

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3rd QUARTER NEWSLETTER, Sept., 2012



THE LEAVENWORTH, PAWNEE, AND WESTERN RAILROAD

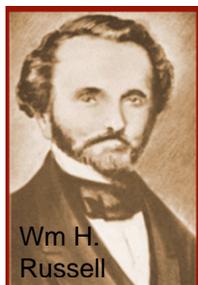
Part 1, The Major Owners

The history of railroads in the United States is peppered with numerous incidents of fraud, corruption, and deceit. The Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western RR (LP & W) was no different. A complete discussion of this topic is too great for this newsletter to adequately discuss in one edition. An attempt will be made to break this discussion into several issues. The first will be to discuss the various groups of owners of this railroad which would eventually become the Union Pacific as we know it today. In the process of becoming the UP, this railroad would have a total of four different names. After the LP & W, the railroad was known as the Union Pacific, Eastern Division. While this name was used there was no association with the Union Pacific being built in Iowa and Nebraska. The third name was the Kansas Pacific which was eventually owned by Jay Gould. He purchased the stock while the railroad was under receivership. He owned it from 1874 to 1880 and sold it to the Union Pacific (the fourth and last name) in Nebraska, of which he was a board member.

When the Kansas Nebraska Act was passed in 1854, congress opened Kansas for white settlement. In a matter of 20 years the Nation had progressed from a position noted in an Ohio school board statement, "There is nothing in the Word of God about them (railroads)." ---If God had designed---travel at the frightful speed of 15 miles per hour. He would have foretold it in His holy prophets.", to a nation rapidly progressing to a national railroad from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific coast.

In 1855, Kansas' "Bogus Legislature" would provide the LP & W with a charter to build a railroad from the banks of the Missouri River at Leavenworth to the west of Ft. Riley and then proceed north into Nebraska. This was ultimately changed with extensive lobbying from Denver and the road went to the western border of Kansas and then to Denver and on to Cheyenne, Wy. to reach the Union Pacific railroad from Nebraska.

The first significant owners of the LP & W were very southern in their philosophy. They had been given the right to construct the LP & W RR. The owners were:



Wm H.
Russell

William H. Russell- He was more known for his association with the shipping firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell and for his businesses in Lexington and St. Joseph, MO. The equipment for this company was located in Leavenworth. At one time over 3,000 wagons with oxen or mules were part of this outfit. He was in St. Joseph to operate the Pony Express. During the 1850's he was very active in establishing slavery in Kansas.

J.M. Alexander-He was one of the founders of the town of Alexandria, Kansas. This town was located a short distance south of the present bridge crossing Stranger Creek on K-92 Hwy. This town existed to mine coal along Stranger creek. It existed for two years and was destroyed by some of James Lane's men. This town was established by men of southern sympathies.

S.D. Lecompte-He travelled from Maryland and arrived in Leavenworth on Jan. 1, 1855 as the Chief Justice of the Kansas Territory. Although he lived in Leavenworth, the town of Lecompton was named for him. He was active in other railroads. After the Civil War he was elected to the state legislature as a Democrat. In 1868 he changed his politics from Democrat to Republican. He worked very hard with John Stringfellow to establish the **University of Kansas at Leavenworth**.

Two other individuals were also listed as incorporators. E. H. Dennis and C. H. Grover were original owners, but other than the fact that they entered into ownership with other railroads also chartered by the "Bogus Legislature", not much else is known about them.

By 1857 not much had happened with the LP & W. The original owners began to lose interest. The owners began to see problems on the horizon with the Free-State legislature. The Free State people were now organized and the pro-slavery owners were looking for some assistance. The prospect of raising money outside the territory became more difficult. Enter Thomas Ewing and his brother, Hugh Ewing, both considered moderates on the issue of slavery. Their moderate position could defuse the political problems that might arise from problems related to Popular Sovereignty.

The new owners were Thomas Ewing and his brother, Hugh Ewing, plus a few others

Thomas Ewing Jr. -Ewing came to Kansas in 1856 well connected. His father, Thomas Ewing Sr., was a senator from Ohio and had served as the Secretary of the Interior. Thomas Jr. was a lawyer and had been a private secretary to

President Zachary Taylor. His foster brother was Wm T. Sherman (later General Sherman) who married his sister, Ellen. The two practiced law in Leavenworth for a short time.

With Ewing's family connections, wealth, and power, Thomas was well suited as a lobbyist for the railroad. He was the first elected Chief Justice of Kansas. He resigned this position in 1862 to become a Colonel in the 11th Kansas Infantry (promoted to general in 1863). He was responsible for General Order No. 11.

