

THE HERITAGE NEWS

Issue 23 Jefferson County Historical Society September, 2000

President:	Rebecca Gagnon
Vice-President:	Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer:	Betty Olson
Newsletter:	Society Members

SIXTH ANNUAL REUNION

Sixth Annual Reunion of the Old Settlers Association of Jefferson Co., Mo., was held at Hematite, Sept. 25, 1897. At 11 o'clock the president Herman Hamel of DeSoto called silence and "Coronation" was sung. Rev Wm. J. Keys then very ably and appropriately implored divine blessing upon the assembled crowd. The role was called and twenty-seven members found present, 70 absent, 3 deceased, total roll, 100.

The address of welcome by Reed McCormack was delivered in his usual happy way. It was a mixture of earnestness, human wit, and sarcasm. He gave a brief history of Hematite, touched upon its ancient customs and compared them with its present condition; told a great deal about Queen Beaver, the witch. When Hematite was incorporated years ago the speaker was elected mayor. That organization having never been declared dissolved he concluded by jokingly proclaiming himself mayor still and as such in behalf of the people of the community bade welcome to the visitors present.

R.W. McMullin being unavoidably absent, T.W. Guy was prevailed upon to give response, which he did in a nice way, and did well, considering he had no time in which to prepare.

The following committees were then appointed: Committee on Memorials for the next year, T.W. Guy, C.F. Lee, and R.

McCormack. A committee was appointed on resolutions and recommendations for the day; Thomas Charles, Sumner Jewett, and J.M. Bailey.

The dinner hour having arrived, that important part of the program was next announced. This was an old-time individual spread. There was lunch spread all about the little park, and a busier and better contented people are never seen. Food was abundant and no one need to have gone away the least bit hungry.

John L. Thomas was booked for an address on "The Progress of Jefferson Co. and Southeast Mo. the first fifty years" but after having arrived on the grounds, he received a dispatch from his son calling him home. His brother, W.H.H. Thomas took the stand at 1:20 and told a great deal about himself beginning by stating non-preparation, bashfulness, etc., all these things having a tendency to embarrass him.

He gave the facts of the origin of this Old Settler's Association as follows: In Sept. 1891, he and his brother John. L. went out to their old home on Big River, and while there together with old school fellows and others appointed a day for a reunion at Bethlehem Church. The speaker presided at that reunion, and R. W. McMullin acted as sec'y. Mr. Thomas created some levity by relating his story of the old turkey gobbler and the soft soap, the facts occurring when his mother was moving from Washington Co. Another laugh was had when he told about the ticks and pill-box he used as playthings in school. The teacher took his box of ticks and put them into her pocket, and he never knew what became of the ticks. Near the close he branched off on parental aspirations for their boys, their possibilities in life, etc. He spoke rather

disparagingly of aspirations to office of state, and rather gave honor to good, private citizenship. Finally he said that the best people are raised on a farm, and produced proof of it. He called for the oldest man on the grounds. That person was the venerable and aged Grandpa Irvine of Festus, now 97 years. The oldest woman was Grandma Laffoon of Zion, 79 years. Uncle Billy McCay, 80 years, was the oldest preacher, who called for "Jesus Lover of My Soul," which was sung.

T.W. Guy read and submitted the following report: "Whereas, since the last meeting of our Association, Death on his pale horse has visited our soldiers ranks and has taken from our Association Louis James Rankin and John T. Byrd, both of whom were born in Jefferson County Mo. Col. Rankin at the time of his death being the oldest native born citizen of the county. Both were ranked all their lives among the best and most useful citizens of the county; and Col. Rankin had been honored by the citizens of his county on a number of occasions, and had held several different official positions, and we think he was never defeated at the polls for any office he sought. In the death of Col. Rankin and Mr. Byrd we recognize that our Association has lost two of it's most distinguished members.

Now therefore be it resolved, that we humbly bow to the call of our Heavenly Father in calling from our midst our friends and associates. Be it further resolved, that our kind sympathy and brotherly feelings be extended to the bereaved friends of the deceased. Be it further resolved that these resolutions be spread upon the records of our association and that the sec'y be requested to furnish some member of the family of each deceased member, with a copy of these resolutions.

Also Fred Walther, born in Alsace, Germany, who was long a resident of this county and died in July at DeSoto, regretted by all who knew him." T.W. Guy and T.J. Donnell

S.A. Reppy spoke in memorium of Col. Rankin, giving some facts of honorable mention of which many were ignorant.

Committee on Resolutions and Recommendations reported the following:

"Resolved, 1st that thanks be tendered R. McCormack, T.W. Guy and W.H.H. Thomas for their addresses.

2nd, that thanks are hereby expressed to R. McCormack for the use of his park to this association; also to the people of Hematite in general for their hospitable manner of entertainment.

Recommendations- 1st, we recommend the following officers for next year; President, T.W. Guy; vice-president, H. Hamel; sec'y and treasurer, T.S. Byrd; executive committee; Big River, J.A. Wilson; Central, R.W. McMullin, Joachim, J.M. Bailey; Meramec, Daniel Bonsacker; Plattin, C.F. Lee, Rock, W.J. Kirk, Valle, T.J. Donnell.

2nd, that Kimmswick be the place for our next reunion, also that the executive committee either provide a platform and seats on the same upon which the older people may be seated, or some place for meeting where such platform and seats are provided.

3rd, that all the county papers have a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of today's meeting.

There were 43 new names added to the membership.

The old settler's race was won by Wm. S. McCormack, 60 yrs. old. Maude Gamache of DeSoto won the Miss's potato race.

The only curiosities or relics, etc. brought and exhibited were presented by Sumner Jewett. The sec'y failed to get a list of them, but was promised the same by mail. These relics consisted of old books, journals, bank checks, etc. The day was fine, and about 500 or 600 were present. No doubt many more would have been present had not the weather been threatening in the forenoon. T. S. Byrd, Secretary.

ANOTHER PIECE OF HISTORY

By Dave Halleman

While searching land transactions I came across one of those unusual documents in the early deed books. These documents are handwritten and extremely hard to read in some places. If I cannot make out a word I will put a question mark in parentheses.

The document that follows records Joseph Huber adopting Ida Furguson as follows:

I, JOSEPH HUBER of Jefferson County, Missouri, desiring to adopt Ida Furguson, an infant, residing with me as my heir and devisee, under and by virtue of the provisions of Chapter One Hundred Nineteen of the General Statutes of Missouri, do make and enter into this deed of adoption by said chapter of said statute.

Now Therefore Know all men by these presents that I do by virtue of said statute adopt said Ida Furguson as my heir and devisee as fully by law as I may do. Hereby assuming to her the said support and maintenance as a child has by law, against lawful parents together with kind and human treatment and do by these presents make (and) constitute her my heir at law with full power to receive, take, inherit at my death all property, real, personal and mixed of which I may (?) seized, or possessed, whether the same herein possession or expectancy with the same effect and to the same extent as she would do if she were my natural born child.

In Testimony Whereof I hereunto sign my name and affix my seal this 18th day of July, 1871.

Joseph Huber (seal)

This document was written and recorded by W. R. Donnell, Clerk of the County Court. It seems that any important document that needed to be notarized and recorded, landed in the warranty deed books in the early days. One never knows what you might find.

1907 JEFFERSON COUNTY DIRECTORY

By Dave Halleman

I had the honor of remastering the 1907 Jefferson County Directory for publication by our historical society.

It is one of the most important documents that I know of on Jefferson County, only behind the 1876 and the 1898 Atlas and Goodspeed. It is a "snapshot" of a period of time and much can be learned from this wonderful book.

The directory is about 490 pages of information of the residents of the county along with advertisements of the period. It was originally gathered by John F. Maness, Assessor of Jefferson County and compiled by James J. Wilson.

It is arranged alphabetically by names under the heading of the post office where they receive their mail. The post offices are also alphabetical. Later in the book the whole county is listed as one area and names are alphabetically listed by the first letter of the last name, but not in strict alphabetical order, as an index for ready reference. A brief description of Jefferson County is given accompanied by a map of the county in 1907.

If you are researching a county resident, you can verify their location by post office. In some cases an address is also given, i.e. Main Street, Festus, or Old Ditch Road. Historically, one can determine most of the classifications of worker in jobs at Pittsburgh Plate Glass and the De Soto Railroad Shops as occupations are listed...blacksmith, smelter, polisher, night watchman, to name a few. The names of businesses are listed...Moothart Commercial College, Mississippi Dairy Co., Merseal and Graham, Tie & Lumber Co. Along with Labor Organizations, Secret Societies, and Secret Fraternal and Insurance Societies, Churches, Harness Makers, Mills, Notary Publics, the list goes on and on.

Jefferson County Historical Society sells this book for \$10.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling. A small sum for the value of the information you will receive. I hardly invite you to pick up a copy if you do any type of research or just enjoy reading about Jefferson County. I don't think you will be disappointed.

SALE OF VILLAGE LOTS IN HANOVER

Jefferson County Leader, May 18, 1866

We would call especial attention to an advertisement in this number of a public sale of village lots in Hanover, on the I.M.R.R. This is a lovely site for a thriving town; the neighborhood is unsurpassed as a fruit-growing section; and the residents now there are citizens of the highest character and worth. Mr. Wm. S. Howe, who is offering these lots to buyers, will cheerfully give all information which may be desired; and those seeking village locations, for trade or manufacture, may find at Hanover great inducements. Stop at Bailey's Station, I.M.R.R. (Iron Mountain Railroad), and find Mr. Howe.

Jefferson County Abstract Company Founded in 1865

Contributed by Della Lang

In 1865, Samuel A. Reppy and J. Ed Walker started *building the original set of abstract books* of Jefferson County land titles. Later W.H.H. Thomas joined them and continued the business for a number of years. Thomas then became the sole owner.

John H. Reppy was employed by Thomas in 1883 to do the work of keeping the books up to date and to make abstracts. In 1892, Reppy and Thomas C. Horine formed the firm of Horine and Reppy, leased the original books, and after the death of Mr. Horine in 1898, Charles Kleinschmidt and Reppy took over the lease of the books and eventually bought the books. They continued to operate the business until the death of Kleinschmidt in 1911. In closing the partnership, Reppy purchased the full interest in the business and became the sole owner.

Reppy formed a partnership with Theodore Hurtgen and operated the abstract firm under the name Reppy & Hurtgen until February, 1919, when Mr. Reppy sold the abstract books to W.J.A. Schubel, who then became sole owner of the original set of abstract books.

C.T. Jarvis, having leased the abstract books belonging to Brewster & Brewster, joined with Schubel in forming a partnership under the name of the Jefferson County Abstract Company, with J.A. Schubel as manager. He opened the business March 1, 1919, using both sets of books from which to make their abstracts and certificates of title.

In 1919 few people demanded a title search when purchasing real estate, so the business mainly consisted of abstracts. However, by 1940 the demand had changed and 90% of their business became title searches.

(Jefferson Co. Record, May 9, 1940)

Historical Trivia

The first drug store in DeSoto was opened in 1864. John Hamel and J.C. Kruse, a former hospital steward in the Civil War, were the original owners of the business.

Dr. Charles Williams, of House Springs and Daniel B. Veazey each received an equal number of votes in the election for State Representative in 1896. Rather than holding a runoff election, the two men decided to draw straws. Dr. Williams won the draw.

But for a stroke of fate, Victoria might be a city today and DeSoto only a hamlet. DeSoto and Victoria, both about the same size, vied for patronage of the Iron Mountain Railroad. DeSoto won. The railroad shops were built in DeSoto and the tiny hamlet grew into a city.

According to a local newspaper article, the old "swinging bridge" at DeSoto, still located behind the shoe factory in 1940, was the only one of it's kind in Missouri.

The old railroad depot at Vineland, a landmark since Civil War days, was torn down in 1940.

