

Kaw City Museum News

A PUBLICATION OF THE KAW CITY MUSEUM

SPRING 2021



Schoolhouse Clock Returns to Kaw City

The actual regulator clock which is believed to have hung in the halls of Kaw City's first schoolhouse was acquired this year by the museum and is on display for visitors to see. The Ponca City family who had it in their home for many years was told it came from the first schoolhouse. Historian Annette Pittman remembers it hanging in the High School Superintendent's office in the 1940s. But it remains a mystery where the clock was before it made its way to Ponca City. Regulator clocks were invented in the late 18th century to improve upon the time-keeping accuracy of spring-wound clocks. The term regulator is a generic name which refers to the clock's swinging pendulum which regulates the time. There are usually two mechanisms, one for the minute hands and one for the second hand. The clock is set by increasing or decreasing the speed of the pendulum swing. A few months ago, board members Jack and Carolyn Godberson received a tip that the clock was slated for sale at a local auction. While the museum has a strict policy of not paying for items, in this instance, a private donor pledged the money to pay for the purchase of the clock if it could be obtained. On the day of the auction, along with the Godbersons, a number of people planned to bid on the antique clock which was in excellent condition. Excitement grew as the bidding began. But when the other interested parties learned the Godbersons were there to purchase the clock for the Kaw City Museum, they recognized the historical value of the artifact and held back on their bidding. The clock was procured and triumphantly returned home to Kaw City.

Kaw City Museum's Annual Reunion Scheduled

Sunday, May 30 from 11:00am-5:00pm - 910 Washunga Drive, Kaw City, OK

The Kaw City Museum Board is pleased to announce this year's Annual Reunion will take place on the Sunday of Memorial Weekend. It's been nearly two years since the last reunion because of the pandemic and we expect a great crowd. Masks are not required, but please don't attend if you have a fever or are experiencing any COVID symptoms. Health is our priority! Board members and volunteers will be on hand to greet local residents as well as visitors from across the country. Whether you grew up in old Kaw City or you are new to the area, you're sure to enjoy the countless displays of historical artifacts, photographs, maps, books, name bricks, furniture and even the names and plot locations of Grand View Cemetery. Admission is free.



Depot Building Repairs

In 1979, Kaw City Museum's Depot Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only surviving commercial building from Old Kaw City. This past year, the 119-year-old building began to show its age and required repairs. Some of its external siding and trim around the windows had become soft from rot and needed to be replaced. Unfortunately the wood couldn't be purchased from a local lumber yard. The boards used in 1902 to build the museum were milled in a different size than today's lumber. To maintain the historical integrity of the building, replacement boards had to be milled to match the original ones. Once the repairs were made, the entire building received a new coat of paint that matched the vintage color.

Get Involved!

Kaw City Museum is filled with artifacts and collections helping to preserve the cultural heritage of a town that once thrived in northeastern Oklahoma. The number of people who lived in Old Kaw City is dwindling, but their stories and the rich history of the entire Kay County live on for those who visit the museum.

The **involvement of a new generation of volunteers is needed** to keep Kaw City Museum operating and growing. If you live in the area, please consider donating your time to this worthwhile endeavor. For more information on how you can help, go to kawcitymuseum.com and send us a message from the Contact Page.

Address Changes

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 it to annettepittman@mac.com.

A Grandmother's "Receet"

The text below is copied without spelling corrections from an old document donated to the museum. This mother of the bride was preparing her daughter for marriage. The author is unknown.

Years ago, when my mother was a bride, My Kentucky grandmother gave her her "receet" for washing clothes. This treasured bit of writing now hangs above my gleaming automatic washer.

1. bild fire in back yard to het kettle of rain water.
2. set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is peart.
3. shave 1 hole cake lie sope in billin water.
4. sort things. make 3 piles. 1 pile white. 1 pile cullord. 1 pile werk briches and rags.
5. stur flour in cold water to smooth then thin down with billin water.
6. rub dirty spots on board. scrub hard. then bile. rub cullord but don't bile just rench and starch.
7. take white things out of kettle with broom stick handel then rench, blew and starch.
8. spred tee towels on grass.
9. hang old rags on fence.
10. pore rench water in flower bed.
11. scrub porch with hot sopy water.
12. turn tubs upside down.
13. go put on cleen dress—smooth hair with side combs, brew cup of tee—set and rest and rock a spell and count blessins.

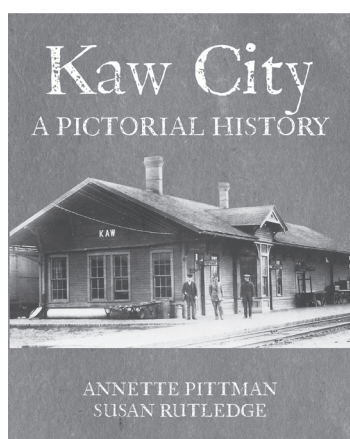


Home furnishings from the 1800s on exhibit in the Old Depot section of the Kaw City Museum



Dean Randol (*pictured above*), born in 1890, served as a Kaw City marshal in the 1930s. He later became the first Chief of Police of Kaw City where he served five two-year terms. During his tenure in law enforcement, Randol was involved in a shootout with a bootlegger on the streets of Kaw City. He was shot several times and transported to Oklahoma City where some of the bullets were removed. Years later while in the Ponca City hospital, x-rays revealed he still had shrapnel in his chest from the gun fight. During WWII, Randol served in plant security in a war plant in Wichita, Kansas. After the war, he became the Deputy Sheriff of Kay County. Dean Randol's story, including his marriage to Laura Belle Pappan Grantham, part Kaw Indian, is told in the Kay County History Book which can be purchased from the Kaw City Museum.

Historical Resources and Gifts Available for Purchase



Kaw City - A Pictorial History can be purchased from the museum for a donation of \$20 or more. Written to benefit the museum by native Kaw Citian Annette Pittman and her daughter, Susan Rutledge, this one-of-a-kind pictorial history includes 200 photographs that span a dozen de-

cades, collected from Old Kaw City's residents. Worn and aged, each image provides a glimpse of Kaw City's early days.

The award winning two-volume Kay County history book, *North Central Oklahoma, Rooted in the Past- Growing for the Future*, can still be purchased

from Kaw City Museum while supplies last. It is out of print, so order yours before they are all gone! In the two books, Kay County's town histories are well documented, the large genealogy section provides the history and pictures of hundreds of Kay County families, and many Kaw City area photographs and stories are included.

Also available are the museum's popular cookbook, a selection of postcard-sized pictures of Old Kaw City, and a DVD presentation of old photographs copied from private collections or from donated pictures. All proceeds go directly to the museum. For ordering information please contact:

Annette Pittman
(580) 716-4959 or
susanrutledge@mac.com
(shipping charges apply)

A HUGE thank you is extended to Carolyn Godberson for her years of service as Treasurer and Board Member of the Kaw City Museum. Her faithfulness has been a tremendous asset to the museum.

2020-2021 Board Members and Officers

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

3-Yr. Term: Pilar Burgert, Rick Fleharty, Jim Deakins

2-Yr. Term: Barbara Stevens, John Stevens

1-Yr. Term: Jack Godberson, Dorothy Smith,
Annette Pittman

Go to **kawcitymuseum.com**
for updates or call:
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 and donations are vital to the operation, upkeep and future growth of the museum and its grounds. Thank you for your continued support.

Family Membership \$10

Donor Membership \$25

Founder Membership \$100

Patron Membership \$200

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

Tell Us Your Story

Kaw City Museum is dedicated to preserving the history of the town and the people who lived in the Old Kaw City. If you have stories to tell from the “good ole days”, please write them out and mail them to us. We’ll place them in a notebook at the museum for everyone to read!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Kaw City, OK 74641-0056

PO Box 56

Kaw City Museum Inc.

