The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc. April – May - June 2005

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If you would like to receive your future newsletters by internet, we will need your e-mail address.

Please send it to: info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel like I need to comment on the work being done by two of our volunteers, Janene Critcher and Nancy Boland. For the last few years they have been creating a computer index of our Abstract of Titles collection.

They are carefully extracting the names of landowners from the earliest (usually 1820s to 1830s) to the most recent. The information is entered into an Excel spreadsheet program and from there it is loaded into our FileMaker DBM program.

There are 2,825 abstracts in our collection. They range from about 20 pages to 150 pages each. To date, Janene and Nancy have extracted and entered information from 1,900 of them (70%). This data has generated nearly 45,000 entries in our FileMaker system. The information includes the name of the landowner, the type of document, and the Township, Range and Section of the land described.

Abstracts are a wonderful research tool for genealogists and historians. It is not uncommon for the descendants of the landowner to be listed as heirs. Sometimes people bought and sold property between census years. Abstracts may be the only record that places them here. Roads, railroads, churches, schools and other man-made features are also described in abstracts

We are all very thankful to Janene and Nancy for the tedious work they are doing. The index to abstracts will be a huge accomplishment, and a tremendous addition to our computer files.

Thank you, Janene and Nancy!

Kevin M.Fisher

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday thru Wednesday – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. First Wednesday of Month . 6:30 to 9 p.m. Closed on National Holidays

MEMBERSHIP FOR CALENDAR YEAR

Individual & Family (one address) - \$15.00 (Memberships paid after October 1 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—15 cents per page
Outsize copies - 50 cents per page
Photographs

Standard Quality – 50 cents Archival Quality -- \$5.00

Any personal imaging will be charged at the above rates.

ARCHIVES PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

(All prices, postage paid)

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County13.00	
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas13.00	
Clay County Births, 1883-847.00	
Clay County Deaths, 1883-847.00	
DAR Sesquicentennial Book18.00	
Every-name Index to DAR Book11.00	
"The Story of Liberty, Missouri" (Film)	
DVD (including handling fee)17.00	
Cassette (including handling	
fee)12.00	
[See Page 6 for ordering info.]	
"Doctor on the Western Frontier"27.50	
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	
Clay County Marriage Indexes (See Page 6)	

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

Benefactors -- \$1,000 & up (cumulative)
Patrons -- \$500-\$999 (cumulative)
Contributors -- \$100-\$499
Friends -- \$25-\$99

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2005 PROGRAM

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COUNTY AND PROBATE COURT ORDER BOOKS

By Evelyn Petty (Continued from last issue)

Another patrol was appointed for Liberty Township. Cyrus Curtis was to be captain, while Hiram Rich, Abraham Croysdale, Jeremiah Magner and Samuel Tillery were named as regular troops.

On August 29, 1831, William Yates applied to keep a ferry.

On October 10, 1831, Samuel Telford, Lewis Scott and Thomas Estes were named to judge the election at the courthouse for Liberty Township.

Jonathan English, William Brown and David Gragg were judges for Gallatin Township, and voting would be done at Benjamin Sampson's.

Andrew B. Baldwin, Shrewsberry Williams and Jacob McCoy were judges for Fishing River Township and voters went to James Munkers' home.

Platte Trownship voters went to James Duncan's house, and the judges were Elisha Hall, Rice B. Davenport and John Acre.

Jacob Gromer, Smith Crawford and Walker Davis were judges for Washington Township, and voters went to Garret Gromer's house.

Napoleon G. Price resigned as overseer since his term had expired and He was replaced by Joseph Brock. The road was from the county line to north of Williams Creek.

Jonathan English, administrator of John Courtney's estate, had hired out a negro boy slave, Preston, on the best terms for 12 months.

November 14, 1831, John R. Peters asked for a new road and the court appointed Abraham Grooms, William Campbell, Robert Collins, Eppe Tillery and Enos Vaughn to view and make a road that would extend from Gallatin Street in Liberty along the lands of Joseph Collet and Greenup Bird, until said line struck or intersected the old Bluff Road.

