

Tonganoxie Community Historical Society

P.O. Box 785 Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086

April 1, 2011

Kansas Day Celebration at the Historical Site

On Saturday, January 29th, about 90 people came together in the Fairchild-Knox barn to celebrate Kansas Day, the 150th birthday of our state. Our new Board Chairman Jim Stuke chaired the event, and Mayor Jason Ward gave a talk about the history of Tonganoxie. Jenny Alden gave a presentation about Kansas history, and Kathy Peak was in costume, enacting the character of Mollie Myers, former owner of the historic Myers Hotel.

Laurie Walters unveiled a new banner created in honor of the Kansas sesquicentennial. The banner is the work of Kacee Fischer, a 2010 graduate of Tonganoxie High School, and features a sunflower rising over green hills. (It was later installed on the north end of the barn, where it is visible from the highways around the area.)



Wednesday workers install new banner on north wall of barn. L-R: Del Englen, Delbert Felts, Dan Carr, Larry Ross, Howard Fields, Lloyd Pearson, Ed Slawson.

The celebration ended with a huge birthday cake, along with music and song, including "Happy Birthday" and our state song, "Home on the Range." Dolores Finch provided piano accompaniment.

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Board News

Congratulations to Jim Stuke, who was elected Board Chairman at the January 19 board meeting. One of the first duties for Jim in his new office was as Master of Ceremonies at the Kansas Sesquicentennial Birthday party held at TCHS on January 29.



TCHS Board Chairman Jim Stuke at Sesquicentennial celebration, January 2011

A few items of interest from your Board:

- The Board, with assistance from Michael Fuhlhage, would like to establish a committee to conduct historical interviews with local citizens. If you would like to serve on this committee, or know of someone to interview, please contact Susy Ross, our Museum Curator.

- Volunteers Laurie Walters, Connie Putthoff, and Jenny Alden have put together a TCHS display in the downtown branch of First State Bank. Stop by the bank and view this display of historical items.

- Perhaps you have noticed the road construction on County Road 5? The old barn on the Doege family farm, which has stood alongside County Road 5 for so long, is being demolished to widen the new road. Recently, members of the TCHS Board met with Anna Mary Doege Landauer and representatives from the Kansas Barn Alliance, the Lawrence Preservation Alliance, and representatives from Missouri Western College to determine if the barn was constructed prior to Kansas statehood in 1861, which would designate it **Page 2 – April 1, 2011**

as a “Territorial” structure (Kansas Territory, 1854-1861 period). It was determined that the barn was *not* constructed prior to the 1861 date.



- Our TCHS fire truck won first place in the annual Tonganoxie St. Patrick’s Day parade. The prize was a tote bag filled with items from local merchants. The tote bag was raffled at our March meeting, and was won by John Morris.

- A reminder about the ballpark concessions fund raiser set to begin in May: This year, we will operate two concession stands. In addition to the

regular location, the Wednesday morning work group, led by Larry Ross, is constructing an additional building to serve the further reaches of the park. If you are interested in helping with the concessions, please contact Lloyd Pearson (845-3228) or Jim Stuke (369-3189).

- Board Meetings are held in the Reno Church basement at 9am on the third Wednesday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement.



- Opening Day at the Museum is Sunday, April 3rd. We hope you will stop by to see what’s new around the Site. Also, watch for our Spring Festival on April 30th, 9am to 4pm, with something for everyone to enjoy.

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“A fool learns from his experience. A wise person learns from the experience of others.”

-Otto von Bismarck,

German Chancellor, 1815-1898

Opening Day Set for April 3rd

The 2011 Museum season is set to begin on Sunday, April 3rd. All buildings will be open for viewing. Many items have been added over the winter months, several displays have been updated, and recent acquisitions are being made

ready for display. Bring your family and visitors; stop in and tour the Honey Valley School, take a walk through the Reno Church, see the fire house and displays surrounding the fire truck, and tour the Fairchild-Knox dairy barn and museum. Regular hours during the season are Sundays 1-4pm.

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Museum News

After the long winter months of diligent work by the museum volunteers, the TCHS Museum is ready for 2011 Opening Day. Plan to stop by the site on Sunday, April 3rd, between 1 and 4pm. Tour the site, and see what's new in the Museum.

In January, Bill and Kathy Peak took the TCHS traveling trunk to Eisenhower Elementary School in Leavenworth for their Kansas Day celebration. A valuable teaching aid, the trunk is filled with typical items that a Pioneer family may have packed for their journey to Kansas in the 1860s: clothing, dishes, candle, sugar, tea, journal, harmonica, etc. The trunk is located in the "kitchen" display in the

Bill Peak explains items in the TCHS "traveling trunk" to students at a Kansas Day celebration.

barn, so when you visit the museum, be sure to stop by and view the trunk. And watch for events celebrating Kansas statehood throughout the area and throughout the year.

Page 3 – April 1, 2011

The museum has received several donations over the past few months. Anna Mary Landauer donated an Osgood wagon scale, used for weighing loads of grain, hay, cattle, hogs and sheep. This scale was owned by Anna Mary's parents, Albert Martin Doege and his wife Carrie Eble Doege, and later by their son Albert Joe Doege. The scale was previously located in the old barn on the Doege family property, which is being torn down for the

widening of Leavenworth County Road 5. For many years, this scale was used by the entire neighborhood for weighing their grain and animals.

Beth Enloe has donated several items to the museum, among which is a biscuit cutter that was given away as a promotional item by the WREN radio station while they were in operation. The "WREN" logo is stamped on the handle. Beth also donated a 1952 THS year book. We are still looking for Tonganoxie High School yearbooks for our collection, as well as Tonganoxie Elementary School annuals and class photos from the many one-room schools in our district. If you have any of these items, please consider donating them to the museum.

We are looking for any photographs of the Black Cat Restaurant/Tavern that was originally located on Highway 16 west of Tonganoxie; current business in that location is Helen's Hilltop. If you have any photos of this former business, please contact us at the museum any Wednesday morning (913-845-2960).

Plan to visit the Site on Saturday, April 30th for **A Look Back in Time** – a day full of family fun for kids from 1 to 100. The event will run from 9am to 4pm, and will feature a Mountain Man encampment, with blacksmithing, archery, tomahawk throwing, cannon firing, and more. We'll also have one-room school classes, 1860s photography, wood carving, soap making, live music, a quilt show, and much more. An old fashioned lunch will be available for purchase at the site. For further information contact Susy at kanza@basicisp.net or call the museum on Wednesday mornings 913-845-2960.

Membership Report

Welcome New Members:

Virginia Gruendel, MD	Tonganoxie
Pam Jones	Tonganoxie
Melvin & Patricia Ramseier	Tonganoxie
Richard & Stephanie Spacek	Leavenworth

New Life Membership:

Virginia Gruendel, MD Tonganoxie
Cindy Murry Tonganoxie

Memorial Donation:

From Alberta Welch of Rapid City, SD, in memory of
Albert Joe Doege

“Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Don’t
walk behind me; I may not lead. Walk beside me
and just be my friend.”

- Albert Camus

In Memory . . .

We say good-bye, and extend our sincere
sympathy to the family and friends of
Marie Huey of Tonganoxie, and to the
family and friends of Vernilea Fuhlhage of
Tonganoxie.

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Monthly Meeting Hosts

The hosts/hostesses for the second quarter of 2011
are:

April 26 Carol and Ed Slawson, Gladys Walters

May 24 Caryle and Dan Carr, Donna and Howard
Fields

June 25 Annual Picnic 6PM. Bring covered dish,
utensils and chairs. Guests welcome.

*The host/hostess list for year 2011 will be posted
on the board in the Church basement. If you
cannot serve your assigned time, please contact
Jean Pearson (845-3228).*

Page 4 – April 1, 2011

Upcoming Programs at TCHS

*In case of inclement weather, or for information
about any of the programs, please call Program
Chairman Bill Peak at 913-845-2852.*

**April 26 – 7:00pm – Kansas through the Lens of
F.M. Steele-** by Jim Hoy. In 1890, frontier
photographer F.M. Steele set out from Dodge City
to record life across Kansas. This program will
examine Steele’s photographs of that era. A Kansas
Humanities Council speaker, Jim Hoy teaches at
Emporia State University.

**May 24 – 7:00pm – The Essential Eisenhower by
Daniel D. Holt.** Holt examines the odyssey of a
soldier, from a young man growing up in Kansas to
an international statesman. Mr. Holt is an author
and former director of Dwight D. Eisenhower
Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene. A
Kansas Humanities Council presentation.

June 25 – 6:00pm – Annual TCHS Picnic at the Site.
Bring covered dish, utensils, and chairs. Guests are
welcome.

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Fire Truck Takes First Place in Parade



TCHS members prepare for a ride on the fire truck in St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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TCHS Board Members and Officers for Year 2011

Following is the list of Board members, elected officers, and appointed Chairpersons for the current year.

