

# 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

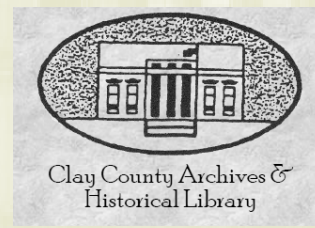
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We have a new wooden plaque in the entryway honoring the Archives benefactors. It is patterned after the existing plaque on the opposite wall (even down to the rosette detail) which depicts the Hughes family who donated the funds to the City of Liberty for the construction of this building. Thanks to Scott Cole for this project as well as work donated by St. John Woodworks.

We’ve had some new volunteers, recently, who have been such a great help. Julia Birkeness, for instance, has done tremendous work “auditing” the Civil Case Index to ensure the accuracy of the data entered into this index.

I want to mention Patty Rendon and Ray Brock who both donated funds toward the new microfilm reader/printer (which was mentioned in the last newsletter). With their help, we had enough added to the donations of the Olsons and others so that we were able to purchase the unit outright.

Tony Meyers has been at it again. This time, he published a book for the Clay County Museum on the



Jacob Hicks glass plate photograph collection. It contains 400 examples of the plates and we are selling it at the Archives for those who are interested. Our speakers have been busy also. Chris Harris gave a speaking tour of Mt. Memorial Cemetery on the William Jewell campus. Keith Nelson spoke

about the future Chouteau Fountain to various groups and Tony Meyers gave a program for the North Kansas City Historical Society.

Our Annual Membership meeting was held at the Liberty Christian Church in December. Keith Nelson and his grandson Jacob (dressed as Francois Chouteau in the style of 1830s clothing) gave an interesting program about “A tribute to the Chouteaus and the Francois Choteau and Native American Fountain”. We enjoyed the program and camaraderie and we also voted in the slate of officers and board members for 2016.

~Stuart Elliott



**2016 Executive Board**

**Officers**

President	Stuart Elliott
1st Vice President	Nancy George
2nd Vice President	Shirley Fansher
Corresponding Secretary	Ann Henning
Recording Secretary	Jane Sharon
Treasurer	Scott R. Cole

**Directors**

<u>Through 2016</u>	<u>Through 2017</u>	<u>Through 2018</u>
Patricia Rendon	Keith Nelson	Ray Brock
Steve Olson	Joyce Schumacher	Bob Corum

**Committee Chairs**

Records Use & Preservation	Nancy George
Membership	Shirley Fansher
Properties	Bob Corum
Cemeteries	Ken Neth
Computer Use	Stuart Elliott
Volunteer Coordinator	Jane Shepherd
Ways & Means	Tony Meyers

**Organizational Representatives**

Clay County Historic Sites	Beth Beckett
Clay County Parks	Emily Vandendaele
William C. Corum Chapter SAR	Frank McMillian
Clay Co. Patriots Chapter DAR	Lois Long
Alexander Doniphan Chapter DAR	Jerre Robertson
City of Liberty	Jonna Wensel

**Newsletter Staff**

Keenan Glidewell 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 first 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)

## ELECTION, VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND PROGRAM ARCHIVES ANNUAL MEETING

Elected at the Clay County Archives Annual Meeting on December 5, 2015, was the following slate of officers and directors proposed by the Nominating Committee for 2016:

### 2016 Officers

President Stuart Elliott  
First Vice President Nancy George  
Second Vice President Shirley Fansher  
Recording Secretary Jane Sharon  
Corresponding Secretary Ann Henning  
Treasurer Scott Cole

### 2016 Directors

(filling the two positions open for election this year)  
Ray Brock and Bob Corum



President Stuart Elliott presented a Certificate of Recognition to Donna Root, outgoing Recording Secretary, who has served on the Archives Executive Board since late 2001 and as a volunteer at the Archives since 1992. Thank you, Donna!

The Chouteau family history in Missouri and Clay County was recounted in a program by Keith Nelson. Nelson's grandson, Jacob Nelson, attended in period attire, representing Francois Gessau Chouteau. Nelson's presentation included information about a proposed fountain to honor Chouteau and Native American Heritage.



