

Ralls County Historical

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November 2005

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 November and last meeting for 2005 of the Ralls County Historical Society will be held Monday, November 21, at the Garth Woodside Mansion, 11069 New London Gravel Road. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for a one hour informal gathering, with appetizers. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a preview of this year and plans for next year along with the normal business items.

This mansion is not only a National Historic Landmark, but is the first ranked Bed and Breakfast in Missouri and forth in the Nation.

From Hannibal or 61 south take Warren-Barrett and turn south on New London Gravel and the mansion is 1/3 mile on the west or right side. You can also take these same directions from 61 north, or turn right or east on Ocean Wave Lane, go about 0.2 of a mile to New London Gravel and the mansion is about 0.8 of a mile on the west side or left side of the road.

Please use to Restaurant entrance

Center "Shortline" Depot;

By the time of meeting we should have the painting done at the depot, thanks to Maxine Moore and her crew. John Rogers has begun to place railroad display ties and track at the depot. We continue to work on obtaining a St. Louis and Hannibal "Shortline" box car and caboose to display at the depot. We could know something by meeting time.

Ralls County Courthouse;

Progress on the Ralls County Courthouse restoration continues to be on or ahead of schedule. Plans are underway to work with the county on having an event to celebrate the completion of the restoration and the reopening of the courthouse next spring. Your suggestions and help are welcomed on this project.

Also, planning will soon begin on the celebration of the 150th birthday of this historic landmark in 2008. We would like this to be not only a Missouri event, but be even a national event because of the courthouse being the oldest fully active courthouse west of the Mississippi River.

2006CALENDAR:

Please send in your ideas for meeting locations in or around Ralls County. If there are any locations where we have met at in the past and you would like to revisit let us know of those also. Because of the weather at that time of the year I penciled in Center Christian Church for having our annual meeting in January, this could be chanced if a suitable location can be found soon.

Ralls County Missouri Historical Society: Regular meetings.

January 16, 2006 Society annual meeting at the Center Christian Church?

March 20, 2006

May 15, 2006 at New London Ralls County's restored courthouse?

July 17, 2006

September 18, 2006 Annual Picnic

November 20, 2006

Cemetery Clean ups and survives;

On Saturday, November 5th Herman Martin, Berry Zbornick a community service person and I made the first attempt to clean up the old Madisonville cemetery. I knew that it would be impossible to complete the clean up that day, but I wanted to get an idea of what would be needed to clean up the cemetery in the future. It took very little time to see that more people and bigger equipment would be needed to complete the job correctly. Because of deer season and the holidays, it could be January before we could be able to work there again. I would like to prepare a list of people who would be available on short notice to work weekdays or weekends at Madisonville if the weather allows. Contact me if you would be interested. I have found sources of heavy duty equipment to use to cut and trim the brush and weeds.

In recent months there have been at least three unknown Ralls County cemeteries brought to our attention and there are number of county cemeteries that have been only incompletely surveyed and many other's surveys are very old need to be updated.

Fox and Sac;

Plans are being made to have this display at our Museum next spring. I will pass on more information as I get it.

Fund Raising;

We have been in discussion with a group about having a fishing frying contest at the Mark Twain Lake next year. This would be something new and untied, but could create interest with the fishermen and locals who use the lake.

One other idea is to have classes on genealogy and local history research for a fee. Please contact us with your ideas.

2006 Memberships Are Due;

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 of members for family memberships. Send payment to Ralls County MO Historical Society, PO Box 182, Center MO 63436. The total memberships this year were 108 (34 family and 74 single) from ten states. Our goal this year is 150+ total memberships in 2006

Volunteers;

We have had a good turn out of volunteers in the past two months and I would like to thank those members and the others who have been helping all year. With these volunteers and community serve people we have completed a number of our and other's projects in the past months. The more volunteers we have the more projects we can complete and begin more new ones.

Greenlawn Church;

Marsha Knudsen has completed her first stage of the restoration of the Greenlawn Chapel and has begun the second stage called "Raise the Roof" to roof the chapel. For a donation of \$100 to the "Raise the Roof" fund a plaque with your name, in memory of someone or for your family will be placed on the end of one of the 22 pews, (the pew will remain in the chapel). She has also gotten permission to try and get the site listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Spalding Springs Hotel;

We are working with Rose Anne (Bueter) Papke to preserve the history of the Spalding Spring Hotel, area and the families that lived there. If you have any pictures, articles or stories that we could use in this project, please e-mail or mail them to the society.

Historical Society Pamphlets;

We Have our first Ralls County Historical Society pamphlets at the printers and hope to have them available at this meeting.

"End of way Life"

We now have 15 copies of the "End of way Life" available for sale at the museum/ library

Ralls County Cemetery:

Foreman Family Cemetery; Clay twp. 14-56-6

Only four markers, one large with every person buried here, one marker for Alvin (Alvan on the large marker), one for Rachel and marker with only the date September 1830 on it and two markers. I have been told by the family that was a larger cemetery in one time.

Foreman; Aaron died January 17, 1833, age 63 years, 10 months.

Foreman; Alvan or Alvin W., born January 11, 1799, died June 11, 1824, age 25 years, 5 months, son of Aaron

Foreman; Rachel, born January 13, 1779, died January 1, 1853, age 74 year, 13 months, wife of Aaron.

Forman; Susan Parker, born June 15, 1809, died Oct. 4, 1858, wife of William

Foreman; Susan T., February 12, 1837, died November 3, 1837

Foreman John R., born November 2, 1809, died November 29, 1883

Foreman; John K., infant, died February 1844

Foreman; Rebecca, died March 29, 1878, age 68 years, 11 months, 15 days, (on same side of stone as John R. likely his wife)

Foreman; William, Born February 27, 1800 @ Middletown, Bourbon County Kentucky, died April 27, 1884, @ Clay twp., Ralls County Missouri, widower, in Missouri 64 years. (Added information from the Ralls County death records)

Presidents View;

As small county society we have come a long way since we reorganized in the spring of 1999. Our membership is largest since the society was formed in the fall of 1971 and continues to grow in number ever year. List below are nine of the larger accomplishments of our society during that period of time.

1. Began the effort to restore the Ralls County Courthouse and helped to get approved it by the voters of Ralls County, 2. Opened and then enlarged Society Museum/Library,
3. Center MO "Shortline" depot restoration, 4. "Society "Newsletter" (fifth year begins in January), 5. Society website, 6. Moved the building that was used as the first bank in Perry to the city park. 7. Published or reprinted six books; Ralls County Settler and Settlements Volume I, Lick Creek, History of Lone Prairie School [out of print], 1908 and 1912 Perry Missouri Corn Carnivals, "End of a Way of Life" and "Ralls County", 8. Short Line Railroad Spur Historic Trail," signs on highway 19, 9. Sponsored the Ralls County History mural painted by the Mark Twain High student (Which will continue to be featured in the restored courthouse) I want to thank former president Bill Clearley, former and present officers and the members who made this possible.

Bit of Ralls County History;

SHORT LINE NEWS V. (St. Louis & Hannibal Railway) By Conrad Cheatham

Kathy Threkeld of Hannibal has sent a variety of items on the Short Line from old newspapers. Reading them helps us learn more about the railroad and its day to day activities.

The Perry Enterprise of December 24, 1908 noted that "The Wabash depot at Gilmore was completely destroyed by fire Saturday night. The fire broke out in the freight room and in a short time the entire structure was wrapped in flames. Very little was saved from the building. A coach will be placed on the track for the accommodation of passengers and the telegraph office will be located in a building near by until a new depot can be erected. This is the third time the depot at Gilmore, which is used jointly by the Wabash and the St. Louis & Hannibal railroad, has been destroyed by fire in the past 5 years." [This depot had a rough existence as there was another fire in 1910]

A September 16, 1892 issue of The Frankford Chronicle had an article on excursion tickets to St. Louis. "The St. Louis & Hannibal R'y. Excursion Rates to St. Louis for the Fall Festivities.

On each Monday and Thursday prior to October 22nd, the St. Louis & Hannibal Railway Company will sell excursion tickets to St. Louis, at one fare for the round trip to persons wishing to attend the St. Louis Exposition. Tickets limited to 5 days from day of sale.

On every day during the week commencing Oct. 3rd and ending Oct. 8th, the St. Louis & Hannibal Railway Co. will sell excursion tickets to St. Louis at one fare for the round trip- tickets limited to Oct. 10th - to persons attending the St. Louis Fair and Veiled Prophets."

From the July 22, 1892 issue of The Frankford Chronicle there is an item on the Orrwood Station.

"Orrwood Station. We have it upon reliable authority that the new station to be established on the Short Line extension, between Center and Perry, and which has heretofore been referred to as Noonan Station, will be known as Orrwood Station, named in honor of Judge Orr and Hon. J. Perry Wood, of New London. It is half way between the two cities mentioned above, and is situated in the midst of some of the best farming land in Ralls County. Buck Little, who formerly conducted a country store at Sidney, will erect a building at Orrwood and establish a general store. As the country in that vicinity is thickly populated it is not improbable that a post office will be opened there. - [Hannibal Journal]

In her History of Ralls County Goldena Howard wrote of Noonan: It was located in Center Township on Dry Fork on Highway 19 between Perry and Center. It was named for James Noonan, an Irish immigrant. There was a post office there in 1892 which was discontinued on March 9, 1906. The Noonan family ran a stage stop where teams were changed and meals could be secured and where guests could board. There was a general store run by a John Gillam and his son. Howard says that the flag stop and stock pens for the Short Line were named Orrwood.

Another news item from Kathy T. - from The Hannibal Journal of September 20, 1901: "A burning bridge just above Silex came near causing a serious wreck on the Short Line noon train a few days ago. The bridge had almost burned down and left the rails suspended with but little support. There is a sharp curve at that place and Engineer Sullivan did not see the danger until almost upon it. He put on the brakes and reversed his engine in time to stop just as the engine got over the bridge. One car of merchandise was destroyed, the rest of the train quickly moved out of danger."

The Frankford Chronicle of September 30, 1892 had an article entitled "Want The Short Line Extension.

Ex-State Senator Proctor, of Sturgeon, Boone county, was in the city yesterday (Monday) in consultation with chief engineer DuBois, of the Short Line, relative to extending the line beyond Perry. Senator Proctor has large land interests in Boone and would be greatly benefited should the Short Line tap the Wabash at Sturgeon.

Other points on that road are also seeking to get the Short Line, namely; Renick and Centralia. Mr. O'Rear and others, from Renick, will be here to-day (sic) to consult with Mr. DuBois and a committee from Centralia will be here to-morrow (sic).

Said Engineer DuBois to a Journal reporter: 'We will survey the three lines and then adopt the best. There will be no question that the road will be extended beyond Perry.' - Hannibal Journal."

From the June 23, 1892 Bowling Green Times: "Centre is enjoying a big boom since the road actually touches at that point. 5 new brick storerooms are to be built at once and then a handsome new schoolhouse."

The Bowling Green Times of June 16, 1892 noted: "The Short Line has purchased rails to lay 10 miles of track, commencing 2 miles above Moscow Mills and laying north toward Briscoe. 12 men have been put on each section and will endeavor to get the roadbed in good condition before the track laying begins.

From The Troy Free Press of February 26, 1915: "At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the St. Louis & Hannibal Railway, held last week, H.M. Modisett was re-elected General Manager and Passenger Agent. Reports from the various departments showed that the "Short Line", under the able management of Mr. Modisett, is in good condition. The roadbed has been greatly improved recently, a long stretch of the track is ballasted with rock, nearly all the wooden trestles have been replaced

with concrete bridges, and the neat, up-to-date depots at many points would be a credit to larger towns."

Ron Leake