

The Heritage News

Issue 7

Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society

April 1994

President	Della Lang
Vice President	Frank Magre
Treasurer	Betty Olson
Secretary	Catherine Crawford
Editor	Lisa K. Thompson

Annual dues in the Jefferson County Heritage and Landmark Society are \$10.00. Anyone interested in the documentation and preservation of the history of Jefferson County is welcome to join. Dues include four issues of The Heritage News. If you are interested in joining the society, please contact President Della Lang at 677-2017, or Treasurer Betty Olson c/o DeSoto Library, 586-3858.

The annual business meeting of the Heritage and Landmark Society was held March 20, 1994. The following members were elected to the board of directors for the term 1994-1997:

Craig Fosterling
Dr. Ray Henry
Betty Olson
Timothy Patterson

Board members for the term 1993-1996 are:

John Anderson
Rebecca Gagnon
Glee Heiligtag
Jean O'Brien

Board members for the term 1992-1995 are:

Catherine Crawford
Della Lang
Frank Magre
Lisa K. Thompson

CEMETERY RESEARCH

We are conducting an ongoing survey of cemeteries in Jefferson county. Our goal is to record the names and dates from all sources and enter them onto computer disk to produce a list for county history and genealogy use. Many of the cemeteries have already been done and are on record at the DeSoto library. If you know of a family cemetery buried in the woods, or know of someone else who may have information on one, please contact Lisa K. Thompson at #937-7990 or Betty Olson at the DeSoto library #586-3858.

GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Are you interested in researching your family history but don't know where to start? Or maybe you have already started a genealogy project but have gotten "stuck" and can't get started again? If so, we may be able to help. We are currently planning a seminar to assist you in your search. If you would like to help in this project, please let us know. The seminar is planned for mid to late summer. Dates and reservation forms will be made available as soon as possible.

Genealogy Help Needed

Information on George Henry Barron and Lucy Ellen (Edgar) Barron, mother and father of Mary Josephine Barron. If you have any information, contact: G. William Whitworth Jr., 24801 Carleton West Road, New Boston, Michigan 48164-9612. Telephone #313-654-6411.



SCHOOL DAYS

By: Lisa K. Thompson

The public school system became organized in all parts of the state after the civil war. Roads in rural areas were bad and it was difficult to travel far, so counties built small schools to serve rural neighborhoods. Landowners donated property and neighbors joined together to build the schools and hire teachers. As each township was organized into a school district, school commissioners were appointed by the court.

The school year was designed to fit the farm calendar so that children could work during the busy season of planting and harvest. The school year was shorter, but the school day was longer, and there were almost no holidays and vacations. School terms were usually either three or six months.

Not many children managed to get through eight grades of school in the early years. Of the ones that managed to graduate, many were hired as teachers. These young teachers obtained a third grade certificate which meant they could only teach the basics and earned a minimum salary. They were able to obtain a first or second grade certificate by attending what was called a "normal school" during the summer. A first grade certificate meant you were allowed to teach more advanced subjects such as geography, history, and language in addition to the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Teachers were required to take a test and pass a course in school management to acquire a first grade certificate.

The following is a list of teachers attending the "normal school" in Jefferson County in the year 1884 and their place of residence:

Lizzie L. Perkins	Vineland
Jessie L. Wilson	Hematite
Iva V. Donnell	Plattin
Ida F. Jennings	Hematite
Lora L. Brewster	Hillsboro
Lily Wittram	Hillsboro
Lorena E. Cole	Bonne Terre
Mary C. Brickey	Richwoods
Mary B. Dove	Frumet
Helen Pence	DeSoto
Sue Booth	DeSoto
Isabel Booth	DeSoto
Helen M. Day	DeSoto
Metile V. Lane	DeSoto
Anna McClure	DeSoto
Bertha Whitehead	Kimmswick
Lettie B. Waters	Kimmswick
Mattie Howe	Horine
Mabel D. Veazey	DeSoto
Lizzie Willoughby	Hematite

