

The Clark County Historical Society

P.O. 862 Ashland, KS 67831
620-635-2227

November 2015

<http://www.pioneer-krier.com/>

Board of Directors

George Krier, Woody Woodruff, Denny Denton, Gary White, Jeff Krier, Mike Strodman
Tony Maphet "Curator"

Museum News

There were many tourists this year traveling around the state visiting sites in Kansas. Some were touring museums only. We were told several times that our museum was the most interesting they had found. We have a wide range of subjects, and all visitors said they found something of great interest to them. Our attendance is good, and many visitors have been on our web site.

On November 3, we received news that the Krier Airplane will be delivered on Friday November 6, 2015.



We will be going ahead with getting ready to receive it in Museum in the coming weeks. It will be placed in a hanger at airport and moved to

museum shortly thereafter.

The hanger door on the Museum will need some improvements to accommodate this, as well as to seal out the weather especially the winter weather.

This door is a large door to accommodate aircraft. The Board is working on solving this issue.

Our existing door has been on the building since the early 1970's and is in need of repair. The exterior panels are about to totally fail and the frame has to be supported with a large post in the middle to keep the wind from blowing it in.

We are working to find finances to put a new door with insulation and seals to keep weather out. This is our last major scheduled repair as we have brought the buildings up to date in the past few years.



This is a picture of the new door we need.

The Museum has experienced some serious changes this past year. The loss of two board members Milton Hughes and Jim Baker. We also miss Don Howell who was a past member and continued spending time helping. In addition to the help support problems, we are being tasked very heavily with the loss of funds for operations this year. The funds used to pay operation expenses are down by nearly 28 %, which was already at a minimum operating level. We are working hard to hold our costs in line. Due to our support being down, it has caused us to have a critical shortage for this years end.

We have a wonderful Museum, and it is here because of the support of its members. We look forward to all of the members and friends coming in to visit the museum. We would like to find more volunteers to spend time in the museum. If anyone would like to donate some time there are many opportunities and interesting things to do.

Early Clark County Kansas

There were many interesting early settlers in Clark County Kansas. Some of the history of the western part of Clark county had events that effected a very large geographical area in Kansas and what is now Oklahoma today. Cont. page 2

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Sam Kiger

In the beginning of the 1880's a cowboy named Sam Kiger came to Clark County, Ks. and settled on a claim which became known as Kiger creek.. It was located fourteen miles north of Englewood, Kansas. At the south end of a grove of trees he built a dugout and covered it with poles from the grove. This was near the later headquarters of Bill Mull.



The K ranch later operated this area and was owned by Doc Day who ran cattle over a vast area of Clark County and Beaver County, Oklahoma, down to the Beaver river. Kiger was also one of the Day's cowboys. He had also worked for the Diamond Bar outfit. In later years Sam moved to Crooked Creek south of Meade where he passed away.

Just west of Sam's grove of trees and dugout, there was a trail over which all the lumber and freight were hauled to build Englewood and Old Gate City and Benton, Oklahoma (on the Beaver River just east of present day Beaver Oklahoma).

There were several small town that sprang up in our area. Such as Clark City, Cash City, Appleton, and most were located in Kansas. One small town in No Mans Land not many here have heard of was Benton. There is nothing left of Benton to see today. Benton sprang up from the early

traders, and buffalo hunters. It sprang up on the Beaver river just east of present day Beaver Oklahoma. In the 1860's it was complete with several hotels and a store. Stables then were standard! It was a real old Historic western town.

The trail ran west of the K ranch and on into Dodge City. South of the K ranch the trail forked and the northeast trail passed near the Old Egg Half Diamond Ranch, now the Denton Ranch. The southwest trail crossed the Cimarron river at the mouth of Horse Creek southwest of Englewood which was known as the Garrett crossing.

The Cimarron river channel changed over the years and other crossings were built such as the Bearnds and Maphet crossings. This is the same area that the present day head of the Ditch Valley ditch gets water from the river. This ditch was started in 1895 by T. R. "Dick" Maphet, W. H. Garret, J. W. Severe, J. H. Williamson, J. W. Lampman, J.M. Lampman, J.M. Fox, and Jacob Wolf. They named the company the Settlers Milling Canal and Reservoir Company, it was started with capitol stock of \$25,000.00.

The ditch is still in use today as an irrigation water source for farms located on the ditch's path.

