

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3rd QUARTER NEWSLETTER, Sept. 2022

The Wyandot Nation of Kansas



The history of the Wendots is both heroic and sad. Once among the greatest of the NE American tribes, a warrior race that traveled from Canada to Kentucky, a fierce and feared nation, they fought in all the wars, supporting the French. Betrayed many times by so called Treaties of the White Man, we remain right where we are now.

There are four Nations of Wyandot, Wendake in Quebec, Anderson in Detroit, Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Wyandot history begins in the legend of The Great Turtle Island (North America) formed on the back of a turtle. Wyandot translated is "People of the Island".

Living in longhouses, between Simcoe Lake and Georgian Bay, Ontario, with as many as 18 to 25 villages, and producing massive fields of corn for trade among the Northern tribes for their furs, they thrived.

The first encountered in 1534 about 70,000 Wyandots were living in three groups, Huron, Petun, and Neutrals.

The name Huron was given to the Wyandot by the French, meaning "bristly-hair" referring to the hair on the back of a boar.

The Wyandot were most famous for their involvement in the fur trade. Samuel de Champlain, developed a close relationship with the Hurons and became trading partners with them. Furs were traded for Europeans goods.

The French along with the Jesuit priests came among them bringing diseases such as Smallpox and measles among other diseases, which almost decimated the people.

With their numbers reduced, the Iroquois jealous of their fur trade, attacked St Marie, among the Huron in Midland and murdered every Wyandot they could find, also burning the Jesuit priests, Brebeuf and Lalemant at the stake.

The surviving Wendot fled, some went to Christian Island, and others to the Blue Mountain of the Petun at Georgia Bay. The Christian Island Wendats suffered that winter, the island surrounded by Iroquois warriors. they could not get food. They fled in the spring to Quebec to the protection of the French, and remain the Wendake.

The others, followed by the Iroquois, went through the Straits to Michilimackinac Island (Michilimackinac was the original name for present day [Mackinac Island](#) and [Mackinac County](#)) and down to Detroit. Years later they settled in Ohio at Upper Sandusky.

My 4th Great Grandfather, Isaac Zane, was kidnapped by the Wyandots at the age of 9 along with his brother who was ransomed back to his family, Tarhe loved Isaac and gave him the choice. Isaac could go home or stay with the Wyandots. He stayed and later married Tarhe's daughter, Myerah, and raised a family in Zanefield, Ohio.

Chief Tarhe, My 5th Great Grandfather fought his last fight in the Battle of Fallen Timbers, against Mad Anthony Wayne.

The only Chief not killed, and with an injured elbow, came to the realization the natives -all indigenous peoples- would never win. He worked making Treaties with the Whites, and assimilated living as the settlers in cabins, raising crops and livestock.

In July 1843, the last native tribe was to be removed from Ohio to west of the Mississippi. The people of Upper Sandusky cried at losing their friends and neighbors. The Wyandots grieved at leaving the graves of their loved ones behind, "Who would brush the leaves from the graves and keep the sites cleaned". The men traveled across country with their livestock and what belonging they could take, while the agents in Ohio were in charge of selling their farms and items left behind.

The Wyandot, mostly women, children and the elderly travelled down to Cincinnati to the Steam boats, the Republic and the Nodaway. On the way news articles were written - Everyone came to see the last of the Indians leaving, but instead saw finely dressed men and women, fine carriages and fine livestock. Boarding the boats were the 400 Wyandots. The Captain stripped the carpets and finery from the boat, as they were Indians, they were treated as cattle.

In Kansas Territory, they were promised 148,000 acres which never came about. With no place to go they were "Dumped" at the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri River, at the site of the old stockyards. A few had the means to rent houses in the Westport area but most made do in the KC bottoms. Making camp, 60 died that summer because of cholera. Looking for a place to bury their loved ones, they chose the highest point, The Huron Cemetery. Wrapping the loved ones in blankets, they were buried in a mass grave. The next year the floods came (Ed Note: This was most likely the flood of 1844. The Kansas River flooding was extreme). The flood was so severe it was noted dead Buffalo were caught up in the treetops along the rivers. Wrapping their loved ones in blankets, another mass grave was dug.

The Delaware in memory of good faith, remembering the Wyandots gave them land in Ohio to live, sold 46 sections of land and gave them 3 sections for the cemetery. Naming their area Wyandott City, later changed to KC, Ks. Many Streets still bear the names of the Wyandot Families,

The Wyandots then built churches and schools before building their cabins. One of those churches is the 7th St Methodist church, on 7th and State in KC, which still stands in bad repair today. Promised they would have ten years to get back on their feet, settled. Wyandot City and their sister city Quindaro, where we had an Underground railroad established, they built hotels, ferries and had thriving towns, but Kansas became a state.

Speculators and Agents knew the white settlers wanted the land so they were taxed for their land. Many lost their lands, while some stayed in Kansas, the destitute Wyandots, promised land in Oklahoma, traveled south and settled among the Seneca. Today they are the only Federally recognized Wyandot Nation.

The fight to protect the Huron Cemetery aka The Wyandotte National Burial Ground has been a battle fought since the beginning of 1900. The city wanted to build a parking lot, then a street under the cemetery, the Oklahoma Wyandottes the bodies removed to the Quandary Cemetery and wanted to sell it for profit. They also wanted to build a casino over it. All members of the Kansas Wyandots fought in federal court to protect it. The Conley Sisters, built a shack by the graves of their parents and remained in the Cemetery day and night, summer and winter, chasing all trespassers away. Lyda Conley went to law school, passed her bar and went to the Supreme Court in Washington, the first native American women to argue the case. Sister Helena placed a curse "Curse Be The Villian That Molest The Graves" on the cemetery, that still holds today.

Wyandots are still here, however we look just like everyone else, we blend in and unless asked we are not recognized as Indians. As Chief I have given many presentations of our history,

Chief Judith Manthe
Wyandot Nation of Kansas

Our story is long any so much to tell, it would be best to check out our website,
wyandot.org

Judith Manthe has been the Chief of the Wyandot Nation in Kansas, and she will soon be re-elected. She lives in the McLouth School district. Her children are about the same ages as my kids. And we knew each other through our children and 4-H. Judy as she is called, is extremely busy with various engagements, plus being on various boards like the Leavenworth fair board. Working with her is extremely easy and fun because she is an open and friendly person.

HAIR by Clenece Hills

My Oklahoma grandmother had only one child, my handsome father, dark hair as straight as a string. She loved to buy me clothes and dress me up and do things to my hair. She was very frustrated that I did not have Shirley Temple ringlets, and so she took me to her favorite hairdresser for a permanent wave. I'm pretty sure she did not ask my parents if it would be okay.

But I digress. If you have never seen a permanent wave MACHINE from the early 40's, you are missing an important artifact in your life. Mounted on a rolling post, the huge round headpiece had electric cords dropping at various lengths from the headpiece. A bin of various length metal curlers with rubber clamps was on a table beside it. Two big bottles of strange looking liquid were there too.

Sitting on two pillows and a dictionary, I waited nervously in the salon chair. I was four year old. The hairdresser portioned my scalp with clips, and one by one, she brushed liquid from one of the bottles into that section of my hair. Then she took a curler appropriate for the thickness, length, and location of my hair and rolled my hair around the metal object and snapped the clamp shut. She did that all over my scalp and I can remember that they felt tight. But wait! It gets better.

One by one, she inserted a dangling electric cord into the socket on each curler. Once every curler was attached to a socket, I could not move, or I would feel the pull on my scalp. Then the hairdresser turned on the MACHINE and cooked curls into my hair. I do not know how long I cooked. But I remember the horrible smell. Soon I felt a genuine pain on the top of my right ear and I cried out. The curler was too close to my ear and burned my skin.

When the hairdresser decided that I had cooked long enough, she removed each curler, and I cringed when I heard each metal curler bounce into the metal bin. She had me get out of the salon chair and taking the two pillows and the dictionary to a chair in front of the sink. She rinsed my springy curls with the other bottle from the table..Oh! that horrible smell. Seventy-nine year later I can still remember it.

Next step, another chair (after the pillows and the dictionary are in place) and a huge helmet was lowered over my soggy curls. The dryer whirred and stirred that awful smell. At last, I am done, as in cooked to a crisp.

The final touch: putting me in yet another chair (with pillows and the dictionary) in front of a mirror, where the hairdresser (I would not insult modern day stylists by calling her a stylist) combed and brushed and coiled my hair into a Shirley Temple ringlets.

Clenece Hills is the host and producer of Timeline Radio Program heard on KLWN 1320, Monday at 9:05 A.M. The address is 3125, West Sixth Street,, Lawrence, KS 66049

And below we have Carol Slawson's short description on what she remembers today about using the MACHINE when she was quite young.

My older sister took me with her to the beauty shop at Almedas, and while there she decided to have my hair cut and give me a permanent.

They rolled my hair up on rods and hooked me up to the dangling electric cords. I think they must have left me too long because my hair was pretty fuzzy when I was finished. I'm not sure mom knew my sister was going to have my hair done, because she was a little upset when we got home. I had had long hair and mom always braided it in pigtailed everyday. My sister saved some of my hair and mom had it many years in an envelope.





Ed Note: These machines appears dangerous when I look at the bare electric wires that are exposed in the clips. Carol has told me that many women while undergoing “treatment” with this machine would lose some of their hair because the machine got too hot and burned the hair. The device many times resulted in a so called “Pocket Perm”. So called because when the victims hair got burned and the hairdresser removed the burned hair and quietly put the burned hair into her pocket. Nothing was said.

THE JAYHAWK
The Biography of George Cooper,
BY J. STOUT

This book has been read by many members of the Tonganoxie Historical Society (and many others). I have talked to many people who read this book and all of them thoroughly enjoyed the book. It reads very well and I'm sure that many members read the book from beginning to end without stopping.

George was an excellent person to interview. His mind was always ahead of the interviewer. He was always on target. You just had to ask him one question and two and one half hours later you had your interview. All the information had been presented.

I know of two interviews that George provided the community. The first one was done by the VFW. Many years later the Historical Society in Tonganoxie did an interview with George. Our interview, which resulted in a DVD, was done about two years before the book, *Jayhawk*. Kathy Stockman (Kathy always researched the history of the person to be interviewed) asked the questions and Perry Walters did the filming. The entire interview was originally in the neighborhood of 2 hours.

When the book, *Jayhawk*, was completed and compared to the DVD, there were numerous similarities. If I were to look for differences, I think the book did a much better job of managing Georges family, particularly his father. In addition when George returned to the Far East on his second tour, the activities he performed around the Philippines was better managed than the DVD.

1). However, when compared to the DVD, George's action in the occupation of Japan is considerably better on the DVD than in the book. The book lightly discusses this area in two short pages. One item was the worker who injured his foot. In the DVD, George discusses this in depth. A young worker got a nail through his “shoe” (actually a canvas shoe) and it was very painful. George saw that the young person got to the dispensary where he got medical attention including a tetanus shot. Furthermore, they drove the kid home so he would not have to walk on the sore foot. The next morning three people brought gifts to George. They told how the military had told them that the Americans would kill the men, rape the women and steal the youth.

2). Two hundred Japanese men were organized as a working force. The man who was managing the workers in groups of 10 was observed beating a young man. George stopped the beating and asked what was going on. The young man was very hungry and had taken a box of cookies. George told the boy that he shouldn't do that and let him go back to work. George recognized that the Japanese people were starving. Earlier when George was talking through the interpreter, George discovered that the manager had served in New Guinea and one time had observed a two engine plane with decor similar to George's plane, the Jayhawk. No discussion of this was done in the book.

Ed. Note: The Japanese people could be placed in two different groups. The local people were tired of the fighting and they wondered what happened to their children who went off to war and were never heard from again. Plus, they were all pretty much starving with shipping much reduced by the U.S. Navy. The other group was the military who were willing to continue the war.

3). When George and his group were flying to Japan and the air field at Cho Fu, they discovered that the air field was enclosed in fog to about 400 feet above the ground. George sent the other planes to Atsugi, but he believed that he could find a way to land at Cho Fu. He made a few attempts and finally thought that he had it made. He says he was going too fast and the runway was only 5,000 feet long. One of his wheels dug him off the runway and the plane went down when the wheel collapsed. He says it was a bad landing.

4). A few days after they arrived in Japan, a few of George's flight group decided to go into Tokyo. George had been there before the war. This time they were alarmed by the Japanese action. When George and his group walked by some Japanese, the Japanese turned their backs on the Americans. The Americans didn't know what this meant, but they became alarmed, turned around and went home. Sometime later it became known that this turning your back was showing respect.

5). They noted that the Emperor's Palace was still standing. This was something that the Americans did not want to destroy. Also, still standing was Frank Lloyd Wright's hotel and restaurant.

6). One day George flew up to the northern Island, Hokkaido, to see what was there. He was aware that there was something of a military action there because everyone was saluting. Soon a lady with a nice big car pulled up and asked George if she could help him. The man in the back seat was an older man who had been in the military. The female could speak perfect English. The older man wanted to know if he could help. George told him what he wanted-electrical supplies. The two men plus the woman rode around the area and later they sat down for some boiled bananas and some discussion. When George got ready to go back in his airplane he noted that his plane was loaded with electrical supplies. Later, George recognized that these were not new but looked like they were torn out of existing equipment.

George related that he never had any trouble working with the Japanese people and he still has several items that they gave him. One of the items was a 9mm pistol.

FROM THE MUSEUM

We have seen an increasing number of visitors of visitors to the museum. Many are first time visitors and most often a comment is made "I did not know this was here! It's wonderful and we'll be back". It seems that changing the weekend day to visit from Sunday to Saturdays from 10AM to 2PM has reaped more traffic for the site. Remember the museum is open for visitors and volunteers on Tuesdays from 9-4 and Wednesdays from 9-noon. Wednesdays is all volunteer workday and usually has some goodies with coffee and lots of good chatter. Check us out.

Over the summer several volunteers have organized all the books in the Honey Valley School, moved furniture, renovated some existing displays, and are ready to mount an exhibit which focuses on the rich history of the country schools in our area. Although not completed, it was put in order so the third graders from Tonganoxie could see for themselves what a country school session entailed this past Monday.



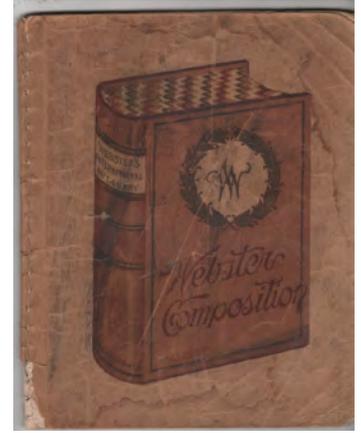
Other new additions include a collection plate from the Tonganoxie Friends Church on 4th Street which just sold to a private owner. The Friends operated the Friends Academy which was the first school in Tonganoxie and held services in this building for many years. Most recently it had been reopened for approximately 15 years until the recent closure and sale.



Remember the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the city of Tonganoxie. New to our collection is this commemorative pin donated by Jim Stuke. Another new item is the current Tonganopoly game which has recently been released as a money maker for the Tonganoxie City Library.

Meg Young who is the granddaughter of Fred Zoellner who owned the Zoellner store which operated for many years on 4th street occupying what is now the Good Shepherd Thrift store and the Brunswick Ballroom on 4th street. Meg sent the grade school composition book of Fred's from the early 1900s. It is filled with pencil compositions done in

cursive with pencil. Among the hand written stories, is a lovely story about "The Pussy Willow" which as an extra has real pussy willow catkins glued to the top of the page. How we enjoyed looking at this item!



We have a new computer which enables us to have an additional person adding data about our artifacts to our PastPerfect database. We are also concentrating on digitizing complete content of artifacts so that if (heaven forbid!!!)we have a disaster which ruins the artifact, we do not loose the information inside. Rose Mangan has generously volunteered to learn how to use the system. Entering data from the written documents, photos of the document or item, plus its provenance is time consuming but necessary for us to preserve what treasures we have. Thanks Rose.

We look forward to fall and for our men to be able to help us prepare some wall space for displays, maybe help with some lighting issues, and provide some much needed heft to our plans. In the summer, most of their time is spent in mowing and doing necessary outdoor repairs. Janet Burnett, Joy Lominska, Donna Talbott, and Rose Mangan are working on a revision of the school section in the museum itself.

There are many ideas swirling and lots of help needed so come join us on Wednesdays.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 22, 2022, Noon to 4:00pm. A **Potluck Dinner & Celebration of Life** will be held for Bill Peak at the Parish Hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 100 S. Cherokee, Frontenac, KS. All who knew Bill are invited by his wife, Kathy, to attend.

Brothers Market has generously offered to feature the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society in their Round-Up program for the month of October 2022. You can support both Brothers Market and the museum this month!

Mark your calendar for the 2022 Holiday Dinner at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 13 in the Barn at the Historical Site. Details will follow.

KEEPING COOL

This summer was hot. We felt it and so did our equipment. In July, the air conditioning system in the church needed resuscitation. And in August, the entire heating & cooling system in the museum had to be replaced.

We were fortunate in two ways. First, the heating & cooling system in the museum, originally installed over 20 years ago by Slawson Heating & Cooling, had a long and productive life. We are very grateful for that! Second, a donation to the museum covered well over half the cost of replacing the system. Many, many thanks to J.W. Evans for his generosity!

THANKING THE TONGANOXIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to the Tonganoxie Police Department. In addition to the many responsibilities shouldered by the Police Department and their officers, we are so grateful for the assistance and care they take with our museum.

In less than two months this summer, officers responded to two incidents – one when the security alarm was triggered and one where they noticed that lights were left on and a door unlocked. There was no nefarious activity behind either incident, but we are most appreciative of their diligence and dedication to the community.

IN MEMORIAL

ROCKY HIMPEL, friend. Rocky Himpel passed away Sunday, July 17, 2022. He was a big supporter of the historical society, the museum, and history. We remember his support of our programs and his encouragement.

BILL PEAK, former board member. Bill Peak passed away on August 1, 2022. Bill was a long-time member of the historical society. He also served as the Program Chairperson from 2011 through 2016. Many remember Bill for his tenacity in selling tickets to the Chili Supper or raffle tickets of just about anything that might benefit the museum and historical society. Bill and Kathy moved to Arkansas in 2017. They have been missed.

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LAURENCE HILL, member. Laurence Hill passed away on September 15, 2022. Laurence and his wife Jean had been long time members of the historical society. Laurence volunteered with the baseball concessions fundraiser for many years. He loved history and he loved sharing. We remember him fondly.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS IN THE THIRD QUARTER

A Very Special Intern – Marie Brockhoff first came to our museum in 2019. She was researching the town of Reno for a History Day presentation. Marie went on to both the Kansas and National History Day competitions, telling the story of Reno in a first-person narrative.

Marie continued to volunteer over the next three years. She set up and administered our Instagram account. She volunteered with our History Camps in 2021 and 2022. This past summer, we were lucky to have Marie as a paid intern. She kept the museum open several days each week and worked on special projects, documenting museum and historical society events.

We said farewell to Marie on August 17 with a party attended by volunteers, friends, and board members. Marie is now a freshman at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. She is pursuing her interests in history and biology.

Food Drive for The Good Shepherd Thrift Shop in July 2022. When the Board of Directors decided not to hold the annual Chili Supper in February due to concerns about COVID, we thought it might be a good idea to ask our members and friends to donate bring food to the Thrift Store Food Bank, in a sort of reverse Chili Supper. As it turns out, our support was needed more in the summer, so our members and friends answered the call in July. Many thanks to all of you!

Our 1936 Fire Truck was in the **Leavenworth County Fair Parade** on July 26. Youth from History Camp 2022 rode on the truck. This was the second year that youth have joined us in the parade. Many thanks to John Callaghan for driving the truck and many thanks to the youth who keep it fun!

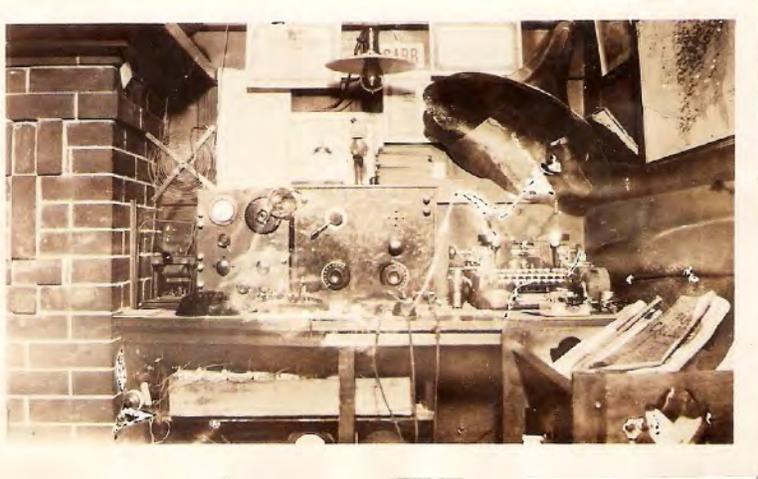
And **“ACTION.”** In late July, we were approached by a Lawrence movie production company, Follow the Leader, LLC, about using our silo as a location for a movie. So, for one day, our site and our silo were transformed into a movie set – pretty cool.



The company liked our grounds too, and returned two weeks later to film on the south end of the property, where trees follow the creek bed.

“What’s In a Kansas County Name?” Jim Hanni, Retired Vice President of Public Affairs of AAA Club Alliance, gave the September Fourth Tuesday program on September 27, 2022. We learned about the naming of Kansas counties and the re-naming of Kansas counties as Kansas moved from territorial pro-slavery to statehood and free-state legislatures. There have been a total of 137 names for the 105 counties. Jefferson County was almost named Sauterelle, the French word for grasshopper. Who knew?

MORE ON TONGANOXIE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS



In the June 2022 Second Quarter Newsletter, our lead article was Some History of Radio and Radio in Tonganoxie, from guest contributor, John “Chip” Lenahan, Jr. In that article, Chip talked about Clifford Peters and his ties as an amateur radio operator to the engineers at WREN Radio. We include in this issue a photograph of the amateur radio station built and operated by Clifford Peters.

Other Tonganoxie radio pioneers of the early 1920s were Claude Winslow, 9DSN, Byron Cox, 9DVF, W. Woods, 9DUH, Oscar Dutton, 9ZFX and Emil Freienmuth.

Chip also reminded us that December 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of amateur radio operators making the first transatlantic communications between North America and Europe, using what became known as the "short-waves." Amateur radio pioneers in Tonganoxie were participating in a new era of radio technology.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm on October 25. “William Allen White and the KKK in Kansas,” presentation and discussion by author and educator Beverley Olson Buller, exploring William Allen White’s resistance against the KKK. William Allen White wrote in 1922, “When anything is going to happen in this country, it happens first in Kansas.” Accordingly, Kansas became the first state in the union to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan. The story of White’s role in history is fascinating and one of which his fellow Kansans can be very proud. PHOTO

“William Allen White and the KKK in Kansas” is part of Humanities Kansas’s Speakers Bureau and “21st Century Civics,” a collection of resources that invite Kansans to participate in community discussions and learn more about the history of American democracy and the shared responsibilities of citizenship. “21st Century Civics” is made possible with support from “A More Perfect Union: America at 250,” an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

January Fourth Tuesdays are not scheduled in November or December.

Winter/Spring 2023 Fourth Tuesday Programs

January 24, 2023 – Judith Manthe, Principal Chief of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas

February 28, 2023 – Let’s Identify Old Photos and the People in Them

March 28, 2023 – Will Haynes, Director of Engagement and Learning, Watkins Museum

April 25, 2023 – to be announced

May 23, 2023 – to be announced

