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Michael Bradley, Vice President
Kathryn Hosfelt, Secretary
Shaun Powers, Treasurer
Anne Spiess, Past President

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Kathryn Hosfelt   Carlton Scroggins
Doug Wallace      Michael Bradley
Janet Loebel      Shaun Powers
Jeanne Mithen     Anne Spiess

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Visit us on-line: www.shawneecountyhistory.org

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You Are Invited

SCHS has planned our Annual Meeting for Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Sixth Avenue Ballroom, 117 W. 6th Ave., Topeka, Kansas, 66603, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend this event. Important business of this meeting includes a vote on changes to our by-laws (see pp. 3-7 of this newsletter), election of trustees for 2009, and approval of the budget.

We plan a program focusing on Sumner School history, with a speaker to be announced. We’ll finish the afternoon with a reception.

The Sixth Avenue Ballroom is on the upper level of the building once known as the I.O.O.F. Hall, (c. 1910). Tenants have included bakery, grocers, “Tailoring College,” coin shop, and now includes Lloyd Zimmer Books and Maps.

Ritchie House Events
—by Robin Shrimplin, Ritchie House education consultant

► October 18, am - K-State students will be touring the Ritchie House museum.
► October 20, 7 pm - WU students will be touring the Ritchie House museum.
► October 26, 4:30 pm - KCSS annual meeting at the KSHS. Teachers from throughout the state will be touring the site.
► October 28, 10 am - Active Primetimers will be touring the site.
► October 29, 8-noon - 85 Shawnee Heights Middle School students will be touring the site. Mary Jane Ritchie (aka Anne Hawkins) will be giving a presenta-
tion on the UGRR for the students.

► **Every Saturday in November**
- OPEN HOUSE - from 10 am to 2 pm (special events to be announced).

► **November 8 & 22**, 10:30 am - Mary Jane Ritchie (Anne Hawkins) will be giving a performance at the house.

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**Did You Know? — by Lowell B. Manis, General Superintendent, Historic Topeka Cemetery**

Many famous people are buried in Historic Topeka Cemetery. I would like to make the reader aware of some they may not be familiar with, but who deserve recognition. Keep in mind; there are more undiscovered treasurers in the cemetery than those that have been found. Here are some I’ve discovered: you know, the ones politicians only speak of before elections!

Every bit of history counts, and every person has a role to play. There are visionaries who dream up great ideas. Then, there are those who labor to make great ideas work. Yet laborers often receive only modest credit. Cyrus K. Holliday founded the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. But, who built the trains and made them run on time? These are the people I admire. Many fit quietly into history, yet are heroes in their own way! These people made America, and their efforts matter.

I consider myself one of these people whose labor has a role to play. I have walked the grounds of this old cemetery thousands of times. Rarely, in all those times, did I fail to find interesting stories of those buried here. When I retire in a couple of years, with over forty years on the job, I will have been an active employee longer than any one yet in the history of the Association--now spanning 150 years.

I hear the question, “Why stay?” “Why not?” I like to reply! I came here to work for a summer. It has been a very, very long summer, indeed!

**NOT TODAY!**

If you were offered a better job-higher pay, with prestige--could you say, “No thanks!”? That, indeed, is the story of **Foster Dwight Coburn**, 1846-1924.

Born in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, Foster came to love and care about his adopted state of Kansas. What did Foster like doing? He served many years as Secretary of Agriculture for the state of Kansas. He was associated with agricultural publications. He liked his work.

Foster was asked to run for Governor, an office to which many felt he would have been elected; he refused. He was twice asked to serve as Secretary of Agriculture...
Proposed By-Laws

These will be voted on at our Annual Meeting,
Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, 2-4 pm. Please come and vote!

BY-LAWS

SHAWNEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Article I – Name

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Shawnee County Historical Society, Inc.

Section 2: The Shawnee County Historical Society, Inc. (SCHS) is incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas as a not-for-profit corporation. It has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax exempt under Rule 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall at all times operate as such within the meaning of that Section of the Code or corresponding sections of the future United States Revenue Code.

Section 3: The SCHS may, at its pleasure and by a vote of the membership body, change its name.

Article II - Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of the SCHS, a non-profit corporation, is to preserve, collect and interpret the history of Shawnee County, Kansas. This purpose shall include, but not limited to:

(a) Promoting public participation in local historical preservation and heritage commemoration;
(b) Recognizing exceptional historic preservation;
(c) Publishing materials on Shawnee County, Kansas history;
(d) Preserving and interpreting selected historic landmarks;
(e) Providing community education in areas of local history and culture; and
(f) Collaborating with relevant heritage organizations.

