Fall has finally arrived, but not after a summer filled with special events for our members and the Shawnee County community. Our 4th annual Ice Cream Social was again a huge success due to the hard work of Doug Wright and his crew. The Sante Fe Band provided its usual potpourri of patriotic music that the audience could enjoy while sampling a dish or two of free ice cream. Working in partnership with the Kansas Humanities Council we co-sponsored “Baseball in the Park.” Trustee Tom Ellis introduced the special speaker Phil S. Dixon, whose intense research about Negro baseball, the Kansas City Monarchs, and its relationship to Topeka, kept the audience in rapt attention throughout his program. Dixon featured Carroll Ray Mothell “Dink,” a Topekan who played for the Monarchs. We learned that during one game in Topeka, Jesse Owens, the track star of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, appeared to provide exhibitions in the 100-yard dash and hurdles. Owens then proceeded to run the bases and try to beat the then 12.25 second world record. Ironically, he fell four-fifths of a second short in his try. My only regret was not bringing my grandson over from Overland Park to hear Dixon’s talk. He and any other kid playing baseball today would have been amazed by the stories of what these players went through to break barriers in the sport.

The Sesquicentennial Gala Celebration held at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center at Washburn University was also a great success thanks to the hard work and organizational skills of Johnathan Hart, our Director of Public Relations, and many others. Most participants were dressed in period attire and, after a three course dinner followed by civil war military pagentry and a crowd cheering political speech from Senator Jim Lane, they were able to demonstrate their dancing skills as they were led by caller Derrick Doty with music from The Brigade Band. I suddenly realized that I was dancing with my daughter, Suzanne Steiner, for the first time since the father of the bride had the first dance with her at

—continued on p. 2
President's Message, cont.

her wedding party celebrated here in the same place, the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center, many years ago. Suzanne was my date covering for my wife who had a prior conflict. As a dad, with two daughters who are always doing mother-daughter things together and with me being somewhat jealous of this, I decided last year to at least on a monthly basis make a date with a daughter and take her out for lunch with just dad. We both agreed that the Gala was much better than lunch. Wish I had started dad-daughter dates years ago.

Our most recent event, “An Oral History of the Kansas Legislature,” filled the “Old Supreme Court Chambers” at the statehouse with some of my former legislative friends, press and members of the public. The program featured presentations by three of the ten former legislative leaders interviewed by Dr. Burdett Loomis of the University of Kansas. Dr. Loomis summarized many of his findings from the project. We specifically want to thank and acknowledge the support of Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director of the Kansas Humanities Council, and the Council for providing the grant that allowed this work to take place.

Please put December 6th on your calendar and plan to attend SCHS’s Annual Meeting that will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Cox Communications Heritage Education Center at the Shawnee County Historical Ritchie House site, 1118 SE Madison. You will not want to miss our special program that features Avery Munns, the Washburn Rural High School student who received the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area Award at the Kansas History Day State Contest for her documentary titled: “James Lane: Pioneering Patriot.” Avery will present her documentary and answer your questions. This will also be a great opportunity to meet fellow members and, if you have not recently visited the site, to view the improvements to the Historic Ritchie House and the new signage provided by the National Park Service.

Shared from Sonia Smith, Freedom’s Frontier Heritage Area:
The Topeka Capital-Journal continues a series of articles about Freedom’s Frontier. Read about various sites within the heritage area that have Underground Railroad stories. Reporter Jan Biles keeps traveling around Freedom’s Frontier, and providing these informative reports. The Ritchie House, pictured here, is one of the places mentioned.

Check out the article in print or online and share the series with co-workers, family and friends.

The series to date:

October - Freedom’s Frontier: Union betrayal leads to war atrocity

September - Secret network in Kansas helped blacks escape slavery. URR in Kansas transported as many as 2,000 passengers

August - Battle of Island Mound: First fighting in Civil War for any black troops

July - General Order No. 11: Scorching of Missouri

June - Quantrill’s Raid: ‘Abomination against civilians’ (Bushwhackers killed about 180 men, boys)

June - Who Were the Bushwhackers?
http://cjonline.com/news/2015-06-10/who-were-bushwhackers

May - One War Atrocity, two different accounts: Questions remain about senator’s involvement in burning of Osceola

May - James Lane: Rogue Senator

April - John Brown’s legacy remains controversial: Kansas battle cemented abolitionist’s reputation