The first Youth Hostel established in the state of Missouri was in Jefferson County in 1939.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM INFORMATION

From Jefferson County Newspapers Book II, 1866-1920.

Deaths:

Lyon, Thomas (colored) died at the county farm March 7, 1898. He is survived by his father Edward and two brothers. (March 17, 1898.)

Lieutzinger, Alex, died Feb. ___, 1904 at the county farm. Buried at Hillsboro Cemetery Feb. 11, 1904.

14th Census of the United States (1920) shows these people living on the County Farm, Central Township, Hillsboro, Sheet #8 Arthur Bakewell, enumerator.

Boyer, Robert Male White, 70 yrs. Widower, Can read & write, born in Missouri.

Carciut, Joseph Male White, 36 yrs. Single, Cannot read or write, born in Missouri

Danial, Mary Female, White, 75 yrs, Widow, Cannot read or write, born in Missouri.

Drennan, Ida Female, White, 45 yrs, Single, Cannot read or write, born in Missouri.

Endrine, William Male, White 95 yrs. Widower, Cannot read or write, born in Illinois.

Huskey, Petter Male, White, 84 yrs. Widower, Cannot read or write, born in Missouri.

McHolme, James Male, White, 75 yrs. Widower, Cannot read or write, born in Ireland

McKlin, John, Male, White, 45 yrs. Single, Cannot read or write, born in Missouri

Father born in Ireland, Mother born in New York.

Miller, Petter Male, White 75 yrs. Widower, Can read and write, born in Baden, Germany, Immigrated to U.S. in 1865, Naturalized in 1878.

Moldenhouser, Charles, Male, White, 63 yrs. Single, Can read and write, Born in Germany.

Nulty, Henry Male, White, 59 yrs. Single, Can read and write, Born in Hanover, Germany

Richardson, William J. Male, White 81 yrs. Widower, Can read and write, Born in Missouri.

Wagnor, William H. Male, White, 79 yrs, Married, Can read and write, Place of birth: Canida, Father born in Germany, Mother in Pennsylvania.

Wideman, William J. Male, White, 81 yrs. Widower, Cannot read or write, Born in Missouri.

Williams, Frank, Male, White, 48 yrs. Widower, Can read and write, Born in Missouri, Father born in England, Mother in Germany.

Wolfort, Gus, Male, White, 59 yrs. Single, Came to U.S. in 1881. Can read and write, Born in Saxony, Germany, Parents born in same place.

Zimmerman, Jacob, Male, White 66 yrs. Married, Can read and write. Born in Switzerland, listed as an alien. Parents born in Switzerland. Speaks German.

THOMPSON FAMILY CEMETERY

Township 39N, Range 6E, Plattin Mo. Located in a tract of wooded land off of the intersection where Plattin School Road and Harness Rd. meet. Surveyed February 25, 1995 by Lisa, Bud, Emily & Benjamin Thompson and Clyde Jackson, who was kind enough to take us to the cemetery.

A.M. Thompson (nee McCormack)	born Jan. 4, 1828 died Dec. 18, 1906
D. A. Thompson (Dave)	born Aug. 7, 1826 died Sept. 14, 1913
Infant daughter of A. & Lottie Wagner Budded on earth to bloom in heaven	born Jan. 2, 1912 died Jan. 5, 1912

There are at least 11-12 grave sites here, but most have only field markers with no inscriptions. There may be some Hay's graves here. Mr. Jackson stated that the cemetery was placed on the Thompson/Hay property line so that both families could use the cemetery. Funeral home records stated Mr. Thompson's date of death as January 19, 1912. The following obituary says Ann's death was Dec. 15, 1906. Mr. Jackson stated that the Thompson concrete monument was put there about 50 years ago. This may account for the difference in dates.

Obituary from The Democrat:

Sister Ann M. Thompson died at her home near Plattin December 15, 1906 of blood poisoning and inflammation of the bowels. She was sick only a few days. She was born January 4th, 1828, and would have been 78 years old had she lived till January 4th, 1907. She was converted at old Plattin church in January 1849, and it was said by those who knew her best that her christian life was an exemplary one.

