

PIONEER PRESS

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Curator in Action

Thankful for the warmer weather, our curator is back to work updating displays. This activity includes a brand new display case in Annex I that will house rotting exhibits. It is currently being filled with medical artifacts.



With the help of Dan Ronnebaum, we were able to purchase industrial strength shelving at a very reasonable cost. That shelving will be used for storage of artifacts.

With the help of the Nemaha Central High School freshman boys basketball team under coach Heath Lutz, a lot of moving was accomplished

With the help of Dick Miller, the ‘General Store’ display is being opened up and expanded.



2021 OFFICERS

President:	Anita Heiman
Vice-President:	Karen Holthaus
Secretary:	Patty Byers
Treasurer:	Raymond Thieme
Membership:	Alma Ackerman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alma Ackerman	Karen Holthaus
Anita Heiman	Ilene Enneking
Patty Byers	Cathy Holthaus
Raymond Thieme	Joyce Olberding
Robert Ackerman	Karen Niehues
Marcia Philbrick	Mark Hermesch

N.C.H.S. VOLUNTEER STAFF

Diane Rottinghaus, Tours: 785-336-2680	
Ilene Enneking	Archivist-Curator
Karen Holthaus.	Research & Obituaries
Raymond Thieme.	Scrapbook
Richard Schmitz	Tractor Cruise

OUR MUSEUMS

Sheriff’s Residence / Historic Jail / School Room

113 N. 6th, Seneca, KS 66538

Temple of Honor Military Museum

33 N. 6th, Seneca, KS 66538

Annex 1—113 N. 6th, Seneca

- Archives
- Burger Display
- Rotating Displays
- Obituaries
- Glass Negative Collection

Annex 2—113 N. 6th, Seneca

- Agricultural Displays
- Civilian Conservation Corps
- Beautician
- Medical
- Railroad
- Photography
- Seneca Public High School

Phone: 785-336-6366

Email: nchs@rainbowtel.net

Save the Date:

May 6-9—Big Kansas Road Trip

May 20-22—Seneca City Wide Garage Sales

June 11-12—Seneca’s 150th Celebration

Thank you For Your Support!
Join Us This Year by Renewing Your
Membership

Nemaha County Historical Society Museum

Hours

Tuesdays—10 am to 4 pm

If Increment Weather, Call First

Help Us Fulfill Our Mission!

To Collect, Preserve and Promote the History of Nemaha County

- **Join**—An annual membership helps us maintain our buildings and the collections housed in them.
- **Participate**— Volunteer to help with our events
- **Sponsor**— We value our business partners and the support they provide thru their sponsorships
- **Donate**— CASH, Garage Sale Items, Time
- **Tour**— Come out and enjoy our various sites

But most of all help us continue to collect the history of the county by donating (or lending so we can digitally copy) church histories, school histories, scrapbooks, letters, military documents, diaries, deeds, wills, family histories, business photos, business histories, and personal memories.

Annual Meeting

- **Approved resignation of Diane Rottinghaus as director**
- **Approved new board terms for Karen Holthaus, Ray Thieme, Karen Niehus and Alma Ackerman**
- **Elected Officers: Anita Heiman, President; Karen Holthaus, Vice-President; Patty Byers, Secretary and Ray Thieme, Treasurer**
- **Discussed need for repair of the stucco on the outside of the Military Temple of Honor and how to fund those repairs**
- **Discussed calendar of upcoming events**
 - **May 6-9 Big Kansas Road Trip**
 - **May 20-22 Seneca Garage Sales**
 - **June 11-12 Seneca 150th Celebration**

Amazon Smile

If you order items from Amazon, please consider using the link below and help us earn funds to support the museum.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0871820>

Connect with Us

Web site: <http://nemahacountyhistoricalsociety.com/>

Facebook: [Nemaha County Historical Society](#)

