

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

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

April-May-June 2008

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Mosaic by Internet

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

Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This quarter, I thought I'd just like to bring you all up to date on some of our current activities at the Archives.

The repairs of the Hughes Library building are progressing nicely. The new furnace and air conditioning units are in place. Two sump pumps have been installed, which should help control flooding in the basement. The outside lighting has been repaired, so we can now fly our American flag 24 hours a day. They even converted two gaslights in the "front yard" to electricity and they are lit in the night, too. It looks very nice. The roof repair is out to bid so that work should begin some time in July. The entire roof will not be replaced, but a slope will be constructed over the flat roof section in back so we should no longer have any standing water on the roof. Then some window repairs and some painting should complete the work. Thanks again to both cities (Liberty and North Kansas City) and all those involved.

The Criminal Court records project is progressing, but now we are concentrating on the process of "grouping" the paperwork into individual cases, which can then be scanned as a single case. This is a bit difficult in that there were few identifying marks (such as case numbers) used in the 19th Century to differentiate one case from another. This process includes some preliminary "abstracting" of names, dates, etc. Also, in preparation for scanning, we are removing the many different methods used at the time to attach papers together (including glue). Many volunteers are working on this project, including Linda and David Smith, Nancy Boland, Bill Matteson, Carolyn Kretsinger and Janice Flackmiller. In the meantime, since we have long ago prepared all the old Probate and Civil Court records, they are already in the proper state for scanning, so the Circuit Clerk is scanning the Probate records, too.

Kevin Fisher is still working on the Gazetteer Map project. He has completed the "Guide to Historic Sites Map of Clay County Missouri", which will accompany the maps. It includes a section that lists the historic sites descriptions, maps of the political townships, a list of source material

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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.

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

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(Continued)

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ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

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

THE STORY OF LIBERTY...from settlement to suburb, a movie available in two formats:

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

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

GREETING CARDS

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

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

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

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS (all postpaid):

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	13.00
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas	13.00
Clay County Births, 1883-84	7.00
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84	7.00
DAR Sesquicentennial Book	18.00
Every-name Index to DAR Book	11.00

Please make your check payable to:

Clay County Archives

And mail to:

P. O. Box 99
Liberty MO 64069

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

Go to the following website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/pces.html> to see old postcards by state, county and/or city.

*From "Show Me" State Genealogical News
29:1 Spring 2008, page 9, Newsletter of the Missouri
State Genealogical Association*

Also from the same publication, page 8: From "Reading Headstones" by Mary Harrell-Sesniak, RootsWeb Review columnist:

"Transcribers use it (shaving cream technique) to read elusive weathered epitaphs, and it works. They slather it on, and use either their hand or a squeegee to remove the excess. The crevices then transform into readable text...I don't approve of the shaving cream technique. It can work wonders for tombstones, but only if you don't mind leaving a sticky, gooey substance that can cause permanent damage. According to the Association for Gravestone Studies www.gravestonestudies.org:

'Our professional conservators tell us it is definitely not a good idea to use shaving cream on porous gravestones because there are chemicals, greasy emollients, in shaving cream that are sticky and very difficult to remove from the stone with a simple washing. Indeed, even with vigorous scrubbing and lots of rinsing, the cream fills in the pores of a porous stone and cannot all be removed. The result of leaving it there is that in time it may discolor or damage the stone.'

Congratulations to the Mid-Continent Public Library System on their new Midwest Genealogy Center, which is located at 3440 S. Lee's Summit Road, Independence, Missouri 64055. With 52,000 square feet of space, the Center is the largest public research facility in the nation. It houses 80,000 family history books, 100,000 local history items, 565,000 rolls of microfilm and microfiche and 7,000 maps.

The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fridays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays. It is closed Sundays and holidays.

For more information please call the Center at 816-252-7228 or visit their excellent website at www.midwestgenealogycenter.org.

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

Friday, April 1, 1859

Rather a windy day. There is great talk about Pikes Peak and many persons are going, and many will be disappointed.

December 1859

We have another fine son – he was born Wed. 9th of November 1859, about 6 o'clock P. M. Very small would not weight more than 4 lbs but perfect and healthy. There has been considerable disturbance at Harpers Ferry in Va. On account of the Notorious Osawatamie Brow – John Brown, inciting an insurrection among the slaves. He had many and distinguished supports (*supporters*). The matter was discovered, and he & some 4 others captured. They were tried and convicted, and Brown was executed at Charleston Va. On the 2nd of December. The others are to be executed on the 16th inst.

Note: The new son of Dr. Dougherty and Mary was named William Wallace, his father's namesake.

Thursday, December 8, 1859

This is the day set apart by the Gov. as a day of thanksgiving; beautiful day, clear & cold. Sent last night and got a turkey from Mr. Ed. Rhea for dinner to day.

Wednesday, December 14, 1859

Made some pickle beef today, Salt, Saltpetre, & sugar.

Monday, December 26, 1859

Good many persons in town – party at Arthur House.

Note: The Arthur House Hotel was located at the corner of Kansas Street and Water Street, where the City Fountain is today. It was built in 1855 and named for Michael Arthur, a very successful Liberty businessman. He built the county's first ropewalk and was a partner with Gen. Alexander W. Doniphan in the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Co. The Arthur House stood for nearly 50 years. Such notable people as David Rice Atchison, Gen. John C. Fremont and William Jennings Bryant were guests there. Federal Generals made the Arthur

House their headquarters during the Civil War. Michael Arthur died August 6, 1884 at his home at 316 E. Franklin, which stands today.

Saturday, December 31, 1859

This is "New Years Eve," the close of the old year 1859. Soon it will be numbered with the dreamy past; and forgotten only in the record of the stirring events to which it gave rise. Many things strange and startling have been enacted during the year which is just departing. Much to be regretted, and much over which to rejoice. The children are anxiously looking for "Santa Clause" to night; and as a hint to the wise is sufficient. I must be off.

Monday, January 2, 1860

To day the negros of the County are to be hired out and sold; also County & Probate Court, which will bring a great many persons into town.

Tuesday, January 3, 1860

There are many persons in town, but few say any thing about paying the Dr. The people are always disposed to pay every one before the Dr.

Friday, January 27, 1860

Had frost nails put in horse shoes by Ed. Rhea.

Note: Frost nails were nails with large, somewhat protruding heads. They helped the horse gain traction on frozen ground.

Thursday, February 9, 1860

All the family are affected with the Hooping cough. The youngest Willie takes it hard.

Tuesday, February 21, 1860

Went out with the gun this morning to shoot pigeons, killed one, and gave 5 cts for another. Just after dinner was called to see Leonard Liggon's little boy John, who had been kicked in the head by a horse. The anterior, superior portion of the right parietal bone is broken in the . . .

Note: Little John Ligon died from his injury, and is buried at Little Shoal Cemetery along with his parents and other children from the family. John was born March 4, 1856.

This portion of the diary ends as it began, in the middle of a sentence.

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

Articles from the *Smithville Democrat Herald*

September 12, 1924

WHY SHE NEVER MARRIED

Mary Correlli had the reputation of being a "man hater." Friends often asked her why she never married. This was her answer: "There is no need, for I have three pets at home which, together, (make a husband). I have a dog which growls all the morning, a parrot which swears all the afternoon, and a cat which comes home late at night." *Cappers Weekly*

December 12, 1930

LOW GASOLINE PRICES

As a result of a gasoline war at St. Joseph, Smithville now has the lowest gasoline prices since that fuel became so popular.

Ordinary gasoline now sells for 8.9 cents per gallon with Ethel at 10.9 cents. The state tax of two cents is added to these prices. No where in this section are prices lower and in some towns they are higher.

Articles from the *Smithville Herald*

June 3, 1904

Curfew

Notice is hereby given that on and after this date I will ring the curfew bell at 9 o'clock p.m. Curfew ordinance will be strictly enforced. Parents please take notice and have your children off the streets after night. Notice is further given that all parties must stop pestering Jimmie Jenkins under penalty of disturbing the peace. Parties have lately caused him to destroy property by throwing rocks on the street and this must be stopped.

B. A. Smith, Marshal, Smithville Mo.

December 16, 1904

Ed Swan's Restaurant Bill of Fare

There are kickers short, and kickers tall, kickers big and kickers small, but Ed Swan's customers don't kick at all for they serve their meals

and lunches so neat and quick that no one but a crank would ever kick without any joke we are pleased to relate. Ed Swan's place is fine and no mistake, oysters served in any style and the cigars they keep would cause you to smile. Now just try a meal with fragrant coffee or tea and then it's satisfied you will be.

Article from the *Liberty Advance*

July 29, 1892

John Moran has built a substantial stone sidewalk on the south side of his property, something which has long been badly needed. It is not a temporary affair, as most of the walks are, but one which will remain for ages. After it is cemented, there will not be a smoother or better walk in the city. John believes in having the best, even if it does cost more money. Some of our coupon-clippers should follow the example.

Articles from the *Kearney Clipper*

March 29, 1884

Samuel McDaniel, a farmer at Island Shoal, Ga., while plowing a few days ago, turned up a jug containing \$9,500 in gold coins. Other jugs are being plowed for.

July 19, 1884

Who rang the Methodist church bell and rolled Wm. Kelly's salt barrels into the streets late Tuesday night? Whoever did it will please notify Mr. Kelly by postal, as he is anxious to know.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Smith family history book, prints from glass plates taken in early 1900's and historic newspapers, donated by Darline C. Smith.

Overland Journal: Oregon-California Trails Newsletters, donated by Ona Gieshen.

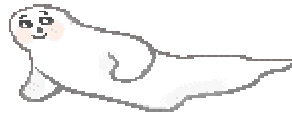
Sandy's Oak Ridge Manor commemorative plate, donated by Jane Elliott.

Two microfilm rolls, copy of Missouri City city records, 1859 on, donated by Jay Jackson.

Salem Cemetery book, donated by Barbara Chilser.

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

Ghost Towns of Clay County



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

FIRST PRAIRIE: THE EARLY YEARS

(Part 3: 1895 to the Present)

By Donna Root

(Correction: The Nebo {Zoar Church} community was on the bluffs above the Missouri River three miles to the southeast of Liberty, not the southwest as printed in the last issue.)

By 1895 Arley had a post office and in 1901 the Rural Free Delivery Route system came into being and people received mail in their own mailbox at the road.

A mostly peaceful existence seems to have been the good fortune of First Prairie. The few problems that arose during the years before 1850 circumvented the area. The Indians in that northern part of the county seem to have been friendly, but no doubt the settlers were very watchful. However, the Civil War caused quite a bit of difficulty for First Prairie people. They took the Union side, not wanting to see their new country divided. The majority of Clay County was of Confederate persuasion, and some of them threatened to shoot the "Dutchmen" of First Prairie and told them to stop holding church services. The preacher traveled from Liberty to First Prairie and had to stop going up to the church because of the Confederates who patrolled the roads. In spite of all the threats, Peter Hartel, Sunday school superintendent, was not going to give in, and saw to it that Sunday school and Church services continued. Some of the First Prairie church members delivered the sermons.

Several First Prairie boys served in the Union forces. John Frick joined the Union army in 1864 when he was 19 years old. His unit was captured in Glasgow, Missouri during a fight with the Confederate forces. They were all taken to Jefferson City and then by train to St. Louis where they were exchanged for Confederate troops captured by the Union. Frick returned home and wrote "Recollections of the Civil War", published in 1925 by the Missouri Historical Review. He and other First Prairie boys enlisted in the Missouri Volunteer Militia as the war was drawing to a close.

In April of 1898 war broke out between Spain and the United States. Jacob Goepfert enlisted and was fortunate enough to return to Arley when the war was over. The World Wars I and II were also opportunities for the young men of Arley to support their government. They fought in France and

Germany; some were wounded, some did not return. Jim Irminger, Fred Musbach and Fred Neth gave their lives in the First World War, as did Glen Hartel, Marvin Lohmeyer and Keith Peters in the Second World War. Young men from Arley also served in Korea and Vietnam.

The German – Swiss people of First Prairie/Arley continued speaking German after they arrived in this country. This was given up at the start of WWI and church and Sunday school were conducted in English. In 1939 the church became part of the Methodist Church, no longer a German Methodist Episcopal Church. They sent their young people to Central Wesleyan College at Warrenton, Missouri. That college had been founded by German settlers and was supported by German Methodist churches.

As the United States became more urbanized in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, some young men made the decision not to take up farming. This began happening slowly in Arley. As the older generations have died, farms have been divided into smaller tracts and sold to people who make their living in the towns and cities nearby. The openness and fresh air of the country appeals to them just as it did to the hardy immigrants who opened up the First Prairie lands. There are only a few working farms left in the area today and there are a few homes clustered around the church. Chris Rauchle's machine shop is gone. The old general store burned years ago, but the much loved little Arley Church still holds services and Sunday school and family reunions, right there in the heart of the prairie.

Many thanks to Donna for the information about First Prairie and Arley. The Archives would welcome any additional information, stories or corrections about the area or this article. In our next issue we will feature another of Clay County's ghost towns.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elsie the Cow was created for the Borden Company by 19-year-old David William Reid, fresh from art school, in 1936. Elsie first appeared in newspaper and medical journal ads; enamored doctors requested reprints for their offices. Soon she was receiving fan mail. When Borden used 150 real cows on its new "rotolactor" – a rotation milk platform featured at the 1939 New York World's Fair – visitors peppered exhibitors with questions. Of every 100 inquisitors, 20 wanted device details, 20 wanted restroom directions, and 60 wanted to know which cow was Elsie.

From "History" magazine, May/June, 2008

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

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

April 3, 1908

In the annals of the aged deceased in our midst this week will be a notice of the death of Horace **Reed**, colored, which occurred very suddenly March 27, 1908 at his home in Liberty. "Uncle Horace," as he was familiarly called, was born a slave in Kentucky about 80 years ago and is remembered by the few survivors who knew him as faithful and trustworthy. Since his emancipation he succeeded in making a home for his family that was the abode of humble grace and contentment. His funeral, the Sunday after his death, was largely attended, including quite a number of his white friends.

Excelsior Springs: William **Norris** died at his home one-half miles southeast of Vibbard, Ray County, March 27, 1908, of paralysis of the heart. The burial was at Salem Church north of town last Saturday. Mr. Norris was raised in the Ferril neighborhood south of Kearney and will be remembered by all the older people. His father, John Norris, was killed at his own house by a federal militia during the Civil War.

April 17, 1908

J. A. **Gamage**, telegraph operator for the Milwaukee at the little house at the south end of the Milwaukee bridge trestle, where the Smithville trains turn off to go to the Second Street Depot, shot and killed himself Sunday. He came back there during the day while the day man was at work. "I can see no reason for the act," said Mr. Gamage, the father. "When my son started to work Saturday night he told us goodbye as usual. My son was in the San Francisco earthquake two years ago. He was on the sixth floor of one of the buildings there when it collapsed and his head was hurt. His mind has been a little wrong since that time, and I cannot but think that that has something to do with this."

April 24, 1908

Young **Olds** died at St. Joseph last week. It has been written that "the Young may die but the Old must" and his death was therefore not unexpected.

April 24, 1908

Kearney: Miss Emma **Johnson** and Gus **Ferril** of Kearney were married in Kansas City, Kans., Tuesday. The wedding was quite a surprise to their many friends here.

George **Golden**, a farm hand employed by Edmond **McWilliams** of Plattsburg, died suddenly Tuesday night while attending to the stock. He had a policy in the M.W.A. for \$2,000 which he supposed had been lost because of default in meeting the assessments, but it was found that his wife had looked after it and will receive the insurance.

May 1, 1908

Leonard **Knight** of Excelsior Springs would like to learn of the whereabouts of relatives of Mrs. Thurston Knight who died at Blue Springs about a month ago and who lived at one time in the Big Shoal neighborhood. Mr. Knight thinks she may have been a grandmother he has long tried to hear of.

Mr. and Mrs. David W. **Rider**, Jr., married in Kansas City Saturday, got away from a party of seventy-five of their friends who had planned to give them a hilarious send off as they left the depot there on their wedding trip. Mr. Rider's father is superintendent of the Kansas City Belt Line and he arranged for the newly married couple to leave the city on a switch engine on which they rode to Sheffield at which station they boarded a local train to Liberty where they took the Southwest Limited train on the Milwaukee to Chicago. The groom fainted at the chancel rail during the wedding ceremony and it was feared that a demonstration by a chivari party would be too much for his nerves.

May 8, 1908

The body of James **Champ**, colored, was brought here from Kansas City Wednesday and buried by the colored Masons. He was a son of Henrietta Champ.

May 15, 1908

The body of Edward **Knepaudle** was brought here to the **Kimmel** Undertaking Rooms Tuesday night. It was found by the railroad tracks near Harlem. A pistol wound was in the abdomen and the skull at the base of the brain was fractured where a blow had been dealt by some sharp instrument. The body was found Tuesday morning by four negroes employed by the Wabash Railroad.

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**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

(Continued from Page 7)

Constable William **Cole** was informed and he notified Coroner **Isley** at Excelsior Springs who viewed the body that afternoon. An inquest was held Wednesday morning and the jury gave a verdict that the deceased met death at the hands of an unknown person or persons. The jury was composed of C. M. **Crouse**, William **Corbett**, Peter **Rosenbaugh**, D. C. **Vincent**, Chas. **McCurdy** and Caleb **Tyler**, all of Harlem. The witnesses were Constable Cole and the four negroes. The dead man was coming from Kansas City to Liberty. He had obtained work at the Odd Fellows Home as a shoveler through **Schwelzer's** Employment Agency. It may have been someone saw he had money in the city and followed him. Two negroes that worked on the railroad near Harlem have been missing and they have been suspected. Kniepaudle was a Bavarian, and a passport in his pocket showed he came to this country just a year ago. He had no money in his clothes. He was a good looking man of about 30 years with light hair.

June 5, 1908

Paradise: Arthur **Colley** is in possession of a harvest hand now, for a baby boy came to his house Saturday morning, May 3. Mother and baby are doing well. Of course, Arthur is all right.

A floater was found in the river at Liberty Landing Wednesday morning by Almus **Tyler**, son of a section hand. The body was tied to the shore by him and Coroner **Isley** was notified. The Coroner viewed the body and ordered Undertaker **Kimmel** to take charge and he buried it here. The base of the man's skull was mashed in as if a heavy blow had been dealt him. He had on a brown soldier's uniform and had been in the water some time.

June 26, 1908

Marriage Licenses: Luther **Summers** and Edna **Cox**, both of Excelsior Springs; Sherman R. **Cox** of Omaha and Bertha **Clarke** of Woodbine, Iowa; Orville **Carson** of Polo and Lottie **Rhodus** of Mosby; Herbert D. **Hart** of Kansas City and Mary J. **Gorman** of Liberty.

Grover **Cleveland**, who was the only ex-president of the United States living, died at his home in Princeton, New Jersey, Wednesday morning.

THE WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

Archives volunteer Joyce Schumacher found an interesting newspaper obituary about one of her ancestors, Sally Ann Tompkins. The newspaper, the *Iola (Kansas) Daily Register*, reported that Mrs. Tompkins was the widow of a Civil War veteran, had been a government nurse during the war and became a charter member of the Women's Relief Corps at Melvern, Kansas in 1887. The topic of women in the Civil War is fascinating and deserves a later article all its own. But this is an opportunity to discuss the Women's Relief Corps.

Organized nationally in 1883 as an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War), the Women's Relief Corps was created to serve the country's veterans. Members were responsible for decorating veterans' graves on Decoration Day, caring for disabled veterans and seeing to the needs of widows and orphans of Civil War veterans. Their stated purpose was to cooperate in doing honor to all those who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism and duties of citizenship, the true history of our country and the love and honor of the American flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of, our constitutional Union; and to sustain the American principles of representative government, equal rights and impartial justice for all.

In 1892, the Women's Relief Corps established the Women's Relief Corps Home for Army Nurses in Madison, Ohio. The purpose of the institution was to provide housing and aid to destitute or ill women nurses from the American Civil War.

Today the organization survives and continues to promote patriotic education and support. Although membership was originally limited to relatives and descendants of the Civil War, today it is open to "women of good moral character and correct deportment, who have not given aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States of America and are citizens thereof, who would perpetuate the principles to which the association stands pledged, and who have attained the age of thirteen years."

*Information for this article came from The
Kansas GenWeb Project at
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/>, Iowa Falls, Iowa at
<http://www.iafalls.com>, Hall Corps # 104 of the WRC
at www.farmingtongcommunity.org/wrc, and Dushane
Corps #3 of the WRC at
[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdjagsuv/wrc-
home.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdjagsuv/wrc-home.html)*

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

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Steve Olson is one of our dedicated volunteers. If you are in the Archives on a Wednesday, Steve will probably be here. Although he has lived in Clay County almost all his life, he has no ancestors from this part of the state.

He has always been a car nut and is the proud owner of an old MG Midget sports car that he restored and drives around the country to national car events.

When Steve retired from AT&T, where he was a computer specialist, he joined his wife Carol as an Archives volunteer. He finds it hard to believe that that was 10 years ago. He spends much of his time here building shelves and carrying heavy boxes.

Steve is interested in all history, but especially the early railroads and highways. He says that “tromping through the woods looking for some forgotten historical place is always more fun than sitting and reading about it.”



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

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

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

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has added passenger lists of Russian, German and Italian immigrant to its free Access to Archival Databases (AAD). Each collection consists mostly of immigrants who identified their nationality as Russian, German or Italian and arrived at the ports of New York, Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans or Philadelphia during the 19th century. The address is <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>.

From the Willamette Valley (Oregon) Genealogical Society Newsletter, April 2008

Dowsing is an ancient method of locating underground water or minerals through the use of a divining rod or dowser. Dowsing has been utilized in recent years by genealogists to locate unmarked graves of ancestors and relatives. While remaining controversial, dowsing has entered the world of genealogical research.

Some individuals have successful experiences in locating unmarked graves with this method; others have no skill at all in this activity. Two divining or dowsing rods are made from straightened hangers, cut to about 24" in length with about 4" turned down for holding in the hands. To dowse, hold the divining rods side-by-side in front of your body about a foot apart at waist level. When you approach a gravesite, the rods swing open until they form a straight line parallel to the holder and close together when across the gravesite. Some individuals report an anticipatory experience of feeling the rods begin to “dance” in their hands just before opening parallel to the body.

From the newsletter of the Brown Co. (KS) Genealogical Society, March 2008

Information about the Pilgrims and other non-conformists in Holland ca. 1600-1630 can be found at <http://westerly-journies.com/pilgrims/pilgmain.html>. The site includes Pilgrim records from Leyden, guarantors, some marriages, and members of the Ancient Exiled English Church who became members of the Pilgrim congregation in Leyden.

From the Central Illinois News, Decatur Genealogical Society, September – October 2007 issue.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

Recently I received a letter from MODOT (the Missouri Department of Transportation) presenting a draft inscription for a monument to be placed at the Lincoln Cemetery to honor early residents of Clay County and to mark the location of the cemetery so that it will not be disturbed in the future. The cemetery is the final resting place of David Lincoln, his wife America, their daughters and a son-in-law. Others are thought to be buried there as well. The earliest known interment was in 1855.

The cemetery, located on a hill east of Liberty Hospital, had been threatened by the relocation of Glen Hendren Drive. MODOT had not been aware of the cemetery until I alerted them that it was in danger of being destroyed.

Bill Hawkins Memorial Fund

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

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

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

The fund's current balance is \$1540.

CIVIL WAR COLLECTION

Thanks to the Civil War Roundtable of Western Missouri, the Archives is housing a large collection of Civil War books. It consists of:

- 40 volumes of *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, plus a three-volume index,
- The War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies,
- Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion.

This collection totals over 200 books, all of which are indexed and in virtually new condition. They were offered by the estate of the publisher to the Civil War Roundtable, which needed a place to house them. We are fortunate that the members of that organization chose us to be the books' caretakers.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

and an index to the guide.

We were recently asked to provide the program at a local Rotary Club meeting. Steve Olson and I were able to attend and present a new slideshow that we created, which shows the different aspects of the historical materials we have and how they are relevant to us now.

Karen Warren has nearly finished the Neal Ray and Marcel photograph index. These pictures include class pictures from Liberty High School, William Jewell College, weddings, family pictures and many more since the early 1960's.

Ann Henning is busy managing our Probate files, which now go up through 1999. She is transferring the files to Hollinger boxes and updating the index.

Our other projects are continuing as always.

Stuart E. Elliott

AN OLD NAMING PATTERN

The first son was named after the father's father.

The second son after the mother's father.

The third son after the father.

The fourth son after the father's eldest brother.

The first daughter after the mother's mother.

The second daughter after the father's mother.

The third daughter after the mother.

The fourth daughter after the mother's eldest sister.

But don't forget that they also used the names of the famous, the neighbors and friends, the lawyer, the merchant, the chief . . .

From "Ozark Happenings", the newsletter of the Texas County, Missouri Genealogical and Historical Society, Houston, Missouri, Vol. 4, Number 1, January/February 1987

Congratulations to Archives Board member Ray Brock, who has been selected to receive the Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service Award, which recognizes outstanding citizens of Clay County. He will be honored at the Doniphan Bicentennial Celebration at 7pm on Wednesday, July 9th at Gano Chapel at William Jewell College. Also, at the event, Hon. Rod Jetton, Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, will unveil a bust of Alexander Doniphan. The bust will then be placed in the Hall of Famous Missourians at the Missouri State Capitol.

If you would like to attend this event, please call 816.407.3657 by July 2nd.

AMERICAN COINS

Did you know that Colonial-era settlers in America did not have coins or bills of their own? They depended heavily on barter and conducted cash transactions with British coppers and other foreign coins, especially Spanish reals. (The “dollars” mentioned in Article I of the Constitution were actually eight-real coins, also known as “pieces of eight.”)

Congress created the Mint in 1792, and its original headquarters, in Philadelphia, was the first government building to be erected under the authority of the Constitution. The first U. S. coins, produced that year, were silver “half dismes,” or half dimes. They were worth a twentieth of a dollar and may have been manufactured, at least in part, from silverware donated by President and Mrs. Washington.

The first Lincoln cent was minted in 1909, on the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth. It replaced the Indian-head cent, and was the first circulating American coin to be stamped with the likeness of a real, identifiable person.

The scarcity of one metal or another has prompted sporadic crises in American coin production. In 1943, the Mint, hoping to preserve copper for military uses, experimented with a variety of materials, including Bakelite, before settling on galvanized steel. These coins were prone to rust and were so unpopular that in 1944, the Mint went back to using copper, much of it from spent shell casings.

In the early 1970’s, when the value of the copper in a penny had risen to almost a penny, the Mint produced about a million and a half Lincoln cents made of aluminum. Congress rejected the idea and the Mint destroyed all the aluminum coins, except for a dozen samples that were kept by Congressmen and others. Possessing these coins, which are dated 1974, is against the law, since they are considered to be purloined government property.

The most significant change in the metal content of U. S. coins occurred in 1965. The price of silver had risen so high that some bank employees were asking to be paid in change. Congress passed a law that required the Mint to stop using silver in almost all coins. The new, silver-free coins were of the “sandwich” variety still used today. They have a pure copper core and thin top and bottom layers made of a copper-nickel alloy.

From the March 31, 2008 issue of “The New Yorker” Magazine

MISSOURI IN THE CIVIL WAR

(Things you might not have known.)

- The first Civil War battle fought in Missouri was the First Battle of Boonville.
- Burned by Union troops to keep it out of rebel hands, Bollinger Mill, near Burfordville, was rebuilt on the original foundation and is now a State Historic Site.
- Union forces occupied Hannibal throughout the Civil War, though most residents were Southern sympathizers. The town was a stop on the Underground Railroad; slaves seeking freedom reportedly hid in Mark Twain Cave. Twain himself served briefly in the Confederate Army.
- Part of William Quantrill of Quantrill’s Raiders is buried at the Confederate Memorial State Historic Site in Higginsville.
- After Ulysses S. Grant joined the Union army, he was stationed at Mexico Missouri, in July 1861, where he commanded the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry.
- Nevada Missouri was known as the Bushwhacker Capital during the Civil War.
- Union General Thomas Ewing signed Order No. 11 in the Pacific House Hotel in Kansas City on August 25, 1863. The Order forced nearly 20,000 residents in four western Missouri counties from their homes.
- The first permanent military base west of the Mississippi River, Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis served as a Union training camp.
- *Stars and Stripes*, the newspaper that keeps service members and their families informed, was first published in Bloomfield in November 1861. A museum there is dedicated to the paper.

Missouri Life Magazine, April 2006

Eleven Thatcher was born January 18, 1795 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. He was the 11th child of a family that numbered rather than named their children. Eleven in buried at Smithville, Missouri.

From Paxton’s Annals of Platte County, Missouri

ARCHIVES ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Our annual volunteer appreciation (indoor) picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Archives. (Doors open at 6:00.) All members are invited to attend. The Archives will furnish meat, drinks and table service. Participants should bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Please make reservations by Friday, July 11 by calling the Archives at (816) 781-3611 or Carol Olson at (816) 452-3540.



We love our volunteers! During the months of March through May, they worked 1065 hours. But we can always use more. If you are interested, please give us a call at 816-781-3611. (See "Volunteer Corner" on Page 9.)

BOONE JUNCTION: A HISTORY VILLAGE

2008 marks the second year of Boone County's Boone Junction, a history village designed to showcase three historic Boone County Missouri properties. Normal tour hours are Thursday through Sunday from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.boonehistory.org or contact the Boone County Historical Society at 573-443-8936 or at 3801 Ponderosa Street, Columbia, MO 65203.

Join the Archives' own Kevin Fisher on Saturday, July 5 at 10:00 a.m., as he conducts a tour of Historic Downtown Liberty. The tour meets at the fountain next to City Hall, 101 E. Kansas Street.

The Clay County MOsaic

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