

Franklin County, Missouri
"Gleanings from the old Franklin Files"
With thanks to all who contributed over the years...

Ezekiel Blanton, a Confederate Civil War Veteran
from Franklin County, Missouri
No Photograph Available

Ezekiel Blanton was born November 17, 1832 in Franklin County, Missouri and died after 1880. He was the son of Abner Blanton, born 1795, Lee County, Virginia, who died about 1865 in Missouri and Nancy (Stultz) Blanton, born about 1808 in Tennessee.

Ezekiel married three times. His first marriage was to Julia Ann Williams on June 29, 1854 in Franklin County. The second marriage took place in Texas. This third wife was Susan Copeland Cooper and that marriage took place on December 25, 1872. Ezekiel's father, Abner, was a brother to my third great-grandfather, Absalom Blanton.

The following information has been rewritten based on information from a newspaper article Fred Wadley sent me on May 9, 2000. I was unable to contact Mr. Wadley before submitting this because his email address is no longer valid.

The article featured Rufus Wadley, a Hotchkiss orchardist and farmer. Rufus was the son of John Briggs Wadley, born August 5, 1825 and died January 16, 1905, shortly after Rufus' birth, Rufus having been born on December 24, 1904.

John Briggs Wadley, the father of Rufus, was a Captain in the Seventh Kansas Cavalry Division. Ezekiel Blanton, a fighting preacher in the Confederate forces, was Rufus' maternal grandfather. The two men probably shot at each other on the battlefield.

Captain Wadley was 79 years old when his youngest son was born, but was strong and vigorous, continuing to work in the fields on his 80-acre farm at Pottersville, Missouri. While pitching hay from the barn loft into a manger below, he fell through an opening in the loft floor and died about three weeks later due to injuries sustained in the accident.

According to Wadley family legend, Rev. Blanton's outfit was retreating and he was ordered to torch five wagons of food, one of which was loaded with hams. Captain Wadley and the northern troops arrived on the scene soon afterward and were able to enjoy well cooked hams from the burning wagons!

Ezekiel Blanton was ordained as a Methodist minister at age 21. He was struck by a Northern bullet in 1862. It entered at the jaw and came out at the hairline on the back of his neck. He recovered and returned to action several weeks later.

Ezekiel Blanton never accepted money for his services as a minister. Rufus Blanton recalled that his grandparents had raised 14 children and that his grandfather had been blind during the last twenty years of his life.

Captain Wadley was born in Mifflin, KY. He married Susan Bell Klain, 40 years younger than himself, on July 24, 1898 at West Plains, MO. Their first son, John Dewey Wadley lived at Leota, KS. Rufus'

86-year-old mother was yet living at the time this article was written, enjoying good health in California. She was born in Corey, Texas on September 12, 1865.

"I guess my sentiments regarding the civil war are in favor of the north," said Rufus. "No man should be a slave."

Information submitted by Ann Wideman February 18, 2002



THE TIEMANN FAMILY HISTORY

submitted by Pat Fabri with written permission granted by Ralph Gregory

John William "Wilhelm" Tiemann – Immigrant

After the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, many persons in Germany looked to America as the place to live, but living conditions in America were not known in Germany. Gottfried Duden, an immigrant living along Lake Creek in Missouri since 1824, wrote a book entitled "Berichtueber eine Reise nach den westlichen Staaten Nord Amerikas", which has been called "the most important piece of literature in the history of German immigration". Due to his writings, the new state of Missouri became very alluring to the German people.

According to the records of the circuit court in Warren County, Missouri, on April 28, 1834, John Wilhelm Tiemann left Osnabriuk in the Kingdom of Hanover at the age of 29 to immigrate to the United States. On June 26, 1834, he landed at New Orleans, Louisiana and left for Missouri arriving in July 6, 1834. Wilhelm with his wife Catherine (Westmeyer) lived and farmed in Marthasville, Warren County, MO, for four years. In 1835, daughter Elizabeth was born. Following the birth of son, Heinrich on April 3, 1838 the family moved to Washington, MO, where they established permanent residency.

