

# The Clay County MOsaic

“Fitting the Pieces Together”

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM

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Enjoy the recollections of one of our longer serving volunteers in this fifth occasion of the “President pro tem” President’s Message. I so appreciate all the things Carol Olson does and has done for us at the Archives. (I have deemed Carol and her husband, Steve, the current “First Couple” at the Archives.)

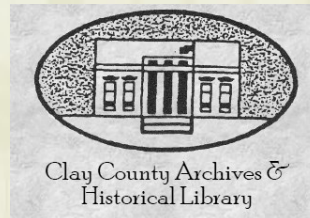
~ Stuart Elliott

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Having been recruited to do the “President’s Message” for this edition, let me begin by saying I am a reader not a writer. So here goes!

When I came into the Archives many years ago, computers were just beginning so we used a lot of index cards instead. And, somewhere in the dark corners of the basement there are still boxes of those index cards (if the computers fail, we need to keep the backups!). Stuart assures that cannot happen. ☺

I came into a building full of boxes, and though the Archives had been operating for several years there was still much to do.



The probates were still folded in till boxes, abstracts were in boxes to the ceiling in the east room. DAR ladies were here on Monday indexing court order books. No one had even thought that we might end up with original Circuit Court Civil and Criminal records, the number of photographs that are now scanned into the computer and many other records that are unique to this County.

As the Archives gained computers (yep, they are all donated, we’re cheap!), each document was read again, adding all the

names that are within it, previously they were only indexed by one or two names. Flat folding, reading and indexing is ongoing for Circuit Court Civil and Criminal records. Cemeteries are also an ongoing project.

Why did I come here? I was working on my own family history (none of which is in Clay County) but I felt that I could find out more about the workings of the courthouse and what records were available. I have found that the Clay County Archives is so far above any others that I have visited. Even surpassing local or state facilities, where I frequently ask for records (that I think should be available) and they just look blankly at me.

We would love to have some younger volunteers. Need those service hours for graduation? How would you like to earn them sitting at a computer doing data entry or flat folding docu-

(Continued on page 3)

Ideas for articles?  
Please let us know!

**2018 Executive Board**

**Officers**

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2nd Vice President	Elna Cox
Corresponding Secretary	Marianne Hill
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**Directors**

<u>Through 2019</u>	<u>Through 2020</u>	<u>Through 2021</u>
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**Committee Chairs**

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**Newsletter Staff**

Keenan Glidewell Barker  
 Stuart Elliott  
 Shirley Fansher  
 Jo-Jean Chamas

**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	25 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)

## P R E S I D E N T P R O T E M M E S S A G E

*(Continued from page 1)*

ments? [Don't worry, training is available for those of you who don't know what flat folding is. And for those who only know documents of the electronic variety.]

The Archives has a great group of dedicated volunteers, but we need more. Some of us are getting old and we need to pass on our knowledge to the next generation of county history lovers.

~Carol Clevenger Olson  
Archives Member & Volunteer

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

All tours begin at 10:00 am, and are free.  
For more information contact Liberty's Community Development Office at 816-439-4537 or the following link:  
<https://www.libertymissouri.gov/2656/Guided-Walking-Tours-2019>

Wear comfortable walking shoes!



### September 7

Jewell & Lightburne Districts  
Tour meets at the corner of Kansas and Leonard Streets

### October 5

Fairview Cemetery  
Tour meets at the rock arch on West Schrader Street

## V O L U N T E E R S A T W O R K



Volunteers Chris Harris and Ann Henning work on a variety of projects at the Archives. Chris' glasses reflect his enthusiasm for identifying and documenting local history. In this photo, Ann is taking a break from working with the original records to enter information from a very lengthy civil case.

## RESURRECTING THE FERRY?

*This is a reprint of a MOsaic article from October–December 2016. Even though bringing back the ferry itself was not possible, the article is being “resurrected” with additional information about the Annie Cade’s history.*

All the local media have been telling us the sad story of the Buck O’Neill Bridge AKA the Broadway Bridge and its need for major repairs in the near future. Repairs would be expensive and would necessitate the bridge being closed to traffic for about 2 years. Alternatively, a new bridge could be built alongside the old one, while the bridge is still safe to use. The connection with downtown and the Inter City Viaduct, as we oldsters call it, could be greatly improved. This would keep traffic flowing during most of the construction, but of course it would cost a lot more. And, there is not enough vacant real estate available. Traffic on the other bridges is likely to suffer extra backups during construction regardless of which option is chosen.

So some of us have talked about a way to profit from this problem/opportunity. We decided we should re-float the Annie Cade ferry that ran between Harlem and Westport Landing (later called Kansas City) from 1879 till the ASB Bridge opened in December of 1911. Sadly, our business plan has at least one flaw. The old ferry Annie Cade sank in 1887 due to ice and was re-floated only to sink again weeks later. She was refloated and repaired to the tune of \$5000 and lasted until 1907, when she was taken out of service. Some accounts say she was broken up for scrap. Others say she was used as a sand hog for the building of the piers of the ASB and again sank, never to be refloated. Either way it seems unlikely that she can be revived. Her wooden hull must have rotted away by now. And all the railroad crossings needed to drive to Harlem would make for traffic tie ups even if we did get a ferry running again.

