1930 CENSUS AVAILABLE

The long awaited 1930 census microfilm is now available in Jefferson County in two libraries that we know of. One is the Jefferson County Library, High Ridge Branch at High Ridge, Missouri and the other is the De Soto Public Library.

Census records are released 70 years after they were taken. This new census will have people on it that are still alive. Perhaps your name is on this one.

The copy available at the De Soto library appears to be quite readable, with these exceptions. One of the census takers apparently had a leaky fountain pen and there are some ink blotches on his pages. Another apparently did not use a permanent ink because his pages are faded and difficult to read. The other sections are very readable.

You might want to call either library before you go there just to make sure a microfilm reader/printer is available along with the census microfilm for your use. You might also call the library closest to you to see if they have this microfilm.

We also hope you have found our Roots Web mojeffer site on the internet. If you don’t have internet access at home that’s another reason to visit your nearest library!

RURAL SCHOOL GRADUATION 1917

De Soto Press May 18, 1917

The country school graduating exercises were held here Saturday with the usual large attendance from all parts of the county. There were 164 graduates and all townships were represented. Rev. T. S. Matthews gave the graduating address.

The program for opening consisted of music by the Crystal City schools, Invocation by the Rev. O. A. Kern; address of welcome by E. S. Fauth, president of the De Soto Commercial Club; Reading, Elsa Leuderman, White School; Reading Freda Beckmeyer, McGehan School; “Glorious Constitution” by John Schafer, Pevely School.

Valle Township won the banner for having the largest attendance, taking it from Joachim Township. Scholarships to the De Soto High School were awarded as follows: Big River, Edward Burns; Central, Martha Reppy; Joachim, Mildred Clark, Meramec, Joseph Yenicek; Rock, Elsa Leuderman; Plattin, Cyril Ashton; Valle, Cecelia Burda.

There were more than a hundred contestants in the writing contest. (Continued on page 8)
1913 Jefferson County
by Dave Hallemann

I recently acquired a Jefferson County Map dated 1913. It apparently came out of a book of all the counties in Missouri. This is the first map I have seen dated 1913 and gives us a glimpse of that time period. By cross-referencing this map to a modern county map we can see how roads have changed, plus the location of towns, creeks, and other landmarks. On the back were agricultural statistics for the county at that time.

The sidebar on the map was a report of current activities in the county that would be of interest to anyone who might be considering moving here.

James H. Winer, Presiding Judge with William Schwalbert and William C. Kerchoff, Associate Judges, William Pillard, County Clerk and Joseph Hoeken of Hillsboro, supplied the map to the publisher.

De Soto had a Commercial Club looking after the interests and prosperity of the county. The farmers belonged to organizations which saw that their products were properly and quickly marketed and their welfare was taken care of.

Dr. J. Scott Wolff, a dental surgeon from Festus, represented the county in the 1913 General Assembly.

Jefferson County newspapers in 1913 were: The Jefferson County Democrat and Jefferson County Record located in Hillsboro; Festus News and the Tri City Independent in Festus, and the De Soto Press, all of which were weeklies. The Jefferson County Republican of De Soto was a daily paper.

Jefferson County was one of the main producers of strawberries in the state with output being marketed mainly in St. Louis. An electric railway was proposed to pass through Hillsboro to open up a very fertile portion of our county to St. Louis markets.

The Meramec and Big Rivers could offer waterpower to manufacturing facilities. There was plenty of fuel wood that could be obtained in the vicinity of Hillsboro for $2.50 a cord. Timber still standing could be used for lumber and ties. Hillsboro could support a cannery and a lighting plant that would use electricity developed by a water power plant. There was still unimproved land in the county that could be bought for $3 and acre. However it was more feasible for settlers to purchase better land, which could be had for $5 to $10 an acre, since it cost $5 to $10 an acre to clear the land.

Jefferson County at one time had many steamboat landings along the Mississippi River. These could easily be reopened by a government dredge removing the sand bars, thus making it possible for them to once again be points of commerce.

The churches of the county were: Presbyterian-10; Catholic-9; Methodist-25; Baptist-25; Christian-5; Lutheran 12; Unitarian-1, and five miscellaneous denominations.

De Soto was an industrial center that offered inducements to businesses to locate there. Frank Warner, Secretary of the De Soto Local of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of
Desirable immigrants who help level the unimproved portions will receive a hearty welcome.

Much has changed in almost 90 years, however through this glimpse in time we are able to add a few more pieces to the mystery of our heritage.

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**ADDITIONAL ADOPTIONS**

Dave Halleman has given us some new adoption listings that he came across doing research at the courthouse. These all appear in the books containing deed records and transfers of property.