Ewing invested heavily in real estate and due to the panic of 1857 lost heavily. He saw the railroad as route to save him from financial ruin. He has been considered the railroad's most active promotor and lobbyist, and is believed to be the person most responsible for removing the LP & W from being a "paper" railroad to a railroad with rolling stock.

Hugh Ewing, the older brother of Thomas, was a lawyer and a general in Civil War. He was elected to the board of directors of the LP & W and served as its president. He was given the authority to go to Washington to acquire grant money to assist in building the railroad. He had come to Kansas in 1856 with his younger brother and Wm T. Sherman to practice law and deal in real estate. He left Kansas in 1858 to return to Ohio

John H McDowell- In 1857 when T. Ewing needed money, McDowell became a part owner in the railroad. He was a board member, president and when the railroad became the Union Pacific, Eastern Division (UPED) he was a director. He was elected state senator in Kansas in 1861. His brother, William McDowell, ran for district judge in Leavenworth, Kansas. He moved to Kentucky in 1870 and became involved with a railroad in that state. He recruited Samuel Hallett to become an investor.

A,J. Isaac.-Andrew Jackson Isaac was from Louisiana. He was very active in proslavery actions and helped incorporate the pro-slavery town of Tecumseh. He conspired to purchase 2,300 acres of so-called half-breed land north of the Kansas River. He was associated with Amos Rees, Russell, and Majors, and Hugh Boyle Ewing. He organized the Leavenworth Fire and Marine Insurance Company. He lobbied in Washington DC at the same time that Hugh Ewing was lobbying there. He was not adverse in attempting to violate the Federal Trade and Intercourse Act when dealing with the Munsee Indians. He attempted several times to purchase land directly from them using illegal methods. He was appointed Attorney General for the Kansas Territory.

James C. Stone- Stone sold 99,800 shares of his stock to Hallett. In 1857 control of the LP & W RR rested with Isaac, McDowell, Stone and Thomas Ewing, Stone should be credited with the idea of directly negotiating with the Indians, and with Thomas Ewing drafted a treaty with the Pottawatomie Indians which was similar to the Delaware treaties.

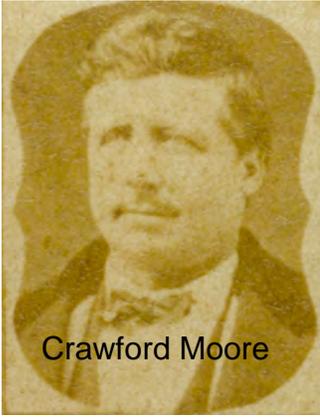
Although Ewing had navigated the LP & W railroad through three Indian treaties, intense lobbying, and favorable responses to the Pacific Railroad Act of 1862, he and the owners were unable to actually begin the railroad construction because money was not forthcoming and cost of materials had escalated due to the Civil War. In 1863 the owners sold their controlling interest to eastern investors headed by John C. Fremont and Samuel Hallett. Fremont was to have control over the railroad for five years, although Hallett controlled the majority of stock. Fremont and Hallett fought the entire time and in a short time Hallett gained control.

John C. Fremont --When Fremont came to Kansas his star was very tarnished. He was the noted explorer, the son-in-law of Senator Thomas Hart Benton from St. Louis. Fremont had been court-martialed for disobedience while in California, but for this he received a presidential pardon. On August 30, 1861, Fremont declared martial law in Missouri and ordered the emancipation of the slaves in Missouri. This action caused a severe negative response in many areas of the United States. Two months later Fremont was relieved of his command and he went home to wait for another command. He served very briefly in Va and was ineffective. These two issues were damaging to the General's reputation. Now in 1863 Fremont came to Leavenworth as an owner of the LP & W.

Samuel Hallett --Hallett was a successful investment banker with an association with Hallett & Co. Bank in New York. Before coming to Leavenworth, he had been very successful as the financial agent for the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad. He was considered aggressive, young and sometimes "hot headed". He came with experience in financing railroads and had financial contacts in the east and in Europe. He was just what the railroad needed. He also was capable of being focused on what ever he was doing, sometimes to his own detriment.

John D. Perry In 1864 Hallett contacted Perry to be an investor. Perry was a St. Louis financier and owner of the Exchange Bank, who had a strong interest in the LP & W, now called the Union Pacific, Eastern Division. When Hallett was shot by a former employee, John D. Perry became the owner and built the railroad to Denver. Perry was elected president of the Union Pacific, ED in place of Fremont. When Hallett was killed his wife was in Europe. Upon her arrival in New York, Perry had his agents meet Mrs. Hallett. These agents were able to get Mrs. Hallett to renounce the Hallett right to the construction contracts to build the railroad and in addition Perry ultimately cheated her out of \$15,000,000.00. Years later she realized her error and sued but to no avail.

Who's This?



Crawford Moore

CRAWFORD MOORE, farmer and stock-raiser, came to Tonganoxie, Ks in 1861, and located one mile northeast of Tonganoxie, in Stranger Township. He built this house seen along Co. Rd. 5. Before living near Tonganoxie, he lived in New York (his birth state), Wisconsin, Canada, and remained in the

mountain country of California, Utah and Colorado until 1861. He had a 900 acre farm with fine barns for his horses, cattle and other stock. Mr. Moore was a



Crawford Moore home today

Democrat member of the State Legislature. He was elected with a strong Republican majority against him in his district.



farm in Moore's Summit

During the Civil War he was a Captain in the militia. Many later referred to him as "Cap" Moore. The area he lived in was known as Moore's Summit. The Union

Pacific RR had a stop (SUMMIT) located on the east side of Co. Rd. 5 where the road branches to Jarbalo and where the "Bullard/Merritt/Tom Laming" home is located. This location was picked because there was a small "knoll/summit" here providing the railroad a downhill start in either direction. Tradition states that the city of Tonganoxie was to be at Summit, but because of no creek or stream, the location of Tonganoxie became near Tonganoxie Creek.

Crawford Moore's home was constructed so that the entire upstairs was one very large room. It has been said that during prohibition, many parties were held in this home. It is my understanding that evidence of John Barleycorn was around during these functions.



THE RAILROAD DEPOT VOTE

After deliberating from July until the September board meeting, a decision was made against purchasing the old Union Pacific Depot. The vote was 6 to 1 against the purchase.

Who's This?



This photo was part of a 1922 (yr.?) Tonganoxie composite all school photo. He was a long time resident of Tonganoxie and in business here for most of his life. **Many should identify this gentleman! When I was in school in Tonganoxie, he and my father would travel together to the high school games .**



TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISION STATEMENT

Our mission statement is to discover, collect, preserve, care for, display and make accessible to the public any and all objects that reflect the history of our community.



THE MUSEUM'S DIRECTORS REPORT

Susy Ross reports that Bob Oakson through Ed Slawson donated to our Historical Society the football given in 1955 to Kenny Oakson, making him an honorary football captain of the high school football team. Kenny had cut his finger off his hand while using a table saw in school shop.



Lloyd Pearson reports on the **building and grounds** that the basement in the Methodist Church has been painted and that handicap signs have been placed in the parking lot so parking spaces are now reserved for those like me.

Ed note: The church basement looks good !!

Hostesses for 3rd Quarter

October Wileys--June Hagenbuch-Farmers

November Carol Stouffer-Esther Eason-Maryann Needham

December, 11 at 6 PM Christmas Party
BRING FINGER FOOD and A FRIEND

A message from the Chairman,
Jim Stuke

Kenny Oakson Loses Finger
Fall 1955

The news media is frantically covering the 2012 Presidential Election trying to report each and every comment made by the candidates so we will have all the information needed to make an intelligent decision. Our society will also be having an election in November, and although we won't have the national media coverage or the debates, we do need to have members consider being a candidate for our election.

We will be electing a President, Vice-President, Secretary and two Board members. The term of office for the President and Vice-President is a one year term, and the Board members and the Secretary serve a three year term. The Nominating Committee will present to the membership at the October meeting a list of nominees. The Membership will have until two weeks prior to the November meeting to submit the names of their nominees, **in writing**, to the Board. If you want to be a candidate please do not hesitate to contact a current board member.

Our society is grateful to George Anton and Ed Slawson for their dedication, service, and time as board members for the last three years. Also, we are indebted to our current President, Kathy Peak, Vice-President, June Hagenbuch, and Secretary, Jenny Alden for their leadership and commitment to the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society.

We have heard there are members who might consider serving on the board, but are unable to attend the board meeting that currently meet the Third Wednesday of the month. The Board of Director's meeting can be changed to another day and time.

Hopefully, you will consider being a candidate for one of the vacant positions. We have a great organization with many talented members and our society needs to involve as many individuals as possible so that new and different ideas will be generated.

BE SURE TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER !!!!

During football season in the fall of 1955, a terrible accident occurred in the **shop class** of the Tonganoxie Rural High School. In the morning around 10 A. M., Kenny Oakson **lost one of his fingers** in a table saw accident. One of the results of that accident was that Kenny could not play football the rest of that year.

Consequently, the football team elected Kenny to be an honorary football captain and presented him with a football signed by all the team and coaches. The photo below shows the football and members of that football team attending the class of 1957 reunion held at Nancy Taylor Pearce's farm & lake, and a picture of the entire football team with the scores of that 1955 season. We lost one game.



