The recent rains, while spoiling many local events, did not stop the conclusion of our summer History Camp for Kids that was highlighted by “Trails End,” a free Chuck Wagon Cookout and Open House celebration with the kids, their parents and the all-important presenters. T Bar B Chuck Wagon of Berryton, Kansas, provided the authentic chuck wagon meal of chili, corn bread and dessert. The theme for this year’s summer History Camp for Kids program was “The Trails of Shawnee County History.” The Topeka Community Foundation deserves our sincere thanks and appreciation for providing the funding for this year’s History Camp for Kids. The Topeka Public Schools Foundation was also an honored guest because of their financial support of our other education initiatives. A huge thank you goes to the camp presenters: Jon Boursaw, Mike Martin, Dr. Barbara Book, Eddie Joe Mitchell, Stephen and Terese Falls, Dave Lawrence, Chris Cruz, Chris Bowers, George and Diane Bernheimer, John and Daria Hart, Melinda Abitz, and Alan Shirrell.

The Topeka Community Foundation deserves an additional thank you for conducting its third annual “Topeka Gives…A Fun Day of Giving” event at which they match pro rata the contributions attendees make to local 501(c)(3) charitable organizations like your Shawnee County Historical Society. Persons who donated at this event were able to maximize their contribution by almost 20 percent with the Topeka Community Foundation’s match. We received $1,877.17 as a result of this event and sincerely want to thank the many individuals who took the time and effort to attend and contribute.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to access our new website at shawneecountyhistory.org. It has been re-designed with you, our member, in mind. We now have a “members only” section designed to allow you access to a preregistration of upcoming events. I just tried this out myself for the first time and was able to quickly preregister for the “Sesquicentennial Gala” we recently planned to hold —continued on p. 5
2015 Preservation Awards:

SCHS Annual Preservation Awards were bestowed on Sunday, May 3, 2015, at Historic Dillon House, 404 SW 9th St., Topeka.

SCHS President David Heinemann presented these awards.

A Historic Preservation Award to Ross Freeman, Pioneer Group, for preservation of Historic Dillon House, 404 SW 9th St., Topeka.

B Historic Preservation Award to Don Albrecht & Scott Albrecht, for preservation of Hanover Pancake House, 1034 S. Kansas Av., Topeka.

C Historic Preservation Award to Chris Hutton for preservation of Sweet Carriage House, 516 SW 3rd St., Topeka.

D Thanks for the Memories Award to Frank & Connie Herrera for helping to make La Siesta Restaurant a very “Special Place to Be” in Topeka, KS, for over 60 years.

E Historic Preservation Advocacy Award to Don G. Kern for his relentless efforts to save the Historic Integrity of Topeka’s Oldest Neighborhoods.

F Historic Preservation Advocacy Award to Debra Goodrich (absent) for her relentless efforts to save the Historic Treasures of Topeka and Shawnee County.

G Thanks for the Memories Award to Lola Gonzales for helping to make La Siesta Restaurant a very “Special Place to Be” in Topeka, KS, for over 60 years.

The days events also included History Day event (held in February at Washburn University) presentations from Seaman High school students.
History Camp for Kids

If you, by chance, have driven south of the 10th Street entrance onto I-70 lately, you might have noticed activity on the grounds of the Historic Ritchie House. Maybe you witnessed scenes reminiscent of your history books. You might have seen children crouching down and appearing to flee from something or someone as a tall man with a black hat, suspenders, and a corn cob pipe led them through the trees. You might have even seen children covered underneath blankets as they stand near a wagon or maybe you saw on another day, a regiment of short Civil War soldiers marching to the rhythm of drums through the grounds and down Madison Street with the American flag waving. Did the smoke from cook fires grab your attention? If, while you were driving, the activity at the Ritchie House allowed you to take a quick look at this unusual activity, you were seeing history coming to life as this summer’s History Camp for Kids program explored “The Trails of Shawnee County History.”

This year’s History Camp for Kids was made possible with a grant from the Topeka Community Foundation. It was by far our biggest and best endeavor for our summer program. With this funding, staff and volunteers at the Historic Ritchie House were able to invite many presenters who are experts in their field of interest of early Kansas to participate in this year’s theme. Those experts were able to provide many hands-on objects for study, demonstrations of their pioneer skills. They provided a sense of realism with their reenacting abilities and opened up an opportunity for learning that far exceeds what classrooms can offer young people. No doubt, this will give students background knowledge to tap into as they study.

Campers from The Boys and Girls Club, Central Park Community Center, YWCA and North Topeka Hope Center all participated in six weeks of history that concentrated on some of the important trails that went through Shawnee County, Kansas. The staff at the Ritchie House reached out to these organizations as part of their summer programs they offer at their site. Once a week, these campers came to the Ritchie House for about two hours of history. Sessions were on Monday and Thursday. A total of about 613 visiting campers and leaders took part in this year’s program which ran weekly from Jun. 1- Jul. 10.

Weekly Topics:

- “Trail of Death” – This was the forced removal by the United States army of the Native American members of the Potawatomi nation from Indiana to what is now Kansas in 1838. The study included the uses of the buffalo and a demonstration of various Native American flutes and trail history. Presenters were: Jon Boursaw, Mike Martin, Dr. Barbara Book and Eddie Joe Mitchell.

- “Trappers and Traders” – This was the study of the trails and history of the fur trappers and traders on the Santa Fe Trail as they traveled through Shawnee County, Kansas before statehood. Demonstrations took place of pioneer campfire cooking, musket loading and uses, assembling a tent and trail history. Presenters were: Stephen and Terese Falls, Dave Lawrence, Chris Cruz and George Bernheimer.

- “Military Trails” – This was the study of the trail from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley involving the movement of military supplies and establishing a military presence for new settlers. Students were mustered into service, learned basic marching drills, learned the uses of various military objects and marched to the sound of drums as they “delivered” supplies to Fort Riley. They were then mustered out of the service. Presenters were: John and Daria Hart and Chris Bowers.

—continued on p. 4
• “Oregon Trail” – Beginning in Independence, Mo., this was the gathering point of emigrant wagon trains and their trek through Shawnee County and beyond on their way to Oregon Territory. Campers learned about objects needed by pioneers of the day, stories and preparation for the trail, and Oregon Trail history. Presenter were: George and Diane Bernheimer, John Hart and Melinda Abitz.

• “Underground Railroad” – This was a reenactment of an escape of runaway slaves from Missouri with the help or hindrance of strangers as they made their way North to a hopeful life of freedom. The travelers ended their perilous journey at the Underground Railroad safe house of John and Mary Jane Ritchie. Presenters were: George and Diane Bernheimer, Melinda Abitz, Alan Shirrell and John Hart.

• “Railroads” – History Camp for Kids ended with an on-site visit to the Overland Station, Topeka, as the campers were given a tour of the Great Overland Station with facts and stories concerning the Railroad history of Shawnee County. We thank the wonderful docents who volunteer at the station.

The history program ended with a “Trails End” Chuck Wagon and Chili Feed on Friday, July 10, at the Historic Ritchie House. The meal was provided by T. Bar B. Chuck Wagon, Berryton, Kansas. Campers, parents, leaders and directors of the various participating organizations and special guests were invited to the event. The day-long rain didn’t put a damper on the evening. Presenters showed up in their historic clothing, favorite “camper moments” were shared, musket-loading presentations were given and the Historic John and Mary Jane Ritchie House was open for tours.

A special thank-you is extended to all who helped make this a very memorable program for some very special campers.
There are many changes happening within the Shawnee County Historical Society. You may have noticed a big change to our website. We have a “member’s only” portion of the website that will connect our members with updated local events, programs, and speakers happening all over Shawnee County. Members will also be able to pre-register for SCHS sponsored events, and in the next few months, members will have access to online archives. To access “members only” information simply log on to the SCHS website using the same web address as before, and click on the “Members Only” tab at the top of the page. You will need a password to enter. Check your email for a recent message you may have received that includes the member-password. If you have not received the password, do not hesitate to email our office, shawnee_county_history@gmail.com, and we’ll forward the password to you in response.

New Web Site!

Highlight [pp 6-9-] Author:

Leon B. Graves is a retired lawyer and independent scholar residing in Topeka, Kansas. His research interests include the Underground Railroad; the War of the Rebellion in the Trans-Mississippi; the life of Senator Arthur Capper and the lives of other US Senators from Kansas; and school segregation in Kansas before the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision (1954).

