

PIONEER PRESS

Vol. 40 #1

March 2022

Annual Meeting

The Nemaha County Historical Society board held its annual meeting in February. Highlights include

- Voting to invest in the STEP Foundation to be able to participate in STEP Match day in August to receive donations to support the military museum.
- Approval of continued work on restoring exterior of the military museum by Dick Miller

City Wide Garage Sales—June 2-4

Support our museums by donating your unwanted items to our spring garage sale. Due to space limitations, we would ask that you hold onto your items until after May 15.

Please note: We do not accept clothing, treadmills or electronics

Upcoming Events

- June 2-4—City Wide Garage Sale
- June 11 — Seneca Museum Day—all sites open 3 pm to 6 pm
- July 23 or 30 —Tractor Cruise—route to be determined
- August—hosting tour group from Johnson County
- August 27—Seneca Fire Department 100th Celebration
- Sept. 15-17— Highway 36 Treasure Hunt

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers that would be interested in learning our computer system or interested in preparing signage and/or visuals for our displays or perhaps writing and publishing this newsletter and other items for the society.

Nemaha County Historical Society Museum

Hours

Tuesdays—10 am to 4 pm

If Increment Weather, Call First

IN THIS ISSUE:

	<u>Page</u>
Thank You	1
Volunteers Needed	1
Online Archive	2
RENEW TODAY	2
Hybskman Truck	3
Old Dutch Mill	4
Korean War	5
Lake Nemaha	6
Membership Form	7
Sponsors	8

2021 OFFICERS

President:	Anita Heiman
Vice-President:	Ilene Enneking
Secretary:	Patty Byers
Treasurer:	Raymond Thieme
Membership:	Alma Ackerman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

N.C.H.S. VOLUNTEER STAFF

Diane Rottinghaus,	Tours: 785-336-2680
Ilene Enneking	Archivist-Curator
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

**PLEASE RENEW
TODAY!**

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.

Online Archive

Have you checked out the Archive link on our website? This link is a way to 'peek into' the collection of historical items in the museums.

- Using the KEYWORD SEARCH link, one can enter a family name, place or historical event to see what the society might have. This search is most productive if only one word or search term is used.
- Clicking on any one item will open the page containing the description of the item.
- Clicking on an image will open the image in a separate window. That window includes an option to "REQUEST IMAGE".
- Clicking on REQUEST IMAGE opens a form for you to enter your name and email address. Submitting this request sends an email to the society. When we receive these emails, we look up the photos and can send them back to the requestor. We do ask for a small donation to help us continue to provide this online access.

<https://nemahacountyhistoricalsociety.pastperfectonline.com/archive>

RENEW TODAY

It's that time of year — time to renew memberships. LIFE MEMBERS — Please consider sending a donation or a membership to help the society.

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

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

Nemaha County Communities in 1871

Seneca Weekly-Courier Feb 10, 1871

Wetmore

We have in this town 2 good general city stores; 1 drug store; 1 hardware store; 2 boot and shoe shops; 1 blacksmith shop; 1 butcher shop or meat market; 1 land agency, run by your humble servant; 1 hotel; 25 dwelling houses; 1 school house; 1 church; 2 saloons, or whisky shops; and about 175 persons, all told. I intend to build a dwelling or myself, and think there are several in contemplation. There is also a steam flouring mill in contemplation; also a church to be erected as soon as spring opens.

F.C.J.

Clear Creek

Is the name of a post office kept by Mr. W. W. Stewart, between Seneca and St. Bridgett. It is in Clear Creek township, near the confluence of Clear and turkey creek and the center of a heavy settlement of farmers, some of whom rank amongst the most wealthy in the county. Timber is plentier in this vicinity than in any other part of the county, and church and school facilities are good. The Central Branch Railroad owns a great deal of land in this vicinity.

Neuchatel

This is a French settlement in the extreme southwest corner of Nemaha county. It was settled, we believe, by a colony. A large store, dealing in nearby everything required by the settlers, is kept at this place. They are a very industrious and thrifty community. they are large stock and grain growers, and some of them have become quite wealthy. They came from the Swiss Cantons of France, and are intelligent and wide-awake citizens.

Capioma

Is situated near the east line of the county, about 10 miles south of the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad, and the same distance north of Central Branch Road. The town was laid out by Walter R. Gage and is located in one of the finest agricultural portions of the county. The farming land is generally good, and the facilities for stock raising No. 1.

It has one very fine store, two stories high, built of cut stone, occupied by Frank Hosteter & Bro, who keep a general assortment of merchandise. It also has a good hotel, Kept by W. R. Gate, one blacksmith shop, and a very fine two story school house. The finest orchard in Northern Kansas , is on the farm of Mr. Gage.

C. T. Whittenhall, Real Estate Broker has several thousand acres of very fine prairie for sale, well watered and timbered, in Capioma township. The agent here is Joshua Bushnell. Lands here range form \$5 to \$7.50 per acre. T.

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

Korean War

Courier Tribune April 26, 1951

Bronze Star for Heroism for Sgt. Joseph Becker

Mrs. Margaret Becker, 2420 Fillmore, Topeka, received the Bronze Star Medal for heroism, for her son Sgt. Joseph L. Becker, in a ceremony at the ORC Armory in Topeka last evening. The medal was awarded to Sgt. Becker for heroism on September 18, 1950, while he was serving with the 61st Field Artillery, First Cavalry Division in Korea. Major Paul E Hagemeyer presented the medal to Mrs. Becker and special military honors were provided by troops of the 881st Transportation Truck Battalion.

Sgt. Becker has been missing in action in Korea since November 2 of last year, Mrs. Becker received a telegram November 11, 1950, reporting him missing. No further word has been received.

Courier Tribune June 28, 1951

Service Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Largent have received word of new overseas addresses of their son, Cpl. Gale Largent and his wife Cpl. Marty J. Largent. Marty is stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, her address is Cpt. Marty J. Largent, WA 8104729 Co D 7888 Sp Trps Hqs. EUCOM, APO 403, New York, N.Y. Gale has been sent to Korea and his address is Cpl. Gale Largent, RA-1722658, 660th MP Co., c/o PM, San Francisco, Calif.

S/Sgt. Edward H. Fangman has notified this office, of his change of address. He had been sent to Tripoli, Libya, and writes that the weather there is hot, but otherwise, nice.. His new overseas address is S/Sgt. Edward H. Fangman, AF 172104147, 1603rd Air Base Squadron, 1603rd Air Base Grp., APO 231, c/o PM, New York, N.Y. Sgt. Fangman is the son of Mrs. Johnanna Fangman, Seneca.

Pfc. Jack Fangman has returned to duty after an 18-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fangman of Seneca. Jack's new address is: Pfc. Jack Fangman, 7th A.F.D.S., box 5500, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Pfc. Kenneth J. Rethman, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Rethman, Baileyville has the following change of address: Pfc Kenneth J. Rethman, AF 26950552 Bldg. No 6, 3459 school squadron, Le Tourneau Tech. Inst. Longview, Texas.

Word has been received that Pvt. Leonard E. McGinty has been sent overseas and now has the following address: Pvt. Leonard E. McGinty, US 55088045 Prov. Co. SE 1304, APO No. 613, Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif. Pvt. McGinty is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John McGinty, Seneca.

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

C.C.C. Camp

Courier Tribune September 17, 1934

Make Ready for the Camp

Ask Bids on Material

Construction at Site Begins Today,

—Lieut. R. L. Harris, Fort Riley in Charge

The actual construction of a \$30,000 C.C.C. camp at the Nemaha county lake site begins today.

Lieut. R. L. Harris, Fort Riley, came to Seneca Friday with Col. W. C. Christy, executive officer to the commanding general at Fort Riley. Lieut. Harris will have charge of construction of the camp. He started Friday to visit local dealers, handing out forms on which the dealers will put their bids for furnishing lumber, hardware, plumbing, wiring and similar supplies to go into the making of the camp. Lieut. Harris expected to begin picking up the bids today. Ten laborers were called by the Re-employment office to begin work today. Twenty will be used beginning tomorrow.

The first work will include digging holes for and pouring concrete to make concrete footings for the buildings.

Lieut. Harris wants all available Nemaha county carpenters as soon as lumber arrives. Carpenters will receive 60c an hour, carpenter helpers 40c. Common labor is getting 30c.

