

MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May-June 2009

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News!

Dalton Days Wild West Fest Showdown on Crooked Creek

Once again the Dalton Gang Hideout will be invaded by gun slinging cowboys and pretty ladies from the Reenactment Guild of America who will compete in the fourth Dalton Days competition June 6th & 7th.

The Reenactment Guild of America (RGA) is a national organization of gunfight teams and living historians dedicated to the true and accurate history of the nineteenth century. These cowboys and cowgirls spend countless hours researching and rehearsing their gunfight skits and living history presentations and are among the best in the country.

Other events to take place at Dalton Days are the parade, Dalton Fun Run for those that are fleet of foot, stick horse races and other kids games are on tap as well.

The always popular ice cream crank off is a big hit as businesses and organizations compete for the title of "champion" for the year. Each team must hand crank an original recipe to be judged by the enactors. The ice cream is then given out to the public. The winning team will take home the "Dalton Days Ice Cream Crank Off" traveling trophy. The current champs for 2008 are the Meade County EMS.

As if that isn't enough, the "Hodgeman County Nine" vintage baseball team has agreed to come to Meade and play the re-enactors a game of baseball using 1860



"I see by your outfit....." Gunsmoke & Petticoats from Shawnee, KS.

rules. The "Hodgeman County Nine" are a living history team in themselves, demonstrating how the game was originally played.

Visitors may look forward to Old West vendors, great food and good company to be had by young and old alike. There will be a chuck wagon breakfast served by Norman Dye and the Meade Methodist men both Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday morning before the action starts we will once again offer Cowboy Church with Jerry Odle officiating. Jerry is the minister at the Montezuma First United Methodist Church. He is a

cowboy at heart and gives a very inspiring and entertaining service.

Dalton Days buttons are going on sale in about a week at a cost of five dollars each and are good for both days. Buttons may be purchased at the Museum or the Dalton Hideout.

Come on down to Meade and the Dalton Gang Hideout for some rousing *old west* entertainment on the weekend of June 6th & 7th

For further information contact Marc Ferguson at the Dalton Hideout 620-873-2731, email daltonhideout@yahoo.com or visit oldmeadecounty.com.

Happy Trails to all.
Marc Ferguson

Meade County Historical Museum - 200 E. Carthage • Dalton Gang Hideout - 502 S. Pearllette

PO Box 893 • Meade, Kansas 67864 • (620) 873-2359

Marking the Jones & Plummer Trail

Judy Adams, a newly appointed board member with the Historical Society, has really kicked up some dust with a project dear to her heart. It seems that Judy has wanted to put markers along the old Jones and Plummer Trail for a long time, and 2009 seems to be her year.

After several meetings and a lot of e-mails, Judy has assembled a committee with county representatives from all three states the trail encompassed: Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

The group met last month with Dr. David Clapsaddle from Larned, KS, who is president of the Wet & Dry Routs Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. He has a great deal of experience marking the Santa Fe Trail and gave the committee some solid advice.

The group will not be dealing with the highway departments in their various states, but with private property owners along the route. The agreed upon markers will be "old" stone posts with a bronze plaque displaying the name of the trail, starting point and ending point and years of operation. A more extensive interpretive sign will be erected over the post with information about the particular location where the marker stands.

In like manner to the Santa Fe Trail system we will get permission to place these on private land just inside the property line facing the road.

Meade County would like to place six markers... one at the Meade/Ford County line, one in Fowler, one in Meade City Park, one on south Hwy 23, one near J.W. Vanderpool's place and one near David Adam's place where the trail crossed the Cimarron river.

Every county is responsible for

the cost of their own markers. MCHS plans to solicit

sponsorships for the markers placed in Meade County.



This photo shows one of the markers on the Santa Fe Trail that Dr. Clapsaddle helped to place. This landowner had a fence, so the marker was placed facing the road just inside the fence. The larger sign with sturdy posts helps protect the marker from cattle rubbing against it.

