



This photo is of the Barber family. The little girl in the middle is Nell Barber who became Fred Angel's wife, Nell Angel. Nell and Fred were mother and father to Etta Kathryn Angel (Elston). Doc Barber is the boy seen on our left.

WW II VETERANS

TCHS IS LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON ALL TONGANOXIE WW II VETERANS

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!

For the last two years TCHS has gathered all the known names of Civil War veterans and WW I veterans. Although we have made a very serious effort to find those veterans who either lived in Tonganoxie before or after the Civil War and WW I, there are probably some names who are missing. This is a never ending project because as more names are discovered, they will be added to the roster.

Fifteen years after WW I, Walt Neibarger, editor of the Tonganoxie Mirror from 1925 until his family sold it, published a list of those veterans. A few months later many more names were added to the first list. The bottom line is we have ca. 250 names of WW I veterans who lived in Tonganoxie either before or after WW I. There may be more and when they become known those names will be added to our list.

In addition, those WW I veterans who received their "Bonus Money" (read about the Bonus Army for more information on this subject) early have their discharge information at the Kansas State Historical Society. This has information about where they served, the units in which they served, the battles they fought, any special awards, and where they lived.

More recently TCHS has been working on the same information involving Civil War Veterans who lived in the Tonganoxie area. In addition, the index notes where these veterans are buried.

Kathy Stockman has been in charge of organizing all this material. She and her helpers have made it possible for anyone to find any information we have on those veterans. A tremendous amount of work was accomplished in getting this information organized so it can be useful.

Now we are expanding this information to include WW II veterans. This information is going to be extremely difficult to discover. There are known lists available on those veterans, but most of those lists require a name or an identification number. This makes discovering WW II veterans more difficult today. Most of the names of WW II vets are lost for various reasons.

The number of veterans in WW II serving from the United States is huge. 16, 612, 586 veterans served in WW II. 291,557 died from battle injuries; 113, 812 died from other problems (most likely disease/illness). It has been estimated that 430 Americans died each day during WW II.

In Jan of 2001 when I retired the number of WW II veterans still living was greater than all the veterans involved with Korea and Viet Nam. Today 697,806 veterans of WW II are still living.

All these numbers prove the enormous size and the huge sacrifices given by the American people, and the military men and women involved in this war.

The historical society has a considerable amount of Information on many WW II veterans. There is Edwin Willert (noted in an earlier TCHS Newsletter), POW, killed by American Bombers (friendly fire) during the last weeks of the German War.

Bert Grems drafted at age 43 and killed, followed by Munro Zoellner who also was drafted shortly after Bert and also killed.

Jon and Glenda (Myers) Nelson, both graduates of Tonganoxie High School, have been doing very extensive research of Paul Creighton Siegert. He



was the son of Paul and Frances Siegert who operated the hamburger restaurant, The West End Cafe. Creighton, as he was called, served in a bomber squadron in Europe. While he was on his first mission his aircraft was shot and I believe the plane exploded in air. There may have been one survivor, but Creighton was killed. His plane had not dropped any bombs when all this happened.

Jon is the driving force in the project. It seems that as a young child he and his father, Gene Nelson, would frequent the West End Cafe. Paul and Gene would talk about Creighton and Jon listened and remembered. Now he is doing some remarkable research, talking to many people and this winter/

spring of 2017, the Nelsons expect to visit the German site where Creighton's plane was downed.

The Nelson's have been in touch with TCHS and hopefully there will be a large display in the historical society's museum on Creighton Siegert and his personal history and his military history.

AND then there is the fellow whose history is most likely lost. I met him as a 6 year old at Merle and Gracie's filling station. He had been badly wounded. Shot in Germany as he parachuted out of his plane. It appears that he was so badly wounded that he was allowed to come home after he had been several weeks in a military hospital.

When he came to Gracie's Filling station, he seemed very happy and in good health. Everyone seemed to know him and he knew them. Shortly after he left the station, one of the men stated rather sadly, "He will be dead in a few months." and he was. Sadly today his history is lost. All I remember was his first name was "Dick".

Now this brings me to my point. If there are any of you who have any—no matter how slight—information on WW II veterans who lived in Tonganoxie, either before or after WW II, please take the time to let someone in the historical society know the information that you have. If you can only provide just a name, this will allow us a path to find information about this particular veteran.

Please send the information to the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society; PO Box 785; Tonganoxie, KS 66086. It is open on Sunday afternoon from one PM until 4 PM; Tuesdays from 9 AM to 4 PM and Wednesdays 9 AM until noon, It is also open by appointment.

The historical society telephone number is 913-845-2960

The historical society e-mail address is TCHS2002@att.net. Be aware that this e-mail address does not get read everyday. It probably gets read once a week when volunteers are there.

BARN QUILTS

JEAN PEARSON

Our next Barn Quilt class is scheduled for Oct. 15th. This will be the last class for this year.

Barn Quilts would make a great Christmas gift.

Marilyn McGee will be making a block to be used as a fund raiser.



I recently read that barn quilts are the largest grassroots movement in America. This was very evident at the last barn quilt class held Sept. 21 at the historic site.

The day started early

as the class had been set up in the barn, but because of the unseasonable heat it was decided to move the class into the church basement. This happened in a timely manner and everything was

in place by class time. Thanks to Janet and Jim Stuke, and Lloyd Pearson, it happened. People came from Overland Park, Gardner, Aitchison Co, and even as far away as Rochester, Mn. At the end of the day 12 women went home happy with great looking blocks. The rest of us went home tired. It seems with each class the blocks just get prettier.

Ed. note: It seems Jean is having more classes and they fill up quicker. The word is out there. People know that Jean is very knowledgeable about quilts.

HOSTESSES FOR THE 4TH QUARTER

(Unless otherwise mentioned the 4th Tuesday of each month is when TCHS meets at 7 PM for a program and desert.)

Oct 25, 2016- Emil and Donna Wiley, Rev. Laurence and Jean Hill and Arlene Meyer

November 15, 2016- Jim and Janet Stuke and Carol and Ed Slawson

December 13th is the Christmas Party. Note that this is the second Tuesday of the month. Watch for details later.

Fall Programs

Unless specifically mentioned all programs for TCHS are on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They begin at 7 PM with a short business meeting followed by a program. These programs generally are educational, but sometimes they are musical presentations.

Oct. Tuesday the 25th, Kerry Holton will give a presentation on his family, ***“From Ireland to Tonganoxie and Places In-between.”*** Kerry’s grandparents immigrated from Ireland and his

stories will tell how they came to settle in Tonganoxie, Kerry has made several trips to Ireland. He will bring photographs and documents to share about the family history.

For many years the Holton family operated a very large dairy south of Old Forty Highway on the west side of Co. Road 25.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, Nicole Holifield, the new Director of the Tonganoxie Public Library, will present, ***“The Tonganoxie Library: Today and Tomorrow.”*** We look forward to hearing how she came to be interested in library science.

The public library and TCHS have collaborated in the past, most recently on the video monitors seen on the east wall of the library, which show photographs of Tonganoxie with a description provided by TCHS. Nicole will fill us in on the future plans for the library and how TCHS can be involved.

REMEMBER WHEN?

-Kris Roberts, President

TCHS has just agreed to re-start the very popular column from the Tonganoxie Mirror, *Remember When*. This column was compiled by Billie Aye for over twenty years (November 1991 until September 2013). Prior to 1991, Sandra Goepfert took over for Margaret Gallagher who had contributed a shorter version for several years.

The Mirror has decided to bring the column back and has asked TCHS to write the column. With Billie’s blessing (and with much welcomed guidance and advice from the veteran columnist), we will launch the column on November 1, 2016.

It will take 4 or 5 people to put this column together. If you are interested in being a part of this venture, send an email to TCHS, tchs2002@att.net.



KANSAS BARN ALLIANCE TOUR

On Saturday August 29th, the Fairchild-Knox Barn at the historical site was one of four barns featured at this year's Barn-Fest conference held at Kill Creek Farm in DeSoto, Ks. The Turner Barn at Gardner, the Taylor Barn in Lawrence, and the Somers Barn just south of Tonganoxie on US 24/40 were all seen before the Fairchild-Knox barn was visited.



The bus with approximately 40 individuals arrived well past their 2 PM schedule, but the delay did not deter them from enjoying our site. As a group interested in restoration, they were appreciative with our efforts and took in the Honey Valley School, the Reno Church, our fire engine, the windmill and the Fairchild-Knox barn and museum. Our cold lemonade, water, iced tea and cookies seemed to hit the spot as the group was in no hurry to leave.

The tour was set up by the Kansas Barn Alliance. The group meets for a yearly conference. People came from many places to take part in the barn tours. One couple on the tour was from California. The barn tour was part of their vacation.

TCHS volunteers, Connie Putthoff and Kathy Stockman worked the weekend before to clean the barn. They were joined on Saturday by Connie Torneden, Laurie Walters, Perry Walters and Kris Roberts, as well as Jim Stuke, who made a special trip to out to trim the sidewalks.

