

# 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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**Reminder**  
With the potential for bad weather, please remember to call ahead before making a trip to the Archives on bad weather days. Our staff is all volunteer, and safety is key for staff and patrons.

Bad Weather Info  
Line 816-781-3611

As we come to the end of another busy year, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season; time with your family and friends and being grateful for all the things that make life worth living.

We had our first intern this fall. Samantha Nguyen from Park University spent many hours here during the fall semester learning about and working on projects such as abstracting the circuit court records, organizing family files, imaging ledgers, documents and photographs, etc. We hope to be able to provide internships for other students from area colleges and universities. In fact, Ann Henning and I attended William Jewell Colleges Service Learning Fair and signed up 6 other students to volunteer with us. Ann Henning, Samantha Nguyen and I visited

Cynthia Edwards, the Senior Information Management Specialist / Archivist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.



In addition to a very interesting tour of their facilities we got a special tour of their archives room where they hold documents and artifacts relating to the history of this Federal Reserve region. It was a most enjoyable and informative trip to learn what kinds of things they have archived and how they do their work.

We’ve also been working on our Family Files (as noted above) to get them better organized. As documents are donated to us

or as we come across them in the course of our indexing, we put them in files identified by surname. As valuable as these are for researching families, over the course of time, they have become a bit unwieldy and disjointed. So we are auditing them to ensure the information is accurately and logically filed.

Kevin Fisher continues to organize our holdings in the basement. After Mark Kelly published his book “Lost Voices On The Missouri” (about John Dougherty and the Indian Frontier) he donated his voluminous research to us. Kevin has been cataloging the items in this collection and has remarked how impressed he is with Mark’s work and the treasure trove this is for researchers interested in this topic and time period.

~Stuart Elliott



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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	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

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**MOsaic by Internet**

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

## LOCAL STUDENTS STUDY CIVIL WAR RELATED EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN CLAY COUNTY

Fifth graders at Ridgeview Elementary School in Liberty have been very, very busy. Teachers Holly Logan and Cassandra Hopkins came up with a wonderful assignment to enable their students to expand several key skills while also learning about the Civil War in Clay County. Their students examined three local events that occurred before, during and after the war. The first event focused on the presidential election of 1860 and the fact that Abraham Lincoln didn't receive a single vote from Clay County citizens. The second event was the April 20, 1861 raid of the Liberty Arsenal. The third topic was the voting eligibility examination and loyalty oath process by which more than half of the voters of Clay County were disenfranchised. In addition to classroom discussions led by their teachers, outside guests were invited in to provide the students with additional information. Clay County Archives volunteer Tony Meyers had a chance to meet with the students and was impressed by the insightful questions that were asked during the discussion.

Next, the students were assigned to select one of the topics and to develop a written position in favor of or against the action. They examined their chosen topic in more detail, conducted additional research, developed their point of view and then wrote an essay explaining why they were for or against the action.

Now that the assignment is complete, Ms. Logan and Ms. Hopkins have shared the student essays with us at the Archives. Two are included here as a sample of their work. I think you will agree that the work completed by these fifth graders is impressive. They applied effective written communication skills and strong critical thinking while exploring some very complex issues that occurred more than 150 years ago right here in Clay County.

~ Tony Meyers  
Clay County Archives volunteer

### STUDENT CONTRIBUTION: THE RAID, WAS IT FAIR?

Have you ever gone to the boat Landing and saw at least 10 guards patrolling the area? Well did you know the Liberty Arsenal which carried a whole bunch of weapons only had 2-3 guards! That means the likelihood of someone raiding the Arsenal and getting away with it is really high. It's like the guards are just asking someone to come and raid the Arsenal.

I strongly believe the raid at the Arsenal was fair because the leader of the raid was a member of the government, Arsenal weapons for all the citizens of Liberty and fighting for what they thought was right.

My first reason to why I think the raid was fair is because Henry Lewis Routt was a judge therefore he was a part of the government and helped issued the weapons. Henry Lewis Routt was a part of the government and issued the weapons therefore he partly owned the weapons. Henry Lewis being a judge is also important to why I think it's fair is because if he got elected to be a judge he is responsible enough to handle weapons.

Another reason I think this is because the government said the weapons were for all of the citizens of Liberty. Reported at the Tony Meyers presentation, "The Arsenal had been provided for the benefit and protection of local citizens." Which means that the weapons are for the citizens and to be used for their protection. The government also said that the weapons were for the Soldiers. The south side also had soldiers. The government didn't specify what side of soldiers could use the weapons.

