

RILEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1914

2309 Claflin Road Manhattan, Kansas 66502 785-565-6490 www.rileychs.com www.rileycountyks.gov

RCHS NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2014



Mary Knapp

RCHS Dinner Meeting, Pottorf Hall in CiCo Park Tuesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

MENU catered by Wade Greif:
Smoked Pork Loin w/BBQ sauce
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw
Rolls
Lemonade, Decaf Coffee
Cookies

COST: \$12.00
Reservations by Friday, April 11
785-565-6490
Sorry, no cancellations after the
reservation deadline.

State Climatologist to Speak at April 15 Meeting

State Service Climatologist Mary Knapp will be the featured speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Riley County Historical Society on Tuesday, April 15. Knapp has a unique position in Kansas State University's Department of Agronomy. She is responsible for establishing and maintaining a statewide network of equipment for gathering weather data and answering questions on climate and weather matters. She also maintains the website that provides a constant update and complete archive of weather-related data for Kansas. The program, open to all, will begin about 7:15 p.m.

President's message by Gloria Freeland

2014 marks the centennial of the Riley County Historical Society, and I feel honored to serve as the society's president during this milestone year.

I am pleased to work with so many hard-working board members, who are passionate about Riley County's history, and who want to celebrate and share it with others. I am also glad to work with Riley County Historical Museum staff members and volunteers, who spend countless hours caring for exhibits, preserving documents and sharing their knowledge with people of all ages in Manhattan, Riley County and the state of Kansas.

We have several activities planned for the year, including a quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 15, and an Open House at Rocky Ford School on Saturday, April 26. In addition, at our annual meeting in October, we will commemorate the official chartering of the Riley County Historical Society. The next RCHS board meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at the RCHM.

Please stay tuned! We will keep you updated about our events throughout the year.



Rocky Ford School OPEN HOUSE
1969 Barnes Road (Tuttle Creek Boulevard at Barnes Road)
Saturday, April 26, 2 - 4 p.m.
Come see our renovations!

The Rocky Ford Committee of the Riley County Historical Society invites you and your family and friends to an Open House on Saturday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Rocky Ford School House. This historic school house is located at the intersection of Tuttle Creek Boulevard and Barnes Road, just a few miles north of Manhattan. Refreshments will be served. Parking is available at the Faith Evangelical Free Church, 1921 Barnes Road.

Rocky Ford School is a one-room limestone schoolhouse that was built in 1903. The building served first through eighth grade students in District 70 until consolidation with District 1 in 1938. Although consolidation had been a topic of discussion during District 70 board meetings as early as 1921, patrons chose to rebuild the school after a fire nearly destroyed it in 1927. Builder Fred Hulse used the original limestone during the reconstruction.

Various repairs and improvements were made to the property within its first two decades. An outhouse was built in 1904. A well was first excavated in 1909, and a new well was dug in 1933. A merry-go-round was installed in 1929.

In 1987, U.S.D. 383 gave the school to the Historical Society with the understanding that it would be used for historical purposes.

The Rocky Ford School committee, chaired by Doug Tippin and composed of other RCHS board members and volunteers, has made additional improvements to the exterior and interior in recent years.



Area Elementary Students Tour the Riley County Historical Museum, Goodnow House, and Hartford House

More than 1,200 elementary students have been scheduled to tour the Riley County Historical Museum during the early months of 2014. One hundred first and second grade students (pictured above) celebrated Kansas Day (January 29) at the Museum.

The Riley County Historical Museum is partnering with the Beach Museum of Art to offer tours to area elementary school children. The “Picturing Kansas: Journey to the Prairie” tours focus on early settlement, home and family life, and weather for Kindergarten through third grade students and on exploration, settlement of Kansas, and Kansas in the Civil War for students in grades four through six. Morning tour groups, either at the Riley County Historical Museum or the Beach Museum of Art, eat sack lunches before being bused to the other museum for the afternoon.

The art at the Beach Museum and the historical museum’s artifacts and historic properties complement each other well. Kathrine Schlageck, senior educator at the Beach Museum, and Allana Parker, Curator of Design at the historical museum, organized the tours, which started in January and will go through May.

Museum needs 1950s artifacts for “Forces” exhibit

The Riley County Historical Museum is looking for artifacts from the 1950s to create vignettes for the “Flint Hills Forces 1917-1963: Our Town, Our Fort, Our University” exhibit, which will run September 2014—February 2015 at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Among items needed include 1950s living room chairs, a side table, a tall floor lamp, a sunburst clock, a rug, curtains, TV trays, an ash tray, playing cards, a magazine rack, and aluminum drinking glasses. A special request is a hula girl doll that people used to place on top of their television sets. If you wish to loan an item to the museum for this exhibit, contact museum staff at 785-565-6490.

*The Riley County
Historical Society & Museum
2309 Claflin Road
Manhattan, Kansas 66502*

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Manhattan, KS 66502

Address Service Requested

If your mailing label doesn't say 2014 or L above your name, we invite you to renew your calendar year membership!
Member donations are tax deductible. Go to www.rileychs.com for details or call the Museum at 785-565-6490.

New RCHS Logo Unveiled

A new logo, designed by Mariya Vaughan, a Kansas State University English and women's studies instructor and daughter of Gloria Freeland, is featured on the society's website and on other promotional materials, and was made into an eight-foot banner to be displayed at various events and parades throughout the year. **Thomas Outdoor Advertising** donated the banner to the society. RCHS board members Margaret Pendleton and Mary Stamey carried the banner in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade.



Grant Byquist, Sadie the Cow, and Margaret Pendleton
in City Park for the St. Patrick's Day Parade