

# The Clark County Historical Society

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

November 2014  
<http://www.pioneer-krier.com/>

Board of Directors  
Jim Baker, Milton Hughes, George Krier, Mike Harden, Woody Woodruff, Denny Denton, Gary White  
Tony Maphet "Curator"



**Girl Scout House**

The Ashland Girl Scout House is now 75 years old. Construction on the house began in October, 1937 and the house was built of native stone. Several organizations and individuals in the community either helped or donated to the project. It was submitted as a WPA unit and labor was approved to build the house. The house has been submitted to be placed on the national register.

Terrie Luckie, Sarah Martin, Doug Graff and Tony Maphet met with a representative from the Kansas Historical Society. They surveyed the building making recommendations for getting it qualified to be submitted for nomination for the register. They indicated there could be a good chance it could be approved. The building was donated to the city of Ashland several years ago and not much has been done to preserve it.

## **Clark County Historical Society**

The History of Clark County and Ashland's history has been saved. The Clark County Historical Society was created in July 1939 to conserve the memories of the earliest pioneers. It was formally set up as a Legal Society in 1949 and stayed in the Court House basement until the Pioneer-Krier Museum was built in 1968, as a result of the Historical Society dedication to historical preservation. Six printed volumes of Notes on Early Clark County, Kansas and The Ashland centennial, the story of its First 100 years, 1884-1984 are some of the books that have documented the past history of the communities of Clark County Kansas.

*This newsletter highlights some of the events of the past.*

## **A quote from the book Social Changes in Clark County 1885.**

Clark County's besetting sin in the early days, was the floating of bonds. The people would vote to indebt themselves and their posterity on nearly any pretext. Their motto seemed to be, "sufficient unto the day, is the evil thereof". These bond or mortgages seem to be based on speculative venture and obligated several generations of its citizens into financial obligations through the bond issues. *Note it seems we are trying to relive some of those mistakes today.*

### **Inside this issue:**

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### The early formation of Kansas Counties

The area known today as Kansas, Colorado and part of New Mexico was included in the Missouri Land Territory. This area was cut off in 1821 when Missouri became a state. The land west of Missouri at that time had no name and stretched westward to the Rocky Mountains.

In 1854 the government established Fort Leavenworth and thus organized the Kansas Territory by a bill named the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. Kansas was admitted to the union in 1861 with its adopted anti-slavery resolution.

The Name Kansas is taken from a Kaw or Kanza Indian meaning People of the South Wind. In 1860 there were a few counties set up and a county Peketon, was among them. Peketon county included the western two-thirds of Kansas Territory and extended on into Colorado. We are not sure where the name came from or why. Most think it has a Indian origin maybe a Indian chief.

There were 12 people who got together in 1860 and formally organized the county and held elections, mainly for law enforcement reasons. Also there were 11 elected offices to be held of the 12 voters and the last was William Mathewson was made judge, he was the original Buffalo Bill.

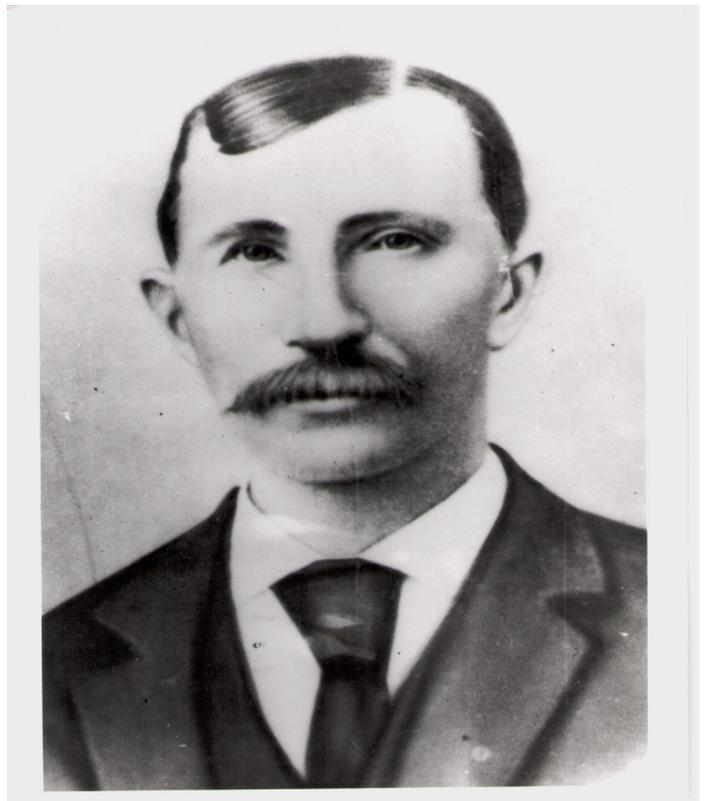
In 1867, an Act of law provided for a division of all unorganized portions of the state and one of the counties was formed called Ford County. Again in 1873 laws changed and the boundary of Ford was changed and this included what is now Ford, Meade, part of Grey and all of Clark counties. This change held until 1887 when Ford county was reduced to its current boundaries of today. Thus the counties of Clark, Meade and Grey were defined and still hold today. One of the early Sherriff's was Pat Sughrue who served for many years as Ford County's sheriff. His brother Mike Sughrue also served as Clark County Sherriff for several years. Pat was killed by being plunged down and open elevator shaft of the Copeland Hotel in Topeka while he was attending a political Convention. There were several lawless events in the early settlement of Clark County mostly from 1884 through the early 1890's and Mike Sughrue was called upon to settle disputes. Most of the gun play ended after that era.

