Adair County Historical Society
and the
Sojourners Building
Celebrating 100 years!

Centennial Issue 1916–2016
Did You Know?

2021 Calendar

Unusual facts about these places and much more!

Brought to you by
Adair County Historical Society, 211 S. Elson, Kirksville, Missouri 63501
To Future Missourians:

Our wish for the future is that all people who live in Missouri do so because they choose to live in this great state. And, in choosing to live in this state, we would hope that they would love it, embrace our heritage and care about its past, present and future. Most of all, we hope that they would see Missouri as a satisfying and rewarding place to live, raise a family, and find happiness.

We were originally in the Missouri Territory, part of the Louisiana Purchase. The Native Americans who first lived here knew this land as prime hunting ground with an abundance of wildlife, lush forests, vast prairies, and pristine waterways. As our state began to open up to pioneer settlers, they, too, enjoyed these riches and established prosperous farms on our fertile soil.

Missouri has some great urban cities, but it remains predominantly rural, with agriculture a major economic force. Crops range from soybeans and corn, to cattle and turkeys, cotton and grapes, and more. Some of our early pioneers followed the bee trace trail through Northern Missouri and found an abundance of bees and honey, making us a land truly flowing with milk and honey.

Out of the original five counties designated in Missouri, we grew to 114 counties and one independent city. We have built industries, and our farmers have long helped feed the nation with our abundant crops and cattle. Here in Missouri, you can be educated for countless professions in our colleges, universities, and medical schools. You can live in a tiny apartment or on a farm with rolling hills or flat river bottom land, whichever you prefer. In Missouri, you can live a quiet rural life with wide open spaces, or you can go into its cities and experience the fast-paced life urban life. But, you are never far from opportunities to enjoy Missouri in all seasons, with its cultural and educational entertainment and outdoor activities – parks, wildlife preserves, fishing, hunting, and water sports.

Because so many people came from Kentucky to settle here in northern Missouri, our forefathers named our County of Adair after John Adair (1757-1840), a pioneer, soldier, and the seventh Governor of Kentucky. Our County Seat of Kirksville was named after one of its first enterprising residents, also a Kentuckian, Jesse Kirk, who set up the first hotel, stagecoach stop, and post office in this settlement before it was named.

Our hope for the years to come would be that future residents see the benefits of living in such a diverse environment as ours and would strive to sustain Missouri as good as or even better than it is today.

Sincerely, Adair County Historical Society Board of Directors:

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