



Little Stranger
Christian
Church, 1868

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HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BUILDING BEFORE??

Traveling along Co. Rd. 5 a short distance north of The Boling Grange Hall, a popular place in 1956, where high school students from the region gathered on alternate Saturdays to dance, you come to a cross road, Stranger Road. Look East a very short distance and you can easily see an unpainted dilapidated building. It seems to be a miracle that the building continues to stand in such poor condition. Personally, I paid little attention to this structure, but I had noted it, but I was not aware of what this structure represented. THIS STRUCTURE IS THE LITTLE STRANGER CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Little Stranger Christian church was formed by members of the Farley, Mo. Christian Church. It seems that many of Farley's faithful members moved to Kansas in 1858 and began meeting in an old log school house near the ghost town of Little Stranger. The town of Little Stranger is located some distance west of where the present church is located.

It is speculation, but this migration from Missouri to Kansas and the county of Leavenworth probably was the result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act whereby the state of Kansas' fate as to being a free or slave state would be left to the people living in the state. Almost over night people from Missouri migrated to Kansas to establish a voting present for slavery.

In 1868 the congregation moved to where this building is now located. Land was purchased for \$30.00 and nearby cottonwood trees provided the lumber. A small cemetery just west of the church is still seen. It has been said that wagon ruts could be seen on the southwest corner of this land, where people traveled from Leavenworth to Santa Fe, New Mexico and to Oregon.

George Washington Seymour and his wife are buried in this cemetery. During the Civil War his family drove a wagon to Texas and New Mexico hauling provisions. He buried a son along the Santa Fe trail and on his last trip he was attacked by Indians. A relative of his told me that he accidentally shot himself with a pistol and smoked his pipe while the Dr. (**without anesthesia**) removed his leg. He apparently was upset at his son who was playing with a pistol. He took the gun away from his son and rapped the pistol on a hard surface. It went off and he lost his leg.

The church struggled during WWI as membership declined. In 1875 an epidemic of small pox took many lives. During the severe flu epidemic of 1918 the church was asked by the State Board of Health to close. It did and never reopened as a church. Sunday school was held until the 1940's and a 4-H club revitalized it, and used it for a meeting place, but today the church building struggles to exist, but does exist, weathered, suggesting extensive history and memories long lost.

This year the Tonganoxie Community Historical Societies' annual **chili feed will be on Feb 16, 2012 at the Methodist Church.** This annual event is well supported by the local community.

Connie Putthoff, who directs this event, supplies the following information about what is needed in supplies and help:

Tickets will be available in January.

28 people to bring two pies each.
10 people to cook 10 lbs. of ground beef.
8 people to donate 2 lbs. of carrots cut for relish dish
8 people to donate 2 bunches of celery for relish dish.
5 people to donate 12 c. potatoes cubed for soup.
6 people to donate 3 c. carrots ready for soup.
10 cups celery ready for soup.
10 cups cabbage chopped for soup.

Workers needed at 8:30 AM

4 men to set up tables

Workers needed at 10:45-2:00

1 person to prepare carry outs.
1 person to make & serve coffee, tea water
1 person to serve chili.
1 person to serve soup
1 person to cut pies
1 person to sell tickets at door
1 person to take tickets and start serving line.
4 people to set and bus tables
1 person to be tray helper.
4 people to wash dishes

Did you know that Jean Harlow, movie star, attended Tonganoxie Rural High School in the early 1910-15 area. It was just for one or two months. Jack Hoey said in his interview(May 1982) that she was so pretty the female teachers were mean to her.

Workers from 2-7 P.M.

1 person make and serve coffee, tea and water.
1 person to serve soup.
1 person to serve chili.
1 person to cut pies.
1 person to sell tickets.
1 person to take tickets at start of serving line.
4 people to set and bus tables
1 tray helper
4 people to wash dishes

CLEAN UP CREW: The more we have the faster it will go for all of us.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY CALLING 913-669-5538 OR E-MAIL at conputt@sunflower.com

Please do the above so that Connie doesn't have to call you!!!

Connie will be handing out tickets at the Jan. meeting. If you cannot be there to get them call Connie at the above number, and Connie will mail them to you.

You may also pick up the tickets at her home.

After serving many years as president of TCHS, Connie has stepped down and did not run for this position. Her steadfast and reliable work ethics in this position, as well as other jobs that she has participated, have always been greatly appreciated by this organization and those around her.

"Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it deserves it". Mark Twain

"Republicans want a man that can lend dignity to the office. Democrats want a man that will lend some money." Will Rogers

Christmas Holidays at TCHS

This years Christmas celebration (Dec. 13, 2011) at The TCHS site was exceptional. The planning of the activities and the organization of the “finger appetizers” by the members demonstrated that parties are fun.

Santa Clause arrived and the children in attendance were excited to meet the gentleman in red. I wasn't sure where he left his sled, but I think it was a new model with four wheels and a gasoline motor.

Probably 30% of those in attendance, including the children, were guests of TCHS. Ellen Bottorff once again provided piano music with her hands and fingers flying over the 88 keys, and singing was led by Bill Peak and Jim Stuke. Many old Christmas Carols were sung, some were actually close to being in key. Bill Peak had printed many copies of Carols to sing.

You can see from the photos below how much fun and celebration was the result.



**Annual Spring
Festival “Back in
Time”
April 28, 2012
This event is held at
the historical site.**

Christmas Reflections

by Jim Stuke, Chairman

Our Christmas party was enjoyed by both members and guests, including special guest, Santa Claus, who found time to spend the evening with us, and joined in the singing of Christmas Carols. The food was delicious, and the decorations made for a festive evening.

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP by Kathy Peak

Dues for the 2012 year are due this January!!

Bringing together those people interested in history and especially in the history of Tonganoxie and the surrounding community!

Our mission is to collect, identify, record, preserve and display materials which will help to establish and illustrate the history of the greater Tonganoxie community.

Having a large and active membership is the strength of any non-profit organization. Certainly dues and donations from paying members are important. But without a core of reliable and responsible active members to provide the leadership and carry out the mission, the organization cannot survive. ***Without a pool of willing members, growth may not be possible and the continued existence of the organization may be at risk due to attrition.***

There is a very significant role for those members who may not or can not be operationally involved.

Did you miss a chance to join in the fun and volunteer???

2011 activities and fundraisers include:

150th birthday party for Kansas.
Chili feed---Tongie Days--Fair Parade
St. Patrick's Day Parade
A Look Back in Time---Cemetery Stroll
Baseball Concession Stand--
Spooktacular--Christmas Party

"You cannot escape the responsibility
of tomorrow by evading it today." --
Abraham Lincoln



**Chili Feed--
Feb. 16, 2012
Methodist Church !!**

Who is this? Did you guess
George Cooper? This is
George wearing his
WW II Army Air
Force uniform. George
was a
B-25
pilot.



***But do you know
this long time
resident of
Tonganoxie seen at
sale barn in
1930's ??
Hint: had a
business in
Tonganoxie !!***



Please provide the following information and return this form
with your payment to:

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
201 WEST WASHINGTON ST. P. O. BOX 785
TONGANOXIE, KANSAS. 66086-0785

MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2012

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

CONTRIBUTOR LEVELS

Individual -----\$10.00

SUPPORTER -----\$100.00

family-----\$15.00
(family members must reside in same house)

SPONSOR -----\$250.00

Individual life -----\$100.00

PATRON -----\$500.00

**PLEASE LIST THE
NAMES** _____

**I WISH TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCIBLE DONATION TO TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY (TCHS)**

-Donation amount-----\$ _____

-Memorial Donation for _____ \$ _____

The Museum Director's Corner by Susy Ross

Jenny Alden has installed PastPerfect 5.0 onto all 3 of our computers. This updated version of PastPerfect was purchased by funds from the Leighty grant. Three staff members can now enter artifact and membership information into the program. Other staff members can now browse and research our collection. However, the program is only as good as the information programmed into it. Our goal is to enter as much information about every artifact that is possible. This may seem like an overwhelming task, but little by little it is being accomplished.

A recent donation is a scrap book documenting the history of the Tonganoxie Township Fire Department in Reno given by Richard Ogden.

Third graders from Tonganoxie Elementary School and Genesis Academy have been to the Site on different dates for history lessons. These lessons include a one room school experience, Native American history or pioneer travel, old fashioned games, an introduction to the barn artifacts and a tour of the museum. Peachez Joles has coordinated this function for the past two years. **Thank you, Peachez!**

Our annual festival- "Back in Time" will be April 28. Besides a vintage quilt show and an old fashioned lunch, there will be a mountain man encampment, Civil War re-enactors, women's skills, children's chores, children's games, horse drawn buggy rides, and possibly a Native American encampment. We need people to help make bonnets for this event. This event has been a huge success for several years.

