

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

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

July-August-September 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 has been a busy summer, with many activities and projects. So, here follows a potpourri of things to report.

The Hughes Library building (which houses the Archives) repairs are coming along nicely. The entrance has been newly painted and it is a great improvement. No longer do we have bubbling and peeling paint falling from the porch ceiling onto our patrons and littering the ground below. The items left are some windows to repair/replace and then the roof can be finished.

Our July Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was enjoyed by regular volunteers and by some who haven't had as much time to give. It was a relaxed time to be able to visit with "old friends" as well as current ones. Many kudos go to Carol Olson who planned and organized this event.

Ken Neth has been busy (as he and others always are). He has been working with the Liberty Public School District on the Mercer Bush Cemetery issue. It seems that the land that the district purchased to build its latest elementary school included this cemetery. Ken has been able to give much help, information and direction to them in this matter. The district now has archeologists working on digging up and relocating the remains to another area on the property that will be out of the way and better identified and protected. I understand the Bush family is pleased with this solution.

Ken is also preparing for a speaking opportunity coming up in October. The Shepherd Center asked for a program on Clay County cemeteries. There is no better speaker on this subject than Ken.

And, speaking of programs, Steve Olson is preparing for a presentation to the Northland Leadership Academy. This will be held at Park University in October and the subject will be Clay County History. The presentation which was created five years ago by Kevin Fisher (and presented to the Liberty Leadership Academy, among others) will be the basis of this speech.

To help raise awareness of the Archives in the community, we are making available interesting

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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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2008 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

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Ronald and Cerise Harris
Dail and Sallie Hobbs
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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

Five Tips for Making the Most of Online Genealogy Databases:

1. Keep a log. It can be difficult to keep track of where you have searched, who you have searched for and what you found where. Keep a research log to record the sites you have visited, the searches you tried and the results of those searches. Date your research, because web sites are constantly being updated. You may want to go back and recheck them periodically.
2. Use advanced search options. Become familiar with the advanced search features for each database you use, and try every possible search alternative before giving up.
3. Cite your sources. Record the full citation of the source where you found the information. For online sites, include the name of the database, the name of the web site, and the URL of the site where you found the data, as well as the original source of the data.
4. Evaluate the reliability. While useful as a clue or a starting point for further research, some of the family history information you find online is more fiction than fact. Learn to recognize the good data from the bad.
5. Follow up online. For every bit of information online, there are hundreds more tucked away in archives, courthouses, etc. Follow up on the clues you find online with original sources. The only exceptions are digitized copies from original documents found online. While technically considered a derivative source, these are generally considered to be an acceptable alternative for the original source documents.

From the Newsletter of the Brown County (KS) Genealogical Society, July/August 2008

The Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative (www.sos.mo.gov/mdh) is a collaborative effort that dramatically expands the amount of information available online about Missouri's past. It contains records of enduring historical value from institutions throughout the state of Missouri, including documents, photographs, maps and other materials of interest.

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

Dr. Dougherty's diary as excerpted in our last issue ended on February 21, 1860. It resumed on January 1, 1869. The diary for the years in between remains lost to us, except for excerpts that were published in the Liberty Tribune in 1909. At that time the missing diary was in the possession of the doctor's son Charles. The following text comes from those published excerpts.

January 1863

This being the first day of the new year I have concluded to commence, again, to keep some account of events as they transpire. I have endeavored in the past to keep a journal and did so from July 4, 1854 to sometime in 1858, at the very time when such a thing would have been most interesting, I stopped. I regret it now very much, as the events of the past two years have been more interesting than any of my past life. The Civil War which is now devastating our one happy land, is making history which will be read in future times with more interest than any war in the world's history.

Thursday, January 1, 1863

The Christmas which has just passed was a remarkable one. Christmas eve was so warm that I took my office chair to the sidewalk and seated myself in it there, and was more comfortable than while in the office. There has been no cold weather this winter except a few days in the latter part of October, when all the apples in the whole country froze on the trees and there were none to put up for winter.

