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Phelps County Genealogical Society
QUARTERLY

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NEW!!! Web: <http://pcgsrolla.weebly.com>

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PCGS Quarterly Volume 31 • Number 1 • February 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sheila Wood

The Society is in another year and so many projects, we don't know which one to finish first. The loose newspapers are being put in the archival boxes. Doug Berlin is heading that project with the help of Dorothy James & Ruth Adair. The project is coming along with burning the midnight oil.

The Society has been offered 17 filing cabinets from the new court house and the court documents to be put in these cabinets or else documents will be destroyed. NOW where do we put them, there is not any room in the Archive Room, we have used every corner. The Society will be offering to MEMBERS first choice of the out state books and quarterlies at a CHEAP price. These are books, notebooks and quarterlies that have been given to us free. The book sale will be soon. We have to clean out that downstairs room in order to put the file cabinets in the place of the out of state books that NO ONE uses. The large safes have been spoken for and the shelves also. Another project that will make my hair grey (and it is grey). The Society wants to be known as Phelps County and Missouri Genealogy research room. When you come to the Archive Room, you are not looking for another state, you are looking for Phelps County, Mo. There is also a Phelps County, NE.

Please read the quarterly and check the marriage license, you might find some of your family members were married in Phelps County. This project is being typed by Dorothy James. The 2014 obits are on the shelf, gathered together by Colleen Arthur, Catherine Bell adds other obits that Dorothy James and Sheila Wood get out of other papers in Phelps County, Crawford County and Texas County. Catherine has requested that anyone that has obits before 1982 to bring them to the Archive room and if you want them back, we will copy them and return them to you. Our 1994 obit notebook is still gone, and Catherine has been looking through the old newspapers to reconstruct the notebook. Remember the Archive Room has lots of newspapers hard bound and it is easier to research in the newspapers. Every week someone has a newspaper book out and researching. Sometimes you forget what happen 50 years ago.

I would like to thank all the Officers that served in 2014 and all the other people that work in the Archive Room and other jobs they have had or still have. Every Tuesday there is enough workers to help people, sometimes we don't get anything else done but help people.

The Society voted to charge for research. If you have to sit helping someone for hours and they don't donate how can we get enough money to pay the expenses?? You can research all you want on your own, even Ancestry.com but if one of the workers does your research there will be a fee of \$5.00 a hour. We think that is only fair, genealogy is not free nor is it cheap. The volunteer's all know a lot about our county and the counties adjoining us.

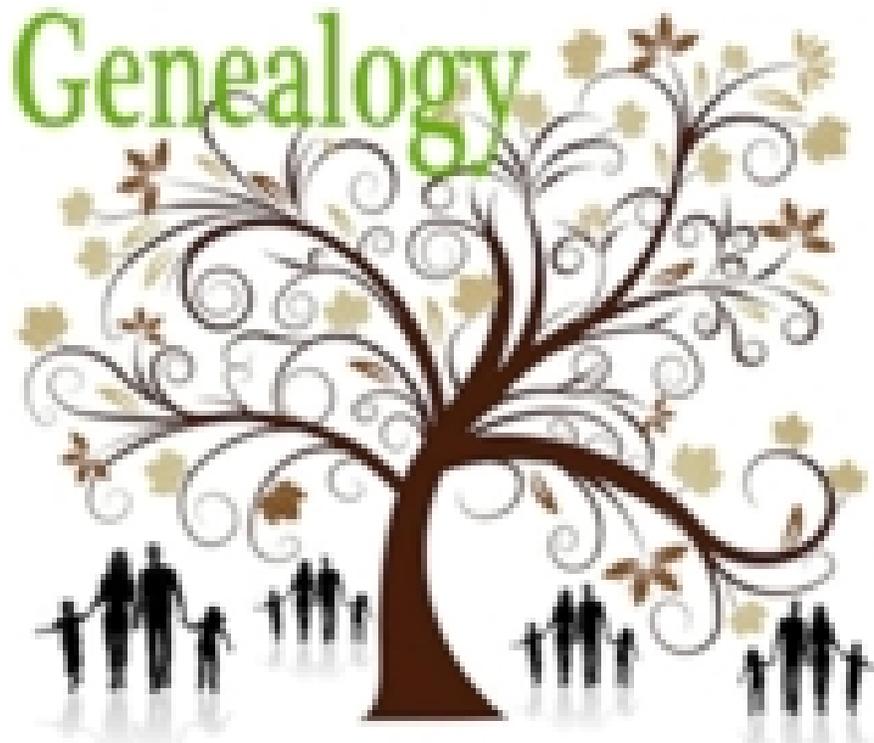
Special Note from the Editor

WE NEED SUBMISSIONS PLEASE!!

I don't have nearly enough submissions half of the time to actually make a full quarterly. I cannot express how important it is for you to submit your stories, without them the Quarterly can't exist. I could find things to fill it sure, but I would much rather hear from all of you.

We have several wonderful members who contribute every time, Garrett Gabel, Doug Berlin, Sheila Wood to name a few. But I'm curious to see some submittals from maybe some of our far away members. How are your families connected to Phelps County?

So if anyone would like to submit a story for the next Quarterly, you can either mail a paper version to the address listed below or email it to either the PCGS e-mail or mine (juliebear85@hughes.net). If you do email and can possibly submit your story in Word format that would be wonderful. If you can't, that's okay too. I can transcribe PDF documents as well.



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Please keep your mailing address current. Send all address changes to our P.O. Box so you won't miss any quarterlies.

**HELPS COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 Research/Archives Room**

Hours of Operation

We keep the research/archives room (7) in the old Phelps County Court House open on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 4:30. We will also open the research room for out of town visitors at other prearranged times.

If you want to visit at another time, please call (573) 364-9597 on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 4:30 or e-mail us at pcgs@rollanet.org to make the necessary arrangements.

We will be happy to see you.