Fielding McCoy wanted to keep a ferry at Aaron Overton's old crossing for one year.

Also, Shubael Allen asked to keep a public ferry at this same time.

Jacob McCoy, administrator of Moses McCoy, deceased, made his final settlement.

Nancy McWilliams and James Harry McWilliams made application to the court for as letters of administration on the estate of James McWilliams, deceased.

Jane Kincaid, widow of Joseph Kincaid, dec'd., and James Harry McWilliams made application for letters of administration on the Kincaid estate. [It is odd, to say the least, but it must be legal to see the same person

administrator on two cases in the probate court at the same time.]

Since the order books for the county court and probate court frequently spoke of advertising for bids on building roads or county buildings, one does think about how this was done, or where. Franklin, Missouri, had the *Intelligencer*, and in the years 1819 to 1822, I have found numerous references to Clay County, including probate news for the most part. How many people in Clay County subscribed to this paper or any others?

The Franklin paper had lists of delinquent taxpayers, sometimes for as little as 12 cents, but the Clay County delinquents were not listed in Book I. I'll list my relatives and not names of persons who might be ancestors of anyone else in Clay County: Isaac Lynch, 25 cents; John King, 87 cents; David Enyart, 44 cents; John Munkers, 12 cents; John Titus, 75 cents. The annual expenses as well as income of Clay County began to appear in this paper in 1823.

This same paper had a notice froPm Timothy Bancroft, collector of Clay County, who said he had sold three licenses to retailers of wine and spirituous liquors since January 1, 1823, namely Owen Adkins, Stephen Mead, and John Riley.

Herod Corum had died, and Nancy Corum was made his administrator. He died around April 24, 1824, and the Franklin paper reported that she wanted to sell all real estate to pay his debts.

The May 20, 1824 issue of the Franklin paper had another notice of letters of administration in Clay County, as James Wilhoite was then administrator of William Hixson's estate. Richard Hill of Clay County was given as administrator of William Rollins' estate, late of Clay County.

August 21, the Franklin paper reported results of the election in Clay County, 1824, and also reported a list of absconded or insolvent taxpayers from Clay; so again I'll name my relatives, although the newspaper had the names of all such persons. Jonathan Culp, 57 cents; John Muncus, 61cents—probably included the 12 cents he hadn't paid in 1822.

Owen Adkins, as of August 28, 1824, was administrator of estate of William Leavingston, dec'd, late of Clay County.

David Crockett had letters of administration for Isaac v. Hooser and would make final settlement of same in Clay County at the September term of Probate Court of Clay County for 1826.

The Franklin paper also had notice of Joseph Cooley's estate with Keziah Cooley being given letters of administration in June of 1826.

(Continued to next issue)

Excerpts from our new publication "Doctor on the Western Frontier: The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty, 1854-1880"

For the next several newsletter issues, we will be printing in this space excerpts from Dr. Dougherty's diaries. We will use spelling and punctuation as shown in the book.

Thursday, July 27, 1854

I have aroused quite early this morning to visit C.J. White's little girl; found her not very sick, but as her parents are very easily scared by anything seeming to be cholera, they could not rest till she was attended to. This morning was one of unusual excitement. I had scarcely gone to the Drug Store, before I heard the report of a pistol - seeing several persons running, I went to the door, and found that Thos. McCarty and Robert Kelly had met in the street and McCarty knocked Kelly down with his fist, jumped on him and Kelly shot him in the arm - being only a flesh wound. Judge J.T.V. Thompson ran up to interfere and Jas. H. Moss, Esgr. interfered, and gave the Judge one of the severest cursings I ever heard one man give to another. The matter finally subsided, and nothing more has been heard from the parties since, whether it will end here is hard to tell. I have heard it whispered that Mr. Kelly has sent an apology to Mr. Moss, and if it is true, the matter may end here for the present.

