



COFFEY COUNTY MUSEUM TIMELINES

Volume 20, Issue 1

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Board of Directors:

Ida Wilson,
President, Lebo

Dan Williamson,
Vice President, Burlington

Jeri Page,
Secretary, LeRoy

Eileen Coker,
Treasurer, Burlington
Cindy Williams, Waverly

Joyce Ochs, Gridley
Judy McCurry, At-Large

Museum Staff:

Shirley Gorge,
Museum Director

Erin Petterson,
Administrative Assistant

Museum's Viewing Hours:

Monday–Friday
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Election

It is time for the 2023 Coffey County Historical Society election! Elections will be cast by mail-in ballots. Ballots are included in this issue of the newsletter. Only current Coffey County Historical Society Members are eligible to vote in the election.

The Gridley and the Waverly positions are up for election. Joyce Ochs, Gridley position, is running for reelection. Cindy Williams, Waverly position, will also 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 Gridley position must have a Gridley address and the Waverly position must have a Waverly 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 2023, you must have a Gridley address to run for the Gridley position or you must have a Waverly address to run for the Waverly position.)
- ★ Attend the monthly meetings at the

Coffey County Museum. 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.



Mammoth

School tours this spring were the first to view the museum's new display of bones of a mammoth.

The mammoth remains were discovered during the summer of 2013, when a natural gas company was digging a trench for a high pressure gas line near property owned by local Burlington Veterinarian, Dr. Mike Thorp, in Helena, Oklahoma. Oklahoma Archaeological Survey was contacted about the discovery and then Thomas Cox, a Masters student studying mammoths in Oklahoma, was notified. A number of individual from Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma excavated the site in about two weeks. The bones then were cleaned, preserved and restored in about four months.

The bones sat in storage for a few years, before Dr. Thorp decided that it should be at the Coffey County Museum for the public to enjoy.

After careful consideration, it was decided the best place for the museum for the mammoth to be displayed was in the Asbury



Above: The group uncovering the mammoth's remains.

Gallery. Thomas Cox was able to come to the museum to assist in the unboxing of the mammoth and share his documentation and knowledge of the mammoth with the staff.

Cox stated the mammoth was possibly either a Columbian mammoth, grew up to 14 feet tall at the shoulder, or an Imperial mammoth, grew up to 16 feet tall at the shoulder. The mammoth was found in what would have been an oxbow lake, a free-standing body of water that forms when a wide meander of a river is cut off. From examining the area and the

Left: The mammoth was found near Helena, Oklahoma, on Burlington Veterinarian Dr. Mike Thorp's land. Above: The mammoth bones were preserved in butvar except for this tibia. It was left unpreserved in case we eventually wanted to do testing on it.

bones, Cox could conclude that the mammoth stepped into the oxbow lake and broke its leg and sunk so it could not get out and died.

The bones show nitpoint breaks that show spiral fractures throughout. This means the bones were scavenged at one time and they tried to break the bones. The Clovis

people, ancestors to the Native Americans, would ground up bone marrow to make grease. The bones are only good to use for this purpose with in about ten years.

So it was theorized that the Clovis people came across the remains and tried to break the bones to use the marrow, but the bones were too old so the bones were left and the tusks were taken. Over the years, water and dirt would continue to fill the



Mammoth (cont.)

hole. The bones sunk and the skull detached where it was found upside down and higher than the other bones.

The dig site was unable to be considered an archeological site due to the fact the soil layers were found out of order. The soil testing found the top soil to be at 57,000 years old and the soil at the bottom at 52,000 years old. Some of the bones were also found to have manganese infused into them. This throws off the dating for the bones and radiocarbon dating is only good for between 500 and 50,000 years old. The age of the mammoth cannot be determined due to these factors but it is estimated to be about 55,000 years old.

The mammoth display is a working display. Not all of the bones are pieced together. There are several bags of fragments in totes that still need pieced together. As bones are completed, they will be added to the display. The skull will never be whole. The inside of the skull is honeycombed and the Oklahoma clay

seeped into these openings making it hard to keep the skull intact. When it was attempted to bring the skull out, it just fell into pieces. What remains of the skull is on display with spray



foam holding what is left together. The rest of the skull shards are in four copy paper boxes.

Since acquiring the mammoth, we have been asked if mammoths were in this area or if anything has been found in Coffey County, and the answer is "yes!" During the excavation of a



well on a small upland spring-fed bog west of Aliceville in Coffey County, some remains of a mammoth and a tooth from a mastodon was found. While Thomas Cox was at the museum, we inquired about the mammoth items the museum. He stated the bones we have in our display are from a juvenile and that one of the mammoth teeth we have is a baby tooth.

The teeth of the mammoth are smooth because they would graze on grass like cattle do. A mastodon's tooth has cusps that help it pull leaves off of trees to eat. Both animals receive six sets of teeth in their lifetime. A mastodon is smaller than a mammoth. The mastodon would get up to ten feet tall.

Come view the remains and all of our other amazing artifacts at the museum! Our viewing hours are Mon–Fri from 10 am–4 pm.

Above: The museum had mammoth remains and a mastodon tooth found near Aliceville prior to acquiring the mammoth from Oklahoma. These teeth are from the Aliceville find. The top three teeth are from a mammoth with the white tooth being a baby tooth. The lower photos show a more pointed tooth from a mastodon. The teeth are different because of the way they acquired their food; mammoths grazed on grass and mastodons pulled leaves off of trees.

Below: Tom Cox laying a rib from the mammoth down in the Museum's Asbury Gallery after the mammoth bones were unboxed.

Right: Shirley removing the packing peanuts from a crate the mammoth bones were transported in.



Pioneer Days

A museum favorite, Pioneer Days, will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Activities will be held throughout the museum. If you would like to volunteer to help with an activity, please let us know!! Volunteer shifts are 3 hour shifts and we would like to have two volunteers per activities. Planned activities are butter churning, candle dipping, rope making, yarn dolls, photo frames, and a few more that have not been announced yet. If you are not able to volunteer your time for the event, we

greatly appreciate monetary donations to offset the cost of supplies for the activities.

Photos of Pioneer/Kansas Days from previous years.



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.

Lifetime Members

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

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 4 **CLOSED**— Labor Day
- 14 Board Meeting @ noon
- 14 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30
- 16 Pioneer Days 11 am – 2 pm

OCTOBER 2023

- 12 Board Meeting @ noon
- 12 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30

NOVEMBER 2023

- 9 Board Meeting @ noon
- 9 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30
- 10 **CLOSED**— Veterans Day Observed
- 23 **CLOSED**— Thanksgiving Day
- 24 **CLOSED**— Thanksgiving break

DECEMBER 2023

- 14 Board Meeting @ noon
- 22 **CLOSED**— Christmas Eve Observed
- 25 **CLOSED**— Christmas Day
- 29 **CLOSED**— New Year's Eve Observed

JANUARY 2024

- 1 **CLOSED**— New Year's Day
- 11 Board Meeting @ noon
- 11 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30

FEBRUARY 2024

- 8 Board Meeting @ noon
- 8 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30

MARCH 2024

- 14 Board Meeting @ noon
- 14 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30

APRIL 2024

- 11 Board Meeting @ noon
- 11 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30

MAY 2024

- 9 Board Meeting @ noon
- 9 Coffey County Genealogical Society Meeting @ 6:30
- 27 **CLOSED**— Memorial Day

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