

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4TH. QUARTER NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER, 2017

VERNON H. KAUFMAN WW II & The 384TH BOMB GROUP

S/Sgt, Vernon Kaufman



S/Sgt Vernon Kaufman, the brother of Donna Wiley, was killed when his B - 17 G airplane blew up. It was during WWII when flak penetrated the bomb compartment of the aircraft 40 seconds before the bombs were to be dropped.



Donna and Emil Wiley are long time members of our historical society. They have been extremely active in 4-H and the Reno school when it was operating. Donna has for many years operated and insured the Leavenworth 4-H had a successful food stand during the Leavenworth Co. Fair. She has given me a copy of Vernon's diary and some detailed information from two of the survivors of this airplane's crash.

Donna and Vernon's great-grandfather, Charles Cook, was stationed at Ft. Leavenworth. During the Civil War he fought in the Battle of Westport. (there is a CD that the historical society has on the Battle of Westport— check it out).

Joseph Cook, son of Charles Cook, was born in Leavenworth. This most likely was military housing at Ft. Leavenworth. Later he moved with his father, Charles Cook to Russell Co., KS. He grew up in Russel Co. Later he moved to Washington Co. Ks.

Robert Kaufman married Emma Cook. Emma Cook was Joseph's daughter. Vernon and Donna Kaufman were both born in Washington Co. Kansas.

Vernon Joined the Army Air Force in 1942. He joined after graduating high school from Haddam, Ks. He was sent to California for his military air force training. He was in California for his first Christmas. He was able to send a crate of oranges home for his family to enjoy during Christmas. On October 5th, 1943 he left for Europe.

I have now become aware of how many problems the Army Air Force had during WWII in keeping these planes flying.

During my active duty days with the Navy, I flew quite a number of times. I have experienced some- I thought- harrowing experiences. Over the Pacific ocean on a commercial plane flying to Tokyo the heating system wasn't working correctly. It got cold. We were at 50,000 feet bouncing to Japan. Blankets kept us somewhat on the cold side of warm.

Now, I am somewhat of a "white knuckle" flyer, but I have had some exciting experiences while flying.

1. Once an Airplane had considerable smoke in the passenger area while we were at 20,000 feet.
2. Over the Pacific Ocean while going from Okinawa to Tokyo an engine quit. We dropped about 2,000 feet and flew on. Loss of this engine took the trip one hour longer.
3. In a huge rain/thunderstorm over Los Angeles the passengers were tossed and jerked around. The plane was a small 990 Convair . Some people were sick (upchucking sick).

There are more, but those were the best. However, none of my stories approach what the members of those B-17 Flying Fortresses experienced during WWII. Each sortie had life threatening experiences. It is remarkable what happened to these airplanes. I

have attempted to organize Vernon's story as related in his diary and I pass this information to you.

Vernon was flying in a B-17G from a base in England. He made 27 flights over a 6 month period. We have a diary for 26 of those flights.

They flew these large bombers on daylight bombing sorties. (TCHS has interviewed several WWII soldiers. Some were in occupied Germany after the war. Harold Denholm related that the German people liked and respected the U.S. military people but hated the English. This was because the Americans were doing daylight bombing (more accurate than night time bombing) and if the area was fogged or overcast the Americans would not drop their bombs over land, but the English were doing night bombing from a relatively high altitude. If the bomb area was foggy or overcast they would drop their bombs and go home. Consequently, many civilian homes were destroyed by the English) The planes flew over the Baltic Sea. The planes sometimes went all the way to Berlin, (Staff Sergeant Vernon's plane was the lead plane on the first sortie to Berlin.) and other times almost to Switzerland. The flights to Berlin and almost to Switzerland were the longest flights they took. Many times they bombed areas closer to England. Generally, they flew between 13,000 to 16,000 ft high and the outside temperature was tolerable, but quite a few times they flew above 20,000 ft. One time they were at 27,000 feet. On that day the temperature was -53 degree below zero. Any time they were at 20,000 feet the temperature was -35 degrees and the higher you were the colder it got.

Finger frost bite was always an issue and some of the member of this crew experienced that. These planes were not heated. The military suits did have hook-ups to electric heat. Heavy wool clothing was all they had.

