

# THE HERITAGE NEWS

Issue 18

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

September, 1998

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We are very excited about our new books that will be ready for sale soon. The book on one room schoolhouses in Jefferson County is at the publishers right now. It should be available in just a few weeks! It will be a high quality hardbound book, loaded with pictures and people. We will be mailing out pamphlets with all the information as soon as they are printed. Watch your mailbox!

We are also getting ready to publish the actual maps of the 1876 Jefferson County Historical atlas in book form. The first stage of this project, getting the pages down to a workable size, is finished. This book contains approximately 30 maps of the townships, complete with landowner names, cemeteries, mines, churches, schools, etc....If you purchased Dave Halleman's index to the atlas, then of course you need this book! And if you didn't purchase the index, you will want to after seeing the atlas! These two books work together, and the information you can gather from them is priceless!

The Jefferson County post office book is still available for \$7.00 plus mailing. This book includes the name, location, postmaster and other information on all the long forgotten post offices in the county.

You can get information on any of our publications by calling Betty Olson at 586-3858.

The Kimmswick Historical Society also has a new book for sale. It is a walking tour guide of the town, and has several pages of historical background along with pictures and descriptions of all the buildings and houses that are located there. The price of the booklet is \$3.50. For information, contact them at 314-464-TOUR.

The Kimmswick annual apple butter festival is scheduled for the last full weekend in October.

## Riverboat Captain

Captain John W. Honey, an early merchant from Herculaneum, Missouri became master of the Maid of Orleans in 1819. Several years ago, his original journal covering the trip to New Orleans was found in the attic of the Thomas Fletcher home in Hillsboro, Missouri. Captain Honey's daughter married Thomas Fletcher.

The journal lists items of freight which included 250 packs of buffalo robes consigned by Berthold and Chouteau (along with other quantities of robes), a barrel of beeswax, a barrel of raccoon skins, and a barrel of muskrat skins.

The Maid of Orleans got underway at 1 p.m. August 3, 1819, and reached New Orleans August 13. Some of the highlights from the journal were:

—At Herculaneum, the arrival on board of a constable who arrested one of the passengers for a debt of someone in St. Louis.

—On the trip downriver, the Maid of Orleans kept company with the steamer Henderson. They passed each other all the way down the river, the Henderson taking off with the Maid's expected freight and wood.

—They passed the steamer General Jackson aground below New Madrid, MO, the Ohio broken down at Island 41, the General Clark at Island 101 and 102, the Etna and Henderson at Natchez, and found the Vesuvius at New Orleans.

The New Orleans was built in Philadelphia in 1818, had one deck, no masts, and a woman bust head at the bow. It was 193 tons and it's dimensions were 116 by 24 by 7.5 feet. It was abandoned in 1825.

The picture of the boat on the last page of the newsletter was done by a French artist in 1820.

## John W. Honey

Compiled by Della Lang

John W. Honey II was born in Suffolk, Virginia in the year 1789. He was the son of John W. Honey and Mrs. Euphane Fiveash Ridick.

John II arrived in St. Louis in 1809 and went to work in the land commissioner's office. He married Marie Antoinette Labadie, the youngest daughter of a successful St. Louis merchant. He served her coffee in bed every morning until the day she threw the hot coffee back at him. Honey divorced her shortly thereafter. The couple had one child together; Elias Fiveash Honey.

In 1811, John Honey was elected to serve on the Board of Land Commissioners for the District of St. Louis. He replaced his half-brother, Thomas F. Riddick, who had resigned to return to his home state of Kentucky. During the same year, Honey was appointed as coroner of the District. Since his official duties took little of his time, Honey became interested in the lead business and contracted to furnish lead for Christian Wilt's factory in St. Louis.

At that time, lead was selling at 4 cents. Since exchanging goods for lead was cheaper than paying cash for the metal, Wilt opened a store for that purpose in Herculaneum, and put Honey in charge.

There were two lead shot towers in Herculaneum in those years; J. N. Macklot's was located in the south part of town, and Moses Austin's tower was on the bluff at the northern end of the village. Since Herculaneum was not far from the mines, transportation was not a problem. The town's location, on the bank of the Mississippi also made it easier to ship the lead to St. Louis.

But the War of 1812 interfered with the lead business at Herculaneum. The boats that generally carried the lead to St. Louis were being used to carry troops to Portage des

Sioux. Honey had 40,000 lb. of crude lead ready for shipment to the St. Louis factory with no means of transportation.

In April 1813, Honey offered to establish a shot tower at Herculaneum with a three-way partnership between himself, Wilt and St. Amand Michau, the man who made shot for Macklot. Honey owned 2 acres of land that he thought would be an ideal spot for the tower.

In the meantime, Macklot offered to sell his shot tower for \$15,000. His health was failing and one of his children had died, so Macklot was anxious to get out of the lead business.

Instead of accepting Honey's offer of two acres or Macklot's offer to sell, Wilt purchased 640 arpents of land at a place he named New Hartford, which was closer to the Richwoods mine. A new road from the mine to the town had been built and Wilt envisioned New Hartford as a thriving town that would some day rival Herculaneum.

On the land was a rock that was fifty seven feet high. Wilt estimated the cost of building the shot tower at \$3000.00, but after numerous delays and several changes of plans, Wilt was having cash flow problems.

By the winter of 1814, there was a shortage of crude lead. It was an extremely cold year and the miners were doing little work at the Missouri mines. The scarcity of crude lead during the following months caused miners and merchants to speculate and the prices increased accordingly. Honey finally managed to secure 80,000 lb. from James Wilkinson for 7 cents. But by the end of 1814, the price had increased to 9 1/2 cents.

But if 1814 was a bad year for the lead business, it was a good year for Honey's personal life when he met and married Mary Clarissa Bates.

In June, 1815, the shot tower was finally ready to operate and Honey moved from Herculaneum to New Hartford to oversee the

business and to promote Wilt's new town. Wilt paid Honey \$900.00 a year in wages, which at that time was a good salary. Although they had competition from Moses Austin's shot tower, the business became a profitable venture.

By 1819, John Honey had obviously left the lead business and was given command of the steamboat "Maid of Orleans," traveling between St. Louis and New Orleans. His salary was now \$100 a month plus two and a half percent on all freights. That was considerably more than Wilt was paying him.

In 1821, Honey's second wife died and he married again, this time to Mary Seaborn Austin, a relative of Moses Austin. Another child, Mary Clarissa Honey was born in 1827. Mary Clarissa eventually married Thomas Fletcher, who served as the eighteenth governor of Missouri.

### Obituaries

HONEY — Died on Saturday, October 18th, 1872, Elias F. Honey, aged 54 years, 7 months and 24 days.

Mr. Honey was well known throughout the county as one of our most esteemed and respected citizens, having been several times honored by the people with an important office, which he filled to their entire satisfaction. By his close attention to his duties, and his kind and obliging disposition, he won a warm place in the affections of his constituents, such as but few public officers have ever possessed being ever respected and trusted by all political parties.

During the last few years of his life, his usefulness was destroyed by paralysis and other diseases and his last two years were years of suffering, the extent of which no one can imagine but those acquainted with his condition. He was buried on Sunday, October 20th with Masonic honors by the officers and members of Joachim Lodge 161 of which he had long been a faithful member, assisted by members of DeSoto Shekinah lodge.

The Democrat, January 15, 1891

WILLIAMS — Mrs. Mary M. Williams died in St. Louis at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Reed. Mrs. Williams was in her 86th year.

She has a number of relatives in this county where much of her life was spent. Her maiden name was Austin. Her first husband was John W. Honey, father of the late Elias F. Honey, she being his second wife. Of that union there were three sons and two daughters, the latter being Mrs. Governor Fletcher and Miss Clara Honey. After Mr. Honey's death, she married Charles W. Williams, who died, leaving her with a son and daughter. The son, Charles, died in DeSoto some years ago. The daughter married Capt. John Reed and is now a widow residing in St. Louis.

Grandma Williams, as everybody called her, was a very estimable lady, much respected by all who knew her.

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# NOTICE

If you have not paid your dues, this is the last issue of the Jefferson Heritage News that you will receive. We will no longer be mailing to past members, and other societies. To stay on the mailing list, and receive all membership benefits, please send \$10.00 to:

Jefferson County Historical Society  
c/o Betty Olson, Secretary/Treasurer  
712 South Main  
DeSoto, MO 63020

## Smith-Williams Cemetery

By: Dave Halleemann

This cemetery is located in Township 41 Range 4 Section 13 of Jefferson County Missouri. The two main Smith graves may have been dug into years ago. Probably other graves as some of the foot stones don't match any headstones. Surveyed 1990 by Bob and Dave Halleemann.

