

# Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

P.O. Box 785 Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086

July 1, 2011

## Annual Picnic Highlights

The TCHS Annual Picnic was held last weekend (June 25<sup>th</sup>) and word is it just gets better every year. I'm not sure where one can go to find that much delicious food and that many good friends. Kudos to Bill Peak for his work in securing entertainment for our evening, to our chefs Lloyd Pearson and Jim Stuke, and to everyone who helped with the chores.



*Lloyd Pearson and  
Jim Stuke – official  
Picnic Chefs*

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Bob Norris, an excellent DJ from 'A Touch of Class.' President Connie Putthoff presented Certificate of Appreciation Awards to Larry Ross and Carol Slawson for their service, and Distinguished Service Awards were given to Ed Slawson and Howard Fields for their many years of dedication to TCHS.

Plenty of food, good friends, good music, good times, plus cooperation from our weather man - what more could you ask???

*Ed Slawson  
receives  
Distinguished  
Service Award  
from President  
Connie Putthoff at  
TCHS Picnic*



## A Message from our Chairman

*- Jim Stuke*

Our members continue to make TCHS an active and vibrant entity in our community. Although we frequently hear the comment, "We didn't know there is a museum in Tonganoxie," our volunteers work diligently to promote our organization throughout the surrounding areas. TCHS volunteers were well-received at the annual "Kansas Sampler Festival" on May 7<sup>th</sup>. And it was impossible to pass the TCHS booth at the recent Tongie Days celebration without being enticed by our historical display, whether to join the organization or to make a donation in hopes of having your ticket drawn to win the antique chair on display. Thanks to Bill and Kathy Peak for their energy and enthusiasm in promoting TCHS, and for their successful day in the TCHS booth.

The recent temporary exhibit of historical items on display at First State Bank generated a lot of interest in the community, and it is hoped some of those discussions will lead to information about pre-1861 structures in our area. If you know of any structures from the pre-1861 period, please contact us.

The Verbal History Workshop mentioned in our last newsletter is coming to fruition. TCHS hopes to record the history of our community by conducting interviews with individuals whose ancestors have been in this area for several generations. We want to document what it was like to grow up in this area, what impact life in this community had on them, where did they go from here, etc., etc. Please contact the Museum if you know of someone who might contribute to this project.

Volunteers are seeing success with the introduction of the two concession locations at the baseball park this season. The customers are expressing their thanks for the convenience of the

two stands and our appreciation goes to Lloyd Pearson - our 'concessionaire' - for purchasing the supplies and stocking the stands every week. Proceeds from this yearly fundraiser provide revenue to help maintain our facilities and fund various programs at TCHS.

Another fundraiser we don't often recognize is the one brought to TCHS by member Denise Baker. Denise picks up a preprinted union newsletter and brings the materials to our Site so mailing labels can be affixed. Word goes out to members for help, and volunteers show up to put labels on the items. Referred to as "labeling," some see this as work, others look on it as a social time, getting together and visiting while accomplishing a task and earning money. Thank you, Denise, for this fund-raiser (and social opportunity).

The "Back in Time" festival which was held at TCHS in late April proved to be an educational and fun-filled day. These historical re-enactors - these *pioneers* - dedicated to preserving the history of the Mountain Men Era, spent their weekend at our facility and provided a learning experience for everyone. I personally felt it was a worthwhile, educational day, and I look forward to having this as an annual event at the Site. (See separate article by Susy Ross)

Our society has been fortunate to enjoy having an informative, well-written newsletter, written and edited by Linda DiSanto. However, I must announce that this is Linda's last newsletter. We wish to thank her for the time she has dedicated to TCHS, and for the interesting, sometimes challenging articles she has given us.

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*Kathy Peak at TCHS booth during Tongie Days 2011*

## MUSEUM NEWS

We now have five women working in the museum every Wednesday morning. Jenny Alden has joined the regular group which consists of Susy Ross, Betty Englen, Laurie Walters and Carol Stouffer. Jenny is doing data entry into the PastPerfect computer program. And Kathy Peak helps out occasionally, which then brings our staff count to six members.

Our new sign by the entrance is a welcome addition to the Site. The colorful sign and artwork was done by our own Betty Englen, one of our



"every Wednesday" museum volunteers and a long-time TCHS Life Member. Now we need to spread the word that we are here and open for business, as some folks still seem to be amazed that we have a museum in

Tonganoxie. The good thing is that once they visit our museum, they have wonderful things to say about us.

Laurie Walters is working on a new exhibit panel for the museum. The subject is Crawford Moore, who settled here in the 1860s and lived next door to Chief Tonganoxie (the Huebner's house).

