

Pratt County Historical Society

March 2010 Newsletter

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Mon – Fri 1 to 4 Sat – Sun 1 to 3

Email: pchsmuseum@sctelcom.net Website: prattcountymuseum.org

President: Marvin Proctor Secretary: Marjorie Buck
Vice President: Ulanda Stiebben Treasurer: Thad Henry
Other Board Members: Darrel Brehm, Marion Fiegel, Don Fincham, Madeline Martin,
Jerry Seimens, Gary Skaggs, Ulanda Stiebben and Rose Wehling
Curator: Marsha Brown Office Manager: Sandra Hetrick PR Chairman: Eunice Proctor

2010 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

It's that time of year, again! Time for the annual membership meeting of the Pratt County Historical Society. These years are going by WAY too fast! Get your calendars out and highlight Sunday March 21st so that you won't plan anything else that day. The meeting will begin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the museum.

There is only one position on the Board to be filled this year, as Thad Henry and Darrell Brehm have decided to stay for another term of three years.

The nominating committee chose Tim Kuhn to fill the position that Rose Wehling has held for the past few years.

Tim graduated from Fort Hays State, with a history degree and taught history and government for a few years, before coming to Pratt in 1984.

He had many jobs in the school system after he arrived in Pratt – Counselor and Activity Director and Assistant Principal at Liberty Middle School, and Assistant Principal and Principal at Pratt High School. He retired in 2008. His wife, Faye, recently retired, herself, after being the Principal at Southwest Elementary School.

Tim enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities—gardening, bee keeping, water skiing and hunting.

Other nominations for the open position will be accepted from the floor. President Marvin Proctor will ask for votes to be voiced and the new board member will be welcomed.

Marvin will give his "State of the Historical Society and Museum" report and discuss upcoming projects for the museum.

Instead of having a speaker this time, we are going to have a less formal open discussion, during which the members who are in attendance will be asked how they came to be in Pratt County—be it through generations of their family, to moving here for a job. Each person will be limited to just a few minutes, as to accommodate everyone. Also, during this time, members will be able to ask questions or reminisce about something in Pratt County history. Afterward, refreshments will be served.

So, come join us for a fun afternoon and get to know the people you thought you knew, even better!

SEE YOU SUNDAY, MARCH 21st AT 2 O'CLOCK !!!



CENTURY CLUB OF FAMILY FARMS UPDATE

The Historical Society has, in the past, kept a record of the Century Farms in Pratt County. These are farms that are still owned and being farmed by the same family who homesteaded it a hundred years ago or more.

If you have registered in the past, want to register now, or will want to register in the near future, please contact the Historical Society. We need to update our records and construct a new map of the county showing the farms. This is an exclusive club to be a member of, and everyone who IS a member should be very proud of their family heritage. Congratulations, everyone!

GALLERY ONE CEILING TILE FUND CONTINUES

The ceiling tile fund is still in need of more donations. We thank those of you who have already contributed.

The estimated date to begin the removal and replacement of tiles is the end of March or the first part of April. The guys are anxious to get started, if Mother Nature will cooperate and have warm weather during those days. Some of the tile will need to be cut, and the guys would like to do that in the alley behind the museum, so as they don't make a mess in the back room.

MUSEUM'S OLD TIME MAIN STREET

Many years ago, it was in the plans of the museum, to have buildings on both sides of the Main Street Gallery. Between the Yapple Hotel and the Ice House were plans for two or three more buildings. These buildings would have to be facades, like the Yapple Hotel, and could not be entered into like the ones on the other side of Main Street. Money and supplies ran out before the project could be finished, so the plans were put on the "back burner".

The opportunity to complete Main Street has now come. And, you all know what they say when "opportunity knocks."

We have received permission to take the old siding and a few windows from some old houses that are going to be torn down in the very near future.

Some of the "other guys around here" who aren't on the ceiling tile committee, are getting anxious in their own ways, to get started on their project. Mother Nature comes into play, again, with them, too. It can be pretty cold in that gallery, so this plan is still just that.... A plan. Although, they will begin taking the siding off the houses in the next week or so. If it doesn't rain.....

There will still be need for other materials to complete the project. Therefore, we are asking our members to help us by contributing to the "Finish Main Street" campaign.

We know that it always seems like that we are asking for donations for this project or that project. Normally, we would only take on one project at a time. But, as mentioned before, the opportunity to get the siding from these old houses came while we were talking about the ceiling tile in Gallery One.

We could not turn that down. All it is costing us is the manpower and time to get the job done with the houses.

The buildings on the other side of the old-time Main Street were also made from houses and buildings that were being torn down years ago. The old siding with the paint coming off, just adds character to the stores and offices on the boardwalk.

We are also looking for an old wood screendoor, preferable with fretwork, for the outside door for one of the buildings. If you have one stashed back somewhere, or know of someone who has one, contact the museum office.

There is going to be a lot of commotion going on around the museum for the next few months. So, please excuse any messes that might show up. But, we can guarantee that it will all be worth it by the time all the projects get done! Thanks to all who choose to help!

PRATT COUNTY NEWSPAPERS ON MICROFILM

We are very happy to report that through some very generous donations from our members, we now have all the Pratt County newspapers that the Kansas State Historical Society has on microfilm. (With the exception of the Pratt Tribunes, which the Pratt Public Library has.)



