

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
October-November-December 2010

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MOsaic by Internet

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

Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the Archives' 31-year journey, we have embraced a mandate to collect and preserve and present the history of our little corner of the world. That history includes information about the original geography and flora and fauna in this area, even data about the first human inhabitants here, up through more recent residents. We have endeavored to be faithful to that mandate.

The Archives has been fortunate, over the last three decades, to attract volunteers who are dedicated and devoted to this history. They have the hearts of explorers, have experienced the excitement of discovery and have the passion to protect this history for the benefit of others.

All right, all right, yes, that sentence was a bit over the top. But, really, once you know these volunteers, you realize that it is more true than not.

I don't know which comes first: the love of history drives the volunteer or the experience of volunteering drives the desire. Whatever the case, we are better for it. There seems to be a part of the brain that, with the right stimuli, gets switched on and an Archives volunteer is born!

An interesting aspect of the typical Archives volunteer is that there is no typical Archives volunteer. Each person has his or her own unique way of contributing. Surely they must all work together, but they also have various strengths and interests. But the central theme is a love of history and an insatiable devotion to protect it. For instance, their contribution may be "infrastructure" in nature, whereby they provide the means by which others can do their work (research/abstracting/compiling/etc.). Others may like to do leg work such as collecting material and equipment or making arrangements for publication. Still others excel at handling the actual historical documents to glean from them the precious bits of information which we want to save and use. And others do these things and more.

All in all, I think we are most blessed with the volunteers that we have. I cannot imagine the Archives without the particular dedication they provide.

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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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2010 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

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Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.

Wendell Berry

ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

OUR NEW PUBLICATION

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

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 \$12, plus \$5 for mail delivery

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

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

GUERRILLAS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES

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

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS (all postpaid):

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	15.00
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas	13.00
Clay County Births, 1883-84	7.00
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84	7.00
DAR Sesquicentennial Book	18.00
Every-name Index to DAR Book	11.00

Please make your check payable to:
Clay County Archives

And mail to:
P. O. Box 99
Liberty MO 64069

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

The Missouri State Genealogical Association has announced its 2011 Annual Conference. It will be held on August 5th and 6th at the Hilton Executive Center in Columbia.

The keynote speaker will be Henry Z. “Hank” Jones, a professional genealogist since 1965, who will speak on “18th Century Emigration”; “When the Sources are Wrong”; and “Family Tradition: Separating Fact from Fiction.” Not only is he an entertaining genealogical speaker, but also an accomplished writer, a respected Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, an entertainer and a screen actor. Learn more about him at his website www.hankjones.com

The 2011 Conference of the National Genealogical Society will be held on May 11th to 14th in Charleston, South Carolina. Registration brochures are available now. For more information go to www.ngsgenealogy.org

Management of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection is being transferred from the University of Missouri system to the State Historical Society of Missouri. The transition is expected to take about two months.

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection was created in 1943 to collect, preserve and make available records that cover all aspects of life in Missouri and the Midwest.

*From “‘Show Me’ State Genealogical News”,
Newsletter of the Missouri State Genealogical
Association, Winter 2010*

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their 2011 Annual Conference on September 7th to 10th in Springfield, Illinois. The title for the conference is “Pathways to the Heartland.” For more information, go to www.fgs.org.

*From GSCM Reporter, a publication of the
Genealogical Society of Central Missouri,
November/December 2010*

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, has launched a new website, called AmericanAncestors.org, which has over 135 million searchable names, covering New England, New York and other locations, dating back to 1620. (As is often the case, you have to be a member to view the results of your search.)

*From Ozarks Genealogical Society
Newsletter, November 2010*

A free Genealogy Jamboree will be held in the Streets of Cumberland Gap and Cumberland Gap

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

Monday, October 17, 1870

Registration commenced in town to day. Good many registered.

Note: The registration Dr. Dougherty speaks of was remembered for many years. We have some of the registration books at the Archives, and they show the meanness of informers in the county. Since nobody voted for Lincoln, no doubt his admonition to bind up the nation’s wounds went unheeded. The names of the men who could vote appeared in the “Tribune,” since it was such a small number. Since Union men were the main ones allowed to vote, the appearance of a man’s name on the list was rarely bragged about. Instead of a red badge of courage, the names were regarded as having a black badge of cowardice.

