

The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

P R E S I D E N T ’ S M E S S A G E

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Info	2
Annual Meeting Civil War Trivia	3
Traveling Display Donations	4
Colonel Routt	5
History?	8
Archives Info	9

We would love to hear from you!

Is there a Clay County topic you've always wondered about?

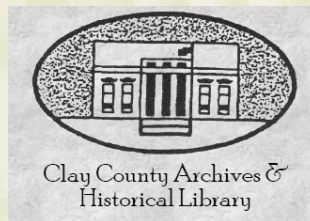
Send us a question and we'll try to provide you an answer!

Our annual membership meeting is coming up on the first Saturday of November so please mark your calendars. We plan on meeting at the new Woodneath branch of the Mid Continent Library on Flintlock Road just outside of Liberty at 9:30am.

We participated at the Atkins-Johnson Farm Big Shoal Country Fair in September. They set up a table for us to meet people, let them know about the Archives and sell a few books. It was a hot but enjoyable day and being there on the property that afternoon seemed to transport us back in time; imaging life during that era.

The Divided Loyalties book is still selling briskly. Tony Myers and Keith Nelson continue to make the book presentations at various meetings around the area. Mike Wilson, who contributed some chapters to the book, has been absent because of health issues but he has recently contacted us and told us he is on the mend.

We are so happy to hear the news and we look forward to working with him again on future projects.



Beth Beckett has been the organizational representative to the Board of Directors from Clay County Government for some time but she has been too busy to attend meetings so she has appointed Emily Doolan in her stead. We welcome her to our board and know that she will serve with distinction based on her participation in the CHARISMA organization of area historical groups.

Speaking of CHARISMA, Carol & Steve Olson and I attended the meeting held at the Stone-Yancey House bed and breakfast in August. It was a good meeting where we discussed, among other things, procuring and re-

taining volunteers. Carolyn Hatcher was quite a gracious host.

Has anyone ever heard of “Alaska Nellie”? Ann Henning hadn't either until she took a cruise to the state of “The Last Frontier.” She learned that Nellie had lived in this area (on Bee Creek in Platte County) so, upon Ann's return, she immediately started researching the early life of this intrepid pioneer and emailed the results to the naturalist who introduced Ann to Nellie.

We're continuing to work on adding to our indexes, the Civil and Criminal files, Abstracts, etc. We have some new volunteers such as Kathleen Bird (abstracting criminal records) and Chris Harris (gleaning geographic information from the abstracts).

We have obtained records of the Prather, Chick (and related) families from Julie Schwab and Anna Mae Hodge. The Mid-Oaks property (circa 1831) is part of Baruch Prather's original

(Continued on page 3)

2013 Executive Board

Officers

President	Stuart Elliott
1st Vice President	Steve Olson
2nd Vice President	Shirley Fansher
Corresponding Secretary	Ann Henning
Recording Secretary	Donna Root
Treasurer	Scott R. Cole

Directors

<u>Through 2013</u>	<u>Through 2014</u>	<u>Through 2015</u>
Ward Brown	Raymond Brock	Patricia Rendon
Joyce Schumacher	Bob Corum	Frank McMillian

Committee Chairs

Records Use & Preservation	Carol Olson
Membership	Shirley Fansher
Properties	Steve Olson & Bob Corum
Cemeteries	Ken Neth
Computer Use	Stuart Elliott
Volunteer Coordinator	Carol Olson

Organizational Representatives

Clay County Parks	Elizabeth Gilliam Beckett
William C. Corum Chapter SAR	Bill Matteson
Clay Co. Patriots Chapter DAR	Beverly Corum
Alexander Doniphan Chapter DAR	Nancy George
City of Liberty	Jonna Wensel

Newsletter Staff

Keenan Glidewell Barker
 Stuart Elliott
 Shirley Fansher

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
Oversize 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

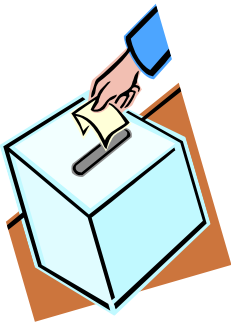
(Continued from page 1)

81 acres on the east side of Prather Road just south of the intersection with Parvin Road. These records include letters, family histories, photographs, etc.

