

MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

www.mcgenealogists.org

Volume XXVI

February, 2022

Number 2
archived edition

EARLY STEAMBOATING ON THE MISSOURI RIVER

Glynna Elliott Morse

My daughter, Kathleen Bariteau, sent me a couple of papers about the discovery of the sunken Steamboat Malta found in a farm field near Malta Bend, Missouri. The Malta, which had sunk in 1841, is another sunken steamboat discovery of the Hawley family, the finders of the sunken Steamboat Arabia, for which the remains and contents of the Arabia are now housed in the Steamboat Arabia Museum in Kansas City. The Malta sank in 1841, which is a special find because it dates to an earlier period of steamboats carrying cargo for trading with fur trading posts, Indians, and early settlers. [1]

Floyd C. Shoemaker, the acclaimed historian of the Missouri State Historical Society, reported in 1922 about the different periods of steamboats on the Missouri River: "... On May 28, 1819, the steamboat, 'Independence,' the first boat to ascend the Missouri River, arrived at Franklin. This marked the beginning of a period of river steamboat traffic destined to be of primary importance in the settlement and development of the West." [2] At that time, the local Franklin newspapers wrote, "...we announce the arrival, this morning... STEAM BOAT 'Independence,'with passengers, and a cargo of flour, whisky, sugar, iron, castings, etc., being the FIRST steam boat that has ever attempted ascending the Missouri." [2]

Five days later, the Western Engineer, arrived at Franklin on its intended expedition by the U.S. Government led by Major Stephen H.

Long "to explore the Missouri River and its tributaries, establish military posts to protect fur traders, control Indians, counteract British trading company influences, and make scientific observations.... The Western Engineer was the first steam boat to go beyond Franklin, and it went as far as Council Bluffs." [3]

Shipping lines were extended to many other towns along the Missouri River reaching posts on the upper Missouri. In 1830, John Jacob Astor, head of the American Fur Company, began the first regular steamboat commerce.[2] The recently discovered Steamboat Malta, which sank in 1841, falls into the fur trading era of steamboats. The anticipated viewing of the type of cargo going to fur traders, Indians, and military posts of that era will provide viewers a realistic understanding of the type of merchandise available to the earliest residents along the Missouri.

The "second wave" affecting steamboating was immigration and settlement. "Farmers were now replacing trappers, and homes were made more permanent." Increased use of the Missouri River was influenced by the number of settlers heading toward the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, the Gold Rush of 1849, and the number of settlers heading toward Kansas.[2]

Shoemaker wrote, "During the decade from 1850 to 1860, river trade grew by leaps and bounds. A number of shipping companies were organized, and their boats ran on regular schedule and at fixed rates. Traffic reached its height in 1858, for at that time there were 60 regular packets, and forty not running on regular

schedules. In 1859, a large number of vessels left St. Louis for the Missouri River..., and the following year the freight trade on the Missouri reached enormous proportions.[2]

This 1850-1860 era is sometimes called the "Golden Years of Steamboating on the Missouri River," a time when steamboats, in addition to hauling cargo, also provided luxurious quarters while also having basic rooms and eating facilities available for lower passenger fares. This was the steamboat era in which the Steamboat Arabia was operating on the Missouri River when it sank in 1856. As visitors to the Steamboat Arabia Museum will quickly note, the merchandise carried on the steamboat was not just ordinary tools, implements, and food products, but also had large quantities of ornate china, clocks, and more luxurious items than might be expected on the frontier. A visit to the Steamboat Arabia Museum shows that many on the frontier were buying the "finer things."

With the advent of the Civil War beginning in 1861 and continuing through 1865, William J. Petersen wrote, "The Civil War virtually snuffed out steamboating on the Missouri. Many boats were commandeered by Union Forces to be used as troopships, hospital ships, and gun boats. Guerillas plundered those vessels that ventured upstream, frequently firing on passengers and setting fire to boats." [4] A newspaper editor from Sioux City, Iowa concluded, "The Missouri River is effectively blockaded by the Secessionists in Missouri, consequently, we need not look for another boat this fall....We fear we will be put on short rations by spring." [4]

Shoemaker concluded that railroads which had begun construction in Missouri by the 1850s "were just beginning to take the place of the boats in inland transportation in the West.... Few could foresee that the coming of the

railroads (mainly after the Civil War) was to be the death blow to river navigation." [2]

After the Civil War ended in 1865, steamboats continued to operate on the Missouri River through the early 1900s. A few barges pushed by diesel powered engine boats still operate today on the Missouri River, primarily hauling grain, fertilizer, petroleum products, and gravel.

Sources:

[1] Steamboat Arabia Museum.

