



Historical Highlights

v. 3, n. 3



Aug. 2014

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George Bernheimer as John Ritchie, 2014 Kansas Sampler Festival, Wamego

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President's Message

by *David J. Heinemann*, SCHS President

First, I want to thank everyone who recently renewed their membership to the Shawnee County Historical Society. Your dues play an essential role in the SCHS’s success in serving its mission of education, preservation, and awareness of Shawnees County’s part in the history of our State in the continuing struggle for freedom. The enthusiasm with which our summer history camps are embraced is just one part of this success.

New members are always welcome, so please invite your friends to join by filling out the membership application at the back of this newsletter.



I also want to thank **Doug Jones**, **Hiram Stockwell**, **Tim Paris** and **Walt Hilmer** for their invaluable assistance in the selection of the projects that received the Shawnee County Historical Society’s **2014 Historic Preservation Awards**. [Read article, p. 2] They helped to identify key individuals and groups who have gone the extra mile to preserve and restore buildings important to the heritage of our community. While visiting with the recipients it was impossible not to get caught up with their enthusiasm. **Renee and David Stevens** stand out for the work they did to restore The Capital Iron Works Co.’s office building. Topeka city founder, **Cyrus K. Holliday**, was an original incorporator of this business. You may have read *The Topeka Capital-Journal’s* excellent article wherein Renee recounted their luck in being able to open the building’s walk-in safe that contained a treasure trove of historic documents, pictures and other memorabilia that will now be preserved. **The City of Rossville** as a community also took great pride in the preservation of the historic **Joe Campbell Memorial Stadium** that will continue to be used by their children far into the future. Joe’s grandson, **Matt Campbell**, who provided many of the recent improvements, also attended the ceremony. **Jenny Torrence**, who received an award for restoring three buildings in the NOTO district, deserves a special thank you for allowing the Society to hold our awards ceremony at **Serendipity**, one of her restored buildings.