Note: C.J. White's mother died of cholera in the epidemic of 1852. It was almost always fatal. Thomas McCarty was a Liberty lawyer and banker; McCarty Street carries his name.

Friday, July 28, 1854

The excitement which prevailed yesterday has subsided in a great measure, but the reason may be that everyone; nearly has gone to the barbecue at Smithville today.

Saturday, July 29, 1854

The town is very quiet this morning indeed nearly every body is gone to the barbecue at Barry. The thermometer has stood at 98 all day in the shade and still no prospect for rain. Crops will be worth nothing, 'tis a settled fact.

Sunday, July 30, 1854

The day has been excessively hot the thermometer at 100 in the house. The wind is rather pleasant tonight; though the wind may blow on one side and the other bathed in perspiration. This summer, so far, the time and every thing considered, surpasses any other, with in the knowledge of the oldest inhabitants I have almost come to the conclusion that from some cause we will have no more rain at all.

Monday, July 31, 1854

After a very poor rest, I was summoned to go to Geo. C. McFaddens very early. I mounted my horse and rode unusually fast, but was too late as the matter had terminated, and Mrs. and Mr.

McFadden were honored with a fine daughter. Not being detailed long there, I was called in at Uncle Johns to see Aunt Mary and Mr. G.W. Tinker. Uncle's house is going up pretty fast and will be a fine house when completed.

Note: "Uncle" is Major John Dougherty and his house was Multnomah, one of the finest houses ever built in Clay County. It is said to have cost \$20,000, and was made of walnut and bricks made by slaves from clay found along the nearby creek.

Tuesday, August 1, 1854

This is the first day of August and no rain yet, just as hot as ever, and I believe a little hotter. The barbecue has passed off and the candidates made thin speeches. Bully Pitt entertained the audience out in the grove for several hours, in a very dry state as I was told. Rev. Mr. Lowe, the Benton Democrat was interrupted while speaking by a fight between Billy Withers and old man Warren, in which the latter got decidedly the best of it. Mr. Lowe then brought the audience over to the court house, and there bored them for some three hours; then Judge Leonard, the Anti-Benton Democratic candidate, commenced and the thing was so dry, I could not wait to hear him out, though I think he will be elected.

Thursday, August 3, 1854

The lightning in the north last night, sure enough brought some rain, but 'twas precious little, not enough to lay the dust, though it has cooled the atmosphere considerably. There is very little doing in town today; nearly everyone has gone to Richfield to a barbecue.

Note: Richfield is known as Missouri City today.

Friday, August 4, 1854

I was called to see John Talbott to day, rather Complained of great strongly affected. uneasiness, aching as he called it in the bowels (Note: we are skipping some of the more graphic medical details here.) I gave him a potion of Rhei & Ialap, and ordered a dose of quinine and morphine so soon as it operated. Soon after taking the first named dose, he became quite sick, and vomited considerable bile. I left him and directed the first dose of quinine & morphine to be followed with a smaller portion of the same with a grain or two of Devers powders -- every 3 hours for two doses -- and to apply a warm enidient poultice to the bowels should they evince any tenderness on prepared, or seem much painful.

You can own your own copy of Dr. Dougherty's diary!

Publication Price

\$22.50 at the Archives \$27.50 if mailed

Make your check payable to the Clay County Archives
P.O. Box 99
Liberty, Mo 64069

ABSTRACTS FROM THE LIBERTY TRIBUNE

Archives volunteers Jane Milner and Beverly Whitaker are abstracting genealogical and historical information from the *Liberty Tribune*, a continuation of the Genealogical Notes which ran prior to 1900.

100 Years Ago This Quarter

April 7, 1905

Kearney: Mr. Job Ferril died at his home in Kearney Thursday night, March 30, with pneumonia. Samuel Job Ferril was the ninth child of David L. and Mary E. Ferril. He was born on the old homeplace, about four miles southeast of Kearney December 30, 1843, and was married to Miss Nancy J. Cox, October 7 1864. To this union six children were born, two of whom have passed away, leaving to mourn George, Will, Earnest and Gus. Besides his faithful wife he also leaves three brothers: James C., L.J.; and W.J. Ferril. Five sisters and two brothers have preceded him to the grave.

