violent argument in the town of Barry. The argument resulted in the death of Woolbridge, who received five pistol shots and several stab wounds. The argument grew out of the ill treatment of the wife of one of the two men.*

**Monday, September 4, 1854**

Quite a number of students came in to day, and the prospect is flattering for a large attendance this session. If they, the trustees, will manage things right there is nothing to prevent this college "William Jewell College" from flourishing equal to any in the west, for it has great natural advantages, and they should appreciate them.

**Sunday, September 10, 1854**

The cow is gone, and has been for three or four days she will be spoilt now when she does come – bad luck for us. Mr. Calhoun has hauled one load of wood – on Saturday, the first load was hauled. Mary has given the bedstead a good scouring, and the bugs

are quite scarce consequently we have taken up our lodgings in the bedstead for the first time in a long time. One of the turkeys missing this evening.

**Tuesday, September 12, 1854**

Mr. Grant is going on with the painting the house, and I hope will soon be done. Though he is quite active, too many irons in the fire.

*Note: Peter Buell Grant was of cousin of President U. S. Grant. In the 1850 Census he is listed as deputy postmaster in Liberty.*

**Wednesday, September 13, 1854**

This morning quite cloudy & commenced raining about 9 o'clock, and give us a pretty good rain, laid the dust finely, and now after 9 o'clock P. M. there is the promise of a heavy rain. I think we will have plenty of it now. This is the first rain since the 20<sup>th</sup> of June last.

**Friday, September 15, 1854**

No news of importance in town to day. Aunt Mary came in and took dinner with us. Uncle John is not very well. Heard of the Massacre of the soldiers of Fort Laramie 24 of them. To night at ½ past 8 o'clock, Mary was confined and tolerably large child – female – was born quite and easy & speedy time of it. Much more so than expected. Mary seems quite smart, and I feel considerably relieved. If 'twas a boy I'll be delighted, as it is, I am very well pleased.

*Note: The following is an extract from a letter from Lewis Bissell Dougherty to his father, Major John Dougherty. It was printed in the Liberty Tribune September 15, 1854. "Fort Laramie, August 20, 1854 – Dear Father: On yesterday about 2 o'clock, p.m., Lt. Grafton and twenty-two soldiers, with the interpreter, went about eight miles below this to take an Indian of the Bruly band for killing some cattle for an emigrant train, -- The Indian refused to be taken alive, and the fracas commenced. All the Whites were killed, and are still lying on the ground. They captured one cannon, twelve mules, and all the guns, pistols, &c. The Indians are all moving off. James Ellis is here with us waiting for an opportunity to go down. I must thank providence I was not here when the troops started down or perhaps now I would be among the dead. Your Son, L.B. Dougherty."*

*The doctor's daughter was named Martha, and known as Mattie.*

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

by Jane Milner

**Articles from the *Liberty Advance***

**March 14, 1921**

About fifty women convened at the court house on the afternoon of March 10, in response to the call issued by the Women's Democratic club. The chief speaker of the afternoon was Mrs. M. Moore of the Liberty High school, who had been asked to come and tell about conditions at that place....No teacher has a desk of her own in which to keep her papers and working materials....at no time can all the students be seated in the auditorium; where to the other ills of Freshman life is added that of standing during all assemblies.

**May 23, 1921**

The wife of the governor of Nebraska was a Clay county girl and the Kansas City Star of last Sunday had an interesting article on the many duties she performs in the care of their home and the much work she does besides looking after her household affairs....Martha de Arnold was her name when, as a child, she lived in Smithville. Her father was a Frenchman, but her mother is of the old South.

**January 29, 1923**

The last of the American soldiers that were on the Rhine are on the way home. With them are wives of 76 soldiers married there, and three mothers-in-law.

**January 14, 1924**

Jefferson City correspondent Kansas City Star: L. B. Dougherty of Liberty, 95 years of age, could tell some interesting stories about the old social customs and activities at the University of Missouri, if he were willing. But, unfortunately, Mr. Dougherty shuns publicity.

As the oldest alumnus of the university – graduating in the class of 1847 – Mr. Dougherty was visited recently by President Brooks. He showed the president a frayed, yellow sheet of paper on which was printed an early list of alumni. In different colored inks Mr. Dougherty had checked off the graduates as they had died. A place was left vacant near his name. He said he never had visited the university after his graduation. Mr. Dougherty is said

to bear the distinction of being the first white child born in Kansas – in Wyandotte county. His father was an agent to the Indians. (*Note: He was a cousin to Dr. Dougherty, whose diary the Archives has published. An excerpt from that diary appears in this newsletter.*)

**January 14, 1924**

A second raise of 2 cents a gallon on gasoline has been made here, the last one on Saturday. The prices at Liberty now are 17.8 cents at the filling stations and 15.8 from trucks. Coal oil was raised a cent, and is now 11.2 cents – at the stations or from trucks.

**February 4, 1924**

The city council was in regular session last Friday night.

C.R. Wilson of the Liberty theater was present and asked the council for permission to have picture shows on Sunday afternoons, but the request was refused.

**March 3, 1924**

It has been suggested that electric bells be connected with chicken houses to give a signal when thieves come to the night, as so many visits are being made by chicken thieves since the paved roads have been in Clay county.

Fields Duncan, a few years ago had a big loss of turkeys, 89 in one night, when they were at about the highest price, but ever since Fields has been prepared for the next visitor by arranging an electric bell system that he installed. It can be done at little cost and he will gladly tell other farmers how he has it....Mr. Foos, east of town, frightened thieves away from his hen house a few nights ago. They had two sacks filled with chickens and left them in their hurry to get away.

**March 30, 1925**

The Liberty (telephone) Exchange averages 7,000 calls a day, Mr. Insley said. But the really busy time is when the firebell rings. Then every operator drops everything else and connects every telephone in Liberty and gives the news of the location of the fire. Sometimes persons become vexed because calls are not answered during a fire. This is practically impossible with everyone calling and asking the location of the fire.

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

Minute book of the Fortnightly Study Club, G.F.W.C. – M.F.W.C., Second District, 1985 through April, 1990, from Christine Pugh, deceased, donated by Celesta Moore.

Gow family pictures, donated by Martha Beth (Porter) Crowley, granddaughter of Mayme Porter, a sister of M.D. Gow.

The book “The Source – A Guidebook of American Genealogy”, 1997 revised edition. Donated by Rudena Mallory.

“Descriptive Lists of Volunteers for U.S. Colored Troops for State of Missouri, 1863 – 1865”, a loose leaf notebook containing National Archives records transcribed and copied by Rudena Mallory, the donor.

Booklets: Genealogical News from the Plains, Overland Journals and Lewis and Clark material in folder, donated by Ona Gieschen.

The book “Orphan Trains to Missouri” donated by Linda Smith.

M. B. Alder family record and group sheets, notebook donated by Bill and Rita Alder.

Two scrapbooks on the Clay County Extension Club Chorus, donated by Harold and Anna Margaret McGuire. In the 1950’s and 1960’s, this chorus was performing across the country, including on radio and television.

The books “Raytown Remembers” (Raytown Historical Society) and “Lathrop, Missouri 1867—1967”, donated by Fran Broderick.

Photo and collage pieces of Mural of Liberty, donated by Wilma Duke (Mrs. G. Nelson). The mural was located in the Big Cheese Pizza store and was removed when it went out of business.

The book “Voices Across Time” by Dory DeAngelo, donated by the author.

A roster of Civil War enlistees from Clay County, donated by Ronald Harris.

The book “Salem Christian Union Church, 1840 – 2006”, donated by Barbara Chisler.

“A Time for Heroes, The Ancestor’s Stories” by Sally Napier Bueno, Regent, Mo. State Society, DAR 2004—2006, Edited and Compiled by Lemira S. Parks, donated by the Alexander Doniphan Chapter, NSDAR, Liberty.

A photograph of Clay County officials in 1922, donated by Ann Kincaid.

The items listed above are available for our members and visitors to use in their research.

Ken Juergensen donated the following items, found at 305 W. Kansas Street in Liberty:

- 1 medium bottle, J.C. Simmons
- 1 small bottle
- 1 top to ribbon medal
- 1 toy man
- 1 bobby pin card
- 1 chili supper ticket
- 1 W. W. Dougherty syringe case

W.W. Dougherty was the doctor whose diaries we published and are excerpted in the MOsaic. (Page 4 this issue) He lived at 305 W. Kansas in his later years.

Thanks to all of our donors for these wonderful gifts.

## HERITAGE TEA

The Archives is planning a fundraising “Heritage Tea”, which will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 26, at Shadow Lawn, the home of Sara Long, at 704 Nashua Road in Liberty.

Sara has graciously agreed to provide attendees with a tour and history of Shadow Lawn, which is also a bed and breakfast inn. It was built circa 1859 in the Gothic Revival style and has been in Sara’s family since 1880.

Seating will be limited, so please make your reservations before August 19, by calling the Archives at 816-781-3611. The cost will be \$12 per person. Please note that the house does not have handicap access.

## TAKE THAT!

A Northwest Missouri newspaper recently declined to publish a story of the death of a citizen who had refused to subscribe for the paper, saying that any man who refuses to take the local paper has been dead for years and the fact that he has stopped breathing is not news.

*from the Liberty Advance of July 9, 1929,  
quoting the Fulton Sun-Gazette*

**EXTRACTS FROM THE  
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

Archives volunteers Jane Milner and Beverly Whitaker are abstracting genealogical and historical information from the Liberty Tribune, a continuation of the Genealogical Notes by Hodges and Woodruff which ran prior to 1900.

**100 Years Ago This Quarter**

**April 6, 1906**

Samuel **Bruner**, who lived for a number of years east of Liberty, died at Waurika, Oklahoma March 27. The remains were buried at Waurika. Mr. Bruner and family moved to Oklahoma about four years ago. He leaves a wife, two sons (Harry and Isaac) and a daughter, Miss Ella.

George H. **Collins** of Kansas City and Mrs. Maesie **Gilmore** of Lincoln, Nebraska were married by Justice William J. Courtney in his office Thursday afternoon of last week. Mr. Collins stated that he owned a rice plantation in Louisiana.

Kearney: George **Riley**, Jr. died at his home Friday night, March 30, of tuberculosis. Funeral services were conducted at the Christian Church Sunday afternoon. Interment took place in Fairview Cemetery. George Smith Riley was born June 17, 1889 and was the second child of Mr. and Mrs. George Riley. His parents took him to Texas in the hope the climate would be of benefit to him, but he gradually grew worse.

Mrs. Elizabeth **Gotcher** of Minneville, age 66 years, died Tuesday. The burial was Wednesday, after a funeral service by Rev. **Keltner**.

Capt. John W. **Shouse**, a venerable citizen of Washington Township, will be 81 years of age April 12. Mr. Shouse was born near Frankfort, Kentucky in 1825 and moved to Missouri the following year. He served in two wars (the Mexican and Civil). He and his good wife who is also living, have reared ten children and all of them are living.

Forest **Andrews** and Miss Leta **Pence** were married Monday in the Recorder's Office at the Courthouse by Rev. F. V. **Loos**. Miss Pence is a daughter of John Pence of near Missouri City, and the groom formerly taught school at Mosby.

**April 13, 1906**

Homer C. **Sparks** and Miss Sallie **Belt**, both of Liberty, were united in marriage in Kansas City Wednesday afternoon at the home of Dr. T. P. **Haley**. They were accompanied to Kansas City by Mrs. James Sparks and daughters, Misses Bessie and Ethel, and Miss Susie **Laffoon**. He is a son of Mr. Sparks, the well-known horse and mule dealer.

Kearney: Jno. V. **Dronenburg** and Miss Ada Maud **Harmon** and Charles **Harris** and Miss Normandy J. Harmon were happily married by and at the residence of William **Warren**, Sunday evening, April 8, 1906.

Rural Route #4: Mrs. John **Hudlemeyer** has for about two weeks been with her daughter, Mrs. Frank **Gabbert**, in Gallatin Township. Mrs. Gabbert is the proud mother of a ten-pound baby girl.

*The Excelsior Springs Journal* said girl triplets were born recently to Jesse **Critchfield** and wife, and that all three of the babies are living.

A birthday dinner was enjoyed at the home of Eleven **Thatcher** in Smithville, April 4. It was the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mr. Thatcher and of Mrs. **May**, a neighbor. The fact was kindly noted that the *Tribune* was also 60 years old that day.

Reva, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. **Moore** of Lawson, died the evening of April 4 at Kansas City, where she underwent an operation for appendicitis. Little Reva was born December 1, 1898. The remains were buried in the Lawson Cemetery, services being conducted by Elder **Dunn** of Richmond.

**May 4, 1906**

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry **Doile** at the home of William **Hudson**, west of Liberty Tuesday, but Grandpa Hudson denies that he feels any older.

Estes, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. **Gabbert**, died Thursday night of last week after an illness of four weeks. Estes was a sweet little babe of 12 months and 2 days. The remains were tenderly laid to rest in Little Shoal Cemetery Friday.

George F. **Evans**, a blind man who lived at Prathersville a number of years, died at Excelsior Springs Monday of consumption. He often came here and played a violin on the street while his little boy sang.

(Continued to Page 8)

**EXTRACTS FROM THE  
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

(Continued from Page 7)

**May 18, 1906**

Mrs. Fred **Hansen**, a sister of Will **Hey** of Gallatin Township, died at Phoenix, Arizona May 10. The remains were expected to reach Kansas City Thursday and be taken from there to the home of her mother, Mrs. **Jennings**, three miles north of Harlem. Funeral services will be conducted at the home of Mrs. **Jennings** Saturday with burial in the **Chandler** Family Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. **Hansen** lived here several years and he was employed in W. L. **Trimble's** Harness Department.

**May 25, 1906**

Elder William **Warren**, a venerable citizen of Kearney, has our thanks for prompt renewal of his subscription. Uncle Billy was 84 years of age May 14, and there was a gathering of friends and relatives at this home.

**June 8, 1906**

Robert **Breckenridge**, an old and well-known citizen of Smithville, died last Sunday night. He was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky. His wife is 79 years of age, and his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated November 24, 1905. He was four years of age when his parents came to Clay County. He went to the Mexican War when about 21 years of age and later made the trip to California during the gold excitement. Mr. **Breckenridge's** marriage was in 1849 to Elizabeth **Young**, a daughter of Thomas **Young**. Of their 8 children, 7 are living.

On February 24, 1906 Undertaker **Dunn** was given charge of a body taken from the river by fishermen near Randolph, and interred it in the potter's field the following day. A few days later, Melissa S. **Hayes** of Kansas City identified the body as that of her husband, Daniel S. **Hayes**, who had disappeared on Dec. 23. The body was reinterred in a purchased lot. A few days ago Mr. **Hayes** returned to his home in Kansas City, just as an insurance adjuster was about to pay a \$2000 policy to his supposed widow. The couple are happily keeping house at 14<sup>th</sup> and Cherry Streets now and Undertaker **Dunn** is wondering who is going to pay the expense of the other fellow's burial.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

(Continued from Page 1)

But, due to an election irregularity, she found that she had to continue to serve until a new board could be elected in the fall. So this meant that I had to find a new chairperson for the interim. I asked Karen Warren and she was only too happy to serve. She has been conducting the meetings dutifully without me and I am grateful to her and the committee for their dedicated service.

Karen and the committee are preparing sets of Thank You notes and Christmas cards (made unique by using photos from our collection). The goal is to have them packaged and ready to be sold at the Liberty Fall Festival and at other local outlets. We hope to have the cards available for sale through this newsletter, too.

*Stuart E. Elliot*

**MISSOURI STATE GENEALOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Ann Carter Fleming, Certified Genealogist and Past President of the National Genealogical Society, will be the keynote speaker at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Missouri State Genealogical Association (MoSGA). The conference will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Columbia. In addition to her talk, "Your Genealogical Report Card", Ms. Fleming will lead conference sessions on "Squeezing the Records Until They Talk", "Organizing Your Game Plan", and "Overlooked Sources Bring New Possibilities". Other sessions will cover mapping; hereditary societies, certificate programs, and lineage research projects; African-American research; the forgotten censuses; using databases; beginning genealogy; GEDCOM; Southern Claims Commission; placing your research on the web; and identifying railroads, their records and location. Clay Co. Archives members who attended the conference last year found it to be a most worthwhile experience. For more information go to [www.mosga.org](http://www.mosga.org), contact Nancy Thomas by email at [nancywt@socket.net](mailto:nancywt@socket.net), or call Tim Dollens, conference chair at (573) 657-7378 or (573) 886-9455. We also have a limited number of brochures at the Archives.



## SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO BE LUCKY THAN GOOD

Because of a chance meeting nearly a thousand miles to the east, one of the most revealing accounts of life in old Clay County has been made available to the Clay County Archives and Historical Library.

While visiting his mother-in-law at a suburban Washington, D. C., retirement complex, Dan Pence became acquainted with another resident of that community, Charles Per-Lee, a Clay County native and brother of longtime Archives volunteer, Jane Milner. Inevitably, and in a matter of just minutes, the ties between Clay County and a descendant of one of its most prominent pioneer families were established between the two men. Although never a resident of Clay County, Dan Pence had long enjoyed the folklore of our area as told by his grandfather, Samuel Anderson Pence. According to Dan, grandfather Samuel was a prolific writer and storyteller, a descendant of settler Adam Pence, and a grand-nephew of the notorious outlaws Bud and Donnie Pence. In the course of his lifetime (1885 – 1971), Samuel Pence authored manuscripts on Jesse James and William Quantrill, as well as the story of “White Stockings”, a famous racehorse bred in Clay County.

Those handwritten manuscripts of about 750 pages each are now in the possession of Dan Pence, who has assumed the task of editing and formatting them for publication. Dan says that he is 60% complete on the Jesse James story and plans to work on the Quantrill manuscript next year. As a result of that chance meeting, and upon the advice of Charles Per-Lee, Dan has been forwarding the completed chapters to Jane Milner and the Archives for review. And despite his intentions to copyright and publish the entire works of his grandfather, Dan has generously offered to donate advance copies to the Archives. He recently became a member of our organization and plans to venture from his home in Washington, D. C. to attend our annual meeting in November.

“I consider these manuscripts to be among the most significant documents related to Clay County history to appear in my lifetime”, says board member Scott Cole. “Samuel Pence is a superb writer and storyteller ... his style and subtle humor are reminiscent of Mark Twain. The writings go much deeper than facts and figures. You get a real feeling of life as it was in the most turbulent age of Clay County. Even the hardcore local historians will find something new in the works of Samuel Pence.”

## TREASURY NOTES

*This is the second in a series of articles by Treasurer Scott Cole to keep our membership informed as to the state of financial affairs within the Clay County Archives and Historical Library.*

In the three months since my first report, several events have transpired which lend a more optimistic tone to our financial outlook:

- ❖ At the suggestion of board member and SAR Liaison Russell Lock, we have entered into a partnership with a professional marketer to offer donated items via the online auction house *Ebay*. Spurred by Russell’s own donation of a rare 1860 campaign token, \$800 in income was generated by the first cycle of offerings. A special “Thank You” goes out to Russell for his generous donation ... and for a fresh, new idea that the Ways and Means committee looks to expand upon in the near future.
- ❖ Interest rates are on the rise. Rather than allowing our endowed funds invested in certificates of deposit to roll over at maturity, we are now more aggressively “shopping the market” and obligating for longer terms to maximize interest income. Through this small effort, we can realistically expect to double the annual earnings of recent years.
- ❖ Since KCPT’s airing of *The Story of Liberty* on May 18<sup>th</sup>, we have seen a \$500 windfall through sales of DVD’s and VHS tapes. *The lesson learned*: There is still considerable demand for our documentary. If we are able to cultivate new awareness, *The Story of Liberty* will continue to be a viable source of income for the Archives.
- ❖ We received a generous \$300 donation from the Nearly New Shop. Located at 4710 N. E. Vivion Road in Kansas City North, the Nearly New Shop has supported Northland charities for 25 years.

(Continued to Page 10)

**TREASURY NOTES**  
(Continued from Page 9)

- ❖ And ... last, but not least, Karen Warren has been appointed as the interim chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Karen's energy, enthusiasm and creativity make her a perfect fit for this assignment and will propel the committee to meet our goals despite the absence of chairperson Sallie Hobbs.

An appeal to all members:

We are in need of donated items suitable for auction on *Ebay*. This fundraising effort is off to an excellent start, but we need to maintain the momentum.

Especially desirable are antique, vintage and collectible items; however, nothing will be refused. All donations are fully tax deductible at the amount of the *Ebay* sales price. Items can be dropped off at the Archives Monday through Wednesday from 10:00 until 4:00. To arrange for a pickup by one of our volunteers, call us or leave a message at 816-781-3611.

SRC

**VOLUNTEER CORNER**

The Archives introduces you to one of our new volunteers, Mertie Corum Denney. Mertie lives in Kansas City in Platte County, but both she and her husband Bill come from families that have been in Clay County since the 1820's.

Mertie and Bill grew up and attended school in Kearney. They lived in Colorado Springs four years while he was in the military. Later they moved to the Kansas City/Liberty area, where Bill attended law school.

They have three children: Bill, Jodi and Robb. Mertie has a Missouri lifetime teaching certificate and a Missouri real estate license and has worked for several years in the travel industry.

Mertie's favorite hobby is genealogy. Her dining room is decorated with old family pictures, so she is volunteering at the Archives to help scan our old pictures.

We're pretty excited to have Mertie volunteering at the Archives and welcome her on board.

**WE CAN RELATE**

Arthur Thomason is one person who will vouch that it was hot Friday afternoon. While he was shingling a roof, a package of Red Man's chewing tobacco in his hip pocket caught on fire. Mr. Thomason says that he had no matches in his pocket, as he leaves them all on the ground to keep them from getting wet.

*from the Liberty Advance, August 11, 1930*

**SADLY, WE CAN'T RELATE**

In the recent gasoline war on the Pacific Coast, one Seattle filling station gave 5 gallons of gas free to every motorist who changed oil. A station in Fresno, Calif., retailed gas at 2 cents a gallon, plus the 3-cent state tax. In San Francisco, prices went down as low as 7 cents a gallon, including the tax. In Los Angeles the minimum was 8 ½ cents. The big oil companies finally stopped the war by refusing to sell gas to price-cutting retailers. But what a time the motorists had while the war lasted.

*from the Liberty Advance, August 4, 1930*

**A DOG'S LIFE NOT SO BAD**

F.R. Washburn, 3701 Gladstone Boulevard, was sitting in detective headquarters waiting to talk to detectives who had recovered a part of the \$8000 loot taken from his home in a robbery March 31.

The talk turned to dogs, especially how the police got by bad ones.

"I take my car over to Liberty," Mr. Washburn said, "because I know two good mechanics there. They have the only country dog I ever knew that yearns for the bright lights. The dog is a little fox terrier.

"He knows all the bus drivers that run between Kansas City and Liberty. When he has a desire for the bright lights, he scratches on the bus door until they let him in. He then rides to the bus station in Kansas City, gets out and looks around a while and returns to the station to await the next Liberty-bound driver he knows.

"The dog also selects his place of eating. And he always eats out. Everybody in Liberty knows him. He will select one eating place today and another tomorrow. When he decides where to eat he scratches and yelps around until he gets inside. Then he heads straight for the kitchen. He begs there until he gets his food. Then he leaves." – Kansas City Star

The dog referred to is "It", the little fox terrier that belongs to Otis Fischer and family.

*from the Liberty Advance, April 14, 1930*

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

(Continued from Page 4)

**Saturday, September 16, 1854**

Remained at home all the forenoon with Mary, she is doing well, very well considering, as also the babe. We have discovered a considerable inclination of the nose to the right side, which if it continues, will disfigure it considerably but I hope it will gradually be relieved as the child grows older.

**Tuesday, September 19, 1854**

After going down town this morning, and engaging in arranging things in the Drugstore, I was called (to) see Samuel Ringo's wife; she was expected to be confined; remained with her some time and left for the store; returned again soon, and remained till night, after supper, returned again and remained nearly all night, her labor was very slow.

**Wednesday, September 20, 1854**

Came home early this morning and took breakfast, then returned to see Mrs. Ringo. Still in labor, but very tedious remained with her nearly all day, still no signs of improvement. Very tedious to be confined all day by the bedside of a sick woman, with windows and doors all closed, and everything nearing the aspect of melancholy. After coming home in the evening I returned, and remained till about 4 o'clock when I left her almost free from pain; gave her a dose of paregoric, and expected she would rest all night, but about 12 o'clock I was sent for again and found her suffering more than usual. I then supposed the labour would soon terminate, but she lingered on all night.

**Thursday, September 21, 1854**

Still with Mrs. Ringo; took breakfast there and hourly expecting her delivery, but about 9 o'clock, she was taken with puerperal convulsions of the most alarming character. Finding delivery necessary to her life, and having no instruments, I sent for Dr. Wood, who after great labor succeeded in delivering her of the child. Previously to the convulsions, she commenced flooding moderately; we bled her on the back of the hand before she was delivered, and during a short suspension of the convulsion, after which the convulsions ceased, when she was delivered with the instruments, she had no more convulsions after that, but went off into a comatose

state and remained so for some hours, when she waked up, and seemed conscious of things around her, remained so for short time, then went off into a sound sleep, from which she has wakened once or twice, each time showing signs of some consciousness. When there a while ago I found her quite calm, sound asleep and a cool skin and good circulation. If no intervening, unexpected circumstance occurs, I think she will recover. I hope I may never be called to such a case again; if all the scenes in the practice of medicine, a female in convulsions is the worst.

*Note: Both Mrs. Ringo and her baby survived.*

**Friday, October 6, 1854**

Quite dull in town today, very dull indeed. Our sales in store are more moderate than any previous time. Felt quite unwell all day; throat considerably sore; towards night very sore; I bound my sock around it as I went to bed, and expect some improvement by morning.

**Saturday, October 7, 1854**

Sure enough, my throat is much better, and I can swallow with some ease.

**SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE**

As a fundraiser, the Archives will be selling shopping passes to Macy's (formerly The Jones Store) for Saturday, September 16. The cost is \$5.00 per pass.

For most of their purchases on that day, customers using the "Shopping for a Cause" passes will receive an additional 20% discount on regular\*, sales and clearance purchases (10% on furniture, mattresses, rugs, kitchen and personal care electrics and technology items).

In addition, customers will also receive \$10 off any one purchase of \$10 or more made that day (with some exclusions) and be eligible to win fabulous prizes, including a \$500 Macy's shopping spree. Plus if they open a Macy's account, they will get an additional 20% off.

The Archives has a limited supply of passes available. Please stop by and pick up yours any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday

*\* The familiar weekly Jones Store newspaper coupons typically do not include regular-priced items.*

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

### LINEAGES

And sometime, when I have become  
    A quiet portrait on the wall  
Will you, my far descendant,  
    Stop to think of me at all?  
Suppose your hands are shaped like mine –  
    You have my nutmeg sense of fun –  
Will there be one to tell you so, there  
    When my days are done?  
If you love books, and fires and songs  
    And slipper moons on lilac skies  
Toss me a look of shared delight  
    From those, my own dark eyes  
For there is kinship in a curl,  
    And keepsake in a spoken name,  
And wine of life may yet be poured  
    By hands within a frame.

*Author unknown; reprinted from "Ozark  
Happenings", the newsletter of the Texas County,  
Missouri, Genealogical and Historical Society*

The Archives' annual volunteer appreciation dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 at Mt. Gilead Church. All Archives members are invited to attend and join in the fun. Please bring a covered dish to share; meat, plates, utensils and drinks will be provided.

So we can know how many to prepare for, please phone a reservation to the Archives at 816-781-3611 or to Carol Olson at 816-452-3540 by Monday, July 17.

Mt. Gilead Church is located on Plattsburg Road, north of Highway 92.

We love our volunteers! During the month of April, our regular volunteer hours totaled 385 and for May, 465!

### OOPS!

A Minnesota editor got into the worst kind of trouble. In a report of a wedding he wrote of the bride's gown being "trimmed with real lace." In the word lace, however, the letter "i" got in the place of "a."

*from the Liberty Advance, March 2, 1925*

### **The Clay County MOsaic**

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