

Museum Memoirs

Volume 5, Issue 4

Winter 2017

Celebrate Cowley County History

Mark your calendars for Celebrate Cowley County History on Saturday, January 27th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Join us at Baden Square for informative and interesting presentations by this year's authors. Books will be available purchase, and you will want a copy. They can also be purchased at the museum after the event.

The papers included for this year's book are:

The Building at 915 Millington

By Roland Mueller

The Theaters of Arkansas City

By Foss Farrar

M. Madeline Southard, 1877 – 1967:

Doing All the Good You Can

By Jerry Wallace

**A Little History of Atlanta, Kansas,
and the Atlanta Labor Day Celebration**

By Gloria Ulbrich

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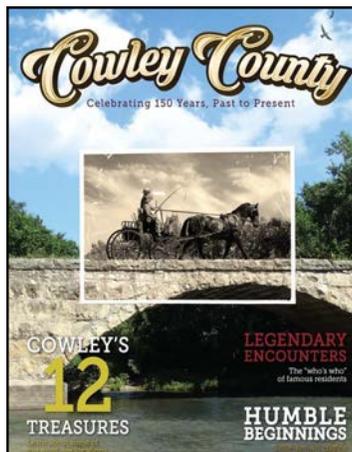
Brian White

Visit Us!

The year is winding down. If you haven't been in to see the "Remembering Those Who Served" exhibit, you need to come in soon. The exhibit concludes at the end of the year.

For the remainder of the year, we have a traveling display marking Cowley County's sesquicentennial. It celebrates our county's communities, history, and folklore. Along with the display, you can get a free wooden nickel and a Cowley County Visitor's Guide created by Cowley First. You'll want a copy of this guide as it has lots of history in honor of our county's sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary.

We are open Tuesdays through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with the exceptions of December 23-24 and December 31st.



Cowley County Visitor's Guide

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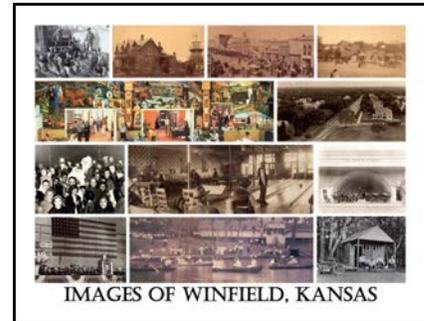
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2018 Calendars for Sale

The 2018 Winfield calendars are finally done! What a learning experience it was this year! The calendars costs \$10 each and can be purchased at the Winfield newspaper office or at the museum.



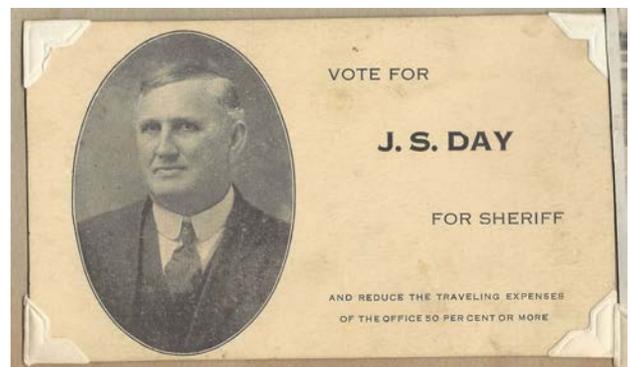
Message from the Director *by Shawn Marie Stover*

I am still hopeful that there are great old photos out there that will make their way to the museum.

This past summer, my father-in-law scanned some old family albums. It took me a good three months to look at the picture CD that he gave us, but when I did, I was so thrilled! There were at least three pictures that I could use in the *Cowley County Heritage, Vol. II* book and several others that would fit in the photo categories that we have at the museum. I was also pleased that my father-in-law scanned the photos in a high resolution!

There are all kinds of treasures in your family's scrapbooks and albums too! Make sure that the photos are labeled. If you're not exactly sure who is in a picture or what the event is, put a question mark next to your guess. If you are able to scan, scan in a high resolution ("dpi"—dots per inch)! Who knows what treasures are to be found among your family photos!

Goodies from the Ridgway albums! Clockwise from left: "Fairview School north of Ridgway Ranch House taken 1940. Where Ridgway children went to grade school"; Dexter depot; a card that says, "Vote for J.S. Day for Sheriff" (James Samuel Day was sheriff twice: 1903-05 & 1907-09).



Happenings

We were so happy to see everyone at our annual meeting and the program, “Remembering Those Who Served”, on November 5th! We hope that everyone felt uplifted and appreciative of the freedoms that we have in this country. This is thanks to our veterans.

Board members Nianne Mohlstrom and Beverly Johnson represented the historical society at the Family History Fair in Wellington on November 11th. The event focused on family history and genealogy, but area museums and historical societies had an opportunity to promote their organizations.

More oral histories were added to our collection. Vernon Russell and Susan Weathers, both veterans, shared their memories with us recently.

On December 13th, we had a visit from author James Kenyon. He plans to write a book about Kansas high schools that have been closed. Armond Hillier met with him to tell him about Cambridge High School. We also appreciated the loan of school memorabilia from Gary Utt who could not be at the museum that day.

We strive to preserve the past and share it with the future. It’s an exhausting job, but somebody has to do it!



Clockwise from upper left: CCHS President Rick Hathaway welcomes the crowd to our “Remembering Those Who Served Event”; Susan Weathers; Vernon Russell; James Kenyon and Armond Hillier; CCHS Board Member Nianne Mohlstrom at the Family History Fair.



Cowley County Historical Society

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We're on the
Web!