Missouri City: John W Smith and Miss Sallie Easley were married last Sunday afternoon by Rev. Saxby.

April 14, 1905

A fine boy arrived at the home of S A Pence of Kearney last Saturday, and Sam says Clay County will have another Democratic voter.

Smithville Herald: Mrs. John B. Woods and Mrs. Kemp M. Woods were called to Kentucky last Saturday on account of the death of their mother, Mrs. M. Wigglesworth, which occurred at Mount Vernon, Kentucky. The death was very sudden. She is to be buried at Lexington, Kentucky.

Miss Alma Crockett and Albert Martin of Mosby were united in marriage last Friday by Elder Loos at the minister's home in Liberty. The bride is the charming daughter of John Crockett of Fishing River Township, and the groom an energetic young farmer.

Kearney: Ed Brandt returned from Kankakee, Illinois, where he went to attend the funeral of his brother.

Nebo: The many friends here of Edward Piburn heard with regret of his death at the St. Joe Asylum early in March. He was 75 years of age.

W.F. Gabbert and Miss Lou Ella Huddlemeyer were married here Wednesday evening by Elder Loos.

May 5, 1905

Excelsior Springs: "Dory" McGinness received a message last Sunday morning from Kansas stating that his wife was dead. She went there to her relatives some two months ago, hoping that a change would benefit her. Mr. McGinness left on the first strain to attend the funeral.

Mrs. Jim Harmon died at her home wet of Kearney Thursday, April 20. She had been remains were buried at Muddy Fork.

May 12, 1905

The colored people had a church wedding Wednesday night which was quite an event among them. Edward Wilson and Fannie Hughes were the principals. It was at the colored Baptist church, and the couple had attendants. Seats were reserved for a number of white people invited.

Levi Gillespie, an old citizen of Gallatin Township, died last Saturday. He was 85 years of age and came to Clay County when 11 years of age.

Kearney: Mrs. Moberly died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lena Ketron last Friday night of lung trouble. Her remains were buried at Bethel.

Robert Craven died at Stewartsville May 11 of hemorrhage of his lungs. He was 31 years of age and was born in Ray County near Excelsior Springs. He was married to Miss Tillie Elliott, daughter of Aaron Elliott of this vicinity, in January 1900. The wife and three children survive. The interment was at the Means Burying Grounds in DeKalb County, Saturday.

June 2, 1905

Smithville Herald: Mrs. Melinda Gragg, widow of John Gragg, died May 17 and was buried in Barry Cemetery on the 18th. She was born in October 1824, married in September 1847. Age 80 years, 6 months and 25 days, having no children. She leaves three step-daughters and a step-son.

Martha Fields, an aged and well-known colored woman, died in Kansas City, and her body was buried here. Old Uncle Dick Fields was her husband.

June 9, 1905

Mrs. John McGinness died Tuesday in Walnut Grove neighborhood. The funeral was at the residence Wednesday afternoon with interment at New Cemetery. Mrs. McGinness was a daughter of Matthew Divine, an early citizen of Missouri City. Mrs. John King and Mrs. Moses King are sisters. The husband and children have the sympathy of all in their sorrow.

June 16, 1905

Missouri City: The old friends in this vicinity were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Kinney Jones in Jackson County. Her maiden name was Writesman.

Joseph Brasfield and Miss Edna McGinnis who were married recently have the best wishes of our community.

June 30, 1905

The marriage of Mr. Tom Anderson and Miss Zella Ecton takes place Wednesday evening, July 5, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr.& Mrs. R. H. Ecton.

