



H C G S

HARVEY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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Welcome to the first newsletter of the Harvey County Genealogical Society of Newton, Kansas! We are excited about the future and all of the possibilities it holds, both for the Society and all of us as genealogists!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank all of our Board members who have graciously agreed to serve for the 2005-2006 term as officers. They have already provided some excellent ideas and the time they have volunteered has helped to get HCGS off to a great start!

Our website is online and new items are being added often. We are presently working on a page of ancestor biographies. If you are a member of HCGS, please consider writing a biography of one (or more) of your ancestors to be included on our webpage. There is no limit to length of the biography, and the only requirement is that your ancestor be connected to Harvey County. This would be a great way to receive contact from other researchers of your same ancestral families! We are also in the process of transcribing various resources for your genealogical research. Our goal is to make those resources easily available to genealogists by simply going online. There are other ideas in the works, so be sure to keep checking our website for updates! You will also find our schedule of events, such as Board meetings, general membership meetings and programs, etc., on the Society's homepage.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome all members of the Society who have joined this year. If you are not already a member, please consider becoming a part of this endeavor. You are considered a Charter Member during this first year of our organization if you join by December 31, 2005!

Bis nächste Zeit! (*Until next time! - German*)

Diana Carmichael
HCGS President

INSIDE THIS INAGURAL ISSUE.....

THE WALTON FIRE OF 1915
UPCOMING EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!
NAME THIS NEWSLETTER!
DIGGING DEEPER

VOLUME I
ISSUE I

A PAGE FROM THE PAST



1915

WALTON SCENE OF A BAD FIRE

Business Buildings Burned
Loss Is Estimated at
\$30,000

A disastrous fire occurred at Walton early this morning which is estimated to represent a loss of nearly \$30,000.00.

The fire was first discovered in the Ames grocery store at 1:35 a.m. and quickly spread to the Moorehead lumber yard and hardware store on the one side, and the office of Dr. McClymonds on the other, stopping only at the bank building which is of brick.

The Newton fire department was summoned but as there is no water system at Walton, and the blaze was already beyond the control of chemicals, nothing could be done. Fire Chief Kemper performed the part of a good neighbor, however, and drove to Walton to render such assistance as he might be able to give personally.

A. R. Moorehead is the heaviest loser, his building being valued at \$4,000 and his stock at almost \$10,000. Fortunately it was well insured. Another fortunate circumstance is that the family who formally lived at the plant have built a new home so that they did not have the distress of having their personal effects burned.

Mr. Ames grocery stock is assessed at \$6,000 and is insured

for \$4,000. The buildings are the property of Mike Miller, valued at \$5,000 and were not insured. Dr. McClymonds building is assessed at \$3,000. He carried \$450 insurance on his building and \$300 on its contents.

The United Presbyterian church which is just north of the lumber yard was in great danger, and was badly blistered by the heat, but did not catch on fire. This is the second time in a few months that this edifice has been in danger of burning.

The property owners of Walton are very optimistic and will replace the burnt buildings with new ones, as speedily as possible.

STAR PATRONS SAW FARNUM IN PERSON

As the Star theater was showing its patrons William Farnum and his company on the screen Friday afternoon, William Farnum appeared in person at the door of the theater and had the opportunity to "see himself as others see him." Manager Wagner was delighted to have the opportunity of introducing the famous actor to his audience and he made them a nice little talk.

He and his party had arrived on No. 3 on their way to California, and had about twenty minutes here. He had with him Winfield R. Sheridan, general manager of the Fox Film Corporation of New York, Dorothy Bernard, Betty Nansen, and others whose names were not mentioned.



SANTA FE HAS A BASKET BALL TEAM

The first game of basket ball for Newton this season is scheduled for the evening of December 9th, between the Newton Santa Fe team and the McPherson Athletic Club....

The people of Newton are not unfamiliar with the playing of Oats Unruh, Bill Suderman, Claude Griffith, Pete Bard, and Brandt Arnold, all of whom are old heads at the game....

The boys are certainly deserving of a large showing that night, and promise the local bugs some real sport this winter.

*The Newton Evening Kansan-Republican, Newton, Kansas.
Saturday, December 4, 1915. Page 6.*

The mission of the Harvey County Genealogical Society is to:



BOARD MEETINGS

- Unite individuals who are interested in the study of genealogy and history
- Assist its members in tracing and preserving genealogical records
- Collect and preserve genealogical and historical materials and make them available for use
- Educate and promote interest in genealogical research
- Foster accurate documentation and otherwise promote scholarly and historical writings

HCGS Board Meetings are open to the public. They are currently held at the Source of Light building at 901 SW 14th St in Newton. 7:00 p.m.

