



# Museum Memoirs

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

WINTER 2016

## The Cowley County Historical Society

### Celebrate Cowley County History

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On January 28, 2017, we will host Celebrate Cowley County History at Baden Square in Winfield. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The papers included in this year's book are:

#### COWLEY COUNTY'S PART IN WINNING THE COLD WAR:

##### The Titan II Missile Complexes

by Gerald E. "Jerry" Johnson, USAF, Lt. Col., ret.  
with  
William "Bill" Black, USAF, Lt. Col., ret.

##### OXIDIZER LEAK DESTROYS TITAN II INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE SITE

##### McCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE

##### 533-7 ROCK, KANSAS, AUGUST 24, 1978

by Jeanette Bielby Nichols

##### THE HISTORY OF ARKALALAH

by Foss Farrar and Terry Naden

##### WINFIELD CEMETERIES TELL A CIVIL WAR STORY

by Joe Chrisman

##### 100 YEARS OF COOLERS IN WINFIELD, KANSAS:

##### A HISTORY OF GOTT

by Shelley Harris

##### REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR

by Jerry L. Wallace

##### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WINFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

by Chris Jarvis and Bill Taylor Jr.



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## From the Frankie Cullison Archives *by Shawn Marie Stover*



**Home of J.S. Light located at 1906 Fuller Street in 1929. The back of the photo says that this was "the first house in Winfield to be outlined with Christmas lighting with Santa Clause at the chimney. It caused some traffic in the area."**

As I was pondering what to highlight from our awesome archives, I wondered what we had about the Christmas holiday.

I went into the archives and found a box in the Winfield section called "Holidays and Celebrations". When I opened the box, there were files about Winfield anniversaries, holidays like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Christmas, and KANZA Days.

Stories about the first Christmas in Winfield were printed in the newspaper many times. In 1913, *The Winfield Daily Courier* printed a souvenir booklet about the first Christmas.

There was a sweet article from 1919 about Christmas at the Orphans' Home. "Talk about the merriment, well you should have been here and have seen the happy faces of the fifteen youngsters in the Home at this time, when they filed into the living room on Christmas morning, there to find awaiting a splendid, beautifully decorated Christmas Tree around about which there were strewn gifts of various kinds for all of the children....Means for purchase of toys and other gifts for the children were bountifully supplied, so that none were slighted." I'm glad that in this area, the people, past and present, were and are so generous.

One article from December 19, 1949, described an elaborate manger scene made by Orville Morrell. It was located on the grounds of the Swisher Mortuary at 503 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. How I wish that the newspaper had included a picture. All of the figures in the nativity scene were modeled after local people! The figures were life-sized and their faces were made from masks made from Winfield clergymen (all names were listed in the article) and one woman, Mrs. Wendell Grove. The figures, both human and animal, were life-size! It would have been something to behold, I'm sure!

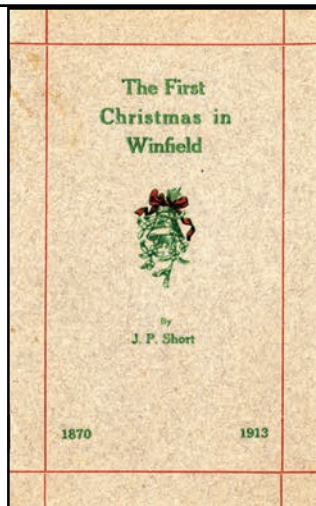
And, of course, there are newspaper clippings and pictures of children gathered around Santa Claus.

Visit our archives; we keep them for everyone!



Christmas tree at Winfield, Kansas. An oil derrick in the middle of the street informs the world that Winfield is an oil town. The tree was placed on top of the derrick the night before Christmas.

