

## From the President

by Pat Lierly

Greetings for a great 1998. Lenexa Historical Society will be very busy and certainly will need your help. **We are excited about the changes** which are now possible. We are so grateful for the storage space which was generously offered to us by **Dave Edwards of Sebring & Company** and the truck and workers from **Seaton Van Lines** who helped move lots of seasonal materials which we will have access to when needed. Your board members worked very hard to get this project completed.

This May will be the **15th anniversary of the Legler Barn Museum**. We appreciate and thank all of those people who had the dream of preserving the Barn. We now have a qualified professional person to guide us to better preservation of those items which have been donated or loaned to the museum and display them in a **stimulating and interesting way to tell the story of Lenexa history**. Please stop by or call if you have an afternoon to volunteer your time. Your suggestions and talent will be appreciated.

**Newton and Mary Kay Smith** have been very loyal members of LHS, serving countless hours of volunteer time. Newton has a fractured ankle and will not be able to be here as a **Sunday Host**. The museum is scheduled to be open Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call me at 888-5645 if you can help.

I am looking forward to an exciting year. **We do need new members!** Wouldn't it be grand if each of you could get a new member? Ask your children and grandchildren to get involved. This museum is something which **belongs to you** and we want all Lenexa citizens to be proud of it. I'll be talking to you. We need to work together to make our museum the best it can be.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31.

Please fill out the form on page 5. This form is also for new memberships. Consider giving a gift membership to your children, grandchildren, neighbor, teacher, or anyone who enjoys history.

## Upcoming LHS Events

### General Membership Meeting

- Tuesday, January 27
- Schneberger Hall in the United Methodist Church, 9138 Caenen Lake Road, downtown Lenexa
- Potluck Dinner --- 6:30 p.m.
- Program --- 7:30-8:30

The program is by **Walter McKenzie**, LHS member since 1987. **Walter will give a presentation on these areas of greater Kansas City: Clay County, MO (1822-1997), Johnson County, KS (since 1857), Nebo Hill Archeological Site near Missouri City, MO, and Linn Creek Archeological Site in Platte County, MO.**

Walter will narrate slides about historic sites of Clay County and mansions built in the 1800s. This vibrant county was established in 1822, one year following Missouri's statehood status in 1821. Information about famous and infamous citizens will be included.

The **Nebo Hill Archeological area in southern Clay County near Missouri City** will be discussed, along with the renowned archeologist **J. Mett Shippee** and amateur archeologist **James Irminger**, and their findings.

Platte County's **Linn Creek Archeological Site** will be presented in detail during the evening. LHS members, guests, and friends in history are welcome to attend. Please call in your reservations to the Legler Barn Museum office at 492-0038. Free-will donations are welcome to defray the cost of renting offsite space.

### Soup and Homemade Bread Luncheon

- Wednesday, February 11
  - Lenexa Community Center, 13410 Oak St., downtown Lenexa
  - \$4 per person
- Choice of Steak or Ham and Bean Soup, salad, bread, drink, and dessert. Bring a friend!

### Spinach Festival and Heartland Trails Festival

- September 19
- Sar-ko-par Park, 87th and Lackman

## Letter From Kiersten



*Kiersten Latham,  
Legler Barn  
Museum Director*

Now that the holiday season is over, we are finally beginning to move on the many changes that the museum will be going through this year. In honor of the Barn's 15-year anniversary, the **Exhibit Committee has set a deadline of May 1, 1998 to have the Exhibits Reorganization project finished.** The goal of this project is to take the first step towards making the museum exhibits more interpretive and visitor-friendly. Since this process is a massive one, it will be done only a little bit at a time. Exhibit Committee members are each taking on different sections of the museum and redesigning them. It is a time-consuming effort and I fully appreciate the commitment of the folks involved. As part of the reorganization, we have designated two areas in the museum as artifact storage. With the unending help of several board members, we are very close to completing these areas. Thank you to everyone who has devoted so much time to the museum!

Also, we have nearly completed the new "**History Resource Room**" in the basement of the Barn. This room is a concentrated area of historical materials, including history books, local history information, genealogy information, oral history interviews, and soon, internet access and museum collection database access. The Resource Room is available to anyone interested in Lenexa's local history. However, only members of LHS will be able to check material out of the Room.

