Annual Meeting at the Great Overland Station

The annual meeting on December 5, 2004 was a rousing success. The Great Overland Station was the center of activity for Topeka's 150th Birthday Party, in addition to our annual meeting. We had a great turnout, good food, good beverages, and good company. Thanks to Tuck Duncan for all his efforts! The officers for 2005 were elected, as were Board Members. Thanks to Walt Hillmer for the door prizes for the annual meeting. After the meeting, many members stayed around to enjoy the other activities at the Station, and the fantastic fireworks display over the river. The cloudy, misty night gave a surreal appearance to the fireworks display. The evening was a lot of fun as both the Society and citizens celebrated our Sesquicentennial.

Call for Articles

Would you like to write a short historical article about Shawnee County for the newsletter? Give it a try. Send us a 2-3 page manuscript, and we will start including them in the newsletter. Possible topics:

- Religious communities
- Ethnic communities
- Rememberances from a one-room schoolhouse
- Historical sites of interest
- Old neighborhoods

President's Report, by Doug Jones

I am excited to be the President of the Society this year. We will be involved in a lot of activities this year. This is my first newsletter, so take it with a grain of salt. I would welcome any assistance with future newsletters.

Here are some of the things we will be involved in this coming year:

- The Ritchie House Capital Campaign - Continued Restoration of the Ritchie Houses

Supporting other Historic Restoration and Preservation Projects:

- Constitution Hall
- Tower Building at River Hill - (the old Menninger Tower Building)
- Jayhawk Theatre

And others - please bring other worthwhile projects to our attention.

- Adding Membership - Very Important
• Initiating regular Historic Events to Embrace our Heritage
• Giving Historic Preservation Awards
• Supporting Doug Wallace’s efforts on our 05 Bulletin
• Working with the State Historical Society on Historical Projects - important to Shawnee County
• Supporting City, County, and State recognition of our unique Heritage and the enhancement of Historical and Heritage projects throughout our area.

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Now available
FREE to 2004 members
and for sale in the Shawnee County area:
the 81st Bulletin
of the Shawnee County Historical Society,
Prairie Palace:

The Great Overland Station

The 2004 Bulletin is out and it is wonderful!
Thanks to Doug Wallace for his fantastic work on the 2004 Bulletin - Prairie Palace, The Great Overland Station. What a tremendous job. Thank Doug for all his efforts when you see him. Putting out a Bulletin of this quality takes a phenomenal amount of work.

Other Publications available from the Society:
Check the Bulletins List for issues that are still available - they make great Birthday presents, etc.

2005 Shawnee County Historical Calendar
January-December 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Hicks Block Apartment &amp; 821 Western</td>
<td>Trustee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Constitution Hall</td>
<td>Trustee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<td>August 16</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>To Be Announced</td>
<td>Trustee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Ross Row House</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Monroe School</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All SCHS meetings begin at 4 pm
Guests & visitors are always welcome!!

For Your Information...

We want your input for the upcoming year, and we want your participation.

**Committees** — After the merger of Historic Topeka, Inc. and the Shawnee County Historical Society there was a period of regrouping and restructuring. We now have a new Committee Structure and are in the process of identifying Committee Chairs and Members. This is an opportunity for all members to get involved in projects related to their interests. Please review the list of Committees mentioned on page 5, and we hope you will volunteer for one of your interest. Contact Doug Jones to volunteer (232-4735, doug.jone@washburn.edu).

**2005 Executive Committee:**

- Doug Jones, President
- Tuck Duncan, Immediate Past President
- Not yet identified, President-Elect
- Marcia C. Saville, Secretary
- Matt Tomlinson, Treasurer
- Carol Yoho, Bill Wagnon, Doug Wallace, At Large Members
- Dianna Hillbebert, Membership Secretary
2005 Committee Chairs & Tasks:

* The Committee Chairs are also members of the Executive Committee and are invited to the monthly Executive Committee meeting.

1. **Nominating Committee – Tuck Duncan**  
   a. Nominates next slate of officers and board members

2. **Membership Committee – Dorothy Hill**  
   a. Maintain mailing list  
   b. Dues collection  
   c. Recruitment of new members  
   d. Maintain membership roster

3. **Publications Committee – Douglass Wallace**  
   a. Publish annual bulletin  
   b. Inventory past bulletins  
   c. Oversight of sales of all publications  
   d. Propose book publications as fundraisers  
   e. Develop local outlets for publication sales

4. **Annual Meeting/Events Committee – Betty Paxson**  
   a. Schedule and plan annual meeting  
   b. Schedule and plan other historic events/meetings

5. **Preservation Committee – Doug Jones**  
   a. Research recipients of annual preservation awards in conjunction with Preservation Week  
   b. Take an active role in restoration and preservation of historic landmarks in Shawnee County  
   c. Liaison with Landmark Commission

6. **Ritchie Project Committee – Bill Wagnon**  
   a. Oversee restoration, preservation, new construction, and maintenance of the complex  
   b. Develop educational initiatives  
   c. Fundraising activities (Capital Campaign)

7. **Ross Row House Committee – Doug Jones**  
   a. Oversee restoration, preservation, new construction, and maintenance of the complex  
   b. Provide oversight for monthly expenses (in conjunction with the treasurer)

8. **Public Relations Committee – Ann Spiess**  
   a. Newsletter  
   b. Media Contact  
   c. Website  
   d. Responding to historic inquires (Medal/artwork)  
   e. Speakers Bureau

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"2nd Annual Topeka Fall Festival 1897"

Bill Thrasher metal-detects for civil war relics. At a plantation site in middle-Tennessee, he had determined the site was unoccupied after 1880—until he found a little souvenir pin. On the pin is inscribed “2nd Anl. TOPEKA FALL FESTIVAL 1897.”

“I always try to research any of my finds so as to add to the historical record. I now suspect some of the slaves remained on this until the turn of the century. Possibly someone visited in Kansas or perhaps carried stock to show.”

Interesting tidbit from Carol Yoho, Topeka:

“Whitehead & Hoag Co., of Newark, N.J. was developing celluloid pinback technology just about the time of this Fall Festival. Their patents were July 17, 1894, April 14, 1896 and July 21, 1896.

Topeka eventually went with "modern technology" and produced colorful celluloid pinbacks for festivals held at the turn of the century. I figure the pin [right] is from the turn of the Twentieth Century. It would have never survived in the ground like the brass piece above."

Upcoming Events:

- **March 15, 2005, Next Trustees Meeting** The location of the March 15, 2005 Trustee’s Meeting has been changed. Due to vandalism, we cannot go to the Menninger Tower Building at this time. That will be rescheduled. The new location will be the Hicks Block Apartments at 600 SW 6th St. They will be sold at auction on March 20. They were built in 1888 and have a lot of character. Also, they are on the National Register of Historic Places. We will meet there at 4pm for a tour, then after the tour, we will go to Doug Jones’ house at 821 Western for a brief business meeting.

- **Wednesday May 4th, 2005, IOOF Building, 117 SW 6th St., 7-10pm.** Several presentations about local history followed by Historic Preservation Awards. This event is being held in the newly restored Ballroom (restored by local businessman and renovator, Mike Fox).
May 5-7, 2005, State Historic Preservation Conference. In addition to numerous educational seminars, participants will visit The Great Overland Station, Kansas Statehouse, Monroe School, Topeka High School, and Fire Station #2. For more information, call 785-272-8681, ext. 240.