Sunday, October 30, 1870

No preaching in town at our church. Baptist have preaching every Sunday though I understand preacher is going to leave soon for other parts.

Friday, November 4, 1870

There is a new programme with regard to the negro vote. The democrats are determined to vote the negro, and they are now being treated at the court house, and the thing seems to be working finely.

Note: In 1870 the Democrats did not put forward a candidate for Governor; they instead chose to support the “Liberal Republican” B. Gratz Brown. If Brown was elected, the practice of “voter registration” would be put aside, and the majority of the county could again vote without consideration of their previous loyalty. In Clay County an effort to gain the Negro vote was thought to be the only chance for Brown and the local Democratic ticket to be elected. Every night for a week prior to the election, the Negro people were invited to the court house for entertainment. This included speeches and refreshments, and finished with a dance. The local Democratic committee furnished the speeches. For the first few nights there was very low attendance. As the entertainment became more interesting and the speeches more convincing, the attendance by the night before the election was said to have been virtually every Negro vote. Colonel (Henry) Routt spoke for over an hour and a half, and while he was not speaking the truth, with tears in his eyes

convinced the Negro population that if the opponent was elected, every Negro man and woman over 18 years old would be assessed a personal tax of \$50. According to Routt, the failure to pay the tax would put that person in the penitentiary for two years. He looked the audience straight in the face and called out, “James Tuggles, my dear old colored friend, you with whom I played on the green in the good old state of Kentucky, where is the fifty dollars you’ve got to pay?” Colonel Routt then continued by mentioning every one of James Tuggles’ fourteen adult children and asked where they would get fifty dollars. Old Uncle Jim, looking up at the Colonel, sobbing as if his heart was broken, “Mars Henry, we ain’t got a damned cent.” The Liberal candidates received a solid Negro vote in Clay County, and if the Negro votes had not been swayed, they would have lost the election.

Thursday, November 10, 1870

Every thing quiet and the returns from the election seems to increase the Democratic majorities all over the state. Brown is elected by a very large majority, Governor, and the whole Radical ticket is beaten.

Saturday, November 12, 1870

Great many in town, every body seems to be rejoiced. I say every body because nearly every body is democratic. No news of importance beyond the election, which is good enough.

Sunday, November 13, 1870

Quarterly meeting at Faubion Chapel, therefore no preaching here, it being the day in course. Have been elected S. S. Superintendent and have been attending to its duties.

Note: The Faubion Methodist Chapel was organized by Jacob Faubion in 1837. The first building was constructed in 1850. The present church is at NE 72nd and N. Troost in Gladstone.

Thursday, November 17, 1870

Big torch light procession to night. The houses were generally illuminated and a big time at Court House. Many speeches congratulating the county of the freedom restored – reenfranchized.

Note: The torchlight procession reflected joy that nearly ten years of slavery were at last over. The Republicans were defeated and gradually men were being allowed to vote again. A barbecue was held to thank the black voters for their participation.

BE MINE, KISS ME, BE TRUE

If you've read these words before, maybe it was on little pieces of pastel-colored candies known as "Sweethearts."

Made by the New England Confectionery Company (Necco) since 1902, Sweethearts were once called "Conversation Mottos" and came in many shapes, including postcards, baseballs, horseshoes and watches, in addition to the familiar hearts.

Up until this year, they were still made according to the original recipe: sugar, corn syrup, gelatin, gums, colorings and flavorings. However, in 2010, the formula was changed to make them softer, and several new flavors were introduced, including grape, strawberry, green apple, lemon, orange and blue raspberry. The dough is still mixed, rolled out, imprinted, stamped into heart shapes and put through a 30-minute cycle in a drying tunnel.

Each year Necco produces over eight billion Sweethearts, most of which are sold between January 1 and Valentine's Day.

In the early 1990's, the company decided to update the sayings each year and retire some old ones. The first, "Fax Me," created a lot of attention from Sweetheart fans. As a result, each year they receive hundreds of suggestions for new sayings. "Call Me" has become "Email Me."

If you'd like your own personalized candy heart, Necco will produce a custom-made batch for you. The only catch is that you must purchase a full production run: 3,500 pounds of candy.

