

THE HERITAGE NEWS

Issue 21 Jefferson County Historical Society January 2000

President: Rebecca Gagnon
Vice-President: Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer: Betty Olson
Newsletter: David Hallemann, Betty Olson

THE MYSTERY OF GLENFINLAS

David Hallemann

Do you know where Glenfinlas was? Do you even know what it was? Have you ever heard of it? Well, don't feel too bad, most people haven't. So let's explore this mystery.

Glenfinlas was an early post office west of De Soto near Big River. First, let's see what Della Lang says in her book "Post Offices of Jefferson County Missouri, 1811-1997:

GLENFINLAS: 1835-1855 (a.k.a. Tyro)
Located in Valle Township, SW of De Soto. Postmaster were Lewis Bolduc, 1838; S. Bolduc 1850, John F. Van Preter, 1852, William B. Dunnivant, 1854; Zebulon Pritchett 1854. (Named changed to Tyro in 1855.)"

The Old Settlers Association minutes of the annual reunion on Saturday, September 21, 1905 notes that Judge Thomas, chairman of the Committee on Landmarks, gave this report: "GLENFINLAS: This office was established September 6, 1838, and Louis Bolduc was made postmaster and he continued in the office until it was moved to Tyro, May 11, 1850. This office was kept in the residence of Bolduc, which was near the present residence of Mr. Harness on Big River, just below Mammoth Cave. It was on the old stage mail route from St. Louis via Potosi and Caldeonia. Dennis Armstrong, a citizen of Hillsboro, drove the coach over this route many years. That part of the old state route lying between Dry Creek and Vivrett's home on Big River has long been abandoned." (Remember this was written in 1905.)

In the above description Mammoth Cave was in fact Mammoth Mines and "below" would

mean downstream. Glenfinlas was established in 1838 on the stage road near the crossing of Big River according to Judge Thomas. Mammoth Mines were discovered near the location in 1853 by Mr. Higgins and government land was entered by Boldur (Bolduc?) & Higginbotham. (See Goodspeed page 367.)

One thing to remember is that the Old Settlers were very conscientious in their work and were what I call "closer to the fact." The ones who formed the landmarks committee were judges, lawyers and ministers as well as common men. They spent much time in research and personal interviews of pioneer folks about places and localities.

I next searched my own books, "Hallemann's Interpretation of the 1876 and 1898 Atlases of Jefferson County, Missouri and came across the name of Mrs. John Harness in the 1898 Atlas only, who had 155.34 acres (T39 R3 S10) and 248.4 acres adjoining on the north (T39 R3 S3) on Big River. Henry Vivrett who lived in T 39 R3 S10 and adjoining S15, had 20 acres at this location, a house and an orchard in 1876, and 373 acres in 1898. Both atlases show a road going through this tract. T39 R3 S10 is where Mammoth Mines were and where Mammoth Creek Road and Turley Roads of today intersect near Big River.

I next looked at the 1869 map of Colton's and noted that the noted of Glenfield is located in T39 R3 S3. This is within one mile, adjoining north of Section 10, where Big River, Mammoth Mines, Harness ' Farm and Vivrett's farm were.

Next I turned to an 1870 map by an unknown source and found Glenfinlay in this general area. This is interesting as the post office was moved to Tyro in 1855. In the old days a town was often little more than a store, post office or shipping point. Since the post office of Glenfields is seen on Colton's map of 1869, and an 1870 map shows Glenfinlay, it is my guess that Glenfield and Glenfinlas were the same. We can *assume* that the town of Glenfield came into existence before 1869, but was gone by 1876, as it does not show up on the

1876 Historical Atlas. It may have simply been a "local" name and never officially laid out.

There is also the possibility that the town "lived" only a few years. Many times a store/post office was all there was to a town. If the store burnt down as was often the fate of many log buildings heated with wood stoves or fireplaces, and was never rebuilt the town simply dried up. The map makers in 1869 may have asked someone at the County seat the name of the town by Big River and Mammoth Mine and have gotten the reply "Glenfields." Could this be the Americanization of the word Glenfinlas?

