

Ellis County Historical Society
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Return Service Requested

HERE FOR VISITS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Please call or email to schedule a time,
we would love to see you.

Your membership will expire on

Your most recent membership level is

This agency is funded in part by the City of Hays and Ellis County Kansas.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Free admission to the museum and archives
- Subscription to *The Homesteader*, ECHS's quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount in the Museum Store (excluding consigned items)
- Vote at the Annual Membership Meeting
- Participation in the *Time Travelers* network of 300+ organizations
- in 40+ states (www.timetravelers.mohistory.org)

SPONSORSHIP:

Categories, listed below, include all the benefits of membership at a higher level of financial support. We list our sponsors by category in *The Homesteader* as well as in guides to our special events. ECHS is a 501 © 3 organization your sponsorship is tax deductible.

STEP UP BECOME A SPONSOR

*You are a person who understands
the value of history.*



ELLIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check One)	LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP (Check One)	NAME/BUSINESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10 (ID required) <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$10 (65 and up) <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (Single) \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (Couple) \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> SCOUT (\$75 - \$99) <input type="checkbox"/> PIONEER (\$100 - \$249) <input type="checkbox"/> HOMESTEADER (\$250 - \$499) <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLER (\$500 - \$999) <input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR (\$1,000+)	ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ <i>Please make checks payable to the ELLIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, or use a credit card below:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Acc # _____ CVV# _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____ Amount \$ _____

FOR OFFICE USE: MEMBER # _____ CHECK # _____ AMT _____ DATE _____ PP _____



2021 ECHS BOARD

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ECHS STAFF

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Amanda Rupp

Curatorial, Book Keeping, Office Management, Programming and all around best team ever
Adam Conkey
Amanda Unrein