From "Yankee" Magazine, January/February 2011 and www.necco.com

BOIS D'ARC

In addition to being the name of a town near Springfield, Missouri, bois d'arc is also another name for the Osage Orange tree, which you might know by the common name given its fruit, hedge apple. (The town was named after the tree, planted by an early settler.)

The Osage Orange gets its name from the orange color of the bark and wood, which was much used by the Plains Indians. The Osage, who lived between the Arkansas and Missouri Rivers, made bows from it, which were so widely respected that the tree became known as the bois d'arc (wood of the bow/arc). A well-made bow might bring as much as a horse and blanket in trade. The Comanches used the wood to treat eye infections and the Pima used it to tan leather and to make a yellow-orange dye to color basketry and wool.

When the settlers came to the Plains, they saw the value of the trees for fencing. Planted close together, the trees' thorny branches formed an effective barrier. The trees have a long life, in part because the wood contains an anti-fungal agent that makes it rot- and insect- resistant. When barbed wire

began to reshape the prairies, Osage Orange was in demand as fence posts, as well as for wheels, railroad ties and mine timbers.

Hedge apples also have a reputation for keeping roaches away. Although researchers at the University of Iowa found repellent chemicals in fruits they tested, the levels were shown to be too low to be effective.

If you'd like to try growing your own tree, soak the fruit in water for a couple of days, then break it up. Plant it directly in the ground after the last frost.

From www.abouthyme.com and Wikipedia

I WISH I'D KNOWN

In about 1997 a high school teacher in Massachusetts wanted to persuade his students that history is not a dead subject. He decided that he would ask his students to devise a question that they would ask famous people.

The question they agreed upon was "Whom do you wish you had been taught more about in history class, but weren't? Why?"

Each student picked the person he or she would write to. When they received their answers, they would then embark on a research project about the person named.

Here are some of the responses they received:

From Tom Clancy, author: **James Madison**. Why him? Because he is the man mainly responsible for writing the United States Constitution. That document is what makes America great...

Hugh Downs, journalist: I chose **Alexander the Great**...Most histories relate his military victories and neglect other dimensions of the man. He conquered the known world before he was thirty-three, and one of the ways he was successful in his conquests was that instead of pillaging cities and countries and enslaving populations, he forbade his soldiers to do this and granted clemency and in many cases distributed goods to the conquered people. This resulted in fanatical loyalty to him and swelled the size of his armies, until finally no one stood against him...

Tom Hanks, actor: Not only did **Jacques Cousteau** invent, or help invent, scuba-diving apparatus, but he used that marvelous mechanism to explore our world's seas and labored to educate us all about the dangers of pollution and how we must understand the need for clean oceans...

Senator Edward Kennedy: **James Madison**, our fourth President is the father of the U. S. Constitution and our whole country owes him an enormous debt...Madison understood the lessons of history and drew from them to help shape a powerful new experiment in democracy that has been

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

Articles from the *Liberty Advance*

June 5, 1908

A man down at Platte City was determined to commit suicide. He went to the store and bought a rope, can of oil, a box of matches, a dose of arsenic and a revolver. He went down and pushed his boat from the shore and paddled down to where a limb hung over and he got up in the bow of the boat and tied one end of the rope to the limb and the other around his neck, saturated his clothing with coal oil, lighted a match and set his clothes afire, took a dose of arsenic, put the muzzle of the revolver to his temple and pulled the trigger. But the bullet glanced, cut the rope above him and he fell ker wallop into the river and the water put out the fire, and he got strangled and coughed up the arsenic, and rose up and waded out and declared himself a candidate for office on the Republican ticket. – *Dearborn Democrat*

Articles from the *Liberty Chronicle*

July 18, 1935

Liberty Girl Climbs Ladder of Success

Helen Swan (Gypsy Nina) Plays in London for Months Instead of Weeks

The news from across the water about Helen Swan is such as to give the greatest encouragement to an ambitious artist. Here is what A. Mitchell of the Headquarter Staff, the Marconi company, London, England wrote to his father, Sergt. Major A.H.H. Mitchell of Winnipeg, Canada: "I met Miss Swan on Friday, had tea and a good chat. Afterwards heard her perform at the theatre. She certainly has a wonderful voice, and is jolly good looking, and was received with great ovation, getting the most applause of all the other turns. Last night she sang over the radio from the British Broadcasting company's studio and her performance was grand. I am pleased to have met her and thank Mrs. Withers for the opportunity, please when you write her."

