

# The Clay County MOsaic

*"Fitting the Pieces Together"*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.  
January-February-March 2011

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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

The grass is turning green! Have you noticed? The latest snowfall notwithstanding, spring is just around the corner. Time to sharpen the lawn mower blade, uncoil the garden hose, shop for new begonias. And the quintessential activity for this time of year: Spring Cleaning!

Spring Cleaning consists of airing out the house and sweeping out the accumulated accoutrements from the "den" after our winter hibernation. Human hibernation is different than that of other mammals. Black bears, for instance sleep for up to 100 days, shutting down their bodily functions. We may *wish* we could sleep that long during winter hours such as this one, but, no, we hunker down in our house and curl up with things to keep us warm physically, emotionally and mentally.

Well, as you know, after a while we need to figuratively (or literally?) hose down our house and ourselves. Kind of like my mother used to tell me: "get outside and let the stink blow off of you."

Some of the things we gathered to soothe us emotionally and mentally are not things to just toss away. For instance, winter activities may include wondering about our family history. To become curious enough to inquire about family stories, documents, photos and other things that link us to our intrepid ancestors. No, at springtime these tend to get packed away because they are precious to us but not something that would be on "permanent display" in our homes.

They are put into storage (attics, basements, closets, etc.) for so long that they often become forgotten. Then when a loved one passes away and the family comes together to clean out the house, they discover a treasure trove of family items and information. The family members may not even know what is contained in the repository; they just know it is somehow important. So the boxes are transferred from one attic to another.

Yes, I know, Americans are known for their tendency to hoard -- to collect stuff that, according to each of our pathologies, somehow soothes the psyche or, to put it another way, "scratches the itch."

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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.

*In this issue we'll be telling the stories of some famous inventions and the little-known people behind them. These stories are from the May/June issue of History, the History Channel Magazine.*

## SPECIAL GIFTS PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

### BENEFACTORS

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### 2011 PROGRAM

### CONTRIBUTORS

Sylvia Wees

### FRIENDS

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## ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

### OUR NEW PUBLICATION

Reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas, with features in **color**, just like the original! Cost is \$20, which includes sales tax, plus \$2 for mail delivery.

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 \$12, plus \$5 for mail delivery

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 Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International will hold its Genealogical and Cultural Conference in St. Louis on October 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel. For more information, call (651) 964-2322 or check their website at [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org).

*From "Show Me" State Genealogical News, Winter 2010 Issue*

The Family History Archive is a collection of published genealogy and family history books. The archive includes histories of families, county and local histories, how-to books on genealogy, genealogy magazines and periodicals (including some international), medieval books (including histories and pedigrees), and gazetteers. It also includes some specialized collections such as the Filipino card collection and the "Liahona Elders Journal."

The books come from the collections of the FamilySearch Family History Library, the Allen County Public Library, the Houston Public Library – Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, the Mid-Continent Public Library – Midwest Genealogy Center, the BYU Harold B. Lee Library, the BYU Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church History Library. Find this collection at [www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php](http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php) I entered a surname and got a list of 45 books.

*From "Show Me" State Genealogical News, Winter 2010 Issue*

Remember that the Internet is a public resource. Avoid putting anything online that you don't want to public to see or that you may want to retract. Once it is online it can be accessed by a world of strangers, and you have no idea what they might do with the information.

If you are keeping an online journal or blog, write it with the expectation that it is available for public consumption. If you want the information to be private or restricted to a small, select group of people, the Internet is probably not the best forum.

Supplying your email address may increase the amount of spam you receive. Providing details about your hobbies, your job, your family and friends and your past may give attackers enough information to perform a successful social engineering attack. (Social engineering is defined as a collection of techniques used to manipulate people into performing actions or divulging confidential information.)

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

**Saturday, November 19, 1870**

Clear and pleasant weather, rather cool, but not too much so to be pleasant and healthy. Mary and I went to Kansas City to day. Missed Morning train, took freight at 2 P.M., and then missed the passenger at 4:45, and had to take same coming home. Bought Ella Bonnet, 9.50, Mattie fur \$5.00 & Ella a muff 3.00.

**Saturday, January 14, 1871**

Very cold today. Julia (Withers) left for home in sleigh. The snow being good for sleighing. Good many in town with sleighs & the business brisk.

**Sunday, March 5, 1871**

A very pleasant day. A very atrocious murder was committed last night at Bill Austins stable, Barney Hughes & John Murray shot and killed a man by the name of Daily. The officers are after them.

