



LHS News

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society
January/February 2002

Volume 20, Number 1

Message from LHS President Bob Lillie

Another year has passed and we are ready to tackle another.

The biggest event of last year was the transfer of the museum to the city. Unfortunately, things did not turn out as LHS had envisioned. We are sorry the way it turned out but we must now move forward. Since LHS no longer has responsibility for the operation of the museum, it must be determined where our efforts should be directed. A committee has been established to make this determination.

Regardless of what direction we take it is imperative that we increase our membership. We have been talking about this for several years but our active membership continues to decline. Since we no longer get financial support from the city we are dependent on membership dues and fundraisers to finance future projects.

Our first fundraiser for the year will again be the soup luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, February 13. Other fundraisers will include the Spinach Festival and the 2nd annual Gandy Dancers Ball.

A restoration project for this year is underway. We are applying for a grant to restore the caboose. We will keep you advised as to progress on this project. We will continue our project of identifying and signing historic residences and buildings.

As the new president for the coming year I will need everyone's help and support.

January Membership Meeting

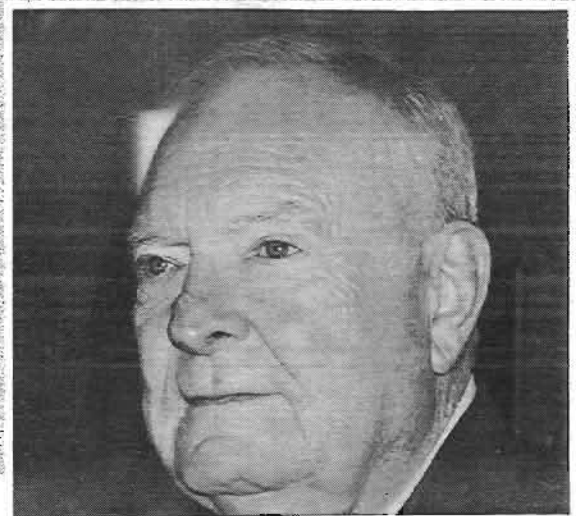
Thursday the 24th at 7pm

Lenexa United Methodist Church

Al Ogden, Retired Educator

Slide Show/Talk on: U.S. Presidential Sites:

Homes, Libraries, Graves



The United States Flag

By Sharon Hammontree

The flag of the United States is one of the oldest national standards in the world. No records confirm who designed the original "Stars and Stripes," but historians believe Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, probably modified the unofficial Continental flag into the design we now have. General George Washington raised the Continental Army flag in 1776, a red and white striped flag that included the British Union Jack where we now have stars.

Several flag designs with 13 stripes were used in 1776 and 1777, until Congress established the official flag on June 14, 1777, now observed as Flag Day. The act stated "That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. "Washington explained it this way: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

The flag was first carried in battle at Brandywine, Pa., in September 1777. It first flew over foreign territory in early 1778, at Nassau, Bahamas Islands, where Americans captured a fort from the British. The name "Old Glory" was given to the flag on August 10, 1831, by a sea captain, William Driver.

Hopkinson requested compensation from Congress in 1780 for his design, but Congress denied it, saying that others had worked on the project as well. Betsy Ross was commissioned by a congressional committee to sew the first official flag. Some believe she was responsible for changing the stars from being six-pointed to five-pointed, easier to make

After Vermont and Kentucky became states in the 1790's, Congress approved adding two more stars and two more stripes to the group that represented the original 13 colonies, now states. This was the "Star Spangled Banner" of which Francis Scott Key wrote in 1814. As other states entered the Union, it became obvious that stripes could not be added continually, so in 1818 Congress re-established the 13-stripe flag and allowed for additional stars for new states.

The laws specified that stripes should be horizontal, alternately red and white, and the union, or canton, should display 20 stars for the states then in the union. But it did not specify color shades or arrangement of the stars, and side variation persisted. During the Civil War, gold stars were more common than white and the stars sometimes appeared in a circle. In 1912, when the stars numbered 48, standards of design were set which became even more precise when the 49th and 50th stars were added in 1959 and 1960.

The regulated design calls for seven red and six white stripes, with the red stripes at top and bottom. The union of navy blue fills the upper left quarter from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars have one point up and are in nine horizontal rows. The odd-numbered rows have six stars. The even-numbered rows have five stars, centered diagonally between the stars in the longer rows.

The reason the flag is folded into a triangular shape is to symbolize the shape of the cocked hats worn by soldiers of the American Revolution.

The first time the Stars and Stripes flew in a Flag Day celebration was in Hartford, Conn., in 1861, the first summer of the Civil War. Numerous patriotic groups supported a regular nationwide observance. In the late 1800's schools held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities. But it was not until 1916 that the President proclaimed a nationwide observance and not until 1949 that Congress voted for Flag Day to be a permanent holiday. It is not a "legal" holiday, however, except in Pennsylvania.