Miss Swan as Gypsy Nina opened at the Palladium in London the first of March and was liked so well that her engagement of four weeks was extended to months. The London Daily Sketch in a recent issue had this to say of her: "I wonder how many of you have seen Gypsy Nina, who is making her first appearance in this country? She is small, plays an accordion, and has a most delightful voice."

"Henry Hall heard her when he was in America and told me how marvelous she was. She has recently made her first H.M.V. record, and you can all take the opportunity of being charmed by her personality by listening to her versions of 'Old Bohemian Town' and 'The Postman Passes My Door.'"

"Her first record augurs well for a sound waxen future for this excellent artist."

Miss Swan is expected to come home the last of July and even now Englishmen are hoping she will return to them next year.

August 15, 1935

Little Shoal Church Bows to Highway

New Road Will Pass So Close to Historic Church That It Must Be Sold.

One by one the early churches of Clay county are disappearing from the map. The next to go will be the Little Shoal brick church erected in 1880 – 1881 on the road between Liberty and Nashua. This stands so near the designated route for U.S. highway No. 35 that the trustees voted at a meeting held at Little Shoal on August 11 to ask for sealed bids for the purchase of the old building. Bids will be opened September 1, and the history of the church will move rapidly to its close.

About twenty-five people attended the meeting. Among these were four who have never transferred their membership to any other church: Mrs. Harvey Wren, Dean Gabbert and William Gabbert, members of the board of trustees, and Mrs. Amanda Wilkerson. The board of trustees was created in 1914 to take charge of funds on hand. A few members live in other sections of the United States.

Regular services have not been held at Little Shoal since 1914 when it was voted to discontinue an effort to revive interest in services there. Before that for many years the building was unused. The walls are in very good condition now but vandals have taken away practically everything that was movable. Some years ago the Big Shoal congregation bought some of the seats at Little Shoal for use in the Gallatin township church.

Former Liberty Girl to Return to America

"Gypsy Nina" or Helen Swan to the home folks, embarked for home yesterday on the Normandie after nearly six months in London, varied by short stays in Scotland and Paris. "Home" is New York City now but Miss Swan is hoping to come west for a visit.

Miss Swan flew to Paris on a sight-seeing tour and was much impressed by the contrasts

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

(Continued from Page 6)

between the English and French people. She writes, "In England everyone is so proper and conservative; here, in Paris, people seem to me half Apache with their care-free abandon, utter lack of formality. In England, a friend will not comment on a new outfit one wears without first apologizing – it is 'bad form.' Here, utter strangers, waitresses, policemen, etc., pay one compliments at once. My feet cause a lot of comment here. They are not small for America, but for Europe! They do not make shoes so small, so every place I go both men and women turn and look. And of course, the sheer American stockings are a novelty, too. You should see the stockings here – so thick with huge seams in them. I don't know how they wear them!"

In an advance style notice, Miss Swan reports the hats are either very large or mere bonnets. "Some look just like baby's bonnets with bows that look like rabbit ears. The leading fall shade seems to be a dark yellow, on the order of the old mustard color. So you can buy a yellow bonnet with ears and know you are right in style."

Commenting on the French hotel service, Miss Swan says, "Of course everyone here is out to get all he can out of Americans. Particularly the hotels are terrible. They have no soap or ink or stationery in the rooms and one must tip the maid to bring them. Then one is charged 28 cents for soap. At the end of the week 10 percent of one's bill is added for service, supposedly for tips, after one has tipped everyone already, all week."

After enjoying the boulevards, the cafes, the historic landmarks and the shops of Paris, Miss Swan returned to London for a two-weeks' engagement there and in Liverpool. She plans to return to Europe next year for a number of continental engagements.

