

# THE HERITAGE NEWS

Issue 25 Jefferson County Historical Society July 2001

Jefferson County, Missouri

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## THE 1803 LOUISIANA PURCHASE

As we near the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase it is interesting to pick up an old history book to see how this purchase was viewed by people at that time. Louis Houck in his 1908 "History of Missouri" says this:

This purchase not only received the approval of a vast majority of Jefferson's own countrymen, but it was approved by England, and Lord Hawkesbury, the British Secretary of Foreign Affairs, on being advised of the treaty of cession, wrote Mr. King, then Minister of the United States at the Court of St. James, "I have received His Majesty's command to express to you the pleasure with which His Majesty has received this intelligence." The English government, although anticipating war with France, also rendered essential service in these negotiations for the purchase of Louisiana by interposing no objections to the propositions made by the great houses of Hope of Amsterdam and the Barings of London. to make loans to any amount to the United States at the usual rate of interest to facilitate the purchase. The knowledge of these offers inspired the government of France with confidence that the stock or bonds of the United States to pay for the province could be converted into cash at a fair price, for it should be remembered that the credit of the United States was then not well established. That England would have seized Louisiana as soon as war began, is certain. Napoleon disposed of the country none too

soon. His foresight was fully justified, for when the English ministers were advised of the mission of Monroe, they realized that, the conquest of Louisiana could only be attempted with the concurrence of the United States, and they therefore proposed to our envoy at the court of St. James, that if the conquest of Louisiana was made, the province would be retroceded to the United States. But from all these complications we were happily saved by the purchase, for the retrocession of the country to the United States, if once in the power of England, may well be considered problematical.

Many leading statesmen of the time thought that the acquisition of Louisiana would lead to a dismemberment of the Union. At the time of the purchase this was not an uncommon opinion. "Our country," said Fisher Ames, October 6, 1803, "is too big for Union." Rodgers Griswold of Connecticut stated October 15, 1803, in the House of Representatives, "The vast and unmanageable extent which the acquisition of Louisiana will give the United States; the consequent dispersion of the population, and the destruction of that balance which is so important to maintain between the Western and Eastern States threatens, at no distant day, the subversion of our Union." Jackson, of Georgia said, February, 1804, "The settlement will affect, what I much deprecate, a separation of this Union." Drayton, of New Jersey, February 2, 1804, declared, "If upper Louisiana is settled, the people there will separate from us; they will form a new empire and become our enemies." Stone, of North Carolina, on the 16th of February, said, "The acquisition of Louisiana will produce one of two things; either a division of the Union or a very different government from what we now have." Plummer, of New Hampshire, thought

October 20, 1803, that "The ratification of this treaty, and the possession of that immense territory will hasten the dissolution of our present government. The constitution never contemplated the accession of a foreign people or the extension of our territory. \* \* \* Adopt this Western world into the Union, and you destroy at once the weight and importance of the Eastern States, and compel them to establish a separate and independent Empire." And John Quincy Adams, on December 28, 1828, at that time President of the United States, tells us that a dissolution of the Union was actually planned by the Federal party of Massachusetts "in the winter of 1803 and 1804 immediately after, and as a consequence of the acquisition of Louisiana."

The purchase of Louisiana was, however, so decidedly popular even in New England, that no effective opposition could be made to it. The people were pleased, and gave themselves no trouble to inquire whether the purchase was in violation of the Constitution or not. The present advantages to the purchase were great, apparent and undeniable. The evil of the unconstitutional course adopted to acquire the vast territory was remote, and perhaps imaginary. The territorial extent of the Union was doubled and forever strengthened in power, as Napoleon foresaw. Without this purchase it is hardly probable that the federation would have survived the constant and imperious demands of the west for an outlet to the Gulf, a necessity born of its geographical situation, and essential to its prosperity.

It is thus that the territory now within the limits of Missouri was acquired.

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**MT. OLIVE SCHOOL BOOK 1910-1911**

D. Naumann e-mailed us a photo of a page from a little booklet given to all of the students, usually at the end of the school year. Mt. Olive School was in District 24, Merrimac Township. Walter Buxton was the teacher.

**Mt. Olive School**  
 District No. 24  
**Merrimac Township,**  
**Jefferson Co., Mo.**

— 1910-11 —

WALTER BUXTON, Teacher

**PUPILS**

Louis Leonard	Gilbert Lony
Elizabeth Toy	Anna Kessler
Joseph Yenicek	Cornelius Toy
Della Bechler	Theodore Vogt
James Toy	Henry Hahn
Joseph Kessler	Mamie Lony
Mary Bechler	Joseph Bechler
Mamie Vogt	Kathryn Toy
Mena Hahn	Anna Krejci
Caroline Bechler	Mary Toy

Clara Rosenauer

**SCHOOL OFFICERS**

Frank Rosenauer, President  
 William Krejci, Clerk  
 R. B. Wilson, County Supt.

Children (listed alphabetically) in the school that year were: Caroline, Della, Joseph and Mary Bechler; Mena and Henry Hahn; Anna and Joseph Kessler, Anna Krejci, Louis Leonard, Gilbert and Mamie Lony, Clara Rosenauer, Cornelius, Elizabeth, James, Kathryn and Mary Toy; Mamie and Theodore Vogt, and Joseph Yenicek.

School officers were Frank Rosenaur, Pres. Frank Yenicek, Clerk, and William Krejci. R.B. Wilson was County Supt. of Schools.

## LETTER RECALLS BATTLE FOR VINELAND RAILROAD BRIDGE

Headquarters, First Military District, Mo. S. G  
Camp Smith, St. Francois County

Tuesday, October 15, 1861---6 p.m.

Dear Sir:

My men being more anxious to fight than I anticipated, traveled so fast that I reached the Big River Bridge near Blackwell Station, two days ahead of my appointed time. (Wednesday night), having reached there at daybreak this morning I sent a portion of the Second Regiment Dragoons around to make the attack upon a stone redoubt which the enemy had built on the north side of the bridge, and a portion of the Third Regiment advanced upon the railroad from the south. Just after daybreak the Second charged upon the redoubt and carried it by storm. The Third dashed gallantly over the bridge and in 10 minutes after the first gun was fired the enemy surrendered at discretion. I lost two men killed and several wounded. We killed a number of the enemy and took 45 prisoners, captured 66 muskets, and a quantity of overcoats.

I had the property carried over the bridge, and then completely burned it down. It was a large three-span bridge and cannot be rebuilt in months. The property was taken to the Blackwell Station, and while distributing it among the men, and I the midst of the confusion, we were attacked by a company of the enemy and then occurred one of those bushwhacking fights which prove the mettle of my men. Scarcely any of the officers were about, and but few of the men, and I ordered them to "go in on their own hook," and four men killed and several more wounded, but we killed another lot of the enemy and took 10 prisoners. Not having any means to transport or secure the prisoners, I swore them to refrain from fighting the Missourians or our allies until regularly exchanged. We got all the officers.

This last fight having deranged my plans for intercepting a train of cars and using the engine as a catapult on Ironton, and as the enemy were fleeing both north and south, I have brought my men back into the hills to rest their horses, and strike another blow in a different direction tomorrow. I have them terribly frightened, and if your forces were in striking distance, we could take Ironton in a hour. If my plans do not miscarry, I will take it with my own forces this week. The Mississippians with me acted splendidly, and my Indians with great propriety.

Yours most respectfully,

M. Jeff Thompson

Brigadier-General Commanding

Maj. Gen.A.S. Johnston, C.S.A. Columbus, Ky.

## History in the Warranty Deed Books

By Dave Hallemann

The following deed was found among warranty deed records in book 21 at page 102.

“This indenture made on the Second day of May A.D. Eighteen Hundred and eighty two (1882) by and between the House Springs and Big River Valley Macadamized and Gravel Road Company of Jefferson County, Missouri, being a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Missouri and having all the rights, (?), and privileges granted to Macadamized, graded, and Plank Road Companies in general, party of the first part, and Jefferson County in the State of Missouri, party of the second part,

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part at a meeting held by the directors of Said House Springs and Big River Valley Macadamized and Gravel Road Company of Jefferson County, Missouri, held at Morse’s Mill on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. Eighteen Hundred and eighty one (1881) and at which meeting a quorum of the Directors were present and by a vote authorized its President, J. H. Morse, to sell the interest of said company in the Rock Road, above described, at the best possible price now therefore in consideration of the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.<sup>00</sup>) in hand paid by said party of the second part, and being the best possible price that (he?) could obtain for the same, the receipt of is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents, Grant, Bargain, and (?) Convey unto the said party of the second part forever, all the interest of the Houses Springs and Big River Valle and Gravel Road Company of Jefferson County, Missouri, the following described Rock Road situated in Jefferson County, Missouri, to wit;

*One mile of rock road beginning at Washington Stephen’s old Homestead, thence by way of Rock Ford Bridge to near Daniel Bonacre’s house and eight (8) miles and 4000 feet of rock road beginning at the Summit of Medley Hill, thence by way of Maddox Mill Bridge to a point 300 feet south of Morse’s Mills.*

To Have and to Hold the same with all rights and privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said party of the second part forever.