Sister Thompson had been a sufferer for many years with an afflicted limb and five or six years ago she fell and broke her hip, and since then has been a helpless invalid. She was a member of the M.E. Church, south, nearly 58 years. She was the mother of eight children, three of whom preceded her to the unseen world. She was permitted to attend the camp meeting last summer, which she enjoyed very much, and the last night her soul spent on earth she was repeating parts of camp meeting songs. Sister Thompson lived in touch with her Savior, and of course when the end came was prepared to meet him. I visited her often as her pastor and can say she had perfect hatred of anything that was wrong, and seemingly could not look upon it with the least degree of allowance. She was married to D.A.Thompson February 22d, 1849; therefore, had spent nearly 58 years with him. Her husband has been a faithful worker in the church but is getting very feeble now and in a very few years at most will follow his blessed companion to that land where sickness is unknown.

Sister Thompson's funeral was conducted by the writer at her home, after which her remains were laid to rest in the family burying ground to await the sound of the trumpet. May he who came to heal the brokenhearted comfort the aged father and children.

J.N.Sitton

McCORMACK CEMETERY

Located at the top of the hill on the left hand side of the road on Charter Church Rd., about 1/2 mile from the intersection of Plattin Road and Harness Road. Township 39N R6E Sec. 6.

The following stones were found in addition to previous surveys by Helen & Frank Magre, Jean O'Brien on October 10, 1983 and Gerry Fleming and Betty Meyer in February 1981. Surveyed March 23, 1995 by Lisa, Bud, Benjamin & Emily Thompson.

Jane C. McCormack, daughter of E. & E. (Enoch & Eliza) McCormack	Died Oct. 4, 1844 aged 5 years, 1 month, 17 days
Eliza S. McCormack (nee Donnell, wife of Enoch)	Died Nov. 5, 1865 aged 45 years, 6 months, 28 days
Margaret M. McCormack (nee McMullin, 2nd wife of James)	Born May 28, 1796 Died Aug. 21, 1874
Adaline, wife of J. T. McMullin daughter of E. & E. McCormack (this stone was broken into two pieces, the bottom piece was originally recorded in the two previous surveys with no name given. The top portion of the stone was found buried underneath the bottom portion as mentioned above.)	Died March 11, 1861 aged 25 years, 10 months, 16 days
Thomas R. Stewart (raised by Mitchell McCormack, killed when he fell on the track in front of a train)	Died Jan. 30, 1886 Aged 23 years, 9 months, 26 days
James F. McCormack (son of Enoch & Eliza)	Died May 3, 1863 Aged 26 years, 5 months

MEDLY FAMILY CEMETERY

On the left, heading west on Byrnesville Rd., just past where the mill is located on Big River. Surveyed October 29, 1994 by Lisa K. Thompson.

Cassandra Isabella, wife of Jesse Medly (also a footstone, initials C.I.M)	born Jan. 5, 1832 died Sept. 8, 1859
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Stone and footstone (illegible)
initials possibly W.I.S

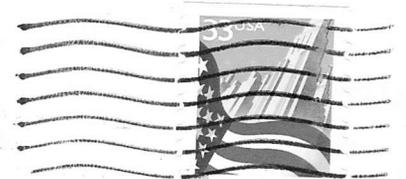
JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS FOR SALE:

1876 Atlas reprint	\$15.00	_____
Index to 1876 Atlas	15.00	_____
Index to 1898 Atlas	15.00	_____
1907 Jefferson County Directory	10.00	_____
Jefferson County Country School	29.95	_____
Jefferson County Postoffices	5.50	_____
Norma Hoelzel Books back in print		
Vineland	25.00	_____
Blackwell	25.00	_____
Valles Mines	25.00	_____
Shipping and handling \$3.00. Each additional book \$1.00		_____
Total		_____

Order from Jefferson County Historical Society, 712 South Main Street, De Soto, MO 63020. Attention: Betty Olson.

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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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