Miss Swan is under the direction of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Note: Helen Swan/Gypsy Nina was born in Chicago, but lived most of her early life in Liberty, where she graduated from high school and studied at William Jewell College. A singer, pianist and accordionist, she was among the early performers on WDAF radio. She died unexpectedly in Hammond, Indiana on Christmas Day, 1939, of a brain hemorrhage at age 38.

January 31, 1935

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

Lyman Berndt of South Liberty has a warning to give motorists. It is – always be sure the car is out of gear when you start to crank it. This

week his car ran over him, tore his clothing off, ran through the barn lot and finished up at the house just because he forgot to shift the gears when he had to crank.

February 7, 1935

HAS EDUCATED DOG

Mrs. T.M. Arnote came to town Monday from her home on the highway near Claycomo, and as she sat in her car at the Safeway corner, her famous "educated" fox terrier, Cricket, amused the passersby. Cricket has learned a lot in her five years and will exhibit her talents on command. She stands up, "speaks" in a low tone, "talks" loudly and does many other things on request. At home she plays the piano and must have a picture of Rudy Vallee before her for inspiration.

USING A DICTIONARY

Judge Robert Sevier of the probate court is engaged in making a thorough study of words according to the definitions set forth by Webster. This has come about since a recent mix-up with two of the long ones that mean very different things.

COLORED WOMAN DIES

The death of "Aunt" Mary Slaughter on Wednesday at the age of 85 removed from this community one of its most highly respected members of the colored race. She died after a brief illness at her home on Harrison street where she had lived all of her married life. Her husband, William Slaughter, died in 1917.

"Aunt" Mary's neighbors, all white folks, speak of her in the highest terms and regret her passing. With her lived her daughter, Laura Slaughter Bird, and family. A son, Robert Slaughter, also lives here. There are seven other surviving children – Charles of Kansas City, Kas; Henry and William of Chicago; Edgar of Lake Forest, Ill., and three married daughters of the same city, Mrs. Anna Gray, Mrs. Bettie Jordan and Mrs. Lizzie Coleman. Two children preceded their mother in death.

"Aunt" Mary's mother and father, Maria and Joe, in the days of slavery belonged to Judge James T.V. Thompson, father of Mrs. Anna Thompson Love. He bought them from Humphrey (Bears) Smith who founded Smithville in 1824. This Smith was the father of Jesse Smith, Smithville centenarian, who died in recent months.

Funeral arrangements await the arrival of the children from Illinois but will be held at the colored Baptist church of which Mary Slaughter was a faithful member.

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

(Continued from Page 7)

February 14, 1935

No one likes a summer like the last one with forty-four days when the temperature went to more than 100 degrees, but at any rate half the people in town didn't have the flu during the heat the way they have it now.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Book "Elmwood Cemetery, Stories of Kansas City" donated by Ken Neth.

Thirty-two books on Civil War and western history donated by Jim Tucker.

Notebook of Tanner genealogies donated by Bonnie S. Knauss.

Six funeral ledgers from the Hill Funeral Home dating from 1907 to 1955, and various abstracts, deeds and papers, donated by Ellen Joy.

Bound copies and microfilm of the "Liberty Tribune," donated by William Jewell College. Slightly fewer than half are new to our holdings.

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

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

National Park on June 9th through 12th, 2011. The organizers are asking people to send in pedigree charts to display throughout the event. For more information, contact Mark Treadway at sparky@netmichigan.net or go to www.wil-syl.com/jamboree.

*From "The Pioneer Wagon", publication of
the Jackson County, Missouri Genealogical Society,
Summer 2010*

WHO IS THIS FAMOUS MAN?

In 1936 he was named the most popular man in America, topping President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a newspaper poll. He received an average of 3,000 letters a day for more than 20 years and once got 465,000 pieces of mail in a single week.

Originally called "Champs and Chumps," his cartoon, at the peak of its popularity, had 80 million readers a day.

You won't believe who this famous man was. Or maybe you will. See Page 11.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

So I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our incredible volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

Come. Join us.

Stuart E. Elliott

I WISH I'D KNOWN

(Continued from Page 5)

extraordinarily successful over the past two centuries and is keeping us both strong and just today, a model to the world.

Jack Lemmon, actor: ...**William Shakespeare**...was, without question, the foremost playwright in history and a man of great sensitivity and awareness of the human condition. His characters and their behavior, both good and evil, could teach one so much that not only would be enlightening but would help that person become a more rounded human being and possibly one whose own behavior would have a profound effect on others.