"Careless words stab like a sword, but wise words bring healing." Proverbs 12:18

It's in the Museum

1. CD of Dr. Larry Deaton, Ed.D., graduate of Tonganoxie High School, 1957 on "Celebrate". a speech suggesting that one also looks for the small things to celebrate. Presented during Chamber of Commerce award to Helen Shilling.
2. CD of Dennis & Mary Matthews presentation on Quilts.
3. CD on Quilt history by Vera Reynolds.
4. CD by Fred Leimkuhler on Mrs. Stansfield, Chief Wolf Robe and Amos Wickersham, buried in Wildhorse Cemetery.
5. CD on Charles "Charlie Brown" , noted ventriloquist who lived in Tonganoxie, KS. by Fred Leimkuhler.

New Videos available for viewing in the museum

Connie Putthoff, Kathy Peak with some input from Perry Walters are in the process of interviewing local people to record their personal recollection of history in and about Tonganoxie, KS. Three Videos have been completed to date.

1. Bud Laming discusses Laming family, origins from England, Local telephone company and Red Star Farm
2. Wm Leland Freienmuth discusses early Freienmuth family, local mill ca.1900's, Many Oaks and orchard. WW II and early radar development, schools and his work with electronic and guidance systems.
3. Don and Bo Himpel discuss early family, life on Stranger Creek, school, work in the family and various businesses.

*The Annual TCHS
Chili feed is Feb. 16th, 2012
at the Methodist Church
LUNCH & DINNER
Don't miss it !!*

The Building and Grounds Crew Do it Again.

Once again the people who weekly arrive at the "Site" to do the building maintenance and grounds care have outdone themselves by constructing a very nice new fence seen upon entering the driveway to the museum. Seen smiling along the completed fence are Lloyd Pearson, Larry Ross, Jim Stuke, Dan Carr, and Ed Slawson.



**WE SALUTE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO
KEEP THIS FACILITY OPERATIONAL
AND LOOKING FANTASTIC!!!!**

Tuesday evening programs at TCHS for the next three months

1. Jan 24, 2012--Pediments and Impediments: Kansas History through Architecture--Charles Davis-Davis Preservation
2. Feb., 28--Kansas Cuisine-- Roger Adams, Associate professor at Kansas State University
3. March 27--Missionary: Friend or Foe--Lynsay Flory in a first person narrative of Clara Gowing

ALL PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 7 P.M.

The Pete Leighty Trust

This year the First State Bank and Trust offered the opportunity for TCHS and others to apply for grant money to help these organization fund special need areas within their organization. TCHS received one of these grants which enabled our organization to purchase broadband internet service and a much needed upgrade in the data base program (PastPerfect) that allows us to find things when you request. The picture above shows Susie Ross, Don Fuhlhage, and Jenny Alden receiving the grant.



Wyandotte County Museum visit TCHS

Three members of the Wyandotte County Museum asked to come by and visit our "Site". On a Wednesday in late October they arrived for a meaningful visit. Many things were shared and discussed. They have several paid employees and money is provided for their operation by the County. Their Organization is structured with significant differences, when compared to ours. The three ladies who visited were Trish Schurkamp, Margaret Long, and Jennifer Laughlin. They also have a sign they borrow from the state and are able to place it on the median of US 24/40 to provide information about things happening at their site. Very effective method of advertising.



A message from Jim Stuke, Chairman

Now that the Christmas Holiday season is over and the New Year's resolutions have been made, hopefully one of your resolutions is to become active in at least one of the many activities of our historical society.

Kathy Peak was introduced as our new President for the coming year. We certainly want to thank Connie Putthoff for being President for the past 8 years.

June Hagenbuch will be Vice-President. Laurie Walters and Jim Stuke were elected as board members for another term. Our current board members are Ed Slawson, Lloyd Pearson, and George Anton. Susy Ross is our Museum Director, Don Fuhlhage, Treasurer, Howard fields, Assistant Treasurer, Jenny Alden, Secretary and Jean Pearson will be our Assistant Secretary. Thanks to all you for taking these positions.

As we look forward to 2012, we need to think if there are changes that we need to consider in order to make our society more vibrant, and more visible to the public. We will continue to have our monthly meetings with outstanding speakers, "The Back in Time" festival to demonstrate how life was in the 19th century, the summer picnic and other events. Also, as fund raisers, we will continue to have the chili feed in February and "The Back in Time" festival (This years Festival is April 28, 2012) as our grand opening in April.

Do you have any ideas for the Board to consider?

Several new committees have been formed and everyone is welcome to become a committee member. Kathy Peak and Susy Ross are reviewing the current Strategic Plan, which most likely will need to be revised. Kathy and Susy are also working

with Laurie Walters on our Policy Manual. An exploratory Building Committee (Francis Wiley, George Cooper, Delbert Felts, Bill Peak, Kathy Peak, Susy Ross and Jim Stuke) will review our current facilities and determine if changes are needed to display our artifact and exhibits. The Building Committee is also reviewing the feasibility of improving our current office space.

To promote the many activities and events that are ongoing at the Site and in our community, a Publicity Committee has been formed to coordinate these activities through various sources and methods. The committee members are Shawn Linenberger, James Wombell, Paula Wombell, Kathy Peak, Bill Peak, and Jenny Alden.

To summarize, our Society is "alive and well" and needs everyone's assistance, large or small, to fulfill our mission: ***to collect and preserve the history of our community***



Labeling for Money

Four times per year several member of TCHS gather at the Site or in someone's home to place mailing labels on 5-6,000 union newsletters to be sent to union members. This is one of the activities that provides additional money for the operation of our facilities. Denise Baker is largely responsible for letting our worker have this opportunity.. and Gladys Walters get the workers organized. Photos above are a few of the ladies that have done this work. From L-R we have Donna Wiley, June Hagenbuch, Connie Putthoff, and Jenny Alden.

*This story involves
Dan Farmer's grandmother,
his father, and 4 siblings.*

SIX NARROWLY ESCAPE DEATH !!

from the Lawrence paper

October 26, 1910

*vehicle poised on the edge
horses suspended by harness
wagon remained upright*

With their team suspended by harness over the edge of the Kaw bridge, and the light spring wagon in which sat poised perilously on the half finished bridge structure, a woman and five little children were rescued from an eighteen foot drop to the railroad tracks below, this afternoon. The accident occurred about 3 O'clock in the afternoon.. Mrs D. C. Farmer, living near Clinton, was bringing her children in to see the circus. The south span of the Kaw bridge is being repaired and the flooring of the west side had been taken up. This open space was not protected by railing of any description.

When the team, which appeared to be steady old farm horses, reached a spot directly over the Santa Fe tracks, they became frightened at some object and swerved suddenly to the right. Both horses fell over the edge of the bridge, dragging the vehicle to the very edge of the planks. A steel girder acted as a support for the team, or the entire vehicle with its six occupants would have been jerked suddenly off the bridge. The neck of one of the horses struck on this girder, and the other falling upon it, miraculously balanced here until workman

could block the wagon and lift the occupants out.

While this was being done, the first animal slipped further, until its entire weight was supported by its neck, which was doubled under its mate and across the narrow iron rod. An effort was made to pass ropes under the horses and lift them back on the bridge, but this proved futile. They were finally unharnessed and allowed to drop to the railroad tracks below. The distance is approximately 18 feet, and both animals were painfully bruised by the fall. Fortunately both alighted on their backs and escaped without broken legs. It was believed for a while, that the animal with the wrenched neck would have to be shot, but it was afterwards able to get upon its feet. The accident attracted a big crowd, and there was considerable criticism of the contractors action in leaving the bridge edge unprotected by a railing. A runaway team could scarcely cross the bridge without plunging off the structure, and it was by the merest chance that Mrs. Farmer and her children were not thrown over the edge this afternoon.

Dan Farmer, known to many in an earlier lifetime as "Danny" graduated from Tonganoxie Rural High School in 1956, He and his wife, Sharon Williams Farmer, also a Tonganoxie graduate, are recent members of the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society. WELCOME ABOARD !!

Hosts for the First Quarter are:

1. January Pearson - Putthoff
2. February---Stuke-Ramseier
3. March---Peak--P. Walters

These are scheduled for 4th Tuesday
of the month