Carrie Bomann	Kimmswick
Mary Seat	Victoria
Louisa Stegmann	Frumet
Mary E. Baker	Hillsboro
Amanda E. Hale	Frumet
Geneva J. Hopson	Frumet
Mary C. Jenni	Crystal City
Julia R. Pecaut	DeSoto
Johanna M. Fitzgerald	DeSoto
Anna V. Dougherty	Byrnsville
Sarah McNamee	Pacific City
Mary E. Saxton	DeSoto
Jessie F. Hall	Kimmswick
Kora S. Thomas	DeSoto
Josie A. Williams	DeSoto
Sue E. Stephens	Vineland
Mary Nelson	Victoria
Rosa Chamberlain	Pevely
Sallie Pinson	DeSoto
Ruth Lee	Morse's Mills
Nettie Smith	Hanover
Katie F. Murphy	DeSoto
Ada A. Atchison	Regina
Alma Thomas	Eureka
Mrs. Mary A. Reynolds	Hematite
A. M. Wittram	Hillsboro
Kate M. Hall	Sulphur Springs Landing
Fannie I. Rankin	DeSoto
Helen M. Hyatt	Frumet
Jennie Pinson	Victoria
Mr. John J. Dalton	Catawissa
James E. Kidd	House's Springs
George W. Gasche	Morse's Mills
Thomas Musick	Robertsville
Wm. H. Crowder	Sandy Bridge
Thomas S. Byrd	Plattin
George M. Moore	Charleston
W. R. Irwin	Kimmswick
Wm. H. Elkins	Hillsboro
Charles Mothershead	
Fred Booth	DeSoto
D. B. Veazey	DeSoto
Ed D. Luckey	DeSoto
J. J. Banta	Pacific City
Lester Wilson	House's Springs
Ed J. Daugherty	Byrnesville
Willie S. Hopson	Frumet
Richard A. Frazier	Hillsboro
George Wittram	Hillsboro
Joseph F. McNamee	Pacific City
Charles A. Stocking	Richwoods
Henry B. Irwine	Rush Tower
Wm. A. Wilson	House's Springs
Harvey Winer	House's Springs
Ed Stephens	Festus
Harry M. Pyle	High Ridge
S. L. Frazier	Hillsboro
John A. Dover	Frumet

V. S. Carter	Rush Tower
Joseph Rustige	High Rldge
Wm. B. Morgan	Hematite
Henry Kucek	Kimmswick
Joseph S. Stephens	Pevely
W. H. Carter	High Ridge
J. W. Sprague	Frumet
Wm. Bryan	Morse's Mills
J. M. Shelton	DeSoto
Wm. P. Buren	Vineland
John Holmes	Hematite
James P. Dougherty	Byrnsville
R. A. Elkins	Hillsboro
R. M. Boothe	DeSoto
John I. Cole	DeSoto
Mr. George Fredericks	High Ridge
J. D. Posten	Plattin
John W. Jones	Avoca
Emery E. Sullens	Byrnsville
Wm. Pullen	Sandy Bridge
H. Ed Green	Hillsboro
George A. Steat	Antonia
Joseph A. Beuchler	DeSoto
W. W. Hall	Sulphur Springs
Wm. McNamee	Pacific City
John Holmes	Hematite
George McFarland	Frumet
Mrs. Adams	
Jennie I. Holmes	
Nelle Bruce	Festus
L. J. Bevinton	DeSoto

Colored

Miss Kate G. Harley	S. Springs
Mintie Salter	Kimmswick
Mr. G. W. Carr	DeSoto
J. W. Summers	Vineland

Number of teachers holding certificates of third grade,.....	59
Number of teachers holding certificates of second grade	23
Number of teachers holding certificates of first grade,.....	2
Number of teachers holding State certificates....	5
Number of teachers in favor of McGuffeys revised serles of readers	53
Number of teachers in favor of Appletons	11

The first one room schools were very small. They were usually about sixteen feet square with only one window on each wall. Students sat on wooden benches and wrote on slates. Books were usually shared since they were expensive. Schools often ralsed their own money to buy books, blackboards, and other equipment. Jim Burns of Festus, Missouri remembers going to cake auctions and peanut stabs at Bailey School in Hanover, or Bailey Station with his grandparents, James and Dora Huey. Mr. Huey was the president of the Bailey

school for several years around 1918. These auctions were great social events and were well attended and enjoyed. Some areas of Jefferson county had what were called subscription schools. These were schools which charged a fee for the student to attend. Several such schools advertised in The Leader and The Democrat in the 1860's and 70's. Tultion was listed at \$12 for a three months term.

According to several 1870 articles from The Democrat, the first school taught on Sandy was by Benjamin Johnston, a brother of Judge Johnston. He taught a school of seven or eight scholars in a little log hut near the James Hensley farm, about the year 1806 or 1807. In 1812, Mr. McCulloch taught a small school of twelve to fifteen students near the Falkland Martin place. The children called him squealing McCulloch because he had a fine squeaking voice. It is said he kept a skeleton in his schoolroom. These were three month schools. They were the only schools taught on Sandy from the first settlements there till about 1820. Johnston and McCulloch taught nothing but spelling (using Websters speller) and the first reader.

James Cochran taught school for six months on the Plattin about 1813. Wilson taught school in Herculanum in 1815, Cathey in 1816, and Pameter about 1817 or 1818. In 1820, a Yankee by the name of Kellogg established a high school for the benefit of "those boys who had learned to read and spell." He taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic and geography. He taught six months and turned out a lot of graduates. Also in 1820, "a man by the name of Rogers taught a three months school on Gray's Branch, which empties into Big River near Calvin Johnson's farm." About 1825, Guffey taught school in a "little log hut on Dry Creek, near Wm. Graham's farm."

In Jefferson county, the common school system was organized about 1845. The school commissioners of the county were as follows: P. H. Buren was school commissioner prior to 1854 and did much towards organizing the public school system in this county. From 1854 to 1855, P. Pipkin; from 1855-1862, A. Green; from 1862 to 1865, the County Clerk; from 1866 to 1872, M. C. Jennings; from 1872 to 1875, I. H. Brown. The school districts were principally organized under Pipkin and Green from 1854 to 1858.

By the year 1878 there were 77 schools for the 3684 white students in the county and three schools for the 119 black students. The average length of the school year was 110 days. The ratio of male to female teachers was about two to one, with male teachers salaries being \$43.87 per month to female salaries of \$34.35.

In the year 1918, there were 89 school districts in Jefferson county. The following list shows the school name, its location, and the

resident and Secretary of the school:

1	Saline	Fenton	Fred Kohler	Fred Schlect
2	Bowles	Valley Park	John Choot	C. A. Bouzek
3	High Ridge	High Ridge	O. Brackman	A. Pfaff
4	Cedar	High Ridge	A. Nollman	Wm. Vornberg
5	McNamee	Pacific	J. J. Brennan	P. J. Connor
6	LaBarque	Eureka	H. Oberhaus	J. Sargent
7	White Oak	House Springs	T. Roques	F. P. Boemler
8	Stringtown	Eureka	C. Boemler	E. R. Bonacker
9	Bear Creek	House Springs	H. Hoffmeister	A. Nollman
10	Rock Creek	Valley Park	A. A. Yates	F. Shoen
11	Spitz		A. Becker	P. J. Kirk
12	Soulard	Kimmswick	J. R. Baker	W. V. Blank
13	Bown	Kimmswick	W. Hunicke	L. H. Bangert
14	Seckman	Kimmswick	D. Haefner	A. Kohler
15	Four Ridge	Kimmswick	F. J. Eikemyer	S. Glatt
16	Heads Creek	House Springs	C. H. Koke	W. A. Miller
17	House Springs	House Springs	G. A. Boemler	A. Weber
18	Local	Hillsboro	G. Harness	G. W. Dolds
19	Byrnesville	Catawissa	L. O'Brien	J. Geatley
20	Scheve	Catawissa	G. Baumgarth	J. Forthman
21	Calvey	Catawissa	H. Kramme	D. L. Reed
22	Cedar Hill	Cedar Hill	E. A. Stovesand	Dr. Parker
23	Oak Hill	Hillsboro	B. Graham	W. E. Medley
24	Mt. Olive	Hillsboro	H. Lony	Ed Miller
25	Antonia	Antonia	C. Bruns	W. H. Strayer
26	Moss Hollow	Kimmswick	A. Hemme	L. S. Dierks
27	White	House Springs	George Baltz	Wm. Hempel
28	Kimmswick	Kimmswick	G. A. Wenom	A. Edinger
29	Sulphur Springs	Barnhart		J. H. Bull
30	Rock Valley		J. Schmidt	Wm. Weber
31	Pevely	Pevely	Herman Heiner	C. E. Ellis
32	Sandy	Pevely	W. C. Kerckhoff	R. H. Donnell
33	Central	Hillsboro	L. R. Meyer	Oscar Ehlers
34	Baker	Hillsboro	C. Kidd	W. J. Williams
35	Mayfield	Dittmer	J. G. Bruns	W. Williams
36	Dittmer	Dittmer	G. Grupe	George Bruns
37	Grubville	Grubville	C. Oerman	C. Perkins
38	Black Hawk	Grubville	T. S. Reed	Allen Reed
39	Bethlehem	Morse Mill	K. W. Miller	E. F. Wilson
40	Cedar Grove	Morse Mill	C. Williams	G. Harris
41	Huskey	Hillsboro	J. S. McKean	E. L. Partney
42	Hieland	Hillsboro	W. H. Morris	J. W. Partney
43	Zion	Hillsboro	J. E. How	R. D. Morgan
44	Pleasant Valley	Horine	H. Achter	C. Graf
45	McNutt	Festus	A. Bonacker	E. Santschi
46	Herculaneum	Herculaneum	Dr. Miller	E. Selvers
47	Crystal City	Crystal City	L. D. Bowman	J. Heddel
48	Festus	Festus	C. C. Stewart	P. S. Terry
49	Bailey	Hematite	J. N. Huey	L. W. Lucas
50	Hematite	Hematite	W. R. England	E. Keller
51	Buckeye	Hematite	C. Stephenson	W. DeClue
52	Hillsboro	Hillsboro	C. Williams	W. L. Stone
53	Seemel	Hillsboro	F. Pierce	W. W. Wyner
54	Ware	Ware	Otto Wideman	Huhn
55	Brown	Fletcher	J. Long	F. R. Pillen
56	Ditch	Maupin	T. L. Johnson	A. L. Tyre
57	McKean	Fletcher	J. B. Curtis	W. R. Maness
58	Frumet	Frumet	W. M. Muse	T. S. Frissell
59	Maness	DeSoto	F. Breckenridge	E. Siebert
60	Luckey	DeSoto	A. Landuyt	S. Y. Lewis
61	New Liberty	DeSoto	F. Murrell	C. Keefe

62	Victoria	Victoria	Albert Wease	W. H. Scott
63	Haverstick	Victoria	J. A. Bage	F. A. Hoffman
64	Pleasant Grove	Plattin	J. Brown	G. Meyer
65	Telegraph	Festus	A. Cadwallader	L. Canepa
66	Rush Tower	Rush Tower	H. Weaver	W. Weaver
67	Danby	Danby	C. P. Curtis	J. L. Bailey
68	Plattin	Plattin		W. H. Porter
69	Flucom	Flucom	W. F. Halter	W. J. Knorpp
70	Armbruster	DeSoto	L. Wamsganz	J. Vahey
71	Highfield		Paul Lee	H. H. Castile
72	Dripping Springs	DeSoto	J. Symoo	P. Boyd
73	DeSoto	DeSoto	P. P. Hinchey	E. S. Coxwell
74	Peter Moore	DeSoto	G. Vivrett	W. Camp
75	Mothershead	DeSoto	W. A. Cole	W. Holmes
76	Mammoth	DeSoto	J. Henry	E. Wiley
77	Vineland	Vineland	F. Wilson	T. Politte
78	Springdale	Vineland	W. Barnhart	L. B. Cole
79	McGehan	Valles Mines	F. Hopkins	J. Williams
80	McMullin	DeSoto	H. Bunselmeier	L. Kleinsct
81	Avoca	Valles Mines	W. Turley	Wm. Armbruster
82	Pfnister	Knorpp	N. Decker	M. Nussbaum
83	McCormack	Plattin	G. Reed	A. L. Freese
84	Salt Peter	Plattin	C. Toulouse	N. Toulouse
85	Valles Mines	Valles Mines	J. Moore	L. Moore
86	Prospect	Valles Mines	J. Blackwell	H. Wilson
87	Moontown	DeSoto	W. Wagner	R. Blackwell
88	Horne	Horne	H. Dipple	J. Washer
89	Barnhart	Barnhart	A. Stit	M. Wunderlis

Blaine Olson of DeSoto, MO has assembled and reprinted the country school records from 1910 - 1944. These records give the school name, an alphabetical list of students, the school they attended, the year of attendance and their age at the time. You can find the lists at all of the county libraries. The funding for this project came from the Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society in their grants to the county libraries.

An advertisement in an 1886 issue of The Democrat states that: The Economy school desk is not only the cheapest desk made, but is also the best and most durable, and country districts can not afford to buy any other. Manufactured and for sale by Gust. Hamel, DeSoto, MO Parties visiting Hillsboro can see a sample desk at this office. (newspaper office)

An editorial in a later issue reported that; Judge Hamel of DeSoto is enlarging his factory and increasing the product. He has been manufacturing this patent school desk and corner cupboards for some time. He is now making a new desk for teacher's use, and reclining or invalid chairs of his own invention. All the articles are first class so far as material, workmanship, and ability are concerned, and are so cheap as to overcome all competitors. He deserves success and will no doubt achieve it.

The Democrat; April 11, 1883

The undersigned committee will receive bids for the building of a school house at Oakland, Jefferson county, Missouri, until June 1, 1883. Said building is to be either brick or frame, 36 feet in length and 26 feet in width, height from sleepers to joist, 12 feet, with stone foundation, commencing 18 inches under ground, and extending one foot above the ground at the lowest place. If brick, the wall must be 13 inches in thickness, finished with first class second rate material, and in a good workman-like manner. If frame, the material used must be of first class, second rate. The building must be completed by September, 1883. Signed John M. Rutledge, Christian Funk, and Jefferson Griffin.

The Democrat; March 26, 1884

The State school money apportioned to this county for this year amounts to \$5463.75. The last enumeration shows 6988 children of school age in the county, so that there is a little over 78 cents per child of the State money.

The following articles were written by Rev. John Thompson McMullin in 1885 and 1886. Mr. McMullin was born in 1812 and came to Jefferson county before the age of two. He served the community as the Deputy Assessor, as a school teacher, and as a minister of the Gospel. His first wife was Eliza M. Jameson with whom he had nine children. He was married four times, his last wife being the daughter of James Gowan of DeSoto. One of his sons was the editor of The Democrat when these articles were written. He died at the age of 77 in 1888.

Mr. Editor,

A short time since I took a bird's eye view of the beautiful public school building in DeSoto, and while standing on the hill near by, I could see, a few miles away, where stood the first school house I ever saw, one of the first in Jefferson county, where I attended school in 1822, at the age of 10 years. The contrast between the one in my memory and the one before my eyes, was so great that I thought it would be interesting to the younger readers of the J. D. to be told how the young idea was "taught to shoot" in those earlier days. The house was built of blackjack logs, not hewn or notched down as log houses are now built, but with the bark on, and was about 16 by 18 feet. After six rounds of logs were built up, a partition wall was run on up in the center, so that one end of the house answered for a chimney. The logs were daubed up with mud to prevent burning, and we could build a fire 14 feet long, or three or four smaller fires, if we preferred. There was no floor, but the native dirt, and the seats were of split logs with wooden pins for legs. The writing desk was a board the length of the house, put against one side wall, where there was an extra big crack in the wall that answered for a window, the window lights being white paper greased with hog's lard. The other cracks in the building being filled with mud. The building was covered with clapboards, held on with ridge poles, and the door was of clapboards.