*Note: "Liberty Tribune", March 10, 1871: "Last Saturday night, Mr. Michael Dailey, a foreman of the North Mo. R.R. was found on the pavement in front of Austin's stable, shot through the breast. He died on Monday. He stated that he was in company with John Murray & Barney Hughes, and the latter shot him without provocation. Murray and Hughes fled, but were overtaken by Sheriff Moss in Quincy and brought back Tuesday. The accused say the shooting was accidental. Mr. Dailey is represented as a quiet citizen, highly esteemed by his acquaintance."*

**Monday January 1, 1872**

Here is an interim of many busy and weary Months. Since I wrote the last times on the opposite page, Many sad and awful changes have occurred. The Most distressing of which is the loss of our dear little, and lovely child Minnie. She died on the 22d day of October 1871. A day never to be forgotten by us who loved her so well. She had been simply complaining for a few days not enough to attract attention, & on the Thursday previous I had gone to Kansas City to the fair, when I returned she was complaining, in fact was in bed a sleep, with some fever, though they told me she had been up playing about all day. Friday Morning She was not well, but did not seem to be very sick. She complained some of her throat, and some fever. Gave her light

Medicine. Saturday her throat seemed worse, & I had examined it today for the first time, and found it to be diphtheria & a very violent form. Now commenced treatment in earnest, but she could not swallow any thing but water, and did not swallow till she died. Saturday night she grew rapidly worse, and I sent for Dr. Marten who came about 4 A.M. but his visit was of no avail. Poor, sweet, innocent angel child, She died on Sunday, about ½ past one or 2 o'clock P.M. This passed away the joy of all our hearts. The bright prospect of much future happiness to us. So sudden, so very unexpected, we were not prepared for the awful bereavement, and oh! how our poor hearts were crushed, to burry our loved little one from our sight forever. God bless the affliction to our good.

*Note: Minnie Isabel was five years and seven months old, Dr. and Mrs. Dougherty's youngest child. In the 1885 "History of Clay and Platte", his biography mentions the loss of this much-loved child.*

**Tuesday, January 9, 1872**

Mr. G. G. White is boarding with us, he came the 6<sup>th</sup> of June last.

**Tuesday, January 30, 1872**

Still very cold, clear & very cold. Bought a preparation to but (*put?*) in coal oil to keep it from exploding & Chimney's from breaking I can't tell whether it will prove a good thing or not. The case of Barney Hughes has engaged the court all day... Attended the trial at night of Barney Hughes, the argument was conducted after supper. Wood, State's attorney led off then followed the attorneys for the defense 1<sup>st</sup> Major Singelton, then W.H. Woodson, and then Col. H.L. Routt.

**Thursday, February 22, 1872**

This is the anniversary of Washington's Birthday. The Masonic Fraternity had a march around the principle streets; and a very fine oration from Bro. J.D. Vincil, State Grand orator of the Fraternity.

**Saturday, March 2, 1872**

Mr. White left this morning for Platte City, to see his little girl Nora, then will come back to Kansas City Monday evening, and start to Denver that night.

**Sunday, March 3, 1872**

We miss Mr. White, he has been with us now near 9 months. He became very dissipated, and ruined him self before he left, by very bad conduct.

## GYPSY NINA'S BOOK

*The last issue of the MOsaic contained some newspaper articles about Gypsy Nina, a Liberty girl (real name Helen Swan) who achieved fame as a singer and accordionist during the 1930's.*

*In researching the subject, I consulted a notebook about her that is among the massive quantity of history that is stored at the Archives. I knew the book was there, but had not paid it much attention before.*

*In that book was an original story written by Gypsy Nina (which is pronounced Nee'-nah). It chronicles her trip around Europe in 1939. Her story undoubtedly would not have been as important or interesting in most any other time, but on September 1st 1939, Germany invaded Poland without warning, sparking the start of World War II. By the evening of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Britain and France were at war with Germany. The exact date she begins her book is not shown, but it is very near that time.*

*So beginning with this issue of the MOsaic, we are reprinting her story. As far as I know, it has not been published before. Except for correcting obvious typos, I am writing it just as she did.*

### My Book by Gypsy Nina

How this Brain-child came to be, was like this...I was stretched on the Sands – with the Sun Lovingly glazing the beautiful panorama of Cannes...when ALL of a sudden – out of No where I got the Idea – it hit me right between the eyes – and I sat up with a bang and says to Florence, I Think I'll Write a Book About It – Just Like that! Funny, isn't it? when you've never written anything in your life but school essays – I mean, I was quite Thrilled that I'd thought up this idea out of my own head, like...but if I expected Florence to Strike an attitude, I could just guess again...Wouldn't it be Swell to be so unexcitable that when your friend, who is only an accordionist, tells you she is going to write a book – you don't at least say, What About? Or Oh Are You? Or sump'n – or anyway open your eyes and act alive! I Sorta gave up having her take any notice of my brain-storm, and I thought, Maybe it was the Heat – and it probably wasn't much of an idea anyway and I laid down again...

Six months later – in flew a dead duck!..I'd forgotten I'd even brought it up, when Florence came to, with becoming languor – (never let it be said, that she would come to, with anything so un-lady-like as a Bang) and mumbled half-heartedly, Can you Write? – well, you certainly take your blinkin' time about answering a fellow, don't you? I says...and how should I know if I can write or not...I mean, why be so dern Practical about it – I hadn't suggested I was going to write a best seller – lots of people just write for their own amazement, don't they? – And I thought if I took up writing it would give me

something to do besides Sit and Think – I could Sit and Write, and it would be such a relief not to have to think – We'd thought, for weeks – the same thoughts, pro and con, and con and pro and back to pro and con 'till it Near had us cutting out paper-dolls by this time....So I thought, I'll Show YOU – My Fine Friend! so I says Loan me Your Eversharp --- I figured What can I lose? – we were stranded and there was a war, and we had Nothing to do but go to the 'Merican Express to see if we didn't have any money (and sure enough we didn't)...and I mean to say, you can't do that ALL the time, can you? – after all.....

Anyway, I thought it was a good Idea to jot down Bits to tell My Big Brother Ray – 'cause he always gets a big kick out of everything I do...and I just know how disappointed he'd be, if I came home from the war with nothing to tell –

Disregarding Florence's lack of interest, I got on with it! I started making notes in a note-book I had been using in my French lessons – you see I thought it would be a good Idea to kinda camouflage what I was doing...'cause only the day before I started this, France made up a new law that she meant (honest-to-goodness) to finish off Anyone caught circulating rumors! (fair gives you the creeps, doesn't it? I mean you just have to say, casual-like, I HEARD...and Bing-Bing!) As Florence said, they'd probably think shooting too good for me, if they caught me doing this – in war-time...I didn't ask her what she thought they might consider fitting Punishment – she is apt to be a wee-bit gruesome at times...and I didn't want to be upset...I felt all keyed up and didn't want Anybody coming along to shoot me before I could find out whether the Funny feeling I had, was Literary Genius, War-Hysteria, or just something I'd et! Where was I?...Oh yes, in my note-book...

It was all messed up with French verb conjugations and sentences Florence had made me translate---like, -My-Uncle-Has-Two-Horses-To-Sell, and I-Have-Bought-These-Boots-But-They-Are-Very-Bad (don't they give you silly sentences to practice a language on? – as Florence would say, MAIS OUI! that's French for, I Think You've Got Something There, Kid)...Anyway, I just made notes all around this other tripe – y'see, so it would look like the Messy note-book of a Silly 'Merican who would Never learn to speak French (and I think I've got something There!).....

Y'see, why I thought about this way of telling My Brother Ray what went on with us – was, on account of, since the war broke out, you Just daren't say anything in your letters...seems to me these Countries act awful Silly going about suspecting Everybody they set eyes on...

To Be Continued in the next MOsaic

*To see and hear Gypsy Nina, go to this website:  
<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=11216>*

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

*Articles from the Liberty Chronicle*

**March 22, 1934**

Donald Pharis to Occupy Historic Home Near Here.

An historic old mansion that has held its majestic beauty through many years soon is to come into its own as a home again when Donald Pharis and his family of Richmond move into the old Jasper Bell home six miles east of Liberty on the new Missouri City road at the close of school at Richmond.

Ever since they bought the farm on which the Bell home stands, Mr. and Mrs. Pharis have been looking forward to the time when they could make their home the pre-Civil War house.

The house, a large brick structure, was built in 1859 by the same contractor who erected the courthouse here and bears a marked resemblance to the historic Dougherty mansion, Multnomah. During their years of ownership, Mr. and Mrs. Pharis have made many improvements on the house and are slowly bringing it back to its true glories.

The management and operations of the farm gradually have become so extensive as to compel Mr. Pharis to give up the position of vocational agricultural teacher in the Richmond high school which he has held for nine years. The farm is stocked with a hundred head of sheep, fifteen head of breeding cattle and other livestock.

Although the Richmond people are regretting the losing of the Pharis family as residents, the Liberty community may rejoice at the prospect of acquiring two talented musicians and civic leaders in Mr. and Mrs. Pharis.

**August 9, 1934**

Deny Vote to Negroes.

A flurry of excitement was caused when a number of CCC camp negroes were unloaded and asked to vote at the northeast precinct of Liberty township.

One load was brought to the polls in a car with a Kansas City license. This car carried a Missouri license number 36550 and belonged to John H. Atkins, 2629 Chestnut, Kansas City.

Most of the negroes carried marked sample ballots into the polls. The negroes were challenged and those who claimed Kansas as a residence were denied the right to vote. Twenty-five or thirty were turned away.

One negro after being placed upon oath as to his residence decided not to vote when told of the severe penalty for perjury.

Another, when denied a vote because of Kansas residence, replied: "Can't I even vote for Truman?"

The marked ballots were all marked for Truman.

**FAMOUS INVENTIONS  
(BY NOT-SO-FAMOUS INVENTORS)**

On a cold winter day in 1903, Albert Parkhouse returned from lunch to his job at Timberlake Wire and Novelty Co. in Jackson, Michigan, only to discover that all the coat hooks were taken. Not wanting to throw his good winter coat over a chair and risk getting it rumpled, he picked up a piece of wire and twisted it into two loops that would fit inside his coat. Then he twisted the ends into a hook he could hang up somewhere. Voila! The coat hanger was born. Sadly, Parkhouse received nothing from his invention, not even the honor of having his name on the patent.

**MANY A TEAR HAS TO FALL...**

...but it's all in the game. Remember that song by Tommy Edwards from 1958?

The words were written by Carl Sigman in 1951, combining them with a tune called "Melody in A Major" composed in 1911 by Charles Dawes. Why is this interesting, you ask? Because Charles Dawes went on to become the 30<sup>th</sup> Vice-President of the United States, serving under Calvin Coolidge from 1925 to 1929. This is the only #1 pop single to have been co-written by a U.S. Vice-President.

Dawes was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the Dawes Plan for World War I reparations. He also served in that war, reaching the rank of Brigadier General; was U.S. Comptroller of the Currency; the first director of the Bureau of the Budget and, in later life, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom. When Lt. John Pershing, the future Army general, was appointed military instructor at the University of Nebraska, he and Dawes became acquainted, forming a lifelong friendship.

Dawes was the great-great-grandson of the Revolutionary War figure William Dawes and the son of Brigadier General Rufus Dawes, who commanded the 6th Wisconsin regiment of the Iron Brigade during the American Civil War.

Charles Dawes died in 1951, the same year his melody was used in a pop song. Perhaps that's what did him in.

*From carolynspreciousmemories.com and  
wikipedia.org*

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

(Continued from Page 7)

**RECENT ACCESSIONS**

WS-400S Digital Stereo Recorder, donated by Ann Henning.

Photo or Dr. Mathews and an article about Inky Dot, donated by Fran Broderick.

Clay County Fine Arts Commission papers and Bicentennial Ball programs, donated by Liz Short.

Family records, photos and Bible of William R. Smith and his family, donated by Shirley L. Bybee.

Miscellaneous county histories of Missouri donated by the North Kansas City Public Library. This is a collection of almost 100 books.

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

**OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS**

(Continued from Page 3)

Realize that you can't take it back. Once you publish something online, it is available to other people and to search engines. Once something is out there, you can't guarantee that you can completely remove it.

*From "Show Me" State Genealogical News,  
Winter 2010 Issue*

Be sure to visit this site: [www.capecodgravestones.com](http://www.capecodgravestones.com) even if you don't have Cape Cod ancestors. Check out the scary tombstones with missing jaws and irregular eye sockets, search for one of the 42,000 names, read the 800 epitaphs and more.

Try [www.gravestonephotos.com/index.php](http://www.gravestonephotos.com/index.php) for gravestone photos from 14 different countries.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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But I wouldn't want to put these cherished items into that category. We humans are famous for our museums, libraries and archives and rightly so. We recognize that there are such things that are fleeting and irreplaceable, yet have great personal and communal significance. These things must be preserved.

So, this spring, when it's time to start the cleaning, why don't you stick your head up into the attic or poke it into a dark corner of your basement to see what forgotten, dusty boxes may be lurking there, lying in wait for you to discover them all over again.

