

# Pioneer Press



May, June, July 2010

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## Museum inventory nears completion!

The Nemaha County Historical Society board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, 2010 to receive the initial museum inventory report from Director Diane Rottinghaus. The four year inventory project of the Nemaha County Historical Museum has matched receipts given to donors for items donated with the images and lists compiled by museum volunteers.

Over 10,000 artifacts have been recorded, photographed, and bar-coded for preservation in display or storage. The entire inventory has been typed into the Past-Perfect computer program which will allow researchers and volunteers to know where each item is located in the museum, who donated it and when. A second copy of the inventory is stored in a secure off-site location.

At this May quarterly meeting, the board will also consider a proposed design for the expanded military exhibit for preservation of artifacts belonging to Nemaha County Veterans. Other proposals to be addressed by the board are the landscaping committee's proposal for additional parking and a location for the donated flag pole.

*The historical society will have a tractor cruise from the Seneca City Park at 11:30 a.m. on July 19, 2010 to help pay for the expanded military exhibit. To register, call Richard Schmitz, 785-336-6596 or go onto NCHS website.*

## Open House on May 16th

Although the museum will open to the public on May 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., an Open House will be held on Sunday, May 16th from 2 to 4 p.m. The "Lest We Forget" Military Exhibit design will be unveiled and tours of the three museum buildings will be provided. A scavenger hunt and silent auction will be available which includes donated prizes.

## Military Consultant Visits Historical Museum

Colonel Doug Jacobs from the Museum of Kansas National Guard in Topeka recently accepted NCHS Board's invitation to visit the Nemaha County Historical Museum at 113 North 6th Street. With NCHS volunteers and local VFW representative, Ray Rottinghaus, Col. Jacobs viewed the computerized inventories, archive storage and the military display arrangements. Preliminary discussions developed into plans for the creation of an expanded military display area, called "Lest We Forget". Preliminary designs will be available for public viewing at the May 16th Open House.

## Memorial Received



**In Memory—John H. Hutfles  
1935—2010**

# New Donations To The Museum

Board will review donations for	Accession into museum at May 11th Board Meeting.
Diane Rottinghaus	Five Kansas plates, St. Mary's Church sketch and interior photos
Seneca Community Television	Depository: 46 VCR tapes: City Council, School Board, ball games; 35 DVD discs: Community Activities 2002-2010; Three VCR cameras and cases—1985-2005 vintage; VCR players and video equipment; display & flag
Mary Beth Steinlage	19 World Book Encyclopedias, Copyright 1913
Morris Werner, TN	Corrected Manuscript: "Blazing Trail to Oregon"; Manuscript: <i>My Grandfather's House</i> by Jessie Neill Werner; Seven trail manuscripts by Morris Werner— <i>Baker's Ford, Cold Spring, KS Odyssey of Texas LDS, Shenandoah to the Wide Missouri, Trailing the Pathfinders, Lane's Trail and the Underground Railway and The Oketo Cut-off</i>
Bob & Alma Ackerman	Child manikin in red dress & hat stand, military artifacts, medical memorabilia, Country Store items, maps and history books
Dean Rial	Carpet for Display Area; two VCR cameras 2006—2009; Book—"A Laboratory Manual in Physics" 1913—Reception Counter
Dorothy Pearl Murphy	Sack for archives: Ace Hardware Logo
Anita Heiman	BPW History Scrapbook; SHS 1909 graduation invitation; Records for Nemaha County Co Memorial Park, Nemaha River Valley; Pictorial Review of CCC, History of CCC, George Adriance Review
David Tangeman, Topeka	Photographs: Fr. V. Kongs & Fr. C. Kramer, Pillow, 2 St. Aloysius medals
Mary Jane Fleming	35 scrapbook pages—Ft. Markley, activities & history, letters and photographs
Ferdinand & Marlene Deters	Book: St. Mary's Catholic Parish, St. Benedict, KS. 150 anniversary celebration
USD 442	10 Grade School desks, file cabinet, 5 bookcases
Kansas National Guard Museum, Topeka	Booklet: "A Guard In Peace & War, a History of the Kansas National Guard
Sylvia Wohler, Clay Center	Oneida High School Annual, "The Cardinal" 1957 Oneida Grade School Memory book 1959-1960; ; Two Rose Domer booklets
Marcia Philbrick	Allen's Complete School Register,, NMC, 1911—1918; 37 Abstract Deeds, Record Book #49, 1888-1889; 49 photographic prints and slides, NVHS,
Dr. James Lueger	Dr. Gilbert's 1947 Physician's Daily Record Book
Frank Lindemuth	Magazines: Kansas Barns & Legacies—County Courthouses; wheelchair
Weixelman Brothers	Two vintage plows, one vintage cultivator, harness
Rod, Lamoreaux, Waterville	Photo: NASA Astronauts in Frankfort, 1967