Article III - Membership

Section 1: Application for voting membership in the SCHS shall be open to any who support the purpose statement in Article II.

Section 2: Continuing SCHS membership is contingent upon being up-to-date on annual membership dues.

Section 3: The Board of Trustees shall have the authority to establish and define nonvoting categories of SCHS membership.

Article IV - Meetings

Section 1: The annual meeting of the membership of the SCHS for the election of Officers and for the transaction of such other business as properly may be submitted to such annual meeting, shall be held on the first non-legal holiday Sunday closest to December 5 (the date of Topeka’s founding). The Board of Trustees shall set the meeting time and place.

Section 2: The general membership at the annual meeting shall receive the annual report of the SCHS, elect the Board of Trustees, approve proposed changes in the Bylaws, set membership dues for the coming year, and conduct any other business deemed proper for the governance of the SCHS. A majority of members-of-record present and voting shall be necessary to conduct the business of the SCHS.

Section 3: Not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting, the Secretary shall notify each SCHS voting member-of-record (being a member as of October first), providing each with the time — cont. on p. 4
and place of the annual meeting as well as the Board of Trustee recommendations for action at the annual meeting. Written notice may be transmitted by mail, electronically, or otherwise at the direction of the Board of Trustees.

Section 4: Special meetings of the SCHS can be called at any time by the President when he/she deems it for the best interest of the organization. Notice of such a meeting shall be mailed to all members at least ten (10) days before the date scheduled for the special meeting. Such notice shall state the reason(s) that such meeting has been called, the business to be transacted, and who called the meeting.

Section 5: At the written request of thirty-three (33) percent of the members of the Board of Trustees or twenty-five (25) percent of the SCHS membership, the President shall cause a special meeting to be called. Such written request must be made at least twenty (20) days before the requested meeting date. No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at such special meeting without the unanimous consent of all those present at such meeting.

Section 6: The Board of Trustees shall meet regularly and according to a schedule adopted at its organizing meeting, which follows the annual membership meeting. The presence of not less than thirty-three (33) percent of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of the SCHS.

Article V - Voting

Section 1: At all meetings, all votes shall be by voice.

Section 2: Only members-of-record (as of October of each year) are entitled to vote on the business of the annual meeting.

Section 3: The Board of Trustees shall select officers following the annual membership meeting by a voice vote.

Section 4: At any regular or special meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted upon by ballot.

Section 5: At all votes by ballot, the chairman of such meeting shall, prior to the commencement of balloting, appoint a committee of three whom shall act as “Inspectors of Election” and whom shall, at the conclusion of such balloting, certify in writing to the chairman the results and the certified copy shall be physically affixed in the minute book to the minutes of that meeting.

Article VI - Order of Business at Scheduled Meetings

(a) Roll call
(b) Reading of the Minutes of the preceding meeting
(c) Reports of Treasurer
(d) Reports of Committees
(e) Old and unfinished business
(f) New business
(g) Adjournments

Article VII – Board of Trustees

Section 1: The Board of Trustees shall manage the overall policy, direction, and business of the SCHS. The Board shall have up to fifteen (15) members. At least one of the Trustees elected shall be a resident of the State of Kansas and a citizen of the United States.

Section 2: The Trustees for the ensuing year shall be chosen at the annual membership meeting and
shall serve for a term of three years. A Trustee may serve two consecutive terms. Following the second term, the Trustee must wait one year before serving as a Trustee again.

Section 3: Although the Board of Trustees has the control and management of the affairs and business of the SCHS, such Board of Trustees shall only act in the name of the SCHS when it shall be regularly convened by its President after due notice to all the Trustees of such meeting.

Section 4: No member or officer of the Board of Trustees shall receive salary or compensation (other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses). But, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an officer or Trustee for receiving compensation from the SCHS for duties other than as a Trustee or officer.

Section 5: Thirty-three (33) percent of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6: Meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held regularly according to a calendar of meetings adopted at its first meeting following the annual membership meeting.

Section 7: Each Trustee has but one vote and proxy may not cast that vote.

Section 8: The Board of Trustees has the discretion to make rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may determine necessary.

Section 9: Vacancies in the Board of Trustees shall be filled for the balance of the term by a vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Board of Trustees.

