

TimeLines

Volume 1, Issue 12

November, 2002

Coffey County Historical Society & Museum

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McMullen Windmill donated to Museum!

The Museum has been searching for a windmill for quite some time. Last year, Mike Tweedy asked Bill and Helen McMullen about donating their windmill to the museum. After talking it over with their daughters they all agreed that it would be a wonderful addition to the museum. In October of 2001, Bill and Helen McMullen donated a windmill that had been on their farm since the early 1900s. Jim Krueger, a welder, moved the windmill to town where Doug Birk refurbished the head. Jim Decker, Dave Codney, James Lovin, Shawn Smith, and Mile Walley refurbished the tower, poured a concrete pad and erected it.

Bill was hoping to be able to see the windmill up and running, but sadly he passed away

on October 13, 2002. A little less than a month later, on November 15, 2002, a dedication ceremony for the windmill took place.



Burlington Mayor Ron Stump and Coffey County Commissioner Larry Crofts helped Helen McMullen cut the ribbon that was tied around the windmill. Several other guests were present for the dedication along with Helen's daughter Linda and grandson and Sid Meeker of the Coffey County Chamber and Jim Decker and his crew.

The McMullen windmill, not only a beautiful addition to our historical collection, will be used as an education tool to teach children about windmills and what their purpose on the prairie had been. We thank the McMullen family for their generous donation of the windmill.

The windmill even has an amazing and very distinctive squeak and we are so glad it does!



Welcome Shirley Gorge!

For those of you that I have not had the privilege to meet yet, I would like to introduce myself.

My name is Shirley Gorge and I am the newest staff addition to Coffey County Museum. I have been here since the middle of September and absolutely love it! I moved to Burlington the middle of my senior year in high school, way back in 1992. Up until that point my father was active duty in the United States Air Force. He retired after 30 years as a Chief Master Sargent. I was born in Germany and still have my dual citizenship. My older brother Bill was born in Turkey. My sister was the only odd ball, she was born in Washington. Moving was a normal thing for us, with 5 years being the longest we ever stayed at one place.

In 1994 I had a beautiful

little girl which we named Tierra Blair Withers. Time sure fly's



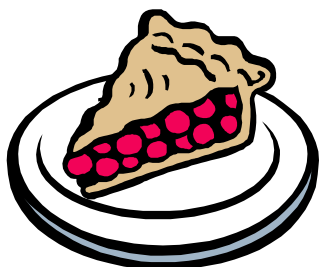
considering she is almost as tall as I am now and in the third grade. My husband and I divorced a little over 2 years ago, but we have a good relationship, which helps, in raising our daughter. Once divorced I went back to college and got an Associate degree in Business from Topeka Technical

College. I worked in Topeka for while but the drive was long and I missed my daughter, so I decided to see if I could find a rewarding job in Burlington. Boy did I ever!

My weeks are pretty busy outside of work, and if you see me around town I am usually looking straight ahead and almost running. I am a co-leader for my daughter's Brownie troop on Monday, and also participate on a bowling league that same night with my parents, brother, and sister. My daughter has taken dance for 6 years and is now in Ballet, Tap and Jazz. She says that she's going to be a teacher when she grows up and then after school she will be a dance Teacher. Of course,, being 8 she also throws in the fact that during summer vacation she's going to be a doctor.

Bake Sale

We had success two years ago when we had a Bake Sale during the Arts and Crafts Festival at BHS. This year, however, it was a very different story. We had lots and lots of wonderful baked goods but no one came in to buy them. The staff made lots of baked goods as well as our many



dedicated volunteers and the museum smelled wonderful. But we had so many things left over. . . It was so sad. But, in order to make something good come from it—we took the remainder of the

baked goods and distributed them between some family's that a local sorority had "adopted" for Thanksgiving. That way all of the goods were not wasted! And the family's were thrilled to receive the items.

Old Houses in Coffey County—a new display! By Shirley Gorge

As you walk into the museum, look up! I am working on a display of old homes of Coffey County. There are so many older houses in the Coffey County area with amazing stories, we decided that would be a perfect project for us to do. I have started with the Burlington area, but my plans are to rotate to the other towns every few months, so if any of you have suggestions for the other towns in Coffey County

please let me know!

The first one that has been exhibited is that of Deborah and Pete Kennamore's house. On display is an old photograph as well as a new photograph of their home. Along with the photos are information on the house itself, i.e., when it was built, who built it, the style, etc. I am also adding some interesting information on the original owners of the house. After reading it, I'm sure you will

not look at the houses the same way again!



