

# 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

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We would love to hear from you!

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

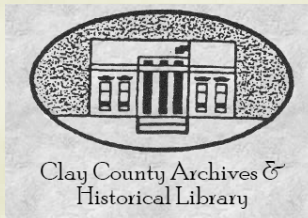
Send us a question and we'll try to provide you an answer!

First of all, I would like to emphatically thank all of our incredible, dedicated volunteers for another year of procuring, preserving, maintaining, studying and promoting the treasure trove of historical material we have at the Archives.

Some of us attended the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives meeting in October where our CHARISMA group was presented to the state-wide organization. The idea of local museums and archives banding together for their common good was very well received and it was something others wanted to emulate.

We held our annual membership meeting at the new Woodneath branch of the Mid Continent Library in November. The facilities were great and staff was gracious. For those in the Kansas City North area, it is a library worth visiting. As you may know, the original

house is still standing and, when they get the funding, they will restore it and use it as part of the library mission.



The Divided Loyalties Civil War Soldiers book was highlighted in the “Read-A-Rama” section of the Kansas City Star on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December. The reporter seemed interested and he had the book in hand to peruse in preparation for the article.

We're nearing a crossroad with our microfilm library. The reader/printer we have is still “mostly” working but it is old enough that the replacement parts are no longer manufactured and the toner is very hard to come by. We've considered

buying a new reader/printer but the cost is quite high. Digitizing our library so that it can be accessed on our internal network is another option. That won't be inexpensive either but it seems to be the direction we're leaning. If you have any input on this matter, please contact us.

Please don't forget to pay your 2014 dues. It's only \$15 and it's good to know of the people who support us and believe in our mission.

Please come and visit us in 2014! Just be sure to call ahead if there's any doubt about the winter weather being an obstacle. Our staff is all volunteer, and safety is key.

~Stuart Elliott

**2013 Executive Board**

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**Newsletter Staff**

Keenan Glidewell Barker  
 Stuart Elliott  
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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 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: [MOsaic@claycountyarchives.org](mailto:MOsaic@claycountyarchives.org)

## I ' M R E L A T E D T O F R A N K A N D J E S S E J A M E S

The other day I was in the doctor's office waiting room, when a woman next to me asked what I did for a living. I stated that I was retired and was working on family history. She acknowledged the fact that she had traced her lineage back to Adam and Eve. With a surprised look, I asked "how did you accomplished that feat?" She stated that she used a research company, which she then gave me the name of the firm.

When I arrived home I found the address of the company and requested information on their research costs. In the letter I also stated that I had a "James" in one of my family lines and wondered if I was related to Jesse and Frank James. In a few days an envelope arrived with a normal cover letter and a matrix consisting of five questions. I was instructed to fill out the matrix and send it back with \$20.00.

The first question asked "If anyone in the family lineage was referred to or called a Confederate, rebel, guerrilla, Secesh, bushwhacker, butternut, copperhead, gray back, Jayhawker, sand happer, yellow hammer, goober grabber, outlaw, bandit or disenfranchised?"

Question 2 - "Did anyone in your family lineage own or possess a firearm, such as a rifle, pistol, flintlock musket, percussion musket, shotgun, double barrel, derringer, blunderbuss, black powder rifle, black powder pistol, muzzleloader, revolver, six-gun, weapon with a toad sticker, pepper box or breech-loader?"

Question 3 - "Did any family history indicate that they did not agree with the practices of the banks, such as high fines for over drafts and insufficient funds?"

Question 4 - "Do you have family members that dislike Jayhawks and want to burn Lawrence to the ground when they lose to KU?"

Question 5 - Do you agree that pseudo research using sensational stories lacking source documents from the internet or in tabloids, fiction magazines or comic books is a valid method of establishing validity?"

Instructions: "If you answered yes to any number from 1 through 4, and yes to question 5; or if yes to question 5 only; return the matrix with your fee and a self addressed envelope. We will research your family lineage and the requested surname upon receipt of payment."



A week later I received my envelope and it contained a certified certificate stating that I was in fact related to Frank and Jesse James. The big surprise was that the envelope also contained a second certified certificate stating that that particular lineage was also traceable to Adam and Eve. Best \$20.00 I ever spent on research!

