

The Coffey County Historical Society & Museum

# TimeLines

### Employees

Deborah Kennamore, Director  
 Shirley Gorge, Curator and Education Curator  
 Pat Price, Genealogy  
 Jean Beaty, Front Office  
 Courtney Meeker, student worker  
 Glenn Young, GreenThumb

### Board

Bill Freeman  
 Jo Ann Phillips  
 Opal I. Kunkel  
 Kent Hoyt  
 Mona Veteto  
 Kelly Hull  
 Duane Fitch

## New exhibit for trunks at YOUR museum!

Did you know that trunks have been a part of American life since the 1600's? Did you know that the first crude trunks to be brought to the new colonies were referred to as immigrant trunks? Did you know that the first books purchased for the Library of Congress in 1800 was shipped in "hair" trunks. These are just a few things that the visitors will learn as they take a look at the newest "trunk" display. Assembled just in time for Kansas Day activities, the trunk display showcases our large collection of trunks, as well as interesting information on the different types of trunks. One of

the trunks on display has paper covering on the inside lid, a fashion that came about during the mid 1800's. Also, an old WWII trunk is on display with the soldiers belongings still inside. Vintage photographs and naturalization papers of early day Coffey Countians are also on display to show what these trunks might have carried at one time.



A peek at the trunk display. The information and signs are almost as interesting as the trunks themselves.

Visit your museum and see what you know about trunks! Our visitor hours on Monday through Friday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. See you soon!

### News from the Director by Deborah Kennamore

Hello to all! We are sick to death of winter around here! When will the sun shine? We were promised sun yesterday but no. . . We got rain instead. Oh well, at least it wasn't snow!

Every one here is very busy trying to get use to our new computers and getting signs up every where. Shirley Gorge has been like the little sign fairy. I love walking through the museum and reading all of the interesting information that she has put together.

Courtney Meeker, our student worker has been really busy

putting together a map of the museum. She will be happy when that project is done (so will we!)

Pat Price and Glenn Young have been working steady at updating the genealogy library and cleaning the Paper Archives. We have had plenty of visitors working in those locations so that has been fun for us. Mona Veteto, one of our Board members has been generous with her time and helping us out! Duane Fitch, another Board member has been generous with his "looking up skills" as well.

Jean Beaty is in and out with her

medical challenges. . . When she is here she works on Birthday cards and correspondence and answers the phone with her cheery voice.

And when I am not attending meetings for one thing or another I am working on the computer writing an employee manual and updating our donations. We are not idle. . . Come see us! Remember we LOVE Company here at YOUR museum!

**So plan a trip soon and bring all your friends and neighbors!**

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The new signage is visible in the picture of the “back porch” scene located in the Cochran Gallery.

## Signage in the Museum

If you were to come into the Museum and walk around, how easy would it be for you to know what each display, each artifact represented? Sadly, the answer probably would be, “not easy at all.” To make the museum more “visitor friendly”, new signage will be created and posted in order to better educate the

public on all of our wonderful artifacts. Shirley Gorge has set a goal for the year to complete the signage on all the displays in the museum. All the staff members are really getting an education as the signs go up. We have found out so much about what the artifacts were used for as well as who donated the

item.

It just goes to show you that we are all busy here at the museum. There is ALWAYS something new going on at YOUR museum. We encourage you to visit often to keep up to date on the latest!

*“Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday dear Historical Society member. Happy Birthday to you!”*

## We NEED your birthdates!

We love to celebrate birthdays around here. Let’s face it the older we get the more history we have! Part of that history needs to be shared. We ask a lot of our Historical Society members and often we seek you out because of your date of birth so that we can quiz you on events. Please share with us your date of birth . . . We promise we won’t share it with

anyone else!

Speaking of birthdays here are a few to celebrate:

Jo Ann Phillips	Feb.25
Mona Veteto	Feb. 27
Pat Price	March 8
Joan Freeman	March 16
Courtney Meeker	March 30

Brad Jones	March 25
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Fred Samuel Jones	March 25
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Matthew Kennamore	April 1
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Louise Wortman	April 28
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Duane Fitch	April 26
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Leona Winter	May 2
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Patty Sanborn	May 22
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!



Jean Beaty (left) and Patricia Price (right) are our faithful employees! Kelly Hull in the background is a Board member.

## The Front Office by Jean Beaty

My duties vary as a part-time employee. I am able to assist in the ongoing chores which are performed on a daily basis to keep the museum open, to assisting others where help is needed on their special projects.

Things such as scheduling group tours, mailings of requests for brochures and other information provided by us, to working the

front office and greeting our guests, answering the telephone and assisting the Director where possible with any of her secretarial needs, some social correspondence and filing, filing, filing!

Note from Editor: As many of you already know Jean Beaty is a godsend to all of us. She is a bright, sunny and happy

individual that meets and greets “with style”. I hope Jean will allow me to share with you that she is facing some very personal challenges right now as she has recently been diagnosed with cancer. We are keeping her in our prayers and hope you will too!

**We love you Jean!**

## The Topeka Genealogical Society will co-Host a Conference

The Topeka Genealogical Society is Co-Hosting with the Kansas State Historical Society the TGS' 31st Annual Genealogy Conference "From Clues to Facts" featuring: Birdie Monk Holsclaw of Longmont, Colorado on Saturday, April 26, 2003 at the Kansas State Historical Society's History Center in Topeka.

Holsclaw has been conducting

research on a professional basis since 1987. She has lectured at numerous conferences throughout the nation.