When these plane few at the high altitudes, oxygen masks had to be used. One time the crew was on oxygen masks for over 6 hours. Some of the flights were very long. Several were over 9 hours. The longest flight was 1750 miles and the time it took was 11 hours.

In his diary, Vernon relates three times when oxygen was a problem in the gun turrets. One time the gunner had passed out and the person who was trying to get the fellow to oxygen also passed out. Oxygen in the turrets was always a problem even when altitude was not the issue.

The crew flew 6 times when they had to abort the mission. It was always an engine problem. The engine oil pressure or the supercharger was usually the problem. In addition one time the plane was also loosing altitude. One of these times the plane crash landed in England. Another with the base foggy they landed a hard landing in the grass instead of the paved runway.

Three times the crew was lucky and they completed their mission without seeing any enemy fighter planes. Enemy planes were a problem but at this time in the war the Americans had long range fighter planes (P-38, P-47, and P-51's). These generally took care of the enemy fighters. Plus there was so much fire power on a B-17G that the Germans were not aggressive in attacking these B-17's. Vernon did describe one situation when a B-17 was shot down when two German aircraft attacked the Flying Fortress. The B-17 went down without anyone escaping the plane.

Vernon describes the flak over the bombing runs as intense. It was always intense over area to be bombed. Many times the sky was black with all the flak being exploded over the area to be bombed. Quite often he relates that his plane had been hit with flak. One time flak exploded below the plane and lifted it higher in altitude for a short period of time. Several times he tells of holes in the airplane due to flak. One time the holes numbered so great that he couldn't count them all.

One of our planes dropped a bomb on one of our other planes which was flying below. The bomb knocked a hole in the nose of the airplane, but the bomb didn't go off. A crew member was injured, but not too bad.

The last flight Vernon had was May 8th, 1944. The plane was hit by "continuously tracking flak". The flak hit took place just behind the pilot's position and it exploded in the bomb section of the airplane. The plane began a steep spiral descent and crashed. 5 members of the crew survived and 5 members were killed. The pilot, co-pilot, bombardier and two turret gunners were killed. Vernon was a ball turret gunner and he was unable to get out from the plane and died in the crash. Ball turret gunners were usually not able to get out of a plane going down. Three of the members became POW's. One evaded the enemy with help from the French. A few times he was very close to the Germans.

The Debriefing of S/Sgt. Kenneth Hougard who was a member of the B-17 plane that went down and Vernon Kaufman was killed. S/Sgt Hoggard parachuted to safety:

There were no orders to bail out, but the waist gunner had released the escape hatch and S/Sgt. Hougard kicked the door open. They bailed out. The plane was at 26,000 feet. Now remember that outside temperature at that height is -59 degrees. The parachuting men were almost 5 miles above sea level when this happened. In a fall from that height friction is an important factor because the highest falling speed you can achieve is 122 miles per hour. At that rate it would probably take several minutes to fall to the ground. With the temperature at -59 degree a person that opened his chute soon after leaving the plane might freeze to death. S/Sgt Hougard did not open his chute until about 2,000 feet. He had to pull the chute out by hand. Bullets were flying all around him. He counted 25 bullet holes in his parachute. He hid in a tree until dark. Remember this was daylight bombing and anyone parachuting from a plane would be an easy target.

At dark he made his way to a barn where he stayed. The next evening he went to a farm house where the people couldn't understand English. He thought staying in that area was not safe, so he left this place and went down the road. He came to a bridge and from a mill he watched to see if sentries were around this bridge. He crossed the bridge and eventually made his way to a small town. He didn't want to enter the town so he stayed in another barn just outside of the town. He stayed here for some time.

Some Frenchmen found him in this barn and helped him by bringing him food, clothing and one person offered him some French money. Later a Frenchman who could speak English came and helped him move .

Later he came upon two American soldiers who had escaped captivity from the Germans. They were both wounded. All three stayed in a barn for several days. One of the wounded soldiers was getting worse with a fever.

On July 4th, 1944 the three soldiers who were hiding from the German, saw the American soldiers coming. They called to the soldiers so they wouldn't be shot. The wounded army soldiers were taken to a hospital and S/Sgt. Hougard was taken for rest and a debriefing

In the debriefing we learned the following from S/ Sgt. Hougard.

