

Kaw City Museum Officers and Board Members for 2016-2017

President ----- Jack Godberson  
Vice-President ----- Rick Fleharty  
Secretary ----- Diana Wise  
Treasurer ----- Carolyn Godberson  
Historian/Editor ----- Annette Pittman

Three-Year Term: Jack Godberson, Dorothy Smith, Carolyn Godberson  
Two-Year Term: Anita Ford, Rick Fleharty, Jim Deakins  
One-Year Term: Diana Wise, Barbara Stevens, John Stevens.

Sunday, May 29, 2016 the museum will be open from 10 am until 5 pm. The previous Saturday and the following Monday, the museum will be open from 1 pm to 5 pm, as well as the following weekends through the summer months. Arrangements to open the museum on other days can be made by calling (580) 269-2085 or (580) 269-2210.



Kaw City Museum  
P.O. Box 56  
Kaw City, OK 74641-0056

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Kaw City Museum is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, operated entirely by donations. Your memberships, donations and brick orders enable the museum to maintain its buildings and grounds and to grow. The museum board thanks each of you for your continued support. We are striving to make the museum all it can be for you and your families.

Family Membership ----- \$10  
Donor Membership ----- \$25  
Founder Membership ----- \$100  
Patron Membership ----- \$200

“Buy a Brick” - \$50 Donation (Tax Deductible)

Purchaser Name

Address

CitySTZip

PhoneWrite Brick Message In Spaces Below:

Space limited to 3 lines at 13 letters (counting spaces) per line.


Kaw City Museum News

A PUBLICATION OF THE KAW CITY MUSEUMSPRING 2016



Kaw City Main Street 1926

Kaw City was established in 1902, five years before Oklahoma’s statehood, by the Kaw City Townsite Company. The group purchased a 480 acre site owned by George M. Muff, located in the Ox Bow Bend, a U-shaped curve of the Arkansas River.

The new townsite was bordered on the north by the Kanza Indian Reservation and to the east by the Osage Indian Reservation. The land was some of the most fertile and productive farm and cattle country in Oklahoma.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway was building a line at that time stretching south and east from Newkirk, through Kaw City and the Osage Reservation, then south to Paul’s Valley. The railroad bridge crossed the Arkansas River to the east. Bridges for wagons and buggies were built on the north and south sides of Kaw City, enabling trade from all directions. The Townsite Company advertised the location as “the finest townsite in Oklahoma Territory, having as a place for businesses land as level as a floor with gently sloping upland for residences”.

Business owners of all kinds came to settle in the new up-and-coming community. Within three months Kaw City had a bank, a newspaper, a post office, two lumberyards, a mill and dozens of substantial business buildings filled with stocks and goods.

Kaw’s one room school on Main and 4th Avenue soon proved inadequate for the population growth so a two-story building was constructed three blocks west on Walnut. By the end of 1903, Kaw City had grown to over 1,000 people and supplied more business for the Santa Fe than any other station along the line. It quickly became an important shipping point for both cattle and farm products. Texas cattle by the thousands were sent to the vast pastures of the Osage to be fattened, stopping briefly at the Saldani Stockyards east of town where they were dipped to eliminate the dreaded Texas tick fever. Agriculture flourished and freight cars filled with bushels of corn, wheat and other farm products were regularly shipped to market from Kaw City.

Kaw City continued to thrive and become a beautiful city. Then suddenly, out of the blue in 1919, life changed forever. OIL was struck! The Burbank Field was discovered just east of town. Strangers walked the streets, oil company officials, trucking contractors and all that go with an oil field appeared.

The wide dirt streets of town were bricked and the board sidewalks gave way to modern cement ones. Most wood frame business buildings were resurfaced with brick or stone. The population more than doubled and Kaw City became a first class municipality with even more businesses and new wealth.





*Businessmen encouraged further growth in Kaw City by forming Booster Parades. They decorated automobiles and trucks with signs welcoming new businesses to the area and traveled through the surrounding communities with cheers, waving and horns honking.*

## Name Brick Grid Map

Over a dozen new bricks have been engraved with family names this year and a new Grid Map Book was created by Annette Pittman and her daughter, Susan Rutledge. It will now be much easier to look up the names of your family and friends in the book, which gives you the precise location of the bricks on the walkway.

The bricks in the walkway are beginning to fill up, but blank bricks are still available for you to honor or memorialize someone you care about. Use the form on the back of this brochure and place your order soon!



*“Doc” Irwin, first doctor to reside in Kaw City, proudly stands beside his new automobile with his son seated inside it. Up until this time, “Doc” had to visit patients in the horse-drawn buggy pictured on the right with his wife holding the reins.*

## Museum Projects

Numerous projects have been completed this past year. Among them was the installation of six new display cases donated by Moody’s Jewelry of Tulsa. The owner’s father was former Kaw Citian Dub Jones.

