

Timelines



Volume 19, Issue 1

August 2022

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Due to the rise of cost of publication of the quarterly newsletter, we have decided that the newsletter will now be bi-annually and updates will be posted on Facebook.

Board of Directors:

- Jeri Page,
President, LeRoy
- Ida Wilson,
Vice President, Lebo
- Eileen Coker,
Secretary, At-Large Position
- Kent Hoyt,
Treasurer, Burlington
- Janet Smith, Waverly
- Dan Williamson, Burlington
- Joyce Ochs, Gridley

Museum Staff:

- Museum Director:
Shirley Gorge
- Administrative Assistant:
Erin Petterson

Annual Meeting & Election

Coffey County Historical Society in Burlington will host its annual meeting on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Coffey County Historical Museum, 1101 Neosho Street, Burlington, KS. The membership, along with the public, are invited to attend.

There will be a short presentation about the more notable floods in Burlington and the surrounding areas.

Results of the 2022 Coffey County Historical Society Elections will also be announced during the meeting. Ballots are included in this issue of the newsletter. Only current Coffey County Historical Society Members are eligible to vote in the election.

The At Large and the Burlington positions are up for election. Dan Williamson, Burlington position, is running for reelection. Eileen Coker, At-Large

position, will not be running for reelection. This position is has no candidate, so please write in someone that is interested in being on the Board of Directors. The Burlington position must have a Burlington address and the At-Large position must have a Coffey County address.

The position on the Board of Directors is a volunteer position with no compensation.

Requirements of members of the Board of Directors:

- ★ Must be a member of the Coffey County Historical Society. (Membership requires annual dues of \$5 per person. More information about memberships can be found on page 17 of this newsletter.)
- ★ Must be from the area which you would be representing. (For the 2022, you must

have a Burlington address to run for the Burlington position or you must have a Coffey County address to run for the At-Large position.)

- ★ Attend the monthly meetings. The Board of Directors meet the second Thursday at noon every month. (Lunch is not provided, but members can bring their lunch to the meeting if they wish.)
- ★ Having an email address and computer access is not a requirement but preferred in order to send out board packets electronically to save money on paper and postage.



Past Flood Levels

Flooding of the Neosho River before they started officially recording height.

We are still researching and finding more floods in the county.

(1844-1939)

1844
1853
1867
4 Jul 1885
1896
1898
1899
1900
1902
Jun 1903
5 Jun 1904
14 Jul 1904
1905
1907
1908
Jul 1909
1911
1927
23 Mar 1922
12 Apr 1926
4 Jun 1928
19 Nov 1928
14 May 1929
16 Jul 1929
8 Jul 1932
29 May 1935
6 Jun 1935
23 May 1938

Mrs. Hunt's recording of the highest flood stages

12 Jul 1951 41.53'
21 Jul 1948 36.8'
4 Jul 1885 35.2'
24 Apr 1944 35.1'
17 Apr 1945 35.1'
Jun & Jul 1904 34.9'
2 Jul 1951 34.5'
22 Oct 1941 33.2'

Flooding of the Neosho River before John Redmond was built (1942-1964)

The flood stage of the Neosho River is 23 feet.

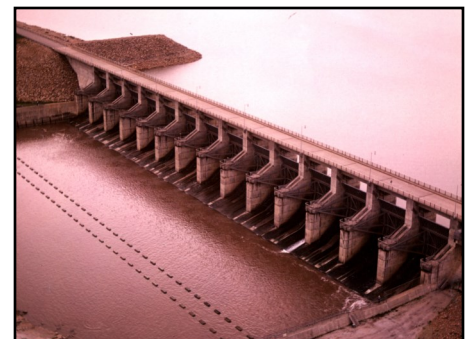
7/12/1951 41.53'
7/21/1948 36.80'
4/17/1945 35.10'
4/24/1944 35.00'
7/2/1951 34.50'
12/6/1944 34.30'
5/3/1951 32.40'
9/7/1951 32.30'
4/13/1944 32.00'
9/13/1961 31.53'
9/28/1962 31.36'
10/3/1945 31.00'
4/11/1944 30.70'
4/13/1947 30.35'
5/18/1957 30.30'
4/16/1947 30.25'
6/1/1962 30.00'
6/22/1946 29.75'
2/1/1962 29.48'
5/21/1957 29.30'
11/3/1961 29.04'
7/23/1961 28.93'
6/10/1951 28.80'
7/7/1951 28.55'
3/26/1960 28.40'
3/16/1947 28.25'
6/30/1945 28.20'
6/7/1947 27.90'
5/22/1959 27.80'
3/24/1945 27.70'
7/17/1958 27.50'
3/18/1944 27.40'
6/24/1951 27.30'
6/19/1943 27.20'
6/27/1942 25.90'
6/22/1942 25.80'
6/3/1962 25.42'
10/11/1961 24.50'
3/23/1962 23.65'

Flooding of the Neosho River after John Redmond was built (1965-present)

5/26/2019 32.62'
7/3/2007 30.70'
11/6/1998 29.84'
6/8/1965 27.49'
5/17/1993 26.41'
3/29/1973 25.40'
6/11/2019 25.30'
10/11/1973 24.29'
6/1/1995 23.38'
5/5/1969 23.18'
7/4/1977 23.08'

John Redmond Reservoir & Dam Top of Flood: 1,068 feet Top of Conservation: 1,041 feet (1965-present)

11/5/1998 1,068.89'
5/15/1993 1,068.72'
5/25/2019 1,068.71'
5/12/2019 1,068.66'
7/27/1993 1,068.04'
6/13/1995 1,067.93
6/17/2005 1,065.12'
10/20/1985 1,064.20'



John Redmond Dam & Reservoir

Notable Floods

There has been many floods in the Burlington, Strawn, and LeRoy areas over the years. Some were caused by cloudbursts which is an extreme amount of precipitation in a short period of time. Others were from frequent rain upstream and/or in the area.