Section 10: The President-elect shall become President of the SCHS, by virtue of his/her office, at the conclusion of the annual membership meeting and shall act as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Section 11: The Board of Trustees shall select from one of their members a President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer at its first meeting following the annual membership meeting.

Section 12: A Trustee may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal. The Board of Trustees may entertain charges against any Trustee. A Trustee may be represented by counsel upon any removal hearing. The Board of Trustees shall adopt such rules for this hearing as it may in its discretion consider necessary for the best interests of the SCHS organization.

Section 13: Receipt and disbursement of SCHS funds shall be according to policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Article VIII - Officers

Section 1: Officers of the SCHS are members of the Board of Trustees and shall be as follows:
(a) President
(b) President-elect
(c) Secretary
(d) Treasurer

Section 2: The President shall preside at all SCHS membership meetings.

Section 3: The President shall by virtue of his/her office act as chairman of the Board of Trustees and shall preside, or arrange for other members of the Board of Trustees to preside, at each meeting.

Section 4: The President shall present at each annual SCHS membership meeting an annual report of the work of the organization.

Section 5: The President shall have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization.
Section 6: The President-elect shall in the event of the absence or inability of the President to exercise his/her office, become acting president of the SCHS with all the rights, privileges and powers as if he/she had been the duly elected president.

Section 7: The office of President and President-elect shall be for one year. In case of the vacancy of the office of President or President-elect, the position shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the Board of Trustees for the balance of the original term.

Section 8: The Secretary shall give and serve all notices to members of the SCHS.

Section 9: The Secretary shall be the official custodian of all SCHS books and records (e.g., membership records, minutes of meetings, written policies, governing documents, financial statements) and shall see that all books, reports and certificates required by law are properly kept, filed, or made available to the public.

Section 10: The Secretary shall present at meetings of the SCHS membership any communication(s) addressed to him/her as Secretary of the SCHS.

Section 11: The Secretary shall submit to the Board of Trustees any communications addressed to him/her as Secretary of the SCHS.

Section 12: The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence of the SCHS and shall exercise all duties incident to the office of Secretary.

Section 13: The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the SCHS.

Section 14: The Treasurer must be bonded.

Section 15: The Treasurer shall render at stated periods (as the Board of Trustees shall determine) a written account of the finances of the SCHS and such report shall be physically affixed to the meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees.

Section 16: An officer may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal. The Board of Trustees may entertain charges against any officer. At any removal hearing, the officer may be represented by counsel. The Board of Trustees shall adopt such rules for a removal hearing as it may in its discretion consider necessary for the best interests of the SCHS.

Article IX – Salaries

Section 1: The Board of Trustees shall hire and fix the compensation of any and all employees which they in their discretion may determine to be necessary for the conduct of the business of the SCHS.

Article X – Committees

Section 1: The Board of Trustees shall form all committees of the SCHS. Committee membership shall be voluntary and will continue unless terminated by the action of the Board of Trustees.

Section 2: Standing Committees for the SCHS shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) Preservation,
(b) Education
(c) Public Relations, Programs, and Events
(d) Publications,
(e) Historic Landmarks (i.e., Ritchie House),
(f) Finance, Budget and Audit,
(g) Nominations,
(h) Membership.
An Invitation

Are you passionate about some aspect of Shawnee County History? An anecdote? Historical research? A preservation project? Does your historical interests lie within Topeka, North Topeka, Auburn, Dover, Rossville, Silver Lake, Highland Park, Oakland, Shawnee Heights, or environs? Good!

The Education Committee of SCHS invites you to write briefly on the topic of your choice and submit your work for possible publication in our newsletter. See topics covered in this issue for length and scope examples. Be sure to answer these journalistic questions—**who/what/when/where/why?**—concerning your topic. Submit work for consideration to Carol Yoho, cyoho@cox.net, 3013 SW Quail Creek Dr., Topeka, KS 66614. Call 785.273.3089 or e-mail with questions.

We’d like to enlighten our readers as to what you love about local history. If you are not yet a member of the Shawnee County Historical Society, join today using the form on page 11. Make your voice heard in the education, preservation and publication missions of SCHS.

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**Proposed By-Laws — cont.**

Article XI - Dues

**Section 1:** Dues of the SCHS shall be set annually by the membership at the annual meeting upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. Dues shall be payable on January first (1) of each year.

Article XII – Amendments

**Section 1:** These SCHS By-Laws may be amended or repealed, or new bylaws adopted, by a majority of members-of-record present and voting at the annual meeting.

**Section 2:** Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Secretary to be sent out with regular Board announcements.

Article XIII – Dissolution

**Section 1:** Dissolution shall occur only after a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees and majority vote of the membership of the SCHS. Should the vote be in the affirmative, the assets and/ or properties of the SCHS shall be distributed as follows:

(a) All minutes of the SCHS shall be disposed of in accordance with the laws of the Federal and State governments.

(b) All SCHS materials or equipment acceptable to the Kansas State Historical Society shall be given to such Society.

(c) Should the Kansas State Historical Society not accept some materials, such materials shall be offered to the Topeka and Shawnee County Library.

(d) In the event the SCHS is unable to dispose of any properties in the manner described above, the properties may be sold to the general public and monies thereafter donated to the Kansas State Historical Society.

**Section 2:** If the SCHS should desire to change its name and format through dissolution and reorganization, or to effect a merger, or whatsoever other action, all assets and liabilities shall remain with the continuing organization.

Article XIV – Parliamentary Authority

**Section 1:** The authority for the parliamentary procedures of the SCHS shall be the current revision of Robert’s Rules of Order.

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Few readers of this newsletter will be surprised that I have been a long time member and activist with the Shawnee County Historical Society. It was the second organization I joined after University Methodist Church when I arrived to take my job at Washburn in 1968. I am a life member and have been a trustee and officer. For me history has been more than a profession—it is a world view that defines my life.

The more that I have mucked around in the past, the more I have become intrigued with the history of our community and region. I can spend hours reading old newspapers, fascinated by the advertisements and amused by the human antics reported. Stories that are interesting for local reasons become more fascinating when they illustrate a local connection to a national or international phenomenon. Such stories remind me that the big stories of formal and national histories are merely the sum of local and individual activities. Knowing Shawnee County’s history adds depth to my understanding of the past and its influence on our times.

What I have come to appreciate is that Shawnee County’s history is distinctively connected to national history and to the issues that define basic American values. Its history is marked by remarkable quests for equality and freedom. Sadly, too few appreciate the community’s contributions to national identity. Practically everyone knows that the battle of Lexington Green in Massachusetts started the American Revolution, but few understand that here in Kansas in the 1850s our nation began “a new birth of freedom” that came with the American Civil War. The first Topekans established the community committed to the principles of freedom and equality and Kansans defended those principles with blood. The War and the Reconstruction era that followed tried to make the Union one by ending slavery and empowering free people of color. A century later, American freedom was again reborn with the Brown v. Board of Education case that demolished the principle of separate but equal. The case became foundational in the construction of the Civil Rights Movement that tried to deliver on the promises made to people of color a century prior. Oliver Brown was a Topekan. Local civil rights activists placed Topekans’ struggle for equality squarely in the middle of the national struggle. A century apart, Kansans’ actions transformed the basic character of American freedom.

The American flag and Constitution embody the nation. The mandate in the Constitution is to create a “more perfect union.” That mandate charges us to construct an identity defined by a set of human values which diverse peoples embrace as the way to govern their daily interactions. The concept of freedom is at the core of those values and the story of the nation has been a continuous struggle to enjoy freedom. On one side have been those who would restrict freedom out of fear that granting it to others would dilute their own. On the other have been those who would extend freedom in order to guarantee their own. Whether the conflicts have been native against immigrant, male against female, capital against labor, Protestant against Catholic, or white against black, the great theme of freedom in American history revolves around resolving those dichotomies. We have managed so far to create a more perfect union because we have achieved a common identity by resolving freedom’s tensions.

Our efforts to live up to the mandate have included the conflicts between slave and free and later between segregation and integration. Those cultural landmarks are rooted in Eastern Kansas and are symbolized by the Statehouse, the Historic Ritchie House and the Monroe School. The State Historical Society has been tasked with telling that story in the Capitol and the National Park Service is telling it at the Brown v. Board museum. The Shawnee County Historical Society’s Landmark Ritchie House represents the third leg holding up freedom’s tripod in Kansas. Together these landmarks define who we are as a community—as Topekans, as Kansans and as Americans. Acknowledging the heritage associated with those landmarks provides a foundation to explore the county’s complex political, social, economic, and religious history, just as the State Historical Society dedicates itself to understanding the state’s complete heritage.

By embracing our identity, our heritage, and our role in the national story we strengthen community. In Topeka there are pockets of heritage awareness where a culture of preservation and celebration flourishes. Neighborhood groups associated with North Topeka,
Potwin, College Hill, and Holliday Park recognize and celebrate their neighborhoods’ contributions to Topeka’s heritage. The federal government has defined the importance of eastern Kansas to American freedom by creating the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, which includes Shawnee County.

The Society can affirmatively contribute to the National Heritage Area and support neighborhood groups by fostering awareness of our heritage and promote a community-wide culture of education, preservation, and commemoration. The Society’s Ritchie House gives the Society an engaging story about freedom and a place to promote the importance of heritage culture. Because it is an authentic relic of Topeka’s origins, the Ritchie House serves as a starting point for learning about the story of freedom regardless of time – 1854, 1954, or 2008.

The Society has a rich tradition of collecting and publishing stories about Shawnee County people, places and events, and it has been promoting student interest in history through the former oral history programs at Topeka West and History Day at Washburn. The Society’s members have been in the forefront of historical preservation of older structures that are crucial to the community’s heritage identity. When the Society undertook to preserve and interpret the Ritchie House, it began to synthesize its efforts around a common theme of freedom’s unfolding.

When Kansas started bleeding as a result of the fights over spreading or restricting slavery in the 1850s, the nation came to understand that it could develop no further until the issue was resolved one way or the other. John Ritchie and his contemporaries, friend and foe alike, were the agents of that new awareness. How they worked out their disagreements foreshadowed the nation’s struggle known as the Civil War and ending slavery. Once resolved, America rapidly expanded its farms, its industries, its cities, and its global involvements. Shawnee Countians defined the Civil War struggles, participated in the post Civil War boom, but never forgot basic values as they engaged in battles to redefine freedom again and again. Topekans were entrepreneurs, leaders in new religious movements, suffragists, and advocates for the rights of a diverse population. As the Ritchie house symbolizes one era’s drive for freedom, so the Society can educate contemporary residents about this heritage and encourage preservation of other spaces associated with all phases of Topeka’s ongoing commitment to freedom, opportunity and equality.

We have already lost many of the spaces associated with the larger story of Shawnee County because we did not appreciate our community’s heritage. One place to stop this hemorrhaging lies in expanding the education programming for area schools initiated in the process of interpreting the Landmark Ritchie House. The community’s young people are eager consumers of heritage stories and students involve their parents. Sensitive parents in turn become advocates for historic preservation that creates a heritage culture for Topeka and Shawnee County. A heritage culture leads to public policies that support preservation and commemoration that binds the community together around a common identity.

To those ends, the Landmark Ritchie House committee has begun to create curriculum materials based on state history curriculum standards to assist area teachers engage their students through Kansas history study. Preservation of the Ritchie House and development of the Hale Ritchie House next door into an education service center give the Society an authentic place to promote the community culture of heritage awareness. By rooting young people in the past, we cultivate an appreciation for the distinctive heritage of our community and region and bind successive generations together.

I urge each reader of this newsletter to be devoted to creating a community-wide heritage culture based on the important role Shawnee Countians have played in America’s enduring struggle for freedom. Our patriotic duty calls for it. 🇺🇸

Kansans Tell Their Stories Grants

Kansas Humanities Council offers Kansas communities the chance to preserve and promote their one-of-a-kind histories. These stories inspire curiosity about the past, and get us thinking about today’s communities. Oral history projects, podcast recordings, public forums, museum exhibitions, and digital documentaries are all eligible for funding. Read details at www.kansashumanities.org.
for the United States. The appointment came from the President himself. He declined! Even an appointment to serve in the US Senate got thumbs down from Foster.

Serving the interest of the farmers of Kansas came ahead of all else. He was clearly not a man driven by a need for notoriety. This is a man I admire. What a world we would have today if more people were driven by the heart and not the pocketbook!

RIGHT—TO THE END

From the early days of the settlement of the West, outlaws have held a reign of terror over their victims in the small towns they’ve invaded. Seldom did the average citizen have the courage to make a stand in the name of justice.

There were exceptions. One such man was Ira Otis Middaugh, a teller in a bank in Cody, Wyoming. Ira was born February 13, 1868 in Kalamazoo, MI. How he wound up in Cody is, likely, a story in itself.

The “Hole in the Wall Gang,” including notorious members Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, confronted him there. When commanded to turn over the cash, he said, “NO!”

Unlike the Newman/Redford movie version, “Hole in the Wall” gang members were not neighborly types and did not take well to being told, “No!” Ira, faced with these most desperate of outlaws, chose to take a stand. It could be said, “He took his job to heart.” That was literally the case for Ira. In the resulting hail of flying bullets he was hit in the heart and died.

Many other bankers may have met similar fates at the hands of the Hole in the Wall Gang but, to the best of our knowledge, Ira is the only one to wind up in the Topeka Cemetery. He is buried a short distance from G. H. Evens, contractor of our Capitol building. Others who lie here may have been brought down by gunfire in those cowboy days. But records show few were killed by such a well-known gang.

Ira took his fatal stand in the name of what was right! Apparently, he believed in right at any cost, to which he paid the ultimate price. At the time it was likely that few thought of him as a hero, but I consider him one. He died November 2, 1904. Four years later Butch Cassidy met a similar fate. Sometimes there is Justice!

FOR SPORTS FANS

The birth of basketball in America is credited to my favorite university, the University of Kansas, just down the road in Lawrence, Kansas. Dr. Milton Bradford Miller Sr., buried in Topeka Cemetery, was honored in seeing basketball history bloom. Milton was a star KU athlete at both track and basketball. His coach, James Naismith, is known as the Father of Basketball. One of his teammates was Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen, for which Allen Field House was named.

In his professional career Dr. Miller worked with organizations. He was a leading citizen of Topeka, director of Capital Federal Savings, chairman of Victory Life Insurance Company, and medical director of Kansas Power and Light (now known as Westar Energy).

I have heard that one of the measures of life is in what you accomplish. Another measure must be in the number of lives you touch along the way. Dr. Miller, would be a good example of someone who touched many lives.

Historic Topeka Cemetery photo, p. 2, by Eli Bargmann

Oregon Trail Research Update

SCHS member Doug Mauck is researching his theory that tracks of the Oregon Trail are visible in the fields and undergrowth of MacLennan Park, south and west of Cedar Crest near I-70 at Fairlawn Rd.

“I’ve been taking groups on walking tours of the trail at MacLennan Park. One group was from Potwin neighborhood and another was from the volunteers that maintain the park. I’m making believers!

“Old Prairie Town’s web site reports that the Ward-Meade farm was established in 1854 ‘on the Oregon Trail.’ The Ward Meade farm is almost a mile west of Papin’s Ferry, so the Union Ferry Branch of the Oregon Trail ran down 1st Street past the Ward-Meade farm. The place where the trail enters MacLennan Park is approximately where 1st Street would be if it extended to Fairlawn.

“I’ve been finding more artifacts on the trail traces: a hand brake assembly from an old horse drawn wagon. I don’t know how you could lose a hand brake, but they did. I also recently found the hook from harness traces—the big hook that hooks the harness to the wagon.

“Travel on the Oregon Trail must have been one big long maintenance problem!”
MEMBERSHIP FORM
Membership is from January-December, annually

Please print and fill out this form, then send with payment to the address below.
NOTE: The Shawnee County Historical Society and Historic Topeka have merged. We are called "Shawnee County Historical Society," but now include historic preservation focus as well as documenting local history.

MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please print)

Yes! I wish to join the Society that preserves the past and celebrates our heritage.

Name _________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________.
City ___________________________________________________________.
State ___________ Zip ___________ Email __________________.

Check type of membership:      ______ Regular—$35.00  ______ Patron—$50.00
                                ______ Renovator—$100.00

GIFT MEMBERSHIP (Please print)

_____ $ Gift Membership for someone I know who will benefit from membership.
(Photocopy this form for more than one. Use rates listed above.)

Name _________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________.
City ___________________________________________________________.
State ___________ Zip ___________ Email __________________.

I Wish to join the following committee:

[ ] Nominations          [ ] Membership          [ ] Publications
[ ] Annual Meeting/Socials [ ] Preservation
[ ] Ritchie Project       [ ] Education/Communications [ ] Public Relations

Name _________________________________________________________

(Make checks to "Shawnee County Historical Society")

Please send form(s) with your check to:
Shawnee County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201
Your canceled check serves as your membership receipt.
Mark Your Calendar:

Annual Meeting of SCHS — ’08

Sunday, December 7, 2008, 2-4 p.m.
Sixth Avenue Ballroom, 117 W. 6th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66603
Please plan to attend!

Veterans Day is November 11, 2008
Topeka honors vets with an all-war memorial in the southeast corner of Gage Park [1]. A display of flags and sculpture honor all veterans at the Great Overland Statation [2]. Washburn University has a special memorial to Viet Nam era veterans [3], and a statue of a Union soldier is proudly displayed at the Historic Topeka Cemetery [4].