

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

P.O. Box 785 Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086

October 1, 2009

Season Closing Set for October 24th

The museum will be closing for the 2009 season on Saturday, October 24th. In addition to our annual "Homemade Pie and Coffee" event, we will have Civil War re-enactor Charles Dugan at the Site to demonstrate his Civil War cannon and provide insight into the War.

While we are closing the Museum for the season, we will continue to be open on Wednesday mornings each week, and by appointment. The museum will open for the 2010 season on Sunday, April 4, 2010.

We hope you will come out for an afternoon of fellowship, enjoy a cup of good coffee, sample the homemade pie, and help us end another successful season as we go out with a big **BANG!**

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Museum News

In September the museum welcomed Melissa Sheinman as a part-time employee to work on our PastPerfect program. She will be working eight hours a week at the Site. Melissa has a BA in Art History from the University of New York at Geneseo, graduating Cum Laude, and is beginning her studies in the Masters Program for Museum Studies at the University of Kansas. We know she will be a great addition to our staff.

Charlie Conrad, a former Tonganoxie Fire Chief, has donated a fire fighter's coat and a fire extinguisher and nozzle to the museum. Kerry Holton donated a booklet about the Holton Family Dairy auction. These recent acquisitions are being processed for future display.

Our end of season Closing Day is fast approaching; however, we will be working at the Site every

Wednesday morning (weather permitting) throughout the winter months. If you wish to visit the historical site, if you have items to donate, or if you would like to learn about volunteer opportunities at TCHS, please call Susy Ross at the museum on Wednesday mornings, 913-845-2960.

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A Day of Learning

The third graders from Tonganoxie Elementary School

were welcomed to TCHS for a day of learning on September 28 and 29.



Organized by Peachez

Joles, the two-day event attracted about 175 students and several parents. Over a dozen volunteers and helpers were on hand to "teach" the children about various historical subjects, in the school, the church, barn, and museum. A huge *Thank You* to Peachez and all her volunteers for this successful event.

How to Contact Us:

Newsletter @ TCHS

P. O. Box 785

Tonganoxie, KS 66086

913-369-3835 (home)

913-845-2960 (museum)

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www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org

Saturday Openings Showcase Historical Programs

The 2009 Museum hours have been extended on a trial basis to include Saturdays during the months of September and October, and include a myriad of interesting programs. The idea to extend the hours for this trial period was proposed and events organized by Laurie Walters, a Board member and museum volunteer. It is hoped that these informative Saturday events may extend to the 2010 season as well.

Saturdays in September have featured the following: (1) a day of “school in session” in the Honey Valley School, with teacher Barbara Dale; (2) Stan Sibinski presented a demonstration of fly-tying for those interested in fly fishing; (3) several volunteers presented their expertise in various heirloom needle arts; (4) Betty Englen demonstrated the almost-lost art of paper quilling.



Heirloom Needle Arts program. Left to right: Jean Pearson, Florence Sommers, Jenny Alden, Wanda Williams, and Coleen Anton

For the remainder of the 2009 season, **October 3rd** will showcase Dennis Bixby, local blacksmith and artisan woodcarver. **On October 17th**, there will be a “What-cha-ma-call-it?” day which will display unusual tools and items from the Museum archives. There will also be a wall of unknown photos which we are hoping visitors will identify for us. **On October 24th**, we will have our annual Closing Day event which will feature Charles Dugan, a Civil War re-enactor, who will display and demonstrate his Civil War era cannon.

Our appreciation goes to Laurie for the tremendous amount of time and effort she has devoted to this trial program. All are welcome, and there is no charge for any of these programs. Show your support for our museum and bring your family and friends for one or all of these special Saturday events.



MaryAnn Needham observes as Betty Englen performs the art of paper quilling during one of the Saturday programs.

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Buildings and Grounds Status

- Del Englen

August is often so hot that the grass barely grows, which means the mowing crews get a few weeks off – *not so this year!!* Due to the cooler temps and the rainy weather, the mowing crew had to meet on days other than Wednesday, just to keep up with the increased growth. And now we have an additional challenge of Johnson grass in the pasture. If anyone knows how to get rid of it, please let me know.

The Honey Valley Schoolhouse is getting a facelift (paint job), air conditioning has been installed, and protective clear plastic panels are being installed over the large south and east windows. This will help to preserve the original windows and will aid in conserving energy.

