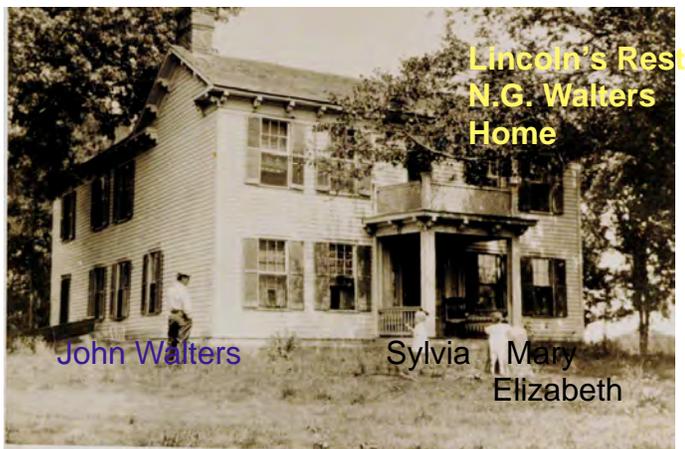




DID HE, OR DIDN'T HE?

DID ABRAHAM LINCOLN SLEEP HERE IN 1859 WHEN HE CAME TO KANSAS?



When Lincoln came to Kansas in 1859, he gave several speeches in the few days he was here. These speeches were made as a warm up for The Cooper Union address, made in New York the following February 27th.

The house in the photo, known as "Lincoln's Rest", the name provided by H. S. Adams, father of Anna Adams Walters, as noted on a metal plaque given by The Leavenworth Historical Society, was the location of a huge birthday party in Abraham Lincoln's honor. The date was 1931 and the actual sponsor was the Kansas Farm Bureau. The event was hosted by Nelson Green Walters.

When the question/debate noted in the title above actually began is debatable, but in 1931 it was huge. The Tonganoxie Mirror with Walt Neibarger took the position that Lincoln did in fact sleep in this house. The Leavenworth Times editor, J. W. Mickey, took the opposing side. Jim Morey told me that he thought that the debate was designed to sell newspapers. Then the debate sparked much discussion, but today the debate only happens when a few people who have knowledge of local history gather for coffee.

In modern times the debate/discussion was revisited when Carol Dark Ayres published *Lincoln and Kansas*. This

book is an excellent book on all things related to Lincoln's trip to Kansas. There are however, a few errors that I recognized in this book. For example if you use the directions given in this book (Page 139) to find Lincoln's rest, you may get lost. The directions given in this book from Leavenworth instruct you to travel 10 miles north west. Now I think you can see the point as the house is south east.

I will attempt to discuss the pros and cons of this debate, and discuss why some of the reasons may not stand.

It was too cold to make that trip: The local newspapers never reported the temperature, but they did record barge traffic. Barge traffic was evident until Sunday and Monday when the Missouri River was reported to be frozen enough that horses and people crossed from Missouri to Kansas by walking across frozen ice.

In November and December Kansas was noted for temperature swings from day to day. This is the case when Lincoln was in Kansas. On Wednesday when he arrived, it was warm enough for him to stick his bare feet in the Missouri River while he waited for the ferry to take him to Kansas. The next day was a blizzard, but still Lincoln traveled ca. 30 miles that day. Friday the temperature was warm enough that people in Atchison, Kansas watched Lincoln from the outside through the church windows.

People dressed accordingly in those days. During this time Wm Coffin made a trip from Lawrence to Springdale twice when the temp according to him was 25 degrees below 0.

On Saturday evening it was extremely cold, but given that people dressed differently and that temperatures could vary daily, it is likely that the weather for traveling 10-15 miles was not a real issue.

It was too far and too difficult with no time to make this trip.

If Lincoln could travel 30 miles in a blizzard, he could have traveled 10-15 miles to visit this area, and I believe the covered bridges over Stranger Creek were available for use. In any event there were trails in this area which were very usable.

The real issue of Lincoln sleeping at so called Lincoln's Rest involves three issues.

1. Lincoln's time in Leavenworth during this time is known and he had no free time to make this trip to Lincoln's Rest. This statement is true to a point. There was a day and 1/2 when I believe his time was not accounted and that was ample time to travel the 10-12 miles to the Delahay place. This concept is based on a story by Albert D. Richardson who at this time was a free lance journalist in Leavenworth. He had a working relation with Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, and he wanted a position on that news paper. (Horace Greeley's European correspondents were Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. That should tell you something).

