

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 3rd. QUARTER NEWSLETTER, September, 2017



THE KRAMER COLLECTION

Our fourth Tuesday program on September 26th saw a full house of members and guests eager to hear Dr. Brad Logan, Kansas State University anthropologist and expert on Great Plains archaeology, speak on our Kramer collection of artifacts found on the upper Nine Mile/Wildhorse Creek area. Other sites along the Nine Mile/Stranger Creek watershed provided additional information.

Frank "Junior" Kramer and his wife Barbara donated over 800 prehistoric artifacts to our historical society. Dr. Logan solicited the help of his students to identify each item, measure, weigh, and tell which type of stone it was made from. (The type of material used to make artifacts is an important piece of information because it suggests where the item was made). This took more than six months to accomplish. The artifacts were returned with several papers written by his students about these artifacts.

The Kramer's collection represents surface finds found over 50 years as Frank and his boys farmed and walked the land to hunt. The land has been tilled, terraced and plowed through the 20th Century leaving an archaeologically "disturbed" site. However, the artifacts found can be attributed to times from 8000 BC to 1300 AD. This speaks to the people who travelled through this area long before the Kansa and Delaware Indians were living here.



The oldest projectile point is a Hardin Barbed Point from the early Archaic period 8000 BC to 5500 BC. It was napped from a white stone not found in eastern Kansas.

Several Nebo Hill points are in the group. These artifacts are late Archaic period from 2000 BC to 1500 BC. They were slender and lanceolate in form. The Hardin Barbed point and the Nebo Hill points are the most ancient points in the

collection and were spear points. Other named point types include the Dickson, Scallorn, Madison, Nodena and Steuben, which may be viewed in the newly completed display in the museum. Find out why the two points in the pictures are spearpoints and what makes an arrow point.





Steed-Kisker
Pottery Chard

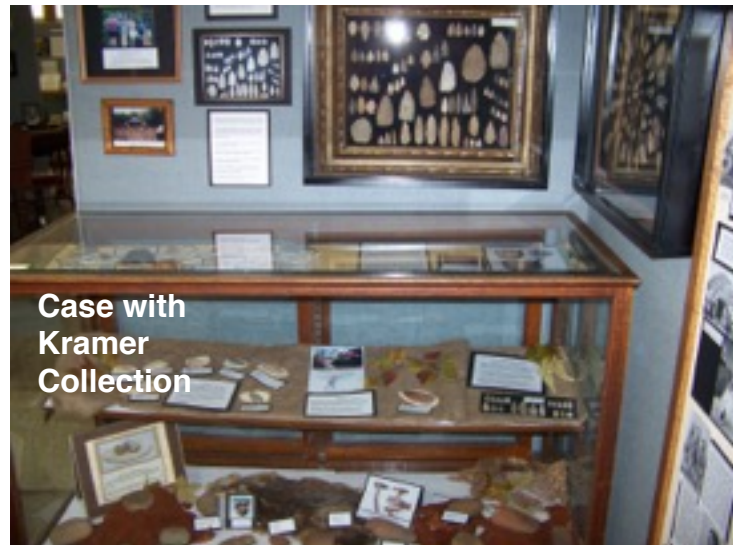
All of the pottery in the Kramer Collection is from the Steed-Kisker phase which is common to north east Kansas dating from 900 AD to 1300 AD. This pottery is tempered with shell. All pottery must be “tempered” in order to make the pot strong. Shell, sand and ground up pots are examples of temper with shell temper characteristic of this area. Upon firing, the shell may burn out leaving small pitted indentations which is indicative of Steed-Kisker ware. The presence of pottery indicates these people had a more settled life style.

The Kramer collection also includes many tools fashioned from “ground stone” or glacially deposited rocks. The array includes manos (flat rocks used to grind seed or smooth hides), grooved axes, and celts (used as hammers and hatchets). The collection contains many various sized scrapers which were used for many purposes such a removing hair from hides to filing finger nails and peeling gourds for culinary purposes. These items are skillfully made as to fit nicely into your hand and they remain extremely sharp after all these years.

Following the program, the new exhibit was available for viewing. The Kramer items reside in a walnut display case from the Zoellner’s store, and on the wall above are arrow points arranged by Barbara Kramer protected by cases constructed by Chris Somers.

Near by is a completely renovated display of the Kansa and Delaware people who were historic residents of this area. Susy Ross provided the research on these two groups and generously donated Kansa style bead work and quill work which she herself made.

