

# The Clay County MOsaic

*"Fitting the Pieces Together"*

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

July-August-September 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](mailto:info@claycountyarchives.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As an update to the last President's Message, I'd like to report on the response to the wanton vandalism in Liberty's Fairview cemetery. As you may remember, it was discovered in June that well over 150 of the headstones were knocked over and some damaged.

Volunteers at the Archives sprang into action, meeting with city representatives offering to help organize and lead the effort to restore the cemeteries, as well as perform any research that would be necessary to identify graves and possibly current family members. The city quickly recognized that they must take the lead on this problem since they own the cemetery.

Among efforts of the Archives volunteers, we organized (and helped fund) a workshop in July by Jonathan Appell, of New England Cemetery Services. He held sessions in Liberty (at Mt. Memorial Cemetery on the William Jewell College Campus and at Fairview Cemetery) over the course of three days, which were attended by dozens of people from throughout the local region (and beyond) who are interested in cemetery preservation. There were even attendees from as far away as Wisconsin. Mr. Appell taught techniques for headstone cleaning and preservation as well as giving instruction to city workers and others about how to properly reset the toppled headstones.

As a further testament of the feelings and sentiment of area residents, a volunteer contingent of over 100 people from all over the Kansas City area assembled on July 25<sup>th</sup> to clean up Fairview cemetery. Services were donated by Boy Scout Troop 374 and the local VFW post as well as water from the Price Chopper grocery store. Liberty Mayor Greg Canuteson was most appreciative and moved by the care and concern displayed by this phalanx of volunteerism.

Other local residents and businesses joined the cause by donating the time, effort and equipment necessary to right the fallen headstones. For instance, Jay Lemons volunteered equipment from his towing company to help upright the stones.

Further action was taken by the city in July,

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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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

This issue we are featuring First Lady trivia. The term "First Lady" applies not only to the President's wife, but also to daughters or other relatives who served as White House hostesses because the President's wife had died or was otherwise unable to serve.

Martha Washington was the first to be given the title "Lady" by the press; they called her "Lady Washington."

Abigail Adams was the first woman to be both a President's wife and the mother of a President. She was also the first First Lady to live in the White House.

No known portraits exist of Martha Jefferson, who died 18 years before her husband Thomas was elected President. Their daughter Martha Jefferson Randolph served as White House hostess.

## SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

*Contributors -- \$100-\$499*

*Friends -- \$25-\$99*

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### 2009 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 **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

The Illinois State Genealogical Society will hold its fall conference in Elgin, IL on October 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information check their website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilsgs/projects/for ms/fallconfann.html>

*From "Show Me" State Genealogical News, Fall 2009*

The Missouri History Museum has two upcoming lectures:

- Genealogy Workshop on October 10<sup>th</sup>
- House History Workshop on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

See their website <http://www.mohistory.org> (Calendar of events) for more information.

*From "Show Me" State Genealogical News, Fall 2009*

The German language was still in widespread use in various parts of Missouri when the First World War began. It was spoken as a second language by many German-Americans in St. Louis, and the St. Louis Public Schools offered free classes in German on Saturdays in various city schools. In some historically German rural communities, German was still the primary language. In 1914, there were still 3 daily, 25 weekly and 12 monthly German-language publications in Missouri. When the U. S. entered the war in 1917, however, the federal government and the state government both began campaigns to make the public believe that anything German was not to be trusted.

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

### Leaving Pennies on Tombstones

To leave a penny on the gravestone lets the family know that someone has been there and the deceased is not forgotten. It is basically a sign of good will and respect.

Putting pebbles on a gravestone is a Jewish tradition. It started out with the custom of leaving a written prayer for the deceased on a scrap of paper, which was weighted down with a stone and left on a grave, just as prayers are inserted into the Wailing Wall. Eventually the paper rotted away, leaving only the stone behind and, over time, the tradition changed to simply leaving the pebble.

*From the Brown County (KS) Genealogical Society newsletter, Vol. XIII, Issue 2*

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## FIRST LADY TRIVIA

Dolley Madison was the first American to respond to a telegraph message. It was sent by Samuel Morse.

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

**Friday, May 21, 1869**

Went to see Mrs. J. M. Jones, fell and bruised her arm.

