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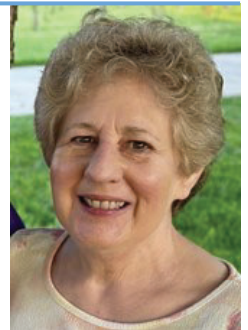
RCHS Newsletter

Vol. LXVI, No. 5

September/October 2025

President's Letter by Mary Mertz

In this newsletter, we include an article about saving your family photos. I feel it corresponds nicely with the publication of our new Riley County Historical Society brochures hot off the press and now available to the public. The inside panel of the trifold shows a picture of the historic limestone Wolf House with a caption above that reads: "Bridging our Past to the Future." That's what museum staff members and the RCHS staff and board members are all about. Through historic tours of City Park, Fireside Chats, and archiving photos that remind us where we came from and how far we've gone, we tell the stories of our county. I offer you one of mine here.



Drawing of Abner Allen House circa 1881, courtesy Mary Mertz. From the 1881 Plat Book of Riley County.

Looking out the window of my 1860s home, I see fields of growing corn and Simmental cattle lying in the shade of creek-side trees. It's a very different scene from the one portrayed in the framed picture that hangs upon my kitchen wall. That framed picture of my house and the surrounding land is an illustrated drawing copied from the 1881 Plat Book of Riley County.

At that time in history, a man by the name of Abner Allen owned this parcel having first arrived in the Zeandale area (then Richardson County) of Kansas in 1856. Mr. Allen was known in this region as having one of the very finest apple orchards - as depicted in the Plat Book sketch, and as being in disposition "modest and retiring, though open and fearless in the expression of what he believes to be right." An interesting sentiment, if you ask me.

Mr. Allen worked with Kansas State Agricultural College (KSAC) - now Kansas State University - and was integral in assisting with horticultural and fruit-growing programs. He was also a member of the first state legislature. In addition, a small stone building on his, now our, property was used as the first district schoolhouse from 1859 to 1862 with Miss Mattie Keyes as teacher. Several years ago, I had a barn quilt created for the exterior limestone wall of the building in the pattern of "Early Riser" in homage to the students that studied there.

When my husband first brought me to his family farm and showed me this house in 1987, it had been a rental for decades and had become quite dilapidated. I was not impressed with or excited about starting our fast-approaching family within its smoke blackened walls and broken-glass-laden yard. At that time, I had no idea of its historical significance. What an amazing discovery and what a heartwarming story this house would share with me! All due to a picture my mother-in-law had framed in her kitchen from a book compiled in 1881.

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History is our bridge. Each generation makes new sections of the bridge and crosses over into the future. The 1881 Plat Book also had this to say of Abner Allen: "As a neighbor, he is generous and obliging, and as a citizen and man, he is highly respected."

I wish I could step back in time and shake Mr. Allen's hand. I like to think he would be pleased to know we are loving and caring for his home and the vision he left as a legacy here in the Kaw River Valley of Riley County.

We now have "The Abner Allen House and Outbuilding" listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places. We hope that our children and grandchildren will recognize our conviction for and gratefulness of this home and will appreciate the stories our family has added and continues to add as time goes on. Do you have a story to share? Let us know.

Thanks, and Happy Fall!



Abner Allen home, currently owned by Bob and Mary Mertz. Photo courtesy Mary Mertz.

Remembering K-State's Fairchild Museum by Lauren W. Ritterbush and Kaylee Kerns



Library and Agricultural Science (Fairchild) Hall nearing completion in 1894. Courtesy of University Archives, Kansas State University Libraries.

If you attended Kansas State University or lived in this region before 1970, you might recall the museum housed in Fairchild Hall. The collections held by this institution were diverse, including various natural history items and objects of anthropological interest. Eventually, the museum closed and formal records detailing the collections were lost. Nonetheless, sources such as newspaper articles and visitor memories provide glimpses into the museum's collections and history.

The museum's story begins with a set of minerals and ores donated by professor, natural historian, and geologist Benjamin F. Mudge. Mudge moved to Kansas from New England in 1861. In 1864, he became Kansas' first state geologist and director of the Kansas Geological Survey. A year later, he joined the faculty of Kansas State Agricultural College - now Kansas

State University - as instructor and chair of Natural Sciences. Mudge's initial donation of geological specimens was made soon after he began his tenure at KSAC.

