



# Historical Highlights

Sept. 2008



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## Letter from the President

by *Carlton Scroggins*, SCHS President

**G**reetings from the Shawnee County Historical Society (SCHS)! My name is Carlton Scroggins and I am the president of SCHS for 2008. The Society has been growing and is always striving to attract new members and partners in our quest to recognize and celebrate our local



heritage through the preservation, restoration and education of our historic buildings and landscapes. The SCHS is made up of a combination of the previously existing SCHS and the previous "Historic Topeka" organization.

We are excited about our future and the many prospective projects on the horizon in Topeka and Shawnee County. Our Board

is made up of history enthusiasts from all facets of the Community. We are proud to have been a contributor to many successful historic preservation efforts in Shawnee County. It is our goal at the Society to assist preservation efforts through lobbying for, providing financial support for, bringing recognition to, and educating the public on, the significance and viability of each individual project that has historical prominence in Shawnee County. No project is too large or too small.

It is important that a community preserve and protect the integrity of its historic environs so that future generations can enjoy them as well. While having a written history is important, we feel that it is equally important for one to be able to experience first hand these historic structures and landscapes. This can only be done when these vestiges are preserved and restored whenever possible. Well preserved or restored historic landmarks can also serve as an economic stimulus to a community in that often times they become tourist attractions to our area. The SCHS also awards annually those efforts made by

individuals or groups that demonstrate exceptional preservation or restoration accomplishment.

The SCHS is approximately 300 members strong and is always looking to expand its membership. We produce annually a quality bulletin pertaining to local history that is distributed among our membership and is sometimes made available for sale. Carol Yoho also publishes a quarterly newsletter

which is distributed around the County and is made available on our website, which she also maintains. I also would invite you to visit our website at [skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/) to find out more about the Society, and to view the magnificent preservation photos and stories from Shawnee County. We welcome your comments on our website, and if you know of any structures that you feel are

historically significant, let us know about them! I would also ask that you consider becoming a member of SCHS. Membership is easy and inexpensive and your financial support will help us to continue our efforts to keep our City and County a place where our history will be alive and well for all of us, as well as for future generations! 🍷

## 2008 Preservation Awards

see also:  
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/aboutus/2008.html>

The second annual joint awards for preservation of the history of the county were presented by the Shawnee County Historical Society and the Topeka Landmarks Commission at the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association's offices, 719 SW Van Buren, on Sunday afternoon, May 4, 2008. The public was welcomed at the reception. Deborah White, Visitor Information Center for the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau, discussed the planned Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

Christy Davis, Chair of the City of Topeka Landmarks Commission presented Landmark designations, which include Senate Suites Luxury Hotel, the Common-

wealth Building, St. John's A.M.E. Church, The Gem Building, the Veale-Freeburg Building, the Hale Ritchie House, and the J. Fred & Cora Gaylord House.

Julie Weisgerber, State Historic Preservation Office Federal Tax Credit Reviewer, acknowledged the most recent National and State Historic Register additions, including: The Bowker House, the College Avenue Historic District, the Hard Chief Village Archeological Site near Silver Lake and St. John's AME Church.

