

Pioneer Press

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

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The Pony Express Preservation Society CELEBRATES PONY EXPRESS'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Nemaha County Historical Society is pleased to support and assist the Pony Express Preservation Society who has received a Kansas Humanities Council Major Grant for the Pony Express Museum located in Seneca, KS. The grant will be used to tell the "*Pony Express Story in Seneca*". Since Seneca was the first home station west of St. Joseph, MO., the Pony Express Story has impacted the businesses and culture of this community. This project is especially important this year since 2010 will be the 150th anniversary celebration of the Pony Express.

The Pony Express Preservation Society will be receiving an \$8,500 grant from the Kansas Humanities Council and the Society will provide the \$ 19,610 in-kind cost share for a total project in the amount of \$ 28,110. Members of the NCHS will help with the project and provide working space at the Historical Society.

The 150th Anniversary celebration in Seneca will be Tuesday, June 22, 2010, with a biscuit and gravy breakfast preceding departure of the riders for points west. The drawing for the Henry Goldenboy 22 Pony Express Proof Edition Rifle will be held that morning. The drawing is a fund raising project of the Pony Express Preservation Society and tickets are available at a cost of \$10 per ticket.

This grant is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization promoting understanding of the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

Historical Society Receives State Award

Anita Heiman, President of the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. was appreciative as she accepted the "Community Award" trophy awarded to the Historical Society at the Kansas Main Street Awards Banquet in Leavenworth this fall. Nominated for the award by the Seneca Downtown Impact organization, Anita was appreciative as she accepted the award from Lt. Governor Troy Findley. The program awards are funded by the Kansas Department of Commerce in honor of active community involvement by the organization's members.

Memorials Received by the Nemaha County Historical Society



In Memory
Cecilia C. Niekamp
1926—2009



In Memory
Harold Joseph
"Joe" Love
1930—2009



In Memory
Datha Gurney
Holsapple
1923—2009



In Memory
Leo B. Tangeman
1911- 2009

In Memory of
Patty Gerlt Pillmeier

By her son, Robert Pillmeier,
Rockville, MD.

New To The Museum

Steve McLeon, VA	Johanes Lehmann genealogy
USD 422 Board of Education	Cornerstone from Seneca Grade School (1938)
Tim Huninghake, Topeka	Photographed/Scanned images and returned: Joe Huninghake's US Army documents, Bronze Star medal citations, discharge, patches and awards, WWII convoy pictures, Army Song Book (1941), Field Manual; German Normandy Defense map and patches; Photos: John Blocker with beard in front of Blockers General Store, downtown St. Benedict, KS, Joe and Dorothy Huninghake wedding, reception of Joe and Dorothy Huninghake, Raphad Bergman Haverkamp and Cyrella Bergman Sudbeck, 11/4/15; Cleaning ladies with Father Gregory, Anna Blocker Bergman, St. Benedict;
Bob and Alma Ackerman	Blotter: "Seneca Belongs to the Midland Empire"; Calendar: Citizens Insurance Agency, A. O. Ward, Agent, Seneca, Kansas; 1966; Christiana Louise and Albert George Ackerman wedding; married 8-19-1925; M.A. York's KU Nursing Graduation Invitation 1957; Book "Men, Women and God in Kansas", Coronado to Turnpike; Robert G. Anderson, Kansas House Rep.
Morris Werner, TN	Manuscript: "Early Nemaha Valley Settlers and the Lincoln Visit legacy"
Nemaha County Treasurer & Lawrence Eisenbarth family	Underwood Typewriter belonging to Lawrence Eisenbarth, former Nemaha County Treasurer; Document storage box; Pen point for old ink; Book: Delbridge Interest Tables; Holder, Copy: ErrorNo; Christmas Tree ornaments
Dean Rial	Used HP Photosmart All-In-One Printer, Two book-cases, 48 Kansas Research books, Saber Belt
David Tangeman, Topeka	Framed WW I picture of military unit in San Antonio
Jones, Beattie	Postcard w/ photo of NM County 1877 Courthouse



Cornerstone Received

The USD 442 Board of Education donated the 500 lb. cornerstone from the original Seneca Grade School building built in 1938 to the Nemaha County Historical Society. This stone lists the boards of education members at the time and the architect for the building. The Board voted on the belief that the Historical Society would be the appropriate recipient of this stone and that NCHS will display and preserve this historical artifact for generations to come.

King O'Malley

A Researcher is seeking information about an Australian politician and community leader who was born in Nemaha County. "King O'Malley" may not have been his real name. He was born on July 4th, 1856, left Nemaha County in 1888 to make "amends", and died at 100 years. His mother's maiden name was King and communicated over the years with a Grace O'Connell (sweetheart) and a friend named Kennedy in Nemaha County. Do you know of this person? If so, call museum at 785-336-6366!

LOST FUNDING

Nemaha County Commissioners have informed the Historical Society that due to a shortfall in the amount of anticipated revenue collected by the county, NCHS will receive less funding from the county than what was previously approved in the 2009 budget process.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SETS 2010 FUNDRAISERS TO BENEFIT EXPANDED MILITARY GALLERY:

The NCHS Board of Directors approved several new fundraising activities for 2010 at their November Quarterly Meeting. The funds are needed to create an environmentally controlled display for photographs, documents, maps and uniforms.

