

The Heritage News

Published by the Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Corporation

FALL 1992

Plans are now under way to form a historical preservation commission for Jefferson County. Former Jefferson College President Dr. Ray Henry was chosen as chairman of an advisory committee consisting of local historical society members. The historic commission will provide a method for protecting historically significant sites in the county. The commission may be only advisory, or may also have the power to designate historical sites and to regulate the development and changes to those sites. The formation of a commission would make the county eligible for federal grants for projects and surveys.

The Northwest Historical Preservation Society of Jefferson County will be having its second annual Demaree (the first name of House Springs) on Sat., October 3, 1992 at the Lion's Hall grounds, in the old section of House Spring. There will be demonstrations including wheat weaving, bow making, and a silhouette artist. The Missouri Fiddlers will provide music. There will also be food and craft booths, along with the society's country store booth. Antique and craft booths are available for twenty dollars by contacting the society.

The DeSoto Historical Society is now taking orders for the second printing of DeSoto, MO - A Pictorial History. The hard bound book with dust jacket is a compilation of fascinating pictures, facts, stories and legends of DeSoto history. The cost of the book is \$29.95 and all orders must be pre-paid. Order forms are available through most DeSoto merchants. For more information call 586-3810 or 586-1797.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

	<u>President</u>	<u>Meets</u>
Crystal City	Donald Miller	2nd Thursday monthly excl. July/Aug/Dec
DeSoto	Meleah Paddock	2nd Tuesday 7:00 monthly
Jefferson County	Dr. Ray Henry	quarterly
Kimmswick	Darlene Spink	1st Monday monthly excl. January/July
Northwest	Dorothy Burgess	1st Thursday monthly

The Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society will hold a meeting on September 13, 1992 at 2:30 p.m. at the Little Theater in the Arts and Science building at Jefferson College. Mr. Frank Magre will present an oral history of the Mississippi River in Jefferson County; its houses and people. This meeting is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. There will be a question and answer session after Mr. Magre's talk.

Upcoming events also being planned by the Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society are:

Jan. 17, 1993	Presentation on Black History in Jefferson County
March 21, 1993	oral history, the speaker to be announced at a later date
May, 1993	Mississippi River-boat cruise

Details about these meetings will be published as soon as they are finalized.

De Soto Academy.

A BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL
FOR BOTH SEXES.

THE second session of this Institution will open
on Monday, August 30, 1875, for a term of ten
months.

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(27-28) De Soto, Mo.

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on Monday, Sept. 6th, 1875, for a term of ten
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The Stove, Tin and Hard
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OFFERS great inducements to buyers of Stoves,
Tin, Hardware, Paints and Agricultural
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Rolling, Guttering and Lightning Rods put up
on short notice, and in best manner, in all parts
of the county. Lightning Rods put up at 16 cents a
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Filton Steam Washer, at \$5.00, sent to all parts
of the county C. O. D.
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DEALER IN

DRY GOODS & GROCERIES,

Boots & Shoes,
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GLASS & QUEENSWARE,
Coal Oil and all kinds of General Mer-
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HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR ALL
kinds of Country Produce, Corn and (Dry-
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season.
72-11

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DRUGGIST,

Hillsboro, Mo.

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and used in the practice of Medicine kept on
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other articles kept by Druggists
generally.

"The town of Hematite has exchanged its whiskey shops for a flouring mill and instead of consuming grain which has been manufactured into liquor in other places, it has determined to manufacture the grain of the surrounding county into something more substantial and necessary." These were the words used to describe the inauguration of Hematites first mill. The people of Hematite had felt the need for a mill for quite some time. Five years before the actual building, timbers had been hewn and piled on the site. A year later, John Null Sr. donated the land for the mill and Joseph Null Sr. the stone. \$1000.00 had been raised to contribute to anyone who would build the mill. There had been no one to accept this task until Judge William Hendrickson stepped in. He proposed to build the mill if the citizens would secure him \$4000.00 towards putting in the necessary machinery. The mill when completed, to be placed as security for the money. His proposition was accepted and he went to work. The \$4000.00 was raised by Messrs. C. F. Lee, E. F. Donnell, J. M. England, Hart Donnell, Samuel Eaken, Reed McCormack, R. M. Whitehead and John Rice. The millwright work was done by Mr. A. Coon.

The mill cost almost \$8000.00 to complete. It was leased for the first year to experienced millers from Illinois who were already in charge and operating the mill during its opening celebration. The walls were of the DeSoto white rock, two and one half feet thick and twenty two feet high from the first floor; the building having three floors besides a basement. The size of the main building was 28 x 40 feet, with the engine and boiler room 38 x 16 feet. The engine and boiler room were connected to the main building by an iron door, which reduced the danger of fire. The water was pumped from a well, and unlike the ordinary Joachim water, it was stated not to corrode the boiler in the least. The miller could stand on the business floor and run the grain into any part of the mill or the flour or meal into any part of the machinery needed in its manufacture as desired. Standing in the front door, the miller could see at a glance the steam indicator and glass water guage, both runs of burrs, the elevators and the discharge of the flour and bran.