March - Free or Slave Kansas? A decision that split the nation

February - Freedom’s Frontier: Heritage borne from struggle
School field trips are in full swing at the Historic Ritchie House. We have seen 291 students and teachers as classrooms are again coming to take part in our Kansas heritage programming. So far this year we have seen a variety of age groups that range from 2nd graders all the way up to Washburn University history students. Staff and volunteers enjoy it all. No matter what age group, there is always something new to learn. The Ritchie House volunteers have learned a few things, too. On one visit, a 3rd grade youngster visiting with his grandmother had a very interesting question to ask concerning the Underground Railroad activity that involved John and Mary Jane Ritchie. Upon learning the Ritchies were conductors and how imperative it was that the activity remained a secret because of the dangers of being caught, this young man asked, “How did they keep their kid quiet?”(Their son Hale was under 10 years old at that time.) The only reasonable answer this volunteer could think of and wanting to stimulate creative thinking was to ask, “How would we keep you quiet?” …He shrugged.

The staff and volunteers for the heritage education programming will be offering new programs for 4th and 5th grades in partnership with the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site. The new programs will concentrate on more details specifically formulated to the Kansas Standards for History for the two grades.

- “Pioneers of Freedom” will be the theme for 4th grade. Focus will be on the Underground Railroad with all volunteers wearing historically correct attire as important Kansas characters, to help youngsters understand the lesson. Content will feature student participation in a simulated Underground Railroad escape followed by a visit with Mrs. Ritchie in the historic home. To assist in learning, students will use hands-on objects and participate in lively discussions of the meaning of freedom both in the past and the present.

- “The Spirit of Freedom” is the theme for new programming for 5th grade and will feature the abolitionist’s adoption of the Liberty Bell as their symbol for freedom. Students will participate in simulated events during the American Revolution of the 1770s and the Abolitionist Movement of the 1830s, where the Liberty Bell was first adopted as its symbol of freedom. Lessons will focus on the enduring struggle for freedom and its costs and benefits from those who lived in the past. Hands-on objects, historically correct attire for our volunteers and a visit to the Historic Ritchie House will complete this lesson.

- “Rediscover Freedom’s Pathway” will be primarily for 7-12 grades. Focus will be on the 100-year connection of the issues of slavery at the Historic Ritchie House, the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s at the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site, and at the Kansas State Capitol — symbol of the place where these historic issues were debated.

Providing quality school field trips for students is a rewarding experience. Having the Historic Ritchie House serve as an important artifact and symbol of an event that shaped our nation provides this community with a unique educational experience for those who visit.

The heritage programs would not be possible without our staff and volunteers. However, with the new expanded programming, more volunteers are needed. If you would like to help with a wide variety of tasks that are needed for these field trips, please call or leave a message at 785-234-6097, or come by to see where you can help. The office located at 1118 SE Madison is open for visitors on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please come in and see where you would like to help. The Historic Ritchie House is a good place to volunteer in the community!

Above: Angie Shelton’s ELL class at Lowman Hill Elementary visited the Ritchie House on Sept. 9, 2015.

HOT NEWS! The Topeka Public Schools Foundation’s Allocations Committee has approved SCHS’s Educational Grant application titled “Heritage Education Program” Grant #2 in the amount of $2,500.00.
An Oral History of the Kansas Legislature

by David Heinemann, SCHS President

The “Old Supreme Court Chamber” in the statehouse was packed on September 29th with former legislators, the press and many others who gathered to learn about a pilot program that during the past two years recorded the oral history of ten of former Kansas legislative leaders who served during the 60s, 70s and 80s. I had the privilege to welcome our guests, most of whom I worked with during and after my tenure in the House. We thanked Senators Vicki Schmidt and Laura Kelly for sponsoring the use of the chamber and also recognized the attendance of Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director of the Kansas Humanities Council. A big thank you went to her organization for providing the grant funding that made this program possible.

Dr. Burdett Loomis, political science professor at the University of Kansas, who performed the oral interviews and collected the legislative history, explained to those gathered what he had learned from the interviews. The substantive findings, while preliminary, did offer real support for the conventional understanding of the Kansas legislature in the 1960s through the 1970s—that it did change in the wake of the court ordered redistricting under one-man, one-vote. This was also a time of civil, productive legislation in which the legislators concluded that they had a real voice in policy making, albeit within the context of committee and party leadership structures. They enjoyed their service and found it valuable, while playing down individual accomplishments.