On another unnamed map of the county I have seen a town named Bolduke in this area. I feel confident that this is in reference to Louis Bolduc's post office. This map was made about 1850. I use this to illustrate that early map makers sometimes used an earlier map and would ask around the county seat if there were any additional towns or post offices. Perhaps someone replied, "there is Bolduke's post office."

Next I turned to Louis Bolduc, the first postmaster. The post office was in his home. The 1876 Atlas does not list him. I contacted the Bureau of Land Management in Virginia and found that Louis Bolduc originally entered five tracts of land in Jefferson County, but only one before 1838, on January 14, 1835. This as the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of T39 R3 S 10. As this was the old stage route and before the coming of railroads in Jefferson County, it would be a natural location for a post office as there were few settlers at this early date. I can only guess if there was a stage stop and store at this location. In the 1850's when the railroad ran east of here a few miles at Tyro, there was a natural migration to it for mail. There were trains running daily and the stage was probably weekly, if that often. Also the town of Glenfields, if there was such a town and not just an error on the maps, would see its days numbered as farmers would now use the railroad to ship commerce, get mail and supplies.

So now we know that the Glenfinlas post office was kept in the home of Louis Bolduc and that Louis Bolduc lived on 42.08 acres in the NW 1/4 of Township 39. Range 3 East, Section 10, on the old stage road. Let's put this "Mystery" to bed.

HISTORIC SITES LOST IN JEFFERSON COUNTY BETWEEN 1970-1985

Submitted by Jean O'Brien

1. Canepa Blacksmith Shop, Festus.
2. Graham House, oldest house in Festus.
3. Hidden Valley near Festus.
4. Stephen Hug's House, east of Crystal City.
5. Fletcher House, De Soto.
6. Railroad YMCA, De Soto.
7. Maxville, old row houses.
8. House between Presbyterian Church and the Armory in Festus.
9. McCormack House, Plattin. Burned in 1985.
10. Zion Lutheran Church Petroglyphs- big chunk cut away.
11. Missouri Pacific RR Depot, De Soto
12. Obermiller Log Cabin, Teamsters, beyond repair.
13. Bailey House, Plattin.
14. Weaver House, Plattin, beyond repair.
15. Herculaneum Shot Tower, vandalized with BB shot.
16. W.S. Jewitt House, Crystal City.
17. Madison House, Highway 61, South of Crystal City.
18. Captain Waggoner's House (he was a famous riverboat captain.)
19. Hematite Stone Barn in bad shape.
20. Morse's Mill
21. Byrd Cemetery, Plattin
22. Burgess House, House Springs.

While we mourn the passing of old landmarks we are aware that there are many restorations of old buildings and houses in our county and are grateful to those who love these old landmarks and invest their time and money into restoring them so that we can continue to enjoy them.

◆ We learn from history
that we do not learn
from history.

Hegel

PREACHING TO THE CHOIR

Dave Hallemann

A few weeks ago it was a beautiful Sunday. The sun was shining bright, the temperature was in the 70's--just a gorgeous day. After visiting the flea market in Pevely, I stopped at the cemetery next to McDonalds to photograph the monuments there. I try to take pictures of anything of historical or genealogical interest.

Upon leaving this cemetery I decided it was such a lovely day, I would visit another family burial plot I had recorded in 1989. I wanted to photograph those stones, using a new technique. I drove to near the location and parked the car and headed into the woods. It was about a ten minute hike to the location.

I was in shock at arriving at the site. Vandals had been here sometime in the past and destroyed the cemetery. the two large spike stones that dominated the cemetery were toppled and broken. The double stone of two children and a handmade child's stone from 1840, the earliest I had ever seen, were nowhere to be found. The desecrators had done their job well. After this cemetery being here for over 150 years, all that was left were the memories of these people. Fortunately I had pictures of the cemetery from 1989 and the libraries and genealogical society have the information from the monuments.

All too often this scenario is played out. As our county grows, unscrupulous developers simply bulldoze burial sites away, instead of preserving them. This is called "making way for progress." I know of many log cabins that have been dismantled and moved elsewhere to become a tourist attraction in some other county. Many log cabins, historic buildings, and old schoolhouses have burned down either through the act of vandals or to make way for new developments. Once these things are destroyed they are gone forever. Our children lose a piece of their heritage.

