



Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Corporation

FALL ISSUE

1987

FALL MEETING - November 8, 1987

The next meeting of Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 8, at 2:00 P.M. in the Arts and Science Building on Jefferson College Campus in Hillsboro.

Miss Gertrude Zimmer of Farmington will speak on the Plank Road which, at one time, extended from Ironton to Ste. Genevieve. Miss Zimmer, at the time of her retirement several years ago, was the Director of the Ozark Regional Library in Ironton. She is the possessor of three Masters degrees. The subject of her thesis for a Master of Arts degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia was "Place Names of Towns in Five Missouri Counties." She has been active in and is presently President of the St. Francois County Historical Society.

Please let your friends know about this meeting, and invite someone to come along with you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of Jefferson Heritage and Landmark will meet Sunday November 8 immediately following the program given by Miss Zimmer at 2:00 P.M.

-Jean O'Brien, President

FLETCHER HOUSE

Joyce Shubert, the new Director of Jefferson County Department of Parks and Recreation attended our last board meeting and reported on some of the events they have in mind to take place at Fletcher House. These include tours of Fletcher House by school students, a Senior Citizens Tea Party on November 18 from 1-3:00 P.M. and a visit from Santa on December 12 from 10-4:00 P.M. to host a Toys for Tots Drive. For a small fee children may also have their picture taken with Santa.

Tentatively for Spring, if the Senior Tea Party goes well, they will have another one. Also they are seeking Garden Clubs to help create some rose and decorative flower gardens on the house grounds.

In discussing future plans with her, it was found that Fletcher House has never been placed on the National Register. An effort to rectify this oversight is going to be made. It will take the support of both Jefferson Heritage and the Park Department.



DANIEL DUNKLIN, 1790-1844

Frank Magre

As we approach the 200th anniversary of the Father of the Missouri Public Schools, we who cherish our schools, wish in some manner to pay him homage.

Daniel Dunklin was born near Bonneau, Berkely District, South Carolina in 1790. In 1805 his father, Joseph Dunklin Jr., moved his family to Caldwell County Kentucky. Three years later after Joseph's death the family moved again, to Potosi, Missouri. Here Daniel, age 20, one of Joseph's children, opened a tavern.

During the war of 1812 Daniel fought in several campaigns under General Henry Dodge and through these adventures became a close friend of Andrew Jackson.

In 1815 he returned to Kentucky from Potosi and married his boyhood sweetheart, Willis Pamela Haley. The Dunklins had five daughters and three sons, two of whom died as infants. During this time he continued to operate his tavern and look after his extensive mining interests. He passed the Bar exam and served in the Missouri House of Representatives 1822-1823.

Dunklin was a prolific reader and accumulated a large library. When Potosi established an Academy he donated 500 volumes to its library.

In 1828 he became Lt. Governor of the State and in 1832 he was elected the first reform Governor. During his tenure, he established the public school system. Up to that point all Missouri schools were private. He recommended the establishment of a State University and created the first Board of Education. The school program he inaugurated contained the following features:

1. Each school term shall be of 6 months duration.
2. Each county shall support its schools with a local tax of 3 1/3¢ per \$100.00 valuation.
3. The courses taught shall consist of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and English grammar.

Ethnic communities in some areas of the State taught only in their respective languages.

A State institution for the deaf and dumb was also established by Dunklin. He was also instrumental in bringing about the settlement of certain Spanish Land Grants that had long been in dispute. The U. S. Government contended they were deeded and filed too late in the Spanish Regime and under Spanish procedures. Governor Dunklin interceded for those who held the claims and won.

During his tenure as governor he also had laws passed which made the punishment of crimes more equitable, removed the striped clothing for those incarcerated, and abolished the whipping of unruly convicts.

Probably due to his Southern background he was an avid "States Rights" advocate. Throughout his political life, he fought vigorously against the encroachment of Federal power over individual states.

Dunklin was a man of action and found the political pace in Jefferson City to be dull and lethargic. Consequently, on September 13, 1836, about three months before the end of his term as governor, he resigned and accepted the appointment as Surveyor General of Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas from his old friend, Andrew Jackson.

In this capacity he laid out and named all the counties south of the Missouri River with the exception of the original counties along the Southeast perimeter of the State. In establishing the Missouri-Arkansas boundary line, he dropped down into Arkansas and the Bootheel.

THE BOOTHEEL

The Bootheel came about largely through persistent efforts of a plantation owner living in that area by the name of John Hardeman Walker, informally known as "Johnny Walker." Through his lobbying in Congress, a 35 mile strip of land lying between the Mississippi and St. Francis rivers south of the 36^o parallel in Arkansas was added to the State of Missouri. Surveyor General Dunklin formed Pemiscot and part of New Madrid Counties out of the eastern part. He used the western part in fashioning Dunklin County. For many years the Bootheel he created was factiously referred to as the "State of Dunklin."

