MISSION STATEMENT: The Mission of the Osage Mission-Neosho County Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and display information and artifacts that illustrate the history of Osage Mission and Neosho County, Kansas, making this heritage better known, understood, and appreciated.

MUSEUM EXPANSION

Due to the actions of nature and the rising costs of materials, plans for constructing a 75'x100' building east of the present building have been delayed. The cost of steel increased 30% and the site is a lower elevation requiring considerable landfill and a retaining wall. Then two large elm trees west of the building died and had to be removed. Construction is completed on an open machine shelter (103'x30' and 69'x12') attached to the picnic shelter west of the main building. Landscaping is yet to be done. We will continue to conduct fund raising to construct a building on the east side for expanding exhibits. Visitors often ask, "who owns this facility"? The response is "the community" which is U. S. wide, particularly those that have special connections to St. Paul. Thank you for your continued support through artifacts, visitations, correspondence and donations.

Mother Bridget Hayden and Mother Concordia Henning and two other Sisters of Loretto arrived in Osage Mission to begin their school for Osage Indian girls. They opened their school on October 25, 1847. Elizabeth Brond was the first pupil to enroll.
"THE STORMS"

On the evening of June 30, 2005, four separate storms hit St. Paul, KS. Each contained straight line winds, hail, heavy rains and at least two tornados. Not a yard in town was spared. Trees uprooted (some on roofs), tops gone, yards full of limbs, wind and hail damage to numerous roof and crops; pecan groves destroyed and electric poles snapped in half; some barns and sheds demolished. No injuries reported in town. Bob Woodman's cabin on the Big Island was demolished by a fallen tree pinning Bob in his bed for 10 hours. He was flown by helicopter to a Joplin Hospital for treatment on a crushed leg. Thanks to the National Guard, the State, County, utility companies, local businesses and volunteers, it was an amazing cleanup within a week. Museum damage: The west wall of building was forced inward causing the ceiling to buckle. Repairs were finished in February. The Lone Elm Country school was moved over approximately 3' off its foundation. The school has been returned to a new foundation, but repairs on the wood structure, the bell and tower are to be done. The stone sign in front of the museum was shattered. A new one has been made and is installed. St. Francis Church lost its steeple down to its original rock base. Temporary repairs were quickly made. A replacement steeple should be in place in the near future. The elementary school's roof was blown off and windows in the high school blown out. Lots of water damage.

NEW EXHIBIT

A life-size cast aluminum bison, made in Mexico, has been placed in front of the museum. It is quite an eye-catcher. Donated by Jolene and Ed Born, Jay and Mauricia O'Brien and Owen and Jean O'Brien.
RECENTLY ACQUIRED ITEMS

A 1910 wedding dress donated by Mary Lou Wellington, worn by her mother, Agnes Blaine John. Donated by Edwin Bideau, Chanute, KS. A pull type Massey-Harris Clipper 50 used in the 30’s & 40’s, hay fork, large wooden barrel type seed fanner and a walking plow. Donated by William Naff, Lawrence, KS. A collection of 93 Hammers, mallets hatchets, and a small pick. From Ida Fasel, Denver, Co., a battery operated 24” walking doll. From Mark Van Leeuwen, a replica of an Indian Peace Pipe.

Donations from Charlotte Moses: Influenza quarantine sign originally tacked on the home of James Moses. A blue card 11” x 7” with the word influenza in black letters. The original note on the card relates that he was sick in bed Oct. 19-31, 1918 (one of the “lucky ones” who survived the world wide epidemic (pandemic) of the flu that year). Items of Bakelite (a synthetic material before the days of plastics) a shoe horn, perfume bottle stand, with glass bottle and a face powder bowl. An apple box (from the days when apples were shipped in wooden boxes. One end of the box gives information regarding the type and source of apples. A small box containing two phonograph needles. Printed on the box “made especially for use with electrically recorded records”. Veribest Needles are manufactured by a special process which gives forth a rich mellow tone to record without blast or vibration. Sure brings back memories of listening to records on grandma’s Victrola. Adding to our collection of straight edged razors were blades and doubled edged safeties. Boxes for “Pal” single-edged blades and thin Gillette double-edged blades. An early electric razor (is marked from the 40’s”). From Walter Vitt, a sharpener for single-edged safety razor blades and from Dan Willson, a cordless Norelco and a Ronson razor with cord, completing the collection.

A “BIT” OF LOCAL HISTORY

Galesburg, KS, Neosho County, approximately 10 miles southwest of St. Paul – Stanley Wilbur Shaw was born on a farm near Galesburg, April 12, 1881. As a boy he showed unusual mechanical skills. In his early teens he built a working steam engine. Shaw’s genius soon developed a gasoline engine of superior qualities, and in 1908 under the name of Shaw Manufacturing Co. he began building and selling engines and equipment. He also developed a motorcycle and small tractors for gardeners. From these he developed the Du-All Tractors. In 1922 he made a complete automobile for his son. In 1928, his motorized lawn mower made its appearance. During the war he did sub-contracting. His business became so great and his payroll so large that in 1928, Galesburg became noted as the smallest little town in the U.S. to have a second class post office, using thousands of stamps each week. Wendell Shaw, a great-grandson, was an avid supporter of our museum. He visited frequently and donated a list of items. One of his hobbies was taking pictures of historical bridges, and abandoned railroad tracks and their bridges, mostly in Neosho County. An album of some of these pictures was donated to the museum.

THANKS TO

Beachner Construction Company for donating equipment and employees: Johnny Pack placing new sign on pad; Bernie Gough for repairing the damaged wheel on school bell and LeRoy Hoppas for preparing the pad for new machine shelter and landscaping when completed.

Do not squander time.
That is what life is made of.
GRANDMA’S APRON
(Recently my granddaughter found an apron of my mother’s. She put it on, then asked what it was called and what was it used for.) Do your kids know what an apron is? Do your kids know what an apron is? The principal use of Grandma’s apron was to protect the dress, but it also served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children’s tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in a warm oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas were shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples from the trees. When unexpected company came up the drive, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that “old time apron” that served so many purposes. Remember: Grandma used to set her hot baked pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

YEARBOOKS (Annuals)

VINTAGE CARS TOUR
The Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, founded in 1961 visited the museum April 27, 2005. Sixty-five (65) cars, owners, drivers, and some family members were from 10 states (Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Arkansas, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Ohio and Kansas). Some models included a 1927 fire engine, 1938 bus, 1954 Bel Air, Landau sedans, Tudors, roadsters and trucks. Most vehicles belonged to their parents, kept in running condition and enjoyed by their children. The club will select a central point in an area. They take daily tours seeing points of interest in that region. Each evening they gather for an evening meal and some social time. Each tour is accompanied with a driver and trailer as a safety measure for any breakdowns, as these cars are a classic, delicate and need special care. It was quite a sight watching them arrive. Locals and people driving by stopped in to check them out.

September 1824
Neosho Mission was the first Indian mission and school in the present state of Kansas.

Vintage Cars Tour Museum
MISSION DAYS – 2006
Four drawings will be held May 29th at the Museum.
#1 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
#2 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
#3 Drawing - $100.00 Cash
#4 Drawing – Cross Stitched framed picture of St. Francis Church
By Sealed Bids – one cross stitched framed picture of St. Francis Church ($25.00 minimum)
Each $1.00 Donation designated will enter your name into the drawing.
Please return your donation tickets by May 25. (P.O. Box 113, St. Paul, KS. 66771)
LUNCH – May 27
BREAKFAST – May 28
COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS – May 29
American Legion Post No 116, St. Paul, KS, provides coffee and doughnuts at the Museum each Memorial Day morning.

GROUP VISITORS
To the Museum in 2005 -
Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks meeting. The 3rd and 5th grades, St. Paul, KS. The 7th and 8th grades, Holy Name School, Coffeyville, KS and High School students from Erie, KS.

FAMILY HERITAGE
We are looking for articles to print in our newsletter pertaining to family history, life, and growing up within Neosho County/ Osage Mission. Lots of memories and laughs of the good ol’ days are shared through alumni when visiting the museum. We would like to share yours. Send them to us.

2005 Mission Days Drawings
$100.00 - Farmers Nat’l Bank
Won by: Sister Denise
$100.00 - Joe Smith Realty
Won by: Dr. Glen Springer
$100.00 - Dan Willson
Won by: Regina Harmison

BRICK PROJECT
Bricks purchased from May, 2005 through April, 2006 will be printed and displayed by Mission Days. We are in need of more bricks to complete the sidewalk leading to the shelter house. Fill out the form enclosed and mail in for a permanent memorial to your loved ones, friends, special events. We have one brick with name of family float in a Mission Day parade.

