

The Heritage News

Issue 15

Jefferson Heritage & Landmark

March, 1997

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| Secretary | Lisa K. Thompson |
| Editor | Lisa K. Thompson |

Letter from the Editor

I would like to extend an apology to the members of Jefferson Heritage & Landmark for failing to get the last edition of the newsletter out. I had a good excuse! As many of you know, our family business, Bob Lewis Oldsmobile, burned to the ground in October, 1996. My husband was burned in the fire, and we spent five weeks going to daily whirlpool therapy treatments. My husband has recovered, and we are back in business in temporary quarters, but it sure has been a hectic, unsettled time for us!

Since this is a voluntary position, and I do all of the research, typing, and printing on my own, the job of getting the newsletter together just wasn't high on my priority list. I know most of you look forward to receiving the newsletter, and for some, receiving it may be the only reason you remain a member of our group. I do apologize to those of you who did not know the reason for the delay. I hope you will understand!

As there was not much activity by the society for several months, and since the newsletter was not issued, the board has decided to extend all members privileges for another year. This means that if you paid dues for 1996, no payment will be due until March 1998 and you will continue to receive all membership benefits until that time.

I know there was a problem in getting some of you on our mailing list this past year. Since the treasurer already has a computerized list of those that have paid their dues, the board decided it would be better for that person to print the labels for the newsletter. This prevents the names from

getting misplaced or overlooked when passing them on to another person to record.

This brings us to a discussion on the present focus of the organization. The board of directors met on March 5, 1997 at the Athena elementary school library. In order to spark new interest in preserving the history of Jefferson County, Missouri, the board has decided to change the way the society has been operating, and attempt to become a more active group.

We will be having our annual business meeting on Sunday, April 6, 1997 at Jefferson College. Besides the election of officers, some of the items to be discussed and voted upon are: having monthly working meetings, instead of quarterly meetings with speakers. We would like to form groups to work on specific projects such as Jefferson county cemeteries, schools, log cabins and early structures, oral histories, the civil war, and working with Frank Magre to catalog some of his multitude of knowledge. Other suggestions may be brought up at the meeting.

We know that everyone has different interests, so you might wish to choose to work in only one or two of these groups. We would meet monthly, bringing what research we have accumulated during the month, and work together to form reports to present to the group. We hope this will prevent duplicating each others efforts while working on the same project, will keep us on track in our research, and will allow us to accumulate a written record of the research.

We really need to get busy gathering this history! More of it is slipping out of our hands daily. We hope these ideas will be embraced by our membership, and that we will see many of you participate. Come to the meeting on April 6, bring your ideas, and let's see what we can accomplish in the coming year! Hope to see you there!

Lisa K. Thompson

The following excerpt from a report on old landmarks was read before the Old Settlers' Association at the September, 1900 meeting. This was printed in the Thursday, July 18, 1901 edition of *The Jefferson Democrat*.

Indian Graveyards and Remains

John D. Hearst reports that there is an Indian graveyard near the center of the north west quarter of the northwest quarter section 15 township, 39 range 3 east, covering about five acres - one hundred graves probably being found. The bodies were from one and on half to two feet under ground, laid face downward with stones on each side and over the top. The graveyard is about 150 yards from Big River, on second bottom, but not above high water mark. Pots and pipes were found in the graves. The pots were made of clay and mussel shells pounded up; the largest would hold one half gallon and the smallest one half pint. These were in the shape of gourds - flat on bottom with necks from one to two inches long. One pipe was found which was supposed to be the Pipe of Peace. It was about six inches square and three inches thick with bowl in top two and a half inches deep and eight holes around base for stem. It was made of common stone. Other stone pipes with single hole for stem each were found. A stone pestle, rounded on the lower end and with handle, used for probably grinding paint, was also found between the feet of a human body. The pots and pipes were found at the heads of the graves.

There was another Indian graveyard, larger than the one described above, about two hundred yards from Big river, above high water mark, on land now owned by Arthur Barrows, in section 25, township 39, range 3 east. Pots and pipes were found in this graveyard similar to those found in the other. A steel sword with blade two feet long was found in one of these graves, which the whites used to cut corn after it was found.

Across Big River from Barrow's place and about a quarter of a mile from the river is a mound about fifteen feet across and ten feet high, made entirely of moory rock without mortar and without opening on top or sides.

At the mouth of the Mineral Fork of Big River there is a plat of ground known as the "boat yard" which took its name from the fact that a boat was loaded there with lead in very early times and in its voyage down the river it was capsized and the cargo was lost and a Negro lost his life, and that ended the navigation of Big River, as far as the lead trade was concerned.

The "boat yard" is filled with pieces of pottery, mussel shells and burnt corn cobs, indicating that a pot and pipe factory existed there once. The burnt corn cobs were found several feet beneath the surface. there is a mound in this yard, fifteen feet across and eight feet high, made entirely of dirt and is solid. Chunks of lead ore, round as croquet balls and from three to six inches in diameter, were also found, but they were subsequently smelted into lead. Mr. Hearst had no idea what these were used. for.

About a quarter of a mile north of Mineral Fork was found a likeness of a squaw in the face of a cliff. The likeness was about eight inches long and there were some hieroglyphics over it. Prof. Collet cut this figure out of the rocks about fifteen years ago and it is now in the St. Louis museum.

There is an Indian graveyard in the bottom about two hundred yards from Big River on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 4, township 40, range 3 east, now owned by John S. McKay. Human bones were found in this graveyard and they had been buried so shallow that the bones were uncovered by the plow in ordinary cultivation for corn. Two large earthen pots or jugs which would hold a gallon or more each were also uncovered, but upon being exposed to the air a short time they crumbled to pieces.

Mr. W.S. Jewett that there is a large Indian mound where Stephen Hug built his house near Platin Rock, and another in Hug's garden. In the latter were found a large quantity of Indian pottery, some of which were very large, similar to an old fashioned gas retort. An old colored man in making an excavation in this mound to make a hotbed for Mrs. John S. Deaderick, broke most of the pottery, supposing it to be of no consequence. "In the river bank," says Mr. (Jewett?) "just below the Platin Rock, there was quite a deposit of small pieces of Indian pottery, as if there had been a factory or kiln at this place, charcoal being interspersed among the broken pottery."

In digging a cellar for the Crystal Boarding house, they found several pieces of pottery, but below the Indian pottery, some several feet below the surface, they found human remains; and in a skull found there was a small hole, an din cleaning away the dirt a leaden bullet was discovered in the skull.



Cemetery Findings

On September 19, 1996, I had the pleasure of meeting with a couple from Florida to try and find the burial site of one of his ancestors. Their names were E.W. and Jane Martin and they were researching the name Tucker. I have been helping them by mail in their search, and since they were coming to St. Louis on other business, we decided to take a field trip to one of the cemeteries that had not yet been recorded to see if it might be the burial

place of Mr. Martin's great grandparents, Campbell and Phebe Tucker. We already knew the piece of ground that had been owned by the Tucker's, and since it was located near the McMullin ridge, and I had been told by Mr. Mitchell McCormack that there was a cemetery located there, we decided that was a good place to start. I called Mr. McCormack to see if he could give us any direction on how to get to the cemetery and he told us to come to his house the next morning and he would tell us how to get there.

Mr. McCormack met us at the door the following morning, and said he would ride along and point us in the right direction. He asked the men at the gravel quarry down the road from his house if we could have permission to drive into their property to get closer to our destination. They not only gave us permission, but one man kindly escorted us with one of their big machines, and cleared the road of any high spots that my car wouldn't clear, and unlocked the gates for us.

We had to cross the creek before we could start our uphill journey. I had boots, but the Martins only had old tennis shoes, so finding a spot to cross was our first goal. Then the climb up the hill to the ridge. Let me tell you, this is a big hill. Mr. McCormack had stayed in the car, but the Martins are in their 70's so I was a little worried about the size of this hill! They were not about to be discouraged though, so away we went. Mr. Martin took a couple of tumbles, and Mrs. Martin got attacked by a barbed wire fence, but they both insisted we go on. We finally made it, and walked the entire length of the ridge without finding any site of the cemetery. We did however come to an area that had been cleared and some obvious work was being done to put in roads. We came to a new gravel road and had just about decided to give up, when I saw an area that the road bypassed with yucca plants and vinca growing in it. Since I have found that a lot of the old cemeteries have

these plants in and around them, I decided to check a little closer. Sure enough, there it was. And there was a road going right to it! We could have driven straight to it and saved ourselves a lot of trouble! But, since we had found what we came for, we proceeded to record the gravestones. The following is a list of what we found.

D.W. Tucker
Co. A. 31st Mo. Infantry
(obituary information in *The Democrat*
stated that D.W. Tucker died Tuesday
July 9, 1901 at the age of 62 of
consumption).

