

TONGANOXIE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4TH QUARTER NEWS LETTER: DEC. 2021



The Torneden family Comes to Eastern Kansas.

*The first time we become aware of the “Torneden” family is when they lived in the area of Detmold, Germany. **Detmold** today is a city in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, with a population of 74,097. It was the capital of the small Principality of Lippe from 1468 until 1918 and then of the Free State of Lippe until 1947. Today it is the administrative center of the district of Lippe and of the Regierungsbezirk Detmold. The Church of Lippe has its central administration located in Detmold.*

This map is of Germany and the red dot marks the position of the town of Detmold. Detmold is the town around which most of the Darneden family lived.

*The year is March 29, 1709, the marriage date of **Hans Cord Darneden** who married **Agnetha Helberss Darneden**.*

*They had 4 children of which the third child was Hans Cord Darneden. He was born in 1721. This **Hans Cord Darneden** married **Anna Marie Elizabeth Schatmann Darneden**. There is no known record of this marriage, but 4 children were born to this marriage. The person that we can follow in this marriage is the daughter, **Anna Catherina**, born in 1757. She married **Johan Brent Drave Darneden** born in 1747. This marriage was in 1777. This marriage produced 8 children. The 3rd child is the one whose line eventually gets to Kansas. We learn that during these times it was customary for the man to take his wife’s name. In this case Anna Darneden provided Johan Brent Drave his last name, Darneden.*

*This **Johan Brent Darneden** married **Friederike Schroeder Darneden** in 1807 and 7 children were born. The one child whose line eventually gets to Kansas is once again, John Brent, who has the name Carl added and was born in 1819.*

Ed note: When the Darneden family arrived in Baltimore, their names were “translated” into a sound more English. The Darneden name was changed to Torneden and Karoline was changed to Caroline. Name change happened many times with emigrants to the U.S., and it has been said that Americans couldn’t speak German and the emigrants from Germany couldn’t speak English.

John Bernard Carl Torneden married Caroline Friederike Emilie Altenbernd on November 22, 1845. When they were married John was 26 and Caroline was 20. They were married for 5 years before their first child was born. They had 9 children all born in Germany. About 16 months after their last child was born, they decided to move to the United States. Caroline was 44 and her husband



was 50.

A significant situation in Germany that was a strong motivating factor for the move to America was the conscription of young males into Bismark’s German army. To avoid this they decided to move.

Ed Note: This avoidance of war in Europe by moving to the United States was not limited to just Germany. Lorene Cox's husband, Heward, was related to Tristram Coffin who brought his family to the United States in 1642 to avoid wars in England. Tristram's brother was killed in such a war.

Another factor is Caroline had two younger brothers, Konrad and William, who had moved to the United States in 1860. They settled in the Kaw River valley just west of Eudora, KS.

Finally, on May 26, 1869, the Torneden family came to Douglas County, KS and settled east of Eudora, KS. They came to the United States on the steamship, Baltimore. They arrived in Baltimore on June 14, 1869. The trip was 20 days. The family of a mother and father with 9 children ages 19 years to 16 months travelled by train to Kansas. Caroline's brother, Konrad, met them with his wagons to haul the family and their belongings to Lawrence.

By this time Caroline's brother had his own family of a wife and 4 kids. You can easily see that two families living in one house made quite a household.

In a short time the Torneden family moved to a farm location east of Eudora. It was located in the Lexington Township in Johnson County. It was close to the eastern border of Douglas County. Caroline lived here for 19 years until she died. Her husband lived here with his son, Herman, until 1904 when he moved to his daughter's home. He lived with his daughter until 1907 when he died.

This original farm was in the Torneden family for three generations. Rose and Fred Sieweke were living on this farm when the Government confiscated the land needed for a powder plant during WWII. There were other farms involved in this construction of the gun powder plant.