The offices of President and Vice President are one-year terms; a position of Board Member is a three-year term; TCHS bylaws state that Chairman of the Board is appointed by the board members. The nomination/election of new officers is held in November to fill any expiring or vacant positions.

If you would like to volunteer to lead or help in any of these positions, please contact Jim Stuke, Board Chairman.

Board of Directors

Jim Stuke	Chairman of Board
George Anton	Board Member
Lloyd Pearson	Board Member
Ed Slawson	Board Member
Laurie Walters	Board Member

Other elected/appointed offices

Connie Putthoff	President
June Hagenbuch	Vice President
Jenny Alden	Secretary

Don Fuhlhage	Treasurer
Howard Fields	Asst. Treasurer
Susy Ross	Museum Curator
Lloyd Pearson	Facility Management
Bill Peak	Program Chairman
Linda DiSanto	Newsletter
Lesia Winters	Publicity
Denise Baker	Mailing Fundraiser
Gladys Walters	Best Choice Labels
Jean Pearson	Refreshments
June Hagenbuch	Courtesy

Each person who gives of their time is valuable to our organization. If your name was inadvertently left off this listing, apologies are extended. We truly appreciate all you do for TCHS.

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Page 5 – April 1, 2011

In the Museum



The colorful doll house shown above belonged to Billie McGee Marshall. It is a steel doll house, open one side; 5 rooms; overall size 12" deep X 22" wide X 20 ½ inches high. The dollhouse was donated to the museum by Billie Marshall.

Doll houses became popular in the 1890s. Most were made of wood, with hand-carved furnishings to fill them. Over the next 50 years, dollhouses became even more popular with both children and

adults, as the structures and furnishings became more and more elaborate.

The 1940s -1950s saw the introduction of new materials such as plastic and metals in the toy industry, making fabrication and mass production of dollhouses and other toys simpler. The colors on the metal pieces could be controlled, and the hard plastic furnishing pieces could be intricately detailed.

Steel dollhouses were first introduced about 1948, and dominated the 1950s period. It is unknown what the dollhouse pictured above would have cost when bought in the late 1940s. However, a dollhouse similar to the one pictured is found in the 1957 Montgomery Ward Toy Catalogue (Page 189); it includes all the furnishings, is shipped flat and easily assembled; cost is \$3.79.

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Annual Picnic Saturday, June 25th 6pm 6:00PM

Did You Know?

In our last newsletter, I wrote about the beginning days of the historical society, formed on October 1, 1981, with plans for a museum and historical site for the community.

By early 1991, fund-raising efforts were in full swing for restoring the barns on the property which had been given to the society by member Mildred Young. These efforts included requests for monetary donations, saving aluminum cans, profits from the annual chili supper, chicken noodle dinners, concession sales at the ballpark, serving food at various farm sales in the area, sale of note cards with local scenes (drawn by member Fred Leimkuhler), raffles, memorial donations, and other innovative and resourceful ways to bring in funds.

Some of the expenses incurred during this beginning era were based on various work projects around the site, including construction of a road to the property; clean-up and restoration of the barns; installation of fencing, sewer lines, septic tank, and phone lines; and efforts to move the Honey Valley School building to the historical site and construct a basement beneath it. Even the school outhouse became famous, as it was featured in the 1998 St. Patrick's Day parade!

While all the work, planning, and fund-raising efforts continued, the society was still able to **Page 6 – April 1, 2011**

maintain “business as usual,” with monthly meetings consistently offering quality programs, informing and entertaining between 50 and 60 attendees at each meeting.

Volunteers, members, and the community as a whole contributed so much to the formation of

TCHS, whether through monetary donations, family and personal treasures to fill the museum, or research of historical events or facts about our community. As stated in the February 6, 1991, TCHS newsletter, "It is up to us, the members, to be the caretakers of our past so that it can be passed on to our children and grandchildren. Without involved members we cannot exist." The same holds true for today. Only by the efforts of a caring, involved community can we ensure these treasures will be available in the future.

An example of that involvement was reported in the aforementioned 1991 newsletter. In 1990, then-President John Lenahan, working with the Leavenworth County Historical Plaques Committee, obtained several historic plaques for our community. These bronze plaques contain a brief historic summary of the building or site, designating it as a historic landmark. Included were plaques for Hubble Hill Cemetery, the Almeda Hotel, Congregational Church, and Lincoln's Rest. Lincoln's Rest is located on the Bill McGraw farm, and is reported to be a stop-over for Abraham Lincoln while on his political campaign to Leavenworth.

TCHS will succeed with the ongoing efforts of each one of us. We look forward to all the amazing possibilities for our Society and for our community as we celebrate our 25th year. Whatever contribution you have made toward the success of TCHS, whatever time, effort, artifact, document, etc., you have volunteered or donated, rest assured that you *have* made a difference.

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TCHS SPRING FESTIVAL APR 30TH 9AM-4PM

Events Around Our Area

With spring just around the corner and summer on the way, you may be looking for things to do and places to go. And as gasoline prices continue to climb, you

probably want to limit your travel. Check out this list of suggestions.

April 3 1pm-4pm *Tonganoxie Historical Society "Opening Day at the Museum"* Stop in and see what's new for 2011.

April 7 – May 3 *Cowboys, Combines, and small Towns of the Frontier*; Exhibit of photographs of F.M. Steele. Basehor Historical Museum Society, 2812 155th St. Further information, call Carla 913-724-4022.

April 20 – June 17 *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings*. Wyandotte County Museum will host this traveling exhibition from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Special hours for this exhibit are Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 1pm-5pm. Additional speaker series throughout the exhibition. Further information available at www.wycomuseum.wordpress.com or 913-573-5002.

April 28 5pm to 7pm *Lansing Historical Society Spaghetti Dinner*. Homemade spaghetti and meat sauce, bread, salad, homemade desserts, coffee and lemonade. Adults \$6.00; Kids 10 yrs and under \$3.50. Lansing Community Center (basement of Lansing City Hall). Further information 913-250-0203.

April 30 9am-4pm *Spring Festival and Chuck Wagon Feed* Tonganoxie Community Historical Site. Event will feature a Mountain Man encampment with blacksmithing, archery, tomahawk throwing, and more. We'll also have one-room school classes, 1860s photography, soap making, live music, a quilt show, and much more. There will be old fashioned lunch available for purchase at the site. For further information contact Susy at kanza@basicisp.net or call the museum on Wednesday mornings 913-845-2960.
Page 7 – April 1, 2011

April 30 1pm-3pm *Chocolate Demonstration, Tasting and Party*. Basehor Museum, 2812 155th St. Tickets \$10, can be purchased at the Museum. Call Carla for further information, 913-724-4022

April 30 Sixth Anniversary Celebration at C.W. Parker Carousel and Museum 320 S. Esplanade, Leavenworth. Free lemonade, cake, ice cream; kids coloring a print of a carousel horse will get a FREE ride on the carousel. Information 913-651-3829.

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How to Contact Us . . .

April 30 A Royal Affair: A Celebration of the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. With a special exhibit of vintage wedding gowns and Everhard photos. 10:30am-4:30pm. Leavenworth County Historical Society, 1128 Fifth Ave, 913-682-7759. Admission is free.

May 5 – June 21 Exhibit: Reflections of the War Women and their Civil War Quilts. Basehor Museum, 2812 155th St. Information 913-724-4022.

May 15: Five Trails Half Marathon. Think Kansas is flat? Then you've never been to Leavenworth! This hilly race through the First City of Kansas is a USATF certified loop course that is sure to challenge and inspire. Take a climb up Leavenworth's 'Pikes Peak,' and ring the bell when you reach the top, enjoy aid stations at every mile, and take part in the post-race Victory Festival! More information at www.fivetrailshalfmarathon.com. Proceeds benefit the Leavenworth County Historical Society.

June 23 – August 2 Exhibit – Wheat People; Celebrating Kansas Harvest. Basehor Museum, 2812 155th St. Information 913-724-4022.

Newsletter @TCHS
P.O. Box 785
Tonganoxie, KS 66086
913-845-2960 (Museum)
913-369-3835 (Home)
Lindadisanto43@gmail.com
www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org

**Visit us on facebook
Tonganoxie Community Historical
Society**



Del Englen, ready for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Check out our website at
www.tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org

or

**Visit us on facebook Tonganoxie Community Historical
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Mark Your Calendars:

Apr 1 – 1:00-4:00: Opening Day at the Museum

Apr 26 – 7:00pm: Program: Kansas through the lens of F.M. Steele, by Jim Hoy

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May 24 – 7:00pm: Program: The Essential Eisenhower, by Daniel D. Holt

Jun 25 – 6:00pm: Annual TCHS Picnic at the Site. Guests are welcome.

**Visit us on facebook Tonganoxie Community Historical
Society**

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