The teacher in the schoolhouse was named Wm. Potts. He was a Pennsylvania German, about 60 years of age, and used no rod in school. On each side of the door were placed two stones, about 1½ feet high. These were called dunceblocks, those on the right being for the boys and those on the left of the door for the girls. On the boys' side hung a pair of leather specks, while the girls' side was furnished with a pair of pasteboard specks. The first offense against the rules of the school was punishable by a ten minute stand upon the dunceblock, the second by fifteen minutes and the third by twenty. Inside the door hung a paddle, on one side of which was painted "out" and on the other side "in." When one went out he turned the paddle so as to show the word "out" and when he came in he turned it so as to show the word "in." The paddle was supposed to keep a correct record of when a pupil was out, and if one happened to go out and neglected to turn the paddle, woe unto him, for he had to take his

position on the dunceblock for twenty minutes, with the spectacles on.

Our books were Dillsworth's speller, Wilson's primer, Introduction to the English Reader and Pike's arithmetic. One half of the school had only the alphabet on pasteboards. As for grammar, we never even so much as heard of such a book until three years afterwards, when some of us were furnished with Scott's Lessons and the Columbus Orator. After three years, the good people moved the school about one mile down the Joachim creek to another house somewhat like the one already described, never having been provided with a floor.

Our second teacher was named J. Snively. We used the same books as at the previous school and his manner of teaching was similar to that of Mr. Potts, but his rules were somewhat different. His mode of punishment was striking the hand with a ruler. He taught six months at the place and was succeeded by a man fresh from the Emerald Isle, named Gillespie. He gave it to the children right and left, striking wherever he could see a spot exposed; but it was only a short time till he was dismissed. The next teacher was Clifton Mothershead, one of the oldest citizens of the county. He was successful as a teacher, and received the approval and commendation of his patrons. He taught two terms at the schoolhouse last named, after which we moved back up the creek, near our old homestead, into a house similar to the one I first described, built of round blackjack logs, with gable end for chimney and no windows; but with the improvement of a rough puncheon floor. Here one of my oldest and earliest friends, William G. Walker, was employed as teacher. He was then a young man, just from Illinois. He taught several terms and gave full satisfaction. Here the school books were changed, Murray's grammar and Smiley's arithmetic being added to the list. He taught what was called an open school; that is, all the scholars were permitted, in studying their lessons, to read and spell, or calculate, just as loud as they pleased. I am sure that when the time came to study our spelling lesson, we could have been heard half a mile in any ordinary weather. Of all the students attending that school, I only know of two, besides myself, living, namely Mrs. Sarah Booth of Washington county, and old friend, Stewart Wiley of Dry Creek, in this county.

I will for the benefit of the children, give another little sketch of school history, and tell them about the "pointers" we used in our first school. Close to the schoolhouse was a hillside abounding with prairie grass, two to three feet high. The stems of this grass were just the thing for "pointers." The teacher used one about two feet long, while the pupils all had their pointers about one foot in length. When studying or reciting our lessons, we used these pointers to point out the letters or words, and you can imagine how it looked, a class standing before a large card and the teacher behind them, all pointing to and calling out A, B, C, etc. We all got new pointers every day, and when Friday came, a

sackful of them could have been picked up in the house and in the yard.

Our lights to read and study by were made with the lard from scaly bark hickories and pine knots, which by the way made a fine light. We never heard of lamps in those days, but did occasionally have tallowdips.

Former School Teacher Recalls Early Days of Rush Tower Area

The News Democrat June 23, 1949

Ross Shannon, 82 year old DeSoto resident, remembers the three R's and all that went with them, just as clearly as if it were yesterday, and his memories of "good old days" could serve well for a history book of the Rush Tower area.

Mr. Shannon was teacher of the Rush Tower School in 1890 and 1891, and at that time he was considered one of the more fortunate teachers in the area. This was because for two straight years Mr. Shannon had taught a "six month" school in 1889, the Pfinister School, and the following year the Rush Tower School. In those days many of the schools were "four month" schools, which might have been convenient enough as far as vacations were concerned, but not as far as salary was concerned. However, this young teacher earned a comparatively high salary for that time, \$60 a month.

The Rush Tower School was fairly familiar to Mr. Shannon when he began his duties there, for he had attended it himself as a child. Later, however, it was moved to a room over the Rush Tower Methodist Church.