Ed. Note: I don't remember the exact time, but Larry Gallagher and I were trying to break a Curtis Candy pony to ride. These were small black horses used to pull the Curtis Candy wagon during horse shows like the American Royal. It was about 2 pm when we heard a huge explosion and yes we felt the earth shake a little. It happened to be a large explosion of the Sunflower Ordinance plant.



There were 9 children plus a mother and father involved with the early history of this family. Today there are around 1,335 people who are Tornedens or related by marriage to the Torneden family.

For a period of time the 9 Torneden "children" lived with their parents east of Eudora, However, as soon as possible they began to build their own homes and establish their farms. Most of the siblings settled in the Fall Leaf area. I suspect the land was cheaper there and I was told that it was better soil.

August, the oldest sibling, settled just north of 32 highway on county road 230. He owned property on both sides of Co. road 230. **William** settled just north of August on the west side of Co. road 230, and

Frederick bought his farm just across Co. road 230 from William's farm. I believe that most if not all of these farm were close to 160 acres. **Simon** bought his farm further north but still on Co road 230. Simon did not stay in this area but moved to the very south east portion of Kansas—Girard, KS. Not much is known about his life in that area.

Nothing is known today about **Henry Torneden**. It appears that he moved to the city, but which city is not known.

Caroline lived on the family farm for 19 years. She died on April 5, 1888. Her husband continued to live there with his son **Herman**. In 1904 the father went to live with his daughter, Lena, **Lena** had married a Reetz, and they lived in the small town of Fall Leaf. Before Lena was married she did housework for her brothers who lived close by.

Frederica and her husband lived south of 32 highway near the Union Pacific Railroad. She had a family but she died young. She lived on the east side of Co. road 1. **Adolph** the last of the nine children lived very close to his sister.

I am surprised at the number of this family who still live in the area around Eudora, Fall Leaf, and Linwood and of course Lawrence.

I intend to take each of the nine children of Caroline Emilie Altenbernd and John Bernard Carl Torneden and discuss the little that I know about some of the people from each line.

1). August Torneden and Natalia Woyahn Torneden:

Connie Jean Swain Torneden is the daughter of Byron and Edna Swain. Byron worked for my father for several years and later he worked for Charles Miller. The Swain family has historically been Quakers. The name Swain appears in the history of Nantucket. Several of my Quaker relatives are known in Nantucket and I believe there is some evidence that the Swain family on Nantucket may be related to the Quaker family of Swains in Tonganoxie.

2). Siimon Torneden and Sophie Eberhard: *I don't have any knowledge on the family lineage. Probably this is because he moved away.*

3). Frederick George Torneden and Caroline Kampschroeder: *Emma Wilhelmina Torneden Wickey and Joseph H. Wickey: I knew Henry Wickey and his wife Catherine Wickey. They had 4 kids of which I knew Sharon and Frances pretty well as we were of similar age in high school. The two younger boys I did not know well. Henry I considered a hard working person who had a good sense of humor, but expected you to be a hard working person too. His wife was quiet, also with a good sense of humor. I felt more comfortable around her that I did Henry. Both Sharon and Frances were popular in high school. Sharon was somewhat like her dad, that is if she wanted something she would figure out how to get it. Sharon married Bill Garner. Bill was a tough football player. He was a pulling guard on our football team. He was tough—good—and hard as rock. Frances was quiet and somewhat like her mother. She went to nursing school and married a dental student who was a classmate of mine, John Wulfkuhle. He was working at the hospital where Frances went to nursing school. One of our dental school teachers had a tough time with John's last name. He would refer to him as "Wolf coogle ougle". Elmer Wickey, I knew who he was but that is all.*

Myrtle May Torneden Jones and Marvin Dale Jones: I knew Myrt Jones quite well, but not her husband. She was always happy and gregarious and easy to talk to. I only knew her daughter, Angela, and that is because two of Angela's kids were in high school with my kids. Jennifer was somewhat taller than her younger sister, Heather. Heather became a school teacher, but I am not sure about Jennifer.

