

# Spring 2024 Newsletter

## Cowley County Historical Society Museum

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Lisa Hittle, her brother Dennis Hittle and wife Connie.

Hey there, Cowley County community!

Cowley County Historical Society Museum has been lucky to add a gem to our treasure trove of local lore—the Bonnie Hittle postcard collection. Big thanks to Bonnie for her passion in collecting these slices of Winfield life, and to her daughter Lisa for sharing them with all of us.

Cindy Goertz was the star of the show, bringing these postcards to life in a presentation that's now up on our YouTube channel. And let's not forget Lisa Hittle's heartwarming intro that gave us a peek into the love and care that went into this collection.

You know, it's things like this that knit us closer together. Sharing memories, reliving the good old days, and keeping the spirit of Winfield alive—it's what makes us more than just neighbors; we're a family. This collection isn't just about the past; it's our shared album, a reminder that every one of us is a thread in the rich tapestry of our community.

So, let's keep the stories coming and the memories flowing. After all, that's what being a community is all about!



The Manning Opera House was located upstairs between Roots Shoe Store & Garver Brothers. The name "E. C. Manning, 1869" is printed in the sidewalk just to the right of the State Bank. Mr. Wm. Caton remembers that it was some of the most beautiful architect in Winfield. The first 25 feet was Garvers.

M.H. Hahn Clothing Store (where Deans Mens Store is) below the Manning Opera House. They had piece goods, carpets, clothing; The store went back to the alley. Clara Embrey had this card.



The Museum held a delightful event, aptly named “Bonnets and Ball Caps,” at the Light Community Center. Aimed at involving elementary school children in museum activities, the event was a colorful display of creativity and community spirit.

The society recognizes the importance of engaging children with the history they are surrounded by. What better way to do so than through an interactive event? The afternoon was abuzz with excitement as children crafted their own Easter bonnets and stylish baseball caps.

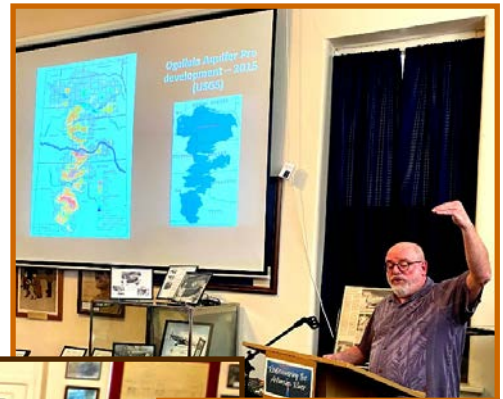
As the crafting session concluded, the children, accompanied by the Easter bunny, paraded down Main Street, showcasing their handiwork.

Julie Mignone (in yellow in above photo) led the team of adults who facilitated the event, with Janet Tate, Karen Vann Young, and Marsha Granberry providing invaluable assistance. Their efforts ensured the event ran smoothly and that fun was had by all.



The Downtown Doc Walk on 4/4/24 was a resounding success, bringing together 55 community members for a mile-long journey of health and heritage. Led by Dr. Thomas Lyman, participants delved into foot and ankle care, learning valuable tips for the upcoming sandal season and ways to enhance ankle stability. The walk culminated at the Cowley County Historical Society Museum, where administrator Amy Jo highlighted the museum’s role in preserving local history and previewed exciting future events. The day was rounded off with prize drawings, a museum tour, and contributions to Health Counts Cowley County. It was a memorable blend of fitness, education, and community engagement.

On April 15, we hosted an engaging presentation titled 'Rediscovering the Arkansas River.' Hannes Zacharias, a Humanities Kansas speaker and former Johnson County Manager, shared his remarkable adventures along the 1,469-mile-long river. His interest extended beyond academia; he embarked on two solo kayak journeys along its length. The collaboration with the Winfield Public Library provided additional space for this enlightening event, and the Cowley College Golden Tigers played a vital role in promoting it.




On May 4, Island Park transformed into a car enthusiast's paradise. We hosted a non-judged car show, which featured an impressive lineup of about 30 cool cars, from vintage classics to modern marvels. Participants embarked on a scenic 52-mile cruise, relishing the thrill of the open road. Post-cruise, engines still warm, owners proudly displayed their rides while savoring BBQ grilled chicken and hot dog dinners. Approximately 125 people joined the festivities, celebrating their shared love for wheels, deals, and BBQ meals.

