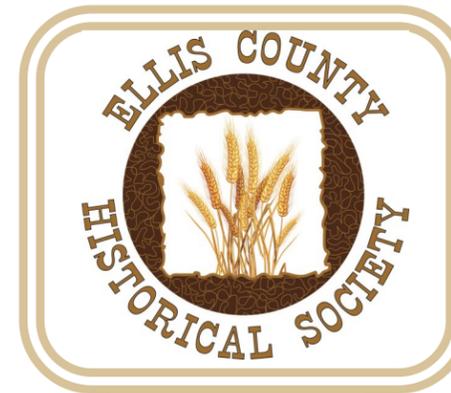


Ellis County Historical Society
1011 W 27th
Suite F-1
Hays, KS 67601

Phone: (785) 628-2624
director@echshays.org

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Return Service Requested



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.

**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

STEP UP BECOME A SPONSOR

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

ELLIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

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

2021 ECHS BOARD

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ECHS STAFF

Interim Director
Amanda Rupp

Curatorial, Book Keeping, Office Management, Programing and all around
BEST TEAM EVER

Adam Conkey
Amanda Unrein

Archivist
Betty Macdonald



CHEERS TO 50 YEARS!

By Sue Gunnels

Jim Drees studied the 24 drawers filled with data that had just been moved into one of the storage rooms of the Ellis County Historical Museum. Effective that day, Monday, Drees took over the duties of the archivist-historian for the Ellis County Historical Society from Fr. Blaine Burkey, O.F.M., Cap., who held the position since 1971.

Movement of the materials was necessary because Fr. Blaine has not able in the past few years to devote his full-time attention to the job. There was also a possibility he could be transferred and he wanted to make sure there were no loose ends that might occur if the move was done too rapidly.

The materials had been stored at TMP-M since Father Blaine taught and lived at the school and it was more convenient for his collecting and arranging the data.

Drees, who has worked at the Museum for the past nine years in various capacities, received his Masters Degree in history last July. His thesis dealt with vigilantes in Hays City during the years 1868 and 1869.

The Society's collection started in 1971 with a donation of two large boxes filled with photographs and clippings from Mrs. Leota Motz, former owner and publisher of the Hays Daily News.

Since that time, numerous residents of Ellis County have donated valuable material to the Society.

Tony Denning, Victoria, gave 10,000 negatives to the Society.

One thoroughly-indexed group involves 1,500 photographs depicting the lives of the Volga-German settlers. The work was done as a joint project with the local Volga-



BEGINNING the task of arranging files that contain photographs, newspaper clippings, and manuscripts that were moved this week from Thomas More Prep-Marian High School to the Ellis County Historical Museum are Father Blaine Burkey, O.F.M., Cap., former archivist-historian for the Ellis County Historical Society and Jim Drees, who took over the position on April 23.

Records Transferred To Museum

German Society.

Often people loan their prized photographs and newspaper clippings to the Society so that copies can be made by the Kansas Historical Society. The copies stay in the Society's archives. This policy is in effect today.

"Of course we like to have the originals but we are very grateful when we have the opportunity to make copies," Fr. Blaine said.

One collection that the Society is pleased to have is the set of records of Hays when it was first organized. These records were turned over by the Ellis County

Probate Court.

Munjour records which are "almost invaluable" according to Drees were turned over to the Society to preserve. They concern a corporation set up in Munjour in the late 1800s to sell land. The corporation dissolved in 1911 and "it's remarkable that they were never destroyed," Fr. Blaine commented.

After Fr. Raphael Engel's death, Fr. Blaine discovered 4,000 mounted obituaries, clipped and dated among his papers. These were donated to the Society also.

A collection of papers was

donated by Myra O'Loughlin. These included material of

Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy, the first woman elected from Kansas to the U.S. Congress.

Fred H. Cole and Fred Ford, former residents of Ellis, have donated some of their collections to the Ellis County Historical Society. Ford has given some "very good pictures of Ellis taken in the years 1890 to the early 1900's."