In Testimony Whereof the said party of the first part has caused these presents to be signed by its President and Secretary and the private seal of the President to be hereto affixed. There being no Corporate Seal of the said company, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May A. D. 1882.

J. H. Morse {seal}

Washington Stephens was a renowned Baptist Minister who lived near the present intersection of New Hgy 30 and Hgy W. The “one-mile of road” would have then run over the covered bridge at Rock Ford Mill to near Daniel Bonacre’s, located at the intersection of Hgy W and Byrnesville Road. The “summit of Medley Hill” is, I believe, near the intersection of New Hgy 30 and Northwest School Road, north of House Springs, in T43 R4 S27. One must remember the mentioned road is the “old Gravois” road and today is Northwest School Road, new Hgy 30, Cedar Hill Road, through the old town site of Local, continuing across the old covered bridge at Cedar Hill, which was then known as Maddox’s Mill, to Hgy B and then on to Morse Mill, probably near the old iron bridge there.

We can learn from this deed that in 1882 Rock Ford Mill, Maddox’s Mill, and Morse’s Mill were in existence, that Medley Hill was a known landmark, as well as Washington Steven’s residence.



## MORE CEMETERY RECORDS

Dave Hallemann and Jerry McKee have been out locating cemeteries, photographing tombstones and taking inventory. Here are some burials they have contributed:

### DE LAFAYETTE HUSKEY GRAVEYARD:

(Township 41, Range 4, Section 28.)

- De Lafayette Huskey born September 8, 1812, died May 17, 1894.  
Maria, wife of D.L. Huskey, born November 15, 1818, died December 26, 1874.  
Seymore, son of F.R. & N.S. Huskey, born Feb. 8, 1880, died Oct. 6, 1886.  
Norvel Huskey, born Jan. 29, 1886, died Jan. 4 1913.  
Thomas J. Huskey, born January 31, 1875, died February 16, 1900.  
William J. Huskey, born December 2, 1838, died January 18, 1919.  
Sarah A. Huskey, born January 13, 1845, died September 20, 1926.  
Ignatius Kurkowsky born July 27, 1821, died July 20, 1899.  
Dora Kerkowski, born January 8, 1825, died January 1, 1913.  
Ingelbat Kurkuski, born November 7, 1860, Died August 18, 1872.  
Fanny M., wife of R. G. Bohne, born October 19, 1864 died October 27, 1887.

Dave has these additional comments: "The 1880 Census shows DeLafayette Huskey being 65 years old, farmer, with Thomas aged 5, and Jennie aged 7, Sue aged 50, a housekeeper and Lucy Lewis, a servant.

Ignatius Kurkeski is listed as a 58 year old blacksmith, from Poland. His wife Dora ws a 53 year-old housekeeper, with their daughters Mary 17, Lucy 12, and Clara 10, all at home. It is interesting to note all the different ways

Kerkowski is spelled. The 1876 Atlas shows an Ignatius Kurkowski living on property east of the Huskeys.

Maria Huskey died on December 26, 1874, the day after Christmas at age 56. Thomas was born January 31, 1875.

It is obvious that more persons are interred in this cemetery, however no monuments were located to remember them by."

### HALE FAMILY GRAVEYARD

- Leota E. Hale, born August 3, 1868, died September 26, 1885  
Prince A. Hale, Born January 1, 1878, died January 13, 1879. (Both names on same monument.

