

# RALLS COUNTY MISSOURI HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 2, March 2002

Dear Members and Friends of the Ralls County Missouri Historical Society:

Before the regular meeting March 18 we have planned a Ham and Bean Supper with corn bread, pie and a drink. Ralph and Fred Omer will prepare the soup and cornbread and their soap is well known and enjoyed in the Perry area. Mary Beck is in charge and she could use help from members with making pies. We will likely also need servers and other help. Please contact her at 573-735-2155 or e-mail her at [mbeck@nemonet.com](mailto:mbeck@nemonet.com) or myself. Please pass the word and bring a friend or give an older member a ride.

We now have a regular mailing address: Ralls County Historical Society Inc., P.O. Box 182, Center MO. 63436. Our mail was going to at least four different addresses and by the time information was received it was out of date or too late to act upon.

Since the first "Ralls County Missouri Historical Newsletter" in January we have contacted for a limited publishing of Goldena Howard's "Ralls County" History. We are taking pre-publication orders to assure a copy. The price will be \$50.00, an added charge of \$5.00 if shipped. Send orders to Ralls County Historical Society Inc., P.O. Box 182, Center MO 63436. Locations and times will be set to deliver sold books and book will be available for members to sell. Thanks to the Ralls County "Herald-Enterprise" for passing the information no about the above reprint of the "Ralls County". The Hannibal "Courier-Post" and other local papers will pass the information on soon. Updated information on books available from us is listed below.

## BOOKS:

"Ralls County Settler and Settlements Volume I, Lick Creek is now available for \$15.00 and \$17.00 mailed. Miss Daisy's, Prices Emporium and Lick Creek Antiques have copies at their stores in Perry. Also can be ordered from our mailing address; Ralls County Historical Society Inc., P.O. Box 182, Center MO. 63436. We have sold about 70 of the 100 published and have not publicized them yet. A second printing is planned to go with a promotion.

"End Of Way Of Life" by Dee West and Okla. Rouse is still available for \$10.00 each shipped or not. Contact me about these. Order from our mailing address; Ralls County Historical Society Inc., P.O. Box 182, Center MO. 63436.

"The Mark Twain Book" by Oliver and Goldena Howard this now available for \$15.00 and \$17.00 mailed. Order from our mailing address; Ralls County Historical Society Inc., P.O. Box 182, Center MO. 63436

For the first two of these newsletters a list of about 100 of present, former and possible new members was used to get the information out about our plans and projects. Because about 60% of our membership has an e-mail addresses and a lot of the mailings were returned undeliverable, effective with the next issue only member without e-mail addresses will receive these newsletters by regular mail. People with e-mail will of course continue to get the newsletter via e-mail and if any of them would like also to be mailed a copy just let us know. If your e-mail is returned undeliverable we can add your name back to the mailing list till you cure your problem or send us a new e-mail address. Mailing the first two newsletter helped to generate members, but by cutting back on mailing, coping and other expenses we will save over \$300 a year. We have growing a membership list of almost 60 members from Missouri, Texas, Arkansas Utah California, Kansas and Illinois.

It was noticed in a recent article in the Herald-Enterprise that there was a need for community service projects for minor and first offenders. I spoke to Judge Mobley and a probation official about cleaning up some of the abandoned cemeteries and with help on some of our other projects. They both felt it was a good

idea and would be good for the offenders and would be doing something for the community too. Madisonville, Bethel and other cemeteries in the area are getting in bad shape and could use a good clean up. Also help is needed on the Fagan School, old Perry bank and many other projects. We would be grateful for your input on possible projects.

According to the by-laws there is to be 10 Directors as part of the Executive Board. They are to recommend plans and projects for the Society, stimulate interest and appoint when a vacancy occurs in an office. They were to be elected at the annual meeting in January. Till now our limited membership would not allow us to fill these positions, I feel we needed to fill these positions before the next year's annual meeting. I would like all who attend our next have a list of ten people who they would like to be a director till the next election. The top ten vote getters will fill those positions. Myself, Mary Beck or Ron Hibbs cannot be directors.

We are still taking names to use for this newsletter. Please e-mail, mail or give us your name at the March 18 meeting. We will take a vote at that meeting and one of the new coffee mugs will be awarded as a prize to the winner.

At last meeting the Fagan School restoration project was discussed and sources of funding is being researched. Those checking on possible sources of help please update us on your results at the meeting. We need make a decision as soon as possible on what we are going to do.