Arnold George Torneden- I knew who he was because he quite often came to the animal sales at the Tonganoxie Sale barn.

Rettalou Torneden, Arnold's daughter: I knew her because she was in high school when I was there. She was two classes ahead of me. I liked her as she always spoke to me in the hallway of the school. She was all business and I think she walked in overdrive. I thought that she was liked by most students. I understand that today she lives near Kingman, KS where she raises long horn cattle.

I don't personally know any of the Kahn family that is noted in Frederick George's family line. I do know where their farm was located about 2 miles south of Reno. Many people believe (I do not believe this story but I don't want to discuss that now) that 400 black families came to Reno right after the Civil War to work on the Union Pacific railroad. There is no evidence that the Kahn place had black ex-slaves living in caves. (this farm is the only place in this area that could have caves).

However, I was told that many years ago someone raised mink in this area. Mink cannot tolerate hot weather so caves were constructed so they could get out of the heat.

4). William F. Torneden and Mary Elizabeth Loesch Torneden *I don't have any knowledge on the family lineage*

5). Henry Torneden and Minnie Henrietta Kahn Torneden: *I don't have any knowledge on the family lineage*

6). Lena W. Torneden Reetz and Godfrey John Reetz:

Debra Ann Reetz Wedel and Dennis Allen Wedel: I have known Dennis since he was a 10 year old child. He lived on a small farm a few miles SW of Tonganoxie with his family. In his adult life I have known him as a member of

the United Church of Christ in Lawrence. He likes trout fishing and he like big game hunting in Africa. His wife Debbie was a teacher in the elementary school in Tonganoxie. She was considered an excellent teacher. Both are very positive people.

Lorene Clarice Reetz Cox and Howard E. Cox: I have known Lorene for several years. I knew that she was interested in family history; that she spent the winters in Yuma, Az with her daughter, and that she had some connection with Tristram Coffin, one of the first owners of the island Nantucket. It was only recently made known to me that the connection really involved her husband, Howard, who was related to the Coffin family. That means Howard is related to Wm Coffin who wrote a large document involving living around Springdale, KS the years of 1854 to the Civil War. Lorene is an excellent historian who has well documented knowledge about many families.

7). Herman Carl Torneden and Elizabeth Haas Torneden: I don't have any knowledge on the family lineage

8). Frederica Louise Torneden Loesch and William Philip Loesch: I don't have any knowledge on the family lineage

9). Adolph Carl Torneden and Bertha Agnes Koener Torneden: I don't have any knowledge on the family lineage

This article uses much of the history gathered by two people. Lorene Clarice Reetz Cox has a considerable amount of knowledge involving many families not just the Torneden family. Her information is well documented with the written word and numerous photographs which are labelled. She is an excellent family resource and researcher.

The other source for this document is Dalton Torneden who has published the entire genealogical history of the Torneden family and the families who married into the Torneden family. It is a remarkable amount of work. It is well noted so that most people can follow the family lines. In the history of the Torneden family, Dalton has gathered 1335 names (probably more with new births) with birth dates, death dates and marriage date and who all were involved in the numerous marriages. He has given the Tonganoxie Historical Society a copy of this huge document and has followed this by giving us additional knowledge as it becomes known. A very generous person.

Both of these two people share what they know and and what they know is remarkable.

Living Sovereignty: Indigenous Autonomy, Past and Present

TCHS is honored to be the first museum in the Freedom's Frontier area to host an exhibit about the indigenous people who lived here before us. The area where we live was Delaware Reservation land from 1831 to 1866.

This traveling exhibit is made possible by Freedom's Frontier and the Watkins Museum and KU Museum Studies students. We are eager to showcase this exhibit in March and April of 2022 and will publish the exact dates for the exhibit very soon.

Upcoming Fourth Tuesday Programs

The TCHS Board has decided to cancel the January Fourth Tuesday program. We do this out of an abundance of caution.