## RECENT DONATIONS

### Donations of Material

Erma Altis—Missouri Birmingham Tax Books: Personal 1892 and City Assessments 1898; 8 ferryboat tickets “Liberty”, believed to be for Liberty-Independence ferry; miscellaneous Clay County information; five Liberty photos of the early 1970; miscellaneous Clemmons material from Birmingham; old Missouri map; miscellaneous Boggess information; copy of Wilson’s War War I Address to Congress; 30 US Navy Vessel pictures published by Manor Baking Co. in 1942.

Marilyn Chamberlin—Clay County Sesquicentennial Souvenir Book, Six Mile Baptist Church Cookbook 1991; Bicentennial Boonslick History—Howard & Cooper Counties.

Linda Cunningham—1944 William Jewel College Tatler.

Joyce Greer—Book of WWII clippings including some Clay County obituaries, collected by Grace Mosby during WWII.

Dail Hobbs—1955 William Jewel College Tatler.

Bret McElhinney—“Photo Records of the Guyton & Harrington Mule company Properties;”; “The Clevenger Families of Ray County”; box of Clinton County deeds.

Holly Sanders—Stevenson Cemetery information.

Ellie Tucker—Historical Books: The Methodist Church in Missouri 1798-1939; Sermons on Several Occasions by John Wesley, vol. 2 published 1815; Memoirs of Benjamin Franklin, vol. 1 & 2.

Mike Wilson—Bruce Family by Michael R. Wilson and Betty Jane (Combs) Wilson, spiral bound new book.

### Donations of Money

Ann Henning

Reta McCall Gaebler

Steve and Carol Olson (to the Clay County Archives Microfilm Project)

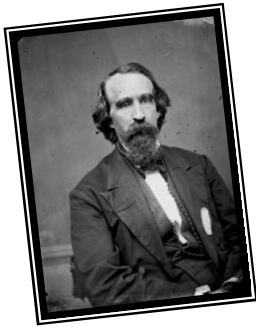
*Thank you for your support!*

### DID YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Archives memberships expire at the end of each calendar year.

If you have not already renewed, it’s not too late.

Renew Today!



## CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL HENRY LOUIS ROUTT

### E P I S O D E N O . 2

*This is a continuation of an article on Colonel Routt that began in the last edition of the MOsaic. If you did not receive the last edition, and would like to, please contact the Archives at [MOsaic@claycountyarchives.org](mailto:MOsaic@claycountyarchives.org) or 816-781-3611.*

Life in the bustling frontier town of Liberty, Missouri seemed to always suit Henry Routt. He married well, had begun a family and also had a thriving law practice specializing in criminal defense. Over the years he had several prominent partners, including *Col. Alexander Doniphan*, *Alexander J. Calhoun*, and *James Lincoln*. It is said that in partnership with Doniphan, Henry Routt conducted almost every defense of a criminal case in northwest Missouri. In those many years of law practice was there recorded only one time when Routt was the prosecuting attorney. It did not end well for those involved. The man being charged was sentenced and served his term in the Penitentiary. After being paroled he made his way to Parkville, Missouri after hearing that Routt was speaking there. At some point during the speech, this man threatened the life of Routt but wound up losing his own as a result.

The 1850's began a time of adventure and heartache for the Routt family. Henry was appointed a judge in the common pleas court in 1854 and was active in the educational system of the day as being one of the examiners for Clay Seminary (a ladies finishing school) under Professor James Love in 1858. Also that same year, the Routt's experienced the death of their son, Henry Routt, Jr. An experience which regretfully would repeat itself several times.

The addition of new territory to the United States under the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 began to stir up a hotbed of political activism in western Missouri. The initial purpose of the Kansas-Nebraska Act was to open up many thousands of new farms and make a Midwestern Transcontinental Railroad more feasible. It became problematic when the voters could decide whether slavery would be allowed in the new territory or not. Liberty was not spared these emotional topics. This resulted in a large number of Liberty residents

becoming very active in the pro-slavery movement. Historically, Liberty has always been Southern, both in politics and culture.

As their family grew, Henry and Catherine decide to move. On April 21, 1860 Catherine Routt purchases Lot 6 of Wilson's Addition from Samuel and Jane Hadley for \$1,500. It is not known if the present house (addressed as *450 E. Franklin St.*) was built or a previous structure was on the property.