This is partly our fault. We fail in our job as parents and citizens for not instilling into the minds of our children and other persons that these sites should not be destroyed. A burial site is

hallowed ground and it is a sacrilege to desecrate them. We cannot stop the ravages of progress. However we can at least make a record of what we are losing. I ask you to take a few minutes, if you know of a cemetery to visit it and take pictures of the monuments. If there is an old farm near you, take pictures. If you know the history of any of these sites write it down. This is what we as historians do. This helps those who follow us to know who we are. I will guarantee you that your children at some point in their lives will be grateful you had the insight to do this for them and their children. Be sure to make provisions that when you pass, the information will be carried forward, either through your family or a historical or genealogical society. I often visit antique malls and I cannot convey to you how sad I feel when I see a box of family photographs. Either there was no one left to cherish them or no one cares. We as a society lose, for the information about these snapshots of history is gone.

Our organization was the first to record cemeteries. We are in the process of locating and updating the cemeteries visited in the 80's. there were some we missed. Most have been recorded on paper only. Few photographs are available. The historical and genealogical societies and libraries where the records are stored, have countless requests for this information. Many people come from out-of-state searching for their heritage. So please photograph the cemetery monuments and send a copy to me at the address below and I will see that the information is directed to the correct places.

It is now time the choir starts preaching our song to family and friends before our heritage is gone.

David Hallemann

9915 Frazier

Hillsboro, MO 63050

(We prefer copies of pictures we can keep.

However if you cannot give us a copy to keep then we will have a copy made and return yours to you.)

OUTSIDE YOUR BACK DOOR, AGAIN

Dave Hallemann

Here it is late fall again. The leaves are off the trees, and one can see a long way into the woods. If you remember in two issues of the "Heritage News" last year I reported on the lead "diggings" outside my back door in Hillsboro. People probably don't think of Hillsboro as a lead mining area. Most of the lead mining that we have heard about took place in south Jefferson County near Valle Mines, or in the southwest part of the county near Mammoth, Fletcher and Frumet. However, one of the largest lead mines in the County was located near Goldman at Sandy Mines.

After obtaining permission to look for these "diggings" I proceeded to the area and parked my jeep, unloaded the tools I carry whenever I enter the woods and started out in the general direction of the "diggings." After walking a short distance I came to a beautiful wooded hillside with a steep draw. With the leaves off the trees it was easy to observe the area.

The hillside was pock-marked with what looks like small bomb craters. They are of different sizes, from 3 feet in diameter and 1 foot deep, to the largest--15 feet in diameter and 4 feet deep. They are very similar to the ones located about 1/2 mile away that I reported on last year. The only difference was these were in the adjoining Section 26.

There were about 40 pits examined at this location. One can almost envision a pattern as the holes proceed up from the creek to near the top of the hill, fanning out here and there. I also picked up some rocks from the top of the "diggings" where the miners dumped their tailings. One about the size of a grapefruit, has almost no weight to it. The depth from these "diggings" to the level of the creek is about thirty feet.

The East half of the Northeast quarter of Section 26 along with the West half of the Northwest quarter of Section 25 was originally entered by John Honey, Daniel Blair, Elias Bates and John Bell of Jefferson and St. Louis Counties on the first of March 1831. All the mining found by me to date is on this 165.5 acre tract.

In the Jefferson County Historical Atlas of 1875, James M. Lanham owned two forty-acre

tracts in this area, one in Section 25 and the other in Section 26. There is one symbol of lead mines on each tract, with a symbol for a house or barn across the draw. This I did not know when I was there so I did not look for a site where a building might have been. The "diggings" were located where they are shown on the atlas map. The 1898 atlas indicates that Letitia Ogle now owns both tracts.

Where to go from here? When I get time I would like to look for the building seen on the maps. There is still one mine symbol not accounted for but it appears to be in an area of modern construction and is possibly leveled. Then I will go to the "bowels" of the courthouse for a record search to see if this will uncover any clues.

I would like to encourage you to head out your backdoor and do some exploring. You never know what you will find. You may even find me there!

BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW:

1876 Atlas reprint \$15.00
Index to the 1876 Atlas \$15.00
Index to the 1898 Atlas \$15.00
1907 Jefferson County Directory \$10.00
Jefferson County Schools (Hardback) \$29.95
Jefferson County Postoffices \$7.00
Postage & Handling \$3.00 for first book
\$1.00 each additional book
Annual membership dues \$10.00

Order from Betty Olson, 712 South Main St.
De Soto, MO 63020

We are presently working on a book and map showing the location of Jefferson County Cemeteries- Public and Private. No date for publication has yet been set.

NEWSPAPERS FROM THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

Charlotte Maness of Colorado, has done a marvelous job of reading the old Jefferson County newspapers on microfilm and copying off articles and items that would help anyone working on genealogy. We may talk about first amendment rights now, but in those days it appears that the editor could write whatever was on his mind and didn't worry whether he was stepping on your "rights". Here are some items from the Jefferson Democrat of 1869-1870 culled from the notebooks at the De Soto Public Library.

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT: On Wednesday last Mr. S. A. Reppy of Hillsboro received a severe cut in the arm and breast, from an axe which had slipped from the hands of Mr. R. G. Whitehead. The wound made in the breast was about eight inches long and penetrated to the bone. Dr. Adair, with the assistance of Dr. Dickerhoff stitched the wound, and the patient is doing well. The affair was purely accidental of course.

LOUIS PARTNEY, County Farm Supt., was allowed \$240.50 for the quarter ending January 20, 1869, and he was again appointed Superintendent of the farm for the year ending January 1870 at \$35.50 for boarding each pauper; clothing and medical attention to be paid for by the county.

J.C. HERRINGTON was allowed \$10 by the court for making coffins for Carter Evans and one of the daughters of Newman Pounds.

FRIDAY, FEB. 12, 1869 COUNTY OFFICERS

Representative: Thos. Byrnes,
Circuit Clerk, E. F. Honey
County Clerk, W.W. McMullin
Collector, John Williams
Sheriff, Fred. Luchtemeyer
Assessor: Michael McNamee
School Supt., M. C. Jennings
Treasurer: Henry Stellbrink
Surveyor: Wm. G. Reid
Public Administrator: W. P. Adair
County Judge, 1st. District: Wm. S. Howe; 2nd
District: G. J. Johnston; 3rd Dist. A. Yerger.

P.P. BYRNE, who bought Green's Mill on Big River, is putting up a new grist mill, the building alone is costing \$6,000. The masonry is the most substantial work of the kind in the county.

MARRIED: On Wednesday, May 19 by Wm. Mockbee, J.P., Mr. Abraham Johnston, to Miss Samatha J. Landers of Joachim Township. The happy groom procured a divorce from his first wife on Tuesday, 18th inst.

MARRIED: Dec. 23, 1869, at the residence of Joseph White, by the Rev. Joel Hensley, Mr. Ira Farley to Miss Fanny White. On the same day by the Rev. Wm. McKay, Mr. Francis Wideman to Miss Laura Brinly, all of this county.

WAR OF 1812: A meeting of survivors of the old revolutionary war was held last Saturday in one of the rooms of the Court House in St. Louis. We see in the proceedings that Jefferson County was well represented as follows: Joseph Barclay, aged 73; John Currier, 79; Wm. S. Hamilton, 80.

The wife of M. William Downs, of New York, presented him with three daughters as a New Year's present. William is now the father of eighteen children. Mr. Downs must be a very smart man, and deserves much credit for his industry.

