

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4th. QUARTER NEWSLETTER, Dec. , 2015



The two story white building seen in the thumbnail photo to our right is the building in which MG Farrell sold cigars in the early days of 1900 to 1920. It became a one story building when a wife caught her dentist--husband doing some unusual dentistry. She attempted to burn the building to the ground. The result was a one story building. It was known later as Champion's Grocery Store. Isn't life exciting!

TRADITIONAL TALES OF TONGANOXIE

The Ken Burns style of movie is done. It's completed !! Fine', over, dun! and I'm done. as in "dun in" Most of us are somewhat familiar with a Ken Burns movie. Many were seen on PBS. like *The National Parks*, *Baseball*. *The Civil War* and others. Basically they are slide shows based on a movie format with narration.

The movie, *Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie*, began one Sunday afternoon when TCHS interviewed 6 of Tonganoxie's local historians. A movie was made of this interview, but the background noise was so great no one could hear the interview. After careful consideration, it was decided to expand this project into what we now have, a very detailed narration of the traditional history of Tonganoxie.

The history of Tonganoxie was next to impossible for a number of reasons. The City Hall doesn't have records back that far. stories published in the Tonganoxie Mirror are quite often contradictory--one time the streets were paved in 1915--later 1916-- or just plain incorrect, like the covered bridges in Leavenworth Co., were built in 1871 instead of 1857. It goes on. So traditional stories becomes more manageable.

Great effort was made to have these movies as factually correct as possible, but I am sure many people have stories that vary when compared to

The Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie, but again we tried to be accurate.

The format of this movie is similar to a Ken Burns movie. However, we have the added benefit of using portions of movie interviews conducted over the last several years by various members of TCHS. So when we narrate the story of the Franklin plant, at various places in the time line it was possible to add a video clip of JW Evans talking about the black snakes the Franklin people kept in the sugar bins, or Bob Lenahan eating too much ice cream while there. And during the Zoellner portion of this movie at various points we can listen to Jack Hoey & Margaret Gallagher discussing Fred Zoellner, or we can watch Pat Black talk about WWII. Roy Salmon discusses bootlegging as do some other people. And so it goes.

We were able use various clips of over 11 interviews (all of these interviews were over 2 hours long so we had the use of much material, not just a few minutes) of people who are even older than me. I expect Wm Freienmuth was probably the oldest at age 95 and Carol Slawson was the youngest at age 50 plus a few months.

In very general terms the movie begins with the Delaware Indians, discusses both railroads, it continues with very early Tonganoxie and all the businesses in town. The schools in Tonganoxie, the country schools, the cemeteries, the churches in town, plus a great deal more are all discussed. As a hint: Magdalena did not purchase her land from the Union Pacific Railroad, Tonganoxie, the Delaware Indian, was a counselor, not a Chief, the mill was started ca. 1884 and not 1888 or 89. The Grade School that most of us attended--The two story brick bldg, was not built in 1874 and so it goes. I think there is a lot of material of value and interest in these DVDs.

A few weeks ago I e-mailed to those that have e-mail some *Youtube links* to movie clips which served as a preview of what can be expected of these movies. I

will provide those links again, plus some newer links and I will publish them within the body of this newsletter. That might be of use to those who do not use E-mail but has a friend who does. I hope that those who view these previews have some fun looking at them.

Below are links to the Youtube movies which give short previews of the movie, *Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie*. The movie about the history of the Tonganoxie Schools, is a good representation of the entire movie.

Lower Pool Hall collapse
https://youtu.be/94m-lerZQ_s

Friendship Valley School
<https://youtu.be/Y8QjAkNHdtM>

Bootlegging with Roy Salmon
<https://youtu.be/ArfbXRra74>

Tonganoxie, the man
<https://youtu.be/0q6-nlsWV5U>

Kenny Oakson loses his
finger in shop class
<https://youtu.be/zbGkTU3nSVU>

Bullets are found in Judge McNaughton's
wall by Harold Denholm
<https://youtu.be/QR22ECQ6lx4>

Judge Walters finds the fish trespassing
https://youtu.be/Ag_eGSIEuY

The history of Tonganoxie schools is like the entire
movie with narration and videos
https://youtu.be/n1rPjileS_g

Bob Lenahan tells about Pretty Boy Floyd in
Tonganoxie
https://youtu.be/AZNL_kq4VJ0

Black snakes in the sugar ben-JW Evans
<https://youtu.be/dG8UC8VnJ4E>

Remembering Friends:

We have said goodbye to too many life members and former members of our society this year. We remember them for their many contributions to TCHS. **Members we have lost this year** Nancy Hoglund, Deloris White, Roger Shilling, Phyllis Shilling, Betty Campbell, Roy Salmon, and Ruth Cooper,

Keyta D. Kelly,
Chairman of the Board

We have quite a long name to our historical society when you think about it: Tonganoxie – Community—Historical—Society. I think often many of us are guilty of abbreviating it and just saying “Tonganoxie Historical Society”. But, our founders put the word “Community” in there for a reason. I can only guess what their thoughts were. Did they want to make sure that we included the rural area surrounding Tonganoxie? Or did they want to emphasize that the group embodied what it meant to be a community?

Community is sometimes defined as, “a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government”. Other times, though, it is defined as “a group of people with a common background or with shared interests within society”. The first definition involves location only. So, by that definition the fact that we live in Tonganoxie or in Leavenworth County makes us a community.

The other definition though, is much deeper. It involves our upbringing, our shared beliefs and our shared interests. It's exciting sometimes to think that we can form a community with someone who lives in another state or even another country.

This is becoming more and more common as social media grows. You may belong to a knitting club that only meets online through sharing new patterns or photos of finished products. You are a part of that community even though you don't live in the same regional area.

But, what if..... we combined the two definitions? Wouldn't it be amazing if those living in the geographical boundaries of Tonganoxie and the surrounding rural area also all shared a common interest? Wouldn't it be even more mind-blowing if that common interest were pride in Tonganoxie's history?

I think the opportunity to see this happen is at our fingertips. Tonganoxie will celebrate its 150th birthday this summer. A committee is forming with the intent of putting on a Sesquicentennial Celebration. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall. History and more

precisely, pride in our history, needs to be a substantial part of this celebration. I urge you to attend this meeting. Let's demonstrate that the Tonganoxie COMMUNITY Historical Society is, indeed, all about community.



Museum Updates, Laurie Walters

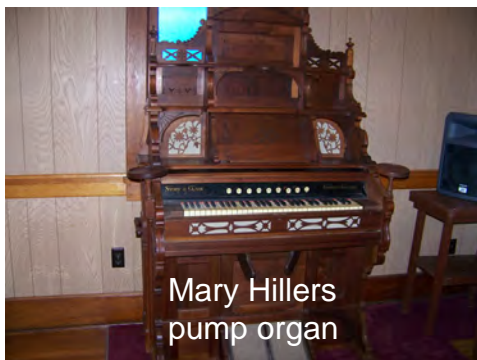
Those interested in history continue to support the museum with the donation of valuable bits of history. Among recent accessions are a tray from the Mackey school with a yearbook, a Jarbalo State Bank Match Box, table ware used at Opals' Cafe, a 1935 Tonganoxie High School class ring ,and nine volumes of history of the Tonganoxie Chamber of Commerce.



Eugene Keck
class ring

Visitors to the Reno Church will see the Story and Clark Pump Organ from Mary Hillers, a long time resident of Reno, Kansas. It seems fitting that this should be placed in the

Reno Church.



Mary Hillers
pump organ

We continue to field questions from people looking for information about their relatives. A recent inquiry was for information about Wallace A. Brice who was the editor of the early Tonganoxie

newspaper, The Sentinel. W.A. (as he went by) was a Quaker who resided in Tonganoxie for 13 years with his second wife, Rachel and served on the city council. He and Rachel are buried in Tonganoxie Cemetery. Check out the clever way he advertised

a subscription renewal displayed on a copy of his paper in the museum. We find we do not have a photo of W.A. and if any of our members can provide us with a copy of such we would be delighted to have it.

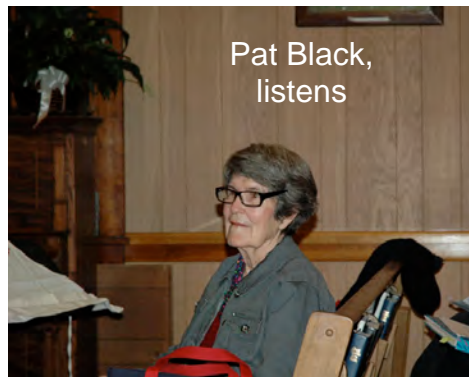
A new student member of TCHS is working with us to provide an exhibit about the **Martyrs of 56** which will be placed in the display case at First State Bank (downtown) in late January. Other projects which the museum staff are undertaking are the creation of a display at the entrance of the museum celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the town of Tonganoxie and working on other projects of the community to celebrate our sesquicentennial.

Several "tours" from local groups have been scheduled through the museum and site. Genesis school will spend Kansas Day in the Honey Valley School.



**Monthly Programs: Kris Roberts.
President**

In October, Pat Black presented her recollections of the time she spent as the owner and operator of Zoellner's Mercantile from 1973 until it closed ten years later.



Pat Black,
listens

Pat also presented TCHS with a quilt that she made using

material from Zoellner's inventory. Pat explained that the young women who worked in the store knew that Pat was an avid quilter and they always cut off a quarter of a yard of new materials as they came in.

Pat's quilt is now on display in the Business section of the museum, in the Zoellner's Mercantile case that Pat donated to the museum. Be sure to look for it the



Pat Black discusses her quilt and working at Zoellner's

next time you visit the museum.

Pat's presentation was followed by a rousing set of patriotic and period

songs, performed by *A Bit of Nostalgia*.

The group members are Nancy Gibbens, Karen Stephenson, and Michael Stephenson, Karen's son. In addition to wonderful harmonies, they accompanied themselves on the piano and the guitar.



Nancy Michael Karen

Nancy and Karen have been performing here for many years. It seems they met at Baker University and have been

performing ever since. Michael is a recent addition to this group and I believe he arranges some of their music. It was relaxing to hear their exciting blend of sounds. **TCHS is always grateful when local people with such talent find the time to share their talent with us.**

In November, Chief of Police Jeff Brandau presented a historical review of police work. He presented an excellent program. He was able to provide a considerable amount of information in a very entertaining manner. The meeting was packed and everyone enjoyed the chief's presentation. The bottom line is: Television Stories of people like Bat Masterson and family and Wyatt Earp and his family are slanted to the hero side. Even I was astounded to discover that on one day a person could kill someone and basically the next day he would be a lawman.

In December, we gathered for a winter feast and holiday celebration in the barn. Forty members came out for the dinner, and we started the holiday season in the barn, beautifully decorated by Connie

Putthoff, Cindy Brandau, and Kathy Stockman. Everyone enjoyed the decorations and appreciated the effort given by these ladies.



Caryle Carr

Third Graders:

On Tuesday, October 13, 2015, TCHS volunteers brought life to the museum, school house, and grounds for the annual visit of the Tonganoxie Elementary School Third Grade classes. The weather was so nice that both the Native American culture and the Old Time Games & Toys were moved outside.

This year our volunteers were: Peachez Joles, Jean Pearson, Frances Ard, Janet Stuke,

Marilyn Daniels, Jim Stuke, Lloyd Pearson, Dan Carr, Susy Ross, Kathy Stockman, Laurie Walters, and Kris Roberts

We hosted 120 students and a combined 25-30 teachers and parents. The students were eager to see everything. They asked some wonderful questions and in a few instances had some pretty good answers too!

Refreshments for Monthly Programs

January 26 Tuesday, 2016 7 PM

Lloyd & Jean Pearson & Ray & Kathy Stockman

February 23 Tuesday, 2016 7 PM

Connie Putthoff & Mel and Patricia Ramseier

March 22, Tuesday, 2016 7 PM

Jeff & Cindy Brandeau & Perry & Laurie Walters

MAGDALENA BURY, THE FOUNDER OF TONGANOXIE

For Someone who founded Tonganoxie, Ks, the information about Magdalena and Christian Bury is very sparse. Many of the dates before 1865 vary by a year or two.

It appears Magdalena was born in 1822 and Christian was born in 1815. They were born in Baden, Germany in the SW part of Germany. Nothing more is known about their German heritage until their marriage date. 1848-49 is given as their marriage date.

The marriage produced 7 children. Christian (b. 1850) and John (b. 1852) were born in Germany. In 1853 Samuel was born in the state of Iowa.

Kathrine (Kate b. 1857). Louisa b. 1859, Frederick b. 1862, were born in Atchison, KS. Charles was born in Tonganoxie in 1867. One source says Charles was born in 1864.

The 1860 census has the Bury family living in Atchison, KS with the ages of the children as follows:

Christian Bury	10 yr.
John Bury	7 yr.
Samuel Bury	3 yr
Kathrine Bury	2 yr.
Frederick Bury	2 months

Frederick may have been born in 1862 in which case we don't know where he was born, Atchison or Tonganoxie

In 1860 Magdalena was listed as age 38 and Christian was 45 years old.

The Bury family was living in Tonganoxie in 1865 because Christian Bury was operating a saloon. It may have been on the future swimming pool property. There were two saloons there. **The Leav. Times, stated Magdalena owned a building in 1866 on 3rd and Main street that later would become the Myers Hotel. She sold it to James McKeehan who operated it as a general store until 1879. (James McKeehan sold this building to his granddaughter, Mollie Myers)**

We all know that on July 21, 1866, the Village of Tonganoxie was established when Magdalena signed the plat that consisted of 40 acres of property. It has been said that she signed because

her husband could not read or write. This 40 acres was purchased from William English and not from the Union Pacific Railroad as many believe. This was a square group of lots from first street to 4th street with Main Street on the east side and Green street on the west side.

Sometime before late 1869 Magdalena and Christian Bury purchased an additional 80 acres of land which extended from 1st street north to what is now The Tonganoxie High School. The property became known as the Bury Addition.

So 1869 The Village of Tonganoxie consisted of the **original 40 acre plat by Magdalena, the Railroad Addition** which extended south, east, and west of the original plat, (The Railroad Addition was owned by Kaw Valley Town Company who were members of the UP RR.) and the **Bury Addition**.

In the last part of 1869, Magdalena and Christian Bury sold a large parcel of land to John and Joseph Ashton. Much of this land was from the Bury Addition. The fee was \$150.00 at 12% interest.

Christian Bury was part of a committee that functioned as a City Council. On Feb., 1870, Christian Bury went before this committee requesting a Billiard Saloon license. The vote was a tie and therefore not given to him.

Magdalena dies in June of 1870 and is buried in Tonganoxie Cemetery commonly referred to a Hubbel Hill Cemetery. Here daughter, Kate, is also buried here.

The last we know of Christian Bury is October of 1870 when he is living in Wichita. He sells what appears to be a very large number of city lots to his children, Kathrine, Louisa, Frederick and Charles Bury. These lots are generally within the original plat with a few lots located in the Bury Addition. It seems strange that he would leave his children behind.

Kate is the oldest of these children at age 13 and Charles is the youngest at ca. 3. I can't help but wonder how the legalities of this sale worked with all these kids being so young.

From this point what knowledge is known involves Kate and Louisa and most of that involves Kate and the source is the Federal Census.

In the 1880 census Louisa Bury is a servant for James McKeehan, and Kate Bury is a waiter in a hotel operated by Willard Angell. Willard's son, Alton Dewitt Angell is a livery stable keeper. Speculation suggests that this livery stable may be connected with the hotel operated by his father, Willard. Willard has another son, Arthur who is a railroad clerk. Arthur would have a son, Chauncy Angell, who lived in Tonganoxie.

Dec. 25, 1882. Alton Dewitt Angell and Kathrine Bury were married. Lena Antoinette Angell was born in 1885 and Frederick DeWitt Angell was born on March 3, 1887 in Illinois. He was known around Tonganoxie as Fred Angell. He was active for a great many years in the fire department, and he was a barber for over 60 years.

The Federal Census of 1890 has Willard Angell dead and Kate Angell being head of the family and Fred and Lena, her children are living at home. It is unclear if she was still married or a widow. The census is blurred in that area. I suspect that she was a widow because she is listed as head of the family.

The 1910 census is definite. Anton DeWitt Angell is dead. Fred D. Angell is married to Nell Barber, Almeda's Aunt, and Kate Angell is head of the family and a widow.

IN 1908 Kate Angell is the proprietor of the Angell Hotel. The 1913 map the city of Tonganoxie, which has been so often referred to in many projects, has the Angell Hotel on the South side of the 600 block of 4th street. In 1880 the hotel Willard was operating has an unknown location. It was not named Angell Hotel.

It doesn't take much mental gymnastics to conclude the Angell hotel is being operated by Kate Angell. The Questions are: When Willard died did Kate take over his hotel, change the name to Angell and continue or did she buy a different hotel and operate it as the Angell Hotel. What ever the answer, Kate Angell died in 1918 and is buried in Hubbel Hill Cemetery. Alton Angell's death is somewhat a mystery. Alton Angel is not buried in Hubbel Hill or Maple Grove. His burial site is unknown.

My speculation is Willard changed the name of the hostel to Angell sometime around the marriage of Alton Angell and Kate Bury. Now it was a family operation. What ever the answer, Kate Angell did

operate the Angell Hotel and died in 1918. She is buried by her mother in the Hubbel Hill Cemetery. Alton Angell's death is still a mystery.

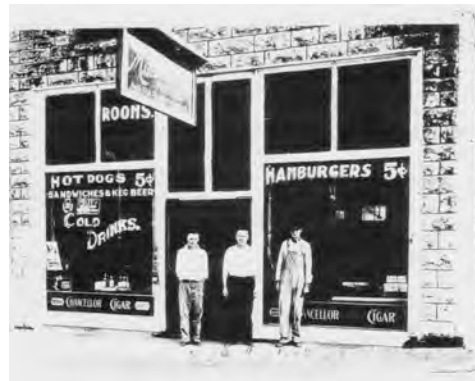
THE LOWER POOL HALL

This building was a hotel long before it was a pool hall. There is some evidence that AB Thistlewaite had something to do with this building. Owners of the pool hall that are known are:

From 1924-1929 the owner was George Delude.

From 1929 to 1931 the owner was Noah Delude. During this time it was referred to as "Noah's Ark". Noah had come to work with his brother, George. George died and Noah married his brother's widow and operated the business when he sold it to Arthur Whitney. Al Hicks came to town around 1937 and bought the business in 1938. Al and his wife ran the business until 1950 when Al died. Mrs Hicks operated the pool hall until it collapsed in the summer of 1957.

Al was a full blooded Indian who had played football at Kansas University. While there he was an "All American Guard". The men standing in the photo are Henry Hawkins, George Delude and Charlie Casteel.



Henry Hawkins, Geo. Delude ,
Charlie Casteel

Casteel.

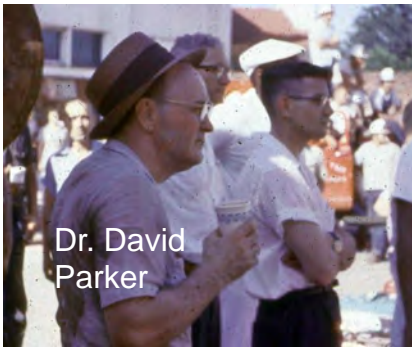
The Collapse

When the pool hall collapsed Mrs. Hicks was in the second floor. She fell clear to the basement. The incident took place while some men were in the basement making repairs. The official statement says that the building collapsed. Damon Freeman would argue this point because when it happened he was sitting at the counter of his wife's cafe and was blown 10 feet away from the counter. Explosion is the other suggested cause.



Three people died and 8 were wounded. Albert Conley's barbershop, the dry cleaning place plus Opals cafe were totally destroyed. Some were concerned about other buildings being involved, but none were.

Dr. Parker went down into the basement and administered emergency care to those who were injured. Local anesthesia was used to relieve pain.



None of the buildings were replaced. Opal moved to another location and finally settled on the south side of the 600 block of

4th street. For a time she was in the West End Cafe area just across the street east from the Methodist Church

Fred Angell Barbershop

In 1904 Asa Hammond purchased Charley Creed's boot black shop and will reopen it in the Dedrick Barbershop.

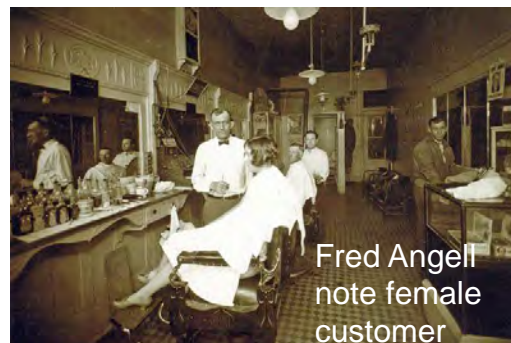
EM Dedrick sold his barbershop to Fred Angell in 1909. Fred was a grandson of Magdalena Bury via her daughter Kate Bury. Kate married Alton DeWitt Angell, son of the first town marshall. This union produced Lena Antoinette Angell and Alton.

Fred had his barbershop on the east side of this building and Roy Peterson ran a restaurant from the west side. I don't think Fred had any patience with kids. He would place his large

hands upon your head and grip your head so y o u couldn't move it. I never liked that.



Fred was a very independent barber. If he wanted to close for a few hours he just pulled the blinds so no one would enter. He often closed to watch baseball games If you were in his home and a game was on you did not talk about anything but baseball. He would cuss stupid plays even if no one was around.



Before this building was a barbershop it was an undertaking business operated by a Reece Cadwallader. The business began around 1900. Mr. Cadwallader took on a partner a Mr. Cross who very soon took over the business and moved it across the street to what is now the Shilling Electric Store. Moving from the south side of the street to the north side probably took place a few years before 1909 when Fred bought the business from EM Dedrick

Fred sold the business to Ed Korb who operated an electrical shop and sold home appliances. Westinghouse was one of his major brands. Today the building is the Kelly Law office.

Barn Quilt Workshop President, Kris Roberts



TCHS hosted a Barn Quilt Workshop in the Fairchild-Knox hay barn on Saturday, October 25, 2015. Jean Pearson coordinated the event and was assisted by Kathy

Peak and Lloyd Pearson. Twelve individuals had signed up for the workshop and twelve attended. The workshop is set up so that each individual paints a quilt pattern of his or her choice. Jean prepares the masonite ahead of time with three coats of exterior primer, so that on the day of the workshop, the attendees can focus on their quilt pattern.



Peaches Joles

Everyone brings a lunch – and Jean furnishes the chocolate, “because you just can’t quilt without chocolate.” It is a day for visiting and many of the participants commented on how relaxing it was to be in the barn with a group of people sharing an activity.

Most, if not all of the barn quilt blocks that were completed that day will become a part of the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail. None of them have yet made it to the website because, as Jean says, it takes a while to decide where to put the barn block.

The next Barn Block Class will be on March 19th in the barn at the historical site from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Cost is the same \$35 for all supplies. If you are interested or know of someone who is please pass on the information. Class size is limited so let me know if you want to participate.

Our quilt trail is up on our website TonganoxieHistoricalSociety.org or just search for the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail.

Freedom’s Frontier:

TCHS has taken the initial steps to partnering with Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area. Freedom’s

Frontier is an umbrella organization that promotes museums in eastern Kansas and western Missouri and the telling of stories that reflect their three themes: Shaping the Frontier, the Border War, and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom.

We have met twice with representatives from Freedom’s Frontier and they are excited to work with us and impressed with our historical site. Joining this organization also gives us many opportunities to meet with the staff of member museums. Look for follow-up stories in 2016 as we explore the opportunities partnership with Freedom’s Frontier brings to TCHS.

Year End Report for 2015:

2015 was a great year. We continued traditional activities: the Chili Feed and Ballpark Concessions fundraisers; driving the 1936 Pumper Truck in the St. Patrick’s Day and Leavenworth County Fair parades; on-going rentals of the church and barn; the picnic and holiday party; hosting the USD 464 third grade students; and continuing high quality programs at our monthly meetings, as well as a newsletter that not only updates members on the activities of TCHS, but provides some wonderful historical research for our enjoyment. This year we brought back the Show and Tell program – lots of home grown stories.

We tried out some new ideas too: partnering with the Reno Bobwhite 4H club to run the ballpark concessions; hosting a garden party in early September that gave members and some visitors a chance to help clean the gardens for the winter and to share some of the extra plants; hosting USD 464 teachers in April for a breakfast and round table discussion of how TCHS can participate more in the education process of the community.

We have also made an effort this year to make some new connections and renew some existing connections with organizations that support historical entities, such as ours. We continue to hold memberships in the Kansas Museums Association (KMA), the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), and the Kansas Historical Society.

We joined the Country School Association of America this year – they were the group that visited us in the summer of 2014. We also joined the Lawrence Preservation Alliance and have benefitted from their expertise as we prepare to repaint and upgrade some of the features of the Honey Valley School this spring. We

have also started a working relationship with Freedom's Frontier.

Our website was updated this year – the new website is attractive and easy to navigate. It has already brought us at least one new member and many compliments. Our website also hosts the Glacial Hills Quilt Trail page.

TCHS has now presented two barn quilt workshops, with a third workshop planned for this spring.

TCHS was awarded a Margaret and Pete Leighty Grant to repaint the Honey Valley School.

We will also be re-grading on the west of the school and replacing the gutters. The windows will be inspected, re-glazed as necessary, and repainted. There will be opportunities for paint parties in the spring!

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS, BUT IT STILL COSTS CA. \$20,000.00 PER YEAR TO KEEP OPEN.

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

201 W. Washington St.
P O Box 785
Tonganoxie, KS 66086

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Individual \$10.00 ____ Family \$15.00 ____ Student \$5.00 ____

OR Become a life member and skip the annual reminder \$100.00 per person _____

Other Options: Sustainer \$100.00 ____ Patron \$500.00 ____

Sponsor \$250.00 ____ Benefactor \$1,000.00

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