

Historical Highlights

1/17/2017
v.6, n.2



Santa Fe: A Leader in Railroad Healthcare

By Michelle L. Spencer

(Part 2 of 3)

The second industrial age (c.1830-1870) heralded the expansion of railroads across the United States while at the same time increasing the number of traumatic injuries requiring medical care and surgery. By the 1880s medical care remained rudimentary at best in much of the United States; especially as rail expanded into rural areas and small towns in the West.¹ While hospitals had existed on the East Coast from more than a century, in the vast western states and territories many towns had no doctor or hospital.² One historian noted that a person traveling between St. Louis and El Paso could go over 1,300 miles without passing a single hospital.⁴³ The average railroad worker was single, ate in restaurants and slept were available; when he became sick or injured there was no place for him to turn. Even in Emporia, Kansas, nearly 25 years old when the railroad reached it, the sick were cared for in hotels.⁴

In virtually every industry an injured or sick worker had to pay for his own medical care. As Dr. Robert Gillespie explained, "Railroads developed into an exception to this rule, in part due to the inordinate number of injuries sustained by employees, passengers and bystanders. In 1900 the Interstate Commerce Commission reported that 1 of every 28 railroad employees was injured on the job, and 1 in 399 was killed."⁵ Initially the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railroad formed a medical department which contracted with doctors and surgeons along rail lines. It was quickly deter-



ca.1930s view of building shortly after construction of new hospital. Original 1896 building remained on east (L) Kansas State Historical Society photograph.

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- Renew your 2017 membership today!
- Topeka Walking Tours (side column) page 8.

mined that more was needed; building hospitals was a requirement to maintain a steady workforce and ensure profitability.

norm in the late 1800s. Santa Fe set an industry standard for quality and a national standard for employment benefits. As noted in the Parsons Katy Hospital National Register Nomination:

By pooling their resources through hospital associations, railroad employees reaped health benefits in times before employer-subsidized health insurance and consistent institutionalized hospital care. Railroad companies were dedicated to assisting with such programs which benefited employees who risked death and injury carrying out work along the line. Such health benefits became standard for railroads to compete for quality laborers.⁶

The AT&SF Employee Association rules stated that subscribers to the program were eligible to receive treatment as long as they were employees of the railway. Treatment could be performed by any surgeon employed by the association, but employees having “protracted injury or sickness” must go to one of the association hospitals. Ex-employees and family members were excluded from coverage. The initial rates were based upon employee monthly salary: \$0.25 (\$30 or less), \$0.35 (\$60 - \$80), \$0.50 (\$80 – \$100), \$1.00 (Above \$100). The rates remained stable into the 1930s.⁷

The subscription paid for all types of medical care: hospital, doctor and medicine. Transportation to and from the hospital was free to patients on the railroad; special trains were even dispatched for transport in grievous cases. Free transport was also provided for doctors who worked in or consulted for the company hospitals.⁸

In 1887, Dr. John Kaster became the company’s chief surgeon, a job he held for 40 years. When he died in 1938, he had worked for Santa Fe for more than 50 years.⁹ Kaster, who worked out of



Amputations occurred too often in the lives of early railroad workers. Limb makers, among other medical products were regularly advertised in The Railway Surgeon magazine. This page shows advertisements in the May 4, 1897 issue of The Railway Surgeon. Downloaded at http://railwaysurgery.org/Archives_files/RSv3no25supp1-hires.pdf

