

PIONEER PRESS

Vol. 40 #1

March 2022

Step Up Nemaha County

Donate to the Historical Society - Match Day August 26, 2022

Make your plans now to support the Nemaha County Historical Society by donating to the STEP Foundation on Match Day, August 26, 2022.

During this day of community giving, donations to the historical society will be matched up to a set amount. Donors may give in person at the Seneca Free Library between 10 am and 6 pm or online at www.stepupnemaha.com on August 26th. Donations are tax-deductible.

We hope Match Day funds will support some of our major projects. One of those is the replacement of the foundation under the summer porch on the north side of the sheriff's residence, which is rotted.

A second project involves replacing the protective coverings over the two large circular stained glass windows in the military museum.

Tractor Cruise - July 30, 2022 - \$40/participant

Registration at Seneca City Park 9:30 am

Beginning at the City Park, the cruise will go down Main Street to the viaduct. From the viaduct, the cruise will continue W to 8th St. where it will turn S to 96th Road, then E to Kelly where lunch will be served in the Kelly parish hall. From Kelly, cruisers will travel to Heinen Brothers for a tour before returning to Seneca.

Contact Richard Schmitz for more information.

Upcoming Events

- July 30 —Tractor Cruise—Seneca to Kelly
- August 23—hosting tour group from Johnson County
- August 26—Step Up Nemaha County Match Day
- August 27—Seneca Fire Department 100th Celebration
- Sept. 15-17— Highway 36 Treasure Hunt

Nemaha County Historical Society Museum

Hours

Tuesdays—10 am to 4 pm

If Increment Weather, Call First

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2021 OFFICERS

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Vice-President:	Ilene Enneking
Secretary:	Patty Byers
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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

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[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

America

This town is jogging along after her old fashion, nothing of interest transpiring to break the monotony of every day occurrences. We have a good school, taught by Mr. Robert T. Hall, of Illinois, a young man of fair promises. The citizens organized a Lyceum early in the winter, and soon excited and have steadily maintained an unusual interest in their proceedings. R. C. Goodale, of Vermont, stopping here for the winter, took an active part in the meetings, but has recently been called home in consequence of the death of his father. The Misses Danley, Katie Midkelf, and others, added much to the entertainment.

We have two stores, each of which does a fair business. Our wagon and blacksmith shops are turning out wagons which find a ready sale at home. Here is a shoe shop, also a steam saw mill now in full operation. Many fine farms in the vicinity, well improved, and new ones constantly opening.

We have the best prospect for winter wheat ever seen anywhere. Hardly a farmer that has not more or less mostly from 20 to 40 acres, some 80; and one has 180 acres, all looking as well as possible at this season. All are preparing to plant an unusual breadth of corn land, and oats will not be neglected.

There is room for many more farmers here — choice, unimproved land at reasonable prices; timber and water in good supply; and stone coal within three miles. Rock of fine quality for building is abundant. It is remarked by many who have visited other parts of the State, that our lands are better than an average in the state, and held at only about half the price asked in much more remote parts. There is no doubt about this being the very place for emigrants seeking homes among an intelligent industrious class of people, where good schools are established, and only one hour's drive to a railroad station — on C.B.U.P.R.R. By the way, our old citizen N. b. McKay, has sold his residence here and is to remove to Corning, in the spring. May he prosper in undertaking. He still has two farms joining this town, which he says he don't propose to give away. He believes we will have a railroad here at no distant day — The Wamego, Seneca & Nebraska Railroad. May his faith not be in vain.

Wetmore Notes

Seneca Weekly Courier, August 25, 1871

Peter Shoemaker, of Wetmore, gave us a call last Friday. He informs us that business is brisk in the south-east corner. A large amount of grain is coming into town and bought by Rising & Son and Wm. Sweney. These parties have shipped as high as four car loads of wheat a day and their shipments will average from ten to fifteen car loads per week. The crops in the vicinity of Wetmore this season have been excellent.

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Korean War

Courier Tribune July 5, 1951

Report Death of a Soldier

Sgt. Robert Wichman

Brief Word Here to His Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wichman

A Seneca family, the Ben Wichmans, had word this week of the death of their son, Sgt. Bob Wichman, in the Korean war.

Only a brief message had been received at near noon today. The message from the war department stated that a letter would follow.

Sergeant Wichman had earlier been reported to the family as missing since the 13th of February. As time went by they could only hope for the best but they knew that bad news might come.

Sergeant Wichman was with the 2nd Division, serving in heavy artillery. Near Christmas time he had his hands frozen, and was sent back of the lines for a time. He wrote a letter a few days before he was reported missing, of being in the thick of things again.

Bob had given the address of his sister, Gerry, to some of his buddies, and some had written letters to her. After Bob was reported missing, she wrote to them, hoping that someone could give definite word to the family. Those letters have been returned, with the notation, missing in action, indicating there may have been heavy casualties in Bob's group.

It is believed he is the only man of Nemaha county who is reported to have lost his life in Korea. Sgt. Joseph Becker, whose mother lives at Topeka, has been listed as missing.

Bob, or Robert J., to use his full name, grew up in this community, went to school here, was a fine boy, made a lot of friends.

He joined the army several years ago for a three-year enlistment, then was out and worked at Omaha about six months, then re-enlisted two years ago in April. He was stationed first at El Paso, then sent to Korea in July of last year. He had attained the rank of master sergeant. He would have been 24 years of age September 22 of this year.