He received his Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), Master of Public Administration, and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Kansas. He is admitted to the bars of the Supreme Court of Kansas, U.S. District Court, District of Kansas, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Leon Graves is the co-author of Government by Special Districts, a publication of the University of Kansas Governmental Research Center, and contributor of articles to regional legal periodicals. He has served on the Landmarks Commission of the City of Topeka since 2010. His current memberships include the Kansas State Historical Society, Shawnee County Historical Society, and the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Kansas.

Comments and inquiries should be directed to Leon B. Graves, 812 S.W. Fillmore, Suite A (785) 845-8477, kansasjaywalker@gmail.com

Leon B. Graves
A biography of Arthur Capper, published a little over half a century ago, was subtitled “Publisher, Politician, and Philanthropist.” This summary is valid, but incomplete.

During the first half of the Twentieth Century, Capper was a big man in what is now known as the media field. Working his way up from typesetter to reporter to editor to publisher, Capper eventually owned daily newspapers and radio stations in two of the three biggest markets in Kansas, a weekly newspaper which was widely circulated in Kansas and other states, and a chain of farm papers published for readership in several states, mostly in the Midwest.

Always interested in public affairs, Capper did not seek public office until he was in midlife. He ran for Governor of Kansas in 1912, and lost by 29 votes. Two years later, he came back to win by a decisive margin, and was reelected in 1918. In 1918, he was elected to the first of five terms as United States Senator from Kansas. After a career in elective office that encompassed two World Wars, the Depression, and the beginning of the Cold War, he reluctantly decided against running for a sixth term in 1948.

Capper was a supporter of many good causes. Most notably, he endowed the Capper Foundation, which provided services to disabled children during his lifetime and continues to do so decades after his death.

Less attention has been given to Capper’s efforts and advocacy in the area of race relations, long before “civil rights” became a popular cause. He was ahead of his time, and attained a certain degree of success, although the big breakthroughs in the Supreme Court and Congress took place after his death.

Capper is Born and Raised in East Central Kansas

Arthur Capper was born in Garnett, Kansas on July 14, 1865, 150 years ago this summer. Capper later said, “It took nerve to be born in Kansas.” The time and place both were significant. The Civil War had just ended, and the struggle over slavery in Kansas had started years before the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter.

Garnett was the county seat of Anderson County, located between the two forks of Pottawatomie Creek. The two forks joined near Greeley, in the northeast corner of Anderson County. Greeley was the home of Dr. James G. Blunt, August Bondi and other opponents of slavery. To the north in eastern Franklin County, John Brown and his sons had settled along Middle Creek.

In May of 1856, the Browns massacred five proslavery settlers at Dutch Henry’s Crossing of Pottawatomie Creek in southeastern Franklin County. A few weeks later, John Brown fought at the Battle of Osawatomie, the antislavery town in Miami County at the juncture of Pottawatomie Creek and the Marais des Cygnes (or Osage) River, and became known as “Osawatomie Brown” or “Old John Brown of Osawatomie.”

Arthur Capper’s father, Herbert Capper, was a tinsmith who came to the United States from Staffordshire, England. Making his way to southeastern Iowa, he became acquainted with the McGrew family and other Quakers who made the area a hotbed of Underground Railroad activity. The McGrew brothers, Samuel and Simon, moved with their families to Linn County, Kansas Territory, between Anderson County and western Missouri. Herbert Capper moved to Anderson County, and opened a claim north of Garnett.

The border war continued, and in 1858, eleven antislavery settlers were rounded up in Linn County and taken to a ravine north of the Marais des Cygnes to be shot. Five were killed, and five others wounded. Reportedly Simon McGrew was on the list of those to be rounded up and shot in this Marais des Cygnes Massacre.

After Kansas was admitted to the Union and the Civil War began in earnest, the Missouri-Kansas border continued to be the scene of raids and counter raids. In the midst of this turmoil, Herbert Capper courted Isabella McGrew, schoolteacher daughter of Simon McGrew. The war continued, and in October 1864 the largest battle in Kansas was fought at Mine Creek in Linn County.
The young Arthur Capper grew up surrounded by family members and neighbors for whom the struggle over slavery had been anything but an abstract concept. The Thirteenth Amendment had ended slavery, but had not resolved the issue of full citizenship for African Americans.

Capper Embarks on a Career in Journalism

After graduation from Garnett High School, Arthur Capper went to Topeka and found work on the Topeka Daily Capital. The publisher of the newspaper was Major J.K. Hudson, a native of Ohio who had served with distinction as a staff officer in Kansas regiments, and had been promoted to Major of the 1st Missouri Colored, a regiment which saw action in the lower Mississippi Valley and in Palmito Ranch, the last battle of the Civil War, fought in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Hudson’s wife Mary was from a Quaker background, and an accomplished writer in her own right.