Tom Wolfe, author: **Theodore Roosevelt**, who was President of the United States from 1901 to 1909. It is Roosevelt's strength of character -- and what a person can accomplish through sheer strength of character -- that fascinates me about Roosevelt today.

Granted, he was born rich, but he was also born weak, thin, puny, sickly and nearsighted and grew up with a squeaky little voice...Through sheer determination he turned himself into a powerful physical specimen, a rugged outdoorsman and a swashbuckling cavalry officer, the hero of the famous charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.

Some other responses:

Woodrow Wilson
Nelson Mandela
Leonardo da Vinci
Charlie Parker
Clarence Darrow
Crazy Horse
Thomas Paine
George Washington Carver
Douglas MacArthur
Upton Sinclair
Cleopatra

From American Heritage.com

100 YEARS AGO
EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE

October 7, 1910

Allowances.

A year's pool license for two tables was granted to Ed. **Totman** of Harlem.

A Fireproof Vault Needed.

Visitors to the city hall frequently refer to the irreparable loss the city would suffer in case of fire, as valuable records for more than sixty years back are lying about the hall in unprotected manner and would be easily overlooked and consumed in case of a conflagration. Several times the city officials have had under discussion plans for the building of a fireproof vault to hold these records as well as those of a later date equally valuable, but the lack of funds has always prevented definite action, although the cost would not be more than \$150.

In addition to these records the special tax bills of the past few years are kept in the council room and if these should be lost or consumed by the flames, they could not be replaced.

October 14, 1910

County Recorder (John Will) **Hall** placed a new desk in his office this week and is thinking of buying a typewriter. The recorder is also anxious to make improvements in his office and will ask the judges at the next session of the county court to install a book type-writer for the recording of instruments, a method that is being used extensively.

Tennis Flannels for the County.

The big sale of tennis flannel at the Frank **Hughes** store last week drew many ladies to the store, many of them coming great distances and large quantities of the cloth were sent out through the county daily. In spite of this the 11,300 yards have not been exhausted and Mr. Hughes has consented to the request of ladies who could not visit the store last week to continue the sale for another week. This is one of the most remarkable sales ever put on in Liberty, and offers one of the best opportunities the Hughes store has ever made in the way of bargains.

Rev. John W. **Rider**, an alumnus of William Jewell college, has offered a prize of \$5 for the winning thesis on the best means of reaching and helping the homeless boy. The offer is made to the students of sociology at the college. A number of young men propose to write for the prize. Mr. Rider is superintendent of the Boys' Hotel in Kansas City, and is very successful in his work.

A new lot of tennis flannel goes on sale Saturday morning at the Frank Hughes store.

The poor farm was leased to W. W. **Squires** for another year, upon the same terms and under the same condition as last year. Mr. Squires is to take care of all county charges. He has only about a dozen now.

Mr. Squires pays \$175 rent each year for the 100 acres of land, and boards the inmates for twenty cents per day.

The sensation of the past week has been that sale of tennis flannel at Frank Hughes'. The sale continues all next week.

Letter postage may be reduced to one cent within another year, is the report from the post office department in Washington. The increase in volume of mail matter and labor-saving devices may make the one-cent postage possible.

A petition has been prepared asking that the post office be closed all day Sunday. The petition is at the Commercial bank where persons wishing to sign it can do so.

CHURCH BEQUESTS STAND.

Judge **Burnes** Rules in Favor of Plaintiffs in Dorsey Will Contest – Money for Parsonages.

Each of the Protestant churches in Liberty will receive between \$6000 and \$7000 for parsonage uses from the estate of Mary Elizabeth **Dorsey**, the suit brought to construe the will having been decided in favor of the plaintiffs by Judge Alonzo D. Burnes of Plattsburg this week. Judgment will not be rendered until the November term of court, however.

Judge Burnes announced his opinion in a letter written to Judge James M. **Sandusky** yesterday in which he said that he had carefully gone over the authorities submitted in the suit and that he will render judgment upholding the will when court convenes at Plattsburg in November.