Saturday, January 3, 1863

As I was going down town this morning Charley Haynes overtook me and asked the cause of so much excitement. I told him I had heard none and he informed me that orders had come from Lexington, for all of Colonel Moss' regiment to assemble immediately as there were fifty thousand Confederates marching on that town. After I got to the square the number fell to five thousand, and by night excitement had about subsided. It was believed that there was not any considerable number of Confederate soldiers in the state as the Missouri Republican had published that Gen. Blunt had driven

all the Command of Gen. Hindman into Arkansas.

Monday, January 12, 1863

We have received no paper today. It is currently reported that Springfield has been captured by the Confederates and 1500 prisoners taken. Some think it is false news. There is no reliance to be placed in anything you hear or read these days.

Wednesday, February 18, 1863

A recent copy of the Republican says France has offered to mediate but the offer was rejected by the administration.

Friday, March 6, 1863

The Conscription Bill has passed Congress and is now the law of the land. None exempt between the ages of 18 and 45 except idiots, fathers of motherless children, the only support of widowed mothers, governors of states, the judiciary and the Vice President of the United States.

Saturday, March 14, 1863

A Kansas "Red Leg" made an attack on Frank Gordon last night, but failed. The attack was in Gordon's yard and Gordon rushed into his house the fellow following with a drawn pistol. Gordon drew a gun and the man fell upon his knees, supplicating mercy, which was granted. The man asked for a negro girl belonging to (*not legible*) and said he came for her.

Wednesday, April 15, 1863

Lieut. Col. Van Horn came here this evening and camped with his men at the fair grounds. A flag pole and U. S. flag were raised.

Wednesday, May 20, 1863

As I was going down town this morning, Mrs. Burns met me at the door and asked if I was a prisoner. I did not know what she meant. She said a great many citizens had been arrested and taken before the Provost Marshal Ed. Rhea in order to find out who would take up arms in defense of the city. They were expecting an attack at any time from a body of men who had attacked Richfield (*Missouri City*) yesterday evening and killed Capt. Sessions, the lieutenant of the 25th regiment, at the arsenal, and a private. The militia were all ordered to Richfield and the citizens armed themselves and guarded the town. Great Excitement prevailed all day.

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

Articles from the *Smithville Democrat Herald*

November 5, 1915

Homes for Boys Wanted – We have on hand a very fine lot of boys of all ages from one month to twelve years of age. We are putting them out in carefully selected homes. They are placed on three months' trial. All it costs to get one is the transportation. References required. For terms address Rev. C. C. Stahmann, Margaretta and Newstead Avenues, St. Louis, Mo., State Superintendent of The Children's Home Society.

Articles from the *Smithville Herald*

January 13, 1905

A young man in Platte county is in a quandary. He lives on a farm, but has been courting a girl in town. Finally he asked her to marry him. She seemed willing, but said she could never live on a farm. He then proposed moving to town and engaging in some other business and she said if he was fool enough to do that she wouldn't have him. He is still figuring.

Articles from the *Excelsior Springs Daily Call*

August 18, 1903

The need of hitching places for our country visitors was again demonstrated Saturday. There is room enough in the space now occupied by the racks but more posts and cross pieces are needed. The present arrangement may have been sufficient for other days, but we are living under new and larger conditions. This is a little matter and one requiring little expense. While agitating electric railroads and similar things, don't let us neglect to provide a post for the visiting farmer to tie his horse to.

To the Public!

I do not own, operate or control the Merry go round located near my Bowling alley. If I did I would move it out of the front yard.

C.W. Turner.

August 21, 1903

Quantrell's survivors will hold their annual reunion at Independence on Saturday August 22. There are perhaps 100 members of that band yet living and they compose some of the best citizens of Missouri and other western states. Independence will entertain these one-time border terrors in a befitting manner and members should endeavor to be there.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

CD of Strange Family, donated by Herb F. Strange.

Original bar dockets from Clay County Circuit Court, dated March 1921 to June 1926 and Historic booklet "Rand-McNally Handy Guide to Kansas", donated by William Ballew and Bruce Mitchell.

Cameron Missouri Sesquicentennial Book (1855 – 2005), donated by Ken Neth.

"The Civil War Dictionary", by Mark Boatner III, donated by Susan Patton and Janice Noble.

Catalog of the Liberty Female College, 1890 and photo of 100th anniversary celebration of Mt. Gilead Church, dated August 17, 1930, donated by Phil Denney.

Liberty Title & Abstract Stock Certificate Book, donated by Jerry White.

Booklet listing names and maps of Antioch Cemetery, donated by Ernie Hurt.

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

Our sympathy goes out to President Stuart Elliott on the death of his father, Judge Robert Kenneth Elliott, on September 12, 2008.

Judge Elliott was a lifelong Clay County resident and served as a judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit for 33 years. A pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he retired from the Air Force Reserves as a Brigadier General in 1980.

Always a supporter of improving the juvenile justice system, he led the drive in the 1970s to acquire a facility to separate young offenders from adult detainees. That cause became a reality and, in 1996, a new building was named in his honor, the R. Kenneth Elliott Children's Justice Center.

The family has requested that donations in Judge Elliott's memory be made to the Archives or the Gideons International in Nashville TN.

Ghost Towns of Clay County



Third in a series of stories about Clay County communities that are no longer in existence.

ACME SPRINGS

By Stuart Elliott

My father grew up in what is now Gladstone, but not in the suburbs. No, he was a farm boy during the 1920's and 30's with his six brothers and sisters. I remember, as a youth, exploring different parts of the 76-acre farm: the old barn, the "garage," the chicken coop, the woods behind the barn, the "cliff" (where limestone was extracted to help pave what was to become Missouri #1 Highway (Antioch Road), etc. But I had no idea that if I moseyed up the road a bit, I would be smack dab in the middle of a ghost town. . .

It seems that in 1821 William Campbell came here from Kentucky and built a one-room cabin for his family in that same section (and was granted land rights in the North East quarter of the section), but Michael Dresslar was granted the land rights in the North West quarter, which eventually became Acme Springs.

Michael Dresslar died intestate (without a will) about April 1st of 1864, so his wife Mary inherited the land. Henry L. Routt (leader of the raid on the Liberty Arsenal – the first action against the Union in Missouri) represented the widow Mary in an action brought by Louey and Mariah Donovan regarding the property in question. In a later action, Anderson Dresslar (son of Michael and Mary) acquired the land that would become Acme Springs.

We know that Col. John Bender eventually owned the land because of an affidavit dated December 30, 1910, in which Anderson Dresslaer (born in 1836) indicated that John Bender acquired the land about 20 years before (1890).

At some point it was noted that there were mineral springs on the property, which could provide "healing waters." In fact, an article in the Liberty Weekly Tribune of August 1881 tells of a "pic-nic at Acme Springs" which was "filled with a crowd of gay and happy promenaders (sic)" who sipped "the health-giving waters. . ." As of September 1881 the Tribune reported "Lots are selling rapidly at the Acme Springs, a town rapidly springing up." Given the excitement (similar to what was happening in Excelsior Springs), the town of Acme Springs was platted on January 28, 1882 showing the streets of Main, Walnut, Locust, Spring, Broadway, Line and

Mulberry. It had 86 lots and a ¾-acre Park Block (which must have included the mineral spring). Lots were being bought and sold in early 1882 and, in 1883, 51 lots were sold for \$47 each. The name "Acme Springs" refers to the mineral springs, but both "Acme" and "Acme Springs" can refer to the town.

A column named "Acme Items" (with a byline of "Slim Jim") appeared in the Liberty Weekly Tribune through 1885. It shows that Acme had many stores, a hotel, a post office and, of course, many residents. Some interesting postings include: "Jno. W. Davis has been appointed postmaster at Acme. He is a citizen of the place and will make a good officer." Also, "Smith Bros. are keeping a good supply of family groceries and notions, and propose to duplicate Kansas City prices. Jessee Bros. have a full stock of family supplies, notions, &c, and have a good trade. Bacon, lard and fish can be obtained at either store. Riley and Jessee are building a storeroom in the Riley block. The Acme House is about completed."

