



Adam Lepler Barn 1864

# BARN TALK

LENEXA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 14 Number 1

January - February 1997

## LHS SOUP LUNCHEON

Our annual Soup and Homemade Bread Luncheon will be held on Friday, February 14, 1997. Serving time will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lenexa Community Center, 13420 Oak Street, Downtown Lenexa.

This is one of our major fund raisers during the year and we hope you will invite all your friends to come out and enjoy the lunch with fellow LHS members and neighbors. It's a great time to get together with old friends and to make new ones!

The menu this year includes our old favorites - Steak Soup and Ham & Bean Soup. PLUS this year we have added a delicious Vegetarian Vegetable Soup. Of course we will also have tasty Homemade Breads, Slaw, Deserts and Drinks.

At \$4.00 per serving, you can't go wrong. How can we offer so much, for so little, and make it so good?? With our famous and wonderful LHS VOLUNTEERS, of course!!!!

Remember it is Valentines Day too! You will need to give someone special unique and thoughtful Valentines Day gift. To make it especially convenient for you, the LHS GIFT SHOP will be setting up shop and offering a selection of really great gifts for you to choose from for your Valentine..

1997  
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

**January 28 General Membership Meeting**  
Polluck - Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.  
Program - Fort Leavenworth's Historic Leaders, presenter is John Reichley, Visitor Coordinating Officer. Antidotes of Famous Military Leaders from the 1860's to the 1990's

**February 14 Friday Soup Luncheon** at Lenexa Community Center

**March 25** Pending TBA

**April 13 or 20** Tour of Fort Leavenworth  
Bus tour being planned.

**May 2, 3 & 4** LHS Plant Sale and Bendorf Fountain Dedication

**May 27** General Meeting -Roots of the Santa Fe Trail \* *Trails*

**June 28** Lenexa BBQ at Sar-Ko-Par Park

**July 4** Community Days/Miss Lenexa

**July 26 & 27** Heartland Trails Festival

**July 29** Picnic in the Park DAR Program

**August 17 or 24** Tour of Lenexa's Historic Homes (Sunday bus tour)

**September 6** Spinach Festival!

**September 21 or 23** Tour of Ghost Towns of Johnson County

**October 19 or 26** Monticello Tour/Nelson Island Park Picnic-Alternate Quilters

**October 23 & 23** Enchanted Forest

**November 18** General Meeting - Native American Perspectives

**December 28** Proposed Sleigh Rides in the Park

## From the President

1997 promises to be a year filled with challenges and opportunities for our Historical Society.

Cataloging, identifying, and organizing our historical data and artifacts in the computer will be a real challenge. Joe Wilson has led the effort to catalog all of our artifacts through the use of the computer and a computerized camera. This was made possible by a grant that Joe and Mary K. Smith pursued. Norman Keech is scanning all the books in the library and placing the documents into a word processing program. This is a monumental task.

We have contacted DeVry Business College and they will conduct a complete analysis of our objectives and present a plan to organize our files and how to make them available to the public through the internet and our computers. There is no cost associated with the DeVry services. No, we won't be doing away with the books. They will be re-organized and reprinted with copies of the original photographs and documents.

We have made some changes to our programs for the coming year. A complete listing of the programs is in this newsletter. We have added some very interesting bus tours, Ghost Towns of Johnson County, Fort Leavenworth, Monticello Township, and historic homes of Lenexa. Some of the tours will be limited to the first 40 members. There will also be a cost of approximately \$12-15 per person associated with these tours to cover the cost of the bus and tour guide. Our meetings will be held at the Methodist Church this year. The Senior Citizens' Center was not available.

It is time that we decided on an expansion plan for our facility. Storage and workspace are at a premium. We must add or find some space within the next two years.

Bill Nicks made a presentation to the Board at this month's meeting. He asked that the Historical Society allocate \$50,000 or more to purchase period office furniture for the Thompson House.

(cont.)

The Board appointed a committee to meet with Mr. Nicks to obtain more details on the project. Bill Nicks will probably make an appearance at the January 28th meeting to explain the project. The Board's committee will also have some additional information. The committee will document your questions and ensure they are answered. I want to assure you that the Board will not approve any expenditures in excess of \$5,000 for this project without the approval of the membership.

See you at the January 28th meeting and don't forget the Soup Luncheon.

