

The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM

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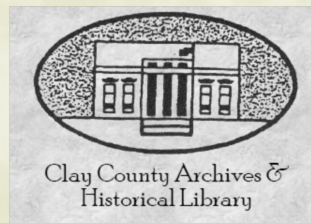
This the third occurrence of the “President pro tem” President’s Message. Elna Cox and John Perney did a great job in the previous issues talking about their projects. In this issue Jane Shepherd tells us about her Photograph processing and other related Projects.

~ Stuart Elliott

I started volunteering at the Archives a little over five years ago. I did odds and ends to begin with and then one day someone asked if I had ever scanned photos...thus my photo scanning career at the Archives began. I soon became known as the “picture” lady. I do have my own corner office (except when I share with the tech guys).

I never know what to expect to find in my box when I come in on Wednesday mornings. Most of the photos are from people who have inherited family photos and don’t know exactly what to do with them so

they donate them to the Archives for us to house for future reference.



I get single photos to a few, and albums to boxes of them; newspapers, calendars and books. There are photos of people, houses, churches, country sides, rivers and lakes, and even farm animals. If there is a photo of it, we will probably end up with it. There are many people with extensive photo collections and we are fortunate to get them. It is very interesting to take care of them and sometimes there is a lot of history behind them. Some are in very good shape, but some need much manipulation to get them clear. After I have done what I can with them, I index them in our computer file system thus giving a searchable de-

scription based on who or what is in the photograph. Then you can look up the photo and print it. We have a wonderful collection of photos of houses in Liberty and Clay County. Some are no longer standing such as the Liberty Arsenal and Multnomah. It is good to see what these great buildings looked like and we have them preserved in the Archives!! Hopefully future generations will appreciate them and the newer ones we have, as well, which will be older when the young generation comes along. One of our goals is to impress how important it is to preserve all of these items. We also have a nice collection of the schools in Clay County, country schools as well as the newer ones in town. We also have dozens of boxes, each containing approximately one hundred photos from the Marcel / Neal Ray photography collection. They are mostly graduation, wedding, and family portraits. I work on those when I have my box

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2018 Executive Board

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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

~ 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

P R E S I D E N T P R O T E M M E S S A G E

(Continued from page 1)

caught up. It is very interesting work with no two days alike.

I also scan the marriage returns from our files so the images can then be accessed on the computer rather than having to retrieve the paper version from the binders. So far, I am up to the late 1820s and there are many left to do.

In addition to those duties, I am the Volunteer Coordinator. I keep track of all our hours and e-mail notices for our meetings. We have the best volunteers in the country. Someone here can help with any search we are asked to do, be it in person or e-mail. I have learned more about Clay County history in the last five years than in all the years I have lived here.

~Jane Shepherd
President, pro tem

M E M B E R S H I P R E N E W A L

Renewing membership supports the Clay County Archives

If you haven't already, consider renewing today for 2019.

Annual membership is on a calendar year basis.

Send a check or renew online through the website at <https://claycountyarchives.org/>

To renew online, from the "About Us" menu, select Membership, Online Membership Form, and follow the prompts.

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.

N E E D A N I N S I D E A C T I V I T Y ?

If you are looking for something to do on one of these cold winter days, consider listening to some history. KCUR Radio 89.3 aired a talk show program focusing on Liberty, Missouri.

The program can be listened to on the KCUR website at:
<http://www.kcur.org/post/here-listen-liberty-missouri>



W A T E R W O R K S P A R K

Almost everyone knows Waterworks park. It is the home these days to a very challenging disk golf course. If your disk misses the basket just slightly you will be going for a long hike up or down a very steep hill. At least you will be able to enjoy some spectacular views of the river, the downtown airport, and the city skyline while you are trying to catch your breath. That is the park these days but do you know any of its history?

Back in the 1930s the workers at the water treatment plant thought it was a shame for acres of the property that weren't being used to just sit there doing nobody any good. So in their spare time using spare equipment and supplies they turned the steep hillside into a park for the public. They trimmed the trees, built roads and put in picnic tables and street lights. Families by the thousands flocked to the area to enjoy the breezes and the views.

But then World War II broke out and the whole country was afraid of enemy agents trying to do all sorts of evil things to disrupt our citizen's lives. Public water supplies seemed vulnerable and a park overlooking the treatment plant for Kansas City's drinking water seemed risky. So the park was closed and the entrances blocked off.

During the war the park went untended and nature soon began to reclaim it. Finally in 1950 the first park north of the river was reopened. Crews worked feverishly to clear the brush and mow the grass for the grand opening. Several acres on the west side of the park were not reopened. And since the lighting had deteriorated to the point of being non-usable, the park closed at sunset. But once again it became THE place for family picnics.

