

# **RALLS COUNTY MISSOURI HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER**

## **Volume 1, Issue 6**

### **November 2002**

**RALLS COUNTY MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 182  
CENTER MISSOURI 63436  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~morchs/>

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

#### **January is an Important Meeting**

The January 20 meeting will be our "Annual Meeting" with the election of officers, 10 directors and a historian so it is important that you attend if possible. Because of the like of membership in the past some of these positions could not be filled because we had less than 10 members at one time. The directors recommend plans and projects for the society, stimulate interest and appoint persons when a vacancy occurred on office. If possible a director should be from each township. The Historian will be the keeper of historical items and records which are property of the society. This will be an important position because of the items we have received this year and will receive in the future. They will have to catalog and preserve each item.

During the year special and standing committee will be nominated for nominations, program planning and auditing of the books. Because of our size you may be required to service on more than one board or committee. The nomination committee for the January meeting will announced at the November 18 meeting. Because of e-mail many of our out of the area or state members could serve on many of these committees or be a director.

#### **September Meeting/Picnic**

The Saturday, September 21 meeting/picnic was well attended and will likely become an annual event. I would like to thank Ralph Omer, Fred Omer and Charlotte Omer for their hard work in preparing the great food for the event. Also thanks goes to Margarethe Price for her great deserts. Many of our members who for reasons of work or family cannot attend our Monday night meeting were in attendance. In some cases this was the first meeting some had been to attend and see our results and hear of our projects in person.

#### **2003 Dues**

2003 dues are now due. They will remain at \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for a family membership. Please if possible fill out a membership form or include your address, phone number (optional), e-mail address and family members if you get a family membership. Payments mailed should be sent to Ralls County Historical

Society Inc., P. O. Box 182, Center MO 63435.

**Anyone wanting to make a donation to the society for any of our projects remember the deadline is coming up January 31.**

### **Ralls County Courthouse**

The Ralls County Commissioners choose Klingner & Associates of Hannibal MO as engineering firm to do the study on the Courthouse restoration. As soon as funding is found they say the project will begin. Jamie Page, a Ralls Countian and Mark Twain graduate will be in charge. I'm keeping in touch with the commissioners on their progress.

### **Website**

Our website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~morchs/> will soon have recorded 500 hits. You can now see the new "Courthouse" T-shirts and the St. Paul/Brush Creek church mugs what we have available. Please recheck the site every week or two because we plan to keep dated with information and site of local interest. Mr. Jay McAfee sent corrections and updates on our cemetery listings on the website, which you can find later in this "Newsletter".

### **Newsletter**

These bi-monthly "Newsletter" has been a great tool in keeping Ralls County History and information flowing, but because of the fast pace of information today a faster way is needed to send and receive information. I will be sending more E-mails out to keep you updated with news and information on the news, events and information of the society and the surrounding area. The information will still be in the next Newsletter, updated for the members receiving the Newsletter by mail.

When I changed my e-mail address I added some friends and people who I thought would be interested in Ralls County history to these e-mail listings. If for any reason you want to be taken off this mailing list, please e-mail requesting that I remove you from the mailing list.

### **CALENDAR:**

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

January 20, 2003 at Center Christian church Basement

March 17, 2003 at Perry VFW

May 19, 2003 at New London courthouse basement

July 21, 2003 at Center Christian church basement

September 15, 2002 at Perry (annual meeting/picnic)

November 17, 2002 at New London courthouse basement

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and meetings beginning at 7:00 p.m. except September meeting which is being planned.

Please send your groups events and date so we can add them to the calendar

**The new name of this Newsletter will be announced at the November 18 meeting**

### **Shortline Railroad Trip**

A group of Shortline Railroad buffs will visit some of the railroad's grades on Saturday November 23. They will start at 7:30 a.m. at Gilmore MO, near Wentzville and work their way north. They can be joined any time throughout the day. Plans are to eat lunch in Bowling Green at Crystals on old highway 54. For more information contact Rev. Conrad Cheatham at ccheatham@ureach.com or me at rwleake@aol.com or call 636-225-8575.