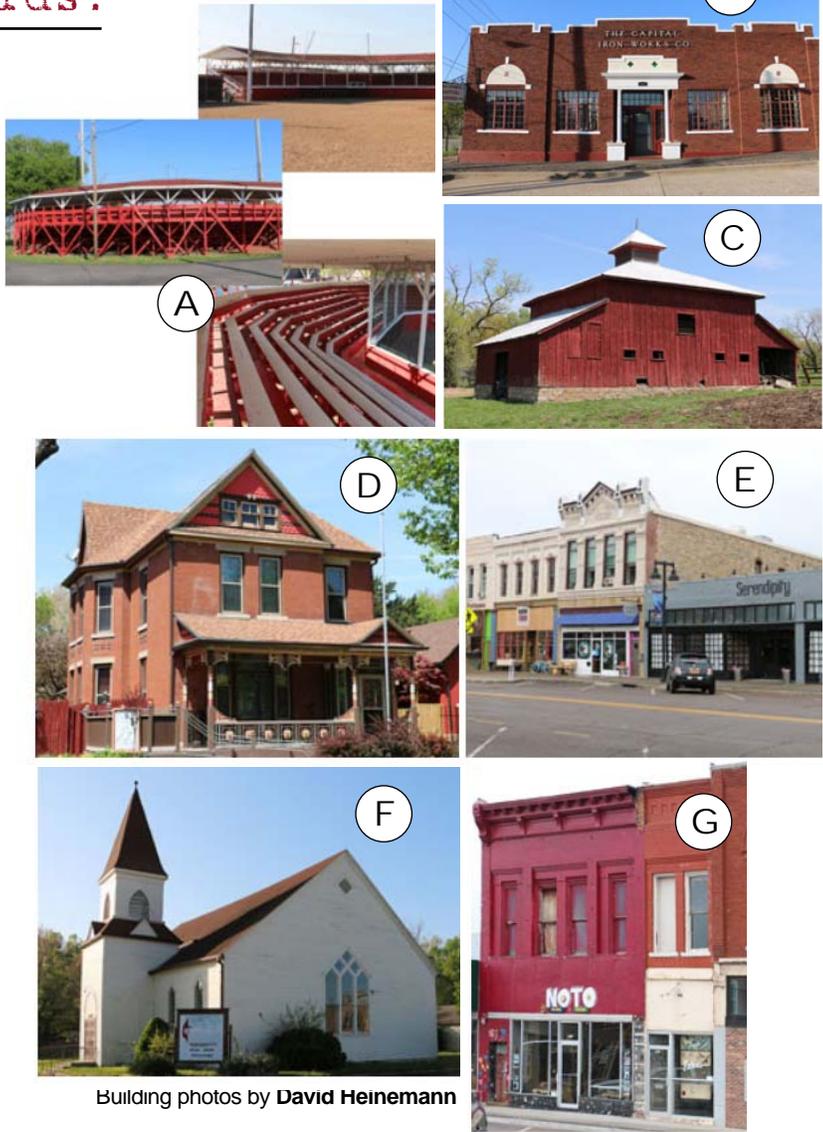
—continued on p. 6

2014 Preservation Awards:

SCHS Annual Preservation Awards were bestowed on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at Serendipity, 822 N. Kansas Av., Topeka.

SCHS President **David Heinemann** presented these awards.

- (A) **City of Rossville** for preservation of the **Historic Joe Campbell Memorial Stadium**, a baseball stadium built as a WPA project in the 1930s.
- (B) **David & Renee Stevens**, owners of the **Capital Iron Works Company** at 701 SE Adams St., Topeka.
- (C) **Wilma J. Kratina Family** for the **historic red barn**, 4529 NW 35th St., used by the family since the 1940s.
- (D) **Deb Edwards** restored **home** at 419 SW Taylor, Topeka. Award was accepted by her son, **Aaron Edwards**.
- (E) **Jenny Torrence** for 3 NOTO properties including **Serendipity**, 820 Kansas Av., & **NOTO Burrito**, 822 N. Kansas Av.
- (F) **Sara Bremer Parks** for advocacy on behalf of **East Topeka United Methodist Church**.
- (G) **Zach, Don and Edie Snethen** and **Michael Bradley** for their relentless efforts to save **business property** at 903 and 905 N. Kansas Av., Topeka.



Building photos by **David Heinemann**



H **Lonnie Martin & Pete Gierer** accept award from **Zach Snethen** for their service to the Board of the **Topeka Landmarks Commission**.

above: **Renee Stevens** discusses artifacts discovered at **Capital Iron Works**.

above: **Michael Langfitt, Pioneer Group, Inc.**, was our featured speaker.

SOHS Educational Initiatives

by *Melinda Abitz*, Education Program Developer

History Camp for Kids

Our education program is in full swing this summer at the Cox Communications Heritage Education Center, next door to the Historic Ritchie House. This year's theme is the **American Revolution**, where campers learn of the colonists' fight for freedom in the 1770s.

The campers have had a great time participating in games, activities and experiences to give them an idea of colonial life before we became a new nation. Volunteer

George Bernheimer has put on his paper crown to play the bossy King George III. **Anna Smith**, who reenacts a woman soldier, Deborah Samson, came to tell her life's story; and we also welcomed **Doug Jacobs**, dressed as a Continental soldier, and **Dave Lawrence**, as a minuteman in his hunting frock, both explaining colonial warfare.

The visiting campers are coming from **Central Park, Velma Paris, Oakland and Garfield Community Centers** as well as the **Leading Edge Academy** and **YWCA** summer program. The ages range mostly around 5th and 6th grades, which align with their area of study in the schools. However, all of the age groups are having fun learning about this time in our nation's history.

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Tours

In early June, teachers of a variety of grades came to the Historic Ritchie House as part of a bus tour organized by **Visit Topeka** and **Ottawa University**. The 67 teachers were touring historic sites in Topeka to acquire college credit. They quickly found the Ritchie story to be very

interesting and were very excited to feel the connection to Kansas history by entering the former Underground Railroad safe house.

On **June 24th**, the **Freedom's Frontier National Historic Area**, the **Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site**, and the **Historic Ritchie House** partnered again this year with the **Boys and Girls Club of Topeka** in a neighborhood history walk and reenactment of an **Underground Railroad escape**. The activities centered on

the theme of the struggle for freedom in the days of slavery and also Topeka's role in the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement.



left: Photos by **Melinda Abitz**

On **April 1st**, **Col. (ret.) Bill Raymond** brought a group of his students from **Benedictine College**, Atchison, to visit the Ritchie Houses. They also visited **Brown v. Board NHS** and the **Equality House** before **touring Lawrence** and **following the route of Quantrill's Raid**. **SOHS** board member **Deb Bisel** led them on the tour for the second straight year. 🌀