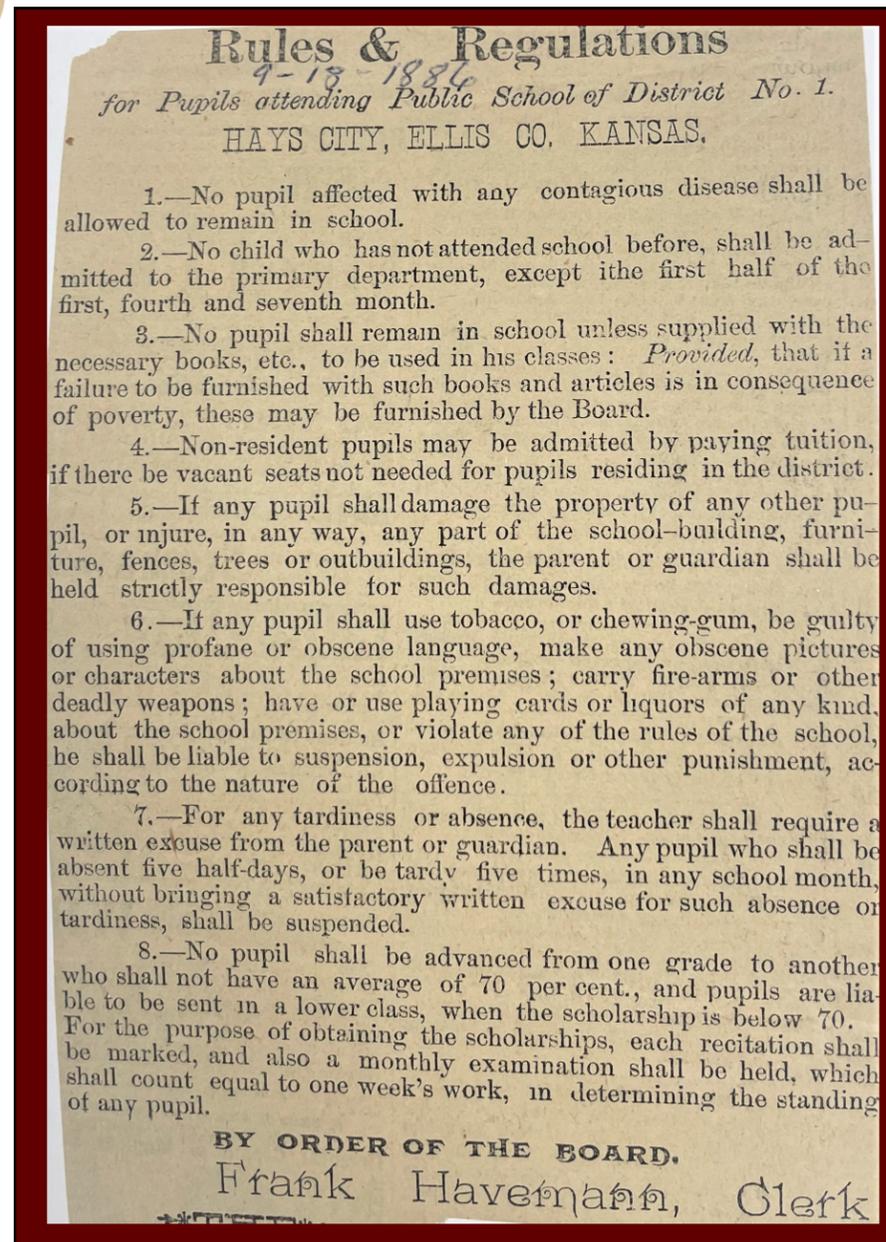
Archivist
Betty Macdonald



the Homesteader

Mission Statement (Adopted 2018): The Ellis County Historical Society Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits Ellis County History for the surrounding community and its visitors.

DEEP IN THE ARCHIVES



School has started in Ellis County. The setting may have changed a bit this past 18 months, but as you can see from the news clipping above the standards are the same. These rules for the school year were published in the *Ellis County Free Press*, September 18, 1886.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Fall 2021 ~
OKTOBERFEST October 1st & 2nd —Come check us out under the southwest shelter house. Located where all the action is! Straight south of the stage and dance floor, intermingled with the living history of the Hays City Legends, and right next to the children's activity space. We will be there both days with exhibits about the Volga German villages in Western Kansas and have our hot ticket items for sale—cookbooks! You will definitely want to stop by for a giveaway that will make your ancestors proud.

ECHS 50 year Anniversary ~ This year is the 50 year anniversary of our incorporation. We look forward to honoring those who started the Ellis County Historical Society and reminisce about the years since.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH!
It will be an all day come and go event.

For recent happenings or exciting news that did not make the newsletter...



HELP US GET 2,000 FOLLOWERS BY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

We have plans to move our past into the future and make it relevant again to a younger and future generation. We are still on the upward climb of the learning curve. Positive changes are rapidly happening behind the scenes. Through all of this movement I want to highlight something that has stayed steady and true. One of the most precious treasures ECHS has in connecting our present to our past is our very own Betty MacDonald.

BETTY IS SIMPLY THE BEST

Betty has been a part of ECHS for over 20 years and us “newbies” would be lost without her. She knows the archives like the back of her hand. If you have an Ellis County research project or family history inquiry, Betty is your best resource. During the pandemic closures and limited hours Betty has been working with individuals and businesses by appointment, or even over the phone or by email. She has already done research for 20 people so far this year. I asked Betty to share with me and our members some of her history, parts of the job she found most interesting, and even a great mystery she helped solve.



In 1999 Betty started out as a volunteer.

“I think it was in 2001 that Janet Johannes was able to receive a grant for someone to do the Volga German photo collection that Father Blaine Burkey collected several years before. Janet asked me if I would like to do the job. Carla Barber was the director at that time. The grant was for one year, but I completed the job in less than six months.

After that I signed on under the government program SER which is for Seniors wanting to learn new skills by working in businesses that need help. Carla took me on to work again with Janet.

I was still under SER when Carla left. Soon after Janet and Sharon Berman became co - directors, they put me on the payroll.”

It is hard for Betty to nail down just what it is she likes best about the work.

