

# Timelines

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## Board of Directors:

President: Carol Sunseri,  
Waverly

Vice President: Retha  
Sleezer, Gridley

Secretary: Becky Jewett,  
LeRoy

Treasurer: Brenda Klubek,  
New Strawn

Maureen Eggleston,  
LeRoy

Sheri Volland, Burlington

Victor Edelman, Lebo

## Museum Staff:

Executive Director:  
Deborah Kennamore

Curator of Collections:  
Shirley Logan

Assistant:  
Erin Burdick

## Veterans Day

WWI, “The Great War” or “the war to end all wars,” officially ended on June 28, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The fighting actually ceased months earlier when an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany took place on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 Armistice Day. President Calvin Coolidge issued another proclamation in 1938 that made 11th of November in each year a legal holiday to be celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.”



Pvt. George W. Robinson  
Army; 51st Co., 5th Infantry  
5/28/1918 to 5/1/1919  
WWI

In 1953, Emporia (Kansas) citizens wanted to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in WWI. This bill was signed into law on

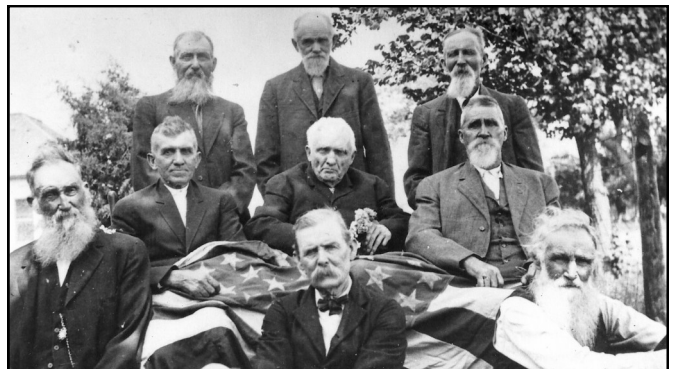
May 26, 1954, by President Dwight Eisenhower. Congress amended this on June 1, 1954, replacing “Armistice” with “Veterans.” Kansas is releasing a Vietnam Veteran license plate on January 1, 2012.

This year, the museum would like to honor our veterans with a display. It is still a work in progress. We would like to ask the membership and the community for photographs of veterans who lived in Coffey County. The photographs will be scanned by the museum to be printed out for the display. The museum will not keep the original unless it is an outright donation. Photographs should not be bigger than 8x10. You may also scan the photograph and email it to [erin@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:erin@coffeymuseum.org). Scanned photographs must



Lieutenant Henry Arnett Bell  
June 1897—August 20, 1916  
Spanish-American War

be 300 dpi resolution. Please include name & rank, branch, dates/years served, and what war/conflict he/she was involved in. Turn in the photographs to the museum during business hours during the work week Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. or email them by **October 28**. Please do not bring the photograph(s) in on the weekends.



May 24, 1914 Strawn area Civil War Veterans. Back row (left to right): W.L. Graybeal, Albert Cummins, and Griffith Baxter; Center row (: to R): Conrad Hamman, H.H. Klock, and F.S. Mauck; Front Row (L to R): H.Y. Woods, Leo Applegate, and Charlie Veach.

## New Board Member

The Board of Directors would like to say welcome to our newest board member, Victor Edelman, fulfilling the remainder of Warren Wilson's term. Victor was born in Fairbury, Illinois, moving to Coffey County when he was four years old. He has resided in Coffey County for 35 years. Victor and his wife, Hope, have been married for 17 years. They have three boys Layke age 13, Sage age 9, and Zane age 7.

Victor has laid brick with Keen-Line Mason for 20 years. He has bricked and rocked many houses in and around Coffey County including the

gazebo at the museum. He retired from bricklaying in January 2011 to concentrate on his and Hope's auction business (Swift-N-Sure Auctions and Real Estate), rental business and selling real estate with Tri-County Real Estate.

Victor is a member of the Kansas Auctioneer Association and a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. He loves to spend time with his family. He also enjoys riding horses, collecting coins, reading books about finance and westerns, studying the stock market, and buying, selling or trading real estate.