(Records from Warren County Circuit Court and Warren County History by Margy Ball Miles)

The first recorded information relating to John William Tiemann is from a book called A History of Washington, Missouri by Ralph Gregory. I wrote Mr. Gregory a letter in February of 1972. On page two, he states: "Early Washington grew at first mainly west from its beginning along Jefferson and Market streets and about the landing. Beyond Lafayette was beyond town. Mathias Menkhaus had a log cabin where the Catholic school now stands, the northwest corner of Third and Cedar, and just east of him lived the wagoner, William Tiemann and his family.

(Note: William did not use his first name John as far as I can tell. A History of Franklin Co., MO, states that William Tiemann came to Washington about 1838.)

On page twenty, Mr. Gregory states: "Bassora and some early additions to the original town were not growing as fast as planned, and some of the hard working German farmers utilized platted streets going through their land in their farm enterprises. This is designated in two motions of the board in 1867. On motion of Mr. Tiemann, the time for opening streets was extended in the case of Julius Wolf to November 1, 1867."

(According to a Business Establishments list, William Tiemann had a general merchandise store, which he operated from 1850 to 1870 worth about \$50,000. William Tiemann was listed in 1861 as a "trustee" and again in 1867 for the State of Missouri from Franklin County on page 315.)

Page 30-31: "The German Post reported: November 19, 1875, the Washington Savings Bank lost heavily by the failure of the mills of Trentman, Narup and Co. and Bleckmann, Horn and Co. The Trentmann-Narup mill was where the MFA mill is today. It was taken up by Tiemann and

Wellenkamp. They sold it in 1878 to J.W. Purves and J.L. Gregory who started a new lumber and planning mill. July 13, 1877, the Butcher's and Drovers' Bank of St Louis suspended operations. It was known in Washington that the Washington Savings Bank worked with this institution and as the Observer of July 20th said, 'there was once great excitement caused among the depositors and fear was entertained that the loss of our bank would sustain by the Butchers' and Drivers' failure be such as to injure its ability to pay its liabilities." Consequently, a large run was made on it and on Saturday the 14th over \$26,000 was paid to depositors. The St. Louis Bank on the day of its closing held \$29,000 in cash of the Washington bank; \$35,000 had been on deposit there but the week before \$15,000 had been called up by the local bank. On Saturday evening, the directors of the Washington Savings Bank decided the bank could not withstand another run like that of the day and would have to suspend payments for a while. On Monday, the bank's doors were closed. A week later the stockholders decided to suspend permanently. F.W. Stumpe was appointed assignee to wind up the bank's affairs and after many years this was done to the satisfaction of all interested parties. Henry Wellemkamp, F. Lange, John B. Busch, William Tiemann, J.D. Hibbeler, John C. Bryan and S. M. Jones were the holders of the largest number of shares in the bank that closed. At the time, all the stockholders were named in the paper and the depositors were promised full repayment of their deposits. The Observer editor Matt Mense, scolded the people of Washington for not upholding the bank and predicted that they would be clamoring for a new bank in a short time."

Page 41: "A special election to fill the vacancy on the board of councilmen caused by the death of Mr. Kahmann, was held on December 30, 1884, at the Tiemann building, Third and Elm. John A. Meyer had been petitioned by people of the third ward to run for the office. He did run and was elected."

JOHN WILLIAM "WILHEIM" TIEMANN

(Source: A History of Franklin County, Missouri. Pg. 833-834).

The father was born in Hanover, Germany in 1806, and in 1834 left his native country and immigrated to the United States, locating in Warren County, where he farmed for four years. In 1838, he came to Franklin County, and located in Section 34, Township 44, Range 1, St. John's Township, where he purchased eighty acres of William Parks. About 1841, Mr. Tiemann commenced dealing in produce by buying and hauling to St. Louis. This was done in connection with his farming interests. In 1849, he moved to Washington and began merchandising, which he continued until 1874, and then abandoned active business. He sold his store but resided in Washington up to the time of his death, which occurred December 22, 1884. He dealt largely in real estate, besides conducting his large business in Washington. He owned, at one time, 334 acres, and property in Washington. He came to that town at a very early day, when there were but three houses, and when there was but one other merchant there beside himself. His wife, Catherine Westmeyer, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1809, and died in 1854. Of the three children born to them only two are now living – Elizabeth, wife of Henry Eckelkamp, and Martin (born on March 10, 1843, in Washington, MO).