PCGS Membership

Current dues are \$18.00 per year.

The membership year runs from January 1 through December 31.

Dues for the following year are payable by November 1, and are past due if not received by January 1.

All members receive four periodicals, and any occasional newsletter that may be published. However, quarterlies will not be mailed unless dues are current.

PCGS Mailing Address

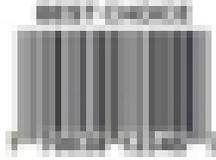
The address of the Phelps County Genealogical Society is Post Office Box 571, Rolla, MO 65402-0571 as shown on all our literature.

PLEASE DO NOT send mail intended for the PCGS to the courthouse or to any other address. Thank you for your cooperation.

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******* PCGS NEWS *******

ITEM: PCGS is still collecting Best Choice Labels. They must include the name Best Choice and the bar code. A sample is shown below:



MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, PHOTOGRAPHS, LETTERS, ETC.

Clean-Up of the Wright/Karnes/Baker/Campbell Plot of N.W. Dent Co. Mo.

Submitted by Garrett Gabel

Over the span of about three partial days of hard work in Dec. 2014, I have accomplished the restoration of the old Wright Cemetery of N.W. Dent Co. Mo. which lies on the south side of Hwy O, 8/10 of a mile West of Anutt, Mo. In addition to a mountain of brush removed, I set two gate poles and drove about a dozen fence posts which creates a perimeter now on the roadside of the cemetery. I also placed on the gate poles a new wooden engraved cemetery sign and Christian Cross which were graciously created by my friend Travis Karr who, in the past, created the Hamilton Lenox cemetery sign for me.

This cemetery, which lies only a few miles out of Southern Phelps Co Mo, is one of those old and historic cemeteries typically forgotten in modern times as most of the cemetery's descendants are long gone or moved away. I am most attracted to the cemetery because of the old family story handed down by the Baker descendants of two Civil War "soldiers" buried there in a single grave by widowed sisters Keziah (Arthur) Baker and Nancy (Arthur) Messer, Wright, (refer to my book; "Days of Yore," A History of Southern Phelps Co., 1861-1921), published in 2014.) It is my belief that those "soldiers" are in the grave that is encircled with stacked rocks centrally located within the cemetery....but it is just that....my opinion.

The cemetery also boasts of a War of 1812 veteran; James Wm. Keeton, Sr. 1791-1871. Since the clean up...(an this is always a bonus afterwards because many long forgotten stones are discovered,) I have so far discovered an engraved field stone with the initials;)R.H. 1866) which is very likely the "Mrs. Harris" that Dent Co. Historian Ken Fiebelman has recorded in one of his cemetery books. This is very likely Rachel (Hopper) Harris, wife of Robert Letcher "Letch) Harris. Rachel was born ca. 1830s and as best can be determined, died late 1865-early 1866 according to her descendant John L. Harris of St. Louis, Mo.

Many other field stones are becoming visible as a result of the clean-up and rainfalls, quite common in my past experiences of cemetery clean-ups. I want to also thank land owner Brian Smith who assisted in dozing mountains of brush away from the back fence for me as I requested. A more thorough future transcription is planned soon for this cemetery. Refer to the Findagrave website for the Baker-Campbell plot for graves recorded thus far.

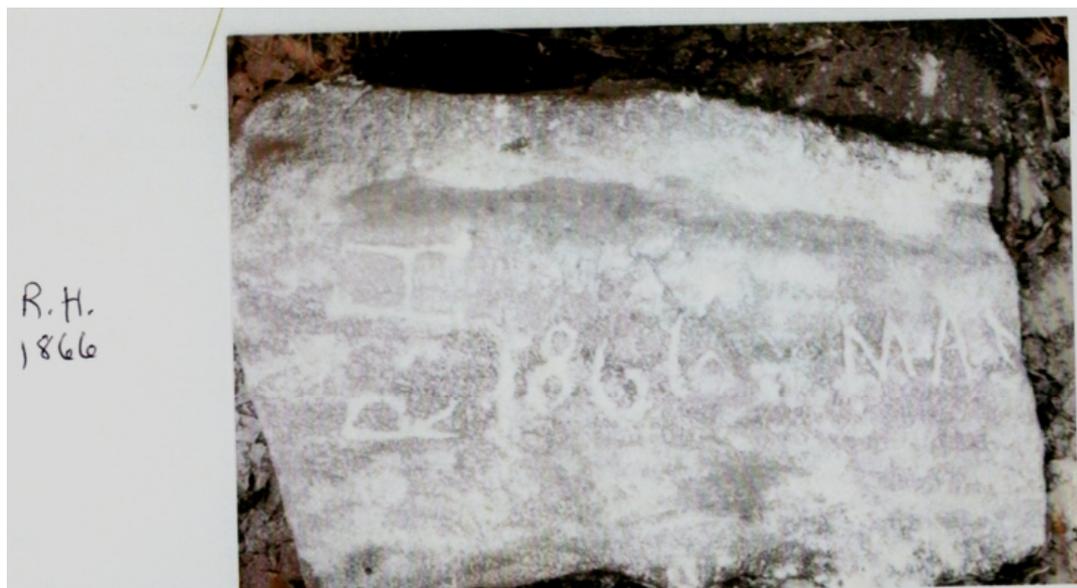
See below the before and after cemetery clean-up pictures, cemetery sign and the “R.H. 1866 engraved field stone.



Before ↑
WRIGHT CEMETERY 2014



AFTER ↑ 2014



“Grecian Bend” Tom Gray
Submitted by Garrett Gabel

Another old town character of Rolla I recently became quite interested in is “Grecian Bend” Tom Gray. One may more accurately label him as an outright trouble maker of the times however, the newspaper articles below never exactly painted a flowery picture of old Tom. Not unlike most folks of his lifestyle, Tom’s life thus far in my searches has been off the radar other than a scattering of court records and paper articles. Before Grecian Bend Tom faded into obscurity in this county’s history, he went out with a big bang by raising so much late night cane in the county calaboose that very little sleeping occurred for some two blocks away! Tom appears to have faded into obscurity in this county ca. 1877. Sadly, his remains most likely wound up in an unmarked grave in a pauper’s field section of a cemetery.