But what then? You can share them with your family. Maybe take on a project to publish them in some way: a family newsletter, a book, a website, for instance. Another idea may be to ensure these items are available to others on a less transient basis. Consider donating some of these things to the Clay County Archives (or at least copies thereof). Especially things that include communitywide information. You may have items, for instance, that reference other families, local institutions, schools businesses. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to fill in the blanks for other people, too? What a service you could provide.

*Stuart E. Elliott*

**FAMOUS INVENTIONS**

(BY NOT-SO-FAMOUS INVENTORS)

In 1917 Earle Dickson married Josephine Frances Knight. But their marital bliss was marred by minor mishaps Josephine suffered in the kitchen. She always seemed to be cutting or scraping herself. Hoping to deal with Josephine's numerous nicks, Earl laid out a piece of surgical tape and stuck little folded-up pieces of gauze at intervals on it. He put a strip of crinoline over the whole thing and rolled it back up again. Whenever Josephine cut herself, she could just cut off a piece and fix herself up.

Dickson was a cotton buyer for Johnson & Johnson. His coworkers encouraged him to share his idea with management, leading to the Band-Aid we know today. Introduced in 1920, it was not an immediate hit. The company tinkered with the size and then hit on a wonderful marketing tool: they would distribute them to Boy Scout troops free of charge. That did the trick and people have been stuck on Band-Aids ever since.

January 27, 1911

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

January 6, 1911

Fire Alarm Whistle

The city purchased a "Wildcat" whistle to give fire signals and it is at the electric plant, Mr. **Walker** having offered to connect it with a steam boiler at his plant and give the fire signal when ever necessary, without expense to the city.

The whistle cost the city \$25.30, and express. It has a 2-inch opening and a 5-inch bell. It gives an "unearthly yell" and will certainly arouse the natives. It was tested Saturday night as the new year came in. The whistle will be used exclusively for fire signals. Implement trains have gone through here with whistles on the same order.

According to a decision of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the possession of one-sixteenth negro blood brings a person under the classification of negro. The case decided was that of Isabel I. **Wall**, 8 years old, against the Board of Education. The girl was admitted to a white school more than a year ago, but afterward was excluded on the ground that she was a negro. The evidence showed that the girl had one-sixteenth negro blood in her veins, and Justice **Wright**, in the District Supreme court, upheld the action of the board in excluding the child from the white school. Chief Justice **Shepard** of the Appellate court affirmed the decision.

Births and Deaths

The new law requiring the registering of births and deaths went into effect February 1, 1910, and the total number of births in Liberty township during the 11 months of 1910 was 93. The number of deaths was 80. Dr. W. H **Goodson** is the registrar for this township.

Fire Alarm Thursday Morning.

A spark from the kitchen flue lodged in the corner of the deck on the top of the Trigg **Allen** house, now owned by Taylor **Hodges** and where he lives, and caused a small blaze Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Prompt work of men in the neighborhood soon extinguished the fire, and the fire company did not have to turn on a stream. A strong southwest wind was blowing at the time.

The new fire whistle, at the electric light plant, was sounded and it gave an opportunity to test it. It makes noise enough.

Came Back to Wife and Children

Given up for dead and after an absence of twenty-two years, John **Reed** of Daingerfield, Tex. rejoined his aged wife last week, a dispatch states. When he mysteriously disappeared from his home, his three children were under ten years of age. On his rerun he found them all married and seventeen grandchildren gathered to welcome him back. Reed is 72 years old and his wife 70. During all the years Reed was absent his wife refused to attempt to secure a divorce, stating her husband would return some time.

Reed, who departed on account of a quarrel, never heard of his family until a few weeks ago, when he learned they were living in Daingerfield. He then lived in Arkansas. Believing he would be welcome, he made the journey back home.

The Telephone Girls

The busiest time the telephone operators have in a town the size of Liberty is when a fire alarm is given. The colored lights for nearly all the numbers seem to flash on at once, as people all over town want to know about the fire. The girls rapidly go from number to number, simply telling the house and disconnecting, but some little time is required to get around. When ever a fire alarm comes in the girls know at once they are to have a busy time of it for about half an hour.

The central girls are asked many times a day for information, as they are supposed to know everything and everybody. The time of day (and if they are sure they have the correct time); the result of the ball game; how sick people are; if the weather forecast is for rain or snow and which she thinks it will do; if she knows whether the train is on time, and if late how late; if the hog market in Kansas City was higher or lower that day; the price of eggs, and why a grocery man don't send out the groceries ordered or what makes the meat man so slow making deliveries.

February 3, 1911

Moved to **Bernhardt** Farm

Willard **Minter** of Excelsior Springs, with his wife and mother, moved Monday to the Bernhardt farm near Olathe, Kas. This is the farm where the murders were committed about two months ago. It is said that "Boss" rented it at a bargain.

February 10, 1911

Cole **Younger** Coming.

Advance agents for Cole Younger were in Liberty Tuesday and arranged a date for him to lecture at the Auditorium. He will be here on

(Continued to Page 9)



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

Tuesday night of next week, February 14.

He will talk of his outlaw life, the causes leading up to it, the years in prison and of his pardon.

THE ONLY AND ORIGINAL  
**COLE YOUNGER**

A Lecture That  
will  
Never be Forgotten

Historical, Interesting  
and Instructive

Ministers Cordially  
Invited

Don't fail to attend this lecture and hear Cole Younger personally relate to you all the pathetic incidents of his life from the time he was a boy seventeen years of age, living peacefully at home on his father's farm in Jackson County, Missouri, where he was born sixty-five years ago. He will picture to you the boy reared of good honest parents. He will tell you how he became a victim of circumstances, a soldier with the noted Quantrell in the Confederate army and how he fought and battled for what he thought was right and the cause he defended. He will also explain to you why he was forced to live (for fourteen years) the life of an outlaw, which caused him to live twenty-five years in a prison cell. He will tell about his prison life, his pardon, his restoration to citizenship, etc., in fact, he will give you a complete history of his life from childhood to the present time.

Tuesday Night, Feb. 14  
At AUDITORIUM at 8:15

Admission . . . . . 25c and 35c

**Friday, February 17, 1911**

Cole Younger's Lecture  
Never Robbed a Missouri Bank, He Said, But Didn't Say as Much About Trains

A very good audience was at the Auditorium Tuesday night to hear Cole Younger. He was introduced by Col. A. Atkinson, a confederate soldier of Kansas City, who was first introduced by Major John Will Hall of Liberty, another confederate veteran.

Younger in his talk said he had no part in the robbery of the Liberty bank on February 13, 1866, 45 years ago. Furthermore he said he had never robbed a bank in the state of Missouri, but that he could not

say as much as to trains. He never would have bothered them if he had been let alone.

Cole told how the troubles in the border warfare affected his life, as he claimed, and took the course it did; that he was driven from home by depredations of Kansas Jayhawkers on Missouri soil: that he was forced to go to Texas, and that when he came back to buy stock, and was at Monegaw Springs, Mo., a bank was robbed in Iowa. The robbery was laid on him with the Jameses, when he was 250 miles away at the time. He was forced to be an outlaw then for 14 years he said. He stated he was put in jail without a trial and made to serve a quarter of a century. While there he worked mostly in the sick ward and was pardoned in 1901.

Much of his talk was for the benefit of young men, he stated, to warn them against evil, to keep out of the wayward path and to realize early in life that right living and honest toil are the best.

**FAMOUS INVENTIONS**  
(BY NOT-SO-FAMOUS INVENTORS)

William Marston was a graduate student doing research in psychology at Harvard in 1915 when he developed what he called, "The Marston Deception Test." It involved plotting a subject's blood pressure on a graph while asking them questions. Lies, he believed, would show up on the graph as irregular data. In other words, Marston invented the lie detector. This wasn't his only claim to fame, however. Believing that society was doomed unless women eventually took over, he created a strong hero-figure for young women. "Not even girls want to be girls so long as our feminine archetype lacks force, strength, and power," he wrote. "The obvious remedy is to create a feminine character with all the strength of Superman plus the allure of a good and beautiful woman." So, 25 years after he invented the lie detector, William Marston created Wonder Woman.

**WHO IS THIS FAMOUS PERSON?**

Called "The Greatest Athlete in the World," he was born in a single-room cabin in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) on May 28, 1888.

Of Irish and American Indian descent, he played football, basketball and baseball for the Carlisle Indian School. He won gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon during the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, but was stripped of them because he had played semi-professional baseball in 1909 and 1910. He went on to have an exceptional football career while playing baseball during the off-season. Who is this famous athlete? See Page 10.

## **CRAWLING THROUGH THE CEMETERIES WITH KEN**

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

Due to the weather and other projects, we haven't been out searching for cemetery locations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the various scouts and individuals who have worked on cemetery preservation.

