

# THE HERITAGE NEWS

Jefferson County Historical Society, Jefferson County, Missouri  
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## Books available from the Society.

Jefferson County Post Offices	\$7
Index to the 1876 Atlas	\$15
Reprint of the 1876 Atlas	\$15
Jefferson County's Country Schools	\$29.95
1907 Jefferson County Directory	\$10
Index to the 1898 Atlas	\$15
Shipping & Handling- each additional book	\$3 \$1

- SEND YOUR
- ORDERS TO:
- Jefferson County
- Historical Society
- % Betty Olson
- 712 South Main Street
- De Soto, MO 63020
- Membership in the Society is \$10.00 per year- includes 4 issues of the newsletter.
- Items of county history welcomed.

## 1930 CENSUS AVAILABLE

The long awaited 1930 census microfilm is now available in Jefferson County in two libraries that we know of. One is the Jefferson County Library, High Ridge Branch at High Ridge, Missouri and the other is the De Soto Public Library.

Census records are released 70 years after they were taken. This new census will have people on it that are still alive. Perhaps your name is on this one.

The copy available at the De Soto library appears to be quite readable, with these exceptions. One of the census takers apparently had a leaky fountain pen

and there are some ink blotches on his pages. Another apparently did not use a permanent ink because his pages are faded and difficult to read. The other sections are very readable.

You might want to call either library before you go there just to make sure a microfilm reader/printer is available along with the census microfilm for your use. You might also call the library closest to you to see if they have this microfilm.

We also hope you have found our Roots Web mojeffer site on the internet. If you don't have internet access at home that's another reason to visit your nearest library!

## RURAL SCHOOL GRADUATION 1917

De Soto Press May 18, 1917  
The country school graduating exercises were held here Saturday with the usual large attendance from all parts of the county. There were 164 graduates and all townships were represented. Rev. T. S. Matthews gave the graduating address.

The program for opening consisted of music by the Crystal City schools;

Invocation by the Rev. O. A. Kern; address of welcome by E. S. Fauth, president of the De Soto Commercial Club; Reading, Elsa Leuderman, White School; Reading Fredia Beckmeyer, McGehan School; "Glorious Constitution" by John Schafer, Pevely School.

Valle Township won the banner for having the largest attendance, taking it from Joachim Township. Scholar-

ships to the De Soto High School were awarded as follows: Big River, Edward Burns; Central, Martha Reppy; Joachim, Mildred Clark, Meramec, Joseph Yenicek; Rock, Elsa Leuderman; Plattin, Cyril Ashton; Valle, Cecelia Burda.

There were more than a hundred contestants in the writing contest. (Continued on page 8)

## 1913 Jefferson County by Dave Halleman

I recently acquired a Jefferson County Map dated 1913. It apparently came out of a book of all the counties in Missouri. This is the first map I have seen dated 1913 and gives us a glimpse of that time period. By cross-referencing this map to a modern county map we can see how roads have changed, plus the location of towns, creeks, and other landmarks. On the back were agricultural statistics for the county at that time.

The sidebar on the map was a report of current activities in the county that would be of interest to anyone who might be considering moving here.

James H. Winer, Presiding Judge with William Schwalbert and William C. Kerchoff, Associate Judges, William Pillard, County Clerk and Joseph Hoeken of Hillsboro, supplied the map to the publisher.

De Soto had a Commercial Club looking after the interests and prosperity of the county. The farmers belonged to organizations which saw that their products were properly and quickly marketed and their welfare was taken care of.

Dr. J. Scott Wolff, a dental surgeon from Festus, represented the county in the 1913 General Assembly.

Jefferson County newspapers in 1913 were: The Jefferson County Democrat and Jefferson County Record located in Hillsboro; Festus News and the Tri City Independent in Festus, and the De Soto Press, all of which were weeklies. The Jefferson County

Republican of De Soto was a daily paper.

Jefferson County was one of the main producers of strawberries in the state with output being marketed mainly in St. Louis. An electric railway was proposed to pass through Hillsboro to open up a very fertile portion of our county to St. Louis markets.

