

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3rd QUARTER NEWSLETTER, Sept. 28, 2020



Henry Smith (HS) Adams
young adult

Henry Smith Adams' experiences with the Ute Indians during his trip to Utah in 1857. He was a teamster and drove a 6 mule wagon with supplies. The army had gone to Utah to put down the "Mormon Uprising".

"One day three of us visited a Ute band of Indians in camp. They were preparing to smoke the peace pipe with other Indians. They invited us also to be seated in the circle. My good friend William Smith accepted the invitation and we were seated in the ring. I wished to be excused, but to refuse might give offense. Words could not reach them as they could not understand English. So for once I was in it. Soon everything was as quiet and solemn as a Quaker meeting, about which time a squaw

walked up behind one of the old men and handed him a pipe, ready lit. The bowl was about 4 inches deep of white stone with rainbow rings around it, and a stem near 2 inches long. This old man (we supposed to be a chief) placed the stem in his mouth drew his mouth full of smoke as it would hold then blew it out through his nose. That was worse still for once this was done, he handed the pipe to his left hand man who did likewise and so on around the circle of perhaps 20 men then it came to me. It had passed Scudder and Smith who were good Indians as any in the ring.

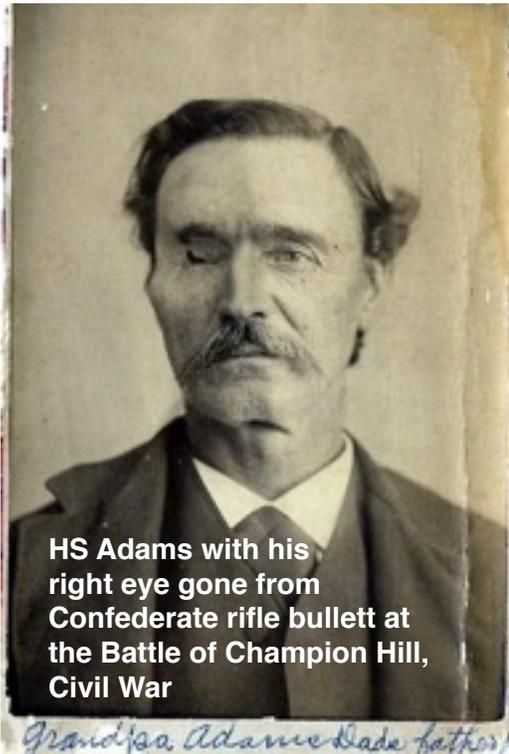
I shook my head no, and made a motion to pass it to the next man, but still held it. They all looked at me very seriously. I whispered to Smith that I could not do it. Smith said "sick", closed his eyes and fell back, then they all laughed, some of them heartily. Motion talk is easy for an Indian to understand. They use it between the different tribes".

"The Ute lodges were quite close. One evening we noticed they were smoothing the ground in a circle near their lodge. We supposed they were going to dance. They fixed or prepared a few seats on the



HS Adams & Mary Louisa, wife

border of the circle next to their lodge and carried wood and piled near. About sundown they built a fire in the middle of the circle. We thought the dance was about to commence but there was no crowd as darkness came 5 women or squaws came out from the lodges and seated themselves in those seats beside the circle. They had shawls over their heads and in the flickering fire light reminded one of Halloween witches. They had us guessing sure what the next move would be. We did not have long to wait for one of those squaws gave a most doleful howl repeated 4 or 5 times in close succession and before or by the time she was through another commenced in the same way and so on until all were through. Then all would be quiet for perhaps 20 minutes then the whole ceremony was repeated and thus the night was spent and not only one night but 5 in succession. We got tired of it. Later we were told that the Utes and Snakes had had a fight out on their hunting ground and that 5 Utes were killed, and the Ute tribe were mourning their loss”.



HS Adams with his right eye gone from Confederate rifle bullet at the Battle of Champion Hill, Civil War

Grandpa Adams Dade father

The Story about the Indian Corn Dance took place in Leavenworth County. Most likely near Jarbalo.

“Being once more at the fort our wagon master was sent six or eight miles west and southwest where there was no settlement but plenty of fine grass. This was late in June 1857.

