

THE HERITAGE NEWS

Issue 18

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February, 1999

President	Becky Gagnon
Vice President	Lisa K. Thompson
Sec/Treasurer	Betty Olson
Editor	Lisa K. Thompson

The Jefferson County Historical Society meets at the DeSoto library on the third Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. These are usually combination working/business meetings and everyone is always welcome to join us. We are currently working on several projects. Come and help us!

Don't forget your Membership dues! They are due March 1 for the year 1999!

You must renew to continue receiving the newsletter. We are cleaning out the mailing list!

Jefferson County Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of Jefferson County Missouri history. We welcome those who may be interested to become members. Annual dues are \$10.00 and may be sent to:

Jefferson County Historical Society
Betty Olson, Secretary/Treasurer
712 South Main
DeSoto, MO 63020

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Areas of interest _____

The Democrat

February 23, 1883

We received a call last Saturday from Mr. J. Ludwig of Hanover, (Crystal Station) this county, who renewed his subscription to the "old standby" and showed us a number of soap specimens, which he is manufacturing from rock and chemicals. We tried it and found it to be the greatest dirt-eraser we ever came across. He now manufactures about four thousand pounds daily and intends to increase the capacity to forty thousand. This soap is shipped by car-loads to Eastern states, where it is used in cleaning woolen goods. Mr. L. owns the Rockfort hill, which is a solid mass of this soap stone. There are four different colors of it, each containing similar mineral substances. This will no doubt become ere long, one of the leading industries of this county. The owner has procured a patent for his soap.

The Democrat

February, 1875

We mentioned the fact about a month ago, that Henry Stelbrink had conditionally sold his land adjoining the old Mammoth diggings, to George S. Lee of Worcester, Mass. Stelbrink was so confident that the land contained lead, that he gave Lee ninety days in which to prospect before deciding to take the land at the price agreed on. Lee immediately went to work with a drill, and after about three weeks work, at the depth of 131 feet, he struck a vein of dead ore, which is estimated by the workmen to be four or five feet thick, solid ore. The prospect is on a direct line with the old Mammoth lode, and doubtless a continuation of it, 522 feet east from what is known as the main shaft, or most eastern shaft of the old Mammoth. Mr. Lee, who is a very energetic man, was hard at work with a force of hardy miners, sinking a shaft nine feet in diameter, and at the progress they were making will soon be down to the lead. They use giant powder for blasting, firing six or more shots at a time by aid of a galvanic battery, and hoisting up the debris with steam power. Mr. Lee is off this week for Worcester, intending to form a company of his eastern friends, and proceed without delay to mining and smelting on a scale in proportion to his mammoth supply of ore.

Matilda Wideman

by: Eloise Mayle & Lisa K. Thompson



Tintype of Matilda Wideman

Matilda Wideman was born in 1818 in Abbeville District, South Carolina. Her great grandfather was Johannes Heinrick Weidemann (Henry Wideman), who was the father of several of the earliest settlers of Jefferson County, Missouri.

In 1798, Francis Wideman, a son of Henry, operated a ferry across the Mississippi at the mouth of the Joachim near the city of Herculaneum. He then moved to the area of Morse Mill on Big River where he built a mill in about 1802.

John, Mark, Clarissa Wideman, who married John Wilson, Jacob Wideman Sr., Elizabeth Wideman and her husband Elijah Benton, and Sarah Wideman Pruitt/Prewitt, were all children of Henry Wideman who came to settle Jefferson County, Missouri in the early 1800's.

Another son of Henry Wideman, Leonard, remained in South Carolina, married, and had a son, also named Francis. Young Francis was thirteen when his Uncle Francis came to Jefferson County. Young Francis married at the age of twenty two in 1811, and his father Leonard died the following year. After the birth of his fourth child, Matilda, in 1818, he decided to join his relatives in Missouri.

Matilda was carried in her mother's arms as she rode horseback or in a wagon on the journey. Matilda's mother, Nancy gave birth to another child, Henry Wideman, in 1824. Matilda was taught to spin, weave, knit and sew at an early age. She married Justus Gamble on February 27, 1834, when she was sixteen. They owned land in Big River

Township, about one and one half miles south of the present town of Ware.

Matilda's first child was George Francis, born in 1836. The next six children were all girls, Nancy Elizabeth, born April 30, 1838, Lucy Roxanna, 1840, Martha Ann Jerusa, 1842, Mary Lucinda, March 20, 1844, Sarah Louislake, July 4, 1847, and Joyce Emily, 1849.

Justus Gamble died June 28, 1849 when Matilda was thirty one years old. He died at Fletcher, Missouri but nothing is known about the cause of his death. At the sale of his property recorded in his probate file were items such as:

Writing desk	\$10.00
Ink stand	\$.25
book-Guide to Health	\$.75
book-Travellers Guide	\$.50
book-The Way to Get Children	\$.10
Lot shoemakers tools	\$ 2.35
Seven plate stove	\$11.00
1 clock	\$ 3.00
5 hogs (1st choice)	\$10.00
5 hogs (2nd choice)	\$ 7.50
1 white steer (with red head)	\$ 8.65
1 ladies saddle	\$ 3.00
1 Gray mare & colt	\$20.00
1 pair saddle bags	\$ 3.00
1 horse wagon	\$50.00
1 white back cow	\$10.50
1 Gray horse	\$65.00
1 brush scythe	\$ 1.20
1 drawing knife	\$.90
1 plow	\$ 2.50
1 harrow	\$ 1.00

In 1854 at the age of fourteen or fifteen, Matilda's daughter, Lucy Roxanna, married Reubon Cory. For whatever reason, this marriage did not last and in 1858 she married John Hulsey.

Matilda's daughter Nancy Gamble married Ephriam Francis Wilson, son of Jacob Wilson and Winnie Couch and had nine children. In her later years, Nancy was partly paralyzed and was in bed for many years, but during that time her daughters took care of her. She died in 1911 and is buried alongside her husband in Bethlehem Baptist cemetery.

Although his marriage date is not known, George Francis Gamble is listed as head of household in the 1860 census, with a wife Eliza, and two children.

Although Matilda's two oldest daughters, and her son had already married, she still had four young daughters at home. Israel Lee, a neighbor, had four sons and two daughters also living at home, his wife having died. Israel and Matilda lived about six or seven miles apart in Jefferson County, and would have been aquatinted because Matilda's brother, James L. Wideman, lived on a farm adjoining Israel Lee's farm. Israel courted Matilda riding a big black stallion. and they married on March 15, 1855.

Israel was a blacksmith and wagon maker as well as a farmer and was a prosperous man. In 1850 his real estate was valued at one thousand dollars. His son, James, was seventeen at the time of Israel's marriage to Matilda.

Matilda and her daughter, Nancy Gamble Wilson, sold their respective shares of the land formerly owned by Justus Gamble to Thomas Manion on October 13th, 1855. The Circuit Court ordered the Sheriff to publicly sell the shares of George and the other Gamble heirs on December 4, 1855, but this order was not carried out until May 27, 1857.

Matilda had purchased an additional forty acres of land in 1850 after her first husband's death. She and Israel sold this property to Matilda's daughter Nancy and her husband Ephriam F. Wilson. Nancy and Ephriam lived on this land, along with their additional ninety acres adjoining it, for the rest of their lives.

Israel and Matilda had three children together. Cordelia was born in 1856, Benjamin in 1857, and Irene on September 22, 1858. Israel Lee died three weeks after the birth of Irene. His death was very sudden; he was about fifty three years old.

On December 2, 1858, a public sale was held to sell his personal property. The widow, Matilda, bought a walnut press for \$7.50 and the hay in the loft for \$10.00. She also took personal goods in the inventory not accounted for in the sale.

In 1859, Matilda purchased forty acres of land from Jacob G. Wilson. She is listed as a farmer in the 1860 census, with property worth \$380.00 and a personal worth of \$150.00. Her nearest

neighbors were Jacob Wilson, E. F. and Nancy Wilson, William McKay, and William T. Williams and his wife Matilda, who was one of Israel Lee's daughters by his first wife. Matilda sold her Dower Right to Israel Lee's four hundred, fifty two acre farm in 1862 to James Lee, Israel's son.

When the civil war started, James Lee and Matilda's son George Francis Gamble, enlisted in the Confederate Army. James survived and returned home in 1865 to his father's farm. George Gamble was killed but nothing is known about where or when he died.



