

# The Clay County MOsaic

*"Fitting the Pieces Together"*

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

2009 was a busy year, as the years usually are around here. Some of the highlights are listed below.

We are still working on abstracting the Clay County criminal files, so when they are all scanned and made available, you will be able to find "interesting" criminal cases based on any name found in the case files. You know, horse thieves, murderers and the like.

We survived the Fairview/New Hope Cemetery vandalism case with some benefit. The juvenile perpetrators were caught (fortunately for them, by the police and not the local citizenry). The area cemeteries received a lot of community attention through this. The Archives and the City of Liberty sponsored gravesite preservation training for the general public and for cemetery workers. Many area cemeteries embarked on their own restoration projects because of this.

Ken Neth continued to work on local cemetery sites and records. Almost two-dozen new cemeteries were discovered including some Indian Burial grounds. Ken alerted the Liberty School District about the Mercer-Bush cemetery, so they had to move it for the new Kellybrook Elementary School. The Missouri Department of Transportation was informed about the Lincoln Cemetery, so had to relocate Herndon Drive to skirt the graves just east of Liberty Hospital.

We had another flood in the basement due to unusually heavy storms. We worked very hard to preserve the records stored there. Also, our roof was finally repaired to prevent further water leakage in the Northeast room so we can use it again. The City provided a dehumidifier for the basement.

David Smith and Bill Matteson have been working on our Clay County maps. After all the great work Kevin Fisher did some years ago to collect and create the maps, these two have been busy organizing them.

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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.

## A Boy and His Dog

If there was ever a true affinity upon this old earth it exists between a boy and his dog. The boy who does not just naturally love a dog is not normal -- provided he has even owned and associated with one. Nature has left something out of him which should be there. In these days of tabloid domestic economy, when families live in pigeonholes and city people almost forget what fields and woods look like, we have tried to eliminate the dog from his faithful place. His place is that of a faithful companion, valiant guardian and chum who never has a grouch, never demands more than a bone and does not care whether his master is a pauper or a prince. We are trying to raise children without dogs. We are trying to cultivate in our boys and girls the virtues of love, patience, kindness and humanity without giving them dogs. -- Journal.

*From the Liberty Tribune, December 24,  
1909*

## SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

### BENEFACTORS

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Karen Warren

### 2009 PROGRAM

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Alene Hagerbaumer  
Sylvia Wees

#### FRIENDS

Elizabeth Beckett  
Thomas C. Capps  
John A. Dillingham  
Ann Henning  
Dail and Sallie Hobbs  
Roy and Frances Hornbuckle  
Kermit Karns  
Paul Laughlin  
Bob and Sarah McCrorey  
Sylvia J. Miller  
Nancy M. Mose  
Jack Moselle  
Louisa Rader  
Rean Robbins-Duncan

## 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

Ever wonder what foods the Vikings ate when they set off to explore the new world? How Thomas Jefferson made his ice cream? What the pioneers cooked along the Oregon Trail? If so, visit the Food Timeline at <http://www.foodtimeline.org/>. This site can help you learn details of the everyday lives of your ancestors.

*From the GSCM Reporter, a publication of the Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, Nov./Dec. 2009*

If you have Boone County, Missouri ancestors, try <http://boonehistory.blogspot.com>. (At this site I found the article about President Lincoln's assassination on Page 7 of this newsletter.) It is pretty small at this time, but should grow quickly in an almost unlimited way.

*From the GSCM Reporter, a publication of the Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, Nov./Dec. 2009*

Ancestry.com (UK) is now hosting the records of more than 1.4 million 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century criminal proceedings. The records include 10,300 executions and 97,000 transportations to America or Australia. Go to <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article6736662.ece>

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

If you have Croatian roots, you will really like this website: <http://www.croatian-genealogy.com/>

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

The detailed service records of 250,000 medieval English soldiers, covering the period 1369 to 1453, have gone online in a free database. Find it at <http://www.icmacentre.ac.uk/soldier/database/search.php>

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

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## TRIVIA QUESTION

Who was the only U. S. President to hold a patent?

