

Kaw City Museum News

A PUBLICATION OF THE KAW CITY MUSEUM

SPRING 2020



Kaw City's Main Street

In the "Good Old Days", Kaw City was a booming town in northern Oklahoma. This 1920s photograph of its business-lined Main Street gives a sense of Kaw's commerce and the automobiles and trucks people drove. Kaw Theatre's marquee, far left, advertises the feature movie, "The Town That Forgot God". Next door was the O.F. Schroke Store, followed by Woof's Grocery, the Electric Shoe and Harness Shop, a Cafe, a Barber Shop, the Kaw City Bakery and the Widney Drug Store. The dark-colored two-story frame building next to Widney's was known as Woodman Hall. It was one of the earliest buildings in town. In 1902, this building which was originally built in Longwood, was placed on logs and slowly moved into Kaw City. Beyond Woodman Hall was McCune Hardware. The photograph was taken and signed by J.D. Turley, a prominent photographer from Wichita, Kansas.

Pandemic Halts Reunion Plans

Due to concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the CDC's request for social distancing, the Board of the Kaw City Museum reached the difficult decision to cancel its annual Memorial Day Reunion. This is the first time in 42 years the museum will not be open for Memorial Weekend. Though it is disappointing to miss reuniting with old friends, everyone's health and safety must be the priority.

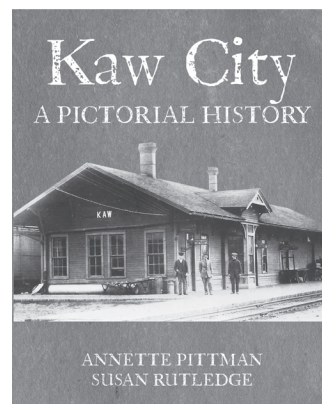
Typical weekend summer hours for the museum have also been temporarily suspended until the threat of the spread of the COVID-19 virus has significantly diminished. We hope to see everyone again soon.

Updates will be posted on the museum's website:
kawcitymuseum.com

Kaw City's Pictorial History Available

Kaw City - A Pictorial History is available from the museum for a donation of \$20 or more. Written by native Kaw Citian Annette Pittman and her daughter, Susan Rutledge, the book features 200 photographs collected over a dozen decades from the Old Town's

residents. Worn and aged, each image provides a glimpse of Kaw City's early days. All proceeds benefit the museum. For ordering information please contact Carolyn Godberson:



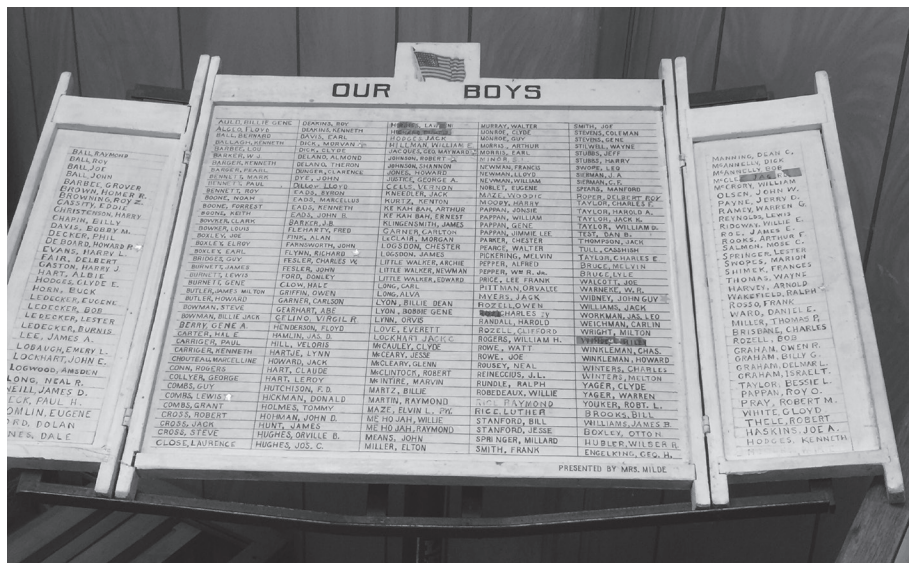
(580) 763-2223 or
csgodberson@gmail.com
(shipping charges apply)

WWI Display

WWI impacted Kaw City just as it did the rest of the country. Between 1914 and 1918, young men went off to war leaving mostly women and older gentlemen with the responsibility of maintaining homes and their community. On permanent display in the Kaw City Museum is a collection of WWI uniforms, equipment and personal items donated by two of those soldiers, Otto Burtcher and Clarence Kneedler. In the back of the case (*upper right*) Kaw City boys who had just enlisted are pictured (*L-R*): John Elwell, Recruiter, Harry Kneedler, Guy Claybaugh, Harley Taylor, Clarence Kneedler, Mack Pellman, Nate Stevens and Frank Herbert.



An honorary plaque (*right*) titled “Our Boys” was donated to Kaw City by Mrs. Hugo Milde. Every Kaw City boy known to have served in WWI is listed alphabetically. The eight men who paid the ultimate sacrifice and didn’t return home have a star placed by their name. The plaque, once proudly displayed in the town, is now part of the museum’s WWI exhibit.



Eighth Grade Graduating Class of 1908, taken six years after the establishment of Kaw City. Front Row (L-R): Lulu Gingrich, Blanch Mann, Mary Peterson and Vangie Elwell. Back Row (L-R): Ira Fleharty, Henry Nelson, Gladys Krebs. Photo courtesy of Gladys Krebs Yoeman.