(According to his tombstone, son Henry (Heinreich) was born on April 3, 1838, in Marthasville, MO., and died July 12, 1865, in Washington, MO. I believe that Henry married a Martha Blankenship on April 29, 1861)

CATHERINE WESTMEYER TIEMANN

(1st wife of John Wilhelm Tiemann)

Little is know about William's first wife Catherine. She was born in Hanover, Germany about 1809. A copy of her death was recorded at Saint Francis Borgia church in Washington, MO. It reads: Catherine Tiemann, wife of William Tiemann died at the age of 49 on July 15, 1949.

OBITUARIES OF ANNA ELIZABETH (DROEGE) TIEMANN (2nd wife of John William Tiemann)

Mrs. Anna Elisabeth Tiemann and old and highly respected lady died in this City, last Thursday, July 13th, at the age of nearly 87 years. The deceased was a native of Hanover, Germany and came to this Country with her first husband, Friedrich "Fritz" Droege, in 1854, settling on a farm five miles from this City. Mr. Droege died that same year and his wife afterward married William Tiemann who died in 1884. A large ancestry is left to mourn the loss of a beloved departed one. The funeral services were held at the Catholic Church Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and the remains were followed to their last resting-place in the Church Cemetery by a large concourse of sorrowing friends and relatives. (From news clipping source unknown)

Obituary notice in the German newspaper Die Washington Post: Anna Elisabeth Tiemann died Thursday, July 13, 1899. Age 86 years and 10 months. She was born in Hanover, in 1812. In 1854, she came to America with her husband Friedrich Droege and five children. In one month, her husband and three children died from cholera. She was alone with two children. She married again, widower John William Tiemann. On August 22, 1884, he died, 78 years old. She took sick Sunday and few days later she died. She leaves two children, Joseph and Johann Goswin Droege.



William H. May
biography from the 1888 Goodspeed history

William H. May (deceased) was born in Charlotte County, VA, September 25, 1820 and died in Franklin County, MO April 20, 1877. He was the son of Robert H. and Mary R. (Portwood) May, who with their family crossed the Mississippi River and located in Franklin County, Mo, in the year 1836. Mr. May was a farmer, although a natural mechanic, and worked a great deal as such more for pastime than for anything else. He received a liberal education at schools which he attended in Virginia and Missouri, and although a Democrat in his political views, never aspired to any official position. He was not a strict partisan but would cross the line for better men on the other ticket. He sympathized with the South, but was no secessionist. When Mr. May died the poor lost their best friend, for he was indeed a friend to those in need. He lost considerable money at different times in going security for his friends. At his death Franklin County was bereft of one of its best citizens, and he will long be remembered as an honorable, trustworthy man. October 20, 1853 he married Miss Judith A. Franklin, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth T. (North) Franklin. This lady was born in Campbell County, Va., April 7, 1825, and in September, 1848, came to Franklin County on a visit, and never returned to her Virginia home, for she met Mr. May and they were married. This union resulted in the birth of seven children, five now living, viz.: Mary E. (Mrs. James H. Jeffries), James T., Martha A. (Mrs. C. B. Wood), L. Frances (Mrs. Ralph L. Thompson) and Nannie N. Mrs. May is now living on the farm that her husband left. This farm is located about seven miles east of Union, on the Rock road, and is well improved.





Certificate of Perfect Attendance for Ada Empht for 1919

Fairview School, Mertie Pickering, Teacher



Gleanings from the Past:

The Raccoon Wasn't Worth the Effort

copyright 1994 by Sue Cooley;

revised version copyright 2001 by Sue Cooley

Originally printed in March 9, 1994 issue of The St. Clair Missourian

In 1882 Jerry Thomas Pierce, who lived a few miles from St. Clair, took his dog and went out to look for his sheep. When Pierce approached the "Todd Bluff" (near the old Ben Jackson place now located on Highway PP (or Sycamore), his dog treed a raccoon. Pierce was trying to kill the raccoon by throwing stones at it when he lost his balance and fell over the cliff, a distance of about thirty feet. The Duckworth farm was close by and young Web and Buren Duckworth heard Pierce's cries for help. The Duckworth boys made a stretcher with their coats and carried the injured man to his home. Pierce told them he was hurt pretty bad and that he wouldn't live long. Dr. Matthew Young came to the home and stayed with the injured man who had suffered a compound, "comminuted" fracture of the leg and other serious injuries.

