

# Appanoose Area Preservation Society

Published by: Lori Johnson

## BOARD MEMBERS

President: Tom Billings  
Vice President: Cecil Rockhold  
Treasurer: Virginia Cook  
Secretary: Janet Radcliffe  
Barb Engel: Volunteer Coordinator  
Technology: Lori Johnson  
Community: Fran Seymour  
Community: Davey Kiker  
Curator: Keith Tate

CONTACT A MEMBER IF YOU  
ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING

## 2025 Activities at a glance

October 25 - Osage Historical Society  
Presentation 2 pm

November 15th - Quilt show 9 am - 3 pm

December 6th - Extravaganza 9 am - 2 pm

Private Tours available on request

## Remembering Osage County: People, Places, and Purpose



*Eileen Davis - Secretary at Osage County Historical Society came out to present:*

*A brief but engaging presentation covering the local history of the Michigan Valley Area.*

- Exodusters in Our Area
- Bulmer Grain Company in Michigan Valley
- Appanoose Church of the Brethren

## Exodusters in Our Area

After the Civil War, many formerly enslaved African Americans in the South faced hostile tenant-farming conditions, violence, and limited land-ownership opportunities. Many of them looked to Kansas, in part because of its symbolic history around “Free State” status and the availability of homesteads. Between about 1879 and the early 1880s, large numbers of African Americans – called “Exodusters” after the Biblical Exodus reference – travelled north or west to Kansas seeking land and freedom.



## Bulmer Grain Company

In the Michigan Valley area of Osage County, the Bulmer family operated a business called Bulmer Grain Company. For example, an obituary notes that Lee Milner Bulmer (1938-2024) “owned and operated Bulmer Grain Company, Michigan Valley” alongside his brother and father. The presence of a grain company illustrates the importance of agriculture (grain production/storage) in the local economy.



## Appanoose Church of the Brethren

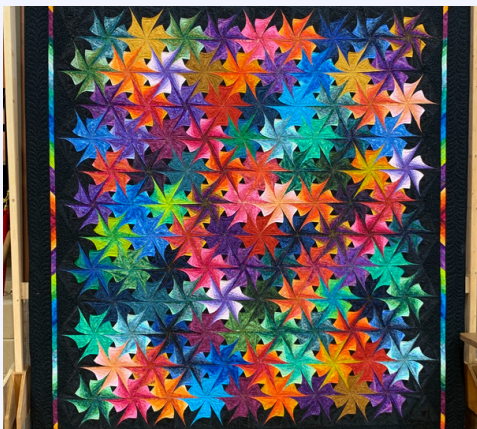
The Appanoose Church of the Brethren was built around 1886 on the I. B. Garst farm, about 7½ miles southeast of Overbrook (on the Franklin-Douglas county line). The congregation followed the Brethren tradition (Anabaptist roots) with characteristics such as believer’s baptism (often by immersion three times), love-feasts, simple church buildings and plain worship.



## Annual Appanoose Area Quilt Show

This year’s annual quilt show offered a beautiful and inspiring display of signature quilts, highlighting the artistry and storytelling that quilting brings to life. Attendees enjoyed an impressive range of works, from treasured, centuries-old pieces to innovative, newly crafted quilts. With such a rich variety of patterns, colors, and techniques, there truly was something for everyone to admire. The show celebrated both tradition and creativity—leaving visitors excited for what next year will bring.

*Here are a few of the beautiful hand crafted quilts*



Sunflower Piecemakers  
Opportunity Quilt - drawing  
April 25, 2026



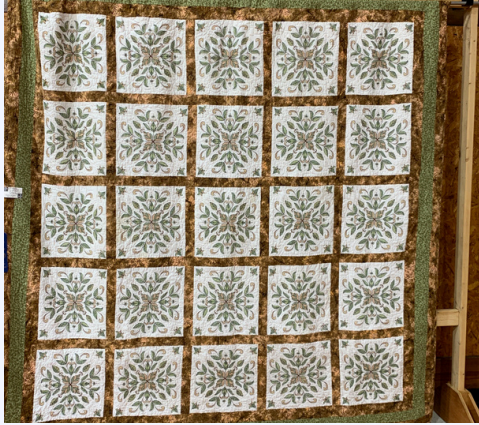
Janet Radcliffe and Linda  
King hanging quilts



Tom King and Florence  
Milliman working a quilt



# ANNUAL APPANOOSE AREA QUILT SHOW



Beautifully hand crafted -  
designer unknown



Lovely butterflies - designer  
unknown



Hand stitched, hand quilted  
"Postage Stamp" quilt



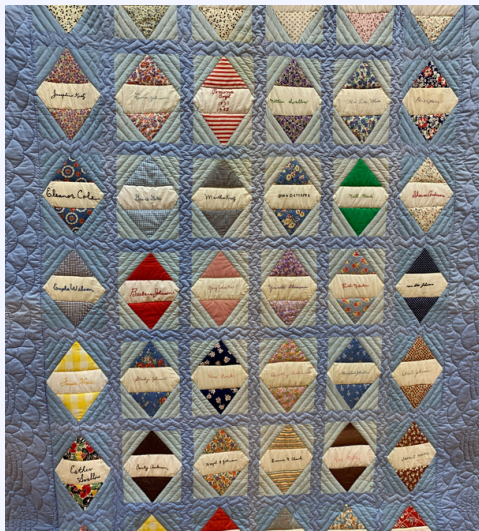
Beautiful 'Queens' Quilt



This one is for sale!