Collection grows

From this nucleus, the college's collections grew as Mudge and his students acquired additional materials. Unfortunately, Mudge was forced to leave KSAC in 1874 due to administration changes. Much, if not all, of his and other natural history collections were destroyed, including a nearly complete herbarium of Kansas grasses. Despite these setbacks, items continued to be donated to the college, functionally re-establishing the museum.

Entomologist Edwin A. Popenoe and George H. Failyer, professor of chemistry and geology, collaborated to obtain a wide array of specimens. They even sought donations through *The Industrialist*, the historical campus newspaper. Some of the most noteworthy entomological, botanical, and zoological collections in western North America were added to the museum in the 1880s.



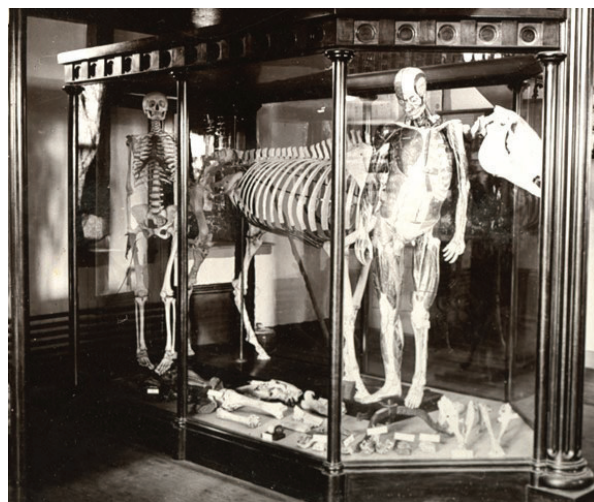
Museum visitor "feeding" the elk (wapiti) in Fairchild Museum. Courtesy of University Archives, Kansas State University Libraries.

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Among the many additions over the years were a collection of insects; silk moth cocoons and samples of raw silk; specimens of plants, wood, nuts, seeds, and dried fruits; freshwater and marine shells, corals, and sponges; bird skins, eggs, and nests; fishes preserved in alcohol, reptiles and amphibians of Kansas, animal skeletons, and taxidermy mounts; fossils, ores, and other rocks and minerals; human anatomical models; stone artifacts, and much more. One of the taxidermy items was an opossum killed by a janitor at the college. Live animal donations included bald-faced hornets and their nest, two salamanders, two opossums, at least one alligator, a prairie dog, rattlesnakes, and, on loan from a private individual, a two-headed bull snake.

Museum finds a home

With the accumulations of so many items, a central place was needed for their display and use. This was arranged in the mid-1880s in the college's Farm Machinery Hall. This early building on K-State's campus - located where Cardwell Hall is today - served as a classroom and laboratory building, a women's dormitory, and an armory before housing the KSAC museum. The collections gained a new home in 1894 in the newly constructed Library and Agricultural Science Hall. This building, later renamed Fairchild Hall, was built to house the university library as well as classrooms and laboratories for entomology, geology, biology, and taxidermy. It also included a museum hall measuring 40 by 60 feet. The museum was overseen by curator Professor Fischer and assistant curator Charles W. Pape. This facilitated the continued growth of the collection and its exhibits. Eventually, displays were present on all five floors of Fairchild Hall.



One of the many display cases in Fairchild Museum. Courtesy of University Archives, Kansas State University Libraries.

The Fairchild Museum served as a resource for students and faculty and was appreciated by the public. Janet Duncan remembers elementary school field trips to the museum. Among the items she found most memorable were a stuffed two-headed calf and the arm and hand of an Egyptian mummy. According to a 1937 article in the Kansas State Collegian, the latter was donated by Mrs. Charles L. Marlatt of Washington, D.C., whose father had received it from "explorers" who recovered the associated mummy in 1875 from a site near the First Cataract of the Nile River.

Museum closes

By the late 1960s, a century after its early beginnings, administrative support for K-State's eclectic museum and its staff had dwindled. Despite arguments by faculty, students, and the public, the university sought to divest itself of the museum collections. Without proper oversight, the collections were dispersed haphazardly. Some items were transferred to interested K-State faculty while others, such as the mummy arm and two-headed calf, were loaned to regional museums. Former Manhattan resident Bob Blasing recalls that the Manhattan Gem and Mineral Society was allowed to take any remaining fossils, rocks, and minerals. Thus, the collections were dispersed and the long-historied museum of K-State was closed. Although the primary mission of museums is to convey stories reflected through their collections, in this case, it is the story of the museum itself that is told.