K Ranch

The K ranch was originally established by Hunter & Evans about 1870. They were from St. Louis and set up head quarters near the Mull ranch 12 miles west of Ashland. This ranch operated for several years and had one of the largest cattle herds brought in from south Texas.

They contracted with John Chisum of the Pecos River country to purchase 65,000 long horns. Chisum was to bring some out of New Mexico and Texas to them. Upon delivery he was to be paid. They paid him with Chisum's own notes they had bought very cheap from debits Chisum had made from business deals in South Texas.

Chisum was upset and threatened to bring in his cowboys and gunmen's to settle the dispute. One of his cowboys that delivered the cattle was "Billy" the Kid. After a time Chisum took it like a man and settled with his own notes as payment for the cattle. This account was told by Lon Ford in later times.

First wedding

The first legal wedding in Clark County was Mr. Leonard Cross and Miss Dora Alice Reynolds of Bluff Creek precinct. Performed by Justice of Peace, C. E. Beatty on July 11, 1885.

THE TELEPHONE COMPANY

The first telephone company was a community organization with E.A. Shattuck, president, and H.C. Mayse, secretary. A stockholders meeting of the Ashland Telephone Co. was held on March 4, 1905. A switch board was ordered from Rochester, N.Y., and soon lines were established in the community, and a public phone installed in the telephone office, or "central," which was in the Hank Mayse store building where the Hensley sisters operated the Hensley Millinery Store. The girls tended the store and switch boards for Ashland's ten telephones. By June 1, 1905, there were 80 subscribers with lines extended to Lexington, Protection, and to the west.

In the *Clark County Clipper* of Feb. 23, 1905, Mr. Mayse reminded the public of "a few rules that must be observed". "If you want us to run errands for you, you must clear the lines by hanging up your phones when we notify you that the line is needed. Don't hang onto the phones to hear, there are so many phones that when they are all down we are unable to call or talk to anyone. When you answer a call don't say "It's me." Tell me who you are or else hang up or shut up. And no whistling or yelling into the phone. Remember these if you want us to act as "central."

In 1917, John Stephens built the telephone building which in later years was purchased to become the Ashland Library.

The Museum and the Salvation Army

In the past Milton Hughes was the Salvation Army Officer for Clark County. He has served for many years as the contact for anyone with needs that the Salvation Army can assist with. We want to thank all those who helped with this service and donated to the needs of the County residents. Tony Maphet has agreed to take the position and to continue with Milton's work with the Salvation Army.

Anyone wishing to contribute can contact the Museum and Tony will be the contact person. Phone 620-635-2227. Keep in mind that your donations are used in our community and Clark County. This is one of the only programs that puts back in our community the funds that are donated.

New sign post at Museum

We have two new sign marker post in front of the museum. One is for the Great Western Cattle Trail which is designated as a national monument marker. The other is the Dodge City Supply Rd. which served the Indian territory and Ft. Supply, Oklahoma.

The trail driving era of delivering Texas longhorns to the north was short-lived---less than a lifetime. After the Civil War, four major cattle trails were used, three of which passed through Kansas. The Great Western Cattle Trail was the last of these four, but it lasted longer, went a further distance, and carried more cattle than all three of its predecessors put together, over six million longhorns.

GREAT WESTERN CATTLE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

National Convention in Dodge City, Kansas August 4-7, 2016

There will be tours including:

Clark County/Fort Supply Redoubts; Bozidine Great Western Trail Ruts



Endowment Fund

The Pioneer Museum is grateful to those who have remembered us by making contributions to the newly established endowment fund. This can be done with individual contributions and through estate planning. This fund has grown each year. Hopefully some day this fund will have grown to the point that it will support the museum.

Pioneer-Krier Museum
P. O. Box 862
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Return Service Requested

Visit our Web Site at

<http://www.pioneer-krier.com/>

You can tour the Museum, read past new letters and links to other important Kansas sites.

**Join the
Clark County Historical Society**

Lifetime Memberships are only \$25.00

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Please send to:
Clark County Historical Society
P. O. Box 862
Ashland, Kansas 67831

Phone: 620-635-2227
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**Yes, I would like to help the
Clark County Historical Society.**

Enclosed is my donation of
\$_____ to be used for the Pioneer-
Krier Museum.

(Please make checks payable to the Clark County
Historical Society.)

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Mail to: Clark County Historical Society
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