SUMMER INTERNS

This summer the museum hired two students to work as interns. Garrett Seuser, who joined TCHS in December 2015, is a freshman at Emporia State University this fall.

Mallory Harrell, the 2016 TCHS Scholarship



recipient, is a senior at Kansas State University. Both are history majors.

Both Mallory and Garrett gained some experience working with the museum archives and working with artifacts. They showed visitors through the museum and the other buildings. Each of them took on a special project.

Mallory gathered signs from various storage areas on the site, cleaned them up and worked with

other TCHS volunteers to hang the signs for display in the hay barn. She also researched and wrote the text to accompany the new sign displays. In addition, Mallory interviewed several TCHS members who have participated in the third grade program and drafted the introduction to a curriculum guide for the third grade program.

Garrett has produced a display in the barn of objects found with his metal detecting. In addition, he has produced a companion book to the new card index of Civil War Veterans in the military history section of the museum. Garrett's companion book to the index cards includes some photographs and military papers.

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

This year the number of visitors to the museum has significantly increased. As of early August over 245 visitors had signed the guest book log. I think people are aware that many people never sign the guest book. The actual number is always larger than the signed visitors. This number does not include those who have visited as a tour group, or those who attend the Tuesday night programs, or those who participate in some program like the Barn Quilt course. Adding these visitors would easily add another 300 visitors. It only includes those who have come to the museum to donate something or find some piece of information about their family. Some have come just to see what is in the museum.

With the efforts of our student interns and members who have kept the museum open on Tuesdays from 9-4 PM, we have seen a noticeable increase in "booked" appointments by visitors for research. Also, our Wednesday morning docents and our Sunday afternoon helpers have also noticed and welcomed a significant increase in visitors.

Many of our guests indicated they checked our website for the hours this site is open. These numbers compute to an average of almost 6 visitors per day opened.

When asked how they found the museum, 10% indicated the highway signs lured them to the museum. Another 10% discovered us by word of mouth. 20% came to see the entire site.

We need to keep up the good work.

Ed note: *All of those docents and members who help in the museum have a great working relationship. More significantly they are people friendly and this shows when visitors come into the museum. A JOB WELL DONE.*

THIS I LOVE

One of the most common comments from those volunteers who work in the museum is they always find something in the museum that they just never noticed before. Well! we want to ask our membership, our docents, and our visitors to contribute to this newest column in our newsletter. *THIS I LOVE.*

Simply write one or two paragraphs about your favorite exhibit and why it is your favorite. Sharing your perspectives with all of us will only make our visits more meaningful. Just e-mail the paragraphs to tchs202@att.net with the subject line, This I Love. If you don't do computers- no matter- just mail it to us as a letter—or just call us. We want to know.

Mallory Harrell's comment in This I Love:

Perhaps what I've enjoyed the most about my internship at the historical society has been the opportunity to work on this amazing sign project that will be completed by the end of the summer. It has been an absolute joy to uncover, research and to arrange a display for these signs. There are histories tied to the various businesses that have come and gone in Tonganoxie over the years, and it's been fun learning more about the familiar and the not so familiar.

I have especially loved being in charge of researching the history of the 1946 High School score clock that, until quite recently, hung in the

gym of what was the Tonganoxie Grade School. Being a member of one of the last classes to have attended grades K-6 at the grade school, I've always been fascinated by that score clock, and I consider it an honor to have helped it find a home here at the historical society.



Ed. Note: As one who in the mid 1950's played BB by that clock, it became evident in the heat of battle that some times that clock could be confusing. You see, it turned red when there was a minute and five seconds left in the quarter. If one wasn't careful you could think there were only 5 seconds left on the clock, when actually there was a minute and 5 seconds left on the clock. A long shot with 5 seconds left on the clock is a whole lot better than with a minute and 5 seconds left. I am not alone in this matter.

VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We would not exist were it not for our volunteers and other members of the TCHS community who donate time, effort and artifacts.

In this past quarter, we find ourselves indebted to and thanking the following people.

Camp Mt. Hermon youth in mid June painted our entry gate red. The group was brought to the site by Fire Chief, Jack Holcomb (a TCHS member) to paint the fire extinguisher in front of

the school. Jack thought the gate would look good with a coat of paint and it was done.

In July, Gary Sturtridge (a TCHS life member) contacted Kay Soetaert (a TCHS life member) to set up a donation of three display cases from the Zoellner's store. Volunteers, Lloyd Pearson, Jim Stuke and Garrett Seuser picked up the cases on a hot afternoon in late July and transported them to the museum. The new cases will be used to house several new and re-organized exhibits this fall and winter. One of those collections will be used for the Kramer arrowhead collection.