MARRIAGE BOOKS AVAILABLE

CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI, MARRIAGES 1821-1881 Register of Marriages, Recorder's Office Clay County Courthouse, Liberty Books A thru E, Colored (1865 -1891) and Unrecorded Compiled by Rudena Kramer Mallory

CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI, MARRIAGES, 1881-1904
Register of Marriages, Recorder's Office
Clay County Courthouse, Liberty
Books F to I
Compiled by Rudena Kramer Mallory

Each Book, Softbound (\$24.50 ppd, MO residents add \$1.80)
Each book, Hardbound (\$29.75 ppd, MO residents add \$2.19)
Make your check payable to Rudena Kramer Mallory and mail to:
Rudena Kramer Mallory
c/o Clay County Archives
P.O. Box 99
Liberty, MO 64069

The Story of Liberty from settlement to suburb

Footprints in Clay, a video history project of the Clay County Archives, announces the availability of the DVD of our production, "The Story of Liberty -- from settlement to suburb."

This one-hour documentary of Liberty's history spans the years from presettlement to present. It premiered on Mau 27th, 2004, at Liberty Cinema 12 to two full houses with a reception at the intermission.

The movie is available in two formats:

DVD - \$15 each

S-VHS - \$10 each

(add \$2 for shipping and handling)
The VHS version is available in two formats, for older model players & for the current model players. Specify which of the formats you desire.

To order your copy, submit your request in writing, indicating quantity and format.

Make your check payable to the Clay County Archives and mail to P.O. Box 99,

Liberty, MO 64069.

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

JOYCE SCHUMACHER

Joyce, one of our long-time volunteers, was born in Minneville, Clay County, Missouri, and was educated in the Kansas City, Minneville and North Kansas City School System. Her first job was with the City of North Kansas City, Collector's Office, working for Ruby Dougan. Joyce also worked for TWA for 27 years in the Administrative Center.

Joyce was quite a traveler. With her husband, Willy Schumacher, she has traveled to Athens, London, Rome and Lisbon, as well as many destinations in the United States.

After reading about the destruction of most of Minneville to build a four-lane road she started video taping and taking pictures to preserve some of the history of Minneville. Her sister Judy and cousin Gail suggested a visit to the Cay County Archives for more information—and the rest is history.

Having grown up in the Minneville area, she is willing and able to help researchers with their requests for information.

Joyce enjoys collecting material on her family history, the history of Minneville, Birmingham, Vrooman Acres and Randolph, and records of the Minneville Cemetery. Related family surnames are Ainsworth, Minter, Chisam, King, and Carrel.

She has three sons, three step-daughters and one step-son, as well as 14 grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her family. In addition to working on her genealogy, she enjoys spending time with her yellow Labrador, BoAnnie, at the family cabin in the Ozarks.

AL MOORE

Born in Houston, Texas, Al graduated from Texas A&I. His career was in manufacturing management, his last job being with CCL Containers in Virginia. He retired one year ago, and since most of his children and grandchildren live in the area he and his wife, Connie, decided to settle in Gladstone. His family consists of four sons and six grandchildren.

Al is on the board of the KCMG Car Club. He organized the Kansas City Spanish Conversation Group. He volunteers at the Maplewoods Community College as a tutor with ESL (English as a Second Language).

During his career he traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. He still spends ext

ended periods of time in Mexico enhancing his Spanish language capabilities.

Fellow car club member Carol Olson suggested the Clay County Archives as a volunteer opportunity. He enjoys Mexican and Texas history and is currently reading the memoirs of Pancho Villa.

MISCELLANEOUS CLIPPINGS from the *LIBERTY ADVANCE*

March 20, 1914: The Barnes drug store was an especially busy place last Saturday morning. The store had advertised that with every 25-cent bottle of Rexall cough syrup sold that day they would give two goldfish and bowl. They had a supply of one gross of bowls, but the supply was gone in about two hours. They could have disposed of double the number.

Professor J.A. Robson, superintendent of the Christian church Sunday school, recently asked the teachers of the school what they would like the school to furnish them for the betterment of their class work. A teacher of one of the classes of boys thought that she could use the services of a policeman or other peace officer to pretty good advantage.