**Smith, Catherine** born Thursday, December 18, 1828, died Monday, June 6, 1898, aged 69 years 5 months 19 days. Wife of William Smith. Inscription reads *Rest Mother Rest in quiet sleep While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep.* Large spike stone with foot stone CS.

**Smith, William** born Wednesday, August 16, 1820, died Saturday, April 16, 1887, aged 66 years 8 months 0 days. Husband of Catherine. Inscription reads *Farewell Father His toil over his work is done he is at rest* Large spike stone with foot stone WS.

**T F D** Foot stone only

**Williams, Annie** born Thursday, January 19, 1871, died Thursday, January 26, 1871, aged 0 years 0 months 7 days. One stone with Hundee Williams. Inscription reads *In memory of, Such is the kingdom of heaven* Carved lambs on stone.

**Williams, Hundee** born Friday, August 30, 1872, died Thursday, February 6, 1873, aged 0 years 5 months 7 days. Date 4m 11d One stone with Annie Williams. Inscription reads: *In memory*

*of, Such is the kingdom of heaven*  
Carved lambs on stone.

**Williams, M. A.** born September, 1839, died Friday, February 21, 1840, aged 5 months. This is a hand carved field stone. Inscription reads as follows: M. A. Williams. was. bornd. 9 M 1839. and died. 21 F. 1840 The (.) on the stone are drilled. Stone has been broken.

According to the 1876 Historic Atlas of Jefferson County, William Smith was born in Jefferson County in 1821, and resided in Section 20 in 1876, however on his grave stone his date of birth is listed as 1820. Also William Smith is listed as a farmer with post office address as Hillsboro.

There are many Williams' located in the county. All the Williams stones in the cemetery denote children. All died before Wm. and Catherine Smith owned the tract in 1876, the earliest reference I have. There is an F. H. Williams who owned a tract of land, in Survey 1976, adjoining this Smith tract to the north. It is only about 3/4 mile away and it is possible this is the father of the Williams children. I suspect that some Williams owned the tract, lived there and buried their children, then either died themselves, sold the land, or moved away. Or possibly the Williams were related to Wm. and Catherine and they inherited the tract, as this was common.

## Outside Your Backdoor More Information

By Dave Halleemann

In the last issue of the Heritage News I reported about "lead mines" in the area around my home in Hillsboro.

My research has brought some new information to light.

I searched the original entries on the land in question. I found this tract and additional tracts totaling 320 acres, were first purchased by John W. Honey, Daniel Blair, Elias Bates, and John Bell of Jefferson and St Louis Counties, from the United States Government in 1831. The tract later purchased by Richard Marsden is adjoining the above tract purchased by Honey and others.

I took out my "topographical" maps for this area and laid out property lines according to land survey records such as "west ½ of the southwest quarter of section 25" etc.

I next marked on the map the location of the "lead diggings" according to field observations. This can be done quite accurately as the "topographical" maps show lines indicating hills, hollows, creeks, etc.

Three things came to light by doing this; first the "lead diggings" are probably on the John Honey, Daniel Blair, Elias Bates, and John Bell tract, however the property line with the later Marsden tract is *very* close to the mines. Second, I discovered 2 additional symbols for mines about ¼ mile south of the "diggings" on the 1876 Historic Atlas that I had previously missed while doing work on my indexes. These 2 mines are still on the 320 acres "Honey" Tract although I have as of this writing not had the time to field check this. And third, a road is shown in the immediate area of the "diggings" on the 1876 Atlas however it is gone on the 1898 and is not there today.

It is curious to note that the "Honey" tract was purchased by *four* persons. Many times when this occurred the land was bought for mining purposes. And the early date of entry,

1831, also makes me wonder if the land was entered for mining.

By 1876 the "Honey" tract had been broken up and sold to various purchasers. The original 320 acres now belonged to Richard Marsden, Jas. Phillips, Sullivan Frazier, and Jas. M. Lanham.

