



# BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Memorial Auditorium – AG Museum & Windmill Lane  
785-742-3330 785-742-3702  
611 Utah Street Hiawatha, KS 66434

**“ENRICHING OUR FUTURE THROUGH OUR PAST”**

May 23, 2018

Issue No. 2 for 2018

Membership Individual \$15.00; Family \$30.00

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

## COMING EVENTS

May 28: Memorial Day Services honoring deceased veterans in Memorial Auditorium, 611 Utah starting at 10 a.m.

June 15: Ice cream social starting at 5:30 p.m. in Carwell Building, Ag Museum, 301 East Miami.

June 29, 30 and July 1: HAATS will be presenting the play “Church Basement Ladies” at Memorial Auditorium Museum, 611 Utah Street. Play starts at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 29 and 30. Sunday July 1, play starts at 2 p.m.

August 10: Farmers & Merchants Appreciation Dinner beginning at 6 p.m., Ag Museum, Carwell Building, 301 East Iowa.

September 22: Heritage Days

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Gary Shear was elected as president at the April meeting of the historical society. Larry Day is our vice president. Wesley Duesing, secretary, and Delores Waite, treasurer, retained their respective offices. Gary, Larry, Wes and Delores thank you for agreeing to lead our historical society.

A big thank you to Jere Bruning, retiring president and Dennis Greer, vice president for the wonderful support and many

years and hours of volunteering. Jere and Dennis have donated many hours to the historical society helping with so many projects.

## NEW BCHS DIRECTOR

We want to introduce and welcome Lynn Marie Allen, the new Executive Director/ Curator of Brown County Historical Society. I have asked Lynn Marie to write something and introduce herself to everyone

Anytime someone asks who we are as individuals it is not an easy question to answer there are so many layers to every single person. Yet, here I sit in my chair charged with this daunting task. Who am I...? I don't think that I can tell you everything there is to know about me in a paragraph or two, but here goes. I consider myself a lifelong student, I love to learn. I have three Master's degrees and at some point I hope to obtain my Ph.D., these pieces of paper do not define me or anyone else by his or her character. The paper is simply an indication that learning is an achievement.

Albert Einstein loved to learn and was by all accounts a genius. Ironically, Albert Einstein despised rote learning modalities, and he did fail areas in his academic career, it has been suggested that perhaps Alfred suffered from test anxiety; in addition there have been suggestions that Albert may have had a learning disability. There is more to this story, go find it.

I have always been an avid lover of history; I share this passion for history with

my children. I love to explore, I love nature and I love an adventure, if this adventure is going to involve extreme heights or snakes, I may revise my former love of adventure. I love all things Star Wars, and now I have alluded to my nerdy side.

I enjoy reading and investigating the stories that are behind the history. I have a creative side, I love photography, I am also a writer; I have written four books, three of which I have had the proud honor to have published. The fourth book, I am still waiting for my oldest to complete the illustrations. (tapping foot) I have so many more stories to write in my head, but there just is not enough time in the day. My husband, Roger Allen Jr., our family primarily resides in his hometown of Horton, Kansas and together we have five children, and two grandchildren.

## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

Well another year is quickly underway at the Brown County Historical Society. On October 31, 2018 the Brown County Historical Society will be celebrating the 104<sup>th</sup> year of the Halloween Frolic and will then close our doors for the 2018 season at the Ag Brown County Historical Society and Memorial Auditorium Brown County Historical Society. Please keep in mind as you venture out that the Brown County Historical Society has so much history to offer, consider stopping by for a day of exploration of the community's rich history. Please remember that any tour is a free will donation and museum tours are also available by appointment

This year we have a number of exciting new events underway. Delors Waite is working hard on the Monarch Way station; that will be located between the Anderson House and Schoolhouse at the AG Museum. Of course, everyone at the Brown County Historical Society is excited to see this project underway. It is our hope that the community will

appreciate the Monarch Way station as much as the Brown County Historical Society does. This will be such a great learning opportunity for children, families and anyone who is interested to come see the life stages of the Monarch as well as the habitat that is required to facilitate the growth of the butterflies. Scouts and volunteers if you are interested in a service project please keep us in mind and contact the Brown County Historical Society for further information.

A little bit of information. Butterflies transform themselves many times throughout the creature's lifespans and colors. If a butterfly crosses your path it is considered good luck.

This summer the Brown County Historical Society will host the ice cream social. This event will be located at the AG Museum and we are hoping that many of you will join us in the sweet treat affair. Later this season in August the Merchant Appreciation Dinner will be hosted at the AG Museum.

In Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 schools please keep our Brown County Historical Society in mind for field trips and classroom immersion learning events. Touring the Brown County Historical Society is free and we would welcome you in to explore the history. The Brown County Historical Society is working hard to encourage youth to participate in our Brown County Historical Society. In fact, we want everyone in our community to treasure and appreciate all aspects of local talent.

Later this year we are excited to invite one of our Hiawatha Native Artists back to our community and plan to sponsor Tarin Eicher's art. The Brown County Historical Society is more than thrilled that John Eicher stopped by and suggested the art exhibit and this will be the first of the 2018 traveling exhibits on display at the Plamann History Center located

on the second floor of the Hiawatha City Hall  
701 Oregon Street.

Please keep in mind that we are looking for ways to increase donations and memberships. Please mention us to individuals who you consider might enjoy being a part of the Brown County Historical Society. To all our members, we would ask that you think about the Historical Society for any year end giving you are thinking about doing. *Best Wishes, Lynn Marie*

## IDENTIFYING A STAR

(By Lynn Marie)

Upon stumbling on a star in the auditorium museum office, I was curious as to what is the meaning of this little star. I had some ideas of what the star might signify but wanted to complete a little research. Now as I told you I had already formulated my own personal theory and I will share a bit of the background I imagined. It is the 1800's and cattle thieves and horse thieves are quite the prominent career, not the type of career that most of us want to have as these wranglers obviously operate on the wrong side of the law. Enter our curious star, imagined that it might be given to vigilant law officers who would seek out these criminals and bring him or her to justice. Ironically, this is exactly what these C. P. A. offices would do. What I learned in addition was just pudding.

This star is about 4 inches tall and four wide, it is metal, and bronze in color, with letters and numbers of C.P.A. #60 inscribed on the face of the star. The C.P.A. stands for Central Protection Association and is also known as Cattleman's Protection Association. This was a club where

members could pay his or her membership dues and become "honorary officers." That's right! His or her dues would enable the individual to



assist law enforcement officers in carrying out the necessary duties to bring criminals to justice. Are you finding this as hard to believe as I did. Well in the 1800's and into the mid-1900's Brown County boasted over 800 members in the Brown County area. It is hard to believe there might be 800 individuals who would want to perform such duties. It's also hard to believe there were enough criminals to justify this membership following. If you are as curious about this as I became go do a little digging for yourself. Be sure to share what you have discovered.

## 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:

**DONNIE BUTRICK**

Jere & Patty Bruning  
Joe & Shirley Gormley

**SHIRLEY SHEAR JEWEL – BY:**

Lawrence & Donna Thonen

**VIRGINIA (BAKER) GREER – BY:**

Lawrence & Donna Thonen  
Phyllis Jean Henry  
Gene & Nancy Swearingen  
Diann & Samuel Schuetz  
Jere & Patty Bruning  
Bonnie Reetz

**JOHN ENGELMANN – BY:**

Calvin Engelmann

**BOBBY SELMAN – BY**

Donna & Lawrence Thonen

**GLENN KORTHANKE – BY**

Jere & Patty Bruning

**JERRY MINER – BY**

Warner & Charlene Pape  
Doloris Ripple  
Gary & Sandy Shear  
Ruth A. Nixon  
Marvin & Mary Ann Mueller  
Mary Miner  
Paul & Marian Tubach  
Raymond & Marilyn Wehrman  
Charles & Jane Grubber  
Randy & Debbie Fee  
Citizens State Bank

Jere & Patty Bruning

**JERRY SEIDEL – BY**

Bonnie Reetz

**RUTH JONES – BY**

Bonnie Reetz

The Memorials totaled \$815.00. We do thank everyone for the thinking of the BCHS Museums with your donations.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We want to welcome the following members to the Brown County Historical Society: John and Michelle Wright, family membership; Kevin Kneisley; Dillon Killoren and Stephen Martin individual memberships. So glad to have all of you join us.