*Note: Mrs. J. M. Jones, the wife of a former sheriff and loyal Union man, was a businesswoman when few women worked outside the home. She operated the Old Wine Cellar for many years. Many a confederate man owed his life to her, even though she was associated with the Union.*

**Tuesday, June 15, 1869**

Lew, Annie, Flora & Johnnie all came in this evening, and staid all night. They went down to see Mrs. Reed and Irene at the Arthur House.

*Note: The Arthur House Hotel was located at the corner of Kansas and Water Streets, where the city fountain is today. It was built in 1855 and named for Michael Arthur, a very successful Liberty businessman. He built the county's first ropewalk and was a partner of Gen. Alexander W. Doniphan in the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Co. The Arthur House stood for nearly 50 years. Such notable people as David Rice Atchison, Gen. John C. Fremont and William Jennings Bryant were guests there. Federal Generals made the Arthur House their headquarters during the Civil War. Michael Arthur died August 6, 1884 at his home at 316 E. Franklin, which stands today.*

**Saturday, July 3, 1869**

Made preparation early to go to Kansas City, took John and Willie along on the cars. Big day in Kansas City, fairly thousand people there. Did not join in Procession, as I could not leave the boys. The Bridge is a triumphant success, five Locomotives were in the middle of the bridge at once, and no sign of giving way. Distinguished men from all parts of the union were there. I did not hear any of the speeches but Capt. Reed Dearing on this side of the bridge. Did not get home till dark. 11 cars crowded.

*Note: Not long after the advent of railroads in the country, there was talk of constructing a transcontinental line. This, of course, would mean crossing the mighty Missouri River, which was, and still is, a more formidable obstacle than the*

*Mississippi River above St. Louis. There were great debates and many political maneuverings were made while deciding where the first bridge to cross the Missouri River should be built. St. Joseph, Weston, Leavenworth and Kansas City were all in contention for the site. In the end Kansas City won out, and on August 19, 1866 Col. Octave Chanute, the designer of the bridge, arrived. On July 3, 1869 the Hannibal Bridge, known then as the Kansas City Bridge, was opened. That bridge was replaced in 1917.*

**Monday, October 4, 1869**

County court is in session to day. Had an account, or several accounts allowed in court – 130.00 worth and cut down to 100.00. Always my fate in the county court.

*Note: Often the county judges would slash Dr. Dougherty's bills for county reimbursement when he would treat an indigent person at the county farm or a county inmate in the jail.*

**Friday, November 5, 1869**

Went out to see L.B.D.'s (Lewis B. Dougherty) wife with Dr. Irving to pull her teeth, extracted 10. Gave her chloroform, she stood it well.

**Sunday, November 21, 1869**

Called early to see little Maggie Rickards. Found her suffering from tetanus – very bad.

**Tuesday, November 23, 1869**

Stopped at Jones to see Maggie – worse. Drs. Jones and Allen both called in. Poor thing, she died in great agony at midnight last night. Her father is absent. Mrs. Jones took it very hard.

*Note: Maggie Jones Rickards was three years old and the child of Capt. Joseph H. and Sallie E. Rickards. Joseph served as a deputy sheriff and sheriff of Clay County. Today a death from lockjaw (tetanus) is almost unknown, but the little girl was doomed from the start.*

**Thursday, November 25, 1869**

Ella staid all (night?) at J. M. Jones' sitting up with the corpse. They are trying to keep it till the father comes home.

**Thursday, December 2, 1869**

Maggie Jones Rickards was burried today could not wait for Capt. Rickards any longer.

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

**Articles from the *Liberty Tribune***

**May 18, 1883**

James Younger, one of the noted Younger band, died in the penitentiary at Stillwater, Minnesota on Tuesday. He was serving a life sentence for the robbery of the Northfield bank and the murder of its cashier. He never recovered from the wounds received on the day of his capture.

*Note: On Sunday, May 13, 1883 a tornado swept through the area, causing considerable damage. Following are several articles from the Liberty Tribune about the event.*

A very destructive tornado visited this section last Sunday about five o'clock in the evening, doing great damage in town and vicinity. The storm came from the southwest and its course was northeast. In town, the west gable and part of the roof of James Fraher & Sons' brick store room on the N.W. corner of the square, was blown off, and a portion of it struck one of the iron columns of the awning at Stogdale's store room, breaking the column in three pieces and destroying the awning. The west gable of the north wing of William Jewell College and a portion of the roof blew off and it is said, part of the roof thrown a little out of place. A large oak tree blew down on the kitchen of J. J. Stogdale crushing it to splinters. The top portion of the south gable of Bradley & Newlee's drug store blew off. Two chimneys on Ely Hall yielded to the wind and fell over, breaking the slate roof badly. Considerable damage was also done the old Judge Thompson mansion.

