



Wellsville Historical Society

Mission Statement

Preserve the history of the area through the collection and maintenance of records and artifacts.

Present Wellsville's history to the public by means of museum, educational programs and presentations.

Promote cultural tourism by commemorating the history of Wellsville and surrounding communities, sites and local citizens.



Committee Members

Collections

Nancy Hyde, Jane Smith, Carole Maxon, Rose Beem, Nina O'Leary, Linda Klamm

Memberships/Fund Raising

Donald Stube, Bill Hyde, Becky Porter, Sandra Hanks, Kelly Jarecki, Wendy Hiddings

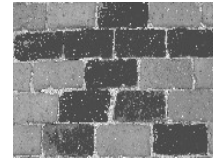
Interview/Family History

Jane Brown, Jeanne Barkin, Linda Brown

Board Members

Stacy Byrnes - President
Nancy Hyde - Vice President
Jane Brown - Secretary
Donald Stube - Treasurer
Carol Maxon - Member

Historical Bricolages



Highlighting stories as told by the artifacts of the collections of the Wellsville Historical Society

**Remembering
The Bird Lady**

For over 50 years, if you were to see a youngster carrying a baby bird while walking toward 3rd and Main in Wellsville, it's likely that he or she would be stopping at May O'Neil's house. May lodged the sick, injured or lost winged birds in small wire cages which she called "the ward". It was located inside her garage. The kids who brought in the sick and injured birds would often come back to check on the birds.

May was a member of the Baldwin Bird Club and enjoyed working with the birds and did so as a hobby. Her garden was designed to attract migrating and permanent birds. It had a high Chinese elm hedge, mulberry trees, wild grapes, honeysuckle and other shrubbery which provided great places for the birds to build nests. She also had bird baths and feeders throughout her yard.

May O'Neil, known by many as Aunt May, Mrs. May O'Neil and the Bird Lady, was a well known and loved member of the Wellsville community. In 1939, she helped start a library in Wellsville as a Girl Scout project. At the time she was the assistant leader of the Honor Site Girl Scout Patrol. In 1941, with help from other ladies in the community, the library became what it is known as today, the Wellsville City Library.

She was a Soror member of the Garden Club and taught girls as young as 5th grade the fundamentals of gardening. May O'Neil and Mary Riddell later became the sponsors of the Wellsville High School Garden Club. The Garden Club won several awards for outstanding work.

May volunteered for two years at the Franklin County Day Care Center in Ottawa. She helped at nap time and play time and also provided transportation for student trips. She was also a member of Wellsville Methodist Church and helped in the nursery for many years.

And some of the letters that May O'Neil received throughout her life, from children in town on page 24 (letters are typed as written.)



Retired "Fossil Hunter" Mrs. May O'Neil and her neighbor Mrs. Stone, watch a one of Mrs. O'Neil's recovered patients cool off during a hot summer afternoon.

Letters from the area children,
to Mary O'Neil

*Dear Mrs. O'Neal

I found this Blue Jay on the street
so I thought I would bring it to you
so you could bury it.

Mary Baldwin 2nd grade

*In the shoe box is a baby bird

Cheryl Moyer 6th grade

*Dear Mary,

I have a sick robin. It is very ill. I
hope you will be back soon.

Roger Hall

*Dear Mrs. O'Neal

Would you bury this bird that we
found dead? Cheryl Moyer

*Dear Mrs. O'Neil

Will you be home tomrow? I'll come
tomrow with you bird book.

Sharon Percy

*We left a bird in your garage.

Deanna and Barbara

*Dear Mrs. O'Neal,

Randy and I were here and we were
going to play the game we played
the other night.

Your friends,

Deanna, Randy and Barbara

*Mrs. O'Neil July 11, 1963

There are 4 baby birds in the sack.

Jackie Dunham

*I put a hurt dove in your garage.

Craig Hughes

*Mrs. O'Neil,

We have found an injured bird at

Mrs. Hostetter's.

Kim Farney Bill Jones

*Dear Mrs. O'Neil

I brought you to birds there on the
chair. Julie Hrabe

Membership Committee Updates

The membership our first year was a great start, helping Wellsville Historical Society take it's first steps. A new museum, located at 517 Main, Suite 100, at the corner of 6th and Main, was established. The Museum is open to visitors every Saturday, between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Week day tours can be arraigned by contacting Nancy Lytle at 785*883*4255.

The Committee is working with other Kansas Museum resources to bring exhibits of interest to our area on a temporary basis. The "Traveling Exhibits" will only be available for public viewing for a short 4 weeks period. Be sure to watch for these upcoming events.

The Committee is discussing other fundraising opportunities for our community. Examples of possibilities includes ideas such as: Movie Night in the Park, Ice Cream Socials and a Gospel Concert(to name only a few).

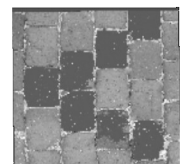
"Historical Wellsville Postcards" will be on sale at the Museum and other area businesses during "Wellsville Days". Be sure to stop and make a purchase to benefit the continuing needs of our Museum and WHS.

A booth is planned for the upcoming "Holiday in Wellsville". An annual event held in the High School Gym, the first weekend of December. Flip Calendars for year of 2010 of " Scenes in Wellsville", historical and present day, will be on sale.

All of the events will help to support the new Museum and the many WHS needs.

Your help is still very important!

Our membership is the brick in the foundation of the Wellsville Historical Society. Without you, we can not remain strong. If your membership has lapsed since February, 2009, or you wish to become a new member, please send in your tax deductible membership fee to P. O. Box. 104. Wellsville, KS 66092



Membership Levels

Student	\$ 2.00	Silver	\$250.00
Individual	\$ 15.00	Gold	\$500.00
Family	\$ 35.00	Conservator	\$1,000.00
Bronze	\$100.00	Lifetime	\$5,000.00

Please make checks out to: The Wellsville Historical Society, Inc.
The newsletter is sent out to our members as our thank you gift, quarterly.

Bricka' Brack

Exhibit's Spotlight

The Old Cream

Scale



In the 1930s and 40s, once a week, the farmers would bring eggs and cream to sell. Using the proceeds to buy food for the rest of the week. The Purina feed store only paid for the butter fat and had to research each batch. The small can would be weighed, rested and dumped into a larger can, then the weight of the empty can was subtracted. The skim milk just went for hog slop. The butter fat was sought after and expensive. This is probably the reason so many had heart disease in the late years.

The Old Cream Scale was donated to the Historical Society by Glenn Layton. Siteman and Nichols worked at the Purina feed store for several years and recount his memories of the experience. Siteman said that the store was first owned by Roy and Irene Hight and then, after Roy died, by Pete and Maxine Alvedil. Max Nichols said, "Old time scale is used to sit on front of the Purina feed store and I us the Chicago Board of Trade. In the 30s and 40s, the Chicago Board of Trade was the bogeyman, like Washington bureaucrats of today."

"Once a week, Alvin Chanay would bring a load of feed from Kansas City, all in 100 pound bags. The store had a dolly that would hold 6 sacks, which they would then load up from the truck onto the back well away in front of the store. They then had to pull the loaded dolly up about a 10 inch ramp into the store. Nobody could do it on their own and a lot of guys never could learn how," Siteman said. "We would hold it for Tom Sawyer. Put in the fence game, you get the truck unloaded." As he remembers, Bob Miller and Clarence Dwyer were really good. He would hoist men on his back and move the dolly up the incline into the store.

THANK YOU

Saturday Volunteers

- Nancy Hyde
- Ann Massengale
- Ram Barnes
- Jim Wright
- Frank Klamm
- Shirley Phillips
- James Smith
- Charlie Moore
- Byron Wolford
- Carl Connor
- Blaine Gray
- Karen Childs
- Dawn Berry
- Mike Wolford
- Sandra Kinsler
- Theresa Childs
- Rose O'Dea
- Dick Rungwitz
- Janice Mays
- Don Habe
- Dana Lawrence

If you have old Wellsville Post Cards, we are interested in copying them for a Post Card Book.

NEEDS

- ** Any old working clock of historic significance for the Museum showroom.
- ** Two Buller's Boards for the office.
- ** A working calculator.
- ** Larger Memorabilia significant to the Wellsville Area.

SPECIAL THANKS

- The Navrats Office Supply for the Fireproof Filing Cabinet
- The American Legion for the 6 foot lightweight Folding Table

Why Bricks?

You can't drive down Main Street without noticing our street is paved with brick, dating back to the 1920's. One of the oldest remaining historical artifacts of our town. The history of our "bricks" is one of many features at our Museum.

The Wellsville Historical Society

Affiliated with

The American Association for State and Local History

Watch for our next Fund Raising

Event at

Smokey's BBQ

Thank you for supporting the Wellsville

Historical Society



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P.O. Box 104

Wellsville, Kansas 66092

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 121

WELLSVILLE, KS

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Postal Patron

Wellsville, KS 66092