



A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society

LHS News

November/December 2007

Volume 25, Number 6

A Presidential Letter

A letter from Alan Uhl



As I write this, it is the morning after LHS and Rita DeBrabander's Smoked Pork Chop Dinner at the VFW. It's hard to express how elated I am. When Rita suggested this to the Board of Directors about a month ago, we had no idea whether or not it would succeed. But Rita is one of the most energetic persons any of us have ever known and she put the whole thing together. With a little publicity help from some of us, the response was nearly overwhelming. Speaking for the Board, I will say we certainly intend to do it again next year. Attendance numbers and final money figures are not yet in, but we netted well over a thousand dollars for your Society.

As a first year event, there were, of course, glitches and snags. The room was too small, the line too long, some confusion in the ticket taking process, etc. But this was a learning experience for us and we will not have these problems next year.

The food was excellent and it was enormously gratifying to see the friendliness and fellowship on display, people enjoying good food and the pleasure of each other's company. How can it get better than that?

Particular thanks to Rita DeBrabander and all who pitched in and helped, to the Lenexa VFW for the use of the hall and to Lenexa Hy-Vee, a very public spirited merchant, for helping keep food costs down. **WHAT AN EVENING!**

More good news!

The Lenexa Historical Society Chili Cooking Team, which means Sharon Hammontree and husband Marvin, took **FIRST PLACE** at Last Saturday's (Oct. 20) Williams Lenexa Chili Challenge. This is impressive because not only has Sharon done it before, having won a couple of years ago, but also there were about 140 entrants in this year's contest. **HATS OFF TO SHARON HAMMONTREE!!!!**

Friday evening LHS members and friends enjoyed a social time with chili cooked by other members ranging from mild to eye watering. A great time was had by all.

See you at the November membership meeting.

Thursday, November 29, 2007
Lenexa United Methodist Church
Schneeberger Hall
91st and Caenen Lake Road
Call for reservations 913-498-8117

Elizabeth Bacon Custer

Presented by Deborah Buckner

See inside flyer

ALL ARE WELCOME

LHS Board of Directors

Alan Uhl
President
913-856-8205

Connie Andrews
1st Vice President
913-894-1376

Sue Cunningham
2nd Vice President
913-492-8735

Ed Bowman
Secretary
913-888-1147

Wilbert (Sonny) Miller, Jr.
Treasurer
913-888-3762

Sharon Hammontree
913-498-8117

Terry Clark
913-894-1211

Van Rose
913-631-8661

Tom Gyska
913-888-4445

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The LHS Bylaws call for election by the membership at the November General Meeting to fill vacancies on the Board. The first two year terms of Connie Andrews, Sue Cunningham and Terry Clark expire this year. Connie and Terry have agreed to serve another term. The Board hopes Sue will serve again but we have not been able to reach her. As required by the Bylaws we will have nominees for all of these positions to present to you at the meeting. As a reminder, nominations may be made from the floor but they **MUST** be with the consent of the person(s) so nominated.

Schedule for the November LHS General Meeting



A - L Vegetable or Salad Dish



M - Z Meat Dish



Lenexa Historical Society

General Meeting

Thursday, November 29, 2007
Lenexa United Methodist Church
Schneeberger Hall
91st and Caenen Lake Road

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Program: 7:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Bacon Custer

Presented by Deborah Buckner



Deborah Buckner is an attorney who lives in Overland Park. She will make a living history presentation of Elizabeth Bacon Custer, 1842-1933.

Elizabeth Custer was 34 years old at the time of the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. She lost her husband of 12 years, Major General George Armstrong Custer.

"Libby Custer shares her stories of the special challenges frontier Army wives faced in trying to create a festive holiday on remote outposts far from shops and resources.

Call for reservations:
913-498-8117

Free Will Donation
Everybody is Welcome!
Bring a guest and receive a gift.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

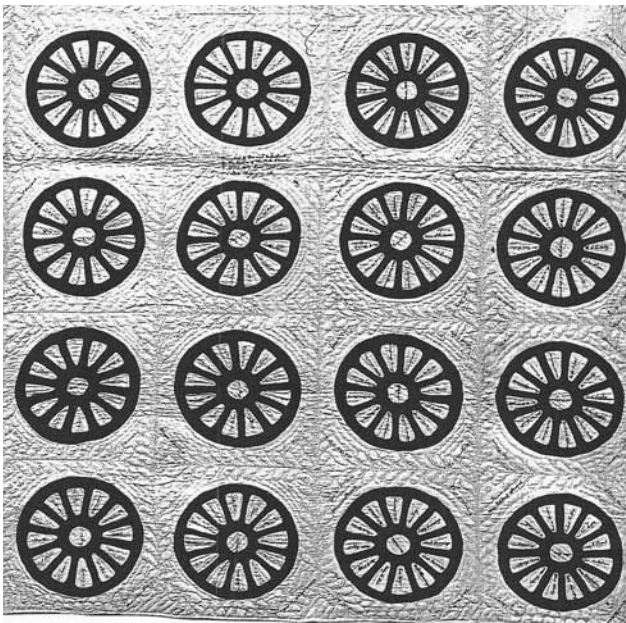
From the editor

Dedicated, talented, multi-tasker, sincere, honest, delightful are just a few ways to describe Christine Fry. Christine photographed artifacts and entered data into our computer from May until mid-September this year. During that time she was here 3-4 and sometimes 5 days a week. Her knowledge, attention to detail and accuracy using the museum software was a tremendous help. Christine also researched historical information and helped with tours. Some of you, if you visited the museum, may have met her at the Spinach Festival.