1836

Early settlers learned of the "Big Flood" in 1836 from a chief of the Sac tribe. The Sac scouts saw the Comanche warriors leave their camp for a hunt so the Sac warriors went to the camp, where only old men, women and boys guarded the camp, and robbed them of everything of value.

When the Sacs went to return, they found the Neosho River was out of its banks and covering the bottom lands and all the lowest of the upland. Extremely heavy rain continued to fall so the tribe went to the top of Indian Hill, a high point between Hartford and Strawn.

Meanwhile, the Comanches came back to find their camp plundered and many of their members killed. They followed the trail of the Sacs to Indian Hill and immediately a battle began. The water quickly rose and surrounded the hill so there was nothing to do but fight. The battled waged furiously for four days.

There was only thirteen Sacs left on the fifth day, they decided to take to the water with their strongest ponies. Only three of

the thirteen went across and the chief was one of them. They finally landed on College Hill on the Ottumwa townsite and was safe. The flood waters soon receded.

1885

The Great Flood of 1885 was the highest since settlement of the area at that time. The rain started falling steadily at 10 a.m. on July 1, 1885, and continued raining through to the night of July 2nd. During this time, a cloudburst hit the Burlington area between 2 and 3 a.m. on July 2nd, waking people from their beds along Rock Creek, and finding their homes flooding. Residents were able to narrowly escape the waters of the raging creek.

Every single of the seven bridges crossing Rock Creek in Burlington were either severely damaged or carried away. Many barns, sheds, and outhouses were washed away along with a great number of livestock. Along Neosho Street, basements and cellars were flooded and a large amount of merchandise was ruined. The flood waters also took out telegraph lines.

A train engine carrying a work force from Emporia to Burlington was able to travel the tracks with some excitement. They traveled in some places that had four feet of water on the tracks. When they crossed over bridges and culverts, they sank a full three feet.

A kiln that was ready to be burned, was destroyed by the flood waters. This put a halt on the erection of buildings due to lack of bricks. LeRoy really felt the brick shortage, as they were experiencing a building boom and many of their buildings were ready for the bricks.

The highest Rock Creek was within a few inches of the top of the door sill of the Burlington Independent Office which was located about half a block east of the creek. Rain hit other parts in Kansas raising creeks and rivers. One person said the Neosho River was about 35.2 feet in Burlington. Flood waters rushed down the Neosho River making people between Burlington and LeRoy climb to the tree tops. Some had to wait almost a day to be rescued. Only one man from LeRoy drowned during the flooding in this county.

After the flood, malaria is prevalent. The smell of stagnant water from Rock Creek could still be smelled well into August. About \$20,000 in damages occurred in the flood. With the price of inflation, this amount would be a little over 1/2 million dollars today. To hopefully prevent the flooding of Rock Creek, Burlington had the channel of the creek at Neosho Street widened.

1902, 1903, & 1904

The 1902 and 1903 floods were the first time anyone could remember that flooding occurred

Notable Floods (continued)

back to back years. It would flood again in 1904 creating flooding three years in a row. The June 8, 1902, flood, the Neosho River came within five inches of the mark that was made in 1885. Almost a year later on June 5, 1903, the river rose to within three inches of the 1885 mark. The floods in 1904 would break the 1885 flood.

The water reached the highest point the afternoon of June 1, 1904, and started falling slowly until heavy rain hit this area and upstream the next three days. It finally reached its highest point on June 5, 1904, at a foot higher than in 1885. This flood was the longest lasting flood ever known at that time. Within three days, the water had only fallen 33 inches.

The water works plant was able to continue running through the flood where in the past it was unable to continue to run during the floods. The Throckmorton bridge (north of Burlington over the Neosho River) went out on June 5 once the waters started receding. The Santa Fe track east of Burlington had a long section that was swept clear of the embankment and strung out in the fields. The Katy trains were all abandoned for seven days due to the flooded tracks. Burlington went four days without mail. The mail was finally able to be sent out and brought in by boat from the Santa Fe train waiting at the foot of the bluff two miles east from town.

On July 8, 1904, another record breaking flood hit the area. Neosho street was flooded from 3rd Street to Fred Newcomb's Café that was located at 313 Neosho Street with water a foot deep. 3rd street flooded from Neosho Street to Santa Fe Tracks (present day Potomac Street or north end of Kelley Park). In Emporia, the Neosho River was 16 inches high and the Cottonwood River was 5 inches high. The Neosho River was higher than ever and doing lots of damage in Humboldt, Chanute and other areas down the river.

The Neosho River at the bridge was nine inches higher than the June flood. Hoffman's (located on the northeast side of 4th and Neosho Street) and other stores was one foot higher than the previous month. Many people had to go to their work in boats. Business was suspended in downtown Burlington for several days.

Once again, a large section of the Santa Fe track east of town was out. The trains stopped at the bluff and sent passengers and mail across in boats.

The Water Works plant was forced to shut down when water began running in at the doors.

To prevent the bridge over Rock Creek on Neosho Street from floating, several wagon loads of rock placed on the bridge, but even then the west side of the bridge rose about a foot. The only bridge across Rock

Creek that was passable was the one on Kennebec Street.