In other areas of the Site, a partition wall is being built in the fire house to showcase the fire truck and related memorabilia. The badly warped entry doors of the Reno Church have been restored to their original shape. In the museum, repair work

on the dehumidifier drainage system is complete. And the exterior of the silo has been repaired to restore the waterproof integrity. The silo was built in 1924, and due to the freeze/thaw cycles, water has been penetrating, causing pieces of masonry to crumble away.

My hat is off to ALL those who spend time with us every week, mowing, trimming, painting, doing whatever is needed. If you would like to give a few hours of your time to help with the chores at the Site, or if you just want to join us for coffee break, stop by on Wednesday morning.

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Volunteer Spotlight

Bill and Kathy Peak came to Tonganoxie in 2004 and joined TCHS shortly thereafter. They began volunteering almost immediately, helping with many fundraising events including the Renaissance Festival, ballpark concession stand, and the Soup & Chili Supper. Earlier this year, they became Program Directors for our monthly programs.



Bill is a Kansas native, born and raised in Paola. He is a graduate of KU with a Masters Degree in American History. Bill

retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a Systems Support Coordinator in March 2009 after 27 years of service.

Kathy came to Kansas in 1994 from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where she was the controller for an electrical supply company. She has been the bookkeeper for Pine Family Farms for eleven years, and plans to retire in January 2010.

Both Bill and Kathy love to travel, and have a goal of visiting every Presidential gravesite and birth-

place, with only a few remaining Presidents to fulfill this goal. This hobby began on their 3,000 mile honeymoon trip, which included Bill dragging Kathy to gravesites and historical homes. She has been a willing participant since then, and keeps a record of their travels.

The Peaks were drawn to TCHS by the monthly programs, and with their love and appreciation for history have found the perfect niche for their interests. Bill says that their “greatest satisfaction is meeting all the fine people at the Society” and that they “appreciate the hard work that created and continues to help the Historical Society grow.”

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Audrey Miller and Mia Bond ride on the newly-restored fire truck during the Leavenworth County Fair Parade. Driving the truck is Audrey's grandfather, Ed Slawson, one of the original volunteer firemen during the time the pumper was in service for the city of Tonganoxie.

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Events around Our Area

Looking for interesting things to do that will not require a lot of driving? Check out some of the following events that are available in our area. And be sure to check out the TCHS website at www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org, and the Tonganoxie Chamber of Commerce “Day Before Friday Flyer” on their website at info@tonganoxiechamber.org where you’ll find a listing of current events around Tonganoxie.

Now thru Dec 19 – “On the Inside: Inmate Art Exhibit” Features art from Lansing Correctional facility and the U.S.D.B Lansing Historical Museum,

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115 Kansas Ave. . Further information: 913-250-0203. Tues – Sat 10am-5pm and Sunday 1-4pm.

October 3 - *Dennis Bixby*, artisan woodcarver and local blacksmith will demonstrate his forge and blacksmith skills or, in case of rain, woodcarving in the Fairchild-Knox barn. Tonganoxie Historical Society, 1-4pm. Info: 913-796-6373.

October 17 “*What-cha-ma-call-it?*” Display of unusual tools and items from museum archives. Includes our “*Wall of Unknown Photos*” displayed with the hope that someone can identify them. - Tonganoxie Historical Society, 1–4pm. Info: 913-796-6373.

October 23-24 – “*Night at the Museum*” – 8pm – 11pm. Watch as the museum exhibits come to life. Adults \$5 donation; children \$2 donation. Purchase tickets at the door. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Basehor Historical Museum, 2812 N. 155th Street. Info: 913-724-4022 or bhms@sunflower.com

October 24 – *Charles Dugan*, Civil War re-enactor, will demonstrate his Civil War era cannon and provide insight into the War. This is also the Closing Day “homemade pie and coffee” event for the TCHS Museum. Tonganoxie Historical Society, 1-4pm. Info: 913-796-6373.

October 31 – “*Antiques Extravaganza*” Appraisers will be available to identify and appraise items. To pre-register call 913-573-5002, or register online at www.wycomuseum.wordpress.com. Cash or check only for both pre-registration and at-door registration. Wyandotte County Museum, 126th and State Avenue.

November 7 – “*Mother–Daughter Tea at the Museum*” Learn the history of tea products, cups, and their uses. Guest speaker is Liesa Winters, local historical re-enactor. Various teas and cookies will be served. Reservations a must due to limited space. \$5 donation per person. Basehor

Historical Museum, 2812 N. 155th St. Information and reservations, call 913-724-4022 or P.O. Box 76, Basehor KS 66007, or register online at bhms@sunflower.com.