All of the bronze plaques attached to the post will be consistent from one end of the trail to the other. The interpretive sign, however, will tell the story of that particular section of the trail.

visit www.oldmeadecounty.com

to read more about the Jones & Plummer Trail.

Click on "Index of Stories" > Jones & Plummer Trail

Take a Task at the Meade County Historical Museum!

Norman Dye, president of the Historical Society, has grown a little weary of having to look after everything... he tried to retire this year, but nobody would agree that he could... so he has come up with a plan. We're calling his plan "take a task" and asking members to volunteer to keep an eye on an area of our properties and coordinate any repairs, upgrades, etc.

John and Wynema Dye have been looking after the schoolhouse and farm lot. Nancy Ohnick has agreed to take on the displays in the museum and is looking for different members to take on a "room"... perhaps in an area that

they have an interest. We have a general store, a sod house, a parlor, bedroom, kitchen, blacksmith shop, railroad station, bank, photography shop, schoolhouse and more. The "task" is to assess it, report what needs to be done, help with it or coordinate volunteers to get the job done.

We need someone to "take on" the signs out on the highway and other areas of interest. So... what do you say... will you take on a task? Call the museum and leave your name and phone number if you want to help. If you are interested in the displays, Nancy's number is 620-629-3552.

Artisan Valley Spring History Tour

Our history tours have become one of the most popular events sponsored by MCHS. It seems like someone in the organization comes up with a great location for us to visit and learn about each year.

The 2009 tour will be held on May 23rd. We will meet at the Museum in Meade at 9:00 AM, and travel to the northeast part of the county. Everyone is asked to bring a sack lunch and lawn chairs.

Ellen Verell has volunteered to make arrangements for the tour this year and has several interesting things in store for us. We will have some "drive-through" tours of several historic homes of this region of the county:

- ◆ Wallace Edwards House (Mathew & Beth Welsh)
- ◆ Original George Edwards house (Lance & Sondra Clay)
- ◆ P.D. Edwards House (Ken & Eunice Padgett)
- ◆ Franklin Marrs House (Duke & Donna Marrs)
- ◆ Cyrus Wells House (Gertrude Norman)

We will visit the Emerson Grove where Ellen has obtained permission for us to tromp around and explore. This grove was mentioned several times in the book, *Cimarron Chronicles* by Carrie Anshutz. It was originally a tree claim and a popular place for early-day Meade County settlers to gather and socialize. The grove is made up of cottonwood, hackberry and chinaberry trees.

The tour will then take us to the shady yard of Dean and Mary Reese who have Creek Side Farm Bed & Breakfast. We will eat our lunch there... and then on to look at a rock crossing of what is believed

to be the old Adobe Walls Trail where wagon ruts and an old way station site are still visible.

Included with the home tours is the old Congregation Church Cemetery that is near one of the homes.

It promises to be a fun tour. Wear sturdy shoes and casual clothing as we will be "doing dirt" most of the way.



Meade County well represented at the Kansas Sampler Festival

The photo above shows Lila & Rodger DeGarmo and Norman & Nancy Dye posed in front of the Meade County Booth at the Kansas Sampler Festival held at Concordia, Kansas, on May 2 & 3, 2009.

These four, along with Marc and Alice Ferguson and Otis and Carolyn Meredith, represented the Hideout, Museum, and Meade County Economic Development Committee, Inc. They spent two exhausting days plugging Meade County and inviting folks to come and visit.

The word is that they gave away every brochure they took along. Rodger handed out full color bookmarks touting Meade County and MCHS handed out wooden nickels spendable only at the Dalton Gang Hideout.

The Meade County booth was constructed by Rodger DeGarmo in 2007, and has served us well for the last three KS Sampler festivals. It is made of rustic cedar fencing boards cleverly built into panels that haul easily then lock together at the destination to form a huge double booth to be shared by Meade County entities.