The two large ice houses that were located in the present day Drake Park near the Burlington City Dam were a total loss by the flood. The water was about five feet deep around the ice houses and a very swift current came and took out the east side of the buildings. The buildings then collapsed. The spectators could hear the ice from buildings slide off into the water with a sickening crash. There was about 2,000 tons of fine clear ice stored in the two buildings and not a single cake remained. The total loss was at least \$5,000 (worth \$176,375.60 today).

The businesses that did the biggest business were the restaurants. The Nickel Plate Café even had a rush with three inches of water on the floor.

Residents were ordered to boil their water before use. The wells were nearly all full of the surface water. There was more flood damage in Kansas this year than last time, but there was no action taken in Coffey County to petition the governor to call a special session of the legislature.

1922

On March 23, 1922, a cloudburst hit Burlington. Lightning struck two houses. An unusual severe hail storm accompanied the rain continuing for several hours. After the storm, great drifts of hail stones

Notable Floods (continued)

were found in the ditches where the ice accumulated.

At the fairgrounds, now the country club grounds, water was over the larger part of the east fence. The water across Neosho Street was six feet deep carrying fame buildings with it and demolishing substantial buildings. The goods in stores on Neosho Street between 3rd and 5th Streets washed out of the buildings. To prevent accidents and fire, the electric lights and gas were cut off. The water pressure gave out when standpipe emptied itself, so the town was without water. All of it came on the next day.

Although the storm, the five telephone operators remained at their posts while the water was five feet deep in the building below and buildings near by were caving in. The operators phoned the people living along the creek warning them of the danger and pleading with several to get out.

Only four people drowned during the flood. A couple that lived on 10th Street were home and waited to get out of their home until the water was inside their home. By the time they made it out of their home, the house was moved off its foundation by the strong current and they were swept away with the current. Another couple with a home on Hudson Street started for higher ground and battled the strong current. The husband tried to save his wife but a house floating in the current

stopped him and she was swept away. The last victim was traveling in a friend's car with the friend's baby. At 2nd & Neosho Street, a current carrying a roof of a building struck the car stalling it. She was heard yelling "save baby." She was able to pass the baby off before she was swept away. The drowned victims were able to be found shortly after drowning, except the last one who was not found until April 22, 1922, near Moody south of LeRoy.

The flood had a total loss that reached about half million dollars, value of \$8,818,779.76 today. Very little livestock was lost due to the farmers moving livestock to higher grounds when rain was coming.

The issue of The Daily Republican newspaper that had the first story of flood was sold out. Nearly 600 extra copies were printed and they were also sold out quickly.

A few days after the flood, Burlington was crowded with sightseers. Hundreds of them drove for miles over rough muddy roads to see the damage from the flood.

Surrounding towns sent money to help aid in the recovery of the town. Farmers brought in their teams and wagons to help remove the debris. The Red Cross served lunch to those assisting in the clean up.

To prevent a flooding of Burlington by Rock Creek, the city council decided to widen the

channel of the creek where the creek turn sharply south at Hudson. This will allow more water to pass there but will straighten the channel so the water will not be temporarily dammed. This should reduce the height of the water to a considerable extent.

1941

The heaviest rainfall ever reported in Kansas hit Burlington. A local weather observer reported a total rainfall of 12.59 inches from 11:45 a.m. Friday, May 30 until Sunday, June 1 which was more than two inches more than any previous rain in Kansas.

A cloudburst in the area caused flash flooding. Flood waters were from one to six feet deep from 3rd Street to 5th Street on Neosho Street. The rain was accompanied by hail and high winds that damaged crops. The hail fell for fifteen minutes. The wind blew hundreds of trees down and damaged many others. Phone and light wires had limbs on them causing an interruption of service to the area.

Nearly every store in Burlington had some flood loss. Several basements filled with water. The asphalt on 4th Street was torn up into large chunks.

Hoffman's, on the northeast side of 4th and Neosho Street, had a great deal of loss. The merchandise in the store was moved higher, out of reach of the

Notable Floods (continued)

flood waters. The wind raised the roof of the building allowing the rain to come in and damage all of the merchandise.

A total of 53 homes along Rock Creek in Burlington had floors covered by water. Some homes had almost all of their furniture and household goods as a total loss due to the waters. This does not include any businesses or homes that only had the basements flooded.

The trestle bridge over Rock Creek near Kelley Park was unsafe so the Santa Fe was not able to come into Burlington. The freight would come from Ottawa to the bridge every day. The freight and mail was transferred by motor hand cars to Burlington and Gridley.

The Katy railroad track was damaged near the Country Club grounds. The rails went off at a distance of eight telegraph poles and the ballast washed out a great distance.

The telephone office was the busiest place during the storm and after. There were wild stories that appeared in some metropolitan papers. The stories spread throughout the state causing an influx of calls from relatives who feared the safety of their loved ones. An average day for long distance calls was 400, but on Saturday, there was a total of 3,600 long distance calls.

There were more sightseers in Burlington to see the aftermath of the flood than the number of

people that attended the Coffey County free fair. There was an endless string of vehicles from north and south on highway 75 and the county roads in all directions. There was an average of forty cars from the north every five minutes in the morning and many more in the afternoon.

There were several airplanes that flew over Burlington on Sunday carrying sightseers to view the flood damage. The restaurants were busy serving for the hundreds of sightseers. The Phillips 66 station on highway 75 and Neosho Street sold around 500 gallons of gas.

1951

The 1951 flood was a record flood for Coffey County. Rain started falling on Tuesday, July 10, 1951, and kept falling all day Wednesday, July 11.

Water started covering the road at Strawn on Wednesday morning and started rising rapidly.

The Neosho River crested in Burlington at 41.53 feet. Water was thirteen feet deep over the road just east of the Neosho River bridge east of Burlington. The flood waters were six feet deep at 3rd and Neosho Street, five feet and a quarter deep inside of the Peoples National Bank, and six feet on US Hwy 75 (4th Street). The waters cut through the highway.

The Burlington city water was only shut off for a few hours.

The recent improvements to the moving pumps enabled the water department to maintain the water service.

On July 11th, the Battery B, 127th Field Artillery was alerted for flood emergency. A state of emergency was proclaimed by the mayor of Burlington on July 13th and gave full police powers to the guardsmen.

Flood waters took out the telephone lines and telegraph wires. Railroad tracks were damaged by the rushing waters. The only thing that kept Burlington in touch with the outside was two-way radios.

Some residents in Coffey County were isolated in their homes by flood waters. Tom Strawn and his wife are examples. They were isolated in the attic of their farm house for two nights and three days before they were rescued.

After the flood waters started to recede, fire hoses and city equipment were used to push the muck off of the streets. The flood waters were pumped out of basements. The businessmen and volunteers rinsed off merchandise and washed clothes for flood sales.

The Red Cross survey showed that in Burlington, fifteen homes were destroyed and water in 80 businesses and 50 residences. Also affected by the flood waters were twenty homes in LeRoy and twenty-five homes and nine businesses in Strawn. With this

Notable Floods (continued)

flood, a total of 310 garages and small outbuildings washed away. There were about 165 farm homes that were affected. The flood loss on 73 farmsteads totaled \$582,000, or an average of \$8,000 per farm. The REA estimated their loss in Coffey County to be \$10,000. Damages by the flood to county roads and bridges was a total of \$230,500.

The Coffey County Mobilization Board estimated the farm loss at \$3,200,000. A total of 155 of 1,653 farms in the county were directly damaged by the flood. There was a total of 62,000 acres that was affected with 43,000 acres physically damaged.

The loss estimate in buildings was \$775,000. In the report, the destroyed buildings included five homes, twenty barns, 125 grain storage buildings and bins and 300 other buildings. A total of 150 homes, 150 barns, 100 grain storage buildings and 300 other buildings were severely damaged. The loss of the electrical and furniture in buildings amounted to \$337,000.

An estimated \$22,000 in damages occurred to farm machinery. A loss of \$100,000 occurred to 200 miles of destroyed fences and 100 miles of fences that were damaged. The loss of livestock was valued at \$31,700.

The loss of all crops totaled to \$1,994,000 and a loss of \$1,930,000 to crops that would be harvested. A total of \$39,750

worth of all stored grain and roughage was lost.

2019

The May 2019 flood was a record for the Neosho River since the John Redmond Dam and Reservoir. Record amounts of flood waters were released from reservoir. Downtown stream witnessed flooding they haven't experienced since the John Redmond Dam had been built.

In ten days, about 9.5 inches of rain fell. Upstream of the Neosho also experienced large rain fall. The John Redmond Reservoir crested at 1,068.71 feet making it the third highest elevation for the reservoir.

Due to the rising of the Neosho River, the Burlington City Dam, Drake Park and Old Mill Road were all closed on May 22.

A total of twenty-three sandbags and sand was available to the public on May 22nd. The following day, Burlington Construction set up an assembly line to fill sandbags for those needing them. The community came together to fill the sandbags and to provide food and refreshments to the volunteers.

The night of May 24, 2019, flash flooding of Rock Creek in Burlington occurred. At 11:30 p.m., the flood waters surrounded about fifteen homes in Country Club Heights, west of the Country Club grounds. The residents were assisted by first

responders to escape the flooding waters. The flooded waters of Rock Creek receded allowing the residents to return to their homes the following morning.

The LeRoy area experienced flooding of the Neosho River. The Neosho River west of LeRoy flooded K58 Highway, closing the highway on May 25. Going east of Burlington, 12th Road was closed with the road being flooded just after the bridge. Traffic to LeRoy was rerouted to travel east on 16th Road just north of New Strawn (the road to Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant) then south of Shetland Road to LeRoy. The LeRoy Post Office was temporarily relocated to the Burlington Post Office. The roads became open again three days later.

On May 26, 2019, the Neosho River crested at 23.62 feet making it the highest flood of the river since John Redmond Dam was built. There was twenty-one homes throughout the county that was affected by the flood waters.

The Burlington City Hall, located on the southwest corner of the intersection of 3rd and Neosho Streets, had flood waters in their basement as did the other building on the south side of the 300 block of Neosho Street. The City of Burlington decided to temporarily move City Hall to the former Lyon Coffey Electric building located at 1013 N 4th Street.

Flood Photos— 1885 & 1904



Top Left: Looking south down 4th Street (present day Hwy 75) at the south side of Neosho Street during the 1885 flood. The newly built building on the left side of the intersection is where the present day Veteran's Park is located. On the right side of the intersection where Valley Stable is in the photo is where the present day building of the former S&S Sales is located.

Top Right: The City Mill during "The Great Flood of 1885." The flouring mill lost 1,500 bushels of wheat in the basement of the mill, and several hundred bushels more that was stored in a copper shop which was moved from its foundation. The mill was located what was 5th Street and Hudson Street in Burlington or where the present day Burlington Fire Station is located.

Above: Flooded 3rd Street southeast from about Neosho Street during the flood of 1885. The house on the left side of the photo and the Carriage Works building in the distance are still standing today.

Center Right: One of the 1904's floods looking southeast at the 300 block of Neosho Street from 4th Street. The Willett Hardware building and next building is where present day Veteran's Park is located.

Right: The June 5, 1904, flood looking south down 3rd Street in Burlington from about Neosho Street. In the distance, the Carriage Works building can be seen on the left. Today, the building was remodeled into a home.



Flood Photos— 1904 & 1922



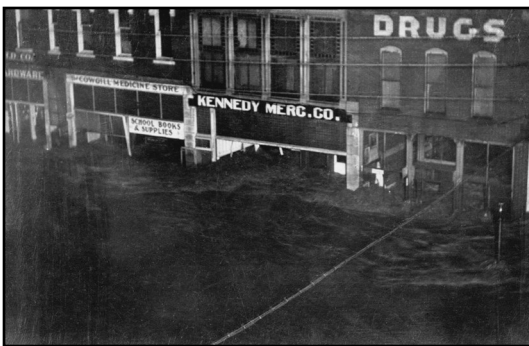
Above: The town of Strawn is flooded on June 4, 1904. The water was from 3 to 4 feet deep in the streets and some places more. A man's head from the shoulders up can be seen in the photo standing in the flooded streets.

Top Right: People stand in front of a store with horses and wagons are parked in front of the store in a flooded street. This photo was taken July 7, 1904, during the second flood of that year. Hamlin & Houser General Merchandise Post office.

Below Left: A night photo looking at the south side of the 300 block of Neosho Street on March 23, 1922.

Below Right: The rushing waters of Rock Creek flooding 4th and Neosho Street on April 8, 1922. This is the second flood for Burlington during 1922.

Middle Left: The aftermath of the March 23, 1922, flood at the Wattles Drug Store. The building still stands today at 305



Neosho Street which is present day the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce and The Hair Clinic.

Middle Right: The aftermath of the 1922 flood that had six feet of water in the buildings. This is the northside of the 400 block of Neosho Street. The Weaver and Hitchens building is now where the former Plaza Theatre is located. The other two buildings are still standing today as Jukebox's Barbershop, Vaughn Roth Land Office, and apartments..

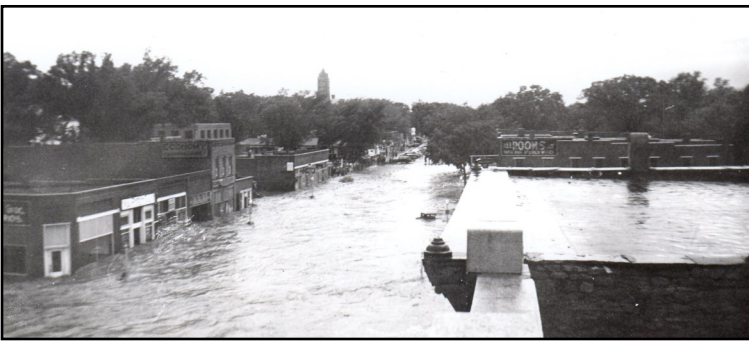


Bottom Left: The damaged back of the building of Wattles Drug store and the E. C. Davis was rumored to have been damaged by an explosion, but Mr. Wattles said he had no idea what would cause the explosion unless it was the gas tanks for the fountain.



Bottom Right: A pile of debris at the intersection of 3rd and Neosho Street.

Flood Photos 1941 & 1944



Top Left: The 1941 flood looking southwest from a rooftop on the northside 300 block of Neosho Street. In the distance, the newly built Post Office had flood waters that filled the basement and surrounded the building. The building was unfinished and very little damage was done to the Post Office.

Top Right: Hundred of sightseers from all around came to observe the damage done to Burlington by the 1941 flood.

Above Left: Looking west down Neosho Street from the rooftop on the northside of the 300 block of Neosho Street. The tower of the courthouse located at 6th & Neosho Streets can be seen in the distance.

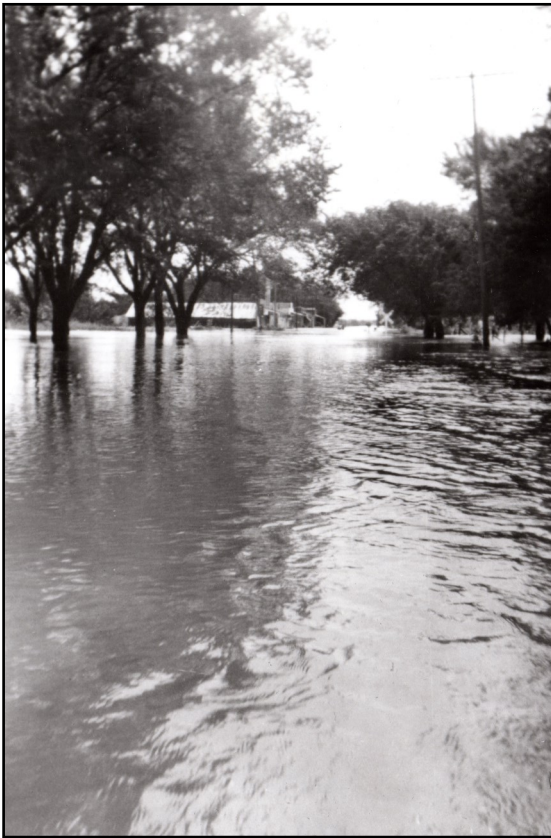
Above Right: The heaviest loss in the 1941 flood was the new Plaza Theatre which shares the building with a pool hall. The building was newly remodeled and enlarged and the flood practically destroyed the building along with its seats. The roof of the building was severely damaged. The center of the east wall of the Plaza Theatre collapsed allowing the floor to cave in. The area between the theatre and pool hall is leaning precariously. The floor in the pool hall is badly damaged. The loss could have been worse. The Plaza Theatre was having their usual Saturday afternoon matinee when the Rock Creek waters began to enter the theatre. The audience was soon dismissed.

Bottom Left: A flooded 3rd Street looking south from Neosho Street during the 1944 flood. In the background, the Legion Hall building, former Carriage Works building, can be seen.

Bottom Right: The flooded intersection of 4th and Neosho Street looking southeast from the northwest corner of the intersection during the 1944 flood. The Shull's Drugs building still stands today.



Flood Photos 1948



Top: The 1948 flood covered the town of Strawn in water. This photo is looking east on Main Street for Pfaff's corner in Strawn.

Above: The flooded home of Albert and Thelma Wheeler in 1948 who lived in Strawn.

Top Right: During the flood of 1948, downtown Burlington was covered in water as shown in this photo looking at the northside of the 300 block of Neosho Street. In the distance is the Pioneer Music Store which had 38 inches of water in their office.

Middle Right: Looking down 4th Street from about 4th and Hudson Street during the 1948 flood.

Bottom Right: The Neosho River crested at 36.8 feet on July 21, 1948. This is looking northeast from the Burlington water tower at 1st and Miami Street.

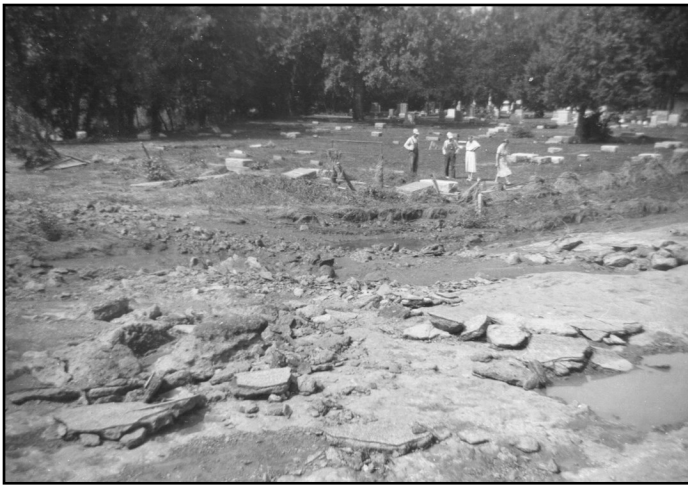
Flood Photos 1951



Top Left: The Roy DeLong Grocery in Strawn looking east on Main Street.

Above: Looking east at a flooded Main Street in Strawn.

Middle: The LeRoy Cemetery after the flood waters receded. Bottom Left: The aftermath from the 1951 flood at the LeRoy Cemetery.

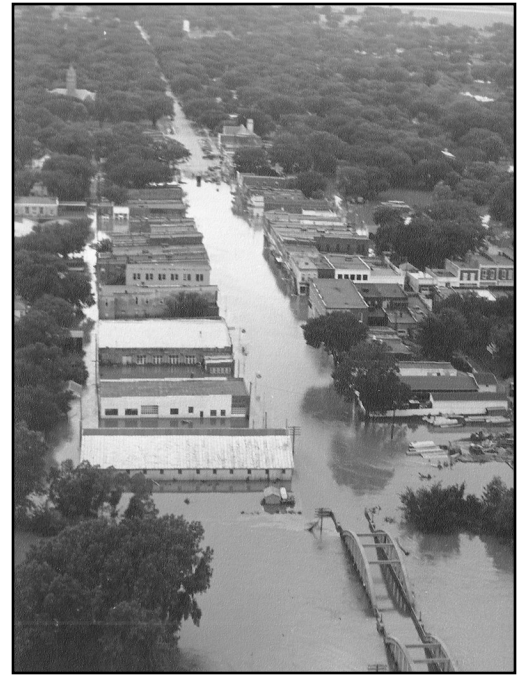


Below: The flood washed out the highway west of LeRoy.

Bottom Right: The rushing flood waters washing the railroad tracks to Moody off and twisting them.



Flood Photos 1951



Top Left: Flood waters covered majority of downtown Burlington during the 1951 flood. There is a marker inside the Burlington Post Office marking the height of the flood waters inside the building.

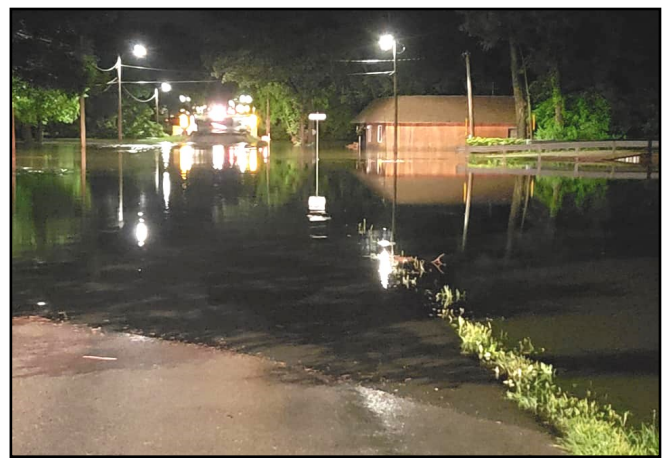
Top Right: The flood waters engulfed the bridge and road going east out of Burlington. All of the businesses from the east Neosho River bridge to 5th Street had water damage.