The February Fourth Tuesday program is currently planned for February 22. However, the TCHS Board will be meeting to determine if this program might also be cancelled.

Programs for March, April, and May 2022 are scheduled. The programs will be held in the Hay Barn at the Museum. Programs start at 7:00 pm.



Gift Shop

The TCHS Gift Shop was open for special holiday hours in December. Come by the museum sometime this year to check out our new merchandise – coffee mugs, coasters, tote bags, and stickers. Our best sellers are still here: Traditional Tales and Ghost Towns DVD's; books by local authors, including George Cooper, Joy Lominska, and John Cass Lenahan; and Fred Leimkuhler's pen and ink notecards.



The Stayman Winesap Apple by Fred Leimkuhler

Dr. Stayman came to Leavenworth, KS in 1860. He was a doctor of medicine and psychology. He planted an orchard in South Leavenworth that had a large growing of strawberries and Apples. His orchard used apple seeds to plant. The seeds he used were from Winesap apple seeds. These apple seeds produced a new variety which became the Stayman Winesap apple, (Winesap apples were known to produce mutations quite easily.)

According to Fred Leimkuhler in 1964 there were around 51 varieties of Winesap apples and 14 mutations of the Stayman Winesap. This Stayman apple became very popular in 1895 and is still popular in some regions of the United States. Dr. Stayman gave up his medical practice to become a full orchardist. He organized the Kansas State Horticulture Society, He was the first president of the organization.

The Battle of 1904 or The Siege of Tonganoxie

by Fred Leimkuhler

In October 1904 the town of Tonganoxie, Kansas came under fire by the 1st Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. Small arms fire was returned.

One man was shot twice and three soldiers were wounded.

An encampment of soldiers were camped near the town the night of Monday, October 10th. The soldiers came into town to drink and celebrate. By 11 PM they became very unruly. They took over Oscar Davis's restaurant. Then the riot spread to the sidewalk just outside. One soldier attacked Dan Love and another shot Love twice. The wounds were not fatal. Loren Sechrest was with Mr. Love at this time.

The City Marshall, Moore, was near by and soon arrived on the scene. Marion Woodward and Harry Johnson were with Moore. One of the soldiers drew his revolver and placed it at the Marshal's chest. The gun misfired twice and the Marshall shot the soldier. The shot went through the soldier's chest and broke a showcase nearby. Another soldier was wounded by Marshal Moore. As one of the soldiers tried to escape, he was shot by Marion Woodward.

One of the soldiers was named Kennedy. The officer in charge of the soldiers was a Major Leach. Earlier the soldiers had stolen a feather bed and had spread the feathers all over town.

Several solders went to the shooting gallery. One of them couldn't hit the garage with the gun supplied by the gallery, so he drew his revolver. When the manager said, "You can't do that." The soldier answered, "The hell I can't". He started shooting, but missed the target and hit the kerosene lamp over the target. A small fire was the result. A shot flew across the street and went through a large plate glass window and landed in the Strickland's store (This building is where the Shilling/Hancock store is today).

The soldier pulled down the street lamp at the foot of the K. Of P. (the Knight of Pithias) stairway, letting the blaze jumped ten feet high. Someone threw the lamp into the street saving the building.

The BATTLE OF TONGANOXIE became history. No one was killed. Dan Love was crippled for life.

ED note: It was not uncommon for soldiers to come to Tonganoxie and camp for one or two days. One place where they camped was the west side of Tongie creek (Where 4th street crosses Tonganoxie Creek) The camp was on the south side of 4th street.

IT'S IN THE MUSEUM

Laurie Walters

It is amazing to consider the scope and variety in the items donated to our collection which help tell the story of our community. Many of the "artifacts" are on paper and either tell the story or are photos of events of our community. These items become permanently archived and as we revise exhibits or create a new focus in the museum, photographic copies are prepared to display so the originals do not deteriorate.

Among our new paper items is a certificate appointing A. P. Laughlin as a Democrat elector in the presidential election of Eisenhower versus Stevenson. A. P., who served as mayor in the 1940's and for whom Laughlin street in Tonganoxie was named, was the grandfather of Ken Mark. As the election turned out, Mr. Laughlin did not need to cast his electors ballot.

Also donated is a blue ball shirt with red shoulder stripes that was worn by Ken Mark when he played on a summer ball team sponsored by Bills Hy-Klass Market which was on fourth street at that time (1960-1964) . Wouldn't it be neat to assemble shirts from the other teams of that era. All shirts were similar but the colors varied. A and W was orange with black stripes, Mills Insurance was red with white, Tongie Lumber was gray with maroon and McCaffrey Barbershop was green with white. There may be others.

Ted Wiles made a surprise visit and was most interested in our dairy display. Minutes after he had exited, he returned with a "milk stirrer" to donate. Seems we had been told our milk sampler complete with its pour lip was a stirrer, but no, the stirrers apparently have holes in the round stirring disc for the milk to move through as the milk was stirred in the large milk cans. Thanks to Ted we can improve our display and we have learned a little more about our rich dairy history.



IMAGE OF JAM JAR

Doris Baker Mayfield brought in a jam pot which her family had on their table daily. This pot originally belonged to Reuchlin Wright whose family was a neighbor to hers. Reuchlin Wright was the eldest brother of Wilbur and Orville Wright of aviation fame. Reuchlin married Lulu Billheimer in Ohio and after three years moved to Kansas City where he worked as a bookkeeper for the South Missouri Lumber Company. This was 1889. In 1901 he and his family moved to an 80 acre farm near Tonganoxie, Kansas, where they raised cattle and seed corn. The jam pot was gifted to the Baker family and occupied a place of honor on their table.

Anna Mary Landauer brought in a treasure trove of items in behalf of herself and her sister, Alberta Welch. One of the items was a friendship quilt pieced by the Smith Ladies Aid Society. Some blocks were made in 1960, others in 1961 and 1962. The border blocks were done in 1986 by Anna Mary. The Smith Ladies Aid was a meeting of

women who lived north and east of town and this quilt joins another already displayed in the museum which was done in the 1940s. Names on this quilt include: Anna M. Landauer, Evelyn Parsons, Gladys Hunter, Florence Hitzeman, Viola Long, Pearl Finch, Virginia Schafey, Blanche Young, Addie Black, Gladys Harvey, Carrie Doege, Anna Denholm, Mary Leimkuhler, Edith Hitzeman, Bernice Smith, Laura Still, Ora Edwards, Betty Smith, Florence Somers, and Grace Somers.

Third Graders & Local History



Lynn Jennings

Monday, October 4 promised to be a sunny day and a good day for the third graders to visit the museum. Seven classrooms with teachers and parents came for two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The third-grade curriculum includes local history – and what better place to be immersed in local history than the museum. The lovely day meant that two of the five stations that the students attend were held outside. Twelve volunteers made this day possible.

Looking for a Winter Project?



What a windy night it was on December 15 - gusts up to 60 miles per hour. Our only casualty was the outhouse behind the Honey Valley School House.

This could be the winter project you have been waiting for. The outhouse was brought to the site and installed on a concrete pad (it has not been “used” since retiring to the museum). We would like to bring the structure into the Fire House and reconstruct it, replacing wood as required, then painting it and re-installing it on the concrete pad.

So, we are looking for some carpenters and handymen who would like to take on a project this winter. The fire house space is heated, the company is good, and the coffee is hot. Give us a call or just stop by on a Wednesday morning between 9 and noon.



Church Restoration of Windows, Doors, and Sanctuary Ceiling is Complete

The Reno Church window and door restoration is complete. Custom wood and glass storm windows



allow more light in the sanctuary and more color to show outside. Each of the twelve windows in the sanctuary were removed and reglazed. New exterior doors were installed leading to the fellowship hall and the ADA lift.

The church front doors underwent major restoration. The panels and trim were replaced; the stiles and rails were glued, epoxied, and filled. After three months of restoration work in the barn, the front doors were repainted. And early in December, the temporary front

door was removed, and the church front doors reclaimed their place on the church façade.

In addition to the windows and doors, the church sanctuary also has a new look, thanks to new ceiling tiles and repainted grid. Light fixtures were cleaned and repainted.

The work was funded by grants from the Pete and Margaret Leighty Trust and from Leavenworth County. But the amount of work that was done would not have been completed without the volunteer efforts of many. Volunteers restored windows, removed old ceiling tiles from the site, restored the front doors and cleaned and cleaned and cleaned to keep up with the restoration work. We estimate that thirteen volunteers worked over 250 hours to ensure the success of the project.



Barn Block Workshop

Six Barn Quilts were created on October 16 in the barn. We have been offering Barn Quilt Workshops, often twice a year, every year since 2013 when Jean Pearson organized the first class. On October 16, seven participants came to the barn with a lunch and laid out and painted a quilt design of their choosing on a prepared sign board that was either 2' x 2' or 4' x 4'.

We look forward to these workshops, when we are guaranteed to meet new friends, share conversations, and join in the process as new Barn Quilts are created.

Watch for an exact date but count on a workshop being offered this spring in March or April.



Fourth Tuesdays are Back

We held our first Fourth Tuesday program since the pandemic began on October 26th with Phil Dixon, a well-known baseball historian, author, and co-founder of the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City. Phil gave a wonderful presentation on the Kansas City Monarchs. You can find more information about Phil and his books at <http://www.nlbalive.com>.



Phil was selected to serve on a committee to explore the selection of players in the pre-1950 era to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The announcement of selections took place on December 5th. Kansas City legend Buck O'Neill was one of the players honored with selection for the hall of fame. The 2022 induction ceremony will be on July 24th.

Kansas Riverkeeper

Dawn Buehler will do a presentation on March 22nd. She and the Friends of the Kaw are active in conservation issues and education about the river.

Dr. Michaeline Chance-Reay will give a presentation on The Harvey Girls on April 26th.

Jon Nelson will give a presentation about Tonganoxie native Creighton Siegert and his World War II bombing mission over Germany on May 24th. Jon gave a program several years ago about Creighton that was very well received. Jon has done more research since that time and he is in the process of writing a book about Creighton, his family, his life in Tonganoxie, his service in the military, the crew, and the mission.

MembershipYour membership in the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society is important. Membership dues bring in income, needed to pay the utility bills and maintain the buildings on our historic site. Our members volunteer for many projects throughout the year – some are regular Tuesday or Wednesday volunteers – some are regular field trip volunteers – many help out with our chili suppers.

Membership is what you want it to be. Our newsletter, which is edited by Perry Walters, a volunteer, highlights local history stories and showcases our events. Our museum is opened for visitors three days a week, every week, by volunteers. Our Fourth Tuesday programs bring speakers to the community who share their knowledge and make us think.

If you are a life member, thank you – we are proud to have over 80 life members on our active member list.

If you are a member paying annual dues, we thank you too for your annual declaration of your interest in our society and our missions to collect and make accessible artifacts and stories of our local history.

If you are not yet a member, we invite you to consider joining us. We welcome your interest, your comments, and your involvement - at whatever level you choose.

We are proud to be a part of the Tonganoxie community.

I WISH TO JOIN THE TONGANOXIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE No. _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

STUDENT \$ 10.00 _____ FAMILY \$ 25.00 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$ 15.00 _____ INDIVID LIFE \$150.00 _____

I WISH TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO TCHS

AMOUNT \$ _____ NOTES _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO TCHS AND MAIL TO:

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 785, Tonganoxie, KS 66086-0785