

# TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 1st. QUARTER NEWSLETTER, March, 2017



The Tonganoxie Community Historical Society  
Extends many thanks to our volunteers,  
Without whom this day would not have been possible.

Jenny Alden  
Billie Aye  
Cindy Brandeau  
Janet Burnett  
Carole Carr  
Betty Englund  
Ferry Evans  
Janet Angell Felts  
Paula Green  
Linda Hancock  
Kathy Harrell  
Jean Hill  
Pat Johnson  
Tony Johnson  
Peaches Joles  
Rachel Kelly  
Linda Linnemann

Gretchen Manus  
Cheta Marie  
Fran Marquart  
Shirley Martin  
Theresa Megee  
Marilyn Megee  
Arlene Meyer  
Mary Ann Needham  
Audrey Miller  
Jeannie Miller  
Jean Pearson  
Lloyd Pearson  
Connie Putthoff  
Kris Roberts  
Larry Ross  
Susy Ross  
Virginia Seymour

Carol Slawson  
Kathy Stockman  
Ray Stockman  
Carol Stouffer  
Janet Stuke  
Jim Stuke  
Connie Torneden  
Clara Vanderstaay  
Gladys Walters  
Laurie Walters  
Donna Wiley  
Heather Wombwell  
Katherine Wombwell



Pictures from  
the  
Chili Feed, Feb  
2017



## TCHS Annual Chili Feed

The 47 names listed above are those who volunteered to help with the annual chili feed. These volunteers came together to make this day fun and profitable for our society.

Without volunteers this organization would suffer. It is entirely operated with volunteers. We like volunteers.

Three other organizations provided additional assistance. They were Brothers Market, The First State Bank & Trust and The United Methodist Church.

The Annual Chili Feed was an extremely nice day. For February it was a beautiful day. It was almost like late April with lots of sun, no wind, and weather into the 70's. Some were concerned about the temperature being too warm for customers to come and enjoy chili and soup. But over the many years this function has existed, the community has always been very supportive of this event, and this day was no different. A good social event with chili or soup always supersedes the weather. This day was no different.

We love the opportunity to invite the community in for good food and conversation. And we served 244 meals through lunch and dinner.

The profits from the chili feed are used to support the operating expenses of the museum. As a rule the profits from the Chili Feed pays approximately one month of expenses.

For those who are not aware, the annual operating costs for our historical society is around \$25,000.00 or more.

### **LABELLING**

Once again TCHS gets to do the labelling for Denise Rodgers. This is a money making project for us that generally is completed within three hours. Eleven members came on March 28th to work and socialize. Thanks again Denise.

## The Martyrs of 1856

The Martyrs of 1856 is a true story of three men (Golden, Bishop, and Roberts) whom in Sept. 1856 as they traveled by foot from Leavenworth to Lawrence, were attacked by border Ruffians, and shot ( Roberts was killed outright, Bishop lived about one year and Golden lived, but suffered from his facial wounds the rest of his life ). Bishop made his way to Lawrence and with the help of Tonganoxie, the Delaware Indian, Golden made it to Lawrence a few day later. The story was told by Golden to HV Needham and recorded in the Tonganoxie Mirror in 5 installments in March and April 1883.

These papers were stored in the basement of our Honey Valley School as the museum was not yet completed. Due to the poor storage conditions, the papers were loaned to the Leavenworth County Courthouse. Under the Guidance of Keyta Kelly, who at the time was county counselor, they were framed and were hung on the wall at the court house in an extremely high position. It was impossible for anyone to read these papers.

Recently the TCHS board of directors requested to have these returned. The text had been transcribed by Deloris White and in 2016 the story was annotated and maps and illustrations were added. Copies are available to purchase from our gift shop.

While visiting with Connie Putthoff, Jeff Culbertson remembered that they were no longer hanging in the Courthouse. He volunteered to scan them so copies could be hung on the courthouse wall. However, the courthouse uses a drum and these old newspapers would break apart in a drum scanner. A flat bed scanner would work, but it could be costly. Therefore, Jeff with assistance from Perry and Laurie Walters attempted to photocopy them via a camera. It appears that Jeff got a good copy this way and is in the process of completing this project.