May 16, 2010: Open House ; Unveiling of "Lest We Forget" Military gallery design. Silent auction and chance for free museum services.

June 2010: Tractor Derby Fundraiser; ticket sales

July: Seneca Car Show in the Park: Coffee and donuts concession

September: Highway 36 Garage Sale: Collect items from community for benefit sale at museum.

October: First Weekend: (Sat) Golf Tournament (Sat) Sponsors to underwrite the actual cost of event. (Sunday) Heritage Days Open House with focus on Military Gallery and Vintage Community Military Support Quilts

October: Last Weekend: Halloween "Night at the Museum" Tour: Things come alive in our galleries. Staff to become first person characters. Crafts and goodies!

There are now few of the old-time typical English with us. And the language of those who came over a long time ago has become Americanized to such extent that the younger generation here have no conception of just how delightfully funny was the talk of a fresh Englishman. However, some of those who came over as children and even some of the American born who had good tutors retain a percentage of the English pronunciation, but the inflection and speed which characterized their ancestors have been lost.

After the collapse of the Colony enterprise the unallotted part of section twenty-five fell into the hands of Captain Wilson, of London. He was an officer in the Company. Later, Captain Wilson's interest was acquired by William Fish, also of London, and a member of the Company. In England William Fish was superintendent of the Great Northern railroad. He came over here in 1881. He was a pensioner, and did not renounce his allegiance to the Crown.

Captain Wilson thought a lot of the Colony scheme. He was to have given his fortune at death to the first male child born on the Colony section. That honor fell to Alfred Wilson Mollineaux, first son of John Mollineaux, born 1874. While conversing with Alfred Mollineaux a few days ago, he said to me, "But since I didn't get me heritage I've dropped the Wilson part of my name. What would be the good to bother with it now!"

The Mollineaux heirs are the only descendents of the originals holding an interest in section twenty-five in recent years. Alfred now owns the south 80; Harry sold the north 80 two years ago to Otto Krack. Otto paid \$6,000 for it, including the growing crop. The old house on the place, built more than a half century ago, is the original John Mollineaux home. The other lands in the section have long since passed to new owners.

There are now only two of the old Colonists living. William Wessel, familiarly called "Teddy," came over in 1873. He is 89, and lives with his daughter, Mrs. John Chase, in Goff. William Conover lives with his son Edward, on a farm adjacent to the old Colony section. He is 89.

I took a drive about the old Colony section a few days ago seeking to refresh my memory and gather additional data for this article. At Goff I found Teddy Wessel in the Sourk Drug Store. Still living over the broken dreams of the past, Teddy exploded, first off, "They were a bunch of damned rascals."

In course of the interview I asked Teddy if he knew anything about a racy romance at Llewellyn Castle many years ago. "I should say I do," he said. He had a momentary flash of it. That was all. Then his mind began to fag. Laboriously, tantalizingly, the tired feelers of his mind went fumbling into the dark pool of the past, trying desperately to capture the lost details, but he whole works went under—ebbed away like a fadeout in a movie.

George Sourk, who was sitting by and coaching the old fellow a bit, said, "You'll have to give daddy a little time, John. He'll remember it all right."

Daddy swam up out of it all right and sure enough recollections were upon him with a bang. But the main topic was still submerged and in its place was a ugly memory that should have been dead long ago. "They were damned rascals," is all he said.

It is assumed that my very fine old friend's poisoned arrow was aimed only at the shades of the original six, or, at most, only those who had the actual management of the Colony affairs.

(To be continued in May Issue)

TAX CREDITS

SOLD:

The Community National Bank of Seneca purchased \$4,805 State Rehabilitation Tax Credits from the Nemaha County Historical Society. These tax credits were for the Front Porch Heritage Trust Fund project and is 30% of qualifying expenses. NCHS's share of the qualifying expenses on the project was \$16,016.66 and that amount, verified by the Kansas Department of Revenue, was approved for public sale to individuals and/or corporations by the Board at their November meeting. These tax credits may be used to pay 2009 and future Kansas Tax bills. NCHS appreciates the support that CNB gives to preservation projects.

NEW FLAG POLE

An aluminum telescoping flagpole, eagle for top and light kit has been donated to the Museum in memory of Harry Burger by his neighbors. The Harry Burger Tribute, a 20 ft. flagpole, has anodized aluminum swivel rings that allow the flag to fly freely 360 degrees around the pole, a gold aluminum eagle ornament on top and a solar light that will shine on flag day and night.

Kansas Book Wanted

A California Researcher wants to buy the book: "Kansas: A cyclopedia state history embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns and prominent persons". Do you have one to sell?

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The December snows and the Christmas Blizzard slowed the Historical Museum activities as visitors struggled through snow drifts to research and tour. Director Diane Rottinghaus gave tours and even treated the Cub Scouts Troop to hot chocolate. In December 2009. The above photos of the Feb. 21, 1921 snow storm are a part of the Oatman Main Street Collection and are reminiscent of the 2009—2010 snow storms,.