

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.

January – February – March 2006

2005 Executive Board

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Calvin W. Hawkins
Shirley Fansher
Linda Smith

MOsaic by Internet

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

Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of the 2006 Clay County MOsaic! Welcome, also, to a new president. As a way of introduction, let me say that I have been a Clay County Archives volunteer since 1989 when, as an employee of the Clay County government, I was asked to help the Archives buy a computer. It seems that a Mr. Daniel Boone was doing research at the Archives one day when he asked where the computer was. He was informed that the Archives had no computer.

He couldn't understand how any historical library could operate without one, so he promptly donated \$1000 toward the purchase of one. No one at the Archives had any inkling about what computer to buy or even what to do with it once they had it, so they contacted Ron Fuenfhausen (who was one of the Archive's founding members). Not being computer savvy himself, he passed the task to me (because I worked in the county's computer department).

I have been volunteering in that capacity ever since; and, shortly thereafter, as Treasurer. My cousin Edwin, who had held that position for many years, passed the job to me. After I had served as Treasurer for almost 10 years, Scott Cole agreed to take on that fiscal responsibility.

I've never been a "researcher" myself, but I've always understood the importance of, and appreciated, history, so I am happy to be a part of the "support staff."

Therefore, my contribution as President won't be decisions related to what historical material to acquire or how to preserve it; I'll leave those issues to the "experts." Rather, I would like to help the Archives make these precious materials more available to patrons and to use our collection in such a way as to preserve the organization and its function.

Now I would like to congratulate our immediate past President, Kevin Fisher, on a memorable tenure. He is a tireless and dedicated volunteer whose passion

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GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Wednesday -- 10 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 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	5 cents per page
Outsize copies	50 cents per page
Photographs	
Standard Quality	50 cents
Archival Quality	\$5.00

Personal imaging will be charged at the above rates.

ARCHIVES PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

(All prices, postage paid)

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	13.00
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas	13.00
Clay County Births, 1883-84	7.00
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84	7.00
DAR Sesquicentennial Book	18.00
Every-name Index to DAR Book	11.00
“The Story of Liberty, Missouri” (Film)	
DVD (including handling fee)	17.00
Cassette (incl handling fee)	12.00
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	
“Doctor on the Western Frontier”	27.50
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	
Clay County Marriage Indexes	
[See Page 4 for ordering info.]	

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

Benefactors -- \$1,000 & up (cumulative)

Patrons -- \$500-\$999 (cumulative)

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

BENEFACTORS

Martha Yancey Alison
Elisabeth Angel Estate
Harry Arnote Charitable Foundation
 Dan E. Boone
Mason L. Dean Trust (Bank of America, Trustee)
 Scott & Ann Cole
 Stuart E. Elliott
 Hallmark Cards
 Louise & Bill Hawkins
Arlyne K. Boggess & Waller I. Huffman
 Gerald L. Owens
 Evelyn Petty
 Leonard & Jane Pickett Sharon
 Edna Shepherd
Mr. & Mrs. Woodson Warder, Sr.
 Frieda Waters
 Jack Watson

PATRONS

Doug Bogart
Nancy Boland
Millicent Daugherty
Shirley Fansher
Linda K. Erkelens
Jerry & Pat Henderson
Johnson Granite Supply, Inc.
 Beverly Sue Raile
Ed & Kathi Rule (Corner Café)
 Jack Watson

2006 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

Scott and Ann Cole
 Bill Hawkins
Jerry and Pat Henderson
Carol and Steve Olson
 Beverly Sue Raile
 Jane Pickett Sharon

FRIENDS

Elizabeth G. Beckett
 Doug Bogart
 Linda K. Erkalens
 Bettie A. Kirkland

MARRIAGE BOOKS AVAILABLE

CLAY CO., 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 CO., 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 video of our production, "The Story of Liberty...from settlement to suburb."

