

**HAROLD
CLINE
KILLED WW1**

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2016



**Kris Roberts, President of
TCHS, was Master of Ceremony
and as always she did an
excellent job.**

This year's Christmas party was without doubt the best ever- at least in the time that Laurie and I have been involved. The goal was to celebrate the initial conception of this society and its 35 years of existence. In that regard a serious effort was made to have as our guests members who had an early influence on TCHS. Invitations were mailed and the result can be observed in the photos in this section.

This cake is representative of a stylized picture of the historical site. The silo, the diary barn and the hay barn are noted. The cake was enjoyed by all.



No! Santa Claus didn't come this year, and there was no singing of carols. But listening to George Cooper and Virginia Seymour talk about how they became involved was a Christmas Carol of note.



Susy Ross

Susy Ross, the long time museum director, talked about how she, Virginia Seymour and Betty Englen cleaned items and newspapers that were extremely dirty and musty. They also organized and recorded what they had done. Because Virginia had good penmanship and people could read what she had

recorded, she became the person to write down what the items were. It was a difficult and dirty task. All of these ladies have been a faithful member for years. And yes, Virginia also has a good clear speaking voice and narrated the first movie/DVD telling about the present historical site.



**Virginia
Seymour**



George Cooper

George talked at length about observing one man beginning to restore the hay barn by himself, which was in very poor condition. Building sides and support were extremely weakened and George felt that Del Englen was in serious need of help. George was Chairman of the board, but he had never been to the new site. He pitched in to help Del and the result is what you see today.

The group gave Ed and Carol Slawson a huge recognition for all their work in keeping the site functional. Ed used his knowledge of electricity and plumbing and his ability to “get the job done” to up grade all the facilities with modern electricity, plumbing, heating and cooling. Needless to say Ed was a tremendous asset to TCHS.

Carol Slawson also played a great role in keeping TCHS solvent. She was the treasurer for many years. This was not an easy job, because for one thing the organizational priorities were difficult to keep separated. Purchasing supplies was done by more than one member which sometimes was difficult to follow. Carol’s knowledge in this area was somewhat of an extension of what she did for the Slawson’s Plumbing and Heating business.



Ed & Carol Slawson Ron Salmon



The food was provided by the people attending-pot luck. The meat was provided by TCHS and prepared by Charles (more commonly referred to as “Tuna”) and Debi Conrad. He and his wife are relatively new members, but Tuna has always been interested in local history and has always played a significant role in Tonganoxie’s

history. If you want to see photos of old Tonganoxie, just go to his restaurant for breakfast and look at the walls. Photos are everywhere. For you older people, Tuna is Shirley and Don Conrad’s son.



From these photos you can see what a great time everyone was enjoying. After all the eating and listening, many people stayed around and just chatted.



Betty Englen

What I Love about the Museum

by Betty Englen

In 2000 when we started preparing the old milk house for the museum some of you will remember how dirty everything was and the hours we spent cleaning. When opening day came on June 14, 2003 we were so proud of what we had accomplished. Susy had one desk and one file cabinet. Many of the displays had to be assembled on the floor as there wasn’t a work area. My most favorite thing is the wonderful storage/work room that has been built. Not only are we able to store things properly, projects can be left unfinished and out of the way. I want everyone to know how very grateful we all are for this great addition.

ED Note: Susy and Larry Ross are the two people most responsible for ramrodding this work/storage area.

Remember When

The “Remember When” column has been written about in a previous newsletter. For many years Billie Aye



wrote this column. The column was not published for several years, but this past November, TCHS has taken on the task of publishing “Remember When”. Kris Roberts suggested to the board of directors and later to the members at a Tuesday night meeting that TCHS take on this project. I think in the beginning there was some apprehension about the amount of time necessary to do this project. It took some Roberts persuasion, but the group has really “stepped up to the plate”. It seems to me that they have actually delved back into the earliest *Mirror* printing to find material to publish. Ray Stockman, Kris Roberts, Kathy Stockman, & Theresa McGee are all providing weekly old Tonganoxie history as published in the Tonganoxie Mirror. To aide in this project, it helps that the Tonganoxie Library has all of the Tonganoxie Mirror on microfilm. It really is a big project, but one that the reading public has enjoyed for many years and now can enjoy it again.

The Pete Leighty Trust

This is a large amount of money in trust form that is controlled by the First State Bank of Tonganoxie. There are several civic groups in Tonganoxie that have greatly benefited from this family. This family provided money to five civic organizations in Tonganoxie. The Money came from the sale of various pieces of property owned by the Lieghty Family. The Tonganoxie Community Historical Society is one of five local groups that has received money from this family.

The remaining funds are now distributed in the form of grant money that is awarded yearly. The Honey Valley School received a facelift from a grant awarded in 2015. The money provided the means to remove significant water intrusion within the school building. New gutters with underground drainage has significantly reduced the amount of water invasion into the basement of the school building. Also, the school has received a new paint and UV film has been applied to the windows to reduce damage to artifacts from UV rays.

Another Pete Leighty Trust Grant was awarded in November of 2016. This grant will provide seed money to make improvement to the basement of the Reno Methodist Fellowship hall. These improvements will focus on ceiling and upgrade the lighting to LED. A new carpet will also be installed.

Third Grade School from USD 454 Tour

Each fall the entire 3rd grade from USD 464 tours the TCHS Historical site. Half of the 3rd grade tours in the morning and the other half tours in the afternoon. It is a very busy day. These students learn about games played by kids in pioneer days. They see the museum, the barn loaded with old time farm and home equipment. They learn about the Delaware Indians and they have a lesson given in the manner of the country schools by a real school teacher. It is a great experience for young and certainly for the old.

In December 13 students (also 3rd graders) from the Genesis School toured the historic site. They also learn the same things that the students from USD 464 learned.

We have Peachez Joles to thank for organizing these tours. She has been doing the organizational work to allow these kids to tour the museum. Many of the kids parents also come to help with adult guidance.

World War I Revisited

In 2014, under the guidance of the Lansing Historical Society, most of Leavenworth County Historical Societies decided to establish and publish information that each had on WWI. To make a long story short, the creator of the Lansing Historical Society left in the midst of all this, and most of the historical societies backed out. Tonganoxie's historical society did not and TCHS provided a huge amount of material shared in the newsletter, The Tonganoxie State Bank and the Tonganoxie Public Library..

At the time this celebration was being organized a few people wondered about the date for this celebration because the United States didn't get involved until 1917. Nevertheless, TCHS did it.

Now the President of the U. S. and all states including the state of Kansas have decided that 1917 will be the year the states will recognize 100 years since the U.S. was involved in WWI. Consequently, throughout the state information about Kansas soldiers involved in WWI is being organized and printed in blogs from people around the state.

“To honor the sacrifices of our forebears, both on the home front and in the battlefield, representatives from educational institutions across the state of Kansas have gathered to pay tribute through education and remembrances. The work of the Kansas WWI Centennial Commemoration Committee will continue through 2019, in collaboration with the [U.S. WWI Centennial Commission](#).

In February 2015, Governor Sam Brownback received a letter from the Chairman of the United States World War One Centennial Commission (WWICC) requesting that each state form a committee to coordinate commemorative projects and activities throughout the centennial commemoration period, 2015-2019.”

There are so many people involved with this project that I won't give the space, but the following organizations are involved.

Kansas State Historical Society

**Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs Office
Kansas Humanities Council**

Kansas State Department of Education

**Kansas University
Kansas University Medical Center**

Kansas Wesleyan University

**The Adjutant General's Department
Bethany College**

**Brown v. Board of Education
National World War I Museum & Memorial
Pittsburg State University**

**US WWI Centennial Commission (WWICC)
US Cavalry Museum**

Your editor has been invited and he has accepted to be part of this action. The plan is to have members of [KANSASww1.org](#) write and post historical posts/blogs on this site. The only requirement is the post/blogs must have some attachment to Kansas, generally this involves people, but not always.

I feel honored to be invited to this organization. I don't know how they got my name, but I think Kris Roberts had something to do with them knowing about me. She is always getting me into trouble. Anyway, from time to time I will be printing some of these blogs in this newsletter. **For those who are inclined to follow the information provided this organization, type the following and work your way through it.** [KANSASww1.org](#) On the right side column you will see a list of the providers.

Charles “Jack” Hoey”

“Jack” Hoey joined the United States Army on April 3, 1917 at Ft. Leavenworth. He trained at Camp Funston, in Kansas. He was a bugler in Co. E of the 35 Infantry and a qualified sharpshooter. The 35th Infantry Division served on the Mexican-US border during the first World War and was stationed at Nogales, Arizona in 1918. It fought a border skirmish on 27 August 1918 during the Battle of Ambos Nogales. Except for his initial military training, Jack spent most of his time at the Arizona/Mexican border.

Feb 1, 1917 the German Government once again began unrestricted submarine warfare which meant that all ships with an American flag would be torpedoed. The Germans believed this action would likely bring the Americans into WWI.

The Zimmerman Telegram involved the German Government and the Mexican Government. This was a secret document issued on January 11, 1917 from Arthur Zimmerman, German Secretary of Foreign Affairs to the German Embassy in Mexico. It suggested that if the United States came into the war, Mexico should come into the war on the German side. For this act Germany would provide a large sum of money to Mexico, and that Mexico could reclaim Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The British intercepted this note, but it was not until Feb. 19th when the British presented this note to the American Embassy in England. After several days of deciphering the telegram the information was given to President Wilson. He released the information to the press on 28th of Feb. This telegram served to increase hostile feelings, already existing, between the U.S. and Mexico. On March 3 Arthur Zimmerman admitted that the telegram was genuine. The U. S. entered the war April 6, 1917.

Many believe unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmerman Telegram (The Mexican Government rejected this German proposal) were two significant items that resulted in the United States entering WWI.

Because of the issues between Mexico and the United States prior to WWI and the added hostile feeling resulting from the Zimmerman Telegram, the United States maintained an army along the Mexican border.

Jack was born Charles Dewey Hoey on May 2, 1898. His father died when he was 9 and his mother died when he was 15. For two years Jack and his younger brother, Frank, lived together until Jack joined the army on April 3, 1917, three days before the U. S. entered WWI.



Jack
Hoey
Silent
film star

In his youth he would help people unload railroad box and coal cars for a nickel. He was a student in Tonganoxie and went to school with Jean Harlow. ***The movie star, Jean Harlow, was actually Harlene Carpenter, but she took her stage name, Jean Harlow, from her mother.*** Jack said in an interview that Jean Harlow, the mother, was a very attractive person and because of her beauty “some of the teachers were hard on her”.

In 1920 he went to San Antonio to be a cowboy and partake in rodeos. He was quite good and was a champion steer roper three times. His greatest achievement was being the champion of the rodeo given at the Democratic National



Convention in Houston. For that he won \$2,800.00 plus a large silver belt buckle. In 1958 at the age of 60, he gave a bull dogging demonstration. During the 1960's he was honored at the American Royal as being a cowboy of yesteryear.

When Jack was in El Paso, Tx for a rodeo, a movie company came looking for stunt riders. Jack became a stunt rider for Buck Jones for \$10.00 per day, including his horse. Later the movie company offered him a movie contract to make 5 silent movies. He was paid \$100.00 per week. Four of these movies were made. One of the movies, Tracy the Outlaw, is available to see at Tonganoxie Community Historical Society (TCHS), but the 5th movie was never made because talking movies had just entered the scene. The movie company paid him \$4800.00 to buy out the contract for the 5th movie.

The movie company offered him a contract to make talking pictures. He turned the offer down and went back to rodeos. Many years later, during a recorded interview by TCHS, he said that was a mistake. He would have been excellent in talking movies because he had a very musical deep bass voice plus he was photogenic.

In 1977 he moved back to Tonganoxie to be near his brother, Frank Hoey. In March 29, 1986 he died at the VA Hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Wm J. Stephenson 2nd Division WWI, School Teacher, and Banker

William J. Stephenson was born October 7, 1895 and grew up at Basehor, Kansas. He graduated from Basehor High School in 1913. In 1917 he graduated from Park College at Parkville, Missouri, and one month later, July 30, 1917, he enlisted in the army at Leavenworth, Kansas to serve in WWI.

He was sent to Jefferson Barracks and then to Camp Robinson, Wisconsin, with the heavy field artillery, and in December, 1917, was sent overseas with the Second Division, the Indianhead Division. He was stationed at Camp Valdahon for special training. During the entire service, he had charge of the communications of the battery. After his early training, he served in the 2nd Division of the Army until he mustered out at Camp Dodge, Iowa August 14, 1919.

The 2nd Infantry Division was born on 26 October 1917, at Bourmont, France. The 2nd Division is the only division formed on foreign soil and during WWI it was the only time in U.S. military history when Marine Corps officers commanded an Army Division. The division was commanded twice by Marine Corps generals; Brigadier General C.A. Doyen and Major General John A. Lejeune.

The Division spent the winter of 1917-1918 training with French and Scottish Army veterans. Though judged unprepared by French tacticians, the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) was committed to combat in the spring of 1918 in a desperate attempt to halt a German advance toward Paris. The Germans had been suffering for some time due to the British blockade. They were making a last effort to bring the war to an end in their favor. The Germans believed a strong push might bring the war to an end without the Americans being involved. General Pershing wanted the troops from The United States to fight with American units, but the English and French wanted the Americans to be assigned to the their units and to be under English or French control. Pershing was definitely against this, but Pershing could see that the Allies needed immediate help so in the spring of 1918, he allowed the American troops to fight under control of the English or French.

The 2nd Infantry Division drew its first blood in the Belleau-Wood. It helped shatter the four-year-old stalemate of trench warfare during the Chateau-Thierry campaign that followed. March 14, 1918, Wm Stevenson was in the Troyon sector near Verdun. He was then shifted to Chateau Thierry, where he remained until the offensive took place, and was then sent to Soissons. The Marines assigned to the 2nd Division performed in an outstanding manner. After the battle of Belleau-Wood, the French renamed it, "Wood of the Marine Brigade" in honor of their gallant effort.

Later Pershing got his wish and the American troops in St. Mihiel and the Muse-Argonne Forrest fought under American control.

Stephenson fought at St. Mihiel. He next engaged in the Aisne offensive at Argonne Meuse in the Champaign sector (a major part of the final allied offensive from Sept 26 to Nov. 11, 1918), and from there went to Argonne Forest offensive, where he remained until the armistice was signed November 11, 1918.

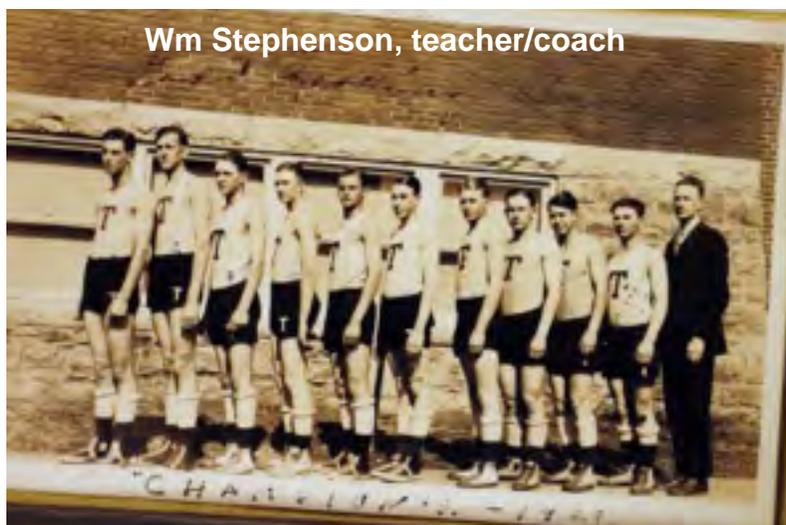
On 11 November 1918 the Armistice was declared, and the 2nd Infantry Division marched into Germany where it performed occupational duties until April of 1919.

Later, he was sent to Fortress Ehrenbreitstien on the Rhine River where he remained until July, 1919. He returned to the United States August 4, 1919. He was mustered out at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

The 2nd Division lost 1,964 killed in action and 9,782 wounded in action. These numbers include the Marines who served with the 2nd Division. The Indianhead Division fought in every major battle in WWI. It was

considered by some to be the most decorated division of WWI.

Ed Note: This most decorated unit of WW1 has also been attributed to the 93rd Infantry Division which was an all Black American Unit that was totally under French control.



He was made corporal at Camp Robinson, Wisconsin, and promoted to sergeant at Troyon sector, Verdun.

Stephenson received a Croix De Guerre (Cross of War) on the Champaign front for distinguished service at Mont Blanc, France. He also has three other certificates of citations for bravery in action

Wm J. Stephenson taught his first school at Easton, Kansas, and accepted a position at Basehor which he began in September, 1920. Sometime later he was teaching in Tonganoxie High School. This picture here is the 1927 Champion Tonganoxie basketball team. Wm Stevenson is the coach of that team. Sometime before 1933/34 Mr. Stevenson became associated with a Tonganoxie Bank. This bank was formed after the Farmers and Merchant's bank was closed by the state banking commission in 1925. For a few years this bank was associated with a Leavenworth bank. It used the Farmers and Merchant's bank building until 1933.

In 1933 the bank took a new charter and became the First State Bank of Tonganoxie. The bank moved to the SE corner of 4th and Bury Street, and Mr. Stevenson became the Cashier. Very soon he became the CEO/President and remained in that position for many years. He died on April 11, 1964.

Bill as he was called and his wife, Mable, belonged a card playing group known as the Owls. This club met for over 40 years. In the beginning they played Auction Bridge every two weeks. Many years later the club met less often. Usually the game began on Saturday about 8 PM and went until someone was the winner. Dessert was served and people went home.

He was considered a very good person, a good manager and he was extremely well liked by most of the townspeople. He met everyone with a genuine smile.

A true story was told about a 10 year old boy going into the bank with his mother and demanding his money from the bank. The boy's mother was visibly upset. Mr. Stevenson pacified the boy by giving him a dime from the bank. Everyone was happy.

The story sums up how easily Mr. Stevenson handled the public.

Ed Note: *Some of this information is located in "The History of Leavenworth County", published in 1920.*

Student Interns

This summer two local college students joined TCHS as paid interns. Garrett Seuser from Basehor was a volunteer during his high school senior days. He provided a great deal of help and enjoyed using his metal detector to find things hidden in the dirt. He also was eager to do internet research. Using the internet he was able to provide a great deal of information on Civil War Veterans from Tonganoxie. He really enjoyed being a docent and showing visitors around. After he graduated he was hired as an intern. He is now a freshman at Emporia State, majoring in history. He is also a non voting TCHS board member and attends these monthly meetings.

Mallory Harrell, Kathy and Steve Harrell's daughter, became a paid volunteer in the summer. She did a considerable amount of research, including an interview with Harold Denholm. The interview was about the basketball time clock that was in the old high school gym. Harold was in the class that bought the clock for the school. It was originally purchased by the class of 1946.

Mallory also researched and cleaned all the signs on the south wall and wrote the descriptions of the signs. She is a senior and Kansas State University. She enjoys writing and gave the historical society an article she wrote for her class at Kansas State. This article was about Jarbalo's early days. This year Mallory was the first recipient of a \$300.00 scholarship awarded by TCHS.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM

——Laurie Walters

The museum crew has been busy the past several months. We have had well over 90 accessions this year which reflects an increase from the previous year. Many of the donations were spurred by visits or patrons searching family history. Most of them in return have added to our photo collection of their particular family. And keep in mind that these 90 accessions may have many items to be photographed, numbered, and entered in to our computer. One of these accessions given by the Kramer family has more than 850 native American artifacts which are being expertised by Dr. Logan of Kansas State University.

Betty Stevens, widow of Dr. Phil Stevens, donated several photographs and a copy of a blank prescription that the kind doctor gave to "good" patients. These prescriptions could be filled at Cain's Drug Store. The prescription was for an ice cream cone.

Another memory is from the Latham family with a gift of many old photographs of people in Tonganoxie. Bill and Mary Latham were long time volunteers at TCHS and among the many things that Bill did for us is a beautiful, handmade wooden ark complete with animals which we allow children to visit while they are in the museum.

During the filming of Anna Mary Landauer's oral history, we received a copy of her family genealogy compiled by her sister, Alberta Welch. We also received many copies of family photographs of the Doege and Landauer families. The Doege's were long time residents along Stranger Creek on County Road 5.

The video of Anna Mary's is remarkably candid. We learned that her father died in Jan. 1, 1929. He was in the same hospital as her mother at the time of his death. The Mother, Carrie Doege, was pregnant with Alberta. On the recommendations of the Doctors, the knowledge of her husband's death was kept from her until after Alberta's birth, April 1 of that year. Carrie Doege was in the hospital for three months. We also learned that Tony Hess, long time operator of a small grocery store and "The White House", a road house, was also a Catholic Priest before he married his house keeper. It is one of several excellent interviews we have done.

As we continue our search for local WW II veterans and the stories of their service, Larry Meadows allowed us to photograph the pictures of Korean, WW II and Vietnam veterans which hang in the VFW. Kathy Stockman continues to work on our veterans project. Please let us know of any friends, family, or acquaintances who should be included in our list. Keep in mind that stories of where they served, any military honors bestowed on them and what they did after their service is wanted.

We have received as a gift from Gary Sturtridge three large display cases that had been in the Zoellner store. One case is just inside our entry door and will hold our changing "special" exhibits. Another will be placed in the railroad display with new items added as we anticipate more space for displays. The third will contain the Kramer artifacts and will necessitate reworking our Native American exhibit. Items in the museum change and the contents available to view is not the same. We are blessed with some dry storage space which allows us to relay a changing story about the history of Tonganoxie.

TCHS WINS AWARD FOR TECHNOLOGY

This September, Kris Roberts, Perry Walters, and Laurie Walters attended the annual convention of the Kansas Museum Association. The meeting was held in the old officers club at Ft. Leavenworth. It was an outstanding place to have a meeting. I think all the members present were very pleased as the meeting and the food was exceptional. The KMA's association with Wichita State University was surprise for me. KMA has offices on the campus of Wichita State. Many people on the program were from Wichita or Wichita State. It seemed a good thing.



**Perry Walters
receiving KMA
Technology
Award**

The real surprise was Tonganoxie Community Historical Society won an award given by The Kansas Museum Association for technology. The technology Award – given to an institution that demonstrates a creative use of technology. Kansas Museums Association (KMA) awards are used to recognize excellence, innovation, and distinguished service within the Kansas museum community. The award was issued for the DVD, *The Traditional Tales of Tonganoxie*.

Kris Roberts wrote, "Perry Walters was the videographer, editor, writer, and narrator. This project was conceived of and executed by Perry. His labor was donated, as well as many draft editions of the DVD set. For Perry, this was a labor of love, fueled by a desire to document the stories told on the DVD". As stated previously, this project began as the history of Tonganoxie, but was changed to "Traditional Tales..." to reflect the many variations of stories about Tonganoxie. However, every effort was made to have the stories as factual as possible.

Although a significant amount of work was done in the editing of this movie, there were many other TCHS members and community

members who contributed to oral interviews and gathered resources for this project. These people include Roger Shilling, Art Hanock, JW Evans, Charles "Tuna" Conrad, Harold Denholm, Bob Lenahan, Kathy Peak, Connie Putthoff, Carol Slawson, "Bud" Laming, William Freienmuth, Roy Salmon, Pat Black, Charles Haines, Kent Quarles, Emil Wiley, June Hagenbuch, Jack Hoey, Joey Brown, Margaret Gallagher, Grace Schilling, and Helen Schilling.

A special thank you to the following people. Susy Ross, past TCHS Museum Director - writer and narrator of Chapter 1, The Delaware Indians. To Laurie Walters, Museum Director - narrator, assistant editor. and to Rachel Kelly, TCHS member - Rachel provided the graphic design for the DVD cover. **Kris Roberts also needs a special thanks because she pushed me to narrate this movie which made it the success for which it received recognition.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many volunteer opportunities at TCHS. If you have the time and want to socialize with Tonganoxie history come and be a volunteer. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

- Be a docent and help show visitors our site. You will learn about Tonganoxie and our site and maybe get some free coffee on Wednesday.
- Join the Wednesday morning work crew. If you like outside work you will always get coffee.
- Contribute to the "Remember When" column in the Tonganoxie Mirror. You will be surprised in what you may read in print.
- there is always something to do. Help with displays, repair things do cleaning, etc.
- Volunteer to help on the Chili Supper coming up in February.
- Be a hostess for one of the program meetings

Chili Feed Feb 16, 2017 Methodist Church

This is one of TCHS money making events. Volunteers are needed. We would like your help! **WE NEED HELP!**

It's good Chili; It's good Soup; It's good fun



4th Tuesday Programs at TCHS

(All programs begin at 7 P.M. unless otherwise noted)

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 24, 2017 | Cary Ritchey Update on Little Stranger Christian Church |
| Feb 28, 2017 | Mary Ann Sachse Brown & Laura Elkins, Bringing the Glass Plate Negatives Back to Leavenworth. |
| Mar 28, 2017 | Matt Beat, "Using Music and YouTube to Get Students Excited About History." |



This barn quilt will be for sale at the Chili Feed this February 16, 2017.

Dan Carr TCHS Volunteer and wood worker



Dan Carr

Long-time volunteer Dan Carr surprised the museum crew with this beautiful hanging post for our museum gift shop. He created this from two newel posts removed from the stair case in Mildred Young's Victorian home. He is also reconstructing shelving from local wooden apple crates for use in the gift shop. His completed project is greatly anticipated in the expectation that the new arrangement will make it easier for our patrons to view the items we have. Dan faithfully spends each Wednesday morning at the site and mows, repairs doors, faucets, etc. Any items that need attention, Dan will see that it gets fixed. A big Thank you, Dan.

Hosts for 1st Quarter 2017

January 24 Stockman & Pearson

February 28 C. Putthoff & L. Linnemann

March 28 P. Walters & Brandau

A complete listing of hostesses will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs in the basement of the church at the January meeting. **Please contact Jean Pearson at 913-845-3228 if this date is inconvenient for you.**

Upcoming Barn Quilt Workshop

Plans are underway for a barn quilt class in mid to late March. Prices for the workshop remain the same at \$35 dollars for a 2 X 2 ft. block and \$100 dollars for a 4 X 4 ft. block. It will probably be held on a Saturday. Let me know if you are interested or know of someone who is. **Contact Jean Pearson at lloyd6970@att.net or 916-845-3228.**

ATTENTION ONE AND ALL

We are excited that our next Chamber Coffee is being hosted by the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society. It's time to network and also to hear about the wonderful things the Historical Society does in our community. Our history is rich and this Society has worked very hard to preserve it. Please join us. January 12th from 8 AM to 9AM. That is on Thursday.

Address is 201 W. Washington Street
Tonganoxie, KS 66086.

GEORGE COOPER

Gets an “Honor Flight” Thanks to NOAH, his Grandson



A few weeks ago George Cooper received a real surprise given by his grandson, Noah. He discovered that he was going to receive an “Honor Flight”. This is offered to WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans. The public doesn’t learn much about these trips because generally they aren’t published. The flight is to the Washington DC area. In George’s case he flew into Baltimore where he visited Ft. McHenry. Here The Star Spangled Banner was written as a poem by Frances Scott Key and later placed to music. His trip began in Wichita on the 2nd and came to an end on Nov. 5th.

This Honor Flight actually began over 70 years ago when George joined the Army Air Corp. He graduated from flight school on Sept 2, 1942. After several months involving additional training in the United States, we find George flying from San Francisco at 200 mph to the South Pacific in a B-25. He flew to Hawaii then to Christmas Island eventually being in Reid River, Australia. Two planes were lost on this trip from San Francisco to Australia. George said he believed more planes were lost for unknown reasons than were lost in combat.

While at Reid River, the town’s people organized a dance/party for the Army Air Force stationed here, George had a slight surprise. He dance mate let it be known that she was “Knocked up”. Later he learned this was a local term for being tired. Beware foreign language.

George flew 55 missions and returned to the United States. After the the Japanese were being driven from the Philippines, George asked for duty in the Philippines. His mother and father had been interred near Manila by the Japanese since the beginning of the war. He was able to find his parents and to help them. After the Philippines, he was sent to Okinawa to prepare for the American invasion of Japan. The war ended before the invasion was needed. George came home once again. He had flown additional 20 missions during this tour in WWII. He retired a Colonel in the Air Force.



After Ft. McHenry, the group traveled by bus to the monuments (WW II, Iowa Jima, The Viet Nam Memorial, and the Air Force and Korean monuments in Washington D. C. Bob Dole was present to shake hands and talk to everyone.

When the trip returned to Wichita a group of 6th grade school kids met the plane and gave a “Thank you for your Service” tribute. George was one of three WW II veterans to make this trip. Notice the red shirt George is wearing. All the veterans wore these shirts. Its allowed the “guardians” a method to know where a veteran was. It was a great adventure for anyone to enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

It is time to renew your membership in TCHS. Your membership dues help support the operations of the museum, paying utility bills and maintenance costs. The annual operating cost for the Historical Society is around \$25-30,000 dollars. We are a remarkably strong organization because of our membership.

Please help us save postage and other costs of mailing out reminders by returning your membership renewal with the form below. Stop by the museum sometime – Tuesdays from 9am to 4pm; Wednesdays from 9am to noon; and Sundays from 1pm to 4pm.

**Tonganoxie Community Historical Society
201 W. Washington St. , PO Box 785**

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____

E-mail address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Individual membership \$10.00 _____ Family \$15.00 _____

Life time membership \$100.00 per person _____

Other options

Sustainer \$100.00 _____

Sponsor \$250.00 _____

Patron \$500.00 _____

Benefactor \$1,000.00 _____

