

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

P.O. Box 785 Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086

April 1, 2010

News From the Board

- Laurie Walters, Chairman

Activity at TCHS has been bustling in spite of the long, cold winter. Soon our Wednesday men will be mowing rather than moving mountains of snow. And with the season opening just around the corner, workers are scurrying to complete inside work on walls and displays in the fire station. Plan to come out on Saturday, April 10th, for the Opening Day festivities and to view the new displays, which include a pictorial record of some of the major fires in our city, along with photos of the restoration of the fire truck.

With a new year come several new faces. Welcome George Anton and Ed Slawson to the Board of Directors, and June Hagenbuch as Vice President. We also want to welcome Jenny Alden as our new board Secretary.

Another year also brings the renewal of our challenge to share our interest in history, and to remember that we are currently part of the history of Tonganoxie. There remains an enormous amount of fairly recent Tonganoxie history that needs to be researched. For example: the state lake; the remaining buildings downtown and a chronicle of their history; a look at the women of Tonganoxie – from Magdalena Bury to some of our contemporary leaders; the history of the swimming pool and the library, and many more topics. Susy Ross, our museum curator, has numerous suggestions. It is very easy to think of history as events that transpired hundreds of years ago. And while we have those who well remember the early 1900s, all effort should be taken to hear their stories and record them.

A special **Thank You** to several of our volunteers: Connie Putthoff, who organizes and runs our annual Chili and Soup Supper, for another successful fundraiser; Bill and Cathy Peak and



Jennie Alden, for their untiring work during the St. Patrick's Day parade (*Note: Our fire truck and shamrocks took first place in the parade*); Larry Ross, for spearheading the fire house transformation; and Al DiSanto for the display cabinets in the firehouse, which are made using windows (c. 1920s) that were discovered in the old Ratliff barn.



Monthly Meeting Hosts

The host/hostess list for 2010 is posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. If you cannot serve your assigned time, please contact Jean Pearson, 845-3228.

April 27th - June Hagenbuch and Frances and Donna Wiley

May 25th – Dan and Carlye Carr, John and Julienne Kaslaitis

June 26th – Annual Picnic at the Site



"We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."

- Thomas Jefferson, letter to Samuel Kercheval, July 12, 1816

Volunteer Spotlight

Carol Stouffer was born in the far northwest corner of the state in St. Francis, Kansas. She spent the first 50 years of her life as a homemaker and farm wife, working alongside her husband as they drove tractors, trucks, harvest equipment, and while working irrigation and doing all the general chores and jobs consistent with family farm life.



At age 50, Carol enrolled at Colby Community College and graduated with an Associate degree in Mid-Management. She left Kansas to accept a position with Florsheim Shoe

Company, located in the downtown loop of Chicago, Illinois. While in Chicago, Carol also earned her Real Estate license and sold residential properties for Century 21 Real Estate Company.

At Florsheim, Carol worked in the accounting department handling both national and international accounts. In 1994 she was transferred to supervisor of retail sales where she managed the start-up of retail stores in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado. Having relocated to Fort

Collins, Colorado, she there retired in 1998. She then moved to Garden City, Kansas, to be near her son and his family. She followed son Blake and his family to Tonganoxie in 2005, when Blake accepted a position with First State Bank and Trust.

Carol has two children. Son Blake Waters and wife Kathryn have two children, Nathan and Sarah. Daughter Jeana Penny and husband Kevin have three children, Noelle, Abbey, and Cameron. Carol says the families are all followers of Christ, and are active in their respective churches.

Some of the groups to which Carol belongs include Federated Music Clubs of St. Francis, Kansas, and Goodland, Kansas; and she maintains membership in the USDA Extension Unit-Homemakers, Western Plains Art Council, and Federated Questers group of Casa Casita (restoration and preservation of antiquities). She loves walking with her steadfast companion, Likko, a Jack Russell mix that she adopted from Safe Harbor Kennel, and also enjoys container gardening, crafts, reading, and travel.

Past volunteer activities include Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, and Garden City Hospital in Garden City. She is currently involved at the Tonganoxie Library, and is one of the "every Wednesday" volunteers in the TCHS Museum. Carol says her involvement in TCHS gives her "a wonderful sense of community and friendship."



Membership Report

Whether you are new to TCHS or you are a "forever" member, if you would like to know more about volunteer opportunities contact Susy Ross at the Museum. We want to be sure that everyone who wishes to participate in any of the volunteer efforts knows how to do so.

