



# Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Corporation

SPRING ISSUE

MARCH

1988

## A BOYHOOD ON CRYSTAL HEIGHTS, CHICKEN HILL AND BUTTERFLY AREA

Frank Magre

(Many of us know Mr. Magre as our Master Historian and resident archeologist.)

I was born on Crystal Heights in 1906, the eldest of eight children of Peter Constance Magre of Crystal City and Hugtown. My father's family were of French descent. My mother was Mary, daughter of Frank and Odelia Dehner, who were of German descent.

My earliest recollections were those spent with my Grandfather Dehner who was from Germany and spoke only German. His house was the fifth house above ours on the Crystal Heights Road. He was a kindly and patient man, and in my mind he would never have accomplished his many farming chores without my help. Only one hitch developed in this arrangement - I was speaking German much to the displeasure of my father, a Frenchman.

My father was born in Crystal City at the site where the Centerre Bank now stands. (The house was later moved to near Hematite on Highway P on the old Buren Farm. It is now owned by Charles Williams.) At an early age my father's family built and then moved to a house on Mississippi Avenue and 8th Street where Mrs. Philips and Gene now live. After he married he bought and moved to an eleven acre parcel of ground on Crystal Heights, where all eight of his children were born. Dad worked all his working years at the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in Crystal City. He had a large garden complete with hot beds and cold frames, and also an extensive grape vineyard and orchard.

We had a horse, cow, pigs, chickens, bees and a pigeon cote. Dad bought our horse, a thoroughbred, from Dr. Jim Donnell when the race track was closed in Crystal City. (The race track was north from Second St. and around Mississippi.) The horse's name was Dick and he loved to chase cars. Generally with two of us on his back he could outrun any horse around. On one occasion on Mississippi Avenue with my brother Joe and Edward Bennett on his back, there was a near tragedy. The boys were racing the Long Mercantile truck driven by "Blacky" Crain. When the horse pulled up along the side Blacky deliberately swerved into the horse. All of them ended up in Ruel Wescoat's yard (his house was around 3rd and Mississippi,) with the truck on top of the boys and horse. A group of men lifted the truck off the trio and to the amazement of everyone, neither the horse nor the boys were seriously injured.

Dick was used for plowing, and the almost daily trip to the Crystal City Library. (Both the library and the movie were located in the old City Building at that time.) We had a spring buggy and used it for shopping and weekly trips to the picture show. I also remember day long trips to Hillsboro to pay our county taxes. On Sundays we hitched Dick to the surrey, and all the family rode to church in it.

My brothers and I taught Dick to jump fences and this led to his death. In jumping a fence he caught the top wire between his hoof and a loose shoe. The fall broke his neck and Dad had to have him shot. Needless to say, this was a sad day in our lives.

As far back as I can remember, I recall spending much time in Stephen Hug's pasture playing ball and other games. This was where George Oakes, the former Superintendent of the Glass Plant built his home. When we played there, a cemetery was on the south part of the field. We would use one of the tombstones for Home Plate. This cemetery was later bulldozed over the side of the bluffs.

Crystal Heights people who owned cows could pasture them there. Hug, then French Smith and still later, Ed Hoeb pastured their dairy cattle there. The price was \$1.00 a month. We could always tell whose cows were passing our house by the sound of their bells. The cattle passed from one part of the pasture to the other by going under the bridge on the River Road (Hug's.) The Crystal City High School, the Glasgows, Donnells, Madisons, Bais and others now have homes built on this former pasture.

During World War I the Crystal Heights kids dug a large dugout in the pasture with a secret tunnel to it. We first dug a large pit, covered it with poles and bit of tin, then we covered it with dirt and even sodded it. The one thing we had not figured on was that this roof would not support a cow. It took about six men, scaffolding, block and tackle, and a lot of unpleasant cuss words that only Ed Hoeb would have delivered, to extradite one of his prize Holstein cows from our beloved dugout.

In the winter we did a lot of sleigh riding down Crystal Heights Road and skated on Dodd's Pond, which was at the top of Crystal Heights Road near Holdinghausen Drive. We also skated on River Road branch and Joachim Creek. We had many spirited hockey games at these places.

In the summer we swam almost every day in the river, mostly at Platin Rock, where the Fred Weber Quarry now is. We often made trips to the sandbar on the Illinois side of the River. We had one small boat and all the kids who could not swim were made to ride inside the boat. Those who could swim hung onto the outside. These were mostly Pruneau, Short, Gurlin, Bennett, Wideman and Harmon kids. If a wind came up while we were playing on the sandbar we would experience some anxious moments on our way back to the Missouri side.