Once again the Martyrs of '56 will be hung on the courthouse wall.

## Anna Mary Landauer



A few months ago TCHS interviewed and filmed Anna Mary Landauer. Now, the Basehor Historical Museum (2812 N. 155th Street-this is really d o w n t o w n Basehor) is featuring Anna Mary Landauer. The museum is open on Thursdays

from 1-4 PM and on Saturday from 10-2 PM.

The interview that was done by TCHS provides the listener with good insight into her life. She discusses growing up and going to the public schools in Tonganoxie. One thing that will stand out is how the town kids treated the country school kids. This treatment is still a black area in her mind.

Anna Mary was a Doege before marriage. She lived on the west side of Co. Rd. 5 and just south of Stranger bridge. She worked at the Franklin plant when she was one year out of high school. She worked there many years. A proud moment in her life was being Mayor of Basehor.

## The Old Elementary School

On March 29, 2017, Kay Soetaert offered to TCHS the elementary school plaques and



signs. As most of us know the old school is no

longer being used and the new elementary school is near the Tonganoxie Middle School on Evans Road in the southeast part of town.

The old school house has been purchased by a group of 5 people and speculation about what might become of this property has not been determined. But TCHS is happy to receive the plaques and signs from this building.

## Life Members

We have three new life members to TCHS. They are Peachez Joles, Ron Joles, and Monica Gee.

Peaches and Ron have been members for several years, but they have recently upgraded to a life membership.

Peaches has been instrumental in organizing and conducting the third grade school kids (The Tonganoxie 3rd grade and the Genesis Academy 3rd grade) through the Museum, the Church and the Reno School. This is done once a year.

## NEW SIGNS AT THE TCHS SITE

The building identification signs at the museum are new and beautiful. Many thanks to Lucile Somers for lettering these new signs, which identify the barn, the



church and the Honey Valley School. The lettering is bold and bright and makes a huge difference in easily identifying each building. Lucile is a junior at Tonganoxie High School. We are grateful that she chose to donate her time and efforts to TCHS.



soon discarded their coats—all except Heynen, who kept his coat on for reasons unknown by the crowd



Wm Heynen

X

## THE 4TH TUESDAY PROGRAM

All Fourth Tuesday programs are held at the site in the Reno Church. They begin at 7 PM and end with refreshments.

April 25, 2017: "Show and Tell" On this night members bring an historical item and share the story with the other members. There is never a dull moment with these programs. The program is totally a home grown program. These programs are one of the most fun programs we do.

May 23, 2017: "Soda Fountain of Kansas" Cindy Higgins, a journalist and historian, will speak with us, courtesy of the Kansas Humanities Council. "Most every early Kansas pharmacy sooner or later installed a soda fountain stocked with sugar-laced tonics and fizzy cure-alls invented by the local pharmacist and served by a fast-moving, slang-talking soda jerk". Don't miss the rest of the story.

June 24, 2017: Saturday. Mark your calendar for the Annual TCHS Picnic. We will gather on the east side of the Reno Church in the shade ca. 6 PM. Picnic food and great conversation is the order of the day.

Wm Heynen

Wm Heynen was known for being mayor of Tonganoxie and for being the editor and owner of the Tonganoxie Mirror.

He also was active in some of the bands in Tonganoxie. He is shown in the above picture. He was known for playing a coronet. Here he tells a story about himself and a band uniform on a

very hot day.

Mr. Heynen said that when he joined the Tonganoxie band in 1884, new uniforms had been purchased, and he got up bright and early on Memorial Day that year for the festivities. The only pair of pants that would fit him, the rats had partially chewed the seats out of them.

After noticing that the long coats came nearly to his knees it was decided that as long as he kept his coat on, he could join the band. He solemnly donned his pants with the seat out, put on the coat and for all outward appearances he was right in style with the rest of the band.

