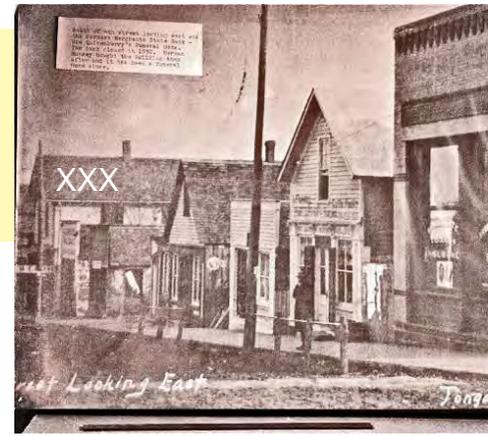


TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1st. QUARTER NEWSLETTER, March 31, 2016

The thumbnail seen on our right is the south side of the 600 block of 4th street. The building with the triple X's is in recent times the Jones Hotel. Delmer Delude built his welding shop here after this building burned. The Skaggs family lost 3 kids in that fire. Historically it was the a grocery store operated by Henry Metz and then the Angell

Hotel followed by the Jones Hotel and now the location is a restaurant and bar.



LABELING and DENISE BAKER ROGERS



For all of the years that Laurie and I have been connected with TCHS, labeling has been a routine job that the members do willingly. It actually is a social function where the members gather to label mailings for The Western Missouri and Kansas Laborers District Council. It is the perfect job for our age group because we can sit down on the job, and there is no pressure. You can work at your own speed.

This is not a small thing. Over the years the mailings have generally been for 5,500 to 6,000 members. Most of these mailing are sent to members in Kansas and Missouri towns, but if a member retires and moves to another town, it is possible that the newsletter could be sent anywhere.

For most of the years that TCHS has been involved with this project, labeling was once a month. For the last several years labeling has been quarterly. But the income to TCHS for this

job really hasn't changed that much. I told Denise that I would not mention money, but I think it is significant that over the years this job has produced over \$30,000.00 for our historical society. That is a very significant amount of money that comes to us.

How was TCHS so fortunate to be in the position to get this job? It is an interesting process. Denise had worked for a yearbook publishing company in Kansas City, MO. While there she became aware of some of the equipment used in publishing and printing. After moving to Tonganoxie, she was in the Mirror office and saw some of the equipment Jean Neibarger used for his publishing of the local newspaper, The Tonganoxie Mirror. Evidently Gene was impressed and a few months later she went to work for The Tonganoxie Mirror. She was here about 6 years.

Soon after she began working for the Labor Union in in Leavenworth and later Kansas City, they discovered that she had worked in the printing business. They asked her to be the editor for their newsletter to which she agreed. The unions send her the material with photographs and she puts it all together and brings the newsletters to us for labeling (place the address) so they can be mailed.

She continued working for the labor union for 20 years and being their editor for many years, but when her husband, Jerry Baker, became ill, she stopped working for the union, but kept the labeling job.

Her interest in TCHS began when she and Jerry joined. Jerry had been involved somewhat earlier, but she joined and they functioned together in TCHS. She was the secretary for TCHS many years and did the TCHS newsletter for a few years.

Although she is still active in our society in a reduced capacity, she has for all these years faithfully provided through labeling, a continued source of income for TCHS. We are extremely grateful for her help in this area.

If you are looking for words to describe Denise, the first words that comes to mind are quiet, friendly, and organized. If she sees you across the room you can expect a smile. If you see her in the room she is probably quietly observing what is happening in that room. If you see her working like during our labeling sessions, she is well organized and efficient. TCHS SAYS THANKS YOU! DENISE, FOR ALL YOUR HELP!!!

Labeling Today



Gladys Walters hovering over a box of mailings.

Gladys Walters usually initiates the labeling when she sends out notification to the members when the next labeling will take place. On that date a good number of people show up and begin the labeling.



Mary Ketchum hard at work

Labeling these mailings begins ca. 9 AM. The mailings arrive in boxes as seen above and all that is needed of TCHS is to place an address label on the mailing and to put the mailing in the proper box. It is quite easy work and most of the time the workers are visiting about anything and everything

These two (above) are hard at work, but there is always time for a break. Generally, the job is completed before noon. This mailing had two new members show up to work. Classmates, Mary Smith Ketchum and Nancy Taylor Pearce. They worked like they knew what they were doing.

