

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter



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Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting is on the 13th.

Board of Trustees Election Results

The successful candidates in this spring's biennial election of attorneys to fill the five attorney member positions on the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees are:

Julia V. Bellemere
Hatem Chahine
Jody Meyer
Craig Stancliffe
Charles E. Whitman

The five take office on May 1, 2011.

Stephanie J. Wilson is leaving after three terms on the Board, and Kenzie Singleton is leaving after two terms. The Editor wishes to thank them for their service to the Law Library.

Legal Essay Contest Results

The winners in the fourth annual Douglas County Legal Essay Contest are:

1st place - Joshua Myers - Veritas Christian School - \$1,500.00 prize.

2nd place - Colin Thomas - Baldwin High School - \$1,000.00 prize.

3rd place - Ann Wallsmith - Baldwin High School - \$500.00 prize.

The contest was co-sponsored by the Douglas County Law Library and the Douglas County Bar Association, and was open to all high school seniors who attended a high

school in Douglas County. The topic for the 2011 contest was "Does the Second Amendment Allow Ownership of Assault Weapons?"

The three winning essay authors were invited to the Law Day luncheon on May 2, and in addition, Mr. Myers' name and school have been inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the Law Library.

Reels of Justice Film Series - *Fury*



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 2:00 PM, Sunday, May 22nd, with a screening of [Fury](#). The film stars Spencer Tracy, Sylvia Sydney, and Walter Brennan. The film was directed by Fritz Lang, and was nominated for an Academy Award in 1937.

In the film, a falsely accused man (Tracy) barely survives a lynch mob attack. In the attack, the jail where he is being held prisoner is destroyed, and he is presumed dead. He vindictively decides to get back at the mob by framing them for his murder.

The program will include an appearance by a local attorney who will give commentary on the film and on how the film portrays the justice system.

The screening will be in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. All screenings in the film series are free and open to the public.

The next film in the "Reels of Justice Film Series" will be [True Believer](#), scheduled for screening in August 2011.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The April/May exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Di-

vision IV Art Gallery are mixed media by Sandy Craig McKenzie.

The exhibitions will run through the end of May. All pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Ms. McKenzie is available in the Library.

The June/July 2011 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be paintings by Jo Flager. More information on these exhibitions will be in the June E-Mail Newsletter.

For more information on past, current, and future Art Gallery exhibitions, or for more information on the Art Gallery, please consult the Art Gallery page on the Law Library's website.

If you would like to exhibit your art in our gallery, or know of local artists who would like to show their original art here, contact the Law Library at 838-2477 or by e-mail at info@douglascolawlibrary.org.

New Acquisitions

Newly acquired material added to the Law Library's holdings:

AALL Spectrum, v. 15:6 (Apr. 2011).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 30:2 (Apr. 2011).

Criminal Evidentiary Foundations, 2nd edition, 2011 Cumulative Supplement.

Kansas Reports, v.18, v.112, v.118, v.119, and v.284.

Pattern Instructions for Kansas - Criminal, 3d, 2010 Supplement.

Did You Know?

Every month, a bit of Law Library trivia is posted in the Law Library and on the Law Library's website. The previous month's "Did You Know" tidbit is then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

April's entry was:

The Douglas County Law Library's Policy Manual is available in the Library.

This Month In Legal History

May 8, 1863 - Dick Yeager raids the village of Black Jack in Douglas County, Kansas.

Richard F. "Dick" Yeager, sometimes spelled Yager, was probably born on March 28, 1839, in Washington, Kentucky. He came from a prominent and wealthy family who apparently moved to Missouri shortly after his birth. He was the son of James B. Yeager, who became presiding judge of the Jackson County, Missouri, Court, in 1840, and who was elected in 1858 for one term in the Missouri State Legislature. Prior to the beginning of the Civil War, the elder Yeager also ran a freight business that carried goods along the Santa Fe Trail. Dick Yeager worked for his father in the freight business, and was in charge of one of his father's wagon trains. As such, young Yeager would have been familiar with the towns and villages on the Trail. One of the villages he would have known of was Black Jack, a small community that serviced wagons and supplied travelers moving along the Trail. The community was established in southeast Douglas County, Kansas Territory, in 1857, approximately a mile east of the site of the Battle of Black Jack, in which the abolitionist John Brown led a Free-State militia in a successful attack on a pro-slavery militia early on the morning of June

2, 1856. The area was known as Black Jack because of the abundance of Black Jack Oaks there. Throughout the Kansas Territorial period and on through the Civil War, the border between Kansas and Missouri was the site of significant violence, first over the issue of whether Kansas would enter the Union as a slave state or a free state, and then as a result of the increasingly bitter feelings generated during the War. Just a few months before the outbreak of the War, Dick Yeager married Martha J. Muir on November 22, 1860. As a result of the bitter feelings along the border, that War came home to Dick Yeager soon after its outbreak in April 1861. Upon returning from one of his wagon train journeys, he found that his father's farm had been raided and burned by Jennison's Jayhawkers, a Union cavalry regiment led by Charles R. Jennison, known for its harsh treatment of Confederate sympathizers. As a result of the raid on his father's farm, Dick Yeager joined the notorious Confederate guerrilla leader William Clark Quantrill, eventually serving as a captain in his band of raiders. Quantrill and his men terrorized the Kansas - Missouri border for most of the rest of the War. On May 4, 1863, Dick Yeager led a group of the guerrillas on what proved to be an unsuccessful raid on Council Grove, Kansas. On their way back to Missouri, the men raided settlements along the Santa Fe Trail, stopping at Black Jack on May 8. They robbed the store owned by N. H. Brockway and S. A. Stonebraker, and stole all the horses that were owned by the overland stage route. Although they were robbed, the citizens of Black Jack were otherwise unmolested by Yeager and his men. The same cannot be said about Yeager's visit to Lawrence, Kansas, three and a half months later on August 21, 1863. At dawn on that day, Quantrill led 400 of his men, including Dick Yeager, into the former headquarters of the Free-State movement, and proceeded to burn and pillage the town. During the

three-hour raid, over 150 men and boys were killed by the guerrillas, and most of the buildings in the town were destroyed. After the attack on Lawrence, Dick Yeager continued to lead guerrilla raids in Kansas and Missouri. Then, on July 19, 1864, he was seriously wounded in a battle at Arrow Rock, Missouri. He was apparently recovering from his wounds when he was attacked and killed in August, conflicting accounts giving the date of his death as either the 1st or the 12th. One account of his death was written by Margaret Jane Hays, a relative of Yeager's, in a letter to her mother. In part it reads (original punctuation and spelling are retained), "Mother you heard that Dick was killed some time ago. He was not killed then but poor fellow is gone now. Oh Mother it is hard to think of, he was wounded at Arrow Rock in the head. He fell from his horse, did not come to hisSelf for some time, was run over by horses, brake one leg but was getting well of his wounds when he was come upon by the D..... They murdered him in a most cruel manner. It nearly kills his poor old father, his Mother I fear for her for she is sick and this news will go hard with her altho she has been expecting it. Dicks wife and Chile is in Texas."

From: [Missouri State Legislators, 1820-2000](#), Missouri History website; [Mrs. J. O. Williams Collection description](#), Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Special Collections website; Quantrill of Missouri: the making of a guerrilla warrior: the man, the myth, the soldier, by Paul R. Petersen, Cumberland House Publishing, 2003, p. 151; [Richard Francis Yeager](#), posting on Rootsweb.Ancestry.com website; [Charles R. Jennison](#), Wikipedia article; [Border Troubles in Morris County](#), Legends of Kansas website; William G. Cutler's History of the State of Kansas, Douglas County, [Part 34](#); [Yeager, Richard \(Dick\), Charcoal Portrait](#), Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Collections website; [Letter 58](#), Fulton Calaway Co. Mo., September the 7/64, Mag J. (Margaret Jane Hays) to Dear Mother, The Watts Hays Letters website; and, [Footnotes for Letters 54 - 60: 1861 -1865, The Civil War Years](#), The Watts Hays Letters website.

Each month, an event from "This Month In Legal History," the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month, is included in the Newsletter. The current entry is also posted for the month on the Law Library's website. Entries from past months are archived on the website. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

Law Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Law Library Volunteer Program provides a capable and dependable volunteer work force to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Law Library and with its special projects. This work force supplements the paid Library staff and allows the Library to provide the best possible service to attorneys, local judges, and the public.

The Volunteer Program is instrumental in linking a valuable community resource - the citizens - with a valuable community institution - the Douglas County Law Library - for the benefit, growth, and enrichment of both.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for one of them, or if you would like more information on our program and/or the positions we have open, please contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

Feedback

This Newsletter is intended to be useful to its readers. As in any enterprise, feedback on how the Newsletter is fulfilling this goal is crucial to our achieving it. If our articles are helpful, let us know. If they are not, let us know. If you have suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter, please let us know. Thank you.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter

The Editor encourages readers to submit articles for publication and/or make suggestions on material to be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

To Subscribe

Contact the Law Library by mail, e-mail, or telephone and request a free subscription to the Newsletter. It will be sent to you as a PDF attachment to an e-mail. The Library's mailing address is: Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11th Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library's e-mail address is: info@douglascolawlibrary.org. The Law Library's telephone number is: 785-838-2477.

Classified Ads

Free classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter by contacting the Law Library. The Editor reserves the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate and to add restrictions as the need arises.

No Ads this Month.

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