Quilt set on point



Beautiful signature quilt



Signature quilt - blocks by  
Friendly Hour Club (1941) -  
brought by Beverly Bird



Panel quilt



# ANNUAL APPANOOSE AREA QUILT SHOW



*Panel quilt*



*Signature quilt*



*Mystery quilt - pattern from  
Chris' Corner*



*Custom Christmas quilt*



*Capturing nature*



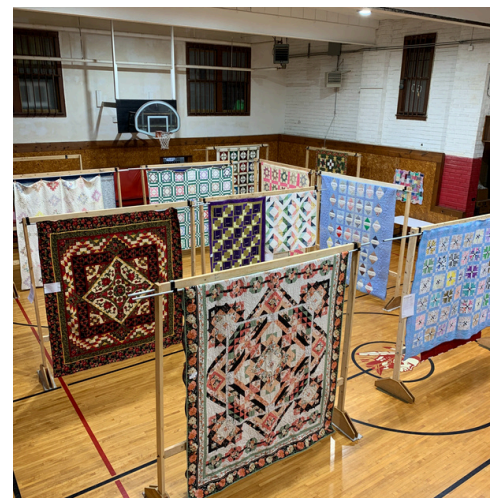
*Celebrating Christmas*



*Quilt from Joe Rawlin's Smith  
family (Mary Channon's  
uncle)*



*View from the balcony*



*View from the balcony*





# **HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA! - A HOLIDAY MARKET TO REMEMBER.**

*Lunch Served by Appanoose Museum | Local Crafters & Handmade Goods*

*This year's Holiday Shopping Extravaganza was a festive success! Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the Appanoose Museum while exploring a wide variety of local crafts. Shoppers found:*

- *Handcrafted decorations and beautiful Christmas ornaments*
- *Baked goods and homemade treats*
- *Household items and holiday décor*
- *Festive clothing and jewelry for young teens*
- *And many more unique, locally made treasures*

*The event offered something for everyone and truly brought the community together to celebrate the holiday season.*

*We were thrilled to welcome a mix of returning vendors and new faces this year. If you weren't able to attend, enjoy the photos capturing the fun, festive spirit, and community cheer of the event!*

*Here is a look behind the scenes of getting ready for the big event!*



*View from the balcony as Museum Board members get ready for vendors to arrive*



*View from the balcony as the first of the vendors start to arrive*



*Fran Seymour AAPS Board and Eli stocking drinks in preparation for lunch*





# HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA! - A HOLIDAY MARKET TO REMEMBER.



Davey Kiker AAPS Board ready to collect lunch money



Keith Tate and Tom King taking a short break before the festivities start



View from the balcony as vendors get ready to open



Marilyn McClure volunteer and Janet Radcliffe AAPS Board Secretary - ready to serve lunch



Barb Engel AAPS Board ready to assist with desserts for lunch



Virginia Cook AAPS Board Treasurer with Eli taking lunch orders



Jenny Mac from Jenny Mac Boutique



Mary Houston with Chiefs stuffed animal



Diana Supple with handcrafted wood creations





# HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA! - A HOLIDAY MARKET TO REMEMBER.



Tammy Cheeseman, Linda King, and Tom King with the Sunflower Piecemakers Opportunity quilt



Json & Leah Ekeland from Michigan Valley UMC reaching out from the church



Appanoose Baptist Church ABW bake sale - Pastor Davey Kiker, Bethany Kiker, Jane Anderson



Maria Dressman  
[my.tuperware.com/dressman](http://my.tuperware.com/dressman)



Byrce Torkelson with delicious cookies made fresh



Lois Schultz from handy helpers to holiday cheer and story time magic



Kristy & David Teska with clothing, ornaments and unique hand crafted creations



Elaine Gilliland with beautiful hand crafted ornaments and stained glass



Hand crafted young-adult creations by Kinley from K's Kraft Hut





# HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA! - A HOLIDAY MARKET TO REMEMBER.



Tom Billings AAPS Board President with Eli restocking soda



Megan, Cindy, Eli and Virigina Cook chatting over a walking taco lunch



Patricia Dyer - Chalking This That and More from Melvern



Merritta Combs and Jerry Engel from Redox Wellmess



Vendors wrap up a successful Holiday Shopping Extravaganza, sharing smiles and holiday cheer as the season comes to a close.

**Thank you for a wonderful year—we look forward to new memories and wish you a Happy New Year!**



# Support & Celebrate Our Museum Next Year

*We are gearing up for the 2026 season. If you are a past member or interested in becoming a new member, we look forward to working with you.*

*Your money supports AAPS activities such as opening day, providing archived materials and equipment, AAPS scholarships, alumni banquet activities, USD287 sports activities, and guest speakers.*

*Memberships can be purchased at our online store:*

*<https://appanoosemuseum.org/online-store/ols/categories/membership>*

*Or mailed to  
Virginia Cook  
1789 Georgia Road  
Williamsburg, KS 66095*

## I Friends of the Museum Membership Levels:

Student level	Elementary free or \$5	Card (put on resume, community activity)
Individual	\$20	Newsletter, private tour, choice postcard or magnet
Contributing/family	\$25	Newsletter, private tour, choice postcard or magnet
Supporting	\$50	Newsletter, private tour, choice postcard or magnet and coffee mug
Benefactor	\$100	Newsletter, private tour, choice postcard or magnet, choice t-shirt or tumbler
Life	\$500	Newsletter, private tour, choice postcard or magnet, choice t-shirt or tumbler, name on lifetime member plaque



## Important Date or Events

For more Information visit our website:  
[www.appanoosemuseum.org](http://www.appanoosemuseum.org)