

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
October-November-December 2007

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Mosaic by Internet

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Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are few things in life that I hate. But one of the things that really disturbs me is change. Now, it's not "change" itself that I despise. In fact, I embrace and welcome any change when it suits me.

But recently came a change that doesn't suit me. On October 3rd of this year we lost one of our most ardent and faithful volunteers. He was of the ilk that I spoke about in last quarter's MOsaic. You remember them, those who stepped forward to found this organization when they recognized a need. Calvin William Hawkins' name wasn't on the original 1979 charter, but he and his wife Louise joined shortly thereafter.

Between the two of them (Bill and Louise), it would be hard to find a couple with more dedication and care and love for the Archives. They supported, promoted and advanced the Archives each in their own way, she with an indomitable passion and he with a steadfast sense of purpose. An incredible work ethic drove them both. These attributes were applied at the Archives, in the community and for their family.

He always appreciated those around him and he reveled in those personal interactions. In fact, his Archives presidency (from 1991 to 1995) was commemorated with a special plaque that still hangs in the lobby of the building.

When Louise passed away in 2000 after a protracted illness, we wondered how Bill (and the Archives) would fair without her. We survived, but not without great loss. Now we must bear another loss.

And there have been others as well. Others we have lost. Other losses we have borne. No, this kind of change doesn't suit me.

But, you know, that's life. I suppose in a strange way, we must let go of some to make room for others. I don't want to get all cycle-of-life-y here, but we must hold on to the preciousness that we have been fortunate enough to experience and look for others to whom we can pass it. And even in the busyness of our days, we need to take occasional moments to savor the memories of those we enjoyed being with.

(Continued to Page 10)

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 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 printouts	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.

SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

Contributors -- \$100-\$499

Friends -- \$25-\$99

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(Continued)

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2007 PROGRAM

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ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1821-1881
CLAY CO., MISSOURI MARRIAGES 1881-1904
Each Book, Softbound \$24.50 ppd
(MO residents add \$1.80)
Each book, Hardbound \$29.75 ppd
(MO residents add \$2.19)

THE STORY OF LIBERTY...from settlement to suburb, a movie 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.

GREETING CARDS

Christmas cards – 12 for \$10
Note cards 10 for \$5

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty, 1854-1880
\$22.50 at the Archives
\$27.50 if mailed

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS (all postpaid):

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

Please make your check payable to:
Clay County Archives

And mail to:
P. O. Box 99
Liberty MO 64069

We love our volunteers! During the months of September through November, they worked 989 hours. But we can always use more. If you are interested, please give us a call at 816-781-3611. We can tailor your activities to your interests.

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

Kansas City is so fortunate to be selected as the site for the 2008 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States and Family History Fair. The nation's genealogists will gather for a week of special events and an outstanding conference from May 12 to May 17, 2008.

Borrowing on Missouri's nickname, the conference is called "Show Me the Way to Our Nation's Records." Program and workshop topics include:

- Adoption research
- African-American research
- Computer topics
- DNA lectures
- Midwest topics
- Native American lectures
- Military records
- Methodology
- And a host of others

In addition, each day holds a special event, such as

- Research Day at Mid-Continent Library's new Midwest Genealogy Center
- "Show Me Missouri Wines", an evening reception
- Historic sites tour in Independence and Kansas City
- And three others.

The conference hotel is the newly renovated Hyatt Regency Crown Center. You can make your room and conference reservations now. For more conference information, visit www.ngsgenealogy.org or call the National Genealogical Society at 1-800-473-0060. The room rate is \$129 per night plus tax. Room reservations may be made by calling 1-800-233-1234.

(Continued to Page 8)

Congratulations to Gladstone!

The Atkins – Johnson House in Gladstone (Clay Co.) has recently been named to the National Register of Historic Places. Not only is this an honor for the city, but it also allows it to sell tax credits to pay for much-needed renovations to the site.

The current house is a two-story structure that has been remodeled numerous times. Within it are remnants of a two-room log house, circa 1826. The City of Gladstone purchased the property in 2005, so that it might be preserved.

**EXCERPTS FROM OUR LATEST
PUBLICATION, “DOCTOR ON THE
WESTERN FRONTIER: THE DIARIES
OF DR. WILLIAM WALLACE
DOUGHERTY,
1854 – 1880”**

Thursday, December 25, 1856

Christmas A lovely day. The old saying “a green Christmas, a fat grove yard” we will see if there is any truth in the old saying. Many persons in town. Shooting for turkies (sic). Took a fine turkey dinner at J. H. Robertsons – pleasant time.

Thursday, January 1, 1857

A Gloomy morning – looks like snow. The Good Templars organized a Lodge in town this evening. May their labors be crowned with success.

Sunday, January 11, 1857

Clear and beautiful morning. Every one in their sleighs, who have any and those who have none wish they had, at least I do.

Thursday, January 22, 1857

Went to Lollers today and there heard of the murder of John Doss – a merchant in Weston. I was much shocked to hear it, as I was better acquainted with Mr. Doss, than any merchant in Weston, and only late yesterday evening, I left his store, where I had made several purchases, and left him about an hour by sun, in a fine human quite jovial, and promising a long and pleasant life. Poor Man! How soon cut down and all his hopes destroyed. But yesterday he was among the living, yes, I may add, if appearances did not deceive, among the happy – to day – Now where is he? He sleeps the long and silent sleep which knows no waking. “Peaceful be his silent slumber,” and life & happiness to his surviving friends. The man who took his life, was by the name of Harden. Shot him twice with a pistol once in the abdomen and one in the back.

Important

Wednesday, February 25, 1857

Mary is complaining considerable. Turned warm in the afternoon, and is quite pleasant. About noon, Mary began to grow considerably worse and about 10 minutes to 4 p.m., she presented me with a very fine Son. A very speedy and safe time of it.

Note: Dr. Dougherty's son was named John. He grew up to become a prominent Liberty citizen and a member of the House of Representatives. He died August 1, 1905 at the age of 48 years.

Thursday, March 19, 1857

My friends want me to return to Liberty. I don't know what to do.

Tuesday, March 24, 1857

Browney failed to come up. Been cow hunting – but failed.

Wednesday, March 25, 1857

Can't find the cow.

Thursday, March 26, 1857

Found the cow to day, with a fine calf.

Saturday, March 28, 1857

Started to Liberty about 11 am, got the other side of Weston, and while taking a lunch on the road side, my horse, being very wild, jerked loose from me, and ran off through the woods.

Sunday, March 29, 1857

Started back this morning, with Mr. Doty, in search of horse, heard from him, but hunted all day, and did not find him.

Monday, March 30, 1857

Hunted all day for horse, but no news from him.

Wednesday, April 1, 1857

No new from horse.

Friday, April 3, 1857

Mr. Farley & I went to hunt my horse, hunted all day but no news.

Saturday, April 4, 1857

Went to Weston today – heard nothing from horse yet – where can he be.

Note: Dr. Dougherty soon hears news of where his horse might be, but does not mention it again in this diary.

**MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS
FROM MICROFILM
OF EARLY CLAY COUNTY
NEWSPAPERS**

Articles from the *Kearney Clipper*

August 18, 1883

A shipment of three hundred bushels of red oak acorns has been made to Germany for planting on untillable lands and hillsides. This tree is found to do well in Europe, and its wood is valuable. The acorns were gathered in Missouri at an average cost of one dollar per bushel.

February 15, 1884

The general election occurs this year on Tuesday, Nov. 4, and the following offices are to be filled: President and Vice-President of the United States for a term of four years from the 4th of March, 1885. The election for President and Vice-President occurs in all states on the same day. The President receives a salary of \$50,000 per year, and the Vice-President \$8,000.

The election for State and county officers in Missouri is held on the same day as the Presidential elections. The following State officers are to be elected: A Governor, who is elected for a term of four years, and who is ineligible to re-election; salary, \$5,000 per year, with residence, fuel, gas, etc., furnished.

Note: In 1885 Grover Cleveland became President and Thomas Hendricks, Vice-President. John S. Marmaduke became Governor of Missouri.

Bill Hawkins Memorial Fund

To honor the memory of Bill Hawkins and to further the goals of the Archives, we've established the Bill Hawkins Memorial Fund.

One of our biggest needs right now is to replace our aging microfilm reader/printer. We are currently writing a grant for a new one but the grant requires matching funds.

We thought this would be an appropriate use for Bill's Memorial Fund. Please honor Bill with a gift to the Archives in the name of Bill Hawkins so that we can better serve our members and patrons with equipment that works more than just "some of the time."

RECENT ACCESSIONS

"I Knew Frank...I Wish I Had Known Jesse," by Samuel Anderson Pence, Edited by grandson Daniel M. Pence, Published by Two Trails Publishing, Independence, Mo. (and for sale at the Archives), donated by Scott Cole.

"Grayson Co. Virginia Will Book 1796 – 1839, Mystic Cords of Memories," by Mrs. Earl Sullivan and "Nehemiah Wood of Shenandoah Co., Virginia," by Leo G. Lawler 1980, donated by Aurelia Swafford and Bonnie Knauss.

"Currier Family Records of USA and Canada," Vol. IX, VIII Part One and VIII Part Two, donated by Phillip J. Currier.

CD of photos of Missouri City, donated by Brandon George.

4th Annual Jaycee Rodeo; William Jewell College Alumni Directory, 1995; 1946 William Jewell College Yearbook; "William Jewell College – A Century of Cardinal Sports," donated by Dr. Richard Bowles.

Collection of material relating to projected refuse site in Clay County that was defeated, donated by Robert and Donna Merrill.

Photos and papers from John Major Rice and Mildred Steward Rice, donated by Mary Gravatt.

Pictures and picture album of the Hudlemeyer, Greer, Mosby and Bender Families, donated by Joyce Greer.

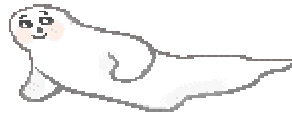
Three notebooks of "The Graves Family Newsletter" from Volume 2 (1977) through Volume 24 (April 2001), donated by Jane Milner.

"The Descendants of Creed T. Miller of Cumberland Co. Kentucky and N.W. Missouri," donated by R. J. Sadlon.

"Rambling Through Life," by Pete Kingery, donated by the author.

These materials are available for our patrons to use in their research. Thank you to these generous donors.

Ghost Towns of Clay County



First Prairie wasn't exactly a ghost town. Nor was it really a town, although Arley grew out of it.

First Prairie: The Early Years

(Part 1, 1824 to 1850)

By Donna Root

When the first white men settled in what is now Clay County, the land was mostly covered with trees from the Missouri River banks to a meandering area of natural prairie with fewer trees about ten miles to the north. The only paths for passage were the Native American trails that had been used for centuries.

The French families connected with the Chouteau Fur Trading Company in St. Louis who had made homes on a bluff in the Randolph area in 1800 were followed in 1819 by eight men who formed a tiny settlement a few miles to the east that would grow into the future town of Liberty. A year later many more men and their families had decided that this was the right place to settle. They went about building their cabins and surviving day to day in what had to be a very difficult and unsure existence. How different this way of life was from the one they had left behind is not known and would depend on whether they came from established towns or the wilderness of the western edge of civilization on the east side of the Mississippi.

Three of these men, Benjamin and Hezekiah Riley and Abraham Inyart decided to make their homes on the prairie north of the Liberty settlement. In 1824 they purchased tracts of land from the U. S. government that were located along the north side of the present 92 Highway. Being on the prairie meant they at least did not have to clear the land for a space to build their cabins and plow their fields. Perhaps they also felt the Liberty area was getting too crowded since there were many people moving in from the east every year.

There was a blacksmith on the prairie named Newman York, although the year he set up shop is not known. His services would have been essential since the prairie was where livestock was kept when large herds were brought through this area, and horses that needed shoeing while on the prairie could not be ridden to Liberty to be shod. They must have had men guarding the animals since the prairie was several miles from any settlements.

In the next few years after 1824, people began buying land and establishing homesteads on the prairie. In 1825 four original tracts were purchased. No one bought in 1826, but eleven tracts

were purchased in 1827, all in the First Prairie area. This continued through the 1850s with one purchased in 1869 and one in 1873.

The area was called First Prairie simply because it was the first land close to Liberty that was not mostly wooded. It extended up into Clinton County, which had been separated from Clay County in 1833. Those who bought prior to 1833 in the area north of the present Clinton County line and were originally in Clay County, suddenly found themselves residents of the new county of Clinton.

The families of six German and Swiss immigrants arrived in the area in the early 1840s and bought land from original purchasers. Some of these families had lived on Nebo bluff overlooking the Missouri River when they first debarked at Liberty Landing. Others went directly to First Prairie and established their farms.

There were very few roads in the early 1820s. The Indian trails were used and probably widened, but travel must not have been easy. There weren't any bridges, so streams and creeks had to be forded by the horses and wagons. In the years to come, there was a road to the prairie leaving Liberty on Water Street. A road to Gosneyville, now Paradise, was also established and perhaps could have taken people up into the prairie area. Gosneyville was just a few miles to the west and a little north of First Prairie. A road was opened that went from Liberty to a point near Newman York's blacksmith shop. Road building was a big priority in the late 1820s.

There were no churches in the 20s and 30s on the prairie. The Bethel German Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1845 in First Prairie. Until the First Prairie church was built, services were held in different homes. It is not hard to realize how important the church was to these hard-working people. It was their one break during the week where they could not only worship God, but also socialize with their neighbors.

"Tune in" next time for more on First Prairie. The Archives would welcome any additional information, stories or corrections about the area or this article

**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.

October 4, 1907

Elder F. V. **Loos** officiated at a wedding at the Hotel Kupper in Kansas City, Thursday of last week that had romance with it. The Star in its report said, "Forty-five years ago J. S. **Baker** and Emma **Lampton** were sweethearts in Clay County, Missouri. Before that they went together in school. . . ." After a while they were engaged to be married, and for several years they talked about the happiness that would be theirs, but there was a little misunderstanding one day, and the gap between them began to widen, and each married another and now have grown children. Her name was Mrs. Emma **Fry**; Mr. Baker is now 65 and his bride is 58. He owns a farm near Trimble and recently bought a home at Englewood, a suburban addition to Kansas City where he and his wife will live. Baker's first wife died two years ago. Mrs. Maggie **Overback**, a daughter of Mrs. Baker, and Mr. Charles **Betty** of St. Louis will be married by Elder Loos next Thursday.

October 11, 1907

In memoriam: Seldom are we called upon to record a death which caused more universal sorrow than that of Miss Mary **Costello** which occurred last Friday morning. The funeral took place from a home of her mother, Mrs. Catherine Costello in Liberty, Missouri. The parents of Miss Costello were among the early pioneers, having lived in Liberty for more than half a century. Her father died many years ago and was buried on College Hill, just a short distance from where her venerable mother still lives.

Doc **Cavendar** of the *Advance* office and wife have a fine 11½ pound son at their home, born Thursday of last week.

October 18, 1907

Samuel A. **Pence** died at his home in Kearney Wednesday morning, October 16. He was in the drug business at Kearney for many years. The funeral will be held at the Baptist Church in Kearney. The burial will be in Fairview Cemetery in Kearney, with honors of the Masonic and Odd Fellows orders.

He had asthma and heart trouble. Mr. Pence was born in Liberty, February 28, 1856, and the family moved to Kearney when he was a boy. His father, Jack Pence, is living, and his mother died in 1865. Mr. Pence was married October 2, 1881, to Miss Frances Price **Anderson**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson. Mrs. Pence died October 14, 1900. Four children were born to them – Miss Alma (now Mrs. W. D. **Leach**); Samuel; Thomas; and Helen. Mr. Pence married Miss Kate Anderson, a sister to the first wife, March 8, 1904. She with one child, David Jackson, survives.

November 15, 1907

Chas. E. **Perkins**, ex-president of the Burlington Railroad, died in Boston, Mass., last Friday. He was one of the men who located the Hannibal Bridge at Kansas City in 1866, selecting that place instead of Leavenworth.

Excelsior Springs Call: Mrs. Sallie Poe **Stone**, the wife of Jesse Stone, died very suddenly at her home in McGlothlin's Addition Sunday evening. She had not been ill, and when her death occurred, it was thought she had fainted. When the coroner viewed the body, he said death was caused by fatty degeneration of the heart. Mrs. Stone was a very large woman, weighing probably 250 pounds. She was about 40 years of age and leaves a husband and two sons, one 19 and the other 10 years old.

George **Kohl** died at the Odd Fellows Home Tuesday. The funeral service was by Rev. H. P. **McClintic** Thursday afternoon, and the burial was by the local lodge in the home cemetery. The deceased was a blind man who had been at the home about 10 years. He was 47 years of age and came from St. Louis. Mr. Kohl had been confined to his bed for several months. He gave the money he had sent to him by relatives in Philadelphia, a gold watch and trinkets, to Iva **Partlow**, a little girl at the home who had been very attentive to him.

November 22, 1907

Albert **Kreuger** died in Excelsior Springs last Friday night. *The Journal* said Mr. Kreuger had a fall from the steps at the Siloam Spring on the evening of August 22, and sustained a fracture of his left leg in 3 places, and was taken to the Sanitarium at that time. Through his attorneys, he had filed suit against the city for \$10,000 damages.

Miss Margaret Eddy **Groom**, formerly of Kearney, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James N. Groom of that place, was married at Seattle, Washington, Monday, November 11, to Mr. John W.

(Continued to Page 8)

**EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**
(Continued from Page 7)

Little at the home of Rev. M. A. **Matthews**. The couple sailed on November 16 for Alaska and will make their home at Ellamar. Mr. Little is a mining prospector.

November 29, 1907

The body of a woman was found buried in lime in a shed at Elmhurst, California, a suburb of Oakland. The body is thought to have been buried to conceal her murder. She is believed to have been a daughter of Henry P. **Linderman** of Sheffield, formerly of Minnaville. She was 24 years of age and has a divorced husband living at Springfield. Her given name was Vernie.

December 6, 1907

H. J. **Groves**, managing editor of the *Kansas City Post* died Monday morning from the bullet wound inflicted by Gen. R. C. **Horne** who was an editorial writer on the *Post*. O. D. **Woodward**, the president of the company, who was shot at the same time by Gen. Horne is recovering.

December 20, 1907

Excelsior Springs Call: A marriage license was issued in Independence to Christopher C. **Doland** and Miss Alta **Reaves**, both of Kansas City. Miss Reaves who is a niece of Mrs. C. H. **Scott** of this city, is well known here. A few months ago she created a sensation by leaving the home of another aunt, Miss Marcia **Jennings** of Kansas City and going to St. Louis where she obtained a position and has since been employed.

December 27, 1907

Beverly B. **Petty**, Sr. who had been a resident of Clay County over 50 years, died at his home in Liberty last Friday evening. The funeral service was held at the residence Sunday morning. The interment was in Fairview Cemetery in Liberty. Mr. Petty and family moved to Liberty last September from Kearney. He was born in Spottsylvania County, Virginia near Fredericksburg, Jan. 22, 1824 and came to Clay County in 1853. He located in Liberty and lived here until his marriage to Miss Martha Ann **Estes** January 6, 1857 after which they moved to the place south of Kearney that was their home for half a century. Mrs. Petty survives her husband. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs.

Petty, five of whom are dead. The seven living are George W., John T., Mrs. B. F. **Pixlee**, Elisha E., Beverly B., Benjamin A. and Miss Mattie E. All live in Clay County and are members of the Baptist Church.

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Recent updates to Ancestry.com's U. S. Military Records Collection now includes 700 record sets encompassing more than 90 million names! Record sets include at least some coverage for all states and several foreign countries and there is at least some coverage for all America's wars through Vietnam.

If you don't have an Ancestry.com subscription, check with your local library, as some offer their cardholders free access.

Some record sets that cover 20th century wars include:

- World War I Draft Registration Cards
- U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls
- U. S. World War II Army Enlistment Records
- U. S. Veterans Gravesites
- U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards
- World War I Civilian Draft Registrations

*from the "Show Me" State Genealogical News,
Fall 2007*

Family Health Portrait

Once you've gathered all the information, it's time to create a family tree. This can be an actual tree with many branches or a simple list. Put yourself in the middle and note any diseases or conditions affecting each person. Also indicate: male or female, dead or alive, age or age at death. You may wish to use a computerized tool called "My Family Health Portrait" to create your family tree. Developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it can be completed at www.hhs.gov/familyhistory, then printed out. It's worth taking the time to learn more about your relatives' health. As former U. S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona said, "The bottom line is that knowing your family medical history can save your life."

*Dr. Ranit Mishori, Parade Magazine, 9/30/07, as
quoted by the Decatur (IL) Genealogy Society
newsletter, Nov./Dec. 2007*

CITY OF LIBERTY ANNOUNCES LATEST HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES

Again this year Liberty will sponsor monthly history-related programs. On Saturday, January 5, the program will be an introduction to the Clay County Archives. See Page 12 of this newsletter for more information.

The February program is "A Celebration of Black History Month," which will explore the rich history of African-Americans in Clay County. It will be held at the Garrison School, 502 N. Water Street, Liberty, on Saturday, February 2, at 10:00 a.m.

In March, an introduction to the revised design guidelines and how they are applied to properties in Liberty's historic districts, called "Historic District Design Guidelines 101" will be held at the Corbin Theater, 15 N. Water Street, Liberty. This program will be on Saturday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m.

In April the Architecture Walks programs will resume. Watch for more information in the next MOsaic.

THE ANTI-HORSE THIEF ASSOCIATION

The Anti-Horse Thief Association, sometimes referred to as the Dark Lantern Association, began in Luray, Clark County, Missouri in 1854, or 1863, or 1865, or in Fort Scott, Kansas in 1859. Sometimes it seems like the more research you do, the less information you have. Or the less *accurate* information, anyway.

As the name implies, the association was organized to protect honest citizens from horse thievery. Its motto was "To Protect the Innocent and Bring the Guilty to Justice."

By the end of the Civil War, thieves and robbers were so prevalent in Missouri that the officers of the law could not cope with them. Something had to be done to protect the people, and the A.H.T.A. was organized. It did good and effective work. Suspected culprits were caught and tried, and then if found guilty, turned over to the authorities.

The group achieved much success and soon expanded into stopping other illegal activities as well. In addition, other similar groups formed in the surrounding area over the next several years. Because they operated without legal authority, these groups fell into the category of vigilante committees, even though their methods strictly prohibited illegal activities. Before long, courts were recognizing the value of the organization, while honest citizens and

ministers praised the group for its justice and honesty.

The association used an effective means of communication. When a horse was stolen the alarm was carried by riders to other association lodges throughout the territory and riders there carried it further on.

In 1906, a spokesman for the organization stated:

"The A. H. T. A. uses only strictly honorable, legal methods. It opposes lawlessness in any and all forms, yet does its work so systematically and efficiently that few criminals are able to escape when it takes the trail. The centralization of 'Many in One' has many advantages not possessed by even an independent association, for while it might encompass a neighborhood, the A. H. T. A. covers many states. The value of an article stolen is rarely taken into consideration. The order decrees that the laws of the land must be obeyed, though it costs many times the value of the property to capture the thief. An individual could not spend \$50 to \$100 to recover a \$25 horse and capture the thief. The A.H.T.A. would, because of the effect it would have in the future. Thieves have learned these facts and do less stealing from our members, hence the prevention protection."

Of the Association, Frank W. Blackmar, in writing "Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History" in 1912, would say:

"The Anti Horse Thief Association is in no sense a vigilance committee, and the organization has never found it necessary to adopt the mysterious methods of "Regulators", "White Caps" or kindred organizations. Its deeds are done in the broad open light of the day. When a theft or robbery is committed in any portion of the vast territory covered by the association and the direction taken by the offender is ascertained, local associations are notified to be on the lookout for the fugitive, and his capture is almost a certainty. Although the original name is retained, bankers, merchants and manufacturers are to be found among the members, courts recognize its value, criminals fear it, and press and pulpit have endorsed and praised its work in the apprehension of criminals."

Committees were to spend at least two days in trailing a thief, for which they were paid one dollar per day and reasonable expenses. A member refusing to act on a pursuing committee would be fined five dollars.

(Continued to Page 10)

THE ANTI-HORSE THIEF ASSOCIATION

(Continued from Page 9)

Clay County had three (or, according to one source, four) such groups. One was at Liberty, formed during the 1890's, which met at the Ruth Ewing School. The second was at Nashua. The third, the Sugar Tree Grove Protective Association (also called the Central Protective Association), met in a lodge house, a small frame building next to the Antioch Church. During most of its existence, the group had about 20 members.

That organization was governed by a strict set of rules and, due to the nature of its activities, was surrounded by secrecy, with secret signs and passwords. The insistence on secrecy was sometimes so severe that members were unable to stay up to date on the latest password needed to enter the meeting hall. A notation in the minutes of July 1, 1895, gave an example of the confusion that often resulted: "Tom Neal guarded the door and Brother Rogers took up the password and found all correct except Brother White, who thereupon got mad and went home."

The group disbanded in 1934, by which time the association had evolved into a social organization. In the mid-1950's the building had been expanded and used as a meeting place for a Boy Scout Troop. It was later destroyed due to deterioration of the wood.

Information for this article was gathered from various Archives documents plus internet sources, including <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives>, <http://www.okolha.net> and <http://www.legendsofamerica.com>.

CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

Around the Archives, Ken Neth is Mr. Cemetery. This is the first in what we hope will be an ongoing series of interesting cemetery articles.

The Cemetery Committee has just located its 300th Clay County burial location. Indigent deaths are handled by the Public Administrator's office; all such bodies are cremated. If a family connection can be found, burials are in family lots. If no connection can be found or if no identification can be determined, the ashes are placed in the basement of the courthouse annex. Many of these bodies have been found in the Missouri River, along roads, etc. Often the bodies are so deteriorated that little can be determined other than sex. Apparently these ashes will remain at the courthouse indefinitely.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

Now my sense of history kicks in as I compare our delights and bereavement to those who came before. How deeply did they feel their joy and their losses? How deeply do we now? Then I wonder how we will be perceived by those who come after. I suppose that the "thread through time" doesn't just "lead right up to you." Instead, it passes right through you.

Stuart E. Elliot

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE REVOLUTION?

By Donna Root, Archives Volunteer

A book written in 1945 by Stephen Bonsal: "When the French Were Here, A Narrative of the Yorktown Campaign," gives a close, personal look at George Washington as he leads his forces to the battle at Yorktown, Virginia. He is aided by, and depends hugely upon, the French forces led by the Comte de Rochambeau.