In the vicinity (on Smithville road) the large new barn of Capt. John S. Groom was literally demolished. The fine brick residence of W. E. Bell had its east end blown out and a portion of the west and nearly every window in it, scattering his household goods in every direction. His house is very seriously injured, as well as his house effects. No one was at home at the time, which was probably very fortunate. Capt. John S. Thomason, who was passing along the road at the time, was struck with something (supposed to be a piece of the flying timber from Captain Grooms' barn) and stunned, and his horse killed. The Captain, at this writing, is all right except a sprained ankle.

About a quarter northeast of Mr. Bell, R. J. Stepp had a chimney and a portion of his house blown over; and a little further on, Mr. A. Baker had

the ell of his house unroofed. Hall Donaldson, Wm. E. Brasfield, B. Moberly and Jack Mosby had their barns blown over. Jos. Crockett and Henry Walton suffered the loss of their residences. Mr. C.'s wife was injured slightly.

West of Liberty about a mile, the roof of the house on the Will Pence farm, occupied by his son-in-law, Calhoun Jones, was torn off and the house otherwise injured, and the beautiful grove around the house almost leveled to the ground. The timber on the farms of Capt. Garth and Mr. Haverty was also badly injured. Mr. Gus Davidson lost a portico, and a tenement house on his farm occupied by a family, was unroofed and the top of the house toppled in, and miraculous to state, no one was injured. In the same section, Wm. Davidson and John Kincaid both had their houses unroofed and otherwise damaged. We hear no loss of life or serious injury in the county. Those who had them took refuge in cellars.

Missouri City, May 13 – Some damage was done here this afternoon by a cyclone that fell down upon us about 5 o'clock. The steamer Bright Light, moored here, was unfastened and blown across the river, landing on a sandbar.

**May 25, 1883**

Mr. Sammie McKee says that he was not a-straddle of the hedge fence during the storm, as reported. He says it is not so awful funny, though, to be lying by the side of a hedge, a trying to stick as close to the ground as possible, with your coat tail turned over your head to keep the rain out of your eyes and ears, and have the thorny limbs of the hedge flopping up and down across the seat of your pants.

From Glenwood. As a precaution against danger, every family should have a storm-proof cave or cellar near, but not under the house; any kind of hole in the ground, covered with logs 8 or 10 inches thick, covered with earth to keep out the rain, will do. A cyclone can be stopped and broke up by firing off a cannon when within a short distance; the larger the cannon and charge of powder, the more effective will be the result. The concussion and violent agitation of the air caused by the discharge will break the electromagnetic connection between the clouds, earth and air, and a proper equilibrium be restored. The readers of the TRIBUNE can test this theory by firing off a gun or pistol near or in a dust whirl, which is really a cyclone on a small scale. It would be impossible to fully explain this matter in a newspaper article, and what little a clodhopper of Clay county, who scratches his living out of the ground, knows about it wouldn't interest the reader, nor would it benefit. CARLOS

**May 18, 1883**

Phil. Thompson who killed Walter Davis at Harrodsburg, Ky., has been acquitted.

## INDIAN PUDDING

Almost every happy memory the New England colonists had of their former life in England revolved around some festive occasion, one that was often celebrated with rich pudding.

During their early years in the New World, the colonists could only dream of the plum puddings of Old England. Even a simple milk pudding or bread pudding seemed out of the question because of the absence of wheat flour. But there was, of course, Indian cornmeal.

With the increase in the number of dairy cattle brought to Plymouth Colony from England during the late 1620's, milk and milk products became somewhat more plentiful and the Pilgrims could begin to approach the idea of an English-style "milke" pudding. Wheat flour was still scarce, of course, so they used cornmeal instead and called the new creamy, baked dessert "Indian" pudding, even though it contained such non-Indian ingredients as milk, butter, eggs, molasses for sweetening and pinches of such exotic spices as cinnamon and ginger. Thick cream, when available, was poured over the pudding – another non-Indian and distinctly English touch.

The molasses that went into the New England Indian pudding was a special case, for it was neither British nor American Indian in origin. It was the product of Yankee business enterprise as expressed through the New England sea trade.

