

Adair County's Own

The Adair County Historical Society was established in 1917, functioned until about 1940, then dropped from sight due to lack of interest among the public. On July 8, 1975, during the Bicentennial celebration of the American Revolution, the Society was re-established and Samuel A. Burk was chosen to be president. Mr. Burk wanted the public to take more interest in preserving the history of Adair County. At that time in 1975 the Society had a maximum of 166 charter members. The Society has had five past presidents since its re-establishment in 1975.

The current president, Emil Green, stated, "The Adair County Historical Society has no permanent location at this time. Although the Museum is located on the third floor of the Adair County Courthouse, most of the contents of the Museum have been donated by the people of Adair County who feel these items have some sort of historical interest to the public and should be preserved." This facility, staffed by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers, is open to the public from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday of each week. There is no charge but contributions are welcome.

The Society has its own set of by-laws, which are a set of less restricting, small yet enforcing laws. It belongs to the State Historical Society.

Since its beginning the Society has had a major interest in geneology. The Society has sponsored workshops on geneology and all have been successful. In April of this year the Society will sponsor another workshop on geneology to be conducted by the Missouri State Geneological Society. If you want to trace your roots, but don't know how, this program can show you

the proper way to start. They also can give you some very important information that will make the process of tracing your roots much smoother.

There is an annual dinner meeting held in the fall. The main purpose of this meeting is to review what has happened over the past year, and also to acquire new members. Single memberships are \$3.00, family memberships are \$5.00, sustaining memberships are \$25.00. If you are interested in becoming a member contact Emil Green of Rural Route #5, Kirksville, Missouri.

"Dr. David March, a historian of the first class," stated Mr. Green, "helped the society out a lot. Dr. March taught at NMSU, and also wrote a book on Missouri history that is used in a lot of schools as a learning tool."

The Society makes available two books: THE ADAIR COUNTY ATLAS has a record of all the landholders of Adair County in 1975, and the PLATTE BOOK OF 1895 which also has records of Adair County's landowners. They can be purchased from any officer of the Society for \$10.00.

"The Society doesn't exist to make money," stated Mr. Green. "The Society exists to help the public and to foster the interest in the history of Adair County. Also to help those people who want to come together and participate in helping others, whether it be in geneology or the loaning of materials for the public to use or view."

The Society is out there for the public, so come join and enjoy. They could use your support.

by Brian Walker