### **Books of Local Interest**

**"Vine and Fig Tree: Salt River County Chronicles"** By Goldena Howard. 26 stores weave an intimate historical record of the lives, language, and values of charmingly idiosyncratic characters in rural small town Missouri from 1880-1960. \$21.85 postpaid inclusive. Send check or money order to: Ralls County Book Company, P. O. Box 375, New London, MO 63459 (credit cards ONLY: 21.85 plus shipping and handling, call 888-232-4444

**"A History of Marion County 1884"** Available in early 2003. \$65.00 + \$5.00 shipping till December 1, after December the price will be \$70.00 +\$5.00 Shipping. Checks to: Marion County Historical Society, Box #1161, Hannibal MO 63401-1161. Books may be picked up at the Hannibal Arts Counsel, 1221 Market St. Hannibal MO.

**"Pike County History" 1883** is now available for \$75.00 plus \$5.00 shipping from the Pike County Genealogical Society. Send your check to Pike County Genealogical Missouri Society, P. O. Box 313, Bowling Green MO. 63334-0313. The book is a total of 1,160 pages with index.

**"Bluff City Memories"**, 128 pages, 232 illustrations, \$19.99 by Steve Chou. The book is a photo journey from Hannibal's post-Civil War period to the early 1960's. Arranged chronologically, the photographs show the town's growth and development over a 100 year period. All of the photographs are new from my first book, and many have never before been published. The book is being carried by several merchants in Hannibal, namely Big River Books, Mississippi Mall, the Mark Twain Museum, Mark Twain Book and Gift Shop, and Becky's Ice Cream Emporium.

### **Painting Missouri**

We have been working with artist Billy O'Donnel and writer Karen Glines on their project to do one painting and article in each county in Missouri. Their project is called "Painting Missouri" and for more information go to their website below <http://www.paintingmissouri.com/about.html>

Click on "About" on the site and see Billyo at work at New London last month.

### **Book Update**

The completion of the Goldena Howard article and "Old Pioneer Settlers Biographies" books have been delayed because of computer problems. I'm I hope to back to work on them soon.

### **History of Lone Prairie School**

Helen Renner has volunteered to do a history of the Lone Prairie in Ralls County for the society and would be grateful for any information on former teachers, students, pictures or information you can share with her. Some the teachers that she needs help on are James H. Coil, John Fassracht, John Ram and Clara Coons. Send your information to Helen Renner, 104 N. Meadow Lane, Montgomery City MO., 63361 or e-mail [jnhelenr@ktis.net](mailto:jnhelenr@ktis.net)

### **Dedications**

There were two dedication of monuments recently for that had a Ralls county connection. October 26, 2002 the "Immigrant Monument" at Ilasco was dedicated and attended by a large crowd. It is worth your time to make a trip by Ilasco to see this and the other monument that the Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society have built in memory of the immigrant families that settled there. Nice work Dave and Sally. November 3, 2002 Bishop Gregory dedicated a statue of Father Augustine Tolton, a native of Ralls County who was the first black American priest, outside St. Patrick Catholic Church in East St. Louis. The Ralls county Catholic Church Brush Creek, also known as St. Peters, was where Father Tolton was baptized.

**Speaking of Brush Creek, a group dedicated people are trying to restore that old church and if you can be of any help contact Keith Herron at 573-735-2234 or [kherron@mantank.com](mailto:kherron@mantank.com)**

**Books and items available from Ralls County Historical Society, P.O. Box 182, Center Missouri 63436**

**"Ralls County"** by Goldena Howard (reprint of 1980 History of Ralls Co.) \$50.00 plus \$5.00 if mailed

**"Mark Twain"** Oliver and Goldena Howard \$15.00 plus \$2.00 if mailed

**"End of a Way of Life"** by Dee West and Okle Rouse \$15.00 postage paid (no more when supplies run out)

**"Ralls County Missouri Settler and Settlements Volume #1, Lick Creek"** \$15.00  
plus \$2.00 if mailed

**St. Paul and St. Peters Coffee Mugs** The third versions of coffee mugs are still available at \$5.00 each. This version features the Catholic Churches St. Paul and St. Peters. St Paul built in 1860 is the oldest Catholic Church north of St Louis and known as the mother church of north Missouri.

The "Little Red School House Afghan" raffle drawing will be at the November 18 meeting. For those still interested the tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The money will go toward the Fagan School project. Because the school will not likely be moved before spring, we are planning to use volunteers and community service people to cover the school to protect it from any more damage on the inside. The work day will be next Saturday November 23 a.m. weather allowing. Let me know as soon as possible if you can help, the more the better. Also if you have an idea on how to better cover the roof let me know too.

**Below is a proposal to the Ralls School District and Perry Elementary School prepared by the Fagan School Committee. Members are Wayne Clark, John Roy Chipman and Deb Carey. I would like to thank the committee for their great job on preparing the proposal. Please read the proposal so we can vote on it at meeting November 18. If approved will be presented to the Perry Booster Club at their meeting in January.**

### **Proposal to Perry Elementary School from the Ralls County Historical Society for the Preservation of Fagan School**

The Ralls County Historical Society would like to locate the Fagan School on Perry Elementary property and enlist the help of the Perry Elementary Booster Club in preserving the School.

The Ralls County Historical society would be responsible for moving the school to the Perry Elementary location. The building is 30' X 40'. A possible location for school would be the front, southwest corner of the property.

Should the Booster Club choose to participate in the project they would be responsible for the renovation.

The Fagan School would become the property of the Ralls County R-2 School District. If in future the school district did not want the building on their property any longer, the Ralls County Historical Society would be given the opportunity to take over ownership of the building and move it from the school property.

The Ralls County Historical Society would help the Booster Club with manpower in the renovations and would be available to present historical program to the student.

This project would be of educational benefit to the students of Perry Elementary in that they would have the opportunity to work in a one room school house and learn the history of Ralls County. Another possible use of the building would be for community meetings.

Thanks you for your consideration of the this proposal

### **Quilt Raffle raises \$435 for Fagan School Preservation**

Patsy Moore Brice has been making quilts entirely by hand for a long time. On October 19 she raffled her 38th Cathedral Window pattern, complete with pillow shams, for the benefit of preservation of Fagan School. The raffle was held at Huck Hall, Mark Twain State Park, site of the 2002 reunion of Descendants of William and Olive Wright.

William and "Ollie" settled on Lick Creek just 4 miles south of Perry soon after their marriage November 15, 1885. William had accompanied cousins from the Hart and Jackson families from Bath County, Kentucky to Ralls County. Olive Verna Smith was born in Barry, Pike County Illinois but had grown up in Monroe County Missouri just three miles SW of Perry. Six Children, Clarence, Ada, Stanley, Lela, Elva (Patsy's mother), and Flora were born and raised at the Lick Creek home. Fagan School was less than a mile due west of the home. All of the children attended Fagan for varying periods from circa 1895 until 1918.

Marriages of these children further connected the family to other prominent Lick Creek settlers and Fagan School attendees. Clarence married Opha Dodd from nearby Monroe County. Ada married Alva Elam, son of Alfred Elam and Genella Crockett, neighbors at Lick Creek. Stanley married Nana Scobee of Perry who died in 1918; then Della Harnagle from St. Louis. Lela married Ed Westfall, son of Charles Westfall and Minnie Sinclair, also neighbors at Lick Creek. Elva married Glen H. Moore, son of John Calvin Moore from Piddletown on Lick Creek. And Flora married E. G. Jack Clark in Phoenix, Arizona.

Their descendants are grateful for the effort by Ralls County Historical Society to preserve this historic building.