Irv Hoffmann, LHS President

This poem is apparently a comment to graduating seniors from high school in the 1902-03 era. The newspaper which published the poem was from the estate of Levi F. Newcomer and Ida (Osborne) Newcomer - proprietors of the Trail Inn Hotel of Lenexa. *From Beryl Hannigh, CHRP*

### HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Howl and rant you tin horn Seniors,  
Have a time while yet you may,  
For like snow balls in Manila  
You are passing fast away,  
Every school bell tolls your death knell,  
And your reign will soon be o'er,  
Soon you'll gather to be parted:  
Scattered once, you'll meet no more.

Howl and rant you tin horn seniors,  
Flaunt your flag that floats so fair,  
Next year different brighter colors  
Will be floating there.  
Next year we will get our inning,  
Sit where you so lately sat,  
Brush by, when you see the Middlers  
Coming to the bat.

Howl and rant you tin horn Seniors,  
Soon there'll break a crimson dawn  
That shall see your forces scattered  
And your very memory gone.  
Yes, 'tis true you'll be forgotten  
Ere the passing of a year,  
Howl and rant you tin horn Seniors  
So we'll know that you are here.

# Religion In Johnson County A Timeline

Source: The Sun Newspapers Nov. 15, 1996, with additions by Norm Keech

- 1803 - The Louisiana Purchase is made.
- 1824 - The town of Gum Springs is established (Shawnee).
- 1830 - Rev. Thomas Johnson establishes Indian Mission near Turner, KS and later moved to Fairway.
- 1834 - Quaker Indian Mission established near Merriam.
- 1839 - Shawnee Indian Methodist Mission built in Fairway, Kansas.
- 1840 - The Shawnee Methodist log church built, was located at 59th Terrace and Blue Jacket Road in Shawnee. Besides church services for the Shawnee Indians, it was used as a council house for Indian affairs, a polling place in local elections and as a home for the first county offices.
- 1854 - The Territory of Kansas is organized under the Kansas - Nebraska Act.
- 1855 - Johnson County is organized.
- 1858 - Methodist Episcopal Church organized in Olathe.
- 1858 - First permanent church, Presbyterian Church of DeSoto organized.
- 1858 - Methodist Church of DeSoto organized.
- 1860 - Olathe Christian Church organized.
- 1861 - Kansas becomes a state.
- 1863 - Shawnee Sunday School started, they met in a log church used by the Shawnee Indians and eventually became the Shawnee Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1864 - Olathe Reformed Presbyterian Church organized.
- 1865 - First Presbyterian Church organized in Olathe, building erected 1898.
- 1865 - First regular meeting of the Methodist Society of Monticello, building erected 1880.
- 1866 - Olathe United Presbyterian Church organized.
- 1866 - Congregational Church of Olathe organized.
- 1866 - First Presbyterian Church of Gardner organized.
- 1868 - St. Paul's parish of Olathe organized. Church built 1907, parochial school opened 1914.
- 1868 - St. Joseph Catholic Church of Shawnee built through volunteer efforts of immigrant railroad hands.
- 1870 - Temple B'nai Jehudah established in Kansas City, Mo.
- 1870 - Methodist Episcopal Church dedicated in DeSoto.
- 1870 - Catholic parish organized and church built in Gardner.
- 1871 - Corinth Church constructed just east of Mission Road on 83rd Street.
- 1872 - Baptist Church of Olathe organized, meeting in Odd Fellows Hall. The Church and parsonage erected in 1902.
- 1873 - Antioch Presbyterian Church organized. Building was located at 75th Street and Antioch Road where reconstructed chapel now stands.

- 1877 - Congregation Ohev Sholom organized in Kansas City, Ks., under direction of Michael Levin.
- 1878 - Lenexa Sunday School started and eventually became the Lenexa Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1879 - Baptist Church of Gardner organized and built.
- 1880 - Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa organized and built.
- 1885 - Salem Lutheran Church in Lenexa established in school house on Renner Road, then moved to present location.
- 1911 - Overland Park Presbyterian Church Society organized. Original church building constructed in 1913.
- 1911 - United Bretheren Church organized in Roeland Park.
- 1916 - Southridge Presbyterian Church organized in Roeland Park.
- 1923 - St. Agnes Church organized and built in Roeland Park.
- 1940 - First Baptist Church of Shawnee established.
- 1940 - Trinity Lutheran Church at 62nd and Nall organized by Rev. Harlan Hartner.
- 1944 - Queen of Holy Rosary Catholic Church organized and built in Overland Park.
- 1949 - Catholic Church of St. Ann incorporates in Prairie Village.
- 1949 - Village Presbyterian Church incorporates with 282 members.
- 1959 - Rolling Hills Presbyterian church incorporated.
- 1961 - Congregation Ohev Sholom relocates to Prairie Village.
- 1962 - Atonement Lutheran Church organized in Overland Park.
- 1962 - Hillcrest Christian Church established in Overland Park.
- 1963 - Emanuel Baptist Church organized in Overland Park.
- 1986 - Kehilath Israel Synagogue opens in Johnson County.
- 1988 - Congregation Beth Torah incorporates in Johnson County.
- 1992 - Church of the Nativity first mass in new Leawood building.

Mr. Norman Keech is a member of the Board of Directors for the Lenexa Historical Society. His interest in the history of the Johnson County area led him to research and expand upon the information he had found in the Kansas City Star article. Norm was able to develop this time line of the establishment of the churches in the area and relate those times with other significant events of the time. Mr. Keech is currently volunteering his time to the LHS project of using a computer scanner to transfer local historic information currently stored in the Museum's three ring binders on to computer.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE  
A96 A96 A96 A96 A96

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by so fast. 1996 was an active and interesting year for Lenexa Historical Society. Good food was prepared and eaten and great programs were heard and seen at the Membership Meetings. LHS was involved through its volunteers in a variety of projects from the busy LHS Quilters to Soup, Spinach, BBQ, Community Days, Miss Lenexa, Heritage Festival, Children's Old Fashioned Christmas, museum hosting, museum display, accession assistance, building upkeep and on and on. LHS has a great cadre of volunteers and we are thankful for each and every one!! If you want to get involved in something at LHS - don't be shy. Give us a call, drop us a note or stop in and we will talk about the various opportunities. It's fun to be involved!

But I digress! **It is time once again to inform you who are annual subscribers that your 1997 DUES are now due. Please look at the mailing label on this news letter. If you see an "A96" or a "C96" on the label it means that your membership for 1997 has not been paid as of the mailing date of the newsletter. Annual dues are \$15 per individual and \$25 per family membership.**

This is also a good time to let us know of any changes or corrections to your name and/or address. We try to keep our list up-to-date and correct but we need your help too, to keep us informed of changes.

---

LENEXA "LIKKER" RAIDS

In the 1920's, the words "fire water", "stills" and "raids" were as common as "pot", "LSD" and "generation gap" are today. AND Lenexa was no exception in making headlines. Equipment confiscated during a raid on a large still near Lenexa brought \$150 at a sheriff's sale, with the money going into the county school fund.

Courtesy of *THE LENEXA TIMES*,  
August 28, 1969.

## HISTORICAL PROGRAM AT MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Lenexa Historical Society Staff and Volunteers joined City of Lenexa personnel on Monday, December 2, when they presented early history of the Lenexa community. Eighty eight third grade students and four teachers at the Mill Creek Elementary School, 79th and Cottonwood, listened intently as different bits of history were given by Brant Gaul, Planner III, of the City's Planning Department; Bill Nicks' first person account of Octave Chanute's involvement in the Lenexa community; Beryl Hennigh, CHRP and Janette Marshall, LHS volunteer, shared some interesting information about early trail travel. Numerous items taken by families when they embarked upon these challenging excursions were reviewed and passed among the students for their closer inspection.

Bill Lierly and Bob Hennigh, LHS volunteers, manned the Prairie Schooner at the outside entrance of the school and visited with the children as they studied different items attached to the vehicle.

Appreciation is expressed to the city staff members in charge of moving the schooner to the school and returning it to its proper storage at the Museum.

All schools within the city of Lenexa will be visited between now and May, 1997, with the same type of presentation. In between, City staff will be making appearances at the schools to share information about how city government operates and will also conduct some bus trips for classes to City Hall, Police and Fire Departments as a finale.

A note of Appreciation to Albert and Rita DeBrabander for storing the Dr. Speer Buckboard at their ranch while a place was found for it at the Barn.

LENEXA COMMUNITY CENTER

FEBRUARY 14, 1

SOUP LUNCHEON

LENEXA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lenexa Historical Society  
14907 W. 87th St. Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS 66215

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 57**  
Shawnee Mission, KS

[L]  
~~Clarence & Theresa Schweiger  
13507 West 82nd Street  
Lenexa, KS 66215~~

*Amelia*