### INDIAN PUDDING

2½ cups milk  
3 tablespoons cornmeal (yellow)  
½ cup molasses (dark)  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 eggs  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon ground ginger  
Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pour milk into a medium-large saucepan and heat over medium-high heat just until the milk is scalded (tiny bubbles will appear around the edge). Watch carefully so that the milk does not boil.

Add cornmeal, one tablespoon at a time, stirring after each addition to prevent lumps from forming. Add molasses and butter. Reduce heat under saucepan to low and cook mixture 10 to 15 minutes, stirring frequently until thickened. (You want it still of pouring consistency and not as thick as instant pudding.)

In a medium-size mixing bowl, beat eggs with a wire whisk. Add cinnamon, ginger and salt. SLOWLY add hot cornmeal mixture to egg mixture,

beating constantly with whisk. (Add a ladle full at a time so as not to cook the eggs with the hot mix.)

Butter a one-quart casserole dish or other deep baking dish. Pour mix into casserole and bake at 300 degrees for 45 minutes.

Serve Indian pudding warm. Heavy cream may be poured over top. Although not traditional, a scoop of vanilla ice cream is an especially good topping for a portion of Indian pudding. Cool-Whip is also good.

*From thriftyfun.com*

## HISTORY TIMELINE

Sometimes it's hard to know just when a historical event happened, especially in relationship to other events. So to help us get a feel for those timeframes, here is a timeline of some historic happenings. (CE stands for Common Era, formerly known as AD. BCE stands for Before Common Era, formerly called BC.)

Circa 8000 BCE	Jericho, one of the first towns in the world, flourished.
1347 BCE	Tutankhamen (King Tut) became king of Egypt at about age 9.
336 BCE	Alexander the Great came to power in Greece.
391 CE	Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
Circa 790 CE	The Vikings, seafarers from Scandinavia began raids on the people of western Europe and journeyed as far as Baghdad in the east and North America in the west.
1096 CE	The first Crusade set off. There were seven in all, the last taking place in 1270.
1347 CE	The Black Death swept across Europe, killing a third of the entire population.
1517 CE	A monk named Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation.
1519 CE	Magellan began the first voyage around the world. Cortez conquered the Aztecs.
1643 CE	The reign of Louis XIV of France began. His court was splendidly wealthy and he was known as the Sun King.
1654 CE	The Taj Mahal was built by Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan.
1789 CE	The French Revolution broke out.
1848 CE	The California Gold Rush began.
1876 CE	The Battle of Little Big Horn took place.
1901 CE	Australia became a nation.

## HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

The Clay County Museum and Historical Society will hold its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Homes Tour on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Featured this year are homes at 255 N. Leonard, 2135 Manor Way, 233 W. Franklin and 253 W. Kansas, all in Liberty, as well as the Museum building, located on the west side of the Liberty square at 14 N. Main.

Tickets are \$9.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door, cash or check only. For more information, call 816-415-0066 or 816-429-5165.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Jonathan Appell, New England Cemetery Services, Hartford, Connecticut, for leading a cemetery preservation/restoration workshop at Mount Memorial Cemetery in Liberty and working with city staff for two days at Fairview Cemetery, also in Liberty.

And thank you to Jason Milbradt, Manager of the Liberty Fairfield Inn & Suites, for providing Mr. Appell with three free nights lodging, special snacks and a "Welcome to Liberty" letter.

Read more about this event in the President's Message on Page One of this newsletter.

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Archives is looking for interested local residents who would like to be part of a history-related speakers bureau. For more information, call Stuart Elliott at 792-4105. Be prepared to tell us the subject you would like to speak on and the amount of time you would need to prepare a program (lead time).

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

CD of pictures of Birmingham and Minneville schools, donated by the Bob Koehn family.

Telephone books for Kearney, Holt, Missouri City and Orrick for June 1969 and June 1972, donated by Ken Neth.

Copy of text of speech "German Immigration to Missouri" given by Orin F. Nolting in 1982 at William Jewell College, donated by Liz Ivy. The speech was written for and presented at the annual dinner meeting of the Clay County Museum Association.

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## THE CCC IN CLAY COUNTY

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal plan. It was an effort to increase jobs during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Some workers helped stop soil erosion and increased the amount of timber available. CCC enrollees throughout the country were credited with planting an estimated three billion trees. (One nickname for the program was "Roosevelt's Tree Army.") For towns located near camps, the workers brought a desperately needed boost to the local economy.

In Missouri, 100,000 men between the ages of 18 and 25 enrolled in 41 CCC camps. They built 126 lookout houses and towers. Among the other projects, they built a stone bridge in Arrow Rock, restored a mill on the grounds of Montauk State Park and built a stone wall around the Ripley County Courthouse in Doniphan.

Camp Number 1728 had its headquarters in Liberty, where it worked in the area of soil erosion control, conducting demonstrations and presenting talks to local farmers. By this time thousands of acres of valuable farmland in Clay County were badly eroded.

One of the local farmers Donald Pharis was quoted as saying, "Possibly its greatest value has been to make our people soil erosion conscious, in keeping us constantly reminded of the terrible losses it is causing.

"Just seeing your trucks of boys and engineers going out daily in all directions from Liberty, bent on soil conservation work, is a constant reminder to us all of what careless farming is doing to our soil. "People who never before noticed ditches are seeing them now, and because largely of your work, are learning how to control them."

Workers were paid thirty dollars a month, twenty-five of which was sent to their families. The impact of these monthly \$25 allotment checks to families was felt in the economy of cities and towns all across the nation.

After joining the CCC, most of the men gained weight. Duties in the kitchen clean-up crew were rotated among them. A typical camp would issue two sets of work clothes and two sets of uniforms, or the workers could wear their own civilian clothes.

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## FIRST LADY TRIVIA

John Quincy Adams' wife Louisa was the only first lady born in a foreign country – England.

Letitia Tyler, first wife of John Tyler, was a stroke victim and the first president's wife to die in the White House.

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

**Friday, July 9, 1909**

Robert **Don Carlos**, Jr., the little son of Robert Don Carlos, west of town, shot himself in the second finger of the left hand on the Fourth. He had a blank cartridge pistol with a B.B. shot under a paper wad. When the blank was fired accidentally the shot tore the flesh badly on the finger. Dr. Matthews attended him. Robert came in Wednesday with his father to the doctor and seemed to be doing all right.

Clarence **Estes** of Providence neighborhood will be an instructor in the Iowa state university next year, as a chemical engineer. He has gone to Columbia to do work at the government experiment station this summer. One problem they are working on there is, why will salmon go into fresh water to raise their young and then back to salt water and die.

**Friday, July 16, 1909**

Mr. **Holt** Got a Divorce: In the divorce case of Mrs. Laura Holt against Thomas Holt of Mosby in the circuit court at St. Joseph, Mrs. Holt was denied the divorce and Mr. Holt was granted one on his cross-bill. Mr. Holt is a well-known citizen of Mosby vicinity, and she lived at St. Joseph before the marriage. They were married a year ago. Her name was Mrs. **Scott** then, and her maiden name was **Patton**.

In her petition Mrs. Holt said her husband agreed before their marriage to give her the proceeds from the sale of all butter, chickens and eggs, and to rent out his farmland so that there would be no menial work for her to perform. Both parties to the suit are more than 60 years old.

In his cross-bill, Mr. Holt alleged that Mrs. Holt married him for his money, and that she called him a "mossback farmer." Also that she was in the habit of lying abed mornings, forcing him to eat cold breakfasts. The further allegation is made by the husband that his wife "roasted" his preacher and that when she accompanied him to church, she refused to mingle with the members of the congregation after the services.

Fire in an Old Home. Mr. **Morse's** Resident Partly Burned – Gasoline Explosion – Early Days Recalled: The residence of F. G. Morse, on the hill in the northwest part of town, was badly damaged by fire about 10:30 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The fire was due to a gasoline explosion. A colored girl, Etta **Capps**, filled the stove tank too full,

causing it to overflow, then lighting the stove too soon. The flames caused an explosion and the girl was badly burned on the arm. Mrs. Frank Morse was also burned on the arm.

The fire alarm was turned in, but it was a long run to the scene and a long string of hose was necessary from the nearest hydrant. The fire company did good work in putting out the fire after a stream was turned on.

The roof and much of the lower part of the ell were burned, and part of the roof on the front part of the house. Mr. Morse had \$2,000 insurance.

The house is one of the old landmarks of Liberty, and one of the oldest, if not the oldest, now standing. Uncle Bob **Miller** thinks it must have been built in the 30's. It was erected by John R. **Peters** – the front part. Bob **Adkins** had the ell built, and it was his home for a long time. The **Croysdale** family lived there before Mr. Adkins and family.