(See Page 11)

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

**Sunday, December 5, 1869**

Went to Morris Mabe's to see sick children – measles.

**Monday, December 6, 1869**

Not very cold. Found Mabe's child quite sick – will die tonight.

**Wednesday, December 8, 1869**

Cloudy and gloomy, very foggy, unhealthy weather. Some sickness. Heard that Mabe's child died the night I was there.

**Thursday, December 9, 1869**

The Masonic Hall is all plastered and ready for the furniture. We will be ready to occupy it in a few days. It will cost over \$2500.

**Thursday, December 23, 1869**

A very pretty day. Good many in town getting Christmas presents for the holidays. The "Christmas tree" at the Baptist church tonight – all the boys were there. Ella, Mary, & Mattie were there.

**Saturday, December 25, 1869**

Christmas day. Merry times for all the young folks. The Christmas tree was at the Methodist church last night, a beautiful Tree. All the scholars got something. Mattie got a book, & other toys. John got book, Willie got a pr. of skates. Charlie got a little gun, & Minnie got a large Doll which pleased her much. Firecrackers all day.

**Friday, December 31, 1869**

Good many in town, getting presents for New Years. There will be a Ball to night at Thompson House, by Mr. Burris – a party at Gordons.

*Note: Liberty had two very popular hotels, the Thompson House, built by Judge James Turner Vance Thompson, and the Arthur House, built by Michael Arthur. They were considered two of the finest hotels in this part of Missouri. The Arthur House outlasted the Thompson House, but about*

*1913 it burned to the ground. It was located where the fountains are off the square in Liberty. The Thompson House was on the east side of the square. Both hotels were used by residents to entertain, with public and private parties. Both were extremely popular, but the Arthur House did have something the Thompson House did not – a ghost.*

**Sunday, January 2, 1870**

Mr. Franklin made Minnie a present, in the shape of a pair of blue shoes, side buttons. They please her very much.

**Monday, January 3, 1870**

Called before day to see Mrs. Granny Groom, out at Judge Thorps. Thrown from a horse and injured hip. Got back by sunrise.

*Note: Judge Thorp was one of Elder William Thorp's sons; the father was the founder of both Big Shoal Creek Regular Baptist Church and Little Shoal Regular Baptist Church, a week after the former.*

**Saturday, January 22, 1870**

Good many in town, as is usually the case on Saturday. Trade brisk. Liberty has become to be quite a considerable place since the R Road has been completed.

**Sunday, January 23, 1870**

Every thing is dull in and around here. Not enough of sickness to keep me busy. Not making me a great deal.

**Sunday, February 13, 1870**

Did not attend church, as I am tending on the Small pox patients. Vaccinated Charlie and Minnie some days ago and their arms are getting quite sore.

**Wednesday, February 16, 1870**

Portious Denny died night before last, and was burried yesterday. The Small pox in town is frightening the people in the Country. Was appointed City Physician today.

*Note: Portious Denny was the 21-year-old son of John Denny and his wife, the former Harriet Marsh. Portious was a young man of great promise, and formerly a student at Westminster College.*

**Saturday, February 19, 1870**

Not many in town, too afraid of Small pox.

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

*Articles from the Liberty Tribune*

**February 11, 1898**

Jonas Reynolds Found Dead.

Jonas Reynolds, an old man, was found dead in his cabin at Minnville Monday. He had not been seen for a week or more and when a neighbor went to the house his dead body was discovered. Coroner Rowell was notified and, after examining the body, had it brought her to Mosby's undertaking rooms. The coroner thinks that Jonas' death was due to apoplexy. He was dressed and had evidently fallen on the floor. His pencil was in one hand.

Jonas gained some notoriety a few years ago on account of being arrested for making moonshine whisky. The government officers came over here from Kansas City and arrested him at his home northwest of town, where he had a "plant" with which he made stuff that was called whisky. Jonas did not make much more of it than he himself could drink.

In 1895 he was arrested for stealing a horse from his brother-in-law, Wm. Peters, and in November of that year was sentenced to a term of two years in the penitentiary, which he served. Jonas has sons who are excellent citizens.