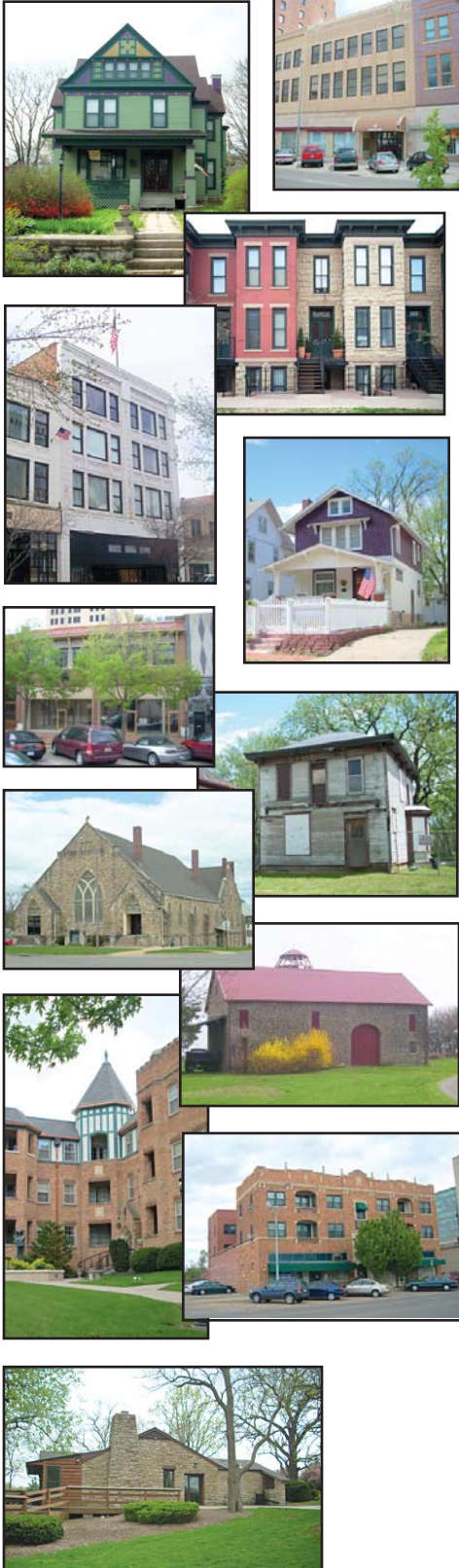
Carlton Scroggins, Shawnee County Historical Society President, honored Warren Taylor for his contribution to local preservation through his work in the Topeka

Room of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Scroggins also honored the Friends of Bethany Place for their preservation advocacy. Additionally, the Society honored the owners of five properties for their preservation efforts: Jill Wolters and Michael Turner for their home on Western, Greg Fox for the Row House Restaurant, the Kansas Association for Justice for Fire Station #2, Boyd England and Alice and Jeff Landers for the England Farmstead, and Kanza Construction for The Palace Building. The Society also honored the Shawnee County Commission—Parks and Recreation Department for preservation of the WPA stone shelters at Lake Shawnee.



left to right: Carlton Scroggins listens to speaker Deborah White; Scroggins congratulates Alice Landers, Boyd England and Jeff Landers for the England farmstead; Kansas Trial Lawyers Assoc. offices, 719 SW Van Buren.

## Buildings Honored:



*above:* 719 SW Van Buren, Commonwealth, Ross Row House, Palace Lofts, Gaylord, Veale-Freeburg, Hale Ritchie, St. John's AME Church, England Farmstead, Senate Suites, Gem, WPA stone shelters at Lake Shawnee.

## News Briefs

**Topeka's Constitution Hall**, 429 S. Kansas Ave., was listed July 15 by the National Register of Historic Places. In 1855, the Topeka Constitution was ratified there, setting the course for the Wyandotte Constitution under which Kansas entered the Union as a free state in 1861.



On July 21, 2008 the Shawnee County District Court set aside the Topeka City Council's decision that there were no feasible and prudent alternatives to the construction of a new parking lot for Grace Cathedral, to be located in the environs of **Bethany Place**, the site of Bethany College, the first women's college in Kansas. Despite the court siding with the Kansas Historic Preservation Act, Topeka's City Council has decided to appeal the court's decision.



*TK Magazine* features an historical perspective on **Gage Park** as a spread, pp. 40-41, in their July/August 2008 free publication. Visit the TK Magazine web site for a list of distribution centers. You can read the article online, but you'll need to pick up a print version to see the historical photos accompanying the article. TK Magazine has

invited SCHS to assist them in a bi-monthly tribute to local history.



SCHS Education committee helped gather materials for an article on "Famous People Buried in Topeka" for the Sept./Oct. issue.