If your address, phone number, or email address has changed recently, please contact us so we can

update your file information. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please call me at 913-369-3835.

Welcome New Members:

Larry and Nancy Deaton Independence, MO
Lesia K. Winters Tonganoxie

In Memory:

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Doris Druley of Tonganoxie.



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Fund Raiser Report

- by *Connie Putthoff*

A fun time was had by all, along with much hard work being accomplished at the chili, soup supper. Thank you all who donated veggies, pies, but most of all thanks for all the hard work, including the decorations, which were so unique.

Our next fund raising event will be the concession stand at the ball fields. This is something that we have done for years but will be a little of a challenge this year, with the fields opening across the creek. We have met many challenges in the past, so I am sure we can meet this one. The games will start after Memorial Day.



Museum News

Over the winter months, Betty Englen and Carol Stouffer have been working on a detailed inventory of the museum. Laurie Walters has been working on listing names for hundreds of school photos in our collection. Melissa Sheinman, our part-time museum employee, has been entering our entire museum collection into the PastPerfect computer program. And Susy Ross and Betty have

been focusing on gathering historical information and photographs of our fire truck and past fire department events for display during **Opening Day on Saturday, April 10th**.

The highlight of this year's Opening will be an on-site encampment of **The Bald Eagle Re-enactors**. Most of this select group belongs to the First Santa Fe Trail Plainsman Muzzleloaders. They have a range near Overbrook, Kansas, where they shoot monthly and rendezvous twice yearly. This group represents the "Mountain Man Era" in American history (1800-1840).

The muzzleloaders will set up camp on Friday evening, April 9th, build their campfires, and spend the night. They will begin demonstrations at

10:00am on Saturday, but you are welcome to stop by and view the excitement starting with set-up Friday evening. They will break camp on Sunday.

Within each individual camp, there will be men, women, and children - around six to ten camps, depending on who is available for this particular weekend. Each dwelling is unique. The camps will demonstrate period cooking, which will be used for their personal meals; there will be knife and tomahawk throwing; they will "dry fire" their rifles; they will demonstrate molding balls for their rifles; there will be furs, cast iron pots, powder horns, etc.; there will be kids games - onlookers are welcome to participate in these games. Join us as we watch history come alive during our Opening Day celebration. (Also, stop by the Tonganoxie Library April 1st through 13th to view a small display of muzzle-loading items.)

Around the Site, all buildings will be open for viewing. This year's main exhibit will be in the fire station, where new walls are being erected and new displays are almost ready. The history of Tonganoxie's fire department, a history of major fires in town, and the history of the restoration of our 1936 USA fire truck will all be on display in the

fire house. Larry Ross, Dan Carr, and Ed Slawson are finishing the inside walls, and the museum workers are putting together the photos which will be displayed in new cases built by Al DiSanto. These permanent display cases are being constructed using windows found stored in the old Ratliff barn (windows are circa 1920 era).



Contact Information

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Did you know –

. . . that the city of Tonganoxie was officially established on July 26, 1866?

Located along the route from Lawrence to Fort Leavenworth, the town was established in 1866 after Magdalena Bury bought 40 acres from the Union Pacific and had it platted. Several of the town's early settlers wanted to name the town "Buryville," but Mrs. Bury convinced them to use Chief Tonganoxie's name. According to County Courthouse records, Tonganoxie was established *officially* on July 26, 1866. The forty acre plat (original town) includes First Street south to Fourth Street, then Pleasant Street on the east to Green Street on the west. For additional information about this and other local history, visit our website www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org.



Events around Our Area

Looking for something to do? Check out these events happening around our area. Visit our website www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org for the latest information about TCHS, and check out the Chamber of Commerce website at info@tonganoxiechamber.org, where you'll find what's happening around Tongie all summer.

April 1 – 13 - *Display of muzzle loading items* on exhibit at Tonganoxie Library. Display by Susy Ross of Tonganoxie Historical Society, in conjunction with encampment of Bald Eagle Re-enactors at the Historical Site on April 9th-11th.

April 1 – 27th – *Exhibit: Barns of Yesterday: Remembering Kansas Barns* (sponsored by Suburban Water Company). On April 17th, 10:00am, guest speaker Sally Hatcher of the Kansas Barn Alliance will give a presentation of Kansas barns. Admission is free. For information, contact Carla, 913-724-4022.