Ethel Fleharty leading Freeda and a friend on a morning walk to Church. Decked out in their Sunday best, the girl in the striped dress is wearing fancy spats over her shoes.

History of the Kaw City Post Office

A hand-written letter donated to the Kaw City Museum reveals forgotten history about the Kaw City Post Office's early beginnings. Written in 1966 by Glendys (*last name unknown*) to Ethel Coyle, granddaughter of one of the original Kaw City landowners, the letter chronicles the Post Office's four moves in the old town. Originally the charter was in Longwood, a small community west of Kaw City. In 1902 the Post Office was moved to Kaw City along with its Postmaster, Gus Pellman. It was located near the southeast corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue, between Schuman's Shoe Store and the Theater. Later, the Post Office was moved around the corner next to Otto Burtcher's Poultry House. Its third move was said to be "down by the hotel", possibly the Herman Hotel because the Clubb Hotel hadn't been built yet. Then, during the Oil Boom of the 1920s, the Post Office came to its fourth and final location in Old Kaw City, across the alley from the First National Bank on Fifth Avenue. The teller's cage and a group of mailboxes from the old Post Office are permanently displayed in the Kaw City Museum.



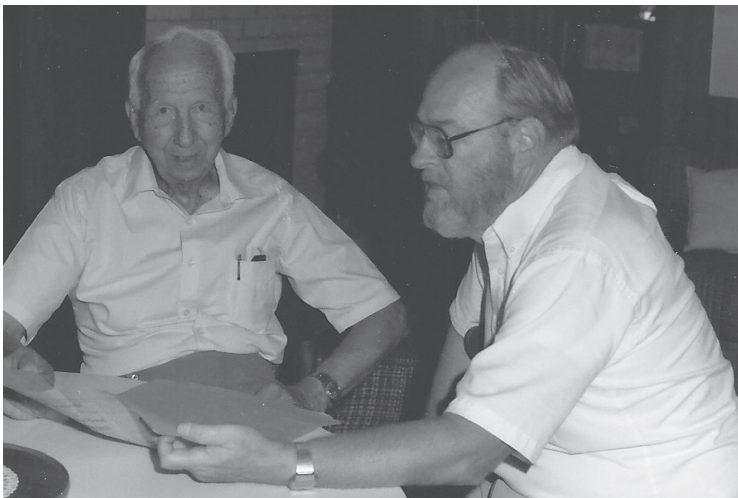
*Postmistress Myrtle Huges standing in front of the first Kaw City Post Office.
Photo courtesy of John Hoefer.*

Stay In Touch!

You are important and we don't want to lose contact with you! If you move, please notify Kaw City Museum of your address change. Mail your new address to Kaw City Museum, PO Box 56, Kaw City, OK 74641 or email annettepittman@mac.com.

Kaw City's First Newspaper

Shortly after Kaw City was established in 1902, William Joshua Krebs opened the town's first newspaper office. The publisher's son, Paul Krebs, worked at the paper as a typesetter. The Krebs family saved the first paper to come off the press and in 1984, donated it to R.W. (Bob) Cline for placement in the Kaw City Museum. Cline served



Paul Krebs (left) donating Kaw City's first newspaper to Bob Cline (right) for the museum. Photo courtesy of R. W. Cline.

as the museum's President from 1973 until his death in 1989. Bob and his wife Annette were raised in Kaw City. For years, they heard rumors the Corps of Engineers planned to build a dam that would cause flood waters to completely cover their hometown. Even before the rumors became reality, the couple began preserving the history of the Kaw City area by interviewing residents, collecting artifacts and copying thousands of vintage photographs loaned or given to them by the "Old Timers". The Clines were also part of a group of people who worked together to establish the Old Depot as the Kaw City Museum in the new town's location. Kaw City now has a lovely museum and one of the most well-documented histories of any town in the country.

2020-2021 Board Members and Officers

President - Jack Godbersen
Vice President - Rick Fleharty
Secretary - Pilar Burgert
Treasurer - Carolyn Godbersen
Historian/Editor - Annette Pittman

3-Yr. Term: Barbara Stevens, John Stevens
2-Yr. Term: Jack Godbersen, Dorothy Smith, Carolyn
Godbersen
1-Yr. Term: Pilar Burgert, Rick Fleharty, Jim Deakins.

Your Support Is Needed

Even though the museum is closed, maintenance expenses are ongoing, including the recent need for replacing a broken HVAC system. Please consider sending your tax-deductible donation to help keep Kaw City Museum in good repair.

Go to **kawcitymuseum.com**
for updates or call:
Carolyn Godbersen (580) 763-2223 or
Dorothy Smith (580) 269-2085.

Museum Memberships

Kaw City Museum is a tax-exempt non-profit organization operated by donations of time and money. Memberships, purchases, donations are vital to the operation, upkeep and future growth of the museum and its grounds. Thank you for your continued support.

Please mail your tax deductible donations and dues to
Kaw City Museum, PO Box 56, Kaw City, OK 74641

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

Available for Purchase

The award-winning two-volume Kay County history book is out of print so be sure to get yours before they are gone. The history of each town is well documented with reference guides for further information. Family pictures, Kaw area photographs and stories are included. You can also buy the Museum's popular cookbook, postcard size pictures of Kaw City, and DVD's of old photographs. All proceeds go directly to the museum.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Kaw City Museum Inc.
PO Box 56
Kaw City, OK 74641-0056