After the suit to construe the will had been brought, other legatees sought to break the will, claiming that Mrs. Dorsey had no right to will any part of the estate to the churches.

Mrs. Dorsey died in September 27, 1908, and her will filed in probate court soon after bequeathed the residue of her estate to the Christian, Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches for the use of parsonages to be known as the "Mary Elizabeth Dorsey Parsonage" of each.

Plenty of them left. Don't fail to get your share of those tennis flannels on sale at Frank Hughes'.

(Continued to Page 10)

100 YEARS AGO
EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE
(Continued from Page 9)

The body of J.Q. **Adams**, who died here last year, will be removed to another lot in Fairview cemetery, as it was buried on **Cyrus Park's** lot by mistake. The foundation for a monument had already been placed before the error was discovered. Some difficulty will be experienced in removing the foundation, as it is five cubic feet of concrete.

Uncle Tom **Easley** came to the county seat last Saturday and in talking of the farm products show last week recalled a big pumpkin he raised in the Missouri river bottom several years ago. He took it to town and Squire **Simmons** weighed it, and it tipped the beam at 104 pounds. The largest one at the show was 81½ pounds. Uncle Tom said his pumpkin was so big he could not get hold of it well and had to have help to load it in the wagon. It was longer than a salt barrel and bigger around.

October 21, 1910

BURGLAR HAS REPENTED

After Plucky Holt Girl Shot at Him He Returned Jewelry With Note.

Last Saturday afternoon while the family of **W. D. Thompson**, who lives on the farm of **H. M. Marsh**, four miles west of town, were all away from home, a burglar entered the house and took a handbag containing some money, a watch and chain belonging to Miss Lucile Thompson, also three rings belonging to her brother Robert. Miss Thompson returned home and entered the back door of the house just as the thief was leaving by the front door. The man stood and looked at the young lady for a few seconds, then opened the door and went out of the house.

Miss Thompson procured a shotgun, loaded it and ran to the door and fired two shots at the retreating burglar, neither of which took effect. In his hurry the thief dropped the handbag and money at the front gate, but got away with the watch and other jewelry.

Now comes the sequel of the affair. Tuesday morning when the menfolks were doing the chores, the jewelry was found lying on the gate post at the milking pen. It had been placed there some time during Monday night. With it was a note written by the burglar which read as follows:

"I could not have the heart to keep this jewelry. I dropped a pocketbook and some money. I hope you found them. I know you will think I am a low-bred fellow, but I have the dearest, truest mother that ever lived. Since my father lost his entire fortune I have trampled this old world over. When I found

no one home I went in and did what I did, and when you entered the back way, the first thing that came to my mind was to kill the first human that came in my way. My God, the sight I saw then I will never forget. How calm and brave you were. I would have brought this back sooner, but I knew they would be on the lookout for me. I am penniless, but I am going home to my dear mother, and if she knew this it would break her poor heart. I pray God will forgive me and I am going to live a better life."

There was no signature to this note, which was written on a leaf torn from a notebook. The language and writing were good, showing the burglar to be a man of some culture.

Miss Thompson is to be commended for her display of courage, and is greatly pleased at the return of her property. – Holt Rustler

Another Pie Supper

There will be a pie supper given at the Waggy school house, the night of October 29. Everyone come and bring a pie.

Martha **Smith**, Teacher

November 18, 1910

Mrs. Zerelda **Samuel** (*Note: Jesse James' mother*) of Kearney sent us the lines below, written by Major John N. **Edwards**, upon the death of her son, Archie, who was killed by the bomb explosion.

We stand here now in the dark, and think;
We stand here now in the dark, and pray.
O Father! We will be strong to drink
Our bitter aloes, if Thou always wilt.
Shine in the paths his feet must tread.
So that no hurt nor harming shall
Vex one dear hair of our darling's head;
This is our Covenant – that is all.

December 9, 1910

A Boy's Composition on Ducks.

