

Ralls County Historical

Volume 3- Issue 6

November 2004

RALLS COUNTY MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 182

CENTER MISSOURI 63436

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~morchs/>

Ralls County Historical Museum and Library

120 East Main Street, Perry Missouri

Open Saturday 9:00-5:00 Sunday 11:00-4:00, Wednesday 10:00-5:00

Phone 573-565-2025

Dear Ralls County Members and Friends;

November Meeting; The Ralls County Historical Society will meet November 15 the Center Christian Church at 7:00 P.M.. Before the meeting the former Center St. Louis & Hannibal "Short Line" Railroad depot will be open at 6:00 P.M. to the show the progress of its restoration. Plans are being made to have the depot restored by spring for a Grand Opening. Maxine and Mike Moore have done an outstanding job in restoring the depot, if you have time stop and see the results of their work. I also want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Fred Omer for their donation for a door for the depot, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Sharp for saving and donating the old Perry "Short Line" luggage cart, Jeff Hibbs who washed and painted the inside and outside of the depot, Mr and Mrs Randy McDonald of McDonald & Sons Enterprise who donated the paint for the depot, Bonnie Screckengast, and Ruth Evans for their help. We have also had community service people working on the depot.

2005 Calendar of Meetings

January 17 Annual Meeting Please try and attend

March 21

May 16

July 18

September 19 Society Picnic

November 21

We plan to continue to have our meetings at Ralls County points of interest. If you know of any location that we could meet contact us by e-mail, mail, and phone or at a meeting. Also we will likely revisit some of the sites we meet at in the past, if have one you would like to revisit also please contact us. We are also working on having joint meetings with neighbouring societies and this but cause a date change.

Courthouse; The Engineering for the plans of the restoration have began and will continue till spring.

Museum; Our Library/Museum continues to grow almost daily. We have recently relieved a large collection of material from Jack Hutchison

Fox and Sac Museum; Plans are being worked out on by the Missouri Humanities Counsel to have this off the ground in the spring. I hope to have more information before the meeting Monday

Recipe Book; This project continues and recipes are still needed. Please bring your recipes to the meeting, drop them at the museum or mail them to our Center MO address. PO 182, Center Mo 63436

Presidents View;

With the growth of our Library/Museum and present projects we are in need of more volunteers. There will be a special e-mail and mailed letters sent out soon to all present, past members and friends of the society recruiting membership to our organization. In the letter will be a slip with a list of positions we need help with. If you would like to volunteer for one of this position, please let you know.

I would like to see our membership for the society grow to between 125 and 160 memberships and I believe this is a reachable goal. The above-mentioned letter is being sent to increase our membership and archive this goal. If you know of anyone who may be interested in our group let us know or copy this Newsletter to them. Monday's meeting will be the last of the year so dues will be due starting January 1. Memberships are \$10.00 for single and \$15.00. Please include the number members for family memberships. Ralls County MO Historical Society, PO Box 182, Center MO 63436

Ralls County Cemetery;

Watson Cemetery

Allen; Emily M. died November 8 1887, age 55 years 57days?

Allen; George W. born July 15, 1830, died August 12, 1865

Allen; Philas, born August 11, 1856, died March 15, 1877, daughter of George W
E. M.

Lindsay; Infant son of Dr. S? and E. L. born and died 1873

Watson; Bayless R., born July 14, 1856, died October 14, 1861 son of J. H. and B. G.

Watson; Elizabeth, born May 4, 1804, died June 16, 1860, wife of James D.,

Watson; James D. born 21, 1801, died March 8, 1872

Watson; John H., died July 6, 1865, 24 years 10 months, 9 days age

Bit of Ralls County History;

Perry MO Coal Mining

New London "Times" June 26, 1866

Perry—This little town, which we visited on Saturday last, presents a prosperous and flourishing condition, although much can yet be done to improve it appearance, quite a number of handsome frame dwellings and business house have been erected and other are on the way of construction. A little judicious advertising by the owners of lots and the business men of the place, will attract the action of other, give tone and energy to its business houses and manufactures and soon the now little twin of will swell to such vast proportions as to surprise even the residents. It is a good situation for a manufacturing tow, from the fact that coal is a abundant and cheap and wood plentiful and of good quality. We wish the town of Perry and its enterprising citizens in their laudable efforts to build up a city.

Hannibal MO "Clipper" October 17, 1874

Perry Coal Beds

In view of the fact that inexhaustible beds of bituminous coal around near Perry, Rawls (Ralls) County, on the line of the proposed railroad from Hannibal to Mexico, Audrain County, it is passing strange that no company has been properly formed for the development of the mines. Thousands of bushels of this coal find their way to Hannibal every year by wagon conveyance and is sold at high

figures for blacksmithing purposes. When in the completion of a railroad to this point, the coal can be sold at figures warranting its use, for not only mechanical but for fuel purposes. Being of a superior quality to any ordinarily used in the city, it would take precedence over all other and consequently be a source of revenue of the greatest importance to the proprietors. The only reason advanced thus for not taking hold of the matter, is the supposed theory that the coal is all on the surface and has no depth justifying the expenditure of capital in the purchase of lands and development of mines. Of its superiority, there is no shadow of doubt as it has stood the test for manufactures for many years and pronounced equal to the famous Pittsburgh coal and as to its all being on the surface and not of sufficient depth, who has ever sunk a shaft in order to test the matter? No One! The development of the mines would undoubtedly not only enrich the company, but would be an incentive to renewed energy in the matter of completing the proposed railroad, now in running order from Hannibal to New London, a distance of 10 miles, leaving only 15 miles to be built to tap the coal regions. The distance being of no great importance, 25 miles, the products of the mines would be sold at a lower rate than is charged for our present supplies and would not only prove a saving of many thousands of dollars per annum in the price of household fuel, but would make Hannibal and extensive coal market double or triple our manufactures. Let those mines be developed it will not only add to the wealth of Rawls (Ralls) County, but will give an impetus to the business of Hannibal that will assure her of untold prosperity.

“Catalogue of Perry Public School” 1899-1900 “

Mining Interests

A rich vein of coal underlies the town and surrounding country. This is now being worked by two mines operating near town, which give employment to seventy-five or hundreds men. With the extension to the road to the south-west, which seems a favorable possibility for the near future, the mining interest and other business enterprises of Perry will be largely increased. At present there is no vacant property to supply the constant and increasing demand for house.