NEW VOLUNTEER
Virginia Harden graciously filled in when Sister Denise left. She works at the museum weekday mornings until noon, cataloging artifacts, indexing museum records, assists with facility maintenance and is cashier at Sunday breakfasts

FAMILY MEMORIALS
2005 Plaque additions:
Chief James Bigheart, John Sr. & Lena C. Bergman, George Dougherty, Mary Carroll, Rhodes & Eva Pierce, John V. Piechocki, George & Nellie Vitt, Mr. & Mrs. W. F. O’Brien, Sr., Foster & Eva Willson. Once a year names are printed on a memorial plaque for family members who remember the Museum in their charitable contributions or memorials to their loved ones.

MUSEUM BREAKFASTS

Museum Facilities for Rent
The kitchen and dining area are available to rent for meetings & family gatherings

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Ed and Jolene Born for their dedication and volunteer hours to the museum. To name just a few: new exhibits, memorial plaques, rotating pictures and articles on large bulletin board in main hall going into exhibit area, moving grounds, consulting on and doing needed repairs and more on-going projects. Marge Neely, retired teacher, who volunteers each Mission Days at the Lone Elm Country School, greeting and informing visitors. Jean Dunavan for the newsletter, brick project, Sunday breakfasts, membership lists. Not enough thanks can be said to Dan Willson who keeps museum open daily, running smoothly and doing what comes up daily. (His list is too long to attempt)

As anyone knows who has been a volunteer, so much more goes into any project making it almost impossible to acknowledge the full extent of each one’s contributions.

November, 1865
Anna Duling-Munding enrolled as the first white girl to attend.
Charley Beechwood enrolled as the first white pupil.
The Beacon
Newsletter published for members of the Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society
203 Washington-Hwy 47-P O Box 113
St. Paul, KS 66771

Newsletter
Jean Goodsel-Dunavan
Contributors: Dan Willson
Virginia Harden

A 501(C) non-profit organization
Federal ID #48-1001071

Historical Society & Museum
Board of Directors and Officers
Museum Director: Dan Willson

Dan Willson President
Jean Goodsel-Dunavan Vice-Pres.
Virginia Harden Secretary
Jolene O'Brien-Born Tens.
Mona Pitts
Bob & Rosie Vitt-Harmon
Glen & Marge Neely
Keith Smith
Joan House
Fred Grable
Eugene (Corky) Beachner
Osage Representative
Geoffrey Standing Bear

MUSEUM STATS 2005
KS Visitors 2,829
Volunteer hours 2,658
US-Other States 26
Belgium 1

BOARD MEETING
Board Officers met Aug. 20, 05
to make decisions on repairs to museum. damaged by June 30, 2005 storms

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
(Renewable each January 1)

Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society Membership

- Single Membership $10.00
- Supporting Membership $25.00
- Family Membership $15.00
- Business Membership $100.00

Each Supporting membership ($25.00) may receive one historical book:
- Cookbook
- Beacon on the Plains
- Annals of Osage Mission
- History of Neosho Co. Vol. 1
- History of Neosho Co. Vol. 2
- Osage Mission Sesquicentennial Commemorative
- I will pick up the book at museum. I do not wish a book.
- Mail the book. I am enclosing an additional $4.00 for mailing.

Name Phone
Address Date
City State Zip

BUY-A-BRICK-FORM

Please print in CAPITAL letters the information as you wish it to appear on each brick.
Leave a blank for spaces between words. For more than 3 bricks, duplicate this form.

Name of purchaser:
Address:

City State Zip Phone Date:

Example: (Limit lines 1 & 3 to 12 letters)
Brick #1
line 1 ST PAUL
line 2 PUBLIC
line 3 SCHOOL 1941

Brick #2
line 1
line 2
line 3

Brick #3
line 1
line 2
line 3

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ _______ for _______ bricks at $25 each
Make checks payable to: Osage Mission-Neosho County Historical Society
P. O. Box 113, St. Paul, KS 66771
MISSION DAYS – May 29, 2006
Donation $1.00
3 - $100.00 Cash Drawings
(donated by Farmer’s Nat’l. Bank, Joe Smith Realty & Exchange State Bank)
1 - Cross Stitched Framed picture of St. Francis Church
(donated by Cindy Schoenhofer)

Name: 
Address: 
Phone: 

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