[Museum Catalog](#): Archive link on web site

[Donate via PayPal](#)—Link on web page under NEWS

[Join Us](#)—link on web page under NEWS

[Genealogy](#) – Link under PEOPLE

[Amazon Smile](#)—Help us earn money while shopping

Help Us Continue to Archive Our History — Join — Donate — Volunteer

Early History

From Tennal's History of Nemaha County

POSTMASTERS

Among the early day postmasters were David Magill, of Capioma; David Locknane, at Granada; Isaac H. Steer, at Richmond; John H. Smith at Seneca; A. W. Williams, at Sabetha; George Graham, at Albany; George L. Squire, at Centralia and H. H. Lanham, at Central City — the first postmaster in Nemaha county to hold his commission from Franklin Pearce. A mail route had been established, during these incumbents' service, from St. Joseph to Marysville, Sabetha and Albany, being the first points in the east of the county to get direct service. Seneca receiving its mail from Central City. When Centralia was established it received mail from Seneca. Granada at this time was known as Pleasant Springs.

EARLY TOWNS

Of the twelve original Nemaha county towns but four remain. The others seem to have been completely effaced, a absorbed into farms and even post offices long since abolished, a result of rural free mail delivery. Central City, Richmond, America City, Granada, Ash Point, Pacific City, Urbana, Wheatland, Centralia, Lincoln, Seneca and Sabetha were the original towns. Albany was the forebear of Sabetha, and was moved bodily to the Sabetha site two miles down the hill when the first railroad was run through the county. Seneca has remained on her original site. Centralia, however, was moved a mile from her original location. The Central Branch railroad refused to take the mile extra to reach the settlement of Centralia, so the villine, like Mohamet, went to the railroad. America City has always lived on the 380 acres where it had its birth, and has not since extended such acreage very much.

CENTRAL CITY

Central City, the first town, was never incorporated by legislative act. It was laid out in 1855, by William Dodge, and the first postoffice of the county established here. It lay in the neighborhood of what is now St. Benedict. H. H. Lanham was the first postmaster. A wagon and blackmish shop, a saw and grist mill and a store were erected upon the site. Most of these business were run by the Lanham and Newton families, who had come up the Missouri river from St. Louis on the old steamboat, "Banner State," that year. The store, however was run by Benjamin Shaffer for a while, later passing into the hands of Lanham & Newton.

1883 Post Office

The cabinet of post office boxes from the St. Benedict post office was restored and donated to the Nemaha County Historical Society by Amelia Sudbeck. This cabinet had been located in Bergman's Store in St. Benedict. The cabinet is part of the 'country store' display housed in the jail area of the museum.



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Big Showing for Richmond

From the *Courier Democrat* Dec 5, 1918

Continued from Dec. 2020 issue

The canvass and its result in Richmond township for the United War Work exhibits a liberality and generosity on the part of the habitants worthy of commendation. The sollicitos did good service and the response speaks for itself:

Richmond Township—West Side

United War Work campaign. Tame member 2. Joseph Karnowski and Jerome McQuaid

Frank Rochel	\$8.00
Joseph Koelzer	7.00
Wm. E. Lackey	1.00
Bernard Haverkamp	20.00
Henry Wietharn	23.00
Frank A. Deters	15.00
C. B. Ronnebaum	10.00
Joseph Olberding	20.00
Anton Fangmann	41.00
Lena Broxterman`	15.00
Herman Engelken	51.00
Mathias F. Schefer	13.00
Henry F. Deters	5.00
John Haug	25.00
Edward A. Koelzer	27.00
Joseph Latus	2.50
Clemens Blocker	15.00
Elizabeth Sudbeck	10.00
Catherina Hammes	.50
Joseph Stegemann	16.00
Bernard Hulse	22.00
Henry J. Engelken	25.00
Henry Hulsing	8.00

George Stallbaumer	12.00
Joseph Mohrman	5.00
Henry Harpenau	30.00
Martin Relinger	5.00
Wm. Gerkens	3.00
Barney Haug	5.00
Benedict Broxterman	2.00
Mrs. Julia Cheray	4.00
Joseph B. Lueger	13.00
Frank Ronnebaum	7.50
Joseph Kohake	2.50
Bernard Ronnebaum	5.00
John Pugh	2.00
Frank H. Holthaus	20.00
August J. Boeding	10.00
Frank Harpenau	3.00
Jos. H. Koch	14.00
F. A. Olberding	35.00
Henry Nordhus	60.00
Frank Bergmann, sr	50.00
Henry Wessel	11.00
Frank Kohake	11.40
John Kokenge	7.50
Mary Hulsing	20.00
Rev. Fr. Gregory O.S.B.	25.00
F. H. Fangmann	31.00
Bernard Bergmann	25.00
Frank Mohrman	3.00
August Droge	15.00
Bernardina Haverkamp	1.00
J. Baptist Haug	.50
John Engelken	6.00
Charles Rethman	21.00
Bernard Holthaus	3.00
Total	\$848.40