FROM THE PRESIDENT,

KRIS ROBERTS

The Board of Directors regrettably accepted the resignation of Keyta Kelly, who has resigned to spend more time with family. Keyta tendered her resignation in February. Ray Stockman has agreed to step in and complete Keyta's term, which is up in December 2016. Keyta brought energy and new ideas to the board and she will be missed.

Ed note: Ray Stockman and his wife, Kathy, are well known people around Tonganoxie.



Ray Stockman

Ray has been active in The Boy Scouts for several years. He led his troop on many campouts each year. He had his troops well organized and insured that they worked on merit badges. I think he is going to Philmont this year. They

camped on my farm a few times and after they left you could not tell where they had been. They left the place like it had not been used. He admitted that sometimes he was frustrated because instead of passing merit badges the boys always wanted to fish.

Ray is an architect by education.



Kathy Stockman with labeling box.

His wife, Kathy, has been working for several years with the TCHS Wednesday morning group. She has kept an organized list of WW I Vets who lived in the

Tonganoxie area

either before, during or after WW I. She is well organized and works quietly.

The museum hours have been extended to include Tuesdays from 11am to 4pm year-round. Please stop by to say hello or perhaps have a cup of coffee.



THE CHILI FEED Kris Roberts



The Chili Feed was held on Thursday, February 18. It was, by all measures, a success. We served 261 meals: 98 at lunchtime; and 163 at dinner.



It takes an army of us to prepare and present this event: 39 TCHS members participated in one way or another. 22 of us prepared some part of the soups; 24 of us prepared some part of the desserts; and 22 of us worked at the church for one or two shifts.



But, perhaps most of all, being together and focused on an event is an incredibly gratifying way to spend one's time. Thanks to all who volunteered and all who joined us.



Ed note: The new Tonganoxie Grade School opened the fall of 2015 in its new location in the SE part of town. It is very near

the middle school. TCHS always served a good number of grade school teachers for the noon lunch period. The school then was only one block from the chili feed, but now that isn't possible due to distance.

TCHS was represented in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. John Callaghan drove the Fire Pumper truck with his wife Sheila riding shotgun. It was rainy and cold day.



Barn Quilt Block Workshop Jean Pearson & Kris Roberts

Another very successful Barn Quilt Workshop on Saturday, March 19 was enjoyed by eleven participants. Ten 2' x 2' blocks and two 4' x 4' blocks were completed by the group at the TCHS historical site. **Because of the popularity of this class another workshop has been scheduled for May 21 at the site.**

There will be a Small Engines Show going on at the same time on the grounds. Come out and enjoy the small engine show and walk through our workshop in progress. All buildings at the site will be open for tours as well as the museum. Looks to be a fun day!

The Spirit of the Place: Rooted in the Flint Hills by Jean Pearson

Jim and Janet Stuke and Lloyd and Jean Pearson attended one of the Stone Arched Cellar Tours in Alma, Kansas in February. These are cellars laid up out of stone with arched ceilings with no supports. These cellars are found only in the Flint Hills area.

The tour was led by Tom Parish who has photographed and researched them. This was a very interesting tour! More tours are scheduled for April. Contact Kris Roberts or Jean Pearson for more information.

Ed note: Something like this would be an outstanding event for those who like to see history about one of the wonders of Kansas, **The Flint Hills.--Great pasture with few trees.** Jean told me that some of these tours that involve walking might be better in early spring or late fall. Snakes live here you know.



Barn Quilts

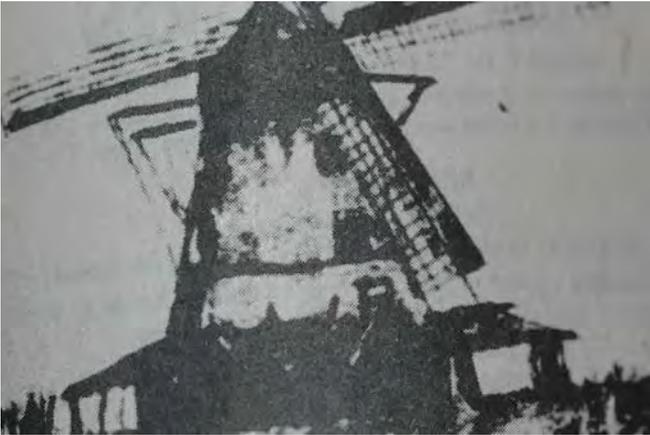
EARLY DUTCH WINDMILL

(probably before 1885)

This photo is a very poor picture of the old Dutch Windmill which was located near the old John Pearce home which later became known as The Jeanquart Rooming house. The location was 3rd and Delaware. Nothing is known about which corner the mill was located.

