

The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

P R E S I D E N T ’ S M E S S A G E

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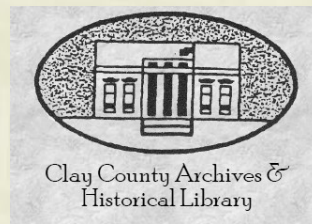
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We are busy scanning, indexing and adding to our holdings. In a project to combine the cemetery index with the obituary index, Carol Olson is adding obituaries directly from online newspapers and legacy.com. So we have updated listings captured from current sources including the complete obituary and picture if it is available. Shirley Fansher is scanning current obituary cards and putting them into the cemetery file as well. By attacking it from both ends, we’ll eventually meet in the middle with a comprehensive searchable collection of records to service our patrons with aplomb.

Diane Davidson is scanning anything that moves. She is finding many material contributions that have been languishing for years and is preparing them to be found and used. Now we’ll need to create an index for each to

include the document images she has been capturing.

Jane Shepherd continues to scan and index photographs that we come



across. We find the photos in the most interesting places. In addition to donated photos, we find photos in other files (court case files, family files, etc.) and we send them her way to catalog them.

Tony Meyers is continuing to take on the task of imaging as much of our holdings as possible. Brian Powell has joined him in the effort by manning the camera station to capture pages from the earliest County Commission Hearing Books, among others. These images will

be attached to the corresponding index records.

Jane Sharon is documenting many of the procedures and processes here at the Archives. This helps tremendously by providing instructions to volunteers who may only do certain tasks occasionally. This also codifies our standards of how to best meet the demands of the archiving process.

We’ll showcase other snippets of our project activities in subsequent issues of the MOsaic. If you would like to lend a hand toward our ambitious plans, please drop by any Monday through Wednesday from 9am to 4pm and fill out a volunteer application. If you can spare an hour or two a week or even a whole day or two a week I’m sure you’ll find fulfillment and enjoyment as we do. Come join the fun!



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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 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	25 cents per page
Microfilm printouts	25 cents per page
Other printed matter (color)	75 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 DEATH OF A MISSOURI GUERRILLA

As a new volunteer at the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, I have been very impressed by the experienced researchers there and their ability to find incredible depth and detail about historical events and family records in Clay County.

As an example, as a new volunteer, my assignment is to audit historical Civil Court records for completeness on the online system. In that work, I came across an 1893 divorce case which involved Jennie (Creek) Hamilton suing for divorce from Joseph Hamilton. Jennie's stated reason for the divorce was that Joseph was serving a ten year prison sentence for murdering her father, Sidney W. Creek. The divorce petition also mentioned that Sidney Creek had been one of Quantrill's raiders.

Following up on this intriguing case, an online newspaper search found the following article about the murder of Sidney W. Creek:

(Excerpt from the "Butler Weekly Times" (Butler, Missouri), September 14, 1892. Liberty, Mo.):

One of Quantrill's Men

-- Sept. 10 -- Sidney W. Creek, a follower of Quantrill, was shot and killed this afternoon by his son-in-law, Joe Hamilton. There has been a longstanding quarrel between them. The shooting occurred on East Kansas Street, in a house run by a Mrs. Geib. All the parties had been attending the Democratic Stone Picnic, near Reed Springs, and had returned to town on account of the rain. Creek lived in Kearney and was pretty well fixed. He was one of Quantrill's most trusted soldiers on the Lawrence raid, and it was often said of him that he would die with his boots on.

This article revealed the date of the shooting and led the experienced researchers to the Inquest records located in the files of the Clay County Archives and Historical Library. In the inquest records the testimony of the Mrs. Geib mentioned in the newspaper article was found. Mrs. Geib's testimony paints a vivid picture of the shooting in her house:

Testimony of Mrs. Geib at the Inquest into the death of Sidney W. Creek

Mrs. Hamilton came in (to the kitchen) and said that Joe and Pa were fussing and Jennie told me that her Pa was angry and will kill Joe if he says anything to him.

I came into the room (where the men were). When I came in they were fussing at one another. I told them (Joe and Sidney) not to make noise or a fuss in my house or I would have them arrested. I pushed Joe down in a chair.

Joe said: "Mrs. Geib, I would not raise a fuss here for nothing, but, the old man has made so much trouble. I can't stand it."

Mr. Creek said to me: "I would not raise a fuss in your house for anything."

I said: "Mr. Creek you need not go. Sit down, I want to talk to you about the picnic and what you had good to eat there". Then, Jennie said: "No Pa, don't you go." Mr. Creek said: "Well".

Jennie said to Mr. Creek: "Don't pay any attention to Joe, he is drinking. Sit here and talk awhile."

All this time Mr. Creek was walking back and forth. I asked him to take a seat, Mr. Creek said: "No, it is close to train time when I should go." He was going to Kansas City with a lady.

(Continued on page 4)

THE DEATH OF A MISSOURI GUERRILLA *CONTINUED...*

(Continued from page 3)

Joe said: "Let him go." I walked over to where Joe was sitting and said: "Now Joe, you just hush."

Mr. Creek said: "No, I will go." I asked Mr. Creek not to go.

Jennie said: "No, it is too early."

Joe said to the old man: "I don't want you to bother me, you have bothered me so much. I am getting tired of it. You don't scare me."

Mr. Creek walked near Joe with his back to me and said something to Joe that I didn't catch. Joe then said: "Let the old son of a bitch go". Then the old man turned and stepped back one step. Joe then raised up out of his chair and the old man faced him with his hand on his hip.

Joe said: "I know you would like to kill me".

The old man said: "Kill you? Why you ain't worth killing you dirty no account."

Joe said: "Yes, you old son of a bitch, If I had done as much thieving, robbing and murdering as you have then I would say nothing!"

The old man had started to leave, but, then turned back and said: "What's that?"

Joe said: "You are a thief and a murderer and I can prove it on you! You should have been killed thirty years ago, you old son of a bitch!" "You bothered pretty near every one of your daughters and their husbands."

Just then the old man – it was done quickly – the old man came back into the room. Joe was trying to get his hand down into his pocket. The old man took another step and looked at Joe. The old man had his hand in his pocket and kept moving it around there, like he was trying to get a pistol out.

I was trying to hold Joe back. Joe said: "Let me go, I'm not going to let the old son of a bitch go." Joe jerked a pistol out; Mr. Dobbins tried to stop him. I thought the old man had one too and I jumped out of the way, and then Joe shot.

The old man never spoke a word but just fell down, there was some sound like his breath coming out and he was dead.

Mrs. Hamilton was yelling: "Joe! You've shot Pa!"

Researchers uncovered the events that happened next in this excerpt of an article in the Liberty Tribune of September 16, 1892:

"City Marshall A. P. Wymore was in his store, the next door, and on hearing the shot he ran out and saw Hamilton hastily leaving (Mrs. Geib's house). He gave chase and ordered him to halt. Hamilton wheeled around and was in the act of raising his pistol to shoot the Marshal, but, the officer was too quick for him and had him covered with his pistol. Hamilton allowed himself to be disarmed, but made an attempt to escape when opposite the butcher shop. Marshal Wymore threw him down, however, and with assistance took him on to jail."

Researchers at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library located the grand jury records of the shooting and found that Joseph Hamilton was charged with first degree murder.

Researchers located trial results as well. The jury found Joe Hamilton guilty of second degree murder and he was sentenced to serve ten years in the state penitentiary.

(Continued on page 5)

THE DEATH OF A MISSOURI GUERILLA *CONTINUED...*

(Continued from page 4)

What impresses me is that this complete and intriguing story of the murder of Sidney Creek was laid out utilizing the tools and resources of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, with its able staff of volunteer researchers.

The Clay County Archives and Historical Library is available to the public Monday thru Wednesday. I highly recommend utilizing the resources there for any research into Clay County historical events, family, individual or town history.

For further information, you can check the Clay County and Historical Library website at: claycountyarchives.org for resource lists, contacts, operating hours and other information.

RECENT DONATIONS



Donations of Material

Bob Hazlett—Flood of 1965, Smithville Herald; A Pictorial History of Smithville, MP

Dale Stockwell—1950s Newspapers, Independence Examiner and Kansas City Star

Donations of Money

Kathleen Bird
Scott and Ann Cole
Shirley Fansher
Nancy George
Steve and Carolyn Hatcher
Mark Mathes
Gale and Jane Sharon

RESURRECT THE FERRY?

All the local media have been telling us the sad story of the Buck O'Neill Bridge AKA the Broadway Bridge and its need for major repairs in the near future. Repairs would be expensive and would necessitate the bridge being closed to traffic for about 2 years. Alternatively, a new bridge could be built alongside the old one, while the bridge is still safe to use. The connection with downtown and the Inter City Viaduct, as we oldsters call it, could be greatly improved. This would keep traffic flowing during most of the construction, but of course it would cost a lot more. And, there is not enough vacant real estate available. Traffic on the other bridges is likely to suffer extra backups during construction regardless of which option is chosen.

So some of us have talked about a way to profit from this problem/opportunity. We decided we should refloat the Annie Cade ferry that ran between Harlem and Westport Landing (later called Kansas City) from 1879 till the ASB Bridge opened in December of 1911. Sadly, our business plan has at least one flaw. The old ferry Annie Cade sank in 1887 due to ice and was refloated only to sink again weeks later. She was refloated and repaired to the tune of \$5000 and lasted until 1907, when she was taken out of service. Some accounts say she was broken up for scrap. Others say she was used as a sand hog for the building of the piers of the ASB and again sank, never to be refloated. Either way it seems unlikely that she can be revived. Her wooden hull must have rotted away by now. And all the railroad crossings needed to drive to Harlem would make for traffic tie ups even if we did get a ferry running again.

This poem by T. F. Cole, found in an old newspaper clipping, tells the Annie Cade story best.

~ Steve Olson
Archive Volunteer

THE ANNIE CADE

Across the raging river,
A sturdy steamboat plied,
To float the flowing traffic
Across from side to side.

And Oh, the countless cruises,
The gallant steamboat made,
The stream was the Missouri,
The boat, the Annie Cade.

When I was but a boy,
I saw the steamboat, there,
I watched it cross the river,
Its fares and freight to bear.

I listened for its whistle,
I heard its engines roar,
I thrilled to hear its bell,
As it would near the shore.

They called the boat a ferry;
To me, much more romantic,
It was a gorgeous liner,
Upon the great Atlantic.

It lived upon the river,
The stream that rose and fell,
Of floods and drought and storm,
What storied it could tell.

Long since, I wandered down,
To see this good old boat,
I saw the raging river,
A lump was in my throat.

I scanned the silent shores,
My spirits seemed to fade,
The boat was gone forever,
Lamented Annie Cade.

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.

Oct 2016–Dec 2016

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CLAYCOUNTYARCHIVES.ORG



Street Address

210 E. Franklin, Liberty, MO 64068

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.
PO Box 99
Liberty, MO 64069