From the Director—Deborah Kennamore

Believe it or not the holidays are upon us! As I get older each year the holidays seem to come faster. . . I wonder why that is. At my home, my husband and I are experiencing the "empty nest syndrome." Daniel our youngest is a freshman at KU and, because he is in the Marching Jayhawks, has only been home twice since school started. Our eldest son, Matthew works for Sprint in Kansas City. He is a computer guru. . . I don't know more about what he does and I don't understand the lingo. . . and I'm afraid to ask! Suffice to say that he has managed to hang in there with all of the lay-offs and we hope and pray that his good luck continues because he loves his job!

At work things are great. We have a lot to be thankful for here. Sharon's accident in January scared us all and we continue to pray for her and wish her well. We KNOW that Sharon has her own personal guardian angel. Everyone who came up on her wreck in January just knew that there would be no survivors. Thank goodness and the heavens above that the rescue workers were as careful and dedicated as they were. Sharon, and her husband Wayne survived the horrible accident and while Sharon has many challenges ahead of her she remains positive. Glenn Young our Senior Citizen worker suffered a stroke a month ago and while he scared everyone to pieces he is well on the road to recovery.

So those are many things that I find myself being thankful for. . . How about you?

As far as goals we have set for our up and coming 2003! We have set quite a few and perhaps we are being a bit optimistic but you have to set goals right? We are continuing to put our massive collection on Past Perfect — computer software for museums. Our paper archives is being cleaned out organized and updated. We are designing new educational tours and programs, I am writing a new employee and procedures manual, our B.I.-laws are being updated, we want to start an intern program, and we will continue to upgrade and change exhibits

with better signage. In addition we are going to break ground on the Gazebo in 2003, we want to increase membership and we are in the process of designing a Coffey County historical coloring book! Whew! I'm tired just thinking about it. We are also changing some things around as far as activities we have offered in the past. For instance instead of doing an annual buffet. . . this year we had a bake sale. And instead of having our Pioneer Days be the first Saturday in May. . . we are going to offer it in January for Kansas Days activities. Thinking if we shake things up a bit perhaps our attendance might be better. Also, we would like our staff to be able to enjoy May Daze activities as well as support the other cities in their special days. And we want to be able to attend the annual Kansas Sampler Festival. This will be the last year in Independence. In addition we want to offer more one day workshops and programs so stay tuned for an exciting and fun filled 2003!!!

**A time to be
thankful . . .**

News from the Genealogy Library by Patricia Price

After the Smithsonian exhibit left we took a deep breath and started working on all of the correspondence and questions for the Library that had been put on hold. The Genealogy Library is always a busy place and keeping it in order is a full time job! I sure do miss Glenn Young and especially all of his help in the library. Hopefully he will be back with us soon!

We continue to do quick "look-up's" for people who need just one name or one obituary and especially those folks



Our work is NEVER done!

that live too far away to just pop in and look up for themselves. Some of the people we have heard from are: Leota Simon, Elaine Baumgardner Kahler, John Shaffer, Jo Ann Williamson, Ella Gray, Holly Osborn, Gerald Rumbles, Lawana Cranefield, Virginia A.

Brestow, Mary Ann Peterman, Donald Short, Marjorie Cation, Richard Swymeler, Mike Davis and Roger Lake.

We have also had some personal visits from folks in Washington state, Utah and Virginia.

Also, we now have available the 1930 Federal Census and we have worked with the state museum to get some of our missing microfilm! I am also responsible for scheduling our volunteers who work on weekends so we can be open 7 days a week. We simply don't know how to thank you enough! We could not do without you and thank you so very much for all you do!

Student Workers—Courtney Meeker and Darrell Hoyt

My name is Courtney Meeker and I am seventeen years-old. I started working for the museum in May of 2002, and I am currently doing a three hour work study in the afternoon.

I worked on several scrapbooks for the Smithsonian exhibit after it left in August. I also have been indexing obituaries, accessioning artifacts that are in the museum, cleaning out the paper archives, and I cleaned out the linen archives when I first started. I also do any general cleaning that needs to be done and any other project for which I am needed. My favorite project was helping with the Historic Home display that is going up in the entry. I enjoyed learning about the different houses that are in Coffey County and the people that used to live in those houses. I have enjoyed working at the museum, and I have learned a lot from this experience.