Pierce died the third day, leaving his young wife, Amanda (Roberts) Pierce, and five small children. He is buried on the Hearst-Eggers-Hinson-Cooley-Schroeder place (now the Schroeder sod farm)

south of St. Clair on Highway K.

Jerry Thomas Pierce's father, George Pierce, had served in the Union army during the Civil War. At the end of the war, he was turned loose in Texas, where he and a friend caught a couple of wild mustangs and rode them bareback to return to their homes. When Pierce arrived, his children didn't recognize him.

Jerry Thomas Pierce was the grandfather of Guy Pierce, who once owned a photography studio, a grocery store, and The Ozark News, in St. Clair. His son, Robert Pierce, now operates the Pierce Printing Company in St. Clair. Around 1939, these two demonstrated their sturdy, pioneer stock by making the concrete blocks from which the printing company was built. Luther Hopkins helped and the men used Hopkins' block-making machine. Jerome Lewis built the structure, complete with roof and floor, for \$65.00.

I will soon be adding a family tree (not necessarily complete -- maybe you can help fill in the gaps) and more Pierce family stories.

sources: interview with Guy Pierce, now deceased, by the author; 19 October, 1882 issue of the Franklin County Record, as preserved on microfilm by the State Historical Society and made available for viewing at the Scenic Regional Library at Union, MO.



Richard King and Fannie Gullet King
following the lineage of their son, William Edward King

©1997 and 2001 by Sue Cooley

Some revision has been made since this article
was originally published in the January 8, 1997 issue of the St. Clair Missourian

William Edward King was born October 5, 1885 at St. Louis, the son of Richard and Fannie (Gullet) King. When William was six years old, his father fell to his death while painting a Catholic Church on Broadway.

When Richard King and Fannie Gullet married, he was a widower, about 30 years her senior, with a grown family.

Six-year-old William and his three-year-old sister, Maggie, stayed with their mother until her death six years later. Fannie Gullet King died at the old Faith Hospital in St. Louis, earlier known as the Dr. Ellen Osborn Hospital. Before Fannie's death, she arranged for Dr. Osborn (who had Franklin County roots) to serve as legal guardian for her young children. William was placed in an orphanage at Pattonville and Maggie went to live with her maternal grandparents, Andrew and Rachel (Brown) Gullet.

William, for whatever reason, was not happy at the orphanage and ran away. Dr. Osborn then placed the young boy with her brother, James "Jim" Osborn at Indian Prairie, northeast of St. Clair, Missouri in Franklin County.

As William King grew up, he worked for various farmers in the area. Eventually, he met and married Ethel Dainty Short, born July 13, 1885, the daughter of John and Matilda (Belew) Short.

The Short family was prominent in the St. Clair area. Bruns Bridge, as it is now more commonly known, was first called Short's Ford Bridge because the Short family owned the land where people forded the river before a bridge was built.

Because Ethel's family was more established and William was an orphan with little family and no money or land, Ethel was afraid of her father's disapproval and married William secretly, with some assistance from her sister, Clara (Short) Napier, and her more sympathetic mother.

The marriage of William and Ethel King produced eleven children, all of whom survived childhood. Today, there are 459 descendants, including four sets of twins and six ministers. Thirty-one descendants have served in the armed forces. About 30 are now deceased. (All of these figures were as of 1997).

The eleven children of William and Ethel King include Frieda Marie, wife of Rev. Clyde Ramey; Elbert, who married Hannah Redhage; Matilda Frances, wife of Alfred Osborn, Sr.; Richard Gilbert, who married Jewell Lewis (This family will be featured in another article); Velma Katherine, wife of Herman Redhage; John Pleasant, who married Fern Fisher and died at age 35; Hildred, wife of Clovis Todisman; Anna Jean, wife of Ray Runge; James Jennings, who married Delma Huff (he died at age 35 and Delma is now the wife of Percy Pascoe, who owns the Cuba Free Press); Doris Ella, wife of Frank Britt; and Geraldine June, wife of Glenn Thoming.