## Of Note on the Web:

If you haven't visited CJonline's site celebrating the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe's **Fiesta Mexicana**, you might enjoy the photos, music, video, interviews and historical perspectives found online: <http://special.cjonline.com/fiesta/>

100th birthday of **The Carousel in the Park**, wrap-up. Google: "Carousel in the Park Topeka 100th birthday"

The 100th birthday of the **Hupmobile**, a national rally in Topeka. Google: "Hupmobile Topeka Great Overland Station"

We've been building a **photographic listing of "Sites Worth Preserving"** in Topeka and Shawnee County. Visit our page of thumbnail photos and choose a thumbnail to see the larger version. <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/preservation/photoarchive.html>

Also visit our **"Wish list"** of sites we wish we had photos of to share online. We'll be adding to the wish list and taking names off the list

— cont. on p. 4

Of Note on the Web — cont.

when photos are added to our Photos page. We welcome your suggestions for adding to the Wish List. <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/preservation/buildingslist.html>

**On the Path to Freedom:** the community heritage program commemorating Territorial Kansans involvement in the Underground Railroad, has an event **wrap-up** published on-line. Written review and photos show the grand time had by all who participated: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/schs/aboutus/pathtofreedom/index.html>

A special “thank you” to Bill Wagnon, whose vision of commemorating the events of July 1858 were so vividly realized in this sesquicentennial celebration. 🍷



## Open Letter to SCHS

by *Mary Ward Baker*, “always a proud Topekan”

Dear SCHS Friends,

**T**he October 2007 *Historical Highlights* was a treasure trove of memories for me.

Concerning “Knowing History” by Mary A. Hall

I first learned of Order #11 when we lived in Raytown, Missouri. As a quilt historian, I was delighted to find a quilt pattern of the same name. It depicts a quilt on the bed from a Missouri home. When I chose blocks for the wall hanging I made in 2004 to honor my great-grandparents, Anthony and Mary Jane Ward, on their 150th anniversary of coming to Kansas, Order #11 quilt pattern honors Mary Jane’s Missouri roots. I had shown the finished pieces to friends in Raytown and learned that one of their Missouri ancestors was indeed “sacked” by Order #11. I copied the Highlights piece for my Raytown friends.

Concerning “Remembering June 8, 1966” by John Armstrong

Our family was at Disneyland on a Kansas City Life reward trip when the 1966 tornado hit Topeka. We finally reached my parents by phone. Coming home to Kansas City on the Santa Fe, my parents met us at the Topeka station where they handed us a long explanation that Mother had typed to bring us up to date on the destruction.

Concerning photo of the original Topeka Library

Attending Topeka High School, I would do research at the original Topeka Library. I can picture the balcony.

Concerning “Fighting Polio Mylites” by Joseph O. Beck, M.D.

I had graduated from Washburn University in 1950 and married James (Jim) Baker who was still attending classes to earn his degree (1953). He had numerous part-time jobs. One job was selling polio insurance. Very few people had any health insurance. Polio could devastate family finances.

Concerning “Carousel to Celebrate 1-0-0” by Anna Yoho

We have a picture of sons, Bradford Ward Baker (age 3 ½) and Bruce Allen Baker (age 2), riding the “merry-go-round” at Joyland. It is dated “Summer 1958.” Dad, Jim Baker, stands between them. We

sent the photo to Anita Wolgast so it is in the carousel archives. In 2006, son Brad and his wife, Eileen, made me a photo collage purse. You can guess the photo that is the favorite! We are happy to support the restoration. We told Brad and Bruce it was part of their Christmas 2007.

In Addition:

Seeing the Capitol dome in the background of the library photo reminds me of how my grandmother Nettie Wolfe Ward (married to William Dick Ward), came to Kansas. Her father, Charles Wolfe, brought his family from Ohio while he worked as a stone mason on the west wing. Grandma Nettie met Grandpa Dick. When the Wolfe’s went home, Grandma stayed!

My great aunt, Mary Summers Wilson, had a beauty shop at 923 Tyler, next to “Heap-em-up” Ice Cream, I would stop to help at her shop. Then, I would see if there were groceries to carry home from the Gem Market. When Fritz learned who my parents were, he told them that he was a stable boy for Mary Jane Ward at age 9. He enriched their knowledge of the family with wonderful stories of Mary Jane and “Mr. Dick.” It was exciting when Aunt Mary moved to the Gem Apartments – especially having her grand piano hoisted up on the freight elevator.