(To be continued in the next issue. Frank will tell us about prohibition days and the liquor trade.)

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE 1988-89 YEAR ARE DUE IN MARCH. SEND YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10.00 TO BETTY OLSON 126 SOUTH MAIN STREET, DE SOTO, MISSOURI 63020. Articles or items for this newsletter are also welcome subject to available space and historical accuracy. Send these to the above address also.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORY ROOM

THE HISTORY ROOM AT JEFFERSON COLLEGE IS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF THE COLLEGE LIBRARY. MRS. ANNIE RAE GRAY, LIBRARIAN, AND HER STAFF ARE ON HAND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ANYONE DESIRING TO SEE AND USE THE COLLECTION HOUSED THERE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ITEMS OF INTEREST, INCLUDING ARTIFACTS, BOOKS ON PERMANENT LOAN FROM THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AS WELL AS OTHER BOOKS AND PAPERS PERTAINING TO COUNTY HISTORY.

CALL THE COLLEGE AT 789-3951 AND ASK FOR THE LIBRARY TO OBTAIN THE LIST OF HOURS WHEN THE HISTORY CENTER IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



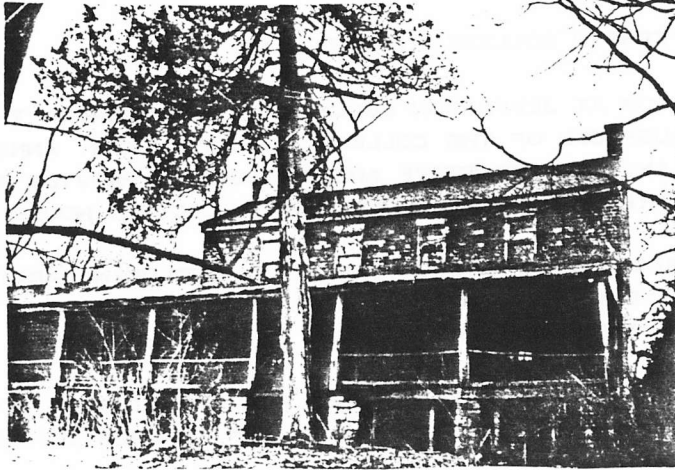
THE DE SOTO PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTINUES TO ADD TO ITS COLLECTION OF GENEALOGICAL ITEMS FOR PUBLIC USE. RECENTLY THE CENSUS RECORDS FOR 1860, 1870, AND 1880 WERE PURCHASED. THESE ARE ALL ON MICROFILM, ALONG WITH DE SOTO NEWSPAPERS DATING FROM THE LATE 1800'S. THE LIBRARY HAS ALSO PURCHASED THE MAP GUIDE TO THE U.S. FEDERAL CENSUSES 1790-1920, SHOWING THE CHANGE IN COUNTY LINES IN EACH STATE DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME.



THE HIGH RIDGE COMMUNITY LIBRARY PUBLISHES REFLECTIONS, A MAGAZINE WITH ARTICLES ABOUT THE TOWNS AND PEOPLE IN THAT AREA. IF YOU WANT TO PURCHASE IT WRITE TO DELLA LANG, COMMUNITY LIBRARY OF NORTH JEFFERSON COUNTY, P. O. BOX 1486, HIGH RIDGE, MO. 63049. COST OF EACH ISSUE IS \$4.00 WHICH INCLUDES POSTAGE AND HANDLING.



THE KIMMSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE CRYSTAL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOME MEMBERS TO THEIR GROUPS ALSO. CONTACT GLEE HEILIGTAG 924 RIVER STREET, IMPERIAL, MISSOURI 63052 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KIMMSWICK, AND THE CRYSTAL CITY LIBRARY 736 MISSISSIPPI AVENUE TO FIND OUT WHEN THEIR SOCIETY MEETS.



OLD HOUSE OF MEMORIES

by

Judy Dixon

It had been in the McCormack family, my family, for over a hundred and fifty years, that old, red brick plantation house. It was impressive both in size and history. Built in 1836, it was the first brick house in Jefferson county and had seven rooms and five fireplaces. The bricks were oversize and handmade. For many years it was an overnight stopping point for Selma Road passengers.

