

# Timelines

Volume 5, Issue 2

August 2008

## Coffey County Historical Board of Trustees:

President: Jody Hood

Vice President: Kelly Hull

Treasurer: Duane Fitch

Bud Redding

Andrea Schiffelbein

Retha Sleezer

## Coffey County Historical Museum Staff:

Executive Director: Deborah Kennamore

Curator : Shirley Gorge

Superintendent: Walter Mayne

Office Staff: Jean Beaty

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## Annual Meeting

The Coffey County Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Coffey County Historical Museum. All members of the Coffey County Historical Society are invited to attend.

Six out of the seven positions on the Coffey County Historical Board of Trustees are up for election. Any current member of the Coffey County Historical Society is eligible to serve on the board, unless they have reached the term limit of three. This year all members are eligible except Duane Fitch who has served all three terms of eligibility.

### Agenda:

#### I. Introductions

#### II. Presentations

- a. Retiring board member
- b. Dedicated Service Award
- c. Coffey County Commission
- d. Ribbon cutting for donated fire hydrant—Melvin Cummings
- e. Unveiling of renovated Holtz wishing well

#### III. Slate of Officers

#### IV. Update of events at the museum

**V. Speaker:** Barbara Chalker, Office of Rural Opportunity Representative of the Kansas Department of Commerce

## Most Recent Donations:

Donated by **Helen Hock**- Doll trunk with assorted doll clothes, 16 dolls. 14 Uncle Tom Cabins character cloth dolls which belonged to Clara Murry Houston (Helen's Grandmother), and quilt from June 11, 1872.

Donated by **Audrey Keith**- Friendship Quilt from the Prairie view Ladies Aid, early 1930's.

Donated by **Rebecca Vannocker**- Upright Hoover Vacuum, Electrolux Vacuum. Clothes spanning from 1920's through 1970's. 1954 child's jump seat used for Becky when she was a baby. 3 space heaters, books, 213 National Geographic's spanning from 1928 through 1992.

Donated by **Isabel Lang**- Abraham Lincoln framed portrait.

**NOTICE:** Normally the monthly board meetings are held at 4 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month; however, starting in October the meeting time will change. We will notify you of the updated meeting time. Also, for this month ONLY the September meeting will be right before the Annual Meeting on Monday September 22nd at 6 p.m. As always, visitors and members of the historical society are welcome to attend any of these meetings. We hope to see you Monday, September 22nd for both meetings at the museum!

# News from the Director

## Deborah Stinson Kennamore

**Oops!** Yes, for those of you keeping track we are behind schedule on the TimeLines newsletter. We've had several things that we were waiting to complete before sending out the newsletter, now finally we think we are ready to print. Please forgive us! I think when you hear all the news you will understand it has been a very busy winter, spring, and summer here.

So let's get all of you caught up on what is going on here at the museum and Historical Society. We have been finalizing our budget for the Coffey County

Commissioners and preparing to submit it to them; in addition we have been auditing and updating our constitution and by-laws; an arduous task as they have not been updated since the 80's. We now have nice and neat books with all the information required. Also, as part of that process we updated all of our board minutes and put them in binders. The paperwork had gotten so far behind in the past years that it was a MUST project for us to proceed. We have also received a record number of requests for genealogical information this summer which has kept me quite busy as some of my very trusted volunteers have been vacationing or have become ill. Speaking of that...we are deeply saddened that Duane Fitch (one of our board members) is in the Coffey County Hospital. He is "Mr. Burlington" to us and lots of other folks. He has lived here his entire life and is my own personal "go to guy" when I am doing research or genealogy. We hope all of you will take just a moment and send him a card at the address of:

Duane Fitch /co  
Coffey County Hospital  
Room 208  
801 N 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Burlington, Ks 66839

We are very worried about him and hope he will have his day brightened by lots of cards and prayers!

The weather here has made our yard grow and look so wonderful. Walter Mayne and Lucas Nelson have put in hours and hours of work to make our yard look special. We are not eligible to be awarded "yard of the month" but if we were I bet the sign would be sitting in our yard! There have been a number of projects that we have been able to complete in the past few months. Things like: waterproofing the board walk; accessioning donations to our collection; putting up new exhibits (such our new elections exhibit); planting flowers in the yard and planter boxes; renovating an old fire hydrant and the Holtz wishing well; as well as we have started scraping and caulking the exterior of the Church for painting. We are also preparing for our annual meeting in September and election of officers to our board. It is always busy here at the museum.

We are very excited that Barbara Chalker, Office of Rural Opportunity Representative of the Kansas Department of Commerce will be our guest speaker at our annual meeting. There will be a short business meeting, the slate of officers presented along with several presentations and awards given that evening! We are looking forward to seeing all of you. Shortly after the annual meeting we will be mailing out the ballots for the election so all of

you will have an opportunity to vote! We believe we have a nice slate of candidates for you to choose from!