After being out grazing the mules for perhaps three weeks, I and 2 other white boy drivers went to an Indian Green Corn dance one night. I think they were Delawares. It was held in a grove.

They had cleared the ground smooth in a circle with seats around.

One Indian in a little speech bid us welcome. Their music was simply time beat by an old man on what appeared to be a folded Buffalo skin. It was well done”.

The Spring at the Fairchild Dairy

We have wrapped up the two-year project we call The Spring at the Fairchild Dairy. Because of Covid, we were not able to have the big opening we had hoped for in April. However, we did have a successful opening spread over three weekends in September. We had 35 visitors to the outdoor exhibit and were able to give individual and small group tours.

In the barn there were showings of a video, made by Perry Walters, of the three individuals who would have presented at the April open house: Rex Buchanan, geologist; Dale Nimz, historian; and Joy Lominska, project director. This was an opportunity to discuss the history of the spring and for the experts to weigh in on the importance of the project. Thanks to Dale and Rex, and to all who attended our opening! If you did not have a chance to attend an opening Saturday, make



plans to come see both the outdoor exhibit and the indoor display in the museum. You can test your skills at counting tree rings on a section of the mulberry we removed from the foundation of the spring house.

As part of our project, Perry Walters made wooden bowls out of the mulberry tree. We sold several at the open house weekends, a source of much-needed income at this time. Bowls are still available at the museum—an easy way to get your Christmas shopping done! We plan to use proceeds to put a fence around the spring site and to support other museum needs.

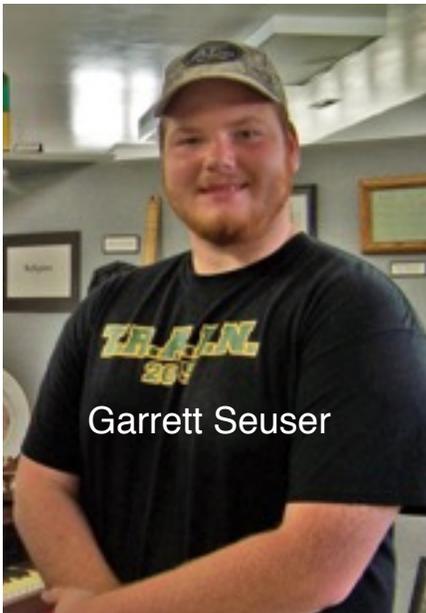
We wish to thank the following for support of the project: Humanities Kansas, Leavenworth County, the Pete and Margaret Leighty Trust Grant.

We thank the following for contributing their time, effort, knowledge and skill:

Rex Buchanan; Leigh Coffman; John Evans, Sr.; Joy Lominska; Dale Nimz; Lloyd Pearson; Karl Ramberg; Mark Richards; Kris Roberts; Garrett Seuser; Ray

Stockman; Jim Stuke; Don Talbott; Ryan Trembley; Natalie Vondrak; John Walter; Laurie Walters; Perry Walters.

Former Intern Graduates with Teaching Degree



Former TCHS Volunteer & Intern, Garrett Seuser, first visited the TCHS Museum in 2016 and asked if he could volunteer. Over the next four years, Garrett has been a volunteer and a paid student intern. He contributed to exhibits and field trips.

Garrett Seuser graduated from Emporia State University in May 2020, with a B.A. degree in History. He was chosen the Undergraduate Student of the Year in the Department of Social Studies at Emporia State University.

Garrett discovered that he loved teaching and watching students grow and learn while student teaching 11th grade World History during the spring semester of 2020 at Emporia High School. Garrett is now teaching at Wakefield High School in Clay County and living in Junction City. Garrett's teaching roles includes 6th grade Ancient History, 10th and 11th grades US and World history, and 12th grade Government.

We wish him well!

Photo - Garrett Seuser in 2016, as an intern at the Tonganoxie Museum.

George Cooper's book, Jayhawk

The historical society is taking orders for George Cooper's book, Jayhawk: Love, Loss, Liberation, and Terror Over the Pacific, by Jay Stout with George Cooper.

George Cooper was president and chairman of the board of the historical society and continues to be a good friend to the historical society and museum. George is autographing all copies of the book sold by the museum.

