

# THE VOICE

Grain Valley Historical Society

## *Background for March Program*

Nearly all the land comprising Jackson County was acquired from the Osage and Kansas Indian tribes by a treaty signed June 2, 1825. Up to this time those Indians owned a strip of land twenty-four miles wide, east of the State Line, extending from the Missouri River south into Arkansas. In 1808 the Osage Indians had sold out of this strip to the United States, a tract of land six miles square in Fort Osage Township, upon which Fort Clark, afterward Fort Sibley was built, and upon which the first settlements in the eastern part of the county were made. From 1804 to 1827 the part of what is now Jackson County was successively under the jurisdiction of St. Louis, Howard, Cooper and Lillard or Lafayette Counties...From 1827 to 1835 the territory of Jackson County included that of Cass and Bates Counties...It is bounded on the north by Clay County and a part of Ray county, on the east by Lafayette County and a part of Johnson County, on the south by Cass county, and on the west by Johnson and Wyandotte

## Trash or Treasurer

Recently I received a call from Mid-Continent Public Library in Grain Valley. Someone there must have been doing some cleaning and found an old notebook/scrapbook with newspaper articles about our town. Since Christmas, several individuals have brought items to the Historical Society. I'm thinking the cold weather is keeping them at home so "spring cleaning" has come early.

I love to get your "trash," although, sometimes, it becomes my trash. Once items are gifted to the Historical Society we have the option of keeping them or throwing them away. I go through everything that is brought to us to determine its' value to our collection. Often, in the case of newspaper articles, we already have a copy. Fortunately, among the trash, I always find a treasurer!

In the fall of 2016 I began sorting and cataloging materials. One would think I could have finished months ago, but not true. I read every article, get caught up in the history and soon I've spent hours tracking down names and dates. With new "old stuff" being donated, I realize I will never finish. However, as I learn more and more about Grain Valley and the people, I realize how fortunate I've been to have lived here for most of my life.

One of the "treasurers" I found among the items from the library was an article which appeared in the newspaper on January 20, 1972.

## Historical Society Meeting

March 26, 2020

Join us for a pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm followed by our program and meeting. Hope you can attend.

**Pam (Austin) Bussell** will present our program on early Jackson County pioneers. Pam is a lifelong resident and for many years she volunteered at Fort Osage. She will share information about early Sibley families and the influence of the Osage Indians on this area.

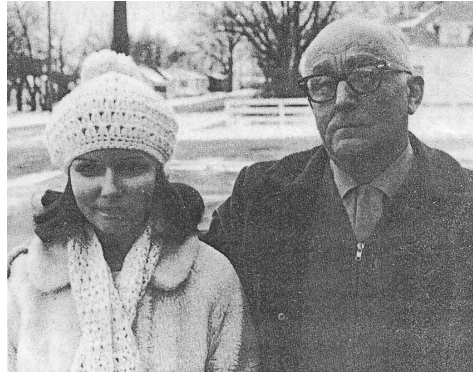


**Visit our website**  
[www.grainvalleyhistory.com](http://www.grainvalleyhistory.com)

For information on museum hours, meetings, special events and building rental, check out our website. The website is provided and maintained courtesy of the

### Valley News

*Grain Valley's Community Newspaper*



**This photograph of Cindy Fristoe, 15, and her grandfather, Clyde Fristoe accompanied the article.**

If they look cold it is because the temperature was only 3- degrees as they watched the flag being raised over the new Grain Valley Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library. The flag was obtained in Washington, D. C. by then Representative William L. Randall. It was accompanied by a letter from the Capitol architect verifying that it had flown over the Capitol. Marvin Headley, Grain Valley superintendent, acted as master of ceremonies for the program which included the Grain Valley HS Band, a brief history and poem about the flag and a short speech by County Judge Joe Bolger. He informed the audience, which included Mrs. Mary Williams, the first librarian, "The flag represents patriotism and a pioneering spirit, and anyone who would participate in such a ceremony in such cold weather clearly has both."

Cindy and her grandfather were credited with launching the movement to obtain a library in Grain Valley. Cindy wrote to Rep. Randall in April, 1970, saying that Grain Valley needed the library branch. That set the wheels in motion for the facility, which opened its doors to the public in October, 1971.

Grain Valley has enjoyed a library for 48 years. It is currently housed in the shopping area on Eagles Parkway. The plan is for Mid-Continent Public Library to build a new facility at the 55 acre Community Campus on Buckner Tarsney at Sni-A-Bar. Let's hope the project is approved!

*Personal note: Clyde Fristoe was married to my mother's sister, Opal, and Cindy is my first cousin, once removed.*