H. A. Baker; [hab@marktwain.net](mailto:hab@marktwain.net) is wanting information on Mills Creek School and names of people who attended the school

Larry McCarty [larni@aol.com](mailto:larni@aol.com) would like information on Daniel and Hannah Quarle, owned by John A. Quarles prior to their emancipation on November 1855. They were found in the 1870 census of Ralls County. He needs information on their location after that time.

#### CALENDAR:

##### Ralls County Missouri Historical Society: Regular meetings.

March 18, 2002 at Perry VFW (Ham and Bean Dinner)

May 20, 2002 at New London courthouse basement

July 15, 2002 at Center Christian church basement

September 16, 2002 at Perry VFW

November 18, 2002 at New London courthouse basement

Special meetings are being planned and notice of these events will on the following newsletters. This special meetings will be for speakers and many out of town members would like to have a day meeting so they would not have to travel the longer distant at night. These could be a picnic or join meeting with another historical societies.

##### Northeast Missouri Genealogical Society;

April 27 at Mark Twain Birth place, Florida Missouri

NOTE from Secretary/Treasurer

Thanks for all the help to Imogene for checking the mailbox at Center and keeping track of all the checks: what for and who from.

To all who have paid your dues I thank you I will have an up dated list of paid members at the March meeting please check and let me know if I have left you off or have anything that needs corrected.

The reason for the Ham and Bean Supper is to help raise money for our various projects. Hope you will all come and bring friends and family with you.

**NOTE FROM RON AGAIN: I'm putting a green label on the newsletters of people that records shows have not paid their 2002 dues yet. If you have paid your dues and you get a green label, PLEASE contact Mary or myself so we can correct our records. In making a new list sometimes names can be missed. Membership: \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for a family. Send to Ralls Co. Historical, Soc., P.O. Box #182, Center MO. 63436**

I want to thank both Mary and Imogene they have both done an outstanding job with tracking books sales and organizing the Ham & Bean dinner.

## Presidents Views;

Our membership and income has increased where we can begin to plan and complete some major projects in the county. The list of project to do is unlimited and we could easily over plan our limitations. We will need to pick a limited number of projects and focus them until they are complete. This is where the input of the directors and general memberships will be needed and important. We all have out pet projects, but not all can be done first, but I believe that all I have heard of can be acted upon. For samples of what can be done look at Iasco and St. Paul church, which were completed by less people than we have. It is not going to possible for many to do a lot because of age or rising at young family, but a few minutes at a booth or baking pies for sale at events would a great help. If you know of person who has knowledge of local history, church, school or cemetery go by and interview them. There is unlimited amount of information around which could be lost if it is not recorded. Pictures of building, churches, old homes and school are everywhere. We can now save them in a computer without damaging them and save them for later generations. The community service project may be used to clean the larger cemeteries, help will be needed to record them after they cleaned and there are many small cemeteries that need cleaning and recording. There many old churches, school, homes and historic sites that needed to be photographed.

### BIT OF RALLS COUNTY HISTORY

Below are three articles about a little known historic event in Ralls County past. I have found a number article on and about this event and versions vary depending whose side you were on. If anyone has more information on this event or people involved let me know.

Written by David Wallace in a biography of Abraham V. Beaver

#### The Madisonville Fight

In the days immediately after the close of the war there were two political elements in Ralls county, one known as Radical and the other Conservative. Both parties gave out the word for a public meeting at Madisonville on Saturday, July 28, 1866. Prominent speakers of both parties were billed for addresses. John M. Glover, William Newland, and others on the part of the conservatives, Col. John A. Lennon, W. S. (Jay) Mayhall, Capt. E. W. Southworth, Albert G. Lancaster and other on the part of the Radicals, or those to President Johnson and "his policy". The conservative's place of meeting was in a grove north of the little town and east of the public road. The place of the other meeting was in a grove at the foot of the hill south of town.

At that time James Gilmore Wylie and his son, George W., now living at Curryville, Pike County, ran a store on the north side of the only street or road passing through the place and Judge H. P. Haley a like store on the opposite side of the street, the day was warm and the attendants at both meetings large. During the morning some one attempted to remove a red necktie from the collar of one John Krigbaum. No particular significance attached to the incidents at the time and it soon passed from notice. In the evening after the speaking at both places, the people met in the village, mingled on the street and in the stores and aside from loud talk and argument nothing unusual happened for some time. Late in the afternoon the necktie incident came up and dispute became heated. The crowd surged on the street and under the Haley porch. Threats were made then a large pistol was raised at arm's length by one William Onstott, a radical. The next instant rapid firing began.