To be continued

Korean War Notes

Cpl. McGehee Has Operation, Is Recovering

(from the *Courier Tribune*, Oct. 30, 1950

Mrs. Mattie Septer received word last week that her son, Cpl. Billy McGehee had undergone surgery at Fitzimmons hospital in Denver and a bullet, which was close to his heart, had been removed. Cpl. McGehee had been injured while serving with the U.S. Army in Korea, and was flown to Denver for the operation. He stood the operation well and is making a nice recovery. He is able to be up part of the time and can have visitors. Cpl. McGehee hopes to be able to spend Christmas at Seneca. His address is Room 7, 3rd Floor, Fitzimmons hospital, Denver, Colo.

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St. Benedict Store

MOTOR TRUCK FOR COUNTRY STOREKEEPER

(from the 14 Sept. 1911 issue of the Seneca Tribune)

The first man in the community to make use of a motor truck for business purposes is Clemens Blocker, the St. Benedict merchant. Friday morning his machine came, a large red motor truck, similar to these used in the large cities. Mr. Blocker will use it in freighting his goods from the Seneca station to his St. Benedict store, a task that has hitherto been done by teams. It will mean a great saving of time and is a machine that can be utilized in a great many ways.

CLEMENS BLOCKER AND THE ST. BENEDICT STORE

(from the 16 April 1925 issue of the Semi Weekly Courier Tribune)

Merchant who Passed Away Last Wednesday Owned the Townsite Farm

When death came to Clemens Blocker at his home in St. Benedict at 3:30 Wednesday morning, April 8th, it removed one of the founders of that town. True there was a settlement at St. Benedict but it was known as Wildcat. When the post office department gave the little hamlet mail service it was Mr. Blocker who became the first postmaster and who gave the town its name, St. Benedict.

Clemens Blocker was born in Oldenburg, Germany, January 14, 1852, the thirteenth of fourteen children. He survived all the others. Clemens Blocker came to America in 1870 and began working for a brother in a general store in Seneca. Then he went to Dubuque county, Iowa where he worked a year as a farm hand. But the young man wanted to better his condition. He prepared himself for teaching school and followed that profession in Iowa for seven years. It was in Dubuque county (Iowa) that he married Anna Hoefler Sept. 19, 1882. The following year he came back to Nemaha county and for a year taught in Dist. 74. He afterward established a small store in St. Benedict, which he conducted until 1897, when he sold his stock and returned to farming. In 1893 he had purchased 60 acres of land and two years later added a forty. He owned at one time the St. Benedict townsite and built a number of the dwellings.



Letters from Korea

(from the Courier Tribune, 26 Oct 1950)

Mrs. Margaret Becker, Topeka, received a letter last week from her son, Sgt. Joseph Becker, who is stationed in Korea. Sgt. Becker wrote that he expected to be with the first division to cross the 38th parallel; that he was fine but awfully busy and expected to be in Korea for some time.

(from the Courier Tribune, 7 Dec 1950)

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Enneking have received a letter from their son, Cpl. Robert H. Enneking, stating that he is now stationed in Korea.

Corporal Raymond Feldkamp, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Feldkamp arrived in Korea last week.

(from the Courier Tribune 11 Dec 1950)

Jim McNally, 21 year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McNally, formerly of south of Centralia is a member of the 32nd Infantry Regiment of the 7th Division, which has been trapped in northeast Korea. American forces have been reported joining to work their way out of the red pincers.

(from the Courier Tribune 28 Dec 1950)

Sgt. Robert Wichman was in Northeast Korea

News of the successful withdrawal of U.S. troops from northeast Korea is especially good news to Ben Wichman family, Seneca. Sgt. Bob Wichman is with the 2nd Division, one of the units that was battling in the area.