The house from the earliest days was a great place for young people to gather. "I would have hated to know of the house burning down," said Uncle Bob Miller, as he talked of the past which brought on happy memories.

The frame of the house is built of oak and the weatherboarding is walnut, while tan bark is tamped down in the inside walls, Uncle Bob said, between the weatherboarding and the plastering, which made it warmer. Liberty had two tan yards when this house was built, where leather was made. The town had two places where hats were made, too, in those days, Uncle Bob recalls. Boots and shoes were made here then a great deal. Boots cost from \$8 to \$12 a pair, and they were good ones.

Married First Sweetheart: Alfred Leybourne **Buchanan** created considerable excitement at Excelsior Springs and in Liberty this week. In the former town, he assaulted Homer **Crowley**, because a check for \$25 had not been honored.

In Liberty on Tuesday he became the husband of Mrs. Minerva Jane **Berry** who, he claims, had been his sweetheart for 22 years, and whom his first wife had made him promise to marry on the second anniversary of her death.

Buchanan claimed to be closely acquainted with E. H. Harriman, Secretary Root, Gov. Johnson, Clarence Darrow and other men of prominence, to have journeyed twenty times around the world and to have amassed considerable of a fortune since starting life in Kansas City as a bootblack.

Mr. Buchanan is said to be general agent for the Merchants Life Insurance company of Kansas City and that he had been one of the high officials of the company. Justice Jim **Simrall** performed the ceremony of marriage here Tuesday.

(Continued to Page 11)



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

We are excited to announce that we have two new volunteers, Judy White and Steve Hatcher. Steve will be here on the first Wednesday evening of each month; Judy's hours are more flexible.

Volunteering at the Archives is fun and you can learn so much about local history. 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.

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

(Continued from Page 7)

CD and spreadsheet of Big Shoal Cemetery headstones, donated by Richard King for the City of Gladstone.

HP Scanjet 4570c Scanner, donated by Willy Schumacher.

Dell computer with installed software – full Microsoft Works and CD burner, along with a keyboard and wireless mouse, donated by David Knopf.

Copy of Pro-Slavery Association of Clay County, Missouri poster, donated by Ann Henning.

Bound volumes of the *Liberty Tribune*, *Platte Dispatch Tribune*, *Clay Dispatch Tribune*, *Press Dispatch* and *Dispatch Tribune* newspapers, donated by the *Liberty Tribune*.

Notebook of pictures of Birmingham, Missouri houses donated by Barbara J. Bramble.

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

## CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

Our cemetery list now totals 327 with the latest addition being at the Roosterville Airport.

The Mercer Bush graveyard at Kellybrook School has been reset and landscaped and the Liberty School District did a very good job. It even includes two benches.

## FIRST LADY TRIVIA

Bess Truman, wife of Harry, worked as her husband's salaried Senate aide and never gave an interview as first lady.

## THE CCC IN CLAY COUNTY

(Continued from Page 7)

The CCC gave the men toiletries and a mess kit, but the army issued their bed linens. The men paid for their laundry once a week.

In the early days the men lived in drafty tents, which were later replaced by barracks with wood-burning stoves and electricity. The CCC provided a doctor's office and a dispensary. The men also had a canteen where they could buy sodas and candy bars.

Besides working hard, the men also studied. The curriculum included spelling, penmanship, clerical typing, journalism, cooking, music, Negro history, carpentry, drafting, auto mechanics, forest-fire fighting and others. Recreation consisted of playing softball, shooting pool, boxing, football, skiing, ice skating and more. The Liberty camp even had a glee club and a quartet. Through the camps, more than 400,000 illiterates were taught to read and write.

Young men flocked to enroll. A Chicago judge credited the program with a 55 percent reduction in crime by the young men of that day. In a bit of irony, more than 80,000 Native Americans were paid to help reclaim the land that had once been theirs.

By late summer 1941, lack of applicants, desertion and the number of enrollees leaving for jobs had reduced the Corps to fewer than 200,000 men. War overseas had shifted public opinion to defense rather than conservation. Soon Pearl Harbor made it obvious that in a nation dedicated to war, any federal program not directly associated with the war effort was in trouble. Technically the Corps was never abolished, but Congress refused it any additional money. By 1942 it was gone.