1. He saw a column of 100 American POWs being marched by the Germans. He learned from some Frenchmen that the Americans were being pushed and shoved by the Germans.
2. He also saw a column of Frenchmen with hands bound. They had been in an area that was out of bounds along the German front.
3. There was a great shortage of food in Paris. Some of the local farmers were shipping what they could to help.
4. From some Frenchmen, Hougard learned that the Germans had been told to shoot those parachuting from airplanes. Earlier we learned that Hougard had numerous bullet holes in his chute.
5. Hougard was told that Frenchmen had seen many German soldiers coming from the front, wounded and poorly cared for. They asked the civilians for help and first aid. They had poor wound care. There appeared to be no transportation for the wounded Germans.
6. German soldiers also appeared to be lacking in food as they were stealing hogs and food from local farmers.

On the 7th of July Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower talked to S/Sgt Hougard and informed him that he would let his commanding officer know of his whereabouts.

Three airmen from Vernon Kaufman's plane became POW's. WE have information on one of them.

Tech Sgt. Wm Laubenstein (the only POW that I have information) bailed out with three others airmen. He had been wounded by shrapnel in his hip. He stated the plane circled the target several times which allowed the Germans to hone and refine their aim. He was briefly sheltered by the French, but the Germans were tipped off as to where he was. He was captured and shipped to Poland. As the fighting was getting close to Poland, the Germans marched him and others over 1000 miles across Eastern Europe to escape the Russians.

As the war came to a close, the prison guards fled and Laubenstein's camp was liberated by the American Army.

Laubenstein did not think about any thing but getting home to his family and getting on with his life.

When his family became aware of his war/POW situation they began the process to get Tech Sergeant Wm Laubenstein his medals. At age 90; 64 years after the event, he received a purple heart for his wounds and a medal because he was a POW. Laubenstein cried for the memory of those airmen who didn't survive the crashing of his B-17 on 8 May, 1944.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

You will notice a couple of themes in our wrap up of the year. Partnering with other community organizations is critical to the success of all of us. We made particular efforts to partner with other organizations and to welcome sponsors who have helped us through the years.

Our mission, in a nutshell, is to collect and preserve local history. But our passion is to share that history and to be a part of educating our youth and our community.

We are fortunate to have such a rich museum to share with others and such a group of members that support our collective mission.

Membership:

We welcomed 12 new members to the historical society this year. There was one new family membership, six new individual members, 3 family members added onto existing family memberships, and two new life members.

Events & Fundraisers:

This was our first year without the baseball concessions. It was bittersweet to give up the concessions - Many volunteers came together to pitch in and help operate the baseball concessions. And the kids are always fun to watch. But six weeks of work in the hot summer months manning the baseball concession, may just be a better project for some younger folk. We turned over the concessions stands to the High School Science Club. (There will be more on the Science Club later in this report.)

The Annual Chili Supper was held on Thursday, February 16. We served 244 meals. 47 volunteers turned out to help on site and bring in cut

vegetables, meat, and pies. We have a morning shift and an afternoon shift on the day of the Chili Supper - it is a great time to socialize with other members and the members of the community who always turn out for our chili and vegetable beef soup. Brothers Market, First State Bank & Trust, and the United Methodist Church all help us to make this event successful.

The First Annual Memorial Day Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast was held on Memorial Day, May 28. Dennis Bixby kindly made the gravy and biscuits. - Our volunteers served them along with coffeecakes and fruit trays provided by our volunteers.

The Flag Ceremony was done by the VFW. Both American Legion and Scouts were also on hand.

We served at least 75 people for breakfast and welcomed many people through the museum. Mel Ramseier hosted the MOKAN Antique Engine Club members to the site for the third year, treating attendees to demonstrations of hit'n'miss engines and large doses of ingenuity and creativity.

TCHS partnered with the Tonganoxie Business Association and USD 464 to welcome bike riders



w h o participated in Bike Across Kansas in June. Tonganoxie was the last night on the route that always starts in western Kansas and ends on the

east side of the state. Bikers spent the night of June 16 at the high school. TCHS greeted them with baked goods, water, and Gatorade at the high school and also had the museum open for those who wanted to unwind with some history.