If you would like to be a part of our program by making a monetary donation towards our education program, we have listed a few things we feel are important in the near future. Our thanks go to you, in advance, for your generosity.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Tin candle lantern, (period) | House & Ed programs | \$ 35 |
| 2. Tin dipper, (period) | House & Ed programs | \$ 30 |
| 3. Wood Tables, period appropriate | Front & rear room display | \$ 40 -60 |
| 4. Rope bed, (period or antique) | Rear room display | \$ 100 |
| 5. Cast iron parlor stove (period or antique) | House display | \$ 500 - 600 |

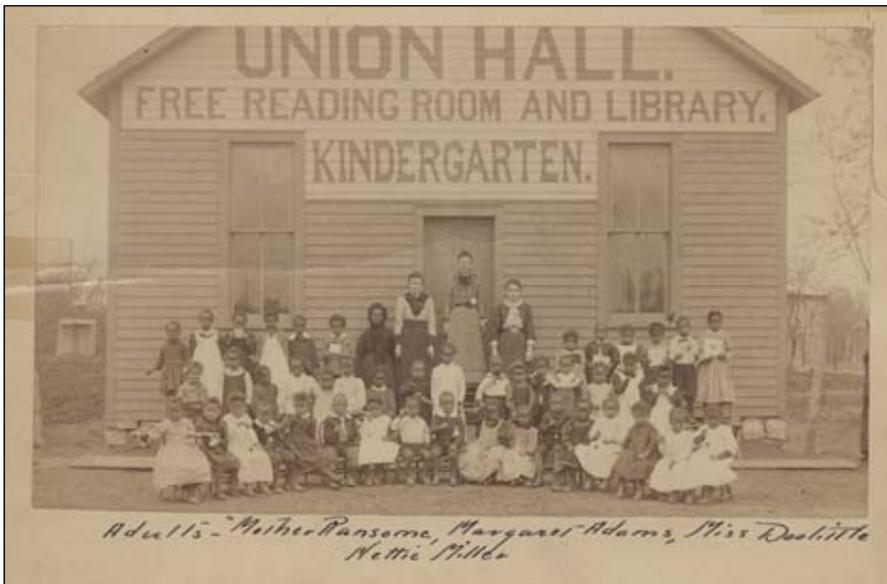
Feature —

Rev. Charles Sheldon and the Beginnings of the Kindergarten Movement in Topeka

by *Thom Rosenblum*, historian at the Brown v. Board National Historic Site

As Kansas entered the 1890s, children attended public elementary school education for grades one to eight. To ensure that Kansans took full opportunity of the education available to them, in 1874 the Legislature

open to all began to take hold in Kansas and Topeka in the early 1880s. In April 1882 the State Normal School at Emporia launched an experimental kindergarten training program overseen by Miss Emilie Kuhlman, an



Sheldon Kindergarten at Union Hall, 1893

had passed a compulsory school attendance law requiring children ages eight to fourteen to attend school for at least twelve weeks, six of which were to be consecutive. Although kindergartens had begun working their way into the nation's public school curriculum in the early 1870s, Kansas lawmakers seemingly took little notice.

The assimilation of the kindergarten into Kansas culture, however, quietly began shortly after statehood. In Topeka, Miss Lillie Davidson opened a private kindergarten in the North Topeka Congregational Church. Miss Anne Broderick taught a kindergarten class in her home for several years followed in 1866 by a kindergarten established by Miss Nellie Dick and a Miss Berts in their home at the corner of 10th and Quincy. These schools were private, available only to those children with parents able to pay tuition, and usually transient, lasting only a year or two.

The shift from private, tuition based kindergartens to an education system overseen by trained teachers and

experienced kindergartener trained in Germany. Only the third such training school in the nation, during its first year, forty-one student teachers entered the ten-week course while thirty-three children enrolled in the kindergarten run as part of the program.

While this emerging pool of trained teachers provided the fuel to fire a kindergarten movement in Topeka, the spark igniting the movement came in the form of Miss Lucy A. Doolittle, an ambitious, intelligent young woman who arrived in Topeka in winter 1892 for a visit. A graduate of a kindergarten training class in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and recently the director of the National Kindergarten School

in the Argentine Republic, Doolittle attracted the attention of Reverend Charles M. Sheldon, pastor of the Central Congregational Church, Thomas E. Bowman, a wealthy Topeka businessman, and other like-minded Topekans. "Through Miss Doolittle," Bowman wrote

Rev. Sheldon saw the kindergarten as "the ideal Sunday school" and a rescuer of children who seemed to be beyond the influence of the church and the family.

in the *Topeka Daily Capital* in September 1892, "the attention of a number of our leading citizens has been attracted to the kindergarten," predicting "it is quite probable that an association will be formed in this city in a short time for the promotion of kindergarten work."

Rev. Sheldon saw the kindergarten as "the ideal Sunday school" and a rescuer of children who seemed to be beyond the influence of the church and the family. A devout follower of the teachings of

Charles Sheldon/ Kindergarten Movement, cont.

German philosopher and educator Frederich Froebel, considered to be the “father of the kindergarten,” Sheldon fervently believed that a four- to six-year-old child was not only educable but that moral training during these years determined the individual’s future character. The creation of half a dozen kindergartens in those neighborhoods where they were needed most would, in Rev. Sheldon’s words, “do much toward lessening the number of vagabond children, of ‘gangs’ and ‘tough’ boys who have formed their ideas of life from the trash fiction so easily bought.” If the money spent on state reformatories were spent on the children, another Topeka kindergarten proponent mused, it “doubtless would make many reformatories needless.”

Launching a whirlwind campaign to drum up moral and financial support for the creation of kindergartens, Rev. Sheldon chipped away at the notion that the kindergarten was little more than a “play-house where young children can be amused and kept under healthful and pleasing influences” and a “boon to weary, work-worn mothers.” Set up and administered properly, these schools would provide a base for a “thorough, solid education.” It would be a rare citizen, Sheldon noted, who would not be amazed after five or six years to see the positive effect of the training on children and upon “the character of the city we love.”

With Miss Doolittle agreeing to stay on, Rev. Sheldon and his supporters moved quickly. By September 1892, Doolittle had established a private kindergarten and more importantly, a training school for kindergarten teachers. At the same time, Sheldon, Bowman, and others established the Topeka Kindergarten Association, which was formally chartered the following April. The Association’s stated purpose was to petition the State Legislature to introduce the kindergarten into the public school system, and in the interim to operate a training school for teachers and work with communities to establish private kindergartens. Envisioning a system of kindergartens serving all of the

city’s children, on the very day the Association was chartered Rev. Sheldon and the Central Congregational Church sponsored a kindergarten in Tennessee Town, one of Topeka’s African American communities.

By the end of 1898, no less than eight kindergartens were up and running in Topeka...

Sheldon leased Jordan’s Hall, a neighborhood tavern with a rather unsavory reputation, as the site for the kindergarten, the first such school for African American children west of the Mississippi River. Renamed Union Hall, the school met six days a week during the regular school year. In late 1895, Sheldon moved the school a short distance away to the abandoned Lincoln Street Congregational Church built in the early 1880s by the American Missionary Association of New York.

Through the remainder of 1893, the Topeka Kindergarten Association busied themselves helping to establish three more schools. By the end of 1898, no less than eight kindergartens were up and running in Topeka, including one for white children housed in the newly built Bowman Room addition to Sheldon’s church. Between 1893 and 1898, 800 to 900 children attended one of the city’s kindergartens. —continued, p. 6



Sheldon Kindergarten, interior, 1897

Charles Sheldon/ Kindergarten Movement, cont.

At the same time, the Association's training school was graduating some seventeen women a year.

Although the Topeka Kindergarten Association and its training school folded in 1901 due to lack of funding, the schools themselves kept their doors open. Finally in 1907, the state legislature and governor signed into law an act authorizing school boards to establish and maintain free kindergartens, and the following year, the Topeka Board of Education assumed responsibility for the Tennessee Town and Parkdale kindergartens. Within one month of the law's taking effect, school boards across the state established forty kindergartens, with the number growing to ninety-five by the end of 1922. ♪

[**Note:** article extracted from a draft Monroe Elementary School Historic Furnishing Study.]

President's Message, cont.

The next time you drive by the Ritchie House you will see construction work in progress as we proceed to make the improvements made possible by the \$23,726 grant approved by the Topeka City Council's Transient Guest Tax Committee. Most visible will be the installation of a handicapped ramp on the north side of the building. Inside the building energy efficiency measures, such as adding insulation above the rafters and installing a second set of windows behind the period windows, should reduce utility costs. The electric wiring will be upgraded and measures to protect the doorways from deterioration will also be completed.

Summer is now in full swing and we have the opportunity to participate in many of the special events taking place in our community. Please put the Society's upcoming annual **Ice Cream Social and Outdoor Band Concert** on your list. The Social takes place Sunday evening, August 10th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Historic John & Mary Jane Ritchie House, 1116 S.E. Madison. Doug Wright has again enlisted The Topeka Sante Fe Band to entertain us with great patriotic music. We look forward to seeing you there. ♪

City awards Society grant for improvements to the John and Mary Ritchie House

The City of Topeka allotted the Society \$23,726 from its **Heritage Tourism Improvement Grant** derived from its guest bed tax. The Society sought funds for weatherizing the interior of the **John and Mary Ritchie House**, adding a handicap exit for the first floor and installing exterior in-ground lighting. **John Butler of Benchmark Contractors, Inc.**, was awarded a contract to make the improvements. Completion of the project, except for exterior in-ground lighting, is expected by the end of July.

Increased usage of the house by heritage education tours necessitated making several improvements to the interior of the House. In an effort to curb increasing heating cost, the second floor ceiling is to be enclosed and insulated. Windows throughout the house are to be insulated as well. Indirect lighting for the first floor is to be installed. The doorway between the two first floor rooms is to be framed and a second access is to

be opened for the east room. That exit will also have a ramp added, making the house accessible to the handicapped. The Topeka Landmark Commission approved the addition of the free-standing handicap ramp, which will wrap around the north side of the house, ending at the front of the building. The city is donating sidewalk bricks to connect the ramp with the existing walks, and labor to install the walk is being donated by Benchmark Contractors, Inc.

In-ground exterior lighting for the west, north and east sides of the house will be addressed subsequently.

This news was covered in an article in *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, "Ritchie House getting ramp, energy upgrades," by Megan Hart, 6-25-2014. Visit <http://cjonline.com/news/2014-06-25/ritchie-house-getting-ramp-energy-upgrades>



The Other John Brown, Shawnee County Citizen

by *Jeanne Christie Mithen*, SCHS Newsletter co-editor

The May 2014 *SCHS Newsletter* featured an article, “The Other John Brown’s Brownville” by Washburn student Jamie Ollison. But what more do we know about this “other” John Brown and what happened after the Civil War, to John Brown and Brownville/Auburn?

James L. King’s *History of Shawnee County Kansas* (1905) describes early Auburn Township:

One of the oldest towns in the State was established here in 1856, under the name of Brownville, which was changed to Auburn in 1857, for the reason that a Brownville post office already existed in another part of the territory. [The Brownville Town Association trustees were John W. Brown, Henry Fox, and M.C. Dickey and Loring Farnsworth, the latter two, interestingly enough, also early Topeka settlers and charter founders in 1859 of the Topeka Cemetery.] At one time there were 400 people living in Auburn. Many good buildings were erected, including a three story hotel, a brick church and numerous brick residences of the old Dutch pattern, with walls rising above the gables, and roofs sloping to the street. A weekly newspaper called the Auburn Docket was started in 1860...The paper lasted nearly a year. It was the ambition of Auburn to become the county seat, but a change of county lines, and the projection of a railroad seven miles east of town, frustrated this plan. John W. Brown, the original settler, continued to occupy his farm until 1896, when he disposed of the land and moved to Topeka...

William G. Cutler’s monumental *History of the State of Kansas* (1883) provides this biographical sketch of John W. Brown, recognizing him as an early and longtime resident of the town:

John W. Brown, farmer and dealer in stock, Section 26, P.O. Auburn. Owns 800 acres, all enclosed, has over five miles of stone fence, about 150 acres in cultivation, 150 in timber and the rest in native meadow and pasture; has a fine orchard and a brick dwelling, 18x40, with L 18x20, two stories high, with nine rooms, costing in 1860, when built, \$4,500. Stone barn, 30x40, sixteen

feet posts, with sheds, corn cribs and every convenience for handling stock successfully. Mr. B. is the pioneer of this county. Was born in Belmont County, Ohio, May 9, 1832 and came from native place to Kansas in 1849, locating at the Methodist Mission, in what is now Johnson County; at that time there were but three houses where Kansas City now stands. In 1851 he was employed by the Government to go into the Indian Country as a blacksmith, and on 1854 located on present farm, at which time the nearest location of any white settlement was sixty miles away. Was married in 1851 to Miss Elizabeth Perkins, a native of Missouri. They have five children—Edgar G., Frank [daughter], Fred P., Eva and Harry. Mr. B. has served one term in the State Legislature. Was in the State Militia during the Price Raid in Col. Veale’s regiment and participated in the Locust grove fight, when he was captured, but made his escape after being a prisoner three days. Is a Mason.

Other sources (census, obituaries) put John W.’s birth date as 1829 and his marriage as 1853, with six children (daughter Jane, b. 1855, d.?, was not listed in 1865 census). The John W. Brown house still stands in Auburn, although the original brick was covered by stucco in 1950; once white stucco, it is now blue. The interior has been extensively remodeled, after an 1899 fire, and again in 1950.



After Elizabeth Brown’s death on August 3, 1906, John W. lived with one or the other of his daughters, Frank and Eva, in Jefferson County, until his death August 2, 1908 at Frank’s home in Perry. ☞

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar!

► Sept. Historic Topeka Cemetery Events

The **Historic Topeka Cemetery (HTC)** will come to life with two big events the first weekend in September.

The Friends of Historic Topeka Cemetery present *The Road to Valhalla*, the Civil War documentary produced by **Lone Chimney Films**, in the **Willie Sells Amphitheatre** (next to the cemetery office) at **9 p.m.** on **Saturday, September 6**. Gates will open at 7 p.m. and reenactors will have demonstrations and mix with the crowd. **There is a \$5 admission. Members of the Friends of Historic Topeka Cemetery are free, as are children under 10.** The public is invited to bring blankets or lawn chairs and picnic. Some chairs will be provided. Some refreshments will be available for sale or you may bring your own.

Also in the **Willie Sells Amphitheatre**, on **Sunday, September 7**, a **community tribute to the legacy of Arthur Capper** will be highlighted with a blues and bluegrass concert, picnic, and tours. The **Bluegrass Gypsies** will perform at **4 p.m.** followed by **Gary, Gary, Rick & Harry**, four veteran blues performers.

While Capper's name remains familiar to many Kansans, there is much to explore in his career. As the first president of the NAACP in Topeka, Capper championed minority rights and was a strong proponent of equal opportunities. **This event is free and festivities will begin at 3 p.m., with the concert beginning at 4 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m.** There will be free refreshments and the public is welcome to bring a picnic basket and blanket or lawn chairs. No alcohol permitted.

HTC would like to acknowledge the support of **Brown v. Board National Historic Site**, the **Easter Seals Capper Foundation**, *Capper's Magazine*, **Around Kansas TV Show**, **Talk About Topeka** (1440 Radio), and **Kansas Guitar**. Artist **Melissa Rau** will display her sculpture of Capper in the cemetery office.

HTC is located at **1601 SE 10th Street**. Parking for both days will be inside the 10th Street gates. The California Street entrance will be closed for these events.

► HTC Battle of the Blue Commemoration

October will mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Blue during the Confederate invasion of Missouri. The Kansas Militia was called upon to defend the state and Topekans answered the call. On **Thursday, October 30**, the **Friends of HTC**, in partnership with the **Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Kansas** and the

SCHS, will honor those who served with **ceremonies and a canon salute**. Events will begin at **2 p.m.** with **tours of the Civil War-related gravesites**. The **formal recognition begins at 6 p.m.** in front of the Gage Monument. HTC is honored to have as speakers **Adjutant General Lee Tafanelli** and **Charles Crawford**, **great grandson of our highest ranking Civil War officer, General/Governor Samuel Crawford**. Fifteen men who were killed in action rest in HTC; fourteen of those lie in a mass grave behind the Gage Monument while the other rests with his family. Many other veterans of this battle also rest here, names familiar to many in Shawnee County. **A reception in the Crane Home will follow** the evening ceremonies. These events are free and open to the public, and Topeka Transit will assist in shuttling the public. Watch the local media or the HTC Facebook page for details.

Volunteers are welcome for these events and other activities. Call the cemetery office at 785-233-4132 or email us at topekacemeteryassn@gmail.com

► October SCHS Attic Sale

The **third annual SCHS Attic Sale** will take place the first week of October at **Trails Gallery and Market, 109 N Kansas Av.** (southwest corner of the Kansas Avenue bridge). **Donations may be made at Trails Gallery during regular hours beginning on September 4th.** Items that have sold well in the past include small furniture and collectibles.

Items will be collected, sorted and priced throughout September. Items will be placed on sale on **October 2 and 3** during the Trails regular business hours, with some items reserved for the **auction to be held at 8:30 p.m., October 3**, following First Friday activities. **Wine and appetizers will be served during the auction.**

On **Saturday, October 4**, remaining items will be marked down for quick sale and any remaining items will be donated to Findables or to the Topeka Rescue Mission.