“Fifteenth Amendments on Their Muscle” Rolla New Era, Nov. 15, 1873

On Tuesday morning the denizens of Pine Street were treated to an exhibition of the “Noble Art” by two of the nation’s wards, Grecian Bend Tom, and a mulatto man known as “Bob”, who drives Miller’s team. Tom had gone and got a stout hickory club about two feet long, and with it threatened to strike the other one, when he (Bob) took the club away and struck Tom twice over the head with it. Sheriff Smith arrested them, and took the before Esquire Stiff who fined the gentlemen of color, with the elegant hump on his rear front, and, which from their appearance, many ladies are fond of emulating; one dollar and costs, amounting in all to \$9.50. As he is not a capitalist, he will join the not very innumerable caravan that moves slowly along our streets, looking like “Micawbers” for some city warrants to turn up.

“The Shooting Monday” Rolla Herald, June 11, 1874

After the trial of Tom Gray, the negro arrested for using profane and obscene language on the streets, last Monday, the mayor sentenced him to jail, but he rushed out of the court room, gathered a couple of rocks and made off in the direction of the stock yards. The marshal summoned “Shed” Baskett to assist him to arrest Tom, and arming themselves---Baskett with a shot-gun---they started in pursuit. They overtook Tom near the stock yards, and on his refusing to surrender, the marshal ordered Baskett to shoot. The gun was loaded with bird shot, and struck Tom in the shoulder, peppering his arm, side and shoulder pretty thoroughly. Tom was conveyed to town and is now safe in jail. His wounds are not fatal. We understand this case of shooting is to be investigated and we shall refrain from saying more at this time.

“ Local Gleanings” Rolla Herald, June 31, 1874

Last Monday night appropriately lives in the history of our city as “Bloody Monday.” The day was ushered in by a drunken lord of creation, who indulged in a little too much tangle foot, and by the consequence was that in riding through the streets he fell off his horse into the dust, where we last saw him, but we suppose he was properly cared for; then came the shooting and arrest of Tom Gray, a worthless negro, more commonly known as “Grecian

Bend,” then in the afternoon came the finding of a man in the eastern part of the city, who, it is supposed, had been run over by the cars and killed; and about midnight a couple of gentlemen, who were returning home late, found in a drunken man lying on the railroad above the post office, whose purpose seems to have been suicidal, but the gentlemen preserved his worthless life by arousing and getting him off before the train came along. We have never before known so many fearful accidents to occur in this place in one day, and we hope our city will never again witness such scenes.

“Local Gleanings” Rolla Herald, August 27, 1874

Our model Sheriff, Jas. L. Smith, started on Monday for Jefferson City with a batch of delegates to the Democratic State Convention . Fearing a bolt he employed as guards the ever reliable Grecian Bend Tom and a man named Langsford, who have recently been commissioned to the penitentiary at the late term of our circuit court. His timely forethought in this matter will challenge the administration of his Democratic friends and compel the support and confidence of the “People” or any other man.

“Court Notes” Rolla Herald, March 2, 1876

Tom Gray, (colored), more popularly known in this city as “Grecian Bend,” arrived home from Jefferson City last Monday, where he has been for the last year and more on visit to the penitentiary. The brass band did not meet “Grecian” at the depot.

“Local Gleanings” Rolla Herald, October 5, 1876

“Grecian Bend”, a well known negro of this place, created some excitement on our streets last Friday evening by shouting time and again, “If Alex Bates votes the Democratic ticket, I’ll shove five bones in his face---d---n me if I don’t.” The Republicans hushed him up, telling him not to threaten so openly. Alex Bates is a gentleman of color who sometimes declares he will vote the Democratic ticket.

“Local Gleanings” Rolla Weekly Herald, May 17, 1877

Tom Gray, better known as “Grecian Bend,” and one of the most profane and worthless negroes that ever infested any community, was arrested last Friday night for disturbing the peace and placed in the calaboose. During the entire night he kept up such a noise that no one for two blocks around the calaboose could sleep. The language he used was of the vilest known to the vocabulary of the debased. Saturday morning he was brought before the mayor and fined \$10 and costs, and placed in charge of the marshal to work out his fine.

A Brief History of The “Grecian Bend”

According to one website, the Grecian Bend was a term applied to a stooped posture which became fashionable ca. 1820, named after the gracefully-inclined figures seen in the art of Ancient Greece. It was also the name of a dance move introduced to polite society in America just before the American Civil War. The “Bend” was considered very daring at the time. The stoop or silhouette created by the fashion in a woman’s dress for corsets, crinolettes and bustles by 1869 was also called The Grecian Bend. Contemporary

illustrations often show a woman with a large bustle and a very small parasol, bending forward. The term was also given to those who suffered from decompression sickness, or “the bends”, due to working in caissons during the building of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. The name was given because afflicted individuals characteristically arched their backs in the same manner as the popular “Grecian Bend” fashion. There were many songs published with “Grecian Bend” in their lines. The term “Grecian Bend” appears in the song “The Garden where The Praties Grow” by Johnny Patterson.



Above is an 1868 lithograph caricaturing a woman with a Grecian Bend.

Death Notices

Compiled by Barbara Smith Pugh

SAMUEL T. ALLEN

Samuel T. Allen died at his home in Rolla Sunday, March 14th, at 5 p.m. Mr. Allen was born in Newburg April 5th, 1885. Of late years his health had not been very good, but as it was his death was sudden; being taken with a hemorrhage he rapidly sank and quietly passed into great beyond. The funeral was held Tuesday at the McCaw undertaking parlors, the Rev. H. Nelson Tragitt officiating. Interment was at Newburg. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, Mary Loretta Rose (Dashwood) Allen, and the following children: Lillian Isabel, Valentine Dashwood, Mary Catherine, Ruby Grace, Ruth Gertrude, William Roger, Violet Fern, and Dorothy Anabelle.