### Clark County Clipper, August 13, 1885 Killed at a Dance at Englewood.

News reached here Saturday of a shooting scrape in Englewood which resulted in the death of a cowboy from the Territory by the name of S. P. Scland.

It seems that a dance was in progress and among others present were W. T. and Chas. I. Peck, brothers, formerly from Anthony, but now in the mercantile business at Vesta. About 12 or 1 o'clock the Peck boys drove their team up to go home, when Scalland, who is suppose to have been drinking, came out and ask what they were going to do, and when told objected. One word brought on another, a quarrel ensued and Scalland struck Charles Peck over the head with his pistol which was followed by a number of rapid shots on both sides, two of which took effect in Scalland's back and bowels, resulting in death Saturday evening.

County Attorney McCartney and Deputy Sheriff Wade went down Monday morning to attend the preliminary hearing, which resulted in the Peck brothers each being bound over in the sum of \$500.



Michael Sughrue, Sheriff during 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1897 and 1889

Clark County Clipper, October 16, 1884  
**A Close Call.**

A shooting affray occurred yesterday at the "K" ranch, twelve miles southwest, in which one man was shot and his horse was killed from under him.

The parties were a cowboy, named McVickers, from Johns ranch and J. W. Anderton, foreman at the "K" ranch.

It appears that for some time there has been a dispute about the range, Johns claiming Anderton's territory. Besides this, both filed on the claim on which the "K" ranch is located, though McVickers did not pretend to live on it, and Anderton says he never spoke to him until yesterday, when they were rounding up their cattle. They had some short words regarding the moving of some of their herds. McVickers became enraged, and rode off after his pistol, saying he would kill Anderton. In a short time he returned to where Anderton was sitting on his horse, with his leg thrown over the horn of his saddle, talking with a number of the round-up outfit. No one suspected that he meant to carry out his threat, but within ten feet of Anderton he began shooting at him. The first shot struck in his hat band, plowing a furrow in the left side of his head to the skull. The second passed through the crown of his hat at the top, just missing his head, while the third struck his horse in the shoulders, killing him almost instantly.

Recovering from the momentary shock of the first shot, Anderton righted himself in the saddle, grabbed his pistol, and the two exchanged shots till their six shooters were empty. McVickers then rode off, reloaded, and started back, but a young man named Beverly covered him with his pistol and stopped further trouble.

Mr. Anderton has the reputation of being quiet and inoffensive. He came in last evening, and Dr. Stockinger dressed the wound, which is not thought to be dangerous

### Museum News

The Museum has had many visitors this summer from all across the country. Our attendance is up as there have been vacationers finding our web site and stopping in to visit the museum. We hope this trend will continue.

The Museum has been tasked very heavily with the loss of funds for operations this year. The funds used to pay operation expenses are down by nearly 24 %, which was already at a minimum operating level. As always there are increases in cost as time goes on, and the family incomes have been hit hard by all those changes. We are working hard to hold our costs in line. Due to our support being down it has caused us to have a severe 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. It is also our hope to find more volunteers to spend time in the museum. In the past many have worked different projects that have made the museum a success. If anyone would like to donate some time there are many opportunities and interesting things to do.

1. *Ashland Clipper*, July 17, 1913

On July 15th, 1913, occurred the 86th birthday of Mr. George W. Curtis, an old Mexican Soldier, and veteran of the Civil War, the father of Mrs. M. G. Stevenson. Invitations were sent out to all the old soldiers of the town and vicinity, to assemble at the home of Mrs. Stevenson in honor of her father's birthday, and to partake of a six o'clock dinner. Those who responded to the invitation, and whose hearts were made glad by the kindly consideration shown them by the hostess were: Daniel Snyder, David Deffenbaugh, W. H. Swayze, Byron Clark, Isaac N. Cassity, W. N., Wallingford, Manford Brown, F. R. Kerns, John H. Brown, Jacob Haindel, John Good, David Santee, H. V. Ingram, J. H. Sawyers and A. B. McNickle with Comrade Curtis, sixteen in all. Two out of the number had received wounds during their service.

### 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  
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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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