While at El Paso, Bob and Emma Gorey of Carlsbad, New Mexico, were married May 13, 1950. His bride has lived at Carlsbad since Bob was sent overseas. She came here for several weeks visit with his people last fall.

Bob has two brothers, Charles, who farms near Seneca, and Cletus of Holton. His sisters are Dolores, who is Mrs. Lynn Hook of Denver, Alda, who is Mrs. Dave Shimic of Aurora, Colo., and Miss Gerry, at the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wichman, Seneca. Dolores and Alda are home at the present, helping their folks through a sad time.

There is nothing definite just now about a service for Sgt. Wichman. The letter to be received by the family may tell if the family can expect his remains will be returned here.

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C.C.C. Camp

Courier Tribune October 1, 1934

First Camp Here Today

From Armour, MO.

The First C.C.C. Company has 175 Men — Second Arrives Oct. 6th with 180 Men

The first camp of youths of the Civilian Conservation Corps, assigned to Nemaha County for the purpose of building a lake-park arrived in Seneca at 2:30 today. The company is composed of 175 men. It is commanded by Captain C. M. Spencer and Lieut Robert P. Aikman. The medical officer is Lieut. Donald R. Alverson.

Work on the dam will be super intended by Forester Pinartz, assisted by eight civilian engineers.

The second company will arrive from Deer River, Minnesota, Saturday, October 6th at 3 p.m. It is composed of 180 men.

Station Agent George Riffer received word late last week the first company would arrive in four coaches and two large baggage cars, coming to Seneca from Armour, Mo., a town on the Burlington, southeast of Atchison.

He said the second company is traveling here from Deer River, Minnesota, in five coaches and two baggage cars. Deer River is a short way northwest of Grand Rapids, Michigan and 150 miles north of Minneapolis.

Hundreds of persons visited the park yesterday where eight building in No. 1 camp are not entirely enclosed. The cars filled all the parking space. But two of the four barracks in No. 1 camp are enclosed so part of the boys will make temporary quarters in the mess hall and recreation building.

The incomplected camp buildings make former service men think of conditions at Camp Funston back in the fall of 1917. The boys at the Nemaha county park probably will spend several days policing up. They will live under some inconvenience at first, since the water supply is not yet connected.

Pete Waller is superintending the wiring of No. 1 camp. Wenzel W. Waller has the materials bill.

Killed in Action

The Courier-Tribune, May 21, 1945

George E. Kohake

Former Kelly Youth Had

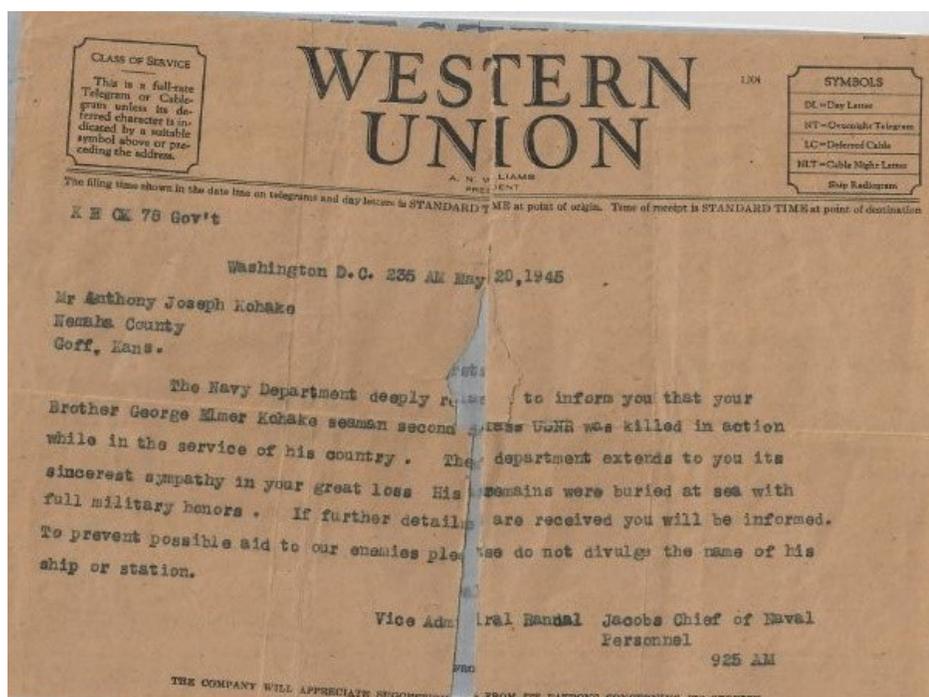
Served Since October

Anthony Kohake, Kelly, received word today that his brother, George Elmer, seaman second class in the U.S. Navy, had been killed in action. The message came from Vice-Admiral Randal Jacobs, chief of navy personnel. No details were given, however the telegram stated the remains were buried at sea.

George was about 20 years old. He was home in January after finishing his boot training at Great Lakes. He reported to Shoemaker soon after that time and was assigned to a cruiser in the Pacific. The young navy man was the second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kohake. His step-mother, six brothers and one sister survive and live in the Kelly-Goff community.

George graduated from the Goff high school and later worked for his uncle, George Lierz. He has two brothers in service, Pvt. Carl Kohake, at Camp Maxey, Texas, and Cyril, Gunners Mate 1st class, on a ship in the Pacific.

The Kohake family is planning a memorial service to be held at St. Bede's Church, Kelly, next week. A definite date will be announced 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

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Nemaha County Historical Society

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P.O. BOX 41
Seneca, KS. 66538

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED