

The Clay County MOsaic

"Fitting the Pieces Together"

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

April-May-June 2009

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MOsaic by Internet

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

Please send it to:

info@claycountyarchives.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some things just don't seem to change. I would hope that vandalism isn't a rite of passage, but I suspect it is for some people. We've all shaken our heads when hearing or reading about or observing some senseless act of wanton destruction. Sadly, that has happened recently in Liberty.

The venerable Fairview Cemetery in Liberty was the site of such vandalism during the weekend of June 20th. This cemetery is the final resting place of many Liberty residents (prominent and not so) dating back to the beginning of the city (the early 1820s). There are many people here now doing the headshaking, wondering why people cannot understand the importance of this cemetery, as well as all cemeteries.

Over one hundred and fifty headstones were toppled and some actually damaged. As you can imagine, there are very many families who are upset, mad (outraged?) and facing an expensive prospect of hiring someone to repair and right the stones to their proper places. There have been estimates of \$100,000 or more to accomplish this task cemetery-wide.

Identifying the culprits is high on the priority list of those affected (the entire community?) and they are very interested in the progress the police are making in finding those responsible. So much so, in fact, that there has been a reward of \$3,500 established for information about this act. I understand that, reward or not, progress has been made by the local constabulary and that they have a good idea who may have done this.

Those at the Archives are quite concerned about the damage and the impact on the community, so we have offered our help to the City of Liberty (who owns and manages the cemetery) and the affected families. With our dedicated volunteers and vast collection of records, we've offered to help identify the descendants of the deceased who may not still be in the area and do not realize that this has happened to their family's gravestones. We also want to organize volunteers to inventory the damage with notepads and digital cameras. This information, along with city records and our records, would be

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GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Wednesday -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
First Wednesday of Month -- 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed on National Holidays

MEMBERSHIP FOR CALENDAR YEAR

Individual & Family (one address) -- \$15.00
(Memberships paid after October 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

BENEFACTORS

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BENEFACTORS

(Continued)

Hallmark Cards
Jerry & Pat Henderson
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2008 PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTORS

Alene Hagerbaumer
Sylvia Wees

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John A. Dillingham
Ann Henning
Dail and Sallie Hobbs
Roy and Frances Hornbuckle
Kermit Karns
Paul Laughlin
Sylvia J. Miller
Nancy M. Mose
Jack Moselle
Louisa Rader
Rean Robbins-Duncan

GENEALOGY HUMOR

A family reunion is an effective form of birth control.

“. . .that about the year 1857 the Liberty and Meeks' Ferry road, sometimes called the Owens' Ferry road, and in 1857 designated by the city council as "Lightburne street," was established, located and opened, and has been in use as a public street continuously since said date. . ."

*From Civil Cases, Box 135,
Burns, Peter B., housed at the Archives*

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 **CLOSEOUT—NEW PRICE**
\$12.00 at the Archives
\$17.00 if mailed

I KNEW FRANK...I WISH I HAD KNOWN JESSE
Family, Friends and Neighbors in the Life and Times of the James Boys

Hardback: \$55.00 members
\$60.00 non-members
Soft cover: \$17.00 members
\$22.00 non-members

GUERRILLAS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES

Bud, Donnie and Me
Soft cover: \$15 members
\$17 non-members

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS (all postpaid):

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	15.00
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

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

In 2002 a grassroots group of Missouri businessmen and citizens formed the “Missouri Civil War Museum, Library and Research Center”, dedicated to the preservation and study of Missouri and its involvement in the American Civil War. The museum is located in the old “Officer’s Post Exchange and Gymnasium Building” at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis.

The organization is looking for new members and donations of Civil War artifacts, books, photographs, soldiers’ stories, etc. Please visit their website <http://www.mcwm.org> for more information.

*“Show Me” State Genealogical News,
Summer 2009*

The Missouri History Museum Genealogy and Local History Index added the following items in March:

- St. Louis Volunteer Fire Department portraits, circa 1850’s to 1903,
- One Hundredth Anniversary, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1858 to 1956 (church history),
- Old and New St. Louis: A Concise History of the Metropolis of the West and Southwest, with a Review of Its Present Greatness and Immediate Prospects (1894).

They also have a new Genealogy Links page at <http://www.mohistory.org/lrc/family-history/genealogy-links>

*“Show Me” State Genealogical News,
Summer 2009*

The Archives of Maryland has more than 471,000 historical documents pertaining to the State of Maryland at <http://www.archivesofmaryland.net/html/index.html>

*“Show Me” State Genealogical News,
Summer 2009*

The Genealogical Society of Central Missouri has published the 1897 Howard County Atlas. It’s fully indexed and contains maps of the area with landowners’ names and property lines, roads, churches, schools, streams, houses, farms and other features included in the original. It is to be available for sale in August at the MoSGA Conference. You may contact them at P.O. Box 26, Columbia, Missouri 65205 or visit their website at <http://gscm.missouri.org>.

*GSCM Reporter, the magazine of the
Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, May/June
2009*

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

Isn't this an interesting publication? If you've been waiting for the price to drop so you could have your very own copy cheap, you're in luck. We have lowered the price to \$12.00. Here are the names of some (but by no means all) of the families mentioned in the diary.

Adkins
Arnold
Arthur
Atchison
Atkins
Bailey
Barnes
Bell
Bird
Bogges
Boggs
Brassfield
Bruning
Burnett
Calhoun
Cameron
Campbell
Carpenter
Chandler
Cockrill
Cole
Compton

Cooper
Corbin
Crowley
Davidson
Denny
Doniphan
Duncan
Estes
Franklin
Fritzen
Gill
Goldman
Goss
Groom
Hadley
Hicks
Hix
Hudelmeyer
James
Liggon
Lightburne
Mabe

Munkirs
Munkres
Nall
Pence
Rickards
Ringo
Routt
Samuel(s)
Simerall
Sublett(e)
Thomason
Thornton
Thompson
Wade
Waller
Wallis
Watkins
Withers
Wymore
Younger

Saturday, April 3, 1869

Joined the M.B. Association yesterday. Paid W. A. Hall \$6.10 as my entrance money. Am now a member and if I die soon, family entitled to \$1.00 from each of the members.

Sunday, April 4, 1869

Receipts for making soap
1st Toilet soap

Take six quarts of clear water; six pounds of hard soap; one fourth pound of sal soda; one tablespoon of spirits of ammonia, and two tablespoons of spirits turpentine. Color and perfume according to fancy. This will make 18 pounds.

2nd Jelly soap

To make 50 pounds: Take six gallons of clear water; three pounds of hard soap; four tablespoonfuls of spirits of Turpentine; two tablespoons of Spirits of Ammonia, and one pound of sal soda

Wednesday, April 14, 1869

I am afflicted with a very bad cold – kidneys etc.

Monday, April 26, 1869

Post office moved to Berry's building to day, John Share P.M. (Postmaster). Ella still complaining – toothache & face swollen. No news of importance in the papers. Grant is having some trouble with his appointees especially his Cabinet.

Note: John Share is Dr. Dougherty's future son-in-law; he marries Ella Dougherty on October 29, 1874.

Wednesday, May 5, 1869

Ella went on a fishing party. I don't like such business.

Wednesday, May 12, 1869

John Leonard has left his house and they say is crazy. Negro Bob Gant has bought the place and moved in it.

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

Articles from the *Liberty Tribune*

March 30, 1900

College Boys Out of Quarantine: It was a happy party of boys who marched into town Tuesday morning after having been in quarantine two weeks in tents on the Lincoln place, southeast of town. The boys were glad that they did not have the smallpox and to be free once more. They could again see their sweethearts and enjoy life as college boys know how to do.

The boys were sent to the tents two weeks before from the Lightburne house, where the case of smallpox broke out. They never showed any symptoms of being sick. They were at chapel Tuesday morning and were warmly welcomed by their fellow students and the faculty. Dr. Greene said the two weeks in quarantine may prove of more benefit to them than if the time had been spent at school. It was a time for serious thoughts with the boys.

Dan Asher and his family, who had been kept in the lower part of the Lightburne house were sent to the tents the day the boys left, to remain fourteen days.

C. G. Shull, the student who nursed his roommate, Albert Shelton, while the latter had the smallpox, has the varioloid. His vaccination took well and he is escaping easily. Fortunately, Mr. Shelton had recovered sufficiently to care for Mr. Shull.

All danger of other cases is now thought to be over and small pox in Liberty will soon be a thing of the past.

No new cases of smallpox at Missouri City. Dr. Rowell says the Negro, Henry Thompson, only had the varioloid. Miss Sue Martin of Pratherville, the doctor says, had the varioloid, but is about over it. She lived near the Simonds home and was at the house. The Simonds family have been released from quarantine.

Note: According to the dictionary, "varioloid" is a mild form of smallpox in persons who have previously been vaccinated or who have had the disease. (Amusingly, Spellcheck tried to change the word to "ravioli.") The last case of smallpox in the United States was in 1949. The last naturally occurring case in the world was in Somalia in 1977. After the disease was eliminated from the world, routine vaccination against smallpox among the general public was stopped because it was no longer necessary for prevention.

July 3, 1903

A crazy man who said his name was Porter was found at Randolph Wednesday by Constable Lou Sissom. He had on only a shirt and a pair of pants cut off at the knees. He was thought to be a man who got out of bed and left his home in Kansas City. Sheriff Wymore took him there.

January 29, 1909

At a county fair out in Kansas a man went up to a tent where some elk were on exhibition and stared wistfully at the sign. "I'd like to go in there," he said to the keeper, "but it would be mean to go in without my family and I cannot afford to pay for my wife and seventeen children." The keeper stared at the man in astonishment. "Are all those your children?" he gasped. "Every one," said the man. "You wait a minute," said the keeper. "I'm going to bring the elk out and let them see you all."

February 5, 1909

Shortly after Christmas Herndon Vick, a farmer near Bunceton, received a package of cartridges through the mail. Before using any of them he noticed that some were lighter than others. He opened these and found that the powder and shot had been removed from them and dynamite substituted.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Book: "My Life and Time" by Homer Weakley, donated by Kenneth Neth.

Pictures: McCulloch (owned Barry Grocery Store) and a soldier, donated by Jane Elliott.

Property abstract of school lands (Township 52, Range 30, Section 16), donated by Robert L. Mathis.

Book: "Historic Hotels of Missouri" donated by the author, David A. James.

Three books: "Wildflowers" by Frederic Stack, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," and "Hoyle's Games"(autographed edition), donated by Bettie Kirkland, former librarian at Frank Hughes Library, the building that houses the Archives.

Scrapbooks covering the years 1973 to 1974, 1985 to 1986, 2002 to 2006 and 2006 to 2007, donated by the Alexander Doniphan Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Photograph of man standing in front of Butler and Sons service station near what is today Chouteau and Parvin Roads, donated by Fran Broderick.

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THE COURTHOUSE CLOCK

The following article appeared in the Liberty Chronicle on June 11, 1936.

Old Resident Writes
Courthouse Clock Poem

Some time ago Judge J. M. Sandusky, in discussing the old courthouse, expressed a wish for some suitable poetry in memory of the old clock that did duty for so many years in the cupola of the old building. A few days ago he received a letter from Mrs. Phosa Clark Smith, a former resident of Liberty, extending personal greetings to the Judge and his niece, Mrs. Cartwright, and inclosing a poem entitled "The Court House Clock," which she had written on reading of his wish in the matter. Mrs. Smith is the daughter of a minister and the family lived in the north part of Liberty. Her letter, in part, and the poem inclosed, are as follows:

Happy, Texas
May 22, 1936

Judge J. M. Sandusky
Liberty, Missouri
Dear Mr. Sandusky:

Some time ago I noticed in the Liberty paper that you wished for a line of two in token of our old town clock. Today while seated in a reminiscent mood your wish returned to me. Soon in memory I found myself again walking on the streets of Liberty, gazing at the old town clock.

It is a poor offering, yet I am glad to send it to you. I was reared in Liberty, attended high school, was graduated from Liberty Ladies College, and then went away to teach and attend other schools. But after all, I remember Liberty very kindly, indeed.

