

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2nd QUARTER NEWSLETTER, JUNE, 2018

Lloyd and Jean Pearson receive an award from the Leavenworth County 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting April 28, 2018 (Excerpts)

In 1973 Jean and Lloyd Pearson moved to Leavenworth County. Jean was a member of the Busy Workers 4-H Club in Morris Co. A highlight of her 4-H career was attending 4-H Roundup (now Discovery Days at K-State)

Their 4 children have all been involved in 4-H. Jim, Rhonda, and Dalene all joined the Reno Bobwhites shortly after they moved here. Mike, the youngest sibling belonged to the Happy Helpers from Tonganoxie. The 4-H years were very busy years.

A memorable weekend at the Lake Perry 4-H camp was a remarkable experience. A lecture followed by a demonstration on how to right a tipped canoe was a significant event. The Pearson's youngest daughter, Dalene, was in that canoe when the instructor unexpectedly tipped the canoe and then proceeded to show all how to right a tipped canoe and how to get back into the canoe.

Camping was by tent and cooking was over an open pit fire. Sleeping quarters was a wooden floor. Lloyd swears to this day that a pack of rats, which had been noted in a corner, ran across his head one night.

All of their kids won numerous awards and held various offices. Jim was one of the first to receive a 4-H scholarship.

Lloyd served as project leader for various projects and he was always ready to help on a work day. Jean was the clothing leader. She also was involved in Rabbits and Horticulture. She was the coach for the horticulture team. She also served as a co-community leader.

Five of their eight grandchildren were in 4-H. The three oldest are out of 4-H because of age, but two are still members. Jean and Lloyd continue to help out at fair time and they support their grandkids in 4-H. They always attend the fashion and beef show.



They now are actively involved the the Good Shepard Thrift Shop. Jean serves on the board there. Both are also active in the Tonganoxie Historical Society. Jean helps out in various ways, but in the last several years she has actively worked with people wanting a barn quilt. She brought the barn quilt project to Leavenworth Co. and established the Glacial Hills Barn Quilt Trail. Many of the barn quilts seen in the Tonganoxie area are most likely from her barn quilt classes at the Tonganoxie Historical Society.

Lloyd is a weekly worker at the historical society and his knowledge of how things work is considered a tremendous asset.

Congratulations to Jean and Lloyd Pearson. The 4-H clubs, the Tonganoxie Historical Society, the Good Shepard Thrift Shop, and the community very definitely appreciates you both!

World War I Nurses from Tonganoxie



Published in the Tonganoxie Mirror were the names of three nurses who served in WW I. The nurse that we know the most about is Matilda Papenhausen. We have a small amount of information on Addie Cox.



Emma Gaff, the third nurse, is very questionable because what I was able to find just doesn't fit. Her age is off several generations, and there is nothing in Newspapersdot.com that we can find about her. I had a cousin of mine who I consider an expert on ancestors and all that he could find was Emma

married in 1876. That is more that 40 years before WWI. SO THE INFORMATION WE HAVE ON HER DOESN'T FIT.

Addie Cox lived about 3 miles south of Evans Road on Co. Rd. 25 and about 1 mile west. We have a little information on Addie. It appears that she was raised by a sister and in 1920 she was working as a nurse in Kansas City. We have information from Mollie Myers that her son Wilson (commonly called Jake) was in a hospital in France for 21 days. "Miss Addie Cox, a former Tonganoxie girl is a nurse in a nearby hospital and she comes to see him quite frequently". Jake's hospital was located in the Limoges area which is about half way between Paris and the Spanish border.

Matilda Papenhausen was born June 12, 1894 in Leavenworth County, Kansas, a daughter of Fred and Emma Jahn Papenhausen. and died Sept. 10, 1985 at Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa Ca.

She was a student first at Cushing Hospital in 1916 and in 1917 she graduated from the Swedish Hospital called Trinity Lutheran Hospital before it closed. It was located on 31st and Main in Kansas City, Mo. She served as an Army nurse (there are some who say she served with the Red Cross. However in her interview in 1984 she says she served in the Army) in World War I, serving mostly in France.

Matilda's first assignment was in the Base Hospital at Camp Price, Arkansas. Camp Price was located north northeast of Little Rock. This name was changed to Camp Robinson in 1937. She had fun here. Her quarters were unfinished and she had to go downstairs for the toilet. She saw and worked in all situations. Her training also included care for isolation cases, scarlet fever cases. small pox. and others. She said she enjoyed the work at Camp Price.

One day she was told to give her orders to the service nurse and prepare to go to New York that evening. Ten nurses from her unit and a total of 100 nurses went to New York in preparation for going to Europe. The nurses were in New York for training for one month.

In England the U.S. nurses were assigned to the 3rd General Hospital in London. Except for the American Nurses, the hospital was all British. Matilda relates in her interview that they had a good time in conversation with the British. Such celebrations as the 4th of July and Thanksgiving were great fun, especially because the English didn't understand the reason for the celebrations. The duty in England was for one month.

They crossed the English Channel into France. In her interview which was done when she was 90 years old. she discusses working at an English hospital which was staffed by Americans in Rouen, France. However, several sources have her also serving in Sovrenay, France, and later she served at the Evacuation Hospital #36 at Nants, France. She served in France for 2 years until armistice for WW I.

Matilda describes life in Rouen as good. She liked it. Rouen was between Paris and the Spanish Border. They worked in a building, not a tent. The building was sand bagged half way up the sides. The nurses had special uniform consisting of high topped shoes, long skirts, special caps or hats, and petticoats. the cost of which was paid by the Government.

The nurses were treated well. They lived in a mansion with many mirrors, but no bathrooms. They had to go downstairs to go the the bathroom.

While in France she with other nurses managed vacation trips to Paris and Switzerland.

When WWI was over the nurses as others celebrated by riding around the area in army trucks. Matilda said, "I saw the world that day".

On July 8, 1919 the nurses came home on the ship, Aquatania. This was a convoy with a troop (5,000 troops) ship which was also carrying grain. She and a friend from Arkansas

shared a cabin on the ship. They had no sea sickness on the trip home. She was discharged on September 19, 1919.

Her pay while in the army was \$50.00 per month while in Arkansas, raised to \$60.00 per month in New York, and raised to \$90.00 per month in France. \$10.00 per month was taken from her pay for life insurance. There was no mustering out pay. She was discharged from the army in New York.

While in the army there were no retreats, no reveille, no saluting and long hours of work.

In 1921 Matilda completed a post graduate course in nursing given in Boston, Mass.

Her life as a nurse after WWI seemed exciting to her. In Leavenworth, Kansas, probably at Cushing Hospital, she was superintendent of Nurses. At St. Luke's in Kansas City, MO she was paid \$80.00 per month. While she was at St. Luke's a physician offered her a position in Halstead, Ks as Assistant Superintendent of Nurses for \$200.00 a month. She also received room and board and laundry service. Later she worked in Des Moines, Iowa. In South Dakota, she took a government job as Inspector of Social Services. Her territory was from Sioux Falls to Rapid City. She enjoyed this duty very much. She got to see the mountains, Mt. Rushmore, and she said she drove all over the area.

Later in her life she moved to Lakeside, Ca. near San Diego. She had a large house built by her brother. It had enough size to accommodate 12 women. After this house was built she decided she did not desire to have a full time nursing job. She took a position that supplied nurses to relieve sick nurses. She liked this job and stayed 11 years.

Although Matilda never married, she did raise one son, Jim Papenhausen. While living in Leavenworth she adopted this infant boy. She describes him as "found". Traditions suggest that he was on her door step. What ever the case when she found him she says she could not put him in the nursery so she put him in her quarters. When he was 3 she moved the family and her mother to Lakeside, Ca. near San Diego.

Matilda died Sept. 10, 1985. She was 91 years old. It was stated that survivors include one son, Jim Papenhausen, Lakeside, Ca., and two grandchildren. One grandson is also called Jim Papenhausen.

Nicholas says: When 5 year Nicholas was asked by two of his female classmates to play marriage, he was observed standing between them, one girl on each arm, saying, "This is gonna be tricky".

Foster “Bud” Laming

In 1923, while on the way to the hospital in Lawrence, Bud was born on Mud Creek bridge near the intersection of highways 24/40 and 32. He along with his father, owned and operated what was known as the Red Star Farm north of Tonganoxie before enlisting in the Army Air Force in 1942. He returned to farming in 1946 upon discharge from the Army. He eventually would live and raise cattle on one square mile of land south of Tonganoxie from 1954 to 1973 when he retired to Florida.