May 14, 1914: John Fischer has one of his autos equipped with an appliance that will soon become popular with auto owners. With it one of the lights turns in the direction the car is turning, while the other remains stationary, as both do at present on most cars.

May 15, 1914: Edwin James of the Liberty Plumbing & Heating Co. this week received from a relative in England a copy of the London New telling of a Missouri farmer who had treated his wife badly by tieing a rope to her and making her follow home over the field, and Who later married a second wife who does not submit tamely to such treatment but who takes a club to him when he needs it, makes him wash dishes, sweep, and do all the house work as a punishment. The London paper said that the farmer in question lived in Clay county, and the item was considered such a good one that special attention was called to it on the first page of the paper.

May 22, 1914: The road from the east side of Liberty to the west side will be marked by painted telephone poles so that people driving through will not be compelled to ask directions at some of the residence corners as they now do. The expense of such marking will be paid by the Commercial Club.

January 8, 1915: There were 565 marriage licenses issued here during the year 1914,a large increase caused by the electric line's coming which enables couples to come here from Kansas City with great convenience.

A number of unemployed men have been passing through Liberty of late, but not as many as in the past few winters. Sixteen slept in the city jail Thursday night. A number of these men like to be locked up for the night so they cannot be accused of any thefts that might occur while they are here. And Constable Cave is glad to accommodate them in this respect.

April 30, 1915: Probably few people in Liberty realize what little work Police Judge Frank Corbin has to do in that capacity during the whole year..although every one knows that this is not what you would call a "tough" town. During the past year there have been only fifteen cases recorded on Judge Corbin's book. Six of them were at one time, when a bunch of negroes were caught shooting craps. Four were only complaints and dismissals, and the remaining cases were disturbing the peace drunkenness, all of which were against negroes. The door of the city jail remains open most of the time, with no one to lock up, an very few who ought to be locked up. Liberty is a quiet, peaceful, law-abiding town in which to live.

April 30, 1915: Judge Sandusky, in speaking about the tramp problem a few days ago, said that he thought it would be a good thing if they town had a rock pile where any hungry man could go and work and receive in payment checks good for meals at the restaurants or eating houses. In this way any man willing to work could earn something to eat, and that is all any able bodied man ought to ask. The idea is a good one.

June 11, 1915: In the county collector's office is a unique picture. It shows a group of ladies putting a corrugated iron culvert in a muddy place in the road between Kearney and Gosneyhville. Te women got tired of the men putting the improvement off and Mrs. Flemon Wade wrote the county court to send a culvert and the women would see that it was put in. The culvert was sent to her and the ladies of the neighborhood thought it would be a good joke on the men to surprise them by doing the work themselves, which they did, as the picture shows.

June 18, 1915: Perry Tillery, an old negro who has lived here all his life, and who is not certain within ten years of his age, was asked this week how old he was. Perry, a usual, was uncertain, but finally said that the best information he could give was that he was the first man ever in the Liberty jail, adding that he was put in before they had the roof on.

October 20, 1916: Clay County, Missouri, will go on the map Saturday, October 21, as the first county in this state to establish sanitary conditions. The event is to be advertised to the world through the means of a big county celebration which is to take place on that day in Excelsior Springs. The object of the celebration is two fold: First to interest the people of Clay County, Missouri, in questions of public health and sanitation, and second, to advertise to the world that Clay County is one of the few thoroughly sanitary sections which have been surveyed and approved by the government.

MISSOURI STATE GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Cyndi's List

of Genealogy Sites on the Internet Featuring

Cyndi Howells

as Keynote Speaker
Supporting Speakers
& Preconference Workshops
August 12th & 13th
Holiday Inn Select
Executive Center
Columbia, Missouri
Visit www.mosga.org
for further information

ANNUAL PICNIC FOR VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS

Our annual picnic for volunteers and friends of the Archives will be held on Tuesday, 16 August, at 6:30 Place: Mt Gilead Church (Plattsberg road north of State Hiway 92)

Meat & drink will be furnished. Please bring a covered dish.

Entertainment to be announced.

Clay County MOsaic