Also, we have fully recovered from the water damage and most of the cases have been filled again; many of them with new items that have not been displayed in years! So if you have not visited the museum lately you should stop by and take a look, especially the newest exhibit that Shirley Gorge has just completed for the Elections... it is just beautiful and more information than I can share with you in this short article.

We are most grateful to the Coffey County Commissioners. A few months ago we discovered our aging Heating/Air Conditioning and Ventilation system was puffing and chugging to an end. The Commissioners granted us \$79,000 to upgrade and repair! One air conditioner has already been replaced with other repairs starting this week. We are also upgrading all of the pneumatic controls to digital controls. Thanks Commissioners for helping us stay current and up-to-date. We are MOST grateful!

We recently hosted the Arts in the Parks for the Coffey County Arts Council. Of course, it rained the day before and the gazebo site was changed to be inside...luckily the participants didn't mind and fun was had by all.

Come see us folks! Believe it or not, the gas prices didn't bother us a bit this summer. We had record attendance for visitors. So now that the price of gas is falling a bit...there is no excuse, come see us.

# Coffey County Historical Society Life Members

Ackerman, Gayla Lonene	Epting, Polly	Hoover, Carlita	Matney, Linda J.	Sauder, Ray
Adkins, Joan	Evans, Dean	Hoover, Lisa	Mattox, Martha	Schick, Donald L.
Allen, Linda K.	Evans, George	Hoover, Ned	McAlister, VS	Schick, Ruth
Anliker, Tyler	Evans, Sue	Hoover, Ron	McConnell, John	Schultz, Achsah Carter
Atherly, Mary Lou DeLong	Evans, Terry L.	Hoyt, Kent	McReynolds, Richard L.	Smith, Ivan
Banks, Peggy	Ferrara, Melchoir A.	Hoyt, Lori	Meadar, Craig	Smith, Marjorie J.
Bedwell, L.F.	Finkbiner, Patricia	Hull, Kelly J.	Meadar, Peggy	Spriggs, Judy
Birk, Julia Mae	Finkbiner, Terry	Hull, Sheldon L.	Merry, Barbara	Stukey, Arthur
Bohrer, Paul	Fitch, Duane	Johnson, Cloyce E.	Merry, Gene	Stukey, Kent
Brecheisen, Betty	Freeman, Bill	Johnson, Diane S.	Neil, Eunice Johnson	Trimble, Chuck
Bruce, Nellie	Freeman, Calvin Dean	Johnson, Jerry D.	Parnay, Arlene Carpenter	Trimble, Jenifer
Bruce, Robert Lyle	Freeman, Diane	Johnson, John E.	Purvis, Lois Jean	Trimble, Joyce
Clapp, Grace (Sauder)	Freeman, Elva	Johnson, Loren E.	Raaf, Clarence	Trimble, Randy
Clark, Joanna	Freeman, Joan	Jones, Don	Raaf, Esther	Trostle, Jerilee
Clark, Larry	Fulk, Doris L.	Jones, Fred S.	Raaf, Fred A.	Trostle, Kerry
Cochran, Dorothy	Garrett, Emily	Jones, Glenda	Raaf, Gary	Ubert, Ann
Coffey County Council for the Arts	Garrett, Millie	Kaufman, Helen Garn	Raaf, Harvey G.	Ubert, Gary
Coffey County Land Title Co. Inc	Geery, Barbara	Kennamore, Deborah	Raaf, James L.	Veteto, Mona
Coldsmith, Don	Griffin, Lena	Kennamore, William "Pete"	Raaf, Ralph	Watson, Irene
Coldsmith, Edna	Hatch, Bonnie	Knapp, Bill	Raaf, Richard	Wilkinson, Al
Conrad, Mary E.	Hatch, Homer	Kniss, Clarence	Raynesford, Carolyn C.	Wilkinson, Opal
Cox, Juanita	Hayes, Edris Irwin	Kniss, Donna	Redding, Bud	Williamson, Bernice
Curtiss, Larry M.	Herr, Bob	Kunkel, Opal I.	Redding, Carol	Williamson, Arthur W.
DeLong, Roy G.	Hess, Sharon	Little, Charles F.	Reisbig, Clara L.	Williamson, Mitch
Dunlap, Dr. James	Hess, Wayne	Lowman, Nadine	Salava, Dan	Woods, Chloe
Dunlap, Judith	Hood, Betty Jo	Luke, Lola Mae	Salava, Tammy	Woods, Frank
Epting, Gary	Hood, Herbert	Martindale, Paul	Salisbury, Florence Conrad	