**Flynn, Gertrude Virginia**


**Page, Wilma Marie**


**Long, Adele**


**Tracy, Olive C.**


**Armstrong, Florian**


**Smith, Velma**


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**Pevely News Items**

May 4, 1917

The Grey Eagle will stop at Riverside landing Sunday, May 13th. Don’t fail to take the trip to Ste. Genevieve and return. Adults 50 cents, Children 25 cents. Those who went last year will long remember the most pleasant outing they ever had. Boat leaves about 11 a.m. and returns at about 6:15 p.m.

The “Debatin Society” of the Pevely School will give an entertainment next Saturday at the Schoolhouse.

The winners of the declamatory contest at the Pevely School last Saturday were Lester Ruebel and Mary Jane Ennis. The contestants were warmly cheered by a very large and enthusiastic audience.

The City Council will meet next week in the Club rooms. The business men have been invited to attend as well as other citizens who are interested. It is the purpose of the present Council to convince the people that the business of the town is their business and not a government by a few.

The Mother’s Club will meet next Thursday at the home of Mrs. John Heiner.

(The Press will publish a full report of each meeting of the Pevely council and each week will have an interesting letter giving the local happenings of the “future metropolis” of Jefferson County.)
TABLE A.  
Population. 27,375  
Number of farms and farm units. 2,720  

COLOR AND NATIVITY OF FARMERS:  
Race or ancestry.  
Total. 3,527  
Foreign. 3,270  
Negro. 257  
Number of farms, classified by size.  
Less than 5 acres. 4  
5 to 10 acres. 10  
10 to 50 acres. 304  
50 to 100 acres. 200  
100 to 250 acres. 109  
250 to 500 acres. 31  
500 to 1,000 acres. 33  
1,000 or more acres. 36  

POULTRY AND BEEFS.  
Number of poultys of all kinds. 177,750  
Number of columes of bees. 540  

VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.  
All farm property. 24,166,308  
Land. 12,858,130  
Buildings. 9,297,775  
Improvements and machinery. 3,175,091  
Domestic animals, poultry and bees. 1,982,065  

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.  
(Farms and Ranges.)  
Farms reporting domestic animals. 2,060  
Value of domestic animals. $1,754,814  

CATTLE:  
Total number. 21,797  
Dairymaids and yearlings. 1,461  
Feathering hogs and yearlings. 2,882  
Calves. 3,725  
Cows in calf. 2,254  
Other cows. 61  
Yearling and mining. 3,721  
Value. $506,891  

HORSES:  
Total number. 7,296  
Mature horses. 6,878  
Yearlings. 318  
Value. $677,734  

MULES:  
Total number. 2,462  
Mature mules. 2,402  
Yearlings. 60  
Value. $301,525  

ASSES AND BURROS:  
Total number. 48  
Value. $12,375  

SWINE:  
Total number. 25,421  
Mature hogs. 14,948  
Value. $151,159  

Sheep:  
Total number. 8,033  
rams, ewes and unseen. 2,125  
Selling lambs. 2,125  
Value. $225,692  

TABLE D.  
LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS.  
Dairy products.  
Dairy cows on farms reporting dairy products. 3,527  
Dairy cows on farms, reporting milk produced, number. 2,254  
Milk, produced. 2,254  
Soil, gallons. 2,040,542  
Cream, sold. 564  
Butter, sold. 22,567  
Butter sold to stock. 32,819  
Sausages. 2,040,542  
Value of dairy products. 11,345  
Value of milk sold. 76,167  
Value of soil sold. 76,167  
Value of cream sold. 76,167  
Value of butter sold. 76,167  
Value of sausage sold. 76,167  

TABLE E.  
VALUE OF ALL CROPS.  
Total. $2,195,793  
Other grains and seeds. 11,533  
Hay and forage. 11,533  
Vegetables. 320,028  
All other crops. 115,444  

SELECTED CROPS.  
(ACRES AND QUANTITY.)  
Cereals:  
Total. 73,669  
Corn. 13,500  
Oats. 4,540  
Wheat. 30,925  
Rye. 2,328  
Barley. 1,000  
Clover and milo. 283  

TABLE C.  
COST OF OPERATING FARMS.  
Labor.  
Farmers reporting. 1,091  
Total. 154,094  
Rent and board for hired hands. 30,925  
Fertilizer.  
Farmers reporting. 154  
Total. $8,253  
Feed.  
Farmers reporting. 894  
Total. $111,333  
Receipts from sale of feed. 124,026  

Hay and forage:  
Total. 29,334  
Hay and forage. 29,334  
Timothy alone. 5,219  
Timothy and clover. 4,400  
Alfalfa. 1,000  
Millet or Hungarian grass. 935  
Wheat, oats or barley. 4,021  
Grass cut green. 4,511  
Grass cut dry. 4,021  
Timothy and clover. 4,400  
Alfalfa. 1,000  
Millet or Hungarian grass. 935  
Wheat, oats or barley. 4,021  
Grass cut green. 4,511  
Grass cut dry. 4,021  

TABLE F.  
DOMESTIC ANIMALS NOT ON FARMS.  
Number reported. 484  
Value of domestic animals. $89,833  