When Victor helped build the gazebo, he thought the Coffey County Historical Society & Museum was a very good organization to support for his kids to enjoy. He is excited to support the museum for future generations. He feels his experience in the many aspects of running and operating a business makes him a valuable aspect to our Board of Directors. Also with being an auctioneer, he has some experience with the types of items that the museum collects.

## Weddings

The 1895 Bethel Church on the Museum grounds was a popular place for weddings this June. A total of three weddings were held in the month of June. The church is an excellent site for small weddings. The pews can fit about 50 people in them and additional 50 metal folding chairs can be added for a total of 100 people. Attendees need to be aware that the windows to the church do not open and that there is no air conditioning or heating.

The Gazebo has also been used for weddings. Wedding guest can no longer sit in metal chairs in the grass due to the sprinkler system, chair legs

digging in grass, and women heels digging in the grass. The Gazebo is best suited for extremely small wedding where the guest are also

under the gazebo.

For more information or policies about renting the museum buildings, please contact the museum.

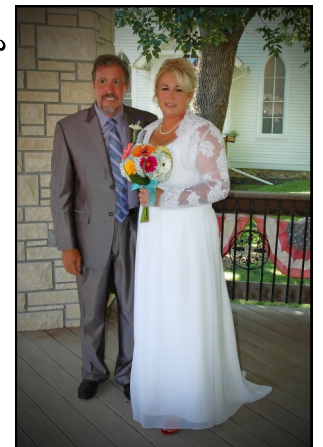


Top right: The newlyweds, Jeff and Susie Becker, stand in the gazebo.

Top Far Right: The church's woodwork is so charming that minimal to no decoration should be used. Photograph from the Decker-Becker wedding.

Bottom Right: The museum also has a steel bridge that is an excellent prop for a photograph. Pictured are Chris and Erin McGown.

Bottom Far Right: The church makes a great backdrop from the gazebo. Pictured are the newly weds, Kevin and Linda Graber.



## 4th of July in Coffey County

July 4, 2011, marked the 235th birthday of the United States of America. With the 4th falling on a Monday this year, celebrations could take place over the weekend, and that is just what the citizens of Coffey County did. The temperatures were in the upper 90's with Saturday's temperatures reaching 100 degrees! Many people participated in the activities despite the hot weather. Gridley July 4th Celebration started



Gridley's fireworks display was held at the Gridley City Lake which is located one mile north of the town

out on Friday, July 1st with a cookout and a street dance with proceeds going to the ball program. The next day was filled with activities for those who could bare the heat.

The activities included a bow shoot, SCC Honor Flight fun run, kids games, basketball tournament, fishing derby, baby contest, German dinner, Controlled Insanity Cycles motorcycle stunts, Little Apple Amusement Carnival, arts and crafts booths, water competitions, parade, and fireworks.

Lebo's 22nd Stars and Stripes Extravaganza was a three day event this year. The event was filled with numerous activities including a firecracker fun run, 12th Annual Bob Ellis Memorial Tractor Show, transportations show, swim meet, Kid's Fishing Tournament, truck and tractor pull, free swim, pony rides, archery and air rifle, hay bale contest, kids games, parade, baby contest, dog contest, kids games, and fireworks.



Lebo's Firecracker 2K/5K Fun Run was a fundraiser by the Lebo Elementary school.

New Strawn and Burlington did not have day long events but they did have fireworks shows. LeRoy and Waverly did not have any activities.



Children enjoy the Gridley Money Hunt. Many of the children enjoyed the hose down that was held shortly after.