Three of the interviewees provided additional comments. Former Senator Robert W. Storey, a practicing Topeka attorney since 1963, who served as a Republican in the Kansas Senate from 1969 to 1976, spoke of what he felt was the current generation of lawmakers lack of dedication to dig deeply into the issues and their lack of courage to remain independent and to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the other political factions. He would like to see a change in today’s Kansas legislators where they would be more predisposed to be open minded and work for common solutions, instead of acting like they do in Washington, where they just say they are not going to vote for it.

Jim Maag, a Republican from Dodge City who served as House Speaker Pro Tem, told the audience he felt that the decade of the 70s was arguably the most significant of the 20th century for the Kansas Legislature. Maag cited the increase in women legislators from just two in 1970 to 20th century for the Kansas Legislature. Maag cited the increase in women legislators from just two in 1970 to 60. He surmised that if this trend continued there may be a need for the Silver Haired Legislature. In addition to the Kansas constitution being modernized during the 70s, there were extensive changes in state agency functions through executive reorganization. The departments of transportation and social and rehabilitation services were created. In addition, court unification took place, and the court of appeals was created to help with the appellate workload. Major investments were also made in K-12 education, although the $187 million spent to fund the 1973 school finance plan pales when compared to the dollars appropriated today. Maag also cited the creation by the legislature of its own fiscal staff during the 70s as a needed tool for the legislature to work the agency budgets and provide the checks and balances expected of that branch of government after the Governor submitted his budget to them for approval.

Rochelle Chronister, who served in the Kansas House from Neodesha, Kansas, was the first woman to chair the important House Appropriations Committee. She also served as chair of the Kansas Republican Party and was tapped by Governor Bill Graves to be his Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services. One of the major changes Chronister spoke about was the current legislature’s unwillingness to work in a bipartisan way. She stated that “compromise is not a dirty word” and that it is necessary in order to accomplish things for Kansans. Both sides need to listen to each other in order to create an agreement and then move forward. Chronister was also complimentary of the Legislative Research Department and the Revisor’s Office for their solid tradition of providing non-partisan information and help to legislators.

John Petterson, a former reporter from the Kansas City Star, who followed the legislature during those early years, spoke of the changes he noticed after he left the press corps years ago. He recounted how, during the earlier years, he would watch Senators Bennett, Steinegar, Herd, Gaar or others engaged in furious floor debates that on occasion became so intense that an observer might think a fist fight could ensue. However, less than an hour later he
would see those same legislators at a bar with a cocktail in hand enjoying each other’s company, while discussing the same issues they had just debated trying to find solutions that might address the other side’s concerns. Apparently, he noted, this just does not happen today.

At the conclusion of the presentation, many of the legislators, lobbyists, and others carried the question and answer session on for an extended period of time, relating additional stories about how the legislature of the 70s differed from today’s.

Dr. Ramon Powers, former Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, who also gained insight from the years he worked as a staffer in the Kansas Legislative Research Department, must be recognized for being the key person behind the development of this project to capture an oral history of former Kansas legislators. He enlisted the help of Joan Wagnon and myself to prepare the grant application that enabled the SCHS to sponsor this project that was funded by the Kansas Humanities Council. We are now in the process of forming a 501(c)(3) so that this work can continue. Our mission is to develop and maintain a contact list of former legislators and other key individuals involved in the legislative process; continue the process of interviewing former legislators in order to make this information available to researchers and the public; and to solicit the grants and contributions needed to fulfill this purpose.

Feature [pp 6-10] Author:

Patricia Michaelis grew up in Russell, Kansas. She has lived in Topeka since 1977 when she joined the staff of the Manuscripts Department at the Kansas State Historical Society. Her love of primary sources began when she worked with collections of personal correspondence, diaries, and family papers. She served as the first State Coordinator for National History Day in Kansas and was part of the team that developed Kansas Memory (www.kansasmemory.org). Her undergraduate degree is from Kansas Wesleyan in Salina and she received her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Kansas. She retired from the State Historical Society in March 2015 and recently joined the board of the Shawnee County Historical Society.

This photo of Pat (right) was found on the Kansas Memory web site she covers in her article. This photo shows “Patricia Michaelis wearing a cowgirl outfit and posed on a stuffed horse. The photograph was taken in a photo gallery in Manitou Springs, Colorado. For several summers, her family vacationed in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado.” Written on the back of the photo is, “Hello, Grandpa: How do you like my horse?”
More than 4000 items relating to Shawnee County history are available 24/7 on Kansas Memory (www.kansasmemory.com), the Kansas Historical Society’s digital portal. Since 2007, KHS has been digitizing items from its collections to make them available online. They have digitized photographs, letters, diaries, printed materials, maps, and museum artifacts and have provided descriptions of the items to explain their significance. Over 460,000 items from all over Kansas and the West are included on the site. There are numerous ways to narrow the content to locate items from a specific place, time period, or topics such as floods, snowstorms, businesses, home and family, education, and transportation to list a few. Check it out!!!

Kansas Memory contains documents and other items that document all aspects of Shawnee County history from the territorial period through the present. I have chosen some samples of items from Kansas Memory to share with Shawnee County Historical Society members but, of course, it will be selective rather than comprehensive. One of the oldest items from Shawnee County on the site is a photograph of Abraham Burnett, a Pottawatomie chief (KM item 23528). Burnett’s Mound was named for him.

An early written account of Topeka is provided in a letter by Cyrus K. Holliday to his wife Mary written in Topeka, Kansas Territory on January 7, 1855 (KM item 2740). On page 2 he provides his assessment of Kansas:

Well, then to begin, I think there is no such a country in the world as Kansas—It is certainly more beautiful and desirable than any country I ever saw, and truly glad, indeed, am I, that I ever conceived the thought of coming here. I think again, Mary, that if you will yield to my wishes in this matter, that this delightful country will be our future home.

In the same letter beginning on page 6, he describes Topeka.

Suffice to say, that today I am in the principal house and hotel in Topeka - It is 12 x 14 ft – of logs chinked with turf or sod and roofed with sod – I have known twenty four persons to sleep in this house at one time.

I am now writing this sitting on a trunk and writing upon the end board of a wagon which I am holding in my lap - We have no windows our door is of 6 1/4 ct cotton cloth – our house is full of boxes, trunks – logs of wood tools of different tradesmen guns – and the floor is strewn with chips, shavings, stones earth – coals, ashes and prairie grass - A handful of the latter in one corner together with two buffalo robes and two blankets serves as the bed of a Mr. Giles – a fine gentleman from Chicago – and myself.... In this Hotel – or Hall – or Church or whatever it may be we hold our public meetings, discuss the affairs of the Territory and country and world at large – sing glee and choruses and other innocent amusements and every other Sabbath (and will soon every Sabbath) have preaching twice a day - last Sabbath our Preacher while speaking pretty near fell down by stumbling over our cook pots and pans which were directly behind him.

Kansas Memory contains many atlases/plat books produced by the Geo. A. Ogle & Company that provide detailed information on many Kansas counties. The Standard Atlas of Shawnee County (KM item 223961) published in 1898 includes detailed maps of the towns in Shawnee County as well as maps of the townships that show land ownership at the time. There are portraits of many Shawnee County leaders and a detailed index provides name access to the plats. The township maps show the location of buildings, streams, and rural schools, churches and cemeteries. There is also a lithograph of a bird’s eye view of Topeka from 1880 (KM item 218582). Kansas Memory has a number of other Shawnee County maps. A bird’s eye view of Tecumseh...
(KM item 224631), the **Sage Inn in Dover** (KM item 306036) and **women in Rossville** (KM item 99809) are examples that represent all of Shawnee County.

Of course, **weather** is always a topic of conversation for Kansans. Kansas Memory contains numerous images of the **1903 Topeka flood** (KM item 211604), the **dust storms of the 1930s** (KM item 210972), the 1951 flood, the 1966 tornado and various snow storms.

Changes in transportation over time also are documented in Kansas Memory. A photograph of the **“horse car barns”** (KM item 210616) documents the existence of a **street railway/streetcar system** in the 1880s. One route was from South Topeka to Potwin as street car #33 shows (KM item 307507). The **Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad** and the **Union Pacific Railroad** both ran through Topeka. The Santa Fe offices in Topeka were responsible for selling lands all across Kansas and these land sales were a significant factor in the settlement of Kansas (KM item 11829).

Topeka had its own aviation pioneer in **A. K. Longren**. He flew his bi-plane all over Kansas as this 1912 postcard view from the Anthony Fair, Anthony, Kansas, illustrates (KM item 220946).

The fact that Topeka is the capital of Kansas also impacts its history as do all the state agencies and state employees located in Topeka. The **State Capitol** dominates the landscape of Topeka and its construction over numerous years was viewed by Topekans. This photo shows the building process (KM 208708). Another important institution in the history of Topeka was the **Menninger Foundation**. Founded by Karl and Will Menninger, along with their father C. F., Menninger’s was a leader in mental health treatment and it drew celebrities from all over

—continued on p. 8
the world as this image of **Dr. Karl, Dr. Bob, and Anna Freud** documents. (KM 223903). Dr. Freud was a psychoanalyst and the daughter of Sigmund Freud. In addition to numerous documents, photographs, maps, and other items that document important events in Topeka and Shawnee County history, Kansas Memory also documents the lives of average residents. One of my favorite series of diaries was written by **Martha Farnsworth**. She had an unhappy first marriage to an alcoholic, she lost a child, and had a happy second marriage to a postman names Fred Farnsworth. Martha and Fred lived at 2200 West 10th Street. They became the leaders of a Sunday School class of boys and continued to teach them as they grew into young men serving in World War I. The following excerpts provide a glimpse of the content from several of the diaries.

The entry dated April 29, 1917, details a get together of the Sunday School “boys” at their home:

**Sun. 29** Cold and cloudy all day, but the showers did not come until noon; and the sun shone, for a moment, as we started to Sunday School and again late in afternoon. We took car, to and from S.S and church. I had 13 boys in Class. Harry Davis, one of my lovely boys, sang in the Choir and also in a young men’s Quartette, this morning, at Church, and everyone enjoyed it, very much. This afternoon, Edwin Jones, John Keating, Paul White, “Bob Robert” [XXXXX], Ronald McGord Fred Brackett and Don Fay, came out, and all came out again this evening except Don Fay: “Bobby Robert,” brought Nancy Boone, John Keating, brought Florence Peterson and Harry Davis came out with Adelaide Taylor. Ernest Shelden and Helen Williams were out also, for a short Call. They have played and sang all afternoon and evening, and seem never to weary. First they are at the Piano, then the Victrola and then “Ukulele”. We enjoy young folks and I wish others did, at least well enough, to open their homes to them, for then there would not be so many young men in the Pool rooms nor so many young girls in the Parks and “out-of-the-way” corners of the City. Ed Jones, said to me, this evening, “Mrs. Farnsworth what would us young folks do, if you would not let us come out here?” And that is the great “Problem”- the “young folks” problem and is a most serious one. I took pictures of Don Fay and Fred Brackett, this afternoon, by Lilac bush.

This entry from 1918 describes some of Martha’s social activities, with candid comments about divisions within the Good Government Club. It also hints about some of the tensions regarding German Americans during World War I.

**Thurs. 19** A splendidly, cool day- such a relief from the heat; I went to a meeting of the Good Government Club this afternoon at Y.W.C.A. I am its President and not much, need be expected of the Club, during my term of Office, as, because of jealousies, I must always keep drawn back within myself, like a tortoise in its shell—if I personally, make to much of a fight, for any good thing, there are those who would quickly dump, my good husband out of a job, and we have got to live, so I must work very humbly, and quietly, within bounds. Well, we had a goodly meeting, this afternoon and “Voted aye” on some very good things—One “against german being spoken anywhere outside of their own homes” another, “To employ the wives of Soldiers, —who are capable—as teachers, in our schools.”

When I came home this evening I hastened to feed and milk the cow and prepared Supper for my good Teddy, then while he ate, I hurried, to finish putting more stars and triangles on the church Service Flag and without Supper myself, Teddy and I hurried to Prayer meeting at the Church, where Bro. Burke, preached his good bye Sermon and was pleased to see a Triangle on the Service Flag for him. (KM item 212795)

I hope these examples will spark you interest in exploring the great content of Kansas Memory.

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

1. **Abraham Burnett and John Peyton**
   - Portrait of Pottawatomie chief Abraham Burnett with, possibly, John Peyton standing by his side.
   - Date: 1860s or 1870s

2. **Cyrus Kurtz Holliday to Mary Dillon Holliday**
   - Cyrus K. Holliday wrote from Topeka, Kansas Territory to his
wife, Mary Holliday, in Meadville, Pennsylvania. After a loving introduction, he described Kansas Territory’s sunny, breezy climate. Holliday mentioned letters received from his brother and Mr. Thomas Willson, both named in previous letters, who also wanted to emigrate. He described the principal building in Topeka, which served as meeting hall, hotel, and church, and where he slept with Frye W. Giles, a free state supporter from Chicago. Holliday ended with concern for Lizzie, Mary Holliday’s younger sister.

Creator: Holliday, Cyrus Kurtz, 1826-1900
Date: January 7, 1855

3 Birds eye view of Topeka, Kansas
A lithograph drawn by Augustus Koch showing Topeka, Kansas. Topeka was founded in 1854 along the banks of the Kansas River in present day Shawnee County.
Creator: Ramsey, Millett & Hudson Lith., Kansas City, MO.
Date: 1880

4 View of Tecumseh, Kansas Territory
A lithograph of Tecumseh, Kansas Territory, showing the landscape, buildings and the Kansas River. The large building in the background with a dome is the Episcopal College.
Creator: Middleton, Strobridge & Co.
Date: 1859

5 Sage Inn in Dover, Kansas
This is a photograph of the Sage Inn in Dover, Kansas. It was possibly built by Alfred Sage or his brother Mark. The Sage brothers were masons for the original Kansas Capitol (east wing) in Topeka from 1866-1869. They also built the Crane farm which is the administration building for the Topeka Cemetery. The stone building known as Sage Inn was originally built as a residence in 1878 at a cost of $1,300. According to some accounts, the south wing was added to the building around 1882. Alfred Sage who owned the building was a successful farmer, businessman, and public figure as well as a pioneer. Sage Inn is on the National Register of Historic Places.
Creator: Shirer, Hampton F., 1894-1977
Date: 1971

6 A group of women on a porch, Rossville, Kansas
Pictured left to right on the front porch are Beulah McIntyre, Grace White, Gwen Kramer, Mable Bruce, and Mildred McCollough. This photograph is provided through a pilot project to host unique cultural heritage materials from local libraries on Kansas Memory and was accomplished by mutual agreement between the Northeast Kansas Library System, the Rossville Community Library, and the Kansas Historical Society.
Date: Between 1880 and 1910

7 Cleaning up after a flood, Topeka, Kansas
A photograph showing people cleaning up after the 1903 flood in North Topeka, Kansas.

8 Dust storm in Topeka, Kansas
Although Topeka lay outside the area affected most by the Dust Bowl, residents of Topeka did suffer from blinding dust storms. This photograph depicts a particularly fierce storm that hit Topeka on March 20, 1935. The photograph was looking north on Kansas Avenue from 7th Street.
Date: March 20, 1935

9 Horse car barns
Photo of Topeka City Railway Company horse car barns located on the north side of 10th Street between Kansas and Jackson, Topeka, Kansas. Horse-drawn trolleys are in view.
Date: Between 1881 and 1889

10 South Topeka and Potwin Station street car #33 in Topeka, Kansas
This is a photograph showing South Topeka and Potwin Station street car #33 in Topeka, Kansas. The car was owned by the Topeka Railway Company which purchased the line in 1892. It was the major transit line for the city until the 1920s when the Kansas Power & Light purchased the trolley line.
Creator: Farrow, W. F.
Date: Between 1895 and 1900

11 Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad poster for lands in southwest Kansas
A circular of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad promotes land sales and settlement in southwest Kansas. The advertisement states the climate of southwest Kansas is ideal for farming and ranching. The illustration contrasts prairie versus woodland settlements, and cites the extraordinary growth of cottonwood trees on Polk Street in Topeka. The German language reference indicates the railroad’s intent to appeal to European emigrants. The circular demonstrates the important role railroad companies performed as promoters of the settlement and agricultural development of the west. C. B. Schmidt is listed as the German General Agent at the bottom of the poster.
Creator: Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company
Date: 1870s

12 Albin Kasper Longren’s photograph album
This photograph album documents a number of airplanes (biplanes) designed, built and flown by Albin Kasper Longren. He built and flew Topeka’s first aircraft on September 2, 1911. At two different times, Longren tried to establish an airplane factory in Topeka, Kansas. His second factory was in an abandoned woolen mill in Oakland, a neighborhood in Topeka, Kansas. The album contains photographs of the exterior and interior of this factory and numerous views of planes and plane parts. Longren’s planes were well received, but his business failed because he had difficulty manufacturing numbers of planes. There are two images of a plane parked at the entrance to Gage Park in Topeka. Longren did exhibition
flying at county fairs and other events in the region under the name Longren Aviators Exhibition Flyers. The album also has images of biplanes at Coffeyville, Anthony, Stockton, and other locations in Kansas as well as at least one image taken in the following states: Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Texas. Longren built a plane that was purchased by Phillip Billard, a Topeka aviator, and there are images of this plane in the album.

Date: 1912-1921

13 Dome construction, Topeka, Kansas

View of construction of the Kansas State Capitol building’s dome in Topeka, Kansas. Also visible is an American flag, a small brick building on the Capitol grounds, wooden fences, utility poles and power lines, a horse-drawn carriage, and two men in a trolley car in the foreground.

Creator: Cone, W. W.
Date: 1889

14 Anna Freud and Dr. Karl Menninger and Dr. Bob Menninger

Anna Freud was the Sloan Visiting Professor at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas, in 1962. She was a psychoanalyst and Sigmund Freud’s daughter. In the image used, Dr. Karl Menninger is in the middle of the photograph.

Date: 1962

15 Martha Farnsworth diary

Martha Farnsworth kept a personal diary from 1882 through 1922 with only a few gaps. The diary describes her daily activities, her first unhappy marriage to Johnny Shaw, her second happy marriage, and her involvement in social and community affairs, primarily in Topeka. Both of Martha’s husbands worked for the Post Office. Martha and Fred, (sometimes called Teddy) taught a class of boys at the First Christian Church in Topeka. They continued to teach the same class as the boys grew up and these young men and the girlfriends became a surrogate family. This particular volume covers the years 1917 and 1918 during which a number of the boys in the Sunday School class served in the Army. They frequently gathered at the Farnsworth house and the class took an annual camping trip. There are emotional statements about the “enemy” as well as constant concern about “her boys.” Martha did not show her diary to anyone during her lifetime so many of the entries are personal and show her emotions. She, at times, is judgmental of others. Martha was an avid amateur photographer and this diary included references to taking and printing pictures. She also makes reference to traveling by car, meaning a street car. She generally makes a distinction if she is traveling by automobile. A searchable transcription is available under Text Version, also available. Thanks to volunteer Erica Hare for preparing the transcription.

Creator: Farnsworth, Martha 1867-1924
Date: 1917-1918

Recap: SCHS Event Highlights

For more extensive photo essays of recent events visit: http://www.shawneeccountyhistory.net/aboutus/2015.html

► Annual Ice Cream Social

Sun., August 9, 2015, @ Ritchie properties, Featured Topeka’s Santa Fe Band. Ice cream and music were free.

Highlights: Lovely weather, young children in attendance, one song featuring a group of very rare slide-trumplets.

► Sesquicentennial Gala Celebration

Sat., September 12, 2015 @ Bradbury Thompson Center, Washburn University

Highlights: Dinner/Dance included celebrations of the end of the American Civil War and the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Washburn University. The event featured Brigade Band and Living History Reenactors.
Negro Leagues historian and author Phil Dixon presented a program on September 10, 2015: “The Kansas City Monarchs in Our Hometown.” It was a thoroughly researched talk highlighting some of games the Kansas City Monarchs baseball team played in Topeka during the early 20th century. Phil entertained with wonderful stories. The Monarchs were a charter member and one of the longest-running franchises in the baseball’s Negro Leagues. J. L. Wilkinson was the first Caucasian owner at the time of the establishment of the team. The Monarchs became the first professional baseball team to use a portable lighting system which was transported from game to game in trucks, to play games at night. The Monarchs won ten league championships before integration, and triumphed in the first Negro League World Series in 1924.

The audience was astounded to learn that in one game played in Topeka, five future Baseball Hall of Fame players were in the same game. The Monarchs included a formidable collection of talent, including pitcher/outfielder Bullet Rogan, an eventual Hall of Famer who established himself as one of the most popular stars of the new league; sluggers Dobie Moore, Heavy Johnson, George Carr, and Hurley McNair; and pitchers Rube Currie and Cliff Bell.

Phil finished his prepared remarks and the audience was prepared to ask questions which could have lasted another hour except the tornado sirens sounded and everyone scattered into the storm. The event was co-sponsored by the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame with financial support from the Kansas Humanities Council.

