

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;

September Meeting;

The forth annual Ralls County Historical Society Picnic will be held Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Center MO City Park shelter. Please note this is a change of location from Perry Park in the past. The doors will be opened at 11:00 a.m. with a meal served at noon. The meal will feature nationally known ""Blues Hog"" BBQ meats and the deserts will again be provided by Margaret he Price. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. At 1:00 p.m. the regular September meeting will be held to discuss the many projects and results of the past year. It is hoped members who live out of the area or those who cannot attend our night meetings will be able to attend. After the meeting the restored Center ""Short Line" railroad depot will be opened for viewing. The Society's library/museum in Perry will be closed all day so all members can attend the picnic.

May Meeting;

The May society meeting at St Paul Church Catholic Church was attended by many members and non-members. Many of the people attending had never seen the old 1860 stone church. The Hannibal MO "Courier Post" has an article on St Paul and its history in the August 29 issue. For those with computers the papers website is <http://hannibal.net/> and you may be able to get article direct at http://hannibal.net/stories/082905/happenings_20050829009.shtml

Northeast Genealogical Society Meeting;

The Northeast Missouri Genealogical Society will hold a meeting Saturday, October 22, 2005 at the Perry MO City Hall, 127 East Main Street. The speaker will be Marsha Knudsen, who led the effort to restore historic Greenlawn Chapel. The Ralls Co. Historical Library and Museum will be open for members to visit before and after the meeting. Shuttles to Greenlawn Chapel will be available after the meeting, weather permitting.

Center Short Line Depot;

Last month Conrad Cheatham and I interviewed the last known employee of the Short Line, Bill Watts of Troy MO. Bill donated 2 Short Line "Rules and Rates of Pay" books, "practical Switch Work" book, spike puller, track gauge, track leveler, spike maul and other smaller items to be in the depot display.

We are still working on a car and caboose for the depot display.

John Rogers is working on putting down a display of rail and track in front of the depot.

The old Center MO depot sign has been donated and will soon be displayed.

A meeting of people interested in the "Short Line" is being planned by Andy Sisk, an expert on the line. As I get more information I will past it on by e-mail, media and other means.

Ralls County Courthouse;

The work on the courthouse is progressing very well and should be completed by next spring on time. We will have a society meeting at the restored site as soon as we can after completion. The next step will be the planning for its 150 year anniversary in 2005.

Other Projects in Ralls County and Northeast Missouri;

Please contact us if you know of any historic projects needing help or funding in Ralls County or the surrounding area. We are more than glad to share our sources and help to fund such projects. Remember the Greenlawn Church, Saverton School, Ilasco and Brush Creek/St. Peters projects. They all still need funding and help. Contact me for addresses and more information on how you can help

Museum/Library;

The Pike County Genealogical society donated almost 70 Pike County, Lincoln County and Kentucky cemeteries, marriage and other genealogy books to our library. These were duplicates of books they received from a library closing their genealogy section. I'm getting together some of our duplicate books and return the favor. I have added my collection to the society and we have relieved a number of donated books that we already have, so we should be able to add to their collection.

Almost daily we receive donated items both large and small for our museum or library. We are at present reorganizing the building to be able to display more items.

Perry High School Reunion;

The Perry High School reunion held by us last Sunday September 11 was attended by more than 90 former students and 50 meals were served. The attendance was down from years past because a number of completing events with the "Time Was Days" and a visit by the Bishop to St. Paul cemetery and St. William's church in Perry. Plans are now being made for next year reunion. The income from this event will help in preserving the Perry High School items and other society projects.

Fund Raising;

In the July Newsletter I spoke of a need for a funding raising committee and we will be forming such a committee and hope to have it by the November meeting so plans can make for the New Year. I would prefer volunteers, so if you would be interested in being a member of this committee please contact us. The above reunion is a good example of fund raising events we need to generate income for our continuing growth and complete our planned projects.

November Meeting;

Our next meeting on November 21 will be last of the year and will be held at the Garth Mansion south of Hannibal. This bed and breakfast was voted number five in the World by bedandbreakfast.com. I will be getting more information out at a later date. I hope everyone will be able to attend and see this historic home.

Fox and Sac Museum;

I have been in contact Michael Bouman of the Missouri Humanities Counsel and he reports that progress is being made on project. He is the report back to me on meeting being held and will have a better idea of a completion date.

Presidents View;

There are a number of projects that I would like to focus on as the weather cools and children return to school. If you would be interested in one of these projects please contact us. Success of these and all our projects are limited only by workers and funding.