Ed note: The Kramer arrowhead collection is a significant contribution to the history of this areas. Many of these Indian artifacts which also included pottery chards dates back to pre historic indians. Long before the Kansa Indians. According to Kansas State University, a few are over 8,000 years old.

David Smelser in July returned to the site to grade the driveway. David, along with his brother, Russell Smelser, and his son, Lee Smelser are long time TCHS friends. Russell restored our windmill. David and Lee re-graded the driveway for no compensation. They did it because it "needed to be done".

In early August, Mel Ramseier joined our Wednesday volunteers for a morning of work. The elevator to the church basement was not working. It was a scorcher, but Mel persevered to diagnose the problem—a loose pulley—and then proceeded to remove the motor so that he could place the pulley back on track and tighten it. Once again the church elevator to the basement is working. Many many thanks to Mel.

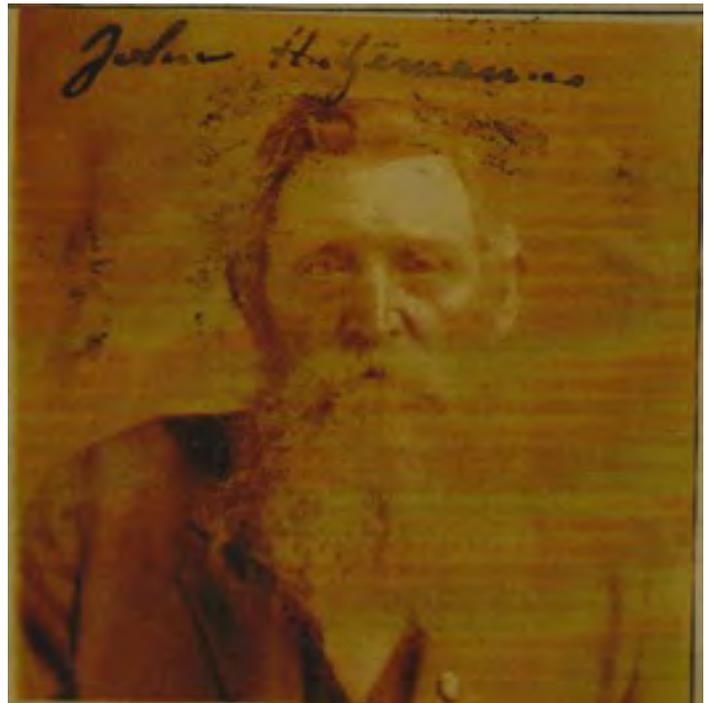
STORIES OF GERMAN EMIGRANTS AND WW I

After the declaration of war in 1918, individuals who were not native born were required to complete a "Registration Affidavit of Alien Enemy" before a registration officer,

photographed with a signature over the photograph, and finger printed. The questions as answered on the forms provide a telling story of the times and much about the individuals in our community who filed such forms.

John Hitzemann signed his papers at the marshal's office in Kansas City, KS in April of 1918. He was 77 years old, had resided in rural Tonganoxie for 47 years, and was a Civil War veteran. He had served 3 years and 29 days in the Kansas Infantry. He was a good friend of Lemuel Evans and the Evans family gives credit to John for saving Lemuel's life after Lemuel was wounded severely at the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

John had emigrated through the port of New York at the age of 17. He had three grandsons, Clarence Hitzemann, Leslie Peters, and Wallace Peters who all served in the military during WW I for the United States.



Mary Hitzemann, John's wife, also was born in Germany as Mary Papenhausen and was 74 when the affidavit was completed. She had also been living in Tonganoxie 47 years. Her papers were type written and although according to the form she spoke German and English, she signed with

and "X" and was fingerprinted.

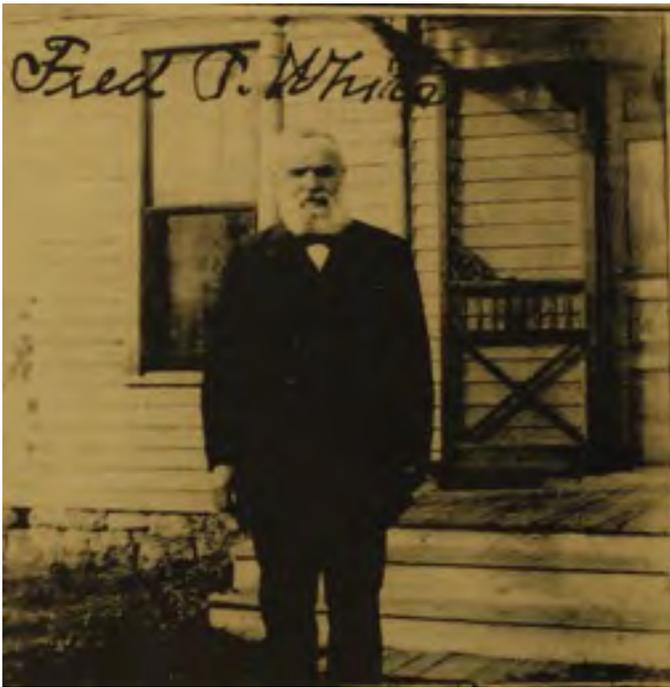


In addition to the three grandsons listed above, she also had three nephews, Walter Cochrane, John Papenhausen, Charles Papenhausen, and a Niece, Matilda "Tilda" Papenhausen (Matilda was

an army nurse in WW I) in the service for the United States.

John died in 1921 and Mary died in 1930. Both are buried in Fall Creek Cemetery, slightly NW of Jarbalo.

Fred P. White was born in 1852 at Schleswig,



Germany. He emigrated through the port of New York in 1872 when he was 20 years old. His German name was Fritz Peter Witt. He had

resided in Leavenworth County for 22 years and farmed his own land until 1917 when he took the pastorate of the Friends Church in Tonganoxie. He and his wife Barbara are buried in the McLouth Cemetery.

The Rev. Ernst Fischer, a Catholic priest, was born in Lengendorf, Germany and emigrated through New York when he was 25. He did not know if his parents in Germany were still living as he signed the documents. He had lived in Tonganoxie 5 months. He was previously living in



Alma, Kansas. He had a brother, Peter Fischer, who was currently fighting against the United States in WW I.

The Kansas City, Wyandotte, and Northwestern (The Old Northwestern) Railroad.

The historical society is wanting a photo of the Northwestern Railroad Depot. This depot existed slightly west of the Starcher Garage and Body Shop. How long it was there after the railroad ceased to exist is not known, but E. E. Heiser was the station agent. Edith Heiser Bleakley was the daughter of the station agent.

If you happen to have a photo of this depot and would share it that would be nice. If you happen to know any of the Heiser family who might have a photo, perhaps you could let us know the name so we could contact the people. PLEASE HELP!!

“There is a **PYTHON** in your basement !!”
said the Schendel Pest control man.

And there really was a Python in my basement. The snake looked like the photo here, but the snake in my basement was smaller.



Now I have two levels of knowledge when it comes to snakes. When the snake is out of my environment, I can discuss how valuable they can be. They keep down the rodent population and so on and so forth. This is my educated knowledgable level and I am happy that we have snakes. However, if the snake is in my immediate environment, my emotional level of snakes has me looking for my hoe. If the snake was a Rattle or Copper Head snake (I have never seen one in the wild) I would be looking for my shotgun.

The Python snake in my basement was just over a foot long. Laurie who did see the snake said it was about the diameter of her index finger. She told me this as she was moving to the barn. More significantly this snake was dead. It was found under my workbench lying on a sticky trap—for how long I don't know, but it

was long enough the starve to death.

When something unusual like this happens thousands of questions jump out of your thought process. Some of the more significant questions are:

Where are its brothers and sisters? Do these snake travel in pairs?
Where is the mother AND how big might she be? Would she be big enough to.....?
Why me? Where did this snake come from? Who around here is raising these (PETS?)
Are there tracts or some sort of mess you can look for to determine if the snake population is gone? or still around?

It seems that this snake is a Ball Python which lives in Sub Sahara Africa. They are known to be good pets (this statement is probably from a sales person). The name Ball results from the snake rolling up in a ball to hide when it is under stress. They range from 5 feet to 7 feet when mature— the male being smaller than the female. When you look at advertised prices the cost can be anywhere from 60-360 dollars, The snake people want you to think you have a good financial investment.

Through my daughter, Cathy, I have some experience in expensive reptiles. She bought a small Iguana and remarked what a valuable animal this would be when it got larger. It got larger and after about a year it bit her. She decided to sell it and reap some money. The bottom line - she did manage to get rid of the beast, but she paid someone to take it off her hands.

I am resting a little easier and expect Laurie will be moving from the barn soon. I have discovered that a one foot Ball Python is probably around 3 years old. That removes the mother and sibling problem—I hope. That still doesn't answer the questions about where it came from and how it got here. I am resting a little easier about this snake, but I am very watchful when going to the basement, plus now that it is colder, if there are any around they may be moving to warmer—my upstairs- places.