Of these eleven, only Jean Runge and Geraldine Thoming are living. Although I was unable to contact Geraldine due to her recent illness, Jean shared many childhood memories with me.

Jean's father, William King, was a farmer, a stone mason, a carpenter, a Baptist preacher, and a singer with a beautiful Irish tenor voice. King did the stonework on the building now housing Coldwell Banker Real Estate on Commercial in St. Clair. At the time, the property belonged to Charley Johnson. Both Richard and Kenneth Johnson helped with the construction.

In addition, King built the rock wall that surrounds the arboretum at Gray Summit and the rock houses within the arboretum. Pete Burnett of Robertsville served as his hod carrier during that construction.

Attending Baptist Association meetings in nearby communities was a big event for the King children. Jean recalled being bundled up and placed in a wagon with straw and covered with quilts for warmth during winter excursions. She particularly remembers the awful noise the wagon and team made as they crossed the wooden bridge over the Little Meramec.

Jean recalls that her father and Leslie "Lett" Ennis were often called on to sit up with sick people in the neighborhood. In those days, few went to the hospital. If Jean's dad was sitting up with someone who had a contagious disease, her mother would leave clean clothing for him in the smokehouse. He would wash up and change before entering their home in order to minimize his family's exposure to illness.

When Jean was nine or ten, she got into an older sister's makeup and put it on pretty heavy before going to church. When her father saw her, he took out his handkerchief and rubbed her face raw in front of the whole congregation.

Jean's sister, Thelma, had beautiful long, black curls. It was Frieda's job to comb and brush Thelma's hair. One day when the parents had gone to the store, Frieda cut Thelma's curls off. Realizing that she would be in trouble when they got home, Thelma got out the treadle sewing machine and moved little Thelma's head back and forth, attempting to sew the hair back on!

On another occasion when the parents had gone into town, a neighbor came to the door asking to borrow a particular size drill bit. Mattie was in charge that day. In an attempt to accommodate the neighbor, Mattie went upstairs to get the bit and in order to be sure it was the right size, drilled a hole in the floor with the brace-and-bit.

When the old homestead was torn down a few years ago, the hole was still there. The place is now owned by Gerald Graves.

When William King died in June 1939, he was "laid out" in a corner of the family living room. William Casey was in charge of the burial and told the family it was the biggest funeral they had ever had.

Ethel lived until June 18, 1962. She spent a lot of years raising children, two of whom had been born after she had grandchildren. Ethel (Short) King died June 18, 1962.

The King family originated in Germany and the name was Americanized from the original "Koenig."

The King family published a cookbook titled "Dining with Kings," which includes a wealth of family lore as well as recipes.



Richard "Gilbert" King and Cleona "Jewell" Lewis

©1997 and 2001 by Sue Cooley

Some revision has been made since this article
was originally published in the January 15, 1997 issue of the St. Clair Missourian

Richard "Gilbert" King was born March 20, 1914, at Lonedell, one of the eleven children of William Edward King and Ethel Dainty King, nee Short (see article on Richard King and Fanny Gullet).

Gilbert King married Cleona "Jewell" Lewis on September 17, 1931. Their marriage produced four children, including Richard Daniel, who married Patsy Bone; Myra "Tiny," wife of Benton Dace Jr.; Douglas Gordon, who married Dorothy Martin; and Lois, wife of Jim Ealer.

Gilbert and Jewell also raised a foster son, William Bess. Over the years, they kept about 30 other foster children. Relatives who lived in the city sometimes sent their children to spend the summers at the Kings' country home.

A nephew, Alfred "Bud" Osborn, spent several summers with them, and one summer he even brought two of his friends.

In addition to farming, Gilbert King worked in residential and commercial construction. Horses were

a major part of his life and he was a member of the St. Clair Saddle Club.

Gilbert King's wife was Jewell Lewis, daughter of Dighton and Artie Ella (Pierce) Lewis. Gilbert's daughter, Tiny (King) Dace, explained the family history to me. She had learned a great deal from her uncle, Vivian Lewis, before his death.

J. Dighton Lewis, born December 28, 1884, was the son of David and Amelia R. Lewis.

Artie Ella (Pierce) Lewis was a twin sister to Essie (Pierce) McMillan, daughter of Arthur Pierce, and cousin to Guy Pierce.

