



William Coffin Celebrates with Mud Turtle Soup and Roasted



An interesting Coffin Story involves the Whaling Ship, *Essex*. “*The Wreck of the Essex*” (seen on PBS twice) is a true story about whaling during 1819-1820 that relates the extreme dangers of whaling. The ship was in the south Pacific. It was charged twice by a Spermaceti whale, causing the vessel to sink. The 22 survivors had to live on small whaling boats for a total of 93 days. Soon, for survival, it was suggested by Owen Chase, first mate, that they use the bodies of those who died for food. This activity lasted several days. After all those who were sick had been utilized, it became necessary to draw lots to see who would be sacrificed.

Captain Pollard of the *Essex* and Owen Coffin, a crew member of the *Essex*, were first cousins. Owen Coffin drew the odd lot and was selected to be sacrificed. The Capt. begged his cousin to let him take his place. In addition the one selected to shoot Owen Coffin also begged to take his place. Owen Coffin refused both offers and the sacrifice was made. Eventually 8 survived to be rescued in Chili, over 2,000 miles from the incident.

Blue Heron

The first Coffin to come to America was Tristram Coffin. He came with his wife, Dionis, his 58 year old mother, Joanna, and his 5 children. Two of his sisters also came on that journey in 1642. The Coffin family landed in Massachusetts in Pentucket (now Haverhill). Until 1659, the Coffin family lived in various towns in Massachusetts.

Why they came to American is not fully understood. In England the family owned substantial property. In fact some Coffin researchers believe the Coffin family is related to Royalty. They were listed in the *Doomsday Book* (1086). The Scots and English were fighting, and Parliament and the King Charles were in conflict. Tristram's brother had been killed in battle. The hostilities at this time in England were comparable to those in “Bleeding Kansas” in the 1850-60's.

In 1659 Tristram Coffin and Peter Folger (Ben Franklin's grandfather and forefather to Folger's Coffee) went to Nantucket to evaluate the conditions on the Island. It was determined to be satisfactory and the “First Purchasers” bought Nantucket for 30 pounds and two beaver hats. Tristram Coffin was a very significant person in Nantucket and the early history of the United States.

Owen Chase kept a log/diary of the *Essex* activities. Guess what! Herman Melville bought Owen Chase's diary/log and eventually wrote the book known as “*Moby Dick*”. This book was not successful in Melville's life.

In 1854 the first Coffin to come to Kansas was William Coffin of Richmond, Indiana. This was an exploratory trip to locate land for a Friends settlement. On this trip Eli Wilson, Benajah Hiatt and Wm Coffin went SW of Kansas City with the objective of finding a place for a settlement on Government lands. They arrived at the Friends Mission on the Kaw River where they rested a few days, rented a pony and returned to Westport Landing for supplies. At the Friend's Mission they met the head chief (Baptiste) of the Peoria Indians who welcomed them and escorted them around the countryside in the area which would become Paola.

The Coffin group went further SW where they met another man with 26 in his group looking to establish a town, which became Osawatomie. The two groups traveled the country, but because winter was coming, the Coffin group decided to return to Richmond.

In 1855 Wm Coffin and Benajah Hiatt returned to Kansas, but this time they went west of Leavenworth. By 1855 most of the land out to Big Stranger had been taken (Cutler's History of Leavenworth states that by 1855 every acre of Leavenworth County had been claimed; generally by squatters), They went west of Big Stranger and settled in the area between Fall Creek and Walnut creek and close to Big Stranger. To acquire timber land, the group had to purchase timber claims from Squatters. In addition they filed some of their own claims on adjacent land.

Since the country had not been surveyed, one could not be guaranteed that his claim was accurately located. To secure a safe position for the cabins, the people did not build their homes closer than 900 feet. This was law by tacit agreement and was followed. The first land auctions were to be in November of 1856. 1200 settlers were on hand with claims to be sold. Since this land auction had been advertised throughout the Northern states, many speculators came with an estimated 3 million dollars to spend for land. Originally the southern men were going to make an attempt to buy the "free-state men's" claims, but the fear of all that northern money being available from the speculators, the proslavery men organized with the free-state men and agreed to support each others' claims until all of the claims were purchased by the original settlers. 1200 men stood there each day of the sale and crowded out the speculators until all claims were satisfactorily purchased.