Pictured, left to right, are: Tom Ellis, Phil Dixon, Ramon Powers
Support SCHS

Fall is closing, and winter is on its way. Help us fund educational and operating expenses in our winter-to-come. Please make a charitable contribution today!

Send your tax-deductible 501(c)(3) donation to:
Shawnee County Historical Society,
P.O. Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201
Or donate via PayPal at http://www.shawneecountyhistory.org/#!become-a-member/c20e2

WE THANK YOU—AND APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF EACH OF YOU AS A SCHS MEMBER!

The following persons have joined or renewed their memberships for 2015 since the last newsletter: Dale Anderson, J. Thomas, A. Hardy, Rocky Bartlow, Jean and Celia Daniels, Kurt Daniels, Virginia Kay Foster, Rick Friedstrom, Deb Goodrich, Walt and Joyce Hillmer, Margie Hogue, Robert and Deborah Keeshan, Downtown Topeka Inc., Elizabeth Leech, Chloe Mooradian, Jim and Nancy Parrish, Murl Riedel, Tim Rues, Joe and Nancy Sargent, Jack Shutt, and Toni Silvestry.

Nancy Landon Kassebaum and Rosemary Williamson have renewed for 2016.

Donors to the new monument sign since the last newsletter are: Duane and Beth Fager, Rick Friedstrom, Jim Maag, Ralph Skoog, Jim Slattery, John Stauffer and Doug Wallace.

Since enrolled in Dillons Stores Community Rewards Program, six shoppers who have signed up for the community rewards program have generated $66.88 for the Society in the past quarter. If you have not registered, please consider doing so immediately. It adds nothing to your grocery bill. Visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards and enroll. The SCHS NPO number is #33429.

Visit our new SCHS website: www.shawneecountyhistory.org The site now links to a variety of archived local history materials also via www.shawneecountyhistory.net
To access “members only” information simply log on to the SCHS website. You will need a password to enter. Check your email for a message you may have received that includes the member-password. If you have not received the password, do not hesitate to email our office:
shawneecountyhistory@gmail.com
We’ll forward the password to you in response.
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Our membership year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 annually.
Make check to “Shawnee County Historical Society” and mail form w/ your check to:
Shawnee County Historical Society, P.O., Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201
PLEASE PRINT or TYPE info requested.

Choose type: _____ Regular / $35 _____ Patron / $50 _____ Renovator / $100 _____ Sustainers / $150 (+)

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP

Name ___________________________________________ Phone ______________ E-mail ___________________________

Address ___________________________________________ City __________________ State _____ Zip _______

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Name ___________________________________________ Phone ______________ E-mail ___________________________

Address ___________________________________________ City __________________ State _____ Zip _______

Tax Deductible 501 (c)(3) DONATION Indicate amount: $ __________

I wish to join this/these SCHS committee(s): _____ Nominations _____ Membership _____ Publications
_____ Annual Meeting/Socials _____ Public Relations _____ Historic Preservation _____ Education/Communications

SCHS has gone High Tech AND is saving members money by teaming with PayPal on-line to accept memberships and donations. We also hope to offer sales of our inventory of Bulletins with on-line payment via PayPal. Links now appear on-line http://www.shawneecountyhistory.org to allow payment transactions via PayPal by secure credit or debit card transaction.

SCHS dues year runs from January 1 to December 31, each year.  
Now is a great time to join for 2016!

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Topeka History Geeks Tours of THS & Jayhawk Theatre

THS tour was March 2015. Theatre tour was August 2015.

Photos by Carol Yoho
Mark Your Calendars!

SCHS Annual Meeting
Sunday, December 6, 2015 / 2PM
1118 SE Monroe, Topeka, KS 66601

Our speaker will be Avery Munns—

Avery is a Washburn Rural High School student who produced a documentary entitled “James Lane: Pioneering Patriot,” about the Kansas Territorial Free State leader and one of the state’s first U. S. Senators. Her documentary was entered in the Kansas History Day State Contest which was held at Washburn University in Topeka last April 25, 2015, and received the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area Award. The award is given to the entry that best exemplifies the ideals of shaping the frontier, the Missouri-Kansas Border War, or the enduring struggle for freedom within the heritage area. Avery will present her documentary and then take questions after.

Our annual meeting will include a business meeting, election for new trustees, and refreshments. Please plan now to attend!