In our current time of legislative boondoggles, it's hard to imagine that between President Roosevelt's inauguration and the enrollee of the first CCC worker only 37 days had elapsed.

For more information go to

[www.cccalumni.org](http://www.cccalumni.org)

*Information for this article came from Missouri Life Magazine, April 2002; Archives files and the website shown above*

## FIRST LADY TRIVIA

Andrew Johnson's wife Eliza taught her husband how to spell and pronounce words properly, but tuberculosis prevented her from being hostess, a role assumed by their daughter Martha Patterson, who milked cows at the White House every morning.

## FORD'S THEATRE



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

When he was assassinated, President Lincoln was just beginning his second term of office. The Civil War had just ended and Lincoln already had preparations in place for rebuilding the southern states with generosity and forbearance, and had decreed that the Confederate soldiers were not to be punished in any way. They were needed to restore their homes and farms and families.

Ford's Theatre was a place President Lincoln loved visiting to enjoy a distraction from his sorrowful burden for a little while. It was in this theatre that the tragic events unfolded on the night of April 14, 1865.

At about 9:00 p.m. as the President watched the play "Our American Cousin," John Wilkes Booth arrived at the back door of the theater. As an actor at Ford's Theatre, Booth was well known there and knew his way around.

The President's box was supposed to be guarded by a policeman named John Frederick Parker. During the intermission, however, Parker went to a nearby tavern with Lincoln's footman and coachman. Whether he ever returned is not clear, but he was certainly not at his post when Booth entered the box.

Booth knew the play, and waited for the right moment, when there would be laughter to muffle the sound of a gunshot. He raced forward and shot the President in the back of the head at point blank range with a single shot from a Derringer pistol.

As Booth struggled to get away, he fought with the President's companion, Major Henry Rathbone, stabbing him with a knife. Jumping from the President's box to the stage below, the spur on Booth's boot became entangled in the Treasury Guard flag at the railing and he fell to the stage, breaking his leg. A stunned audience looked on, unsure of what had just happened, as Booth made his brazen escape through the back door.

Immediately after the shooting, Lincoln was carried across the street to the Petersen House. Down the hall from where Lincoln lay dying, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton set up a command post that launched the manhunt for Lincoln's shooter and his accomplices. Telegrams flew back and forth all night between the great cities of the east coast. The largest manhunt in America's history was under way.

Ford's Theatre reopened in February of this year after undergoing extensive restoration. Plays

and performances are presented throughout the year. For more information visit [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org).

*Information for this article came from a Ford's Theatre brochure and Wikipedia*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

when the City Council voted to approve the formation of a Cemetery Committee to report on matters relating to the three city cemeteries. An Archives board member, Bob Corum, was appointed to that committee.

The Liberty Police Department has yet to make an arrest in this incident but they are still on top of it and suggest identification of the culprit(s) will take time. The reward for information regarding this act is now up to \$7,000.

So it seems as though this unfortunate incident will not soon be forgotten. In an era where people are too busy and too distracted to coalesce into action, we find that there are still events important enough to put aside daily concerns and recognize more "eternal" needs.

*Stuart E. Elliott*

### OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

#### Five Golden Rules of Genealogy

1. Leave no stone unturned, unless it is a headstone.
2. Handwriting legibility is inversely proportional to a document's importance.
3. The further away a cemetery or library is, the more awkward the opening hours will be.
4. The relative you most need to talk to is the one whose funeral you are currently attending.
5. Wherever you find two or more siblings, there also will you find two or more surname spellings.

*From the Brown County (KS) Genealogical Society newsletter, Vol. XIII, Issue 2*

### FIRST LADY TRIVIA

James Monroe's wife Elizabeth was the first first lady to speak a foreign language fluently – French. Little is known about Mrs. Monroe because her husband destroyed all of her correspondence after her death to protect her privacy.

William Henry Harrison's wife Anna never got to live in the White House. Illness prevented her departure to the nation's capital and her husband died a month after his inauguration.

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

(Continued from Page 7)

**Friday, August 27, 1909**

DIED AT AGE OF 94 YEARS. Mr. Darius **Gittings** Came to Clay County in 1843 – Lived an Active Business Life. After a protracted and lingering illness, Mr. Darius Gittings, an old and much respected citizen of Liberty and Clay county, died at his home in this city last Friday morning, August 20. Thus death removes, perhaps, the oldest living resident of Clay county. He was 94 years of age, and among the men familiar to this community for over three-quarters of a century.

Darius Gittings was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, six miles from Washington City, July 27, 1815. He came to Clay county in 1843, making his home with Mr. Madison **Miller**, then a merchant in Liberty. He entered the store as a clerk, the firm at that time bearing the name of Miller & **Arthur**.

October 6, 1847, Mr. Gittings was married to Miss Phoebe A. **Neale**, an estimable lady of a well-known Clay county family. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gittings lived on a farm near Randolph for several years, coming to Liberty in 1864, when he again engaged in the mercantile business. In 1865 Mr. Gittings went into the banking business, the old Liberty Savings Association where he remained continuously until the merging of that institution with the Commercial bank in 1902.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gittings – Charlie, Perry, Marshall, Arthur, Ellis and Mary – four of them died in infancy. Two, Arthur of Michigan City and Ellis of Liberty, remain of the old home circle. Mrs. Gittings died September 8, 1880.

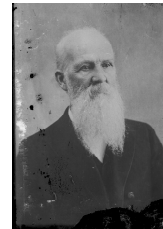
It would be impossible in any notice like this to attempt to tell the story and recount the interesting facts associated with the long and eventful life of this most aged and honored citizen of our community and county. Coming to the new West amid the stirring scenes of the middle of the last century, living through the period of development of this section of the state, his memory was rich in the recollections of over three-quarters of a century.

Mr. Gittings' manner of living was quiet, simple and marked with unceasing industry and attention to business. His style of deportment was the old Southern type of a gentleman. He was a Chesterfield in grace and courtesy of being. Honorable in all his dealings, kind and obliging to his many friends, long will the memory of many an act of kindness and needed help, keep fresh the recollection of this friend to man. He had a most beautiful home. He loved the trees that shaded the lawn, and many happy hours were spent enjoying the comfort of his pleasant and happy surroundings. His

home life was marked with simplicity and yet was the ideal one in devotion and contentment.

His later years, when the "keepers of the house began to tremble," his children lovingly cared for his every want and ministered to his necessities with beautiful tenderness. No life ever closed with more evidence of love and devotion. Like a tired child he fell asleep.

The funeral, a very large one, was conducted by Elder **Loos**, at the home Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The burial was made along side his wife in the Old cemetery on the College hill. Truly a good man has gone to his reward. The sympathy of a large circle of old and new friends all over this section of Missouri, goes out to the family. Few men ever lived so long with as clean and honored a record as Darius Gittings. May he rest in peace.



Darius Gittings

*Note: The Gittings House still stands today at 143 S. Leonard in Liberty. Strangely, Mr. Gittings' obituary did not mention that he was Clay County Sheriff during the Civil War.*

**Friday, September 17, 1909**

Elder F.V. **Loos** made a stirring address at the reunion of the Mexican soldiers at Higginsville last week, and called Doniphan's men the "uncrowned heroes of history."

Mrs. Minnie **Duncan** will have her millinery opening Saturday and now has on display some of the most beautiful creations in artistic headgear for the ladies that it has ever been our pleasure to see. Mrs. Duncan is a tasty buyer and secured some remarkable bargains in the highest class of millinery while at the Eastern markets recently.

While here Mrs. Carrie **Nation** told a joke at her own expense to a friend. "I was in one of the cities across the big pond and was doing a little 'missionary' work when I chanced to meet a red-nosed individual on the street. I wished to be sure that he was a tippler before giving him a little wholesome advice, so asked him 'My friend, are you a drinking man?' Looking at me in astonishment, the old fellow replied, 'Sure, ma'am, I'll take one with you.'"

## ARCHIVES ANNUAL MEETING

Due to scheduling conflicts, our annual meeting will be held at a different day and time this year -- Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the afternoon. Details have not been narrowed down yet. For more information or to make reservations, please call the Archives on Monday through Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

### WANTED

The Archives needs shoe boxes to house photographs. The boxes must be 5 ½" wide, but any length and height will be fine.

## NORTHLAND NEIGHBORHOODS, INC. HONORS ARCHIVES BOARD MEMBER

Ray Brock, long-time civic leader and member of the Archives Board of Directors, has been selected to receive the Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement award for his extraordinary contributions to the community. Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. will present the award at their annual awards breakfast on October 16, 2009.

### REMINDER

**Archives memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Don't be left out! Renew today!**

### The Clay County MOsaic

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