## King O'Malley

The California Researcher who is seeking information about King O'Malley, an Australian politician and community leader who was born in Nemaha County, has notified the Historical Society of new facts. Although she already knew "King O'Malley" was not his real name, she now believes he is an "Alexander" . He was born on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1856, left Nemaha County in 1888 to make "amends". He is of Irish ancestry and lived in Nemaha County during his boyhood days. He is identified as Charles G. Alexander in Portland 1888 records. Other references to him are Chas. G Alexander, G. C. or C. G. Alexander.

D.P. Murphy's research of the family in Nemaha County finds over 40 Alexander family members buried in the Corning and Neuchatel cemeteries. If you have any information that might be helpful to these researchers, e-mail or call NCHS museum.

KANSAS SAMPLER  
FESTIVAL, May 1 & 2  
Leavenworth's Ray Miller  
Park

More than 250 Kansas exhibitors will be there to provide a sample of what there is to see, do, hear, taste, and buy in Kansas! It's a Kansas brochure come to life!

Goff Lions Club Annual  
Ham and Bean Feed  
(chicken noodle soup available)  
Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010  
Goff Community Center.  
11 till 2.  
pie, cornbread, ham sandwiches  
and fellowship.

Wildlife habitat & "Railroads of  
Nemaha County" displays.

Teddy Wessel's run of hard luck started before he left London. It seems he bought something, or thought he paid for something, he didn't get. (William Wessel, familiarly called "Teddy." came over in 1873. He is 89, and lives with his daughter, Mrs. John Chase, in Goff.) But Teddy can thank his stars that there was at least one crooked countryman in his close circle. Teddy trusted a friend to purchase first class passage for himself and family. The friend bought cheaper tickets on a slower ship, and pocketed the difference. The fast ship passed the slower one in mid-ocean and was lost, together with all on board, when one day out from New York.

A happy, and I believe equitable, solution of the matter would allow the reader who had a friend or relative among them the privilege of exempting such one, and thus still leave Teddy some targets for his arrows. For my own part, I think I should like to exempt that little nineteen year old boy, John Stowell. In later years, after he come to Wetmore and engaged in business, I worked for John Stowell in his lumber yard, and in his brick manufacturing plant, and finally as type-setter on his newspaper. He was not a crook.

I grew up along with those bally English and I think I knew them pretty well. They were not all rascals. The Colony section was only five miles away from Wetmore as the crow flies. And as the crow flew then so did I gallop my mustang along the prairie grass lane while carrying mail between Wetmore and Seneca, passing Llewellyn Castle on the way.

There were few fences in the way then. Just prairie grass and wild roses and more prairie grass. And lots of prairie chickens. I have seen acres of them at one time on the hillsides in the vicinity of Llewellyn Castle.

There was no blue-grass then. And no timber along the route anywhere until the Nemaha was reached just this side of Seneca, at the old Hazzard place.