Dighton and Artie Ella married young and had two children, Vivian Leotis Lewis and Jewell. They separated when Jewell was an infant.

Artie Ella tried to keep the children. She worked in Bill Pierce's store at Mt. Hope, keeping the babies with her while she worked, but it didn't work out. (This Bill Pierce was the father of Mildred Sullivan.)

There were few jobs open to women in that era, particularly for a woman hobbled with young children. There were no government welfare programs available. Artie Ella and the children were experiencing considerable hardship.

When Jewell was only six months old, her mother took both children to her father-in-law, David Lewis, a wheelchair-bound invalid. David Lewis kept the two children for a time, with the help of Dighton, who had left, but came back home.

After young Vivian turned a gallon of sorghum molasses over on Jewell's long curls, it was decided to send Jewell to live with other relatives. First, she was passed around among cousins.

When Jewell was three years old, she went to live with Daniel and Eliza Arnold, with the stipulation that they would only keep her until she was eight years old. Then she would be returned to David and Dighton Lewis.

Daniel and Eliza Arnold only had one son, Truman Soloman Arnold. When Truman was 14, he was playing in a tree in the Sycamore schoolyard at Lonedell when lightning struck the tree. Truman fell from the tree and broke his neck, dying immediately.

Little Jewell was the only solace to the distraught parents. When she turned eight, they bundled her up and drove to Dighton Lewis' home. Much to their relief, they were told they could keep Jewell.

Dighton married Eva Hale and they had two children, Maxine Lewis Brannon and Frances Lewis Stahlmann Hall. They also raised a distant cousin's son, Delbert Lewis.

Artie Ella married a Williams and later, a Bullock, and had five more children. According to Tiny, the only time all seven children were together was at Artie Ella's funeral.

Dighton's brother, Charles, married Artie Ella's sister, May. Therefore, the children of Dighton and Artie Ella Lewis were double cousins to the children of Charles and May Lewis. These cousins spent a lot of time together and remained in close contact.

As a child, Jewell always wanted to spend time with her brother, Vivian. Vivian served in World War II, then came back to Missouri and married Lois Ellen Valle of DeSoto.



Gleanings from the Past and Present:

Dr. Silas Reed

copyright 1996 by Sue Cooley;

revised version copyright 2001 by Sue Cooley

Originally printed in August 14, 1996 issue of The St. Clair Missourian

[Information has been added since original publication]

Dr. Silas Reed was an early pioneer in Franklin County [Missouri]. Reedville, once a thriving mining community located several miles south of St. Clair, was named for him.

I have just finished reading several pages from Memories of Ninety Years by Henry M. Rogers, in which Dr. Reed is discussed in some depth in Chapter 11.

Dr. Reed was born in 1807 (presumably in Ohio) and grew up on an Ohio farm. He was educated on the Western Reserve and earned a diploma from the Medical College of Cincinnati at the age of 19. He worked tirelessly, disregarding his own health, throughout the Cincinnati cholera scourge of 1832. A few years later, he was the owner and editor of the Western Medical Gazette based in Cincinnati.

Apparently Reed did some mining in Ohio because he took his machinery with him when he later migrated to St. Louis where he established the White Lead Mills, formerly known as the Collier White Lead works which was the largest lead works in St. Louis County at the time.

Reed was a visionary, cognizant of the possibilities of the western United States. He was appointed surveyor general for Illinois and Missouri by President William Henry Harrison.

On May 15, 1838, Reed married Henrietta Maria Rogers in St. Louis and took his bride to Boston where they apparently established a home, although Dr. Reed continued his work in Missouri. While in Boston, he publicly advocated the extension of the railroad to St. Louis and on to the Pacific Ocean. Various substantiation of his efforts appeared in the Boston Post and in Reed's own newspaper, the St. Louis Morning Post. His efforts earned him the nickname, "The Mad Doctor." The railroad, of course eventually crossed the continent along the route Dr. Reed had originally traced.

Reed was a close, personal friend of President John Tyler.