Colonel Christy said Friday that one company of C.C.C. boys would come from Atchison on October first.

The second company is to leave Minnesota on the fifth of the month and will thus arrive here not later than the seventh. The camp is to be ready by the time the boys' arrive.

Local labor, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, will be used during the construction. The men will be taken from re-employment lists from the office of Christ Sack.

Some definite estimate of the number of men which may be used in building the cap was gained Saturday when Mr. Sack received a letter from his district manager, Swan Swenson, Manhattan. Mr. Swenson referred to the Lone Star C.C.C. camp being built in Douglas county, near Lawrence, and stated 165 men had been given employment there, with 136 working at the time he wrote to Mr. Sack. Asked by a reporter if he could furnish a similar number of men here, Mr. Sack said he has a list of some 900 men on whom to call.

Continued on page 6

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

Now for a Brick Factory

Courier Democrat November 16, 1905

The latest business proposition up to Seneca is a brick plant. For a long time past, parties of experience in such matters have maintained that the blue shale that crops out in unlimited quantities immediately surrounding Seneca is first class material for the manufacture of brick. Some time ago George Shaul dug out a couple of sacks of this shale and shipped it to the brick plant at Peru, Nebraska, to be tested and burned. The bricks from this burning were received back last week and are of exceptionally fine quality. Mr. Dye, owner of the Peru plant, says that they are of as fine quality as he ever saw, and that the shale will burn into any kind of brick wanted, including the pressed brick for fine building, as well as vitrified brick for paving and walks. He has so much faith in it that he came down here with a proposition to form a stock company and move his plant here from Peru. As yet no definite steps have been taken, but in all probability a company will be organized here to erect a plant. Such a factory would employ probably 25 men for ten months in the year. The demand for the product is more than present companies can supply, and with unlimited quantities of material almost on the surface there is reason to believe that such a business would grow to great proportions. To start would take something like \$10,000. There is plenty of capital in Seneca to float the enterprise when convinced that it is as good as looks.

Continued for page 5

CCC Camp

Colonel Christy and Lieutenant Harris visited the camp site Saturday, noting the well which had been drilled under the water conservation program. The army men have been following progress of the well closely. About the only possibility now of any trouble with it would be impurity of water, not probable with the depth. The well is practically ready to turn over to the camp. It was completed as to depth last week, dug through the water-carrying gravel till a stratum of clay beneath was reached. Casting was lowered to the bottom and a specially-constructed galvanized metal tubing, perforated to form a screen to keep out gravel, was lowered inside. the casing later was pulled up eight or nine feet so water may be taken in through the perforated tubing. Chemical was placed in the well to counteract any pollution of the water due to drilling and form the casing and it is being pumped out today. the well is being finished just in time for it is needed for concrete work.

H. A. Lanning, county attorney, is preparing the transcript of the county bond issue to be sold soon. The issue will be advertised for sale to the best bidder.

The county began grading this morning on the new road leading one mile east from No. 63 to the Camp site. It will be surfaced later.

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

2022 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 \$ _____

Memorial (\$50/person) _____ \$ _____

[Name to be placed on memorial plaque]

Donations:

Military Museum \$ _____

Military Museum—Handicapped Restroom \$ _____

Military Museum—Restoring stucco on outside \$ _____

Society Needs \$ _____

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

2022 PLATINUM SPONSORS

Karen Holthaus

Peter Nelson

Michael Werner

2022 GOLD SPONSORS

Ag Partners
AHRS
Judy Deters
Eisenbarth Plumbing
Cathy Holthaus
Lie Care Center of Seneca
Nemaha Central Elementary Middle
School

Patrick & Brenda Oenbring
Robert Pillmeier
Margaret Rethman
Shirley Shurman
Anthony Sedlacek
Seneca Sanitation
Sure Crop Fertilizer
Suther Building Supply

William C O'Keefe Law Office
Jane Cox Willis
Young Backhoe & Trenching

2022 SILVER SPONSORS

American Legion
Doug & Monae Schmelzle

Veterans of Foreign Wars

2022 BUSINESS MEMBERS

Courier Tribune
Mary Cotton Public Library
Rainbow Communications

SBS Insurance
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