Bud enjoyed visiting the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society. He was especially proud of being interviewed by the Society and kept the recording of the interview next to his TV. He outlived nearly all his friends and family from Tonganoxie, but truly valued his weekly outings with his nephew, Tom, and friend, J. W. Evans. Every trip started with a drive past his old farm to check on the cattle and ended with a mug of beer.

Despite the passage of time and occasionally living far away, Bud never lost his connection to Tonganoxie. He was a long-time supporter of the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society. His stories, wit and presence will be sorely missed.

Building & Grounds Updates:

We have been plagued with **ants** in the barn and in the museum this spring. Laurie, Joy, Kathy, Jim, and Lloyd have all taken turns cleaning up dead ants and they keep coming. Jim has spent a few hours spraying around the exterior and they keep coming. So, today, we asked Schendel to come out and get rid of the varmints and continue to do so monthly.

The **roofs** on the church and the barn were substantially completed Wed thru Friday, May 23-25. New gutters were installed on the church the following week. The gutter contractor also has re-oriented the gutter on the north side of the firehouse to drain to the west, instead of the east, where we were getting pretty wet after big rains.

A few exciting things have happened:

Dominic Colacicco will be presenting an outline of his **Eagle Scout project** to us. He and his father came out to look at the Federal Aid plaque that can be moved to the flower bed and he will come up with some plans for some new plantings in that bed.

Sharon Phenicie called the museum last weekend and donated a safe deposit box from the Tonganoxie State Bank that belonged to her great-grandfather, W.C. Phenicie.

We are getting many donations these days and today had a gentleman come to do research on the Congregational Church.

A tour company called in May from Missouri to book our museum as a stop for a **bus tour on Friday, September 14**. They will arrive with 40-50 senior adults around 2:30 and stay for about an hour. (The last time we hosted a tour like this for one hour, the people stayed over

and hour and a half.) We will invite members to help show people around the museum and answer questions. It is exciting to have a bus tour company ask to come see us! (Plus, they will pay!)

****A few days after we modified our telephone system (now we have a cell phone available every day-24 hours) TCHS got this phone call from the bus company. If we had been on the old phone system we probably would not have received this request!!!**

FREEDOM FRONTIER SUMMER CAMP; On Monday, June 11, four of our volunteers came to the museum to host **students in a summer camp** program from Lawrence. Janet Burnett, Joy Lominska, Garrett Seuser, and Brenda Shaw welcomed a group of 21 4th and 5th grade students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lawrence for an afternoon at the Tonganoxie Museum.

The campers rotated through four sessions ;–the one room school; the pioneer trunk; a quilting exercise, and an introduction to metal detecting and discovering history under the ground. The campers enjoyed the museum and we hope to welcome them back next year.

Future Events:

The **Sunflower Stroll** will happen on **Labor Day Weekend Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (September 1-3)**. We will ask for volunteers to keep the museum open that weekend, as we will be getting some free advertising that weekend.

The **Memorial Day breakfast** was a success – lots of people served – lots of conversation. A very nice morning – we had a great turnout of volunteers to make it work so well!

Bus Tour of Ghost Towns Around Tonganoxie

Thirty-one people went on a guided tour of ghost towns and other historic sites around Tonganoxie on Saturday May 5. Perry Walters, Virginia Seymour, and Carrie Ritchey provided the narrative. Highlights included the ghost towns of Little Stranger, Summit, Old Jarbalo, and Boling, as well as historic sites such as the Little Stranger Christian Church, the Cliffs on Stranger Creek, the place the Wright Brothers tested a heavier than air glider, Walnut School, and a stop for cookies at the Boling Grange Hall. The Boling grange hall in the 1950's was a place teenagers went to dance on Saturday. I attempted dancing in those days, but soon discovered that I had 4 left feet.

And if you want to get a headstart on learning about the ghost towns, come by the museum to purchase our newest DVD – *Ghost Towns Around Tonganoxie*.

It seemed like people on the tour thoroughly enjoyed the trip. As one of the narrators, I believed the sound system needed some improvement. It was difficult to stretch the microphone cord to the narrator and keep the mic close to one's mouth so it would work. By stretching the cord, at least in my case, caused my fingers holding the mic to cramp. The diesel motor on the bus was a avid competitor for the sound.

Look for another tour in the fall or spring!



Science Summer Camp, June 25-29, 2018

During the week of June 25th many young and bright students came to the museum for the second annual science camp. The camp was led by over fifteen students in the Tonganoxie High School Science Club. The camp was the brainchild of Ethan Sandberg and Sierra Stantz last year. Co-leaders of the camp this year were Julia Westrich and Juliana Ballard.

Twenty one youth entering grades one thru four were the lucky attendees. They spent three hours every morning Monday thru Thursday – and five hours on Friday – learning about science by participating in experiments and hands-on exercise in chemistry, physics, biology and ecology.

There were lessons and experiments in the barn and in the one room school house. Plants and animals came to camp, along with a replica of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The high school students used everyday materials to demonstrate science to their charges.

The high school students, while looking and feeling the heat of the 90+ degree days, looked happy and pleased. Their goal – to assure that elementary aged students get to know role models who want to be scientists and engineers, so that the younger students can aspire to those goals as well.

The Science Club is sponsored by John Tollefson. The Historical Society & Museum is pleased to be able to allow the Science Club to use our facilities at no charge.

Sierra Staatz, Alex Tucker, Julia Westrich, Morgan Brusven and Juliana Ballard, (LEFT TO RIGHT IN PHOTO BELOW) five of the high school science club members who worked to bring this science summer camp to elementary aged students. Learning about physics with everyday objects.



Hands-on biology. Science Summer Camp, June 25-29, 2018

Tonganoxie High School Community Work Day, May 2, 2018

Thirteen THS students came to the museum on Wednesday May 2 for their annual community work day. The students were accompanied by Matt Beat, History teacher at THS. We look forward every year to having the students come out to help us out.

This year, one group of the students cut young sapling trees from the fence line and around the old spring. The old spring has a history. In the days before statehood, the Leavenworth-Lawrence Road passed right by the site of the museum, very close to present day 24-40. A spring on the museum property was a place for travelers to stop and water their stock and themselves. Later, when Frank Fairchild owned the land and operated his dairy here, it is said that he built a small spring house over the spring and kept milk there to stay cool. In 1932, when Archie Knox had to build a new barn after the large 1901 barn burned down, he installed piping to the milking parlor and built a concrete basin for milk cans to cool off in the spring water.



Thomas
Stockman

Another group of students dusted, wiped slate, and swept the Honey Valley School House. Books and bookcases were dusted. With no school children in attendance at Honey Valley School since 1957-58, we find students whenever we can to help us clean the school and keep it ready for museum visitors and the third graders who come out every October.

Another group of students swept and cleaned display cases in the firehouse, which houses the 1936 Fire Pumper Truck. The truck was made at Ft. Holabird in Maryland for Fort Leavenworth. It was used at the Fort, then later by the City of Tonganoxie from 1951 to 1960. The truck was then relegated to outside storage until several local firemen donated it to the museum in 2003. Members of the Historical Society restored it to its original condition. It is driven in the St. Patrick's Day and Leavenworth County Fair parades every year.

The fourth group of students worked inside the museum, working to clean glass cases and displays, dust, and sweep the floors. After the work was done, we invited the students to spend time in the museum. It is always good to hear their perspectives and comments.

Many thanks to Lucy Somers, Megan White, Adrian Cullen, Catie Rawls, Thomas Stockman, Hunter Calovich, Cameron Babcock, Jada Jones, Carmen Snyder, Tyler Waters, Mathia Slinkard, Kristyn Trull, Jacob Smith, and Matt Beat.

4th Tuesday Programs at TCHS

July- The July program has been cancelled. I doubt if these programs will ever return because the fair dates were change from August to July. The July date coincides with our 4th Tuesday programs. Hence the conflict.

August 28, 2018: Jon Nelson will discuss Creighton Siegert,

Jon Nelson will discuss Paul Creighton Siegert, US Army Airforce, who was the son of Paul and Frances Siegert of the West End Cafe of Tonganoxie. Creighton, as he was called, was on his first mission when his plane was shot down. The plane exploded. Creighton did not survive. Two men survived.