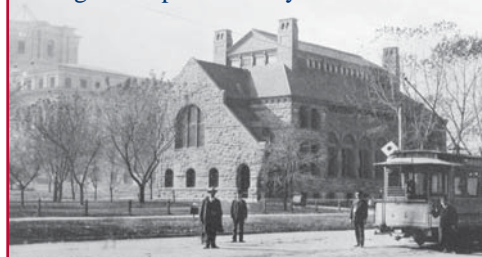
You might say that “icing on the cake” came from Akey’s bakery when our beautiful wedding cake was baked there.

Thank you for helping me feel a part of home. Jim comes to compete every year at the SCCA Solo Auto-cross Championships. I come to Ward-Meade as often as I can. (You can see the wall-hanging in the General Store). We brought Dad’s railroad collection to the Great Overland Station in October 2007. (My parents were Richard Charles Ward and Elizabeth Summers Ward.)

Always a proud Topekan,

*Mary Ward Baker*

Original Topeka Library



## From the SCHS Mail Bag

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**Robin Shrimplin**, Ritchie Project Education Committee Chair, reports that 30 YMCA summer campers visited the house to tour and learn about the Ritchie family and the Underground Railroad on July 30, 2008.

**Matthew Porubsky** is in the preproduction phase of a documentary on C.W. Porubsky's Deli and Tavern. His goal is to record the history and stories of a Topeka landmark for over sixty years to share with local and national communities.

**Bill Wagnon** notes that the Topeka's "Visioning" process has earmarked identified heritage as a factor, but places it last. The draft report is published on the internet and includes:

### VISION: QUALITY OF LIFE

Shawnee County will be a safe and caring community with vibrant arts, cultural entertainment and recreational activity and caring for all.

### STRATEGIES

#### A. Recreation, Arts and Culture

1. Develop and implement interdependent comprehensive master plans for recreation, arts and culture and entertainment that serves as a focal point for our community. Determine a required level of service for each element that results in meeting our Key Benchmarks. Determine the gap between existing facilities and this level of service and eliminate the gap within ten years while at the same time providing for annual growth as it occurs. Ensure that all facilities are staffed and maintained for high quality service. When developing levels of service for each element, insure that proper consideration is given to age, income level and life style.

Consideration will also be given to use of these facilities by Shawnee County visitors and tourists and becoming a regional attraction. The master plan will include sections for creation of events and programming, promotion, marketing and calendars of activities. The plans will include but not be limited to the items below:

- a) Entertainment
  - i. Downtown entertainment district (town square concept).
  - ii. Main street farmers market.

- iii. Expand the music festivals
- iv. Retain and expand entertainment venues and events

#### b) Arts and Culture

- i. ArtsConnect.
- ii. Venues for musicians to perform.

**iii. Place historical markers and monuments at appropriate places throughout the county as part of promoting community culture and history.**

#### c) Recreation

- i. Create a countywide system of trails for walking and biking.
- ii. Attract and promote sporting events

**John A Jackson** works at Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center, Wichita, as a clerk. He spends his free time going to Kansas cemeteries and photographing tombstones of Civil War veterans, then researches these veterans' obituaries. See [http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/civilwar/civil\\_war\\_veterans.htm](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/civilwar/civil_war_veterans.htm) for obituaries.

He also co-hosts a Flickr group named "Graves of Veterans of the American Civil war." It has tombstone photos contributed by amateur and professional photographers from many different states, but John is its largest contributor. See [http://www.flickr.com/groups/american\\_civil\\_war\\_graves/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/american_civil_war_graves/)

SCHS would like to thank local photographer **Daryl Webb** for volunteering to take photos for our on-line Photo Archive. Daryl's work has been added to a mix of site photos by **Doug Jones, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Eli Bargmann, and Carol Yoho**, linked from the Preservation page of our web site.