November 7 – “*Band of Sisters: Kansas WWII Nurses*” Through letters and photos you will discover what the nurses had to say about the War. Lansing Historical Museum, 115 Kansas Ave in Lansing, 2pm. Admission is free. Further info: 913-250-0203. Sponsored by Kansas Humanities Council.

December 5 – “*5th Annual Children’s Small Mall*” A yearly event held to benefit the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum. Young children can shop with a Santa’s helper to purchase gifts and have them wrapped. Gifts are \$2, \$4, and \$6. Carousel Museum, 320 Esplanade, Leavenworth, 9am-5pm. Info: 913-651-3829.

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Membership Report

- *Linda DiSanto*

Our Membership roll continues to expand, and for this we are thankful. If you are new to our organization and would like to learn about volunteer opportunities at TCHS, please give us a call.

The oppressive heat in June forced us to postpone our Annual Picnic. When last-minute or unexpected events happen, we have a responsibility to contact our members to advise them of changes or cancellations. For this reason, please let us know if you have a change of address, phone number, or email address. We will make every effort to ensure that everyone is contacted should changes or cancellations occur.

To determine if your dues have been paid for 2009, check the mailing address on your newsletter. “L” indicates that you are a Life Member and you owe no dues. If you have (09) after your name, you are paid through the end of

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2009. If you have questions regarding your membership, feel free to call me at 913-369-3835.

New Members:

Dorothy Dunlap	Tonganoxie
Michael and Keyta Kelly	Tonganoxie
Scott and Brenda Sellmeyer	Tonganoxie
Scott and Chris Ward	Tonganoxie

New Life Member:

Denise German Louisburg, KS

In Memory

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of Jerry Baker of Tonganoxie and Nadine Holton of Tonganoxie.

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Upcoming TCHS Programs

In case of inclement weather, or for information about any of the programs, call 913-845-2852 or 913-369-3835. For information about the Saturday programs, call 913-796-6373.

October 3 – 1-4pm – Saturday program
Dennis Bixby, artisan woodcarver and local blacksmith

October 17 – 1-4pm Saturday program
“What-cha-ma-call-it? Day

October 24 – 1-4pm – Saturday program
Closing Day Pie and Coffee Event, featuring Charles Dugan, Civil War re-enactor with cannon demonstration

October 27 – 7:00pm Monthly Program
“A Tale of Two Soldiers” – Spike Speicher

Join us for a look at the past as we view an interesting comparison of two soldiers during the Civil War; one Union, one Confederate. The story is one of contrasting yet similar views on food, health, guard duty, and camp life. It is amusing to observe the differences, and yet very emotional in the outcome. The presentation is based on 13

letters written by the Union soldier to his wife and three letters written by the Confederate soldier to his father. The original letters will be on display so that you may see and read them. This is a look at the War from the soldier’s viewpoint.

November 24 – 7:00pm – Monthly Program
“The Kansas-General Custer Connection” – Mike Seymour

Mike Seymour, Park Ranger at Fort Learned, will discuss the Kansas/Custer connection, including Custer’s ties to people and places around the state, his family and military life, and his time at Fort Riley.

December 17 – 6:00pm
TCHS Annual Christmas Party

Once again it’s time for our annual holiday gathering, featuring good food, music, and holiday cheer. Each family should bring their favorite holiday dish to share. Jan Schaefer will entertain us with holiday music. Bring a friend, guests are welcome. The festivities begin at 6:00PM.

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Musical group “Just Small Potatoes” performs for a group of about 65 members and guests at the Annual Picnic held in September.

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“A true friend is the most precious of all possessions and the one we take the least thought about acquiring.”
- La Rochefoucauld, Maxims 1678

Mark Your Calendars:

October 3 – Saturday 1-4pm – Dennis Bixby, artisan woodcarver and local blacksmith

October 17 – Saturday 1-4pm –“What-cha-ma-call-it?” Can you identify these things/photos?

October 24 – Saturday 1-4pm – Closing Day with homemade pie and coffee; featuring Charles Dugan, Civil War reenactor

October 27th – 7pm - Monthly program: Spike Speicher, “A Tale of Two Soldiers”

November 24 – 7pm – Monthly Program: Mike Seymour, “Custer/Kansas connection”

December 17 – 6:00pm - Annual Christmas Party

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