It is commonly accepted that the house was built by Col. Henry Routt. What is interesting is that, it was his wife Catherine, who purchased the property, "*paid by Catherine Routt out of her distributive shares in the estates of her deceased father and mother...*"

The house sat on property that was approximately an acre in size.

It was here that Henry's ice house was used as a storehouse for the stolen munitions from the Liberty Arsenal. But alas we get ahead of ourselves.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 5)*

Shortly after the Routt's moved to Franklin Street they are shown in the 1860 Census as also having 3 mulatto servants and their daughter Emma was a student at Clay Seminary in Liberty, a finishing school located at the corner of S. Leonard St and E. Kansas St. They seemed to be doing fairly well and enjoying a good deal of success.

Political and social tensions continued to heat up as the topic of slavery in Kansas was becoming the topic on everyone's mind. On January 18, 1861 Henry Routt put together a military company referred to as "The Mounted Rangers" with weekly meetings at the Armory inside of the Thompson House Hotel.

The Thompson House Hotel occupied the first three lots at the corner of Kansas St and Main St.



Some of the members of this group of Mounted Rangers were:

- Nathaniel Grant *[superintendent of the Federal Arsenal at Liberty Landing]*
- Alexander J. Calhoun *[Attorney]*
- Greenup Bird, Jr. *[bank teller]*
- Rockwell J. Stone *[teenager]*
- Stephen Ross Shrader *[son-in-law of Judge James. T. V. Thompson]*

April 12, 1861 has been noted as the start of the American Civil War with the firing on Fort Sumter. Right after it, was the second raid of the Liberty Federal Depot (Arsenal) on April 20, 1861. It is possible and many think that this raid was organized and planned by the leading movers and shakers in the Secessionist movement including Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson. The leader of this act of treason was Henry L. Routt.

*"The force that captured the arsenal was about 200 Secessionists, composed of one company from Jackson County, commanded by Capt. McMurray of Independence, and a strong company from Liberty and Clay County under Col. Henry L. Routt, with the whole group under command of Col. Routt...News of the capture of the arsenal was telegraphed to the outer world the same day, and created considerable sensation throughout the country. It was the first overt act of citizens of Missouri against the Federal Government. President Lincoln heard of it and telegraphed to Leavenworth for an explanation..."*

*- Joanne Eakin  
"Liberty Arsenal Seized"*

The extent of the ammunition and artillery taken by Henry Routt and his men is substantial.

- 3 Six pound Brass Cannon (weighing 882 lbs each)
- 12 Six pound iron guns - unmounted
- 1 three pound iron gun
- 5 Caissons
- 2 Battery wagons
- 2 portable forges
- 923 Percussion pistols
- 243 Percussion rifles
- 121 rifled carbines
- 419 cavalry sabres
- 39 artillery swords
- 20 cavalry and artillery musketoons

*(Continued on page 7)*

**CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL  
(CONTINUED)**

*(Continued from page 6)*

1,008 lbs	cannon powder
9,900 lbs	musket powder
12,700 lbs	rifle powder
400,000	cartridges (rounds of ammunition)

Most of the arms and munitions were hauled in wagons (obtained for this purpose) back to Liberty. They were then distributed to Routt's men in Clay County and surrounding areas. The ice house on the Routt property, at 450 E. Franklin Street, was converted into a makeshift armory and was available for men to come to resupply for their use against the Union forces.

Henry's involvement in the Civil War was brief due to poor health. Just as in the Mexican War, Henry was forced to come back to Liberty, Missouri and on March 18, 1862 he was arrested for high treason and taken to St. Louis for trial and a most certain execution by hanging. The charges against Henry Routt were numerous. To give you an example:

*Charge 1* - Exciting rebellion against the Government of the United States and endeavoring to induce men to join in the same.

*Charge 2* - Conspiring to levy war against the United States.

*Charge 3* - Levying war against the United States

*Charge 4* - Making violent assaults upon men known to be Union men, to terrify and intimidate them.

Witnesses sworn to testify in the court hearing included: Nathaniel Grant, Gabriel Cathcart, Luke Burris, Weekley Dale, Samuel Hardwick, William Reynolds, Anthony Harrel, John Hinton, George Goss, A. A. King, and John Ryland.

At the insistence of Provost Marshal J. O. Broadhead and other friends, Routt was unconditionally pardoned by President Lincoln on April 16, 1862, less than a month after being arrested. This is a very quick response. Recalling that one of Routt's law partners was James Lincoln, who happened to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin of the president, this quick response may not be so out of the ordinary. After the pardon, Henry Routt remained in St. Louis for the duration of the war according to newspaper accounts from the period.