Registration is 7:45 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. with several mini-sessions offered throughout the day. Such sessions as: **Beginning Genealogy, 5 Documentation Myths, How to Turn a Clue into A Usable Source, Neighborhoods:**

**Correlating Land and Census Records, From Hypothesis to Proof: A Case Study, and a Questions and Answers session.** For questions regarding the conference write or call the TGS Library at 785-233-5762 or the Conference Coordinator, Nora Patton Taylor at 785-286-1606 after 5 p.m.

Hope to see you there!

## Genealogy Library by Patricia Price

There is always something going on the Library at the museum. This wonderful library is a great source of information for genealogy as well as history of the county and surrounding areas. Even if you are a novice at genealogy we can help you get started! We are always on the lookout for names such as Evelyn Whitfield, Art Metcalf, Sherry Howard, Cathy Fagan, Vivian Olson, and Emily Sitzas.

We have been really busy in the library. The Paper Archives is continuing to be updated by wrapping, cleaning, and indexing pictures, books and papers.

Many people have been in

to use our updated Microfilm and 1930 Census (Brand new to us).



**Wrapped books and papers to inhibit the toxins that are emitted.**

We now have a computer in the library to help organize the books and names of local people as well as for the public to use.

Glenn Young is back to

work. He continues to work on county obituaries from 1970 to 2001 and filling in the names that were missed

in our files. Everything goes faster and smoother with him around!

We love having visitors here in the library and hope you will continue to use us for sources. I want to thank everyone for

using our genealogy library and telling their friends of our resources. Luck of the Irish to ya!



**Long view of Paper Archives**



Courtney is hard at work making signs!

## Map of the Museum by Courtney Meeker

I work after school. I come in around 1 p.m. and am here until 5 p.m. Right now I am working on a map of the museum, along with doing my daily chores. The map will be placed in the entry way so that all of our visitors will know what is in the museum and where they find things. There will be a list of the displays that are in each room, and it will be updated as we change displays. After the map is

completed I will be working on signs that will designate the names of the gallery's in the museum. Each gallery has been named after something from Coffey County's history. There is a Cochran Gallery (named after Dorothy Cochran); Patchen Hall (named after the famous race horse); Asbury Gallery (first name of Col. Coffey that the county was named after); Pioneer Gallery; Sunflower

Gallery and the Flint Hills Gallery. We are excited to be getting organized and hope that the public can see what an effort we are making to give them a better tourism experience by giving them much more information with the new signage.

## Pioneer Days, 2003

All of us here thought it might be fun to have our Pioneer Days during the Kansas Day Activities instead of during the Burlington May Daze, as an experiment. We call

the experiment a great success as we had plenty of people in all during the day and the activities were fun. This part of the newsletter is dedicated to those hard working volunteers who

helped us make the day so very special!



Roger Douglas and Bill Knapp



Helene Hall working at the loom



Toke Phillips and Courtney Meeker





Jean Beaty and Jo Ann Phillips are making BUTTER!



Pete Kennamore doesn't mind taking the cash from the diners.



Delicious food by Sheri Volland!



Neil Ferman, dedicated volunteer.



Lena Griffin works with guests.



Greg and Shirley Arnold with toys



Our "school marm" Becky Vannocker



Coffey County Executive Director, Sid Meeker



Greg Arnold and his toys are always a big hit!



Our "preacher" Joel Vannocker



Richard Croll helps his child make a pioneer doll

1101 Neosho Street  
Burlington, KS 66839

620-364-2653  
620-364-8933  
director@coffeycountymuseum.org

Address  
correction  
requested!

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

## Straw Art Exhibit coming to Coffey County Museum

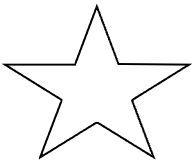
The Kansas Association of Straw Artists Traveling Museum is pleased to announce the location for the upcoming traveling exhibit will be at The Coffey County Historical Museum. The straw arts will be on exhibit for the months of May and June of 2003.

Representatives of the Kansas Association of Straw Artists will be in Burlington on April 30 to bring the exhibit and set it up for viewing by the public. There will also be some items that will be available for purchase at the Coffey County Museum Gift Shoppe.

"It is our policy that nothing can be sold of the traveling exhibit until the last day of the showing should someone want to buy a piece. It is just too hard for our members to get another wheat weaving made to replace one being sold," said Gina Sharp, KASA President and Traveling Exhibit Chair.

This exhibit will be here at a great time for Coffey County as it will be available during many of the summer activities surrounding the county. Hopefully we will have lots of people visiting us during this time to make this exhibit a worthwhile project. So mark those calendars now!

**DO YOU HAVE A STAR NEAR YOUR MAILING LABEL? IF SO, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS PAST DUE. PLEASE REMIT \$5 PER PERSON ASAP. THANK YOU!**



## Museum Gift Shoppe

Are you looking for the perfect gift item? We can help you out. We have Kansas symbols and emblems as silver charm jewelry. We also carry many other gift items like Kansas post cards (even some from Coffey County!) and Kansas scenes stationary. There are also many Kansas authored books and books about Kansas. How about that perfect Kansas calendar? We have those as well. Also we sell the Kansas Magazine just stocked full of information about fun things to see and do in Kansas. We offer many items that you won't find for sale anywhere else in the county. So when shopping for that hard to find gift, especially a "Kansas" gift please come see YOUR Coffey County Gift Shoppe.