FLAT STANLEY VISITS THE MUSEUM

by Allison Elliott

In 1964, Jeff Brown published a book that featured Stanley Lambchop, a young boy with the misfortune of being flattened by a bulletin board! Now half-inch thick "Flat Stanley" finds life different, but very exciting. Jeff Brown's "Flat Stanley" is now widely read in elementary schools across the United States. Teachers find Stanley activities help students learn about geography, culture and history.



How does Flat Stanley help kids?

Each student produces their own Flat Stanley and mails him to friends and family members across the globe. Stanley recipients take Stanley to visit local places,

including the Legler Barn Museum! Over the last few months various "Flat Stanleys" have visited the museum and added Lenexa to their lists of visited places. Now students in several states know more about Lenexa and its history. More importantly they get to share all of this new information with the other members of their class!

Watch out you may be the next recipient of "Flat Stanley" from a student you know. By the way, we invite you and Stanley to visit us here at the Museum.

Our current temporary exhibit opened on January 5th, and features photographs taken by Lenexa resident E.A. Legler. These

"Snapshots of the Past" date from 1890 to 1910 and show an emerging Lenexa and its residents.

Did you know.....

...that within the Shawnee Mission School District #512, there are **41** Elementary Schools, **7** Middle Schools, **5** High Schools and **7** Special Centers including:

Horizons

Broadmoor Technical Center

Center for International Studies

Indian Creek Technology Center (Fine Arts & Resources Centers)

McEachen Administrative Center

within the SCHOOL DISTRICT, which was unified in September of 1969 from 13 different school districts in the county??

Annual Homemade Soup Luncheon

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

11am to 1pm

(Ash Wednesday)

Lenexa Community Center

13420 Oak Street, Lenexa

\$5 per person includes

**Choice of Ham & Bean, Steak or Vegetarian Soup
with Bread, Crackers, Dessert & Drink!**

For further info please call: 913-492-0038

Bring your friends, sweethearts, spouses & coworkers(!!!) Fresh baked goods & LHS Gift Shop items will be available. Celebrate Valentines Day EARLY!!

**WE'LL
NEED
VOLUNTEERS
CALL
888-
5645**

Gandy Dancers' Ball 2002

By Katie Evans, Ball Chair

After a holiday respite, the Ball committee has resumed planning meetings. There are only about two or three things to report right now. First, the date will be Saturday, October 12 at the Holiday Inn—Lenexa. Second, the committee voted to make black tie dress optional.

The most exciting thing to tell you is that the host will be Bill Kalahurka, local historian and host of "Kansas City Crossroads" on KSHB. I've spoken with him on the phone several times, and he seems like a very nice man. He is excited to be a

part of our Ball and will bring his wife along for the evening. We're very glad he's going to participate. We hope his celebrity and reputation for being a respected historian will attract many people.

By the time you read this, we will have mailed out letters to companies asking to be listed in their budgets for the coming year. We aren't asking for a donation now, just to be budgeted in.

In the coming months, we'll be discussing entertainment for the evening, as well as preparing the slide show that will relate Lenexa's history during its second decade, 1880-1890.

The **BUCK STOPS** here

By Sharon Hammontree

The saying "the buck stops here" derives from the slang expression "pass the buck" which means passing the responsibility on to someone else. President Truman referred to this concept very specifically in asserting that, "The President—whoever he is—has to decide. He can't pass the buck to anybody. No one else can do the deciding for him. That's his job.

The November Membership Meeting Program was a first person presentation of Harry S. Truman by Dr. William Worley, presenter from the Kansas Humanities Council's "History Alive" series. Dr. Worley holds a PhD in history from the University of Kansas. His presentation described the life and political career of Harry S. Truman.

(The picture of Dr. Worley was taken during the presentation, by Sharon Hammontree, Member of LHS and Lenexa Barn Museum Volunteer)



Kansas Trivia by Trivia PhD Walt McKenzie

1. *The smallest county (in square miles) in Kansas, is:*

- a. *Wyandotte*
- b. *Woodson*
- c. *Wilson*
- d. *Wabaunsee*

2. *Montgomery Wards opened it's first retail store in what Kansas Town?*

- a. *Marysville*
- b. *Manhattan*
- c. *McPherson*
- d. *Mission Hills*

3. *A Lenexa farmer took a wagon of spinach to market & his full load weighed 11,000 pounds. He received 50cents a pound for his spinach. His tare weight was 1000 pounds. There were no market fees. How much money did he receive?*

- a. *\$4500*
- b. *\$5000*
- c. *\$5500*
- d. *\$50*

(answers can be found on the last page of this issue of LHS News)

SNAPSHOTS OF THE PAST

Snapshots of the Past

Opening January 5, 2002

Tues-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sat-Sun 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LEGLER BARN MUSEUM