Please drop by and see us some time. I'm sure you'll find your trip fruitful.

~Stuart Elliott

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION



FIRST, mark your calendars for November 2, 2013, 9:30-11:30 am., Woodneath Library Center, 8900 N. Flintlock Rd. (That's west of Liberty on Hwy 152, and north on Flintlock)

NOW, call the Archives at 816-781-3611 or Carol Olson at 816-452-3540, and make your reservation to attend the annual Clay County Archives and Historical Library MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

A Mid-Continent library representative will present a short program on the Library Center and Woodneath Farm. Morning goodies and coffee/tea will be served.

A TALE FROM THE CIVIL WAR

The following article was written by Raleigh Warren Kimsey, who was a grandson of Sallie Wilson Blackwell, sister of Fannie Gow, wife of Marcus Dory Gow. Raleigh interviewed Marcus Gow and his stories are on file at the Missouri Historical Society of Columbia.

However, Raleigh got his time mixed up as no prisoners were taken in the Mexican War and Marcus came home by boat. Marcus was in the Civil War and taken prisoner.

My mother's Uncle Mark Gow told me that he, along with other Missourians, enlisted in the Texas-Mexico War to fight with the Texans against the Mexicans. He said that a large number of these volunteers were taken prisoners by the Mexican Army and imprisoned in a big stockade. Uncle Mark said that it was his job, every morning, to carry out one of the big wooden buckets, used during the night for toilet purposes, and dump the bucket on the ground a long distance from the stockade. He said this gave him an idea and he began going quite a long distance from the stockade to dump his toilet bucket; that he increased the distance each morning until he finally arrived a long distance from the stockade. And then when he thought the distance was safe enough, he dumped his bucket, sat the bucket down and walked slowly away. Uncle Mark said that it sure was a long walk from Mexico back to his home in Clay County, Missouri. But he made it in due time.

~ Contributed by Ken Neth

RECENT DONATIONS

Donations of Material

Charles Geilker—Maps from Physics Dept. at William Jewell College, including coal and iron maps..

Frances Hornbuckle—Newspaper clipping from Gladstone, July 18, 2013 about donation of a rifle used by her g-g-grandfather Jacob Stone Atkins, who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Ellen Joy—Hill and Reddish family letters, deeds, photographs, etc.

Judy Leonard—J.C. Boggess, Inc. 1929 calendar.

Celeste Moore—1908 Liberty Yearbook, The Hatchet.

Bernard R. Peters—Eulogy and photo of Bernard Burke Peters.

Julie Schwab—10 boxes of Prather, Chick, Hodge families and Prather Hill donations.

Donations of Money

Kathleen Bird

Thank you for your support!

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 under the direction of Donna Root. The display was set-up at various activities in the county over the last year.

We are pleased to announce that the display has a quasi-home at the Mid-Continent library branches for 2013 and we couldn't be more excited to share the information.



2013 Travel Schedule

October: Excelsior Springs

CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL HENRY LOUIS ROUTT

Growing up in a small town, stories circulate about certain people that have helped shape the town and influence its citizens. Col. Henry Louis Routt is one such person. Over the next several installments of this newsletter I would like to share the life of this interesting man. Is the legend larger than life? That will remain to be seen.



Henry was born April 22, 1824 in Woodford County, Kentucky to Rodham and Phoebe (Blanton) Routt. He was the youngest of eight children. Growing up in Woodford County, Kentucky, Henry was exposed to the rich culture of bluegrass country which has strong southern ideals, both in society and politics. He was educated in the common schools that Kentucky offered. Subsequently was educated at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky graduating with degrees in Literature and Law.

While attending Transylvania Law School, Henry Routt read law in Versailles, Kentucky with Hon. Thomas F. Marshall and William B. Kincaid. This was a fantastic experience for the young attorney as Thomas Marshall was the nephew of John Marshall (Fourth Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court), and a friend of Henry Clay.