The time in question is Sunday and Monday morning. Monday Afternoon, Lincoln spoke again in Leavenworth and from that point his time was known.

In August of 1860 Richardson (during the Civil War he was put in jail for being a spy) now working for Horace Greeley's *Tribune* reported that on Sunday, Lincoln stayed around the Delahay place and on Monday he walked around town and renewed old acquaintances and made new friends. This was almost 10 months after the fact.

I believe there is a good possibility that this Sunday/Monday part of his story was "dry labbed". Saturday Lincoln and others stayed up very late into the night and it was bitterly cold. If Richardson was in their party that stayed late, I doubt that he got up early enough to know what Lincoln did on Sunday. A scientific experiment that it is "dry labbed" is one that the information is made up and plugged into the formula. That is what I think happened here.

Ten months after the fact, Richardson needed a story and wrote what he believed might be true, but he probably didn't really have the information.

2. Lincoln was only in Kansas once. In August of 1859 Lincoln came to Iowa (via St. Joseph, MO.) on the same train that he traveled when coming to Kansas. In Council Bluff, IA he was looking at some land that was collateral on a loan he had made with some lawyer he knew. Those people in Iowa suggest strongly that he probably came through Kansas. In 1931 Cora Wellhouse Bullard, who was a well known and respected person in Kansas associated with the suffragette movement, reported that her father, Frederick Wellhouse had seen Lincoln in the area near

Lincoln's Rest, and he and Lincoln had a conversation. It was in August, it was dry and dusty. After the conversation, Lincoln proceeded in the direction of Lincoln's Rest. Frederick Wellhouse had a large orchard in the Summitt Area. It was located across the Leavenworth-Lawrence Road near the large rock house known as the Bullard/Merritt/Laming house. In addition H. V. Needham who lived in a log cabin near "The Cliffs" on Stranger creek and would be a mayor in the city of Tonganoxie, also said that Lincoln was in Kansas in August, but he couldn't remember the year. It had to be 1859.

3. Delahay did not record this deed until 1861. Therefore, he couldn't have owned it in 1859. Ed Note: The court house records available to me only go back to 1861. According to Cutter's *History of Leavenworth County* one year after the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) every acres in Leavenworth County had been claimed. I would expect that the Diminished Reserve was not part of this statement, because it was to remain with the Delaware Indians. The northern boundary of the Diminished Reserve is very close to the junction of Co. Rd. 5 and the road to Jarbalo. Delahay's property was north of that line. The Government began selling this land by auction in 1856. It is very likely that this property was sold at some time before 1861. Delahay's property according to the deed came from the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western RR (now the Union Pacific RR). It was his for one dollar and services given. The fact that the deed was recorded in 1861 does not mean that the transaction was made then. Quoting from the Tonganoxie Mirror, "Wm Heynan has an old abstract wherein an owner secured his legal title six years after claiming the land in this vicinity; there were contracts with Indians, with railroad companies, prior to that". J.C. Laming lived on the Delahay farm from 1883-1885. His father, Whit Laming, Sr. purchased this farm shortly after arriving from England. He has issued very strong statements that Lincoln stayed in that house. That would have be ca. 25 years later, but prior to the Walters family who purchased this property in 1914 and moved there in 1915. Anna Adams Walters wrote that the Abstract had a statement about Lincoln sleeping here. The abstract is not available to me, but that would not be a normal or expected statement on an abstract. The Walters family believed the home was built ca. 1857 to 1858.

So there you have it. I don't think concrete proof will ever be known, I do believe it was possible for Lincoln to have at least visited the property, and I believe the stated proof against him sleeping at Lincoln's rest is suspect.

Reflections from a new Board Member

by Kris Roberts



For the past several months, I have had the privilege of working with long standing members of the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society in several different roles. I was appointed to complete the last six months of June Hagenbuch's term as Vice President. While

there is no way that such a neophyte as I can hold a candle to June's experience and knowledge, I am trying to learn as much as I can. What follows are a few things that I have learned:

Exhibits: The exhibits at the Tonganoxie Museum are first class. I have been meandering through the museum on a few Sundays when I have served as one of the docents and on Wednesday morning work days – I see new things and new perspectives every time I look at an exhibit again. Every donation is reviewed for historical significance and then catalogued and preserved – some for immediate display, others for later display. Every exhibit is created and built by the volunteers.