The trouble was that Memorial Day turned out to be a hot, sultry day. The rest of the band

## Memorials

We want to express our sympathies to the family of Jack Ryan, who passed away in early March. At the families request, memorials were directed to TCHS. These gifts are very special to us and we appreciate that support.

## World War 1

**Believe it or not! The Kansas WW1 web page was hacked several weeks ago. IT WAS THE RUSSIANS THAT DID IT. Really !!**

It got restored this week and everything is up and running fine. It was down over a month.

### **Carl Barnhart World War 1 Veteran** (published Tonganoxie Mirror Nov.7, 1984)



Carl, along with Mr. Charles Papenhausen, decided to enlist together April 21, 1917 in Kansas City, MO. Carl at that time was teaching at Hazel Ridge School which is about 2 miles south of where he lived. Carl asked to be relieved of his

contract.

The recruiter suggested that because they both were high school graduates they should enlist in the signal corp instead of the engineers as planned. They were immediately sent to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis where they received their uniform, inoculations and they were sworn in. On April 29th they went back to Ft. Leavenworth. There it was crowded and the food was very poor. While at Ft. Leavenworth, Carl went to visit his parents several times. Once he walked back to Ft. Leavenworth.

From Leavenworth he was sent to Monterey, CA. It was the 19th of December when Carl learned he was heading to the front. That Christmas Day enroute was spent in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Here the group organized a football team and played the local high school football team.

Carl sent a telegram from Lawrence, KS to his parents requesting that they meet him in

Kansas City, which they did. It was cold and snowy.

May 14th, 1918, Carl left Camp Greene for Camp Merritt New Jersey. He then went to Washington DC. Their leave was cut short, they wrote letters, and had no passes. It was here that they entered the troop ship, "the von Steuben". On May 26th it took them out of Hoboken, New Jersey to Brest France on June 12, 1918. While on ship Carl was placed on watch with Naval personnel. (Carl and Charley Papenhusen had parted company at Ft. Leavenworth.

They detrained at "Liz sur Oreg" on the 12th of June. Now they were at the front. Cal saw action at Chateau Thierry. In fact all of his action was in France.

His army medals read "Aisne-Marne" on one bar, St. Mihiel on another bar. ( the battle of "St. Mihiel" was known to the allies as "D" Day. another bar read "Meuse Argonne" and the 4th bar reads "Defensive Sector". Carl also served in the Army of Occupation from November to July 1919.

He served with the 8th Field Signal Battalion of the 4th Division of the regular US Army. He was discharged at Louisville, Ky as a Corporal.

After the war Carl was a science teacher at East High School in Wichita ,Ks. He taught here for 32 years.

I knew Carl Barnhart. He always returned to his home place for the summer. He and his sister owned the family farm near the little town of Neeley. He was known as an amateur astronomer, a gentleman farmer, and a bee keeper. He was known to hire high school kids to help him in his work.

He also had several unique cars. The one I remember was a 1938 Layette, He would loan this car to Bob McKone and we would go the Lawrence to the movie.

Carl never married and his estate was auctioned.



# COE, WALTER B. M. D.

Walter B. Coe, M. D., one of the leading members of the medical profession of Tonganoxie, was born at Tipton, Iowa, July 24, 1868. He was reared on his father's farm in Cedar County, Iowa. He attended the high school at Jefferson, Iowa, but graduated from high school at Des Moines, Iowa.

After leaving school Mr. Coe entered the office of the "Omaha Republic" and learned the printer's trade and book binding. He worked there for about five years and decided to enter college. With this end in view he went to Akron, Ohio, and matriculated in Buchtel College. While there he became interested in medicine and determined to devote his life to that calling; entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., and graduated with the class of 1896.