A list of the newspapers on microfilm that are now in the museum's research library:

Byers Journal	June 1915 to Sep 1919
The Citizen (Pratt)	Oct 1902 to Dec 1902
The Coats Courant	Aug 1905 to Apr 1948
Cullison Banner	Apr 1886 to Mar 1888
Cullison Let's Go	June 1924 to Jan 1926
Cullison Times	Mar 1913 to May 1915
Cullison Tomahawk	Sep 1888 to Jan 1890
luka Hustler	Feb 1910 to Jan 1911
luka Index	Nov 1913 to July 1915
luka Traveler	Oct 1886 to Jan 1888
luka Tribune	Dec 1915 to Nov 1916
Labor Bulletin(Pratt Co. RR Union)	Mar – Dec 1919
Plain Dealer (Pratt)	July 1888 to Nov 1888
Pratt County Citizen	Dec 1902 to Apr 1904
Pratt Co.Democrat(Saratoga)	July 1885 to Nov 1886
Pratt County Press	Aug 1878 to Dec 1887
Pratt County Register	Apr 1888 to Dec 1890
Pratt Co. Republican	Jan 1888 to Apr 1905
Pratt Co.Rep./Pratt Co.Times	Sep 1894 to May 1899
Pratt County Times	Oct. 1881 to Sep 1894
Pratt Co. Times & luka Trav.	Feb 1888 to Mar 1892
Pratt County Union	May 1890 to Dec 1902
Pratt Independent	Dec 1913 to Aug 1914
Pratt Mirror	Dec 1930 to May 1944
Pratt Republican	May 1905 to Nov 1925
Pratt Tribune	Aug 1915 to Feb 1919
Pratt Tribune	Aug 1928 to June 1929
Pratt Union	June 1901 to Dec 1954
Preston Herald	Aug 1887 to June 1888
Preston News	Sep 1916 to Mar 1942
Preston Pilot	Dec 1905 to Dec 1908
Preston Plain Dealer	Mar 1889 to Aug 1901
Saratoga Plain Dealer	Jan 1888 to Feb 1888
Saratoga Sun	Mar 1885 to Dec 1887
Sawyer News	Nov 1906 to Oct 1970
Sawyer Saw	Oct 1905 to Sep 1906
Sawyer Sparks	Dec 1900 to Dec 1901
Springvale Advocate	Feb 1888 to Aug 1888



Microfilms of old newspapers are such a goldmine of history. There is not a week that goes by that we don't get two or three requests for family history research.

People are amazed at how much research materials we have in the library at the museum. Many say that we have more records and ways to look something up, than many larger libraries and museums.

Along with being proud of our museum, we all need to be just as proud of our research library!

NEW "FIND – A – GRAVE" WEBSITE VOLUNTEER

The Pratt County Historical Society is now a contributor to the "Find-A-Grave" website. Well, to be honest, Marsha is the contributor, but she has chosen to do it under the Society's name. On it, people request photos of the grave markers of family members in cemeteries all over the United States. Volunteers take photos and post them on that person's page on the website.

Marsha has taken quite a few photos that have been requested for Pratt County cemeteries. It's another way of providing help to those doing family history research.

On the Society's Member Page, Marsha explains that she will do other kinds of "look-ups" for people, such as obituaries, marriage announcements, photos, etc. She has been in contact with many people and copied off items wanted by them.

She is enjoying doing this and it is also good PR for the Pratt County Historical Society. When asked how much she charges for her time, she responds by saying "Nothing. I love doing it! But, if you would like to make a donation to the Historical Society, you may." Needless to say, there's been a few checks coming in!

LITTLE BITS OF MUSEUM NEWS

The last of January was busy at the museum with Kansas Day school tours. The 5th graders from Skyline, the 2nd and 4th graders from Southwest all came the week of Kansas day. The 2nd graders from Haskins had to postpone their visit, as it snowed 8 inches, and school was cancelled. But, they came in February and all was just fine.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Education Committee for helping out with the tours. You are SO greatly appreciated!!!!

Marsha participated again this year, in the Laura Ingalls Wilder Day at the public library. It's an event for all the 3rd graders in town. They learn about Laura and things that she and her family would have used during their lives on the prairie.

Marsha continued with her "speaking tour", and spoke at the Optimist Club's noon meeting at the college and the Democrat Women luncheon at the Club D'Est. She took hats from the collection of the late Marion Fincham for "show and tell. The hats are part of the collection that is on display in the Susan H. Hess Memorial room at the museum.

MUSEUM IS AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

Just a reminder that the museum is available for club meetings, class reunions, family reunions, and the chapel for small weddings. Call the museum office for details. Get your group on our calendar, is it's getting that time of year when all these events start happening.

VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

Last year we had visitors from Canada, Mexico, Guam, Ecuador, Serbia, Montenegro and the Netherlands.

In January, a person from Italy was a visitor one weekend. When we emptied the donation kettle soon afterward, there was a coin that was obviously not a United States coin. On closer inspection, it was a Euro! We decided not to deposit it, but save it for a keepsake.

2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If your address label has a highlight after your name, your membership has expired and you need to renew it.

Annual per person \$ 15.00
Lifetime per person \$ 100.00

We thank all of you who support the Pratt County Historical Society and the museum !!! ☺