### STEINMETZ CEMETERY (do not know if this is "official" name.)

- Meta E. Cicardi (Lester) 1880-1961 (Order of Eastern Star emblem)  
Steinmetz, Barbara 1857-1940  
Steinmetz, FRB 1855-1913 (Masonic emblem)  
Steinmetz, Julius A. 1826-1900  
Steinmetz, Julius Benno, MD May 4, 1884, died July 7, 1972 (Masonic emblem)  
Steinmetz, Anna Justina June 19, 1882, died December 21, 1966 (Cross within circle)  
Lester, Helene Loretta, 1902 - 1977 (Eastern Star symbol)  
Lester, Lyndall Scott, 1901- 1986. married July 3, 1926. (Masonic emblem)  
Bernhardt, George E. August 31, 1931 - January 7, 1994.

EPITAPH: "The body of Benjamin Franklin, printer, (Like the cover of an old book, Its contents torn out, and stript of its lettering and gilding), lies food for worms. Yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will (as he believed) appear once more, In a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by The Author.

## HORINE CEMETERY

I have not found a name for this one, but since Horine has no "official" cemetery and this 1/2 acre cemetery is just next to the original town of Horine, and doesn't look like a family plot, I am calling it Horine Cemetery for now. This cemetery was shown to me by Sharon Smith, whose grandmother is buried there.

The Burris family plot within the cemetery has four granite corner posts but the fencing is gone. Samuel and Burris carved into corner post. I don't know if this denotes two family plots; i.e the Samuels and the Burrises.

Arthur E. Burris, born January 17, 1883 died March 28, 1913, 24 IN Co.D., "Our loved one", located within the corner post, broken monument.

Amanda Elizabeth Lattimore, Born Nov. 15, 1878, died July 6, 1923. "Gone but not forgotten, and Our Mother" across top of broken monument.

Amanda is the grandmother of Sharon Smith. Her maiden name was Austin and she lived in Horine until the home place burned. She was a "healer" who took care of blacks. Probably a midwife.

Earl Lattimore, a baby born dead either June 30 or July 1, 1923 is also reported to be buried here, but no monument was found. There are many depressions denoting graves, very overgrown, some field stones.

**HERRINGTON FAMILY CEMETERY:** This cemetery was shown to me by John Sapper and IS NOT the Herrington Cemetery in Pevely. This one is between Hillsboro and Cedar Hill off of BB Highway.

Joshua Herrington, born February 8, 1811, died Sept. 9, 1886, "In memory of, two clasped hands within circle at top.

Lucinda, wife of J. Herrington, born June 20, 1817, died January 1, 1874. This is on the back of broken Joshua stone. E. Hirsch, De Soto

Moument Maker, name on stone. Nancy E. wife of James R. Herrington, born April 18, 1832, died Jan. 8, 1901, toppled monument.

Linda Herrington died 1876, 38 years 6 months. This is my best guess on what was on this field stone with hand carved lettering. It was extremely hard to read, toppled, lying flat.

Martha, wife of B. F. Herrington, died June 23, 1884, aged 23 years 12 days. Two clasped hands inside circle on top. She would have been born June 11, 1861.

## HILPERTSHAUSER-BLEIKER CEMETERY

John Sapper also showed me this cemetery. I do not know the name yet, but am calling it the above name for now. Single 7 foot spike stone with carving on all four sides. Top of monument has fallen and is lying along side.

Heir Ruhen, Jacob Hilpertshauser, Geb. April 22, 1839, Gest. April 25, 186\_.

Below on the same side:

Joseph Bleaker, Gebo. Feb. 28, 1806, Gets. Dec. 11, 1876.

Side Two: Heir Ruth, Die Familiae Bleaker.

Side Three: Heir Ruth, John Hilpertshauser, Geb. Juli 28, 1832, Gest. Oct. 6, 1880. German verse below.

Side Four: Heir Ruhen, Barbara Hilpertshauser, geboren JSLER, Geb. Nov. 9, 1799, Gest. Oct. 27, 1875, below on same side. Elias Hilpertshauser, Geb. Juni 21, 1807, Gest Nov. 2, 1879.

Elias Hilpertshauser first purchased the ground from the U. S. Government, Bleikers show ownership on the 1876 and 1898 Atlases. e-mail me if you can translate the German.