It was said to be very large with the wind vanes very long. One could see the structure from a considerable distance from Tonganoxie. Apparently it had become a hazard to the local houses around it, and the city was asked to take it down, which they did

It was pure luck to find this photo. I knew of the mills existence, but that was all. I was searching for



some information on the microfilm of the Tonganoxie Mirror and this photo was found. I didn't learn any more, but at least I have a photo even if its poor quality.

Hosts for the 2nd quarter 2016:

April 26, 2016 Caryle and Dan Carr
- Kris Roberts

May 28, 2016 Carol Stouffer
M. Needham - C. Torneden

June 25th (SATURDAY) at 6 PM. Bring a dish to share . Meat will be provided. It is the **June evening picnic time.**

4th Tuesday of the Month Programs

The 4th Tuesday of each month, TCHS presents a program for entertainment. These programs vary, and they are very well attended. In the past some of these programs were funded by The Kansas Humanities Council. These programs were usually well organized and very educational. Many of the presenters were associated with academic institutions. We have learned about dinosaurs, prehistoric sea monsters, and most recently we have learned about *Cowboys and Clerics*, a humorous presentation by John Burchill, an associate professor of Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. He told stories about cowboys showing up in church with their guns and outlaws showing up in church with their guns-some being so impressed that they gave up their guns and became ministers.

The money from the Humanities Council has become more difficult to acquire, so other home grown efforts have been used. Two of the most fun programs are when the historical society members have been asked to bring and tell about family artifacts. We have learned that when crossing the Atlantic Ocean by sailing ship, quite often more beer was needed. This may sound funny, but the crossing was usually 2 months and water wouldn't be healthy that long.

The other fun program is when local people become re-enactors and give us a presentation on some of



Tonganoxie's historical people. In January we had a program about Wm Cody, Whitsed Laming, Jr. and Dale Rawlings.

Wm Cody's home is still present a few miles NW of Leavenworth. It is just northwest of Salt Creek half

way up the hill on the east side of old US 73 highway. What is difficult to understand is how fast one grew up in the “Good Ole Days”. Wm Cody was a teamster for the trucking firm of Russell, Majors, and Waddell when he was age 12. He was trucking material from Leavenworth to Salt Lake during the Mormon War. *Imagine a 11-12 year old boy driving a 6 mule team to western Wyoming without his mother.*



Wm Cody Whitsed Laming , Jr. Dale Rawlings

Tom Laming, Jr. performed as his great grandfather, Whitsed Laming, Jr. The historical society became acquainted with Tom because he spent some time discovering what the society had on Whitsed Laming. He spent several hours in preparation. He said he was nervous, but his Thespian manner did not reveal that. Whitsed Laming, Jr. is well known in Tonganoxie’s history. He was involved in most of the development and building of the town. Tom Laming presented a Whitsed Laming, Jr. who never owned a home in Tonganoxie, but rented in a home just across the street south of the Dressler home. The home was located where the library now exists. The SE corner of 3rd and Bury. He also lived in Lawrence for a while and later moved to Kansas City. He retired to California.

Charles Conrad, known to most as “Tuna”, presented Dale Rawlings, a person who was actively involved in the Leavenworth County Fair, as well as the town’s development. Charlie’s preparation for this program began many years ago when he became one of Tonganoxie’s historians. Consequently, he was ready long before this program was given. “Tuna” gave a relaxed program about Dale Rawlings and his many associations with people and the fair.

This program was well received and everyone had been educated and entertained. A good deal for everyone.

It is my understanding that for April’s program each member is being asked to bring some artifact to show and tell.



From THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Laurie Walters

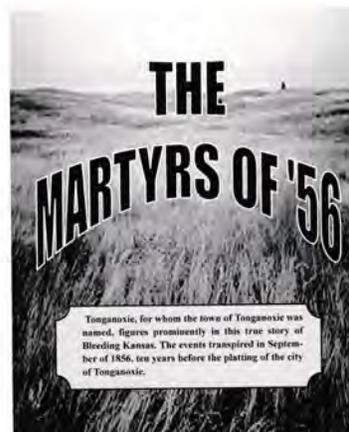
People continue to bring their "treasures" to our museum. We received the beautiful aluminum letters from the old Tonganoxie Grade School seen from the buildings east facade. We hope to install them and other signage on the south interior wall of the Fairchild barn. Anyone interested in helping us install these signs please contact The historical society.