With one eye to the crowded facilities in schools today, Mr. Shannon is not too surprised, for he reports a roster of at least 60 pupils when he taught. In 1890 the roster included the names of: Beatrice Barsotti, Agnes Barsotti, Ella and Dora Ehrichs, Hart and Laura England, Ida, Minnie, and Newman Cole, Quince Shannon, Beth and Sally Griffin, Nellie Conn, Florence Byrd and Ed Patterson, John, Mary and William Noce and Enoch Johnson.

Near the school was a small clear spot where the children played town ball. The clearing was surrounded by thick timber and hazel brush.

All of the pupils walked with the exception of several girls who rode horseback. Mr. Shannon lived at Rush Tower and walked the mile and a half to his school. He and a friend enjoyed crossing the Mississippi River to a special island where they picked wild grapes.

Some of his most vivid memories are of the river packets that used to race each other up and down the river. Three of these were the M. C. Elliott, the New South and the Idlewild, all competing for trade. Fastest was the New South, until one time instead of crossing the main channel the boat took a short cut and hit a sandbar where it remained for 48 hours.

Mr. Shannon was born in St. Francois County near Davis Crossing, and moved to Rush

Tower with his parents when he was three years of age. As a boy he attended the Rush Tower School, which was a log building with a fireplace. He walked two and a half miles daily. "The seats then were slabs of logs which had been split and had legs attached," Mr. Shannon reminisced. His teacher was Jim Wagner one year, and others he remembers were W. F. Carter, Ed Luckey, Miss Nettle Davis, and Miss Lottie White, all good, he reported. Miss Davis, who later became Mrs. Brickey, was everyone's favorite, he said.

"Those winters were pretty tough," Mr. Shannon explained. He recalled one winter when he was about 14 or 15 years of age, walking to school when it was so cold the timber was cracking and popping.

He began teaching the year after he attended school at Columbia, Mo. After his year at the Rush Tower School, he and Judge Homa Weaver left in the spring for Colorado and the mountains, where Mr. Shannon remained four years. From the west he returned to live and work in St. Louis and from then on spent his time between DeSoto and St. Louis. He has been living in DeSoto for about nine years, before which he worked for Wagner Electric Co. in St. Louis for 20 years. He and his wife celebrated their golden anniversary three years ago. They have five children.

Festus memories of Mr. Shannon are still vivid, he said, and he recalls dodging the many mudholes on Main Street. "That was before it was called Festus," he said. It was known as Tanglefoot then. Mr. Shannon recalls when the name was changed to Festus by H. T. Waggener and others, he believes. He also believes the name Festus was taken from the Bible.

When Mr. Shannon returned to his former school at Rush Tower to teach, he explained that some pupils who were in the grades while he was in school were still there.

The former school teacher was just as spry and talkative about his school life as though he had lived it just the other day. Mr. Shannon, who has thinning brown hair and blue eyes and a healthy looking complexion, could not be taken for the 82 years he is.

Through memories and tales of his experiences, and through stories of other old timers of this region, bits of history that perhaps no one could read, are recalled and put down for posterity.



The Jefferson County Iris Society presents an Iris Show in historic Kimmswick on May 21, 1994, with horticulture in the Barbagallo House and arrangements in the Wagner House. These houses are open from noon to 5:00 p.m. and are free.

Also on May 21, the Kimmswick Historical Society sponsors a Spring House Tour from noon to 5:00 p.m. featuring the following artisans: in the Yellow House, knitters (American and European), embroiderers, primitive rug hooking, counted cross stitching, and bobbin lace making; Ruess-Terry House, quilters, crocheters, and antique table settings; Burgess-How House, wood carver, artist chair caner, gunsmith. Sassafras Tea and cookies will be served at The Annex on Market St. in historic Kimmswick.

Tickets are available the same day at the Yellow, Ruess-Terry, or Burgess-How House. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students and children under age six are free. Maps of the town are available with tickets.

Anyone wishing to attend the show or tour the area with other members of the Jefferson County Heritage and Landmark Society may meet at the Annex on Market St. at 2:00 p.m.



Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society

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Hillsboro, MO 63050



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