We have several family cemeteries that need some maintenance work and, also, I have a tombstone for replacement at the Bethel Cemetery. Individuals and groups are invited to participate.

### **REMEMBER VAPORUB®?**

When I was a kid Vicks Vaporub® was a staple in our house and a long-running joke about my father's belief that it could cure about anything. As soon as a sniffle was heard, out came the little blue jar. I went to bed many a night with Vaporub® on my chest and one of my father's handkerchiefs tied bandana-style around my neck. Some of it must have "rubbed off" (so to speak), because I now keep a jar in my house.

So it must work, but why? It seems that Vaporub® is herbal medicine, although we hadn't heard the term back in those days. It consists of eucalyptus and peppermint, each of which has medicinal qualities.

Eucalyptus, a native Australian plant, contains eucalyptol, a chemical that has a powerful decongestant action. Eucalyptol is also antibacterial and antiviral; after minor wounds have been washed, eucalyptus oil or clean crushed leaves can be applied to help prevent infection. (Don't eat it, though; it is highly toxic.)

Peppermint contains menthol, which provides a cooling sensation in the nose, relieves nasal congestion and relieves sore throat and cough. (Again, never ingest oil of peppermint; it is also highly toxic and fatalities have been reported.)

From *All About Thyme*, a newsletter at [aboutthyme.com](http://aboutthyme.com)

### **WHO IS THIS FAMOUS PERSON?**

(From Page 9)

Jim Thorpe. In 1982 his Olympic medals were posthumously restored. He died of heart failure in 1953 at age 64.

*From "History," the History Channel Magazine,  
May/June 2010*

## **BREAKING NEWS! MOSAIC RECEIVES FIRST EVER "LETTER TO THE EDITOR"**

*Our last MOSaic contained an article entitled "Colored Woman Dies," in which we quoted the Liberty Chronicle of February 7, 1935, which said that Mary Slaughter was the daughter of slaves belonging to Humphrey (Bears) Smith, who founded Smithville in 1824. That statement elicited the following letter:*

"In the last issue I noted the piece on the colored woman Aunt Mary Slaughter where she states that her parents, Marie and Joe had been slaves owned by J.T.V. Thompson and that he had bought them from the founder of Smithville, Humphrey Smith. I find that very interesting since Smith was an avid abolitionist. By all accounts I have read he suffered frequently for his public stand that put him at odds with most of his neighbors. So why would he have owned slaves? And why would he have sold them to Thompson, who was one of the biggest slave traders in the county? A quick look at early census records shows Humphrey Smith with no slaves. Surely Aunt Mary was mistaken or misquoted. Humphrey would surely want the record set straight.

Interestingly in 1850 and 1860 his sons show up as owning slaves and Humphrey lived until 1857. That must have made for some lively debate at the holiday dinner tables."

Steve Olson

*I couldn't find any information to support the Chronicle or to refute what Steve wrote in his letter. I also could not find anything that referred to Smith's nickname as "Bears." His nickname that local historians know was "Yankee." If any of our readers can shed any light on this subject, please let us know.*

*Editor*

### **FAMOUS INVENTIONS (BY NOT-SO-FAMOUS INVENTORS)**

In 1968 Doug Engelbart unveiled his revolutionary new invention, "The X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System." For years he had been thinking about how to make computers adapt to people, instead of the other way around. He and his team at the Stanford Research Institute had been working on ideas to make that happen, and presented them at a San Francisco computing conference. Engelbart asked his audience to consider such radical concepts as a computer on each person's desk, cutting and pasting, folders, using different windows on the screen, even working jointly with a person in some other location. His invention to help accomplish all this was a block of wood with two wheels, one for up-and-down motions and the other

for back-and-forth. For reasons unknown even to Engelbart, he and his coworkers began calling it “the mouse.” The way we work with computers might be very different today if his team had gone with another idea: controlling the cursor on the screen with a knee brace.

## COMMEMORATION OF RAID ON LIBERTY ARSENAL

Two events are planned to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raid on the Liberty Arsenal. On April 20, 1861, only eight days after the fall of Ft. Sumter signaled the beginning of the Civil War, a band of armed local citizens led by Liberty resident Col. Henry Routt seized the arsenal and made off with a considerable amount of weaponry and ammunition that was later used against the Union troops.

On Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers at Liberty City Hall, 101 E. Kansas Street, local historian Jay Jackson will present a Power Point presentation about the weapons depot

Then on Saturday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m., at the intersection of Missouri Highway 291 and Seven Hills Road, an outdoor ceremony will take place. This is near the site of the arsenal, which is located on private property and not open to the public.

These commemoration events, however, are open to the public at no charge. For more information, call 816-439-4537.

## RETURN TO LAKE MAURER

For the thousands who once enjoyed beautiful Lake Maurer and have dreamed of experiencing it again, here’s your chance.

The Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives is hosting “Return to Lake Maurer” Day in May and everyone is invited to “come home” for the event. Since the 1960’s when the lake was closed to the public, many have longed to swim in the famous pool, stroll the grounds and soak up Lake Maurer’s atmosphere.

Now Lake Maurer Camp Director Bunny Hartzler has agreed to help make everyone’s dream come true. Hartzler is allowing the museum use of the camp and facilities for a fundraising event everyone will enjoy. Tickets may now be purchased and more information about the event may now be obtained at [www.esmuseum.org](http://www.esmuseum.org).

This historic homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, May 21. The day’s events begin at 9:00 a.m., including some of the amusements enjoyed when Lake Maurer was in its heyday. A new miniature golf course is slated for completion for the event, according to Lloyd Hartzler, the Lake Maurer grounds/development director. Many activities such as softball, fishing, Frisbee and skateboarding will be available, too.

Guests will have access to the arcade room, canoes and boats, and the memorable baseball field-shaped swimming pool will be ready for those brave enough to take a dip.

For school classes planning 2011 reunions, the museum is booking parties on the grounds for Saturday evening.

The museum’s goal is to raise \$20,000 at the event, with proceeds going toward the completion costs of the bank and Francis Exhibition Hall roofs and to supplement the cost of operating the museum.

The museum, which is open five days a week, is staffed by volunteers and depends on donations, memberships and gifts for its revenue.

Sponsorships for this special “Return to Lake Maurer” are also available. Contact them at [emuseum101@hotmail.com](mailto:emuseum101@hotmail.com) or at 816-630-0101.

The lake is located on the south side of Excelsior Springs, on Lake Maurer Road, off either Crescent Avenue or Kansas City Avenue.

*Information provided by the Excelsior Springs  
Museum and Archives*

## STRANGE THINGS ARE LURKING IN CLAY COUNTY MISSOURI

A man now living in Liberty has seen fish-eyed night people here and in Orrick.

In 1986 a Kansas City teenager and her mother were stopped at a traffic light at the intersection of Englewood and Antioch Roads on the boundary between Kansas City and Gladstone, when they saw a huge silver disc hovering over the northwest corner of the intersection. As they watched, the object glided silently across the road and paused over the movie theater (now a liquor store). Then it whooshed off to the west and disappeared.

Many ghosts have visited The Elms Resort Hotel in Excelsior Springs. Coal shovelers who didn’t survive a 1910 masquerade ball fire banged on the pipes even after they were no longer a part of the heating system, until the pipes were completely removed.

Other Elms oddities include the hum of a phantom vacuum cleaner, the spirit of a bootlegger that haunts the lap pool, a little girl who walks the third floor then disappears through a wall, and a maid in a 1920’s-style uniform.

And, of course, there’s Elvis. People at the hotel have seen a ghost that looks like Elvis. In the 1970s, an Elvis impersonator performed there, who supposedly committed suicide by jumping out a window. Guests and staff have reported seeing an apparition in a white jumpsuit that disappears into a wall where a stairway used to be. The stairway was used by the impersonator to enter and exit the club where he performed.

*From Paranormal Missouri, by Jason Offutt,  
Published by Schiffer Publishing Ltd.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Commemoration of raid on Liberty Arsenal**

April 20, 7:00 p.m., Liberty City Hall:  
Presentation by Jay Jackson

April 23, 2:00 p.m., Missouri Highway 291  
and Seven Hills Road: Outdoor ceremony  
near site of the arsenal

### **“Return to Lake Maurer”**

May 21, Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

See Page 11 for more information on these events.

## LOCAL PROJECT RECEIVES AWARD

The Atkins-Johnson Farmhouse in Gladstone recently received the Preserve Missouri Award from Missouri Preservation. The award, one of only seven for the state of Missouri, was presented during a ceremony at the capitol building in Jefferson City.

The Friends of the Atkins-Johnson Farm and the City of Gladstone are working to restore the site to resemble a working farm from the early 1900s.

### **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@claycountvarchives.org](mailto:info@claycountvarchives.org)