

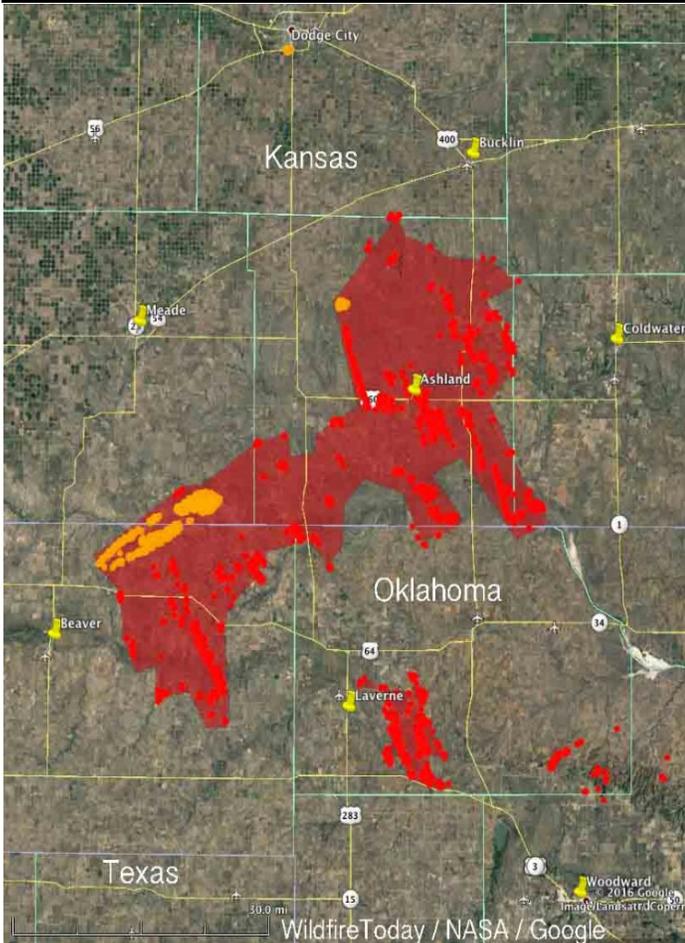
# The Clark County Historical Society

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

November 2017  
<http://www.pioneer-krier.com/>

## Board of Directors

George Krier, Denny Denton, Gary White, Jeff Krier, Mike Strodman, Greg Goodnight, Judy Vashus  
Tony Maphet "Curator"



### Star Buck Fire of 2017

The fire burned in the following counties: in Oklahoma, Beaver and Harper; in Kansas, Clark, Meade, Comanche counties. The largest fire started east of Beaver, Oklahoma and ran to the northeast through Beaver County to Clark County Kansas. Ashland, which is 40 miles away, had to be evacuated. Wind gust in some areas at over 60 mph and accompanied by low relative humidity's, any wildfires that were ignited spread very rapidly, and often exceeded the capabilities of firefighters. This fire has devastated many ranchers in the area from losses

that are beyond anyone's imagination. The ranchers have lost Homes, countless numbers of cattle, miles of fencing, hay and equipment. It will take along time for this to be recovered. Many will loose production income for future years as not all burned area will recover in a timely fashion.

There has been a large volunteer group that has spent timeless hours cleaning up and removing debris. This is important in order to start rebuilding the structures and fences across the area.

George Geissler, the Director of Oklahoma Forestry Services, announced that the total fires that day was of 3 fire sources, together these three fires have burned over 833,941 acres. There were 2 smaller fires in Laverne and Selman at the same time as the big fire in Oklahoma panhandle and Clark County.

The beginning of 2017 has hit our area with



record devastations.

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## Clark County Kansas

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There was the ice storm in January which caused extensive repair of power lines and other destruction. South Englewood and Beaver, Co. Oklahoma reported 16,000 power poles down in the ice storm.

A few weeks later we were hit with the largest fire ever recorded in the area. Several of the rancher in the county still have fence building going on late this year. Several homes are in the process of rebuilding as well as damage to other structures.

There were many volunteer and organization that has aided in the losses. Such as The Ashland Community Foundation, WRCA, Kansas Livestock Foundation, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Farm Bureau as well as others.

The governors of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas have declared emergencies, and members of Congress from the affected states have toured the damaged area and promised help.

One death and 11 injuries were attributed to the fires. The state said that more than 40 homes and an unknown number of outbuildings were destroyed, also said three bridges in Clark County and one in Meade County were destroyed.