HERCULANEUM

At the age of fifty Dunklin moved his family to Herculaneum where he built a house and warehouse for his landing enterprise. This tract, which abutted the Mississippi River along its eastern boundary, contained 292 acres. According to a letter he wrote to a cousin the cost of the house was \$677.00. He described the house as two story with a pantry and basement. It had four fireplaces, 10 or more doors, 13 or more windows. Construction was begun on June 2, 1840, and completed May 31, 1841.

Dunklin was a member of the Herculaneum Masonic Lodge which was the first lodge of Masons west of the Mississippi.

His land was the site of earlier activities, namely, the riverports of New Bedford and Illinois (Riverside.) Here Christopher Wilt and John Honey had a landing, operating a store, lead furnace, shot tower and lime kiln nearby.

In 1844 the Mississippi was at its highest point ever recorded and legend has it that one day he stood under an elm tree at the family cemetery watching as the flood waters crept nearer. Dunklin got his feet wet, developed a cold, and pneumonia set in. He died August 25, 1844. His first burial was in the family cemetery under the elm tree.

In 1866 James L. Dunklin, his son, sold the farm to Charles Bunyan Parsons, Superintendent of the St. Joe Lead Company. This sale stipulated that the Southeast acre of the farm be reserved as a cemetery. In 1886 or 1887 the remains of Daniel Dunklin and some of his family members were removed to this new spot. It is on Lucas Bluff at the end of Dunklin Drive in the northeast part of Herculaneum. The cemetery was deeded to the County of Jefferson in 1890, and in 1965 the County gave it to the State.

In 1973 Robert Francis of Herculaneum found books, papers and letters near an abandoned house near Pevely. They turned out to have belonged to the Dunklin family at one time. Some of the letters were addressed to him and some were written by him. With the permission of Mr. Francis some of this material was microfilmed for the Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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Douglas, R. S. HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
Brink & McDoonaugh, JEFFERSON COUNTY ATLAS, 1876
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Wilson's HISTORY OF MISSOURI AND SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

A group of the descendants of those buried in the historic Herrington Cemetery, just north of Pevely, have banded together to try and repair the damage done over the years in this cemetery, and to become its caretakers for the future. We salute them and think it is a fine thing that they are doing.