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## STUDENT CONTRIBUTION: THE RAID, WAS IT FAIR?

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Lastly I think they were fighting for what they think is right.

“Available of military supplies that were needed by the Southern Army for the Civil War,” reported by Tony Meyers. This quote states that the Rebels needed more weapons for the Civil War than the Union. This proves it was fair because the south needed weapons. But the north had support from the government and more weapons they could use on the battlefield. All the people fighting in the Civil War were men. The men in the family played a big role, like hunting their food. The men in the Civil War needed weapons to survive the battle field. If the men in the battle field died the family wouldn't have the stuff they needed to survive. But the men had to fight for what they thought was right.

To sum it up I believe that the Arsenal raid was on up and up because Henry Lewis Rountt was a part of the Liberty government and the Liberty government stated that the weapons were free to all. They were just doing what they thought was right. Can you imagine what it would feel like about to go to the battlefield but nothing to protect yourself and your family depending on you?

~ Maria Brando  
Ridgeview Elementary  
5th Grade Student

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTION: WHY THE RAID OF THE LIBERTY ARSENAL WAS UNFAIR

Don't you think it's fair to even the odds?

In my opinion the Raid on the Missouri Arsenal was unfair because they were never stopped, the north could have retaken the weapons, and the arsenal wasn't well protected.

First off no one ever tried to stop the rebels from capturing the arsenal. Evidence is that in the text it says, “No thought of resistance was entertained at any time.” This proves the guards didn't even think to try and protect the arsenal. In the text it says, “Grant and two maybe three employees, Armorer Giro and Wm. L. Madden,” but those were the only guards. This proves that the government didn't try to stop any possible attacks. Yes but they were also at war only able to spare a few soldiers and it was a border state arsenal so probably less protected than the other two arsenals further in north territory.

Second The north could have taken back the weapons or made new ones. There were about 23-24 million people in the north and only 10 million in the south as stated by Britannica. That shows that the north had the power to take the weapons back. The north had twice as many railroads as the south which transported goods from place to place. Which proves the north had more resources, enough to make new weapons. Yes but if they had taken the

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## STUDENT CONTRIBUTION: WHY THE RAID OF THE LIBERTY ARSENAL WAS UNFAIR

*(Continued from page 4)*

weapons back it would have been off south soldiers dead bodies because the south didn't have enough weapons for all their soldiers. The north did make new weapons because they had more than enough resources.

Third the union didn't properly protect the arsenal. The arsenal only had three or four guards which proves that the arsenal wasn't properly protected. Maj Hanger could have warned the other guards that there was an attack coming and gotten ready but didn't. That proves that even the guards didn't properly protect the arsenal. First again the arsenal was a border state further from the military and the soldiers were out fighting so there were less men to guard it.

To sum it all up I think that the raid on the Liberty Arsenal was not okay because no one stopped them, the north could have remade the weapons, and the arsenal wasn't properly guarded. What would you do, protect your family or do nothing? Actually somehow I think that most of the stolen weapons were not used for protection but to fight the north. It made the war more serious, too.

~ Tim Heil  
Ridgeview Elementary  
5th Grade Student

### RECENT DONATIONS

#### Donations of Material

Bonnie Knauss—Ray County Reflections—2 copies

Frederick Kidd—Box of Frango chocolate candy

#### Donations of Money

L. J. and Marlene Frakes  
Steve Haymes  
Marilyn Chamberlin  
Patrick and Patricia Rendon  
Jane Sharon



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**To pay by check**, make check payable to: Clay County Archives  
Mail to Clay County Archives & Historical Library, PO Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069  
Provide name, address, city, state, zip, phone, and email when renewing.

Indicate whether you wish to receive the MOsaic newsletter via email.

## DEAD FERDINAND?

### ARCHIVES PHOTO COLLECTION INCLUDES MYSTERIES WAITING TO BE SOLVED

The Archives photograph collection contains many photos that are not yet identified.

Contact the Archives by email ([info@claycountyarchives.org](mailto:info@claycountyarchives.org)) with any information that might put a name or family connection to the woman in the photo to the right.

The file shows the photo taken by “Mitchell – Kansas City, Missouri”.



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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

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

DVD—\$17 each

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(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.

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

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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

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And mail to:

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**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