“In the past I did everything else besides archives work. I worked in the museum store at times, helped previous curators, answered the phone, gave tours, gave presentations, took pictures, worked the Christmas events we use to have, helped with the quilt folding. That is just a sample. My favorite things are working in the archives and helping people to research their families, find information on properties, working with authors and students, etc.

I find archives an exciting place to work.”

THANK YOU — SPONSORS

Benefactor (\$1,000 and up)

Settler (\$500 to \$999)

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Scout (\$75 to \$99)

Albert & Priscilla Hunt

Ivan & Verda Werner

New Life Members:

* Big thank you to our recently joined sponsors.

MEMBERS AND SPONSORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It is true that none of this is possible without the help of our community. Ellis County is rich in tradition and pride. ECHS has the honor of keeping these treasures of traditions and records alive for generations to come. All this takes money. Not only for operating costs of housing the collections but in paying for help to organize and present our history. Many newsletters were sent out even though the membership/sponsorship had expired. Would you be so kind and review your expiration date on the back of this issue. We know these are busy days and renewing may have slipped through the cracks. Please renew today, we truly appreciate your support.



Will you help get the word out to your family, friends and neighbors that Ellis County Historical Society is an entity that is excited for their support? On the back of every newsletter is a member/sponsor form.

Want to volunteer?

This fall we will be gathering together an army of volunteers. Serious work in reorganization and data entry of ECHS collections will begin after the new year. And we would love your help! If you are thinking you may want to help, please fill out this volunteer questionnaire and return it to our office 1111 E 30th.. We will contact you this winter to discuss opportunities for you to be involved.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

Circle opportunities that interest you most:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| OFFICE/CLERICAL | CATALOGUING | ARCHIVES |
| DATA ENTRY | RESEARCH/LIBRARY | PUBLIC SPEAKING |
| MAILINGS | CLEANING | CARPENTRY |
| GIFT SHOP | FUNDRAISING | PAINTING |
| PHOTOGRAPHY | TOUR GUIDE | GENERAL REPAIR |
| EVENT PLANNING | DOCENT/TEACHING | DESIGN/GRAPHICS |
| HISTORY | ARTS/CRAFTS | LANDSCAPING/GARDENING |

Would you like to volunteer as regular schedule or as needed? (circle one)
Days of the week you are available: M T W T F S Sunday (circle)

Additional comments: _____

PASSAGES: ECHS members who have passed since the last newsletter.

Velma Baker
She shall be missed.

Betty has even found her own relatives purely by chance.

“One experience I had while I was doing research for a lady who lived in Oregon was when I found a distant relative of my mother’s. While looking for the lady’s family I kept seeing the name of Grenell. I knew my mother’s one line was Grinnell from NY and this Grenell was also from NY. Turns out he is a relative and is buried in Mount Allen. This was in the 1880’s. He had a son-in-law who liked his alcohol and was shot and killed by the town marshal and is also buried in Mount Allen.”

A memory that stands out as one of her most exciting

“I met a gentleman from England who was writing a novel about early Hays history. He and a friend of his made a visit to Hays in 2018. In 2019 they were making plans to visit us again in 2020, but then came Covid 19. He and I worked for two and a half years via email. It was great to see and speak with him in person.

Another person I have met via email lives in Ireland. His relative was Dr. Kidd who settled in Ellis. He has been wanting to make a trip to visit Ellis and Hays.”

Everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Betty rave about her work ethic and genuine helpful nature. She has a wonderful knack for archives because of her incredible memory, not only for Ellis Co history but for ECHS and its people:

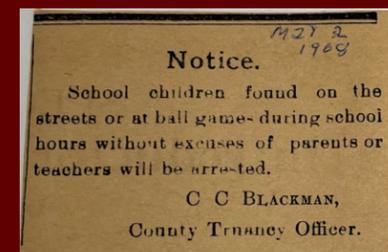
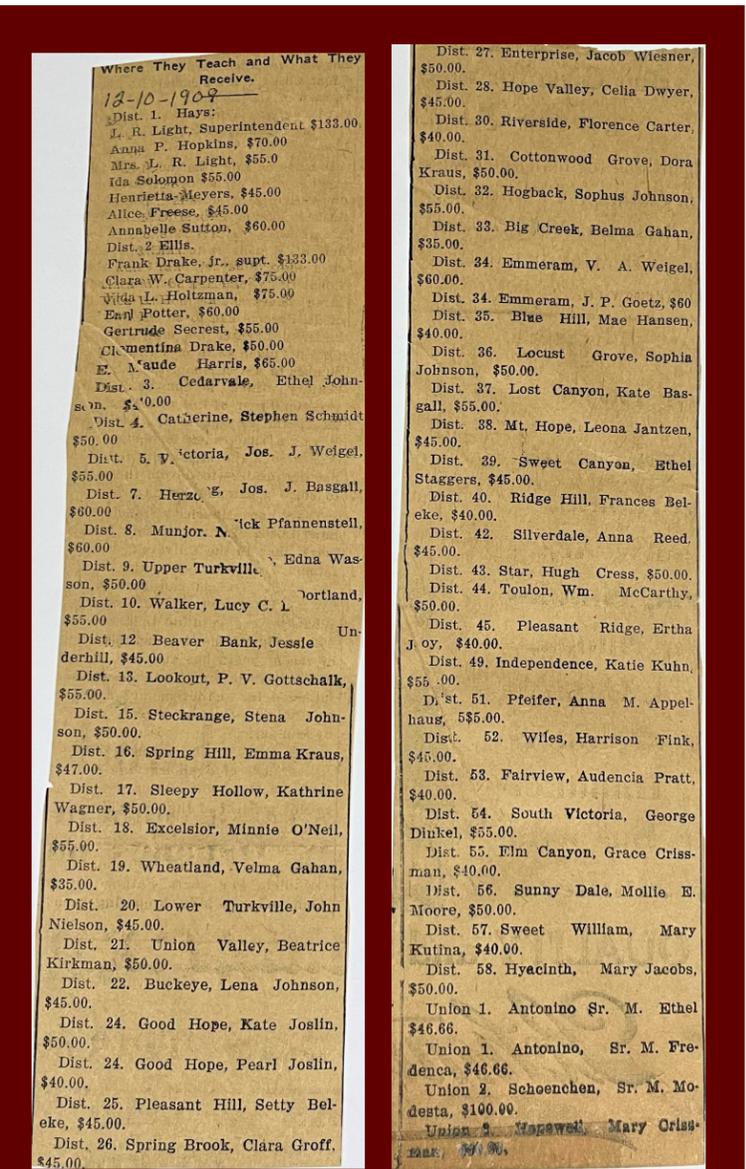
“I enjoyed working with the volunteers we had over the years. They were a great help to the society, and I miss them all. Without their help much work would not have been accomplished. History and research have always been my passion and I am thankful to be a part of the society.”

For research questions, please email Betty MacDonald, Archivist:

Betty will be glad to help you over the phone or by email. Or even set up an appointment to come to the archives and thumb through the files with her.