# August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 * <i>Mona Veteto</i>
24 * <i>Darlene Smith Charly &amp; Doris Stinson's Anniversary.</i>	25 <i>Bill Walker, Birthday</i>	26 <i>Pete &amp; Deborah Kennamore's 30th Wedding Anniversary</i>	27	28 <i>Charley Stinson, Birthday</i>	29	30 * <i>Retha Sleezer; Alice &amp; Merlin Williams, Wedding Anniversary</i>
31 * <i>Mary Ann McAlister</i>						* <b>Weekend Volunteer</b>

# September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Labor Day</b> Museum Closed	2 <i>Marc &amp; Tara Glade Anniversary; CC Strategic Planning meeting</i>	3	4	5 Greg Arnold Birthday	6 Tony McClafin Birthday
7	8	9 AASLH Annual Meeting, Rochester, New York	10 AASLH	11 AASLH Helen Kaufman, Birthday	12	13
14 Johnnie Sleezer & Rhonda Turley Birthday	15	16	17	18 SEKTR Terry Finkbiner, Birthday	19	20 Ed Alvis & Bob Hyde Birthday
21	22 CCHS Meetings	23	24	25	26	27
28 Jody Hendrickson Birthday	29 Maxine Garrett Birthday	30				

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Tim & Brenda Klubek, Anniversary	2	3	4
5	6 Karen Duran, Birthday	7 Patti & John Shell, Anniversary	8 Coffey County Strategic Planning Melanie Curtis, Birthday	9	10	11 David Morgan, Birthday
12 Gary Haas, Birthday	13 Blanka Kantack, Birthday	14 John & Dixie Edington, Anniversary	15 Julie Elson, Birthday	16	17	18
19	20 Eunice Neil, Birthday	21 Mildred Crane, Birthday	22	23	24 Shirley Arnold & Joan Kuhlmann Birthday	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Obituary

**Lonnie Floyd Bedwell** born August 2, 1912 in Eagle City, Oklahoma. Son of Otto Perkins and Gertrude Mullen, Lonnie moved to LeRoy, Kansas in the summer of 1919 with his grandparents; John Edward and Mary Ann Mullen. Graduated from KSTC in Emporia with a Degree in Natural Sciences and completed a Masters Degree in Natural Sciences at Kansas State. He taught natural sciences at Jr Colleges until the time of his retirement at age 65. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Miss LaVerne Christine Crotts, sister Eva, and brother Burton Brown of Kelseyville, Ca. He was survived by his daughter Lorene Ackerman of Shawnee, Ks; brothers Melvin and Dean Moore, three granddaughters, one grandson, and six great granddaughters.

### Weekend Volunteers:

Bob and Darlene Crouch; Glenn & Phyllis Dorcas; Duane Fitch; Iona and Homer Dotson; Kelly Hull; Herb and Jody Hood; Lois Hills; Marjorie and Janet Lewis; Della Meyer; Mary Ann McAlister; John McConnell; Retha Sleezer; Bud Redding; Rick and Nancy Raymer; Andrea Schiffelbein; Patti Barrett; Darlene Smith; Mona Veteto; Warren and Ida Wilson; Tony McClafin; Matthew Simmons.

# Election Display

The 2008 presidential election is fast approaching. To commemorate the 2008 presidential election, an election display was created to highlight the museum's political campaign memorabilia as well as interesting historical information. We hope to provide evidence that supports how truly amazing it is how just one vote can really make a difference; so please do not forget that when election time comes around.

One of the centerpiece items on the display is a campaign torch from Benjamin Harrison's second campaign for presidency in 1892 against Grover Cleveland in which Grover Cleveland won. It is still in good condition and we are excited to be able to bring it out of storage for the general public to see. Displayed along side the campaign torch are numerous political buttons, political

ribbons and political postcards. The museum's collection of political buttons from gubernatorial, congressional, senatorial and presidential campaigns span from the years of 1904 through the present. Presidents with campaign memorabilia on display include Benjamin Harrison, William



McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry

Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

The election display would not be complete without our three blackball ballot boxes. To vote by blackball, a person would vote for a candidate by placing a white ball into the ballot box and vote against the candidate by placing a black ball in the ballot box. This form of voting was typically seen in club organizations and fraternities but blackball voting has been around since the ancient Greeks and continues, yet, still today. The election display also has two tin ballot boxes used in Coffey County as well as a wooden ballot box.



# A Letter from Walter Mayne

\*Walter is our new full time Maintenance Superintendent at the Coffey County Historical Museum.

I am 48 years old and have been married for almost half of my life. My wife Jean is a former farmer's daughter who now works at Arnold's Greenhouse. After almost 24 years of marriage, this coming January 12, she deserves a medal and a lot of credit! We met after I moved from Michigan to Wichita, and then to Beloit Kansas for work. My home town is actually Alma, Michigan but I went to college in Detroit and graduated with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. Why the move? No jobs in Michigan in 1982 with the auto industry leaving the state and many opportunities out west in Kansas; of course it didn't hurt that I had family in Wichita to fall back on either.

I have worked with troubled youth in the "system" in a group home in Wichita, as well as at the Youth Center in Beloit as a Safety and Security Officer. I also have worked with the developmentally disabled, as well as with Pamida as a Store Team Leader. Pamida is actually what brought us here to Burlington.

After working for Pamida for 4 years I accepted an offer to run two stores in Columbus and Girard Kansas. After only 3 months of living in Pittsburg they offered me the store here in Burlington. So, we moved again. It's been an experience! Pamida and I parted ways and I managed Pizza Hut in Yates Center until I accepted the position of Superintendent here at the museum in March of this year.

I am enjoying not supervising people and working mostly with things...inanimate objects don't talk back and don't have problems getting to work on time! Since being here I have kept busy. A couple of projects that I have worked on are the butterfly flower gardens out front and the bird bath, as well as the flower boxes on the board walk. These were a joy to put in, especially since one of my hobbies is gardening. Of course the lawn and it's upkeep is an ongoing project and I usually enjoy it as well, especially since I am outside and get tanned and a good work out!

Perhaps one of my favorite areas of the museum though would be the Cochran gallery with it's rooms. Many items remind me of younger years at my grandparent's house and the many trips that my wife and I have taken to various museums and/or antique malls.

An interesting fact that not too many people know about me is that I have an identical twin brother. He lives in Covington, Louisiana and is nothing like me! Just ask Jean, she got the best of the pair!

## Current Projects

Whenever someone asks what I do at the museum it's never hard to answer. We have had and still have many projects going on all the time. Just a short listing of projects and what has been happening follows: Planting and ongoing maintenance of flower beds and boxes; Pruning and caring for existing roses; Tree care.....this has been an effort with the winds and heavy rains that we have experienced. Not only have there been many branches trimmed and dead ones fall off, but we are now seeing some of the affects with bugs and caterpillars, (not the good ones) all over some of the trees; Lawn upkeep is always at the top of the list. We had a lot of mower problems early on, and like the saying, "nothing runs like a deere", our mower just plain refused to be consistent in running properly and had to be replaced. It served the museum well though, as I understand that it was 13 years old. What a legacy for the new mower. It is a nice one with a 54" cutting base and zero turn radius. With the lawn we have also been fighting dollar spots and brown patches as a result of all the water. It seems to be recovering and is looking nice; The Harold Holtz wishing well had to be reworked as time and the weather took it's toll; Melvin Cummings donated an old fire hydrant that had to be cleaned up for display. We are in the process of getting it ready to paint and are planning to provide a spot outside on which to place it. The air conditioning, heating, and humidity systems are being worked on. We already had one a/c unit replaced and they are moving along with going through the entire system and updating. It is our hope that it won't be long and we will be up and running with new digital controls that will provide many years of efficient and accurate service; We are currently working on preparing the outside of the church for painting and hope to have this done before the weather turns cold. With any luck, the school will be next. We have also started painting inside the Asbury gallery as well. Lots of paint and man hours to come!; Now, anyone have any other questions about what keeps the days full and me working full time?

# Membership Dues

Membership in the Historical Society is a wonderful way to be a part of and showing support in your community. Annual membership is \$5.00 per person/ per year. You will receive a quarterly newsletter and invitations to all upcoming grand openings. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP is our best value; with a donation of \$100 or more you no longer have to pay the \$5 annual dues. As a lifetime member your name will be put on a plaque at the entrance of the museum. A lifetime

membership also qualifies you for the quarterly newsletter and invitations to all upcoming grand openings.

Please take a minute to fill out and mail back the membership form below and return to the museum with your payment. If you prefer, come by the museum to update your membership, we would love to see you!

We are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday—Friday and 1:00

p.m.—4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. We must receive your payment by September 19, 2008 in order for you to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting or by mail in ballot.

If you would like to check on the status of your membership, please contact Deborah or Shirley at 364-2653 or toll free at 1-888-877-2653 or by email at: [director@coffeycountymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeycountymuseum.org).

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Anniversary \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (please circle one):

**Individual** (\$5.00 annual), **Lifetime** (\$100.00 one time fee)

Name(s) as you would like it to appear on membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Please mail completed form and check or money order to:

Coffey County Historical Museum

1101 Neosho Street

Burlington, KS 66839

If you have any questions or would like to know the status of your current membership, please call Deborah or Shirley at 364-2653 or toll free at 1-888-877-2653 or email Deborah at [director@coffeycountymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeycountymuseum.org).



**Coffey County Historical Society & Museum**

1101 Neosho Street

Burlington, KS 66839