Tongie's offense was a double wing which made Kenny unique. Kenny was a "pulling guard". His job was to pull in front of the half-backs to do the downfield blocking for the running backs.

Because Kenny was fast, quick, and tough, he provided many blocks for Perry Walters and Cliff Matthews to make large gains in games.

Members of that team today recall vivid memories of that accident.

Gary Shilling remembers standing next to Kenny when the finger was lost. His thoughts had an unrealistic feeling of hate as he transferred the blame for the accident to the finger lying on the floor.

Ed Slawson didn't see it happen, but hollered for the teacher, Mac McKinzie, to come over to Kenny just after the accident.

Kenny Oakson Loses Finger
Fall 1955, con't

Louis Seufert remembers Kenny saying something about I just cut my @^*%#. finger off. That was the jist of it anyway!

Ron Henak was working on a project with Kenny. Kenny asked Ron to cut the wooden board. Since it was such a small board, Ron thought it wasn't safe to cut the board with the table saw. The saw had no safety features on it. Kenny then attempted to cut the board. Ron attempted to pick the finger off the floor but it was difficult and he couldn't do it, but someone did get the finger off the floor. Ron said the board was not pinched during the cutting.

Kent Quarles saw the entire accident. Kenny was sawing this board and just didn't get his finger away from the table saw blade. The board wasn't pinched.

Perry Walters didn't see the accident, but first noticed Kenny sitting in a chair holding his finger with a little blood--like he had cut his finger. Kenny was grimacing, but not crying. He was moving his body slowly back and forth, moving from his hip in short movements. Perry asked another student what happened and was told. He saw the pale white finger on the floor mingling with some saw dust. The finger was slightly bent.

Fifty seven years after this accident, those football team members present at Taylor's lake still have a clear vivid memory of that accident on that sad day in 1955. That year Kenny's blocking was certainly missed by the football team and particularly by the running backs.



DVD'S AND LOCAL HISTORY

TCHS has for some time been recording video/movies of local and family history as lived and remembered through the eyes and minds of the people and families who have lived in this community. Some of the available DVDs for viewing are the historical families of **Bud Laming, Wm L. Freienmuth, Don and Bo Himpel, "Back in Time" April 2012, "A Stroll into the Past" the 2011 cemetery walk, "Ghost Towns" a project about the ghost towns around Tonganoxie, and most**

recently, the Kent Quarles family interview, a history of the Quarles family which begins in Middleboro, Ky.

We are scheduling additional videos of families around this area to have some documented record of the past. If there is someone you know about who has good knowledge of history of this area, let us know.

To aid the public in reviewing these movies, the TCHS Board authorized the purchase of a portable DVD player so the public can view and research these fantastic movies of history around this area. It arrived this week. Don't plan on taking the DVD player or DVD movie away from the museum. The fine details of how this will work have yet to be determined, but I can assure you that the people who are minding the museum will make every accommodation to help you see these historical DVDs.

**PROGRAMS FOR
THE 4TH TUESDAY**

October 23----to be determined

November 26--P.A.S.T performers
will present the program

December--Christmas program
Dec. 11th at 6 PM
note time change

THE LEAVENWORTH CO. FAIR

The concern this year was the heat. It appeared all summer that the temperature would have a very negative effect on the number of people attending the fair and a negative effect on the cattle in the pens.

The weather changed almost overnight and for that time of year the weather was perfect. Of course TCHS was represented by the Historic old fire truck. Isn't power steering wonderful!! From the photo below, it looks like Larry Ross is taking a rest from steering that old fire truck.



2012 photo of TCHS' fire truck. This truck was totally restored from stem to stern. It was a group effort and the reward is getting to see it, getting to ride in it and GETTING TO DRIVE IT!!



← MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT →

by Kathy Peak

Become a TCHS Volunteer !!

We need you and, just maybe, you might need us too !

Volunteering and its Surprising Benefits !

Research has found a strong link between voluntary activity and overall life satisfaction.

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family, and your community. It can help you find friends, reach out to the community, and even learn new skills. Volunteering can also help protect your mental and physical health.

When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements.

Don't think you have the right skills? Bear in mind that the most valuable skills you can bring to any volunteer effort are compassion, and open mind, a willingness to do whatever is needed, and a positive attitude.

Unpaid volunteers are the glue that holds the Historical society together. TCHS Volunteers have a unique opportunity to preserve the past while nurturing the future of our community. Volunteering allows you to connect to the community and make it a better place. And, best of all, it's a two-way street; volunteering can benefit you and your family as much as the Historical Society. Dedicating your time as a volunteer helps you make new friends, expand your network, and broaden your understanding of Tonganoxie's past.

Volunteering is a great way to make a positive impact in the Historical Society and it really does make you feel good.