After receiving his medical degree Dr. Coe located at Tonganoxie, where he practices medicine from 1896 to August 23, 1950 when he was killed in a bus/car wreck on the "cut-off" just south of Tonganoxie. He was a general practitioner and for years he was the local surgeon for the Union Pacific railroad. Dr. Coe was well liked by the people of Tonganoxie. The town celebrated him with a huge dinner in the high school auditorium.

Dr. Coe's first wife was Carrie L. Troxell, a native of Jefferson, Iowa. She died in 1899, leaving one child, Archie, who died in 1910.

In 1901 Dr. Coe married Marietta "May" E. Grist, the daughter of John Grist of Tonganoxie. There were no children from this marriage. May died in 1938.

Dr. Coe's 3rd wife was Lottie Dessery Modelin, a niece of May Coe. Lottie was a widow with 3 children. Although she was in the car wreck that killed Dr. Coe, she survived until 1965.

Dr. Coe home and office was in a small house just west of Zoellner's store on 4th street. He had a hedge fence around the home and

saw patients in the west room of the home. Before cars, Dr. Coe made house calls with a wagon and white horse.

He loved to play chess and could be seen at different chess playing locations around the town. He also had huge hands.

Dr. Coe enlisted in the army on August 18, 1918 and was discharged on December 14, 1918. He was stationed at Ft. Leavenworth. It is not known, but he probably commuted from Tonganoxie to Leavenworth, a distance of 25 miles.

The army was probably lucky to have him because his active duty service was during the time of the 1918 flu pandemic. His speciality was pneumonia.

Dr. Coe was a member of the county, state and American medical societies; a member of the American Association of Railroad Surgeons; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Knights of Pythias; and Modern Woodmen of America.



Dr. Walter B. Coe 1868-1950  
Local Doctor for 30 years.  
Pictured is Dr. Coe and his  
Cat with his wife May,  
about 1900, 1900  
more info on back.....



## Barn Quilts

Jean Pearson led another barn quilt class on Saturday March 25. Fourteen participants completed 13 quilt blocks.

As a most needed and welcomed rain fell on the grounds at the Tonganoxie Historical Site the barn was full of people drawing, taping and painting on their barn boards. Persons from Atchison, Co. to Gardner and all places in between attended. This was our 6th class and as usual it was full with a waiting list. Ninety-four blocks have now been completed.

It was a day of unusual groups. There was a group of three sisters, a group of three generations, and a husband and wife team who worked together.

The barn quilts are always beautiful and it is a wonderful opportunity to introduce people to the museum and historical society. Jean and Lloyd both work many hours before the classes to have the materials prepped for the class. We all appreciate Jean's effort.

Jean said, "I've said it before 'the blocks just keep getting prettier'. And they still are!"

Please visit the website for the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail today. You can Google Glacial Hills Quilt Trail, OR Tonganoxie Community Historical Society to find the page ([tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org](http://tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org)). There you will find photos of barn quilts seen on the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail in Leavenworth, Jefferson and Atchison Counties. Once you



start looking for barn quilts, you may be surprised at how many you may see on your travels.

A big "Thank You" to Janet Stuke, Kris Roberts and Lloyd Pearson for all their help.

A successful day doesn't just happen. Again thanks guys! Jean



Connie Larson's most unusual barn quilt

## Museum News

We recently had an inquiry about the connection of the Brinkman Bakery in Lawrence to Tonganoxie. We found nothing in our data base except a young Mildred Brickman sang on an old Tonganoxie graduation program. However, after thinking we had struck out, Connie Torneden smiling said, "I'm related to them". It seems that Henry Brinkmann was married to the niece of Ida Toburen, the wife of Henry Toburen who owned the Home Town Bakery in Tonganoxie. Connie has donated family photos, Brinkmann family photos, and her grandfather's draft card in hopes of solving the original inquiry.

An oral history DVD has been completed with Jim Gambrill being interviewed by Carol Slawson. After the interview, Jim donated several photos of old sites in Tonganoxie that TCHS did not have. Connie Puttoff donated a

nice collection of St. Patricks posters from our local parade. Years were 1987-1993.