**THE MISSOURI REPUBLICAN**  
 AS REPRINTED IN THE  
 LIBERTY TRIBUNE ON JANUARY 19, 1855

We have received from a valued correspondent at Liberty, Missouri, the following detailed account of the present condition of Liberty, together with a statement of the business done there during the past year. The document opens with a notice of

Colleges and Schools

*William Jewell College* is a very splendid brick building, occupying a high and admirable situation, overlooking the rich and highly improved farms in the vicinity of Liberty; and the view into Jackson County is also very distinct. The College edifice is said, by good judges, to be one of the finest pieces of mechanical work in the western country, and when fully completed, in its interior and exterior arrangements, will cost about \$45,000 to \$50,000. There are at present, six rooms completed, besides the Chapel. It has an able faculty, consisting of: Rev. R. S. Thomas, President; Rev. T. Bradley, James Love, Esq.; Leonidas M. Lawson, Esq.; and Rev. J. C. Thornton, Professors; and there are near one hundred students in College proper, in attendance.

*The Liberty Female Institute*, of Rev. E. S. Dulin aided by Miss Bell and Miss Brashear, is a highly prosperous and well conducted school, and numbers upwards of one hundred students. There are three other mixed schools in this infant city, all well sustained. The county, owing to the great interest manifested in the cause of education by Col. A. W. Doniphan, late School Commissioner, and by his successor, George Hughes, Esq. is making rapid strides in that cause. Almost all of the School Districts have erected handsome and well ventilated school houses, and they are occupied by a superior class of teachers. There is probably no county in the great west, if anywhere else, that possesses greater advantages in the way of schools than Clay County.

Ropewalks – There are four in the county. Messers Wymore, Bird & Company and Alvin Lightburne's, in the vicinity of town. Lewis Brown's is about one mile and a half from town and John G. Price's is near Richfield. Wymore, Bird & Company have made at their establishment, during the year 1854, 7,991 coils bale rope, weighing 888,348 pounds; 319 Hackled Hemp, 167,411 pounds; total is: 1,055,750 pounds.

They paid out during the same period about \$60,000 for hemp. They employ 30 to 35 hands. This is a new and most perfect establishment, and conducted with admirable system by excellent men.

The establishment of Major Alvin Lightburne did the following business in the year 1854: 200,000 lbs of bale rope; 1,800 yards bagging; 21,005 lbs hackled hemp, employs 10 hands. Major Lightburne has established a reputation as solid as the rock on which his residence stands.

Mr. Brown has not operated at his establishment very much this year, but has usually done quite a large business. Messrs. John G. Price & Company do about the same amount of business as Major Lightburne. The rope and hemp was all shipped to St. Louis.

Shipments to St. Louis of John Baxter, commission merchant, Lower Liberty Landing for 1854:

Hemp	539,177 lbs	Wheat	164 sacks
Bale Rope	876,314 lbs	Lard	114 barrels
Tow	60,000 lbs	Bacon	60 casks
Dry Hides	13,906 lbs.	Flaxseed	60 sacks
Corn	210 sacks		

**T H E M I S S O U R I R E P U B L I C A N**  
( C O N T I N U E D )

*(Continued from page 4)*

Mr. Baxter will retain this warehouse for 1855. He receives an immense amount of merchandise for Plattsburg, Smithville and other towns.

Shipments of Messrs. Lightburne, Long & Brown, Upper Liberty Landing, for 1854 (warehouse open only part of the year)

Rope	125,000 lbs.
Bacon	10,000 lbs.
Lard	30 barrels

Other shipments: corn, oats, wheat, hemp, hides etc. Col. Long in connection with farming, will keep this establishment next year.

From Randolph & Davidson's Landing, there is probably shipped to St. Louis 100 tons of hemp annually.

**Steam Mills**— Three is one in this city which but recently commenced business, owned by two substantial and enterprising men, Messrs. John B. & Harvey Tallbott. They have manufactured since October last [year] 100 sacks of flour per day, and disposed of it in this city and neighboring country.

Messrs. U. B. & L. W. Burris of Richfield, have a steam saw and grist mill, and their business for nine months, in 1854, foots up 800,000 feet of lumber, 25,000 bushels of meal and 200,000 pounds of flour. They sell their flour and lumber in this city, in Richfield and vicinity, and at Westport and Kansas.

A merchant of Liberty, George W. Sedgwick, Esq. has an establishment, at which he has published the following articles of produce during the past year:

679	bales of hackled hemp	531	sacks of wheat
56	bales of undressed hemp	66	sacks of oats
506	coils of rope	22	sacks of flaxseed
319	bales of tow	7	bags of wool
50	casks of bacon	1	cask of beeswax
164	barrels of lard	10	sacks of dried apples
41	kegs of lard	274	dried hides
939	sacks of corn	100	sheep skins

All of which he has shipped to St. Louis; and put up last fall 48,000 lbs of pork.

**Cooperage**— About 1,500 pork and lard barrels, 500 lard kegs, and 1,500 bacon casks are made annually by William M. Ferguson, James Burnes and others.