The Meramec and Big Rivers could offer waterpower to manufacturing facilities. There was plenty of fuel wood that could be obtained in the vicinity of Hillsboro for \$2.50 a cord. Timber still standing could be used for lumber and ties. Hillsboro could support a cannery and a lighting plant that would use electricity developed by a water power plant. There was still unimproved land in the county that could be bought for \$3 and acre. However it was more feasible for settlers to purchase better land, which could be had for \$5 to \$10 an acre, since it cost \$5 to \$10 an acre to clear the land.

Jefferson County at one time had many steamboat landings along the Mississippi River. These could easily be reopened by a government dredge removing the sand bars, thus making it possible for them to once again be points of commerce.

The churches of the county were: Presbyterian-10; Catholic-9; Methodist-25, Baptist-25; Christian-5; Lutheran 12; Unitarian-1, and five miscellaneous denominations.

De Soto was an industrial center that offered inducements to businesses to locate there. Frank Warner, Secretary of the De Soto Local of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of

Desirable immigrants who help level the unimproved portions will receive a hearty welcome.

Much has changed in almost 90 years, however through this glimpse in time we are able to add a few more pieces to the mystery of our heritage.

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### ADDITIONAL ADOPTIONS

Dave Halleman has given us some new adoption listings that he came across doing research at the courthouse. These all appear in the books containing deed records and transfers of property.

#### **Flynn, Gertrude Virginia**

4 month old daughter of Loretta Flynn of Jefferson County, adopted by Theodore Sontag and wife Susie M. Of Jefferson County, March 13, 1911. Recorded in Book 71, Page 8.

#### **Page, Wilma Marie**

5 year old. Daughter of Marie Stroup, formerly Marie Page, adopted by W. C. Schmick and wife Ollie of De Soto, November 16, 1916. Recorded in Book 81, page 509.

#### **Long, Adele**

13 years old. Adopted by L. K. And Sarah Jane A. Williams of Jefferson County, February 6th, 1909, through the Baptist Orphans Home. Recorded in Book 53, Page 310.

#### **Tracy, Olive C.**

A minor whose father is Harmon W. Tracy. Adopted by Amanda F. Scott and Drucilla F. Hicks of Jefferson County, March 1st, 1902. Recorded in Book 53, Page 310.

#### **Armstrong, Florian**

Adopted by Bernard and Matilda Schneider, formerly Matilda Armstrong of Jefferson County, December 4, 1909. Recorded

In Book 65, page 609.

#### **Smith, Velma**

Adopted by Ray L. Smith and Mattie his wife, of Jefferson County, March 21st, 1910. Recorded in Book 69, page 159.

### Pevely News Items

May 4, 1917

The Grey Eagle will stop at Riverside landing Sunday, May 13th. Don't fail to take the trip to Ste. Genevieve and return. Adults 50 cents, Children 25 cents. Those who went last year will long remember the most pleasant outing they ever had. Boat leaves about 11 a.m. and returns at about 6:15 p.m.

The "Debatin Society" of the Pevely School will give an entertainment next Saturday at the Schoolhouse.

The winners of the declamatory contest at the Pevely School last Saturday were Lester Ruebel and Mary Jane Ennis. The contestants were warmly cheered by a very large and enthusiastic audience.

The City Council will meet next week in the Club rooms. The business men have been invited to attend as well as other citizens who are interested. It is the purpose of the present Council to convince the people that the business of the town is their business and not a government by a few.