But for me the house has other meanings. My great, great grandfather, James, built it. My grandfather, Lawrence, was born in the front upstairs bedroom. My grandmother, Mattie, came there with him as a bride to stay until their own house could be built. My father, Harold, as a small boy snuggled into bed in that same upper room, shaking with delicious fright, as his grandfather, Hardy, told him stories about the owls they could hear hooting in the tall, old trees that surrounded the house.

Over a century of gravestones, engraved with familiar names; McMullen, Donnell, Boyce, McCain and always, McCormack, stand in the small cemetery behind the house....this house that has always been my roots.

I was never in the house when it was occupied. I have only seen it as a deserted, derelict shell but still I loved to drive by it, high on it's hill shaded thickly by trees and vines in the summer and stark and lonely in the winter. It always gave me a feeling of home, of continuity.

The house is gone now. A few years ago a group of trespassing, vandalizing young people burned it to the ground. The old handmade bricks are there in piles. The tall chimneys still stand guard at either end but the house itself is gone.

I rarely drive out that winding country road anymore, or cross the bridge over Platin creek that leads to where the road forks around that tree shrouded hill. That way, in my mind, it still stands that old house of my past, the way it was. Forever sheltering the memories of those who laughed and loved, were born and died there. All those who preceeded me and helped shape and make me who and what I am.

Mrs. Dixon is the EDITORIAL Cartoonist for the THE DAILY NEWS DEMOCRAT She is a descendant of James McCormack, the oldest son of Peter McCormack who was the first of his family in Jefferson County.