Help Us Continue to Archive Our History — Join — Donate — Volunteer

Found in Archives—Head School District #38



Continued from Dec 2020 issue

September 1894—March 1893

Flora Nicholson, Teacher

Grammar Grade

Jennie Manuel
Van Manuel
Jennie Linn
Clyde Staley
Neely Manuel
Ossie Manuel

Intermediate Grade

Addie Staley
Kate Weart
Amie Weart
Rolla Neill
Johnnie Neill

Primary Grade

Frank Long
Grace Weart
Onia Watkins
Mary Todd
Luther Linn
Aubrey Nipher
Jessie Long
Roy Manuel

April 1893—May 1893

Mrs L S [D]or, Teacher

Grammar Grade

Jennie Manuel
Katie eart
Nettie Briggs
Addie Staley
Jennie Linn
Ethel Nipher

Oscar Manuel
Gertrude Nipher

Intermediate Grade

Johnnie Neill
Rollo Neill
Charley Briggs
Oney Watkins

Primary Grade

Frank Long
Lester Linn
Grace Weart
Aubrey Nipher
Ivy Nipher
Mary Todd
Roy Manuel
Jessie Neill
Jessie Neill

September 1893—December 1893

Ella M. Murphy, Teacher

Grammar Grade

Ernest Staley
Clyde Staley
Addie Staley
Clarence Wiley
Mable Wiley
Gertie Nipher
Ethel Nipher
Jennie Manuel
Van Manuel
Neely Manuel
Ossie Manuel
Nettie Briggs
Kate Weart

Intermediate Grade

Johnie Neill
Rolla Neill
Frank Long
Aubrey Nipher
Ivy Nipher
Lester Lynn
Grace Weart
Onie Watkins
Charlie Briggs
Mary Todd

Primary Grade

Jessie Long
Roy Manuel
Jessie Neill
Lucy Briggs
Austin Smith

Sept 1894 to April 1895

Flora Nicholson, Teacher

Grammar Grade

Neil Briggs
Mabel Wiley
Addie Staley
Hulet Henry
Ossie Manuel
Neely Manuel

Intermediate Grade

Ola Moss
Jessie Moss
Rolla Neill
Johnnie Neill
Charlie Briggs
Frank Long
Eunice Moss
Grace Weart
Mary Todd
Jessie Long
Aubrey Nipher
Lester Lin
Roy Manuel

Primary Grade

Jessie Neill
Henry Debus
Claire Linn
Edna Moss
Minnie Debus
Austin Smith
Lucy Briggs
Elsie Linn
Elsie Smith
Eddie Long
Callie Debus

To be continued

2021 Nemaha County Historical Society Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

THANK YOU for your support!

_____ Individual Membership (newsletter sent by e-mail) \$20.00/yr	\$ _____
_____ Individual Membership (newsletter sent by mail) \$25.00/yr	\$ _____
_____ Business Membership \$35.00	\$ _____
_____ Silver Sponsor \$50 to \$99.00	\$ _____
_____ Gold Sponsor \$100.00	\$ _____

Contribution:

Military Museum—Lift for Handicapped Access \$ _____

Military Museum—Handicapped Restroom \$ _____

Military Museum—Restoring stucco on outside \$ _____

Society Needs \$ _____

Memorial In memory of _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

113 North 6th, PO Box 41

Seneca, Kansas 66538

2021 PLATINUM BUSINESS MEMBERS

Ackerman Lock & Key

2021 GOLD BUSINESS MEMBERS

Ag Partners
Koch & Company
Koch's Service
Nemaha Valley Motors
Seneca Wholesale

Suther Building Supply
William C O'Keefe Law Office
Young Backhoe & Trenching

THANK YOU
For your
support!
RENEW Today for 2021

2021 SILVER BUSINESS MEMBERS

2021 BUSINESS MEMBERS

Medical Arts Pharmacy
Rainbow Communications
Ray's Apple Market

SBS Insurance
Schmitz Drive Thru Liquor & Deli
Seneca Sanitation

Stallbaumer Lumber

Nemaha County Historical Society
113 North Sixth Street
P.O. BOX 41
Seneca, KS. 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366
E-Mail: nchs@rainbowtel.net

We are on the Web at:
www.nemahacountyhistoricalsociety.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED