

Ralls County Historical

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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;

New Years Resolution; Well for the first month at least I have made good on my New Years resolution to get this Newsletter out on time. We will have to see what the rest of the year brings.

Short Line History;

The history of the St. Louis & Hannibal "Short Line" railroad will be presented at the Center MO Christian church Saturday, March 18 at 1:30 pm. The main speaker will be Reverend Conrad Cheatham, who has researched the railroad for years and is an expert on the former northeast Missouri railroad which operated from Hannibal to Wentzville, with a branch between New London and Perry. Other researchers of the line will be on hand to discuss the history of the historic railroad. Please bring any items or information you have on line with you to share with the group. The Center MO "Short Line" depot being restored by the Ralls County Historical Society will have an open house before and after the meeting. The public is welcomed and there will be no charge for program, but a meeting will be held afterwards for people interested in the forming of a "'Friends of Shore Line'" group to help preserve, record and restore as much of the "Short Line" as possible. For more information call 573-735-6147

2006 Memberships Are Now Due; The 2006 society membership dues are now due. Memberships are \$10.00 for single and \$15.00 for family. Please include the number of members for family memberships. Send payment to Ralls County MO Historical Society, PO Box 182, Center MO 63436 or pay in person.

January Meeting; The meeting was will attended and informative. Greg Wolk, director of the Missouri Civil War Foundation was present to explain his group and their goal in interpreting and publicizing Missouri's a unique role in the American Civil War. More information on the Missouri Civil War Foundation can be found on their website www.mocivilwar.org

Center "Short Line" Depot; We would like to have the depot look good for the March 18 "Short Line" history day at Center.

Ralls County Courthouse; I attended the courthouse walk through on February 23 and was pleasantly surprised with the progress and the appearance of the building. This old

building built in 1858 is going to be a place of pride for the people of Ralls County and even all of Missouri. The exterior with the tuck pointing and new windows makes this old building look like it was just built. The improvement in interior will be outstanding cosmetically, functionally and financially. The new wiring, heating and air conditioning will make this courthouse safer, cheaper to operate, better place to work and is a building we can be very proud of saving. Please plan on attending our May meeting there so you can see your great historic old landmark.

2006 CALENDAR:

Ralls County Missouri Historical Society: Regular meetings.

March 20, 2006; At Perry MO City Hall with David A. James of Columbia speaking on the historic Hotels of Missouri. (See above)

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

July 17, 2006;

September 18, 2006; Annual Picnic

November 20, 2006;

Digitally Record of Ralls County Cemeteries; Anthony Elam was not only digitally photographed and alphabetized Lick Creek cemetery, but he had already completed Pleasant Grove and has now completed Muldrow and Wolfe also. We plan on putting all of this information on our website to share people researching Ralls County. We plan also to list the addressees the organizations who maintain these cemeteries to help in their funding of the cemeteries. Thanks again Anthony.

Cemetery clean ups and surveys; As time, weather and personnel allows the clean up will begin right away with community service and volunteers. There several unrecorded cemeteries we need to be surveyed and would prefer a member or friends of the society to do this. Let us know as soon as you can if you can help with this project, because we like to notify and get permission of the landowners when we are on their land.

Fox and Sauk; This display will be at the Hannibal for the first showing in the spring and we will have our museum in around July for about three months. This display will get us state and some national attention for our group and museum. I have more information in the next newsletter.

Spalding Springs Hotel; Mugs are still available with the colored picture of old Spalding Hotel for \$10.00

Postcard Show

The Mark Twain Postcard Club of the Tri-State Area will have show and sale Friday, March 10, 2006, 2:00 PM - 7 PM and Saturday March 11, 2006, 9:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Hannibal Inn, Junction Highway 61 and Market St., Hannibal Missouri. Admission is free. For more information contact Marilyn Shrader, 2102 Washington, Quincy IL. 62301, 217-223-5314

Area Events

The Ilasco Reunion will be held June 10, 2006 at the Quality Inn Suites, 120 Lindsay Road, Hannibal. Registrations will start at 5:00 PM and the dinner at 6:00 PM. More information soon