JOSHUA HERRINGTON

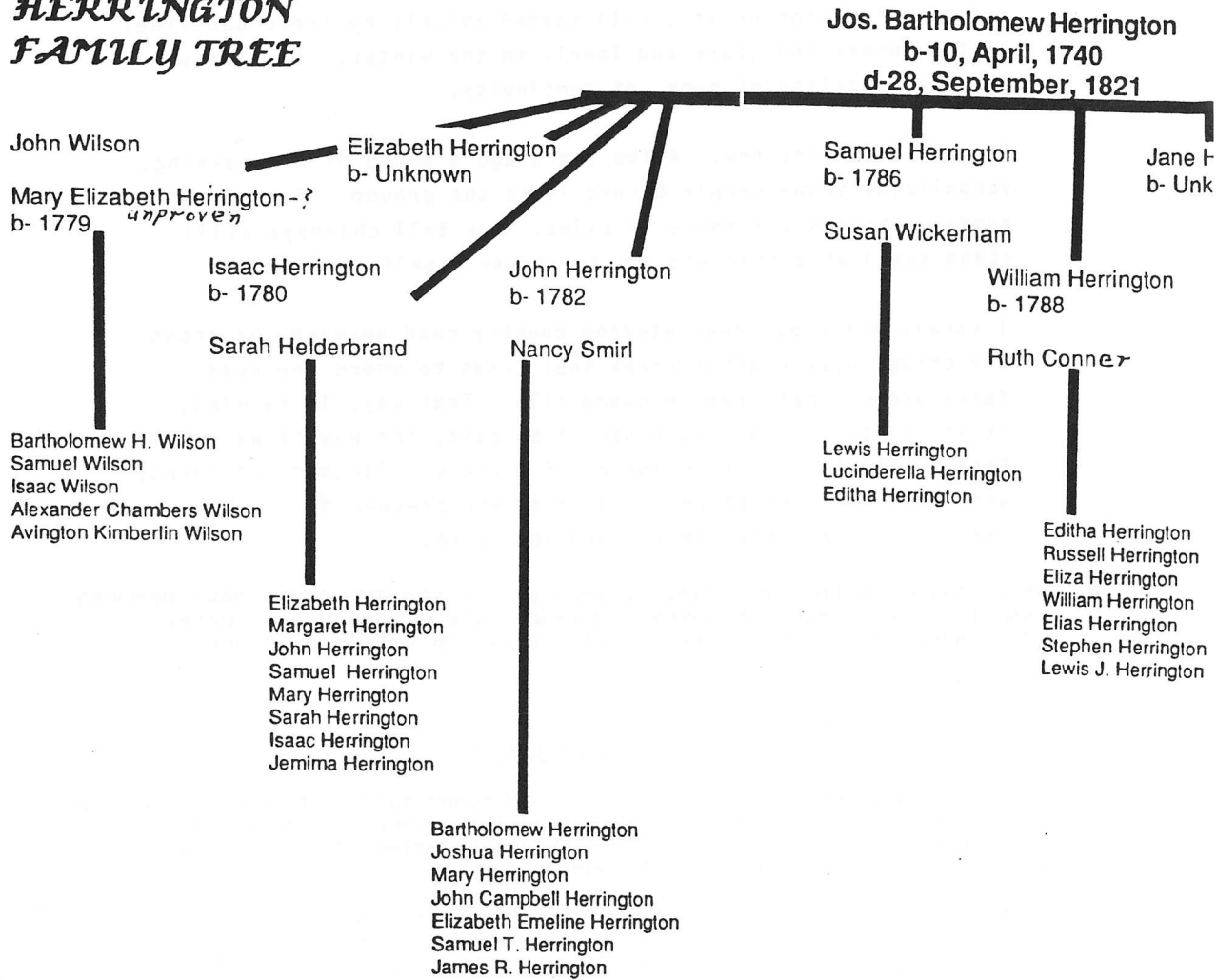
Norma J. Fuchs

Joshua Herrington was born May 27, 1800 in the Missouri Bottoms in Illinois near what is now Harrisonville. Harrisonville is just west of Waterloo, Illinois, on the Mississippi River. It was late fall when his family arrived there, so the women and children were housed there for the winter of 1799.

He was the youngest child of Joseph Bartholomew Herrington and had seven brothers and sisters. When Joshua was just a few weeks old Bartholomew brought his family across the river to their new home in Missouri. His mother is believed to be Phoebe Ann Schmidtgen, but I have been unable to prove that. His family homesteaded in the winter of 1799 on a Spanish Grant. The homestead is now known as the Herrington Survey 420 and was patented in 1851. The town of Pevely, Mo. was platted on Survey 420. The family house stood where the Foster-Forbes Glass Plant stands today.

When Joshua was 19 years old, on September 9, 1819, he married Sarah Drennan, the daughter of William Drennan and Ann Helderbrand. To this union was born 14 children, 8 daughters and 6 sons. They all grew to maturity, married, and had families of their own. Mr. Herrington was a cattle raiser, farmer and at one time ran an overnight stage coach stop at his home on the St. Louis to Ste. Genevieve Stage Line. He had corrals where cattle drovers could put their herds up at night on their way to market. He died September 14, 1884 of a heart attack and was buried in the Herrington Family Cemetery at Pevely. The cemetery is still in existence on Commercial Blvd., just north of Highway Z.

