

The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

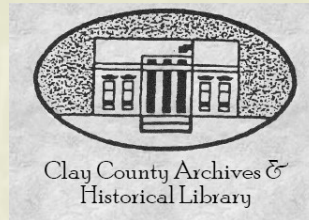
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Thank you to all who responded to our dues notices this year. Your membership is greatly valued and we appreciate your support for our mission of preserving and making available the compelling and myriad records of our past. With your help our all-volunteer organization works with a passion to make these records accessible to you and we are always pleased when you ask us to help you discover nuggets from our history.

Our Use & Preservation Chair, Nancy George, has procured more volunteers and they are all quality additions to our staff. They are working on various projects including auditing the index of the Circuit Clerk records. We feel most fortunate to have them aboard and hope they continue with us for some time.

The Smithville branch of the Mid-Continent Library made their display case available to us for the month of April. A committee of Bob Hazlett, Jane Shepherd and Jane Sharon worked diligently



preparing it. You can see pictures of it and them on our website.

If you are an Amazon.com customer, we'd like to remind you that you can support the Clay County Archives when you make purchases by using <https://smile.amazon.com> and selecting us as the recipient of donations that will be made by Amazon. This sounds like a win-win to us and we thank you in

advance.

Kevin Fisher, former president of the Archives, has rejoined us as a volunteer. He is a tremendous person and resource who seems to have unlimited energy and zeal for all things historic. We are so pleased that he's back making the Archives a better place.

Another book is available for your library. A reprint of the Clay County portion of the 1885 Clay/Platte History book (including an index!) has been prepared by Tony Meyers and the other staff. You can purchase your copy on-site or by mail. You can find more information on the Merchandise page of our website.

~Stuart Elliott



2016 Executive Board

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Recording Secretary	Jane Sharon
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Membership	Shirley Fansher
Properties	Bob Corum
Cemeteries	Ken Neth
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Ways & Means	Tony Meyers

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Clay Co. Patriots Chapter DAR	Lois Long
Alexander Doniphan Chapter DAR	Jerre Robertson
City of Liberty	Jonna Wensel

Newsletter Staff

Keenan Glidewell Barker
 Stuart Elliott
 Shirley Fansher

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 first will apply to next calendar year.)

Benefits of Membership

Unlimited *On-Site* Research
 Subscription to *The Clay County MOsaic*, our quarterly newsletter

Research Policy & Fees

Non-members pay \$5.00 per day for on-site research.
 Member and non-member research requests by mail are accepted. Each request must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope and an initial research fee of \$10.00 per surname for one hour of research. Additional hours are \$10.00 per hour.

Copy Prices

Original records (such as probate material)	\$1/page
Other published material	15 cents per page
Microfilm printouts	25 cents per page
Computer print-outs	5 cents per page
Oversize copies	50 cents per page
Photographs	
Standard Quality	50 cents
Archival Quality	\$5.00

~ Personal imaging will be charged at the above rates ~

MOsaic by Internet

If you would like to receive your future newsletters via email, please forward your email address to: MOsaic@claycountyarchives.org

THE OLD STATE ROAD

There are not many documents that I have found giving details of the Old State Road. There was no TV coverage of the ribbon cutting that officially opened it up for traffic. I don't even know the year when it first got that name or the precise route it took across the state from the St. Louis area to the area that became Kansas City. In general the road (it was really just a dirt trail) paralleled the Missouri River but kept to the high ground along the river bluffs. And in some places it was on the north side and some places on the south. Looking at modern day maps you will find streets named Old State Road and the assumption is that they follow the historic road they were named for. Here in Clay County and the Liberty area H Highway follows the old trail.

The road wasn't so much created as it was discovered. Native Americans had been likely using it for centuries before the Europeans named it sometime very early in the 1800s. It surely was a deer trail before the Indians traveled it. For all I know it may have been used by the woolly mammoths before that. Do you suppose that they walked single file holding the tail of the mammoth in front with their trunk like circus parade elephants? I wanted to pose that question to the woolly mammoth just inside the Remington Nature Center in St. Joseph last time I was there but he/she wasn't granting interviews that day. Young folks today will have no clue about circus parades as those have become rare and circus owners are retiring their elephants to satisfy animal rights concerns. One thing we do know is the approximate route the road took by the towns it passed through. Starting east from Harlem (think the Wheeler Downtown Airport) the road came to Avondale and kept angling NE past Winnetonka High School and then past the Nall House and on to Pleasant Valley before turning more easterly along Liberty Drive. From Liberty it ran almost to Excelsior Springs along modern H Highway and then turned a bit south on Seybold Road still following the ridge. We know it crossed to the south side of the Missouri River near Lexington and there was no bridge but there was a ferry. From Lexington it ran east where old 24 Highway runs today. It followed that ridge to Arrow Rock which was once a river town and crossed there back to the north bank till reaching Boonville where it crossed back to the south side. If we had just had Google Maps back in the 1820s we would be able to see the exact route more clearly.