An agreement between the **National Archives** and **Footnote.com** begins with the sizeable collection of materials currently on microfilm and will enable researchers and the general public to access millions of newly-digitized images of the National Archives historic records on a subscription basis from the Footnote web site free of charge. The agreement will allow much greater access to approximately 4.5 million pages of important documents that are currently available only in their original format or on microfilm. See [www.footnote.com/nara](http://www.footnote.com/nara)

— cont. on p. 7

**Cathy asks:** “Is there a map available for the complete Shunga Trail?”

**A:** Trails Map of Topeka and Shawnee County is newly published. The map is produced by Topeka Parks & Rec and Shawnee Co. Parks & Rec. Phone for Topeka P&R is 785-368-3838. Phone for SC P&R is 785-267-1156. Check with either office about where to pick up a Trails Map.

**Laura asks:** “I’ve lived and played near the Shunga all my life. What does ‘Shunganunga’ mean? Is it a Potawatomi word?”

**A:** “Shunganunga” was recorded as name of the creek before the Potawatomi arrived. Douglass Wallace, who researched just such topics for his Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin released late in 2007, *Before Kansas Bled*, found the creek to be named by the Kansa Indian tribe, translated as “the race-course.” or “the race-horse.” Still another translation was “Red Horse Creek.”

FYI, here are other local Kaw words: “Concerning the origin of the names in this county, it is generally understood that Shawnee County receives its name from that well known tribe of Indians. Topeka is a Kaw word meaning “wild potato”; Wakarusa, “river of big weeds”; Shunganunga, “the race course”; Menoken, “a fine growth”; Half-Day Creek, named after a Pottawatomie chief; Mission Creek, so called because of the old Kaw mission on its banks; Blacksmith Creek, from the Kaw blacksmith shop; Soldier Creek, because its banks were a favorite camping ground for cavalry soldiers passing from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley.”

Topeka middle-schoolers **Marianna Mercer**, 11, and her friend **Chloe Mooradian**, 12, have written a book, *Secrets in the Cellar*, a fictional story of the Underground Railroad in which a family helps two slave girls escape during Civil War times. The girls were inspired by touring a farm house in North Topeka located on NW Rochester Rd that is reported to have been on the Underground Railroad. Their book is in the Kansas Room of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. The pair took part in a videotaped interview, moderated by **Cindy Cooper** of the SCHS Education Committee, during the “On the Path to Freedom” heritage event at the NPS Brown v Board Educational site in July. Our thanks go to **David Pownell** of the Education department at Washburn University for managing the videotaping and to the authors, who have donated a copy of their work to the Ritchie House Project.



The SCHS Education Committee hopes to publish the video on our web site at some future date.



*photo:* Chloe Mooradian is at center, surrounded by Mercers.

Marianna Mercer is on Chloe's left.

## An Invitation

Are you passionate about some aspect of Shawnee County History? An anecdote? Historical research? A preservation project? Does your historical interests lie within Topeka, North Topeka, Auburn, Dover, Rossville, Silver Lake, Highland Park, Oakland, Shawnee Heights, or environs? Good!

The Education Committee of SCHS invites you to write briefly on the topic of your choice and submit your work for possible publication in our newsletter. See topics covered in this issue for length and scope examples. Be sure to answer these journalistic questions—**who/what/when/where/why?**—concerning your topic. Submit work for consideration to Carol Yoho, cyoho@cox.net, 3013 SW Quail Creek Dr., Topeka, KS 66614. Call 785.273.3089 or e-mail with questions.

We’d like to enlighten our readers as to what you love about local history. If you are not yet a member of the Shawnee County Historical Society, join today using the form on page 11. Make your voice heard in the education, preservation and publication missions of SCHS.

**Mary Ritchie Jarboe** passed away on February 9, 2008. A memorial was held in her honor at the Ritchie House site in April. She was great-granddaughter of John and Mary Ritchie.

“As a fourth grader I literally sat at my mother’s knee and heard the stories of Colonel John Ritchie. Little did I know how much the lessons of those tales also described my mother’s life. Like frontier pioneers looking to create a better future, my mother was a woman who honored the past and planned for the future.”