(Lauren W. Ritterbush is a professor of anthropology at Kansas State University and is on the board of the Riley County Historical Society. Kaylee Kerns earned her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Kansas State University in 2019. Today, she is a product manager and senior marketing specialist with Metcalf Archaeological Consultants.)



Harriet, left, and Etta Parkerson. Photo courtesy The Kansas Historical Society.

Do you know about Julia "Etta" Parkerson Reynolds (1853 - 1889)? Etta, niece of Isaac Goodnow, was courted by Alvin Reynolds who was assisting with the construction of the 1868 addition to the Goodnow home. Etta agreed to marry him on January 1, 1875. From Isaac Goodnow's diary: "Rode to M. and to...A. Reynolds and Etta and took them to Br. Griffin who married them-thence to his house and had a wedding d. after wh. gave the bride a pr. of sad irons...."

Alvin and Etta had two sons, William E. (1879-1899), and Louis Parkerson (1884-1960). Alvin Reynolds established a grocery store in Keats and became the Keats postmaster. Etta was appointed teacher of the Keats school. She was also the Keats correspondent for the Manhattan Nationalist newspaper. Etta passed away on March 13, 1889 of lung congestion. She was 36. When Etta died, her sister Harriet adopted Etta's son, Louis. Etta is buried at Sunset Cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas. **Sourced from Goodnow House State Historic Site Virtual Tour website at www.goodnowhousevirtualtour.weebly.com.**

What comes to mind about Aggieville? *by Mary Stamey*

In the July/August issue of Riley County Historical Society's newsletter, Janet Duncan detailed the storied history of Riley County's unique shopping district, Aggieville. What began as a spot where college students could buy books remains a place college students gather. One hundred thirty-six years later, thousands of people who have lived in or visited Manhattan can likely share a favorite story about this six-block area.



Early Aggieville, corner of Little Moro St. and N. Manhattan Ave. Photo courtesy of Riley County Historical Society and Museum.

Aggieville began because students needed a bookstore. Some responders mentioned two bookstores — the College Book Store and the Campus Book Store — as favored options when they attended K-State. By far the most remembered was Varney's, which was a staple for many years and people remembered lugging out bags full of books, standing in line for what seemed like hours, and "that crazy Ted" owner. Another favorite remembrance was the Campus Book Store, now the Dusty Bookshelf. Many felt sad when a fire destroyed the business but were excited when it was reborn. Aggieville, however, was and is far more than bookstores.

No matter whether asked individually or in a group, when asked about Aggieville, the response was usually a single word or just a few: Johns Creamery, Kite's, St. Patrick's Day parade and race, bars, Ballard's. After thinking about it, people rattled off several more events or favorite places to go. One of my cousins remembered sneaking out of her home near Aggieville when she was about 12, just to walk among the college kids and act far above her age. No one was fooled because she had no money or ID.

Do you remember any other places mentioned: Woody's, Peterson's, that bouncing dance floor, Romig's Phillips 66, Texas Star, Aggie Station, Stickel's Cleaners, Palace Drug Store, Pizza Hut, Baskin-Robbins, Miller's Pharmacy, Blaker's Studio Royal, Hibachi Hut? I could go on and on. Your next test is to be able to tell what was sold or what happened in these businesses. Was anyone in Aggieville when the goalpost was carried to Moro Street after a football victory? Or how about the year the apple didn't drop for the New Year's Eve Little Apple Drop? We have memories galore waiting to be told again. Aggieville is historical, storied and special. Let's meet there and reminisce!

(Mary Stamey is a life-long resident of Manhattan, a K-State graduate, a retired school principal, and a member of the Riley County Historical Society.)

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The Riley County Historical Society and Museum is a member of several organizations, including North American Reciprocal Museums (NARM), Time Travelers Reciprocal Membership Network, Freedoms Frontier National Heritage Area, and Kansas Museums Association. Among the benefits Riley County Historical Society members receive are free or reduced admission rates at other member museums, just one of the ways in which a RGHS membership benefits you. Check us out at www.rileychs.org and you can follow us on Facebook!



September is Save Your Photos Month by Melanie Highsmith and Mary Kohn

Do you have older family photographs that you'd like to preserve for future generations? This question was the basis for a July preservation and digitization workshop hosted by the Riley County Historical Museum in partnership with the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University and UFM. Whether you're ready to start scanning or planning for a future project, the following tips will help ensure the process goes smoothly.

1. Have a plan: It is important to start by knowing the long-term goal of your project. Are you looking to preserve an older family photo album? Share photos on social media? Illustrate your family tree? Or reproduce photos for publication? While many of these goals can overlap, knowing what you want to do will determine the format that will be most useful.