From the City we received the old Christmas decorations used on downtown 4th street. When the metal light poles and new lights were placed these old Christmas decorations were unusable.

Remember when the milk man delivered your morning milk in glass bottles on your door step. Well we have received several different sizes of milk bottles.

Other donations are a coral apron worn by employees of B & J when it was the Apple Market. and a Hunter Lumber apron with pockets for fixing fence complete with the phone number VI5-2557.

TCHS members will host a luncheon for the history teachers at Tonganoxie schools on April 15th. We look forward to an exchange of how we can make history relevant to our youth.



We recently revised the pamphlet, "The Martyrs of '56", which is a true story of three travelers in 1856 who were set upon by border ruffians as they walked from Leavenworth to Lawrence. Along the way they were offered aid by Chief Tonganoxie. Check it out in our gift shop.

Moore's Summit Cemetery

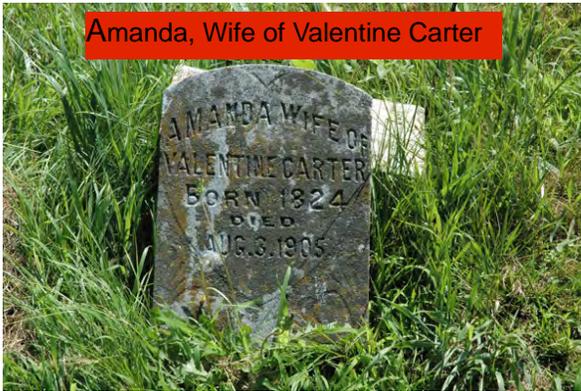


Moore's Summit Cemetery is a small cemetery with an early beginning in Leavenworth Co. It is east of 207th road about one mile towards Jarbalo from the junction of Co. Road 5.



Until recently when Stranger Twp cleaned the property and restored what

graves they could find, the cemetery had been overgrown with weeds, brush, and large trees. It could have been considered abandoned. The fences surrounding this site had been gone for a very long time and cattle had been allowed to graze here. Also, a disgruntled person is believed to have removed most of the grave stones. However, today the cemetery has a very pleasant and comfortable appearance AND except for the noticeable lack of grave markers, the work resulted in an amazing effect upon the old burying ground.



In the very early days of Tonganoxie, this cemetery was one of two cemeteries in the region in which black families could bury. When you look at the names of those buried here, (Jarrett, Caldwell, Hicks, Jackson, Toliver, Carter, and Woods) the names are consistent with black families in the Tonganoxie area using this cemetery.

The last known person buried in Summit was Laura Hicks in 1945. The youngest person to be buried here was Jerry Jackson who was barely a month old in 1944, and the oldest person to be buried here was Albert Toliver. He was born in 1795 and buried here in 1910.

Jane Mitchell is the first known burial here in 1875. She is part of the Mitchell family which donated 2 acres for this burial ground. In 1876 Andrew Mitchell was buried here, and John was the last Mitchell buried here was in 1879.

The traditional history states the cemetery was established around 1837 and the Presbyterian Church may have operated it. To me this is just not likely and for the following reasons.

Until 1860 this land belonged to the Delaware Indians. It was not possible for anyone else to own property here. Yes, it was possible that "Squatters" could have been on that property but it unlikely they would have established a burying ground. When the Gov't auctioned a large portion of the Delaware Reserve in 1855, it was still not possible to purchase land in Summit because Summit Cemetery was located in the newly established Diminished Reserve and still belonged to the Delaware Indians. The northern boundary of the Diminished Reserve follows closely Dempsey Road or Co. RD 8.

The Treaty of Sarcoxville signed in July of 1860 gave the remaining Delaware Land, to the UP, Eastern Div. RR. The exception to this were the allotted lands which remained with Delaware ownership until 1866. Practically, these lands were not available for settlement until 1861. Now this property could be purchased from the Railroad, and in fact 1861 is when settlers began showing in the Tonganoxie area. Crawford Moore came and settled here in 1861.

However, these settlers were most likely still not interested in a cemetery. In 1865 many families came to Tonganoxie. The Denholm and the Mitchell family came here. One of the Mitchell's married a Denholm. They all settled very near where Summit Cemetery is now located. The Mitchell family has a road in this area named after them, and they gave two acres for this cemetery and the cemetery is still 2 acres.



If in fact this land was a cemetery in 1837, why did they wait until 1876 to bury someone?

And it is well known that Christian Churches were established on the Delaware land, but these were missions and were generally located along the Kaw River and nearer to Kansas City, AND these mission were there for the Indians.

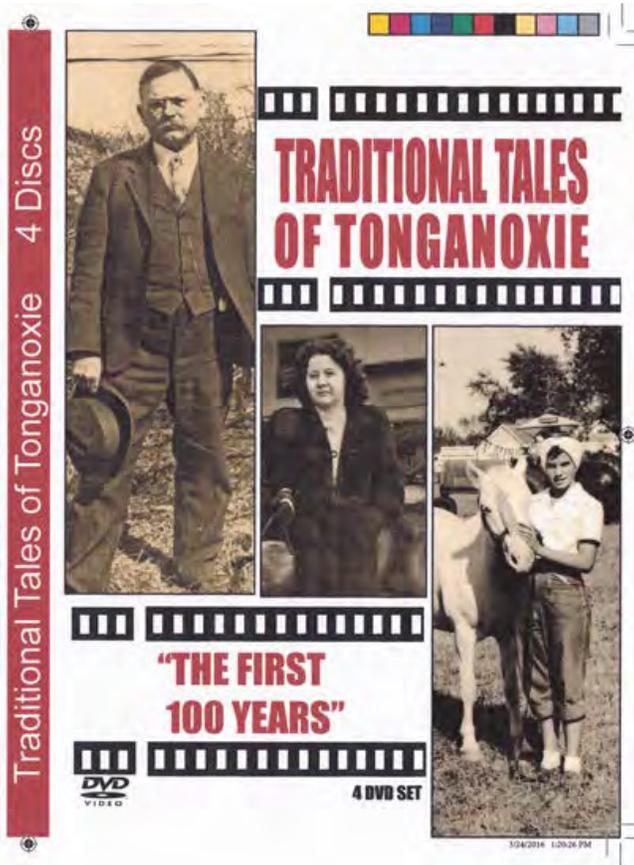
The name Moore in Moore's Summit is loaned from Crawford Moore, but he did not come to this area until 1861.

To me it seem more likely that this cemetery was established nearer to the time that it was needed for a burial. The Mitchell family had married into the Denholm family and the two families probably came

about the same time which was 1865. Jane Mitchell, the first burial was buried in 1875 and the Mitchell family provided the 2 acres for the cemetery and the cemetery is still 2 acres strongly point to the cemetery beginning established around 1870-1876.

Today it is a well kept cemetery and looks much as the photo demonstrates. It is open for burials if one desires.

"TRADITIONAL TALES OF TONGANOXIE"



What you are looking in the left column is the DVD cover for the project, "*Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie*", which was just completed.

This project began a few years ago, but due to extraneous background noise in the recording, the project was junked.

After much thought the project was started again as "*The History of Tonganoxie*". It soon became evident that this project as a history project would be next to impossible. The various stories about the chicken being stuck in the mud made it clear to me that Traditional Tales.....would be a more realistic approach to the story of Tonganoxie.

It is recognized that the stories told here may have some variation from family to family, but a great effort was made to make these stories told here as factually accurate as possible. In gathering these stories, I relied upon several sources. Roger Shilling, Art Hancock, J. W. Evans, Charles "Tuna" Conrad, Harold Denholm and Bob Lenahan were people that I could ask about Tonganoxie.

Other sources for information about Tonganoxie came from over 14 historical interviews. These interviews began over 4 years ago. Connie Putthoff, Carol Slawson, Laurie Walters, and especially Kathy Peak interviewed over 14 different people. Generally, these interviews lasted over 2 hours. The questions about family and history were asked and the interviews were filmed and edited.

The people who provided the historical information as a DVD were as follows: “Bud” Laming, Wm Freienmuth, Roger Shilling, Art Hancock, Roy Salmon, Harold Denholm, Bob Lenahan, Pat Black, Carol Slawson, Charles Haines, Kent Quarles, J. W. Evans, Emil Wiley and June Hagenbuch, brother and sister.

Some of these interviews were audio only. Jack Hoey and Joey Brown were done in the 1980’s. One of the best in that group was Margaret Gallagher, Grace Shilling and Helen Shilling’s interview of Jack Hoey at the Leavenworth VA. A remarkable amount of history was gained there.

4 DVDs were used for this project with each being around 90-100 minutes. Most people do not want to watch stories for that length of time. Therefore, chapters were used. This allows you to watch a few chapters and at a later time you can watch more of the movie without always beginning at the first and scrolling to where you last watched. Just hit the correct chapter and the movie jumps to that part.