Routt later briefly partnered with Herman Bowmer, Jr. but then dissolved the partnership, deciding to move to the western frontier of the United States. He settled in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri around 1843. Upon coming to this frontier town, Routt imme-

diately set about to make a name for himself.

What was the draw of a small frontier town you may ask? Why Liberty? In a letter to the Liberty Tribune, an unnamed older resident of Liberty gives the following description during the time Henry Routt moved here. He says the following: *"...Clay County was the ultima Thule of Western immigration. (The term ultima Thule in medieval geographies denotes any distant place located beyond the "borders of the known world") and Liberty was regarded as the paradise of Western towns. Compared to the neighboring towns it was so, for Richmond, Lexington, Independence scarcely deserved the name of towns and Plattsburg was not then in existence. In these days Liberty was a thriving town. It was the headquarters of the Upper Missouri, and Liberty Landing was the head of navigation, except occasionally steamboats would go up to Fort Leavenworth. There was no warehouse then at the landing. The arrival of a boat was announced by the firing of a canon four or five miles below and by the time it reached Col. Allen's Landing all the merchants would be there, as well as half the town and neighborhood. Freight was high, but money was plentiful and everybody thought there was no other such a place as Clay County. The thought of ever being in want of a market for the surplus production of the county never once entered into any of our minds."*

Liberty had also made the news of the day being the home of such notable politicians and attorneys like: David Rice Atchison, Alexander Doniphan and James Lincoln (a 2nd cousin of President Lincoln).

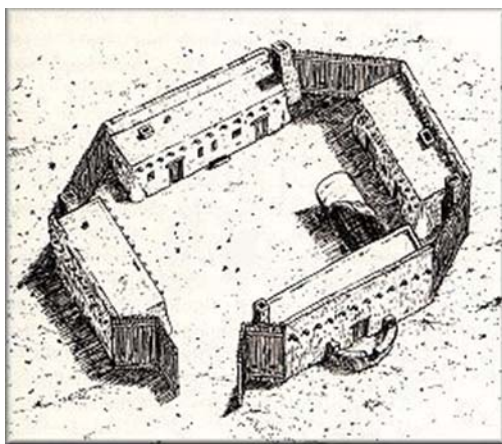
As Henry settled into the life of Liberty, he put his education to work. One of his first law partnerships was with Thomas W. DeCorsey, Esq. which he worked with until 1849. He also purchased the Liberty Banner newspaper, which he operated for three years. During his early days in Liberty he met and married Miss Catherine Bright in 1846. Within a year of his

(Continued on page 6)

CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

marriage, Routt was sent out to Fort Mann, Kansas during the Mexican War. He was assigned to Col. William Gilpin's Missouri Regiment – known as the Indian Command. (Col. Gilpin was later Governor of Colorado).



Henry Routt seemingly never had the best of health and soon returns to Fort Leavenworth for the remainder of the war. Before returning to civilian life, it seems like Routt's famous temper got the better of him and it was very costly. In the history of Fort Mann, we find the following account.

"About 65 Indians approached the garrison under a white flag and the assembled troops were dismissed. The Indians were met outside the stockade by Captain Pelzer and a number of other officers, greetings were exchanged and after some confusing dialogue from both parties it was established that the Indians were friendly Pawnees. A peace pipe was produced and the group gathered around one of the cooking fires to smoke. It seems at this point that Pelzer thought that he had pacified all the Indians on the southern plains, for after giving the visitors a demonstration of one of his artillery pieces, presumably to assert the strength of the Garrison, he invited the Pawnees to look around inside the fort.