2. Manage your expectations: While you may feel compelled to digitize every photograph in your collection, it is important to be selective. Knowing your limits, whether they are financial, physical, or time-related, should guide the process. For example, you might start with 200 photos to set a lofty but achievable goal.

3. Use proper tools of the trade: Have archivally-safe writing implements, folders, photo sleeves, or boxes for your collection on hand when you start your project. These can be purchased from companies that specialize in archivally-safe items. A standard #2 pencil can be used to label photo paper, but a Stabilo pencil is recommended for pictures with a waxy or plastic backing.

4. Identify people and places: As you go through your photos, whether to re-home or digitize, write down the details of the photograph in question. If you know the names of the people in the image, the location or address, the reason for the gathering, or any associated stories, record this information for future viewers.

5. Choose the proper format: High-quality scanners are now quite affordable and accessible. When scanning photos, select the file format that best aligns with your project goal. If you only want to share pictures on social media, JPEG is ideal as its smaller file size is suited for uploading online. If you plan to publish your images or enlarge them for print, a TIFF is best. TIFF files are larger and require more storage space but are essential for high-quality printing and image reproduction.

6. Choose your resolution settings: Resolution is often measured in DPI, a common setting on scanners. DPI stands for "dots per inch" and is a measure of the amount of information stored in your photo. Typically, high-quality printing requires a minimum resolution of 300 DPI or photo resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. A pixel is a single block of color in a picture. If you plan on enlarging a scan, raise the DPI so that the enlarged version has a high-enough resolution to avoid pixelation. For example, if you double the image size, choose a DPI setting of at least 600. If you don't see DPI in the default settings, check under advanced settings.



Figure 1 Photos courtesy of the Chapman Center.

Figure 1: This image is a high-quality TIFF image with a dpi of 900. **Figure 2:** This image is zoomed in and saved as a .jpg. The pixelation in the bottom image is due to low resolution (dpi of 171). Print shops may give a warning and refuse to print the bottom image unless the size is reduced or the resolution is increased.



Figure 2

7. Organize digital files: Librarians and archivists keep detailed track of metadata, or data about the materials they are storing. Consistent naming practices help with this process. For example, when scanning documents, you might consider a naming schema such as: *Date_location_subject_number.tiff*. In this example, the first part of the name is the date the photo was taken, followed by the photo's location, subject, and sequential number of the photo if multiple photos were taken at the same time.

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For example, if two family photos were taken from a birthday party in Council Grove in 1979, your file names may look like:

1979-03-07_Council-Grove_Frank-Barrow-BDAY-Party_001.tiff

1979-03-07_Council-Grove_Frank-Barrow-BDAY-Party_002.tiff

Organizing files in this way will help prevent file misplacement and make them more searchable, especially when scanning many items. Specifically, placing the date in Year-Month-Day format keeps files clustered by year and therefore easily searchable. Such naming conventions are equivalent to handwriting a message on the back of a photo to help remind the next generation of when the photo was taken and who appeared in it.

Keep a spreadsheet on Excel or Google Docs to preserve additional information. This will enhance the informational value of your photo collection. You can choose to organize your data in any way, but it's best to create a documented plan and maintain consistency.

8. Back up your files: Be sure to back up your files in at least two places, such as on both a thumb drive and your computer's hard drive or cloud. Store these in different locations so events like fire or flooding are less likely to destroy both copies. Always have a plan to rescue or share passwords to keep your digital photos safe and accessible!

9. Ask for help: If you would like more guidance or to schedule a digitization consultation, contact the Chapman Center for Rural Studies by email at chapmancenter@ksu.edu. Also, keep your eyes peeled for future preservation and digitization workshops!

(Melanie Highsmith is the curator of education and design at the Riley County Historical Museum, and a doctoral student in the history Department at Kansas State University. Mary Kohn is director of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and focuses on digital humanities in the Great Plains.)

Curator's Corner by Melanie Highsmith

Currently on exhibit in the Museum's temporary gallery, **Escape from Storage: Showcasing Hidden Artifacts**, sits a stunning piece of handcrafted local history. Built in 1927 by Elbridge Jarvis Best, this signet for the Order of the Eastern Star is unique in its size (nearly 6 feet tall) and the fact that it is electrified. The design features a 5-pointed star made of wood and frosted glass. Around the outside of the wood frame is the slogan, "We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

Between the star points are flower emblems while the star point symbols exemplify Biblical heroines including Ruth, Esther, and Martha. The center pentagon shows an open Bible, the sun, a lamb, lion, and a lily of the valley.