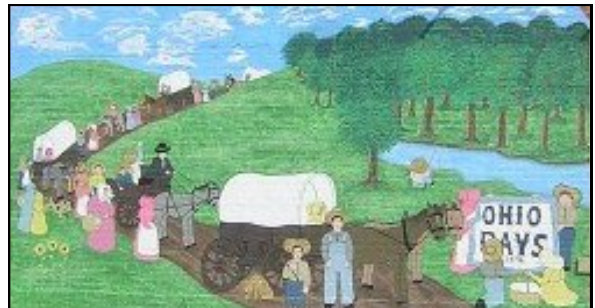
## 115th Ohio Days

Waverly celebrated its 115th Ohio Days on July 8-12. Ohio Days has been celebrated since 1896 when the Ohio settlers of Waverly decided to have a picnic to visit and renew acquaintances. The first Ohio Days was held at James Grove which was located 1 1/2 miles east of Waverly. Soon it became an annual tradition that was known as the "Ohio Picnic" or as it is known today as "Ohio Days."

Today the annual event is packed full

of activities such as community church, parade, musical entertainment, baby contest, car show, dance, carnival, potluck dinner, and a co-ed softball tournament. Most of the events are held at the Waverly Park on the south side of Waverly. The next Ohio Days will be held July 14-17, 2012. Check out their website at [www.cityofwaverly.org](http://www.cityofwaverly.org) for

more information about Waverly and its events.



The Waverly mural painted by local artist, Jim Stukey, depicting the 1st Ohio Days.

## 131st Coffey County Fair

The Coffey County Fair is the longest consecutive running fair in the state of Kansas. On November 27, 1880, a five-member committee, Coffey County Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association, named officers to organize a county fair. They were President H.C. Kellerman, Vice President Jacob Baer, Secretary LeRoy Armstrong, and Treasurer W.J. Wilson. Subscriptions of capital stock for the organization at \$10 per share were solicited by one committee person per township (14 townships). The fair association needed to raise \$5,000 by December 15, 1880, in order to hold the first fair. They purchased 50 acres of land in March 1881 on west edge of Burlington, presently the Rock Creek Country Club for the first fair. The first Coffey County Fair was held September 20-23, 1881. Activities for the fair included the fat man's race, glass ball shooting, baseball matches, and potato and foot races. Bicycle race, speed list, baby show, ladies equestrian race, Bucephalus II (largest ox in the world), and many other activities were added in the next year's fair. A feature of the 1903 fair was a ostrich race. Burlington was said to have one of the fastest half-mile tracks in the state of Kansas and were known to "always pay the total purse." In 1915, the fair was moved to Kelley Park and after low attendance for two

years, the fair returned to its original location on the west side of town. In 1920, the Boys and Girls Club displayed projects at the fair allowing all children to participate. The fair returned to its present location at Kelley Park in 1932 and limited all displays to Coffey County residents only.

Horse races were held at the fair grounds west of town until the 1930's when the two stadiums were moved to Kelley park. A new stadium building was erected in 1950 and was the site for many events. It was known as "the most complete modern stadium in the state." The Chamber of Commerce requested in 1959 that all businesses close in the afternoons during the fair. The 1971 fair added the dog show and tractor pull to the list of activities. The stadium was filled to capacity with standing room in the left field.

The Coffey County fair celebrated its 125th fair July 27-31, 2005.

Green road signs were placed on U.S. 75 at the entrances of Burlington and near the fairground recognizing Coffey County as the "Home of the Longest Consecutive County Fair in the State of Kansas."

Activities this year's fair were Wild Blue BBQ and Expo, horse show, pedal power tractor pull, 4-H demonstrations, exhibits, truck and tractor pull, parade, demolition derby, and many other activities.



Men judge a cow at the 1952 Coffey County fair. No swine were shown at this fair due to an order by the state livestock sanitary commission because of the disease called vesicular exanthema of swine.



Early photo of the Coffey County Fair when it was located on the west side of town. Year is unknown.

## Lebo: 125 Years

Lebo will be celebrating its 125th birthday in October this year. Visit [www.tourlebo.org](http://www.tourlebo.org) for more information on this event. This milestone has been reached with the thanks of the railroad, a vision, and the pride of the Welsh community. On April 17, 1883, with private information that a railroad connecting Emporia to Kansas City was going to be built with a station in Coffey County, David L Jones purchased 80 acres of the northwest corner of Section 9, Township 19, Range 14 of California Township (present day Lincoln Township). This land he purchased was located just east of the railroad land where the depot was to be built. Jones divided the land with the north 40 acres for a town. William M. Barr helped Jones with the planning and mapping out the town site. A growing community of businesses and residences were

quickly erected. The site for Lebo was picked due to the coal fields in the area needed a growing railroad industry. The first train went through the town on February 11, 1884. Lebo's railroad roots can still be seen regularly as the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe line still runs through about every 15 minutes.

