

The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM

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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

I asked Kevin Fisher to contribute to the “President pro tem” President’s message this time. He has been one of our most productive members over the years. I am always amazed at what all he able to accomplish; he has started and completed more projects than I can count.

~ Stuart Elliott

For the last few years, an effort has been made to organize and catalog the Archives holdings in the basement of our building. We are fortunate to have this area as it doubles our square footage.

The East Room contains 402 volumes and over 1,400 Hollinger boxes of Clay County Court records (Civil, Criminal and Probates cases) and four file cabinets of Subdivision information. Most of the documents in the latter collection include plats. From the subdivision files, we’ve abstracted street names, cemetery names, geographical information, etc. These names are not all in the computer yet but we’re working on that! These files range from the year 1822 up to about 2000 and includes the entire county. These were donated by a county surveyor named Harvey G Adams.

The West Room houses 173 Architectural drawings, 237 surveys, 461 plats, 3,760 maps, 4 sections of library books and 630 bound newspaper volumes (55 of which have been digit-

ized). The architectural drawings are of commercial and residential structures and have been donated by several architects including Leo P. Adams, who lived in Liberty and was active in the 1940’s to the 1960’s.



The surveys were commissioned to define geographical boundaries before a landowner platted the parcels for use. Most are for roads, railroads or private property. Once drawn up, plats usually turn into a subdivision, shopping center, streets, drainage, etc.

Maps are of historical Clay County, plus state and national areas. They also include historical highways (issued by gas station), USGS maps, maps from the county mapping department, etc. The county also hired third-party companies to make maps.

The library book section is being added to constantly. It consists of topics including early west, early French, Spanish southwest, western trails, native Americans, medical, Missouri, Kansas, Kansas City, local authors (more than you realize),

civil war, Missouri river, floods, presidents and reference books. Most of the bound newspaper volumes are one of a kind (only surviving physical copy) although many have been micro-filmed or scanned.

Other holdings include 112 file drawers of unidentified abstracts (which will eventually be indexed and merged into our current abstract collection), the Maienshien civil war book collection, 19,590 photos in the Marcel collection, 3,800 photos in the Neal Ray collection, 32 special collections and many other groups of books and documents. We house the Maienshien collection for the Civil War Roundtable of Northern Missouri. It includes books of fiction, non-fiction, biographies, etc. The Archives also maintains our own collection of civil war books on subjects such as the old south, slavery, biographies and novels. Marcel Pittier, originally from Costa Rica, operated Marcel’s Photography in the 1950s and 1960s in Liberty. Neal Ray Shoger bought Marcel’s business including the photo collection then added his own work. All of this is stored on more than a quarter mile of shelving. It is a clean, well lit, temperature- and humidity-controlled area. If you are looking to enhance your research, don’t forget the holdings in the basement.

~ Kevin Fisher
Archives Member
& Volunteer

2019 Executive Board

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<u>Through 2019</u>	<u>Through 2020</u>	<u>Through 2021</u>
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Clay Co. Patriots Chapter DAR	Lois Long
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Newsletter Staff

Keenan Glidewell Barker
 Stuart Elliott
 Shirley Fansher
 Jo-Jean Chamas

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	25 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

U N F I N I S H E D S T O R I E S

Not all stories identified at the Archives have endings, let alone happy ones. So many resources from Clay County’s nearly 200 years offer surprising information and detail. With some, the facts are present but the back story is incomplete.

Among the Clay County Circuit Court records is the petition of Margaret Scott, seeking to file suit as a poor person. She “prays for leave to sue for freedom in conformity with the laws of this State.” Having been falsely imprisoned by John Martin, for whom she worked in Kentucky and later in Platte County, Missouri, she seeks permission to access records in North Carolina, where she was “born free, her father being a negro, and her mother an Indian woman”. At the time of its filing with the Court, the petition states, “Your petitioner is now in the custody of the jailor of Clay County as a runaway slave”. The Court orders that she be permitted to pursue the suit as a poor person, assigns Benjamin Hayes as her attorney and directs she be allowed “reasonable liberty to attend her counsel and the court”.

This petition is filed on Margaret Scott’s behalf by Benjamin Hayes on March 18, 1840. In addition to allowing the petitioner to pursue her claim, the Court summons John Martin to answer to the charge of trespass for false imprisonment. Later that same month, Martin appears, by his attorney, and enters a not guilty plea.

Unfortunately, the ending documentation of this matter is less than satisfactory. Five months after the first filing, with no indication of any further action on the case, the following court docket entry is made on August 20, 1840: “Margaret Scott vs. John Martin, suit for freedom. The Plaintiff’s attorney appears and says he will no further prosecute this suit. It is thereupon considered that the same be and is hereby dismissed.”

This leaves the reader to wonder and speculate. The fact that a woman of color was permitted to seek a legal remedy to the matter of her freedom in 1840 is, in itself, impressive. What a story for descendants of Margaret Scott, but were there any? What happened to Margaret Scott? If anyone knows any more to this story, please share it with the Archives.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S J A N E !



Archives volunteer, Jane Sharon, was recently surprised at the Archives by William C Corum Chapter, NSSAR, color guards men, Chris Sizemore and Michael Robertson.

Jane was the recipient of the Sons of the American Revolution Appreciation Award medal and certificate for her many years of service in attaining Constitution Week proclamations from the City of Liberty for both the Corum Chapter and her own Alexander Doniphan Chapter, NSDAR.



Pictured left to right:
Chris Sizemore, Jane Sharon & Michael Robertson

S H E P R A C T I C E D W H A T H E R F A T H E R P R E A C H E D

Emma Lard, daughter of Rev. Moses Lard, was born in 1855 and raised in Liberty, Missouri. She married George Longan shortly after graduating from a school in Kentucky. Emma was active in the community, working to secure women's right to vote and serving as president of the Kansas City Equal Suffrage Association. Emma was also an early member and president of the Kansas City Women's Christian Temperance Union. Rev. Lard fully supported his daughter's efforts, once stating he would like to be remembered as "a believer in the dignity of womanhood at a time when most men regarded women as coy and artful pets, playthings and toys".



Her belief that women should have the right to participate in government and vote in elections led her to educate women on parliamentary procedure. Emma was the author of *Parliamentary Rules Made Easy* and sold more than 200,000 copies of her book, which she used to educate women around Kansas City and Missouri.

In April 1922, Emma took office as the first woman elected to the Upper House of the Kansas City City Council. In her service as an alderman, she insisted on proper procedure being followed with regard to a vote on jitneys. When the newspaper reported her objection that she had not had the opportunity to vote in opposition, a proper vote was ordered. Although, the prevailing side voted in favor of the measure, Longan was able to correct the record, showing her vote and one other in opposition.

Emma Lard Longan was a lifelong advocate of education for all. She led the effort in Missouri to secure women's right to vote and believed in prohibition. Emma formed the Longan Study Club. This organization later became the Parliamentary Study Club and was led for years by her son, Silas W. Longan. Emma died in 1924. The photo accompanying this article was included in more than a dozen articles in the Kansas City Star mourning her passing and acknowledging her influence. Emma Lard Longan is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City.

~ Jane Sharon
Archives Member
& Volunteer

G O I N G T O T H E F A I R

More than 1,000 people attended the recent Big Shoal Country Fair at the Atkins-Johnson Farm and Museum (Gladstone, MO) and many visited The Clay County Archives booth.

The Archives sold several books and encouraged fair participants to visit the Archives and possibly volunteer or become members. Many thanks to Diane Davidson and Elna Cox for staffing the booth and Joyce Schumacher, Joyce Pollock and Chris Harris for helping design the displays.

Joyce Schumacher's enthusiasm is shown in the photo to the right!

Join the Archives, and join the fun!



DISCOVERING MORE THAN CEMETERIES

One of our Cemetery Field Specialists, Lonnie Soehlig, set out to find the elusive Howdeshell Cemetery, south of Excelsior Springs. Little did Lonnie know he would find so much more.

When Lonnie started his search, he had no idea that he was going to become caretaker of the Howdeshell family in the form of three very large, ornately framed portraits.

In talking with the current owner, it was decided the portraits should be donated, so Lonnie brought them to the Archives. The portraits are believed to be members of the Howdeshells, but have yet to be identified. After scanning the portraits, it was decided, they could be better displayed at the Clay County Museum. They will be in their new home at 14 N Main St., Liberty.

~ Elna Cox
Archives Member
& Volunteer



MAKE MUSIC DAY—LIBERTY



Between the hours of 6 and 8 pm on the longest day of the year 2019, music broke up the usual stillness in front of the Archives building. The morning thunderstorms had parted and the temperature was almost ideal. Most listeners sat on the front steps, others sat in chairs, and a few sat inside parks cars, with open windows.

First, the clear, pure notes of Terrie Ulman's flute wafted down and throughout the area. She played traditional music, standard and religious. She told us of her growing-up years and playing music, in Marshall, Missouri, the smallest city in the United States with a Philharmonic Orchestra.

Elgie Craig Davis, with his guitars and harmonicas, played bluegrass and folk music, and entertained us with his engaging personality. If you were not there, we hope you can come next year. We'll keep you posted!

~ Ann Henning
Archives Member
& Volunteer

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS RETURN TO THE ARCHIVES

In a unanimous vote taken during the October 2019 board meeting, the officers and directors enacted a measure to resume holding monthly board meetings at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library building located on East Franklin Street in Liberty.

At the request of two board members, monthly meetings had been held at the Second Baptist Church in Liberty due to the lack of handicapped access at the Archives building. Upon retirement from the board of those two members, and with no other attendees requiring handicapped access, it was felt that the organization would be best served by returning the monthly meetings to the Archives building.

Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm. Any attendees of future meetings requiring assistance are asked to call ahead to arrange for help in accessing the Archives building.

The board is currently working with the City of Liberty to secure a state grant for the installation of a chairlift and access ramps at the current Archives building. The request for proposals for initial design work was released by the city in September.

~Scott Cole
Archives Member
& Volunteer

DONATIONS

Donations of Material

Marilea Zajec—Miscellaneous photos and microfilm

HOLIDAY CLOSURE



The Clay County Archives will be closed for the holidays,
December 22, 2019 through January 5, 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

Have you renewed your membership? Or considered gifting a membership?

The Annual membership fee is \$15. If the membership is paid in November or December it also includes the following year.

Call us to ask about becoming a member, or go on line to learn more.

<https://claycountyarchives.org/j3x/index.php/about-us/membership>

**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 \$22
In Western Missouri \$9
Clay County Births, 1883-84 \$9
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84 \$15
Clay County Historic Map (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.

July–Sept 2019

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