Middle: The north side of the 300 block of Neosho Street.
Bottom Left: Men standing in ankle deep water, clean up the inside of the JC Penny store that was located at 315 Neosho Street in Burlington. The flood waters reached the height of the front door.

Bottom Right: The Neosho River flooded part of the east side of Kelley Park. The old race track, Memorial Stadium, some of the fair buildings and the Harry E Kelley Community Hall building can be seen in the photo.



Flood Photos- 2019



Top Left: Homes along the Neosho River by the Burlington City Dam were completely flooded.

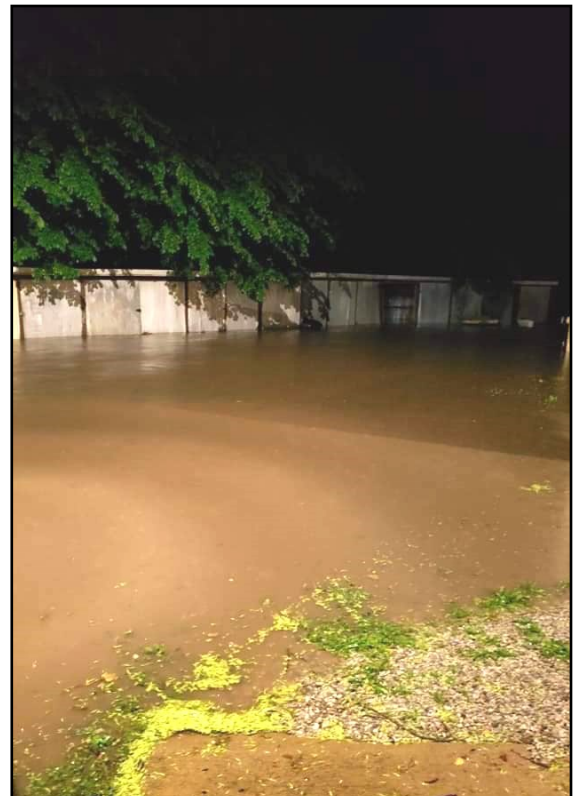
Top Right: Looking to the east right after the east Neosho River bridge in Burlington.

Above Left: Third Street from the Rock Creek bridge to just north of Potomac Street was flooded. The former Carriage Works can be seen. The building has now been remodeled into a home.

Above Right: Flash flooding of Rock Creek in the night removed people from their homes including the person that lived in the eye doctors office on 6th and Juniatta Street.

Right: The Welcome to Burlington on the north end of town became partially submerged during the flood. The Burlington Upper Elementary School can be seen in the background.

Far Right: The flash flooding of Rock Creek flooded the golf cart storage at the Rock Creek Country Club in Burlington.



Flood Photos- 2019

Right: Highway 58 going into LeRoy had flood waters on both sides of the road and once had water that covered a lane, closing the highway in that section.

Below: A pump jack in a flooded field west of LeRoy.

Middle Right: Flood waters covered the Old Mill Road and surrounded a home. The home is the former Excelsior Mill.

Bottom: Some of the volunteers that helped assemble sandbags in the Burlington Construction building. A ladder with cones placed upside down between the rungs of the ladder was used to help funnel sand into bags. The bags were then tied off and then placed in the public parking by the Burlington Fire Station for those who needed them.



Lifetime Members

Ackerman, Gayla Lonene	Evans, George	Knapp, Bill	Reeves, Glen W.
Adkins, Joan	Evans, Sue	Kniss, Clarence	Reeves, Karen K.
Allegre, Peter	Evans, Terry L.	Kniss, Donna	Reimer, Paul
Allen, Dan	Ferrara, Melchoir A.	Krebs, Tammy Hoover	Reisbig, Clara L.
Allen, Linda K.	Finkbiner, Patricia	Krigbaum, Marilyn	Robbins, Carol A.
Anliker, Tyler	Finkbiner, Terry	Kunkel, Connie	Roth, V. Cameron
Atherly, Mary Lou DeLong	First National Bank of Kansas	Kunkel, David	Salava, Dan
Atkin, John D. M.D.	Fitch, Duane	Kunkel, Opal I.	Salava, Linda J.
Atkin, Patricia	Freeman, Bill	Lifecare Center of Burlington	Salisbury, Florence Conrad
Bailey, Jerry	Freeman, Calvin Dean	Little, Charles F.	Sanborn, Patty A
Banks, Peggy	Freeman, Diane	Lowman, Nadine	Sauder, Ray
Beaty, W. Jean	Freeman, Elva	Luke, Linda Sue	Schick, Donald L.
Bedwell, L.F.	Freeman, Jeff	Luke, Lola Mae	Schick, Ruth
Birk, Julia Mae	Freeman, Joan	Luke, Robert Standley, Jr	Schultz, Achsah Carter
Bohrer, Paul	Fulk, Doris L.	Martindale, Paul	Sleezer, Johnnie R.
Born, Linda	Garrett, Emily	Matney, Linda J.	Sleezer, Retha I.
Brecheisen, Betty	Garrett, Lisa I.	Mattox, Martha	Smith, Darlene
Bruce, Nellie	Garrett, Millie	McAlister, M.A.	Smith, Ivan
Bruce, Robert Lyle	Geery, Barbara	McAlister, V.S.	Smith, Marjorie J.
Central National Bank	George, Dennis	McConnell, John	Smith, V LaVerne
Citizens State Bank	Graber, Kevin	McReynolds, Richard L.	Spade, Sharon
City of Burlington	Graber, Linda	Meader, Craig	Spatz, Caroline B.
City of Lebo	Griffin, Lena	Meader, Peggy	Spatz, Robert J.
Clapp, Grace (Sauder)	Hatch, Bonnie	Merry, Barbara	Spriggs, Judy
Clark, Joanna	Hatch, Homer	Merry, Gene	Stine, Phyllis A.
Clark, Larry	Hayes, Edris Irwin	Montgomery, Dean R	Stukey, Arthur
Cochran, Dorothy	Herr, Bob	Morey, George	Stukey, Kent
Cockrell, Gilan	Hess, Wayne	Muench, Cheryl	Sunseri, Carol
Coffey County Chamber of	Holderman, Jenifer	Muench, Rick	Trimble, Chuck
Commerce & Visitors Center	Holderman, Rich	Neil, Eunice Johnson	Trimble, Joyce
Coffey County Commissioners	Hood, Betty Jo	Norris, David	Trimble, Randy
Coffey County Council for the	Hood, Herbert	Norris, Kasu Stinson	Trostle, Jerilee
Arts	Hoover, Carlita	O'Leary, Dennis	Trostle, Kerry
Coffey County Honda	Hoover, Lisa	O'Leary, Margaret R.	TrustPoint Services
Coffey County Hospital	Hoover, Ned	Oliver, Connie	Ubert, Ann
Coffey County Land Title Co.	Hoover, Ron	Oliver, Kenneth	Ubert, Gary
Inc	Hoover's Thriftway	Park, William H.	Vannocker, Rebecca Louise
Coffey County Library	Hoyt, Kent	Parnay, Arlene Carpenter	Veteto, Mona
Coldsmith, Don	Hoyt, Lori	Payne, Janet	Watson, Irene
Coldsmith, Edna	Hull, Kelly J.	Ponder, Mary Lou	Wildman, Kay
Combes, Irene E.	Hull, Sheldon L.	Ponder, Randy	Wilkinson, Al
Combes, Kenneth L.	Irey, Diana L.	Purvis, Lois Jean	Wilkinson, Opal
Conrad, Mary E.	Irey, Ronald W.	Raaf, Clarence	Williams, James E., Jr.
Cordell, Larry	Johnson, Cloyce E.	Raaf, Esther	Williams, Kathleen (Asper)
Cox, Juanita	Johnson, Diane S.	Raaf, Fred A.	Williamson, Arthur W.
Croll, Susan	Johnson, Jerry D.	Raaf, Gary	Williamson, Bernice
Curtiss, Jerilyn	Johnson, John E.	Raaf, Harvey G.	Williamson, Mitch
Curtiss, Larry M.	Johnson, Loren E.	Raaf, James L.	Wilson, Ida M.
Danford, Charlene	Jones, Carol	Raaf, JoAnn	Wilson, Warren D.
DeLong, Roy G.	Jones, Don	Raaf, Mark	Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Dunlap, Dr. James	Jones, Fred S.	Raaf, Ralph	Corporation
Dunlap, Judith	Jones, Glenda	Raaf, Richard	Wolken, Deanna
Eccles, Cindy	Jones, Paul	Raynesford, Carolyn C.	Woods, Chloe
Edelman, Albert L.	Kaufman, Helen Garn	RC Trucking, Inc	Woods, Frank
Edelman, Victor	Keas, Sandy K.	Redding, Bud	Worrell, Dallas G.
Epting, Gary	Kennamore, Deborah	Redding, Carol	Zscheile, Lila L.
Epting, Polly	Kennamore, William "Pete"	Redding, Johnnie Jr	*new members are bolded
Evans, Dean	Klubek, Brenda Grace	Redding, Patricia	226 Total Lifetime Members

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? _____

Name as you would like it to appear on membership: _____

Type of membership (please circle one):

- Individual (\$5.00 annual per person)
- Business (\$15.00 annual per business)
- Lifetime (\$100.00 one time fee per person)

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

Coffey County 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.

Coffey County Historical Museum Gazebo Bricks

Purchase a personalized brick that surrounds the Gazebo for \$40 each.

Please Note: Bricks will only be engraved once there are ten bricks that need to be engraved. This may take weeks or years.

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

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

**Coffey County Historical
 Society & Museum**
 1101 Neosho Street
 Burlington, KS 66839
 620-364-2653
 1-888-877-2653
www.coffeymuseum.org
 email:
visit.us@coffeymuseum.org

Calendar of Events

September

- 6- Labor Day- Museum
CLOSED
- 8- Board Meeting @ Noon
- Genealogy Meeting @
6:30 p.m.
- 11- Patriot Day
- 22- First Day of Autumn
- 26- Historical Society
Annual Meeting @ 6 pm

October

- 11- Columbus Day
- 13- Board Meeting
@ Noon
- Genealogy Meeting @
6:30 p.m.
- 31- Halloween

November

- 10- Board Meeting
@ Noon
- Genealogy Meeting @
6:30 p.m.
- 11- Veterans Day- Museum
CLOSED
- 25-26- Thanksgiving-
Museum CLOSED

December

- 8- Board Meeting
@ Noon
- 23- Christmas Eve Observed-
Museum CLOSED
- 26- Christmas Observed-
Museum CLOSED
- 30- New Year's Eve Observed-
Museum CLOSED

VIEWING HOURS:

Monday- Friday
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**CLOSED on Weekends and Federal
Holidays**



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Coffey County Historical
Society & Museum
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