Drees plans to begin work immediately, taking up where Fr. Blaine has left off. Leonard Day, director of the Museum, expressed his pleasure at the collection now being under the museum's roof.

Students of local history are encouraged to view the material in the archives and part of Drees' job will be to help residents doing research for school papers or those who just want to trace their ancestry. Drees will be available during museum hours for aid and advice.

We owe thanks and applause to those who put so much into saving our past's future. Without them we would not have the impressive collections we have today.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SATURDAY, OCT 30TH
8:00 pm-10:00 pm
HISTORIC HAUNTING:
GHOST TALE
TELLINGS —SE corner of
7th & Fort (look for the
campfire on the west end of
our campus)

Historical figures will tell tales of hauntings set in Historic Ellis County. Stone Church will host exhibit on cemeteries of Ellis County. Free Will Donations Appreciated.

SATURDAY, NOV. 6TH
ECHS 50 Year
Anniversary ~

2021 marks the 50 year anniversary of our incorporation. We look forward to honoring those who started the Ellis County Historical Society and reminiscing about the years since.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4TH
ART WALK
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
STONE CHURCH
"QUILTS!!"

We are getting quilts out of the boxes to catalog them into our computer software. Which is a great time to show them off to the public. This exhibit will be up throughout the winter months.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT
THE SATELLITE DISPLAY
"FROM THE DEEP"
AT THE BIG CREEK
CROSSING MALL.

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Since the moment we stepped into our positions, earlier this year, the three A's have repeatedly heard the lyrics "we like to move it move it" ominously playing in our heads. Much has been "shuffled" in a short period. One more big move is in the works for the remainder of 2021. An opportunity was presented by the Schmidt Foundation and ECHS is excited to utilize their offer. Eagle Plaza suite F-1 will be our new temporary home base for offices and select archives. This relocation will further assist in our efforts to reorganize all aspects of ECHS, specifically the offices. For over two years Brad Boyer (former ECHS board president) has allowed ECHS to use office spaces available in his building, the little dome, FREE OF CHARGE. For his helping hand we are extremely grateful.

The ECHS board and staff are determined to move forward in positive ways and solidify plans on Saving Our Past's Future. The Strategic Planning committee is settled at the helm and in the next few months will be off to a good start. Finally, ECHS has secured an intern for the summer 2022 semester from the FHSU Dane G. Hansen Internship program which offers another wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other entities and train future generations.

ESSAYS FOR ARCHIVES

The Ellis County Historical Society has extended an invitation to all Ellis County high schools and their students to participate in submitting essays to be used as a primary resource in our archives. We are looking for documentation for future generations to utilize in understanding the ways in which the 2020 global pandemic affected the citizens of Ellis County.

Do you like to read history? Are you curious about how things were done or how people lived? Do you ever wonder what people in the future will ask about our times? By participating in the ECHS Essays for Archives, our current students have a chance to speak to future generations about what it is like for their families to live during this first CoVid pandemic. They will become Ellis County's voice of our generation by telling experiences of life during this historical time. The essays will held at the ECHS archives as primary resources.

I have been collaborating with Lisa Renz at Hays High School this past month and they have chosen to host a contest in conjunction with the, completely voluntary, essays. Hays High School students have a deadline of the end of October for entries to the school's contest. After the judging, all essays will be released to ECHS archives. It is our hope that the other high schools in the area will participate to some extent and this will be one meaningful part of our efforts to Save Our Past's Future.

We require that each participant have a release signed by a parent/guardian to submit an essay to our archives.

THANK YOU — SPONSORS

Benefactor (\$1,000 and up)

Settler (\$500 to \$999)

BANK OF HAYS

Homesteader (\$250 to \$499)

Paul and Patricia Phillips

HAYS CVB*

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Stan "Bud" Dalton
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Derrick Unrein
Holly Unrein
John Vincent & Elizabeth Harris*
Juti Winchester & Bob White
Neil and Carolyn Younger*

Scout (\$75 to \$99)

Albert & Priscilla Hunt

Ivan & Verda Werner

New Life Members: Heather Robben and John Benkelman

New Members: Fred & Pam Joy

** Big thank you to our recently joined/renewed sponsors.*

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.

MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 and desires their support?

On the back of every newsletter is a member/sponsor form.



Want to volunteer?

It is true that none of this is possible without the help of our community.

ECHS is 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 to have your help! If you are thinking you may want to help, please fill out this volunteer questionnaire and return it to our current office at 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: _____

YOU ARE INVITED! No need to RSVP!

50th Anniversary Party

Saturday, November 6th, 2021

10:00 am—4:00 pm

A come and go celebration will take place in our Historic Stone Church. Various speakers will present topics relevant to Ellis County history including early fort history, Buffalo Bill and Louisa Cody, the figure of Jim Curry, Charles Sternberg, early German settlement and many others followed by Q&A. Gunfighter reenactments will start the event at 10:00 am and hold a new fight every two hours until 4:00 pm.

**Refreshments will be served. Stop by just to say hi or stay for the afternoon.
All three out buildings will be open for touring.**

10:00 AM – ELDEAN HOLTUS
Kansas History 1873–Present

11:00 AM – JAMES DREES
Jim Curry and Vigilante Violence

12 NOON – GREG HELLER
Indian Wars and Kansas Forts

1:00 PM – IAN TREVETHAN
Sternberg in the West

2:00 PM – GUY WINDHOLZ
Bukovina German Immigrants

3:00 PM – JERRY BRAUN
*Dolcette, Peter Bissing
and the Family Legacies*

Join us
in the evening for
a dance party from
7:30 pm—Midnight

**Hays Area Theatre
121 E 8th Street
NO DOOR CHARGE!!**

Snack concessions and cocktails
will be available for purchase.

The drawing for our
50th Anniversary Raffle
will be held at 8:30 pm
(need not be present to win)
Dance the evening away to
Polka and Country Music



50th Anniversary RAFFLE

Chance to win one of four great prizes:

Henry Repeater .22 cal rifle
(50th commemorative engraved)

Rejuvenations Couples Spa Package
(\$205 value)

Rough Rider 6-shot Revolver
(50th commemorative)

ECHS Lifetime Membership
(\$500 value)



TICKETS--- \$8 each or 3 for \$20

suggested donation

to purchase CONTACT: 785-650-1378

Drawing Held

November 6, 2021

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

**Wilmer Kellogg
Mike Pipkin**

They will be missed.

ECHS funded in part by Ellis County no purchased necessary to win

WE ARE OUT THERE



The weather cooperated and we were able to set up our new Volga German travel exhibit at the park for Oktoberfest on October 1st and 2nd. Informational panels told the tales of the Volga German people who settled in the area while the artifacts displayed brought to life these ancestors. Wedding dresses, bressen board, and the model of the church at Catharine, among other items, expressed the pride and craftsmanship that the Volga German immigrants brought with them to America. That pride and connection to our ancestors lives on today.



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



HELP US GET 2,000 FOLLOWERS BY CHRISTMAS

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.**

AND WE ARE PROUD



For some lighthearted bragging rights ECHS had stickers available which read (in German)

“My people are from ‘Herzog’ home of the best _____ in Western Kansas.”

Each village was represented by its own sticker and color. Some interesting examples were given, “home of the best *drinkers, lovers, bakers, dancers, musicians, card players*” ... just to name a few.

Are you a western Kansas Volga German? Where are your people from? And what are they best at?



IN OTHER NEWS

The Volga German travel display made an appearance at the fall members meeting of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia on October 17th. It was well received and appreciated. The display will be available at more venues in the coming year. Have museum, will travel!

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Once again we send out a shout of appreciation to those volunteers who put in long hours this fall. Board members helped man the Oktoberfest booth and have been planning to make the 50th Anniversary a fun event. We thank you for your extra time and attention to our mission! A SPECIAL MENTION goes to Jerry Braun and his crew of high school students who, with short notice, stepped in and helped with some heavy lifting.

What would you like to see in the newsletter?

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

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.