The Annual Picnic on June 17 fell on an extremely hot day. So the picnic was moved into the church basement. The temperature was more comfortable and the picnic was held away from the threatening skies (which let loose only after all had left for the night).

The sunflowers at Grinter Farms peaked over Labor Day weekend. Chris & Ted Grinter partnered with the Tonganoxie Business Association to create a town-wide Sunflower Stroll. Downtown businesses

decorated with sunflowers and stayed open for extended hours. We opened the museum Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to visitors who came to see the sunflowers and Tonganoxie. We were pretty excited to welcome 18 visitors that weekend.

Kathy's Kottage, a local crafting space, rented the hay barn for two weekends in early November and December for a Pop-up Craft Mall. Up to 23 vendors were present on any given day and the foot traffic through the craft mall and the museum was tremendous. Over the two weekends, 280 visitors came through the museum.



That influx of visitors was due to the efforts of Kathy Link of Kathy's Kottage in publicizing the Craft Mall and sending visitors down



the hall into the museum.

TCHS partnered with the Tonganoxie Business Association and the Southern Leavenworth County Leadership Development to bring Marci Penner to Tonganoxie on Tuesday, November 28. Marci, co-founder of the Kansas Sampler Foundation and tireless promoter of Kansas, presented a slide show called "Exploring the Nooks & Crannies of Kansas."



Attendees were treated to this delightful slide show and a light lunch. Fifty people attended. The slide show was based on The Kansas Guidebook 2 for Explorers, which was written by Marci Penner and WenDee Rowe. The Guidebook is a great gift

for the traveler who relishes the unexpected and the unusual. It can be purchased at the museum, with 40% of the profits going to the museum.

Education:

We are very proud to take a lead role in sharing the museum and our history with the young people of our community. We host an annual breakfast for the USD 464 social studies teachers at the museum to check in on how we can better serve the school.

On Columbus Day, October 9, we organized the Annual Third Grade Field Trip. Peachez Joles coordinated the schedule with the third grade teachers and enlisted 17 volunteers to make the field trip the very special day that it is. The students go to five different learning stations, where they are exposed to school days in a one room school, native American culture and lifestyle, old-fashioned games, early tools of agriculture, and an exposure to artifacts in the museum.

None of this field trip would be possible without our volunteers who make history real to the students. And, to be honest, the volunteers are well rewarded with the reactions of the students.

Because we have reached out to the USD 464 teachers, the first grade teachers asked us to come to the elementary school to present native American culture to the first graders three years ago. Susy Ross has done this every year since then. She brought animal hides and explained to the children how the hides were tanned and how all parts of the animals were used to make tools and clothing. Two groups of three classes of first graders listened on October 4, as Susy shared her love and respect of the native American culture.

Jean Pearson started coordinating Barn Quilt Workshops in 2015. Since then, at least five workshops have been held and approximately 60 people have created barn quilts to take home. This



year, we held one workshop in March and then in

August, six members created three large 4' x 4' blocks to hang on the north face of the Fairchild-Knox Hay Barn.

Make sure to check out the three blocks on the barn the next time you visit the museum. You will immediately recognize the center block - a Sunflower, chosen in honor of state flower. To the west of the Sunflower, is the Double Aster, chosen to honor the flower that was brought to Kansas by pioneer women who wanted to brighten their surroundings with reminders of homes they had left.



And finally, to the east of the Sunflower, is the Farmer's Daughter. This quilt block appeared in the Kansas City Star in 1935 and was chosen for our barn to honor Mildred Young, daughter of Archie & Bessie Knox, and granddaughter of Frank & Mattie Fairchild. Mildred Young was the farmer's daughter who donated the Fairchild-Knox barns, the silo, and 6.3 acres of land that is now the TCHS Historical Site and Museum.

Jean also created the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail, which is accessible on our website, [TonganoxieHistorical Society.org](http://TonganoxieHistoricalSociety.org).

Five TCHS volunteers have combed through newspapers from 2007, 1992, 1967, 1942, 1917, and 1892 to create the Remember When column for the Tonganoxie Mirror. As payment, we receive one advertisement per month - perhaps you have seen some of them throughout the year. We try to highlight programs and events with those ads.

Perry Walters, our newsletter editor, has also been writing articles for the Kansas State Historical Society's, World War 1 Centennial Committee website. Perry has contributed at least ten articles to this website and joins a group of writers from across the state. [CHECK OUT KANSASWW1.ORG](http://CHECK_OUT_KANSASWW1.ORG) to see what has been written about WWI.

There was another educational event held at the museum this summer. The High School Science Club presented a Science Summer Camp for one



week for elementary school students early in the summer. The camp was one week long, three hours per day. The organization and teaching was done by

twelve high school students, with guidance from John Tollefson, their faculty sponsor. The camp was a great success with about 30 youth attending. We hope they return next year.

Building & Grounds:

We completed renovations to the fellowship hall in the basement of the Reno Methodist Church this summer, thanks to a Pete and Margaret Leighty grant received in November of 2016. New ceiling tiles, lighting, carpet, paint, and tables brighten the space considerably. Many thanks to Fred Scheller, Elite Electric, and our own volunteers who made this happen.

Check out the vintage City of Tonganoxie



Christmas decorations on the railings of the ramp between the church and school buildings on the historical site. These decorations were donated to the museum in 2016 and this is the first year they have been brought out to decorate our site.

Attendance:

With the multiple special events that generated many visitors to the museum this year, we have welcomed 635 visitors to the museum as of December 12 this year. That is more than double the 296 visitors who signed our guest book in 2016.

Accommodating this many visitors means we need volunteers to open the museum and show visitors the highlights of our museum and the school and church and fire pumper truck. We want visitors to come see our museum and we also want to increase the hours we are open, so that even more people are able to see what we have to offer.

We are currently open 13 hours per week: Sundays 1 to 4 pm; Tuesdays 9 am to 4 pm; and Wednesdays 9 am to noon. It takes two docents to properly staff the museum and gift shop.

Think about volunteering. You will not be alone. We welcome your help and will offer a short class early in 2018 for new volunteers.

NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM

Your museum has welcomed an increased number of visits this year. As the rings of happy laughter echo in my head after many of our members at the Christmas party made their way to the museum I am grateful that we are seeing the increases. I do feel that our new exhibit arrangement is welcoming. Add to that the fact that we are open for more hours each week, and that our docents have tactfully welcomed visitor to parties in our barn to come in if they wish.

Not wanting to rest on our laurels, please consider being a docent on Sunday from 1 PM to 4 PM. We try to pair new docents with a veteran who will show them the ropes. If we are not favored with visitors there is always housekeeping to be done, and if you should read the exhibits, I bet you will find at least one fact you did not know before.

The Reno Church was the site for memorial services for Richard G. Kelsall who was the grandson of Samuel Kelsall, the founder of the church. The Kelsall family is well known in Reno and are related to the Phenicies and the Hemphills.

Donations continue to arrive. A descendant of Richard Haworth who was principal of the Friends Academy sent us documents from 1889. The document were in his hand writing, which she found in a barn in Illinois. They appear to be bible

Hosts & Hostesses for the first quarter:

Jan - Stockmans & Pearsons

Feb - Connie Putthoff & Linda Linnemann

Mar - Laurie & Perry Walters and Cindy & Jeff Brandau

The Host and Hostesses always provide the refreshments after the 4th Tuesday evening programs.

lessons copied in his hand which is very small and extremely beautiful.

We have received several boxes of photos and memorabilia belonging to Helen Schilling who was a long time resident and news reporter for the Tonganoxie Mirror. She also was the historian for the historical society for many years. This material will keep many busy for some time.

We have provided research on the home built by Cora Wellhouse Bullard, known historically as the "Bullard House", later the "Merrit Home" and recently named "Stone Haven". The present owners, Dr. Kent and Olga Porter, are seeking status for the property to be on the historical register.

Kris Roberts and Jenny Alden recently finished a three day webinar (done via the computers) on managing membership on Past Perfect. They both report they learned a lot and yes, they even had homework.

My Christmas wish is that we see each and every one of you this coming year and yes that we see you in the museum. Remember we have a good time there !!!!!

Upcoming Fourth Tuesday Programs:

These programs are, unless specified, always on the 4th Tuesday of the month! They begin at 7 PM.

January 23, 2018: James Naismith (as portrayed by Bill Nicks) will be sharing his love of the game of basketball with us. Join us for a timely



presentation from the founder of the game.

BONUS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (BONUS ARMY)

The Kansas State Historical Society holds copies of Kansas WW1 Veteran's official military record, evidence of a person's military career. It includes when the veterans enlisted and when they were discharged. Most of them also have evidence of what units the veterans served during his/her enlistment. In my day this document had a government number DD214. It is a vital piece of paper that is required for any benefit due a veteran.

I have numerous times used these documents referred to as ("Bonus records"), held at the research facility of Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) in Topeka. There are ca. 50 boxes, each larger than a bushel box. It is these documents that were presented to the officials to claim each

veteran's bonus. If one was dead the wife could claim the bonus.

Bonuses for military pay had a long history beginning in England and carried to the United States. In 1636, The Plymouth Colony provided money to disabled people who fought the Indians. In 1776 the Continental Congress passed the first pension law providing 1/2 pay for life to those who had lost a limb or had other serious disabling disabilities.

In 1789 Congress assumed the responsibilities of paying for veteran's benefits. This is the first time a bonus/benefit was paid by the United States.

In the 1800s to 1900s some of the veteran's benefits was land. Civil War Veterans could have the required years to live on land grant reduced by one year for every year they served in the Civil War.

And Coxey's Army marched on Washington DC in 1894. Coxey's Army was a protest march by unemployed workers from the United States, led by Ohio businessman Jacob Coxey. It consisted of unhappy citizens who were out of work due to the depression of 1892. They wanted the Government to provide jobs to improve the infrastructure and thereby create jobs.

So you can see there were numerous situations which were similar to what was to happen to veterans in the period of 1932 to 1936.

In 1924 Congress passed a bonus bill (The World War Adjusted Compensation Act of 1924) to help pay the WW1 Veteran for lost wages during WW1. This was passed by Congress over President Coolidge's veto. The bonus was \$1.00 per day up to \$500.00 for each day served within the U. S. and \$1.25 per day up to \$625.00 for each day served over seas. If the amount was less than \$50.00 it was immediately paid. The interesting thing about this bill is it wasn't payable until 1945. If the bonus certificate was cashed in 1945, it would be worth ca. \$1,000.00. During the "Roaring Twenties" payment of this bonus was not a problem because the United States had a booming economy and everyone was happy. Things changed in 1929 with the Depression.

There was \$3.66 million dollar trust funds established for the WW1 Bonuses. 22.5% of the bonus could be borrowed on the face value, but in 1931 there was congressional support to pay the bonus, but the support was not large. Hoover and

his staff and many politicians could not see paying this debt. The fear was it would increase the difficulty of getting out of the depression. Congress in 1931 did establish that one could borrow up to 50% of the face value of the bonus. But the depression got worse and the 50% borrowing was not enough. They wanted to be paid the entire bonus.

President Hoover held to perceptions that if the bonus was paid, the recovery from the depression would be delayed. He also thought that Communism was a big threat *, which would get bigger with more riots. He thought that many Communists had infiltrated the bonus army. Facts later demonstrated that 90% of the bonus marcher were veterans. These two thoughts seem to cloud Hoover's vision on what to do.

May of 1932 veterans began coming to Washington to protest and lobby for passing a bill to allow payment of the bonus. Eventually 17,000 (this number varies from one source to another) veterans, many with wives and children, are in the city.

June 16, 1932 the House of Representatives passes the bonus bill, but the Senate rejects it. Many of the veterans go home, but some of the "hard nose veterans hang around. Many of them had no place to go, so they stayed. Those that stayed were still quite a large number.

By July 28, the government ordered the Bonus Expeditionary Force (BEF) out of the old buildings which were to be torn down and to clean up the camp sites. The camp sites were dirty and unsanitary. Fearing rising disorder from the veterans, Hoover orders Army Chief of Staff, General D. MacArthur to disperse the protestors.

General MacArthur, with Patton in charge of the Cavalry and Eisenhower as MacArthur's aid, with 600 men, 6 tanks and machine guns, proceeded to do the job. At first the veterans thought that the army was supporting them, but soon as they saw gas masks, swords, and Patton beginning a charge, the veterans ran for cover. Many of the civilians in Washington DC lined the street in observance of the action. Many of them were shocked and surprised at what they perceived the military was about to do. One even commented to MacArthur that the flag didn't mean much anymore. MacArthur threatened to arrest him.