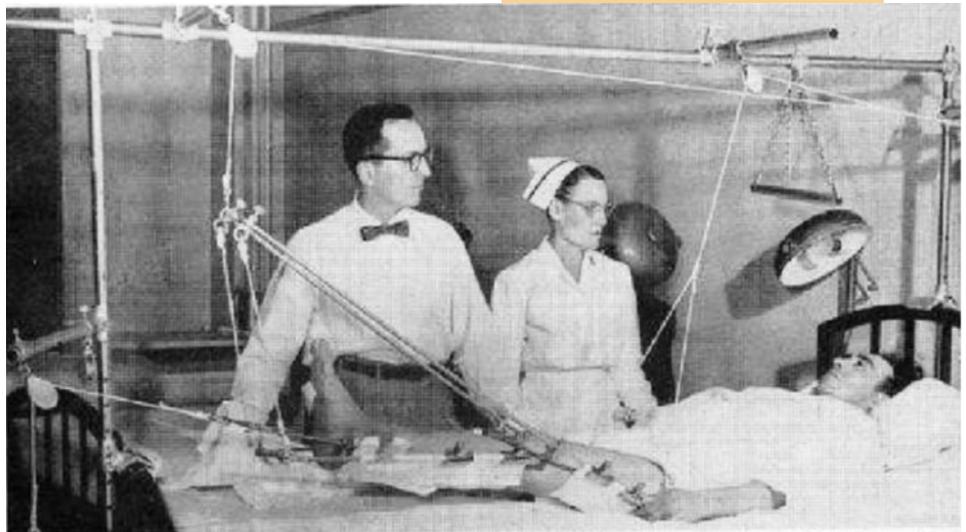
In 1884 the AT&SF railroad formed a benevolent corporation distinct from the railroad to fund, build and operate company hospitals. The first two hospitals opened 1884, in Las Vegas, NM and La Junta, CO; followed by Ottawa, KS and Fort Madison, IA in 1888. By 1896 Topeka was chosen as the home for the new state-of-the-art 100-bed hospital.

Provision of hospital services had not been the

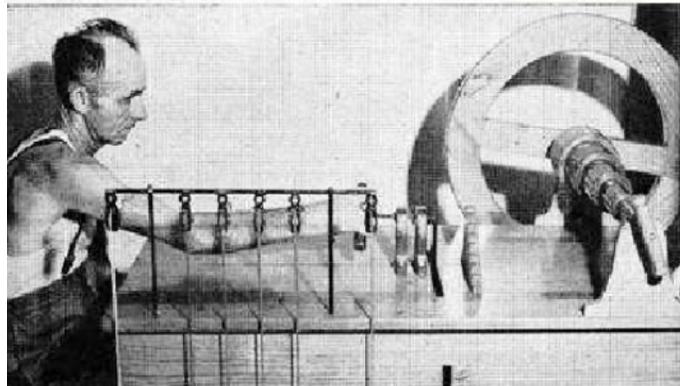
Topeka, exerted significant influence on the health services provided by the Santa Fe hospitals. The two areas that interested him the most were the use of x-ray technology and the prevention of disease through proper sanitation. Under Kaster's tutelage the Association developed a reputation for excellence in medical care and expanded the Association's facilities including the new hospital in Topeka (1930).¹⁰ In addition to the new hospitals Kaster increased the quality and number of consulting doctors and dentists along the line and expanded their offerings to include eye specialists, laboratories and x-ray facilities. Kaster's influence could be felt for years after his passing due to his determined commitment to technological advancement and maintaining proper sanitation not only at the medical facilities but also on trains and other workplaces. According to a 1934 Santa Fe Magazine article Kaster had been "steadily increasing the efficiency of our medical department by adding the new things that the medical profession has produced to combat disease."¹¹

In 1896 the Santa Fe healthcare program received high praise. The Railroad Trainers' Journal stated that Santa Fe was "everywhere acknowledged as the best hospital system of any railroad in the United States."¹² The Santa Fe Magazine explained that no man could complain about the fact that a single hospital stay for an operation could cost him \$480; yet a Santa Fe employee paying \$1 per month would require 40 years of service to the railroad to spend an equal sum.¹³

The largest of the railroad's hospitals, the Topeka facility not only provided patient care but also served as home to Santa Fe's Hospital Association, the Railroad's Chief Surgeon and the Medical Dispensary. The hospital signified Santa Fe's commitment to the capital city and is a physical reflection



Melchoir V. Medranno, painter-helper employed in the shops, Argentine, Kan., is apparently comfortable after having been placed in traction by W. M. Delaney, M.D., chief of surgery, and Mrs. Margaret Henry, R.N.



This exercise table is used in exercising the fingers, hand and wrist to rehabilitate the fractured part to functional use. Shown is Dennis N. Crim, section laborer, Burlingame, Kan., regaining motion in his wrist after a fracture.

The October 1953 issue of The Santa Fe Magazine featured an article entitled "Solace for Sufferers" on the newly expanded Topeka hospital complete with numerous photos of their medical facilities and new equipment. Available online at http://railwaysurgery.org/Archives_files/SantaFeMagazine_Oct_1953_lite_color.pdf

SCHS Events

May 7– SCHS Historic Preservation Awards - NOTO Arts Center 935 N. Kansas Ave. - Program begins at 2:00 PM - Light refreshments served.

Jun 6 - Topeka Gives 2017 - Fairlawn Plaza 21st & Fairlawn - A showcase of community organizations and a day of giving.

Jul 1 - 2nd Annual Freedom Fest - Downtown Topeka - Begins at 9:00 AM.

Jul 16 - John Ritchie 200th Birthday Anniversary celebration - John & Mary Jane Ritchie House grounds - Bluegrass band - Craft displays - Ice Cream Social - Santa Fe Band

Nov 25 - Christmas at the Ritchie's - Details to come!

Dec 3 - SCHS Annual Membership Meeting - Cox Communications Heritage Education Center - Meeting begins at 2:00 PM - Light refreshments .

For an updated list of upcoming SCHS Events visit our website at:

www.shawneecountyhistory.org click the **Events** tab

of the shared history of Topeka and Santa Fe as the railroad and city grew. In 1966, the hospital opened to the public because of new federal legislation creating Medicare. Renamed Memorial Hospital in 1972 the hospital closed in 1989 after filing for bankruptcy; the last of Santa Fe's seven hospitals to do so.

Michelle Spencer (mlskassociates@gmail.com) assisted Brenda Spencer (brenda@spencerpreservation.com) of Spencer Preservation in Wamego, Kansas with the development of the National Register nomination for Topeka's Santa Fe Hospital nomination.

The Santa Fe Hospital in Topeka was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016 recognizing the building's significant role in healthcare for the State of Kansas and specifically, Santa Fe railroad employees. Located at 600 SE Madison Street near downtown Topeka the hospital was an integral piece of Topeka's history from its inception. A series of three articles will examine the Santa Fe Railroad's largest hospital and the role it played in healthcare for Topeka and Santa Fe employees.¹⁴ This second article of the series will focus on how the danger and difficulty of building, maintaining and staffing a railroad gave rise to the necessity of modern healthcare and one company was the frontrunner in state-of-the-art medical care.

Side note – See the November 1980 Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin for an article about, Santa Fe Chief Surgeon John P. Kaster and the Santa Fe Hospital Association, by Jack W. Traylor.

¹ William H. Ducker, *Men of the Steel Rails*, (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1983) 45.

The first American hospitals were Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia (1756), New York Hospital (1791) and

² Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston (1821); Guenter B. Risse, *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls: A History of Hospitals*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 341-408.

³ Robert S. Gillespie, MD, MPH, *The Train Doctors: Detailed History of Railway Surgeons*, 2006, access on 20 February 2016 at <http://railwaysurgery.org/HistoryLong.htm>.

⁴ Ducker, 45. Author cites *Emporia News* and *Ration Guard* (an industry newspaper) as his sources.

⁵ Ira Rutkow, "Railway surgery: traumatology and managed health care in 19th-century United States." *Arch Surg* (1993) vol. 128 no. 4, 458-63 as quoted by Robert S. Gillespie, MD, MPH.

⁶ Christy Davis, *Parsons Katy Hospital, Labette County, KS National Register Nomination*, 2007, 8.

⁷ These same rates are quoted in 1932 and 1934 sources respectively with the only change to the top tier from \$1 to \$1.25. The *Amarillo Globe-Times*, 14 March 1932 and “More about Our Hospital Association,” *Santa Fe Magazine*, May 1934, vol. 28, no. 6.

⁸ Stannie Anderson, “The Third Hospital,” *Topeka Capital Journal*, 6 March 1977.

⁹ “More about Our Hospital Association,” 7.

¹⁰ Jack W. Traylor, “Chief Surgeon John P. Kaster and the Santa Fe Hospital Association,” *Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin*, no. 57, (Topeka, KS: Shawnee County Historical Society, November 1980), 87.

¹¹ “More about Our Hospital Association,” 9.

¹² Ducker, 47.

¹³ “More about Our Hospital Association,” 11.

¹⁴ The complete nomination is available online on the Kansas Historical Society website at http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/nominationsNRDB/KS_ShawneeCounty_SantaFeHospitalNR.pdf.

Topeka’s Santa Fe Hospital: The Architecture and Functional Evolution of an Institution

By Michelle L. Spencer

(Part 3 of 3)

The “new” 1930 Santa Fe hospital building - occupies the site where Topeka’s first Santa Fe Hospital was built in 1896 and stood until 1952 when it was razed for expansion of the 1930 building. The Santa Fe Hospital Association, founded in 1884 owned and operated the hospital(s) representing one of Santa Fe’s industry-leading employee benefits.¹ Topeka’s Santa Fe Hospital exemplifies the commitment Santa Fe made to its employees to provide quality medical care; a fact borne out by its almost constant efforts at modernization. The 1930 hospital was expanded in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s not only accommodating medical advancements but broadening its services to include outpatient and long-term care for the company’s employees. The hospital complex reflects its period of construction and expansion and continues to convey associations with its original function.

The 1930 hospital was fireproof construction with brick facade that featured ornate stone detailing. Although expanded on multiple occasions, the 1930 hospital is clearly distinguishable among the varying sections of the existing hospital complex. Although the “new” hospital was designed to ultimately replace



ca.1950 photo of new Outpatient Center built as west wing in 1950. Kansas State Historical Society photograph.

the 1896 hospital, it was built as an addition off the west side of the old hospital. This strategy allowed continual operation of the hospital during construction. The fifty-four room hospital opened in January 1931, completed at a cost of \$275,000. ²

The interior of the new hospital, built by George Senne of Topeka, reflected new trends in hospital construction, namely the use of hard surfaces that emerged from the Progressive Era as a sanitary solution to combat tuberculosis. Flooring was black and white terrazzo, walls were colorful tile, and furniture was steel enameled to look like walnut. Glazed tile remains in place on the top floors of the original entry wing.

“By the fall of 1947, the Hospital Board announced expansion plans that would double the size of the hospital.”

The 1930 design by Amarillo architect and former Santa Fe employee

Guy A. Carlander was typical of many institutional buildings of the Progressive Era reflecting simple, symmetrical rectangular massing with flat roofs and parapets which contrasted with their nineteenth-century counterparts. However also typical of the period, the hospital incorporated applied ornamentation in the form of the carved-stone parapet cap and detailing at the front entrance. Changes to the exterior of the 1930 hospital occurred with many of the subsequent expansions, the most significant being removal of the original stone detailing in the 1950s expansion and closure of the front entry with the addition of a new emergency entrance in the late-1970s.



ca.1950s view of hospital after removal of 1896 building and construction of east and south wings.

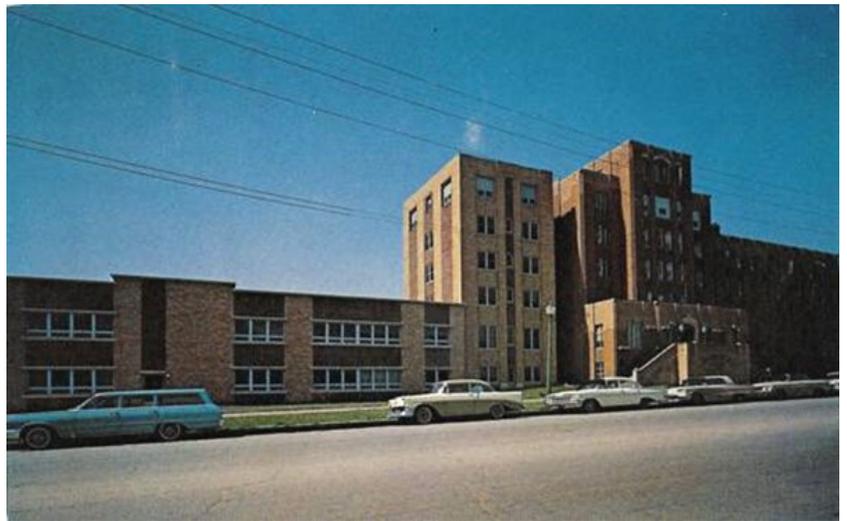
Source: Hospital Postcards on Railway Surgery website accessed online at <http://railwaysurgery.org/Hospitals.htm>

By the fall of 1947, the Hospital Board announced expansion plans that would double the size of the hospital. Kansas City, Missouri architects Archer, Cooper and Robison were hired to design the expansion which was estimated to cost more

than one million dollars.³ In December 1949, hospital officials announced plans to make Topeka's Santa Fe Railway Hospital one of the finest industrial hospitals in the nation. The expansion was to include three new hospital wings.

M.M. Watson of Topeka was selected as the general contractor, while Sheahan and Degan, plumbing and heating, and Thatcher Co., electrical contractors also were named. Twenty-four months later construction was completed on the west and south wings and work shifted to the final phase of the \$1.3 million project – demolition of the 1896 hospital and building the new east wing.

Like construction of the 1930 hospital, the 1950 expansion was designed to provide the latest in modern medical care. In addition to expanded services, state-of-the-art features included two-way communication between nurses and patients and a pneumatic tube system that eliminated the need for a messenger service making possible delivery throughout the hospital in a matter of seconds. Many of the functions that had been housed in the 1896 building were relocated to the new west wing providing space for approximately 100 patients along with diagnostic and specialty departments. An outpatient clinic was located on the first floor of the west wing with a new entrance off Madison where a spacious lobby also served as the waiting room. A new x-ray department was located on the second floor of the new west wing which featured photo timing designed to reduce human error and spot filming that made possible taking films during fluoroscop-



ca.1960s view of hospital with new east wing constructed in 1964 (with two additional floors built in 1979).

Source: Hospital Postcards on Railway Surgery website accessed online at <http://railwaysurgery.org/Hospitals.htm>

ic examinations.⁴

In 1956 the entire hospital was air-conditioned by McElroy Refrigeration & Heating Co. of Topeka. The Hospital Association announced the construction of a \$500,000 long-term care facility in the fall of 1962 to be designed by Cooper, Robison, and Carlson. Bowers Construction Co. of Topeka served as the general contractor.⁵ The new long-term care wing opened in February 1964 designed to accommodate 70 patients in double rooms that featured built-in wardrobes and bathroom facilities. The wing provided visitor waiting rooms, nurses' stations, and treatment rooms including x-ray, cobalt (radiation) and physical therapy, as well as special features to accommodate patients in wheelchairs.⁶

The west wing was expanded on two occasions in the 1970s extending the 1950 wing to the south and east. A two-story addition was built in 1950 off the rear of the 1930 hospital and a two-story addition was built as a

Topeka Walking Tours

Did you know that the SCHS's website has a walking tour resource guide? It is located under the Archives tab on our main page at www.shawneecountyhistory.org. We currently have historic tour information for:

-Historic North Topeka

-Downtown Topeka

-Holliday Park

-Topeka Cemetery

-St. Joseph's Parish

-Urban Living in Topeka

-Home Styles in Topeka

These guides contain pictures, information, and are all printable for your convenience. You can even visit our website on your phone and bring up these guides while you are on the go.

new east wing in 1964 (expanded to four-stories in 1979). The two final expansions occurred in the 1970s with additions of two patient floors on the east wing and further expansion of the west wing to house a new emergency department and south entrance, lobby and gift shop, and construction of a new energy center at the rear.

The hospital continued to expand or modify its services in the 1980s but these changes did not result in major alterations to the building's overall form. The hospital added inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care and an ophthalmic lab. Despite extensive efforts to reposition themselves as a public hospital and provider of comprehensive outpatient services, Memorial Hospital filed bankruptcy and finally closed its doors in 1989.

The building was converted to moderate-income housing in 2002 and renamed Santa Fe Place Apartments. The contemporary apartment conversion generally involved converting patient and treatment rooms in the four- and five-story north and west wings into one- and two-bedroom apartments but included few exterior modifications. The primary building entrance today is off Madison Street located in the center of the west wing, which was constructed as the outpatient center in 1950.

The hospital complex, encompassing more than a city block, reflects the modern movement in architecture, the original 1930 building having been "modernized" as part of the 1950 expansion and expanded on several occasions in the second half of the twentieth century. The east wing of the building, built in 1964 and expanded in 1979, was not included in the 2002 apartment conversion. Topeka housing developer Pioneer Group purchased the property in 2016 and is making improvements through a historic rehabilitation project. The east hospital wing, which has been vacant since closure of the hospital in 1989, is being converted to 28 apartments that will retain their historic character. The former hospital complex will continue to serve as moderate-income apartments for residents 55 and up.

¹ In 1966 when the hospital opened to the public it was no longer directly owned by the AT&SF Hospital Association. The Association contracted with the hospital to provide medical & surgical services to its members.

² "New Santa Fe Hospital Open for Inspection," *Topeka State Journal*, 23 January 1931.

³ Firm was later renamed Cooper, Robison and Carlson.

⁴ "Santa Fe's Prepaid Hospitalization and Medical Care Program Covers 40,000 Employees, Operates Hospitals in Two States," *Topeka Daily Capital*, 23 March 1952.

⁵ "Santa Fe's Hospital Due Expansion," *Topeka State Journal*, 15 October 1962.

⁶ "Santa Fe Hospital Long-Term Care Addition near Completion," *Topeka State Journal*, 27 December 1963.

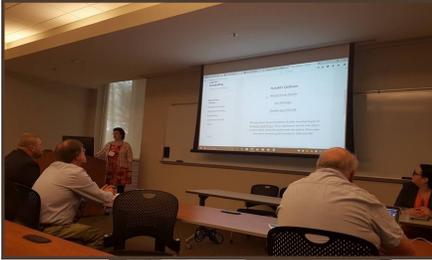
New at Constitution Hall

In April, members of Topeka Rotary volunteered to to build benches and tables for the yard at Constitution Hall. Site visitors and downtown Topekans are gaining a new spot to enjoy a sack lunch. In view is the building's field stone masonry restored over the last several years. Visitors approach from Topeka Rotary's pocket park "Freedoms Crossroads." In the pocket park are large signboards telling about nationally important events in Constitution Hall and the Brown v. Board of Education Federal district trial in the Old Federal Building across Kansas Avenue.

Projects underway include planning to replicate the original facade of Constitution Hall with private donations and public grants. With restoration progress achieved so far, visitors can tour the first floor as well as the basement, which was used in Underground Railroad operations on the Jim Lane Trail north to freedom in the North.

July 16 (Sunday 1-5pm) – John Ritchie's 200th birthday anniversary and Ice Cream Social

The SCHS will host a John Ritchie 200th Birthday Celebration and Ice Cream Social at the Historic Ritchie House at 1118 SE Madison in Topeka. G's Frozen Custard will be served. SCHS members and public are invited to attend. Mayor Wolgast will issue a proclamation to commemorate the date and will be invited to attend the event. The Westar Bluegrass Band will play the event, performing two sets between 1-3pm (set up on the porch of the Cox building next door). The Santa Fe Band will also perform 4-5pm. Area demonstrators and crafters will also be on-site. The SCHS Board President George Bernheimer will be on-site providing John Ritchie interpretation. Tours of the Ritchie house will be provided. **Happy Birthday John Ritchie!**



THE FUTURE OF HISTORY: DIGITAL STORYTELLING

The process for sharing history is rapidly changing. Digital History has become the wave of the future. This spring, Washburn University offered “Digital Storytelling: Kansas History and Literature.” The course teaches students how to research and create digital pages that tell stories of Kansas. Students are learning how to use timelines, maps, digital photographs, sound files, oral interviews, text boxes and other techniques to create their stories. The

research draws upon the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection, in which students have found stories of writers and artists, such as Gordon Parks; historical events, including the Bender murders; local institutions like Menninger’s and Topeka High; and historical movements inspiring projects such as historic trails across Kansas. Students are learning skills that are increasingly taught and used at the graduate levels, a digital project counting as a master’s thesis or a dissertation. And the advantage: it is research that then belongs to the public, and can be accessed anywhere. The Washburn University Foundation has taken up the continuation of these Digital Storytelling sites as a project for crowd funding. If you are interested in learning more or donating to “Digital Storytelling: Kansas Stories for the 21st Century,” you can visit <https://impact.givetowashburn.org/project/4171>.

Photos: Group Presentations at Kansas Association of Historians and Instructors for the Digital Storytelling class. Bottom Picture from Left to Right: Kerry Wynn PhD., Johnathan Hart, Mary Snyder, Abigail Miller, Britiany Robinson, Kassadee Clark.

SCHS Membership Renewals for 2017

Current members thru 4/14/ 2017

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Sustainer:

Hon. Robert J. Dole
 Tom Ellis

Renovator:

Nancy Kassebaum Baker
 George and Diane Bernheimer
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 Melba Banion
 Laura P. Bettis
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 Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Kansas
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 Bill Cutler
 Richard Friedstrom
 Patricia E. Decker
 L. A. and Lois Dimmitt
 Clark Duffy
 Hon. Karen Hiller
 Walter Hillmer
 Paul and Jeanne Hoferer
 Timothy Hrenchir



Lutie Lytle Photograph

www.edwardianpromenade.com/women/fascinating-women-lutie-lytle/

Lutie A. Lytle was a Topeka High School graduate that was, according to the Topeka Mail & Breeze Newspaper, the only woman lawyer in America. This may have been a stretch of the truth but she was the first woman admitted to the Kansas Bar. She was born 1875 in Murfreesboro, TN. and graduated from the Central Tennessee Law School in 1897. She was one of only two people in her graduating class. She then moved to Topeka, KS to practice law.

She lived at 1435 Monroe Street in Topeka with her family. She commented to the Mail & Breeze:

"In connection with my law practice I intend to give occasional lectures, but not in any sense for personal benefit," Lytle said. "I shall talk to my own people and make a sincere and earnest effort to improve their condition as citizens. I believe in efficacy of reason to bring about the best results."

Not much else is known about her life in New York and the latter part of her life holds many questions. It is believed that she died around 1950.

Patron Cont.

Jim Lagerberg
 Jan W. Leuenberger
 Melissa Masoner
 James A. McHenry, Jr.
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 Tom Muth
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 Alicia and John Salisbury
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 Norma Pettijohn
 Duane and Deborah
 Pomeroy
 Paul Post
 Elliott Potter
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 Frank and Judith Sabatini
 Georgia Sandlin
 Joe and Nancy Sargent
 Marsha Sheahan
 Robert Rusty
 Steinmeyer
 Wanda Stevens
 Michael Stubbs
 Richard Taylor
 Topeka Genealogical
 Society
 Joan Wagnon
 Douglas Wallace
 Watson Library, Uni-
 versity of Kansas
 Rosemary Williamson
 Jack Wisman
 Carol Yoho

Historic Ritchie House Now a Part of The Kansas African American History Trail

George Bernheimer, President of the Shawnee County Historical Society, announced that the Historic John & Mary Jane Ritchie House, located at 1116 SE Madison, Topeka has joined in a new partnership formed by the Kansas African American Museum in Wichita called The Kansas African American History Trail. The Trail is a partnership of various histori-

cal and cultural sites across the state. Bernheimer said that “we at the SCHS are proud to be a part of the KAAHT project to give us more opportunities to tell John and Mary Ritchie’s story. The couple was ahead of their time in the 1800’s promoting equal rights for all including African Americans and women. They demonstrated their commitment by making their home, built in 1856, a station on the Underground Railroad, John Ritchie’s promotion of women’s rights as a delegate to the Kansas Territorial Leavenworth and Wyandotte Constitution Conventions, and helping African Americans leaving the post-Reconstruction Era South to settle in the area.”

Jo Bogan, KAAM Project Manager for the Trail, said “Kansas has a rich African American heritage, but there is a lack of public awareness about important events that shaped and defined the history and culture. From “Bleeding Kansas” anti-slavery wars to Brown vs. Board of Education, Kansas links political, social, racial, and cultural issues that continue to define and shape the social landscape.”

“The Kansas African American History Trail will reach new audiences and address the public’s lack of knowledge of Kansas African American history. The partnership will facilitate sharing of knowledge and best practices and provide a forum for identifying future joint projects and programs.”

The Kansas African American Museum expects to launch the Kansas African American History Trail with the first guided tours beginning this September.

SCHS Memberships make great gifts for friends or family!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership is from January-December, annually

MEMBERSHIP FORM (Please print)

Yes! I wish to join the Society that preserves the past and celebrates our heritage.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Check type of membership: _____ Regular (\$35.00) _____ Patron (\$50.00) _____ Renovator (\$100.00) _____ Heritage Education Sustainer (\$150.00 +)

GIFT MEMBERSHIP (Please print)

_____ \$ Gift Membership for someone I know who will benefit from membership.

(Photocopy this form for more than one. Use rates listed above.)

Name _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

VOLUNTEER for a COMMITTEE

Nominations Membership Publications

Annual Meeting/Socials Preservation Public Relations

Landmark Preservation Committee Education/Communications

Name _____

(Make checks to "Shawnee County Historical Society")

Please send form(s) with your check to:

Shawnee County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201

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Get Involved

The SCHS would like to thank all of our volunteers and staff that help us maintain our commitment and involvement in Shawnee County and other local communities. We could not make this happen without you!

There are many ways in which you can help the Shawnee County Historical Society preserve the past for the future. Become a member! Volunteer some time! Or make a donation. Also remember the SCHS in your estate planning.

Membership in SCHS is from January 1 through December 31 each year. There are three levels of support. The Society greatly appreciates and benefits from the highest level of membership in which you are able to participate. You will receive:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Discounts at events
- Exclusive Members-Only Section on our website
- Online Archives
- The Shawnee County Historical Society News
- Invitation to the Annual Meeting on or near December 5, the anniversary of Topeka's founding
- Pre-announcements of Society activities and special events

Membership revenues also support other local endeavors including our Educational Program and History Day at Washburn University.

In addition, your Society works closely with the Kansas State Historical Society and is dedicated to a preservation focus, meant to preserve and celebrate the tangible aspects of our heritage. Together we can preserve Shawnee County History for future generations to enjoy.

We also work collaboratively with the National Park Service to provide learning opportunities for students and adults. The SCHS has partnerships with the National Association for State and Local Histories to preserve Shawnee County History.