The much requested 2003 "Ilasco Souvenir Book" will have its third printing. The price will be \$25.00 and includes postage and handling. Only books ordered will be printed and the deadline to order is March 31, 2006. Checks payable to the Ilasco Historical Preservation Society in c/o David Polc. 67744 Brown Estates, Hannibal MO, 63401. They are also in the process of preparing a "Monkeyrun/Ilasco Schools Book" with newly discovered pictures and related stories. If you have any photos or stories they need them ASAP. All proceeds from the sale of the books will go to the Ilasco Memorials.

New Book available;

Anita L. Gatson Allee, of Versailles, MO, has sixth book of historical fiction published. *Mississippi River Road*, is the prequel to *Two Together*. In both of these books the early settlement of northeast Missouri and into the Civil War are portrayed. Hannibal, Palmyra, and Madisonville, MO, are featured in these two books.

Anita's previous book, *Closed, Do Not Enter*, centers on Jefferson City with the orphan train and the civil war in MO and the Red River Campaign in Louisiana.

Child of the Heart portrays Old Franklin and the Boonville areas of MO in the midst of slavery and the early days of the Santa Fe Trail. A sequel is in the progress which will portray Hermann, MO, during her steamboat era. Tentative title: *Missouri River Run*.

Who's the Boss portrays the Great Die-Up on the plains in the 1890's and some incidents from the author's grandmother's homesteading experience. This is a story of gender role-reversal.

Yankee Spy in New Orleans begins in St. Louis and the Arcadian Valley of MO. After a tragic loss of her fiancée, Sarah Turner becomes a spy for the Union Government in New Orleans, Louisiana. In disguise, she works for her beloved country.

Anita has one contemporary novel: *High Country Adventure*, a self-witness protection program after a young nurse witnesses violence in New York City and continues to be threatened, she flees to the wilderness of Colorado where she assists in a horseback wilderness adventure company.

Each of the books sale for \$9.95 each plus shipping and handling. Anita lives in Versailles, MO, with her husband, Vincel. She is available for speaking engagements or teaching assignments. Mary King Hayden is again the cover artist. A native of Lebanon, MO. Mary resides near Versailles. Both ladies are retired teachers and community volunteers. Anita L. Allee may be contacted at: 13216 Church Road, Versailles, MO 65084 (573) 378-5889 anviallee@earthlink.net

On Sale at: Ralls County Historical Society Museum, Hastings and Alpha & Omega in Jefferson City, Ninth Street Bookstore in Columbia, MO., The Gift Depot in Syracuse, MO., The Flea Market at Tipton, MO., Sharon's Originals in California, MO., The Shepherd's Place in Sedalia, The Master's Script in Marshall, Tucker Feed & Tack at Centertown, MO., The Sticky Wicket in Mexico, MO., Vandalia Florist in Vandalia, MO The Village Shoppe and the Old Martin Hotel/Stagestop in Versailles, and from the author.

Mapping Missouri;

Mark Twain Home and Museum are co-hosting the exhibit. It features more than 100 examples of cartography from the Archives' collection, many of which have never been

shown before. It draws from such diverse examples as the land survey maps made by Antoine Soulard from 1796-1806 and computer generated census maps made in the year 2000. On Saturday, March 11 at 2:00, Dr. Walter Schroeder, a consultant on the exhibit, will speak at the Library. Dr. Schroeder is a native Missourian, born and raised in Jefferson City. He was educated at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Paris, and the University of Chicago, studying geography and history. He spent the last 38 years of his professional career at the University of Missouri-Columbia, from which he retired as emeritus associate professor of geography in 2002. He is a resident of Columbia.

His teaching and research centers on the environmental and historical geography of Missouri, which is the understanding of how people have used the land and resources of Missouri and how that relationship has changed over time. His publications include The Presettlement Prairie of Missouri; Missouri Water Atlas; Atlas of Ecoregions of Missouri; Opening the Ozarks: A Historical Geography of Missouri's Historic Ste. Genevieve District, 1750-1830; and the introduction to the re-issue of Missouri: The WPA Guide to the "Show Me" State. He was honored upon retirement in 2002 with the University of Missouri Board of Curators Award for Scholarly Excellence.

He initiated the establishment of the Missouri Board of Geographic Names, created by the late Gov. Mel Carnahan in 1995, and has served as its state chairman since. The Board makes decisions on place names in Missouri.

He is currently preparing an exhibit of historic Missouri maps, similar to this one, from the map collection of the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia to be shown in 2007 in the Society's gallery in Columbia.

Ann Sundermeyer, Hannibal Free Public Library, asunderm@real.more.net

Ralls County Cemetery; Briggs or Benn? Cemetery

The information on the cemetery was in some of the late Mike Weavers notes. There was no location given. Can anyone help in locating this cemetery or have more information?

Benn; Elizabeth. Wife of Corbin, born July 29, 1806, died August 31, 1867, age 61 years, 1 month, 2 days.

Dennis; Texas Ann, born December 9, 1838, died September 8, 1867, age 28 years, 9 months, wife of Dr. E.

Glascock; Thomas L., consort of Mahala, died September 11, 1843, age 28 years, 9 months

Lewellen; Jos. B. no dates very old stone

Wright; Joseph, born June 1, 1785 @ Bedford County Virginia, d. April 19, 1842

Wright; Agnes, born June 10, 1788 @ Bedford County Virginia, died January? 19, 1842

President View;

Bit of Ralls County History;

New London MO. "Record" June 7, 1912

The Last Elk; by Walter Williams

Former Attorney General Daniel H. McIntyre, in an address before an old settlers reunion in Mexico (MO.) several years ago, said that Indians and elk were occasionally seen on the banks of Salt River as late as the winter of 1834-35.

In this winter "Uncle" Abner Smith was living in Bowling Green, Pike County. One morning late in the fall he started out for a hunt. When about a mile from the court house to the northwest, near where the Chicago & Alton Railway depot now stands, he spied lying in the grass what he supposed was a number of jacks or jennets. Presently they "winded" him and up jumped seven big elk, which went racing over the prairie to the northwest.

Smith went back to town and told what he had seen. Every morning after that for some time when he would start out with his gun some one would be sure to yell out, "Don't shoot a jennet, Abner. Look out for Basye's mules.

Later in the season Smith was in Audrain County on the east prong of Lick Creek and saw again at a distance what he supposed to be a drove of jennets, knowing that Muldrows had stock of that character. When too late to shoot, he saw the same seven elk that had escaped him at Bowling Green.

John Hurley, living near the present site of Perry, heard of these elk and started out in a big snowstorm in pursuit of them.

I. Walter Basye of Bowling Green tells of the pursuit. Near where Hiram Sutman afterwards resided in Ralls County, Hurley's dogs struck their trail. Hurley followed then over the prairie, across West Lick, into the timber on the south fork of Salt River. Creeping up near them, he selected the largest and the fattest, took aim and fired. The big elk dropped dead. The other six ran away a distance and then circled back to their dead leader and companion. By this time Hurley had his gun loaded, and at the crack of the gun down dropped another elk. The other five circled away and then back as before. This was repeated until the seventh and last circled and back.

By this time Hurley began to get excited. His aim was not as steady as it had been. He shot, however, though the elk did not fall as the others. As it was apparently crippled he and his dog set out in pursuit.

He soon came upon the elk, broken through the ice on Salt River, his dogs on the bank and a big buck Indian on the other, keeping guard. Hurley said to the Indian:

"You go in and bring him out and I will give you half."

The Indian answered: "Me got sick hand."

"Well, then." Said Hurley, "you get shan't have a bite."

Hurley went into the cold, icy water and dragged the dead elk to the shore. The Indian begged piteously for some of the meat. Pulling off his blanket he said:

"See my ribs, Poor Indian starved --- give him some elk."

This was the last elk and Indian seen in Northeast Missouri, as far as Mr. Basye's information goes.

Ron Leake