This one-hour documentary of Liberty's history spans the years from pre-settlement to present. It premiered on May 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:

Clay County Archives
and mail to P.O. Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069.

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty,
1854-1880

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
and mail to P.O. Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069.

QUERIES

In August 1984 I had an auction held at the Pleasant Valley Community Center. It was a two-day auction conducted by Bill Crispin. My Great-Grandmother's Bible was stored in a box of books. I had forgotten as these things were in storage for over a year. My husband passed away and this is the reason for the auction. The Bible was approximately 5" by 8", bound with brown dried-out leather. It was probably 1" thick and the family records were written on the inside cover. The Bible was dated 1830. The best way to describe the color was sepia tones. I have advertised for this Bible, but without any success. Since it was sold in Clay County, I thought maybe someone would remember it. I would be glad to pay for its recovery. Contact the Clay County Archives or me at 816-472-6886.

Vivian James

THIS AND THAT

We clip the following official table from an English paper, giving a view of the connubial bliss in the city of London:

Runaway wives	1,133
Runaway husbands	2,348
Married persons legally divorced	4,175
Living in open warfare	17,245
Living in private misunderstanding	13,279
Mutually indifferent	55,340
Regarded as happy	3,175
Nearly happy	127
Perfectly happy	13

Liberty Tribune, Saturday, 18 July 1846

Genealogy begins as an interest, becomes a hobby, continues as an avocation, and in its last stages is an incurable disease.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

for Clay County history is not easily equaled. I talked to him a few years ago about "the changing of the guard." I encouraged him to stay on as President at least one more year because I didn't want the great team we've become to change. Well, change happens, so I hope I can be a factor for positive change (as Kevin has) and, with the help of all of the committed volunteers, propel the Archives well into the future.

Stuart E. Elliot

MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS FROM MICROFILM OF EARLY CLAY COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

by Jane Milner

Articles from the *Liberty Advance*

February 18, 1924

USING THE PAVED ROAD

To Kansas City and Excelsior Springs Rain or Shine – Good Bye Mud.

The paved road was open Friday morning at 7 o'clock all the way through and has been used by a great deal of travel every day since. Cars and trucks kept going right along through the rain Saturday and the mud had no terror to the users of the new highway.

The short detour at Avondale off the paving was put in very good shape by crushed stone being used for a temporary road and more cinders have been dumped along the "goose neck" around the new bridge below Avondale to keep it passable

The bridge there and the paving at Avondale can be used about the first of March.

March 19, 1924

A Michigan woman at the wedding feast of her daughter served strawberries and other fruit that was "put up" in the year the daughter was born, 23 years ago.

Human blood is thought to contain the same proportion of salt as was in the sea when life began 3,000,000,000 years ago.

W.G. Stewart and daughter, Miss Claire, who have operated the hotel at Lawson the past few years, have sold the business to Thornton Gorham of

Lawson. Mr. Gorham has been in the restaurant business in Lawson and sold his restaurant recently.

May 19, 1924

The class of 1924 of the Liberty High School presented Supt. Campbell with an office desk and chair. To Mrs. M. Moore, the sponsor of the class, they gave a handsome spinet desk.

May 26, 1924

William Buckner, well known in Liberty, died at his home in Marshall Monday. For the past year he had been in bad health and recently was operated upon for appendicitis at a Kansas City hospital. His condition continued to grow worse.

After his death a post mortem was held and it was then found that he had two appendixes, and in the operation only one was removed. This, it is stated, was the first case of like nature on record. The one that had been left in the body had bursted and gangrene set in.

Mr. Buckner was in the clothing business here for a while just before the war, with Albert Land. Burial was at Marshall Wednesday.

June 2, 1924

Speaking of danger on the roads, the corner of Kansas and Gallatin streets, one block west of the public square, is made about as dangerous as any point by the way many drivers go up and down the hill.

Accidents have happened there and others narrowly averted everyday.

In the days of heaviest travel, especially, an officer could do good work in stopping fast driving there.

ONE HUNDRED STOVES

On Thursday the Missouri Gas and Electric Service company sold their one hundredth electric stove in Liberty. Mrs. Frank Church being the purchaser. Manager Harry Gordon of the light company said the electric stove is solving the problem of lightening the housewife's work by its convenience and good service and make the home happy and existence a joy.

June 23, 1924

The new tax law reduces the annual tax bill by \$400,000,000.

Provides for a 25 per cent reduction in this year's income tax.

Keeps the present exemption of \$1,000 for single persons and makes \$2,500 the exemption for all heads of families regardless of size of income.

Places a normal tax of 2 per cent on net

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incomes to \$4,000, 4 percent on incomes between \$4,000 and \$8,000 and 6 per cent above \$8,000; the existing rates are 4 per cent to \$4,000 and 8 percent above.

June 30, 1924

This story is going the rounds of newspapers: A conductor on a Burlington train near Jewell City the other day found Mrs. Frank Scott had only one ticket for herself and thirteen children. The children occupied five double seats. "Are these all your children, or is it a picnic?" asked the conductor. They were all the children of Mrs. Scott and she had the family Bible in her suitcase to prove it. The Scotts have been married less than ten years and have nineteen children, all boys. There are five sets of triplets and two sets of twins. The thirteen above mentioned were all under five years of age and could ride free. They were being taken by their mother on a visit to relatives in Canada.

MISSOURI RIVER'S LEAKS

With all its other eccentricities, the Missouri river leaks badly; for you know there are leaky rivers as well as leaky boats. The government engineers once measured the flow of the Missouri away up in Montana and again some hundred miles further down stream. To their surprise they found that the Missouri, instead of growing bigger down stream, as every rational river should, was actually 20,000 feet smaller at the lower point.

July 7, 1924

SMITHVILLE'S BIG FLOOD

When our citizens awoke Friday morning they found themselves in the midst of the greatest flood within the recollection of even the "old-timers." The high water mark in the flood of 1915, which was a record, was exceeded by from 22 to 24 inches, according to close observers.

During the 1915 flood the water did not reach the platform of the old Patterson elevator, but this time it was several inches deep on the floor. This time the water all but went over the floor of the Little Platte bridge and it was feared that the bridge would be washed out.

In the north part of town the water was about five and half inches deep over the floor of the Farmers Exchange office, but there was no loss.

On Main street the water extended from the Russell & Son poultry house to the west line of Mrs. William Strange's property and was only a few feet below the track on the railway trestle. At the west end of Main street a lake was formed.

CD'S AVAILABLE

We have the following computer disks available to researchers:

- The Master Genealogist for Windows, the Complete Family History Project Manager
- Anderson Files: Hiatt, Shields, Anderson
- Cavender and Relatives Encyclopedia, Final Edition
- Caroline Hutchings, Croll Family
- Nicholas Estes
- Genealogy: Sharp, Creek, Jesse, Sitton with maps (to be used with Family Tree Maker)

■ RECENT ACCESSIONS

An HP 4600 scanner, donated by Ronald Harris. This scanner will make it easy for the Archives to scan documents, photographs, etc. at remote locations, such as the home of someone who does not feel comfortable with his or her valuable possessions being at another locale.

The book "Descendants of Bartholomew Stovall (1655—1722) (First Five American Generations), donated by Don E. Bishop.

The story "White Stockings" by Samuel Pence (1885 – 1971) a 23 page story concerning the Pence, James and Eastin families of the Kearney area, donated by Samuel's grandson, Dan Pence.

A CD on Nicholas Estes, donated by Vivian James.

Information on the Robeson and Logan families: 26 loose pages of family information and pictures, donated by Scott Cole.

The book "Life in a Small Town: My, How We've Changed", a book on Kearney history, donated by the author, Pete Kingery.

The diary of John Franklin Jackson, donated by Ken Neth.

The documents listed above are available for our members and visitors to use in their research.

**EXTRACTS 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 by Hodges and Woodruff which ran prior to 1900.

100 Years Ago This Quarter

January 5, 1906

Richard Parker Evans, a pioneer traveling salesman of the West, who had lived in Kansas City for years, died suddenly at his home of heart disease. Mr. Evans was 78 years old and was actively engaged in business until ten years ago. He was with the Burnham Hanna, Munger Company 40 years. He was born in Kentucky but came to Missouri in his early manhood. When the Mexican War broke out, he went to Liberty and enlisted in a company, becoming a part of Col. A. W. Doniphan's famous overland expedition to Mexico. Mr. Evans' wife died in 1899. He leaves 8 children. Mr. Evans was a brother to Ad Evans of Liberty and married Miss Mary Gartin, a cousin of Mrs. James Love, and who was a daughter of the late Andrew Gartin of Barry. The remains were interred there by his wife.

Senator Simrall attended the funeral services of Mrs. Jessamine Wallace, held at Independence Wednesday afternoon.

A fine baby boy was born on New Year's night to Mr. and Mrs. Will Martin at the home of Captain L. B. Dougherty, and the captain now has the honor of being a great grandfather.

January 12, 1906

Lucy Lee Wornall, the only daughter of Sen. And Mrs. T.J. Wornall, died Tuesday morning of this week of typhoid fever and complications. Lucy was born September 4, 1891, being 14 years, 4 months, and 5 days of age. The funeral services were held at the Baptist church, conducted by Rev. F.W. Eberhardt and Dr. J.P. Green. About 16 little girls who were Lucy's intimate friends carried the hundreds of beautiful flowers which adorned the casket and front of the church.

Alex Moore, a native of Clay County, died at the home of Jim Br__t, near Randolph, Tuesday morning, very suddenly. Mr. Moore was a son of the late William Moore, one of Clay County's earliest and best citizens.

January 19, 1906

Mabel Kincaid, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kincaid of west of town, died Thursday night of last week of scarlet fever and pneumonia. Interment was at Little Shoal Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Lou Summers died at her home in Excelsior Springs on January 8, 1906, at the age of 42 years. She was the wife of Jonathan Summers and leaves a husband and six children—3 sons and 3 daughters: G.W., J.L. and J.R. Summers; Mrs. Lillie Harris; Mrs. Aggie Harris; and a single daughter, Maudie Summers. The remains were laid to rest at Enon Cemetery.

January 26, 1906

Kearney: Miss Alma Pence and Willis D. Leach, both of Kearney, were married in Kansas City, Thursday, January 18. Both have lived here all their lives. Mr. Leach has a position in Kansas City where they will make their future home.

February 2, 1906

Providence: This community is sorry to hear of the death of the little six-year-old girl of John Kincaid and wife which occurred at their home west of town Saturday night. This is the second death in the family this month. The baby of two years died about three weeks ago.

February 16, 1906

While skating on the Missouri River at Parkville last Friday, Miss Kate Crabb and Tom Smith, students at Park College, broke through the ice where the water was ten feet deep. L.H. Wagener, a member of the senior class, jumped in the water and held Miss Crabb up while others took her out. Smith got out by his own efforts. Wagener was so exhausted he sank and drowned. He was 27 years of age and from Pennsylvania.

February 23, 1906

Relatives here received the sad news yesterday of the death at Mexico, Missouri Wednesday of Miss Mabel Wymore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wymore. She was about 17 years of age. The remains will be brought to Liberty for interment which will be at Fairview (New) Cemetery, Saturday afternoon.

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TREASURY NOTES

March 2, 1906

Kearney: Jno. Corum died at his home in Kearney Monday morning, February 22. Funeral services were held at the Baptist Church Thursday morning. Mr. Corum was born in Clay County, July 13, 1851. He was the son of Thompson and Rachel Corum.

March 9, 1906

The marriage of Miss Mabel Brandenburg and Mr. Schubael E. Means will take place Wednesday, March 14 at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Brandenburg near Missouri City.