Christine, we wish you the very best and joyful awe inspiring travels.

See "Quilting News" next page.

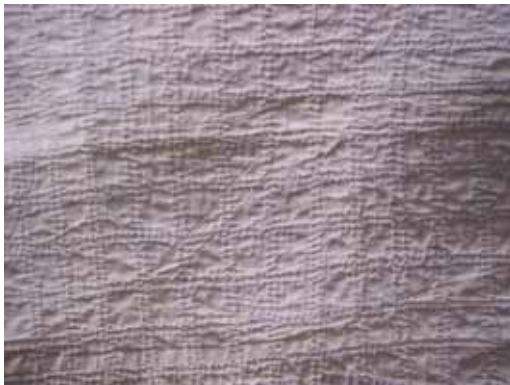


Wheel fund-raiser quilt made by members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in White City, Morris County, 1896. Cottons. Collection of Beth and John Ford, Smithsonian Institution Negative 74-7893.

Nearly five hundred community members paid ten cents each to have their names inked on the spokes and twenty-five cents for the hub position in this wheel quilt, which raised money for new church carpeting. The finished quilt was presented to the pastor, the Reverend Dr. John S. Ford, and his wife, Sara Swigart Ford. Under the central wheel is inked "Presented to Brother and Sister Ford by the Ladies of the M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church of White City, Kans. March, 1896. God Bless You All."

QUILTING NEWS

by Wava Stoker



How many times when looking at an old house have you wondered about the stories those walls could tell? So it is with old quilts, who was the maker, for whom and occasion, and the materials used. Imagine a lady sitting by a fireplace with light from an oil lamp working on a quilt probably to keep her family warm.

“Wagon Wheel” quilts were made in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, sometimes as gifts to their “moving on pastors.” They were also made by church ladies to make money for their mission giving. They would charge 10¢, 25¢ or maybe a bit more if you wanted your name in the hub of a wheel. Such is the faded blue and white “Wagon Wheel” quilt that was donated to the Lenexa Historical Society by Clarissa (Mears) Haynes. Included in the treasures were Ella (Allen) Nesselrode’s wedding dress, cravat worn by Dr. C. C. Nesselrode (Clarissa’s grandparents), as well as a beautiful pump organ.

Clarissa has been a most valuable volunteer in organizing the library.

With the help of one of our long time quilters, Jeanne Poore, Beryl Hennigh and I began our research. The Nesselrode, Allen family received it at a church auction, the family believed it had been made by Lenexa Methodist Church ladies. The Nesselrode, Allen and Haskin were members at the Lenexa Methodist Church and early Lenexa families. C. C. Nesselrode taught school in Lenexa while earning his medical degree. Dr. C. C. and Ella were married in 1904 at Washington Avenue Methodist Church and he began his practice the next day. I didn’t know all this when I saw Dr. Nesselrode at Bethany Hospital in 1942. He was a prominent Kansas City, Kansas surgeon at that time.

With help from Lenexa’s historical “emeritus” Beryl Hennigh the fun really began. People in the Methodist conference were contacted as well as some members of local churches—there were dead ends. We still believed it had been made in Lenexa. After spreading the quilt out, going row by row and recognizing familiar names from Kansas City, Kansas, we concluded that the quilt was made sometime after the Nesselrode children, Jane 1913 (Clarissa’s mother), George 1917, and Clifford 1919. We believe it came from a church in Kansas City, Kansas, maybe a Methodist Church.

There are often interesting twists to stories so began this twist. On April 26, 2006 Connie Andrews and I were visiting about quilts. I mentioned that we thought our “Wagon Wheels” was made by some church ladies. I found the name of only one preacher (signed twice), Rev. C. M. Williams. We got out the quilt and found Rev. C. M. Williams, Connie (Williams) Andrews’ grandfather. He had pastored Central Avenue Methodist Church at 10th and Central Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas in the early years of 1900’s and in 1920 at Paola. As you know, Connie is the daughter of Dwight and Genevieve (Haskin) Williams. By finding Rev. Williams name we do believe this quilt came from Kansas City, Kansas.

It’s interesting to learn that there were Haskin’s in the Nesselrode-Allen wedding and to see the connection of the early Lenexa and its people.

When you see Connie or Clarissa tell them how much their time and talents are appreciated by the Lenexa Historical Society.

So ends the research on our “Wagon Wheels” quilt.