## VINEYARD CEMETERY

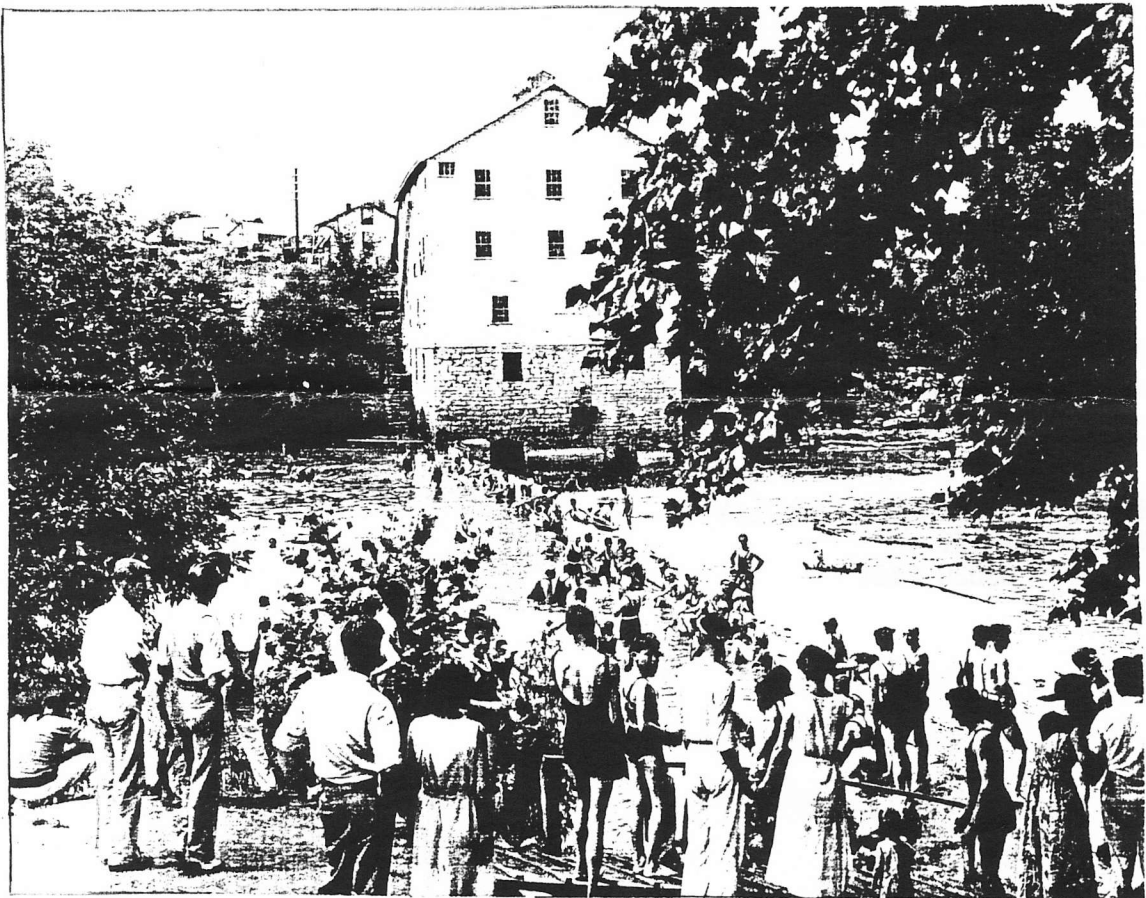
Albert Fults showed me a cemetery listed in our records as Vineyard Cemetery. .

## MORSE MILL

One monument: Lucinda, wife of Wm. Vineyard, born July 30, 1818, Died August 22, 1876. "

Information from property owner, there were three other stones: William Vineyard born 1821, Sarah Vineyard, born 1842 and Steven Vineyard born 1846. Family plot, extremely overgrown, about 20 foot square.

Morse Mill, pictured below was a popular swimming spot during the hot summer months. People from all around the county came to this spot, some to swim, some to observe the swimmers. Photographer was probably F. J. Milfeld from De Soto, and the date on the picture is 1938. Perhaps you'll recognize some of the folks in this picture. Let us know if you do.



MORSE MILL 1938

Grist mill built by John H. Morse, six miles north of Hillsboro on Big River. Morse, who settled the Morse Mill area in 1847, also built the Sandy Creek Covered Bridge.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

712 S. MAIN STREET,  
DE SOTO, MISSOURI 63020-2401  
(636) 586-3858

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Soft Cover	15.00	—	—
Index to 1898 Atlas	15.00	—	—
1907 Directory	10.00	—	—
Post Offices	7.00	—	—
Norma Haelzel			
Books:			
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Blackwell, Mo	25.00	—	—
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