Crowning the exhibit is a time line which demonstrates just how old these items are and earmarks significant events. We invite our visitors to help us “tweak” the time line so that it is clearly understood.



Case with
Kramer
Collection



new material
about the
Kansa and
Delaware
Indians

BARN QUILTS

In late August, the hay barn at the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society (TCHS) museum took a new look. Travelers on highway US 24/40 going to Lawrence can look to the West and see the new look. Travelers going to McLouth on K-16 Hwy can also see the quilts, but the quilts are further away.

Three Barn Quilts now adorn the north wall of the barn. Since 2011, the north face of the barn was decorated with a canvas that celebrated the Kansas Sesquicentennial. Today, the barn celebrates the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail and becomes the centerpiece for the trail.



Jim Stuke and John Walters hanging barn quilts

The designs for the three blocks on the barn were chosen by Jean Pearson, who has taught classes at the historical site for the past three years. She also created the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail, similar to the Flint Hills Quilt Trail. Both trails can be found on the internet by “Googlin” their names.

The blocks chosen for the TCHS barn have special meaning and symbolism to the historical society. The blocks on the east is the **Farmers’s Daughter**. This quilt block first appeared in print in the Kansas City Star on March 16, 1935. The barn on which the barn blocks hang was built in 1932, replacing the very large barn which had been built by Frank Fairchild at the turn of the century. That barn burned in 1928.

The granddaughter of the original dairy farmer came to own this property when it passed on from her father, Archie Knox and his wife, Bessie, who operated the dairy farm until 1947. In 1985, this barn, the milking parlor, and the silo were donated to the TCHS by the farmer’s daughter, Mildred Knox Young.

The centerpiece block is the **Sunflower**. There are many sunflower quilt patterns. This one best displays the vibrant colors of the sunflower. The wild native sunflower was designated the Kansas State Flower in 1903. It greeted early settlers who traveled westward through Kansas on the man trails through Kansas westward.

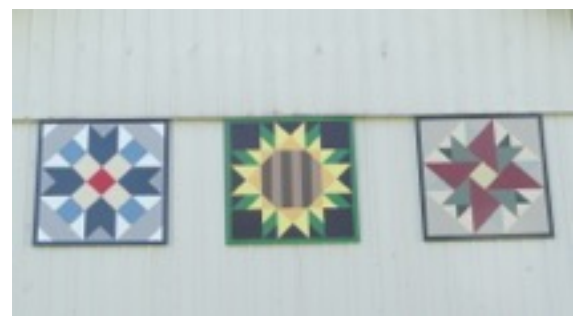
The block on the far west is the **Double Aster**. **Asters** were cultivated in the eastern United States since colonial times. Relatives of these cultivated species grew abundantly on the Kansas prairies and were known as wild Asters. Like the Sunflower, the Aster is a member of the Asteraceae family..

The barn blocks were painted by a group of TCHS members. Jean Pearson, Lloyd Pearson, Janet Stuke, Janet Burnett, Kris Roberts, and Brenda Shaw.

The barn blocks were installed by Jim Stuke, Lloyd Pearson, and John Walters.

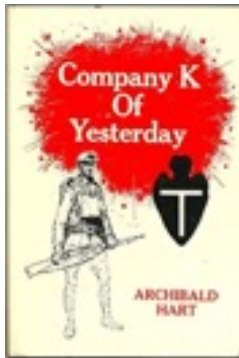
The next Barn Quilt Class is scheduled for October 21. Interested persons should contact the museum at 1-913-845-2960 or TCHS2002@att.net or visit the museum. The museum is open Sundays 1-4 PM, Tuesday 9 AM-4 PM and Wednesdays 9 AM to noon.

The left quilt is referred to as **The Farmer’s Daughter**, the middle quilt is the **Sunflower** and the block on the right is the **Double Aster**.



Company K of Yesteryear

by Archibald
Hart



This book was published in 1969, fifty years after the fact. The author, Archibald Hart, was a member of Company K of the 142 Infantry during WW1. This was part of the 36th Division formed from the Texas and Oklahoma National Guards.

In the front of this book is a hand written note to Mrs. Nina Birkhead, the wife of Cecil Birkhead of Company K of the 142 Infantry; "To Nina Birkhead in memory of one of the finest men ever to wear an American uniform—I present this Testimonial." signed Archibald Hart, Sept. 10th, 1969.