**August 5, 1898**

A Blind Man Practices Fraud.

The Kearney Clipper publishes the following and the man is the same one who was here the same day and put up a pitiful talk, saying that he had been put off the train, and got enough money to go to Chillicothe:

A blind beggar fell into Kearney Wednesday evening from an old place and soon made known the fact that he was stranded and would like to go on to Chillicothe. The amount of money sufficient to purchase a ticket was soon raised and the ticket purchased and offered to him which he refused to accept upon the flimsy pretext that it was only a blank piece of pasteboard and that the boys were trying to play a prank on him. The money was what he wanted and then he could beg his way to stations and work the same game in each town. He became insolent and abusive and struck someone with his cane, used ugly language and called people fools.

**October 22, 1909**

There is an agitation in England for the abolition of blackboards in schools, and the teachers' associations in some districts have taken the matter up. The complaint is that the dust particles from the chalk often convey the consumption bacillus, and instances are mentioned of apparently healthy teachers whose illness and death are attributed to the blackboard. The alternative is a whiteboard with a black crayon, the dust of which does not fly about like chalk. Meantime school children are still using slates and their arrangements for cleaning them are often not the most desirable. Some schools have given up slates and use paper, which is not much dearer in the long run.

*Articles from the North Kansas City News*

**April 24, 1930**

Parvin Surprised. Popular Minister Remembered on His Birthday by Parishioners and Friends.

Friday evening, just as Rev. Parvin and wife were ready to eat their dinner, a number of cars drove up and folks began coming in with baskets and boxes which were found to be laden with many good things to eat. The day was Rev. Parvin's birthday anniversary and a crowd of folks from his church at Winnwood had planned a surprise. To make it a real surprise, they kept their plans from Mrs. Parvin, for fear she might forget and say something to arouse suspicions. A large and beautiful cake was baked by Mrs. Martha Andrew and decorated in birthday candles.

As soon as Mrs. Parvin could enlarge the size of her table, the many good things were arranged on it and every one did justice to this wonderful dinner.

Rev. Parvin was presented a Bible from the members, and a host of good wishes for his future years. Rev. Crowe from the Winnwood church, was a guest also. Thirty guests were present.

**May 8, 1930**

Orchestra to Be a Feature at Winnwood. Popular Resort and Pleasure Park to Open Season Next Sunday, May 11 – A Free Monkey Jungle.

It is stated by the management of Winnwood Beach that one of its biggest features this season will be the orchestra. Dancers at the beach this season will step to the music of the famous George Morris orchestra. Winnwood Beach opens next Sunday, May 11.

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## BLACKLEGS, TEXAS AND OTHERWISE

Did you ever start to research something only to have something else catch your eye? That happened to me when I was reading a recent Missouri State Genealogical Association Journal.

In its article on extracts from the Huntsville, Missouri *Herald*, was this item:

“A saloon keeper, Collins, was shot and killed in Marshall last Monday night by a man registered as James Wilson, Canada West, but who was really believed to be a Texas blackleg.”

Hmmm, I wondered, what’s a Texas blackleg? A visit to Google was in order. Here’s what I learned:

Apparently there is a cattle disease called “black leg,” ‘cause I found lots of information on that. Sensing that was not what I was looking for, I read on. The term was used from 1835 to 1870 for a gambler or a swindler. It also has been used to refer to a “scab,” a derogatory term for a strikebreaker.

*Blackleg Miner* is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century English folk song. The lyrics depict the aggressive stance against strikebreakers by unionized strikers. During a miners’ strike in Britain (1984-1985), it was used to intimidate miners who continued to work.

### BLACKLEG MINER

It’s in the evening after dark,  
When the blackleg miner creeps to work,  
With his moleskin pants and dirty shirt,  
There goes the blackleg miner!

There are a total of seven verses and you can read them on Wikipedia and also listen to the song sung by “Ryan’s Fancy.” Go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackleg\\_Miner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackleg_Miner)

## INTERESTING THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH FRUIT

**Cobbler:** An American deep-dish fruit dessert or pie with a thick (usually biscuit) crust and a fruit filling, such as apples, peaches or berries. Some versions are enclosed in the crust, while others have a drop-biscuit or crumb topping.

