



BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Memorial Auditorium – AG Museum & Windmill Lane
785-742-3330
611 Utah Street

785-742-3702
Hiawatha, KS 66434

“ENRICHING OUR FUTURE THROUGH OUR PAST”

February 26, 2018

Membership Individual \$15.00; Family \$30.00

Issue No. 1 for 2018

Business \$30.00; Life Membership \$200 per person

COMING EVENTS

Memorial Auditorium: March 16 and 17 HAATS Play 7 p.m.; March 18 HAATS play begins at 2 p.m. Auditorium is located at 611 Utah Street in downtown Hiawatha.

March 30: BCHS Annual Meeting, Carwell Building, Ag Museum, 301 East Iowa, Hiawatha, starting at 6 p.m. David Flatt, Executive Director of the Kregel Windmill Factory Museum

May 5: Heather Williams will present a Gymnastic Event in Memorial Auditorium

May 28: Memorial Day program will be held in the Memorial Auditorium remembering all Veterans who gave their all protecting our country.

Farewell Letter

With the conclusion of my tenure as Director of BCHS on 15 February 2018, I want to extend my deepest appreciation and personal gratitude for the warm support I received. While nine months is a relatively short period, it has truly been an extraordinary one. Joining BCHS was a profoundly affecting experience for me. As challenging as it was at times, it was also an

opportunity – if not an inspiration. The unique emotional bond people have with BCHS was my motivation

There was nothing more gratifying during my tenure than the incredible people who have touched my life. First and foremost, I want to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for BCHS Board Members – Larry Day, Gil Bunning & Gene Swearingen – their consummate wisdom, implausible insight and unending dedication to BCHS is an inspiration. These three gentlemen have remarkable vision and comprehend the dynamics of operating BCHS in a professional manner. Secondly, I want to thank Donna Thonen. Donna's knowledge of BCHS and its history is utterly phenomenal. Her passion and love for the Auditorium is unending. She is a wealth of knowledge, and my role was enhanced by her presence. Lastly, I thank Bonnie Reetz for her unwavering dedication to the Ag Museum. She educated me, befriended me, and aided me in my role.

We live in a world in which a museum's success is judged by what can be tangibly quantified. However, one of the most rewarding elements of working in a museum is that you do not always know or immediately realize who you have touched. The intangible components have been incredibly gratifying and rewarding for me.

I have enormous affection for BCHS and a truly heartfelt appreciation for everyone who worked tirelessly and with enormous dedication to bring the society to this point. To all of them, I offer my deepest thanks.

I wish you all my best,

Elizabeth A. Lane

MUSEUM POSITION OPEN

The Brown County Historical Society is seeking a self-motivated individual with a preferred interest in history and community enrichment to fulfill the position as Curator/Director.

This position offers full time employment with flex hours during the off season. We are accepting applications until March 22.

Send resumes to Gil Bunning, 1105 1st Avenue W Horton, KS 66439; email bunnGil@embarqmail.com; cell phone

785-991-0507 or land line 1-785-486-3304, Horton.

Curator/Director Resigns

Liz Lane, has resigned her position as curator/director with the Brown County Historical Society. We are sorry to see Liz leave, but do appreciate everything she has done to help us. It is good to know you are close Liz if we have any questions.

Liz is now the administrator of the Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce and Visitors and Business Bureau. These organizations have an office in the BCHS Memorial Auditorium Museum, 611 Utah Street, Hiawatha, KS.

ANNUAL BCHS MEETING

The Brown County Historical Society will hold their annual meeting starting at 6 p.m. on Thursday evening, March 30, 2018 in the Carwell building at the Ag Museum. The John Carwell family donated the funds to build this wonderful building located at the 301 East Iowa home of Ag Museum and Windmill Lane. This building is used for many functions, reunions, birthday parties, meetings etc,

David Flatt Executive Director of the Kregel Windmill Factory Museum since 2016, is our guest speaker. Kregel Windmill Factory

Museum is located at 1416 Central Avenue, Nebraska City, NE. David previously taught historical archaeology directing field schools and archaeology projects for Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois, McKendree University, Assumption College and Leiden University. He was also an administrator at AIMS college in Colorado as well as Assistant Director of Huntington Learning Center in Greeley, Colorado.