**NOTES FROM "THE INDUSTRIAL PRESS"
NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH**

Archives volunteer Joyce (Ainsworth) Schumacher is extracting and indexing local news on Birmingham, Minneville, Randolph and Vrooman Acres (all in Clay County) from "The Industrial Press", an old North Kansas City weekly newspaper. To date she has created two notebooks of information, covering January 4, 1934 through December 27, 1934 and September 16, 1937 through September 22, 1938.

Each book is indexed and gives the reader a glimpse into the lives of the residents of those locales, including births, deaths, illnesses, vacations, visitors, school life, new car purchases and assorted other happenings.

Joyce will be adding new volumes of excerpts from this newspaper soon. Her work will provide an invaluable service to our researchers.

**QUALITY MEAT MARKET
CASH PRICES**

Baby Beef Round Steak	28¢
T-bone or Sirloin Steak	34¢
Best Baby Chuck Steak	24¢
Best Baby Boiling Beef	14¢
Best Rib Roast	17¢
Hamburger	18¢

E.T. Weicker
in J.S. Cossairt's store
200 East Kansas Street
Phone 161
Liberty Missouri

Unknown newspaper, circa 1927

In order to keep the membership of the Clay County Archives and Historical Library better informed, the editors have requested that Treasurer Scott Cole contribute regular reports on the state of financial affairs within our organization.

First, the good news...the Archives is solvent...and from a financial standpoint, fundamentally sound. Our endowed funds, which are invested in certificates of deposit in several area banks, total nearly \$30,000. Our physical assets such as computer hardware, copiers and *Footprints in Clay* video archiving equipment are in good repair and appear to be sufficient to meet our needs of the next few years.

Now for the "not so good"...over the past five years our general operating funds have dwindled from \$15,000 to about \$1,000. In that time, expenditures have exceeded revenue by an average of more than \$2,500 annually. Income generated by membership dues, research and copy fees, publication sales and donations has remained relatively stable; however, the cost of utilities and items required for the preservation and storage of archived material has increased significantly.

Reducing operating costs is not an option...we are mandated by our very mission to accept public records and private collections...and to ensure they are properly stored and preserved. In that pursuit, I truly believe that the Archives is performing frugally and responsibly; which leaves only one practical solution...we must increase our income.

At the February meeting of the Board of Directors, President Stuart Elliott reconvened the Ways and Means Committee and appointed long-time board member Sallie Hobbs as chairperson. President Elliott has specifically tasked the committee to explore all possible avenues of increasing operation revenue and the funding of special projects...within the bounds of our charter, tax-exempt status and common decency, of course. Sallie and the committee are scheduled to meet in late March. By means of this column, I will strive to keep you informed of our progress in the coming months. SRC

ANCESTORS

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
Would you be proud of them or not
Or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made
In climbing family trees,
And some of them I am afraid
Do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
There might be some of them perhaps
You would not care to know.

But there's another question
Which requires a different view,
If you should meet your ancestors
Would they be proud of you?

From Library of Congress

NEWS FROM THE MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Mid-Continent Public Library, Genealogy & Local History Branch announces its Third Annual Family History Contest for Students, open to students in Grades Six through Twelve. All entries must be postmarked by October 31, 2006.

Winning essays will be printed by the library. Each winner will receive a copy of the printed work and a Certificate of Recognition. All contributions will be filed in the Family History Collection at the Genealogy & Local History Branch.

For entry form and rules, send your name and address to:
Genealogy & Local History Branch
317 W. 24 Highway
Independence MO 64050

Or call Angela McComas at 816-252-7228.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

This issue of the MOsaic was printed in 10-point type, except for the headlines and where necessary to squeeze in some information. Are the words too small? Let us know. If anyone thinks they are, we'll use a larger print in our next newsletter.

The Clay County MOsaic

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Liberty, MO 64069(816) 781-3611
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