Why would folks need this road? Most travel and shipment of goods was via the river but sometimes that option was not available. In the winter parts of the river would be frozen. During the spring rainy season high water would make boating risky if not impossible. So a land route was used instead. And we have the story of how tough this trip was. Judge Joseph Thorp recorded in his memoir "Early Days in The West" (the Archives reprinted and sells this book) the annual trip the local men took from the Liberty area to Boone's Lick to get a supply of salt. Without salt there was no way to preserve meat so salt was more important than just having something to make your French fries taste better. So after the crops were in the men would hitch their horses to the wagons and head east. He talks of a ferry at Lexington and the horses being so troubled by the green-head flies that often they were forced to travel at night. I doubt the headlights on those horses were very bright.

Obviously there is a lot that I don't know about the Old State Road. Perhaps you can fill in some of the blanks or correct some of my misunderstanding?

~Steve Olson
Archives Volunteer

Explore Liberty's Heritage

2016 Walking Tours
All guided tours are free and open to the public.
Tours begin at 10 a.m. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes.
For more information call 816-439-4537.

Saturday, May 7

Three Downtown Churches
Tour meets at the Presbyterian Church
at the corner of N. Main & Mississippi Streets

COMPLETED

Saturday, August 6

An 1860s Tour of Liberty
Meet at the fountain in front of City Hall,
101 E. Kansas St.

Saturday, June 4

Mt. Memorial Cemetery
Tour meets at the entrance to the cemetery.
(Enter William Jewell College campus from Miller Street and continue up the hill.)

COMPLETED

Saturday, September 10

William Jewell College
Tour meets at the back entrance to the Pryor Learning Center (Parking Lot side) on the WJC campus

Saturday, July 9

Dougherty Historic District
Tour meets at the parking lot at the corner of Franklin and Gallatin Streets

COMPLETED

Saturday, October 1

Jewell & Lightburne Historic Districts
Tour meets at the parking lot at the corner of Franklin and Lightburne Streets



Co-sponsored by the City of Liberty's Preservation Office (www.ci.liberty.mo.us) and Historic Liberty, Inc. (www.HistoricLiberty.org).

RECENT DONATIONS

Donations of Material

Kurt Breininger, - North Kansas City Fire Department 1912-2015 Book, The Firehouse Chronicles

Franklyn Joseph Bridges— 2 CDs of book, Quaker Greggs by Hazel May Middleton Kendall

Tom and Sandy Cliff— Gashland School History Book

Shirley Fansher—4 Class photos from Nashua School 1956-1960

Chris Harris— 2 copies Cher Oncle, Cher Papa, Letters of Francois and Berenice Chouteau;
Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 110, No 1 & 2

Juarenne Hester—Liberty Anniversary Memorials

Mark Kelly—Six boxes of Dougherty research material, paper back book

Mid Continent Public Library—Briarcliff Hill Abstract

Dennis McCoy— Nebo Hill and the Late Prehistory on the Southern Prairie Peninsula