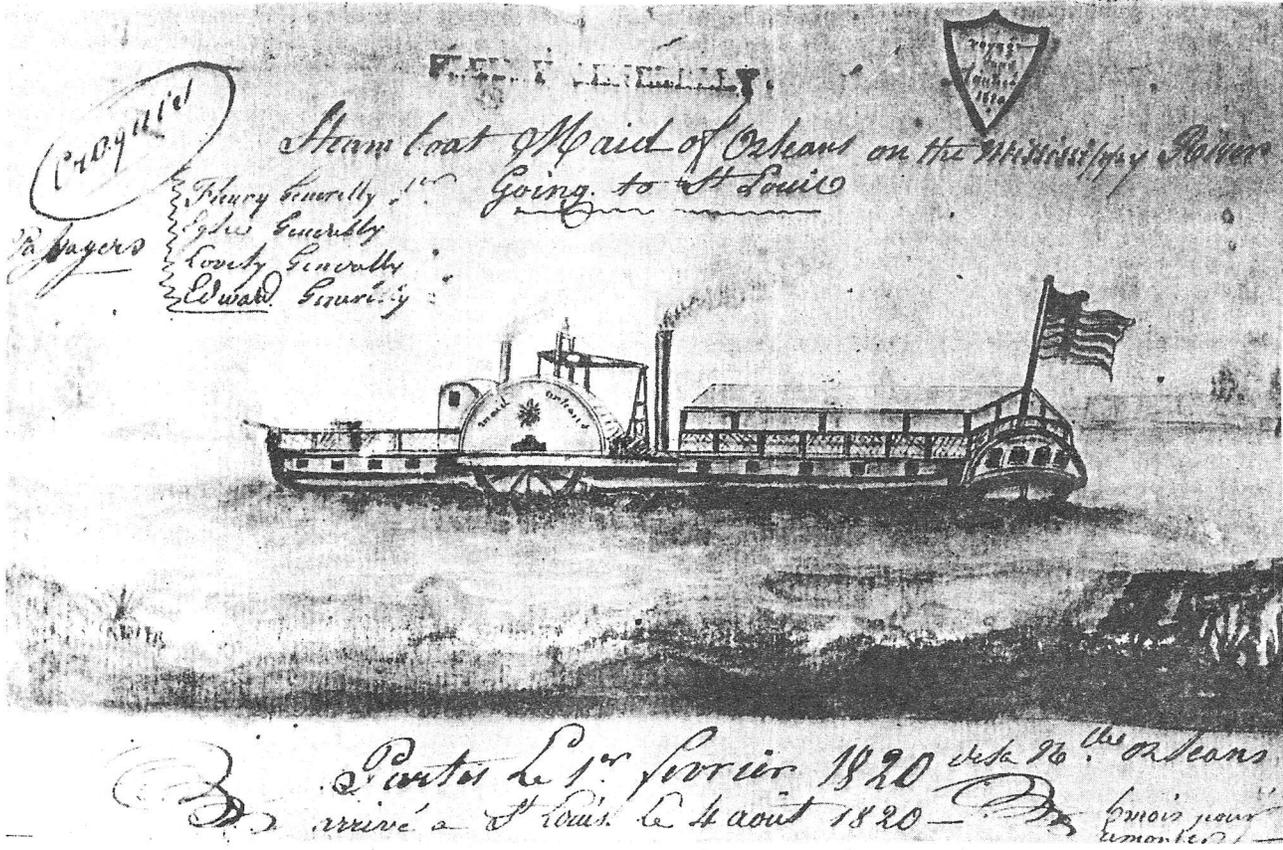
In 1898 Richard Marsden's Estate still retained the Marsden tract, Louis Hall acquired the Sullivan Frazier tract, F. J. Adams had purchased the Phillips tract, and Letitia Ogle then owned the Lanham Tract.

The 1898 Atlas does not show the detail, such as mines, like the 1876. Obviously the mines were still there however are not shown. I have found the 1876 Historic Atlas to be very accurate. One could draw the conclusion that the "diggings" first reported were dug after the 1876 Atlas was produced. With the disappearance of the road next to the "diggings" by 1898 I am led to believe the "diggings" occurred between 1876-1898.

These conclusions I cannot confirm. As a historian I take whatever information I have available to me at the time and try to weave a story from these facts. As more information comes to light, one sometimes has to modify or completely rewrite their previous work. However the main premise is the same. There are in fact lead "diggings" in this area.

As I write this update it is the height of summer. It is hot and the trees are full so it is hard to see much in the woods. I am awaiting winter to explore the location of the two mine symbols discovered on the 1876 Atlas. Be assured when conditions are right I will be heading "over that way".





The Steamboat Maid of Orleans Came from Philadelphia

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