Patton with the cavalry was ordered to charge. He proceeded to charge. Joe Angelo who was a decorated soldier and the one who had saved Patton's life in WWI could get no help from Patton. Old favors were tossed away.

When the day was over, General MacArthur had twice disobeyed President Hoover's direct order not to cross the 11th street bridge. MacArthur did cross the bridge, rout the veterans and burned their "shanty towns". When it was all over, there were 3 dead, 54 wounded and 133 arrested.

In addition President Hoover lost the election held in the fall of 1932. Many felt that Hoover's actions that day contributed to his loss.

Eisenhower stated verbally that he tried to warn MacArthur not to go into the area across the 11th street bridge, but in his official report he endorsed MacArthur's actions.

The Marines were located close to the action, but because they sympathized with the veterans, they were not called to be involved with the removing the veteran.

The Army intelligence reported that day the BEF intended to occupy the capital permanently, that they would incite riots and the communists played an important roll and they might take over. Hoover believed that 50% of the rioters were communists. MacArthur believed 10% were Communists, but as reported earlier the actual fact was 90% of the people were veterans, and 10% could be something other than a veteran (wife, child, spectator, etc. There were some communists there.

It was a different situation after President Roosevelt was elected. In 1933 there was another march on the Capital, but this time it was 3,000 veterans strong. Several things were different in how the vets were managed. Roosevelt offered the veterans jobs in the CCC and he eliminated some of the requirements for the veterans. He allowed them to be older than 25 and also they could be married.

Roosevelt sent his aid to negotiate with the veterans. He also moved them to better quarters, and saw that they had 3 meals per day and medicine when they needed it.

He also sent his wife, Eleanor. She visited most often and listened and observed. She reported that she was comfortable with the vets, enjoyed their music, and had great sympathy for them. One

veteran made a comment, "Hoover sent MacArthur and Roosevelt sent his wife".

In 1936 Congress passed the bonus bill and Roosevelt vetoed it. Congress then overrode the veto. The bill became law and the veterans got their money.

To get the bonus the veteran had to present evidence that he was a veteran. Today this information would be on the veteran's discharge paper, a DD 214. In 1919/1920 the discharge papers were significantly different than today, but the pertinent information is there. That is it shows when one entered the service, when they were discharged and where they served.

Today for Kansas researchers these bonus papers are kept at the Kansas State Historical Society. If you didn't attempt to get your bonus those records would not be part of the KSHS holdings. Some veterans did not pick up their bonus money.

*** Hoover's position on Communism and the fear that they might cause problems in the United States was most likely due to the Communists beginning the taking over Russia in 1917. The Czar and family were killed in 1918. In addition in 1921 the Chinese Communists party became somewhat organized and began their slow take over of China. A war which lasted until 1949, when Chiang Kai-shek moved to Taiwan.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

IT IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE RENEW MEMBERSHIP AND WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (ACTUALLY, WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ANYTIME). WHERE ELSE CAN YOU FIND SOMETHING LIKE OUR TUESDAY EVENING PROGRAMS (PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS FROM THIS AREA, QUANTRIL'S RAID ON LAWRENCE AND FEMALES ALONG THE SANTA FE TRAIL) THAT ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A PRIVATELY FUNDED ORGANIZATION – WE RECEIVE NO TAX DOLLARS. THE EXPENSES TO KEEP THE MUSEUM OPEN ARE FUNDED BY YOU – YOUR VOLUNTEERING AT EVENTS AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES.

SO, TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO BECOME A MEMBER, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, OR JUST UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION (EVEN IF YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER). YOU CAN MAIL YOUR DUES TO US OR STOP BY THE MUSEUM TO BRING YOUR DUES IN AND SAY HELLO.

2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE No. _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

STUDENT \$ 5.00 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$ 10.00 _____

FAMILY \$ 15.00 _____

INDIVIDUAL LIFE \$ 100.00 _____

(NO RENEWAL REQUIRED)

CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS:

SUPPORTER \$100.00 _____

SPONSOR \$250.00 _____

PATRON \$500.00 _____

BENEFACTOR \$1,000.00 _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO TCHS AND MAIL TO:

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society
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Tonganoxie, Ks. 66086-0785