[2] Floyd C. Shoemaker, "This Week in Missouri History: May 23-29," The Windsor Review, May 27, 1926, p. 7.

[3] Floyd C. Shoemaker, "Steamboats Come to the Missouri," The Windsor Review, June 8, 1933, p. 4.

[4] William J. Petersen, "William J. Petersen," Steamboating on the Missouri River," Nebraska History, Vol. 35, 1954, pp. 255-275.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I was looking through information that my cousin, Laura Frances (Seals) Scott, had given me. I put it in a folder and just found it. She was corresponding with another cousin of ours, Judy (Janssens) Eisenacher, in California. Judy was corresponding with Rev. Patrice (Farnsworth) Sessions in England. Judy, Laura Frances, and I were interested in the Farnsworth ancestry line. Our 7th great grandfather, Thomas Farnsworth, arrived in Philadelphia in 1677 on the Kent. He, and others, then went up the Delaware River by other boats. They landed at a spot to be known as Farnsworth Landing, but was later named Bordentown, New Jersey.

Thomas was born February 7, 1647 in England. He married Susannah Ellis on November 20, 1672 in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. She came to New Jersey on the Shield and arrived in December, 1678. She brought their two children

and two servants. Thomas and Susannah were Quakers, and she was a Quaker minister. Thomas was a cordwainer or shoe maker.

Thomas and Susannah had 5 more children born in New Jersey. Child 7 was Thomas Henry, generally known as Henry. He is listed as being born in 1692. Since he is not listed in his father's will, it is assumed that he was born after the will was drawn and possibly after his father had died. The will was drawn and dated January, 1689, but was used in 1693.

Henry married Mary Brinson about 1715 and they had 8 children. The youngest was Thomas Henry Farnsworth, Jr. and was born in 1740. He married Elizabeth Bray, and they had 4 children. the youngest was Daniel, born about 1766.

Daniel married Rachel Elizabeth Stout. They had 5 children. The youngest child was Isaac born in 1802 in Wheeling, Virginia, later to be known as Wheeling, West Virginia. Isaac married Louisa Tracey in 1830 in Staten Island, New York. They moved to Wheeling. They had 7 children, and the oldest was Rachel Elizabeth, born August 29, 1831 in New York. The rest of the children were born in Wheeling.

Rachel married Joseph Mooney in Wheeling on October 21, 1847. They had 8 children. The first 3 were born in Wheeling and the last 5 were born in Clay County, Missouri. Joseph had two brothers that had moved and were living in Clay County. Joseph and Rachel Mooney, along with Isaac and Louisa Farnsworth, came by boat from Wheeling to Liberty Landing, Clay County, Missouri in June, 1854. Unfortunately, Isaac died of cholera and was buried at night on the banks of the Missouri River.

After the Civil War, child number 8 was born. Laura Jessie was born April 21, 1871. Joseph and Rachel's oldest son, Joseph Henry, and his wife, Amy Uretta Humphrey, bought a boarding house in Harlem, Missouri, north of the Missouri

River and across from Kansas City, Missouri. Joseph, Rachel, and remaining family moved in to help run the boarding house and diner. In 1866, a gentleman by the name of David Janssens, who recently moved to America from Belgium, became a regular customer for meals. He liked and wanted to marry Laura Jessie. She was 15, and Joseph told David that she could not be married until she was 18. On April 23, 1889, they were married in Kansas City, Missouri. They had 14 children. Child number 12 was Mildred Catherine, born October 21, 1910. She married Albert Frank Morse on November 6, 1940. Their first child was Albert Frank Morse, Jr., and that is me.

I FOUND LOCAL HISTORY INFORMATION ABOUT USING NEW FREE ACCESS TO PERSI

Julia Morse

Just this past month (in January), The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) opened up free access to its PERSI index through its website: <https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/> PERSI stands for “Periodical Source Index.” Writer Will of AncestralFindings.com describes PERSI as “the most extensive genealogy and local history subject index on the planet.”[1] It is an index, meaning that it does not present you with the data itself, but helps the researcher locate published magazines, newsletters, and documents, that might contain information related to your genealogical interests.

Examples of the types of publications which PERSI can help you discover include local history publications, biographies, local indexes and documents (orphanages, churches, schools, cemeteries, etc.), passenger lists, vital records, land records, legal records, military-related documents, etc. These are records which are quite often not yet available electronically, but once you find through PERSI that they exist, you can order scans of the articles through ACPL Genealogy Center (for a fee) or plan a trip to the local genealogical history library in your site trip to your ancestor’s region of interest.

The index keys articles to key subject areas and surnames, making it easier for the researcher to drill down on your research needs. Once you select a subject area, there is opportunity to refine your search on a surname or keyword from there.

Allen County Public Library gives examples of research strategies using the PERSI index in the following webinar video: “Welcome to the

New, FREE, Periodical Source Index (PERSI)!,” <https://youtu.be/RN7gUzHdZ4o>. (1)

In exploring the PERSI index myself, I have found it helpful in determining what information of interest might be buried in the local county historical collections. For example, I started with a county location search, selection Bates County, Missouri. From that the subject list breaks down items in the index that are keyed to Bates County: African American (6 articles), Archaeology (1 article), Biography (27), Cemeteries (70), Census Records (5), Church Records (8), Deeds (49), History (105), Indian Wars (1), Institutions (1), Land Records (23), Maps (29), Mexican Border War (2), Military Records (67), Native American (1), Naturalization (2), Obituaries (24), Osage (1), Probate Records (50), School Records (9), Surname (29), Tax Records (71), Vital Records (108), Wills (2), World War I (16), and World War II (2 articles).

So, how did I move from that to see what might be relevant to my family research interests in Bates County? One quick subject search was under “Surname.” By clicking on this subject, it shows there are 29 articles keyed to surnames. That is few enough to just browse to see if I recognize any names (or topics) of interest, but there is also the capability to type in to search on keywords from article titles. Sure enough, I came up with an article about my great great grandfather: “Rev. W. B. Miller of New Home Delivered Decoration Day address, 1912.” This is an article that was published in the Periodical Out of the Ashes (Vol 8 Issue 1, Jan 2005) by the Bates County Genealogical Society.

Once you know an article of interest exists, you can search to see if the publication is available elsewhere online (such as at Archive.org, or possibly from your genealogy subscription service) or view or request it from the local library (such as at the county library or the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence,

Missouri). Alternatively, there is a form available for you to email the ACPL's Genealogy Center a request for copies of up to six articles from their bookshelves for a fee of \$7.50 plus \$.20 per page:
<https://www.genealogycenter.info/pdf/Article-ORDER-FORM.pdf>

In another example, I did a surname search on the more unique family name, Carrico. It turned up a list of Carrico articles from all over the U.S. I did a filter search on "MO" for Missouri and very quickly found that there is an article with the title "Carrico Bible, Benton Co., MO" that was printed in The Prairie Gleaner, a publication of the West Central Missouri Genealogical Society Library in Warrensburg, Missouri in March, 1981 (Vol 12, Issue 2). This Bible was almost certainly from my mother's Carrico family in Cole Camp, Benton County, Missouri. We would have never thought to look for this information in Warrensburg! There are also other articles about the family in Florissant, Missouri Historical Society publications.

More likely information for most of our ancestors is not going to be in documents directly linked to their name, but in locally held lists and documents that you might not have otherwise known to check. For example, you might wish to check for special records that might exist locally which might include your ancestors: local church records, tax lists, adoption lists, land records, etc. Even general history articles can lend understanding about the local economy and community life at the time.

We know almost nothing about the life of the family of my great great grandmother, Nancy Ward Morse, in Cortland County, New York between 1830 and 1840, before they migrated to McHenry County Illinois. Starting a PERSI search on Cortland County, New York, I explored the subject areas for likely sources where I might dig deeper. I knew that Cortland County was an area of military bounty tracts

awarded. PERSI gives me specific articles with military tract information. I find that there is an article "Cortland in 1832" which might give me more insight into the type of community or life specifically at the time, and more local information about their village, Solon, in articles about the mill and pond at Solon.

Continuing on the Cortland County location index, I checked the "Vital Records" article list and noted that the dates are all after my Ward family left New York. However, under "Cemeteries," I find an article about "Loope Cemetery" in Solon. There were Loope cousins to this family who also traveled to Illinois, and who kept in close contact, so now I can go to Findagrave to examine this cemetery: It has no Wards (at least now known), but I found Orcutt names which are married into a Ward cousin's family. The more I find on these families, the more opportunity I have to connect them more precisely and perhaps trace them back further in time. Additionally, the Findagrave listing gives the location of the cemetery the name "Freetown Corners," rather than "Solon" (as listed in the PERSI record). This provides me with an alternate location name that I can start to search.

In our age of quick answers, some researchers may find it frustrating to be linked to resources which we can't immediately click on and view. However, this is the next and often necessary step for digging beyond the easily-available data. Sometimes finding gold requires a little digging and patience.

I doubted at first how much useful information I would find from such an index, but after I started browsing and exploring counties of interest or unique surnames, I see that there is still information in libraries just waiting for me to find it.