This book is about the part of the American Revolution during 1780 and 1781 when the French forces sent by Louis XVI arrived in Newport, Rhode Island and then planned to attack the British at New York. Developments and decisions drew them south to Yorktown instead. The author details the march of the American and French forces, the preparations, the battle and the events afterward. A wealth of military details are described, including sea as well as land skirmishes.

Many journals written by Frenchmen and Americans, including Washington himself, have survived from those years and they are frequently quoted. They give a look into the personality of Washington, his trials in waging this uncertain freedom struggle, his hopes, frustrations, resilience and intelligence. One of the quotes is from the French Commissary Officer, M. Blanchard: "He (Washington) has the gift of making himself beloved. It is his merit that has defended the liberty of America, and, if one day they enjoy it fully, they will owe it to him." Also profiled are the main French officers and their lives as they were caught up in their own Revolution.

You can order a copy of "When the French Were Here, A Narrative of the Yorktown Campaign," by Stephen Bonsal, published by Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., in 1945, from alibris.com on the internet for as little as \$6.00. I enjoyed it very much.

CHRISTMAS BELLS

You may know the song as “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”, a five-stanza version of the seven-verse poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The song has an interesting history, and speaks to us today during this time of war. When Longfellow penned his poem on December 25, 1864, America was still months away from Lee’s surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House in April 1865.

On July 9, 1861, Longfellow’s wife Fanny recorded in her journal, “We are all sighing for the good sea breeze instead of this stifling land one filled with dust. Poor Allegra is very droopy with heat, and Edie has to get her hair in a net to free her neck from the weight.” (Allegra and Edith, plus Charles, Ernest and Alice, were Henry and Fanny’s living children.)

After trimming some of seven-year-old Edith’s beautiful curls, Fanny decided to preserve the clippings in sealing wax. Melting a bar of the wax with a candle, a few drops fell unnoticed on her dress. The longed-for sea breeze gusted through the window, igniting the light material of Fanny’s dress and immediately wrapping her in flames.

In her attempt to protect Edith and Allegra, she ran to Henry’s study where he tried to extinguish the flames with a nearby rug. Failing to stop the flames with the rug, he attempted to smother the flames by throwing his arms around Fanny, severely burning his face, arms and hands. Fanny Longfellow died the next morning.

The first Christmas after her death, Longfellow wrote, “How inexpressibly sad are all holidays.” A year after Fanny’s death, he wrote, “I can make no record of these days. Better leave them wrapped in silence. Perhaps someday God will give me peace.” His journal entry for December 25, 1862 reads: “A merry Christmas say the children, but that is no more for me.”

Almost a year later, Longfellow received word that his oldest son, 19-year old Charles, a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac, had been severely wounded. He was shot in the left shoulder, and the bullet traveled across his back, nicked his spine and exited under his right shoulder. He missed being paralyzed by less than an inch.

Accompanied by his youngest son Ernest, Henry traveled to Washington, located Charles and brought him home to recover. As he sat nursing his son and giving thanks for his survival, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the following poem:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!

Information for this article came from <http://suvchw.org>, the website for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and from <http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com>



ARCHIVES OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 5, 2008, for an open house at the Archives, located at 210 E. Franklin Street in Liberty. This program is sponsored by the City of Liberty as part of its History Seminar Series. The public is invited.

ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CLOSING

Once again this year the Archives will close beginning December 20 and continuing through January 6, except by appointment (and except for the January 5, open house as mentioned above). This time will allow us to do a thorough cleaning of our facility and concentrate on special research projects.

The Clay County MOsaic

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REMINDER

All Archives memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. Memberships are \$15 per year and entitle the members to free research and this swell newsletter. Please consider renewing; we need your support.

Best wishes and Happy Holidays from the officers, directors and volunteers at the Clay County Archives and Historical Library.