It was during Routt's time in St. Louis that he and his wife Catherine loose two more children. Lee Routt passes away on Aug. 14, 1863 and Emma Routt on October 6, 1864.

After Henry Routt returns to Liberty in 1865, he resumes the practice of law. He must have been fairly successful, as by April 19, 1869 arrangements are made to sell the house and property at 450 E. Franklin to "Irene F. Litchfield, widow of John Kerr Dougherty, and present wife of Abraham Litchfield."

According to the 1906 obituary of Catherine Routt, Henry begins building his country house (located at 660 Spring Ave) in 1869 on 8 acres of land that he purchased from law partner and close friend, Alexander J. Calhoun. This land was originally a part of the much larger Thomas Estes Farm that Calhoun had bought years before. The Estes house still stands and was built about 1830. It is located on the west side of B Hwy just north of the former VFW Building.

This is where some confusion sets in. There has been much debate and speculation on the exact date of construction of this house. Its appearance along with local legends seems to indicate that the house is older than it is. In doing extensive research we find several points to support the 1869 construction date.

Catherine Routt's obituary mentions the following: "They moved to the Calhoun place, just northeast of

*(Continued on page 8)*

## CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 7)

town, in 1869, Col. Routt having the brick house built that stands near the railroad tracks."



An 1865 map of Liberty and Clay County show that Henry Routt was living on Franklin Street and that no house or buildings were on the aforementioned 8 acres.

A 1938 school paper written by Lewis Routt Carr, a great grandson of Henry and Catherine, documents the dates of the two houses.

One peculiar item is that the recorded date of sale of the 8 acres from Alexander Calhoun to Catherine Routt, is June 20, 1870 and then three days later a mortgage is taken out for the same property. No reason is given why it took so long to record the sale and transfer of the property.

In March of 1871 yet another of the Routt children passes away, their son Alexander Calhoun Routt dies at the age of 2 years.

After this point Henry Routt seems to melt into the pages of history as documented references to his life end other than a lengthy entry in the 1878 *"Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Mis-*

*souri Edition"*

In the biography, which more than likely Routt himself wrote, it gives many details of his life.

*"In his religious views he was extremely liberal, respecting the opinions of other men, but tenacious in his own – which are of the advanced independent school. On all the prominent theological differences he is a patient and untiring student and profound thinker. During the past four or five years he has been an uncompromising advocate of the temperance cause, with his money, his personal influence and his powerful oratorical talent, tearing down the common enemy of our nation and building the temples of temperance in villages and cities formerly cursed with the dens of King Alcohol. A prominent gentleman of Clay County, who has long known our subject intimately, favors us with this pen picture: "Colonel Routt is a man of distingue. He is six feet two and one-half inches high, and, although he measures forty-two inches around the chest, is so perfect a physical form that the impression made in looking at him is that he is 'tall and slender.' He is a splendid horseman, and if he had been trained for a cavalry commander, would certainly have been the finest looking General on horseback." He is a man of sanguine, nervous temperament, and whatever cause he espouses, does it with his might."*

One thing about Henry Routt, as we close this biographical sketch, is that he was always unwavering in his views, no matter the cost. In 1879 a petition and suit are filed against Henry Routt for non-payment of property taxes. The news paper articles quote Routt saying that he refuses to pay taxes to an unjust and corrupt government. This later would cost his widow, Catherine, the property on Spring Street which was sold on the court house steps in August of 1881.

(Continued on page 9)



## CLAY COUNTY'S COLONEL (CONTINUED)

On February 23, 1881 Col. Henry Routt passes away at his home east of Liberty. The following appears in the next edition of the Liberty Tribune.

*"Death of Judge Routt, Judge Henry L. Routt died at his residence in this city on Wednesday last after a protracted illness. He was aged about 63 years and had been a citizen of Liberty for about 40 years. For several years health has been feeble. Widely known."*

On a family note, Henry and Catherine Routt had six children but only two lived to see adulthood, Rodham Rout and Mattie Routt.

~ Written by Chris Harris,  
Archives Member

## CLAY'S A LANDLORD

We all know Clay County owns the land the courthouse sits on, but a piece of land on North Oak Street with a well? A 1.4 acre plot in the middle of the field?

It does, with others.

They're among a motley group of properties the county – to its surprise – found out it owns.

They were discovered, County Administrator Walt Van Asselt said, "totally by accident."

Van Asselt said he had requested a listing of properties the county owns from the assessor's office and "four surprises" were among the list.

The county owns a well at North Oak and 111<sup>th</sup> Street, a 55- by 65-foot cemetery at the intersection of I-29 and 196 Highway adjacent to the Platte County line, two cemeteries on the north side of Worlds of Fun and 1.4 acres in the middle of a field northeast of Kearney.

"The county may be in the farming business for all I know," said Van Asselt. "It's just sitting out there in the middle of a large field or it could be the bottom of a dried creek bed."

Van Asselt said if a deed does not exist for a piece of property it reverts to the county.

As far as governmental entities, Van Asselt said, the county is the largest landholder. The county does not pay taxes on its property.

Clay County owns about 11 acres in downtown Liberty, which includes a courthouse, jail, administrative building and parking lots. It also owns a juvenile justice center, the election board office and tow group homes in Liberty.

The list includes parks, Tryst Falls, Rocky Hollow, Mt. Gilead Church and School, Westside Annex, Claybrook Mansion, Jesse James Farm and the 90-acre county home property.

~ Author Unknown

## SPOTLIGHT ON READING A GOOD READ



A book for everyone and especially those with ancestors who lived in the Ohio area in the 1700s is "The Frontiersmen" by Alan W. Eckert.

This book will give you a very good picture of what their life was like on that dangerous frontier. It is very well written in narrative style with a day and year for each section. There are a lot of footnotes which relate forward to contemporary locations in the present states of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia and, hallelujah!, it is indexed. Keep an extra bookmark in the footnotes section so you can refer to it easily and also look at the map on the inside covers.

The area north of the Ohio river was called the Northwest Territory in the 1700s. It extended north to the Great Lakes and English-French land holdings. The Mississippi and Allegheny rivers were the western and eastern boundaries. It was a rich, forested land which the Indian tribes used for hunting and their moveable villages.

The characters are Simon Kenton, Tecumseh, Blue Jacket, Simon Girty, Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark and many more whose names you will recognize. The book reads like a novel. It tells graphically of the way the Indians and whites treated each other in the fight over the fertile soil and hunting grounds of the territory. It is a fascinating read which you will want to keep around as a reference. I enjoyed the frankness

with which the author wrote; he didn't sugar coat either viewpoint. One of the characters is William Henry Harrison. He is followed through his young adult life and we see how things develop for him, leading him to his destiny. There are many stories of real people in the book that are astonishing and snippets of famous people who had influence on that time and place. It won't put you to sleep with dull history. It is a living, breathing story of people who were called to do extraordinary things.

The book is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, alibris and several other websites. Just search for The Frontiersmen by Alan W. Eckert. It was written in 1967. Mr. Eckert died in 2011. He wrote many books including children's books, several books on Indians, metals and gemstones. Also search under Allan W. Eckert for the official website to see the list of other books he has written and to read his biography. His was not an ordinary life.

You will really enjoy reading this book. You'll also cringe at times but it is a chance to understand what your forebears' lives were like and to admire the courage of both the Indians and the whites.

~ Donna Root

## CHARISMA

CHARISMA has been a busy group lately. Four of our members (including Archives member Carol Olson) presented at the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives conference in October. The conference theme was Community and Collaboration, so we figured we really had that topic covered. The audience asked questions after we explained how we began and operate (we emphasized our informality). We learned that there is not another group like this in Missouri! That is amazing since it seems like such a logical idea to bring together local and regional entities with similar interests to share ideas. It was a good experience for us.

We prepared for year end by not working on budgets or a slate of officers, since we don't do any of that! CHARISMA is scheduling our meeting locations for 2014. We will be continuing our discussion about hosting a teacher information opportunity. If we move forward with this idea, it will require some work, by not only all CHARISMA participants but also by the organizations they represent, for planning and staffing. That will be a big change for such an informal organization, but I am sure we are ready for it!

~Carol Rudi

## 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 \$15

(not available to be mailed)

DAR Sesquicentennial Book ~~\$18~~

**SOLD OUT**

Every-Name Index to DAR Book \$11

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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.

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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.