In 1882, John Bender benefited from his windfall apples by pressing them into cider and selling it for 25 cents a gallon. The apples themselves went for 60 cents a bushel.

In May of 1883, it was reported in the Liberty Weekly Tribune that "Dr. Fairchilds, the celebrated cancer doctor, is preparing to establish a dispensary at Acme for the accommodation of his many patients. The medical powers of the Acme waters refreshes, invigorates and otherwise prepares the system, so the Doctor's remedies effects (sic) an easy cure. He also intends starting a printing press." It was also noted in the same edition that there is a school in Acme taught by Mr. Pickett.

In 1884 it was reported that "A syndicate of rich and influential men of Kansas City, having an eye to health and quiet, as well as for what money there may be in it, has been formed, or will be formed as soon as certain arrangements can be carried out, to build a narrow gauge railroad, beginning at a point connecting with either the H. & St. Joe or Wabash railroads, at or near old Randolph, and running in a northerly direction to Acme Springs. The object in view is to build up the surrounding country into handsome residences."

In 1964 an article appeared in the Kansas City Star, which recounted the memory of Gilbert Pence. "I remember that in the spring of the year, the farmers would gather and kill their beef and hogs. Come election time, each man would keep a jug at a certain tree. Those were the days." Pence reported that it was a big community and, "that's where things happened."

Tune in next issue for more on Acme Springs. The Archives would welcome any corrections or additional information about this area.

**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.

July 3, 1908

Paradise: Uncle Cephas **Davis** is stepping high. He is grandpa again. A fine boy came to the home of Emerson **Arnold** and wife Monday in Kearney.

Judge R. C. **Williams**, whose death recently occurred in Jamesport, came to Missouri from North Carolina in the 30's and settled north of Jamesport. He bought a thousand acres soon after his arrival at 75 cents an acre.

July 10, 1908

Henry **Squires** and Dr. Ellen **Cook** got married at last, in Kansas City. Henry said two friends kidnapped him, which caused the delay. E. M. Squires, a brother of the groom, and his wife, Mrs. Effie Squires, of Chandler, a niece of the groom, and Miss Mary **Pleasant** of Kansas City, were present at the wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Squires came over Sunday evening to visit relatives for a short time. After that they will go to California to live. It was to have been a church wedding but his friends prevented it by their joke.

Kansas City Star: William **Gaugh**, 64 years old, one of **Quantrill's** followers, died this morning at 2808 East Fifteenth street. He enlisted when he was 16 years old and served through the Civil war. Mr. Gaugh was with Quantrill on the Kentucky raid when the guerilla lost his life. Gaugh was captured and sent to the military prison in Louisville, where he finally escaped and returned to Missouri. In the Civil war he was sent to Clay County for recruits and there enlisted Frank and Jesse **James**.

Married at the home of Rev. **Barton** Wednesday evening, June 24, Mr. Orson **Carson** of Polo and Miss Lottie **Rhodus** of Mosby. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Rhodus, a much respected family of Clay county. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Carson took the late train for a trip through the South and after August 1, they will be at home at Polo, where he is in the employ of the Milwaukee railroad as telegraph operator.

July 17, 1908

The body of an unknown man about 65 years old was found in the back water of the Missouri river near Missouri City Wednesday morning. The body was clothed in a soldier's uniform. The dead man had a wooden leg. He was of medium height and had gray hair and blue eyes. It is thought he was a veteran of the civil war. No money or valuables was found on the corpse, a knife like those used by soldiers at Fort Leavenworth being the only pocked piece found. On it was engraved the name "**Foster.**" Coroner **Isley** viewed the body and because of inability to identify it was buried in the potter's field.

July 31, 1908

A Presbyterian couple were married here Wednesday at the Methodist parsonage by Dr. **Frank** of the Christian Church. Dr. **McClintic**, the Presbyterian pastor, was out of town and they went to the nearest home of a minister, the Methodist parsonage. Rev. **Dickenson** was not there at the time and Dr. Frank was called.

James M. **Pierson** died at Excelsior Springs Tuesday, and the funeral and burial were held there Wednesday. Mr. Pierson was a resident of Liberty before going to the Springs. His father was T. T. Pierson, who had a restaurant here. Jim Pierson went to Excelsior Springs soon after the Springs became known as having mineral properties. He built among the first business houses there, having the lumber hauled from Liberty. His place of business during his long residence there was near the Siloam Spring. He owned very valuable property. He leaves a wife. Mr. Pierson was a native of Kentucky and came to Liberty soon after the war.

August 21, 1908

Clevy **Anderson**, daughter of T. F. Anderson of Excelsior Springs, died at St. Joseph last Friday. The body was shipped to the Springs for burial. The CALL said she was born in Smithville Nov. 21, 1888. Over-study in school, when she attempted to make a four years' course in two years, caused a nervous breakdown five years ago. Her mind failed and she was sent to the asylum for treatment.

Thomas Travis **Crockett** died at his home about seven miles northeast of Liberty last Friday, August 14. He was 86 years of age and a native of Clay county. He died on the farm his father, David Crockett, entered.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE *LIBERTY TRIBUNE*

(Continued from Page 7)

He was born the year Missouri was admitted to the union. His father was an own cousin of Davy Crockett, the famous pioneer. Uncle Tom was one of Clay county's most highly respected citizens. The four daughters of Mr. Crockett each married three brothers and a nephew. He was born December 31, 1821, being 86 years, 7 months, 13 days of age. . . Thomas T. Crockett's father was David Crockett, born June 15, 1780, in Tennessee, being a first cousin of Davy Crockett of Alamo fame. His mother, Susan **Travis**, was born April 9, 1776 in Maryland. They were married in 1800. The father and mother of Thomas Crockett moved from Tennessee to Howard county in 1818 and came to Clay county in the fall of 1820, to what is now known as the Ed **Long** farm, west of Mosby. In 1821 they moved to a part of the Simeon **Moberly** farm where Thomas Travis, the youngest of the family, was born. When about four months old and also in the early spring of 1822 his father moved to the present homeplace, which he entered. David Crockett died in 1853 and Susan Crockett, his mother died in 1862. Thomas Crockett was married to Mary **Everett** August 18, 1853, and she was known to relatives and friends as "Aunt Polly." Eight children were born: Andrew, Susan, Edward, Sallie, Eliza, Daniel, Ethan Allen and Mariva. Susan was married to Henry **Archer** and Mariva to Abraham Archer. The first three sisters married brothers and the fourth married a nephew of the others. "Aunt Polly" died July 2, 1872. Only three of the eight children survive the father, Mrs. L. C. Archer, Mrs. Mariva Archer and Daniel Crockett. The funeral services were conducted by Elder **Loos** Saturday afternoon at the **Means** grave yard, near Stockdale.

JAMES HISTORY ADDED ONLINE

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan has announced that her office has put a collection of court cases related to Frank and Jesse James online. The collection of the James brothers' court records is part of the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative Website, a statewide effort to make millions of historical documents from institutions across the state available online.

Visitors to the website can view scanned copies of arrest warrants, witness subpoenas and pleas for bail from these cases.

The collection is available at www.missouridigitalheritage.com.

From the Liberty Tribune, July 17, 2008

A CRIMINAL COURT MYSTERY

According to their indictments, Payton Laffoon and John Minter were up to no good on November 1, 1840.

The court records (which Archives volunteers are currently abstracting) show that Laffoon was accused of being "an ill designing and malicious person, and of a wicked and depraved mind" because he allegedly "feloniously, willfully and maliciously did kill" one gelding of the value of \$30 and another gelding of the value of \$50, both belonging to Wade Moseby.

Meanwhile, Minter "feloniously, willfully and maliciously" killed one lean grey mare of the value of \$50, one lean grey filly of the value of \$50, both the property of David Crockett. Plus, he was accused of wounding a lean grey mare of the value of \$40, a lean grey filly of the value of \$30, a mare of the value of \$25 and a filly of the value of \$28, also belonging to David Crockett.

Both men were tried and acquitted. But here is the mysterious part. The Archives' copy of the American Heritage Dictionary calls mares and fillies "horse(s)" and geldings "especially male horse(s)". But both Laffoon and Minter were charged with "maliciously killing (in Minter's case, killing and wounding) cattle." (On one page "horses" had been written, then crossed out at replaced with "cattle.")

If any of our readers know why men who clearly were accused of killing horses were charged with killing cattle, please let us know. Help us clear up this mystery.

HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED WAGNER

Nels Nelson married Margaret Merriam in South Dakota in 1904. The couple just didn't hit it off. Four years later, Nels filed for divorce in Washington State, saying he hadn't seen Mrs. Nelson in 18 months. A witness at the divorce proceeding said that Mrs. Nelson had visited her every day for three years just to talk about her husband's numerous shortcomings. Mrs. Nelson told this lady that she'd "gotten even" with Nelson by whistling ragtime tunes whenever he was trying to get to sleep. Mrs. Nelson was quoted as having said, "Nels don't like anything except folk songs of the Vikings, and that's why I whistled good old ragtime."

From the Summer 2008 issue of "Show Me" State Genealogical News, Newsletter of the Missouri State Genealogical Association

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

Karen Warren has been a volunteer at the Archives for over three years. She is originally from Liberty but now lives in Gladstone, and is retired from 34 years of teaching. If you stop in on a Monday, you will likely find her flat folding documents or inputting information into the computer. Karen is also the person who furnishes the seasonal decorations and plays a major role in keeping our candy basket filled.



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.

RACY STUFF FROM LACLEDE MO.

Laclede Blade Vol.14, #33, Feb. 6, 1904: A young couple in a neighboring town recently purchased a baby carriage at a local store, and having the child with them placed it in the carriage and started homeward. On their way home they passed several people who looked at the carriage, then at them, smiled blandly and appeared greatly amused. The action of their friends was a matter of great annoyance to the two and was wholly inexplicable until they reached home. As the little one was being taken from the vehicle, their eyes fell on a printed card which read: "None better; our own make."

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Some topics covered are:

- Archives and Manuscripts Collection guides
- Books, Pamphlets and Monographs
- County and Municipal Records
- Cultures and Communities
- Exploration and Settlement
- Family and Faith
- Government and Political Records
- Maps
- Military Records and Resources
- Newspapers
- Photographs and Images
- Women

LIBERTY HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES

The city of Liberty has announced its winter history seminar series.

On Saturday, November 1, Joyce Pecora recalls the Liberty Square of the 1940s at a program called "I Remember When. . ." to be held at the Clay County Museum, located at 14 N. Main Street.

A two-part "Heritage Scrapbooking" program will be given by Shannon Miller on Saturday, December 6. Part One, which runs from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., is a free information presentation. Part Two, from 10:30 a.m. till noon, is a scrapbooking workshop, which requires a \$20 materials fee. Space is limited, so pre-registration is a must, at (816) 439-4537. The program will be held at the Corbin Theatre, 15 N. Water Street.

Our own Archives is the subject of the January program, on Saturday, January 3. This is the third year we have been featured in these programs and we always welcome the opportunity to publicize what a great resource we are. The first year we had almost too many people for the building. Then last year we had only a handful. Please come and learn more about us. Even if you are a regular visitor, we may have collections that you are unaware of. Tell your friends. This would be a good opportunity for scout troops and school classes to learn about us and about local history. The program will be held at the Archives, 210 E. Franklin Street.

On Saturday, February 7, the program will be "Ask the Old House Experts", featuring John Carr, Vern Drottz and Paul Victor. They will answer questions and offer advice about old house rehab. The location has not yet been announced.

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The final program of the season will be a "Bus Tour of Historic Liberty," a guided tour of Liberty's historic highlights. The tour will begin at the city parking lot, located at East Kansas and Missouri Streets. Space is limited, so reserve yours early at (816) 439-4537.

All programs begin at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. For more information, call (816) 439-4537.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

The Mercer Bush Family Cemetery is in the process of being moved to the corner of the lot where the Liberty School District's new Kellybrook Elementary School is being built. We have to watch development, because in cases such as this, developers are unaware of these small family graveyards. State law was expanded a few years ago, calling for a \$50,000 fine and/or imprisonment for destruction or damage to a cemetery. So now we are getting inquiries before developments are started. This is a problem when tombstones are long gone.

DAVY CROCKETT ON HOW TO WIN AN ELECTION

"When the day of election approaches, visit your constituents far and wide. Treat liberally, and drink freely, in order to rise in their estimation, though you fall in your own. True, you may be called a drunken dog by some of the clean shirt and silk stocking gentry, but the real rough necks will style you a jovial fellow, their votes are certain, and frequently count double... Promise all that is asked, and more if you can think of anything. Offer to build a bridge or a church, to divide a county, create a batch of new offices, make a turnpike, or anything they like. Promises cost nothing..."

From American Heritage magazine, Spring/Summer 2008

THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

- Frustration is not having anyone to blame but yourself.
- People do not live by bread alone...they need buttering up once in a while.
- Common sense is genius dressed in working clothes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

historical articles to be published in the Liberty Tribune (and other Clay County newspapers). They are gleaned from past Mosaics (and other sources). We will even include pictures from our photo collection. Also we are reporting our historical material accessions to the Tribune as a "news release." This should provide area residents with information about our holdings and prompt them to come in for a visit.

We had two computer training sessions this summer (with more to follow) that were well attended. They involved help with the finer points of using our FileMaker database of historical material indexes and information on how we maintain our photo index (scanning, preparing and indexing the photos). We were also able to address many common Windows-type usage tips and tricks that should come in very handy.

Our Annual Membership Meeting is fast approaching. It is planned for the morning of November First (the first Saturday of the month). Please mark it on your calendar.

To finish up, I would like to appeal to all local members to consider volunteering a few hours a week. We are working on many exciting projects and all extra hands can be put to use. And, don't worry, "no experience is necessary." We will train you on everything you need to know. So, I urge you to please be a part of your own history.

Stuart E. Elliott

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE -- LITERALLY

In 1941 the British Secret Service contacted John Waddington Ltd., the manufacturer of the board game Monopoly outside of the United States, and devised a plan to sneak items to Allied prisoners of war that they could use to escape.

In addition to the standard thimble, car and other tokens, there were the file, compass and escape map. Additionally, hidden under the play money used in the game, was real German, Italian and French currency that could be used for bribes.

The Allies included the games in Red Cross care kits that also contained food and clothing for the POWs.

By war's end, approximately 35,000 Allied POWs had escaped from German camps. While a precise number was not recorded, at least a handful of detainees owe their escape to the game Monopoly.

From the History Channel Magazine, July/August 2008

AN INTERESTING PAGE

People often ask me where I find information for this newsletter and I tell them that some of it appears in my "in" basket, left there by other volunteers. Recently someone left me a copy of a page from our microfilmed newspapers that holds more interesting articles than one page usually has. Following are excerpts from a couple of the articles from that one page of the Liberty Tribune, dated May 24, 1934.

TO RECORDS FOR FAMILY HISTORY (Mrs. Walter Bender Goes to Original Sources to Learn of Ancestors)

History as it is told in the files in the archives of the county court house, is being brought to light this week by Mrs. Walter Bender of Illinois, who is going through the records to find information concerning her ancestors, the McCorkles and the Camerons, early pioneer families in Western Missouri.

Mrs. Bender was here a year ago last March in her search for this information and since that time has written or personally interviewed 1428 descendents of these two families. Her search in the last twelve years has carried her from her home to Washington, D. C., Virginia, Kentucky Tennessee, Colorado, Old Mexico and dozens of other states. Since December she has traveled 18,000 miles in an automobile, driving her own car and going alone.

At this time she has records of nearly every descendant of either family. She also has the handwriting of nearly every member of the family since 1800 or even earlier.