The first newspaper was the Lebo Light which was established in 1884. It was printed by Holcum & Dixon for one year until they went out of business. Lebo was left without a paper for two years until W.P. Evans moved to Lebo from Hartford in 1887 and started a newspaper. On October 16, 1886 Lebo became a



Lebo's first brick school building built in 1907 at the cost of \$13,000.

third class city with a population about 600. 126 men turn out for the first election held at the W.R. Dillon Real Estate Office on October 16, 1886. The election winners were Mayor Daniel Webster, Police Judge A.J. Young, and Lebo city council members A.G. Tuller, B.F. Swindler, J.M. Yocum, Albert Jones and J.C.

Miller. John Whitney was the first City Marshal. The city of Lebo bought twelve acres of land west of town on January 12, 1892 and made it the City Park, known today as the Ye Olde City Park.

Today, the population of Lebo is approximately 1000. The town offers three parks with various activities such as ball diamond, basketball court, tennis court, city pool, playground, Kid's pond, and shelter house. The Coffey County Library has a branch located by the school. Lebo is part of the USD 243 Lebo-Waverly school district.



Comparing the early 1900's town to present day. The view is looking east down present day Broadway Street from east of Pine Street.

## Bricks

We are still selling gazebo bricks! There are only 500 bricks that can be personalized and we have already sold over half of them. The personalized bricks form a walkway encircling the gazebo. Dedication bricks are a wonderful way to recognize, memorialize or honor a loved one while providing support for

the museum. The bricks can be engraved with two lines of 13 characters each. Bricks sell for \$40 each and can be purchased at the museum gift shop or by mailing the form (below) to the museum. We still have room for your name! So, hurry in and make sure your name is engraved in history! Four bricks have

been purchased since last newsletter: Marvin Hatch Marilyn Hatch; Tim Scheimann 12-26-96; Terry Salava Jr 3-5-98; William J Salava 8-5-04. The proceeds of the bricks go towards the upkeep of the gazebo.

\*Please visit our website for the full list of Gazebo Brick names.  
[www.coffeymuseum.org](http://www.coffeymuseum.org)

*“Dedication bricks are a wonderful way to recognize, memorialize or honor a loved one while providing support for the museum.”*



### Step Into The Past...

Step into Coffey County History!

Personalized bricks are only \$40. All proceeds will fund the upkeep of the gazebo located at the Museum.

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

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

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

\*\*\*Please make check or money orders payable to:  
**Coffey County Historical Museum**


Each brick may have 2 lines of print with 13 spaces each.

### The Coffey County Historical Museum

1101 Neosho Street  
 Burlington, KS 66839  
 620-364-2653  
 1-888-877-2653

[www.coffeycountymuseum.org](http://www.coffeycountymuseum.org)

email:

[director@coffeycountymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeycountymuseum.org)

**Join Our Membership!**

We would like to thank all current 410 members for their continued support of the museum. Their membership dollars help fund the museum and its various projects. Please tell friends and family about us! Annual membership is \$5.00 per person per year. Members will receive a quarterly newsletter, invitations to all upcoming grand openings, and a vote during election time of the board members during the annual meeting.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP is our best value; with a donation of \$100 or more per person you no longer have to pay the \$5 annual dues. As a lifetime member your name will be engraved on a plaque at the entrance of the museum and you will receive a Lifetime Membership Certificate. A lifetime membership also qualifies you for the quarterly newsletter, invitations to all upcoming grand openings, and a vote during election time at the annual meeting. Past Due

Memberships must be current before the Annual Meeting, **September 27, 2011**, in order to be eligible to vote! Please take a minute to fill out the membership below and return to the museum with your payment. If you would like to check on the status of your membership, please contact Erin at (620) 364-2653 or toll free (888) 877-2653 or by email at: erin@coffeymuseum.org.