Very sincerely yours,
Phosa Clark Smith

THE COURTHOUSE CLOCK

The old ding-dong on the courthouse top
Was known to us all as the courthouse clock.
Silently it stood as it ran its way,
And told the story of a better day.

By force of habit, its hands it held
Before its face as all beheld;
Modest, yet grim as it ticked away,
For well it knew of Time's decay.

Oft when trudging our way to school
Its hands pointed out – "No time to fool."
When ravaging fires our town did threat
The old clock's gong – we shall never forget.

Another memory long to last
To an eager child who liked to ask,
When the Judge was anxious the crime to quell,
They went out and rang the town clock bell.

And soon came running the jurors all
To fill the grand old courthouse hall.
And if a witness Time held out,
"A ten for you," the Judge would shout.

Varied scenes both day and night –
Scenes of pleasure, scenes of plight,
Scenes of honor, scenes of mirth –
Not one in her vigil did the town clock shirk.

For many years has this old friend stood,
As true friends have and always should.
A true memorial for the years that have passed,
To live in our hearts until the last.

A loving tribute we give to thee,
The Courthouse clock in Liberty;
A sturdy sentinel thou hast stood.
Guarding well our brotherhood.

Mrs. Phosa Clark Smith
Happy, Texas

May 22, 1936

Dedicated to my father and mother and to the other early residents of Liberty, Missouri.



The second Clay County Courthouse, built in 1857 – 1858. It was torn down in 1934 to make room for the present structure. The first courthouse, constructed in 1832, burned down in March 1857.

The courthouse actually had four identical clocks, each measuring six feet in diameter. Three were lost and the fourth now resides with the Statue of Justice on the third floor of the current courthouse.

GENEALOGY HUMOR

My family coat of arms ties at the back.

**100 YEARS AGO
EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE**

Friday, April 2, 1909

Captain William H. Pence The death of Captain William H. Pence of Kearney occurred Thursday morning. He had been in a critical condition for sometime and lost his eyesight several years ago.

The funeral will be held at the residence northwest of Kearney Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The service will be conducted by Rev. **Nicoll**, pastor of the Christian Church. Burial will be at Muddy Fork by the Masons.

Captain Pence was born in Kentucky, March 20, 1825, and was brought to Missouri that year, when six months of age, by his father Adam Pence. They settled four miles west of Liberty and his father entered 1000 acres of government land. Mr. Pence moved to Kearney township in about 1835 and bought 400 acres of land, and died at the age of 86. Captain Pence's mother died when she was 85 years of age.

In 1846 Captain Pence left for Mexico with **Doniphan** and was mustered out at New Orleans 14 months later, after the Mexican war. He went to California then, before the big rush during the gold excitement, going overland with six yoke of oxen.

For four years he remained in Golden State, and meanwhile mined but mostly engaged in packing on mules to the mines. His train of twenty-seven mules was at one time covered under 15 feet of snow, and this catastrophe entailed a loss of \$7000. By making snow shoes and walking fifteen miles, he was able to save himself, but he lost everything.

As soon as he had earned enough money to pay expenses, he returned to Missouri, making the trip by water.

October 20, 1854, Capt. Pence married Dinitia **Estes** who was born here; their nine children all grew to maturity and were: Jefferson, William, Josiah, Robert L., Harrison, Lucinda, America, Eliza E., and Adam.

He enlisted in Company C, **Thompson's** regiment, and served one year and a half, at the expiration of which time he was made captain of his company. Mrs. Pence died October 18, 1871, aged thirty-one years. February 5, 1880, Capt. Pence married Miss America **Smith**, who was born in Kentucky, and came to this county in 1856. He and his wife were members of the Christian church.

"Crab Cider" Barred Several places in Liberty were selling a drink labeled "crab cider" and the city and county officers suspected that it

contained alcohol. The demand was growing and fellows who like something stronger than soda water and lemonade showed a fondness for it.

The dealers, however, at once stopped selling the "cider" when their attention was called to the matter. Another drink called "cherry" was being sold at one or two places.

The officers had Prof. **Parker** of William Jewell college analyze "crab cider" and it has about six per cent alcohol, two per cent more than beer. The drink was being sold at Kearney, also.

The Time-a-Phone One of the many novelties exhibited at the Chicago electrical show was the time-a-phone. Attached to one of the posts of a booth was a small device about the size of a watch case. This receiver was connected to a small green cord of insulated wire. When this device was held to the ear and a button pushed, the listener could hear the exact time of day. A set of musical chimes strike the hour, a set of double gongs give the quarters and a high-pitched bell tolls of the minutes. To a man in the dark the time-a-phone tells the time to a minute. It is planned to use the invention in hotels where each room will be provided with one of the instruments connected to a master clock in the basement. The time-a-phone is placed under the pillow and any guest wishing to know the hour has only to apply the receiver to the ear and press the button.

Friday, April 16, 1909

Albert Moore was sick a few days and had to lay off. His brother Weber carried the mail in his place. Monday was a fine day to initiate Weber into a full-fledged mail carrier.

John Price came home last Saturday to remain over Sunday in order to get a few square meals.

Two Deaths at the Home J.V. **Elbert** died at the Odd Fellows Home Monday. He was 4 years of age and his death was due to cerebral hemorrhage. The remains were shipped to Knob Noster, Mo. that afternoon. Mrs. Elbert is also an inmate of the Home.

Miss Neva **McCammish**, aged 13 years, died last Saturday afternoon of consumption. The body was shipped to Lockwood, Mo., Monday, where she has relatives living. There are three brothers of the deceased in the Home. This is the first death among children that has ever occurred in the Home.

Friday, April 23, 1909

Mrs. Kate **Tapp** was told by one of her

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THE PLOT TO STEAL ABE LINCOLN



(This year the MOsaic is including an article about Abraham Lincoln in each issue, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth.)

The year was 1876. James “Big Jim” Kennally a Chicago counterfeiter, having lost the services of his most talented employee, engraver Ben Boyd, who had been sent to prison for his artwork, was looking for a way to spring his friend and thus preserve his business.

His creative idea? Steal the body of Abraham Lincoln, the most precious unguarded treasure in the United States. Hold it for ransom until Boyd was set free and the government had handed over \$200,000. What could go wrong?

Grave robbing was a lucrative profession in 19th-century America. Medical schools wanted cadavers for anatomy classes and paid cash for reasonably fresh specimens. These thefts were not greeted fondly. Mobs of outraged citizens attacked medical schools and doctor’s offices in New York City in 1788, Baltimore in 1807, New Haven in 1824 and Cleveland in 1852.

Most of the time the robbers didn’t get caught. They’d open a grave in the middle of the night, slip the body into a canvas bag and flawlessly re-sod the turf.

On the night of Tuesday, November 7, 1876, Big Jim was in Chicago. But his associates Jack Hughes, Terrence Mullen and Lewis C. Swegles were in Springfield, ready to carry out his plot. Unknown to the others, however, Swegles was an informant, paid \$5 a day by the U. S. Secret Service to keep tabs on the counterfeiters and other shady types in Chicago.

Hughes and Mullen had picked November 7 because it was Election Day and they figured that the state capital would be full of “people, bustle and booze” and no one would notice a small group of strangers passing through.

The Lincoln tomb in 1876 held the President and his sons Willie and Eddie. Mary would join them in a few years. The President’s lead-lined wooden coffin was located in the tomb’s burial chamber, above ground, encased in a marble sarcophagus. The thieves knew the layout; they had scouted the site thoroughly, visitors being allowed inside the chamber to pay respects.

The three entered the cemetery and approached the tomb. Their plan was to scoop up the

coffin, carry it to a waiting wagon, driven by a fourth man, William Nealy (also an informant) and high-tail it out of town.

Mullen began ripping away at the door lock with a hacksaw, but pretty quickly the blade broke. No one had thought to bring a second blade. However, they had packed a nice sturdy file, which Mullen and Hughes alternated using for the next half hour.

Finally the lock came apart. The men opened the door and entered the tomb. Closing the door behind them, they lit a lantern and used various tools to pry off the lid of the marble vault. There it was: the sealed coffin of Abraham Lincoln. Unfortunately, the lead-lined box was so heavy that the three could not lift it. Swegles was sent to fetch Nealy to help. Outside the tomb, he signaled to the five officers, tomb custodian and newspaper reporter standing by.

As the officers and friends approached the tomb, one of their guns accidentally went off. After he recovered from the shock, commanding officer Patrick Tyrrell, dashed to the door, flung it open, lit a match and peered inside. Not a living soul was in there.

Seeing a shadowy figure lurking behind a nearby tree, Tyrrell fired. The figure fired back. Another shot from Tyrrell. Two more from the shadowy figure. Tyrrell called for help from his men, “The devil’s up here!” he bellowed. The shadowy figure then asked an important question, “Tyrrell, is that you?” It turns out that the person Tyrrell had been trying to shoot was John McGinn of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. Mullen and Hughes had beat a hasty retreat into nearby cornfields. Lincoln was safe.

Mullen and Hughes were arrested in Chicago. They were convicted and sent to Joliet for a couple of years. Big Jim Kennally was not formally linked to the attempted body theft, but spent significant time in prison over the next few years on various charges, including counterfeiting.

Without informing higher authorities, a crew hoisted Lincoln’s coffin out of its marble vault and stored it in a moldy basement below the tomb. Eventually it was buried in a shallow unmarked grave. Mrs. Lincoln was buried there, too, upon her death in 1882. The situation improved in 1887, when both were reburied in the tomb in a well-protected grave, which was filled with tons of concrete.

In 1901, in conjunction with a refurbishing of the Lincoln Tomb, authorities moved the coffins again. Before they did, though, they took one last look at the President. He looked fine.

From the January/February 2009 issue of The History Channel Magazine

OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Archives volunteers have devoted many hours during the past three months.

We really need more volunteers so we can lighten our load and get more done. If you would like to volunteer, let us know. Groups are most welcome. Get a bunch of friends together and come on over one or two days a month.

If you are interested, please contact Carol Olson at 816-781-3611 or 816-452-3540.

GENEALOGY HUMOR

My hobby is genealogy; I raise dust bunnies as pets

RECENT ACCESSIONS

(Continued from Page 5)

Mt. Gilead Church booklet, dated 1915 and photos of Logan and Winn families, donated by Marlena Dee Sebolt Kirton.

Deeds to Millis Hotel and Methodist Church in Smithville, donated by Janene Critcher.

Books: "Centennial, Greater Excelsior Springs" and "Rejuvenation & Renewal, the History of Excelsior Springs," donated by Kenneth Neth.

Flyer on D. W. Newcomer's Sons North Kansas City Chapel, *Kansas City Star* pages from March 18, 1993 and search warrant for house in Missouri City, owned and operated by James Cooper, donated by Bill Ballew.

Gabbert, McConnell – Hornbuckle records, pictures and newspapers on Gabbert family, donated by Frances and Roy Hornbuckle.

Sun newspapers, assorted pictures, negatives and posters, donated by the *Liberty Tribune*.

Photographs of Birmingham School classes, 1960 to 1968, donated by Myrtle Welsh.

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

GENEALOGY HUMOR

A pack rat is hard to live with but makes a fine ancestor.

The Genealogical Society of Central Missouri had an interesting article in one of its recent magazines, called "Conquering the Courthouse", by Anne Carmichael Miller. Some excerpts follow:

A research trip to the courthouse (in the county of your ancestor's residence) can provide a huge range of record types, including marriage, land, probate, county and civil court, tax, naturalization, jury, military, etc.

Choose an office in which to start and greet the clerk, asking to see records that cover the years of your research period. Ask about copy costs and rules, availability and location of surviving *original* records, where you may work, business hours and any other questions you may have. It is ok to take time to browse the shelves to see what types of records are available to you.

As you begin your research, you will want to:

- Study the index books. Check all possible spellings for your surname and make a list of the documents you find, in case you want to write for others from this list at a later time;
- Locate each document on your list and evaluate its importance to your research;
- Copy the pages you have selected;
- Take time to make good notes that you will be able to understand when you get home. Note which records were copied and which were not and why not. And don't forget to document.
- Before you leave, make sure you have the copies you wanted and that they are readable.

SILK ART

An interesting day trip from the Kansas City area is to the Saint George Hotel in Weston, Missouri. Inside is a small museum filled with the French and English silk art belonging to hotel owner John Pottie. In 1980 he was shopping at an antique mall and happened upon what he thought was an engraving of an 18th-century French billiards scene. Being a sports memorabilia collector and a former semi-pro billiards player, he snatched it up, not realizing that it was actually an example of Jacquard weaving. Invented by Joseph Marie Jacquard in 1804, the process uses punch card technology to control the pull of thread on a loom, similar to the operation of early computers.

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CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

By Ken Neth (Known around the Archives as Mr. Cemetery.)

It seems that gravesites are literally popping out of the ground. We have learned of another gravesite southeast of Holt. William Smith Crawford died in 1836 on his way home from the Heatherly War. Information indicates he was buried in a cemetery near his homestead, which was in Section 5.

We are continuing to be troubled with vandalism. Fairview Cemetery in Liberty had a number of stones turned over this week.

Note: The Heatherlys were a family of ne'er do wells who blamed their misdeeds on Indians, causing a number of Clay County citizens to mobilize unnecessarily against the Indians.

PUTTING ON A POSITIVE SPIN

(Couldn't resist including this one)

It seems a Montana cowboy was hanged as a train robber in 1889. He had previously done time in the territorial prison for horse thievery. A biographical sketch written by one of his relatives went like this:

"Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor, when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

*"Show Me" State Genealogical News,
Summer 2009*

AND YOU THOUGHT SPAM WAS A NEW THING

THOSE "PRAYER CHAIN LETTERS". We have received through the mail another one of the "prayer chain letters" that periodically make their appearance among Christian people. The letter claims that all who write this prayer will be delivered from calamity, and those who pass it by will meet with some misfortune. Those who copy the prayer within four days and send it to nine friends, it is alleged, will on the ninth day receive joy.

It is a strange thing that people will be so misled by a superstitious dread of calamity and a foolish anticipation of some special joy. God has nowhere promised special blessings for any such act as this, and every Christian who receives such a letter should promptly consign it to the flames or to the wastebasket. As we have frequently stated, the postoffice department has made efforts to stop these "endless chains" and has placed a ban upon their passage through the mails. – Christian Observer.

From the Liberty Tribune, May 10, 1912

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

used to find the families by various methods including posting the information and pictures on internet sites.

Another service we are planning is to arrange a workshop by Jonathan Appell of New England Cemetery Services. He will teach interested parties how to preserve the stones by cleaning, resetting and rejoining fractured tablet stones. He will be available the fourth week of July and we will invite all who are interested, as well as issue invitations to all area cemetery associations.

I would hope those of us who are local to Liberty would volunteer to help in the inventory and to attend the workshop. Please contact us to do so by calling 816-781-3611 or by emailing us at info@claycountyarchives.org.

We and the families thank you.

Stuart E. Elliott

Owing to complaint of the Illinois Humane society of "cruelty to animals," Mrs. Mary Fenimore of Chicago has discontinued the use of electric light in her house to increase the egg production. It is claimed the hens are overworked.

From the Liberty Advance, January 14, 1924.

GENEALOGY HUMOR

I researched my family tree; apparently I don't exist.

SOME INTERESTING EPITAPHS

Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up and no place to go



Here lies Johnny Yeast... Pardon me for not rising



On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle went out of tune

100 YEARS AGO
EXTRACTS FROM THE
LIBERTY TRIBUNE
(Continued from Page 7)

neighbors that she had a turkey hen setting down in the pasture. Mrs. Tapp went to the place and was surprised to find the turkey had nine little possums in her nest instead of young turkeys. The hen and possums are all doing well. Mrs. Tapp thinks they will be as profitable as the turkeys would have been. Anyone wishing a pet possum call Mrs. Kate Tapp, phone 627.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank **Hughes** landed at New York last Sunday from their trip to the Holy Land. Their ship, the *Baltic*, was two days overdue in reaching New York and had a very stormy voyage. Mr. Hughes is expected home Friday. Mrs. Hughes will go to Slater from Chicago to see relatives before coming on to Liberty.