Sources:

[1] Allen County Public Library, "Welcome to the New, FREE, Periodical Source Index

(PERSI)!,” 28 Jan 2022, Allen County Public Library Youtube Channel, <https://youtu.be/RN7gUzHdZ4o>.

[2] Will, “What is PERSI and How Can You Use it to Improve Your Genealogy Research?,” AncestralFindings.com, January 2018, <https://ancestralfindings.com/persi-can-use-improve-genealogy-research/>. (Also available in audio as a podcast at https://youtu.be/_QID98TCYBk.js)

[3] Allen County Public Library, timestamp 31:05, <https://youtu.be/RN7gUzHdZ4o?t=1865>

THE ROBERT HEAPE FAMILY

Marjorie Slavens

My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, knew very little about the family of her maternal grandmother, Elzina H. (Ella) Heape until she began her genealogical research. Ella Heape married Charles Merlin Kerr on June 21, 1886 in Peru, Chautauqua County, Kansas. He was working on railroad construction, and her parents, James Heape and Derinda Tefertiller Heape were cooking for the railroad workers. Ella Heape Kerr died in February, 1895, following the birth of her fourth child, Ella May Kerr. Not being able to find English-speaking care for his children, Hattie Lee Kerr Welty (1889-1979) and Ora Alfred Kerr (1892-1942) - in Las Vegas, New Mexico, Charles Kerr left his job as a brakeman on the Santa Fe railroad and returned to Jasper County, Missouri. In 1896, he married Millie Bain, the only maternal grandmother Mother knew.

Mother found records for both of her great grandparents when she visited Perry County, Illinois, where James Heape was born and Derrinda's parents, George Tefertiller and Emily Taylor migrated from Tennessee. She began tracing both family lines.

“Robert Heape was born around Manchester in Bury or Rochdale in England. He came to

America from England when he was young and settled in Maryland, Baltimore County, now Harford County. In the 1790 census, there was a Robert Heape with three males 16 and up, Robert, the father, John and Thomas, and two females, probably Sarah and Mary.

One of the farms was located in Upper Bush River and Eden Hundreds. In 1783 the tax list showed Robert Heape with six inhabitants, probably Robert, his wife, John, Thomas, Sarah, and Mary. The tract of land contained 40 acres and was named Brown's Delight. The 1810 census listed Robert, 45 and up, one male under 10, probably Robert Lloyd, his grandson, one female, 45 and up, probably Mary, and one female 26 to 45.

On May 30, 1810, Robert Heape made a will which was probated February 23, 1819 in Harford County, Maryland. In the will, he named his children, Robert, Archibald, John, Thomas, Sarah King, wife of Richard King, and his daughter, Mary Heape.” (Mildred Welty Slavens, Robert Heape Family, Raymore, Mo., 2nd Edition, February, 2001)

Robert Heape, Jr. Married Martha Chalk Smith James in 1882. Her two previous husbands had died. She was the daughter and sixth child of John and Mary Chalk. Their children were: Robert III, John Chalk, our ancestor, a daughter, Abraham, and Lysias. Descendants of John Chalk and Lysias migrated to Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

John Chalk Heape, born in 1782, married Martha Allen, daughter of Thomas and Ann Allen of York County, Pennsylvania. They moved to Fairfield County, Ohio in 1815 and were in the 1820 Census there. They moved to Richland County, Ohio, and when the county was divided, they were in Morrow County. John Chalk and Martha were divorced in Morrow County. He married again and later moved to Indiana. Martha moved with all of their children

to Perry County, Ohio around 1840. The children of John Chalk and Martha were: Ann, to whom John Chalk left his property in his will, Thomas, Lysias, all born in Pennsylvania, John, Catherine, Martha, and Sarah. All of the children went to Illinois with their mother.

Thomas Heape served in the Union Army in the Civil War, although he was too old to serve and left this service as a result of an injury. He received a pension, as did his wife, Elizabeth Baggs Heape. Both died in Cherokee County, Kansas.

James Heape, son of Thomas and Elizabeth, married Derrinda Tefertiller. They left Perry county and went to Texas with her parents, where he served in the Confederate Army. After

the war, they moved to Cherokee county, Kansas, where Mother's grandmother, Elzina H. (Ella) Heape was born. Mother's great grandmother, Derrinda Tefertiller Heape, died in Oklahoma in 1922, but neither Mother nor her mother, Hattie Lee Kerr Welty, knew before where Ella's family went after she was married in Kansas in 1886. Mother was 12 when her great grandmother died and could have known her.

OFFICERS:

Al Morse, President

Marjorie Slavens, Newsletter Editor

Julia Morse, Website Administrator, Digital Librarian