Lenexa's History Museum

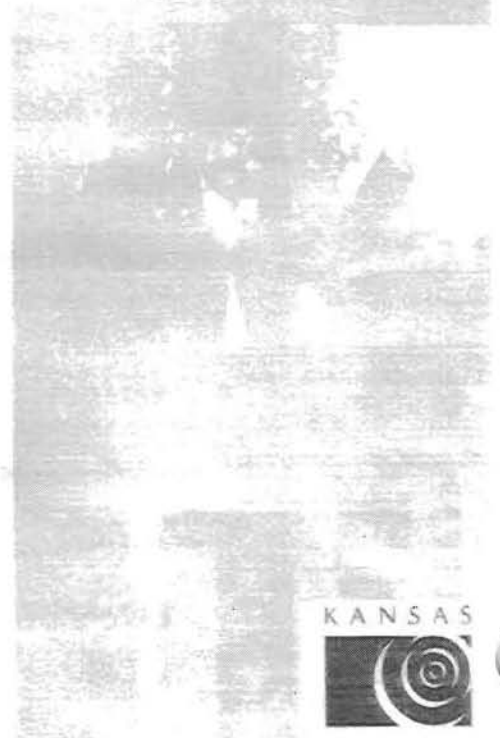
14907 W. 87th Street Parkway

Lenexa, KS 66219

913-492-0038

Admission to the Museum is by donation.

Mr. Legler was a very accomplished photographer of the era 1890-1910. The exhibit features selected pictures of over 700 images taken of Lenexa and its residents. Many are portraits of whimsically posed friends and relatives. Images also include downtown Lenexa, children and dramas at Pastime Hall. A stunning picture of a lightening bolt attests to Mr. Legler's command of the new art form of photography.



This project is made possible by a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council.



*Humanities
Council*

Meanderings by Norm Keech

The early years of Kansas history has been the most interesting part of my reading lately. I came across information regarding some of the state's institutions that are still in existence.

Kansas Territory having been organized May 30, 1854, its first Territorial Legislature passed a school law August 30, 1855, and from that date the history of the public school system of Kansas properly began.

Baker University, located at Baldwin in Douglas County, is the oldest university in the state of Kansas. Sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal Church, Baker was chartered February 12, 1858, and had a total of sixty students.

Kansas University, then to be known as Lawrence University, at Lawrence, Douglas County, was a land grant school named by the first state legislature January 29, 1861 when Kansas became a state.

Today's Kansas State University was located permanently in Manhattan, Riley County, by legislative enactment February 16, 1863. This school was originally known as the State Agriculture College and was also a land grant school.

On March 7, 1863, the third state legislature enacted another land grant school of the State Normal School (Emporia State University) at Emporia, Lyon County.

In 1863 the Normal School had 3 professors and 90 scholars, the State Agriculture College 5 professors and 150 students, the State University which was in operation one term had 3 professors and 55 students.

Some other institutions formed in the early years of Kansas are as follows.

1863 – Asylum for the insane at Osawatomie.

1864 – Deaf mute school at Olathe.

1864 – A Commission was appointed to erect an asylum for the blind in Wyandotte County.

1866 – Bonds were issued to build a state penitentiary at Lansing, Kansas.

Source: **William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas***

Donations

If you have items you are considering donating to the Historical Society, the following guidelines from the Legler Barn Museum Collections Policy, might help you make up your mind.

In determining whether an object should be added to the collection the object must:

- a. be consistent with collection goals of the museum, defined by Museum mission statement.*
- b. be given proper care by our facility in perpetuity.
- c. not result in major future expenses for the museum (unless decided upon by Acquisition Committee)[LHS Board].
- c. fit (size) in the museum artifact preservation storage facilities.
- e. be used in the foreseeable future, whether in research or exhibition.
- f. have a satisfactory provenance, and preferably documentation to verify it.
- g. not be encumbered with any conditions set by the donor (i.e. limit "restricted gifts"; except in exceptional circumstances)
- h. not be encumbered or restricted by

From Page 7....(1) an intellectual property (copyright, patent, trademark, or trade name) or (2) by its nature (i.e. obscene, defamatory, potentially an invasion of privacy)

*Legler Barn Museum Mission Statement: *The mission of the Legler Barn Museum Complex is to preserve, collect, exhibit, research and educate the public about the history of the region of Lenexa, Kansas, from prehistoric times to the present.*

Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members			
Homesteader, Single	___ \$20 (Annual)	Corporate Memberships	
Homesteader, Family	___ \$30 (Annual)	Lenexa Station Agent	___ \$100 (Annual)
Spinach Farmer, Life	___ \$200-249 (Life)	Stonemason	___ \$1000 (Life)
Legler Barn Builder	___ \$250-499 (Annual)	Octave Chanute Society	___ \$2,500 (Annual and up)
Na-Nex-Se	___ \$500-749 (Annual)		
Chief Blackhoof's Tribe	___ \$750 and up (Annual)		
Name(s) _____			
Authorized person, if corporation _____			
Street _____			
City _____		State _____	Zip _____
Home phone _____		Business phone _____	

Membership Dues for 2002 or now due. For inclusion in the 2002-2003 membership directory, dues must be paid by February 1. You can bring them to the January membership meeting, drop them by the Barn, or mail to LHS, 14915 W. 87th St, Lenexa 66215. Check payable to LHS, please!! Thanks!!

Answers to Trivia: 1. Wyandotte 2. Marysville 3. \$5000

LHS News is published by the Lenexa Historical Society

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**Dues
are
Due !!!**