

Lily Walker

*The Way In Which We Are*

The amazing place we live, the moments we cherish, and essentially the foundation of our lives, is right here, in this amazing county we call home. We have such a rich history it is incredible. We have kept an amazing country strong for 200 years. We have so much historical and interesting sites such as Hematite Stone Barn in Hematite, where some flour and corn were first ground into meal (Eschbach), and the shot tower located in Herculaneum, where shots were actually molded during the War of 1812 and the Civil War. (Boyer) But you may find yourself pondering as much as the rest of us, “ How did this amazing County and wonderful community we are honored to serve come into play?”. Well, as early historians tell us, it all came together on the cold night of December 8, 1818, when this County was created by an Act of Territory. Jefferson County was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States, and was considered the father of the Louisiana Purchase, which is the very land we call home today. (Gendron) Jefferson County is 664 square miles and has a population of over 200,000 people in 2015. The eastern border of Jefferson County is the Mississippi River. We have certainly come a long way since 1818, making a community that is not only loved but also cared for. There were some major key points in making this County what it is today.

In December of 1818, an Act of Territory was passed and Jefferson County was created, marking the start of Jefferson County. It was said that Herculaneum should be the place where the first court should be held. In a short three years, Herculaneum only had a population of 200. Also, seven other counties were created under this act (Jefferson). The first circuit court was held on March 2, 1819, in Herculaneum, with Nathaniel Beverly Tucker as the judge of the northern circuit.

The First General Assembly ordered William Grymes Pettus to cast the first seal, having the choices of the eagles or bears. Judge Tucker persisted on the bears, because he felt they rendered the rugged, positive character of the residents.

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An interesting fact about the County is that it is one of the few counties in the state to have its own county flag. In October of 1975, 5 citizens sponsored a Jefferson County Flag Competition. The winner was announced on October 27, 1975, as Genie Wiese of Festus, MO. After this was chosen, the design was handmade by Helen Steinburk. The same flag still proudly displays today. (Abeln)

This is just a few of the events leading up to the creation of Jefferson County, and some interesting things you may not have known before reading this. I for one, am proud to not only serve but honor this county. All who live here shall forever call this home!

## Bibliography

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***JEFFERSON COUNTY..... ITS SETTLERS, ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT***, Jefferson County Facts.  
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