Museum board members Dorothy Smith and Carolyn Godberson are responsible for the museum platform’s beautification. They donated and planted rose bushes and arranged the concrete benches given to the museum by the Kaw City Senior Citizens.

Board members Jack Godberson and Rick Fleharty sandblasted the street light from Old Kaw City then repainted and rewired it. The globe that blew off and broke during a strong wind storm was replaced to complete the job.

The gazebo was power washed by Jim Deakins and painted by Gordon Smith. Rick Fleharty reworked the electrical wiring and replaced the light. He also fixed boards that were beginning to pull away from the north side of the depot building. Jack Godberson, Rick Fleharty, Jim Deakins and Gordon Smith removed the deteriorating stone wall on the east side of the Brill Building.

Barbara Stevens donated many hours cleaning the museum. Gordon and Dorothy Smith along with the help of Jim Deakins donated their time for the care of the museum grounds, all of which is greatly appreciated.

The museum is fortunate to have retired museum board members continue to lend a hand when called upon. Virginia Loney, now living in Ponca City, is volunteering her time and knowledge to help set up a complicated computer program that will help facilitate documentation of all museum artifacts. A much needed laser printer was purchased to replace the old one, just in time for this next project. The committee assisting Virginia is made up of Carolyn Godberson, Dorothy Smith and Diana Wise. The museum will only accept donated items in the future and they must be accepted by the accessions committee.

Thank you to those mentioned and to the many others who have donated and given countless hours of time to help maintain the museum and keep it a place to be proud of for Kaw City.



## The Birthday Gift

*The Kaw City Museum News* played a small part in making Shirley (Fleharty) Weir’s birthday trip to New York City extra special. Included in last year’s newsletter was the unusual story of how Laura Clubb’s family finally discovered the whereabouts of the famous painting, *Christ And The Children* by Kirchbach, a painting acquired by Philbrooks Art Museum from Mrs. Clubb’s art collection.

Gerald Weir, Shirley’s son, saw the story in the newsletter and contacted the new owners, Dahesh Museum of Art in New York City. *Christ And The Children* had been a favorite of Shirley’s since she was a child. She had often seen it while playing in the Clubb Hotel with her friend, Glenda Sue Conklin Thomas, the granddaughter of Mrs. Clubb, the art collector. He requested a special showing for his mother.

At that time, the painting was rolled up and in storage awaiting the museum’s move to a new location. When the Board of Trustees learned about Weir’s request, they made an exception to grant a private viewing. They brought the huge painting to their Gift Shop in New York City where it was unrolled and hung just for Shirley. The Trustees also graciously invited the Weir family to join them at their Christmas Party while they were in New York City.

## Kaw City Museum Annual Reunion

Sunday, May 29, 2016

The Annual Reunion will be held in the Brill Building of the museum on Sunday, May 29. Doors open at 10:00 am. A short business meeting will be held at 2:00 pm to greet everyone and tell of the various activities which have taken place during the year. Door prizes will be awarded at the end of the meeting. Refreshments will be served until closing at 5:00 pm. The museum board hopes everyone has a marvelous time seeing the museum and visiting with old friends.

When you arrive, be sure to sign in and put on a name tag. Please consider making a donation in exchange for an annual membership to the museum. Memberships are the museum’s main source of income and allow the historical efforts to continue. Looking for a place to get involved? Become a volunteer at the Kaw City Museum! If you’re unable to attend this year’s reunion, you can mail donations to the museum at PO Box 56, Kaw City, OK, 74641.

## Cook Books, History Books and Kaw City DVD’s Available

The museum cook book is a wonderful collection of favorite family recipes from friends of the Kaw City Museum. Many recipes have been passed down for generations. At \$15, the cook books make great gifts!

The beautifully designed, two-volume History of North Central Oklahoma books are filled with hundreds of interesting stories about Kay County’s early days. It is an amazing collection of photographs and articles chronicling individuals, families and events from the Kaw area. Supplies are limited. The entire \$50 purchase price of the books goes directly to the Kaw City Museum.

Also available is a DVD filled with pictures of early day Kaw City from Bob Cline’s collection. Cline gathered photographs from hundreds of sources and copied them for the use of Kaw City Museum. Many of the photographs are in the North Central Oklahoma History book. The museum continues to collect old photographs of the families and buildings from old Kaw City. If you have any of these rare photographs and would allow the museum to copy them, please contact Annette Pittman, PO Box 2719, Frisco, TX 75034 or annettepittman@mac.com. The DVD’s can be purchased for \$15.