Capper spent several years working his way up at the Capital and learning the newspaper business. Eventually he left the Capital and acquired a weekly paper, the North Topeka Mail. He expanded the circulation list by acquiring other weekly papers. In 1892 Capper married Florence Crawford, daughter of former Governor Samuel J. Crawford.

Samuel J. Crawford had moved from Indiana to Garnett in 1859. In 1861, he served in the first session of the state legislature, and then went into the Union Army. After successfully handling responsibilities far in excess of his nominal rank, Crawford was asked be Colonel of the 2nd Kansas Colored. He led this regiment in the Battle of Jenkins’ Ferry, Arkansas and other operations. In 1864, at age 29, he was elected as third Governor of the state. He was the first Governor to be re-elected, first Governor to be married while in office, and the first Governor to resign, in his case a few weeks before the end of his term, to raise a regiment of volunteers to fight Indians on the plains. Although elective office eluded him after 1868, Governor Crawford enjoyed success as a lawyer, claims agent and investor in real estate.

In his newspapers, even in the early years, Arthur Capper covered the African American community...

July day is an experience enjoyed by people of all ethnic backgrounds.)

As the birthday parties evolved, they became a subtle mode of promoting better race relations. Persons of all races were invited to attend.

—continued on p. 8
Capper Enters Politics, Runs for Governor

In 1912, Capper secured the Republican nomination for Governor. He lost the general election by 29 votes, due largely to the split between President Taft and former President Theodore Roosevelt and their respective supporters. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909, after a race riot in Springfield, Illinois revealed that even the hometown of the Great Emancipator was not immune from racial strife. In this era, the NAACP had a relatively radical and ambitious vision for black advancement, compared to the more accommodating vocational-training movement exemplified by Booker T. Washington. The Topeka branch of the NAACP was founded in 1913. Capper was asked to be the first President of the Topeka branch. He continued to serve in this capacity after his election as Governor in 1914 by a decisive margin and his reelection in 1916.

One of the challenges Capper had to deal with during his first term was the motion picture *The Birth of a Nation*. W.E.B. DuBois of the NAACP called the film “three miles of filth” because it presented Reconstruction and African Americans in an unfavorable light and glorified the Confederacy and the Ku Klux Klan. Capper himself said that, “the only way to make that film moral is to cut everything after the title.”

In 1913, the Legislature had created a Board of Review of Motion Pictures. The Board was composed of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in an ex officio capacity, and two members appointed by the Governor: Miss Carrie Simpson of Paola and Rev. Festus Foster of Topeka. It could be expected that a semi-retired Congregational minister and a spinster schoolteacher from a county seat town would frown on films showing scantily-clad actresses or other risqué characters or themes.

Even more ominous for *The Birth of a Nation*, Miss Simpson was the daughter of Paola lawyer B.F. Simpson. Simpson had moved from Ohio to Paola during the territorial period. At age 23, he had been the youngest delegate to the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention of 1859. Then he had been elected as the first Attorney General of the state. Paola was the county seat of Miami County, on a tributary of the Marais des Cygnes. Paola was raided by bushwhackers during the War of the Rebellion. B.F. Simpson entered the Union Army, and served as a Captain in the 15th Kansas Cavalry, commanded by Col. Charles R. Jennison. After the war, he was elected to the Kansas House, and was Speaker during the Session of 1871. Later in his career, Simpson served several years as U.S. Marshal for the District of Kansas and then as a Commissioner of the Kansas Supreme Court. He lived until August of 1916.

Rev. Foster was even less promising for the producers of a film glorifying the Ku Klux Klan. He had been born in Tabor, Iowa in 1856. Tabor had been founded by persons affiliated with Oberlin College in Ohio, and the town was a hotbed of abolitionist sentiment and a stop on the Underground Railroad. John Brown and James H. Lane and their associates found their way to Tabor when the heat was on in Kansas Territory, or when they needed to recuperate from injuries or illness.

Rev. Foster’s father, Richard Baxter Foster, was a graduate of Dartmouth College. He was given credit for founding the Republican Party in Tabor. During the war, he served as First Lieutenant of Company I, 1st Missouri Colored Infantry (later 62nd U.S. Colored Troops). Major J.K. Hudson and other officers encouraged the enlisted members of the regiment to learn to read or to improve their reading skills.

Soldiers in the 1st Missouri Colored and 2nd Missouri Colored (later 65th U.S. Colored Troops) regiments raised several thousand dollars to start a college after the war. Lieutenant Foster helped with this effort, and after much difficulty, the predecessor of Lincoln University was founded in Jefferson City, Missouri. After this effort, Richard Baxter Foster served as a Congregationalist minister in western Kansas and in the future Oklahoma during its territorial period.

The film was viewed by an invitation-only audience, including the members of the Board of Review. A reporter for the *Topeka Daily Capital* interviewed several members of the audience. Rev. Charles M. Sheldon and
two black professional men denounced the film. Three other Topekans had more neutral opinions. A leader of an organization of Union Army veterans called on the Governor to express the objections of the old soldiers. The Board of Review met, deliberated, and banned *The Birth of a Nation* from being shown in Kansas. This ruling was upheld by an appeal panel of statewide elected officials. The producers considered a legal challenge, but decided to hold off until the Legislature considered amendments to the statute. Ultimately, *The Birth of a Nation* was excluded from Kansas during the administrations of Governor Capper and his successor, Governor Henry J. Allen.

Governor Capper was reelected later in 1916. In 1918, he received the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate by decisively defeating three other well-known former Republican officeholders. In the general election, he unseated the incumbent Senator.

**Capper serves in the U.S. Senate for three decades**

After taking office as Senator in 1919, Capper was elected to the national board of the NAACP. He served in this capacity until his death in 1951.

In the Senate, Capper probably was best known as a leader of the Farm Bloc and proponent of agricultural legislation. Farm bills he co-sponsored included the first and second Capper-Volstead Acts, to empower farm cooperatives, and the Capper-Ketchum Act, giving sanction to 4H clubs for farm youth. He also served as Chair of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia. He co-sponsored the Capper-Crampton Act which, over 80 years later, is considered to be the charter for the National Capital Parks.

Capper was reelected to the Senate in 1924. Capper supported anti-lynching legislation, and made inquiries about black soldiers imprisoned at Leavenworth after being involved in a mutiny in Houston, Texas in 1917. During the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, he inquired of Secretary of Commerce and flood relief administrator Herbert Hoover about reports in the black press that black residents of the flood zone were being required to work under armed guard and without being paid.

In 1930, Capper opposed confirmation of U.S. Court of Appeals Judge John J. Parker of North Carolina for appointment to the Supreme Court. Henry J. Allen, the other Senator from Kansas at the time, led the confirmation effort. Confirmation was denied, due to opposition from the NAACP and the labor movement. Later in the year, Capper was elected to a third term; Allen went down to defeat.

Capper was elected to a fourth term in 1936. During this term, attention turned from the Depression and the Dust Bowl to foreign affairs. Germany, Italy and Japan were on the march against their neighbors. Even before Pearl Harbor, a plant for manufacture of B-25 bombers was being built in the Fairfax district of Kansas City, Kansas by North American Aviation.

In an interview with the *Kansas City Star*, the president of North American assured the people of Kansas City that African Americans would be employed in janitorial and other service jobs, but would be excluded from good jobs building airplanes.

Fairfax was located in Kansas, rather than across the river in Missouri, and a howl went up from Senator Capper, and the Congressman from the district including Kansas City, Kansas, and the Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas. A black member of the Kansas House of Representatives from Kansas City, Kansas, introduced a resolution declaring discrimination in hiring in defense industries in Kansas City, Kansas to be un-American. A white Representative from Wichita moved that the resolution be amended to apply to any city in Kansas, and the amended resolution was adopted by a predominantly white, predominantly rural legislative body.

This was the opening skirmish in a battle over fair employment practices in defense industries which went on throughout World War II. Senator Capper was elected to a fifth term in 1942, and he co-sponsored legislation to keep the pressure on. Progress was made, but mostly in the North and West, and less so in the South.

Republicans regained control of Congress in the 1946 election, and Senator Capper became Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. At this time, he was over 80 years old, and some participants in the legislative process considered his deafness to be an impediment to his effectiveness.

