

# 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*

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### 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.

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**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>

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**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>

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**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.

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## 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.

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*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.

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## 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*

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## 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.

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*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.

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# 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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## 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](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)

We are on the Web at:  
[www.nemahacountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistoricalsociety.com)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**