The museum is also very lucky to have secured **two interns** from the University of Kansas Masters in Historical Administration and Museum Studies (MHAMS) program. **Erin Miller** will be assessing and designing the collections management regime in the new artifact storage sections of the museum. **Peggy Stanton** will be working on exhibits and helping Erin with collections management. Through their studies at KU, Erin and Peggy are required to serve a substantial number of hours as a museum intern. We hope that their time here is rewarding and that we can

keep them working with us. It is hoped that these internships are the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship between Legler Barn Museum and KU's MHAMS students.

There are about a hundred other little things I'd like to tell you about, but space is limited. I will continue to use this venue to inform the membership of all the exciting changes going on here at the museum. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call me anytime. I'd love to have more people on the team!

### Need Volunteers!

So many new things are happening at the museum and we need help! We have wonderful opportunities for volunteers. You can do things like: help with exhibit design, care and storage of artifacts, library organization, photo projects, museum tours, oral history interviews, clerical work, Sunday host, and much much more. Also LHS needs help with membership drives and fundraising events. Call Kiersten at the museum for details (492-0038) or come in and look at the volunteer job sign-up sheet.

### Wish List

The museum needs all kinds of items and maybe you can help. Check your garage and attics for items below. Your donations are tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated.

- Sheets of foamcore
- Black poster board
- Clear plastic sign holders
- Picture frames of all sizes
- Indoor gloss paint, brushes, pans, etc.
- Children's book on history and/or prehistory
- 3-ring binders
- Small computer stand/desk
- Display cases
- Clipboards
- Wood, old or new
- Velvet (or material similar to it)
- Wooden palettes (for storage)
- Short shelves (preferably 2 shelves high) for display
- Bench or couch (must be in good condition)
- Vinyl flooring
- Sturdy metal shelving for storage
- Artifacts from a Lenexa bedroom ca. 1900
- 1980-90 Lenexa artifacts

**And we need these services:**

*(continued on page 3)*

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*This article was contributed to the LHS by John Connor of Overland Park, a great-grandson of John J. Connor, who came to the area around 99th and Pflumm Road in Lenexa in the 1860s. He wrote many poems, some of which are on file here at the Legler Barn Museum. One of his sons, James Connor, was the contractor for the Historic Holy Trinity Catholic stone church at 91st Terrace and Pflumm Road, downtown Lenexa.*

## Unveiling the Monument: DAR Marker in Lenexa

The ceremonies attending the unveiling of the Santa Fe Trail Marker a mile and a half south of town last Friday morning at 11 o'clock, April 26th, were very interesting and somewhat impressive, and attracted a large crowd, notwithstanding the cool weather. The crowd assembled at the school house about 10 o'clock a.m., where a procession was formed headed by the Tarita Band, and the teachers and pupils of the schools and all marched to the monument.

H.B. Lisk acted as master of ceremonies, and the exercises began with the singing of "America" by the school children to the accompaniment of the band, after which Miss May Lisk stepped forward and removed the veil from the monument.

"The Olathe Mirror" gives the following account of the event:

"Marking the Santa Fe Trail is becoming the 'order of the day,' in many localities along the great highway of bygone days. Our exchanges give an account of entertaining programs that are being presented away out in western Kansas and down in New Mexico. If one had the addresses and the full account of all these interesting occasions, he would have a valuable literature of which there will never be its counterpart.

"There are quite a few of the men who formed a part of that wonderfully interesting period in our history, still living and are contributing much valuable information touching those days of an intensely interesting age.

"Friday of last week, the marking of the trail with one of these substantial monuments took place at Lenexa. The program that was prepared and rendered with such interest was presented to a large gathering, many of whom are descendants of the pioneers.

"The Lenexa school took an important part in

the exercises and the singing by the pupils was one of the very pleasing exercises on the occasion. John Connor read an original poem, touching the historical events clustering around the ever-entertaining subject. Prof. Meek, principal of the Lenexa public schools, read a very interesting paper, largely historical, dealing with the great thoroughfare and recounting many events peculiar to the early history of the country.

"Senator Parker delivered an eloquent address, dealing with the times and character that made that early day a peculiar epoch in our country's history. He paid a glowing tribute to the men and women of those early days, drawing many practical lessons from their wonderfully eventful lives.

"At the close of the entertaining program, a sumptuous dinner was served in the school building. It was intended to partake of the lunch



out of doors, but the weather was a trifle too cool for that, but ample justice was done that excellent spread in the house.