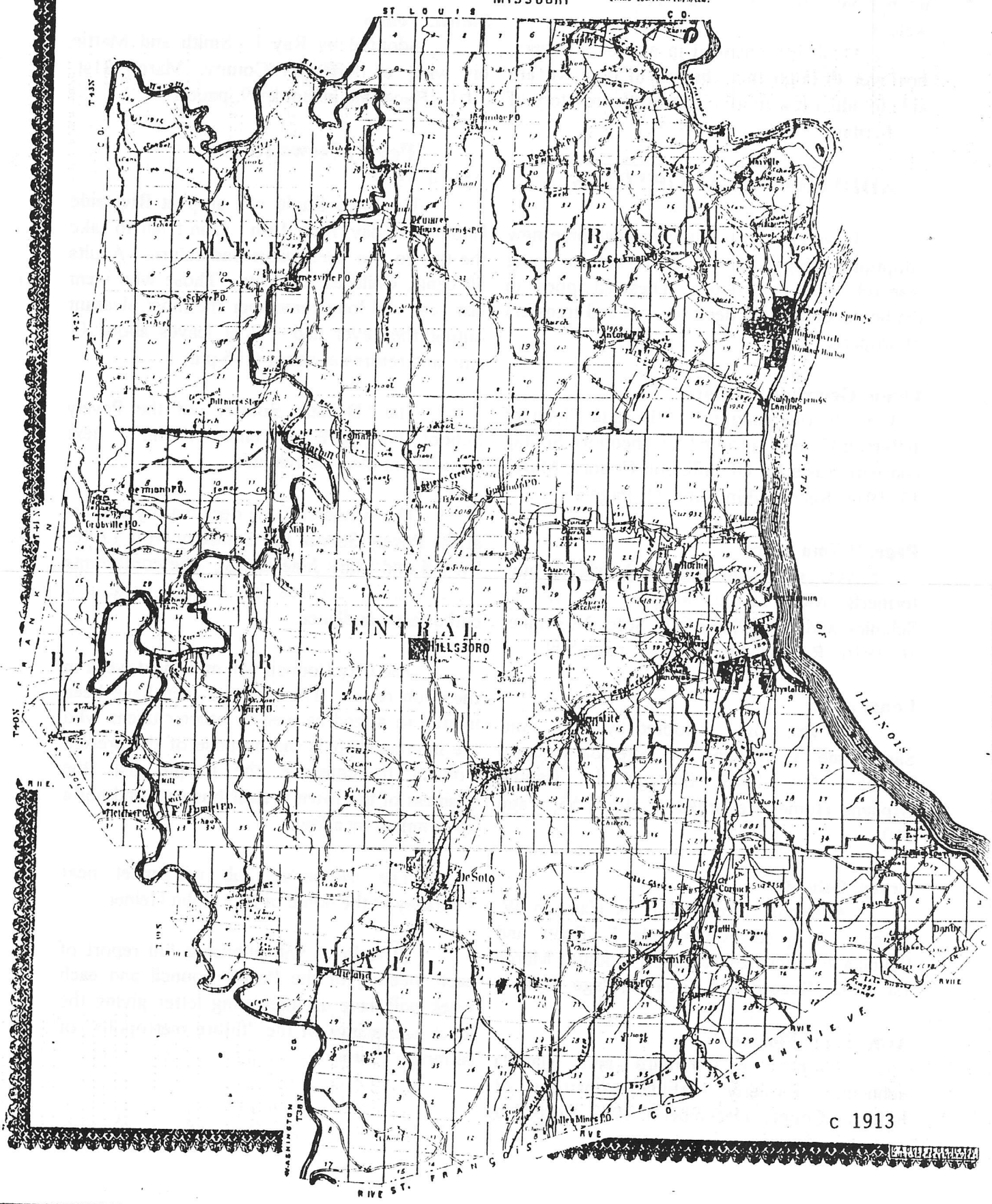
The Mother's Club will meet next Thursday at the home of Mrs. John Heiner.

(The Press will publish a full report of each meeting of the Pevely council and each week will have an interesting letter giving the local happenings of the "future metropolis" of Jefferson County.

OUTLINE MAP OF  
**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

MISSOURI

Scale 1/2 inch to 1 Mile.



c 1913



## DISASTROUS TRAIN WRECK

( From the June 16, 1938 Jefferson  
Republican)

A disastrous train wreck which followed and was caused by a virtual flood of the Joachim Creek occurred early last Saturday morning (June 11) when the fast mail train No. 7 dove into the raging water near Bailey Station. A rain storm of cloudburst proportions hit this vicinity about 6:00 Friday evening. It rained without ceasing until early the next morning, resulting in a flood which inundated the tracks for almost a mile at the point of the wreck, and washed the trestle away.