1. We are working on a program clean up some of the old and abandon cemeteries of Ralls County. Labor for this project would come from not only members but also from non-members, community service, local group and work crews from both the local prisons. Those unable to work hands on with this project could be of help with the organizing, feeding and supplying equipment for the project.
2. In past year we have located four cemeteries that have never been surveyed or recorded in the county and there likely many more in the county. Also there are many more cemeteries that have only been partially surveyed or need updating. A digital camera is also available to record the stones for our record and for later recording on paper. Here again people unable to help in the field could be helpful with recording data and researching the cemetery.
3. In the past few weeks we have begun to interview some of the senior citizens and people knowledgeable of Ralls County and Northeast Missouri history. There are many such people who are more than glad to share their information. We have available voice active tape recorders which can be used by the interviewers. I'm preparing a list of possible people to interview, so let me know of anyone that we could interview.

If we do not preserve, record or save historical information who will?

We would like to hear from you on any project you would be interested in doing or helping with.

Ralls County Cemetery:

Allison Family Cemetery #2, Jasper Township 28-54-5. All the information on this cemetery is from Rev. Gammon list of the late 1930s or early 1940's. It is one of the cemeteries to be surveyed this winter or spring.

Allison; Elsey, born February 14, 1796, died May 14, 1888

Allison; Lucinda, died October 5, 1836, age 32 years, 1 month, 18 days, wife of Elsey

Allison; Maranda, died April 2, 1846, age 43 years, age 42 years, 2 months, wife of Elsey

Allison; Marshall B., died April 15, 1843, age 8 months, 24 days

Bit of Ralls County History;

SHORT LINE NEWS IV

(The St. Louis & Hannibal Railroad) By Conrad Cheatham

Recently I was looking at some deeds at the Lincoln County Court House and I found one that had reference to some equipment for the Short Line. In May 1881 the St. Louis, Hannibal & Keokuk leased some equipment from John I. Blair and Moses Taylor. Blair of New Jersey and Taylor of New York were money men from back East who were already supplying the capital to complete the railroad from Eolia to Gilmore and the Wabash. When William Walker and some other railroad people went East to find money to complete the road they went to Blair and Taylor. Blair had been putting up money for the St.L.H.&K. since 1872.

In this lease Blair and Taylor supplied a locomotive which was lettered for the St. Louis, Hannibal & Keokuk and given the number 2. In addition they furnished 20 flat cars which were lettered for the railroad and numbered 11-49.

The yearly rental that was agreed upon was put at 10% of the value of the equipment or \$13,602. It was stipulated that at the end of the lease, the equipment had to be in the same condition as when it was delivered to the railroad. Or the railroad would have to supply a sum to cover the "injuries" to the equipment by wear and tear.

The lease was signed by Blair and Taylor and by S.P. Wisner, the president of the railroad.

This new equipment fit in with equipment which the railroad had purchased from the Missouri Railway Equipment Company on August 1, 1877. This purchase included a locomotive numbered 1, 1 Combination Baggage and Coach # 1, and caboose # 1, also included were 5 boxcars #'s 2,4,6,8, 10 and 5 flatcars #'s 1,3,5,7, and 9. Later in 1881 an equipment register reported 3 locomotives, 1 coach, 1 mail and express car, 40 boxcars and 35 platform/flat cars. In 1882 they had 5 locomotives.

At an annual meeting in Hannibal in May 1876 the following directors were chosen: George Greene, W.W. Walker, S.P. Wisner, J.T. Ely, J.W. Barnett, Walton Perkins, David T. Waddy, S.R. Woolfolk, N.S. Dimmitt, William Buchanan, W.B. Elliott, J.D. Pitt, and Stephen Reynolds. Walker, Wisner, Ely, and Buchanan were from Iowa and were connected with the Missouri & Iowa Railway Construction Company. Woolfolk, Waddy, and Perkins were from Lincoln County, MO. Reynolds was from Pike County while Dimmitt, Pitt, Elliott, and Barnett were from Ralls County.

The Hannibal Morning Journal of September 20, 1881 reported: "The Short Line train commenced running to Silex, in Lincoln County yesterday (19th), and will run regularly hereafter. The distance from Hannibal is 58 miles."

In August 1875 the Accommodation Train arrived in Hannibal at 10:00 a.m. from Frankford. It left Hannibal at 1:25 p.m.

The Perry Museum has a number of Short Line photographs on display along with other items.

The Troy Free-Press of April 18, 1924 reported that Kuhne Bros. Produce Company of Troy shipped 3 carloads of eggs and dressed poultry last and 2 carloads so far this week. On last Friday this company received a carload of ice. Kuhne Brothers was a major customer of the Short Line in Troy for many decades. They shipped many carloads of eggs and poultry and received a number of products by rail. They were a leader in the fight to stop the abandonment and then a major promoter of the St. Louis & Troy Railroad.

Ron Leake