

# TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 4th QUARTER NEWSLETTER, Dec., 2013



### OLD BUILDINGS AROUND TONGANOXIE

For several years TCHS has been recording family genealogical history. At first, voice recordings were made. This was followed by VHS recordings and now digital (DVD's) are being recorded. Several members who have the capability to transfer the older recordings to a digital format have made it possible for these family histories to be viewed with modern technology.

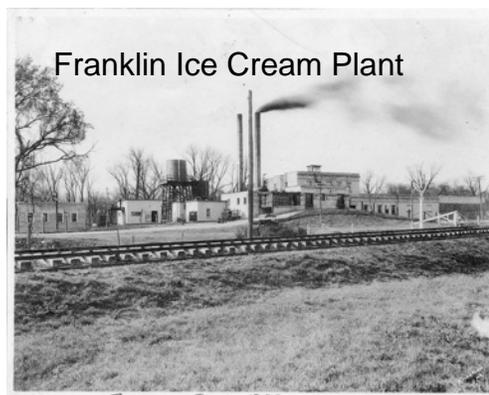
Recently TCHS has been recording information about the old buildings of Tonganoxie. We are 2/3rd completed with this project and I thought our members might enjoy seeing and reading some history about these buildings.

This photo is one of the **Tonganoxie Faultless Condenser**. It existed from 1880 to 1922. The company produced condensed milk and marketed all over the United States. It is easy to understand why there were so many dairies around this town when you learn that "The Condenser" needed 30,000 pounds of milk each day. This plant was operated originally with a 60 hp steam engine. Steam engines require water



(see below Tonganoxie City Lake).

Sometime ca. 1922 this plant was sold to the **Franklin Ice Cream Company** which used this building to produce ice cream, butter and etc.



The plant received the milk in cans which contained 10 gallons of milk. Each can was handled several times during the

process.

As the dairy industry progressed to mechanical milking with cold storage bulk tanks. the Franklin

plant was no longer needed and the milk went by truck directly to Kansas City. The Tonganoxie plant closed ca. 1958.

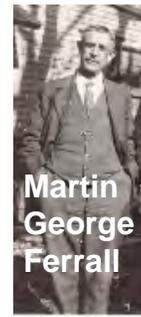
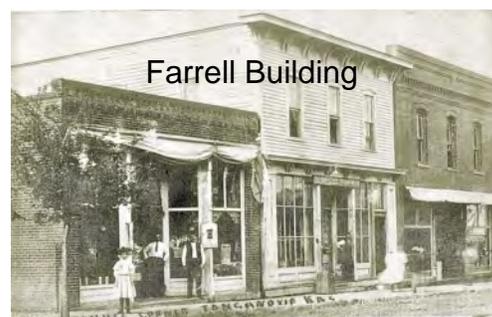
There was a small dam on Tongie Creek just west of the Franklin buildings which provided water to the Franklin Plant. It provided me (and others) with a place to fish. Perch above the dam and 3/4 lb. catfish below the dam. Worms were the primary bait, generally from Tobe's barn. If you could get a crawfish, you were guaranteed to get a catfish.

### The Farrell Building or Champion's IGA or Baker' IGA

Looking from left to right in this photo you will see the Ratliff's building, the Farrell bldg (Champion IGA) building (white bldg.), and the Shilling Electric building.

Around 1914/16 this building was owned by Martin George Ferrall who was known as a cigar retailer and gentleman farmer. He rolled his cigars at home and sold them in this white building.

At some time the top floor was rented to Dr. Leaky, a dentist. It appears that Dr. Leaky considered himself a "ladies man" One of his lady friends caught the good Dr. upstairs with another of his lady friends. Since she recognized that this wasn't the usual dental examination, she tried to burn the building down. She was unsuccessful, but the top of



the building had to be removed.

Martin George Farrell's grandson, Larry Deaton, who grew up in the Farrell house, said that M. G. was mayor of Tonganoxie from 1914-1918. Indeed he was!

*The information about these old buildings is based in fact, but may not be entirely accurate. It's hearsay !!!!*

It get's better!

This photo looks west from about where the "Lower Pool Hall" was located. Al Hicks was not the original owner of this building, but he and his wife operated this beer and pool hall for many years. The building either exploded or fell in, depending upon with whom you talk. People were killed and the adjacent buildings also fell in. The result was the elimination of the pool hall, Albert Conley's barber shop, a dry cleaning shop, and Opal Freeman's restaurant.

Al Hicks was an All American Guard on Kansas University's football team in the very early 1900's.



The building with the white "X" had a lady physician who worked on the second floor. Her name was Jenny van Epp sp???. She delivered Bob Lenahan and a few weeks later she found a home in Leavenworth. She was living off the state surrounded by bars for selling drugs from her office. It is not known what happened to her after that.

It is a poor photo, but that structure in the above photo labeled with the black X is a windmill. It was constructed for fire protection. Apparently, there were several large "cisterns" underneath the streets of Tonganoxie. They collected & stored rain water for use by the fire department in putting out fires. It seems that these cisterns are still under the streets. A few years ago there was a water leak near the 4th and Main street intersection. The workman dug a hole near where the leak exited to the surface, but found only wet dirt. After digging further up the hill to the west, they found the source of the leak to be one of those cisterns. These cisterns were probably a "best effort" at that time, but one questions how many buildings they saved.

Well, I have discussed dentists and physicians. Lets try the lawyers. Harold Denholm purchased some lumber in the Dorney bank building, just prior to it being torn down. A lawyer occupied space on the top floor of this building. Harold noted when tearing

down the lumber there were a few bullet holes in some of the boards. S. J. McNaughton is suspected of being a lawyer operating from this location.

This is not a photo of the first marshall of Tonganoxie, but it is one of the earlier town marshals with his most unusual mode of transportation. It is a photo of **Bill Stone**, who preferred to ride a cow rather than a horse when performing his law enforcement duties.

Upon looking at the physical condition of the cow's backbone, it would be a nightmare for a male to ride that cow (particularly at a gallop). Also, if the Humane Society existed, they might take the cow away. This picture is before 1919 because after that



d o w n t o w n Tonganoxie had paved streets.

This photo is of the **Hamilton Livery** and feed store. One would note that the wagons and horses appear

to be at street level. That is in fact exactly what you are viewing.

In my day and those who were born in the late 1930's, this building was about 4 feet below the street level. That is hard to believe, but many years ago, the city raised the road to its present level from Almedas/Myers Hotel to 4th street. This was discovered when the street had to be dug up provide a new sewer system. The old street was four feet below the present road. The old road bed was considered quite trashy.

Margaret Gallagher's home seen on the left in the



early days was above the old street. This livery stable was just across the street from Dale Rawlings feed store.

Dale actually owned this building for many years.

Although these buildings were located in the same location, they were initially two separate businesses. The **Tonganoxie Milling Co.** was constructed in

1888 and closed in 1925. It functioned to grind grain into flour. It was quite an operation with steam power which drove many pulleys and belts. The Driesback (I have seen this spelled as Dreisbach.) However it was spelled, it was always pronounced Dresback) family with a Mr. Cheesman built the operation, but soon after it struggled financially and



was purchased by the Kemper Family from Valley Falls (later Kemper family of Kansas City). When the Kemper family bought the mill, the produced flour changed name from Kansas Sun to Kemper White Turkey Flour.

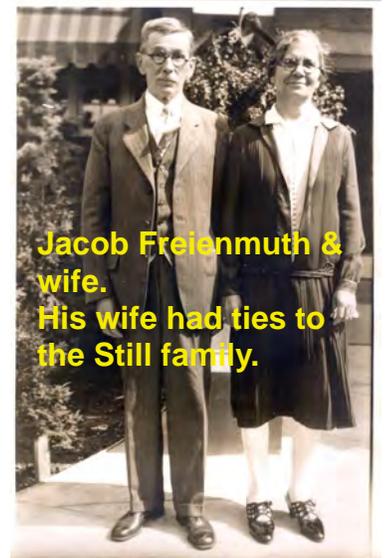
Wm Freienmuth was hired to put the machinery together and was the head miller from 1890 to 1902 when he began his orchard known as Many Oaks. His brother, Jacob Freienmuth also worked at the



mill and took over the head miller's job in 1902 until 1925. Jacob was the youngest brother of that generation of Freienmuths. The mill closed ca. 1930. I'm not sure why, but the economy was certainly a part of that closure. Wm Leland Freienmuth, the grandson of the miller, said that he remembers them taking off the top floor of the mill

and that the steam engine was housed in a small building to the south.

Information about the history of the elevator is sketchy. Wm Freienmuth thought it was constructed ca. 1916-17, but no one knows who the original owners were. There is some evidence that the Kemper and Fair family owned and operated the mill and elevator in Tonganoxie ca. 1919. Eventually, the Watkins Bank operated it, but sold it in 1928. What is



Jacob Freienmuth & wife. His wife had ties to the Still family.

known about the owners is Charles Miller owned the elevator for a long time. Charley Baker and Amos Wilson both worked for Charley Miller. Later, Marshall Jacks owned the elevators. After Mr. Jacks, the elevators were owned by various corporations, generally for a short time. .

Although the elevators are still there they are not being used. The original elevators (see photo below) were constructed by Otto Lehrack and his Nephew, Eldred Walters. Later additional elevators were added.

Perry Walters, auctioneer and police judge, told the story about Charley Miller and the elevator thieves. The story goes like this.

There were two Charley Millers living in this area when there was a serious attempt to rob the elevator of grain. One Charley Miller was a pig buyer from Kansas City. He went from auction to auction buying and selling pigs-probably would call him a trader. I don't think he kept any pigs on his place for



more than a week. He was a good friend of the judge/auctioneer. Of course the other Charley Miller owned and operated the elevator

The Pig buyer came to the Judge and asked what kind of guy this mill owner was. What kind of operation did he run. The judge basically said he was O. K The pig buyer went on to say that he was drinking coffee in a truck stop located at parallel and U.S. 73 highway. He overheard two truck drivers (the thieves) laughing at this elevator operation. They were stealing his grain and had already taken several loads out of the elevators.

The police were notified and the thieves arrested.

When the loaded trucks were weighed it was common to weigh the front wheels separately, followed by the rear wheels. When the grain thieves weighed the front axle a hydraulic cylinder shifted the weight from the front to the back. When the rear axle was being weighed, the hydraulic cylinder shifted the weight to the front. Hence the load weighed light. You couldn't see this operation because the hydraulic bed was hidden within the truck bed. This operation probably wouldn't happen today because now the ENTIRE truck is weighed at the one time.

"It is a damn poor mind indeed which can't think of at least two ways to spell any word." A. Jackson

I personally would like even more ways to spell a word, werde, werd, Ah! yes word.



MESSAGE FROM THE MUSEUM

After 14 dedicated years as a volunteer museum director, Susy Ross has stepped down. TCHS will miss her tireless dedication, her hard work and her quick smile. We are indebted to her for the many hours given to the museum, acquiring new donations, creating displays, planning activities and programs and for her attention to detail.

Thank you Susy for investing so much of yourself, your time and your energy to the museum.

HOSTESSES FOR THE 1ST QUARTER

JAN: Walters & Stockmans.  
 Feb: Connie Putthoff & Ramsier's  
 March: Peak & Brandau

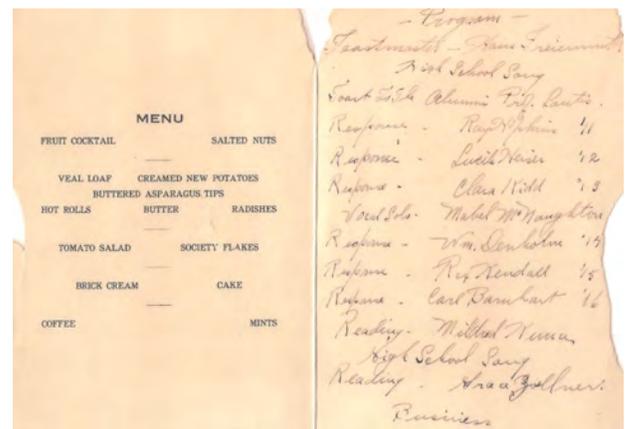
ADDITIONS TO THE MUSEUM

Recent additions to our collection are Vickers tumblers (remember the Vickers gas station), a photo of the Tonganoxie City Fire Truck (now proudly restored at our site) on the street of the city in 1960, and a photo of Rays Hunter's A&W drive in,- a place that all teenagers wanted to go because of the car hops. John Lenahan's family donated a huge collection of items including many many photos which are at this time being sorted and cataloged into "Past Perfect", a tremendous data base for museums.

Another interesting item is the program from the first annual banquet of the Tonganoxie Alumni Association held on May 12, 1916, complete with menu and program. Hans Freienmuth was the toastmaster. Lucille Heiser, Clara Kidd, Mabel McNaughton, William Denholm, Carl Barnhart and Grace Zoellner all provided toasts, responses, music and readings. The menu was also printed and included an interesting item.....TOMATO SALAD.....SOCIETY FLAKES. (Can anyone tell us what society flakes were/are? We don't expect any personal names of these "society flakes".)

WIGWAMS AND CHIEFTAINS  
 (ANNUAL YEAR BOOK)

Also, in this collection was a 1914 Tonganoxie Wigwam. The museum would like to assemble a complete collection of Wigwams and Chieftans for our shelves. Please keep us in mind if you have one you could donate.