**Carriages, Buggies etc**— John H. Ruckle manufactured and sold from \$10 to \$15,000 worth in 1854. One new establishment has just commenced.

**Wagons**— Messrs. Everett & Corbin, Mr. Umbarger and Edward Pickett make about 100 wagons a year.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## THE MISSOURI REPUBLICAN (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 5)*

**Plows**— John Berry of this city, made and sold 100 this year and Messrs. Stone & Rhea about 300, and manufactured four wagons. They employ nine hands, and their business amounts to about \$10,000 a year.

The water saw and grist mill of Col. L. J. Wood at Smithville, does a heavy business, and finds sale in the neighborhood and in Platte and Clinton Counties.

The City of Liberty contains two hotels, the “Union” and “The Thompson House;” one printing office (the Tribune); 4 shoemaker shops; 4 blacksmiths; 2 gunsmiths; 2 tin and stove stores; 2 carriage makers; 2 wagon makers; 3 painters and glaziers; 1 merchant tailor; 5 tailors shops; 3 drug stores; 2 clothing stores; 1 grocery and hat store; 10 dry good stores; 2 confectionary, ice-cream and bakery establishments; 2 livery stables, 7 lawyers, 6 physicians; 2 jewelry establishments; 1 resident dentist; 1 insurance company (the Liberty); 6 churches (1 missionary Baptist, 1 old Baptist, 1 Methodist, 1 Christian, 1 Old School Presbyterian, and 1 Catholic), 1 cooper and 5 carpenter and joiner shops. The population (Clay County) is 12,000 – an increase of near 400 in five years. The public square is surrounded by a stone wall and iron railing, the streets around it and leading from it, East, West and North for several squares are macadamized. We have a mayor and counsel and a brick market house, in the second story of which they meet. There are also a Sons of Temperance, Freemasons and Odd Fellows Hall. The inhabitants of Liberty are supplied with plenty of good clear cool spring and well water, which has stood the drought the past year. The health of the city during the past year has been uninterrupted when sickness prevailed almost everywhere else.

The trade in horses, mules, cattle sheep, bacon, green and dried apples, eggs, butter etc to California, Kansas, Fort Leavenworth and the newly settled counties around Liberty is very great. It does not probably fall short of \$250,000 a year.

The population of the county, as to numbers, has not increased very rapidly for ten years, but in wealth, the increase has been great. The lands have risen greatly in value in the last five years. They now command about \$10 to \$50 an acre, according to improvements, and distance from the city and river landings. There is a tri-weekly mail from the East, on both sides of the Missouri River and the town (Liberty) is connected by Telegraph with St. Louis and other cities. Fine and comfortable buildings, good barns, school-houses, churches, good fences everywhere meet the eye. Great attention is being paid to the breeding of stock and to improvements in machinery. The Agricultural and Mechanical Society, established here, will have an important bearing in that particular.



## RECENT DONATIONS

### Donations of Material

Kurt Breining, - North Kansas City Fire Department 1912-2015 Book, The Firehouse Chronicles

Franklyn Joseph Bridges— 2 CDs of book, Quaker Greggs by Hazel May Middleton Kendall

Tom and Sandy Cliff— Gashland School History Book

Chris Harris— 2 copies Cher Oncle, Cher Papa, Letters of Francois and Berenice Chouteau;  
Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 110, No 1 & 2.

Mark Kelly—Six boxes of Dougherty research material, paper back book

Dennis McCoy— Nebo **Hill** and the Late Prehistory on the Southern Prairie Peninsula

Keith Nelson—Andrew County books: Andrew County, A Community: Andrew County 2000

### Donations of Money

Ray Brock

Richard Kassabian

Carol & Steve Olson

Jane Sharon

## GENEALOGY RESEARCH FACILITIES

We recently traveled to another state to search for additional information on a few ancestors. The facilities and their holdings were quite impressive. In some ways all these places are much the same as our own Clay County Archives with old court records and maps and such. Unlike our Archives they were all located inside roomy new, modern, handicap accessible, secure structures with ample parking maintained by the taxpayers. They were all bright and spotless with wide aisles and all had matching tables and chairs and shelving and cabinets neatly aligned in long straight rows. All the computers and copiers were nearly new and plentiful. All of the facilities were open 5 or 6 days a week. All of them were staffed by taxpayer funded paid staff plus maybe a few part time volunteers. Of course I was envious!

