

# The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

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We would love to hear from you!

Please let us know what you think of the new format.

We also welcome ideas for future articles.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of our current projects is a Civil War Veterans Book which will list over 500 veterans who are buried in Clay County. Included for each veteran will be vital statistics such as birth / death dates and the units in which they served. There will also be a bio for each and a photograph (for those that we can find). Our goal is to have it ready before Christmas. We are very excited about this book and we have many volunteers working on the various aspects of it.

We have even more new volunteers. Brenda Brinkhous-Hatch, who hails from California, is diving right into indexing abstract records and she is also writing bios for the Civil War Veteran's book. Zack Thompson is giving us his time by cleaning and organizing areas of the Archives which had been long neglected. We are grateful for this kind of attention. Cheyenne Gamble is a fourteen year old with a lot of energy

who is doing a lot of filing for us. Marianne Hill, the daughter of Bill Matteson (another volunteer), is abstracting the criminal records. Tony Myers, Mike



Wilson and Keith Nelson are the main researchers for the Civil War book. There will be more volunteers soon to write bios for the veterans.

The Mount Memorial Cemetery (located on the William Jewell College campus and active since the 1820s) has recently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Juarenne Hester is planning a public reception for October 6<sup>th</sup>. On another note, we are now able to obtain an electronic copy of the White Chapel Memorial Gardens and Barry Cemetery

internment lists that we will import into our Cemetery Index. We can receive these lists more frequently so our index will be more current. We'll also work on obtaining the lists from other active cemeteries on an on-going basis.

Ann Henning and Donna Root (Tuesday volunteers) attended a workshop on "Finding the History of a Building". They are now working on implementing what they learned here at the Archives. We will implement these techniques to update our existing Gazetteer Index with more detailed information. You will be able to do more in-depth research on Clay County places to find the history of your house, for instance, or a business or other building.

Come visit us soon and have a fun and safe summer!

*Stuart Elliott*

**2012 Executive Board**

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**Newsletter Staff**

Keenan Barker  
Stuart Elliott

**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 print-outs	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.

**MOsaic by Internet**

If you would like to receive your future newsletters via email, please forward your email address to: [info@claycountyarchives.org](mailto:info@claycountyarchives.org)

## M T . M E M O R I A L C E M E T E R Y L I S T E D I N N A T I O N A L R E G I S T E R O F H I S T O R I C P L A C E S

The State Historic Preservation Office in Jefferson City has announced that Mt. Memorial Cemetery has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mt. Memorial Cemetery is the lesser known of Liberty's cemeteries because of its location on the campus of William Jewell College. It was the first cemetery to be established in Clay County, other than family burial grounds, and has been in continuous use from the early 1820s.

While cemeteries are not typically eligible for listing in the National Register, Mt. Memorial has special historical significance because it is the final resting place of many of the original settlers and founding fathers of Liberty and Clay County. It is also associated with historic events such as westward expansion,

the settlement of the City of Liberty and the Civil War. It also retains a collection of artistic grave markers and monuments from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Listing in the National Register is an honorary designation and does not impose any restrictions on the property. In addition to the cemetery, Liberty has six historic districts and eight individual sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mt. Memorial Cemetery has long been recognized within Liberty for its historic significance and is regularly included as one of the [guided walking tours](#) offered by the City of Liberty, in conjunction with Historic Liberty, Inc., each year. Area residents and history buffs should plan to take part in the next tour, which is scheduled for October 6.

Over the past several years, the [Liberty Cemetery Committee](#) and volunteers have spent many hours making improvements to Liberty's cemeteries during regularly scheduled clean-up days. New volunteers are always welcome on clean-up days to help preserve these historical gems. The next clean-up day at Mt. Memorial is slated for October 27.



*" Mt. Memorial Cemetery is the lesser known of Liberty's cemeteries . . . . "*

## 2 0 1 2 W A L K I N G T O U R S

All guided tours are free and open to the public.  
Tours begin at 10 am. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes.  
For more information call 816-439-4537.

**Saturday, August 4**  
**Dougherty**  
**Historic District**

Tour meets at Rotary Park, corner of Franklin and Gallatin Streets

**Saturday, September 8**  
**Historical Murals**

Tour meets at the Lewis & Clark Mural, corner of Mill and S. Water Streets

**Saturday, October 6**  
**Mt. Memorial Cemetery**

Tour meets at the entrance to the cemetery. (Enter William Jewell College campus from Miller Street and continue up the hill.)

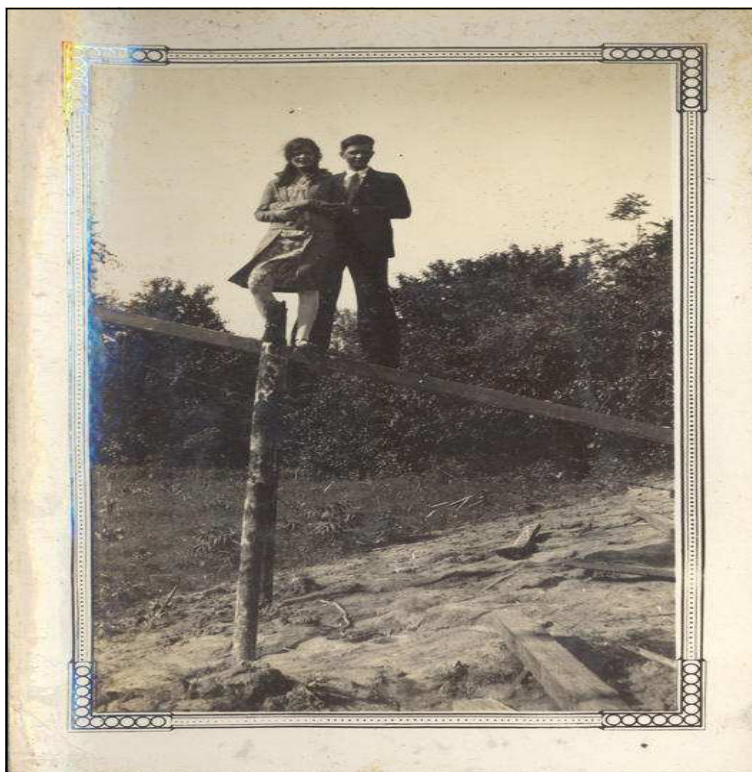


*Explore Liberty's  
Heritage*

*Co-sponsored by the City of Liberty's Preservation Office ([www.ci.liberty.mo.us](http://www.ci.liberty.mo.us)) and Historic Liberty, Inc. ([www.HistoricLiberty.org](http://www.HistoricLiberty.org)).*

## PHOTO CORNER

Here is a photograph from the Jane Elizabeth Flemming collection that shows a man and a woman standing precariously upon a narrow board propped up about six feet in the air. If you know where or when this was taken or who the people are, please contact us so we can update our index with this pertinent information.



## ARCHIVES ON DISPLAY

The Clay County Archives has prepared a mobile display that shares the mission of the Archives through an assortment of pictures and documents from its files. The display was developed by the Archives last fall under the direction of Donna Root. The display was set-up at various activities in the county last winter.

In May, board member Jonna Wensel, Community Development Manager City of Liberty, provided the opportunity for the Archives to put the display in the Liberty City Hall for two weeks. In June we were able to set up the display in the meeting room of the Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. in Gladstone. Northland Neighborhoods will host the display for a month so that various local organizations that utilize

their facility will have the opportunity to see the display. In addition to pictures and documents on the display, brochures describing the Archives are available to be picked up. We hope this exposure will make more Clay County citizens aware of the Archives and increase usage of the Archives and volun-

teer support.

If you have a group or organization that would allow us to set up the display for an event or an extended time, please contact the Archives for additional information.



Terri Wolfe, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc., with the Archives display in the Northland Neighborhoods meeting room.

## ARCHIVE MEMBER'S CHILDREN RECEIVE HISTORY RECOGNITION

Two new participants at The Clay County Archives and Historical Library found the spotlight on their families as each saw a child recognized for outstanding work in area history this spring.

In June, Austin Barker, the son of Archives newsletter editor, Keenan Barker, received metro wide media coverage of his Eagle Scout project to oversee efforts to identify and record unmarked graves in the Big Shoal Cemetery. Also in June, Haley Brown, daughter of recently appointed board member, Ward Brown and his wife Michelle, represented Missouri schools in the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland.



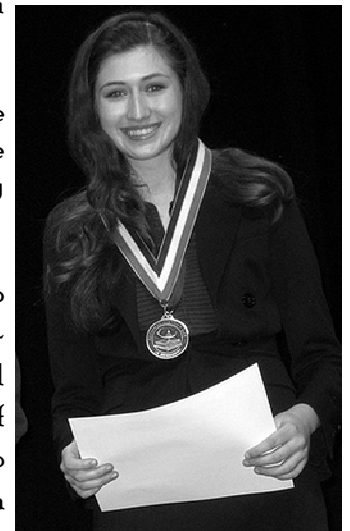
Austin, a student at Oak Park High School, has been a long-time volunteer at the Big Shoal Cemetery and the nearby Atkins Johnson Farm. Austin is a charter member of the Friends of the Atkins Johnson Farm, which is now administered by the City of Gladstone and listed as a National Historic site. When the position opened and the City needed a committee chair to oversee the maintenance of the Big Shoal Cemetery, they asked Austin to take the lead. In addition to regular work cleaning and maintaining the cemetery, Austin incorporated the project to identify unmarked graves in his proposal to complete community service requirements to earn his Eagle award in Boy Scouts.

On June 16, Austin coordinated a group of volunteers working at the cemetery to make a grid of the cemetery and record the findings as ground-penetrating radar was rolled over the grid detecting spots where the soil irregularities indicate possible unmarked graves. Austin will continue efforts to investigate these findings and determine if they represent burial sites. In cases where burials can be determined, Austin will update cemetery records. It is thought that as many as 62 graves may be unmarked in the cemetery.

The June 16 weekend found Haley Brown competing in the 2012 National History Day competition. Haley, a student at Liberty High School, provided a history of the work done to harness the Missouri River in a paper titled, "The Flood Control Act of 1944: Revolutionizing the Missouri River."

After winning competition earlier this year at the regional level, Haley competed in the Missouri History Day competition in Columbia, Missouri, where she won first place in the Senior Historical Paper division as well as the Floyd Shoemaker prize, the Folk History prize and the Humanities Council prize.

Following her first place finish in Columbia, Haley was one of Missouri's representatives to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition at the University of Maryland - College Park, June 12 - 16. At College Park, Haley was awarded 4th place in the national competition. She also won the Star Spangled 200 special prize from the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Haley was also the Missouri recipient of the Salute to Freedom Award, sponsored by the National World War II Museum, which entitles her to a trip to New Orleans in January for the opening of a new wing of the Museum.



The Archives congratulates Austin, Haley and their families for their efforts to preserve our history.



## THE CIVIL WAR IN CLAY COUNTY

So we all know that Clay County has connections to the Civil War, correct? In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War (the *Sesquicentennial* – say that 3 times fast!), some volunteers at the Archives decided to delve more deeply in to those connections. As they researched, they learned those connections were not quite as superficial as originally thought and the excitement rose. Those connections were grounded, literally, in Clay County's roots and ancestry. Thus, emerged the project to identify "Civil War soldiers that are buried in Clay County, Missouri."

The ultimate goal is to publish a book with information about Clay County soldiers and their families. Info will include date/place of birth, date/place of death, cemetery, military service (Confederate or Union) and which unit(s) they served with. Brief bios will be written describing the soldiers occupation, their spouse(es), children, parents, siblings. Anything of interest that can be uncovered about them during the research could be published.

Bushwackers/Guerrillas will be included (if buried in Clay Co). In addition, where possible, photos of the soldiers and/or their grave stones will be included.

The idea morphed in to reality with the help of the volunteers and the excitement that began to grow as more and more information was uncovered during the initial phase.

Linda and David Smith initially took on the project. They built the initial list of soldiers believed to be buried in Clay County from reference lists available at The Archives. Other volunteers at The Archives, Evelyn and Lois, began the process of researching the soldiers. Carol and Steve Olson provide guidance and direction. When Linda and David Smith moved to Iowa in 2011, Tony Meyer stepped in to work on the project.

Tony tells us that when he became involved, "They had identified 430 soldiers for the project. Since that time we have identified 400 additional soldiers to be researched. At this point the project involves a total of 830 names. Each week we find and add a few more names through our research efforts."

Additional volunteers have joined the project... Keith Nelson and Mike Wilson. Of the 830 names identified thus far...

540 have been researched and are ready for bios to be written  
75 have been researched and eliminated from the project (not Civil War

veterans or can not be confirmed as buried in Clay County)  
215 soldiers remaining to be researched.

While work continues on research, Carol is working to identify and guide the efforts of additional volunteers to convert the research into final format for the book. These "bios" will generally be brief (200 words plus/minus). But the Archives will maintain all the research done, where it will be available for further review or reference by families.

Much work remains on the project, and a publication date as not been set, although all are working towards getting the book finalized in 2012.

Individuals who would like to help should contact Carol Olson at The Archives.



# THE FRIENDS OF THE ATKINS-JOHNSON FARM ANNOUNCE THE BIG SHOAL COUNTRY FAIR

The Big Shoal Country Fair is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Atkins-Johnson Farm. Entrance to the farm is off of Antioch Road across from White Chapel Funeral Home, 6600 N. Antioch Road in Gladstone. Organizers are seeking entries from the public of handmade crafts, baked goods and home-canned products, plus participants in a talent show.

Handmade crafts may consist of embroidery, crochet, knitting, quilting or macramé or other hand-worked items. Baked goods will have their own category, as will home canning – pickles, relishes, salsa, jellies and the like are welcome. There will be a \$1 per item entry fee and all entries must be on the fair-

grounds by 10:30 a.m. for judging; winning entries will be displayed for viewing during the day. Ribbons will be awarded for first through third places, and a \$25 Walmart gift card will go to the first-place winner in each category.

In addition to the crafts and food contests, we'll see if Gladstone has talent: Entrants are wanted for a short performance in our old-fashioned talent show. Acts must be no longer than 4 minutes in length, be family appropriate and require no electricity (singing, playing an instrument, skits, oration or feats of skill are examples). Use your imagination! The Kansas City Zoomobile will be available from 2 to 4 p.m. and the Stable T Petting Farm will have animals on the farm from

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cakewalks are scheduled throughout the day. Crafters and artisans will have their wares for sale, and vendors will be selling food throughout the day. A special children's area will be set up for youngsters to work on their own projects and play games. Free live music from (band's name) from (time scheduled to play). Interested in participating in the talent show or craft/canning/baking contest?

Contact: Krislin Fenner at [seekersofthepast@yahoo.com](mailto:seekersofthepast@yahoo.com) with their name, age, contact information, and type of participation by August 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Big Shoal Country Fair

September 8<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 5 pm

**Canning**   **Crafts**   **Baked**  
**Goods**   **Talent Show**



# 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 tow formats, for older model players and 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 members

\$60 non members

Soft cover: \$17 members

\$22 non members

### ***GUERRILLAS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES***

Bud, Donnie and Me

Soft Cover: \$15 members

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### MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS

(all postpaid)

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County \$15

Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas \$13

Clay County Births, 1883-84 \$7

Clay County Deaths, 1883-84 \$7

DAR Sesquicentennial Book \$18

Every-Name Index to DAR Book \$11

Please make your check payable to:  
Clay County Archives

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



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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.CLAYCOUNTYARCHIVES.ORG



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**Our Mission**

To procure, preserve, restore, maintain, study, and promote manuscripts, instruments, records, charters, evidence, and documents of a public or private nature which may have statistical, legal or historical significance to Clay County, Missouri, its government or residents, or such documents as might be desirable to the association and to encourage public interest therein.