According to the Sampler Foundation website, 5,000 people attend the festival this year... an audience well worth the expense and effort of these fine volunteers.

Thank you gang, for representing Meade County!

Consider Joining MCHS!

by Nancy Ohnick

Do you have an interest in the history of Meade County? If your answer is "yes!" or even if it's "well... maybe..." I want to personally invite you to join the Meade County Historical Society.

Our organization operates the Meade County Historical Museum as well as the Dalton Gang Hideout. The Hideout is pretty much self-sufficient, but continued financial support from the community is a crucial element in the operation of the museum. We have some support from county taxes, but not nearly enough to meet our operating budget. I often marvel at how we continually stretch our dollars to meet the demands of payroll, utilities and other expenses month after month to keep the doors open, but there are times when the outlook is bleak.

We have a reputation for one of the finest museums in Southwest Kansas and we can be proud of the



way it has been maintained. Your membership and continued support would be an enormous help in this effort.

Did you know....

♦The Museum has a library where you can look up all manner of Meade County history?

♦The Museum has on microfilm every Meade Co. newspaper since the 1880's?

♦In the Goodnight Gallery a large saddle collection is now on display?

Stop by and visit your Museum.. you might be surprised what you will find!



MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 969 • Meade, Kansas 67864-0393 • (620) 873-2359

YES! I would like to join the Meade County Historical Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Phone _____

email address _____

Levels of Membership:

- Ranch Hand\$25.00
- Pioneer\$50.00
- Homesteader\$100.00
- Trail Boss.....\$250.00
- Lifetime Member.....\$500.00

Please send this completed form along with your payment (made payable to the Meade County Historical Society) to the address above.

THANK YOU! Your support will help preserve Meade County history for generations to come.

Tid Bits:

MCHS Board meetings are usually held at 7:00 PM, the First Monday of the month, at the Museum.

Nancy Ohnick was recently elected as Secretary-Treasure of MCHS, she joins President Norman Dye and VP, Glenn Lauppe on the Executive Committee.

Ellen Verell has published a new book titled "Tales of a Sod House Baby." The books are available at the Meade County Historical Museum and proceeds from the book sales are donated to the Museum. *Thanks Ellen!*

If we have sparked your interest in the Jones & Plummer Trail there is an excellent book titled "Trails South" by C. Robert Haywood that is the definitive history of the trail that crossed Meade County from one end to the other. "Trails South" is available at the Dalton Hideout, Meade County Museum, Hastings, Back Room Printing and www.prairiebooks.com

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(go to the address bar in your web browser above and highlight the address... copy... then paste it into an email addressed to everyone you wish to share with... they can just click on the link to get here)

A good on-line source for **BOOKS** about **MEADE COUNTY HISTORY** is
www.prairiebooks.com

More from Marc about Dalton Days

Mountain Man Dale Colgrove at Dalton Days

New to Dalton Days this year is Dale Colgrove from Dewitt, Nebraska. Dale has spent over thirty years collecting artifacts and developing his skills as a Flintknapper or arrowhead maker. Thus he was nicknamed "The Mountain Man" as a young man. Dale is deeply influenced by traditional Indian culture and shares their respect for nature and our earth.

He has realized that few others are carrying on an appreciation for the ways of the Indian lifestyle, his aim is to teach and convey their cultural and spiritual concepts as

they were many years ago. Dale travels far and wide to share his knowledge and his vast collection of artifacts. He is not only a collector of historical facts and artifacts; he also is a skilled craftsman. His passion is working with stone, making arrows, arrowheads, knives, pipes and spears. Dale has spent over eighteen year's perfection the art of flint knapping. He is a master at storytelling while knapping an arrowhead while he talks. Young and old alike are mesmerized by his abilities to tell how the Indians made and used tools while he makes them right in front of your eyes. We are pleased to have Dale at Dalton Days this year.