Recently with road construction along North Oak the original entrance to the park, south of the modern street entrance, was rediscovered with its concrete bollards still blocking access. With the new sidewalks going in on North Oak it is hoped the old entrance will be reopened for pedestrian and cycle access. What a great place for a picnic!

The Archives have a vertical file on the park with more details of its history if you are curious.

~Steve Olson
Archives Member and
Volunteer

W H A T W A S H A P P E N I N G 1 0 0 Y E A R S A G O ?

1919

1. **Coal shortage.** Strict regulations in regard to fuel and lights. On December 10th, during the fuel scarcity, the government thermometer registered 10° below zero.

2. July 17, 1919, a county-wide celebration in honor of the home coming of Clay County's soldiers and sailors; 1,030 medals provided by the county court were presented to the soldiers and sailors.

3. Work began on a levee eleven miles long at Birmingham. The Birmingham drainage district comprised 5,400 acres of land.

4. Cannon Ball Route from Chicago to Kansas City mapped out. It passed through Liberty.

Source:
DAR Clay County Sesquicentennial
Souvenir book.

Available for purchase at the Archives, if you would like to learn more.

D O N A T I O N S

Donations of Material

Kenneth and Cheryl Williams—1959 Kearney-Holt-Missouri City-Orrick Telephone Directory; 1953 Clay County Rural Directory

Donations of Money

County of Clay
Marianne Hill



D E P O S I T I O N D E F I N E D : T E S T I M O N Y U N D E R O A T H , O U T S I D E O F T H E C O U R T R O O M

If you receive a subpoena from the court to be deposed (testify), you may be upset, but your great-grandchild who is researching your life will be ecstatic at the information he or she may find. You may be the plaintiff, defendant, or witness.

Almost all depositions include the full name, age, places of residence, spouse(s), children, other family members, employer(s), and often a detailed description of your occupation. Depending upon the subject of the Circuit Court Case in which you are involved, you may give details about the make of your car, your driving record, your doctors, your health history, your education, dentist, your working conditions or the story of your view of the case. Lawyers for both sides will question you and confront you about conflicts in witness statements. It is usually conducted in the office of one of the lawyers, with a stenographer or court reporter taking the exact words of your statements. Today's offices have modern equipment.

In court cases in our archives, we indicate that a person was deposed by appending an abbreviation to their name on the case folder. For example, "Allen, David (depo)", means that his deposition is included in the case file. Some of the earliest depositions have not been so marked, but we are updating them as fast as we can!



~ Ann Henning
Archives Member &
Volunteer

YOU KNOW WHO...?

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) with any information that might put a name or family connection to the unidentified woman in the photo below.



The file shows the photo is from the Allen Family Collection.

An inscription on the back says: "To Meg, from M. Carter.

DEBATE SOCIETY

LIBERTY TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER

MARCH 18, 1859

Public Meeting.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Liberty, Dr. Dougherty was called to the chair, amid tremendous shouts of applause.

The object of the meeting was then explained in an appropriate speech, to be for the purpose of forming a Debating Society.

On motion, Samuel Hardwick was appointed secretary.

On motion, Mr. Hardwick and Dr. Marsh, were appointed a committee, to draft resolution.

The committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

1. Resolved, That we organize ourselves into a body, to be known as the "Liberty Debating Club."

2. Resolved, we cordially invite all who will participate with us in our enterprise, to attend on next Friday evening, at our place of meeting.

3. Resolved, that the rules usually governing Polemic Societies, be adopted as the basis of our organization.

4. Resolved, that we elect a President, who shall hold his office, for four weeks.

On motion, the school-room of Rev. J. C. Thornton, which was kindly tendered to us, was adopted as our place of meeting, and 6 1-2 o'clock, the time.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted, as the question for debate.

Resolved, that our Legislature should pass such a Bill, as was pending at the time of adjournment, and known as the "Divorce Bill."

On motion, the meeting adjourned.
W. W. DOUGHERTY, Chr'n.
SAMUEL HARDWICK, Sec'y.

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Reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas, with features in color, just like the original!
Includes an index. \$22
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THE STORY OF LIBERTY...from settlement to suburb, a movie available in two formats:
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GREETING CARDS

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IKNEWFRANK...IWISHIHADKNOWNJESSE

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(not available to be mailed)
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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

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PORTRAITS OF A FRONTIER COMMUNITY \$25

The Jacob T. Hicks Glass Plate Photo Collection

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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.

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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.

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