John Thompson McMullin
Born February 14, 1812
Died July 29, 1888

Eliza J., wife of J. J. McMullin
aged 29 years 11 months 15 days

Eliza M., wife of J. J. McMullin
Died March 11, 1861
Aged 40 years, 5 months, 13 days

Louisa, wife of J. T. McMullin
Died March 30, 1864
Aged 48 years 7 months 7 days

S. Porter

P. Porter

J. E. Porter

Nellie Porter

There were also 10 - 15 other headstones with no markings on them. Surveyed September 19, 1996 by Lisa K. Thompson, Ed W. Martin and Jane Martin.



So, we did not find the headstone for Campbell and Phebe Tucker, but we did find D.(David) W. Tucker, who was their son and a brother to Mr. Martin's grandfather. In the 1850 census, Campbell and Phebe Tucker are listed next to John T. & Eliza McMullin. Notice that Eliza is buried in this same cemetery. So it is possible that the Tuckers are buried here, but their headstones are either unmarked, or have disappeared with time.

Mr. Martin asked me to do some more research for him, mentioning that he was having trouble locating some information on his grandmother, Anna Eliza Hunt. She was previously married to a Shannon Toy, but he hasn't been able to locate her maiden name. I have some Hunts in my family tree also, so I told him I could look for his while I am searching for mine.

When the Martins returned to Florida, they sent me some information on Anna Eliza Hunt and her husband Lewis Thornton Hunt, so I would have something to work with. After reviewing his information, I found out that Lewis Thornton Hunt's father was Presley T. Hunt. Presley T. Hunt is my Great Great Great Grandfather, so Mr. Martin and I are officially second cousins, twice removed! Now I know why I enjoyed meeting and visiting with them so much!

Lisa K. Thompson

Old Naming Patterns

- * First son named after the father's father.
- * Second son named after the mother's father.
- * Third son named after the father.
- * Fourth son named after the father's oldest brother.
- * First daughter named after the mother's mother.
- * Second daughter named after the father's mother.
- * Third daughter named after the mother.
- * Fourth daughter named after the mother's oldest sister.

Our Nation's History on the Web

from September 29, 1996 issue of Parade Magazine by Larry Smith

On Valentine's Day 1884 a 25 year old Theodore Roosevelt got out his leather bound pocket diary, drew a big dark X, and wrote "The light has gone out of my life." His wife, Alice, who had given birth two days earlier, had just died in his arms. His mother had died in the same house, on the same day, a few hours previously. They were buried together on February 16th in Greenwood.

The diary, covering the years 1878-1884, is part of the collection of 23 Presidents housed in the Library of Congress. Five million items from the library including the Presidential letters and diaries are being transferred to a website on the Internet. More than half a million have already been "digitized" and placed online at <http://www.loc.gov>. Already accessible are materials documenting 100 years of black history in America, including fliers seeking the return of runaway slaves, and 351 pamphlets by writers such as Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington; Civil War photographs taken by Mathew Brady; 99 early motion pictures; 167 items documenting women's suffrage; and photographs by Carl Van Vechten of celebrities prominent in the 1920's and '30's, as well as photos from the Depression and World War II.

In the next few years, anybody will be able to call up the library's Presidential papers, 500,000 papers from the anthropologist Margaret Mead, or parts of *The Woman's Bible*, a feminist reinterpretation by the suffragist leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton and an international committee of women editors—one of the most controversial books of the 19th century.

While the library is digitizing some books, it is focusing on its "special collections"—materials that are hard to use in libraries, like maps and photos. The library has two of the five existing versions of the

Gettysburg Address. One of them, on White House stationery, bears editing changes where Lincoln wrote over the ink in pencil. Access to original documents means the browser can look at what Thomas Jefferson or George Washington actually wrote, in their own hands, and determine for himself what they meant. Isn't that exciting?



Also on the Web

Jefferson County has it's own web page! It is located at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mojeffer/jcm.htm> and is run by Don E. Wright. There is a surname registry for those hoping to hook up with other researchers on their family line, information on genealogical research in Jefferson County Missouri, and lots of links to check out. Great research site!

The genealogy program *Family Tree Maker* has a site at:

<http://www.familytreemaker.com/>

A great site for all kinds of Native American links is located at:

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/nativeweb/history/histindex.html>

You can access maps, information on treaties, routes, reservations, lots of information can be found at this site!



Found a great site you want to share? Let me know and I'll post it in an upcoming newsletter.

Annual Meeting

April 6, 1997

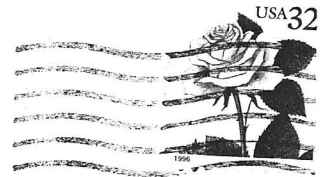
2:00 p.m.

*Jefferson College
Viking Room Annex*



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