Exhibits are not limited to those you view behind glass, but also include a growing collection of videos, as local residents have been interviewed and recorded to leave their memories in a permanent archive. The DVD collection of these stories and memories are priceless.

Energy: The volunteers who give their time at the museum cataloging and arranging exhibits, performing maintenance, repairs, and all kinds of handiwork are impressive not only in their range of abilities, but also in their energy. The Tonganoxie Community Historical Society and Museum have been built by volunteers who have given generously to create a real treasure.

This same energy is evident in fundraising events like the concession stand at the baseball fields in June. Many members spend one night a week (or more) throughout June to raise money to keep this museum a going concern.

Tonganoxie third graders from both USD 464 and Genesis spend one day a year at the museum, learning something about going to school in a one room school house, how old time farm implements were used, and getting an exposure to the rich history of our community. All of their experiences are provided by as many as twelve to fourteen volunteers.

Opportunities: I am amazed at the very long list of jobs and the variety of skills that are required to keep this Museum and Historical Society functioning. Volunteers show up one day a week to catalog and create exhibits, and to perform the landscaping and routine maintenance and repairs. Fundraising efforts such as the concession stand require many members to help out. The church and the barn are both rented out for private events – volunteers coordinate the rentals and collect the rent.

This newsletter is a wonderful source of local history and little known facts – written and published by a volunteer. Volunteers have recorded interviews on local history narrated by even more volunteers. The monthly meetings include creative and stimulating programs – well worth an hour and a half on the fourth Tuesday evening every month. Add some old fashioned hospitality and conversation at the end and you just can't do much better for the cost (free).

I have felt so welcomed in the past few months – every member I have met is more than willing to share experience and knowledge. Thank you to all of you – I feel honored and privileged to be a part of this group.

Ed. note: We are lucky to have her involved with our historical society. As a point of information, one of her hobbies is making jewelry.

HOSTESSES FOR 4th QUARTER 2014

October 28 Donna & Emil Wiley - June Hagenbuch
Arlene Meyer - Sharon & Dan Farmer

November 25 Janet & Jim Stuke -
Carylee & Dan Carr

December 9 Christmas Party 6 PM - Bring finger
food

This segment completes the hostess list for 2014. By the time the next newsletter comes out the new list for 2015 will be completed. If you have a preference as to which month you would like to serve please contact Jean Pearson at 913-845-3228

From the President

Cathy Peak

The time to elect new officers and board members for the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society is fast approaching.

The Board of Directors would like to make sure that all possible candidates will be considered for election before submitting nominees to the general membership in October. According to our by-laws you have until the 2nd week in November to make a nomination, however the board is requesting that you submit your nominations before the October 21st board meeting.

The Board would like to see more of our members become involved. If you are interested in becoming an officer or board member, or if you know someone you think would be a good candidate, the Board would appreciate your input in selecting a true slate of new candidates.

Positions open for nomination this year are:

President (1 year term)

Vice President (1 year term)

Director (3 year term)

Director (3 year term)

Officers and Board members whose terms have not expired are:

Don Fuhlhage, Treasurer
Connie Torneden, Secretary
Connie Putthoff, Director
Bill Peak, Director
Keyta Kelly, Director

Names for nomination must be submitted in writing to the board. A reply by email will be considered to be a written submission. You could also print out the page and submit the names to Laurie Walters

(plw1673q@embarqmail.com)

or ConniePutthoff

(conputt@sunflower.com).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Larry Ross receives Highest Honor

For his many years of outstanding work for the improvements of our historical society



Larry has shared his carpentry skills by making wooden display cabinets for use in the museum, building the concession stand which is used on the north ball diamond, and by drawing the plans for our newly completed museum annex which for a period of time alleviates the need for storage. Over the years, Larry attended many seminars and meetings representing our society. He worked diligently on our events such as, "Back in Time" and the annual visit by the public schools. He shared his pioneer skills on many occasions. Larry put innumerable hours into the restoration of our fire truck and the preparation of the fire house displays. As a "Wednesday regular" he could be seen cutting grass weeding, edging, shoveling snow and doing the many other odd jobs of our Wednesday volunteers. This society is appreciative of his help and dedication. We are in his debt.