But once I looked beyond the gorgeous facilities and started doing actual research I found these palaces all had something missing. They had all the documents and many of them digitized. And all those matching cabinets were neatly organized by surname or chronologically. So if you knew exactly what you were looking for you could easily find it. But there was no master index like we have to let you find your ancestor hidden in chronologically filed court records or in land transactions or newspapers or obits or cemetery records. All the data was there but short of reading a few million pages there was no way you would ever find what you were searching for. Nobody had invested the millions of person hours to read those millions or probably billions of pages and create an every name index or index of businesses. We take for granted our computerized index that we can view on our mismatched cast off obsolete screens and print on our mismatched cast off obsolete printers. As a showplace our Clay County Archives and Historic Library leaves much to be desired. But our index system and helpful all unpaid volunteers are priceless! I would not want to trade places.

~ Steve Olson  
Archives Volunteer

## HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

The Clay County Archives & Historical Library has a series of books that will be of interest to those who would like to learn more about the history of Liberty and Clay County, Missouri.

Think of us the next time you need a gift idea!

### **Portraits of a Frontier Community – The Jacob T. Hicks Glass Plate Photo Collection**

During his fifty year career, photographer Jacob Hicks produced a treasure trove of historical images of the frontier days in Clay County. This book showcases 400 of those images which were captured by Hicks on glass plate negatives. All of these photos are more than 100 years old. Some go as far back as the early 1860s. This remarkable collection ranks among the most important and most interesting holdings at the Clay County Museum. Biographical sketches describing the life and times of Jacob Hicks, as well as fifty other noted citizens from those early days in Clay County are included.

### **Discovering Historic Clay County, Missouri**

This book provides information on more than 1,100 historic sites and points of interest throughout Clay County. Includes photos, descriptions and maps.

### **Clay County Missouri Sesquicentennial Souvenir 1822-1972**

Originally published by the Alexander Doniphan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1922 and then updated in 1972. This book includes narratives regarding the people and events of Clay County history beginning with its formation in the 1820s and continuing through the later portion of the twentieth century. Hundreds of photographs of landmarks, buildings and people are included.

### **Divided Loyalties – Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County**

This book provides biographical narratives and genealogical information for more than 800 Civil War soldiers and family members. An overview of Civil War related events and issues including insight into how the war impacted the citizens of Clay County is provided. Articles discussing the Battle of Liberty/Blue Mills Landing as well as the Confederate Monument at Fairview Cemetery are also included.

### **Early Days in the West**

The reminiscences of Judge Joseph Thorp were first published in the Liberty Tribune in the 1880s. Thorp presents a vivid picture of life on the frontier. He recounts many stories of the people and the key events associated with the early formation of Clay County, Missouri.

### **Professor James Love – Triumph and Tragedy on the Missouri Frontier**

Professor Love (1820–1914) was instrumental in the development of Liberty, Missouri, during the latter half of the 1800s. From being one of the first professors at William Jewell College to founding the Clay Seminary for Young Ladies, to being President of the Clay County Savings Bank at the time it was robbed in 1866, he truly lived an interesting and intriguing life! This book includes previously unpublished correspondence implicating members of the James Gang in the 1866 robbery of the Clay County Savings Bank.

These books are available for purchase at the Clay County Archives & Historical Library which is located at 210 E. Franklin in Liberty. The Archives is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am–4pm. These titles are also available for online purchase through the Archive's web site at [www.claycountyarchives.org](http://www.claycountyarchives.org).

All proceeds from the sale of these publications benefit the Clay County Archives & Historical Library.



**ARCHIVES  
GIFT SHOP**

**ATLASES**

Reprint of the 1865 Clay County Historical Atlas, with features in color, just like the original!

- Includes an index. \$22
- 1877 Historical Atlas of Clay County \$15
- Every-Name Index to 1877 Atlas \$13

***THE STORY OF LIBERTY***...from settlement to suburb, a movie available in two formats:

DVD—\$17 each

S-VHS—\$12 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...IWISHIHADKNOWNJESSE***

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**

- Civil War Monuments & Memorials In Western Missouri \$22
- Clay County Births, 1883-84 \$9
- Clay County Deaths, 1883-84 \$9
- Clay County Historic Map \$15  
(not available to be mailed)
- Clay Co. Sesquicentennial Souvenir \$30
- Early Days in the West \$18
- Portraits of a Frontier Community \$25

***DIVIDED LOYALTIES - Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County*** \$40

Biographical narratives and genealogical information for more than 800 soldiers and family members. Published to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

***DISCOVERING HISTORIC CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI*** \$30

Information on more than 1,100 historic sites and points of interest throughout Clay County. Includes photos, descriptions and maps.

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.

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.CLAYCOUNTYARCHIVES.ORG



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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.