David has done archaeology field work in the USA, Europe, and Asia. He has a Masters in history from St. Louis University as well as two Bachelors in history and anthropology from Southern Illinois University.

Currently, he is working on his PhD in anthropology with Flinders University in Australia. David was the president of the Lambda Alpha honor society, an officer in the anthropology club, and awarded the top anthropology student and top anthropology field school student while attending SIUE.

Prior to his work as an historical archaeologist David was the financial chairman of Greene County, Illinois.

David is from Carrollton Illinois and currently resides in Auburn, Nebraska. He has given several historical lectures as part of the Kregel Windmill Factory fall speaker series including "Patents and inventions of Nebraska City" and "Windmill Factories During the World Wars."

The web page for Kregel Windmill is www.kregelwindmillfactorymuseum.org/.

It is very interesting.

We hope to have a good attendance. Bonnie will be calling for reservations. You do not have to wait for a telephone call. Everyone is invited. You can call AG museum office, 785-742-3702 or Bonnie at 740-6747 and if no answer leave name, telephone number and how many attending. We will have more information later on amount of dinner. Dinner does start at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Carwell Building.

ONE ROOM SCHOOL

LDS Sister Lana Johnson has been volunteering at the BCHS museum on organizing files and lots of photos that need to be catalogued and properly preserved. She helped until February 2018. The following article written by Sister Johnson was written in December for the February 2018 newsletter

SPECIAL GIFT

'Tis the season for gift giving, but I got a delightful and unexpected gift early!

Back in October, I team taught at the historical AG Museum's school. As a retired teacher of 30 years, I can honestly and sincerely say that my time with those second graders in that one room school house was the most enjoyable and memorable days of teaching I have ever had!

The school house is beautifully realistic and sets "the" perfect stage for a wondrous day of time travel back to 1912.

Having everyone wear appropriate period fashion, eating in the corn crib and out of metal tin cans helped bring out real feelings of joy; just to be back in the "good old days." The feeling was strong and everyone felt it.

What an ideal opportunity the Hiawatha children have to experience a small part of their great, great grandparents' lives. I secretly wish that my own children had gotten to participate in such a program when they were 2nd graders. I

I know first hand of children asking about events that took place in 1912, about what their ancestors did for fun, about the lack of technology back then, and about how hard the students had to work in and out of school. These questions (and many others) indicated the **need** for those second graders to connect with the past in making sense with their present.

Not only was it a full educational day of reading, writing, and arithmetic (the 3 Rs), but a day of discovery!

I will never forget the fun, unique, and amazing time I had with everyone involved in this delightful and unexpected gift of teaching in the AG Museum School! I gained more gratitude for "what once was" and for "what is now" having had taught at that one room school. Also, I have no doubt that anyone coming to visit will leave with sweet memories and nostalgic feelings.--Genuinely, Sister Johnson.

MEMORIALS

The giving of flowers (monetary gifts) to the Historical Society in memory of a person or in celebration of a wedding anniversary, birthday or some other method of honoring someone is called living flowers and people like this method of honoring someone. These gifts keep on giving helping to complete the different projects at the AG and Memorial Auditorium museums.

Since the last newsletter the following persons have been remembered.

MURL CORBET -- BY:

Donna Trost

MAE and LEON WENGER -- BY:

Kathy Palermo

JoANN ALBEE -- BY

Jere and Patty Bruning

JERRY MINER -- BY

Jere and Patty Bruning

DONNA & LAWRENCE THONEN

Honored with a Christmas Donation to BCHs from Orveda and Bob Anderson

The Memorials totaled 185.00. Thank you for the the memorials gifts to the BCBS.

ACQUISITION

Thank you Jere Bruning for your generous donation to the Ag Museum. Jere attended the James Gall sale a while back, He purchased a collection of International Wrenches displayed on two boards. Thank you Jere for remembering the historical society.

JUDY LYNN HAMMOND

The Brown County Historical Society has received notice of the death of Judy Lynn Hammond born Eugina Cassell in San Francisco, Calif., July 27, 1954. Judy had been ill for several years. She has in the past donated a lot of articles of clothing, kitchen utensils etc.

Names mentioned in her death notice were her parents, Fred (Dick) Richard Hammond and Alberta Jane Cassell. Judy's survivors includes a brother, Richard of Valley Center, CA., and a sister, Kathleen Heid of San Marcos, CA.

The Brown County Historical Society extends our sincere sympathy to the family for their loss.

MARTHA STEWART'S DIARY

The family of Martha Stewart donated several photos etc to the Brown County Historical Society including a diary (hand written) by M. S. (Martha Stewart). The Stewarts are from Reserve, Kansas.

We begin in the year of 1881. M.S. writes Leo J. Hassig and family, the first settlers, arrived from Illinois, and lived with Mrs. Hassig's sister in Falls City until their store building with living quarters above was built, which was on the corner north of the present brick building. Dr. Frank Hassig, a son, became a famous doctor in Kansas City, Kansas, he never forgot his boyhood home and loved the spot.

This same year, 1882, a drug store was

built by Josvahl Bean,, which was also used as a post-office.

1883 Jacob Reasoner and family of the Hamlin area came and built a store and lumber yard. He was associated with his brother Milton Reasoner for awhile.

1884 District 72 grade school house was built on the present site, before that, there was a school house on the n. s. corner of the M. S. Watson farm where all attended,

1889 Small-pox hit Reserve, having been brought here by Dr. Taylor's wife. Dr. Taylor came here to supply for Dr. J. M. Cecil, who was the practicing physician, but had gone to Chicago to take some special training. Dr. & Mrs. Taylor had been visiting in Marysville, Mo., where it was reported chicken pox prevailed and Mrs. Taylor took it. When she came home she attended a party at the country home of H. J. Gillespie, near Padonia. The daughter, Mattie, took it and had it in the worst form and the whole country was exposed. It spread rapidly, 79 cases in all & 3 deaths. Reserve was quarantined & guard was placed at all cross roads & the train didn't stop until the epidemic had subsided.

ANNALS BROWN COUNTY KANSAS

(By Grant W. Harrington)

One unique character who figured in the early history of Brown county whose name ought not to be lost to fame. He was christened William H. Jones was familiarly known as "Nigger Bill Jones" or "Abolition Jones." Mrs. Jones was born in 1815 near Louisville, Kentucky, of pro slavery parents. When as a

boy he attended a slave sale and the spectacle of children torn from their parents and husbands and wives separated from each other, made such an impression on him that he swore eternal hostility to the institution of slavery.

Kentucky was not a good field for exploiting this doctrine and he moved into Indiana and later in 1840, on into the forests of Michigan where he settled near Cassopolis. Here he hewed out a farm, grew rich and raised a family.

Between times he ran trains on the underground railway and no distance was too long or night too dark for him to help along a run-away fugitive on his way to Canada.

In 1847 a posse of Kentucky slave owners camped for the night near Mr. Jones' place with a party of thirteen recaptured slaves. Mr. Jones raised a party and liberated the slaves. A Michigan county history in telling the story says:

“The leading spirit in this re encounter was Nigger Bill Jones who, after disarming one of the raiders, who drew a revolver on him, and forcing the Rev. Stevens to carry the picanniny and another of the party to relinquish his in favor of a wench, was shackled at his own request with a slave and so remained until after the party reached Cassopolis.”

A law suit followed and eventually found its way up to Chief Justice Taney for adjudication. It was finally dropped from the docket, but in dragging its weary way through the courts it had eaten up Mr. Jones' fortune and left him dead broke.

This was in 1857, and then he determined

to come to Kansas. An ox team, a wagon, a couple of cows, some household goods and a big family of children comprised his worldly possessions. Reaching Brown County he settled on what is now the Geo. Kelly farm northwest of Hiawatha. Here he at once laid out an underground railway from Missouri to the Quaker settlement at Pawnee, Nebr. How many passengers were taken over this route will never be known, but his son, Chet, estimates the number at from 200 to 400.

January 1861-

“The last train is run over the underground railway. Wm. H. Jones, of Hiawatha, known as Abolition Jones, went to Atchison after a load of aid for the Brown County sufferers. S. C. Pomeroy, afterwards a U.S. Senator, had charge of the distribution of the aid. Knowing that Mr. Jones had assisted in running negroes through to Nebraska he informed him that Co. Ege, of Doniphan County had sold a slave woman and that she was then in Atchison at one of the hotels. That night Pomeroy and Jones stole the woman and putting her in a carriage had her taken to the home of I. N. Seaman in Locknane township. Mr. Seaman passed her on the next night to Mr. Wm. Drakes, near Hiawatha, who in turn sent her to the home of Ben Watkins. Jones was suspected by the Pro Slavery people and his movements were watched. The affair created a great excitement, especially at Hiawatha, on account of Jones' supposed connection with it and it was feared the Pro-slavery people would raid the town.

A meeting was called to discuss the

matter and “the messenger who prove that Jones stole the nigger they would hang him. That day Jones took J. K. Klinefelter into his confidence and asked him to help get the woman out of the country. Klinefelter readily assented. He ran his wagon into a barn and letting George Selleg and J. E. Bower (afterwards sheriff) into the secret the three fitted it up with a cover. As soon as it was dark the team was hitched up and the three men started out. At the southwest corner of the townsite Mr. Jones met them and whispered to them where the woman could be found. The three drove to Ben Watkins and taking the woman into the wagon started across the icy prairies to Pawnee City, which place they reached about daylight and turned their charge over to a Quaker family to whom they had been directed. The party staid at Pawnee City, that day and night. They reached Hiawatha after nightfall the next day and their part in the drama was never suspected.

“Mr. Jones, after directing the party where to find the woman, went to the indignation meeting. The meeting organized by the election of Samuel A. Kingman as chairman. Witnesses were sworn and all who were supposed to know anything about the matter were questioned, but nothing could be discovered. Jones was called upon for a speech and responded with a red hot roast of the meeting and its participants. Finally E. N. Morrill arose and presented a set of resolutions to the effect that the people of Hiawatha were law abiding and that they wanted the people of the border to know that they did not countenance nigger stealing. These

passed and the meeting dissolved.”

HOLIDAY SOUVENIR 1900

THE BROWN COUNTY WORLD

John C. McCoy was born near Carlisle, Pa., April 30, 1839. His mother died when was eight years of age. His father died when he was 13, leaving him without a home. His guardian found a home for him with three bachelors and two maids. He was to get his board and clothes for his work. The family were very good and kind but did one thing that was humiliating at the time. When his pants wore out they made him a pair by cutting off the legs of a man's pants. They were good, warm and stout and roomy –so much so that the boys would ask how many moved out. In the spring of 1850 the family moved to near Mansfield, O. In the fall of 1857 he drove a team through to Mt. Pleasant, Ia., to save expense. In Feb., 1866 he arrived in Hiawatha, Kan., paying 10c a mile to have his trunk hauled from St. Joseph, Mo. During the winter of 1866 he took care of the stage horses at this end of the route to Atchison and sawed wood and other chores for A. J. Selleg for his board and washing. Between chores he sawed wood for W. B. Barnett, Dr. Graves; H. M. Robinson, Judge Killey and others—clearing \$40. He put in 31 years by the month—the first summer, 1853, at \$3 a month. Since he came to Kansas he has invested all his savings in land, owning at present 640 acres and town property worth \$35,000. He united by letter with the M.E. church in 1866 before there was a church. He is a bachelor and takes care of his own flowers

Jere Bruning.President
Dennis Greer.Vice President
Wesley Duesing.Secretary
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Ernest F. Hohnbaum delivering bread in a basket on his shoulder.
Picture taken and developed and printed by his sister, Miss Lena Hohnbaum
in early 1920's