HORSES:  
Total number. 606  
Value. $56,357  
Number of mature horses. 988  

MULES AND ASSES AND BURROS:  
Total number. 112  
Value. $13,357  
Number of mature mules. 78  

SWINE:  
Total number. 509  
Value. $3,726  

SHEEP AND GOATS:  
Total number. 154  
Value. $410  

FRUITS AND NUTS.  
Orchard fruits:  
Total. 262,153  
Apples. 113,390  
Peaches and nectarines. 40,383  
Pears. 31,717  
Plums and prunes. 21,931  
Cherries. 2,401  
Grapes. 458,382  

Small fruits:  
Total. 763  
Strawberries. 1,984,739  
Blackberries and other fruits. 1,267,105  

NUTS:  
Total. 903  
Pecans. 12,183  

TABLE G.  
DOMESTIC ANIMALS NOT ON FARMS.  
Number reported. 484  
Value of domestic animals. $89,833  

HORSES:  
Total number. 606  
Value. $56,357  
Number of mature horses. 988  

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Value. $3,726  

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Total number. 154  
Value. $410
DISASTROUS TRAIN WRECK
(From the June 16, 1938 Jefferson Republican)

A disastrous train wreck which followed and was caused by a virtual flood of the Joachim Creek occurred early last Saturday morning (June 11) when the fast mail train No. 7 dove into the raging water near Bailey Station. A rain storm of cloudburst proportions hit this vicinity about 6:00 Friday evening. It rained without ceasing until early the next morning, resulting in a flood which inundated the tracks for almost a mile at the point of the wreck, and washed the trestle away.

C. T. McRill, the fireman, stated that the engineer W. W. Malloy, ran through water for a considerable distance and was proceeding slowly when the engine gave a lurch and toppled over into the raging waters. McRill managed to extricate himself from the cab and in rising to the surface, became entangled in the telegraph wires. He finally wormed his way through the strands but not until after he had taken considerable water into his lungs. He caught hold of the branches of a small tree and hung there for four hours until taken to safety by rescuers in a motor boat. He was brought to DeSoto and given emergency treatment by Dr. Karl McKinstry. Later he was taken to the Missouri Pacific Hospital in St. Louis.

At this particular point the water covered an expanse of ground at least 2000 feet in width, inundating rich farm lands with several feet of water. The water continued to rise after the wreck until it was within a few inches of the floor of the cars which remained standing on the tracks. The National Guard of Festus was called out to keep the thousands of curious people away from the scene and to prevent possible looting of the mail and express cars.

J. S. Withington, local agent for the Railway Express Company, went to the wreck in order to get the pay checks for the shop and railroad men, and it was necessary to swing down into the car by ropes, but he brought the checks back with him, even though they were soaking wet.

When the engine slid into the water three baggage and express cars were also partially submerged, but the express men and mail clerks managed to race through the rear cars to safety. Sixty-five passengers who were marooned in the coaches were finally taken to safety after a bridge had been built from one of the cars to the bluff, near the home of Alvin Son.

The engineer was trapped in the cab and according to McRill, it appeared that he was trying to stop the train when the water suddenly became so deep that he realized the track had been washed from under the engine. Divers called to the scene searched for several hours, and finally recovered the body about 7 o'clock Saturday evening.

Repair crews were summoned from St. Louis and Poplar Bluff early Saturday and the work of repairing the damage was started. The track for several hundred feet was washed away as well as the trestle.

The crew worked without ceasing and the damage was temporarily repaired for traffic by daylight Sunday. In the meantime trains were rerouted with little inconvenience to passengers and with only the slightest interruption to mail service.

John Kern 82 years old of St. Louis died when he fell from a bluff that overlooked the scene of the accident. He had come with an acquaintance to view the accident. Witnesses said as he turned around he lost his balance and toppled over the bluff backwards. Coroner Frank S. Frazier gave a verdict of accidental death by broken neck at the inquest which was held at the Politte Funeral Home in Crystal City.
Rural School Graduation (cont. from pg. 1)

Celeste Pilliod of the De Soto schools won the Hilgert Gold Metal in this contest. May Leight of the House Springs School won the Silver Metal.

Declaratory Contest

Mary Jane Ennis of the Horine School won the Reppy Gold Medal contest reciting “Milly’s Birthday.”

The Dunnigan Silver Medal in this contest was won by Lester Reubel, Pevely School, reciting “One Legged Goose.”

The other contestants with their readings are as follows:

“One Niche the Highest” Katy Yeats, Rock School
“Swan Song” Martha Reppy, Hillsboro School
“Bobbie Shaftoe” Edith Martin, Danby School
“Si and I” Ida May Pipkin, Bowen School,
“Billie Brad and a Big Lie” Margaret Frazier, Danby School

The Judges in this contest were: Miss G. A. Clark and Mrs. G. E. Webster of Webster Groves and Miss E. R. Helmrich of St. Louis.

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