C. T. McRill, the fireman, stated that the engineer W. W. Malloy, ran through water for a considerable distance and was proceeding slowly when the engine gave a lurch and toppled over into the raging waters. McRill managed to extricate himself from the cab and in rising to the surface, became entangled in the telegraph wires. He finally wormed his way through the strands but not until after he had taken considerable water into his lungs. He caught hold of the branches of a small tree and hung there for four hours until taken to safety by rescuers in a motor boat. He was brought to De Soto and given emergency treatment by Dr. Karl McKinstry. Later he was taken to the Missouri Pacific Hospital in St. Louis.

At this particular point the water covered an expanse of ground at least 2000 feet in width, inundating rich farm lands with several feet of water. The water continued to rise after the wreck until it was within a few inches of the floor of the cars which remained standing on the tracks. The National Guard of Festus was called out to keep the thousands of curious people away from the scene and to prevent possible looting of the mail and express cars.

J. S. Withington, local agent for the Railway Express Company, went to the wreck in order to get the pay checks for the shop and railroad men, and it was necessary to swing down into the car by ropes, but he brought the checks back with him, even though they were soaking wet.

When the engine slid into the water three baggage and express cars were also partially submerged, but the express men and mail clerks managed to race through the rear cars to safety. Sixty-five passengers who were marooned in the coaches were finally taken to safety after a bridge had been built from one of the cars to the bluff, near the home of Alvin Son.

The engineer was trapped in the cab and according to McRill, it appeared that he was trying to stop the train when the water suddenly became so deep that he realized the track had been washed from under the engine. Divers called to the scene searched for several hours, and finally recovered the body about 7 o'clock Saturday evening.

Repair crews were summoned from St. Louis and Poplar Bluff early Saturday and the work of repairing the damage was started. The track for several hundred feet was washed away as well as the trestle.

The crew worked without ceasing and the damage was temporarily repaired for traffic by daylight Sunday. In the meantime trains were rerouted with little inconvenience to passengers and with only the slightest interruption to mail service.

John Kern 82 years old of St. Louis died when he fell from a bluff that overlooked the scene of the accident. He had come with an acquaintance to view the accident. Witnesses said as he turned around he lost his balance and toppled over the bluff backwards. Coroner Frank S. Frazier gave a verdict of accidental death by broken neck at the inquest which was held at the Politte Funeral Home in Crystal City.



JUNE 1938 TRAIN WRECK

**Rural School Graduation (cont. from pg. 1)**

Celeste Pilliod of the De Soto schools won the Hilgert Gold Metal in this contest. May Leight of the House Springs School won the Silver Metal.

**Declamatory Contest**

Mary Jane Ennis of the Horine School won the Reppy Gold Medal contest reciting "Milly's Birthday."

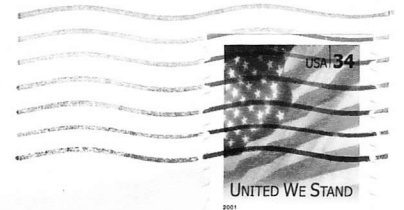
The Dunnigan Silver Medal in this contest was won by Lester Reubel, Pevely School, reciting "One Legged Goose."

The other contestants with their readings are as follows:

"One Niche the Highest" Katy Yeats,  
Rock School  
"Swan Song" Martha Reppy, Hillsboro School  
"Bobbie Shaftoe" Edith Martin, Danby School  
"Si and I" Ida May Pipkin, Bowen School,  
"Billie Brad and a Big Lie" Margaret Frazier,  
Danby School  
"Grandma Keeler Gets Grandpa Ready for  
Sunday School" Grace Blackwell,  
Danby School.

The Judges in this contest were: Miss G. A. Clark and Mrs. G. E. Webster of Webster Groves and Miss E. R. Helmrich of St. Louis.

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