Mr. Coon bought 1/2 interest in the mill in February, 1876 and proceeded to run the mill himself. Both corn and wheat were ground at the rate of 10 to 12 bushels of wheat per hour and 12 to 15 of corn. Several grades of flour were manufactured. "Our Choice" strictly a fancy brand, "XXX" a good family flour, and "XX" which was said to raise as well as the "XXX" but of a little darker color. There was another choice flour made marked "Choice Graham Flour" which sold in the St. Louis market for the highest price paid for that kind of flour. The corn meal sold with the best made.

by: Lisa K. Thompson
Information from articles in
The Democrat dated July 23, 1875
February, 1876, and August, 1878

The Democrat August 30, 1875

The school directors for DeSoto schools for the ensuing year. For the new school house, A. H. Baker, Principal; Miss Fannie Brinker, Assistant. For the old school house, Charles N. Jenkins, Principal; Mrs. H. M. Berkley, Assistant

White Rock MILLS, Hematite, - Mo.

CUSTOM grinding every day except Sunday's
& and Monday's. The best flour for sale. We
respectfully solicit patronage and are determined
to give satisfaction.
11 HENDRICKSON & COON.

This year marks the 75th anniversary for Missouri state parks and historic sites. On April 9, 1917, Gov. Frederick D. Gardner signed a bill setting aside a percentage of the money from fees collected by the game and fish commissioners to purchase park lands. Although the state acquired no land until the 1920's, this was the beginning of our state park system. This act provided a source of funding that would turn the idea of state parks into a reality. The Great Depression proved to be a golden age for park development. Thousands of enrollees in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration relief programs moved into tent camps and barracks on park lands. Under the supervision of local experienced craftsmen and National Park Service officials, these men built roads, trails, utility systems, dining halls, cabins, group camps, rest rooms, picnic shelters, and a host of other recreational facilities. The purest impulse behind the creation of the park system has been the desire to preserve the treasures of the past for the enjoyment of future generations. Despite controversies, problems, and setbacks, Missourians have never completely lost sight of this objective. They have supported their park system faithfully. Their appreciation of Missouri's cultural and natural wonders led to the eventual acquisition of the present system of 77 state parks and historic sites.

"Seventy-five years of investment yields
priceless returns." by Bonnie Stepenoff
Missouri Resource Review

After America's entry into WWII, hundreds of prisoner of war camps were hastily erected across the nation and housed nearly one-half million enemy soldiers. Weingarten, a tiny German Catholic community located about thirty miles south of Festus, was chosen as the site for one of these camps. As it was located near a railroad line in an isolated area, it was considered a likely spot. Five families owned this land before the U.S. Government decided to appropriate it for the camp. The Jaegers, Harters, Sampsons, Donzes, and the Stantons all received eviction notices. Although the government paid the owners about one hundred dollars an acre when the going rate was more like fifty, many of the families were upset to be required to give up their homes. After the war, the families were given first chance at repurchasing the land, even though their homes had been destroyed. Some of the families decided to accept this offer, while others did not. Camp Weingarten's 832 acres were surrounded by a double barbed wire fence which was patrolled by guard dogs. There were five towers with two guards in each, armed with machine guns. A hospital, an administration building, a theater, gymnasium, library, stable, blacksmith shop, quartermaster warehouse, POW guardhouse, a shoe repair shop and barracks composed most of the 380 buildings. The outline of a cemetery remains behind the camp. When the war was over, the camp was dismantled and the remains of two Italian prisoners, and one American guard who accidentally shot himself were shipped home. Weingarten was probably the largest Italian internment camp in the nation. At one time, up to 4500 prisoners were kept there.

Please send historic articles of interest and notification of any upcoming Society meetings and subject matter to: Lisa K. Thompson 11210 Harrison Lake Rd. Festus, MO 63028 Please and Thanks!

Antonia, MO Aug. 31, 1875

Editor Jefferson Democrat:

I send you the following report of crops of wheat and oats threshed this week, and names of raisers, it being all of my neighborhood or Heads Creek:

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Oats</u>
George Vogt	190 bushels	-
Henry Held	270 bushels	43 bushels
Henry Weise	110 bushels	-
Chris Hahne	133 bushels	38 bushels
Peter Ehlers	272 bushels	14 bushels
Chas. Gillman	255 bushels	28 bushels
J. A. Kessler	195 bushels	200 bushels
Anton Doneman	157 bushels	-
Jno. Nansel	<u>150 bushles</u>	<u>-</u>
	1741 bushels	323 bushels

Two thousand and sixty four bushels threshed this week, with an old machine that has run ten years, and does good work yet. Is there another old machine in this county that has run ten years, and will thresh 450 bushels of wheat in one day and do it well?

Respectfully,

C. W. Voot

New Members into the Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society are most welcome. Annual dues are \$10.00. Dues may be sent to Mrs. Betty Olson; Treasurer at the DeSoto Library. 123 S. Main St. DeSoto, MO 63020

Jefferson Heritage and Landmarks Society
Becky Gagnon
6413 Reynolds Creek Rd.
Hillsboro, MO 63050