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The Cowley County Historical Society dates from 1931 with a major reorganization and move to our present location in 1967. The CCHS's mission is to preserve and make available the colorful history of the county. We also support and encourage activities pertaining to local history throughout the county. Our bookstore makes available an assortment of items dealing with local history. The historical society also maintains a fine collection of historical records and vintage photographs.

Sharing the Past with the Future



Cowley County Heritage, Vol. II Book Update

by Shawn Marie Stover

had antique, reproduction, and modern dolls plus related items and toys for sale. One woman from Albuquerque, N.M., came several years.

Ruth Ann Yeary, director of the arts council, and her assistant, Kelley Alexander, were very helpful to the committee. The Winfield Community Center was a beautiful place to hold this event. The doll show was held from August 1991 to August 2000. Yes, 10 years! We felt that it was a great fund-raiser for the arts council. The many wonderful volunteers were very much appreciated.

One might ask, "Why did you put so much time and effort into this project?" Our answer was simple: "Because of our love of dolls and the joy the event brought to so many."

Dolls represent happy hours of playtime and are our heirlooms of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Submitted by Cheri Nichols



The first Walnut Valley Farmers Market sign was designed and painted by Winfield's Maggie Becker. Three years later it was copied and the color updated by the market coordinators.

several times with a goal of forming a local farmers' market. For several years, Walnut Valley Farmers' Market (WVFM) met on Saturday mornings in the parking lot of the Albertsons Courthouse Annex building. About 1997, Seth and Jenny Bate took on the leadership after they got inspired to try out their Bread Booth at the market. Soon after WVFM moved to a shadier area in the red-brick town-lined street on the east side of the Cowley County Courthouse. After 11 years of coordinating and building the market, Jenny and Seth Bate passed the market coordination to Dick and Dolly Budy. Wilma Budy and Webster Roth.

In 2008, WVFM obtained permission from the city to hold the Walnut Valley Farmers' Market at the Winfield Aquatic Center parking lot at the entrance of beautiful Winfield Island Park on north Main Street. In 2017, the new market coordinators, Sarah and Gage Werner and Todd Griggs, took over market leadership duties.

From a modest beginning, WVFM has grown to be a family event where "leavers" (area Cowley County patrons who want to buy locally-grown products) gather and visit and purchase from area farmers and vendors. They are able to talk with the person who produced or made the products. The effort continues to be a community happening that encourages availability of locally grown vegetable/produce, and handmade art/crafts, including jams and baked products. It has grown to be a vibrant, well-attended farmers' market that often includes musical entertainment and has become a place to take the family and meet friends on Saturday mornings in the summer.

Local and state support

Local and state support has allowed the area musical heritage to be on display and perform on most market days: 1) The City of Winfield placed signs and installed pole banners, set up electricity, park benches, and barriers for the season. 2) Winfield Convention and Tourism has



The 2017 market shows the same time that other items at Todd Griggs (left) booth at the first of the Walnut Valley Farmers' Market season. At mid-season, we have had as many as 29 vendors at Market.

provided grants to award stipends to the performers, purchase market shirts and market shopping bags, and purchase customized pole banners. 2) **Cowley County Extension** provides information and tasty demonstrations educating leavers on how to use the fresh produce in new ways. 3) **The Winfield Courier** has been an excellent source for reporting the happenings of WVFM including many leavover pictures and announcements of demonstrations and music events. 4) **Kansas Department of Agriculture: From The Land of Kansas** supports all of registered Kansas farmers' markets with market physical aids and food safety rules and guidelines.

In addition, the WVFM has supported many community activities such as the food pantry, the William Newton Memorial Hospital Crop Hop, the Cowley County Humane Society, and Girl Scouts. Last year, in mid-summer, the Girl Scouts took a

count of attendance and revealed more than 400 people attending the market that day. This figure dovetails with a national trend of buying fresh and local.

Compiled by Dolly and Dick Budy, 2008 to 2016 market coordinators

Winfield's Celebration of the Kansas Centennial

Winfield area residents celebrated the 1961 Kansas Centennial in fine style. The huge civic endeavor was planned by a committee under the direction of Bill Medley, and there were activities and events for everyone. Perhaps the most unique and memorable event was the marvelous production, "Kanza," performed by the students of the Winfield Public Schools. (See the story about "Kanza.")

Centennial hospitality headquarters were in the former Woolworth building on Main Street. Three souvenir items – leavover Centennial ovens, sunflower buttons, and wooden nickels – were sold to defray expenses. Men purchased shaving permits for \$1.00 each, and clean-shaven men who had failed to purchase permits faced possible imprisonment in a stockade at Ninth and Main. A centennial art exhibit was held at William Newton Hospital, and a "then and now" exhibit was featured at Cud Drennan's showroom on West Ninth. The Winfield Public Library entered into the spirit of the celebration by following a centennial theme and displaying Kansas books. Steve arranged special Centennial window displays, and visitors and shoppers were encouraged to wear historic garments. Students were allowed to wear Centennial clothing to school, and the girls were particularly proud of their long dresses and suspenders.

Winfield High School students were also involved. A beard growing contest was conducted by the Letterman's Club, and more than 60 young men participated. The winners were Larry Reed and Mike Robinson; each



Wooden Nickel from Kansas Centennial



Elmer Egan, back, and his three children, Dick, Loren, and Janet are dressed in their centennial finery at the parade in May 1961.

Work continues daily on our Cowley County Heritage, Vol. II book. I am so excited to be making progress on it, and I'd be happy to show it to anyone who visits the museum. Just ask. I could talk all day about this book!

There is still time to order yours! Pre-orders cost \$55!

Sample pages from the Winfield section of Cowley County Heritage, Vol. II.