

# Harvey House Notes

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## Florence Historical Society

### April 2016



2016

#### *Historical Society Officers:*

- ❖ President-Robert Harris
- ❖ Vice President-Shirley Grinstead
- ❖ Secretary-Marjorie Jackson
- ❖ Treasurer-Edna Robinson

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Items for publication in the newsletter can be sent to:

Edna Robinson  
2335 110th  
Florence, KS 66851

or e-mail:  
ednamaer@fhrd.net

#### **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.

### *From the President*

#### **Back in the Past**

*By Robert Harris*

Florence had a very good set of schools! There were several excellent teachers in the high school, some of which could not be matched anywhere! I always thought the foundation of a child was good parents, love of God, a good town, and a good school. Florence scored very high in all of these. As some of these parts are removed, just as a building taking out some parts, it is just not quite as good.

One teacher that all of us that went to Florence High School remember is Ben F. Barrett (Still Mr. Barrett). This man came to Florence to stay and stay he did. He was a fine Christian man, a good father, part of the town, a member of the Christian Church, and many things at Florence High School. He kept score at the football and basketball games, he was one of the sponsors of the senior class and sponsor of the high school yearbook. He taught government and history in the high school and junior high school. As a teacher, he went all out to see that his students learned. His students liked this man so well they tried their best in his class.

As editor of our yearbook when we were seniors, I was able to use his desk when no class was in the room and in the cabinet in that room were the files of all of the past yearbooks for many years that I could use. Mr. Barrett was there to help but it was my project with our class. Most things were O.K. to do—very few were not, for good reasons. The sad thing I found many years later, was the cabinet and contents were left with the school when it was closed. Along came a mental giant who sent all to the landfill along with most other things from Florence Schools. So much history has been lost this way. The older I become the more I realize how fortunate we were to attend school at Florence. We went to school in a brick and concrete building, not a tin shed, and had pillars of the community for our teachers. It all matched to create strong individuals.

Thanks to all.

## *From the Secretary*

I think that this dish is really good and I don't even like spinach! This recipe comes from the Hayes House Restaurant cookbook published in 2000. The Hayes House 1857 Restaurant and Tavern has long been known as the "Oldest Continuous Restaurant West of the Mississippi." It is a National Historic Landmark situated on the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, Kansas. It was built by Seth Hayes, a great-grandson of Daniel Boone, and a central figure in the town's founding.



### **BAKED SPINACH**

- 10 oz. box frozen spinach
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 TBS butter, melted
- 1 TBS chopped onion
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 cup cooked rice

Thaw spinach. Do not drain. Set aside. In bowl combine remaining ingredients. Add spinach and mix together. Place in 1 quart buttered casserole dish. Bake covered at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes. Uncover for the last 15 minutes if you like a crunchy top.

*Marjorie Jackson, secretary*

## *Back To The Good Old Days*

### **NOTES FROM T.P. ALEXANDER DIARY**

**March 31** – March went out like a lamb. I received the following telegram this morning at 8:30. "Florence, Kansas. Come down on passenger. Important. James S. Alexander." I went down and found that burglars had been through my store last night. Stole most of my pocket knives and scissors and two revolvers. No clue to the thieves.

**April 2** – I went to Florence to vote at city election. The following were elected: Mayor, R.T. Battey; Police Judge, A. N. Freeborn; councilmen; J. W. Hastings.

**April 8** – This was a real April day, first warm and windy then in the afternoon there was a light rain with some hail then the wind changed and came from the north very strong and cool.

**April 12** – Bingham Smith came up from Florence on his bicycle and ate dinner at my house.

**April 13** – I went to Florence on the morning train and found my tinner, M. J. Timmons, home sick with heart trouble.

**April 14** – We have had a good old soaking rain and it was much needed.

**April 17** – Partly cloudy and quite warm. W. F. Hoch went to his farm in Catlin Township. Lucy drove the horse home from Florence. May Howard and Lillian came with her.

**April 22** – My wife and I had breakfast with Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Charles (in Topeka). Took supper in North Topeka with Mr. and Mrs. John Carter.