At the time the street was densely packed with people and a general scattering began. Many rushed out through the Haley store window at the rear of the building and to shelter in deferent directions. At the beginning Mr. Haley was seen in the midst the infuriated men trying to quiet them and how he escaped being shot down is a mystery.

The writer was in the little store room when the shooting commenced and was pushed along with the retreating crowd to the rear of the room and found shelter on the floor behind a beer keg, while scores of older persons passed over the end counter and the writer on the floor and out the widow, the long Colt revolvers belted around the waists of the fleeing braves striking the widow sill as they jumped to the ground below.

After the fusillade the street was practically abandoned; nobody to be seen save the wounded. Leaning against a fence on the Haley side of the street was John Dickerson sr. in his shirtsleeves and a red spot below the left shoulder on his back. The fatal ball entered the breast and passed through the body. Milo Laylin was lying on the street, morally wounded. In a few minutes appeared John Dickerson jr., bleeding from wounds in the face and ankle. Dallas Seely was wounded in the body; also John Treadway, Thomas Webb, Stephen W. Garrett, Louis Anderson, Robert Howard, all wounded and bleeding. Several on both sides who took an active part and emptied their guns escaped without injury.

In a few hours after the shooting the older Dickerson died, having been removed to an upped room in the Edmond Alford dwelling. Mr. Laylin died the night following.

An incident connected with the Laylin shooting got into the courts and gave rise to the articles written by Dr. M. I. Catron, entitled the "Chronicles of Jasper" and published in the Ralls county "Record". Dr. Catron was called to attend Mr. Laylin at the Crosthwaite dwelling, where he had been carried after the shooting and gave the wounded man all the assistance in his power and remained with him until the end. When he presented the bill for services it was refused, the relatives claiming that the Doctor had not been engaged.

Dr. Catron had been with Price in the war and the Laylin people on the other side. Dr. Catron sued for his bill and the case was tried before Squire Washington Epperson. Politics entered largely into the trail and the doctor lost his case. Then he wrote the affair for the publication after the matter of the Chronicles of Holy Writ, bring all the leading local radicals into the story and giving to each well known scriptural names. The articles were bitterly sarcastic against the court, the jury and all connected with the case against him. Dr. Catron was an able wrier and all who came under the lash of his pen were cut to the quick. Onstott, who boasted that he had shot the elder Dickerson and who, from all accounts, began the difficulty, was tried for murder at Palmyra on a change of venue and acquitted. The war spirit still burned in the hearts of the dominant party and courts reflected the feeling of the times. One killed (two died) and about an equal number wounded on each side left no room for exultation by either of the factions.

Ralls County "Record" June 17, 1869

## Disgraceful Conduct Of Some Unknown Person

Madisonville, Ralls County Missouri, June 1, 1869

A few years ago the body of John Dickerson was carried home from a riot in Madisonville lifeless corpses. His remains were conveyed to their resting place. He was buried in the Union burying ground, three quarters of a mile northwest of Madisonville. The family purchased tombstones and placed them at the grave; mark the place the dear father was sleeping. On the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May someone stole to the graveyard and broke the tombstones that stood at Mr. Dickerson's grave. They were broken in many pieces and also the foot pieces were taken up. A flint rock was found at the place where the tombstones were broken. We sympathize with the family, their bereavement and hope justice may overtake the perpetrators. Can it be possible that the most depraved supporter of the abominable "Radicals" has sunk so low, has grown so dastardly and vile as to break the tombstones from a hero's grave? "Let us have peace" L.H.?

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" December 26, 1912

John D. Treadway, an old Confederate soldier of Monroe County, who fought all through the Civil War, was a New London visitor Monday. Where here he called at the Record office. Mr. Treadway was in the battle of Lexington, Pea Ridge and Pleasant Hill and saved the life of Lewis Anderson at the Madisonville fight in 1866. He is related to the Andersons and Hulses in this county and is here on a visit. He is a Confederate of the type who never gave up and nearly all of his wartime comrades have passed to the shadow. His home is at Victor in Monroe County and the editor of the Record has known him 50 years or more. He served four years in Confederate army and never got a wound until he came home after the war, being shot through the hand and leg in the fight at Madisonville on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1866<sup>[1]</sup>. There were two men killed and eight wounded in that fight. John Dickerson, of the Confederates and Milo Layland<sup>[2]</sup> on the Federal side, were the ones killed. "Uncle John" is now a retired farmer visiting around his friends. He is 71 years old, yet active and strong and a gentleman of the highest type --- Record

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<sup>[1]</sup> July 28, 1866

<sup>[2]</sup> Laylin