**Oil derrick on Winfield's Main Street, 1924**



**The First Christmas in Winfield booklet, 1870 to 1913**



**Children and Santa Claus in 1948. I love the little girl, toward the center, who is winking at the camera!**



**Cartoon from the December 25, 1909, edition of *The Evening Free Press and Winfield Tribune***

## Happenings

This past fall was a blur of activities! During the last of September and the first of October, we hosted History Alive. In the past we held History Alive in the spring, but due to low attendance, we changed the schedule and were able to host kids from every elementary school in Winfield. Hundreds of kids went through our museum and learned about the past! (One group from Country View stayed in the basement several hours when tornado warnings were issued and our board and volunteers worked to keep them entertained!)

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had our Voices from the Past cemetery tour. The committee for this event worked so hard and had tremendous success!

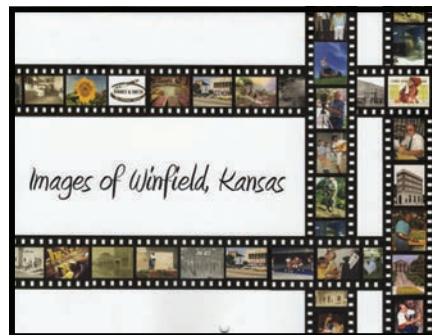
In November we had two programs at the museum: Roland Mueller gave a presentation on campaign buttons and Brian Pettey gave a robotics demonstration. Both programs were informative and interesting!



**Clockwise from top left: Hal Hinson keeps order in our one room school during History Alive; Brad Beeson tells of early funeral practices during Voices from the Past; a hearse at the Highland Cemetery mausoleum during Voices from the Past was made available by owner Ned Mattingly; Roland Mueller tells the history of campaign buttons; Brian Pettey demonstrates a robot.**

## Calendars for Sale

Our new 2017 calendars can be purchased at the museum for \$10! If you'd like one mailed to you, the cost is \$12.



## The Cowley County Historical Society

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Sharing the Past  
with the Future.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.CCHSM.COM](http://WWW.CCHSM.COM)



The Cowley County Historical Society dates from 1931 with a major reorganization and move to our present location in 1967. The CCHS's mission is to preserve and make available the colorful history of the county. We also support and encourage activities pertaining to local history throughout the county. Our bookstore makes available an assortment of items dealing with local history. The historical society also maintains a fine collection of historical records and vintage photographs.

## Ongoing Projects

We are still hard at work on our county history book, *Cowley County Heritage, Vol. II*. We have set a story submission deadline of May 1, 2017, but would appreciate stories sooner if possible. The book brochure can be downloaded or printed from our web page, [www.cchsm.com](http://www.cchsm.com). Paper copies of our brochure can be found at the museum and other locations.

Our current exhibit is coming down in January. The next exhibit will be "Remembering Those Who Served". We want to not only highlight America's entry into WWI, but to also honor all who have served our country. We could use Cowley County veterans' stories, pictures, letters, and memorabilia for display. If you could loan any of these for this exhibit, please contact the museum by January 5, 2017. These items will be displayed through December 2017.

Our web page has undergone several changes lately. We try to keep the information about the museum and events current. When we find other websites that have helpful information about the county, we put a link on our "Resources" page.

Check it out at [www.cchsm.com](http://www.cchsm.com)!

A screenshot of the website for the Cowley County Historical Society Museum. The page has a blue header with the title 'Cowley County Historical Society Museum' and the tagline 'Sharing the Past with the Future'. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with buttons for Home, About Us, Membership, Event Schedule, Newsletter, Museum Displays, Books for Sale, Video, and Resources. The main content area features a photograph of a large, multi-story stone building with a tower. Below the photo, there is text about museum hours: 'Open Tuesday-Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Holidays Free Admission'. To the right of the photo, there is a call to action: 'Be a Part of Cowley County's History! Submit your story to be included in the Cowley County Heritage, Vol. II book. Deadline is May 1, 2017.' At the bottom of the page, the address '1011 Mansfield Street, Winfield, KS 67156' and contact information '620.221.4811 cchsm@kans.com' are provided. A search bar is visible in the top right corner of the website screenshot.

**Our home page at [www.cchsm.com](http://www.cchsm.com)**