Jeff Hisey at Trails Gallery and Market has been a great supporter of the SCHS. **Trails Gallery is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 - 5.** *Please support him and his vendors throughout the year.*

Your donations to the sale are tax deductible. *If you have items and are unable to deliver them yourself, please call the SCHS and leave a message, 785-234-6097. We will call to arrange pickup.*



SCHS Spring Event Wrap-ups

► Topeka Gives

On June 3 the Society's heritage education program received contributions from **eleven donors** at the second annual Topeka Gives event sponsored by the **Topeka Community Foundation** at the Fairlawn Plaza Mall. **John and Julie Ford, Virginia Foster, Rick Friedstrom, Leon Graves, Jan Leuenberger, Pat Ross, Grant and Jennifer Sourk, Bill and Joan Wagon, June Windscheffel, Jill Walters** and one anonymous individual contributed \$1,460. The Topeka Community Foundation matched that money with \$194.76 for a total gift of **\$1,654.76**.

During the day, numerous persons stopped by the Society's table to talk about the heritage education program and the work of the Society. They took the city's sesquicentennial heritage maps, pamphlets promoting Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and membership brochures for the Society. Trustees **Duane Pomeroy, Stacie Torrez** and **Bill Wagon** hosted the exhibit.



► Forging Freedom's Pathway: Living History Walk

On **April 26**, the SCHS partnered with the **National Park Service's Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site** to produce another **Living History Walk** between the **John and Mary Ritchie House** and the **Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site**.

The physical and historical links between the two sites anchor two of America's principal events in its enduring struggle for freedom. **The Ritchie House symbolizes the 1850s struggle associated with "Bleeding Kansas" and efforts to halt the spread of slavery, whereas the 1950s struggle over racial segregation is symbolized by the Monroe School museum.**

Antecedents to the Monroe School reflected efforts of **John and Mary Ritchie** to foster education among their African American neighbors.

To bring that connection alive, historic reenactors portraying local figures across the century discussed their views on freedom of their times. Participants in the living history walk boarded a bus, provided by **Barry McGinnis** of Monarch Transportation, at the Brown National Historic Site and off-loaded at the Ritchie House. There they were given a brief orientation by **Bill Wagon** before entering the Ritchie House to meet **John Ritchie**, portrayed by **George Bernheimer**, who dramatized Ritchie's views on spreading slavery into the Kansas Territory. Escorted back toward Monroe School by a National Park Ranger, they next encountered **Felix Castor**, portrayed by **Alan Shirrell**, who proclaimed why slavery should expand into Kansas Territory. The next person the group met was **Jim Lane**, played by **Tim Ruse**, who extemporized on the evils of forcing slavery down the throats of Kansans. Then followed a visit with **Clarina Nichols**, acted by **Diane Bernheimer**, who talked about the importance of women's rights. **Nathan Holder**, depicted by **Jason Jones**, represented the freed slave who fought with the Kansas Colored Civil War units. Moving into the 20th century, **Don Lambert** played **Chester Woodward**, justifying separate but equal policy of the Topeka Board of Education. The concluding encounter was with **Julia Roundtree**, portrayed by Brown V. Board NHS park ranger **Joan Wilson**. Roundtree was an African American teacher at the Monroe School, facing the loss of her job should desegregation take place in the early 1950s.

Rangers then escorted the group into the Monroe School museum to learn more about the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education US Supreme Court decision declaring "separate but equal" unconstitutional in 1954.

Forging freedom between the 1850s and the 1950s unfolds locally with profound national significance.

The next scheduled living history walk is to occur in October, with the date to be determined shortly.



SCHS: Our Mission

Membership in the Shawnee County Historical Society illuminates Freedom's Pathway and promotes an awareness of heritage culture. Freedom's Pathway, the link between the Ritchie House, the Free State Capitol, and the Brown v. Board National Heritage Site, identifies the heritage of our community. As the guardian of the county's rich and distinctive heritage, the Society focuses on ways events locally contributed to the nation's enduring struggle for freedom, and engages the public and its youth in identifying with that heritage.

Preserving the John and Mary Ritchie House and maintaining the Cox Communications Heritage Education Center in the 1100 block of SE Madison allows the Society to connect the community's origins with today's generation's need for context. Young people,

their teachers and families who have toured the Ritchie House site come away with a richer comprehension of events transpiring here. As they engage in events that occur at the Ritchie House, they identify with their significance and enrich the heritage culture of our community.

The Society actively promotes historic preservation, publishes a quarterly newsletter to enlighten readers of important events of the community's past, produces programs to engage the public in experiencing that past, and actively pursues resources to sustain and develop the Society's mission.

Membership is critical. *The more members, the greater is the capacity to achieve the Society's work.*

WE THANK EACH OF OUR MEMBERS!

Active SCHS Members as of July 1, 2014

Life:
Donald and Janet Chubb
Mildred Francis
Carolyn Huebner
David Laird
Larry D. Marken
J. Douglas and Janet Mauck
Thomas and Kathleen McClure
Pat and Jerry Powers
Irvin Sheffel
Olive Stanford
Lucy Nichols Stein
Ann Strecker
Warren Taylor
Nancy Toedman
Mary V. Voigt
William O. Wagnon
Cynthia Wahle
Mrs. Martin E. Wanamaker
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Williams
June Windscheffel
Marcia Works
Charles W. Wright

Sustainer:
Benchmark Contractors, Inc.
Blue Dot Services
Peter Gierer
Jeff Hisey
Chris Keeshan
Frank and Judith Sabatini
Joan Wagnon
Jill Wolters
Carol and Max Yoho

Renovator:
Jack Brier
Lawrence and Nancy Brooks
Charles T. Crawford
Ben and Gail Franklin
Craig Gernon
John and Ines Gilbert
Leon Graves
David J. Heinemann
Doug and Dorothy Iliff
Jim and Kathy Maag

Anne Ritchie
Dave and Marilyn Ritchie
Donald C. Rutherford
Ralph E. Skoog
John Stauffer
Larry and Anita Wolgast

Patron:
Richard and Nancy Anderson
Betty A. Bomar
Bill and JoAnn Bunten
Shel and Ginny Cohen
Karen Craig
Dan and Helen Crow
Virginia Foster
Betty Franz
Rick Friedstrom
Joanne Harrison
Camille S. Heeb and Fred W. Schafe
Walt and Joyce Hillmer
Paul and Jeanne Hoferer
Margie Hogue
Roy and Judith Marks
Craig and Akimi McKinney
J. Kevin and Mary Alice Murphy
Tom Muth
Austin and Mariana Nothern
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Our membership year is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 annually.

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SCHS has gone High Tech AND is saving members money by teaming with PayPal on-line to accept memberships and donations. We also hope to offer sales of our inventory of *Bulletins* with on-line payment via PayPal. Links now appear on-line <http://www.shawneecountyhistory.org> to allow payment transactions via PayPal by secure credit or debit card transaction.

SCHS dues year runs from January 1 to December 31, each year.

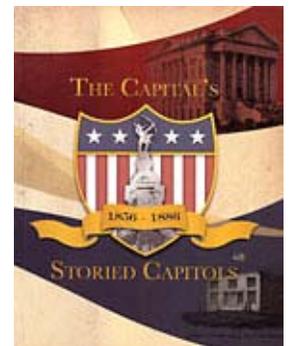
Now is the best time to join or renew for 2014!



Above, center front in photo: The **Hiram Price Dillion House**, at the NW corner of 7th and Harrison Streets, Topeka. The house is currently undergoing an extensive preservation project. **Michael Langfitt** of **Pioneer Group, Inc.**, new owner of the Dillon House, was featured speaker at May's **Historical Preservation Awards** event. (See story, p. 2) Photo, shared by Treanor Architects, is from atop the Capitol, looking west.

Bulletins — a reminder

Eighty-five SCHS *Bulletins* were published between 1946 and 2011. Some are still available for sale. Prices vary between \$5 and \$30 per item, and include the cost of postage. Visit <http://www.shawneecountyhistory.org/history/bulletins.html> to see a listing of past *Bulletins*.





P.O. Box 2201, TOPEKA KS 66601-2201

Lighting Freedom's Pathway;
Building Heritage Culture

Mark Your Calendar! 3rd Annual

SCHS Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 10, 2014

@ at the Ritchie House complex,
1116 & 1118 SE Madison, Topeka, at 7 p.m.

The event will include tours, ice cream and band music,
featuring Topeka's **Santa Fe Band**. *All are welcome!*



Historical Highlights

August 2014

Tidbit



The name "Shawnee" was conferred upon this county by the Territory's first legislature (which the Free State settlers referred to as the "bogus legislature") in 1855, this being one of the few enactments of that body which proved acceptable to the Free State men. [SCHS Bulletin v.1,n.4 (Sep.-Dec.1947), p.108