Four chapters were shown at the February monthly meeting. Although the weather was on the cold side, a large crowd attended and from what I saw and heard, the program was very well received.



Here are some additional You Tube movie links for viewing parts of this project.

1. Tonganoxie State Lakes and water fun
https://youtu.be/H8SI3m_HkHc
2. Bob Sledding and Ice skating
<https://youtu.be/tKpbquggYf4>
3. Blind team crashes into Laming Ford Building
https://youtu.be/ryVs5G_51SY

DVD 1 of 4
The Delaware Indians * Early Settlers * The Early History * Union Pacific RR * Kansas City, Wyandotte, & Northwestern RR * Other Families After Early Settlers * Businesses on south side of 400 Blk (Tonganoxie State Bank to Alice Spoor)

DVD 2 of 4
Vern Trosper & Rest of 400 Blk of 4th St. * Dr. Coe & Other Physicians * Businesses 500 Blk of 4th St. * Laming Garage and North Side of 500 Blk of 4th St. * 600 Blk of 4th St. + City Hall and Town Marshals

DVD 3 of 4
Library and Businesses Near Railroad * Locker and Dale Rawlings * Water Fun Lakes and Pool * Hotels * Farms, Dairies, Creameries, Franklin Plant * Black Smiths, Paving Streets Travel Related Issues * Public School

DVD 4 of 4
Friends Academy * Country Schools * Bootlegging * Churches * Cemeteries * WWI * KKK * Depression * Rationing * Ice Skating, Bobsledding, Wren Radio



Narration by Susy Ross (The Delaware Indians), Laurie Walters, and Perry Walters

The above photo shows the 4 DVDs and the various chapters within each DVD. On the cover is a secondary statement, “The First 100 Years”. This is because the story begins in 1832 with the Delaware Indians and fades into the 1930’s and stops for practical purposes with the depression, the dust bowl, rationing, and WW II.

“*The Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie*” is available for sale by the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society. The set contains the 4 DVD’s noted above plus the jewell case. If it has to be mailed, a mailing fee will be charged.

4. Charles Haines and the Depression
https://youtu.be/_2ybJ_S7VYk
5. Rationing & WW II
<https://youtu.be/MN3vyoaU1vY>
6. Bob Sledding and Ice skating
<https://youtu.be/tKpbquggYf4>

Tonganoxie Sesquicentennial Celebration

June 10-11, 2016

-Connie Torneden

The Tonganoxie Community Historical Society will be participating in the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the platting/founding of the City of Tonganoxie. The Historical Programming Committee as designated by the Steering Committee for the Celebration, consists of TCHS members: Connie Torneden, Kris Roberts, Keyta Kelly, Laurie Walters, Bill Peak and Connie Putthoff.

TCHS has reserved the former Ratliff Drugstore and will turn it into a "mini-museum". The DVD set about The Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie, as seen above, will be shown throughout the day. Since the Drugstore has many items already there that have historical significance, we plan to put placards that show what these items are, and where they were originally located, etc.

There will be several historic displays in the drug store that involve the history of Tonganoxie.

There will be portrayal of Tonganoxie/Leavenworth County citizens at the Pocket Park at the corner of 4th and Delaware. We are working with the P.A.S.T. (performers and story tellers) group to accomplish this.

It is our intent to have a Commemorative Newspaper as a souvenir. It will also have a schedule of events and maps of the location of everything going on at the Celebration.

We also are planning on having an old fashioned game as part of the Kids' Activities.

The TCHS participation in the celebration will all be on Saturday, June 11. Our tentative schedule is from 9 AM to 4 PM at the drug store. The times for the performances at the Pocket Park is being determined.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS, BUT IT STILL COSTS CA. \$20,000.00 PER YEAR TO KEEP OPEN.

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

201 W. Washington St. P O Box 785 Tonganoxie, KS 66086

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____
Email address _____
Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Individual \$10.00 ____ Family \$15.00 ____
Student \$5.00 ____

OR Become a life member and skip the annual reminder

\$100.00 per person _____

Other Options:

____ Sustainer \$100.00 _____ Sponsor \$250.00
____ Patron \$500.00 _____ Benefactor \$1,000.00

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

201 W. Washington St. P O Box 785 Tonganoxie, KS 66086

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different Results.

Albert Einstein

Any man who can drive safely while kissing a pretty girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves.

Albert Einstein