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING AT THE POST OFFICE AT VICTORIA STATION, MO, Dec. 29th, 1869, which will be sent to the Dead Letter office if not called for in one month from this date:

Dr. L. Burnstam; Dr. B. R. Lee, Owen Byron, John McGee, A. V. Carr, Ma. McQuiben; Sewnie Carr; Thomas Parker; Mary D. Howard, J. H. Rogers; Rev. R. F. Kenney, Dick Riley, Mr. Kite, W. F. Smith, John Vieth. Jesse Elder, Postmaster

FROM THE FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 1870 PAPER

A Union Church is to be built in Hillsboro. On the evening of the 18th a number of the citizens of Hillsboro and vicinity met at the school house (old court house) for the purpose of taking some preliminary steps toward building the Union Church

that has been talked about so much, and for so long. The meeting was called to order by S.A. Reppy, and on motion Mr. Jos. J. Williams was elected President and S. A. Reppy Secretary. Rev. Sullivan Frazier was requested to invoke the Blessings of God on the enterprise. After prayer there was some discussion between Messrs. J. L. Thomas. Rev. S. Frazier, Rev. Wm McKay, Chas. Swingler, A.Green, R. W. McMullin, S. A. Reppy and others. On a motion by J. L. Thomas it was decided to test the feeling of the citizens present in regard to their liberality toward the enterprise, and after a canvass made by the President, it was found that \$860.00 had been subscribed besides the offer of a lot 100 feet square, with \$50 additional by the donor of said lot if the same should finally be selected. A sufficient sum having been subscribed to justify all in the belief that the church could be built, the basis adopted is the Trustee system and representing the Methodist Episcopal Church, the United Baptist Church, the Presbyterian, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, each have equal rights and privileges in the same. The meeting adjourned until February 1st, 1870.

MILITARY TAX LIST FOR 1863 (pg. 151)

A large list of names of persons (7 ½ pages) who have delinquent military taxes appears. If these taxes are not paid then the tax, penalty and costs together with interest at the rate of 15% per annum will become a lien against their land.

JUNE 4, 1870 Frank Thorne is to receive \$10,000 for his leap from Suspension Bridge at Niagara Falls on the 13th of August. We notice this fact merely for the purpose of congratulating Frank's heirs.

This is just a small sample of items from the newspaper. There are many court proceedings, final settlements, trustee's sales, etc. all recorded in this notebook. Miss Maness has indexed the books by last name to make it easier to find the person you are looking for. The notebooks cover the years from the early 1860's to 1884.

A FEW FAMOUS PERSONAGES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

1. Moses Austin and his son Stephen were pioneers in lead mining in Missouri, and also in the settling of Texas. Austin, Texas bears their name.
2. Hearst family of California newspaper fame.
3. Kerkhoff family of Pevely Dairy.
4. Clyde Williams, Member of U. S. Congress and co-sponsor of the Federal Reserve System with Senator Carter Glass of Virginia.
5. Thomas Fletcher, first native born governor of Missouri, General in the U. S. Army, Commandant of Fort Learned, Kansas.
6. John Smith T, entrepreneur.
7. Kennett family, builders of Selma Hall. One of the Kennetts was a mayor of St. Louis.
8. O'Fallon Family-patrons of George Caleb Bingham, famous Missouri artist.
9. Robert Brookings, one time owner of Selma Hall, founder of Washington University, Brookings Institute and Barnes Hospital.
10. R. K. Kavanaugh, U. S. Representative and responsible for the 9 foot channel in the Mississippi, thus opening the river to commercial navigation.
11. Daniel Dunklin- Missouri Governor; father of the Missouri Educational System and U. S. Mediator of the Missouri-Arkansas border.
12. Albret Karl Koch- internationally known scientist and discoverer of the mastodon site near Imperial.
13. Charles Bunyan Pearson, put together and developed the St. Joe Lead Company. His home was near Pevely.
14. Senator Bill Bradley, Rhodes Scholar, Nationally known basketball player, now running for nomination for the U. S. Presidency in the year 2000.

From "The Jefferson Democrat" R. W. McMullin, editor and proprietor, Thursday, March 15, 1900.

COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

It may interest our readers to have a list of the newspapers of this county, up to date, and so here it is, though not in exact chronological order.

De Soto Press- C.A. Clark, publisher; started in January, 1869, and gave up the ghost in September of the same year.