The Manhattan Chapter No. 209 began in 1889, and this signet was present during meetings after its creation. A Masonic fraternal organization, the Order of the Eastern Star is open to men and women, and it promotes charitable services. The item was donated by Jeanne Beck in 2001.



Photo courtesy Melanie Highsmith.

Riley Old American Legion Building on Kansas Historic Places Register by Gloria Freeland

The building housing the Arts & Memories Museum in Riley, Kansas, was approved in June to be listed on the Register of Kansas Historic Places. It is the first such listing of a property in the town of Riley. Located at 223 S. Broadway St., the structure is now owned by Keith and Rita Kraushaar. It was originally built as American Legion Post #168. The structure is a Quonset hut and parts of the foundation and base were re-purposed from cut limestone from a building that was demolished at Fort Riley.

The building is a unique example of a vernacular Quonset hut. In 1937, when the U.S. was readying for the entrance of World War II, Congress approved the building of new airbases across the country, one of which was in Quonset Point, New Jersey.

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Architect George A. Fuller Company was tasked with building the base and then later asked to build a prefabricated hut to house troops abroad, and the Quonset hut was born. The Quonset hut would become one of the most versatile architectural types in modern American architecture. Not only were they cheap to produce, but they were also highly versatile.

The traditional Quonset hut is characterized by its roof, which is a semicircle made entirely of corrugated metal. The building in Riley is different from the traditional iconic Quonset hut popularized during and immediately after World War II. The semicircular metal roof of the American Legion meets the limestone foundation about three feet off the ground, as



The building housing American Legion Post #168 and now the Arts & Memories Museum in Riley was placed on the Register of Kansas Historic Places in June 2025. (Photo courtesy Kansas Historic Resources Inventory).

compared to traditional Quonset huts, where the metal roof becomes the side walls and continues to meet the ground. The basement is approximately 3,200 square feet with limestone walls and a concrete floor. The main floor interior is also 3,200 square feet with wood floors. According to information on the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory site, the structure is “a unique design for a Quonset hut and represents a good vernacular application of local materials.”

The Kraushaars bought the building in 1993 after the American Legion post was dissolved. They live in the basement, and the main floor space is being used as a museum, which they officially opened in 2006. Among the museum’s artifacts are Bala and Riley memorabilia, a church exhibit, miniature trains, cameras, military items, dolls and toys, room settings, rocks and fossils, and other articles. The museum is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from noon-4 p.m.

Celebrate Family History Month by Gloria Freeland

October is National Family History Month, and there are many ways to explore, preserve, and share unique stories from our families. The memories, traditions, life lessons, and experiences of family members who came before us are threads that create our heritage. Exploring and preserving family history can be a fulfilling journey that enriches our sense of self, deepens the bonds between generations past and present, and passes on our family’s legacy to future generations.

Consider these ideas to celebrate family history, not just in October, but throughout the year: digitize and identify family photos (related article in this newsletter); record interviews with family members; write about yourself — your growing-up years, schooling, marriage, children, career, hobbies, etc.; tell the history of family heirlooms, specifying where they came from, their age, and who owned them; and write accounts of family members with specific talents or interests, such as sports or art. The National Genealogical Society (ngsgenealogy.org) has more ideas and easy-to-follow steps to make projects manageable and successful.

And the Riley County Genealogical Society (rileycgs.com) provides educational programming and research opportunities for genealogy and family history researchers; maintains a genealogical research library; and collects, preserves and publishes genealogical and historical records for Riley County and the surrounding area. The organization also offers monthly roundtable discussions about family history — all free and open to the public.

Upcoming events for the Genealogical Society include the annual Pie Party from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, in the yard at the Genealogical Society Library, “Asian American Kansans: From Pioneers to Present” from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, in the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium; and “The Lost Towns Project” and work of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, in the Manhattan Public Library Auditorium.

Digitizing the Faces and Places of Riley County by Hal Dace

Starting October 1, the "Riley County Digital Collections" - a new online archive of photographs from our collection dating back to the 1850s - will be accessible to all. These photo galleries will be available on the Riley County Historical Society website (rileychs.org) and will include images of the historical collection of local buildings, towns, people, and more. One gallery shows many Riley County buildings that no longer exist. Another has images that are particularly attractive, such as flowers and landscapes. It will also be possible to browse photos that were donated in specific lots by specific donors and those by particular photographers. Photos will be searchable by keywords, year, or a range of years.