And later, in 1887, when I was a compositor on T.J. Wolfley's Seneca Tribune, and made drives home with Sandy Sterling's livery team, practically all of the twenty-six miles of road was still only a winding trail. Willis J. Coburn, the contractor for that Star mail route, went with me on the first trip. He took me to the home of his old friend, John Radford, who had then left the Colony and was living on the old Scaffold place adjoining Seneca on the south. I put up with "Old Radidad", as we afterwards called him when he came to live in Wetmore, for about a month, and while they treated me kindly, I didn't like their English ways.

And when I announced my intentions of throwing up my job Willis Coburn said I should then put up at the old Fairchild Hotel, which was on a side street north from the upper end of the main street. It was a stone building. Besides being immaculately clean, the Fairchild's were related to the Jay Powers Family in Wetmore and that made a bond between us that held for the duration of my mail carrying activities. There were two stops on the way, one in the Abbey neighborhood, and one at Old Lincoln Town.

As compensation for my services as mail-carrier, I was paid fifty cents each way, up one day and back the next, twice a week. And I was glad to get that. Our mail-carriers here in Wetmore, covering about equal distance, with only two hours on the road, draw about seven dollars a day.

When Willis Coburn offered me the job I was short of the required age, sixteen, and I was wondering how I would get by without swearing to a lie, when our good old postmaster, Alvin McCreery, solved the problem for me. When he swore me in, he said, "Now, don't tell me your age." He shook his head, negatively, and repeated, "Don't tell me your age."

At the Radford home in Seneca, I learned enough about the old Colony to make a book, but much of it is now shrouded in a fog of haze. On the occasion of our first trip, Mr. Radford and Mr. Coburn discussed Colony matters freely in my presence. It was July, and it was out on the border of the big orchard which came right up to the back door, under the shade of an early harvest apple tree, where they sat and talked.

I have to admit that at the time I was more interested in the golden fruit hanging on the apple tree than I was in the conversation, but I got enough of it to know that there would be a good story in it, if I could but remember more clearly. Mr. Radford's agile mind ground out astonishing facts as steadily as a grist mill that afternoon. Whatever else may be said of John Radford, he was an educated man. And had a wonderful sense of humor. As I remember it, or partly remember it, the highlight of the afternoon's conversation, the thing that tickled the men most, was a racy romance that had budded, bloomed, and died at Llewellyn Castle. The male participants were of course Wetmore men, one artisan, one professional. But somewhere along the timeworn trail between that old apple tree and my present quarters, separated by three and fifty years, the details of that affair are lost. And like the characters who made it, that romance has crumbled into dust and is now part of the past. (end)

Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.

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**Return Service Requested**

We're On The Web!  
[www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com)

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Historical Society, Inc.**

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## **First Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic**

**Saturday, October 2nd, 2010**

**Registration: 8:00 a.m.**

**Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.**

**Spring Creek Golf Course  
Seneca, Kansas**

Three Person Scramble

Open to men and women

(Women's tees will be available)

**\$40.00 per person**

Registration includes:

Green fees/Golf cart/Entry Package

Lunch/Goody bag

## ***Proceeds***

*to benefit the*

**“Lest We Forget “**

**Military Gallery Honoring All Veterans**

**of Nemaha County**

**At the Nemaha County Historical Museum, 113 North 6th,**

**Seneca, Kansas**

**Unveiled at the Museum Exhibits during Heritage Days 2010**

**Sunday, October 3, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.**

Contact person for Golf Classic :

David Hutfles, Chairman

785-294-1381

Contact e-mail: [hutflesd@gmail.com](mailto:hutflesd@gmail.com)

A recent inquiry from Joel of New Orleans came to the museum requesting information on the NEMAHA STEAM BOTTLING WORKS that once bottled soda water in Seneca. The museum was able to provide photos from the Dressie and Draney Nemaha Steam Bottling Works on 3rd and Main (1906). In response, Joel shared the following: "The bottle that they used was manufactured by the American Bottle Company (Streator, ILL, 1905-1929). So much history has been lost over the years. I wrote a poem for my book on New Orleans several years ago that deals with the subject of lost history. I have attached a copy of it. P.S. a pontil is bottle that has been made utilizing a glass rod, a Hutch is the type of bottle in your picture which is the original POP bottle (the stopper never came out of the bottle, a person had to drink around it; invented by Charles Hutchinson in Chicago in 1882 and banned by the FDA in 1906). A crown is the type of bottle we drink out of now which was invented by Charles Painter in 1894. Best Regards, and Many Thanks, Joel."

**Do our readers have any information to share about the Nemaha Steam Bottling Works?**

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

Date: Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

**2010 2011 Registration Form**

Due on July 1, 2010

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund (Windows/Doors) _____	

Due on July 1, 2010

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Memberships:      New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

**Annual Meeting      Burger Annex I      Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

Covered Dish Meal: 6:30 p.m.      Guest Speaker Greg Newlin, Columnist      Annual Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

## We Get Mail



### From Florida:

I am seeking help searching for the grave of Mary E. (Grimes) Rardin (variously spelling the wife of Seneca S. Rardin, disabled Civil War Veteran who lived in what became Seneca, Kansas. His wife died sometime between 1867 and 1870 most likely in or near Seneca Kansas. I have been working on the family genealogy for more than fifty years and have been spending the last twenty looking for information on Seneca S. Rardin.

Seneca Rardin was a carpenter and was discharged for disability (damage to eyes) from Company D, 8th Kansas Infantry. The small settlement where he lived took the name Seneca. He is living there with his wife and children in the 1865 Census of Kansas. His wife died at Seneca (I cannot find anything on the date or her grave) and the children are with his sister-in-law in Marshall County. Due to his blindness he did receive a pension and lived with his children until his death in 1912..

Because the town of Seneca was named for him is there any records of him or any houses he helped construct in the area as a carpenter?

—Dr. Donald E. Gradeless

**Editor's Note:** There is no known evidence that Seneca received its name from Seneca Rardin. The town was established in 1857 by C. G. Scrafford, Royal Torrey, Samuel and Finley Lapin. According to Tennal's history, they changed the name from Castle Rock to Seneca.

### From Tennessee:

I am writing for my father-in-law, Morris Werner, of Madison, TN; he is originally from Manhattan, KS and gets your newsletter. Morris is wondering if you would be able to locate his great-grandfather's home; an address would be great and a picture would also be helpful. His name was George W. Losee, born in 1820 in the East, moved to Seneca, KS and built his house in 1880. He was an accomplished carpenter, among other things.

Morris is 80 years old now and doesn't feel up to making the trip back to Kansas, but would like very much to see what the house looks like now. He said that as of 1961 the house was still "L" shaped, and located about 3 blocks north of the Gilford Hotel and on the East end of town.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

—Annelle Werner

**Editor's note:** The George W. Losee house was located at 212 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. A newer house was built in 1960 and remodeled in 1995. Monty Noland lives there. Do you have a picture of the original house in your scrapbook?

### E-Mail Subscriptions

If you'd like to receive your newsletter earlier, in color and help save NCHS copying and mailing expenses, please e-mail your request to: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)

### From Rochester, New York:

Thank you for your help today with the history of Seneca. If you have any further information about the origins of the Seneca's name, let us know.  
— Kim of law office

### From Tonganoxie, KS

I am trying to find an ancestor by the name of Josef Stuke, who may have lived in Nemaha County. He was born Feb. 15, 1858 in Germany. His parents were Franz-Albert and Maria-Elisabeth Stuke. He had two brothers, Anton and Henry, that lived in Nemaha County. Do you have any records that I can search for Josef Stuke?  
—J. Stuke

### From Atlanta, GA:

Hello! I have a couple questions - we will be visiting Nemaha County in early June - my grandparents lived in the Axtell area in the early 1900's.

Is there a historical museum open to the public in the Nemaha County area? If so, what days/times is the museum open?

S. McAllister

(Granddaughter of Rosa Coughlin Pilla and Frank Pilla)

### Wanted:

NCHS needs additional file cabinets for 8 x 5 inch cards in Genealogy Collection—Obituaries