"Politics gives guys so much power that they tend to behave badly around women. And I hope I never get into that." -Bill Clinton

## BARN QUILTS

The Barn Quilt Workshop organized by Jean Pearson and Janet Stuke met in our barn and resulted in a number of barn quilt blocks which you will see being sported around our community. The participants spent a day painting a quilt block of their choice which they took home to adorn their garage, garden, or barn. Barn quilts are really quilt patterns made of large pieces of wood. Some are 4' X 4' and even larger.

This event stimulated interest in a future session to be held this spring. If you have interest please contact Jean Pearson or Janet Stuke.

As an aside, The Kansas State Historical Society is mounting a quilt show in January including a display of barn quilts and the ways these barn blocks have been utilized to promote travel throughout a given country area.

Our historical society painted a barn quilt of the Tonganoxie Nine Patch which will be **raffled off** during our events this season. First chance to participate will be at our chili feed, Feb. 13th. Chances (\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00) may be purchased at the chili feed, at the museum during regular museum hours, or at the TCHS Tongie days booth. The drawing to award the prize will be one hour prior to the close of Tongie Days. The barn quilt is 2'x2' and would be a nice addition to your barn, garden gate, or even hanging in your recreation room.



be created.

The Tonganoxie Nine Patch was created by Carrie Hall, a noted Leavenworth quilter, who was speaking to the women of the Tonganoxie Congregational Church and designed this patch which shows the Tonganoxie T. She noted that many paths led to Tonganoxie which is evident in the finished Tonganoxie Nine Patch block.

For the non-quilters...the nine patch quilt is a pattern that has been used for years. Depending on which fabric is used to make the patch of nine square blocks and how the nine-patch block is set together, many different quilts can

## CHILI AND SOUP DINNER

Our annual chili and soup dinner will be Thursday, February 13 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the United Methodist Church in Tonganoxie. This event is one of our major fund raisers, and it also provides members an opportunity to work together and make new friends.

Mark you calendars and roll up your sleeves to make this a successful venture. We will need help preparing the food and the delicious home made pies, doing dishes, etc.

**And for those of you not able to be here, we welcome any and all donations.**

Have you noticed the new roof now on the Honey Valley School? **The funds for this project were provided by a grant from the Leighty Trust and just in time to be admired by Association of One-**



**R o o m Schools which will be touring our site and school this spring.**

The Honey Valley School, the Reno Church, and the barn and museum were visited by all third graders from Tonganoxie Elementary School and on a later date, the third grade from Genesis academy spent a day at the site. It takes many volunteers and the special efforts of our School director, Peaches Joles to make this a day that the children remember. Many brought their parents to the museum on later dates and proudly pointed out their "favorites".

### **A Look into our Future by Laurie Walters, Board Chairman**

The coming year offers many opportunities and challenges. Among the events scheduled for our site are the Kansas Sampler Foundation Retreat for Rural Leaders on January 15th. Volunteers of our society will be available to show the guests our site and participate in the sessions offered in this retreat.

We have several major issues to be discussed...one is moisture in the basement of the Honey Valley School and another is the problem of space and storage for items which our patrons intrust to our

care. A corollary to this is the solution...both short term and long term. Your board will be tackling these issues and welcome your thoughts about what our avenue is for solutions.

2014 has been earmarked to celebrate the declaration of World War I and the county historical societies are all mounting exhibitions on this topic. **We ask our members who might have memorabilia, personal stories, photos of this era in Tonganoxie to contact Laurie Walters, Kathy Peak, or Betty Englen.**

### CLOSING AND CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The annual closing party held at the TCHS Barn was scheduled on the first very cold night of the year. As usual the "finger food" supplied nourishment to all.

Although, there were fewer attending, there was a good jovial crowd. After eating, most settled down for some quiet time discussing this and that. It was a fun place to be.



The annual Christmas party was also on a very cold and windy night. In addition there were some serious conflicts with other organizations. However, all who met Santa Clause had an exceptional night except one person. I am not sure what was going through her mind while Santa was talking to her.

Last Christmas, Nathan McCommon and his wife, Roz, provided our Christmas music. It was wonderful.

This year Nathan McCommon brought a young saxophonist. Once again it was very outstanding musical program. The young man has a scholarship to Berklee School of Music in Boston, Mass.



*Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them.*

*Government always finds a need for whatever money it gets. Ronald Reagan*

### Programs planned for this quarter

All programs are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Scheduled times are 7 P. M.

**January 27---DVD of old Tonganoxie bldgs-** filmed interview by local tonganoxie people about the history of these people and buildings.