Once she made a trip from Topeka to Colorado where her search directed her for a signature. There in the mountains she found a cabin where a Cameron once lived. He had passed away several years earlier, but in the cabin beneath the dust she found a little book in which was signed the name of William McCorkle, and thus was able to obtain a copy of his own handwriting while writing finis to that part of the book.

The pictures Mrs. Bender has secured number near the thousand mark. One small tintype is of Elisha Cameron, her great grandfather, one of the first judges of Clay County. The only one he ever had taken when he was a guest in St. Louis.

A history of the communities in which the McCorkles and the Camerons lived will be embodied in the book when it is printed.

In her quest to make her book a complete history of the families, Mrs. Bender has spent twelve years going from court house to court house. She spent six months in Scotland. There she saw the castles where both families lied (sic) before they came to America. They were neighboring clans and

the descendants still pride themselves for the loyalty to their country inherited from those days in the old country. The McCorkles came to America in 1735, the Camerons thirty years later. Both moved together to Rockbridge, Va., following the Revolutionary War. From there the Cameron moved to Tennessee and the McCorkles to Kentucky. Early in the 1700s they met again in Howard County, Missouri, and from there to Clay County about 1818.

The first will probated in Clay County was that of Elisha Cameron, first probate judge appointed in 1825. This will Mrs. Bender has had copied.

Mrs. Bender will be back in Liberty Saturday morning and would be glad to talk with any one who might have some information that would help her in completing this family history. She will be at the Tribune office.

FOREST NURSERY TO LOCATE HERE (Government Men Look Over Land to Set Out Trees for CCC Camp.)

A nursery of thirty-five or forty acres in which black locust trees will be replanted for use by the Civil Conservation Corp. camp to be located here in the next few days, may be added to the list of projects included in the CCC camp program. Two men from the reforestation committee were here Tuesday and looked at a number of locations including the Cockrell farm south of Liberty which was looked upon with favor it is reported.

The trees will be sent here and set out on the tract, if the project goes through as planned, and they will be used by the camp workers to build dams, rip-rap, and other purposes in connection with soil erosion work.

All is activity at the CCC camp. About forty men are engaged in getting the buildings in readiness for the workers. The mess hall and kitchen are enclosed and roofed ready for the ranger and dining tables to be installed. The bath house is finished, the concrete floor is now ready for the rangers and dining tables follow shortly.

Superintendent Watson expects the new occupants here either Friday or Saturday and until the living quarters are ready tents will have to be provided. The living quarters are not given much concern at present while the weather is so ideal, so all the energies are being directed to those buildings which are necessary at the outset.

Coal ranges are to be used in the kitchen and all buildings are to be lighted with electricity.

Next in order of importance to follow the three buildings now completed will be the living quarters for the men and the administration and living quarters for the officers. Mr. Watson probably will be here for two weeks more in which time he expects to have everything finished and in running order. This is the third camp that he has built for the government.

ARCHIVES ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

The Archives will hold its annual breakfast meeting on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Pryor Leadership Center, 17 S. Jewell Street, Liberty. The speaker will be Ed Conrad, an Interurban Railroad historian. The cost will be \$10. All members and guests are invited to attend. Please call the Archives at (816) 781-3611 (or info@claycountyarchives.org) to make reservations or if you have any questions. Reservations are due by Wednesday, October 29th.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF THE CLAY COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- October 11 – Historical Living Cemetery Tour at Fairview Cemetery
- November 29 & 30 – Clay County Historical Society Holiday Tour of Homes.

For more information, you may contact them at 816-792-1849.

We love our volunteers! During the months of June through August, they worked 1026 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.)

CITY OF LIBERTY TO FEATURE ARCHIVES

The city of Liberty will again feature the Archives at its popular History Seminar Series. The event will be an open house at the Archives. See page 9 of this newsletter for more information.

In addition, the Archives will be the starting point for the October program, which is a walking tour of the Jewell and Lightburne Historic Districts that begins at 10:00 a.m. We will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on that day, Saturday, October 4.

The Clay County MOsaic

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