April 22 – Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, a full day of celebration, including the Tree & History Walk at Mt. Muncie Cemetery. For further information on all events, call Laura Phillippi at Lansing Museum, 913-250-0203.

May 8 – *Exhibit: Unveiling of the Glenwood Extension Homemakers Unit*, the first Mother/Daughter canning club in the U.S., organized in 1914 by Bernice Hanaway Timmons. Basehor Historical Museum, 2812 155th St., 913-724-4022.

June 3 – July 6 - *Exhibit: Reflections of the Civil War, Women & their Quilts* (sponsored by First State Bank & Trust). Basehor Historical Museum, 2812 155th St., Basehor. 913-724-4022

June 12 - *Tongie Days Celebration*, downtown Tonganoxie. Vintage Quilt Show and other events at Tonganoxie Historical Site. Info 913-845-2960.

June 13 - Lansing Historical Society's *Annual "On the Run 5K" (or walk)* at the Museum. 7:30am. Call Laura for further information. 913-250-0203.



In the Museum



The colorful lap robe pictured above was used by Joseph Eble (1858-1936) and Anna (Berger) Eble (1868-1944) of Jarbalo on their surrey during the early 1900s. Barely visible on the right side of the photo is a buggy whip, which was used by Caroline Eble (1894-1990) when she was a young student prior to 1910. Carrie graduated from Tonganoxie High School in 1914, and was later married to Albert Martin Doege.

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The lap robe and buggy whip were donated to our Museum by Anna Mary Doege Laundauer, Albert Joseph Doege, and Alberta Welch Doege.



Upcoming Programs at TCHS

In case of inclement weather, or for information about any of the programs, please call Program Chairman Bill Peak at 913-845-2852.

April 10 – Opening Day at TCHS. Activities begin at 10:00am Saturday. Weekend encampment of muzzle-loaders. All buildings on site will be open. Come watch as history comes to life at the Site.

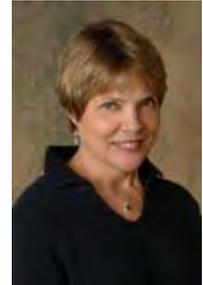
April 27 – 7:00pm: Bob Spear presents the life of Buffalo Bill



Bob Spear is a storyteller and musical entertainer from Leavenworth. In this evening's presentation, Spear will portray Buffalo Bill Cody during his last year of life (1916), and will relate the story of Cody's life as a child, his travel to Kansas, and some of his adventures as a Pony Express rider, trapper, scout, and entrepreneur.

May 25 – 7:00pm – Andrea Warren, author and journalist

Andrea Warren, a former middle and high school teacher, college instructor, magazine editor and newspaper reporter, has worked as a freelance journalist and author for 20 years. Author of ten books, her interest in history and in writing nonfiction for young readers has resulted in two books about the orphan trains, both published by Houghton Mifflin. *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story* tells the story of a nine year old boy who rode from New York to Texas in 1926 in search of a new family. In *We Rode the Orphan Train*, eight elderly riders recall the heartbreak and challenges they faced as homeless children.



June 26 – 6:00pm - TCHS Annual Picnic at the Site



(Following is one of several essays/writings given to me in 2008 by the late Fred Leimkuhler. It is printed as written by Mr. Leimkuhler.)

Billie Fawcett The Tinker

- by Fred Leimkuhler

James W. "Billie" Fawcett was born in 1874 at Cincinnati, Ohio. He came to Kansas with his parents, Isabell and John Fawcett, in a covered wagon in 1882. The family settled near the town of Neely, Kansas.

Billie was a Tinker. A Tinker is a person who came through the countryside, pounding on a pan or kettle. He would stop and repair any household items that needed repair, leaky pots, pans, and clocks were fixed. He also sharpened knives and scissors.

Since they didn't work as most people did they received their share of ridicule. A phrase soon was coined. In speaking of something worthless, it was said "it wasn't worth a Tinker's damn."

However, Billie served his area well. He rode a bicycle through the neighborhood. He had a large basket in which he carried his tools, pots, pans and clocks.

One room of his home was filled with clocks of every description. When Billie died in 1940 my mother bought two Seth Thomas Mantle clocks for \$20.00 each. She gave one to my sister and one to me. My sister gave hers to my daughter. I recently gave mine to a grandson and his wife. Inside, Billie had scratched his name on a brass plate, "Repaired 1918 Billie Fawcett". Both clocks still run and when they chime the hour Billie Fawcett the Tinker is fondly remembered.