Come visit both museums anytime. If we are closed or and if you have visitors and want a tour please call for an appointment. Someone will be glad to give you a tour.

**CARWELL BUILDING**

We do have the Carwell Bldg. If anyone needs a place to have a get together for a birthday party, reunion etc call the auditorium museum for information to rent and to see if date is available. Lynn Marie, executive director, will be glad to assist you. Telephone number is 785-742-3330.

**HELVERN ACQUISITION**

Richard and Katrina Stevenson and Richard's brother, Bill Stevenson have donated to the Brown County Historical Society museum 1900 - 1910 furniture that belonged to Lewis E. Helvern, former Hiawatha attorney and his wife N. Pearl Stevenson Helvern.

Included in this donation are a buffet and 6 chairs plus a Captain's chair; table with 2 leaves

and an oriental rug.

Table was manufactured by the Abernathy Furniture Company in Leavenworth, KS and chairs were manufactured by the Marietta Furniture Company in Pennsylvania. The chairs were appraised @\$2,500 approximately 10 years ago.

Delivering this furniture to Hiawatha included Richard and Katrina Stevenson and Bill Stevenson, Vernie Coy and others. The Historical Society appreciates the Stevensons thinking of their hometown and our museums.

Maybe some of those reading this article do not know who Pearl and Lou Helvern were. N. Pearl Stevenson Helvern died at the age of 77 on October 9, 1968 at the Hiawatha Community Hospital. She was born in Beattie, Kans., on September 17, 1891, and attended the Beattie public schools. On December 17, 1917 she was married to Lou E. Helvern in Rockford, Ill. They came to Hiawatha in 1919. Mrs. Helvern served as Hiawatha Postmaster from 1935 to 1960.

Lewis E. Helvern, 91, prominent retired Hiawatha attorney, died January 22, 1974 at the Hiawatha Community Hospital. He had been a patient there since January 15. He had been in failing health for some time. Born in Beattie, Kans., January 25, 1892, the son of Lewis E. and Emma Neims Helvern, he was a native of Northeast Kansas. Mr. Helvern came to Hiawatha as a practicing attorney following his discharge from World War I.

## **ASCENSIONS RECEIVED**

I have some catching up to do. I will try to again start listing the ascensions we have received.

John Eicher brought in a large framed maps of Brown County area residence. J. F. Martindale and Mrs. J. P. Martindale pictures are

on front side. On reverse side is Hiawatha area.

C. M. Murphy mailed in a framed marriage certificate of John Turner and Mary Seever married in 1879 in Brown County. The framed certificate was part of the Neva Turner Estate.

Mrs. Donald Clement of Lawrence, KS donated a photograph of Hiawatha High School students dated December 9, 1924. This originally had belonged to Donald's mother Mildred Clement Simmons.

Christina Davignon of Merritt Island, FL., donated a performance flyer handbill advertising Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heine Contralto to perform on Friday evening, May 14, 1926 at the Hiawatha Auditorium. She writes that she does not know how her family got it.

Wayne Cottril of Topeka donated a Hiawatha Pop Bottle with Hiawatha Bottling Works on it.

A Goodell Company's Turntable 98 an apple parer/peeler was found on a shelf in the auditorium There are no markings when or who donated it to the historic society. Patented May 24, 1898, cast iron, painted a forest green originally now item has surface rust, but wheel turns.

Gary Shear douted separate naval uniform pieces belonging to Philip R. Korthanke. These articles included wool top and pants, manufactured by Naval Clothing Factory WWI; era top and pants research suggests also WWII.

Alfred John Lowe, Jr., donated a Patriotic quilt. Quilt was made by Alfred Jr., in remembrance of Alfred John Lowe, Sr., other fallen heros of Brown County, Kansas. Written on tag on back of quilt is: requested to go in Willis room.

# WEDDING GOWN WORN IN 1892

# DISPLAYED AT MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

(By Donna Thonen)

Wedding gown worn in 1892 by Barbara Wolney when she married George Hranisky in Willis, Kansas area.

Barbara Zintak Stukis of Hendersonville, North Carolina acquired trunk with contents upon the death of her mother, Julia Hranisky Zintak, daughter of Barbara Wolney Hranisky. She brought the three dresses plus other articles after family members decided they did not have a space to store them. Wedding dress is a brown color wool and has satin ribbons, various flowers, long veil flowers on the lace.

Frances Rose Wolney was the bridesmaid. In addition to the wedding gown we have the bridesmaid gown which is green wool and purple velveteen; a dark green wool light green silk trim is also one of the gowns donated to the museum. All three gowns – 2 piece added items from trunk have been donated. Added items from trunk included velveteen hat and ½ ivory long slip tucking and hand crocheted lace. All items are hand constructed.

Barbara Stukis had some information listing different Wolney relatives. Listed in the marriages of several Wolneys were the names John Wolney married Anna Siveda (sp?). Their children were John Wolney who married Fern Harper. Julie Wolney never married.

These dresses will be displayed in the wedding gown room on the third floor of the auditorium museum.

Thank you Barbara Stukis for this wonderful collection



## **THE BROWN COUNTY WORLD**

March 1, 1929

### **Stock Brings Good Prices**

The Emil Thonen farm sale Friday, 2 ½ miles south of Hiawatha totaled \$4,060, one of the largest sale totals of the season. All implements, small tools sold well. Alfalfa was sold at \$14.75 a ton. John Oltjen, farmer near Leona, bot 31 steers at \$67. Eight ewes sold at \$19 each, eight ewes with lambs at their sides sold at \$22.50 each. Another group of eight ewes with lambs by their sides were sold at \$23.30. Only a few hogs were auctioned. The top cow went for \$82. Ewes-lamb sold high but in keeping with market conditions.

### **First White Boy In County**

Billy Zimmerman, the first white born February 22, 1929. He has lived in the county all his life, continues to live at the same farm, south of town, where his parents located in 1855. His father, Rudy Zimmerman, came here from Missouri, pre-empting 160 acres of land on what is now the Hiawatha-Horton road a short distance south of Hiawatha. The land was purchased for \$1.25 an acre. It is now among the best in the county, being exceptionally well located on the graveled hiway.

### **Brown County Land**

Brown county bankers say that \$150 an acre is a fair average price for land in Brown County. Land close to near towns, or very productive, smooth land is worth \$175 to \$250

an acre.

### **What They Say**

A citizen is reported to have said (year 1929) the probability that big motion pictures may clear up the picture clash in Hiawatha. The big talkie pictures could be shown at Auditorium, the motion pictures at Royal, neither competing with the other. It is said that it costs several thousand dollars for equipment to show talkie pictures. There should be no objection to use of the big hall for big attractions that can't be handled in other one. Hiawatha citizens get the worst of it when the Auditorium is closed to attractions put on at Horton-Falls City that could be better shown in Hiawatha Auditorium.

### **The County Creamers**

The Brown County Creamery company was incorporated October 14, 1888 with A. J. Hill, G. T. Williams, Eli Moser, T. L. Brundage, M. S. Smalley as directors. The company erected a building at the north end of Twelfth street, that cost \$6,500. It was in size, 30x80 feet, 14 feet high and contained 11 apartments. T. L. Brundage was the first manager. 200 pounds of butter was the result of the first churning. A large territory was routed, the milk wagons circulating, and everything looked prosperous for a while. But an early decline set in and it seemed that there must have been a mistake as to the loud call for a creamery. It worked along a while in various hands, finally suspending. Later on the building was moved to Barnums ice plant to do service as an ice house where it remains. —A. N. Ruly's History of Brown County.

It was reported in A. N. Ruly's History of Brown County: The census of Hiawatha by Assessor L. S. Herbert showed a population of 2,500 in 1884.

Brown County Historical Society  
611 Utah Street  
Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Hiawatha,KS 66434  
Permit #27

Gary Shear.....President  
Larry Day.....Vice President  
Wesley Duesing.....Secretary  
Delores Waite.....Treasurer  
Donna Thonen.....Director/Newsletter  
Jere Bruning..... Director  
Dennis Greer.....Director  
Eugene Swearingen.... Director  
Larry Adcock..... Director  
Jim Gibbs.....Director  
Gil Bunning.....Director  
Joe Nigus.....Director



This photo of Lynn Clement driving a John Deere Tractor was taken in 1941. It appeared in the John Deere publication, “J. D. Furrow.”