**Membership Form**

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

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

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

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to be a volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (please circle one):

Individual (\$5.00 annual per person)      Lifetime (\$100.00 one time fee per person)

Name 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 Erin at (620) 364-2653 or toll free at (888) 877-2653 or email erin@coffeymuseum.org.

## Lifetime Members

Ackerman, Gayla Lonene	Evans, Dean	Irey, Ronald W.
Adkins, Joan	Evans, George	Kaufman, Helen Garn
Allegre, Peter	Evans, Sue	Keas, Sandy K.
Allen, Dan	Evans, Terry L.	Kennamore, Deborah
Allen, Linda K.	Ferrara, Melchoir A.	Kennamore, William "Pete"
Anliker, Tyler	Finkbiner, Patricia	Klubek, Brenda Grace
Atherly, Mary Lou DeLong	Finkbiner, Terry	Knapp, Bill
Atkin, John D. M.D.	Fitch, Duane	Kniss, Clarence
Atkin, Patricia	Freeman, Bill	Kniss, Donna
Banks, Peggy	Freeman, Calvin Dean	Kunkel, Connie
Beaty, W. Jean	Freeman, Diane	Kunkel, David
Bedwell, L.F.	Freeman, Elva	Kunkel, Opal I.
Birk, Julia Mae	Freeman, Joan	Lifecare Center of Burlington
Bohrer, Paul	Fulk, Doris L.	Little, Charles F.
Brecheisen, Betty	Garrett, Emily	Lowman, Nadine
Bruce, Nellie	Garrett, Lisa I.	Luke, Linda Sue
Bruce, Robert Lyle	Garrett, Millie	Luke, Lola Mae
Central National Bank	Geery, Barbara	Luke, Robert Standley, Jr
Citizens State Bank	George, Dennis	Martindale, Paul
City of Burlington	Griffin, Lena	Matney, Linda J.
City of Lebo	Hatch, Bonnie	Mattox, Martha
Clapp, Grace (Sauder)	Hatch, Homer	<b>McAlister, M.A.</b>
Clark, Joanna	Hayes, Edris Irwin	McAlister, V.S.
Clark, Larry	Herr, Bob	McConnell, John
Cochran, Dorothy	Hess, Wayne	McReynolds, Richard L.
Cockrell, Gilan	Hood, Betty Jo	Meadar, Craig
Coffey County Council for the Arts	Hood, Herbert	Meadar, Peggy
Coffey County Honda	Hoover's Thriftway	Merry, Barbara
Coffey County Hospital	Hoover, Carlita	Merry, Gene
Coffey County Land Title Co. Inc	Hoover, Lisa	Montgomery, Dean R
Coffey County Library	Hoover, Ned	Morey, George
Coldsmith, Don	Hoover, Ron	Muench, Cheryl
Coldsmith, Edna	Hoyt, Kent	Muench, Rick
Combes, Irene E.	Hoyt, Lori	Neil, Eunice Johnson
Combes, Kenneth L.	Hull, Kelly J.	Norris, David
Conrad, Mary E.	Hull, Sheldon L.	Norris, Kasu Stinson
Cordell, Larry	Johnson, Cloyce E.	Park, William H.
Cox, Juanita	Johnson, Diane S.	Parnay, Arlene Carpenter
Croll, Susan	Johnson, Jerry D.	Payne, Janet
Curtiss, Larry M.	Johnson, John E.	Ponder, Mary Lou
DeLong, Roy G.	Johnson, Loren E.	Ponder, Randy
Dunlap, Dr. James	Jones, Don	Purvis, Lois Jean
Dunlap, Judith	Jones, Carol	Raaf, Clarence
Edelman, Albert L.	Jones, Fred S.	Raaf, Esther
Epting, Gary	Jones, Glenda	Raaf, Fred A.
Epting, Polly	Irey, Diana L.	Raaf, Gary