Mary Ritchie Jarboe researched and wrote genealogy books on her family that made history come alive. Like a detective solving a mystery, Mary Ritchie Jarboe enjoyed the thrill of discovery. So much of what we know about the events and people of the Ritchie House traces back to Mary Ritchie Jarboe’s diligent research and recovery. And while she was keenly aware that she was documenting and preserving precious family history as she worked, she may not have realized the reach of her gift.

Anne Hawkins, a re-enactor who sometimes portrays Mary Ritchie Jarboe, wrote the following tribute to Mary:



*above:* Guests at the memorial service included Bob Jarboe (Mary’s husband, in brown jacket) and Anne Jarboe, far right, Mary’s daughter.

## Mary Ritchie Jarboe's Fire

By *Anne Hawkins*

The groups of Washburn college history students I brought each spring to the Ritchie House had never met Mary Ritchie Jarboe, though their field trip would not have been possible without her (indeed, they would not have been Washburn students, if not for her Ritchie ancestors). The students only knew that the Ritchie House was “cool” and “special,” stripped down to stenciled wooden beams, lathe and plaster, brick and age. The very house invited them in a way many polished historical sites do not: to touch the bare stones John Ritchie quarried and feel their grit, to peer up into exposed beams and through layered walls, to feel--viscerally--that they were connected in that place with their past...and to wonder and imagine. So much of what we know about the events and people of this place trace back to Mary Jarboe’s diligent research and recovery. And while she was keenly aware that she was documenting and preserving precious family history as she worked, I wonder if Mary Jarboe knew she was igniting the future by studying her past?



*left:* Ann as Mary Ritchie.

The house worked its spell on the teacher as well as the students, and I read Mary’s booklet on John Ritchie, an uncommon man, in one sitting. Here was a family history--no, a regional history--packed with adventure, danger, noble enterprises, daring escapes, suffering, sacrifice, compassion...and famous characters in the bargain! I longed to know more about Mary Jane Ritchie, the fortunate wife of a 19th-century husband so dedicated to equality and freedom, but also to know about Mary Ritchie Jarboe, who had “discovered” and written such rich history. So I turned to Mary Jarboe’s longer, thicker “Ritchie-Shelledy Family History” in the state historical archives. The sheer volume of detail in the book, piece by piece painstakingly researched, seemed daunting. Yet, Mary Jarboe wasn’t daunted.

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She wasn't daunted (we learned from daughters at a Topeka memorial) by much; not the lack of services available for families of disabled children years ago, and not by the President of the United States. As a young mother, Mary Jarboe went to work on behalf of families like her own, to research and compile resource lists for parents with mentally-challenged children in two states. And when once she chanced to meet Lyndon Johnson in a casual setting, and she thought he looked a little weary. Mary Jarboe went up to him to share a few words of encouragement and cheer and found herself in such a tight presidential embrace, she was nearly "hugged to death," her family recalls with delight! These are stories of Mary Jarboe her family treasures. The fortunate rest of us--scholars, Topekans, Kansans—can treasure all the stories Mary Jarboe collected of our collective story: the history of our founders, the Ritchies and their colleagues in territorial Kansas, who were not daunted by injustice, violence, deprivation, or federal slave laws which flew in the face of humanity.

Through Mary Jarboe's work, we learn of Topeka's proud history of helping people in desperate need, hunted people whom U.S. law diminished. We learn of Topekans like the Ritchies who welcomed these needy ones in flight—barefoot, hungry, and starved for liberty—into their homes on the Underground Rail-