The author and Cecil Birkhead were both Sergeants in Company K. The author made Top Sergeant before WW1 was ended. They both had the respect of the officers and the enlisted men in Company K, and they respected each other.

The Birkheads lived in Lawrence, Kansas when Mrs. Birkhead taught school at Reno, KS., and she was also the principal of the Reno, Kansas school district. This would have been in the 1960's until the school closed due to consolidation. Donna Wiley knew them because she was a school board member. She said the Bulkheads were a "fun loving couple". Mrs. Birkhead gave Donna her copy of the book, "Company K of Yesteryear".

There were two officers from Kansas in the 36th Division. Major (later Lt. Col) Edmund Andrews of Kansas City, Kansas who was the 36th Division HQ -Division Signal Officer- a high ranking post, and 2nd Lt. Walter C Hornaday with HQ Company 133rd Field Artillery, no hometown listed just Kansas. There may be more enlisted men from Kansas, but those names are unknown today because the Texas National Guard does not have addresses of the enlisted men.

The book can be divided into 3 sections. The first section involves basic training. The second part involves traveling to France and more training (the only training Co. K had received was training in trench warfare. In France they learned that now trench warfare was not as important as other tactics in fighting a war). The Third section involves the battles that Co. K fought. But this book does not seem to dwell on the actual battle, but what happened in the camps before and after the battles.

In the **basic training period** of this book several interesting points were discussed. When Co. K was formed in Camp Bowie in North Ft. Worth, the men did not have any military clothes. They trained in their own clothes, and especially their own shoes which could not withstand the marching stress.

General Greble recognized the foot problem and asked some of the men who replied the civilian shoes were OK. A few days later an ammunition wagon pulled in to Co. K.'s area with military shoes and the foot problems went away.

As the season's temperature became colder, army blankets were issued in Oct. Although this winter was not considered a cold one, it seemed colder than the military expected. Other blankets, quilts, etc. were obtained from home when they were available.

It was soon discovered that the military was going to do away with the colorful names describing each Division. Such names as the Rainbow Division, The All American Division, the Yankee Division, etc. were to be named with a number. In this case the new name for this division would be the 36th Division, made up of Oklahoma and Texas units. This change was not well received by the American public and it was decided to keep the colorful names and their insignia, but the official name would be a number. The 36th Division was the official



name, but the colorful name would be the "Arrowhead Division".

The insignia was an arrowhead pointing down with a "T" in the middle of the arrowhead. E Company was made up entirely of Osage and Choctaw Indians. **The Indians refused to wear this insignia BECAUSE in their culture the arrow pointing downward represented DEFEAT.**

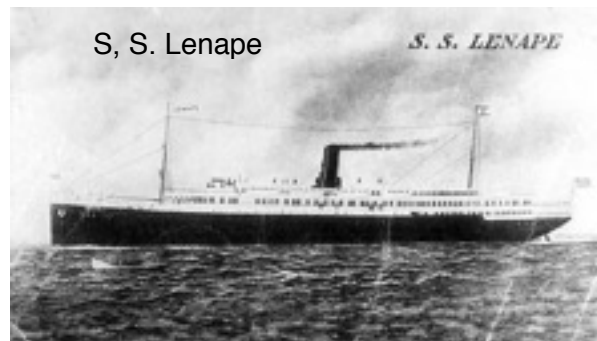
The military recognized the significance of the Indians in this Division and when there was a special parade, Chief Baconrind and his family had a special place of honor for viewing the program. The significance of the Indians, especially the Choctaw, was later recognized in battle. Communication was a problem. The problem was not damage from bombs and shells to the communication lines, but the problem was that the Germans were tapping into the lines to gather information about Allied plans. **This problem was solved by utilizing the Choctaw Indians and their numerous Choctaw dialects which the Germans could not understand.**

The "Spanish flu" was a problem, but Co K did not lose a person, although they did have many ill with the flu. The Division lost many men to the flu. It was reported that after 4 months of sickness, the hospital had its first night with no deaths reported.

Military training involved weapons. The rifle became a comfortable piece of equipment. However, the Browning Automatic Rifle known as the BAR presented an early problem. It had to be fired from the hip. If fired from the shoulder it would knock a person off balance and backward. The problem was not the firing of a single round, but the rapid firing of many rounds. Soon even the macho men learned this lesson.

One time during a demonstration of mortar firepower there was an accident which killed several men and wounded even more. The demo at first was just normal firing rate with a normal dropping rate of the mortar shell into the tube. When the end of this demonstration was getting close it was decided to do some rapid firing. An explosion occurred within the tube with dire result.

And then there was the southern drill sergeant who couldn't say "march" without making the word two syllables. The old General who heard this had him relieved immediately and sent him to North Carolina where other "Misfits" were sent. This particular drill sergeant was well respected, and the men were very surprised when this happened.



In July the Division began traveling to France, by train to Long Island, New York, and then by an older train to Hoboken, New Jersey. They boarded the *Lenape*, an older ship, that was smaller than expected. Two things stand out during this trip.

In Alabama people were standing on the side of the railroad track to wave as the soldiers went by. One well dressed young black youth stood out in the crowd because of his clothes. He was dressed with white shirt and his "Sunday Best" clothes. He waved and smiled. **From inside the train three soldiers threw a large amount of dirty water on the youth. The author says, "The white onlookers were politely dismayed, and the negro youth reacted as did the many that I had seen before in like cases: bullied with the odds 50 to 1 against him, grin and pretend it was a joke".**

Sgt. Smart came through the doors and confronted the three men who had dumped the water on the black lad. He cussed them up and down and the author enjoyed seeing the three men cower in response to Sgt. Smart's actions.

Most of the men had never seen the ocean before, and generally most were seasick for a couple of days. One person was sick the entire

trip. After he went to “sick bay” no one from his company ever saw him again. They wondered if he was sent back to the US or some where else.

Submarines were on the soldiers minds, but most let the Navy worry about the subs. No submarine boats were seen on this trip.

After the soldiers arrived in Brest, France, they went into training provided by the French. This lasted about 6 weeks. It isn't clear from this book, but other sources point out that the 36th training in Texas was involved with trench warfare and only trench warfare. The training now received did not involve trench warfare. It was more conventional.

During the time Co. K was in battle very little information is given by the author in describing what the unit actually did. We do know that the 36th Division was involved in some intensive battles. We know this because throughout various parts of this book we learn about some of the battlefield results.

The author provides some evidence of other battles in this book. For example he discusses some of the battle fields as being barren of trees and vegetation. There seemed to be no evidence of anything green left on these battle fields. He notes that on one battle field the shell holes were three to five feet deep and so close together that vehicles could not travel this area. Shell holes were round and land mine holes were rectangular. Co. K was marching over part of the area which had been slightly smoothed so they could get to their place of battle.

Two times Co. K was moving into battle. Guides were evidently used to get the soldiers to the correct battle position. **The first time a guide was used the guide got lost** and they were so tired from marching so many hours that their Colonel refused to have them go into battle. They rested one day. The second time the guide was several hours late.

Co. K was involved with the battle of St. Etienne. The Second Division, the only Division to have both Army and Marines regiments had been fighting for some time in this area. The 36th Division fought here also and they relieved some

of the 2nd Division. The people in Co K were impressed with the confidence and pride the Marines exhibited. Although the marines had won the battle, they also suffered numerous casualties which didn't seem to bother them. The marines just talked about winning the battles and not their casualties.

The officers of the 142 Regiment were quite upset with the Marines. The Marines did not give to the Regiment any maps of the battle location. The result was the 142 Regiment was handicapped and somewhat confused as to what the maps would have provided. Speculation by Co. K was that the Marines believed they would have to go right back in the area, because the National Guard was not really battle tested.

The men in Co K noticed that Marine cooks were preparing rice with RAISINS. Co. K men were jealous of this fact. They rarely got rice. or raisins.

In general most of the food received by Co. K was canned corn beef hash and sometimes canned salmon. Giant loaves of bread would be included.

The Marines had special bracelets on their wrists with their name and home address, plus they had a totally different uniform. All this impressed the author.

Other than bullets and shells, water was the real problem. **They carried a canteen and at least one time they went from Friday to Tuesday with just one canteen of water.** Nothing was ever noted in this book about using chlorine tablets to purify this water. And a few times they had to hunt for a water supply so they could have a drink.

At least two times, Archibald Hart disagreed with the official record of the battles. The disagreements usually involved the time that a unit was relieved or what shape the company was in after the battle.

This book contains quite a bit of subtle humor. One such case involves a dispute of the official record, which stated that Co. K was relieved by the French. This is one of the times that

Archibald Hart disagreed with the official report. The French did not relieve them. Co. K left the battle area after waiting several hours for French relief. ***The author suggests that they were not relieved by the French, but they were relieved by a lone German Soldier, lying on his back with a bullet hole in his head.*** This German soldier story involves a German Sniper who had killed one of Co. K's men. The German was immediately shot by a Co. K man, but he was found wounded and semi unconscious. The bullet had penetrated his helmet, became misshaped and took a piece of the German's skull about the size of a cigarette. The Grey matter was left. Co. K carried the wounded German around for a few days, but we are not told what the end result was with this prisoner.

The author on page 128 discusses managing prisoners and being rewarded for that action. He says, "The means whereby some superman, alone, achieve the fantastic feat of accepting 150 prisoners can easily be explained by any policeman....who single handedly disarmed them.....the prisoners would hardly elect to run".....because the prisoner would be easily shot. At one time the regiment had 150 prisoners with no special award.

Although the author does not write much about the actual battle field action, throughout this book we learn that Co. K was involved in some serious battles. For one thing, the author notes that Co. K had captured 40 prisoners.

We learn that 4 men were involved in a so called, "Close Call" Club. The four had evidence of bullets and shrapnel close to their body; like in their back pack or a dented helmet. The author was one member because he had

shrapnel in his back pack from two different actions, which had caused him some small injury. Also, he had been one of four men who were blown into the air when a land mine exploded.

After the battle of St. Etienne, three regiments of the 36th division had so many casualties that they had been reduced to almost one regiment. More evidence that Co. K did fight in some serious battles.

At one time Archibald Hart was observing a "Dog Fight" with 11 airplanes. They were quite a distance away, but he could see them. Every so often a bullet would come close to him and land in the grass. He at first thought these bullet were from a sniper, until he realized these bullets were strays from the airplanes. He then moved to cover. He remarked that he thought airplanes were a waste of money, and they probably wouldn't be used in any other war. They were too costly compared to the cost of preparing a foot soldier.

The author sums up his military career with a humorous sentence suggesting that he never killed anybody in WW1. "Yes, son, at St. Etienne one day I leveled down on a German. He was another two-stripe corporal, by name, I believe, Schickelgruber. But obviously I missed him." I can't recall the author ever stating that he fired his rifle in this book. Although this sentence might seem to be true, it was not likely that anyone shooting the enemy would know the name of the person being shot, particularly if the shot missed the mark. And Maria Anna Schicklgruber is the paternal grandmother of Adolf Hitler.



We welcome Joy Lominska, our newest volunteer in the museum. Joy brings with her a love of history and particularly maps. We have enjoyed her assistance in straightening and inventorying our storage area, and we have her tackling the filing of the maps and large items in our map case. Joy is a retired first and second grade teacher having taught in Lawrence for 25 years. In addition she brings experience in working with local historical groups.

**QUANTRIL'S RAID ON LAWRENCE
TCHS 4TH TUESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

Did you know that Quantrill lived in Lawrence for about 6 months? He lived in a hotel near the Kaw River. He used the name Charley Hart.

Do you know the battle cry when Quantrill's men entered Lawrence? It was "Remember Osceola". James Lane's men had raided Osceola when all the males of fighting age were gone to fight the Civil War. The only people left were old men, women, children and a few slaves.

A few years ago I was privileged to have the opportunity to watch and *film* Harold Riehm's portrayal of Rev. Richard Cordley, the pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, and an eyewitness to Quantrill's raid on Lawrence on August 21, 1863.

Harold is a well known re-enactor in the Lawrence area, who is known for portraying historical people. He is a retired political science professor from KU. Several years before Laurie and I were members of TCHS, Harold presented a program at our site. Some may remember.

This program is a personal account of Quantrill's raid on Lawrence and the events leading to this raid and what happened in Lawrence after the raid. This movie is about 40 minutes long, but it is so good that time will fly. Bring popcorn.

Richard Cordley was born in Nottingham, England, but grew up in Michigan. He came to Lawrence and was pastor of the Plymouth Church from 1857 to 1875 and 1884 to 1904 when he died. A total of 38 years. Because Rev. Cordley was an outspoken abolitionist, he was marked for death by the raiders, but he was able to avoid being seen or captured. But his house and all of its contents were burned. A few years later he wrote about this raid on Lawrence. He was an eye witness to the destruction.

The August 4th Tuesday was a real treat. ***Kathy Harrell, the 2017 Kansas History Teacher of the year***, gave the program. The Middle School History Club has been in existence for over 10 years. Steve Woolf established the club and Kathy took it over just a few years later. Each May, The students visit historical sites within a 500 mile radius. They work to achieve eligibility for the program and prepare for the trip by reading special assignments that related to their destination. The History Club has also helped our society with special events in the past , such as "Back in Time" and the "Box Social" .

The club is an excellent means of getting eighth graders interested in history and our society will continue to look for ways to support them.

**THE Value of History, from the History Relevance Campaign,
sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History by Kris Roberts**

This month we are printing one of seven ways that history is essential.

To Ourselves—**Critical Skills:** History teaches critical 21st century skills and independent thinking. The practice of history teaches research, judgment of the accuracy and reliability of sources, validation of facts, awareness of multiple perspectives and biases, analysis of conflicting evidence, sequencing to discern causes, synthesis to present a coherent interpretation, clear and persuasive written and oral communication and other skills that have been identified as critical to a successful and productive life in the 21st century.

On Nov. 28th Historian Lee Olivia will present a program, "Women Writers on the Santa Fe Trail". Some of the first women to travel across present day Kansas were travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. This presentation looks at the adventures and reflections on four of these remarkable women who wrote their own stories. Susan Shelby Magoffin traveled with her husband's train in 1846. Katie Bowen traveled in 1851 from age 7 to 17. Marian Sloan Russell traveled the trail five times with her single mother.. Perhaps the most famous of this group was suffragist and abolitionist, Julia Archibald Holmes, who wrote letters as she traveled the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas Territory to the Rocky Mountains, where she became the first woman to climb Pikes Peak.

All Fourth Tuesday Programs are usually held on our historical site in the Reno Church building.. However, for the October program on Quantrill's raid, it will be held in the barn so that we can eat popcorn. All of the programs begin at 7 PM with refreshment to follow the program.

The Christmas Party

This year's Christmas party will be December 12, at 6 PM. Last year's party was a real success and I'm sure that the board will come up with a program that will be as good as last year.

One of the things that you need to be aware of is each person who attends is expected to bring some sort of finger food.

NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM ARE UP & UP!!!!

The number of visitors to the museum for this year is up—considerably up. No one is quite sure of the reason for the increased number of visit, but speculation easily suggests that we are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.

Previously for a long time we were open Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon. Of course we are also open by appointment.

In September for example we saw 76 visitors come through the museum. This number does not include the number of people attending the 4th Tuesday program which has also seen an increase in attendance.

Additional speculation for an increase in September is we were open Labor Day Weekend, which had been designated a **Sunflower Stroll** through Tonganoxie. The Tonganoxie Business Association (TCHS is a member) publicize the event with a brochure that was handout at Sunflower General at the Grinter Farm. The museum was open Sat, Sun, And Monday. We hosted 18 visitors that weekend.

Many thanks to Jim and Janet Stuke, Linda Linnemann, Gladys Walters, and Kris Roberts for being docents that weekend.

The next Saturday, TCHS had a booth at the Grinter Place's Summer Fest. This booth was manned by Laurie Walters, Jean and Lloyd Pearson and Ray and Kathy Stockman. The very next day there were 8 visitors to the museum. Some of the 8 visitors were a direct result from seeing our booth at the Grinter Place.

HAPPENINGS TCHS

1. The Tonganoxie 3rd graders will be coming to the Museum this Monday, Oct. 9th, for their annual visit. It is an exciting time. You should get involved if you like history and kids. It is an all day event for the members who help, but the Children are just involved for 1/2 day. One half of the class in the morning and 1/2 of the class in the afternoon.
2. Rachael Kelly and Laura Elkins came out on Monday to take photographs for a new rack card/brochures. Rachael is going to work on this new rack card for us.
3. Donna Wiley has invited our board to meet at their barn on Oct. 17th. This would be a great opportunity to tour their barns, which Nick Morel built. Nick was known as an excellent rock mason, and several buildings of his work can be seen around Tonganoxie.
4. Kathy Link has rented the barn for two weekends for a craft show. She and some other crafters had a pop up craft mall at Ratliff's Drug Store over the Sunflower weekend and were very pleased with the turnout. She has rented the barn November 4 & 5 and December 9 & 10. We can open the museum on those days as well for more exposure and perhaps some holiday shoppers will drift into the museum.