Although volunteer help did arrive. Thousands of donated hay bales, to feed surviving animals have been rolling into town on tractor-trailers.

Firefighters arrived from Colorado to help contain and extinguish the blaze. Farming and ranching groups from across the Great Plains sent fence wire and new metal posts to start rebuilding fences. Several 4-H clubs and National FFA Organization chapters drove down to help with the cleanup, staying at the Ashland church camp and homes around the towns of Ashland, Meade and Protection.

Most ranchers felt the political response to the fires showed that Washington was "out of touch with our area.

Ranchers said the cattle they had lost were worth more than the \$2,000 at an auction price. At about \$10,000 per mile, new fencing alone may cost ranchers serious debts to repair or replace fence. Insuring livestock and so much fence was impossibly expensive and is unaffordable in the ranching operations.

The town of Englewood, population of about 80, probably suffered the most damage per capita of any town in Kansas in the largest wildfire to ever burn across the state. The fires missed Ashland. It got within a half-mile on almost all sides of town. An outstanding fire department can be credited for all its efforts through out the county.

The drought and dust storms of the 1930s was tough. Even drier times in the 1950s and then about five years ago it was very dry also. Blizzards in 1992 killed a lot of cattle. The disaster of the past year will be remembered like the past times.



### Michigan Volunteers

This is one of many groups of volunteers, a 4-H from Michigan. They worked in several groups to help clean up after the fire, by removing fence material and other debris so rebuilding could begin.

### Museum projects

#### Displays

A group of local members are looking into putting together a interactive display in the Museum. It would be a record of the county fire of 2017. We had a meeting to discuss some of the ideas for the display and how to present it. Since this is very much a part of our area history it will go well with the museum collections. If someone has something that could contribute to this project get in touch with the museum and it will be considered for the project.

#### Lighting project

At the last annual meeting we announced a project to update the lights through out the museum. The old florescent lighting has become expensive to maintain as ballast and bulb cost have risen. The project is to replace the lights with led type lighting and we are working on this as funds come available.

## Western Cattle Trail Association

The Western Cattle Trail Association is a non-profit organization. The mission is to preserve and promote the unique heritage and culture of the cattle drive era on the Western trail in the late 1800's.

The Western Trail lasted longer and went a further distance, carried more cattle than all the predecessors trails put together, over six million long-horn cattle came up the trail. This trail came from south Texas and continued north as far as Canada.

It is very much a part of Kansas history and also our local County history. The trail came through the heart of Clark and Ford Counties and has had a long term impact on ranching industry in our area.

The Cattle Trail Organization is holding a meeting on January 18, 2018 at 7pm, in Dodge City to work out the details of the organization. Anyone that would enjoy being involved in a quality national historical organization is invited. Send question to [originalhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:originalhaus@yahoo.com)



This skull was painted by local artist Eva McPhail and donated to museum to sell to support Museum. Send your bid to Museum bx 862 Ashland Kansas. 67831, by Dec. 15, 2017.

## Museum news

The Museum has experienced some challenges this past year. Several supporters and board members have passed away, all who contributed time and help in the day to day operations of the Museum.

The natural disasters in our county this past year has put a very heavy strain on all of the organizations in the area. The Museum is not without exception.

We are being tasked very heavily with the loss of funds for operations these past several years. Our income has declined seriously, and the funds used to pay operation expenses are down by nearly 30 %, which was already at a minimum operating level. We are working hard to hold our costs in line.

The normal donation though the past year are far below any thing we have experienced in many years. This is due to the area having such great devastating losses.

We look forward to the support of all members to help with the critical shortage for this year's operating cost.

Our visitor are up, based on the number of people that have been working in the area over the past few months. All this has brought a lot of new attention to the Museum with new visitors.

Bringing back the Krier airplane has brought in many visitors from other areas. Several groups and individuals have made a special trip to the museum to see the plane and visit the Krier collections.

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.

Any one interested in volunteering to help in the museum will find it a interesting and rewording experience. If anyone would like to volunteer, there are many opportunities and several area that one can put their talents to work. Stop by and see what you find interesting.

### Endowment Fund

The Pioneer Museum is grateful to those who have remembered us by making contributions to the endowment fund. Contribution marked for the fund will be placed in the 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  
Ashland, KS. 67831  
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  
(Cut out and mail)

**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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