**Crisps and Crumbles:** Crisps are baked with the fruit mixture on the bottom and a crumb topping. The topping can be made with flour, nuts, breadcrumbs, cookie or graham cracker crumbs or even breakfast cereal. Crumbles are the British version of the American Crisp.

**Betty** (or Brown Betty): A fruit (most commonly apples) baked between layers of buttered crumbs. The recipe for Brown Betty (1890) was part of the winning essay for a prize on practical, sanitary and economic cooking. It was featured in a book that was part of a series on feeding a family on thirteen cents a day.

**Pandowdy:** A deep-dish dessert that can be made with a variety of fruit, but most commonly made with apples sweetened with molasses or brown sugar. The topping is a crumbly type of biscuit, but the crust is broken up during baking and pushed down into the fruit to allow the juices to come through. Sometimes the crust is on the bottom and the dessert is inverted before serving. The name is believed to refer to the dessert’s plain or dowdy appearance.

**Grunt or Slump:** Early attempts to adapt the English steamed pudding to the primitive cooking equipment available to the Colonists in New England resulted in the grunt and the slump, a simple dumpling-like pudding (basically a cobbler) using local fruit. Usually cooked on top of the stove, it’s called a grunt in Massachusetts and a slump in Vermont, Rhode Island and Maine.

*From [whatscookingamerica.net](http://whatscookingamerica.net)*

## MISCELLANEOUS GLEANINGS FROM MICROFILM OF EARLY CLAY COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

(Continued from Page 5)

The Morris orchestra was the original Bear Club orchestra at the Bear Club in Lake Placid, N. Y., and came to Kansas City to play at Cuban Gardens, where it has been all winter.

When the orchestra opens at Winnwood it will be enlarged to 17 men. The Don Tores Trio is one of the features of the orchestra.

During the season, the orchestra will offer many novelty numbers which should make George Morris and his orchestra one of the best known dance units in Kansas City.

Besides the featured orchestra, Manager Fred L. Spear announces the new “Monkey Jungle,” a free attraction, which has 30 monkeys loose on an island.

### June 26, 1930

Agrees to End Dancing at the Gateway Inn. Injunction Proceedings Called Off When Operator Signs Agreement With the Prosecuting Attorney.

The Gateway Inn, just north of town on highway 71, has agreed to quit operating as a dance hall. Recent disturbances there had brought on action by the prosecuting attorney and it was expected that an injunction suit would be filed this week. Early this week Edwin Pugh, owner and operator of the place, entered a signed agreement with the prosecuting attorney not to attempt to operate a dance hall there, and agreed not to lease the property for that purpose. He will be allowed to continue to sell sandwiches

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

Harrison Co., Missouri Marriage Records, Volumes 1 through 4, donated by Edward Mason.

Books: Clay County, Caldwell County, Fletcher Family Women Education, William Jewell and Ray County Directory with plat maps, donated by Aurelia T. Swafford and Bonnie S. Krauss.

Loose-leaf notebook containing tax receipts, deeds and some family genealogy on the Baxter family. A book of original poetry and a notebook on the Fowler Inn and family, with photographs of Excelsior Springs, a Wabash railroad car, houses, Isley School, etc. Napkins and a guest book from Fowler Cottage, all donated by Jim and Delores Roberts.

Two copies of original land grants and a copy of an 1869 promissory note, donated by Jeff A. Gentry.

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

## COLUMBIA, MISSOURI WOMAN PRESENT AT PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION

REDMAN FUNERAL HELD. Final Rites Conducted for Woman Who Remembers Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon in the church at Locust Grove, Midway, for Mrs. W. D. Redman of Columbia, who died Friday. She was 79 years old. Her death came unexpectedly as she had not been ill previously.

Mrs. Redman was in the cast at the Ford Theater the night Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth. Although she was only about 10 years old at the time she clearly remembered the excitement following the tragedy in Washington.