"The day was one of immense enjoyment and will long be remembered as an important event in the history of Lenexa."—Reprinted from the Johnson County Library copy of "The Lenexa News," May 1907.

This DAR Marker placed by the daughters of the American Revolution was originally placed approximately at 105th and Pflumm Road, later moved to property adjoining the Lenexa Lumber Yard at Haskins Street and Santa Fe Trail Drive. The marker was moved a second time and is today located in Bradshaw Park, southwest corner of Noland Road and Santa Fe Trail Drive. It is maintained by the Quivira Crossing Chapter, DAR of Lenexa.

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## LHS News

• At the November membership meeting, it was decided that the **membership directory** will be published in its entirety on even numbered years, and an update will be published in odd numbered years. Every membership will receive one.

• The Board approved charging a **fee for historic research** at the Barn done by an employee. The fee schedule for patrons is:  
▫ Call or stop in with a simple question..Free  
▫ 1-2 hours of work....Flat \$15 plus materials  
▫ 2 hours up to 4 work days.....Direct cost of labor, mileage, materials, and internet time

▫ 5 or more days of work..Negotiate contract  
• It has been determined that the Society is **short one board member**. At the March General Membership Meeting, President Pat Lierly will ask for nominations from the floor. If you are interested in nominating someone or you would like to serve, call Pat at 888-5645.

### Our Sympathy to the Family of Lewin W. Wasser

The Lenexa Historical Society and friends extend their sympathies to Mrs. Bette Wasser and family on the death of her husband, Lewin, on December 3, 1997. The Wasser Family has been members of the Society since the 1970s and served as officers and strong volunteers during the years. Mr. Wasser will be greatly missed by our group.

### Answers to Lenexa trivia questions on page 3.

*A1.* Katherine Carpenter, for whom the elementary school at 9700 W. 96th St. in Overland Park is named.

*A2.* The Ralph Holland family.



### Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members

Individual: Active*	_____	\$15	Family: Active*	_____	\$25
Contributing*	_____	\$30	Contributing*	_____	\$50
Life	_____	\$100	Life	_____	\$150

Corporate: Annual \_\_\_\_\_ \$100  
Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000

\* Denotes annual membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized person, if corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to LHS, 14907 W. 87th St. Pkwy, Lenexa, KS 66215-4135 by JANUARY 31.

Please make checks payable to Lenexa Historical Society.

## Letter from Kiersten

(continued from page 2)

- Sign maker
- Railroad artifact restorer
- Model railroad builder and/or enthusiast
- Heavy object movers
- Pump organ/piano repair person
- Framers
- Vinyl floor installer

Call the Legler Barn Museum for specific details about these items and services.

## Gift Shop Feature

In each newsletter issue, we will be highlighting a special item that we sell in the gift shop. This month, we are focusing on a new item, a map titled, "**Historic Frontier Trails Map.**" This locally-produced map is a very handy tool for determining precisely where historic trails ran in relation to modern day roads in Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth counties. Anyone who is interested in local pioneer history should have their own copy. This cost of the map is \$7.95, but if you come in to the Gift Shop and tell us you've read this feature, we'll give it to you for \$6.95. This offer expires February 28, 1998.

## Announcement

The Legler Barn Museum is now open Wednesday evenings until 6:30 p.m. We hope that those of you who are at work or school all day will be able to visit us during these extended hours.

## Book Review

We have decided to try out another new column in the LHS newsletter. In each issue, a member of LHS will provide you with a review of a recently read, historically-based book. Often-times, the book will be available in our Resource Room or Gift Shop. If you are interested in submitting a write-up, call Kiersten at the museum, 492-0038, or Katie Evans at 268-4606.

**Q1.** Who was the school teacher of rural Lenexa who walked a mile in the 1920s and '30s to catch the Strang car for Olathe?

**Q2.** What family from Kansas City, MO began mining operations in 1968 near K-10 and Renner Boulevard?

Answers on page 5.

## Thank You, Retiring Board Members

Many thanks go to the board members whose terms expire this month. The time and effort you have given to the Society over the past two years are very much appreciated by the membership. Retiring board members are Doug Bartley, Vance Carns, Karla Haulmark, Jane Klein, Bob Lillie, and Bob Rose.

Doug reluctantly resigned because he felt new professional obligations prevented him from giving LHS the time and effort he really wanted to give.