# HERRINGTON FAMILY TREE



FROM: Herrington Cemetery  
Association  
Cookbook  
Used by permission

-B-

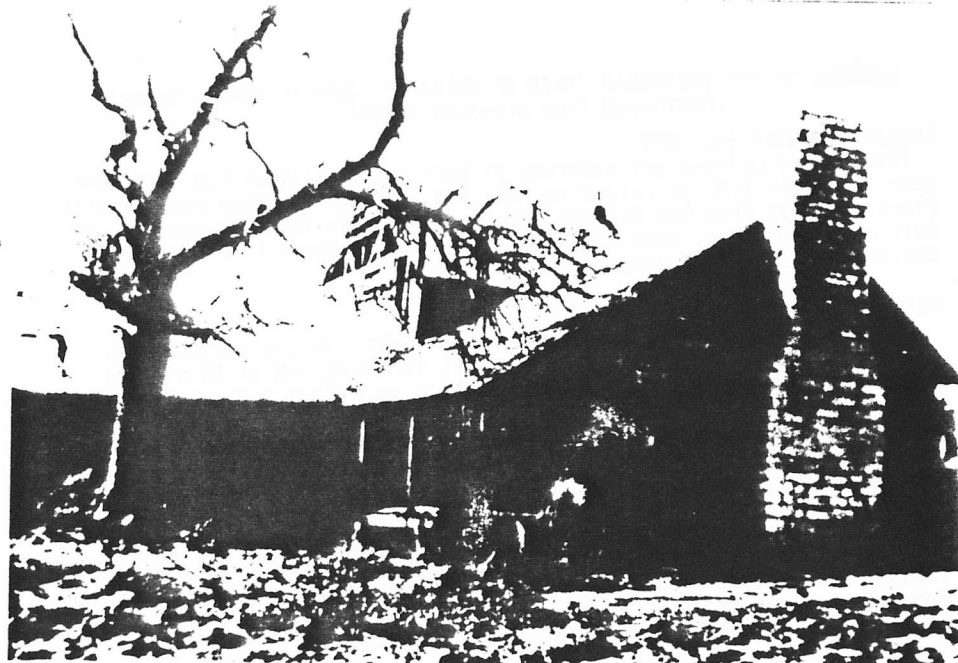
-C-

Herrington  
town

Joshua Herrington  
b- 1800

Sarah Drennan

Elizabeth Herrington  
Bartholomew Herrington  
William Chambers Herrington  
Mary Herrington  
Phoebe E. Herrington  
Margaret Herrington  
Sarah H. Herrington  
Joshua E. Herrington  
Jonathan Herrington  
John A. Herrington  
Virginia R. Herrington  
Samuel T. Herrington  
Nancy Eliza Herrington  
Catherine Herrington



Herrington House, Pevely, Missouri. Built by Bartholomew Herrington in 1799, now the site of the Foster Forbes Glass Plant.

Below:  
Joshua Herrington



LOGBOOK OF THE STEAMBOAT "MAID OF ORLEANS" John W. Honey, Captain  
(Continued from previous issue)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1819

The Maid of Orleans got underway at half past 3 o'clock A.M. At half past 3 o'clock P.M. at Island no. 101 and 102, passed steam boat General Clark, 10 days from New Orleans, bound up, Captain Tours, Commander. AT half past 8 o'clock, came to anchor about 1 mile above Island No. 105. Distance this day 128 miles.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1819.

The Mai of Orleans got underway at midnight. At one o'clock A.M. came to, and took in 6 and three quarters firewood, and at 15 minutes past 4 o'clock got underway again. At half past three o'clock, arrived at Natchez, and engaged two hands, to wit, John Lawrence at one dollar per day, and Samuel Lightle at \$25 per month. Found the steam boat Henderson here, also the Etna. The Henderson got underway just as we landed. Having no mate, I thought it not prudent for me to leave the vessell, for fear of the desertion of some of my hands who had requested to be discharged. I sent my Pilot ashore to inquire for freight. He informed me that he had made the inquiry and was told there was no freight for Orleans. Discharged Moses Morrill and Michael Dayly who had engaged to serve this far only. At 20 past 1 o'clock, got under way again. At 8 o'clock came to and took in 4½ cords of wood at Ellis Cliffs.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1819

At 20 minutes past 2 o'clock A.M., the person of whom we got wood last night, having left the wood pile and not returning, although our bell was rung and every intention made to call his attention, I was under the necessity of getting the boat underway, without paying him, but not without leaving a paper informing him that he would be paid when the boat returned up the river. So we got underway again at 20 minutes past 2 o'clock A.M. At 40 minutes past three, the Henderson was hove in sight, about 4 miles ahead; at five minutes past 6, passed her. At fifty minutes past nine the Henderson being 3½ miles astern, came to to take in wood, and being under the necessity of crossing the river twice at this place, in consequence of the first wood which we intended taking being engaged to someother boat, as the owner thereof informed us, the Henderson repassed us just as we were moving the boat along shore. Took in 8 cords of wood, and at fifty minutes past 4 o'clock got underway again.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1819

The Maid of Orleans still under way. At 40 minutes past 1 o'clock A.M. hove the steam boat Henderson in sight, discovering her by her throwing their live coals overboard. She was then about 4 miles ahead, being at Pointe Placumine, and we about halfway between that place and Bayou Manshac. At 45 minutes past 4 o'clock we passed her; we were then about ½ mile above Bayley's Plantation. At 25 minutes past 1 o'clock lay to and landed Mr. Chenard at Bayou Lafouche. At 5 o'clock, arrived at New Orleans and moored the vessel along the Vesuvius steam boat. At five minutes past 7 o'clock, the Henderson arrived. At 7 o'clock Mr. Nicholas Bennett came aboard and informed me that he was the subagent of Mr. John K. West, the principal agent at New Orleans for the owners of the stam boat, Maid of Orleans.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1819

Went ashore with Mr. Bennett to examine his power of attorney from Mr. West, on record in the Notary Public's office, and found the same satisfactory. Discharged sixtyfour packs of buffalo robes shpped by Berthold & Chouteau at St. Louis, and consigned to Peter



SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 1819

This being Sunday, nothing was done on board. The steward, having failed to do his duty and having also behaved very insolently, discharged him.

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1819

Discharged the balance of the cargo. At 11 o'clock P.M. discharged John Lawrence, common hand, and paid him off.