Ducks is a low, heavy-set bird composed mostly of meat and feathers. His head sets on one end and he sets on the other. Ducks can't sing much on account of the dampness in the moisture. He carries a toy balloon in his stomach to keep from sinking. The ducks has only two legs, and they are set so far back on his running gear that they come pretty near missing his body. Some ducks when they get big are called drakes, and have curls on their tails. Drakes don't have to set or hatch, but just loaf and go swimming, and eat. If I was a duck I'd rather be a drake every time. Ducks does not give milk, but gives eggs, but for me, give me liberty or give me death.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

Another graveyard has come to our attention through the court documents our volunteers are indexing. The Ellis Family Graveyard is located about a mile north of Highway 152 off North Brighton. We are trying to verify a second cemetery.

Big Shoal Cemetery has undergone a remarkable transformation. Brush has been cleared away, gravestones have been cleaned and put back together and a new fence with the cemetery's name over the gate has been erected.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the Zanerian College of Penmanship in Columbus, Ohio, students could major in penmanship. Founded by Charles Paxton Zaner in 1888, the school's curriculum included courses to prepare graduates for careers as penmen, who handwrote most of the documents used in business. The school also produced penmanship teachers, illustrators, engravers, and engrossers, specialists in the ornamental writing that graced diplomas and certificates.

By 1895 Zanerian had become the Zaner-Bloser Co., an institution that offered courses in penmanship and sold handwriting supplies. In 1904 the company published a landmark text that brought the Zaner-Bloser penmanship method to elementary pupils all over the United States.

(Volunteers who work on deciphering old court documents at the Archives can attest to the ornamentation that early writers often succumbed to.)

*From "History" the History Channel magazine,
November/December 2010*

WHO IS THIS FAMOUS MAN?

(From Page 8)

Believe it or not, the famous man was Robert Ripley, who died in 1949. His cartoon (*Ripley's Believe It or Not*) still thrives, published in 200 newspapers in 42 countries and 17 different languages.

*From "History," the History Channel Magazine,
January/February 2010*

LEWIS WALLACE

Recently Lewis (Lew) Wallace has been in the news -- more on that later.

Born in Indiana in 1827, Wallace served in the army of Zachary Taylor in the Mexican-American War. He was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1849 and was elected to that state's senate in 1856.

During the Civil War he became a Major General. His most controversial command came at the Battle of Shiloh, where he was a division commander under U.S. Grant. Grant had sent orders for Wallace to move his unit to support the division of William Tecumseh Sherman. Wallace claimed that the orders were vague, hastily written and unsigned. There were two routes he could have taken and Grant had not specified which one he was to use. Wallace picked the wrong one. He and his troops finally arrived at the battle at about 7:00 p.m., when the fighting was practically over. Although the Union won the battle the following day, there were horrible casualties; the Army demanded an explanation and Wallace was the scapegoat.

Although much later he would receive high praise from Grant, Wallace was devastated by the loss of his reputation as a result of Shiloh and worked desperately the rest of his life to change public opinion about his role in the battle.

After the war, he sat on the court martial which tried the Lincoln assassination conspirators. In later years he was a U.S. Minister to Turkey and governor of the New Mexico Territory.

As governor, as some people claim, he arranged that Billy the Kid would be pardoned for all his misdeeds if he would testify as an informant, but the pardon never came. In 2010 efforts were made for a posthumous pardon, but New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson denied the request, citing a "lack of conclusiveness and the historical ambiguity" over Wallace's actions.

Lew Wallace died, likely of cancer, in 1905. While he might have preferred to be remembered as a great military hero, he is most well known as an author. While he was serving as Governor of the New Mexico Territory, he wrote a book called *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. It has never been out of print and has been filmed four times.

Some think the book was based heavily on Wallace's own life, particularly his experiences at Shiloh and the damage it did to his reputation.

*From www.civilwarhome.com
and Wikipedia*

OUR NEW PUBLICATION

We're really excited about our latest publication, which is a reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas. It contains 28 pages of Clay County plat maps, has a soft cover and measures approximately 11" by 13".

It is printed in color with the original detail; roads and trails are shown in red, rivers and lakes in blue and prairie boundaries in green. It is a very attractive book and would make a wonderful gift. Cost is \$20 at the Archives. Included in the price is a separate index. Add \$2 for mail delivery.

REMINDER

All Archives memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Don't be left out – renew today.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Archives will be closed from December 16th through January 2nd.



From the Archives' Board of Directors and our volunteers: Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

The Clay County MOsaic

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