## Welcome, New Board Members

Six new board members were elected at the November membership meeting. Here is a little background on each:

**Katie Evans.** Katie is originally from Butler, MO. She has lived in Lenexa four years, and has been an LHS member two years. She works part-time at Mission Road Antique Mall. Her husband, Dennis, is CEO of Lenexa-based Cookbook Publishers, Inc.

**Phil Hammond.**

**Janette Marshall.** Janette is from Marionville, MO. She has lived in Lenexa 42 years and is a charter member of LHS. She works at Warren Dry Cleaners. Janette has three sons and six grandchildren.

**John Pumphrey.** John grew up in this area, graduating from KU in 1950. He's been a Lenexa resident for eight years, and in LHS for a couple of years. He's retired from Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., where he was a salesman for 35 years. John and his wife, Jennie, have three sons and one granddaughter.

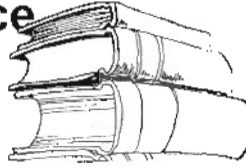
**Kenneth Reeves.** Kenneth was born in Oklahoma, moving to this area in 1927. He's a veteran of WWII, settling in Lenexa after the war. Kenneth has been in the Society for 10 years or so. He works part-time at Julien's Furniture in Olathe. He and his wife, Genevieve, have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

**Mary Kay Smith.** Mary Kay is from Lincoln, NE. She's lived in Lenexa 15 years. She and her husband, Newton, have two daughters and one son. Mary Kay is president of the OP Historical Society and president-elect of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society.

## Welcome, New Members

Betty Ergovich  
23414 W. 54th St  
Shawnee, KS 66226

## Story of Lawrence Massacre is in Barn's Library



***Bloody Dawn: The Story of the Lawrence Massacre*** by Thomas Goodrich. The Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio. 1991. 207 p.p., figures, photographs, references cited, and index.  
Reviewed by Mark A. Latham

*Bloody Dawn* affords the reader an opportunity to read a dramatic, humanistic look at the Lawrence massacre of 1863. To present this tragedy in an energetic yet historically accurate manner, Goodrich researched and cited a wide range of sources. They include both contemporary accounts and later reflections of the events that led to and followed the massacre.

Other reviewers have given similar praise and acknowledgments of Goodrich's work on *Bloody Dawn*. Albert Castel described it as "an excellent contribution to Civil War history and especially the Civil War west of the Mississippi." The "William Clarke Quantrill Newsletter" stated that "this is not lunch-break; you will find it hard to put

down. For anyone interested in the Border story, this is essential reading." Steve Fry, of "The Topeka Capital," conveyed that "Goodrich's book is rich in detail, reads well and has a wealth of information." Kristine M. McKusker, of "The Southern Journal," is a little more energetic in her comments, stating that this book is "one of the best I have read in years. The author draws you in and leaves you thoroughly involved in the massacre."

Goodrich gives the reader a fairly good background in the events leading to the Lawrence massacre by tracing the main events of the Border War prior to Quantrill's raid. This review focuses on individuals and the events they initiated, or those that changed the lives or views of the main characters. Some of these characters include the officers in charge of the border patrol and the leaders of both sides. Some of the more interesting profiles include that of Quantrill, George Hoyt (leader of the Red Legs), Jim Lane, etc. The problem with the technique used by Goodrich is that the text is a series of flashbacks that can often loll or confuse the reader.

However, the quick historical sketch of the Jayhawker and other raids into Missouri and the devastation endured by the western Missouri population gives the reader at least a glimpse of the motives and mind set of the raiders. With this knowledge, the reader is led into an intense story of those fateful events of August 21, 1863. The individuals introduced during the first few chapters are brought to life and their views, whether from the standpoint of the raiders or victims, of the event are relayed to the reader. These accounts include extreme acts of violence, cowardice, bravery, and self-preservation.

Another intriguing aspect of this book is that the reader is allowed to follow the raiders as they are pursued back to the border, and the complicated stream of events that followed. Among these events is the reconstruction of Lawrence and ramifications, both legal and vengeful, brought down on western Missouri. Many of the surviving characters are followed through their lives, showing how the raid changed their lives forever.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the Border War and Civil War, or the histories of western Missouri, eastern Kansas, and the city of Lawrence. The events are retold through the eyes of men, women, and children, making this a rare history book. A history book that takes the views of most everyone present at the events, not just the main characters found in other accounts. Most anyone will enjoy this book; it may make you think about our perceptions of history and of ourselves.

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