TUESDAY, August 17, 1819

Paid off and discharged Joseph Stewart, John L. Fisher, Abraham Willon, Samuel Little and Wm. Paine. Also paid off Elijah Chaddick, Pilot; George Baxter, second engineer; Matthias Hollam, sailor; Bryan W. Geauren, common hand. Gave Samuel W. Gamble, first engineer; Abraham George, cook; and Wm. Coyes, late steward, certificates of their service up to this day. Employed Bryan W. Geauren as steward at 30\$ per month; employed John Lawrence as common hand at 25\$ per month.

This day examined the boat, holds, etc, and found them in a very filthy and unhealthy state, lumber holds completely stopped up, the bilge water appears not to have been pumped out since she came from Philadelphia. In fact, found so much mud and filth between the timbers that the bilge water would not run to the pumps, found the furnace of the engine entirely out of order, the grates all melted down, the engine generally in bad order, requiring many repairs; found that the decks required caulking. Wheels require much repairing, particularly the wheel houses, they never having been fastened on since the boat came from Philadelphia and being merely set on and entirely loose. Mattresses of the cabin all in bad order, requiring some new ones and the old ones to be repaired.

Engaged Mr. Gotham to do the caulking and also to have the carpenter's work done to wheel house, etc.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1819

Engaged with Mr. Griffin Barney to serve on board this vessel as mate at 60\$ per month. Mr. Gotham's caulkers came on board and went to work, viz. John Johnston, Elias Simpkins, Wm. Farman, Samuel Ford, Benjamin Daniel and John Monday. The crew engaged at cleaning the boat, and the engineers took down the furnace.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1819.

Caulkers still employed, the crew cleaning the boat. Mr. Barney, the mate, came aboard and went on duty. Negro boy Caleb taken sick. Sent for Dr. Alexandre to treat boy. Crew still employed cleaning and whitewashing the holds.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1819.

Hands still employed cleaning the boat. Mattheis, alias Peter, Hollam, taken sick.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1819

Water falling; hauled the boat off from the shore and rigged a new stageing.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 1819. No duty. (The logbook ends at this place.)

VICTORIA SCHOOL, 1904. CONTRIBUTED BY MAUDE MCKEE OLSON, SECOND ROW, SECOND FROM RIGHT. HER SISTER, AMANDA MCKEE PATTON IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PICTURE, STANDING NEXT TO THE WOMAN TEACHER. IF YOU KNOW ANY NAMES OF CHILDREN IN THIS PICTURE OR THE TEACHERS, LET US KNOW.



# TAKE NOTE !!

## ANNUAL MEETING

All members are urged to be present on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 P.M. at the Fletcher House, Elm Street, Hillsboro, Missouri, for the annual business meeting of our society.

A review of the past year's work, annual financial report and elections for the 1988-89 year are all on the agenda. Please make every effort to attend.

## HISTORIC MAP PUBLISHED

President Jean O'Brien and Vice-President Frank Magre completed their work on the Historic Map of Jefferson County, showing the old roads, old towns and previous names of existing towns. It is available for \$2.50 for society members, and \$3.00 to non-members. Charge for mailing and handling is \$1.00. You may purchase these from the De Soto Public Library, the High Ridge Library and at the Office of the County Clerk. The map is a large one, suitable for framing.

## COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE

The Herrington Cemetery Association has published a cookbook with recipes contributed by the descendants of Joshua Herrington, which also includes a four generation family tree. The price is \$5.00; and may be obtained by calling Norma Fuchs, 1-464-1890, at the Kimmswick Pottery Shop or the Arnold Drug Store. Proceeds from the sale of the books will go toward the care and maintenance of the four Herrington Cemeteries in our county.

The Kimmswick Association Cookbook is also available for \$5.00 each. This book has a very good history of Kimmswick and has very fine calico covers. It may be obtained from the Kimmswick Historical Society, Kimmswick, Mo. 63053.

## MOSES AUSTIN BOOK

A very fine biography of Moses Austin, written by David Gracy of Texas has been published recently. Dr. Gracy was commissioned by descendants of Moses Austin to write the book. He is the Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin. Frank and Helen Magre did much of the local research about Austin's life in this area, and Jean O'Brien researched the county records for Dr. Gracy. The book may be purchased for \$24.95 from the Trinity University Press, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, TX 78284. A copy is now available at the De Soto Public Library.

JEFFERSON HERITAGE & LANDMARKS SOCIETY  
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