Senator Capper reluctantly decided against running for a sixth term in 1948. He returned to Topeka. He held his last birthday party in 1950. In July 1951, the parks were under water due to the great flood of that year. Capper was driven around to view the damage wrought by the flood. A few months later, Capper died and was buried in Topeka Cemetery near his mentors, Major J.K. Hudson and Governor Samuel J. Crawford.
► **Annual Ice Cream Social**  
Sun., August 9, 2015, 7 PM  
@ Ritchie properties, 116 & 118 SE Madison St.  
Shawnee County Historical Society is proud to sponsor our annual Ice Cream Social. Come, relax and enjoy ice cream on us. Our event again features Topeka’s Santa Fe Band. Ice cream and music are free, but donations will be accepted. *The public is welcome to attend!*  

► **Baseball in the Park**  
Thurs., September 10, 2015, 7 PM, @ Lake Shawnee Event Center, 3025 SE Croco Rd.  
Take me out to the ball game! Come and watch an exciting baseball game featuring the Kansas City Monarchs. The Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame is partnering with SCHS to create this event with special speaker, Phil Dixon. *The event is free. All are welcome!*  

► **Sesquicentennial Gala Celebration**  
Sat., September 12, 2015  
Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center, Washburn University campus  
6-8 PM, Dinner / 8-10 PM, Dance  
Join us for a night of dinner and dancing 19th Century style. At dinner guests will be served a three course meal. There will be reenactors/historians honoring the 150th Anniversary of the end of the American Civil War and also the founding of Washburn University (Lincoln College). Following dinner will be a 19th Century-style dance for dancers of all levels. It will feature a brass band and a caller.  

Call our office, 785-234-6097, to make your reservation, or reserve you space and pay online at our new website: [www.shawnee county history.org/#events-to-the-public/curh](http://www.shawnee county history.org/#events-to-the-public/curh)  
*Dinner & Dance is $45.00/ea. Dance-only is $15.00/ea.*  

► **Kansas Legislature: A Retrospective**  
Tues., September 29, 2015, Noon  
@ Old Supreme Court Chambers, State Capitol  
For the last two years the Shawnee County Historical Society has undertaken an oral history project to document the work of 11 selected Kansas Legislators and their impact on Kansas history. These oral interviews have been recorded and transcribed for use by academics, researchers and the public. Dr. Burdett Loomis, professor of political science at Kansas University was interviewer. Funding for this pilot project was provided by the Kansas Humanities Council.  

At our event Dr. Loomis and some of the interviewed legislators will discuss the changes they have seen in the legislative process since 1966 when a U.S. Supreme Court decision dramatically changed how legislative districts were drawn, covering a wide range of topics including policy initiatives, changes in legislative governance and insights into how the legislature has functioned in the past—all from the perspective of key decision makers at that time. A reporter who covered the legislature during much of that time will also provide commentary.  

*The program is open to the public and press. A light lunch will be available from 11:45 AM-12:15 PM in the hallway outside the Old Supreme Court Chambers. The program begins at 12:15 PM. Former Speaker Pro-Tem David Heinemann, now president of the Society, will open the meeting and introduce Dr. Loomis. All legislators who were interviewed are invited to attend, as well as current and former legislators, press and SCHS members. Shawnee County Senators Laura Kelly and Vickie Schmidt are our legislative sponsors. The event is free. All are welcome!*  

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**Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar!**
Support us through Amazon

by George Berheimer, SCHS Board Member

Do you shop online through Amazon? If you do, you can also support your Shawnee County Historical Society at the same time! The SCHS is now part of the Amazon Smile program where a percentage of your purchase can go to support the Society.

To support the SCHS through Amazon, instead of signing in to Amazon.com, sign in through Smile.Amazon.com. The first time, you’ll see a drop down box with a default organization listed. Go to the drop down arrow and choose Shawnee County Historical Society. Your other Amazon sign-in remains the same: no new email or password, and no information is sent to SCHS.

When you make eligible purchase, a small percentage is sent to the SCHS as an aggregate quarterly, there is no additional cost to you, and no purchase information is sent to the SCHS. The next time you go to Amazon, shop at Smile.Amazon.com

Help us communicate: We need you!

by George Berheimer, SCHS Board Member

We are updating records and we would like to get an email address for each member, so that we can communicate with you on a timelier basis while making the best possible use of your membership dues. While we’re at it, we like to be sure of your correct mailing address and contact telephone number. Please email us at schsupdate@gmail.com with name(s), address, telephone, and your email address. We don’t intend to flood you with emails, but send one a month with news to supplement the printed newsletter and to remind you of upcoming events.