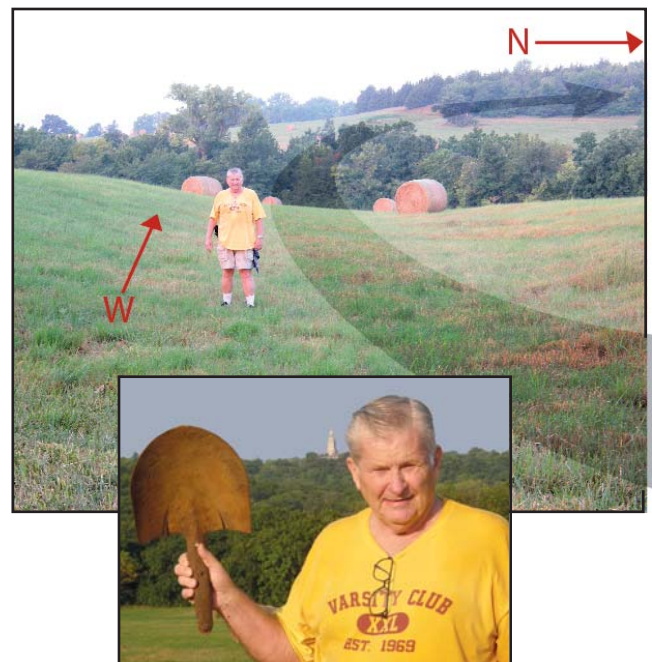
road. We learn of Topekans who risked their lives and worldly fortunes to give refuge and protection to hundreds of fellow men, women and children, regardless of supposed differences. Because of Mary Jarboe's work, the citizens of Topeka can be proud that we live in a place (not as we are sometimes represented in national coverage by the actions of a visible, bigoted few) where from the beginning, citizens actively fought for justice, compassion, freedom and fairness, often triumphing at great risk. We are indebted to Mary Jarboe for this illumination.

Because of Mary Jarboe's work, these stories of our founders can be brought to life today for learners of all ages, from grammar school to grandparents. True tales of adventure, danger, noble enterprises, and all the richness of the past spark a light I see in elementary students' eyes as they lean forward to hear more and to ask eager questions about the Ritchies and the Underground Railroad. The Ritchies' House sparks in college students the irresistible need to touch its walls, to connect living curiosity with the living past. Mary Jarboe's work ignites the imagination and the passion of Kansans in ways we're only just beginning to see leap to light. Her passion and dedication to knowledge lives on, well into the future. Let us do everything we can to keep her fire alive. 🍷

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## Oregon Trail through Topeka?

SCHS member **Doug Mauck** is researching his theory that tracks of the Oregon Trail are visible in the fields and undergrowth of MacLennan Park, south and west of Cedar Crest near I-70 at Fairlawn Road. Doug, who exercises regularly at the park, has observed evidence of a wagon rut trace across this area. Further, he has found several buried metal pieces with his metal detector, including a shovel blade recognized as U.S. military issue, 1861-62. Doug has tracked what he believes to be this trail of western migration on-site and using aerial photos available through Google Map. He is sharing his theory with management of Kansas Parks and Recreation. We intend to publish any progress in Doug's determination to verify his theory.



# Ann Davis Shattio, First Black Topeka Pioneer

Shared by *Ann Davis Shattio Kansas Capitol Memorial Committee* and *Sonny Scroggins*

**T**here is a local hero of whom many Topekans don't know. Still, she is a hero because she and her husband were non-traditional trailblazers before she ever came to Topeka. Her name was **Ann Davis Shattio**. She was born in Palestine, Illinois in 1817, a free Black baby, to parents who had once been enslaved but were given their freedom. However, at the age of ten, her life took a tragic turn. Slave-traders stole her from her parents in Illinois and carried her away to Missouri where she was bound into slavery for more than two decades, sold again and again from one owner to another.

In spite of these horrendous events, it is apparent that Ann grew to become an intelligent, industrious, faith-filled individual, for she was able to purchase her freedom at the age of thirty-two and then settle in Uniontown Indian trading post in Kansas territory – a popular stop on the Underground Railway route. In Uniontown, many escaped slaves found their freedom, and many free Blacks helped slaves to travel to points even further north.

A white man of French descent, **Clement Shattio**, moved to Uniontown in 1848, met Ann and, likely admiring her fine characteristics, asked her to become his wife. They married in 1850, and two years later decided to move east, settling near Papin's Ferry.

Noted historian William G. Cutler chronicles the factual record of their transactions in his renowned text, *History of the State of Kansas*. Though these are simple anecdotal accounts in his book, their story takes on life as he tells how Mr. and Mrs. Shattio came upon an area on the northwest side of Topeka on November 15, 1852, two years before Topeka was established by Colonel Cyrus K. Holliday and eight other founding fathers who named this area for an Indian phrase meaning, "a good place to dig potatoes". The riverside real estate that captured the Shattios' desire was a prime piece of farmland, and the Shattios purchased it from a Shawnee Indian.