## DOWN AT THE OLD GOOSE GAP

By Irving Gilmer

(From the *Liberty Chronicle*, April 21, 1938)

One afternoon during the nice weather in March, I took a ride over roads I had not been along for sixty years. My son, Robert, went with me to see that I made the journey safely. We went out No. 10 highway to the old Pixlee home near Prathersville, turned south, thence east by Lunsford school house and on to the ridge between the Missouri River bottom and the Fishing River valley. The view is very fine, nothing along the road to obstruct it. Looking south over the bottomland were fields of green wheat with the Missouri river in the distance. Cooley Lake was beneath us at the foot of the hills.

Old memories came to me. The Scott, or Moore, cemetery was passed, where old residents of the community sleep their long sleep. Off a little ways was the old home of Tilford Jenkins, the old "watermelon man," who took melons to Missouri City, Liberty and Excelsior Springs and to draw customers had his fiddle with him and played "Turkey in the Straw" and other favorites.

In the old days, at the graveyard, where the road divides was a signboard pointing to way to Elkhorn. Another boy was with me when I first traveled the road and we stopped our ponies and gazed at the signboard. The name had a fascination for us and we wondered how far it was to Elkhorn and what it looked like. The sign pointed across the Fishing River valley to the hills of Ray County. But we were about as far from home as we had ever been, and didn't go then. Elkhorn is still on the map and about seven miles southwest of Excelsior Springs.

We were on our way to the Fishing River bottom to get hickory nuts, for we knew many could be found there – shellbreaks and smaller ones. In the fall the ground under the trees was literally covered, and we had no trouble in filling our sacks.

Across the valley were maple sugar camps, where sugar and syrup were made. This was in the Enon neighborhood, where the Hutchings families mostly lived. They were thrifty and self-sustaining people, making their own clothes mostly out of home-made bluejeans. They took the sugar and syrup to Missouri City, the principal market in those days, and steamboat crews and passengers bought much of it.

On our recent trip we turned to the right at the graveyard and went on down the ridge and suddenly came to a draw or ravine in the hills coming up from Cooley Lake and we were at the scene of the old "goose gap," so called from the fact early-day citizens gathered there mornings to shoot wild geese, that in rising from the lake where they spent the night, with great effort got over the hills, the "gap" being the lowest place for them to go to the north to fields to feed during the day.

The thought of the old timers being there in the long ago with their muzzle loaders to get feathers for their beds and meat for Sunday dinner, dwelt in my mind and I felt I could see them, and knew how they must have felt when they heard the geese honking and starting up. The leader would "honk! honk! honk!" calling his followers on and they would answer with their honks and keep clearing the treetops. The banging of the guns reverberated through the hills and the old gallows were happy as they gathered up the wild game, a great sport to them and reward.

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

**Friday, October 1, 1909**

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Yates **Dodge** filed suit in the circuit court, through her attorney, Col. William J. **Courtney**, asking for a divorce from Theodore Dodge, who she married two weeks ago last Thursday, after a short courtship. The general allegation is indignities. Mrs. Dodge has six children, and it is alleged he falsely represented himself as being rich and able to take care of a family.

At the meeting of the council tonight (Friday) the matter of building a cemetery fence and cleaning up both the Old and Fairview cemeteries will be taken up by the council with the Civic Improvement league committee. The mayor and the council are understood to favor building the fence soon, and it looks as though action will be taken.

One of the best window dressers around the square is Arthur **Mitchell** of W. C. Mitchell & Son's book establishment. He changes his displays constantly and they attract much attention and trade.

In speaking of the special tax bills to be issued in payment of the sewers being put in, a contractor remarked that the only real estate in the city that will be exempt from the tax will be the graveyards. The churches and colleges will not be exempt from this levy as in the general assessment.

Tom **Henderson** tells this story on one of his neighbors, who shall, for various reasons, be nameless. "Mr. Blank, who is very enthusiastic in the cause of the local option (*a liquor control issue*), stored a lot of local option literature in his barn," said Tom. "Accidentally he left the door open and his milch (*milk*) cows came in and ate all the pamphlets. As a result every one of the cows went dry."

**Missouri City:**

George **Kidd** has been quite sick for some time with gravel. He is better now.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney **Smart** will make their home somewhere else, besides Missouri City.

**Mrs. Duncan Awarded \$950:**

The second hearing of the case of Mrs. Minnie **Duncan** against the City of Liberty for damages for falling through a grate in front of the

**Brown** building was submitted to Special Judge **Busby** at Carrollton last Friday and the court awarded to her \$950.

The first trial resulted in a verdict for \$2,000 for Mrs. Duncan, but the city's attorneys secured a new trial on account of faulty instructions to the jury. We understand that the city will accept this judgment. **Simrall & Simrall** and R. I. **Bruce** represented the plaintiff and Ralph **Hughes** and W. J. **Courtney** the defendant.

**Spring Chicken All the Year**

Excelsior Springs Journal: Clay L. **Prather**, assistant postmaster, has formed a partnership with F. D. **Robinson** of Kansas City, and they will go into the chicken raising business this winter in an extensive manner. Mr. Robinson is to reside on Mr. Prather's five acre farm west of the city. They intend to operate at least four incubators and expect to set one thousand eggs each week. It is the intention of Mr. Prather and Mr. Robinson to have spring chicken all the year around.

Mrs. Willard P. **Hall** of Columbia, Mo. And Mrs. Herbert **Campbell** of Allowee, Okla, daughters of the late Hon. John **Dougherty**, deceased, have announced to their grandmother, Mrs. Mary A. Dougherty of this city their desire to erect an iron or stone gateway at the entrance to the New cemetery or Fairview cemetery, as it is now called, in memory of their father.

The ladies have read of the recent movement to improve the cemetery and would be willing to spend several hundred dollars for the gateway, providing, of course, that the proposition meets with the approbation of the mayor and city council, the civic league and all mothers who may be interested in the proposed and much needed improvements of the cemetery.

**Friday, October 22, 1909**

Marvin **Hayes** purchased his brother, Roy's, interest in the café on the east side of the square and in the Arthur House corner lunch room. Roy is now running the East Kansas street picture show.

During the cold snap a water pipe bursted in the heating plant at the Odd Fellows home and some of the aged inmates stayed in bed to keep warm. The plumbers worked at night to get things in shape again.

(Continued to Page 9)



**100 YEARS AGO**  
**EXTRACTS FROM THE**  
**LIBERTY TRIBUNE**  
(Continued from Page 8)

Misses Eva **Irminger**, Elsie **Hartel**, Lovie **Faddis** and Myrtle **Seuell**, all of Paradise vicinity, are in Liberty learning the Keister system of cutting and fitting, in dressmaking. They are four excellent young ladies.

Why wait till half the winter is gone before buying your Horse Blanket. Your horse will feel, and look, better on less feed if you blanket them when tied out. We have a complete line of Blankets and Robes, and our prices are right.

W. L. **Trimble's** Harness Shop

**Friday, November 5, 1909**

A new tin roof has been put on the north porch to the court house, and the judges think they have a lid that will stay on awhile.

R. L. **Cole** and D. M. **Hall** of Kearney vicinity were in Liberty Monday and presented a petition to the county court for a bridge at Muddy Fork, about a mile and a half from Kearney. The crossing was so bad last spring people could not get to Kearney.

**Friday, November 19, 1909**

**Minnaville Postoffice Closed.**

The Minnaville postoffice has been discontinued and the mail now goes to Birmingham. The towns are close together, the postoffices about a half a mile apart.

Minnaville was formerly known as Arnold Station. There was a junction there then, the Wabash using the Hannibal & St. Jo track to the city. Blue Eagle, near where Randolph is now, was the postoffice for that country a long time.

**Friday, December 24, 1909**

**Harvesting Ice.**

People with ice houses have been filling them during the past week. The ice was 8 inches thick when they commenced, and the zero weather was making good ice.

Henry **Davidson**, who has been conducting W. T. **George's** business since Mr. George went to Texas, will fill the houses for next year and still run the business.

Superintendent John **King** of the Odd Fellows home commenced putting up ice Monday. The ice was 8 inches thick at the time and he expected to put up a large crop.

The Kansas City lodges gave their Christmas tree at the Odd Fellows home Thursday afternoon, and every one at the home got a present.

**DOWN AT THE OLD GOOSE GAP**

(Continued from Page 7)

The hills, while in a wild state for years, have had much timber and brush cut from them. Possibly Indians were there with their bows and arrows, later no doubt had guns they had gotten.

The lake and the hill land are owned by Mrs. Oth. Dillen, and at her death go to the four children. By an agreement of all concerned, proceedings have been started in the court to divide up the property and not leave it in one body as it is thought it can be better handled.

An historic spot. The red and white men had come and gone, likewise the wild geese. For centuries summer rains have fallen in the hills and winter snow drifts to the gulch or "gap" and drained into the lake.

The lake had been the bed of the Missouri River years before, as evidenced by the lay of the land from a point just below Missouri City, showing the river had turned its course to the north, sloughs and lower ground leading to the lake. In making the curve that forms the lake it shows the river turned back into its present channel at the Hunt, or Remley farm, three miles east of Missouri City.

Cooley Lake has been practically dry a few years and parts of it cultivated.



IRVING GILMER

Irving Gilmer was born in Missouri City on January 28, 1863. When he was 15 years old and working on a farm near there, he decided that he wanted to be in the newspaper business. He started by selling his stories to St. Louis papers and *The Kansas City Times*. He went on to become editor of the *Liberty Tribune*, a position he held for 41 years. He died in 1942.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

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.

## CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN

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

The Mercer-Bush Cemetery, which was moved and nicely landscaped after we notified the Liberty School District of its existence, became the subject of a local TV broadcast with Kellybrook students talking about the history of the site.

New gravesites continue to be brought to our attention. A man from the Moore Graveyard location reported on two Indian burial mounds and an pioneer's gravesite.

A group is looking into getting a sign placed at the Adkins Gravesite.

We have received a report of a columbarium at the Church of St. Luke, which is across from the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs.

The City of Gladstone is going to erect a fence around Big Shoal Cemetery.

Our cemetery count now stands at 333.

## THE END OF JESSE

(A letter to the Liberty Advance, May 5, 1882)

Some decade or so since, Jesse, actuated by some unknown motive, undertook to make a living in violation of law, good morals and the precepts of our religion, and, from everything which appears to the contrary, he succeeded reasonably well up to a few days ago; but, like steam engineering, his vocation was a little perilous, and he reached a tragic end, such as he no doubt anticipated. His plan of business necessarily involved the cutting short of the money making proclivities of some other people, and this, perhaps, was unfortunate for the other fellows, depending on their views of life and immorality. But here the little episode in human life ended, or ought to have ended, for his unenviable notoriety had already engrossed public attention quite enough; but in lieu thereof, we have grave resolutions introduced in legislative, municipal and corporate bodies all over the country commending, endorsing and criticizing. This is an anomaly; it is all wrong; it is an unholy alliance between morals and politics, which ought to be divorced. The sum of the whole is: Jesse is dead, and I have charity enough to say "peace to his ashes," although he died none too soon. The balance is the

most vulgar politics and ought to be interred with his remains. P.

## THE BOSTON TEA PARTY, ARGUMENTS FOR THE OTHER SIDE

Back in 1773, the U. S. was a British investment; how could you blame them for clamping down on locals trying to undercut their profits? They invested the capital, they owned the ships, they provided the means for the settlers to come to the New World. Colonists dumped tea in Boston Harbor rather than pay taxes to England. That was illegal under the laws at the time.

The English were like our soldiers in Iraq. They were just doing the job that their government told them to do. The Americans who participated in the Boston Tea Party were terrorists, not doing what the king told them to do. Other arguments against the colonists:

- Destruction of private property that hurt small business in the area.
- An attempt to frame Native Americans with their disguises.
- Pollution of the water in which locals fish.
- Not fulfilling their responsibility to pay England back for defending them against the French and Indians.
- Not paying the taxes, which, as a territory of England is treason.
- Being traitors to the crown that protects them.
- Not supporting the troops, but instead arming themselves.

*From www.boston-tea-party.org*

## ROAD SIGNS AND WEED CUTTING

Every road overseer shall erect and keep a post at every fork or crossroad in his district that would likely mislead, to which shall be affixed a finger board containing a legible inscription directing the way and denoting the distance to the next important place on the road, for which he shall be allowed no more than one dollar. And it shall be the duty of every overseer to keep all roads in his district clear of all obstructions and cause to be cut down and removed between the fifteenth of July and the fifteenth of August of each year all weeds or other obstructions calculated to impede or interrupt travel thereon.

*From the State Road Laws, quoted by the Liberty Tribune, October 1, 1909*

## VIEWS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN, 1861



(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.)

Today President Abraham Lincoln is considered one of America's greatest leaders. Two of his speeches, the Gettysburg Address and his second inaugural address, are among the most revered in the country's history. However, this present-day adulation was not widely held in 1861.

Lincoln's physical attributes provided easy targets for ridicule. His lack of formal education (he spent only one year in school) supplied his detractors the ammunition to attack his intelligence and deride his mental abilities.

These negative attitudes subsided during the course of his first administration. His popularity was such that many newspapers predicted he would be elected to an unprecedented third term in 1868. However, Lincoln had to suffer through a hailstorm of criticisms through much of his first term.

William Russell was a reporter for the *London Times* and kept a diary of his impressions as he covered the Civil War in both the North and South. This is his account three weeks after Lincoln's first inauguration:

"Soon afterwards there entered, with a shambling, loose, irregular, almost unsteady gait, a tall, lank, lean man, considerably over six feet in height, with stooping shoulders, long pendulous arms, terminating in hands of extraordinary dimensions, which, however, were far exceeded in proportion by his feet. He was dressed in an ill-fitting, wrinkled suit of black . . . round his neck a rope of black silk was knotted in a large bulb, with flying ends projecting beyond the collar of his coat.

"The impression produced by the size of his extremities and by his flapping and wide projecting ears, may be removed by the appearance of kindliness, sagacity and the awkward bonhomie of his face. . .the eyes dark, full and deeply set, are penetrating, but full of an expression which almost amounts to tenderness."

## ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION, PAGE 3

Abraham Lincoln was awarded Patent #6469 "Manner of Buoying Vessels" for a device to extricate steamships from sandbars. He got the idea while journeying to and from Washington by boat in the 1840s.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

With all of this activity, volunteer opportunities still (especially) abound. Volunteers are needed for weekdays, Monday through Wednesday, 9am to 4pm (and we'd love to be open more days of the week given enough staff). We are also open on the first Wednesday evening of each month for our patrons. And we've recently decided to have "work nights" on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday night of each month (not open to the public). So, please consider helping out at any (or all!) of these times. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Carol Olson (816.781.3611) for more information.

*Stuart E. Elliott*

### OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS

(Continued from Page 3)

Illuminated manuscripts, charters, chronicles, letters, eyewitness accounts, Bibles, maps and many other written documents are the survivors of the Middle Ages, shedding light on both the great events of the period and the everyday life of ordinary people.

Using this web resource, you will be able to take a closer look at details from a number of medieval manuscripts, and find out more about the lives of men and women as revealed by exciting original sources in the British Library. Find it at <http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/medieval/medievalrealms.html>

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

If you need info about UK coal mining disasters (including lists of victims), you should visit the Coal Mining Resource Centre at <http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/home/>

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

Google has recently quadrupled the amount of newspapers they cover, at <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/about.html>

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

## WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

Illness, computer problems and the weather have all united to prevent us from publishing this MOsaic on time. Thank you for your patience.

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Archives memberships expire on January 1 of each year. The membership fee is only \$15 per year for either an individual or a family. We depend on membership dues and donations for most of our operating funds. Please renew today.

“What would it cost me to trace my family tree?” the man asked the genealogist.  
“Several thousand dollars, depending on your lineage” the woman replied.  
“I see. Is there a less expensive way?”  
The woman smiled. “You might try running for President.”

### The Clay County MOsaic

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