**hanks to the descendants of William and Olive Wright for their generous donation to the Fagan School project.**

### **Greenlawn Cemetery Association to sell memberships**

PERRY - The Greenlawn Cemetery Association met for its annual meeting on Oct. 23. During the meeting it was unanimously approved to establish a membership. By forming a membership, it is hoped that there will be more interest and assistance in keeping the cemetery and chapel in good condition.

The Greenlawn Cemetery and Memorial Chapel are located four miles north of Perry on Route J. Once a vital part of the small rural community of Greenlawn, the cemetery and chapel are all that remain as a reminder of the past. Both date back to 1883 with the first burial conducted that year and the chapel erected. A stroll through the cemetery uncovers a vast history of the community with many of the early settlers and members of the Methodist-affiliated chapel being laid to rest here including many soldiers serving in history's various wars. Alongside these early graves are graves of more recent members of the Perry area. Many plots are still available in the cemetery.

As with many older cemeteries and their buildings, the Greenlawn Cemetery and Chapel are in need of extensive repairs. Association members are hoping that with an expanded membership, monies will be available to begin restoration and assist with the upkeep.

Dues are \$5 per person or \$10 for a corporate membership. Each paid member will receive one voting share at the annual meeting each fall. Anyone interested in becoming a member can mail his or her dues to Kristy Yancey, 23768 Highway J, and Perry, Mo. 63462.

### **Presidents Views:**

We are coming up great year for the society both financially and in our increasing membership. Because of both these we should be able to have even a better year in 2003. Some of our successes were; sale of the "Ralls County" history book, first "Newsletter, Shortline Railroad talk, our own website, displays at Perry July 4<sup>th</sup>., Center Park Day, New London Park Day and Time was Days in Perry, photo display at the "Garden of Angels Antique Shoppe" in Perry, post office box, ham & bean supper, meeting/picnic, third issue of coffee mugs, started the ball rolling on the Courthouse restoration, mapping cemeteries, photo scanning, restoring the old Bank in Perry, sale of "Little Red School House Afghan", Courthouse T-Shirt and more. Behind the scenes there are members who are not able to attend meeting, but do the typing and research that no one sees. I want thank the membership for making this year such a success.

### **Below is an update of cemetery information found on our website by Jay McAfee.**

110: Rosencrans; aka Miller/Hickman Saverton twp. 29-56-3 ("on Earl Rosencrans farm south of Saverton. In 1946 atlas he shown with land in sections 28, 29 & 33)

***Glascok - Hickman Cemetery*** it has incorrectly been called the Miller/Hickman Cemetery and the Rosenkrans Cemetery. It probably should be corrected for the record too since it is incorrectly listed in Goldena Howard's "Ralls County" book.

The cemetery was named after the Glascock family (descendants of Downing Glascock Sr.) and the Sylvester Hickman family (his wife, Charlotte Glascock) daughter of Downing Glascock Sr. Charlotte's family is buried there including herself, her husband Sylvester Hickman and three of their sons. Charlotte's sister, Susanah Glascock, and their brother, James Snowden Glascock are also buried there. It is suspected that Downing Glascock Sr. and Susanah Strother, his wife, are buried there too.

Charlotte Glascock and Sylvester Hickman's daughter, Mary Hickman, married Dr. Archie J. Campbell b. in Canada. Dr. Campbell is buried there too next to the Hickman family. Mary Hickman Campbell remarried later to Dr. John Miller. There is no evidence that either Mary or John are buried there or any of their children. The majority of burials there are Glascock related either descendants of Downing Glascock Sr. or his daughter, Charlotte's children. There are 2 or 3 Chapmans buried there, 1 Lamberson and 1 Dunlap/Gregory.

The Rosenkrans name is incorrectly used as the cemetery name simply because it exists on the old Earl Rosenkrans farm. There are no Rosenkrans buried there to my knowledge.

A few other notes on cemeteries in the area:

Penn Cemetery is actually located behind the home of the late Larry Arthaud and Sharon Arthaud on Malaruni Rd. It is also referred to as the Penn - Lowe Cemetery. It contains burials of Horatio Penn and Henry Lowe family. Mary "Polly" (Glascock) Lowe, wife of Henry Lowe and daughter of Downing H. Glascock Sr. & Susanah Strother is buried there.

Taylor Cemetery is located behind the old Earl Rosenkrans farm (now Central Stone quarry) back near the old Taylor home (close to the Mississippi River and a creek). It is down the gravel road (the runs east before you reach Central Stone).

Sinklear/Sinclair Cemetery: This cemetery sits high on a knob/hill on Centenary Rd. past Centenary Cemetery and past the old Snell and Kelly farms. Burials included there include Sinklear/Sinclair, Snell, Bramblett, Snead, Griffin and Glascock.

There is another cemetery not mentioned that includes a few burials that sits behind the present John Frame home off Centenary Rd. It contains burials of a Lowe family and another unknown family. It sits near power lines behind the Frame home approximately 300 ft. It appears that REA (Ralls Co Electric) may have damaged some of these headstones/markers when they added lines several years ago.

There is another cemetery that should be mentioned when relating to Ralls Co and the Southeast section of Saverton Twp., Ralls Co, Missouri near the Pike Co, MO line in Salt River Twp. It actually sits on Pike Co Rd. 100 at Busch, Pike Co, MO but contains burials of families in both Ralls and Pike Co. It is really several family graveyards in the same area.

There is the Hays Family Cemetery; the McGee family cemetery (descendants of Josia McGee & Artemesia Hiller includes a Barnard and a Strother). Gilbert Cemetery (Sam Ewing Gilbert and family) Jolley Cemetery, Ehret (only 1 Ehret), a Zumwalt and a few others. All in the same section of land (at Busch) but several family cemeteries.

Another cemetery sits just down from Busch on the Droste Farm (on the left of gravel rd. before you reach Droste Farm on Hwy. 79).

There is another grave located at Timberlake Estates on Hwy. 79 (just between the earthen dam and Hwy. 79) next to a large tree (unmarked). Supposedly a young girl who died of illness probably late 1800's to early 1900's (unmarked grave). Two stories I've heard. One was that she was from a family passing thru the area. Another story was that she is an Indian girl.

There are several Indian mounds/burials in the area of the Panamas near Lookout Mountain that sits between Saverton and the Saverton Lock & Dam.

There is another possible reported cemetery off of Barnard Rd. off Rt. T past Centenary Rd. I was told that some old graves/markers sit next to a barn somewhere in that area. Possibly the old Matson farm.

I am a descendant of the Glascocks, Snells, Sinklear/Sinclairs, McGees, Strother and a few other families in that area of Centenary and Busch in Southeast Ralls county and Northeast Pike Co.

Jerry A. "Jay" McAfee (the Glascock Family Society of the USA)

P.S. - You may or may not be aware that a famous musical composer lived in the area of Centenary in Saverton Twp. He was Egbert "Bert" Anson Van Alstyne. He wrote the song "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree". He lived with relatives of his mother's family, the Rogers, at Centenary. Egbert attended Centenary School and Centenary Methodist Church. He was a childhood friend of my great grandfather, Harvey Martin Snell, who lived in Centenary all of his life. His daughter, Dora Margaret (Snell) Glascock, is my grandmother.

### **BIT OF RALLS COUNTY HISTORY**

#### **Depot at Center Destroyed by Fire Sunday "The Perry Enterprise" June 23, 1910**

The depot at Center was struck by lightning Sunday afternoon about 2 o'clock, during an electrical and rainstorm, and destroyed together with all of the contents. The lightning is supposed to have struck the telegraph wires and ran into the building setting the interior on fire. It was a frame building, and was in flames all over in such a short time that it was impossible to save any of the contents even the books were destroyed. A small building at the edge of the platform has been provided for the operator until a building can be erected. It would be a nice thing for the flourishing town of Center to have a nice concrete block depot.

#### **Fire at Center "The Perry Enterprise" October 19, 1911**

Center was visited by a costly fire early Sunday morning. About three o'clock in the morning fire was discovered in the clothing store of D. B. Hulse & Co., by Joe Butler. The fire was under such headway that it could not be extinguished. The fire soon consumed the Hulse & Co's stock, the hardware, implement and grocery stock of Dunlap, Ely & Lane; Mark Hulse's poultry fixtures and stock; Odd Fellow and Masonic halls. D. B. Hulse & Co., carried a stock valued at \$9,000, with \$4,000 insurance; Dunlap, Ely & Lane loss was something like \$6,000 with \$3,500 insurance; Mark Hulse's loss was \$3,850 with no insurance; George Foster owned one of the buildings and had \$1,500 insurance; Jno. Keithly another building with \$1,000; Jno. Hulse still another building with \$1,000 insurance. The Odd Fellows had \$800 insurance on their room and \$450 on fixtures; Masons had \$800 on room and fixtures. The records of each lodge were destroyed. During the fire south wall on the building occupied by Dr. Graves drug store, crushing through into his store, demolishing his stock of goods. Thos. Webb was caught under the falling bricks and several of his ribs were broken and he was considerably bruised. It is not known how the fire started. Center has had several fires the last few years, and we

sincerely sympathize with our sister city.

### **Center Christian Church destroyed by Fire "The Perry Enterprise" August 15, 1912**

About 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon during the electrical and rainstorm lighting struck the cupola of the Christian church, of Center, and the building burned. By hard work the residence on the south and the livery barn on the east were saved. The church was moved from the Olivet cemetery one mile north of that town 22 years ago, at that time it had been erected 19 years. When moved an addition was added. However the building was a fine state of preservation. The building was valued at \$4,000 with \$1,500 insurance. All of the seats, carpets, piano, and other fixtures of the church were saved. Plans are now being made to erect a modern brick building on the same site. We extend sympathy to the Center people in the loss of the church, and are sure that they will here many months, have an elegant new building to replace the old one.

### **Big Fire at Center Perry Missouri "Enterprise" February 6, 1913**

The Center Cash Mercantile Company Store, owned by OI E. Smith, of Hannibal and A. Nagel of Center, was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. The entire stock of goods was reduced to ashes, with the double storeroom. The fire was discovered by Hamilton Fike, who lives near the scene of the fire. About 4 O'clock Sunday morning. The fire was then beyond control. The fire is supposed to have originated near the front part of the south room, but it is not known how it started. The drug store of Theo B. Clark on the north was damaged, likewise Epperson harness shop on the south was damaged, but neither to any great extent. The building occupied by the Center Cash Mercantile Company Store was the property of F. W. Keithly and Epperson and Young. Each building is estimated to be worth \$2,000; insured for about one-half. The stock of goods was a large one and valued at \$25,000 or \$30,000, insured for \$18,000. Center has been very unfortunate with having costly fires, as there has been a half dozen or more big fires in the last few years. Perry people regret the hard luck of our sister City.

### **Central Hotel Burns "The Perry Enterprise" March 25, 1915**

The first and only brick hotel Center ever had was destroyed by fire early in the afternoon Wednesday. Before the fire was discovered it had advanced beyond control of all efforts that might be made to extinguish it. Seeing that only a part of the contents might be saved, the people began emptying the burning building with all haste. Nearly ever thing was removed from the first floor, but there was a great deal of stuff burned on the second floor. The Central Hotel was built in the year of 1892 by W. C. Heskett and five years later J. B. Brashears and Dr. F. M. Wicks traded for it and with the exception of a period of about fifteen months, they have resided there conducting a hotel, a period of 20 years, it was heart breaking to these folks to see their old home destroyed by fire and the entire community sympathizes with them in the loss which was covered, however, by good insurance. The fire was discovered in the attack but the origin is unknown. There was insurance to the amount of \$3,000 on the building, which is written in a company represented by E. A. Keithly. There was an insurance of \$800 on the contents, which was carried by a company

by represented by H. F. Young. Before the building was burned down the people all took hold and had the household goods stored in the Clayton Hotel – "Center Herald"