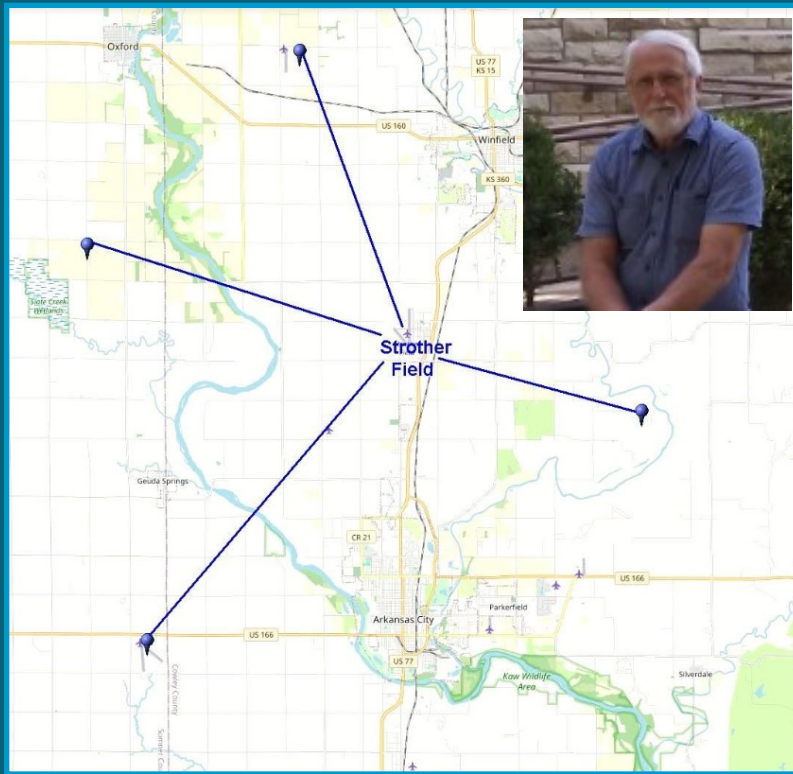


Until next year's cruise, keep those engines revving!



Carl Martin with his entry





In the latest edition of our Museum Friends newsletter, we're eager to share a recap of our final gathering before the summer hiatus. On May 20th, Gary Learned, delved into the history of the "Auxiliary Fields of Strother Field during WWII."

While many are familiar with the pivotal role Strother Field played in the war, Gary's talk shed light on the lesser-known auxiliary fields that were instrumental in supporting the main airfield. He provided a wealth of information on the acquisition and development of land across four sites in Cowley and Sumner counties, which served as auxiliary airstrips. Gary's exploration answered key questions about the locations of these airfields, the process of land acquisition, their operational roles compared to Strother Field, and their fates following the war's end.

This engaging session not only enriched our understanding of local history but also marked a memorable close to this season's Museum Friends meetings.

You can watch the video on our YouTube channel!

## The CCHSM was voted Best Museum in the County for the 7th Year in a row!

Dear Members and Community,

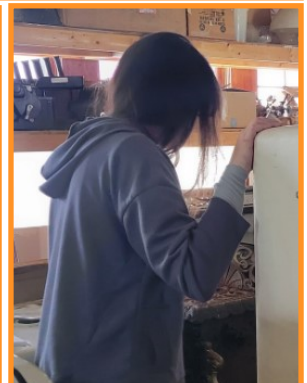
We are thrilled to share that our museum has become a beacon of community service and learning for the youth of Winfield and Ark City. This month, we welcomed six dedicated college students from Cowley College and Southwestern College, who chose to contribute their 9 hours each of required community service to our museum. (That's 54 hours!) Their commitment to preserving local history and engaging with our heritage is a demonstration of the museum's vibrant role in education and community involvement.

Moreover, we are proud to have a paid intern through financial aid at Southwestern College and another passionate young volunteer who regularly dedicate their time and talents to our cause, all the while building their resume. Their ongoing participation is not just a helping hand in our daily operations; it's a clear indicator of the museum's significance as a center for learning, growth, and civic engagement.

These young individuals' choice to work with us reflects the museum's reputation as an inclusive, educational, and inspiring place. It underscores our commitment to fostering a love for history and culture in the next generation. Their presence here is a bridge between the academic world and the practical, hands-on experience that only a place like ours can offer.

Let us celebrate their contributions and continue to support these bright minds who are not only preserving the past but also shaping the future.

Warm regards, Amy Jo McWhirt, CCHSM Office Administrator



Accessions from the public are the lifeblood of museums, serving as a cornerstone for both psychological (mental and emotional) enrichment and anthropological study (the study of humankind). They are a conduit for **collective memory**, allowing us to preserve and reflect upon our shared heritage.