From our membership, "The book is just wonderful! I would highly recommend it to those who like history, to those who want to learn more about World War Two and to those who want to know more about the amazing 100 year old George Cooper!!"

Billie Aye, 9/8/2020

Ed Note: George is a man of many talents of which one is managing people and managing them in such a way that they like it.

The museum has a new exit door!

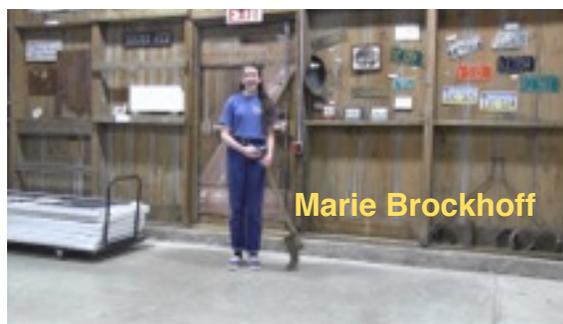
Mark Richards has been working on reworking the museum exit door from the west side of the museum to the south side. Mark is a member of TCHS and was recruited to help us out with this project by Ray Stockman. Mark came out to the museum in mid-July to draw up and figure out the project and then spent four days in mid-August executing the project, with lots of help from Jim Stuke.

Why did we even need a new exit door? Two reasons. First, the Museum has just received a new exhibit, which is installed right where the old exit door on the west was. (Read about this new exhibit elsewhere in the newsletter.) Second, the new exit door creates an area where we can tell more of the story of the Spring at the Fairchild Dairy. (Read about this new exhibit elsewhere in the newsletter.)

To Tell the Historical Truth



Howard Fields



Marie Brockhoff



Gladys Walters

TCHS collaborated with the Tonganoxie Public Library this past summer on a series called "To Tell the Historical Truth." The project was the brainchild of Susan Ibarra, Events Coordinator at the Library, and was presented as part of the summer reading program.

To Tell the Historical Truth is a game show that you play with yourself. Each episode presents one artifact from the museum and three stories about that artifact. Episodes are aired on the Public Library Facebook page. About one week after the episode

the library posts The Truth about the artifact.

Eight episodes have been recorded. Past episodes can be seen on the library Facebook page and new episodes are still being presented.

Many volunteers contributed to this project - writers, actors, videography, editing, directing, and so on. To give credit, we thank the writers: Jenny Alden, Marie Brockhoff, Keyta Kelly, Joy Lominska, Kris Roberts, Ray Stockman and Donna Talbot; and the actors: Jenny Alden, Marie Brockhoff, Rex Buchanan, Janet Burnett, Joanna Eibes, Howard Fields, Keyta Kelly, Shawn Linenberger, Joy Lominska, Dan Porter, Chelsea Rezabek, Kris Roberts, Amanda Starcher and Gladys Walters

New Life Member

Arlene Meyer became a life member in July. Life membership in the historical society is a great way to show your appreciation for our mission and what we do. Thank you, Arlene.

Little Stranger Church



Email from Carrie Ritchey on 8/31/2020 with photos.

“We have been really busy fortunately at Little Stranger Church! I am so thankful we were able to get the Heritage Trust Fund Grant and the work could be done this summer! We so appreciate all the support Tonganoxie Historical Society has given us.”

You can read more about the Little Stranger Church in an article written by Julie Denesah. <https://www.kcur.org/arts-life/2020-09-25/once-a-pandemic-casualty-in-kansas-historic-church-in-leavenworth-gets-a-rebirth>

Little Stranger Church — the oldest wooden church in Kansas — was shuttered at the height of the Spanish influenza pandemic in 1919. But during COVID-19, work on the church has accelerated. [KCUR contributor Julie Denesha reports that people are already asking about once again holding weddings there.](#)

Photos of event



This photo of the Honey Valley School with the Leavenworth County emergency siren and Story Walk pages in silhouette was taken by Lani Putthoff on September 12, 2020. We love the photograph and encourage any of you who take photographs to share them with us. We can always use new photographs on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Story Walk

The Coronavirus has made it so difficult to have events at the museum. But the Story Walk that TCHS collaborated on with the Public Library was really pretty special. The book Barn Dance was put on 15 posters, which were installed at the museum, around the school, church and barns. Each poster had two pages from the book with activities related to the book pages.