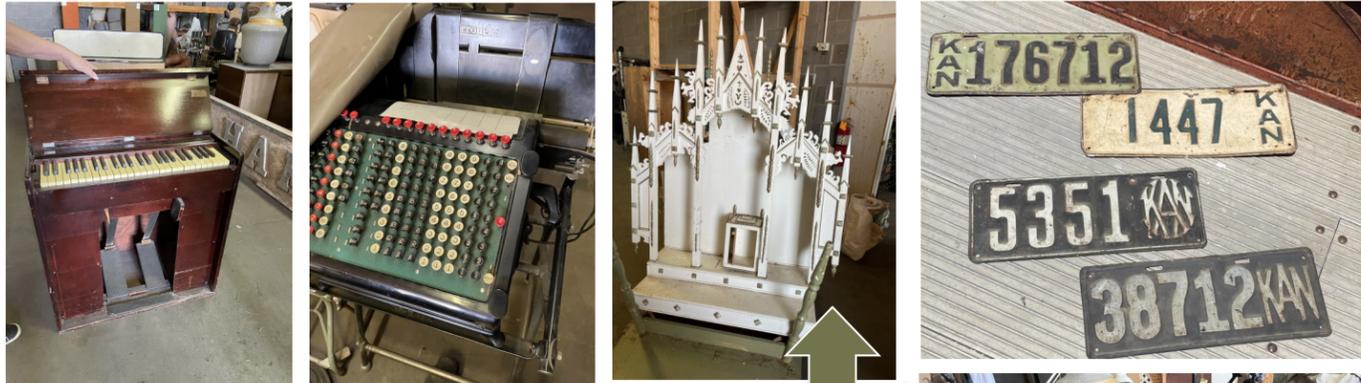
... continued from front page.

What teachers earned for all their hard work. Ellis County News 12/10/1909 (right) Public notice from The Republican, no playing hooky in 1908.(below).



BEHIND THE SCENES

Have you ever gone through a relative's attic or storage after they have passed and found so many treasures that hadn't seen the light of day for years, maybe even decades? That is basically what we have been up to this summer at ECHS. The two large storage bays in the Hays Daily News building had collected our excess large artifacts for over 10 years. ECHS staff, board members, and some handy strong young men put in over 400 hours of labor moving all of the items back to our main campus. Each day we stumbled onto something spectacular. Many of the artifacts are from the Sternberg collection which were gifted to ECHS when they moved into the dome and decided to concentrate their exhibits on natural history.



check out some of the things we uncovered in storage

The buildings on our campus are full, practically bursting at the seams. To help alleviate some storage issues and bring our collections back into public view, we are working on temporary satellite exhibits throughout the county. The first of these is a window exhibit entitled "From the Deep," which is located at Big Creek Crossing Mall (2918 Vine, Hays) in the store front of the prior Christopher and Banks store. The items displayed are a wide variety of interesting things we found in storage. No long history to read just viewing pleasure which we expect to illicit responses like "wow, look at that" or "isn't that cool," "pretty," "wonder what that was for," "didn't know we had so many of these" "hey, my grandma had one just like that".

We hope you enjoy a peek inside our reorganization. As we pull more items from boxes or shelves artifacts will be added and changed occasionally, so check back often!



WE ARE GRATEFUL

A special thank you to those volunteers and board members who have put in an incredible amount of work these past few months. A extra special shout out goes to three young men who spent nearly every weekend in the July heat to help us move the artifacts out of the HDN storage areas by our deadline. Brantlee Staab, Brian Camera and Lane Dewald we wish you luck this Hays High soccer season and hope we forever made history lovers out of you.



wow what muscle



Hey look, there is Brad Ricke! Lyle Johnston, Adam Conkey and Amanda Unrein too!

IN OTHER NEWS

At the county meeting on August 16th, the commissioners approved a small display for the county admin building. We appreciate their wonderful show of support. We updated the county about all that has been accomplished in a short six months of applied "elbow grease". To see the full list for yourself go to elliscounty.net where you can click on the YouTube link to watch our energetic county rep board member, Brad Ricke, talk about our hard work.

What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Email us at director@echshays.org and offer a topic idea.

Let's Make Sure Our Past Has A Future

TOGETHER let us take pride in keeping Ellis County's history alive. As you follow us in the coming months remember that even though we are unable to offer as many programs during reconstruction — hard work IS being done behind the scenes.

ECHS's top priority at this time is organizing our many precious collections in adequate and correct space. I know as a community we can accomplish that for our children and grandchildren.

Every dollar counts. We will put to good use small, medium, and large donations. First we dream and then we set goals. We are not lacking in vision or elbow grease in Ellis County — our varied and proud history proves that we can accomplish great things — TOGETHER.