Ambrotype of George Francis Gamble

Matilda's daughter Irene, told her children about an incident that happened during the war. There were Union soldiers in Jefferson County patrolling the roads and occasionally they stopped and questioned people who were known to be southern sympathizers. Matilda had heard that there were Yankees nearby, so she went to warn the neighbors (maybe her daughter Nancy?) so they could hide their food. As she walked along, she met two soldiers on horseback who asked where she was going. She replied that she was going to borrow some corn meal. They asked what she was going to carry it in, and she said, "in my apron". Then one remarked, "Well, it's a damned hole-y apron" and went on about their business and left her alone.

Matilda's daughter Martha Ann Jerusa Gamble, who was called Marshann, married Leonard Williams in 1867. The 1910 census shows her living in Big River township with her thirty one year old son, Arthur. She died in the late 1920's.

Sarah Louislake Gamble married Alfred Mayfield in 1867. They had three sons and one daughter. The family moved to southern Missouri and there, in 1881, Sarah gave birth to a daughter, Kitha, and died. Sarah's sisters, Irene, and Mary Lucinda and Irene's husband, Edward Ingalls, traveled in a horse and wagon to the Mayfield's home to bring the newborn baby back to Jefferson County. Irene had a baby of her own at the time so she nursed both babies, and later, when Kitha was weaned, Mary Lucinda, who had no children, took Kitha to raise as her daughter.

Mary Lucinda Gamble married William C. Alvord in 1868. In 1900 they were living in Franklin County with their adopted daughter, Kitha. William and Mary were both living at the time of the 1920 census, but Mary died on November 5, 1923 at the age of 78. She was a widow when she died and is buried in the Grubville Baptist cemetery.



Mary Lucinda Gamble

Matilda's daughter, Joyce Emily A. Gamble, was said to have married a man named Lynn Blackhawk who was part Indian. They lived in the western part of Jefferson County near Grubville in a log house of the type sometimes called a "dogtrot" that was really two log cabins with a space between, covered by a roof over the whole thing.

Matilda died November 5, 1876 at the home of her daughter, Mary Lucinda Alvord, in Franklin County. Her death notice says she died of bilious fever after six weeks of suffering. She was in her 58th year and had been a member of the

Baptist Church for nearly 40 years. She is buried at Bethlehem Church in Jefferson County, Missouri.

After Matilda's death, her daughters Cordelia and Irene Lee lived with Mary and William Alvord until Cordelia died in her twenties, and Irene married Edward L. Ingalls in 1878. The marriage record said her name was Missouri I. Lee, but she always went by the name Irene. Irene died September 3, 1931.



Missouri Irene Lee

Top Ten Ways To Know You're Addicted to Genealogy

10. You introduce your daughter as your descendant.
9. You've never met any of the people you send E-mail to, even though you're related.
8. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but you can't remember your nephew's name.
7. You have more photographs of dead people than living people.
6. Every time you pass a cemetery, your family wants to know if you want to stop and see if you know anyone.
5. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but you also understood it.
4. The local genealogical society borrows books from you.
3. The only film you have seen in the last year is the 1880 census index.
2. More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
1. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more places than Elvis.

The following books are now
available for purchase!

Please call Betty Olson at the DeSoto Library,
586-3858 for more information on how to
obtain them for your personal library.

***Country Schools of Jefferson County,
Missouri 1806-1952***

by: Della Lang Price

\$29.95 Hardbound

***Post Offices of Jefferson County,
Missouri***

by: Della Lang

\$7.00 Soft Cover

***Halleman's Interpretation of the 1876
Historic Atlas of Jefferson County***

by: Dave Halleman

\$15.00 Spiral Bound

***Halleman's Interpretation of the 1898
Standard Atlas of Jefferson County***

by: Dave Halleman

\$15.00 Spiral Bound

***Vineland, Missouri A Pictorial History
1827-1995***

by: Normal Hoelzel

\$20.00 Spiral Bound

***Blackwell, Missouri and Beyond
1800-1997***

by: Norma Hoelzel

\$25.00 Spiral Bound

Valles Mines and Vicinity 1700s-1998

by: Norma Hoelzel

\$25.00 Hardbound

Jefferson County Historic Map

by: Frank Magre and Jean O'Brien

\$1.00

Coming in 1999!

1876 Historical Atlas Reprint

1907 Directory of Jefferson County

Stafford Cemetery

by: Dave Halleman

This cemetery is located on the south side
and adjoining Turley Road in extreme south west
Jefferson County. The name Stafford cemetery was
obtained from the Tiff Quadrangle of the United
States Land Survey map.

This cemetery was cataloged by Dave
Halleman and Gwen Wigger on Sunday, May 24,
1998. There were obviously more unmarked graves
in this cemetery than are show below. It is a rather
large cemetery, comprising about 1/2 to 1 acre in
size. Text in italics was obtained from a source
other than the original stone.

Two handmade stones, in the shape of a box with
concrete lids.

Heidbrink, Louis Oscar PVT. U.S. Army, WWII

Oct. 12, 1898 - June 3, 1976

(aged 77 years 7 months, 22 days)

*From Dietrich Funeral Home Records: Parents
Herman Henry & Amelia (Newald) Heidbrink*

Heidbrink, Lucy M. nee Maness

Nov. 4, 1913 - June 5, 1988

Beloved Sister and Aunt

(Aged 74 years, 7 months, 1 day)

*From Dietrich Funeral Home Records: Parents
Horace Arch & Amanda Elizabeth.*

O'Harver, Wm. H. Belonged to Co. D., 10th
Regiment Mo., Cavalry Volunteers

Born Mar. 12, 1840

Died Feb. 23, 1888

(Aged 47 years, 11 months, 11 days)

O'Harver, Wm. J. A Brother in Fraternal Home
Lodge No. 202, Frumet, MO.,

Born Sep. 6, 1879

Died Oct. 7, 1903

aged 24 years, 1 month, 1 day

O'Harver, Rebecca A.

Oct. 26, 1842

April 15, 1915

(aged 72 years, 5 months, 20 days)

Hearst, Authur B. Son of F.M. & E.B. Hearst
Born May 23, 1872
Died Jan. 7, 1876

????
Broken stone with no name. I believe it is probably
Wm. Hearst's wife. Died Apr. 21, 1863, aged 58
years, 7 months, 7 days (born September 14, 1804).

Hearst, Wm. M. Died Feb. 17, 1863
aged 63 years, 9 mos. 22 ds.
(born April 25, 1799)

Long, James A.
Died Mar. 29, 1857
Aged (stone broken at this point)

Long, James B. Son of J.A. & A.F.? Long
Born Nov. 14, 1856
Died Mar. 7, 1861
(aged 4 years 3 months 24 days)

Long, Mary E. Dau of J.A. & ?? Long
Born Feb. 5, 1849
Died Sep. 10, 1852
(aged 3 years 7 months 5 days)

Long, Susan E. Dau. of J.A. & ?? Long
Born Mar. 15, 1852
Died ?, 7, 1852
(aged 2 years or less)

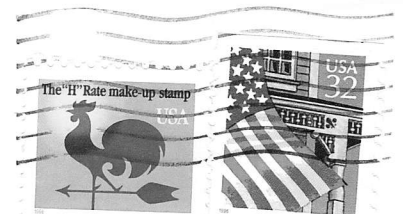
Maness, Amanda E. 1876-1961

Maness William J. Missouri, CPL U.S. Air Force,
Korea
Nov. 13, 1931 - Sept. 21, 1973
(aged 41 years 10 months 8 days)

*From Dietrich Funeral Home Records: Parents
Joseph L. & Rose Lee (Taylor) Maness*

Maness, Mary C. Sep. 14, 1909 - Oct. 29, 1913
Aged 4 years, 1 month, 15 days

Jefferson County Historical Society
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9915 FRAZIER
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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

712 South Main - De Soto, MO 63020

TITLE	HOW MANY	PRICE EA.	TOTAL
Country Schools		(29.95)	
Postoffices		(7.00)	
Index 1876 Atlas		(15.00)	
Vineland Missouri		(20.00)	
Blackwell Missouri		(25.00)	
Valles Mines Missouri		(25.00)	
Index 1898 Atlas		(15.00)	
Jefferson County Historic Map		(1.00)	
Membership & Quarterly Newsletter		(10.00)	
Sub-total			
Shipping and handling (\$3.00 first book-\$1.00 each additional book)			
TOTAL			

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Notes: _____