That first spring and summer of 1855 was extremely busy. The men had to build cabins, shelters for the animals yet to come, build fences, cut timber for lumber, and plant the fields for fall harvest. They also learned how to cook. They were used to good cooking when their wives were fixing meals, but here they were the cooks. Eventually, Benajah Hiatt became the chief cook. In the summer after much of the work was under control, the men decided they would have some of their neighbors over for a feast. A feast they had! **Not only did they have the usual items served at a feast, they also celebrated with Mud Turtle soup and a roasted Blue Heron.** They referred to the bird as a crane, but the Blue Crane lives in South Africa and the Blue Heron was often called a Crane. Ed. Note: They must have become excellent cooks!!!

Because of the slavery question, living in eastern Kansas was difficult. The abolitionists and pro slavery people were at WAR! General Lane's men had burned the entire town of Alexandria a few miles from Springdale. Most of Alexandria's people immediately moved to Springdale.

The people who came to Kansas with Wm Coffin were all Quakers. These people believed that if the proslavery men knew they were Quakers no harm would come their way. Uncle Joel Hiatt played a significant role in the Quaker protection. His beliefs ran with the proslavery men and because of this, many of the very evil proslavery men knew the Quaker people and actually quietly warned the Quakers when danger was near.

One evening Steven Sparks came to warn the Coffins about a large body of proslavery men with the "Kickapoo Rangers" who were coming to rid the country of Free Staters. Wm Coffin became worried for his family. He questioned his duty to his family vs. his duty to his religion. His duty to his family won and he loaded his shotgun in preparation to shoot any person who came through his door. After midnight he felt remorseful and prayed to God and asked for His protection. He unloaded his gun and went to sleep. The next morning he discovered that the proslavery men had crossed Stranger Creek further north. The Coffin family was not close to the action that night.

During the Wakarusa War, most of the men came to Lawrence via the Westport to Lawrence Road, but 500 men with cannon passed a short distance from Coffin home. Again they were close to the action.

There was much activity all over the area. Families were nervous. Twice the Coffin family decided to move away from their homes. The first time was in January during a bitter winter. They moved to the Friends settlement on the south side of the Kaw River. Here they stayed two weeks and decided to return home. The first day they made 15 miles through deep snow and bitter cold. The temperature was 25 below zero. That night they stayed in a cabin. The next day the women and children were in the wagons protected from the wind and covered with blankets. The men believed they survived because of the body heat generated by the strenuous demand on keeping animals moving through the deep snow. That night they found a deserted cabin in which to warm themselves with a

large fire. The third day out was just as cold, but they made it home.

The second time resulted from a warning from a Dr. Wood that some people were coming to clean out the Fall Creek area. Because of the activity of the "Missouri Ruffians", it had been difficult to get to Leavenworth for supplies. They decided to go into Missouri about 15 miles from the border. They took all their belonging and cattle with them. At Liberty Mills they found some empty houses and settled there for a few weeks. The Missouri neighbors were very friendly to them as they knew they were Quakers. Because there were many people hauling supplies to and from Leavenworth, it did not seem too difficult for the Coffin group to get back to their homes. They found their cabins and land undisturbed, but they could see that their beds had been used.

The summer and fall of 1858 were marked with much sickness. The predominant illness was malaria due to all the rain. In the middle of July a large rain fell and Stranger Creek rose 40 feet. As a result many people were flooded out.

Wm Coffin was very influential person who had a significant part in establishing a thriving Quaker Community which came to be known as Springdale. In all activities of his Church, the Sunday School, the public schools in his area, he had an effect. His hand was always there and he was considered a very responsible and knowledgeable person. In 1864, Wm Coffin and his wife (due to her poor health moved back to Richmond, IN).