Upon coming to work at the Riley County Historical Museum in 2018, I almost immediately began working on a project that seemed to have no end: digitizing analogue images from photographic prints, slide transparencies, and negatives. Although I had been working professionally with analogue and digital image media for several decades, this was my first job in a museum, so digitizing donated museum photographs was something new. I had, however, tried to digitize some of our old family photos after my father passed away in 2003. I had to make decisions almost all of us has to make. Someone close is gone and we have to go through their belongings. We are also faced with deciding which old photos to keep.



Example of a digitized photo from a glass-plate negative having been 'healed' of a crack by using Artificial Intelligence technology. Photos courtesy Riley County Historical Society and Museum.

I also had issues with digitizing images at home. For example, photographs mounted in frames are hard to digitize. This issue could be mitigated by taking them out of the frame, but there is the possibility of the top layer of the image sticking to the glass or of the frames being damaged in the removal process. Thus, doing a thorough examination of the photograph and frame to make sure they can be separated safely is recommended. If the photo can be removed without damaging it, but the frame may deteriorate further in the process, then the decision must be made whether retaining the frame or being able to obtain a high-quality scan is of higher priority.

Using specialized equipment

A rostrum camera setup helps eliminate reflections from the glass. A rostrum camera is a specialized camera and platform system designed to photograph still images or objects. The rostrum is the sturdy stand or table that holds the photograph. Next, a special scanner is needed for negatives and transparency slides. After the images are digitized, a decision has to be made as to what to do with them. Keep them? Upload them to social media? Donate them? Use them to create your own website?

Museums are one place that may consider accepting your family photography collection should you decide they no longer need to remain in your care. Most museums have a guide, known as a scope of collection, which they use to determine whether or not an object or collection is suitable for acquisition. Before donating, please reach out to the museum which best suits your collection and inquire about their criteria. Should your donation be approved, you just might be able to supplement or fill in a gap in their collection!

Many museums may also digitize your donated images and host them on a platform such as Riley County Digital Collection, allowing the images to be enjoyed by the public without having to schedule an appointment to visit in-person. Other than public accessibility, we do have two exciting features to the platform, which will allow potential photograph donors to share their digital images online for consideration with our curatorial team and a section that will allow users to help us identify photos we've had no luck ID'ing. We are excited for the interactive potential.

Keep an eye on the RCHS website (rileychs.org) on October 1, 2025 when Riley County Digital Collections goes live!

(Hal Dace was born and raised in Manhattan. He worked in London, mainly at the BBC, as a film editor and director for twenty years. In 1998, Debbie Harry, of the rock band Blondie, tasked Hal with producing and directing their film "No Exit". After returning to Manhattan in 2002, he has continued to produce and direct many film projects including his 2019 film "Avenues of Altruism: The History of Manhattan, Kansas". That and many of his other films can be viewed via his website epistrophypictures.com. He is an expert in analogue and digital media and began work at the museum in 2018 while continuing to produce feature films.)



Calendar of Events

September is National Americana Month and Save Your Photos Month

September 1—Labor Day; Museum, historical society sites, and administrative offices closed

September 4—Presentation/Book reading, "***Running in Borrowed Shoes: Thane Baker and the 1952 Summer Games***" with Thane Baker and Catherine Baker Nicholson, 6:00 p.m., Flint Hills Discovery Center, 315 S. 3rd St., Manhattan, KS; this program is free and open to the public

September 9—Fireside Chat, ***Women's Club of Manhattan*** at 1880 Beef, 900 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, 5:30 p.m.

September 10—RCHS board meeting, 5:15pm

September 15–October 15—Hispanic Heritage month

September 21—Humanities Kansas Presentation, ***Kansas Music History*** with Derrick Doty, 2:00 p.m. Manhattan Public Library, 629 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS; this program is free and open to the public

October is National Family History Month and National Fire Prevention Month

October 8—RCHS board meeting, 5:15pm

October 11—Headstone Preservation Workshop at Ogden Cemetery, 9:00 a.m.–noon, 409 N. Walnut Street, Ogden, KS; this workshop is free and open to the public

October 13—Columbus Day; Museum, historical society sites, and administrative offices closed

October 14—Kid-friendly Fireside Chat, ***Reading Rainbow Young Writers*** with Bryan Vereen, 5:30 p.m. Flight Crew Coffee, 423 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS

October 26 – Pioneer Log Cabin in City Park closes for the season

October 31—Halloween