Our main communication vehicle has been, and will continue to be the quarterly SCHS Newsletter that you’re reading now. This is how we keep you informed of the important work that you support, give you interesting insights into our local history, and let you know of upcoming events. But we are expanding the opportunities for you to gather and enjoy a variety of events designed to appeal to the varying interests of our members. For example, our annual Ice Cream Social is coming up in August, along with “Baseball in the Park” event about the 1924 Kansas City Monarchs in September—and our Civil War Ball also in September. (Read details of these three events, p. 10).

Over the last few months we have sponsored a showing of the restored Capital Iron Works building, a showing of the film “Road to Valhalla,” and a Chuck Wagon Dinner. We have frequently sent out postcards as a reminder of an upcoming event. Post card mailings are expensive. The cost for each mailing approaches $400. By using email, this cost is eliminated and we can keep you informed in between newsletter issues, and be better stewards of your financial support.

Get Involved with SCHS — Preserving Our Past Today for Their Futures Tomorrow

by Johnathan Hart, SCHS Director of Public Relations

The Shawnee County Historical Society is announcing a new website (see p. 5, column 2). As a Current or Lifetime Member you will now have access to preregistration of events, and a listing of many events happening in Shawnee County. You can also get great discounts for events using the Coupon Code: member2015. In addition, we are working on an Archives section that will allow members to view prior years Bulletins, historic documents, and much more. Lastly, have you thought of serving on a committee? Well, on the “Members Only” Home Screen there is a tab for “Committees.” You can get information on each committee and even communicate with the chair of the committee, as well as join or switch committees. Members can email us for the needed password at shawneecountyhistory@gmail.com

There has never been a better time to be a member of the SCHS! We know you have a passion for history and that passion should be shared. Invite a friend to check out all that the SCHS has to offer and follow us on your favorite social media site.
Support SCHS

Summer brings hundreds of school-aged children to our educational programming, and heavy use of the Cox Communications Heritage Education Center.

Help us fund operating expenses. 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!

Sustainer:
Bob Dole
Pat Michaelis

Renovator:
George and Diane Bernheimer
Margie Hogue
John Stauffer

Patron:
Betty Bomar
Nancy Brooks
Andy Chandler
Paul and Jeanne Hoferer
Eliot Potter
Frank and Judith Sabatini
Larry and Anita Wolgast

Persons who donated to the Heritage Education Fund at Topeka Gives:
Tom and Kathy Ellis
Paul and Betty Frantz
Leon Graves
David Heinemann
Sandra and Roland Kassebaum
Michael Lennen
W. Walt Menninger
Jeanne Mithen
Grant Sourk
Joan Wagnon
Jill Walters
Carol Yoho

Persons who have donated to create and install a commemorative monument sign:
Jack Brier
Bob Dole
Marie Gaither
Grant Glenn
Dotty and Dick Hanger
Carolyn Litwin
Paul Post
Dave and Marilyn Ritchie
William Wagnon III

Since enrolled in Dillons Stores Community Rewards Program, eight families have registered to designate the Shawnee County Historical Society as the beneficiary of their charitable allotment and have generated $78.28 for the Society’s programs. If members and friends of the Society have not registered, they should do so immediately. It costs the member nothing extra, and it’s manna from heaven!

The Society has joined the new Community Rewards Program offered through Dillons Grocery Stores. If you have a Dillons Plus card you can designate the SCHS as the recipient. Each time you use your Dillons Plus card a percentage of your spending will be contributed to the SCHS by Dillons. It doesn’t add anything to your grocery bill. Visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards and enroll. The SCHS NPO number is 33429.
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
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 the best time to join for 2015!**

Perservation Awards Event/More Images

More images from: SCHS Preservation Awards @ Dillon House, May 3, 2015
Mark Your Calendars!

**SCHS Ice Cream Social**
4th Annual: Sunday, August 9, 2015 / 7PM

**Baseball in the Park**
Thursday, September 10, 2015 / 7PM

**Sesquicentennial Gala Celebration**
Saturday, September 12, 2015 6-8 & 8-10PM

**Kansas Legislature: A Retrospective**
Tuesday, September 29, 2015, Noon

— Read event details on page 10 —

Kaw River Flood, July, 1951, cloverleaf, North Topeka, looking southeast.
Photo used courtesy of KansasMemory.org, Kansas State Historical Society