Wiirenuts has purchased the old Lloyd Mills Insurance Bldg which later housed the Chamber of Commerce. They donated a lovely window which had to be removed, an old map of Leavenworth County and an aerial photo of the city of Tonganoxie.

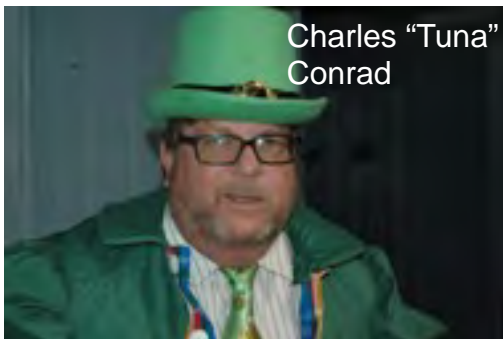
## St. Patrick's Day Parade

This celebration of St. Patrick's day was probably the worst day ever of any St. Patrick's Day celebration. It was cold! It was rainy! and it was SNOWING!!

Charles Conrad was the Grand Leprechaun. He looked like a green Santa Clause with all the clothing under his Leprechaun outfit..

I didn't attempt to count the people watching the parade. Near the beginning of the parade I counted 8 people. Three seemed to be enjoying the event, but as soon as the parade passed by all left for warmer climates. The high school band accounted for the largest number of people. I don't know how they could play those brass instruments but they did and it sounded good.

A few photos should let one see the weather as it was so COLD.



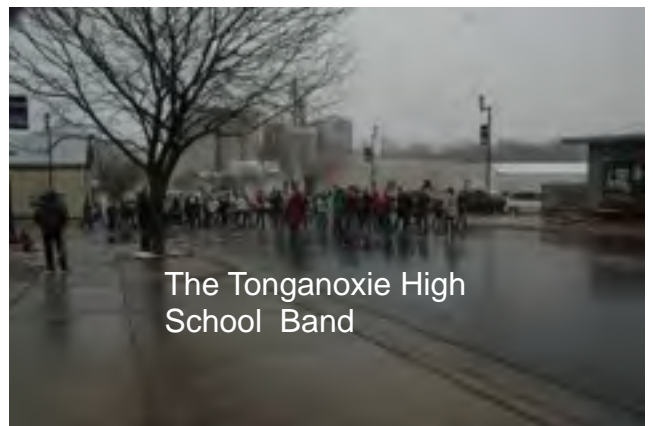
Charles "Tuna"  
Conrad



The TCHS fire truck did not show for this



Charles "Tuna"  
Conrad



The Tonganoxie High  
School Band

parade. I believe this might be a first no show for our truck. I think our fire truck had better sense than some of the people.

However, judging from the fun seen from those in the green hats, I think I want one of these for me next year. Maybe I won't care about the cold.



## Matthew Beat Tonganoxie High School

Mat Beat gave a very interesting program where he uses a new teaching methods that keeps the kids involved.

He uses music, youtube and poems that he composes involving history. I was impressed and it obviously, it works for him.

If you want to watch some of his innovative teaching methods using youtube —google, **Mr. Beat's Social Studies Channel - YouTube.**



You must be careful because there is more than one Mat Beat using Youtube, but the social studies program is all his.

Some of his Youtube movies about history have over 14,000 hits. That definitely shows interest.

## Tonganoxie Congregational Church Parsonage.

This photo is new to TCHS and I'm not sure



how it came to TCHS or when it arrived, It sure is different than the parsonage we know today.

In the early history of the Congregational Church we know that it was burned by the saloon crowd. The saloon crowd was upset because the Church was active in trying to get rid of the liquor and all that was involved. So the church was burned.

I don't think anyone today has any knowledge of this personage or what happened to it and why did the build the one we see today.

***IF ANYONE KNOWS THE HISTORY OF THIS PARSONAGE OR HOW THE PARSONAGE WE KNOW TODAY CAME TO BE LET US KNOW!!!!***