Friday, April 30, 1909

Will **Smith** came here from Chicago last Saturday and drove to the farm of James **Withers**, near Missouri City, in company with Sterling **Price**. Will had some Angus cattle at Mr. Withers' farm and expects to have a sale in Kansas City in June.

Mr. Smith is now manufacturing automobiles, having purchased a machine plant in Chicago. He thinks he has the design for one of the best machines to be had. The one he is making will have four cylinders, about 35 horse power and sell at a price of \$2,250. Mr. Smith has met with good success on mechanical devices he has invented and had patented. He lived at Mosby before going to Chicago.

Friday, May 14, 1909

A dispatch has been published in daily newspapers from Los Angeles, Cal., to Baltimore, Md., telling about Liberty having only one prisoner and saying that he carries the key to the jail, attends prayer meetings, and goes and comes at will. It started from the Negro, Ed. **Marshall**, being a trusty. An Eastern paper took the news item as the subject of an editorial to show that prisoners in the West are treated much better than in the East. Below is the dispatch clipped from the *Los Angeles Times*.

Liberty (Mo.) May 4 (Exclusive Dispatch) Mr. **Parsons** of the State board of the Society for the Friendless, who does prison work arrived here today to work among the county prisoners. He looked up the sheriff and was told the only prisoner was a Negro who was serving a sentence for bootlegging and that the said prisoner had his cell locked up and

was out visiting his girl. Mr. Parsons explained further that he wished to reform the man and he was told that the Negro, Ed. Marshall, attended church, midweek prayer meetings and didn't need any more religion. This is the way Clay county takes care of her prisoners – treats them so well that they would not escape for any money.

The jail is one of the old style ones and has a key eight inches long. Negro Marshall, the prisoner, carries it with him and explains that it is the key to his "office."

SILK ART
(Continued from Page 9)



It was a laborious process, requiring as much as three years of work to map out the details of a painting and prepare punch cards to recreate it. Reproducing a painting in silk was so complex and time-consuming that only the wealthiest patrons – churches or monarchies, typically – could afford to commission the work. Consequently, much of the artwork woven in silk in the mid-19th century was religious in nature.

Now called the National Silk Art Museum, this collection's "incomparable holdings span 700 years of achievement in virtually every form: Impressionism, Expressionism, Romanticism, Classicism, Mannerism and Rococo." On exhibit are over 200 masterworks of French silk tapestry based on works by major artists primarily of the 19th and 20th centuries.

A 2005 survey showed 7,100 visitors came specifically to see the art. Of those, 3,300 had never been to Weston and 1,100 mostly foreign visitors had never heard of Missouri. Last year 14,000 people from 52 countries came to see the art.

While you are there, check out Charlemagne's Restaurant, Audrey's Café and Valentino's, all housed in the hotel. I can personally recommend Charlemagne's Reuben sandwich and German potato salad.

Information for the article came from the May 2009 issue of "Rural Missouri" the publication of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives and the Museum's brochure. For more information, go to www.nationalsilkartmuseum.com.

ARCHIVES ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Our annual volunteer appreciation (indoor) picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Archives. All members are invited to attend. The Archives will furnish meat, drinks and table service. Participants should bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Please make reservations by Friday, July 17th by calling the Archives at (816) 781-3611 or Carol Olson at (816) 452-3540.



ARCHIVES HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

The Archives held an Open House reception for Liberty and North Kansas City officials on May 13th. The event was held in appreciation of their efforts that brought about roof repairs, new heating and air conditioning equipment, painting, lighting and several new windows. Archives volunteers and visitors greatly appreciate these improvements to our building.

GENEALOGY HUMOR

I looked up my family tree and found that I was a sap.

The Clay County MOsaic

Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.
210 E. Franklin StreetP.O. Box 99
Liberty, MO 64069(816) 781-3611
info@claycountyarchives.org