Courtney Meeker

My name is Darrell Hoyt, I am also seventeen years old. I started right after school around the end of may. A typical day for me is to come in around 12:30. I check my chore sheet, and do the chores first

thing. The chores normally consist of dusting, sweeping, all things of that sort. After that is through I usually do what is needed to do at the time. That could range from more cleaning, mowing, raking, gardening, fixing minor problems, really anything that needs done. I enjoy the out door work the most. In specific mowing, gardening: which goes along close with what I want to do in life, landscaping.



Darrell Hoyt

I have gained a lot in working here. If I were to pick what I have learned the most at the museum, it would have to be learning the past of Coffey County.

I have learned all kinds of facts from what civilization was, to major problems encountered. This has also been my first job were working with people is needed to get a job done. The museum has taught me a valuable people skill. I know this is something I will use for the rest of my life. I have really enjoyed my job at the museum.

Pioneer Days—January instead of May this Year!!!

On January 25, 2002 the Coffey County Museum will host Pioneer Days in conjunction with Kansas Days. Our hopes for this year's Pioneer Days is to expand on the activities that we have offered in the past. One of our goals is to have more games and activities for the children that would show them what life would've been like on the frontier. We hope to offer some speakers and actors from around the state and new activities and games for all to enjoy. In the past we have offered things such as making candles, churning butter, pottery, apple peeling, etc. In addition to those tried and true items Shirley

and Deborah have been making the rounds of all the museums in the state to see what activities they offer their kids for Kansas Day activities and we hope to implement those activities as well. This even will take the place of the Pioneer Days usually held the first Saturday of May. There will be more announcements



about the day in upcoming issues of this newsletter as well as the local radio stations and newspapers and shoppers, so stay tuned! It will be an exciting day for all, make sure you come by to see us! This will be a perfect way for our kids and adults to "experience" a day in the life of pioneers!

Update on Glenn Young and Sharon Hess

Sharon and Wayne Hess are "almost" finished with their new home in Waverly. After Sharon's accident this past January the rush began to finish the house and get it ready for Sharon to scoot around and give her plenty of room for mobility. They hope to be in their new home for Christmas if not sooner: 1675 Reaper Road NE Waverly, KS



Update on Glenn Young and Sharon

66871 is Sharon's address so you can write or send cards. Sharon has been into the museum a couple of times lately and with the help of her Mom and Dad and dedicated husband she is doing great and her spirits are admirable.

Glenn Young suffered a stroke a month ago and spent some time in the hospital in Topeka but is home now and resting up and hopes to be back to work soon. He can be reached at 611 2nd Street, Gridley, KS 66852. Please send these two fine people cards and letters of encouragement and most importantly your prayers!

4-H Display by Shirley Gorge



The first display that I did was on 4-H and 4-H week. It was a challenge for me at first because I did not know the first thing about 4-H at all! I can proudly say now, I do. Elaine Gifford brought in some articles that her children had made along with other mothers and 4-H'rs. Chris Faimon from The Coffey County Republican did a wonderful job of enlarging a page from the newspaper that listed all the children, clubs, and information on 4-H in Coffey County. Once pieced together that became the central focusing point for the display. The children did a wonderful job on all of their projects, and it is easy to see how much time they spent in completing them. On display is everything from entomology, photography, ceramics, woodworking, clothing, pottery and trophies. I was very proud of the children for all the effort they put into their projects, as I know everyone who had seen the display would agree.

Coffey County Historical Society & Museum

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We're on the Web:
www.coffeycountymuseum.org

Time to Renew your Membership!

Once again it is that time of the year to renew your membership in the Coffey County Historical Society. Did you know that your membership dues are used to send these quarterly newsletters as well as other updates and the membership dues are put in the Endowment Fund to help support our other projects as well? Your \$5 per year/per person is very much needed as is always put to good use. This past year we offered an 8-week display from the Smithsonian called Yesterday's Tomorrows, offered Pioneer Days as well as other workshops and activities. With all of the budget cuts around the state your membership dollars are becoming more and more important to us every year! We can't do this without you! So as you are making your donations and dues payments for this

year please send us a donation. Your \$5 per person is greatly appreciated and we hope that you might include a bit extra this year. We are going to be doing a bunch of things this year and we are going to break ground on our Gazebo. Remember if you itemize your tax deductions we are a 501 c three Charity! We need you to help us since the September



It is time to renew your membership!

11th disaster our donations dollars are down! Please think of us and include your \$5 membership dues and a "bit extra" and mail to:

**The Coffey County Historical Society
and Museum**

**1101 Neosho Street
Burlington, KS 66839**

We know at this time of the year you are hit hard by other charities and not for profits so we thank you in advance. Remember that these dollars donated are guaranteed to stay "in the county!"
