

Ralls County Historical

Volume 5 - Issue 5

September 2006

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;

September Meeting

Reverend Richard Smith will be the featured speaker at the Ralls County Historical Societies fifth annual picnic on Saturday, September 16 at the Center city park. From 10:30 a.m. until noon there will be a mixer for members, non-members and guests to visit. The society will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs for the noon meal; members and guests are asked to bring a covered dish. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. Following the speakers program the Center Short Line Depot will be open to the public. We will close the Museum at Perry all day so all members can attend the picnic.

Reverend Smith has spent years researching the Black history, genealogy and slavery in northeast Missouri. He will soon publish a book on his finding entitled, "The Rough Side: How I got Here." With the history and anecdotes of slavery in Missouri he will include stories about his own life in the book. He was featured in the July 2006 issue of the "Rural Missouri" magazine.

Ralls County Courthouse's 150th birthday in 2008.

We have formed a committee to plan and organize for the Sesquicentennial of Ralls County courthouse in 2008. Subcommittees will be formed to work on and plan the many events being discussed for the celebration. If you are interested or have a special project that you like to be on a sub committee or work force for let us know. All citizens, former citizens and friends of Ralls County welcomed and are encouraged to participate if society members or not. This event can and will only be limited to the support and help we get from our members and Ralls County citizens and friends.

Museum/Library Hours;

Please note the change in museum hours. We plan to be open daily starting next spring, if we get enough staff.

Center Short Line Depot;

For the months of September and October the depot will be opened to the public Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 4 pm. From November to March we will likely be open only as the weather allows.

Society's Major Fall and Winter Projects;

1. We have discovered at least eight unrecorded old cemeteries in the county that we will be cleaning and recording this fall and winter.
2. The Madisonville cemeteries clean up continued all summer with burning and spraying of brush and weeds, but much more work is needed to completely finish the job.
3. Repair and clean up of old Perry bank building at Perry City Park.
4. Reorganize the museum to increase the display area
5. Catalog museum items on a computer program.

We have a number of scrapbooks and photos what we need help to inventory and developing a filing system for.

Presidents View;

On November 20 we have our last meeting of 2006 and another year of growth and success ends. I want to thank all the members and friends of the Ralls County Historical Society who made this possible. A special thanks goes to the people who volunteered time and sweat on our many projects. We could not have completed most of these projects without you. Each year our volunteers increase and this is the reason we are getting more projects done.

The Sesquicentennial of Ralls County Courthouse will be the major project for the society till 2008, but we have a number of pending and ongoing projects that will keep all busy. **Just some of these are.**

1. The growth and need for added open hours of the museum and library is an issue we need to address
2. Catalog and record museum items
3. We would like to open the Shortline depot museum at Center all year.
4. Finish restoring the first bank building at the Perry City Park.
5. Cemeteries survey, cleaning and recording
6. Develop fund raising sources
7. Book publishing and indexing
8. Researchers for the queries that are received at the museum and from the internet
9. Spokesmen and speakers for the society at other events
10. An interviewer of the older past and former Ralls County citizens who would like to share their accounts of Ralls County history.

Kathy Threlkeld;

Kathy Threlkeld who was a very active member of this group died August 31, 2006. She was also active in the Northeast Missouri Genealogical Society, Mark Twain Postcard Club and known for her research and work with all of the local historical and genealogical societies in both Northeast Missouri and Central Illinois. Memorial

contributions may be made to NEMO Humane Society, Hannibal Historical Society and/or IOOF Cemetery, in care of James O'Donnell Funeral Home.

Ralls County Cemetery: Stephen Scobee Cemetery #177; Salt River twp. 17-54-7;
This list is compiled from surveys done by Mr. & Mrs. Okle Rouse, Zelma Menefee and myself (Ron Leake). I have added information from other source listed below.