Those of the relatives at the funeral were Miss Ethel Dashwood, sister of Mrs. Allen, from St. Louis; Mr. & Mrs. Ethan Hargis and son, Mr. And Mrs. W.F. Walker and daughter, and Mr. Lemuel Allen, Mr. Charles Allen.

THE ROLLA HERALD
18 March 1926

Amanda Jo Karmann's Great, Great Grandmother

MRS. BESSIE ANDERSON

Mrs. Bessie Anderson, Lecomma, Mo., widow of the late James W. Anderson, died this morning at Phelps County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Anderson was born at Lecomma on September 18, 1875 and was 86 years old at the time of death.

She is survived by six sons: Neeley, John and James, Rolla; Teba, Edgar Springs; Elva, East St. Louis, Ill; and Claude, St. Louis; three daughters, Mrs. Elsie Gibson, Lecomma; Mrs. Lillie Williams, Rolla; and Mrs. Julia Castleman, St. Louis; one brother, Tom Curtis, Lecomma; and two sisters Mrs. Julia King, Overland, and Mrs. Gertrude Grant, Illinois. Also surviving are a number of grand children and great grand children.

Services will be conducted at 2pm Friday, at the Anutt Baptist Church with the Rev. Elven Curtis and the Rev. Gray officiating. Interment will be in Anutt Cemetery.

Mrs. Anderson will lie in state at Null and Sons Funeral Home beginning at noon Thursday.

ROLLA DAILY NEWS
27 June 1962

WALTER CURTIS

CWO Walter A. Curtis who was stationed with the US Army in Detroit, Mich. Died at the Army Hospital in Detroit Mar. 3. He was born Dec. 16, 1920 in Lecomma, Mo.

He is survived by his widow, Beulah; six daughters, Linda, Jean, Peggy, Gail, Betty, Sue, and Mariam; five brothers, Vernon, Clyde, Harold, St. Louis, the Rev. Eleven Curtis, Vida, and Lewis of Lecomma; and a number of nephews and nieces, and cousins.

He was a member of the Baptist Church, a veteran of WWII, and would have retired this November, completing 20 years of service in the Army.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

The Rev. William Gray will officiate at the service which will be held in Anutt, Mo.

Internment will be in the Anutt Cemetery under the direction of Null and Sons Funeral Home.

ROLLA DAILY NEWS
5 March 1962

Amanda Jo Karmann's Great, Great Aunt by Marriage

MAGGIE CURTIS

Mrs. Maggie Ann Curtis, a well known Rolla resident, died at her home Tuesday. Mrs. Curtis was 73 years old, born at Lecomma, Mo., May 30, 1888. She was the widow of the late William F. Curtis and a life long resident of Lecomma and Rolla. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Surviving relatives are four sons, Forest Riley, Newburg, Frank Curtis, Rolla, Fred Curtis, St. Louis, Bob Curtis, St. Louis; seven daughters, Mrs. Lucille Beck, St. Louis, Mrs. Dolly Smith, Lecomma, Mrs., Bess Moreland, St. Louis, Mrs. Nora Mace, Albuquerque, N.M., Mrs. Virginia Jackson, Rolla, Mrs. Dorothy Whites, Rolla, Mrs. Hallie Courtway, St. Louis; 20 grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren.

Funeral services are incomplete today, but Mrs. Curtis will be in State at the Null and Son Funeral Home Friday.

ROLLA DAILY NEWS
8 Feb 1962

Amanda Jo Karmann's Great, Great Grandfather

JAMES W. ANDERSON

James W. Anderson, who was born in Dent County, Missouri on February 6, 1872, and who spent his entire life in the Lecomma area, died at the Phelps County Memorial Hospital on Monday evening, June 3, 1957.

Mr. Anderson is survived by his widow, Mrs. Bessie Anderson, six sons: Neeley, John and James, Lecomma; Teba, Edgar Springs; Elva, St. Louis; and Claude, Overland; and three daughters: Mrs. Elsie Gibson, Lecomma; Mrs. Lillie Williams; Rolla and Mrs. Julia Castleman, Overland, Missouri. Mr. Anderson also leaves a number of grand and great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Anderson's funeral will be at 2 pm, Wednesday, June 5, 1957 at the Anutt Baptist Church of which he had been a long time member. Burial will be in the Anutt Cemetery with services by the Reverend William Bray and the Rev. Elven Curtis. The body will lie in state at the Null and Son Funeral Home Chapel until time for the funeral in the Anutt Cemetery.

THE ROLLA DAILY NEWS
June 4, 1957

MEEKIE L. WILSON

Funeral services for Mrs. Meekie L. Wilson, Lecomma, were conducted at the Null and Son Chapel at 1:30 Sunday by the Rev. Eleven Curtis. Burial was in the Rhea Cemetery.

Mrs. Wilson, 59, died at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis Friday. She was born at Lecomma on Feb. 22, 1909, and lived in the community most of her life.

Surviving are two sons, Clyde Wilson, of Lecomma and Allen Wilson, of Anutt; one daughter, Mrs. Goldie Gabel of Lecomma; two brothers, Alfred and Frank Schmedeke of Morrisonville, Ill., and four grandchildren.

ROLLA DAILY NEWS
7 Oct 1968

MRS. W.T. BLACK

Mrs. Anna Lee Black, beloved wife of W.T. Black passed from this life at her home near Craddock, Saturday, May 1st, 1926, at exactly at the noon hour. She was in the 64th year of her age. She had been an invalid for a number of years. Two years ago she lost her sight, a few months ago she became very ill, which resulted in her death. She bore all of her suffering with a cheerful Christian fortitude that won for her the admiration and love of her neighbors and friends.

The deceased was formerly Miss Anna Lee Johnson. She was the oldest daughter of the late Logan Johnson and wife. She was born near Beulah, Mo., March 5th, 1863. On November 15th, 1882 she was united in marriage with Mr. W.T. Black and to this union eight children, five daughters and three sons, all of who have passed to the great beyond except one daughter, Mrs. Wayne Cox, who with Mr. Black, survive. She is survived by two grandchildren, Virginia Cox, age 5 years and Billy Tom Cox, age 3 years. Also, she survived by three brothers, T.L. Johnson, Dent, Mo., W.Z. Johnson, Rolla, Mo., and Ezro Johnson, East Bakersfield, California and two sisters: Mrs. T.G. Sturgeon, Beulah, Mo., and Mrs. T.E. Black, of Craddock, all of whom were present at the funeral except her brother Ezro, of California. She had been a true and faithful member of Enon Baptist Church for over forty years. She was a good woman, a true Christian character, and enjoyed the love and esteem of her many friends and neighbors.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. F.W. Taylor, pastor of the Baptist Church, Licking, Mo., Sunday afternoon. Internment took place at the Black Cemetery, the family burying ground. A large number were present from Edgar, Beulah, Licking, Lenox, and Rolla. It was pronounced the largest funeral that had ever been held in that neighborhood. Many friends mourn her death and sympathizes with the relatives in their bereavement.

THE ROLLA HERALD
6 May 1926

MRS. DOLLIE DYKES

Mrs. Dollie Dykes, 102 South Rolla Street, died at her home Sunday night, November 4. She was the wife of William F. Dykes. She was 71 years old, being born September 22, 1885 in the state of Illinois.

Mrs. Dykes had resided in Rolla during the past 20 years. She was a member of the First Christian Church; the Rolla Chapter No. 176 Order of Eastern Star; and Harmony Shrine No. 20.

The survivors include her husband; two daughters, Mrs. Roy Beydler, of New Orleans and Mrs. James O'Loughlin of St. Louis; a step-son, Hadley Dykes of San Francisco; a step-daughter, Mrs. Walter Campbell of Rolla; two brothers, Oliver Curtis of Rolla and Tom Curtis of Lecoma; and three sisters, Mrs. Julia King of Overland, Mrs. James Anderson of Lecoma and Mrs. Fred Grant of Nakomis, Ill. There are also five grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the First Christian Church at 2:30pm Tuesday, November 6, with the Reverend Charles A. Willbanks officiating. The pall bearers will be Herbert Curtis, George Curtis, Elvin Curtis, Frank Curtis, Clyde Curtis and John Anderson. There will also be services conducted by the Order of Eastern Star. Internment will be in the Rolla Cemetery under the direction of the Null and Sons Funeral Home where the body will lie in state beginning this evening.

THE ROLLA DAILY NEWS

5 November 1956

WILLIAM F. CURTIS

Funeral services for William F. Curtis, 70 lifelong resident of Lecoma, were conducted at Rhea Church Monday afternoon by the Rev. Mack Heavin.

Mr. Curtis died at Waynesville General Hospital last Saturday. He was born near Lecoma and spent most of his life there.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Maggie Curtis; three sons, Fred, of St. Louis, Frank of Rolla and Bob of Lecoma; six daughters, Mrs. Dollie Smith and Mrs. Hallie Curtis of Lecoma, Mrs. Nora May mace, Mrs. Virginia Jackson and Mrs. Dorothy Whites of Rolla, and Mrs. Bess Moreland of St. Louis; one step-son, Forest Riley, of St. Louis; one step-daughter, Mrs. Lucille Beck of St. James; two brothers, Tom, of Lecoma and Oliver of Rolla; four sisters, Mrs. Bessie Anderson of Lecoma, Mrs. Julia King of Overland, Mrs. Dottie Dykes of Rolla, and Mrs. Gertrude Grant of Raymond, Ill, and eleven grandchildren.

Burial was in Rolla Cemetery under the direction of Null and Sons.

THE ROLLA DAILY NEWS

13 May 1948

Bad Shooting Scrape

Submitted by Sheila Wood

Wm. West who lives out near the pump house shot and seriously wounded Cleve Anderson last Friday morning near his home. The cause of the shooting we understand was Anderson assuming improper relation with West's wife. The weapon used was a double barrel shot gun and Anderson received a full load of shot in the hip, the shot tearing a large hole through the flesh and lodging around the bone. West came to town soon after the shooting and surrendered to an officer and was placed under bond. Several from here went to the scene of the shooting and carried Anderson to the home of Jos. Brant nearby where his wounds was dressed by Dr. T.B. Duemler. Later in the day he was brought to town to the home of his cousins, Mr. Russell, who works for Warfield Bros. and has been there since. Monday the doctor performed an operation and removed a part of the bone that had been torn loose and some shot. He is getting along very well and is expected to recover. Cleve is a brother to Marion Anderson who works on the section here and is about 22 or 23 years old.

Constable Bacon came down from Bourbon Monday and the bond of West was raised from \$250.00 to \$1000.00 and he is awaiting a hearing. It is the general supposition that nothing can be done with West for the shooting.

Extra: Cleveland Anderson death has been reported in the Sullivan News, Sullivan, Mo. December 4, 1913, he died at the home of his mother at Hofflin, Crawford Co. Mo. Saturday, November 29, 1913 or consumption. His mother was Elizabeth Smith Chapman & died December 12, 1940 at St. James Mo and is buried at Delhi Cemetery, Crawford Co Mo.

(This was in the Sullivan Sentinel, Sullivan Mo and newspaper. What I would say don't mess around with another man's wife that owns a gun.)

Mrs. Herberger
Submitted by Sheila Wood

Karolina (Caroline) Herberger, widow of Raymond Herberger, born in Baden, Germany, June 26, 1853 and passed away at the home of her son Henry Herberger near Vida, Mo, July 26, 1940 at the age of 87 years old and 1 month. For the past several years grandmother Herberger as she was so affectionately known to her many friends had been in poor health and unable to associate with her many friends which she so much enjoyed.

Besides the son with which she made her home she is also survived by one other son, John Herberger of Project City, Cal.; three daughters, Mrs. Walter Gammeter of St. Louis, Mrs. W.S. Gift of Waukomis, Okla., and Mrs. L. Kirkpatrick of Houston, Texas. Fifteen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren besides a number of other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted from the St. Patrick's Catholic Church Sunday afternoon July 28th by Father S.P. Stocking. Pall bearers were: John Holm, Roy Hargis, Shearl Lorts, Raymond Herberger, Harry Horn, and Barney Fore. Burial was made in the Beaver Cemetery under the direction of the Null and Sons Funeral Home.

Eliza Jane Laycook Thomas
Submitted by Sheila Wood

This is the grave of Eliza Jane Laycook Thomas in Pulaski County, MO. Some of our members have been to this cemetery and taken this picture. Just down the road is the Mayfield Cemetery. A very different grave site, but beautiful arrangements of rocks around her grave. It is on the left hand side as you go to the Mayfield Cemetery. Why didn't they take her to a cemetery already established, maybe on land her family owned?



A Murder That Happened Where?

Submitted by Sheila Wood

After reading the newspaper clippings I had some questions. The city of Rolla didn't have a hospital in the late 1800's and our 14th street runs east to west. I believe this murder happened in St. Louis, Mo. The New Era newspaper for Rolla, Mo carried the story but Minnie Blackwell was from Rolla. No court records have been found in the Circuit Court books in Phelps Co. Mo. The final trial was held in St. Louis, Mo, and Miss Blackwell was acquitted of murder.

This was an interesting search. I would like to thank Judith Jones (a member) for her request.

THE THREE GRAVES.

Minnie Blackwell. Shot Moresci.

A warrant charging assault to kill was issued Tuesday morning against Minnie Blackwell, colored, of 706 North Fourteenth street.

She is accused of shooting and dangerously wounding Mike Moresci, a cab driver, living at 918 North Eighth street. Moresci is now at the City Hospital.

Shortly before 3 o'clock Tuesday morning Moresci stopped his cab in front of the Blackwell woman's house. In the cab was James English, colored, who is the lover of the Blackwell. Some time ago they had a quarrel, and as soon as she saw English she drew a revolver from her pocket and fired five shots at him. English escaped injury, but one of the bullets lodged in Moresci's right side.-- St. Louis Star. July 14.

It is said here in Rolla that the above. named woman is the daughter of Reuben Blackwell of this city.

LATER: Mike Moresci, the man shot by Minnie Blackwell, died at the City Hospital on Wednesday afternoon. She will have to answer for Moresci's death.

LET HER GO. .

Minnie Blackwell Acquitted of Murder.

In Judge Harvey's Court Saturday a jury acquitted Minnie Blackwell of murder.

When the verdict was announced the pretty octroon defendant arose, bowed to the Court and jury, said:

"Thank you, gentlemen," and then burst into a violent fit of weeping.

In the court room sat the mother. She journeyed here from Rolla, Mo., leaving her sick husband, to attend her daughter's trial. When she realized that her child was free, she cried:

"Bless you, gentlemen. Yours has been the greatest Christmas present I ever received."

Minnie Blackwell killed Michael Moreski last July. She was shooting at her lover, James English, who was advancing upon her with a knife. Moreski was a cab driver and drove English to the place of the shooting. Attorney Burgess pleaded self-defense and the Court instructed the jurymen to acquit if they believed English intended to harm the girl.

The woman will return to her parents' home.—St. Louis Chronicle, Dec. 20, 1896.

Some more info on Miss Blackwell:

Minnie F. Trier in the Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947

Name: Minnie F. Trier

[Minnie F. Blackwell]

Birth Date: 29 Oct 1873

Birth Place: Rolla, Missouri

Death Date: 24 Dec 1938

Death Place: Chicago, Cook, Illinois

Burial Date: 27 Dec 1938

Burial Place: Cook, Ill

Death Age: 65

Occupation: Housewife

Race: Black

Marital Status: M

Gender: Female

Father Name: Reuben Blackwell

Mother Name: Margaret Plummer

Spouse Name: Geo. E. Trier

FHL Film Number: 1953409

Home in 1900: Rolla, Phelps, Missouri

Race: Colored (Black)

Margaret Blackwell 52 Colored Nov 1847 wd 3/3 MO

Minnie Blackwell 26 Colored dau Oct 1873 sgl MO

Mollie R. Blackwell 24 Colored son Sep 1875 sgl MO

Lelia M. Blackwell 11 Colored dau Feb 1889 MO

Home in 1880: Rolla, Phelps, Missouri

Reuben Blackwell 35 m/mulatto MO

Margret Blackwell 31 wf Black MO

Chaucy Blackwell 9 m/mulatto MO

*Minnie F. Blackwell 6 m/mulatto

Colonel Blackwell 4 m/mulatto

Winnie Blackwell 2 f/mulatto

The Will of Flora Clark

Phelps County, MO 1931

Submitted by Sheila Wood

This is the will of Flora Clark. She owed land north of St. James, Mo., in the Dillon TWP. The land was first owned by James Wood; he came to Missouri in 1835 and built the East end of the house including the huge fireplace, built of dressed Limestone. Then in 1849 his son Gilliam Wood returned from California (he was looking for gold) and bought the place from his father and built the West end with another fireplace making a six room, now the house a fireplace on

each end. These are the ancestors of the late John Wood. Frank Wood, son of Gilliam Wood inherited the place from his father and later sold the place to Blanchard about 1900 who in turn sold the place to Alva Clark in 1904 who lived there at the time the house burned in Dec. 17, 1937. Flora ended up with the property and after her first husband died, she married Floyd O. Clark. Flora died and the land went to Floyd and Floyd gave or sold the land to Flora's daughter.

During the Civil War this house was used for a place to take care of Northern Soldiers or anyone who was wounded in the fighting that ensued in the community.

The picture of the house and story can be found in the St. James Library, in the collection of picture albums.



HOUSE BUILT BY JAMES WOOD 5 MILES NORTHWEST OF ST. JAMES, MISSOURI
 Picture taken about 1936
 left to right:
 1. Florence Clark 4. Raymond Clark
 2. Alva Clark 5. Ralph Clark
 3. Cynthia Clark

FIRST Day of AUGUST ADJOURNED Term, SEPTEMBER 28, 1931

Estate of
Flora Clark, Dec'd.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION.

Now on this day comes Chancie Dickson, Administrator with the Will annexed of the estate of Flora Clark, deceased, and presents to the Court his petition praying for an order for the sale of certain real estate of which the said Flora Clark died seized, and described as follows:

All of the East Half of the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section Eight (8), in Township Thirty-eight (38), Range Six (6) West of the 5th P.M., in the County of Phelps, and State of Missouri, save and except two rods along the east side of the above described land, sold off for a public road, containing Thirty-eight (38) acres;

or so much of said real estate as will pay and satisfy the remaining debts due by said estate and yet unpaid for want of sufficient assets; which said petition is accompanied by a true account of the administration of said estate, a list of debts due to and by the deceased and remaining unpaid, an inventory of the real estate and of the remaining personal estate with its appraised value, and all the other assets in his hands, and the whole verified by the affidavit of said petitioner; showing that said estate is indebted, that said debts are unpaid and that there are not sufficient assets on hand to pay the same.

On examination whereof, it is ordered by the Court, that all persons interested in the estate of said deceased, be notified that application as aforesaid has been made, and that unless the contrary be shown on or before Monday, the 23rd day of November, 1931, on which day this Court will be in session, an order will be made for the sale of the whole of the above described real estate of said deceased, or so much of the said real estate as shall be sufficient for the payment of said debts.

It is further ordered that all the heirs of said deceased, residents of said Phelps County, Missouri, be personally served with notice of these proceedings according to law.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order be published once a week for four weeks in a weekly newspaper published in said Phelps County, Missouri, the first publication thereof to be at least thirty days before the 23rd day of November, 1931.

Estate of
Flora Clark, Dec'd.

WILL ADMITTED & ADMINISTRATOR WITH WILL ANNEXED APPOINTED.

Now on this 17th day of August, 1931, in Vacation before the Judge, comes Chancie Dickson and proves to the Judge that Flora Clark departed this life in Phelps County, Missouri, on the 9th day of August, 1931, with her domicile in Phelps County, Missouri, and presents an instrument of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, and asks that the same be admitted to probate. And after having examined said instrument and having heard the testimony of Mrs. E. F. Engle and Mrs. Iva Osterhold, the subscribing witnesses to said instrument in relation to the execution of the same, the Judge does declare and adjudge said instrument to be the Will and Testament of the said Flora Clark, deceased, late of Phelps County, and the same is hereby admitted to probate, and together with the testimony of the subscribing witnesses is ordered certified, filed and recorded, And Percy J. Farmer, the executor named in said will by said testatrix to execute the same, having refused in writing to qualify as such executor, and the said Chancie Dickson being a suitable and proper person and having made the affidavits required by law, is hereby appointed Administrator with the Will annexed of said deceased, and he is ordered before entering upon the discharge of the duties of said office to enter into a bond to the State of Missouri, conditioned according to law in the sum of \$1000.00. Thereupon he tenders his bond as such Administrator with the Will annexed in the sum of \$1000.00 with W. J. Moreland and J. F. Burge as securities thereon, which said bond is by the Judge examined, approved and ordered filed and recorded, and Letters of Administration with the Will annexed are ordered granted and are hereby issued to him. J. F. Burge, J. W. Weger and W. J. Moreland are appointed witnesses to the inventory and appraisers to accompany and aid said Administrator with the Will annexed in opening and examining the papers, money and other property of said deceased and in making an inventory and appraisal of the same.

Now on this day on application of Floyd O. Clark, widower of said deceased, he is allowed all the household and kitchen furniture at its appraised value of \$34.00.

Estate of
Flora Clark, Dec'd.

ALLOWANCE FOR FIRST YEAR'S SUPPORT.

Now on this day on application of Floyd O. Clark, widower of said deceased, it is ordered by the Court that he be allowed \$500.00 for first year's support, in lieu of provisions not on hand.

Estate of Flora Clark, Dec'd.

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT FILED AND APPROVED.

Estate of Flora Clark, Dec'd.

ORDER NO APPRAISER.

Now on this day the Court takes up the matter of inheritance tax in said estate, and after an examination of the inventory and appraisal and all the papers and files pertaining to said estate, finds that said estate is not subject to such a tax, it is therefore ordered that no appraiser be appointed and that this finding be recorded in inheritance tax record No Appraiser No. 1.

Waite

Loyd and Evelyn Waite brought their young family to Rolla, Missouri, in late February, 1981. Both had grown up in New Mexico, and their two sons, Ken and Kody, were born in New

Mexico. As they were preparing to leave New Mexico for Missouri, they learned that Evelyn's great-grandfather, Andrew Jackson Nials, had enlisted in the Union Army in Rolla in 1861. He was underage, so he enlisted under his step-father's last name (Miller) rather than give his true name.

Loyd was employed with the USGS, Water Resources Division and was transferred to the Rolla office from the sub-district office in Carlsbad, New Mexico. At the time of their arrival in Rolla, Ken was in second grade and Kody was less than two years old. Evelyn was a stay-at-home mom until November, 1989. At that time, she went to work as a temporary employee at the law firm, Williams, Robinson, Turley, Crump & White. Her temporary status changed to full-time, and she remained employed there until December 31, 2012, at which time she retired. The firm was then known as Williams, Robinson, Rigler & Buschjost, PC.

Ken graduated from Rolla High School, then went to Oklahoma Christian University of Science & Art in Edmond, Oklahoma. He earned his degree in art with an emphasis in advertising design. He now owns and operates in-press printing in Edmond, Oklahoma. Kody also graduated from Rolla High School. His first two years of college were at Oklahoma Christian University of Science & Art. For his last two years of college, he transferred to the University of Missouri at Kansas City where he earned his degree in criminology. He now works as an auditor.

The entire family has been active over the years in the Church of Christ in Rolla. Loyd and Evelyn continue to worship and work with that congregation.



Loyd, Evelyn, Kody and Ken Waite

Dillon Community Store Owner

Submitted by Sheila Wood

The man I am going to write about is Richard I. Thralls, born in St. Mary's In The Woods, Indiana, January 12, 1865 and died in the McFarland Nursing Home, in Rolla, Mo., on February 8, 1951. Mr. Thralls parents were Augustus & Emily Copick Thralls. His wife was Cora E. Mahan Thralls who died in 1918. Mr. Thralls owned and operated a store in the Dillon community just East of Rolla. The picture of above is his home and store, on the post of the

house the words look like Post Office, but the only post office that is known in that area is across the railroad on the north side that Mary Lou Pinkston owns.

The neighborhood children were sent to the store for something for their mother. My sister-in-law Joyce said her mother sent her and her sister Margaret to get laundry soap, they would knock on the door and were scared and shaking the whole time. Mr. Thralls would answer the door and they would get what they needed and leave. The neighborhood children, now grown and still living in the same area, told me about going to the store, and of course they never got candy like our children and grand children get now, they would get candy from a jar that had worms in it, that didn't matter, candy was candy.

I was told Mr. Thralls always wore a Jersey glove on one of his hands. Only person knew the answer as to why was Barbara Pinkston Brown, that Mr. Thralls had a birthmark on one of his hands.

I only have found two children that were born to their union and that was Mary L. Thralls who married Alphonse Steffen, she was born 1897 in Indiana and died 1990 in Missouri. Mary was married in St. Louis, Mo. The second was Paul Marion Thralls born in 1891 and died 1975. Later the house was destroyed and a new one was built and I am not sure if that house is still standing or not. The land was on the south side of the railroad tracks and next to the Pinkston farm.



Missouri Legends **Rosati-Little Italy in Central Missouri**

In November, 1895, 98 families left northern Italy for the United States. They had been recruited to work at the Sunnyside Settlement, a cotton plantation in Chicot County, Arkansas. A second group of 72 families left Italy in December, 1896. After many deaths at the plantation, due mostly to malaria and other diseases, the groups decided to leave as soon as their two-year contract ended. Unable to agree on one destination, the groups split, with most going to either Tonitown, Arkansas or Rosati (formerly Knobview) Missouri. The first Italians arrived at Rosati in January, 1898. Just four miles east of St. James, Missouri. Old Route 66 winds through the small unincorporated hamlet of Rosati, originally settled in 1845, The community was first called Knobview, for three high hills overlooking the area from the south.

The first store was built by a man named Thomas Kinsay, Jr. the first resident of the area. Soon after, a US survey of the region was conducted and when it was completed in the 1850's, land was offered to any company who would build a railroad through central Missouri. In the

summer of 1860, the Pacific Railroad arrived at Knobview and the general store became known as Kinsay's Station, which also housed the settlement's first post office. Knobview grew slowly and by 1898 the post office closed. However, the railroad began to sell excess land at reasonable prices and before long, a number of Italian immigrants arrived. Though it was difficult in the beginning for them to make a living, new businesses began to sprout up including two stores, a saloon, canning plant, a new post office, a school and a church.

These first Italian immigrants also attempted to plant grape varieties from Italy, but after having no success, they grew Concord grapes, used in juice, which became the predominant variety for many decades.

In 1906, the St. Anthony Catholic Church was built, which continues to stand today. In 1934, the town was renamed after the first bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis, the Italian-born Joseph Rosati.

Rosati town folk lived primarily an agricultural lifestyle for decades, but in the 1970's Welch began to decrease the number of contracts to purchase the growers Concord grapes and by the 1990's had stopped altogether. The small population adapted and local growers then started replacing the vines with wine grape varieties.

By the 1930's more than 250,000 vines were producing grapes along Route 66. Today, Rosati produces approximately 175 acres of grapes, with some vines more than eight years old.

Today, most of the old vineyards are gone, with modern, irrigated vineyards having replaced them. However, Route 66 travelers can still see vineyards and grape stands. The main business in Rosati-the Rosati Winery, which operated for more than 70 years, is unfortunately closed today. There is a Museum now in the same place as was the Winery. You can also purchase wine at the Museum from different wineries.

Rosati, though on Route 66, never developed the many roadside services of many communities along the Mother Road, probably due to its close proximity to St. James. Even so, its history is rich and there are some great photo opportunities in this very small town.

So for fun, check out the St. James Grape and Fall Festival as well as any events in the area. Visit the wineries. These wineries have not only wine but nonalcoholic juices, and variety of cheeses and canned goods. Stop at the grape stand and buy some healthy grapes to eat. You can also freeze the white grapes which make good snacks. You can even indulge in a grape pie. You will have to wait until last of August or first of September before the next grape crop is ready.

The German prisons were housed at Rosati, they work, went to church and even to St. James with the local people. The prisoners didn't want to go back to Germany.

Permission to print this story came from the Silver Eagles newsletter. I have added a little information. -Sheila Wood



PERIODICALS

Phelps County Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 571
 Rolla MO 65402-0571

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