Abraham Lincoln was also on a first-name basis with Dr. Reed. In 1861, Reed helped General Frank Blair organize the first company of minutemen to guard St. Louis against the Rebels. His name appears second on the company roll.

At the time, Dr. Reed lived on Olive in St. Louis, flanked by Secessionists. Nevertheless, Reed hoisted his American flag proudly and defied his neighbors to destroy it. When the sick and wounded began to arrive in St. Louis in the fall of 1861, Dr. Reed served as acting assisting surgeon.

General Grant appointed Dr. Reed to serve as surveyor-general of the Territory of Wyoming, and he was headquartered at Cheyenne. Franklin County historian Ralph Gregory tells me that Reed's surveying skill responsible for the near-perfect shape of Wyoming. Reed also turned his attention to the development of Texas and the railroad there.

In Utah, Dr. Reed witnessed the beginning of the great silver mine, the Ontario Mines, where millions of dollars of silver were later extracted under the watchful eye of his long-term friend, Franklin County native George Hearst.

Dr. Silas Reed died among the mountains he had learned to love, at Park City, Utah Territory, on October 1886, at age 79.

Reedville was a small mining town, originally built by the Missouri Land Mining Company. The first mine was opened in 1860 and the first house was built the same year. The town grew quickly and was soon comprised of 300 inhabitants.

Reedville had a large, frame store, owned by the mining company, a blacksmith shop and a school.

All of the homes were of double-hewed log construction. From 1865 to 1867, the town was the most flourishing in the entire county, providing labor to all who needed a job. Wages ranged from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per day.

But, according to the Goodspeed history, published in 1888, the mining had ceased and Reedville presented a "deserted and desolate appearance," most of the houses occupied by a poor class.

According to the Kiel book, published in 1925, Reedville was established as a post office on July 25, 1856, and discontinued November 11 of the same year when the name was changed to Stanton Copper Mines. Dr. Silas Reed was postmaster at the time of the name change. The lead furnace was discontinued about 1876.

In 1920, a large boarding house was still standing and, according to Kiel, was the largest log house in the county. However, only one resident, a tenant, remained in Reedville in 1920.

There appears to be a discrepancy in Kiel's book on this topic. Kiel states that Stanton Copper Mines was later changed to Stanton. Reedville was several miles south of St. Clair off of Highway K. In fact, the Reedville Baptist Church is still active. However, Stanton is southwest of St. Clair on Highway 44. Can any readers help straighten out this bit of confusion?

Although many present-day Franklin County residents bear the surname of "Reed," to the best of my knowledge, none are direct descendants of Dr. Silas Reed.

Since the above article (with new material added) was originally published, I have learned from the Judith Robinson book on the life of Phoebe Apperson Hearst, that Dr. Reed had a daughter, Clara, who was a childhood friend of Phoebe Apperson and they remained friends throughout their lives. Clara married Nathan Anthony and settled in Boston. Phoebe visited her from time to time, taking along her son, William Randolph Hearst. In George Hearst's short autobiography, he refers to Dr. Silas Reed as his "old mining friend and teacher."

Dr. Silas Reed would be an excellent subject for further research as he was truly a visionary pioneer with many skills, interests, and incredible life experiences.



Charles H. Hoeft
World War II Veteran

Charles H. Hoeft was born July 4, 1908 in Union and died June 10, 2000 at Washington, Missouri.

He served his country in the U.S. Army, serving in battle at Normandy, Germany and Northern France. He served from June, 1942, receiving a Purple Heart, Good Conduct Ribbon, Silver Star and European Theater Ribbon. He was wounded in action in France, October 1, 1944, and discharged as staff sergeant in May, 1945.

He entered the Army at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. and was discharged from service at Wakeman Hospital Center, Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Photo and biography provided by Vicki Esprowe.