Each photograph, each artifact, is a snapshot of identity formation, capturing the essence of who we are and where we come from. These treasures foster an **emotional connection**, inviting visitors to traverse the corridors of time and experience the lives of those who came before us.

From an anthropological lens, these items are invaluable. They offer a **cultural representation** that helps narrate the story of our ancestors, providing a visual record of the evolving social dynamics within our communities.

As an **ethnographic record**, they are a testament to the diversity of human experience, enriching our understanding of societal structures and relationships. In sharing these photos and mementos, we not only honor the legacy of past generations but also weave the fabric of our current community, ensuring that every voice, every face, is part of the grand tapestry of history.

Thank you for sharing your precious photos with us!



"A Play in the 1890's"  
Benson Rupp, Maude Oldham Brown, Will Copple, Lizzie Oldham, Gordie Spraker, Mamie Spraker, Edgar Hawkins, Worley O'Neill, Edith Schwantes, and W.S. "Pat" Taylor. Circa 1900



Why are we hosting a Fairytale Tea event in the Victorian age style? It is going to be a delightful and engaging event for the museum for several reasons:

**Historical Connection:** The Victorian era is known for its elaborate tea parties, which were significant social events. By recreating this atmosphere, the museum can offer a hands-on historical experience, allowing participants to step back in time and learn about Victorian customs and social etiquette.

**Family Bonding:** Such an event encourages family participation across generations, from grandmothers to mothers and children. It's a wonderful opportunity for families to create memories together while enjoying the charm of a bygone era.

**Community Engagement:** Events like these can attract a wide audience, fostering community spirit and inclusivity. It's also a chance for the museum to collaborate with local historical home owners, thus enhancing community ties.

**Creative Expression:** Dressing up in period costumes and engaging in role-play can spark creativity among participants, making it an entertaining and imaginative experience.

Join us at the Cowley County Historical Society Museum on **Sunday, June 23, from 2-4 PM** for an extra exhilarating afternoon of family fun—absolutely free! Dive into our annual exhibit theme, “Planes, Trains, and Cars,” and enjoy a variety of activities both inside and outside the museum. Don't miss this chance to explore the thrilling world of transportation through history.

Events like “**Feed the Need for Speed**” are vital for museums as they foster community engagement, ignite a passion for learning, and provide an inclusive space for families to create lasting memories together. They also highlight the importance of preserving our rich local history, from the airfields of WWII to the evolution of transportation.

So, mark your calendars and let's celebrate our heritage at full throttle! Make sure to stop by!

### Future 2024 Events

- ◆ Saturday, June 1 “Fairytale Tea” at 1208 E 9th Ave. in Winfield, KS.  
You are invited to step back in time as you attend a multi-course formal tea with savories, sweets, and little favors. This special event sponsored by the Cowley County Historical Society Museum is reminiscent of the formal teas held in homes during the early 1900's.

There will be three seatings to choose from: 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or 4:00 p.m.  
Cost: Adults \$15 Children 5-12 \$10.

Reservations for this event need to be made by Thursday, May 30th, and may be made by calling the museum at 620-221-4811 or online at [cchsm.com](http://cchsm.com).

- ◆ Saturday, June 23, 2:00-4:00 CCHSM “Feed Your Need for Speed” (free event for all ages—watch for details) There will be fun action filled activities both inside and outside of the museum. Come visit!
- ◆ Saturday, August 1, “Teddy Bear Picnic” Watch for details!
- ◆ **SEPTEMBER 23-27, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS! WATCH FOR MEMBERSHIP PACKETS TO ARRIVE IN THE MAIL.**

**BOOKS FOR SALE AT THE MUSEUM OR ONLINE:**

Celebrate Winfield History Books	2001-2011	\$15.00
Celebrate Winfield History Books	2012-2015	\$15.00
Celebrate Cowley County History	2016-2024	\$15.00
Winfield's Golden Era of Sports		\$15.00
History of CC KS. The Indians Vol. II		\$33.00
Southwestern College		\$21.99
Winfield – Postcard History		\$21.99
Penrose Hills Albright		\$10.00
Kansas Mural's		\$15.00
Prices include Sales Tax		
Shipping/handling is an additional		\$6.00

To purchase please stop by the museum or check out our website [www.cchsm.com](http://www.cchsm.com).

Credit Cards and PayPal are accepted.

You may also send a check or money order with a list of books to:

CCHSM

1011 Mansfield

Winfield, KS 67156



**Commemorative Bricks**

We partner with Dawson Monument to engrave bricks, which are for sale, and make great memorials and also support the museum. The bricks border the walkway from the parking lot to the front steps. To purchase, forms can be found on the table by the books for sale or call 620-221-4811.

There are three levels of donations: Flat red brick with 2 lines of 12 characters -\$75 donation. Flat red brick with 3 lines of 12 characters -\$100 donation.

A contrasting brick with 12 characters-\$500 donation.

Fewer letters may be used if you wish.



**CCHSM Board of Directors**

	Gary Learned
	Jody Lawrence
Madison Metzinger	Bill Mueller
Brittany Donals	Jonathan Leeper
Lindsey Rice	Julie Mignone
John Baker	Joe Chrisman
	Karen Vann Young

All donations, both monetary and historical artifacts, are greatly appreciated. Our building is over 140 years old and requires significant on-going maintenance in addition to operating costs. We continue to be a no fee museum and we have no plans to change that. Your continued support will allow us to best serve the community.

We are especially seeking anything from diverse ethnic groups to add to our displays.

*These businesses support us—won't you support them?  
(We hope to add more during the coming months.)*

**Premier:**



American Family Insurance  
807 Main St  
Winfield, KS 67156 620-221-7743



Daniels Ready Mix  
2016 Country Club Rd  
Winfield, KS 620-221-9060



Community National Bank & Trust  
1112 Main St  
Winfield, KS 620-221-1400



Family Wealth Management  
106 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Winfield, KS 620-221-2853



David C Parsons, DDS  
123 E Tenth Ave  
Winfield, KS 620-221-0730



RCB Bank  
900 Main St  
Winfield, KS 620-221-1650



Rich's Motor Inn Garage  
rmhelsel@sktc.net  
120 N. Main  
Dexter, KS 67038 620-218-3320

**Gold:**

A.C. Veterinary Clinic  
2800 N. Summit  
Arkansas City, KS 620-442-4990  
Andreas Law Office  
104 ½ W 9<sup>th</sup> Ave #303  
Winfield, KS 620-221-1610

Advantage Chiropractic  
805 Main  
Winfield, KS  
620-221-4449

B&B Realty  
P.O. Box 293  
Winfield, KS

Barnett Ranch  
26930 261<sup>st</sup> Rd  
Dexter, KS 67038

The Barns at Timber Creek  
14701 91<sup>st</sup> Rd  
Winfield, KS 620-221-2797

Berkshire Hathaway Home Service PenFed Realty  
1008 Main St  
Winfield, KS 620-441-3575 913-669-6944

Galaxie Business Equipment  
913 Main St  
Winfield, KS 620-221-3469

**Home on the Range**

512 Main St  
Winfield, KS 620-402-6700

Miles Funeral Service  
4001 9<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Winfield, KS 620-221-1111

Rogers Law Office  
117 College

Winfield, KS  
Taylor & Krusor, LLC

113 E 11<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Winfield, KS 620-221-1120

Union State Bank  
823 Main St

Winfield, KS 620-221-3040  
Valentine Brand

110 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Winfield, KS

Webber Land Co  
810 Loomis

Winfield, KS 620-221-7181  
Wilson Oil

1121 E 7<sup>th</sup>  
Winfield, KS

Winfield Convention & Tourism  
123 E 9<sup>th</sup> Ave

Winfield, KS 620-221-2421  
Winfield Plumbing & Heating

1910 Wheat Rd  
Winfield, KS 620-221-2210

**Silver:**

- CPA Solutions
- Cowley Courier/Traveler
- Dawson Monument Co.
- Edw B Stephenson & Co., CPAs Chartered
- Graves Drug
- Health Center Pharmacy
- Kline Motors
- Trunk N Treasures
- Walnut Valley Association--WVF

Established in 1931 and revitalized in 1967 with a relocation to our current home on Mansfield Street, the Cowley County Historical Society is dedicated to safeguarding and sharing the vibrant tapestry of our county's past.

We are committed to fostering and promoting endeavors that celebrate local history. Visitors can explore a curated selection of local historical publications for sale in our bookstore. We take pride in our extensive archive of historical documents and treasured photographic memories. Come visit and see what's new (or old) at the museum!

Cowley County

Historical Society Museum

1011 Mansfield St.  
Winfield, KS 67156

620.221.4811

Email

museumchsm@gmail.com

Website– www.chsm.com