- Carter; Charles C., born August 1841, died September 11, 1879, son of Robert Granville & Mary Amanda Scobee Carter.
- Carter; Louisa M., (Ellis) born 9, 1843, died March 29, 1899, (wife of Charles C., daughter of Thomas Jefferson Ellis)
- Coward; David, T., born 22, 1819 @ England, died April 6, 1877, married November 7, 1844, Jane Elen/Elinda /Eleanor Scobee
- Coward; Jane Elen/Elinda /Eleanor (Scobee) born 15, 1828 @ Monroe County, died December 11, 1915, w/o David T. Coward, daughter of Stephen and Sarah Scott "Sallie" Ely Scobee
- Coward; Molly, (Mary Ellen Rouse) born 1840, died December 18, 1866, age 46 years, 8 months, 28 days, daughter of Allen and Rachel Cravens Rouse
- Coward; Robert L. P. (Robert Lynn Porter) born May 10, 1900, died December 15, 1911. Died form a ruptured appendix, son of David Jefferson and Sara "Dixie" Samuels, great, grand son of David T. and Jane Scobee.
- Coward; Stephen T., died February 22, 1907, age 61 years, 3 months 18 days, son of David T. and Jane Scobee
- Crawford; Elizabeth, born July 23, 1824, died September 18, 1878, wife of Crawford. (First married John Alexander and is believed to have second married George W, Clayton. She is buried under the name Crawford) daughter Stephen and Sarah Scott Ely Scobee.
- Crawford; John Alexander, born January 16, 1815, died December 6, 1863, husband of Elizabeth.
- Scobee; Annie (Ann Eliza or Annie Lee) Crigler, born January 9 1846 @ Missouri, died March 12, 1918, wife of Stephen Thaddeus, daughter of Joel and Rosanna Fray Crigler. She was first married to a James Crigler.
- Scobee; Catherine, (Norman) born April 2, 1871, d. April 23, 1902, age 11 years 21 days, wife of J. J. (James W.) Scobee)
- Scobee; Caleb, born 22, 1829, died May 2, 1858, age 27 years, 11 months. 19 days, son of John and Nancy Dooley Scobee. Married January 29, 1850 Ann Eliza King.
- Scobee; Dulcena, died 7, 1907 # Laddonia age 80 years. Audrain County Missouri, daughter of Saunders and Elizabeth Norman.
- Scobee; Ely, born July 4, 1826, died October 24, 1857, son of Stephen and Sarah Scott "Sallie" Ely Scobee. He died of Typhoid Fever six weeks after marring Rebecca Salling. She later married George M. Martin
- Scobee; John, born October 11, 1804 Winchester, Clark County Kentucky, died November 6, 1877, s/o of Robert and Elizabeth "Dolly" Dooley Scobee. He was a Methodist minister and moved his family to Monroe County Missouri in 1837 in a Ox drawn wagon

- Scobee; Lutisia/ Lucretia, born January 24, 1844, died June 18, 1863, daughter of Stephen and Sarah Scott "Sallie" Ely Scobee
- Scobee; Nancy "Dolly" (Dooley), born May 8, 1807 @ Virginia, died July 16, 1878, wife of John Scobee
- Scobee; Oleta b. March 24, 1883, died feb26, 1894, daughter of J. D. (Jeptha Dudley) and Mary Gandstine Scobee.
- Scobee; Robert D., born October 21, 1821, died November 29, 1893, son of Stephen and Sarah Scott "Sallie" Ely. Married January 24, 1842 Dulcena Norman
- Scobee; Robert, died April 19, 1874 age 1 year 3 months 19 days, son of Stephen Henry and Elizabeth Jane "Bessie" Scobee Scobee.
- Scobee; S. T. (Stephen Thaddeus "Tad") born September 19, 1846, died June 21 1903, son of Stephen and Dulcena Norman Scobee. Married March 12, 1872 Ann Elizabeth Crigler
- Scobee; Sarah (Sarah Scott "Sally") Ely, born November 11, 1799, died April 20, 1885, wife of Stephen Scobee, daughter of Isaac and Mary Judy Ely.
- Scobee; William Henry, born march 24, 1876, died October 12, 1954, son of Stephen Thaddeus and Ann Elizabeth Crigler Scobee.
- Strode; Benjamin, died December? 1836, age 1 year, 2 days, son of William and J.. This believed to be the son of William George "George" and Jane Ely Strode. Jane was the sister of Sarah Scott Ely Scobee.

According to members of the family there are a number of graves of slaves on the outside of the north end

of the cemetery

Sources: Mr. & Mrs. Okle Rouse, Zelma Menefee, "John Rouse of Virginia and His Descant ants 1717-

1980" by Nancy Rouse, Peg Neff, "History of Monroe and Selby Counties" and Missouri death records.

Bit of Ralls County History

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOL

By John Megown (?)

Up to the year, 1865, the school privileges of New London, were very meager, and were in common with all other country school districts of the county. Perhaps our only privilege over other school districts was that we had a six months term while the terms of most districts in the county ran from three to four [months].

In the late half of 1859, a number of enterprising citizens in and adjacent to New London, not being satisfied with the scholastic facilities granted by the then school system, conceived the idea of providing a better and more thorough educational system for their children and the children of the community, and country contiguous.

A mass meeting was called resulting in the organization of a Stock Company, and subsequently the erection of a building which occupied the site of the present building (1898).

Many citizens of the county, grasping the great need for a better and more thorough course of learning, aided materially, in one way or another, in the enterprise. Among them, I shall mention a few who were very active, viz: James Glascock, Hiram

Glascock, H.C. Wellman, O.H.P. Ledford, Francis B. Stout, Sr., Samuel W. Mayhall, who built the building, Samuel K. Caldwell, Robert K. Caldwell, Allen Brown, Hanceford Brown, Walter McFarland, Taylor Jones and Dr. Charles F. Clayton (Pardon the reference) and the writer, though a young man, argued vehemently for the much needed undertaking. And afterwards was President of the Board of Education for twenty years.

On May 1st, 1860, Samuel K. Caldwell, John and Joseph F. Jamison, sold the present site (1898), Block 24, Lots 83 and 86, to Dr. Charles F. Clayton, Anderson Briscoe, James D. Watson, James Glascock, Baylis G. Rector, Samuel K. Caldwell, Allen Brown and Eli W. Southworth, President and Directors of the Ralls County Male and Female Academy.

Soon thereafter the contract was let for the erection of the school building. The building was a substantial four room brick structure – large enough to accommodate more than two hundred pupils, and was finished in the late summer of 1860. But for five long years, the building, the pride of the community, stood unused and as a veritable beacon of a more tranquil and better day. Due to the fact that the great civil war was approaching, and had cast its dark, demoralizing shadows over our once happy land, and paralysis took the place of energy, desperation the place of enterprise – and in our streets where a short while before cheerfulness and prosperity brightened the eye and gladdened the heart of all – nothing relieved the dull monotony [sic] but the occasional tramp of the soldiery or the drill of the militia. For more than five years this demon, Upas [sic] like, cast his sickening shades over us. And the dream of our better school was, like all things else, caught in its wake.

The clouds of war having passed, the sky being once more clear and calm, the former longings of the good people for a good school returned and efforts were renewed to establish the school they had so fervently work[ed] for.

Prior to that time (1885), the means of education were indeed very meager in Missouri, so far as public schools were concerned. There was no form of taxation then to support the schools – the trustees of each district would in the fall of the year employ a teacher to teach the district school – the only qualification was that one must be able to freely wield the rod, spell well and know the rule of three, and double rule of three, direct and inverse. Each district had a small sum of money, which was first paid to the teacher, and then the remainder of his or her salary was provided by making out a rate bill. This bill was made by taking the whole number of days attendance of all the pupils and dividing it into the amount to be raised. Then the number of days which each child had attended as shown by the teacher's report was multiplied by the rate per day thus found, and this gave the amount to be paid by pupil. Then each head of the family or guardian was charged with the bill of the pupil he had sent.

In the fall of 1865, the contemplated school opened with William Christian as principal and sole and only teacher – it was an experiment. Many had said that no one could teach a school in New London, as the children of the town had become so unruly, the reputation had become so bad that the country people, or many of them, were afraid to send their children to New London. The experiment was a success, the school gradually increased in numbers until there were 126 enrolled, and a second teacher was employed, Miss Ruth Brown, then shortly another one, Malissa McKinney.

After the first session in the year, 1866, the Principal associated himself with Prof. George H. Laughlin to continue the school, but before the convening of the next session, he, William Christian, resigned his charge and accepted a position in Troy Christian Institute of Troy, Missouri, which left Prof. Laughlin in full charge of the school, where he remained until 1874. In his second year he had associated with him, Prof. Samuel P. Lucy, who remained several years; and both afterwards became very prominent in school work.

On September 1st, 1868, O.H.P. Ledford and H.C. Wellman, trustees, for the creditors of the Ralls County Male and Female Academy, sold the ground, buildings and all equipment to George H. Laughlin and Samuel P. Lucy, for the sum of \$3500.00.

On June 28th, 1871, George H. Laughlin and Samuel P. Lucy, sold and conveyed to the Board of Education of the Town of New London, Missouri, for the sum of \$3600.00, all of their right, title and interest in the school building and equipment. And this was the beginning of the New London Public High School under an Act passed and approved **** 21, 1870. Prof. Laughlin remained with the school until 1874, when he accepted a chair in the Normal School at Kirksville, Missouri, and became recognized as one of the leading educators of the State.

After Prof. Laughlin, came Professors Gaff, Iles, Miller, Hardin, Howe, Eastman, Allison, Loos, Allison, Howard, Settle, Whitecotton, Ford, Briggs, and George M. Laughlin, a brilliant son of a noble sire. Much could be favorably written in behalf of these splendid educators who have done so much to shape the education and lives of this section. And much could be written of the deserving and qualified associates and assistants who have worked by the side of their principals in this great and constructive work, but space forbids.

The building of 1860, became inadequate, and in 1893 was razed. On practically the same site a much larger and more commodious building was erected. We have a very thorough High School course of study, and pupils need not go from home to find facilities for a well grounded and thorough education.

Ron Leake