**February 24th--"Live" Round table discussions** about projected photos of old Tonganoxie buildings & people.

The experts holding the round table will be people we have interviewed pertaining to old Tonganoxie

Question from floor will be welcome

**March program has yet to be determined**

Linwood, Kansas has had three names. In its early history it was called **Journeycake**. This name came from one of the Delaware Chiefs, JourneyCake, who lived in that area of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Since most of the Delaware Indian had moved to Oklahoma by 1867, the town changed the name to be **Stranger**.

Stranger Creek enters the Kaw River where the town of Linwood rests and most likely that was the reason for using the name of a creek. The location of Linwood/Stranger could be questioned because historically the Kansas River has severely flooded this area. In 1844 was the first recorded flood, but in "Modern Times", it has flooded in 1903, 1951 and again in 1993. A dike constructed after the flood of 1951 helped reduce damage, but there was damage around Linwood at this time.

There were three other post offices in Leavenworth County using the name, Stranger. Little Stranger and Stranger along the Union Pacific RR and Stranger situated on the Kansas City, Wyandotte and Northwester RR. (The two post offices using the name, Stranger were almost across Stranger Creek from each other.)

These post offices all using the name Stranger in their address caused confusion within the mail. Consequently, Stranger became Linwood. The town of Linwood had numerous Linden trees located there, which provided a source for the name.

# TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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, Ks. 66086-0785

Membership year 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ -Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:

Contributor Levels:

Individual	\$10.00	_____	Supporter	\$100.00	_____
Family **	\$ 15.00	_____	Sponsor	\$250.00	_____
Individual Life	\$100.00	_____	Patron	\$ 500.00	_____

\*\* Family members must reside in the same household

Please list names \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to TCHS Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Donation for \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Name)

# Help Wanted

## **Membership Coordinator**

Send out membership dues notices.  
Keep record of dues payments.  
Contact overdue members.  
Maintain Membership listing.  
Promote Membership at functions and activities.

## **Love to scrapbook?**

We need a person or people to maintain a scrapbook of the year's events and activities

## **Museum Director**

Oversee the running of the Museum.  
Maintain and keep current a Collection Policy for board approval.  
Maintain an operating procedure for handling artifacts.  
Care for the collection.  
Purchase office and museum supplies.  
Recruit and supervise Volunteers to help with paperwork, computer input, displays, gift shop, etc. (Some volunteers are already in place)

## **Docent Coordinator**

Arrange for members to serve as docents at the Museum on Sunday afternoons from April thru October.

PLEASE CALL KATHY PEAK OR LAURIE WALTERS

IF

YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

## 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!!

This person is Etta Kathryn Angell Elston. If



anybody was in the military or in school away from home, you could expect (on a regular basis), letters from her. Ask Art Hancock about the "PATS" she gave everyone as so-called

"love pats".

All who worked at Zoellner's Grocery Store received her bone shaking love pats. Her mother was a Barber before marrying Fred Angell and that ties her to Tonganoxie's founder, Magdalena Bury.

## WHAT IS THIS?



(for a little variety)

This is obviously a lake/pond with a lots of people using it. What was it, and where was it? The only hint I can give you is that it was near Chief Tonganoxie's Lodge. It was north of US 24/40 between the bridge over Tonganoxie Creek and the bridge over Co. Rd. 5 (road to Leavenworth from Tongie).

Well now, I've answered my question so for those who do not know-(probably most of us), this is where Tonganoxie enjoyed a public swimming hole. It was known as Tonganoxie City Lake, but the city did not own the lake. It was owned by the Faultless Condenser which later became the Franklin Ice Cream Plant. The owners allowed the public to enjoy this lake.

The Faultless Condenser constructed this to supply water to their operation. They built a concrete dam (still there today) and placed tubes in the pond so a water supply to their operation would be continuous via Tonganoxie Creek. The construction took place most likely before WW I.

It existed on ground now owned by the Shilling family, which is north and west of the home where Connie Flott lived when I was in high school (back in the dark ages). It looks like people enjoyed themselves playing in pond water. I like the men's swimming suits. I wore one of those once just to see what it was like. IT WAS WOOL AND DID WHAT WOOL DOES--ITCH !!!

Roger says when tree foliage is gone, you can see the dam by crossing Tonganoxie Creek bridge on the road going north from Beatty Field and look east.

The public pool in Tonganoxie most likely replaced this pond swimming area.



An old man was upset. His electricity was off so he couldn't watch any football or basketball games. It was raining and cold so he couldn't go fishing or hunting. His beer was getting warm so he thought, "***I think I'll talk to my wife a little, she seems like a nice person***".