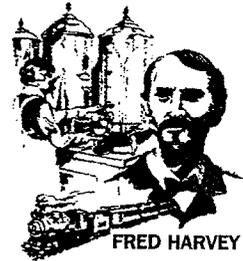


Harvey House Notes

www.florenceKs.com



Florence Historical Society



December 2008

2008

Historical Society Officers:

- ❖ President-Judy Mills
- ❖ Vice President-Sarah Cope
- ❖ Secretary-Marjorie Jackson
- ❖ Treasurer-Twilah Williams

Board of Directors:

Sarah Cope
Cathy DeForest
Mary Jane Grimmatt
Marjorie Jackson
Judy Mills
Edna Mae Robinson
Neva Robinson
Vickie Turner
Harvey Wells
Twilah Williams

Items for publication in the newsletter can be sent to:

Mary Jane Grimmatt
414 W. 8th Street
Florence, KS 66851

or emailed:
mjg1@kans.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The Florence Historical Society is a non-profit society with membership of individuals interested in preserving the history of Florence, the Santa Fe in Florence and especially the Clifton Harvey House. Our goal is to foster appreciation and understanding of the part history plays in our lives.

Greetings from your President:

Here we are sending out our last newsletter of the year. Where has the year of 2008 gone? Just think, we have added another year to the historical heritage of our museum. Each passing year our building and artifacts are becoming an even greater treasure. Our only hope is that all of you have seen our treasures. As with New Yorkers who have never been to the top of the Empire State Building, I know there are those of Florence and the immediate area who have not experienced their own treasures. We would find it an honor if you would like to roll up your sleeves and work with us in helping to keep this keepsake of history preserved. We look forward to the coming year and welcome each and every one of you.



As president, I want to take this time to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It has been a pleasure serving as your president. I also want to thank all of those who have diligently worked with me to try to make a difference. Without each and every one of you, what we did accomplish in 2008 would not have been possible. Again thank you to each and everyone.

Judy

BUILDING OUR FUTURE BY PRESERVING OUR PAST

The Florence Historical Society incorporated in 1969. This will make our society 40 years old next June 25, 2009.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Mark June 13th and 14th of 2009 on your calendars because the Symphony is coming to town! The Flint Hills Symphony is coming to Cedar Point on June 14th. Florence has been designated as the gateway community for this event. What that means is Florence is gearing up for two days of celebrating!! Starting on Friday, June 13th at 1 p.m. we will have food, vendors, activities and entertainment. It will run through Saturday at 4 p.m. People from all over Kansas will be in town to see what Florence has to offer. If you would be interested in helping us here in Florence with the celebration please contact Theresa Huffman at 620-382-8830, Sarah Cope at 620-878-4294 or Sue Klassen at 620-382-0430.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Back To The Good Old Days

NOTES FROM T.P. ALEXANDER DIARY
By Neva Robinson

A clipping from the 1900 October 31st newspaper:

It rained over one-half inch today. A very disagreeable day. There was a Republican Rally here today but it was abandoned on account of the rain. A dark, cloudy day. The roads are awful muddy, the worst ever seen.

From the 1900 November 5th newspaper:

One of the most enthusiastic meetings of the campaign was the Republican rally here tonight. A magnificent parade, with bands, rough riders and citizens on foot filled the Main Streets of the town.

OUR SYMPATHY

We have received word that Verelene Kent Steele Herron, daughter of Conrad and Verneva Kent passed away October 7th at the age of 82 in Indianapolis, Ind. Her daughter, Joni Steele Kimberlin shares her mother had many fond memories of Florence that she has posted on the guestbook of the city web page.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!



Thank you for visiting our homepage!

A special thank you to Jackie Sigwing for keeping our Harvey House website updated. Please check out the new photo slide show that Jackie has installed showing pictures of our community events. Be sure to log in to the guestbook portion of the web page and read portions of history and memories people are sharing about Florence. We have attached the web site address: www.florenceKs.com Thanks again, Jackie!!!



THE OLD PUMP HOUSE
THE CITY OF FLORENCE
WATER SYSTEM

In 1887 an ordinance was adopted “for the erection, construction and maintenance of water works in the city of Florence, Kansas, and to regulate the same.” This ordinance was published in the Bulletin, as was required by law by order of the City Council.

The water tower was built in 1887 by C. O. Johnson, a stone contractor, and water lines were laid in Florence. A large well was dug on the east side of the Cottonwood River. The site of the well would have been at about the end of 7th Street. It was really a large cistern about twenty feet across and had a roof over it. Water seeped from the river into the well, where it was allowed to settle. A stone pump house was located nearby, and by steam power the water was pumped out of the well (or cistern) to the water tower, the same water tower still in use today. There was no sewage system in 1887, and with the growth of Florence as the years went by, some steps had to be taken to obtain water free from drainage into the river. This led to the arrangement made to have water brought into the water tower from what we now call the “City Springs.”

REFLECTING ON OUR PAST

Some of the visitors at the PRIDE Arts and Antiques Fair this past September were Bob Cox and his wife, Pam. In chatting with the Coxes we learned they were from Kiowa, Kansas and had been visiting all the craft fairs in Marion County that day. From the Coxes we learned they also currently operate the Chief Theatre in Kiowa three evenings a week, Friday through Sunday. They reported the movie house is using the theatre seats, sound system and re-wind files moved from our local Mayflower Theatre. The Chief Theatre opened up in the summer of 1967 after a fire and some of the items purchased from the Mayflower were moved 150 miles away to Kiowa in farm trucks! The Coxes also shared that Bob has an antique clock repair business and Pam collects children's books. We're so glad they shared this bit of history with us! Thank you Bob and Pam!



SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!!

Santa will make his grand entrance to Florence on Saturday evening, December 6th at the Florentine Center. The evening's entertainment will begin at 6 p.m. with Mary Beth Bowers of Marion presenting her puppet show for a lively time for the kids. After that the lights on the community Christmas tree will be lit at the corner of 5th street followed by the singing of Christmas carols. Santa will make his annual visit, arriving on the fire truck. Refreshments will be served. The event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Florence Historical Society
 Box 143
 Florence, Kansas 66851

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**BECAUSE OUR
 HISTORY MATTERS!**