



*A Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Lenexa Historical Society*

# LHS News

March/April 2008

Volume 26, Number 2

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## A Presidential Letter

*A letter from Alan Uhl*



We have now completed the 2008 LHS Soup Luncheon and it was a smashing success. At this point I don't have the final numbers but I can tell you that we improved over last year by several hundred dollars. As last year the soup, Arrowhead Steak Soup, Ham and Bean Soup and Vegetarian Vegetable Soup, was made in bulk by Walt McKenzie, Marvin Hammontree, Tom Gryska and Alan Uhl based on commercial soup stocks provided to us by our friend, Chef Pat Sweeny. Again this year Walt McKenzie was general chairman of the event and the appreciation of the Society for Walt's efforts is profound. To all who provided breads and desserts our sincere thanks. I wish it were possible to list all the volunteers who made it go. But you know who you are and our gratitude to you is enormous.

I'm sorry to have to report to you that health problems have forced Director and Treasurer, Sonny Miller, to resign from the LHS Board of Directors. This is a blow to our Society. Sonny Miller is a devoted member of LHS and was a great Treasurer. I know you will all join me in including Sonny in our prayers for his return to good health.

Former director Doug Bartley, who was treasurer of Lenexa United Methodist Church for 17 years, has agreed to provide treasurer services on the basis of a contract between him and the Board. This is a temporary solution which will insure our affairs will be handled properly while giving us time to select a new member of the Board and permanent treasurer. We all owe Doug a big vote of thanks for helping us through this situation.

Progress is being made on the planning for the gala celebration on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, of the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Legler Barn. This event will take place before the next issue of LHS News, so as soon as the schedule of events is finalized we'll send it to all members.

Thanks again for everything, folks. Your Society is on the move.

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Thursday, March 27, 2007  
Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Schneeberger Hall  
91<sup>st</sup> and Caenen Lake Road  
Call for reservations 913-498-8117

**John Brown**

Presented by Philip Barbour

*See inside flyer*

ALL ARE WELCOME

**LHS Board of Directors**

Alan Uhl  
President  
913-856-8205

Connie Andrews  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
913-894-1376

Marc Lassalle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
913-310-0949

Ed Bowman  
Secretary  
913-888-1147

To be named  
Treasurer  
Phone

Sharon Hammontree  
913-498-8117

Terry Clark  
913-894-1211

Van Rose  
913-631-8661

Tom Gyska  
913-888-4445

Tune in to **FOX4NEWS** at 8:20 a.m. Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, to see live interview from the Legler Barn Museum and our Quilters at 8:40 a.m.

The Lenexa Historical Society Board Members, Connie Andrews and Sharon Hammontree will be interviewed during the 8:20 telecast and Wava Stoker is spokesperson for the quilters at 8:40.

**Schedule for the March LHS General Meeting**



We are having steak soup, ham and bean soup, salad and dessert. We had enough soup and desserts left from the February 13<sup>th</sup> Soup Luncheon, so nobody needs to bring anything but their appetite.



# *Lenexa Historical Society*

## *Membership Meeting*

Thursday, March 27, 2007  
Lenexa United Methodist Church  
Schneeberger Hall  
91<sup>st</sup> and Caenen Lake Road

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.  
Program: 7:30 p.m.

**John Brown**

Presented by: Philip Barbour



Picture of Phil Barbour at the Methodist Church as John Brown in Kansas 1855-1858.

A retired police officer talks about his infamous relative, John Brown

Call for reservations:  
913-498-8117

Free Will Donation  
Everybody is Welcome!  
Bring a guest and receive a gift.

# LHS BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

by Van Rose

I am best known as one of the sons of Bob and Dorothy Rose whose Lenexa homestead is now known as Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park. My dad was the Lenexa Historical Society's first president. I was born in Madison, Wisconsin and we moved to Overland Park when I was in the third grade. We moved to our farm at 87<sup>th</sup> and Lackman when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Milburn Junior High School. I attended Shawnee Mission North for one year and then moved into the Shawnee Mission West when it opened its doors. After graduating from West, I graduated from Kansas State and later from the University of Kansas.



I have been a member of the Lenexa United Methodist Church for almost fifty years. I have helped with the Lenexa Freedom Run since its inception twenty-nine years ago. I have great memories of the half-court, three-on-three basketball games we played as kids in the hayloft part of the red barn that is in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.

For the past 39 years, I have taught math and coached the boys' and girls' Cross Country teams and the distance runners in Track at Shawnee Mission Northwest. My wife, Judy, and I have two children. Becky and her husband, Ryan Jennemann, live in Imperial, Missouri. Becky graduated from Truman State University and then went to the University of Kansas Medical School and graduated with a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. She works in the microbiology department in the laboratory at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Brian graduated from Truman State and is now in his second year of graduate school at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. He is majoring in cinematography and documentary filmmaking. Judy works in the laboratory at Shawnee Mission Medical Center as a Medical Technologist. My hobbies are collecting vintage baseball cards and refinishing furniture.

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## Need Picture of E. M. Switzer

We need your HELP. For a future exhibit we need a picture of E. M. Switzer, the first mayor of Lenexa. Surprisingly, we have a photo of every mayor except him. You can send it to the Legler Barn Museum, bring it to the barn or call me at 913 498-8117 and I will pick it up. We would appreciate this very much.

Sharon Hammontree, Exhibit Chairwoman

# QUILTING NEWS

by Linda Birch Mooney

Legler Barn Quilter since 1996

In the mid-1990's I became enamored with the charm of little quilts. They were a solution to making more of the quilted treasures that were visions in my head.

In February of 2004, a series of classes was begun at Prairie Point Quilts that focus on re-creating old-looking quilts designed by Jo Morton, a quilt/fabric designer from Nebraska. I was instantly hooked and have continued making "Jo's Little Women" projects ever since. This opportunity cemented my passion for learning more about other times and how my life has been influenced by them.

The older I become, the more I enjoy learning about the quilts that have come from the various eras of American history and the more I appreciate the efforts of the women who have made them. Nearly two years ago, I bought a copy of the book American Doll Quilts by Kathleen Tracy. She has researched the topic and created small quilts that replicate ones made during six eras of our history. I decided to make a collection of my own to further comprehend this history.

It has been fascinating to learn how quilts and quilting have been influenced by the times. Colors, design, fabrics, and methods of construction are all affected by the economy and circumstances of life.

Mrs. Tracy begins her book with information about the years from 1776-1820 when relatively few quilts were made. She goes on to describe 1830-1850 when a vast number of quilts were made. From 1861-1865, few quilts remain because of their heavy and sad use during the Civil War. During the years from 1876-1900 quilt-making dropped dramatically and not much was done during the next era from 1914-1929. However, just as they had during the Civil War, women picked up their needles to help with the war effort during WWI. The period of the Great Depression forced women to quilt out of necessity and the quilting results of this dark period are astonishing because of their cheerful colors and creativity. During the forties, quilting declined when women had to leave home and go to work in offices in order to replace the men who had gone to war. Quilting was pretty much restricted to rural areas and was done for the relief effort.

During the time of our Bicentennial, we experienced a revived interest in American history and handicrafts from the past. A new generation of quilters developed and this art form has flourished. Quilt historians continue to research and teach us about the legacy of our predecessors and challenge us to make a lasting connection to their ingenuity, fortitude and patriotism.

## LHS 2007 Directory Updates

### New Members

Rodney P. Booth                      **913-764-5668**  
10135 Monticello Road  
Lenexa, KS 66227                      [rodbooth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodbooth@sbcglobal.net)

Al & Linda Landreth                      **913-422-1176**  
& Fran Price  
8206 Gleason Road  
Lenexa, KS 66227                      [alandreth@kc.rr.com](mailto:alandreth@kc.rr.com)

### New Address, Phone # &/or Email

Art & Jean Seifert                      **913-254-7110**  
9150 Shady Bend Road  
Shawnee, KS 66227-7245

**Eddie & Bette Shoemake                      913-381-0589**  
**5315 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Terrace #111**  
Overland Park, KS 66207-3209  
(Old: Bette Wasser Shomake)

Ed & Chris Bowman                      913-888-1147  
11909 W. 100<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Lenexa, KS 66215                      [ebowman@everestkc.net](mailto:ebowman@everestkc.net)

### Deceased

Harley Haskin  
9006 Mullen Road  
Lenexa, KS 66215-5400

## 1893

There has been a constant stream of wagons passing through town these days headed for the Indian Territory "Strip".

In the checker playing contest for the championship of Lenexa, R.H. Miles won first place, John Kelley, second and Will Cornatzer, third.

Every true Kansan and especially the farmers of Johnson county will take pride in the fact that our county took first premium on corn at the World's Fair in Chicago.

Checker playing has assumed the nature of a craze in this village.

Dr. William B. Bower graduated from the Kansas City Medical College on Thursday, March 22 and will probably locate in Lenexa, where his father practiced for many years.

Uncle Ross Allen can relate some interesting stories about old Westport Landing, now Kansas City. He came through the sites of Kansas City and Leavenworth in 1847 on his way to Mexico when Kansas City consisted of a single house and Leavenworth a wilderness.

The saddest accident in the history of the Lenexa community was that of the deaths of Misses Lizzie and Lena Breyfogle and Miss Edith Correll, who were instantly killed by a Katy passenger train at the crossing a mile northeast of town on July 6, 1894. After nine deaths had occurred at this crossing the railroad company finally built a viaduct at this point. (87<sup>th</sup> St.)

Check out Brant Gaal when 1<sup>st</sup> bridge constructed over RR.

# Octave Chanute

By Bill Nicks, Jr. LHS Member

The man who platted, and laid out, the original town of Lenexa, Octave Chanute was born on February 18, 1832 in Paris France. He was named Octave Alexandre Chanut. He added the E when he was 21. He platted Lenexa on August 26, 1869.



A few tidbits about the great man:

Chanute Kansas is named for him.

Became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1854.

Directed construction of the longest RR drawbridge in the world over the Illinois River at Peoria.

Married Anne Riddell James of Peoria, Ill. They had 6 children, one of the daughters was named Octavia. George Foreman call your office.

Constructed the Union Stockyards of Chicago.

Built the Hannibal RR Bridge over the Missouri River at Kansas City in 1869. Many at the time thought it was impossible to bridge the Mighty Muddy Mo due to its dangerous currents. By building the Hannibal Bridge, Kansas City became the dominant city in the Missouri Valley because now all the trains had to come through Kansas City.

Wrote the book *The Kansas City Bridge*, on the construction of the Hannibal Bridge. A copy can be found in the Linda Hall Library.

Purchased 42 acres from Charles and Sarah Bradshaw and platted Lenexa. He also platted Dwight Illinois and Columbia Kansas which later changed its name to Hillsdale.

Chaired a committee of The American Society of Civil Engineers on Rapid Transit for New York City. It recommended building elevated RRs. The EL was built.

Chaired a committee of The American Society of Civil Engineers on wood preservation for the railroads. It recommended the creosote process.

Wrote the article *'The Sewerage of Kansas City'*, which warned against building a combined system for rain water and house water. Brush Creek call your office.

Started the Chicago Tie Preserving Co. to produce RR ties and became wealthy.

Started working on a solution to flight by engaging in correspondence with men from all over the world on flight experiments.

Published *Progress in Flying Machines* in 1894 and began his own glider experiments from the sand dunes on Lake Michigan near Gary Indiana.

In 1900 Wilbur Wright wrote to Chanute for advice, beginning a long relationship between the Wrights and Chanute.

Visits Wrights in Dayton and in Kitty Hawk, as late as November 1903. The Wrights flew for the first time on December 17, 1903.

Last visited Chanute Kansas in 1906.

Died in Chicago on November 23, 1910 and was buried next to Annie, who had died in 1902, in Peoria.

## Honors

An Airmail stamp was issued in his honor in 1979.

A traffic triangle is named in his honor in Paris France.

An Air Force Base in Rantoul Illinois was named for him, but decommissioned in the 1980s.

Inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame and The International Aerospace Hall of Fame.

Honored by four Foreign Civil Engineer Societies; British, French, Canadian and Chilean.

**It elevates Lenexa to be associated with this great man.**

# IT'S A SMALL WORLD

By Sharon Hammontree

## MARCH 2008

- 9 Daylight Savings Time
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring
- 23 Easter

## APRIL 2008

- 1 April Fools Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 25 Arbor Day





### Join the Lenexa Historical Society or Renew Your Membership

Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members

- Single \$20
- Single Life \$200
- Family \$30
- Family Life \$300
- Corporate \$250
- Corporate Life \$2,500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized person, if corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: LHS, 14907 W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215

Make checks payable to: Lenexa Historical Society. Thank you!

## Enjoy Breakfast with LHS

Join us for FOOD and FUN conversation

Where: Hy-Vee, 87<sup>th</sup> and Pflumm  
 Time: 9:00 a.m.  
 When: the second Saturday of each month

<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
March 8	August 9
April 12	September 13
May 10	October 11
June 14	November 8
July 12	December 13

**DEADLINE**

for next issue

May/June

**LHS News** articles

is 10 a.m.

April 23rd

**LHS News** is published six times a year by the Lenexa Historical Society.

**Editor:** Becky Emmerich, 913-492-0038  
bemmerich@ci.lenexa.ks.us

**Mailing:** Katie Evans

**Centerfold Photography and Layout:**  
Sharon and Marvin Hammontree

**Contributors:** Sharon Hammontree,  
Linda Mooney, Bill Nicks, Mary Kay  
Smith and Alan Uhl

*The Lenexa Historical Society is dedicated to the appreciation, preservation and promotion of Lenexa's Historical heritage.*

The gala opening of the  
**Legler Barn Museum**

at

Sar-Ko-Par Park

will celebrate its

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

on

May 3, 2008



# LHS News

*Return Service Requested*

Lenexa Historical Society  
14907 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Street Parkway  
Lenexa, KS 66215-4135  
www.lenexahistory.org

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