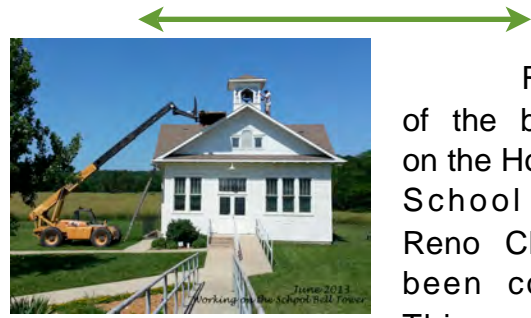
Of course the most significant Coffin of our generation's time was Drusey Coffin. As the County Superintendent she came once a year to our school in Tonganoxie. This visit was to evaluate the quality of teaching and of course to scare the poor school kids to death. (My mother* said she was all business, but kind.) She would very quietly sit in the back of the classroom, and of



course, the students were on their very very best behavior.

The picture here depicts Drusey Coffin, a young school teacher at Centennial School. In those days you could teach with a high school diploma.

*Maybeth Walters became county Superintendent after Drusey Coffin retired.



Restoration of the bell towers on the Honey Valley School and the Reno Church has been completed.

This project was funded by a grant by the Pete Leighty Fund. Cold wet weather caused a delay in the renovation process, but both buildings are looking spiffy with their refinished towers.

Steve Miller is responsible for doing this work.



Tuesday Night Programs
All programs begin at 7 PM

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October 22--Lisa Harkrader, local author will discuss creative writing, getting published, and her book, <i>Air Ball</i>, winner of William Allen White Award. 2. November 26--Bill Peak will present Presidential Homes and Gravesites 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. December 10 will be the annual Christmas Party with "goodies" galore! This program begins a 6 P. M. <p>You have to look deeper, way below the anger, the hurt, the hate, the jealousy, the self-pity, way down deeper where the dreams lie, son. Find your dream. It's the pursuit of the dream that heals you. Billy Mill's father</p>
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Who's This

Last quarter's Who's this person was obviously Gladys Sparks Thompson Walters. I am sorry but I lost that photo, but if you need to see it, just go south of Tonganoxie a few miles and it is on the billboard. Bigger than life. That was an easy one.

Who's This

This one is going to be difficult and embarrassing when you find who she is.



She grew up in Tonganoxie and graduated from Tonganoxie High School. She is seen here in a 1921/22 school composite photo and in a



1929 photo of the basketball team. She comes from an old Tonganoxie family. She raised two boys, both

were in the military. She was always interested in people and sports. She was known for giving painful "love pats" on your back!!



NEW MEMBERS

1. Kris Roberts & John Walter
-Leavenworth
2. Marilyn Kay Parsons
-Leavenworth
3. Ed & Connie O'Brien
-Tonganoxie
4. Mike Vestal
-Tonganoxie

It's very important and significant to see NEW MEMBERS. Welcome Aboard !!!

Susy Ross, Museum Director's Report

The museum staff welcomes back Carol Stouffer. Carol has been out of the office since January due to back surgery. We are happy to have her back. She has taken on the responsibility of gift shop manager.

The museum's newest acquisition is from the family of John Cass Lenahan. It includes hundreds of photos, slides, historical articles and a few personal items. Boxes chuck full of history!! Many thanks to Chip, Becky and Angela.

Since I am in great need of storage space, I have applied for a KMA (Kansas Museum Association) grant to purchase two shelving units. These will be temporary storage for the boxes that are filling up the office. Grant recipients will be notified on Oct. 7, 2013.

If you are interested in helping with data entry, call me, Susy -- 913-845-2477



The Hostess list for the 4th Quarter.

October -- Wiley, J. Hagenbuch, Farmer

November ---Englen- Hill

December--Christmas Party, Dec 10, 2013
begins at 6 P.M.

Bring finger food !!!!