*After most of the Indians had entered the post Pelzer took their chief to see Gilpin's adjutant, **Henry L. Routt***

*who had been left at Fort Mann by his commander due to illness and was at this time very weak and in sick quarters. The pair tried to communicate with signs for a while and then the Indian showed **Routt** letters he had which claimed that he was friendly towards the whites. Perhaps because he felt uneasy with 65 armed Pawnees milling around in the courtyard or possibly his suspicions were aroused by Pelzer who was surprised at the boldness of the Indians, but **Routt** doubted the sincerity of the Indian. He advised Pelzer to hold them all prisoners until such time as Lieutenant Colonel Gilpin could return to the post. On reflection **Routt** later wrote **This advice, however, I should not have given, if I had known he had smoked the pipe of peace with them.**' [Routt in a letter to the Liberty Tribune dated December 6, 1847]*

*A feeble and abortive attempt was made by the volunteers to disarm the Indians who made a sudden rush for the gates. Pelzer at this point gave an order to fire which caused still further chaos. Captain Koscialowski immediately told his men, Company E, not to load or follow Pelzer's orders seeing no reason why a peaceful meeting should turn into a battle. In the fight from the post two Indians were killed in the courtyard and another two shot dead when they were found sheltering in Captain Pelzer's quarters. Others were shot while being pursued out on to the plain. Nine Indians died in the incident and two wounded were taken prisoner although many more wounded were carried away by the fleeing Indians. One of these captive Pawnees was held in chains until the middle of the following year, before he was released and sent back to his tribe with an apology for the November treachery. The actions of Pelzer and **Routt** created ill feeling among the officers and men at the post, and the refusal of the non-German unit to participate in the killings split the garrison into two national camps..."*

Even though Henry had to cut his Mexican War service short, he still remained very much a part of the political scene in Liberty and the surrounding country. He owned a few slaves as well as employed a free black named Dow according to the 1850 census. In 1854 he was ap-

(Continued on page 7)

CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 6)

pointed Judge of the Common Pleas Court in Clay County, Missouri. Several times we find Henry being involved in the local community as he is listed in 1858 as one of the examiners of Clay Seminary students under charge of Professor James Love.

During this tumultuous time, feelings toward states rights, slavery and the admission of new territories as states caused a lot of heated debates in Liberty. Sometimes feelings were so strong that action must be taken. Two such events happened in which Henry Routt was involved. The first being in December of 1855. Capt. Abiel Leonard, a neighbor of Henry Routt was testifying under oath at the United States Senate Hearings (Dec. 6-8, 1859) regarding the seizure of the Federal Arsenal at Liberty, Missouri (near the Liberty Landing) in December of 1855. Many legends surround the Arsenal raids when it comes to Henry Routt. Let's allow history to clear things up.



“Captain Leonard testifies that a Judge Thompson [James Turner Vance Thompson of Liberty, Missouri], in company with a large number of others, appeared at the arsenal, overpowered him, confined him, broke open the magazines...” a few paragraphs later in the report, Capt. Leonard then says, *“...They broke some doors open. I do not know how they got the keys to get into the Powder Magazine, which is composed of brick and had double doors. Captain Price was the leading man in the crowd. As I understood, a Mr. Routt [Henry L. Routt] was there.”*

In wrapping up this event we find that *“the arsenal at Liberty was broken up, and what remained of the arms were shipped to other military posts. Now, sir, there is a very striking similarity between the breaking into that arsenal and the attack upon the one at Harper’s Ferry. The question of Slavery had to do with both. The arsenal in Missouri was broken into for the purpose of obtaining arms to force Slavery upon Kansas...”*

-House Report No. 200, Thirty-fourth Congress first session, pages 1130-1.

What is interesting to me is that before this next event in Henry’s life, I have not been able to find the location in Liberty of where Henry, Catherine (his wife) and children were living prior to 1860.

TO BE CONTINUED.....
(In the next MOsaic Issue)

~ Written by Chris Harris,
Archives Member

We invite members to contribute articles or ideas.

Please contact the Archives directly or email us at:
mosaic@claycountyarchives.org

IS IT HISTORY, OR STORY?

History has a way of morphing over time. Stories change, lore becomes fact, dates change and sometimes things are just plain made up. If anyone has ever read or listened to Clay County history then they know Jesse James hid in about every barn, cellar, cave and shed in the county! I was very surprised to learn that the outlaw Cole Younger's wife was buried near the present day Penguin Park...even though he was never married. I also learned that Daniel Boone visited and built furniture here long after he had died! These are some good examples of why good research is so important.

Once stories are told or written they quickly become fact. Most people don't go the extra step to find the paper trail, if there is one. Finding the facts can be challenging. Sometimes there is no paper to tell the facts. Deeds were not always recorded or they were recorded much later. Documents are destroyed or damaged over time. It can be very difficult.

An excellent example of how history can become skewed is the history behind the Big Shoal Cemetery. It has been written that the land was given by Jonathan Atkins and that his wife, Mary, is the first interred there. The story has been that the deeds for the cemetery were never recorded. The facts, however, are very different once you see the paper and look for the history for yourself.

It is true that the deeds for the cemetery were not recorded...at the time of conveyance. A trip to the county seat to record documents was much more difficult in the early days and often they weren't recorded until years later. The deeds were passed on from land owner to land owner until they were finally recorded, if they ever were.

The land for the Big Shoal Cemetery was deeded to the Trustees of the church in 1833 by John Hightower prior

to the remainder of the farm being deeded to Jonathan Atkins. It was not until a Quiet Title action was brought by the church in 1859 that the deed was brought forth and recorded. It is easy to see why it was believed the deed was never recorded since the church and cemetery had been in existence for 30 plus years before it actually was recorded. Since Jonathan Atkins was listed in the court action as a Trustee for the church at the time and he more than likely brought forth the deed since he owned the farm which the land came from it probably became the "story" that he gave the land for the cemetery.

As far as who is the first interred there, well that is a hard thing to determine. It is possible the first buried had no markers or they were markers made of wood. We can be certain though that Mary Atkins was not the first buried there. Mary Atkins died in 1878. Her husband, Jonathan and her son Fountain are both buried there and they died in 1866 and 1848 respectively. As time goes on, headstones become weathered. It is very easy to misread a weathered "7" on a headstone as a "2". Someone may have mistaken Mary's date of death as 1828 instead of 1878.

So, it is easy to see how information can be misinterpreted. The most important lesson we can take from this is if you don't have documentation then make sure it isn't stated as "fact" but rather an assumption or a belief based on what you have. Lore also needs to be stated as lore. Then perhaps sometime down the road, someone will think to dig a little deeper to verify the history and bring the facts forward.

~ Written by Krislin Fenner
Archives Member

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Archives memberships expire at the end of the calendar year.

Renew Today!

ARCHIVES GIFT SHOP

ATLAS

Reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas, with features in color, just like the original!
Includes an index. \$22

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 and for the current model players. Specify which of the formats you desire.

GREETING CARDS

Note Cards—10 \$7.50

DOCTOR ON THE WESTERN FRONTIER

The Diaries of Dr. William Wallace Dougherty, 1854-1880 \$17

LOST VOICES ON THE MISSOURI

(*Dougherty*) \$64.95

IKNEWFRANK...IWISHIHADKNOWN JESSE

Family, Friends and Neighbors in the Life and Times of the James Boys \$30

GUERRILLAS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES

Bud, Donnie and Me \$25

MISCELLANEOUS / BOOKS

1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County	\$15
Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas	\$13
Clay County Births, 1883-84	\$9
Clay County Deaths, 1883-84	\$9
Divided Loyalties	\$40
Clay County Historic Map (not available to be mailed)	\$15
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

All prices include mailing fees. If you wish to pick up in person, please contact us for pricing and to ensure availability.



D I D Y O U K N O W ?

What is an acre?

Acre: Translation of Hebrew tsemed, literally a “team” of oxen. As a measure of land, it refers to the land a team can plow in one day. (1 Sam. 14:14; Isa. 5:10).

Source: Holman Illustrated Pocket Bible Dictionary

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.CLAYCOUNTYARCHIVES.ORG



Street Address

210 E. Franklin, Liberty, MO 64068

Mailing Address

PO Box 99, Liberty, MO 64069

Phone

816-781-3611

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.