The Story Walk was organized locally by Susan Ibarra, Events Coordinator at the Library, for children ages 2-10 and their parents. The posters were outside on the grounds and were 30-50 feet apart, allowing for social distancing.

TCHS provided volunteers to prepare bags for the youth. The bags included kits to make a scarecrow head at home. Some volunteers worked at home; a few came in to the barn to do the final assembly. Many thanks to Linda Linnemann, Arlene Meyer, Don & Donna Talbott, and Gladys Walters for all of their help.

Also, many thanks to the 4-H families of Gretchen Manus and Tim & Diane Jones for sharing some small animals and Marie Brockhoff, Charleen Kotschke, and Ray & Kathy Stockman.

[The Tonganoxie Mirror wrote about the Story Walk recently: http://www.tonganoxiemirror.com/news/2020/sep/16/story-and-stroll-tonganoxie-library-historical-soc/](http://www.tonganoxiemirror.com/news/2020/sep/16/story-and-stroll-tonganoxie-library-historical-soc/)

Volunteering at the Museum

There is no question that volunteering in the time of the Coronavirus can be a bit tricky. We are very careful to maintain social distance and we wear masks inside the museum.

However, there are opportunities and needs and we always welcome new volunteers. So, if any of these tasks tickle your fancy, let us know (913-845-2960 or TCHSTonganoxie@gmail.com).

Be an administrator of our Facebook page

Cleaning - always needed in all buildings

Mowing - while it is near the end of the season, we are still mowing

Trim and clean-up the landscaped beds

Caulk and paint the new exit door inside and out

Paint entry floors of barn with a heavy-duty epoxy

Caulk the base of the barn west wall entry and the interior wall leading to work room

Caulk the exterior wall of the milk house where it meets the concrete walks

Install weatherstripping on office north door

Design and/or install a fence at the Fairchild Spring

Repair and paint the outhouse exterior only

Scrape, repair and paint the windows on the church lean to on the east side

Scrape and paint the basement windows on the church

New Board Members

The Board of Directors has appointed several new board members in the past two months. Join us in welcoming Kay Soetaert, Shirley Martin and Ken Mark to the Board. Shirley Martin will serve as Treasurer.

New in the Museum

Our museum welcomes two new exhibits and a new door. In preparation for the upcoming exhibit of the Spring at the Fairchild Dairy and the information filled panels and kiosk of the Creighton Seifert exhibit it was obvious that changes should occur. Thus all our military exhibits have been reordered chronologically, room made for the exhibit of Seigert, and a new emergency exit door built for the south end of the museum providing a corridor for an inside Fairchild Spring exhibit leading to the new exit. Make an appointment and check out the new things. Kudos to Mark Richards who provided the skill to build the door and special thanks to his helpers, Jim Stuke, Ray Stockman, Kris Roberts and John Walter.

September provided three beautiful days for our spring celebration and open air functions. With the new door open a beautiful view the spring and accompanying display was a focal point.



On Friday, September 25th a work that was several years in the making was delivered from Tulsa, Oklahoma by Jon Nelson and wife Glenda. They enlisted help from Ken Mark and Gary Myers. John was the son of Gene Nelson were worked for the gas company and grew up in Tonganoxie. As a young boy he and his dad would have lunch at the West End Cafe and there Jon picked up the sadness of the family over the loss of their only son , Paul "Creighton" Seigert who graduated from TCHS and enlisted in the army to be trained as a radar operator and lost his life on his very first mission.

After several trips to Germany, interviewing the remaining living survivor, a flight in a vintage bomber, Jon and Glenda presented us with the professionally designed exhibit which occupies a place of honor in our museum.

The museum continues to do research for families and would appreciate any knowing about Samuel P. Haas from the Reno area. There seems to be several branches and more information is needed about the family living near Reno, Ks.



My wife, Carolyn, and I "planted" a National Register of Historic Places plaque in the cemetery last Thursday. After we finished, she smoked it with sage. Steve & Carolyn Rowe "planted" this plaque.

This cemetery is located on Leavenworth Co. Rd 1. It is on the east side of the road just north of the Kaw River. It has been here for many years. The Kaw River flooding has done severe damage to the cemetery over the years.