"It does not require many words to speak the truth. -Chief Joseph

When all the trees have been cut down, when all the animals have been hunted, when all the waters are polluted, when all the air is unsafe to breath, only then will you discover you cannot eat money.

-Cree prophecy

Barn Quilts are fast becoming the newest art form in rural Kansas and other states. What is a Barn Quilt? It's a quilt block painted on the 2' X 2' square of MOD signboard and hung on a barn, a house, or wherever you would like.

We are fortunate to have Connie Larson, Olsburg, Ks., come to our site to share her knowledge on this latest art form for rural communities. She has been instrumental in establishing the Kansas Flint Hills Barn Quilt Trail.

Barn Quilt Class 101 will be held at our site in the barn on Saturday, October 26th at 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P. M. Class fee is \$35.00 and includes all supplies needed to complete the block.



A barn quilt

Bring a sack lunch with dessert and drinks provided for all by our Historical Society. Reservations are required as class number is limited.

CALL 913-845-3228 (JEAN PEARSON) if interested for further information. Names will be taken for future classes. How exciting to think we could be the beginning of our very own barn quilt trail.



Tonganoxie Boy Scout Troup 357 under the guidance of Ray Stockman had a campout at the historical site in late Sept. They toured our site,

held an official flag burning ceremony to honorably dispose of flags too badly damaged to fly, repaired the fire pit at one of our neighbors, and cleared brush and weeds from the spring just south of our fire house. THANK YOU!!

At the September Board of Directors meeting, the Board and the Building Committee met with Stan Hernly, an architect with Hernly Associates to review the Schematic Site Plan that he developed for our proposed new building. A new building is being considered because of the need for climate control storage of museum artifacts, more efficient use of office space, and a larger museum.

The Board of Directors asked Mr. Hernly to give a schematic site drawing of a new building that would be approximately 3600 square feet, which could be built in phases. A possible location for the new building would be on the west side of the drive. He also gave us a drawing for modifying the existing museum, current office space, and barn to accommodate the need for more space.

The TCHS Board and the Building Committee are reviewing the site drawings at this time and we would be happy to hear your thoughts and ideas.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

--Kathy Peak

As the end of this year rapidly approaches, it seems only fitting to do a little review of what we do.

We participated in the January Kansas Day festivities at Ft. Leavenworth with our Pioneer Trunk Display; In March our annual Chili Supper was a success, and we participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with our restored 1936 pumper fire truck.

April initiated our Open House to start the "Sunday museum season". Concession stand at the ball fields started in May and highlighted our volunteer efforts. The Tongie Days booth in June sold a wide variety of cookbooks, and memorabilia. The Annual Picnic in June had beautiful weather, great food, and a large attendance. For the first time this year we had a booth at the Leavenworth County Fair in July and gathered several new members.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT Con't

September brought a new experience as we had a food booth at the John Cass Lenahan Auction that was a huge success financially and garnered rave reviews on the food served by TCHS. A new flyer for our site has been created and is expected back from the printer very soon.

We created an annual scholarship for a Tonganoxie High School graduate beginning in 2014.

October will be busy as we host the Tonganoxie third graders, the Tonganoxie Chamber of Commerce coffee, and the Leavenworth County Cultural meeting. We are excited about a new venture: BARN QUILTS WORKSHOP 101. We are looking for volunteers to organize a small event for our end of the "Sunday Museum Season" which is the last Sunday in October. Please step forward and let us know if you are willing. It is always appreciated and we thank you in advance.



Our Volunteers are amazing, but we do need more people to help with the life blood of our site.