## Lifetime Members (cont.)

Raaf, Harvey G.	Sleezer, Johnnie R.	Veteto, Mona
Raaf, James L.	Sleezer, Retha I.	Watson, Irene
Raaf, JoAnn	Smith, Darlene	Wildman, Kay
Raaf, Mark	Smith, Ivan	Wilkinson, Al
Raaf, Ralph	Smith, Marjorie J.	Wilkinson, Opal
Raaf, Richard	Spade, Sharon	Williams, James E., Jr.
Raynesford, Carolyn C.	Spatz, Caroline B.	Williams, Kathleen (Asper)
Redding, Bud	Spatz, Robert J.	Williamson, Arthur W.
Redding, Carol	Spriggs, Judy	Williamson, Bernice
Reeves, Glen W.	Stine, Phyllis A.	Williamson, Mitch
Reeves, Karen K.	Stukey, Arthur	Wilson, Ida M.
Reimer, Paul	Stukey, Kent	Wilson, Warren D.
Reisbig, Clara L.	Sunseri, Carol	Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Robbins, Carol A.	Trimble, Chuck	Wolken, Deanna
Salava, Dan	Trimble, Jenifer	Woods, Chloe
Salava, Linda J.	Trimble, Joyce	Woods, Frank
Salava, Tammy	Trimble, Randy	Worrell, Dallas G.
Salisbury, Florence Conrad	Trostle, Jerilee	Zscheile, Lila L.
Sanborn, Patty A	Trostle, Kerry	
Sauder, Ray	TrustPoint Services	
Schick, Donald L.	Ubert, Ann	
Schick, Ruth	Ubert, Gary	
Schultz, Achsah Carter	Vannocker, Rebecca Louise	

\*new members are bolded  
201 Total Lifetime Members; 7 new Lifetime Members this year.

## Donations Needed

Good news, the 2012 budget has been approved! Bad news, it has been reduced from requested amount. If you would like to make a donation to the museum, these are the things we always need:

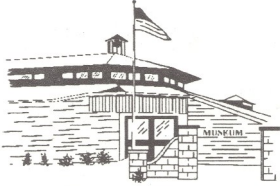
- Washable Markers
- Crayons
- Tape
- Staples
- Metal rulers with Cork Back
- .07mm Pencil Lead
- Pens
- Notepads (5" x 8")
- Post-it Pop-up Notepads for dispenser
- Paper Clips
- Copy/Printer Paper
- HP 564 Black Inkjet Cartridge
- HP 564 Magenta Inkjet Cartridge
- HP 564 Cyan Inkjet Cartridge
- HP 564 Yellow Inkjet Cartridge
- HP 564 Photo Black Inkjet Cartridge

We are also always in need of volunteers! Please visit the museum or our website [www.coffeymuseum.org](http://www.coffeymuseum.org) for more information and an application.

## Calendar of Events

### Coffey County Historical Society & Museum

1101 Neosho Street  
Burlington, KS 66839  
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(888) 877-2653  
[www.coffeymuseum.org](http://www.coffeymuseum.org)  
[director@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:director@coffeymuseum.org)



**Take a walk through history!**

We're on the web!  
[coffeymuseum.org](http://coffeymuseum.org)



Visit us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/coffeymuseum](http://www.facebook.com/coffeymuseum)

#### August

11—Board Meeting

#### September

5—Labor Day- **Museum Closed**

8—Board Meeting

23—Autumn Begins

#### October

10—Columbus Day- **Museum Closed**

13—Board Meeting

31—Halloween

#### November

10—Board Meeting

11—Veterans Day- **Museum Closed**

24—Thanksgiving- **Museum Closed**

25—**Museum Closed**



Be sure to stop in and see our newly acquired bell collection from the Millie Garrett Estate.

Do you know of any ghost stories or haunted places in Coffey County?

We want to know! Please email Erin at [erin@coffeymuseum.org](mailto:erin@coffeymuseum.org) with your story and see if it will appear in our November issue!



Look through your issue of the Timelines and see if you can find the

pioneer wagon that looks like this:



. If you find the wagon, contact the museum and receive a free cookbook.

Coffey County Historical Society & Museum  
1101 Neosho St.  
Burlington, KS 66839

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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Burlington, KS 66839  
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