SIMON CRONEMEYER (1843-1927)

Simon Cronemeyer's parents were Frederick Wilelm Cronemeyer (1807-1896) and Wilahamenia Bernstien Cronemeyer (1821-1901) of Leipzig, Germany. They were married in 1838. There were 4 boys born into this family. William (Will), Charles, Simon (b. 1843) and Herman (b. 1858 d, 1936).

The Cronmeyers's were wealthy people while living in Germany, owning a large barrel manufacturing business. When Mrs. Cronemeyer learned the Prussian War was coming she was so afraid that her boys would have to fight in that war, she made her husband leave Germany and come to the United States and to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she had relatives. The date is noted by one historian as 1855, the other says 1856-57.

Ed. note: It appears that three of the Cronemeyer's boys were born in Germany (Will, Charles, & Simon), since Simon was born 1843 and was 14 when he came to the U.S. He is listed as the third child born. Herman was born in 1858.

William (Will) was engaged to be married to Mary Ann O'Neill, an orphan who at that time was living with her uncle, Dr. Gallagher. Mary's father was a sea captain who was lost at sea, and her mother died shortly thereafter.

Will and Simon enlisted in the Union Army and served with the 28th Pennsylvania regiment. During the battle of Antietam, Will was killed and Simon was wounded in the arm. While recovering from his war wound under the care of Dr. Gallagher, he became acquainted with Mary O'Neill. They were married in 1865. Simon and Mary with his brother, Herman, came to Tonganoxie in ca. 1867. His daughter, Mina, was 1-1.5 years old when the trip was made. She rode the entire trip on her mother's lap.

Simon was 14 when the family came to Pittsburgh. He had received a good education in Germany (In Germany schools were all year long). He later graduated from Pittsburgh Business College. He also learned the trade of cabinet making, and he made a good living working two jobs.

The trip to Leavenworth was made in October by train. It appears the trip was hard on Mary with Mina on her lap and hard benches for seats. She had led a sheltered life, being educated in a convent where she learned to read,

write, and sew. In any kind of sewing she was a professional.

In Tonganoxie, Simon found some lodging in one of the town's taverns (ed. note: Tonganoxie early times was a tough town with the predominant business being taverns.). The rented rooms were divided by horse blankets hung from the ceilings. Mary was uncomfortable, and the Indians especially were a concern. She could hear them at the bar. After spying a louse on Mina's head, she wrapped her child in a blanket and went to a house Simon was building for the family. Although the house was not completed, she announced that she was moveing in. They slept around a "sheet stove" wrapped in blankets.

Simon built a carpenter shop on the lot and began making furniture and other jobs. He made all the caskets. If you had the money, the casket was covered in black velvet: if not the casket was covered in a plain black cloth.

W h e n t h e Cronemeyer's landed in Tonganoxie, the town consisted of a tavern, a small store with living quarters and one or two small houses scattered here and there. Mary had to learn to cut hair

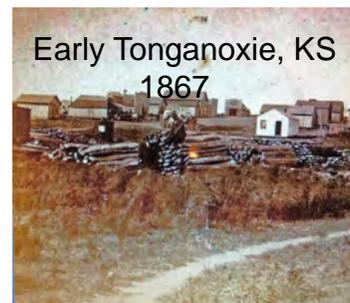
since there were no barbers. Mary had no sewing machine so all her and Mina's clothes were made by hand.

Mary always missed the hills of Pennsylvania and she would ask traveling men to tell her about "home" and any news they could provide. She never was able to visit her home.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected for his second term, he came to visit Pittsburgh. A huge parade was arranged with young ladies "strewing" flowers in front of Lincoln's carriage. Mary was one of the flower girls.

Later Simon purchased a 20 acre farm north of Tonganoxie, where he planted fruit trees. They lived to celebrate 63 years of marriage.

Will was born in Tonganoxie in 1871. He was the oldest living male born in Tonganoxie. When Will and his wife, Lona Nelson, were married, they continued to live with Simon. Lona was a milliner by trade and came from Chilllicothe, Mo. to work with I. Pearson. Lona was very



religious and was a founding member of the Christian Church.

Simon and his descendants produced 5 generations of carpenters who lived in Tonganoxie (Simon, Will, Ray, Jack, and Jack, jr).

Mina Cronemeyer married Joel Ratliff, a druggist in Tonganoxie. They had five children, Walter, Orville, Floyd and Herbert. Floyd was a druggist in the Ratliff Drug Store.

Mina was an accomplished musician. Simon bought her the first organ in Tonganoxie. Mina died of T. B. when Herbert was a baby.

In 1872 Simon's brother, Herman D. Cronemeyer married Aletha Powell. Aletha had moved to Tonganoxie with her parents in 1869. They had 7 children:

Carl, Louis, Earl D., Theodore, Frederick, Russell, and Florence

In 1874 Simon's parents moved to Tonganoxie and lived in a house on Pleasant Street. After their deaths, Simon's son, Will and his family moved into the Pleasant Street home.



Roz McCommon is now operating "The Jewel on Main". She has this summer produced the "LIVE SUMMER SERIES" which was small musical groups on the patio seen on the SE corner of the building. There was some real good sounds coming from there each Sunday afternoon.

She has plans for more musical groups, theater, pageants, etc. this fall and winter.

In my time this was a very active sale barn



TCC WALK TO BENEFIT GALLAGHER PARK-- COME TO PROPOSED GALLAGHER PARK SITE SOUTH OF THE TONGANOXIE WATER PARK

The Gallagher family donated the site of their home for nearly 75 years to the city. City officials and a committee of citizens are planning a trailhead and park for this site at the corner of 3rd Street and Main Street. Funding for this park will come through grants and donations from the public.

Tonganoxie Civic Club members and other interested members of the community will meet at the park site and walk from 9 – 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 4th to raise funds for the construction of the park. We will walk to Chieftain Park, VFW Park, and then out near the post office on the new trail. Please consider making a pledge to a member of the civic club. Tax deductible donations may be made by making a check payable to the City of Tonganoxie and writing Gallagher Park Fund on the memo line. You can also come join us for the walk or help us gather pledges. Members of the Gallagher Park committee will be on hand to answer questions and to show drawings for the proposed park.

For more information, please contact Ken Mark at 913-991-8191, kencoug1210@yahoo.com or Jason Ward at 913-488-4587, jward@shb.com.

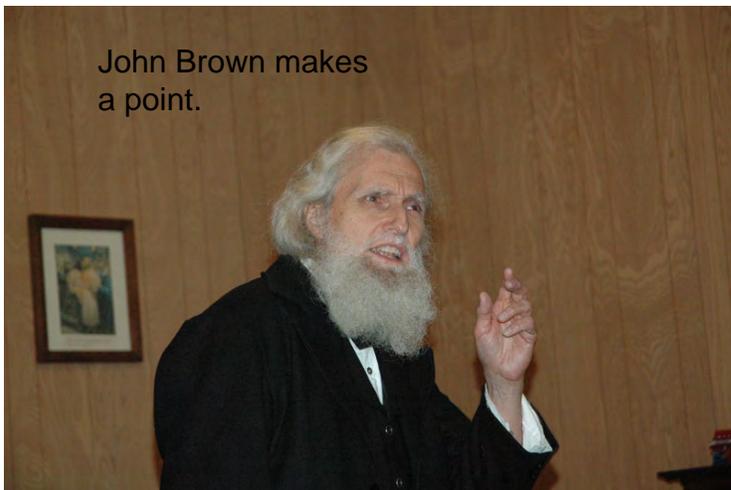


JOHN BROWN ENTER RENO CHURCH



John Brown enters the Reno Church, "A wild and crazy guy". The reinactment of John Brown by Kerry Altenbernd (grew up between

Lawrence and Eudora) was loud, very entertaining, and very educational. Kerry gave a complete synopsis of John Brown's life from his early upbringing, formalizing his position on Slavery, his time in Kansas and this life completed at Harper's Ferry. I was not aware of the short period of time that John Brown was in Kansas. He came



in 1855 and by 1858 he was out of the state and raising money in the East.

Kerry when not playing Brown, speaks in a normal voice with the usual voice inflections. As John Brown his voice becomes loud and you become aware that Brown was fanatical in his position on slavery.

The program was exceptional.



Museum Volunteers are really enjoying the increased space. We have been able to add to exhibits, and create new exhibits. PLEASE PLAN TO BRING A FRIEND TO SEE OUR NEW SPACE.