If you have an interest in Genealogy you are invited to join with us!

July 21, 2005
Aug. 18, 2005
Sep. 15, 2005



HCGS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005 - 1:00 pm



Special Program

FAMILY STORIES: ETHNIC EXPERIENCES IN HARVEY COUNTY
PRESENTED BY KAREN WALL

We are excited to announce that our first General Membership Meeting, which is free and open to the public, will feature a program by Newton resident Karen Wall. She will be speaking about her extensive research into four pioneer Harvey County area families who settled in the area in the 1880's. The program compliments the museum exhibit by the same name.

The Harvey County Historical Museum & Archives has graciously allowed us to hold this meeting in their facility. Mrs. Wall's presentation has been very well received and it is certainly one you

won't want to miss! Be sure to help get the word out to everyone, and we'll see you there!

LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST
At the Harvey County Historical Society

July 24 3 pm - Dr. Jay Price will speak about Building the Old West in Kansas. Dr. Price is professor of public history at Wichita State University and is a lively speaker.

August 21 3 pm - Century Farms (in the same family for 100 or more years). Mary Enz lives on such a farm in Harvey County and has many stories to tell about the home place. This will be an entertaining and informative look at how rural life has changed in the past-century.

Name This Currently Un-named Newsletter of the HCGS

This newsletter needs a good name, and the contest is on! Submit your suggestions - and if your entry is chosen, in addition to seeing your idea used in every issue, you'll receive a free one-year membership to HCGS! Be creative and try to capture the essence of our Genealogical heritage & HCGS vision! All suggestions are welcome!

DIGGING DEEPER

By Darren McMannis



My direct ancestor's brother, Edward Hodgson, was a farmer all of his life until he left his wife and 4 children in Kansas, becoming a doctor in Massachusetts. After tracking down all the descendents of my Great Great Grandfather's children, I found various pieces of oral history that suggested Ed's wife "Hilda was a hard Swedish farm woman" who "wouldn't move with him to the east," and that "when he went there to help his uncle he found his asthma was much improved and so he stayed," and "Ed later married his nurse there."

After a while, I had most of the details of Ed's life plugged into my genealogy program, yet lingering questions remained. As I took the time to write out his biography from scratch, the questions couldn't be ignored; I began digging deeper into his life. I then found that the uncle Ed had gone to help in Massachusetts was a doctor with an established practice, who died of gangrene of both feet in 1912 - so it is feasible that Ed went there to help take care of him. It appeared to me that Ed then just assumed the doctor's office without any real training - what doctor schooling could Ed have received in central Kansas in 1911, while working on the farm to support his family? After continuing to ask questions about Ed of everyone I could find, a very distant cousin sent a copy of a postcard he had found, written by Ed's brother a year before Ed left Kansas, stating "Edd has 5 or 6 patients that go to his house every day and one little girl has infantile paralysis. She is getting the use of her limbs now. Edd has a diploma (6 mos)." Apparently he did plan this career change. Another postcard in 1911 mentions his asthma trouble, "Edd is up and around most of the time, complains of a pain in his right lung continuously, cough and asthma."

Interestingly, the 1920 census lists him as "Emory" Hodgson, a doctor, single, living with several people he listed as "boarder" in the family home that he inherited from his uncle there. The last boarder on the list was "Laura Freeman, a nurse, single." Then one very distant cousin's clue led me to a marriage license for Ed & Laura, not in Massachusetts but in Rhode Island - a year earlier! So Ed & Laura weren't single when the census taker came around - so was the name Emory the intentional ruse and not an error of the census taker? When tracking down what happened to Hilda (his first wife) after she moved off the Hodgson farm, I learned that it wasn't until the summer of 1921 that Hilda & Ed were actually divorced - 2 years after Ed & Laura were married - when Hilda filed on the basis of "abandonment."

Digging deeper into Ed's life, and following the lives of the people around him, I confirmed several facts and learned several new things about him. I learned that his sister, whom I had tried in vain to find in central Kansas where she lived, actually went to him for cancer treatment and died in Ed's home in Massachusetts. I learned that her son, Harold Theiss, went with her, and there met and married the sister of Laura (his uncle Ed's second wife). That explains how Laura Hodgson wound up living in the same California apartment building as Harold 45 years later. I'm still not sure Ed knew too much about doctoring when he started out, but he was a beloved physician when he died. When Laura sold off the practice and family home within 3 months of Ed's death, taking all the cash and moving to Seattle, I stumbled on perhaps the main reason why her step-children never spoke to her again. Reaching out to all the branches of the family tree gave me the clues to finding even more about these events that were rarely spoken of openly. ж

HCGS Members are invited and encouraged to submit articles for this newsletter.