This poem by T. F. Cole, found in an old newspaper clipping, tells the Annie Cade story best.

### THE ANNIE CADE

Across the raging river,  
A sturdy steamboat plied,  
To float the flowing traffic  
Across from side to side.

And Oh, the countless cruises,  
The gallant steamboat made,  
The stream was the Missouri,  
The boat, the Annie Cade.

When I was but a boy,  
I saw the steamboat, there,  
I watched it cross the river,  
Its fares and freight to bear.

I listened for its whistle,  
I heard its engines roar,  
I thrilled to hear its bell,  
As it would near the shore.

They called the boat a ferry;  
To me, much more romantic,  
It was a gorgeous liner,  
Upon the great Atlantic.

It lived upon the river,  
The stream that rose and fell,  
Of floods and drought and storm,  
What storied it could tell.

Long since, I wandered down,  
To see this good old boat,  
I saw the raging river,  
A lump was in my throat.

I scanned the silent shores,  
My spirits seemed to fade,  
The boat was gone forever,  
Lamented Annie Cade.

## RESURRECTING THE FERRY? (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 4)*

In 2017, Jim Spawn (with the North Kansas City Historical Society) brought a whistle to the Archives. He was interested in researching whether the steam whistle could have been on the Annie Cade. Though it appeared too small to have been the main whistle on this ferry boat, it remains a theory that the whistle, shown with Jim in these photos and now in the collection of the NKC Historical Society, may have come from the Annie Cade.



The Annie Cade is also connected to elephants taking a dip in the Missouri River. The article below appeared in the Kansas City Star on August 20, 1899.

The spot selected for the plunge is just east of the Harlem end of the Hannibal bridge, on the north side of the river. The elephants will be in charge of Patsy Meagher, the head keeper, and will be allowed to stay in the water as long as they please. Good places to see them from will be the Hannibal bridge and the foot of Main street.

This will be the biggest bath the clumsy animals have had for many a day and their keepers don't know just how they will take it. Elephants enjoy the water, especially in hot weather, but sometimes they get a little too frolicsome when given the liberty of wading and swimming around in it, and cause no end of worry for their keepers.

The elephants will be taken over the river on the ferry boat Annie Cade.

## YOU KNOW WHO...?

ARCHIVES PHOTO  
COLLECTION  
INCLUDES MYSTERIES  
WAITING TO BE  
SOLVED

The Archives photograph collection contains many photos that are not yet identified.

Contact the Archives by email ([info@claycountyarchives.org](mailto:info@claycountyarchives.org)) with any information that might put a name or family connection to the men at William Jewell College, in this photo to the right.



## DONATIONS

### Donations of Material

Larry Cory—1917 Gold Medal Flour Cookbook and miscellaneous recipes and notes from his grandmother

Kevin Fisher—1948 Turney High School Yearbook

Chris Harris—Thornton Family and Home information

Juarenne Hester—Book, "Highlights of Mt. Memorial Cemetery, Liberty, MO"; 1877 Clay County Atlas, pictures, miscellaneous Clay County items (pamphlets, newspapers, etc.)

Dail & Sallie Hobbs—Liberty School Bell (gift to retiring school board member, Sallie Hobbs, 2000-2006)

Drew Kingery—Book, "Rambling Through Life"; Extra copies available for purchase

Bonnie Knauss—Book, "History of the American Association of University Women of Missouri 1976-1996", Excelsior Springs High School Class of 1964 Reunion Book; photos of ESHS students

Frank McMillian—Blueprint / Map-style lateral file cabinet

Ramona J. Sadlon—Book, "A Handful of Marbles: Henry Snow I, Circa 1695-1778 of the Colony of Virginia"

Fred Schaefer—Big Shoal Cemetery photo (circa 1970)

### Donations of Money

Cynthia St. Clair, Diane Davidson, Bill Matteson, Damon Roberts

## 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

### ***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  
Doctor on the Western Frontier \$17  
Early Days in the West \$18  
Lost Voices on the Missouri \$64.95

***DIVIDED LOYALTIES - Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County*** \$35

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.

***HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI—NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMPANY, 1885*** \$30

Indexed and Reprinted by the Clay County Archives and Historical Library

***PORTRAITS OF A FRONTIER COMMUNITY*** \$25

The Jacob T. Hicks Glass Plate Photo Collection

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.

April—June 2019

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.CLAYCOUNTYARCHIVES.ORG



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**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.

Clay County Archives & Historical Library, Inc.  
PO Box 99  
Liberty, MO 64069