De Soto Tribune- J.J. and Samuel B. Brady, publishers; continued from November 22, 1873 to November 27, 1875. Out of the ashes of the above the De Soto Phoenix appeared within a few weeks, Samuel B. Brady, publisher. the last number was dated April 8, 1876.

Jefferson County Republican- Charles E. Moss, Publisher; opened up in De Soto, July 12, 1877, and closed November 22 of the same year.

De Soto Messenger-W. G. Church, publisher; started May 12, 1878 and stopped November 5, 1881. In October, 1884, a few numbers were issued at De Soto of a paper called the Jefferson Republican, published by the Jefferson County Republican Central Committee.

De Soto Herald-by C. B. Isham & Co.; commenced business April 29, 1880 and quit August 25, 1881.

Jefferson Watchman- November 11, 1881, S. Henry Smith and Frank Wathen started this paper in Hillsboro. It was moved to De Soto in December, 1881 and published part of the time as a semi-weekly. In April, 1883 it was purchased by McMullin & Stone and continued by them until September 11, 1885, when they were forced to sell out. J. H. Waggener and John Jenkins ran it till June 1, 1888, at which time G. D. Stone took charge. January 3, 1889, James O. Berkeley and B. R. Billings became proprietors of the plant and published the De Soto News until July 4, 1889. E. J. Dougherty took charge of the concern,

changed the name of the paper to De Soto Tribune and continued it till near the close of that year. February, 1888, G. Y. Dale started another De Soto Herald, but it lived only a few weeks.

The Crystal Mirror was started at Festus by James J. Wilson, Jr., August 13, 1885, moved to Hillsboro, February 1877. In January 1900, the name was changed to Jefferson County Republican.

De Soto Facts-R. M. Denholm started the De Soto Facts. March 1900 the Jefferson County Republican outfit was moved to De Soto, consolidated with the Facts and one paper continued under the name of Republican.

Southeast Gazette-was started in De Soto by Joseph Flynn and published there till July 1895 when he removed it to Cape Girardeau.

Along in the late 70's or early 80's C. T. and E. C. Rankin published in De Soto, for a few weeks, a paper, the name of which we have forgotten.

Festus Times- was started in Festus October 4, 1890 by Naree LaChance and Franz Klein; stopped August 1, 1891. The Festus Leader was started by same parties August 15, 1891, but quit September 26, same year.

The Frie Blaetter, a German paper was commenced September 25, 1891 in Festus by Franz Klein. It lived till June 17, 1892.

The Business Man's Index was started in Festus in July 1891, Thos. Tobin Pub.Co., proprietors. It died February 26, 1892.

Festus Chronicle-Appeared December 9, 1892. It disappeared March 3, 1893.

Festus Times-by Martin Hemme, began its career October 31, 1895 and closed July 14, 1896.

Twin City Enterprise-Prof. McCoy got out a few numbers of this paper during the summer of 1899.

The first paper in the county was published in De Soto by a man named Raymond in 1860 and a part of 1861. If there

we would like to see it, and promise to return it to the owner in good order as received, after examination.

The DeSoto Press was started in De Soto March 30, 1893 by R.M. Denholm. It is now published by the Mitchim Publishing Company.

The Jefferson Democrat was started January 1865, as the Jefferson County Leader, C. A. Clark and Charles D. Reppy, publishers. In a few years the name was changed to Jefferson Democrat and is still continuing under that name.

Mr. Denholm published for awhile, in De Soto, a paper in the interests of the Christian Church, which was called the Western Disciple.

The Jefferson County Republican was issued in De Soto last week. It takes the place of the Facts of that city and the Republican of this town. (Hillsboro). Judging from the editorial expressions of the paper the consolidation was in the interests of economy, and not for the purpose of advocating county seat removal. This confirms what we have often hinted at--that there was not as much prosperity in the air as the two papers claimed. We are glad they adopted the name that they did. It was mighty awkward to have to refer to a paper as the "Facts" when it was often filled with statements that were not facts in this editor's opinion.

Jefferson County Historical Society
%Betty Olson
712 South Main Street
De Soto, Missouri 63020



DAVID HALLEMANN
9915 FRAZIER
HILLSBORO ,MO 63050