Hickory Flat School 1915

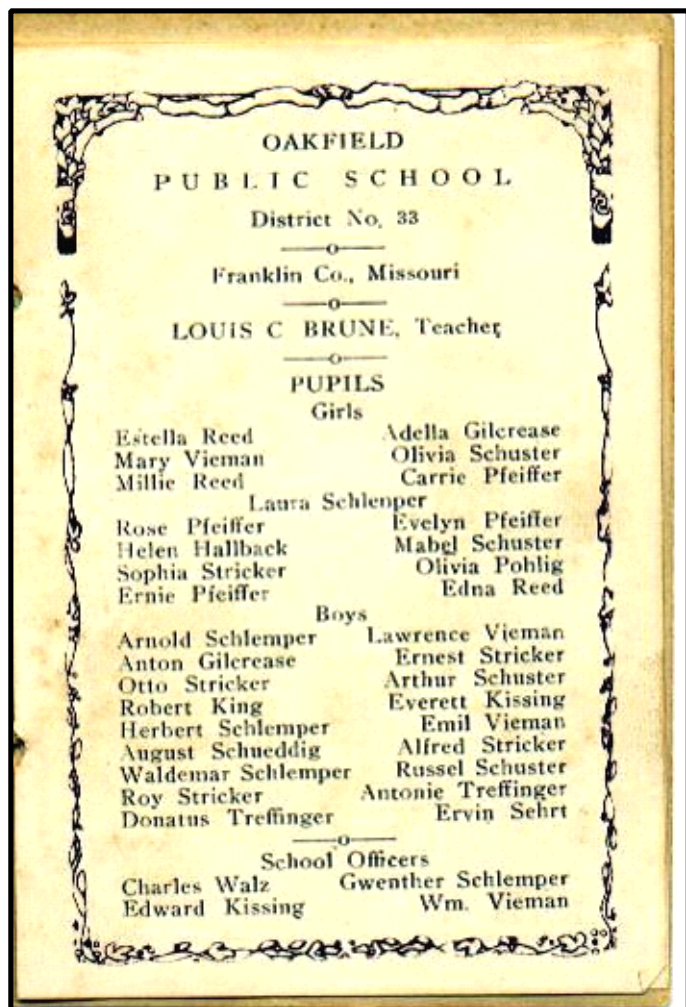
Contributed by Ruth Bardot

Note: This is a scan of a xerox. If you have the original, please let us know so we can improve the image we have posted.

Back Row: Mr. Jesse Gifford, Frank McDermott, Phillip McDermott, Ervin Wideman, James Shannon, Alice McDermott (married a Bardot), Lizzie Wonderlick.

Middle Row: Ernest Rabenort, Leo McDermott, Edgar McDermott, Richard Hemker, Martin Layden, Alice McDermott (who taught later), Mary McDermott

Front Row: Virgil Frost, Paul McDermott who died young, Edna Ryan, Agnes Shannon, Margaret Wonderlick, ? Hemker, ?, Festus Hemker, Eugene McDermott, and Richard McDermott.



The images of this souvenir booklet were contributed by Mary Baker who also supplied the following information:

This school was located about four miles east of Gray Summit, MO facing Highway 100, near Alt Road (as it is called today). Mary's great-great-grandfather, Chris Alt, came to America from Germany around 1850 and settled in the Oakfield area. He saw a great need for a school in the community so he donated one acre of ground for the one-room school house. This school was first known as Oakfield Academy and was later renamed Oakfield School.

One teacher taught grades one through eight. In 1946, Mary entered first grade at Oakfield. There were seven students in the entire school that year. During her second grade year, there were ten students. She transferred to Pacific School District the following year. A year or so later, the Oakfield School was consolidated with the Gray Summit School. Mary recalls that County School Superintendent O. E. Burke used to visit the school periodically. During the time her father and his siblings attended the school, Mary's grandfather John J. Schuster was president of the school board from 1916 to 1920. Mary added that all of the Schuster names are relatives of hers, aunts, uncles and cousins.





Ellis Short served in the Philippines during the Philippine Insurrection (Spanish American War). He was a sergeant in the US Army Infantry and served from January 1902 until October 1913. Ellis was born 1 November 1880 in Lonedell and lived most of his adult life in St. Clair, MO. He died 27 April 1965 and is buried in the National Cemetery in Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. To me he was just Grandpa. Doug Short



All of the above information came from the old Franklin County, Missouri GenWeb files. The time frame for the submission of them seems to be 1996 > 2002 when Ms Cooley was County Coordinator. There may be more information on some of the above on RootsWeb Free Pages, but since there have been so many problems with it, I would not count on it.

Reformatted 31 July 2020

[Franklin County](#) portion of the [MOGenWeb](#)