Keith Nelson—Andrew County books: Andrew County, A Community: Andrew County 2000

Donations of Money

Ray Brock

Bob Foreman

Richard Kassabian

Carol & Steve Olson

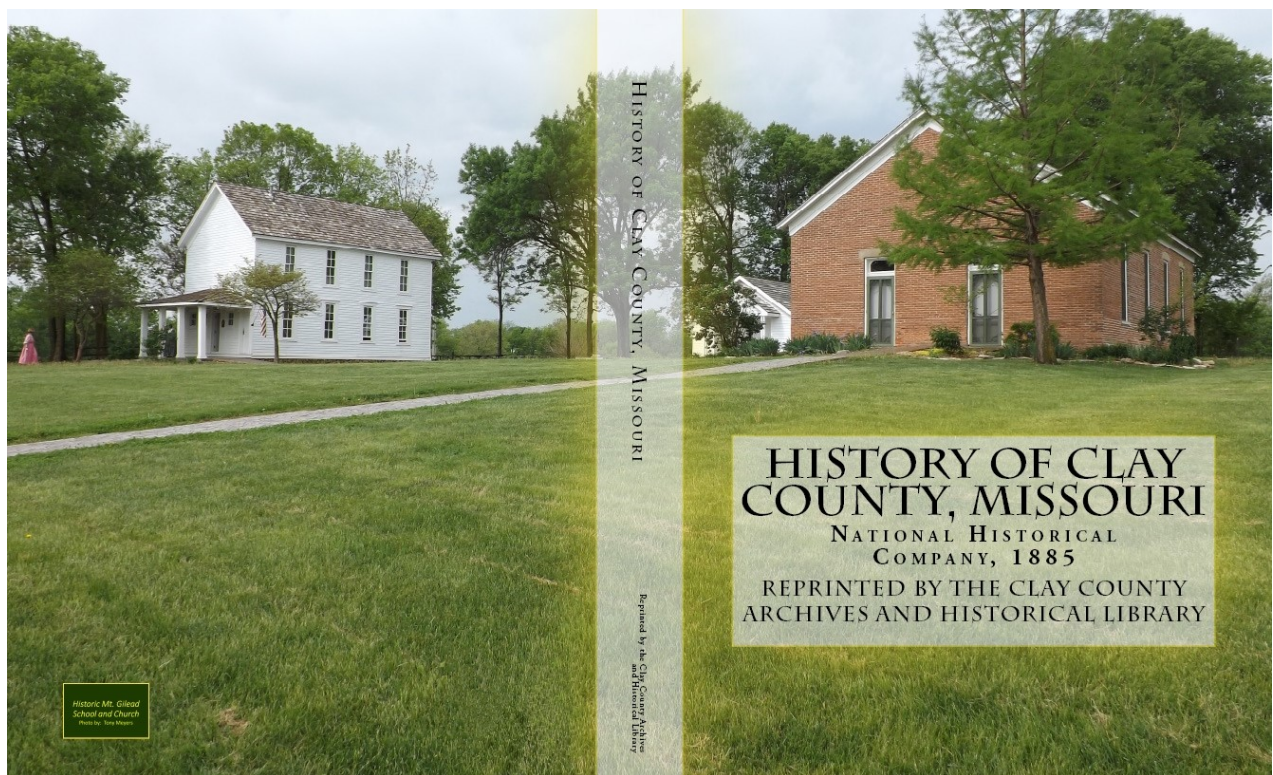
Daniel & Mary Pence

Jane Sharon



THANK YOU

HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, MO REPRINT NOW AVAILABLE



The *History of Clay County, Missouri* was originally published in 1885 by the National Historical Company of St. Louis. Over the years, this comprehensive work has proven to be an important resource for anyone wanting to explore the fascinating history of the frontier days in Clay County and northwest Missouri. The *History of Clay County*, which has been out of print for decades, has now been reprinted by the Clay County Archives and Historical Library. The key events as well as the people who helped shape the county during those early days are examined including the Lewis and Clark Expedition, incarceration of Joseph Smith, Alexander Doniphan and the War with Mexico, the Civil War, the exploits of Frank and Jesse James and much, much more. Biographies are presented for 230 prominent Clay County citizens. These stories provide a treasure trove of information that will be of interest to those who are researching the genealogy of Clay County ancestors. Also included is an 85 page history of the State of Missouri. This 530 page book was reprinted in 8.5" x 11" soft bound format. An index is included. The History of Clay County 1885 is available on site at the Archives for \$25 (\$30 if mailed).

-Tony Meyers,
Archives Volunteer

**ARCHIVES
GIFT SHOP**

ATLASES

Reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas, with features in color, just like the original!
Includes an index. \$22
1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County \$15
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas \$13

THE STORY OF LIBERTY...from settlement to suburb, a movie available in two formats:
DVD—\$17 each
S-VHS—\$12 each
(add \$2 for shipping and handling)
The VHS version is available in two formats, for older model players and for the current model players. Specify which of the formats you desire.

GREETING CARDS

Note Cards—10 \$7.50

IKNEWFRANK...IWISHIHADKNOWNJESSE
Family, Friends and Neighbors in the Life and Times of the James Boys \$30

GUERRILLAS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES
Bud, Donnie and Me \$25

MISCELLANEOUS / BOOKS

Civil War Monuments & Memorials
In Western Missouri \$22
Clay County Births, 1883-84 \$9
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84 \$9
Clay County Historic Map \$15
(not available to be mailed)
Clay Co. Sesquicentennial Souvenir \$30
Doctor on the Western Frontier \$17
Early Days in the West \$18
Lost Voices on the Missouri \$64.95

DIVIDED LOYALTIES - Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County \$35

Biographical narratives and genealogical information for more than 800 soldiers and family members. Published to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

DISCOVERING HISTORIC CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI \$30

Information on more than 1,100 historic sites and points of interest throughout Clay County. Includes photos, descriptions and maps.

HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI—NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMPANY, 1885 \$30

Indexed and Reprinted by the Clay County Archives and Historical Library

PORTRAITS OF A FRONTIER COMMUNITY \$25

The Jacob T. Hicks Glass Plate Photo Collection

Please make your check payable to:

Clay County Archives

And mail to:

P.O. Box 99

Liberty, MO 64069

All prices include mailing fees. If you wish to pick up in person, please contact us for pricing and to ensure availability.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CLAYCOUNTYARCHIVES.ORG



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Mailing Address

PO Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069

Phone

816-781-3611

Our Mission

To procure, preserve, restore, maintain, study, and promote manuscripts, instruments, records, charters, evidence, and documents of a public or private nature which may have statistical, legal or historical significance to Clay County, Missouri, its government or residents, or such documents as might be desirable to the association and to encourage public interest therein.

Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc
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Liberty, MO 64069