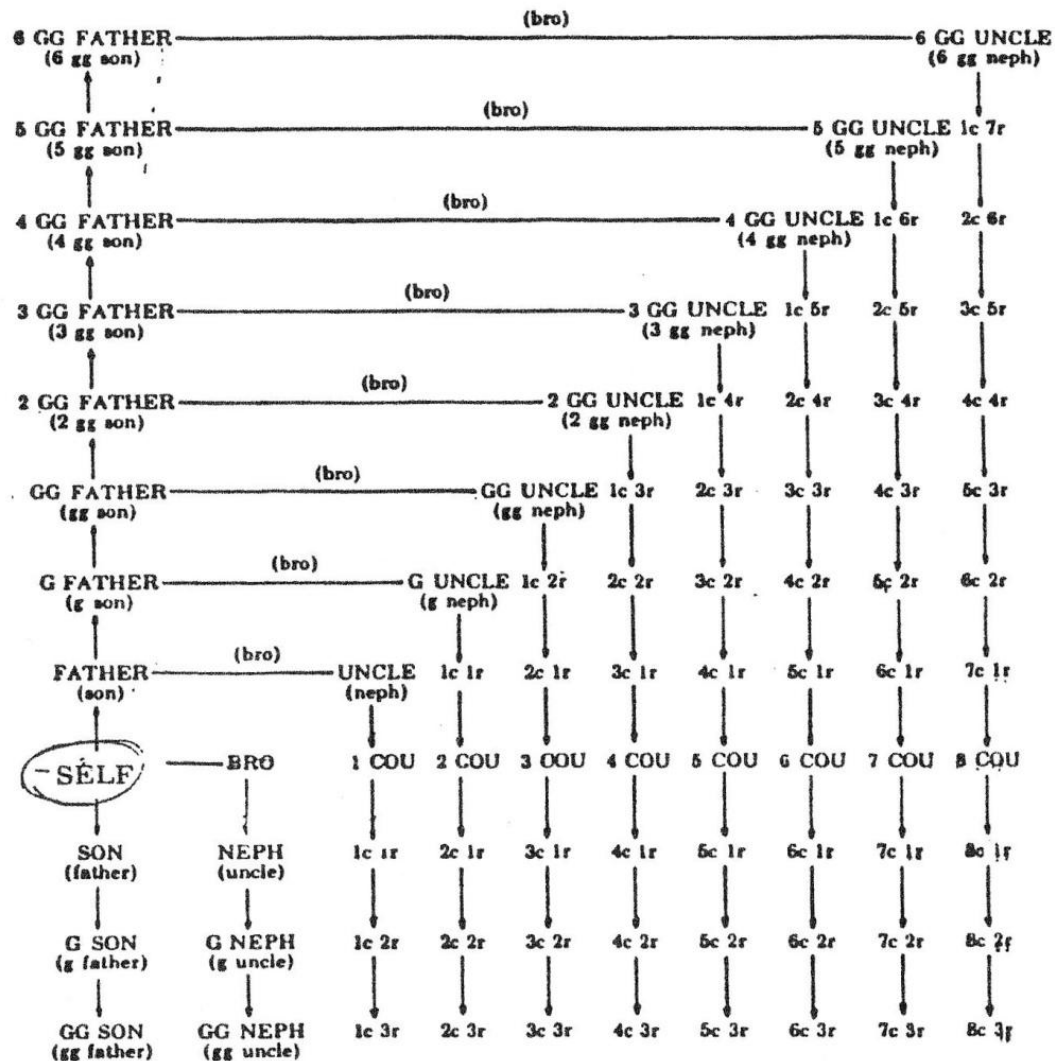
GENEALOGY BUFFS

The following chart is for those of you who never know how you are related to some of your distant relatives. This is the chart used by the Mormon Church when they are giving courses on how one goes about tracing a family and some of the problems you can be faced with.

- Jean O'Brien

RELATIONSHIP CHART

Abbreviations: g father — grandfather; gg father — great-grandfather; bro — brother; c — cousin; cou — cousin; neph — nephew; r — generations removed.



Note — This chart has been prepared using male relationships. The relationships apply in the same manner to females, merely by substituting the applicable word: daughter, mother, aunt, niece, or sister in the properly abbreviated form.

LOGBOOK OF THE STEAMBOAT "MAID OF ORLEANS" John W. Honey, Captain

(Continued from previous issue)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1819

Got under way at half past 4 o'clock A.M. (Mr. Vaughan had not yet returned on board. He left on board a small black leather trunk and a drab cloth great coat, also a blue cloth close bodied coat. At half past five o'clock, arrived at Noland's, 7 miles below Herculanum, came to and took in eight cord of firewood. At half past seven o'clock, got under way, and at three quarters past nine, arrived at the Landing opposite Ste. Genevieve. I sent the boat ashore with Mr. Larvux. At 12 o'clock was hailed from the shore by a man on horseback, who said that a family consisting of 4 or 5 persons wished passage to the Chickasaw Bluffs; they were 2 or three miles from where the boat was now. Did not come to, for fear of being detained too long. At 8 o'clock P.M. came to anchor 5 miles below Cape Girardeau. Distance this day, 112 miles.

This day also, while taking in wood, engaged another hand, viz. Michael Dayby, to serve on board as far as Natchez, for his passage only.

The boat's Steward reported himself sick this morning, and unable to do duty.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th, 1819

The Maid of Orleans got underway at half past four A.M. At half past nine, passed the steam boat Harriot, bound up 30 days from New Orleans. At three quarters past nine, arrived at the mouth of the Ohio, lay to, went ashore in the boat, and inquired if Mr. Ober had in the warehouse any tobacco which was to be sent to New Orleans; and informed that he had none in that ware house, but had on the opposite side of the Mississippi; saw Mr. Gray in whose charge the tobacco was. He informed me that he had the tobacco, did not know to whom the same was to be consigned; that he had received an order from Mr. Ober to deliver it to Captain Turner, but would not deliver it without his (Gray's) receipt being returned, which he says is in the hands of Captain Turner. As Captain Turner did not deliver me Mr. Gray's receipt and as I did not receive any order or instructions from Mr. Ober, for the foregoing reasons did not take the tobacco on board. Was informed that there was no freight nor packages for New Orleans at this place. At five minutes past ten, got under way again.

I was also informed at the mouth of the Ohio that the steam boat Henderson had passed there on Tuesday last, on her way down.

At 11 o'clock came to Ramsay's landing, 7 miles below the Ohio. Took in 24½ cords firewood, lay here till next morning. Distance this day 51 miles.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6th, 1819

Steam boat Maid of Orleans got under way at half past four o'clock A.M. At forty minutes past four, discovered that three of our hands had deserted and left, viz. Jonathan Otis, Timothy Lovel and John Snarr. In consequence of the desertion of the above named hands, agreed to pay Moses Morrell and Nathaniel Daily wages from this day till discharged at 25\$ per month. At a quarter past five, arrived at old Lucas's wood piles; hailed, ashore and inquired for the tobacco mentioned in Captain Turner's instructions, and was answered by a man whom the pilot knew to be Mr. Hanly, the owner of the tobacco; he answered that he had only 9 hogsheads to send down, having sent the balance down by the Henderson. It not being an object to detain the boat to take in these 9 hogsheads, kept under way. At 12 o'clock passed New Madrid. At 10 minutes past 12 o'clock P.M., passed the steam boat General Jackson aground on a sandbar, spoke her yawl which was sent out, and was informed they had no prospect of getting off at present. The General Jackson appeared to have but little water around, a dry sand bar being close to her, right ahead. At 8 o'clock came to anchor. Distance this day 120 miles.