Jon has researched Creighton and his WW II experiences leading up to the plane being blown up. Jon and Glenda, his wife, have been to Germany where the plane blew up and they have interviewed one of the remaining survivors. This program promises to be a MUST SEE !.

Jon and Glenda (Myers) are graduates of Tonganoxie High School. They now live in Tulsa, OK where Jon is a Civil Engineer and Glenda is a math school teacher.

Sep 25, 2018 Anne Hawkins, Humanities Kansas, "Lawbreakers for the Common Good"

In the mid-1800s, some Kansans defied federal, state, and territorial laws in pursuit of a common goal: liberty for all. This presentation explores true accounts of little-known operatives who worked illegally on the Underground Railroad in Kansas, a clandestine network that helped guide enslaved people to freedom. Risking fearful penalties for their underground involvement, these men, women, and children—both black and white—offer us examples of what is possible for justice-seekers working together. Presented by Anne Hawkins, an historian who teaches at Washburn University.

Oct 23, 2018 Ted Cable, "The Gifts of Interpretation"

Ted Cable, Professor of Recreation Resources, Kansas State University, will talk about how those who work in cultural institutions, such as museums, can take lessons from those who work in national parks to fully engage

visitors. His tips on meeting visitors and helping them to interact with exhibits will help all of us to share our museum with others and to get more out of our museum for ourselves.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about creating memorable experiences for our museum visitors. Ted Cable has written 15 books on a variety of topics, including birding, travel guides to interstate highways in Illinois and Kansas, and several books on interpretation.

Nov 27, 2018 Leanne Chapman, Oskaloosa,

Leanne Chapman is active in the Jefferson County Historical Society and will share some of her experiences with Old Jefferson Town in Oskaloosa. She will discuss Orphan Trains and Poor Houses.

This is a good opportunity to learn about the historical site just next door in Jefferson County.

FROM THE MUSEUM

The Museum continues to see many new visitors each week....when we have activities such as the science camp, led and planned by teen members of THS science club, we always have extra visitors....some campers themselves and some from their families who they bring in to see what is here. Our guest book is getting fat as they sign in!!!!

Likewise, the donations to the museum continue. We received a huge number of items from Don Himpel and many photos of his life.

We were given a collar box from one of our TCHS members.....remember when men wore removable celluloid collars in order to save on laundry, starching, and ironing their dress shirts?

We have received an archive of old school records from the Reno School.

Also added to our oral history project is a DVD of David Underwood telling of his WWII service. This is an outstanding interview of his WWII activities. In addition George Cooper also shared his WWII experiences in the Pacific theater of war. Both of these DVDs are excellent. Consider viewing excerpts of our DVDS done over the past several years.

We recently received news that a local home constructed in 1898 by Cora Wellhouse Bullard, and known as the Bullard House and later the Merritt house, is now called Stonehaven. It has been restored and is officially on the state of Kansas and the National Register of Historic Places.

The Museum Studies Program at KU sent three of their students to our site to evaluate our procedures and facility. This is an educational experience for the graduate students to teach them how to analyze various situations. We learned a lot with their visit and will present their findings and suggestions at the next board meeting.

The children of Harold Denholm donated a large collection of items, photos, and documents of which we are still working to enter to our computer system. Among the items were two different types of calf weaners which will be included in our not quite yet completed dairy display. We intend for these items to be touched so young visitors have an idea what dairy and weaning actually means.

As for our dairy display, Joy Lominska has researched the "creamery" and can provide a time line for the names changes and dates from the early Tonganoxie Creamery to the Sealtest and Franklin operations. We invite you to view this display upon its completion.



Gracing the home section of the museum is the wedding dress of Aileen Vining sewn by her for her wedding to Harold Denholm in 1952. She was a student at Kansas State University and also made the dress form (exactly her measurements) in a class at K-State. Although constructed more than 66 years ago this lovely dress lights up a corner in our museum.

Aileen was considered a very fine seamstress.

WHAT IS THIS????? Recently donated, this "swivel hook" was donated without anyone knowing what its use was. Anyone? Help us identify this item !!!