Update: The great little dollhouse featured in our last newsletter is now complete. Billie McGee Marshall, who donated the little dollhouse, has donated the original furnishings for the house. Billie has also sent other family artifacts to be displayed and shared by future generations. Billie grew up in Tonganoxie and has wonderful memories of her life here. Although she does not get back this way very often, we hope to see her on her next visit to our area. Thank you, Billie, for sharing these treasures with us.

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## Cemetery Walk Workshop

The Tonganoxie Community Historical Society, in conjunction with the Leavenworth First City Museum's group PAST (Presenters And Story Tellers), is conducting a workshop to create an annual event that will highlight the lives of some of those who are buried in our area. The first *Walk* presentation is scheduled to be at Hubbell Hill Cemetery on September 16-17.

PAST is currently researching some of the people who are buried at Hubbell Hill Cemetery. Once the individuals are selected and the research is complete, the PAST group will have volunteers dressed in period costume to present a story from that person's life. The workshop will include gathering information and researching the lives of those individuals selected; a costume will be developed, and presentation of the material will be rehearsed. TCHS will participate in the advertising, parking, ticket sales, and possibly some of the presentations. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact Kathy Peak @ 913-845-2852.

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT TCHS

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

Continuing our theme of celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kansas Statehood, we present the following programs, made possible by the Kansas Humanities Council.

**July 26 – 7:00pm - How Kansas Became the Wheat State.** Norman E. Saul, Professor of Russian History and International Relations at Kansas University, presents the story of foreign settlements, grain introduction, and individual enterprise that ultimately made wheat such an important part of the history of Kansas.

**August 23 – 7:00pm – Kansas Military Forts** Leo E. Oliva, retired Professor of History at Fort Hays State University, will examine the history of forts in Kansas and how they became an anchor for growth for the state.

**September 27 – Kansans Remember World War II,** stories of how the War altered many lives, sending a generation of men and women across the state and around the world. Oral histories will be discussed with a PowerPoint presentation. Presented by Rachel Waltner Goossen, Associate Professor of History at Washburn University.

**October 25 – The Appeal to Reason and its Influence on America.** Randy Roberts, Curator of Special Collections at Pittsburg State University, will discuss the history and impact of the "Appeal to Reason" booklet published in Girard, Kansas, and its impact on investigative journalism, social and legislative policy, and its legacy in American History.

**November 22 – 7:00pm – Men Were Cheap, Cattle Cost Money: 150 years of the Kansas Beef and Beef packing Industry.** Donald Stull, Professor of Anthropology at University of Kansas, will examine the history of beef packing from its golden age of the cowboy to the 20<sup>th</sup> century growth of cattle feeding, and its impact on communities.

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## ANNUAL "BACK IN TIME" EVENT WELL ATTENDED

*- by Susy Ross, Museum Director*

Dressed in 1840s attire, Chris Cruz played "To the Colors" on his bugle as our local VFW volunteers raised the American flag to begin the festivities for *Back in Time* – TCHS' annual family fun event held the last Saturday in April.

The entire Site was alive with history, with the grounds and all buildings being utilized. Barb Dale and Sara Kettler held classes all day in the one-room Honey Valley School. The Reno Methodist Church played host to a vintage quilt show organized by Jean Pearson. Leisia Winters demonstrated her knowledge of old fashioned

photography. And Lynn Paul demonstrated the art of quilting, while Kathy Fields knitted and Pam Jones spun wool.

Carol Slawson spearheaded the fantastic lunch in the Fairchild/Knox barn. The menu for the day included brisket, beans, biscuits, and peach cobbler. It is rumored that this was the best meal ever served by TCHS!!!

On the grounds were wood carvers Dennis Bixby and Larry Everitt. Katherine and Heather Wombwell – our twin pioneer girls – kept the children busy with old fashioned games. Lana Howe, from Vintage Soap, made soap in a metal pot over the open fire. Three Civil War ladies set up a women’s encampment next to the cannon.

The Bald Eagle re-enactors – who happened to be the only participants in our first *Back in Time* – delighted visitors with butter making, chicken roasting, candle making, blacksmithing, archery, flint knapping, tomahawk and knife throwing, Native American flutes, and two traders and an old ‘49er gave away “gold” nuggets.

Visitors sat on bales of hay provided by Emil Wiley as they enjoyed music played by the group “Friends Pickin’ & Grinnin’.”

This year’s *Back in Time* event – the largest yearly event sponsored at the Site – was very well attended. It was refreshing to see so many families with children enjoying a day at our historical Site. Plans are already in the making for next year. Mark your calendars – the last Saturday of April.

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### **MONTHLY MEETING HOSTS**

**July 26** Del & Betty Englen, Jenny Alden

**Aug 23** George & Coleen Anton, Gladys Walters

**Sep 27** John & Ferry Evans, Laurence & Jean Hill

*A revised host/hostess list will be posted in the church basement. If you cannot serve your assigned time, please contact Jean Pearson, 845-3228.*

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

In addition to the listing of TCHS officers which was published in our April 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter, we want to announce the appointment of Kathy Peak as our new Membership Chairman. If you have questions regarding your membership, or if you just want to say hello and congratulate Kathy, call her at 913-845-2852.

### **Welcome New Members:**

Kevin and Mary Ann Austin	Tonganoxie
William and Tamara Behm	Tonganoxie
Jeff and Cindy Brandon	Tonganoxie
Daniel and Sharon Farmer	Lawrence
Jim & Diane Truesdell	Tonganoxie

### **In Memory . . .**

We say good-bye, and extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of:

Jo Ann Brown, Linwood  
Robert Joseph Kasper, formerly of Tonganoxie  
Grace E. Schenck, formerly of McLouth

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## **IN THE MUSEUM**



The drinking fountain in the above picture was originally located in front of Hunters Lumber Company on Fourth Street in Tonganoxie. It was donated to TCHS in 2000 by the late Harold Putthoff.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The modern drinking fountain was invented and then manufactured in the early 1900s by Halsey Willard Taylor and Luther Haws. The two versions of fountains founded by these two men changed how water was served in public places.

Halsey Taylor's father had died of typhoid fever caused by contaminated drinking water. His father's death motivated him to invent the water fountain, to provide safe drinking water.

Luther Haws, a part-time plumber and sanitary inspector for the city of Berkeley, California, saw children drinking water out of a common tin cup that was tied to the faucet with a string. He feared that there was a health hazard in the way the public shared their water supply. Using spare plumbing parts, Haws invented the first faucet designed for drinking.

And then we have Dr. Henry D. Cogswell (1820-1900), a dentist, millionaire, and crusader in the temperance movement. A pioneer in the field of dentistry during the California Gold Rush period, Cogswell believed that if people had access to cool drinking water they wouldn't consume alcoholic beverages. It was his dream to construct one drinking fountain for every 100 saloons across the United States, and many Cogswell fountains were built. His fountains were elaborate granite structures that he designed himself, and several of these fountains can still be found today in Washington, New York, Boston, and San Francisco. His concept of providing drinking fountains as alternatives to saloons was later implemented by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. (And we all know that's another story in itself!)  
(Information from [www.pmenqineer.com](http://www.pmenqineer.com), [www.inventors.com](http://www.inventors.com), and Wikipedia)

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*I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't want to let him down.*  
– Abraham Lincoln

## EVENTS AROUND OUR AREA

The recent drop in gasoline prices may have enticed you to strike out on a long road trip. However, if you would rather stay close to home and save that gas money, think about a day trip to the TCHS Museum on Sunday afternoon. View our exhibits, and then find something of interest in one of our neighboring museums.

**Now thru Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> – *Wheat People*** - exhibit at Basehor Historical Museum Society, 2812 155<sup>th</sup> St, Basehor. 913-724-4022.

**July 25 – Sep 30 *Community Stitches: Annual Quilt Exhibition*** at Wyandotte County Museum, 631 N. 126<sup>th</sup> St, Bonner Springs. Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm; Sat 9am-Noon. Jennifer Laughlin 913-573-5002.

**Aug 4 – Aug 30 *Kansas and the Home Front, effects of WWII*** exhibit at Basehor Museum, 2812 155<sup>th</sup>, Basehor. 913-724-4022.

**Aug 31 – Sep 27 *Lincoln in Kansas*** exhibit at Basehor Historical Museum, 2812 155<sup>th</sup> St. Basehor; 913-724-4022.

**Now thru Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Summer of Art*** exhibit; features art from the Leavenworth County Artists Association. Lansing Historical Museum, 115 E. Kansas Avenue, Lansing. Further information: Laura Phillippi, 913-250-0203.

**Sep 10 *Mother, Daughter, Grandmother Tea*** at Basehor Museum, 2812 155<sup>th</sup> St, Basehor. Guest speaker Michealena Chance Reay, "Harvey Girls, It all started in Kansas." Tickets \$10, reservations required. Call stop by the museum. 913-724-4022.

Susy and Larry Ross represent TCHS at the 2011 Kansas Sampler Festival

