

# RALLS COUNTY MISSOURI HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

## Volume 1, Issue 5

### September 2002

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

The society now has an excellent website up and running, if you haven't visited it yet do so at your next chance. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~morchs/> Thanks to Delores Woodhurst for the great job of getting the site up and running. All the known cemeteries, churches, and school are listed by location. We have information, articles and photos on the courthouse, Shortline, Fagan School and many other points of interest in Ralls County history. We will be updating it as often as we can with pictures, articles and historical information on Ralls County history. Please feel free to contribute your photos, articles and information by e-mailing me at [rwleake@aol.com](mailto:rwleake@aol.com) or Delores at [woodhurst@missvalley.com](mailto:woodhurst@missvalley.com). PLEASE NOTE MY E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE ABOVE

I hope that everyone will be able to attend the September 21 picnic at the Perry City Park. The official meeting will begin at 1:00 pm, we have some major projects working and we do need and want your input. I will try and cover most of the projects in this newsletter, so we won't have to spend a lot of time previewing them at the meeting. A main purpose on the picnic is to thank everyone for the great year we have had and get to know some of the out-of-town members who will be able to come to this day meeting. Some of the members have been working on cemetery, photo and other projects that they will have on display. We also have a short video of the Shortline Railroad that we will be showing. Please bring anything that you may have that would be of interest like photos and articles. The meal will not start until around 4:00 pm, because of some scheduling problems, yes I'll take the blame. We may not be able to use the shelter for the meeting and may have to hold the meeting at the bank building in the north part of the park, so you may want to bring lawn chairs. We will be able to use the shelter for the meal. Everyone should come and go as they like, I hope you can eat with us, the Omers, Margarethe Price and others will be working hard in preparing a great meal. The work day part of the day is canceled because the amount of work needed to complete the project would take more than one day. Some of us will be around the bank building around 11:00 to clean up the building for the day, you are welcome to come and help with that. The building has old lath and plaster walls and the plaster is broken and not repairable. I have been unable to find any one who does plaster work, so we will replace the plaster with dry wall. The lath is usable and has to be in place to make sure the widows and door will fit. We will hire someone to put up the drywall, widows and door at a later date. We would like for everyone to look at the project and give us their opinion and input about how the insides should be decorated. Thanks to Ralph Omer, Fred Omer, Bill Clearley and others have done a great job in getting the building in place and back in good shape. The building will be used as a show place for visitors, events like the 4th of July and "Time Was Days". We now have the ways to make copies of old photos that we can leave in the building and not worry about thief or damage. Also the building will not have any electricity or heat. Please read the article in the "Bit of Ralls County History" section at the end of this Newsletter. This is the first written proof we have that proves that the above building was the first bank in Perry.

The first chance we have to use the building will be at the "Time Was Day" on September 28. We will have both the bank and tent in use for displays, sales and information. We will need help at the display, so if you can help please let me know.

The day following the "Time Was Day" on the 29th some of us old people are having a "Perry High School" reunion. If you attend Perry High School or not stop by for a visit. For more information e-mail or contact me about meals and times. Also Shirley Levings and Pat Egbert can be contacted for information.

The Ralls county courthouse project is beginning to roll and come to life. Letters of inquiry have been received and a decision should be made before the meeting on the firm to research the scope and cost involved in the completing the project. There have been 75 t-shirts ordered with the 1870s pictures of the courthouse that will be for sale by the picnic. They will be \$12.00 each plus shipping if they have to be mailed.

We sent an offer to buy the Center MO Shortline Railroad Depot, so we could begin to restore the site before winter, the city turned us down. They want to wait on a possible grant and seem to want to do the project themselves. I have number of interested and dedicated railroad buffs who want to see the project begin. I will try and meet with the city officials and see what their plans are and where or if we can fit in.

I have heard from an official from the Greenlawn Church project, but understand that they working on a grant of some kind. I will make an effort to contact someone and see if we can be of any help.

A committee of Wayne Clark, John Roy Chipman and Debbie Carey is working on the Fagan School project and will make a report as soon as they can. Thanks Wayne, John Roy and Debbie

I met with the Ralls County library board and they are still in the planning stages of their building project. I will keep in contact with them and see if we can fit into their plans, which would be assets to both parties.

We will make an announcement on the naming of this "Newsletter" at the picnic. The new name will begin with the New Year in January. Thanks you all for voting and input.

We send this "Newsletter" by e-mail to both members and non-members, so if you know of anyone interested please have them e-mail me to be added to the e-mailing list. A number of our member do not computer or not on the internet and we mail their copies by snail mail. If a member's e-mailed "Newsletter" is returned because it is undeliverable or some other reasons I will mail a copy to be sure the member get their copy. If you are receiving this by postage mail and have an e-mail address, send us your e-mail address. Also if you have changed your e-mail address let us know, Thanks.

So far we have been able to find twenty Goldena Howard articles and as soon as they are edited some should be in the Hannibal Courier-Post and Ralls County Herald-Enterprise soon. There are many more to do and it may be necessary to do a two volume book when we find all of them. Thanks to Sue Delaporte for her hard work in getting the articles into Word.

The book of forty four Ralls County "Old Pioneer Settlers Biographies" needs to be edited and indexed. I hope to get back to working on it later this month and have it ready before the end of the year.

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

Membership in RCHS is \$10 per person or \$15.00 per family per year Jan. 1 to Dec 31  
November 18 Meeting

"LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE" AFGHAN

There will be raffle for a "Little Red School House" Afghan to be given away at the "Time Was Days" in Perry on September 28. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets are

available from Billie Mac Cearley, Imogene Karaff and Mary Beck or by mail by sending a check to Ralls County Historical Society, P. O. Box #182, and Center MO. They will also be available at our booth manned at local events. It can be seen at the May, July and September meetings and manned booths

#### **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.

Membership: \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for a family

#### **Presidents Views;**

I just want to thanks the members who have volunteered for projects and the work that they have done. We have photographing, burning old picture on to CDs, cemetery mapping and other projects that members have began and spent many hours of work on. If you have an interest or project that you would like to work on contact me and I will put you touch someone work on a like project or help you start a project you self.

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

**Perry Missouri "Enterprise" September 8, 1932**

**Mr. and Mrs., Jackson Celebrate 55th Wedding Anniversary**

**Both Born In Bath County Kentucky; Came To Missouri In 1881; Lived At Present Home 42 Years.**

Mr. and Mrs. Walls Jackson pioneer residents of this community quietly celebrated the 55th anniversary of their marriage at their home Sunday. They do not have a family gathering on this day because earlier in the summer about July 4th all of their children come home and they have a big fish fry. This event was celebrated ad usual this year. Fifty-five is a long time for a couple to live together and during this time Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have seen wars and rumors of wars prosperity on every hand, panics and depressions, all the inventions of the modern age come into being and have seen Perry grow from a hamlet into a thriving little city.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were married in Bath County, Kentucky at Owensville, September 4, 1877. Mr. Jackson was born, July 4th, 1854, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson and Mrs. Jackson was born march 6, 1861, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hart. Both were born in Bath County, went to school together and grew up in the same community. Mr. Jackson as young man was bound out, as was the custom in those days, until he was 17 years of age. He went to Indiana after serving his apprenticeship and remained until he was 23. He then came back to Kentucky and was married. On September 13th, 1881 they came into Missouri by railroad and first stopped at Versailles in Morgan County. At that time the James boys were terrorizing the people of the state and one incident Mr. Jackson remembers about the trip form St. Louis to Versailles concerns them. Conductor came rushing through the train and told the passengers to hide valuables as the engineer had seen some lights up the track and was sure the James Boys were going to hold up the train. The report was however without foundation and they arrived at their destination without any trouble. After arriving at Versailles they went to Old Linn Creek, where they remained from Wednesday until Monday morning. They then came to Perry, intending to make a short visit but upon their arrival were persuaded by a number of influential men to establish their permanent home here. This they did and in all the years have never lived farther than 3 miles from Perry. In 1890 they bought their home south of Perry and have since lived there.

Our town presents quite a different sight today from its appearance in 1881. the house were widely scattered corn grew right up close to the few business houses and all the bricks in the town were in the flues, nothing but frame buildings in the entire town. The first bank building in Perry is now standing on the Judge M. T. Gill property at the edge of town. Looking up and down the streets of Perry Saturday afternoon, Mr. Jackson said he was able to find very few people who were residents of Perry when he came here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have never accepted some of the things that make up our modern

civilization. They have never owned an automobile, preferring to take their chances of arriving at their destination with their house and buggy. Another remarkable thing about this couple is their unusually good health. They are both strong and do all their own work. During their married life \$100 would easily cover their doctor bills, neither one of them having had any serious sickness.

They have reared four children, all of whom are living. Mr. Bertha (Funs) Wolfenbarger, Perry; Mrs. Nora (W. A.) Raun (Rauh?), Perry; Mrs. Beulah (Herbert) Waterston, Hannibal; and Mrs. Katie (William) Dye, St. Louis. They have six grandchildren, Mrs. John Cleaver, Mrs. Thomas McClintic, Perry; and Mrs. Charles Milliron, Quincy IL; Miss Edna Rauh of Perry; William Waterston, of Hannibal; and Jackie Dye, of St. Louis. Two grandchildren Carl Rauh and Wallace Wolfenbarger, having passed away. There are four great grandchildren, Margaret Jo, Bobbie Dalton, John, Jr., and Mary Wallace, the children of Mr. and Mrs. John Cleaver.