

Ralls County Historical

Volume 6 - Issue 1

January 2007

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 Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10:00-5:00

Or Phone 573-248-6147 or 573-565-2025 for an appointment

Dear Ralls County Members and Friends;

January Meeting

The Ralls County Historical Society January meeting will on Monday the 15th at the courthouse in New London. The doors will be opened at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. John Chapman and other members of the Marion & Ralls Counties Archaeological Society will present a program on Indian artifacts from the Northeast Missouri area. They will have a display of a few of the articles found in the area by their members. If you have artifacts or items you have found and would like to have examined, please bring them with you. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend

Dues are due;

Above will be the first meeting of 2007, so the dues for 2007 are now due. The single at \$10.00 and the family at \$15.00 memberships will remain the same, **but a new lifetime membership is available for \$100.00.** Please send your checks to our Center MO address above, stop by the museum or pay at the meeting.

November Meeting:

Our November meeting which featured a program by Carl and Char Hirst was well attended and very informative. They have spent many years in researching the history of the stoneware industry in both Missouri and Illinois. Their program featured the photos and maps of locations of the kilns and people who operated them.

In their presentation they spoke of R. W. Winfree who operated a kiln near Perry in the 1870s. Since the meeting they and Ralph Omer have been able to find the site. We hope to have more information at the next meeting.

2007 Calendar;

Please, if you have any ideas for meeting locations or programs, contact me. If everything works out, we will have our March meeting at the Oak Hill School, this will be a repeat location, but our meeting there in November 2003 was one of the best attended and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

January 15; New London (Courthouse)

March 19; Oak Hill School northeast of New London (pending)

May 21;

July 16;

September 6; (Saturday) Society Annual Picnic

November 19;

Center Depot; In the spring we hope to dedicate a room of the restored "Short Line" railroad depot in Center to the late Bill Watts for his contributions to the depot and his help in preserving the history of the old rail line.

Wayne Tatman

For third time this year we have lost an active member of our group, Wayne Tatman died December 15. Wayne and his wife Carolyn have been members for many years and always willing to help and contribute in anyway they could. He was also a member of the Saverton Community Association and instrumental in getting the Saverton Community Center on the National Register of Historic Places. He had also been a very active member of Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society. Memorials can be made to the Saverton Methodist Church or the Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society

Ralls County Cemeteries; Taylor Family #125 Township 56, Range 3 range, Section 28;

Based on list compiled by Mr. and Wayne Taylor and Warren M Anderson

Taylor; Thomas, born November 20, 1812, died May 26, 1872

Taylor; Elizabeth P., born February 29, 1820, died February 10, 1856

Taylor; Sonora E., born September 3, 1851, died September 1, 1851 or 1854, daughter of T. & E.P.

Taylor; William H. born August 17, 1842, died March 29, 1849, son of T. & E. H. Taylor

Taylor; Isaac Ray, born May 14, 1862, died October 7, 1922

Bit of Ralls County History

Perry "Enterprise" July 26, 1906"

"RALLS COUNTY EARLY HISTORY"

The ENTERPRISE readers are favored this week with a bit of early history, written by Hon. David Wallace, one of Ralls most fluent writers. He is preparing manuscript, (of which the below article is a part) for a book on the early history of Ralls county. No doubt he will find a ready sale for the book, as it will be valuable and interesting.

Indian hostilities on the Iowa border in the spring of 1? prompted Governor Miller to take measures for the protection of the state against the threatened invasion of Black Hawk. Accordingly in May of that year orders were issued by the governor to General Gentry to raise without delay one thousand volunteers for frontiers defense to be in readiness to start at any moment, each man to keep a horse in readiness well equipped and have a rifle in good order with an ample supply of ammunition. Under this call, five companies were at once raised, two of them in Ralls County and at the seat, one under

the command of captain Richard Matson and the other commanded by John Ralls. Captain Matson's company seems to be the only one called to front, and he marched to the northern range of countries and built two forts, one called Fort Pike in Clark County, and the other Fort Matson some sixty-five miles farther west. "The Volunteer Rangers", as they were called spent the summer building these forts and preparing for the red man to come, but no Indians appeared and the company came back to New London in the following September. Allen Brown, father of Dan H Brown and William Mayhall, of this city, were among the "Rangers".