The people will save their government, if the government itself will allow them. A. Lincoln

RECENT MUSEUM ADDITIONS



A photo of the ribbon used in the ceremony opening Tonganoxie's new leg to the walking trail

We have the B & J letters which for many years graced the B & J Thriftway store. It will be installed on our new wall in the barn when lawn mowing responsibilities let up for our volunteers. (P. S. WE ARE ALWAYS NEEDING ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS. HELP US . TIME IS WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 9 A.M. - NOON YEAR ROUND).



Ed and Carol Slawson donated the electrical climbing equipment owned by Bill McGee which can be viewed in our fire station. Also with their gift is a game of "Tonganoxie Monopoly" which was produced by "Friends of the Library" in 1993 as a fund raiser. It is interesting to see the businesses represented on our own version of Tonganoxie Monopoly.



A stunning oval portrait of Ida Keck Toburen in an ornate oval frame with curved glass cover was donated by Connie Torneden. Included with her gift were photos of the Toburens in the Toburen bakery which operated on Fourth

Street. I think the array of baked goodies in that photo rival any that I see today.

Our staff cheered as we finished cataloging, photographing, measuring, and conserving the donations from the family of John Cass Lenahan. There were well over 600 items. Please see the exhibit in his honor as you enter the museum. This will be replaced by another exhibit over the winter.

Many other numerous items which represent the wealth of history in our community have been donated and are appreciated. Please remember us if you have something of historical significance which you would like to include in our collection. REMEMBER ! HISTORY IS ANYTHING WHICH HAPPENED BEFORE TODAY



LARRY MEADOWS SPEAKS OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN VIET NAM. (August 2014)

There Was Standing room only!!!

If one discusses Tonganoxie's civic minded people, the Meadows family is at the top of the list. They are very well known around Tonganoxie. Larry is especially active in the VFW and was one who was instrumental for the fine VFW building and grounds. He was very active in having the Viet Nam traveling "Wall" visit Tonganoxie. You see a helicopter on the grounds. Larry had a major role in getting it.

Among the various services this organization provides is an in-home hospital bed for veterans who have a need for one. I am one who needed that service. Larry and Harold Denholm brought me such a bed.

On August the 26th, Larry told of his numerous Viet Nam experiences. His US Army Reserve unit was called to active duty in 1969. One of his responsibilities was transporting petroleum and diesel supplies to marine and army units which needed fuel. To me that job seemed like riding a huge bomb waiting to explode. I think he downplayed some of the "exciting experiences" with which he was involved.

Larry brought with him another Viet Nam veteran, Jerry Vick. Jerry saw service as a helicopter gunner and discussed that. Another Viet Nam veteran showed up unexpectedly. Larry Rose was an Army Pilot. At the end of the program he identified himself and related some of his experiences in Viet Nam. He was involved in aerial transportation. Larry was a welcome surprise.

Bits and Pieces

1. 1st Lt. Israel Greene and 86 United States Marines under the command of **U.S. Army Col. Robert E. Lee's** men at Harper's Ferry, capturing John Brown and rescuing his hostages.
2. July 8, 1916--Jarbaloo bank was held up
3. Population of Tonganoxie in 1908---1200

It is unclear but I believe the following information is Tonganoxie in 1908

Tonganoxie building and Loan Assn. Cap. \$100,000
E.E. Heiser President, Wm Heynen, Sec. Whitsed Laming, Jr., Treasurer.

J. W. Ratliff, Prescription Druggist Fine Stationery, toilet Articles, Patent medicine, Cigars. (This is probably Joel Ratliff who married Mina Cronemeyer.)

Frederick Wellhouse and sons Fruit growers Frederick Wellhouse came to Kansas from Ohio where he also had orchards. He had many acres of trees in various locations. Some of his orchards were in the Summit area. He had a large cider mill operation in Fairmount

Zoellner Mercantile Co. Cap. \$20,000 Frank Zoellner, President; JC Laming Treasurer, A. O.Know Sec.

Lincoln Ballou, Postmaster

CC Edgar Agent UP Railroad

Edward Heiser, Agent KC, NW RR

Reese Cadwallader, Undertaker

Angell Hotel, Mrs. K. Angel, Propr.

Wm Holder, Propr National Hotel

John Reno, Physician

Mrs. John Pierce, propr Elliott House

Breckinridge C. Stringfellow, grocer

Arthur W. Thistlewaite, optician.

Simon Cronemeyer was a charter member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows

