

Stray Records of Saline Township

From January 1868 to September 1874

From the

Missouri State Archives

Jefferson City, Missouri

Some of the very earliest records can be found in the Cooper County Stray Books. These books are not located at the Cooper County Court House in Boonville, Missouri. As a result, most people are unaware of the existence of these valuable genealogical records.

In the days before wire fences or even split rail fences, animals were allowed to roam free on the owner's land. As a result, horse, cows, hogs, and sheep were often "lost and found" items. I am not an expert or even novice on this but it appears that in some counties such as Howard and Boone a person would advertise finding a stray animal. If no one came to claim the animal it was a case of finders keepers. In Cooper County it appears that after finding a stray animal, the person would notify the Justice of the Peace in the Township where the animal was found. A description of the animal(s) was provided to the Justice of the Peace who would then have two people appraise the value of the animal(s). In some cases, the Justice of the Peace would also have a person testify as to the accuracy of the description of the animal(s). Finally, the Justice of the Peace for the Township would have all of this information recorded by the county clerk. In some cases, the owner of the animal(s) would come forth and claim his livestock. If not at the end of one year the person who found the animal(s) provided they still had the animal would be required to pay one-half of the appraised value of the animal to the county treasurer. I am sorry but it was some ways through the records that I figured this out. And I did not properly copy all of the information.

What these records do is to prove a date in which a person resided in Cooper County and it gives the township in which they lived. As one might expect some of those townships are not located within the present day boundaries of Cooper County, Missouri. The other information that these records provide are the names of a person's neighbors or relatives. As you read through this information you will notice that the appraisers are generally neighbors or relatives of the person who found an animal.

Finally a word of caution, literacy was not a trait that all people shared. Names and locations were often spelled as they sound not as they are written. Plus in many instances the writer must have received a D- in spelling. I have done my best to interpret the old script and faithfully record this information.

Enjoy! James F. Thoma, July, 2005.

22 Jan 1868	Heifer taken up by W. J. Heaps of Saline Township taken before Herman Schmidt, Justice of the Peace, and appraised at \$22 by W. J. Knox and William D. Wood
11 Apr 1868	Three horses taken up by W. Wigans, taken before Herman Schmidt, Justice of the Peace, and appraised at \$200 by W. E. T. Waddell and W. Knox. The bay horse was claimed on 14 Apr 1868 by Mr. Talbot from the other side of the Lamine River in Cooper County. The roan horse was claimed on 17 Apr 1868 by Mr. Newman (or Nessmons) who lived 3 miles south of Boonville.
23 Jun 1868	Mule taken up by James Bowel (or Powel) of Saline Township, taken before Herman Schmidt, Justice of the Peace, and appraised at \$65 by Abraham Walters and Rebick Walters. The mules was claimed by two different people and a trial was held over it on the 22 day of August 1866 The jury consisted of Asa Morton, J. E. Lane, Blasius Effinger, August Lenger, Jacob Cramer, George Westerman who gave the mule to Sarah E. Woolf. John Jacob Mills who was the other claimant said that he would appeal the decision. Witness of John Jacob Mills were Fritz Gross, Herman Busman, Wash Baydes, David Baydes, Jerry Baydes, Henry Baydes, Alline Baydes, and Unknown Reynolds. Witnesses for Sarah E. Woolf were James Bowell, Andrew Woolf, William Woolf, David W. Blagg, James Bankton, and W. Knox.

19 Jul 1868	Bay horse taken up by Henderson A. Simms of Saline Township was presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The horse was appraised at \$125 by David Givens and Blasius Effinger.
24 Jul 1868	A dark brown mare taken up by Moses (?) Driskell of Saline Township was presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The mare was appraised at \$15 by John Moore and John M. Shounty.
07 Oct 1868	A horse mule taken up by Samuel Meinevill (?) of Saline Twonship was presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The horse mule was appraised at \$75 by Henry W. Miles and W. W. Caruthers.
24 Oct 1868	A dark bay mare taken up by Joseph G. Moore of Boonville Township was presented to Herman Schmidt, The Justice of the Peace. The mare was appraised at \$75 by George Westerman and Charles Erhardt.
13 Nov 1868	A sorrel horse taken up by William Wiggins of Saline Township and presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The horse was appraised to \$40 by F. W. Guthrie and C. P. Weight.
08 Dec 1868	A bay mare colt was taken up by W. W. Knox of Saline Township and presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The colt was appraised at \$15 by A. J. Robertson and James M. Rankin
15 Nov 1868	Three heifers were taken up by Marie H. Elliott of Saline Township and presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The three heifers were appraised at \$15 by C. W. Erhardt and John L. Moore. The three heifers were claimed by Drafy of Boonville on 26 Oct 1869
29 Sep 1869	A black mare was taken up by Jackson of Saline Township and was presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The Black mare was appraised at \$15 by Henry Hipton and Benjamin Taylor.
01 Jun 1870	A bay filly was taken up by John Moore of Saline Township and presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The horse was appraised at \$75 by C. W. Erhardt and W. Clark. The stray was claimed on 15 Oct 1870 by James Odial (Odil or Odel). It cost him \$14.15 in lodging fee, printing costs, etc to get his horse back.
01 Nov 1870	A bay horse taken up by John M. Clayton of Saline Township and presented to Herman Schmidt, the Justice of the Peace. The horse was appraised at \$40 by James H. Hall and Joseph Pursley
07 Aug 1870	A dark brown horse taken up by H. Brown Hopkins of Saline Township. The horse was appraised at \$25 by Blasé Effinger and William Bennett
15 Aug 1870	A heifer taken up by J. K. Ragland of Saline Township. The cow was appraised at \$12 by Miguel Hawkins and Unknown Tuttle.
17 Dec 1870	A steer was taken up by F. M. Adair of Saline Township. The steer was appraised at \$14.50 by Oscar (?) Seely (?) and John W. Good
17 Dec 1870	A gray bony mare was taken up by Alexander Allison of Saline Township. The horse was appraised at \$20 by Martin H. Banmarth and Martin Banmarth.
01 Nov 1871	A black filly was taken up by Henry Bates of Saline Township. The horse was appraised at \$50 by Johnell Finley and J. M. Tucker
10 Dec 1871	A black horse taken up by Christian Heckermann of Saline Township. The six month old horse was appraised at \$4 by Joseph H. Mueller and John W. Good.
01 Jun 1872	A sorrel horse taken up by J. Thomas Baker of Saline Township. The horse was appraised at \$25 by J. L. Eager and J. W. Burks. The horse was claimed by John G. Wilson of Boonville Township on 14 Jun 1872. It cost John \$1.15 to get his horse back.
24 Sep 1874	A colored mule was taken up by J. W. Williams of Saline Township. It was appraised at \$25 by Leroy Powell and J. J. Vaughan.