**April 28** – Paul Wells of Florence was at my house for supper the guest of John.

**May 1** – Clear and a beautiful day. 32 years ago today I was at the battle of Port Gibson, Miss.

**May 6** – (*clipping*) Tuesday afternoon while at work in his stone quarries northeast of town Edward Jones was the victim of a serious accident. It seem that Mr. Jones and Tom Griffith had prepared a blast which was slow in explod-

ing. Thinking there was no danger those two men were standing immediately over the fuse pouring in powder preparatory to a second trial when an explosion occurred. Mr. Griffiths was lucky to get off with a few bruises and scratches, but not so Mr. Jones. A severe cut was inflicted on his hand and his head and face badly bruised and burned. The men were brought to town under the care of Dr. Conroy and are now doing as well as can be expected.

**May 13** – On arriving home at Marion from Ed Palmer's I found the following telegram: "Florence, May 13. The Opera House burned this morning at 5 a. m. James S. Alexander." The following clipping is pasted in the book: "Florence, Kas., May 13. Firebugs made a deliberate attempt this morning to burn a portion of this city, and succeeded in causing a loss of \$25,000. About two o'clock a dwelling house on Second Street was discovered to be in flames, and soon after, the large three-story opera house, occupied by Graham & Tucker dry goods and groceries, was burning. Firemen succeeded in subduing the fire.

### *From the Treasurer*

Thanks to all of you who sent in your dues, as I have said before we need your support to keep the Harvey House going. Our community birthday calendar sale went quite well, we do still have some extra calendars if you haven't gotten one, they cost \$6.00. Let me know, my number is in the newsletter. This is one of two fund raisers we have each year. The other is our annual picnic, MARK your calendars for June 25, Saturday, and hope to see many of you there.

We had several dinners this past few months and we already have several dinners scheduled so far this year, call for information about our dinners and reserving a date. Please remember to let us know if you move so we can change your address in our files.

*Edna Mae Robinson, treasurer*



## News about Florence

We have been having such warm weather that everyone around town has spring fever. Spring flowers are blooming and we all are anxious to get in our yards and gardens.

- The Chamber of Commerce had their annual Easter Egg hunt on March 26th, there was a good turnout.
- The Labor Day committee had their meeting and are planning another "big" celebration. All volunteers are welcome to attend their meetings.
- The Masonic Lodge will be having a motorcycle and classic car run the 3rd Sunday of each month from April thru September. Breakfast and Lunch will be available. Sounds Fun!
- The Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the Tour de Florence bicycle run in October. Be watching for the date.

Have a wonderful spring and summer and come and visit the Harvey House in Florence.

*Shirley Grinstead, Vice-President*

# 120th Annual Florence Alumni Banquet

*“Past~Present~Always”  
Spend the Day in Florence*

120th Annual Florence Memorial High School Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 1:00 PM. Business meeting at 12:00 noon in the Florence Gymnasium. All alumni of Florence and Marion/Florence Schools, their guests, teachers and former classmates are invited to attend. \$1,000.00 scholarship will be presented at the banquet to a graduating senior of Marion/Florence USD #408.

Reservations for the banquet are \$20.00 per person and needs to be received by May 18, 2016. Make checks to Florence Alumni Association and mail reservations to Florence Alumni Association, 6240 W. 155th Street, Overland Park, KS 66223. Questions or comments: Phone number 913-634-4558

*Edna Malmgren*



## Harvey House Museum

221 Marion Street  
Florence, Kansas

*Because*  
**OUR HISTORY**  
*Matters!*



## DUES REMITTANCE

- 1-Year: \$10.00
- Lifetime: \$100.00
- Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

Clip and send this form along with your dues and/or donation to:

Florence Historical Society  
PO Box 143  
Florence, KS 66851

### ■ To Schedule Visits to the Museum:

Edna Robinson  
620-878-4481  
or e-mail [ednamaer@fhrd.net](mailto:ednamaer@fhrd.net)

### ■ To Schedule or Book Dinners:

Edna Robinson  
620-878-4481

### ■ To Send Mail:

Florence Historical Society  
Box 143  
Florence, KS 66851