Spinach Festival 2007



Photo Gallery

by Sharon Hammtree



Lenexa's Williams Chili Challenge 2007



LHS' Chili Won First Place

in the home-style chili challenge cook off Saturday, Oct. 20th



21st Annual Williams Food
Chili Challenge 2007
Lenexa, KS

Alan Uhl, Walt McKenzie, Marvin Hammontree, Tom Gyska, Sharon Hammontree, Gloria Ennis





Thanksgiving Blessing Mix



Thank you for ...



Our nation's abundance
bugles--horn of plenty



Our freedom to pray
pretzels--arms folded in prayer



Sacrifice of Pilgrims surviving the first winter
candy corn—few kernels of corn



The promise of future harvest
seeds & nuts—for planting & tending



The harvest gifts from our bountiful land
dried fruits



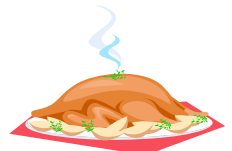
The memories of many who came before us and
led us into a blessed future!
M&M's



M&M's

Hershey kisses

The love of family and friends who
sweeten our lives!
Hershey kisses



LHS 2007 Directory Updates

New Members

George & Diana Arnold

Need address, phone #, & email

Elizabeth McCray **913-856-7217**

375 N. Pine, Apt. C
Gardner, KS 66030

New Address

Helen Ann Caples

11325 W. 77th Pl.

Overland Park, KS 66214-1474

La Rae Elliott

unknown

Ralph L. Ruhlen

PO Box 982

Baldwin City, KS 66006-0982

New Email Address

Connie Andrews 913-894-1376

15315 W. 93rd Terrace

Lenexa, KS 66219

tappingranny@everestkc.net

Member

Valerie Jansen **913-375-2896**

19850 W. 87th Lane

Lenexa, KS 66220

Deceased

Betty Gibb

10222 Edelweiss Circle

Shawnee, KS 66203

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Please email the editor to update the LHS Membership Directory with email addresses.

HISTORY

1891

There are forty pupils enrolled in the Lenexa school, Dist. 46, at present.

According to the 1890 census Lenexa has a population of 185 souls.

The latest source of amusement is a progressive eucher club.

Miss Lotta Allen (Mrs. H.B. Lisk) attended the play at the Coates Opera House in Kansas City last Friday night.

The people of Lenexa are gratified over having received three of the six common school diplomas granted to the pupils of Johnson County schools.

The colored people of Lenexa and vicinity held divine services at the Lutheran church last Sunday afternoon.

1892

The first issue of the Ananias Dispatch will appear this week. A lengthy article descriptive of the industries of Lenexa will be a special feature.

Uncle John Watson, a veteran of the Mexican war, aged 80, was united in marriage with a bride of 42 last week creating something of a sensation in the village.

Our townsman, Henry Caenen, possesses an old horse pistol, found on the battle field of Waterloo.

The Ladies Aid Society will serve supper at the H.D. Gillette home (Res. 9344 Haskins St.) on Wednesday evening of this week from 5 to 7 o'clock. Supper only ten cents. Come one, come all.

The regular quarterly election of officers of the Ananias Club resulted as follows: W.B. Bower, president; H.F. Sitterman, vice-president; E.A. Legler, secretary; C.A. Bradshaw, Jr., treasurer; L.W. Sitterman, marshal; John Connor, Chief Ananias and Frank Legler, editor.

Died, Tuesday, April 11, 1893, in the 76th year of his age, Adam Legler. The funeral service was held from the Lutheran church the day following, and burial was in the Lenexa cemetery. The deceased was a native of Switzerland, and came to this country with his family in 1844, first locating in St. Louis, MO.



Join the Lenexa Historical Society or Renew Your Membership

Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members

- Single \$20
- Single Life \$200
- Family \$30
- Family Life \$300
- Corporate \$250
- Corporate Life \$2,500

Name _____

Authorized person, if corporation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please mail to: LHS, 14907 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215

Make checks payable to: Lenexa Historical Society. Thank you!

Enjoy Breakfast with LHS

Join us for FOOD and FUN conversation

Where: Hy-Vee, 87th and Pflumm
 Time: 9:00 a.m.
 When: the second Saturday of each month

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> |
| November 3* | January 12 |
| December 8 | February 9 |
| | March 8 |
| | April 12 |

*This is the first Saturday of the month.

Hy-Vee provides a free breakfast for all veterans on the Saturday nearest Veteran's Day, which should be November 10th, our usual meeting day. Seating is scarce that day, thus a different meeting day.

DEADLINE

for next issue

January/February

LHS News articles

is 10 a.m.

December 21st

LHS News is published six times a year by the **Lenexa Historical Society**.

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Sharon and Marvin Hammontree

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Mary Kay Smith, Wava Stoker and
Alan Uhl

*The Lenexa Historical Society is dedicated to the
appreciation, preservation and promotion of
Lenexa's Historical heritage.*

The gala opening of the
Legler Barn Museum

at

Sar-Ko-Par Park

will celebrate its

25th Anniversary

in

May 2008



LHS News

Return Service Requested

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