Our volunteers:

- Organize monthly programs
- Recruit refreshment hosts
- Coordinate Sunday docents for the museum and volunteers for labeling
- Maintain the building and grounds
- and---
- MUCH! MUCH! MORE!!!!**

We now have 204 members and we need more participating to keep this beautiful site

operating. As the need for more space continues to be an issue we must take a serious look at the future of our organization. As you can see, we are an extremely active Historical Society with some type of event or activity every month of the year. We operate on an all volunteer basis and many of our volunteers are finding it difficult to stay this active. How do we get additional volunteering members? Where do we see our selves in five years; in ten years? This should be viewed as an exciting, but transitional time. We need your physical help and your ideas for the future. Our actions determine the future so step up to and be heard and join an activity. **WE NEED ALL OF YOU !!**



TCHS ADDS THREE FAMILY HISTORIES

1. Roy Salmon family history -- Roy was born in England
2. Charles Haines family history. Charles' father was 70 years old in 1928 when Charles was born. Do the math !!! Charles' dad was born in 1858.
3. Harold Denholm family history-very detailed



JOHN CASS LENAHAN
JANUARY 23, 1923-JULY 19, 2013

John Cass Lenahan passed away in July at the age of 90. He had a long list of accomplishments that accompanied him throughout his life. He was a significant person in the history of Tonganoxie, and his influence will be missed.

Of all the things that he had accomplished in his life, I will remember him for his love of history, particularly local history, and the story telling that is associated with history (He wrote three books on the history of Tonganoxie). Also, the members of the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society remember him for being a past president and one of the founding members of this society

What is History

Thoughts from Laurie Walters, Board Chairman

An acquaintance recently commented to me that something was not old enough to be historical. This caused me to think. Is not history any event yesterday or before not merely events which occurred hundreds of years ago. As I visited with our boy scouts several weeks ago, it struck me that most of them did not remember Michael Landon (director of the film made in our Reno church). They did enjoy the photograph of the U-2 spy plane which accompanies our tale of John McKone and his capture during the cold war, but they had no knowledge of that era. What can our historical society do to reach youth and young adults?

We have a repository of exciting tales and history of Tonganoxie AND we need to add more current stories of our community. There is a myriad of topics about which volunteers could research. Even more importantly we are in need of individuals who are able to reach to our community to stimulate and foster usage of our facility and the compilation of recent historical information to include in our archives.

www.tonganoxiecommunityhistoricalsociety.com

Don't be shy about volunteering. You will find history addictive.

DINNING WITH THE DELAWARES

This paper presented by Rodney Staab, at the 23rd Algonquian Conference, sponsored by the University of Western Ontario, in 1992, describes the living conditions around and within the Delaware Indian homes between 1830 and 1860.

Prior to 1850 most of the Delaware homes were made with bark. By the 1860's many of the homes were frame or log cabins, with good barns and outbuildings. Some homes were two stories high. The animals were cattle, hogs, chickens, and sheep with plantings of wheat and corn, and gardens of course.

The living conditions within the home were usually a large fireplace, sparse furnishings and cooking tools. A

bed with shelf like structure built into the wall like a bench.

According to Albert D. Anderson, news reporter, the cooking was done by the female, and Anderson commented about the female "waiting for the nobler sex to finish their repast".

It was not unusual for the Indian homes to have chickens living within the household and laying eggs on the beds. In one case it was necessary to enter the house through the chicken house. The floors were dirt and sometimes the cabins were not always fully waterproof.

Rev. Richard Cordley, Lawrence Congregational pastor, describes the worst eating condition in this paper. He had to eat raw (warmed but raw) chicken. He says the place was so dirty that spitting out his chicken on the floor wouldn't be noticed.

Tonganoxie hosted white people on many occasions. In his absence, "Madame Tonganoxie" accommodated travelers. Although she could not speak English, she was able to communicate and served an excellent meal. During this time it was equally important to care for the horses.

On one occasion a little Tonganoxie and a dog chased a couple of chickens which along with some pork became the meal. Tea and/or coffee was usually served.

Most of the eating conditions were described as being very good. It seems to me that in this time period, it was not uncommon for a traveler to request food and shelter from a cabin owner (Indian or English) and be welcomed by the cabin owner. A fee was generally paid to the host.

---A THANK YOU to the Drs. Fulhages, Don and Michael, father and son. Michael sent this paper to his father, who then sent it to me.



When the white man discovered this country Indians were running it. No taxes no debt, women did all the work. White man thought he could improve on a system like this. - Cherokee