In the settlements of an early day sort of artisans were in demand. Blacksmiths to forge the axes, chains, plows and other tools and keep them in order, tanners for the purpose of preparing leather from the skins of animals. Every community had its shoe maker, who worn in the settlement. Local carpenters made the looms and the good house wife and her daughters wove and garments that were wore or used for bedding. There was no place in the neighborhood for gentleman of leisure and little need for professionals of any kind.

Jacob Krigbaum, and a little later Hauceford and Allen Brown were among the early blacksmiths of the place, in fact the Brown family seemed to be chosen sons of Vulcan here. We have three of the old Brown family at the forge today in all the years of the town there has been no time that this worthy name was not connected with this honorable calling in the place. When Sheriff Whitamore was putting down hitching posts at the southwest corner of the public square a short while ago, he dug up old irons left from the Krigbaum, Brown shop which stood there in the long years ago.

Granville Clayton and Jephtha Crosthwait came to the place in the early thirties and opened up a saddle and harness store.

Dabney Jones, grandfather of Richard D Jones, of this city came here in 1817, a year before Daniel Ralls, whose name the county bears, and brought with him the first pig, cat and chickens introduced into the county. The fowls were very young, in fact mere fledglings, one rooster and other a pullet. The rooster had never heard the voice of his barn yard sire and remained as silent as the sly old foxes that prowled about, until the good wife of his home declared "that the thing will never crow, Dabney, unless you show him how, go out there and give him a start". Dabney went out, studied a while and then "fetched" a lusty crow. The bird listened took up the tune, raised his head and sent over the valley his clarion voice which to this day his numerous descendants throughout the county have not forgotten. It is understood that the pig rooted without outside help.

The declaration of war with Mexico was the occasion of intense excitement throughout the country. It was the first attempt of the young Republic to preserve its national honor with a country other than England, and while many of the leading statesmen of the country were strongly opposed to the contest with Mexico, when once the war was launched, every semblance of opposition ceased. Congress eagerly voted supplies and the patriotism of the entire people arose to impassioned height. New London partook of the war spirit and the call for volunteers by Governor Edwards was enthusiastically responded to by her citizens. In a few days a company of one hundred and five was enlisted and Wm T Lafland chosen as the captain. There were others who wanted to go, but owing to the company being already more than full, these had to go to Palmyra and join a company made up there by Captain Wilkes. In that company from

this city were Wm J Brown, John H Kelly, --- Gunnels, Joseph Johnson, Alex Payne, and Horace Johnson. John Ralls was in the New London Company. The marching away of these volunteers was attended with a monster gathering of the people round about. It was the first real war experience the town had felt and both rider and steed were eager for the fray. At Independence, Missouri, the Ralls county troops were mustered into the "Army of the West", John Ralls was elected Colonel of the Third Missouri Regiment and all the Missouri forces placed under the command of Generals Doniphan and Sterling Price.

This regiment operated far into the Mexican states and saw much active service. At the battle of Santa Cruz De Rosales they were on the firing line from nine o'clock in the morning until dark and suffered severely. In this engagement Thomas Ely was killed and Ulysses Norton wounded one on each side of Thomas Butler. Of those who went out with Captain Lafland only about eighty returned in 1848 at the end of the war and today Thomas Butler is the only one, of those heroic men, now living in the county, Wm J Brown having recently died.

The home coming of the men from the Mexican war brought the news of the Sutter and Marshall discovery of gold in the Mill-race on the American River. Then began an extraordinary rush of immigration to the "Far West" in the search of the glittering "dust". Some crossed the thousand miles of dreary and desolate plains, others braved climate of the Panama route, while still others made the long sea voyage around Cape Horn. The "gold fever" was everywhere, here in New London as well as elsewhere. A number of companies were made up and with six and eight yoke of oxen hitched to old Virginia wagons, our gold seekers crossed the plains. Most all of these were well rewarded and came home with heavy belts of the precious metal about them.

The Asiatic cholera spread over the entire west in 1851 and was exceedingly deadly in its ravages. In Hannibal it was particularly, bad and on one occasion one of our merchants, a Mr. Dudding on his return from that city was stricken here and died soon after. From this case the disease spread over the town and out into the rural districts. In a very short time between ten and fifteen of our citizens were taken away by this dread disease and the entire community was greatly distressed. The cholera had been here before, in 1833, but not nearly so bad as in 1851. This was the last visitation of the terrible scourge to the city or neighborhood, and it is to be hoped that it may never return.