

Amazing Archives
The future of our past is ever present

This month, I'd like to share with you some humorous, sad but note-worthy facts. **All** of them make our story real.

Rev. Otto Pessel had to apply to the state for permission to serve wine during communion.

The constitution of the first church was adopted April 13, 1839.

The first death mentioned of a congregational member was Wilhelm Conrad, a laborer, aged twenty-one years, who was buried 04 August 1839.

John Jacob Riess was the first ordained minister of the Evangelical Synod to set foot on American Soil.

July 11, 1845, Rev. Dony was to officiate at the marriage of Charles Kettler and Rosalie Huelbig. The carriage conveying the bride-to-be, her mother and 2 sisters overturned while approaching the ferry on the flooded Kaskaskia River. All were drowned. The next day, Rev. Dony performed a funeral service instead of a wedding.

It's difficult for me to finish the tasks in the archives in a timely manner. When I begin reading the stories of our past, I get involved and often forget what I was doing. But everything is so interesting to me! Reading and touching the documents transports me to the years of our beginning.

Till next month...

In Service to God,
Jo Ann Elmore, Archivist