The Shattios determined that this should be the place that they would establish as their homestead. They lived and worked there for nearly two years before

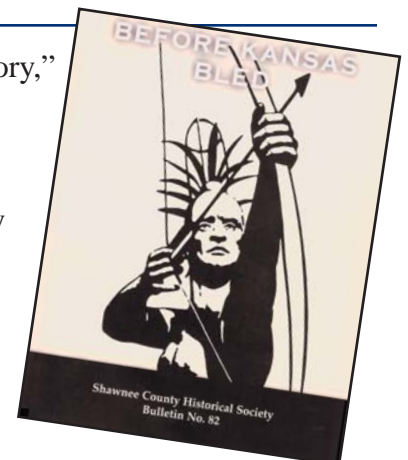
increasing their landholdings through the purchase of some adjoining property from a Shunga Indian at a fair price. By December of 1854, they were numbered with the twenty-five original citizens of this brand new settlement we now live in – Topeka, Kansas.

The reason that William Cutler included their story in his record was not because they were a mixed couple, nor because she was a former slave, or because they purchased their lands from American Indians – but because they were the first cultivating farm owners in the Topeka Township of Shawnee County where, previously, all land had been owned and farmed by Native Americans. Clement was the first White man and Ann was the first Black woman to cultivate a farm in the Topeka Township!

The Shattios owned and farmed this land for nearly thirty years together. Clement Shattio died in 1882 at the age of 82. By then, Topeka was a booming community and the designated capital of the state of Kansas. And Ann Davis Shattio, a former slave woman freed by her own hand and the help of God, was one of the original pioneers who helped to settle it!

If you would like to read this account of Clement and Ann Davis Shattio as recorded in **William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas***, Google his name and the book title, and then follow the Kansas Collection Books site to "Chapters by County", click "Shawnee County" twice, then "Part Two: Territorial Settlers", and the second paragraph will confirm this notable story in historical detail. 🍷

*See also:* "Aunt Ann's Story," *Kansas Daily Commonwealth*, May 12, 1875, reprinted in Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin No. 82, *Before Kansas Bled*, Douglass W. Wallace, FSA Scot, editor, p. 103-107.





# MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Membership is from January-December, annually*

Please print and fill out this form, then send with payment to the address below.  
NOTE: The Shawnee County Historical Society and Historic Topeka have merged.  
We are called "Shawnee County Historical Society," but now include historic preservation focus as well as documenting local history.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM *(Please print)*

Yes! I wish to join the Society that preserves the past and celebrates our heritage.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check type of membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular—\$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Patron—\$50.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Renovator—\$100.00

## GIFT MEMBERSHIP *(Please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ Gift Membership for someone I know who will benefit from membership.  
(Photocopy this form for more than one. Use rates listed above.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## I Wish to join the following committee:

- Nominations                       Membership                       Publications
- Annual Meeting/Socials                       Preservation
- Ritchie Project                       Education/Communications                       Public Relations

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(Make checks to "Shawnee County Historical Society")*  
Please send form(s) with your check to:  
**Shawnee County Historical Society, P.O. Box 2201, Topeka, KS 66601-2201**  
*Your canceled check serves as your membership receipt.*



P.O. Box 2201  
TOPEKA KS 66601-2201

Mark Your Calendar:

# 2008 Annual Meeting of SCHS

**Sunday, December 7, 2008**

Details will be announced. Please plan to attend!

## Historical Highlights

*September 2008*

**Instant Houses:** Lustron Homes were steel structures manufactured to look like conventional suburban wood-frame houses. Producing homes for only two years, the company went bankrupt in 1950. Only 2,500 units were produced. Homes cost about \$10,000 - not including the lot.

Topeka has at least two Lustron Homes. Locations are listed in our SCHS on-line preservation photo archive.

*Do you know of other area Lustons? If so, contact us.*

**Tidbits** →

