

# EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2016, Volume #28  
Written & edited by Ben Terwilliger

## Message from the Executive Director: Ben Terwilliger

Happy New Year everyone! Wow, what a great year 2015 was for us here at the EAHS. We kept busy all year and accomplished everything we set out to do, and more!



*L-R: Bob Slapar, Steven Neis, Ben Terwilliger, John Fiore, Ruth Hughs and Ken Grotewiel at the new museum ribbon cutting ceremony on April 4, 2015.*

In the first month of 2015, with the help of over 30 volunteers and Public Works staff, we packed and moved our entire museum from our Nottingham School location to 720 Main Street. After the move, we spent the next couple of months unpacking the museum in preparation for its public opening.

In 2015 we once again made remarkable progress rehabilitating the historic property at 720 Main Street, our museum home. We also continued to improve the exhibits, added to our collections, accessioned thousands of artifacts, expanded our community outreach and welcomed over 1,900 visitors to the museum. I am also pleased to report

that research inquiries from the public increase each month, which is a positive sign of our growing influence/reputation as a research institution.

In May of 2015, **Mrs. Fern Long**, the founder and the first President of our organization, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and hosted a lovely party to mark the occasion. Every day I am thankful for all that Mrs. Long has done to preserve our community's history. She is a remarkable woman! I feel privileged to be starting my fifth year as the Executive Director of this wonderful organization. I greatly look forward to working with the EAHS Board of Directors to achieve many more important goals in 2016 and beyond.

If you are not a member, we would love to welcome you as a new member! Please tell everyone to visit our museum. And keep an eye out for Eudora related artifacts we could add to our collections. I hope you have an amazing 2016!

-Ben

## Eudora Community Museum Opens at 720 Main Street Location



*Interior of 720 Main Street, April 2015.*

Our long quest to have a museum building of our very own and open to the public was finally realized this year. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, we officially opened our museum at 720 Main Street to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Over 250 people attended the opening of the museum, which completely blew us away! We were grateful to receive such amazing support. We feel right at home in historic downtown Eudora and we are happy to help with the ongoing efforts to revitalize this part of our community.

### **Updates on the Rehabilitation of Historic 720 Main Street**



*Interior view of 720 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> story, July 2015.*

While all work on the first story of our property at 720 Main St. was completed earlier in the year, much work remained to be done on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story. Dozens of dedicated volunteers, including all-star volunteers Benny Dean and Bill Gordon, volunteered hundreds of hours and carried out most of the work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story this year. Their work

included installing two new ADA-compliant steel doors, new sub-flooring, structural repairs, repairs to all windows and the insulation of the attic. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story was electrified by electrician Aaron Thakker and it received climate control from Westerhouse Heating and Cooling.

In 2016, we will continue working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story. We plan to install a much needed new hardwood floor, make repairs to all of the walls, insulate the ceiling and then install a new ceiling.

We are in the midst of developing plans to make the 2<sup>nd</sup> story easily accessible from the first story. Currently, no internal connection between the two stories exists. Therefore, we are in the process of developing plans for an addition to the rear of the property that would connect the two stories. Currently, the Drawings for the addition are being developed. Once the Drawings are finalized and approved by the State Preservation Office, we will start to solicit bids for the addition. After we receive some bids, we will start a massive new fund-raising campaign to raise the funds for the addition. Currently, there are six grants we plan to apply for in 2016 for the addition. This rear addition is an important part of the overall rehabilitation project, because it will make our 2<sup>nd</sup> story and its exhibits easily accessible by the public.

Fundraising for this project continues to be successful. Dozens of people and organizations donated to the rehab project in 2015, including large donations from Casey's General Stores and Eudora High School Class of 1965. Later in 2016 we will be selling tax credits from the project. If you, or an organization you know is interested in purchasing tax credits from us, please contact us!



*Bill Gordon (L) and Benny Dean (R) selflessly volunteered on the rehabbing efforts throughout 2015.*

## Financial Donations Critical to Success

We are grateful for all donations made to the EAHS! Every donation truly makes a difference and not only helps us preserve the History of the Eudora area, but serves the whole community.

The operational expenses of the EAHS are entirely funded by private donations. In the last several years we have expanded our operations. That also means our operational costs have expanded as well. The basic operational costs for the EAHS include utility payments, insurance payments and some basic supplies. We operate on a very conservative budget.

The yearly membership dues are enormously helpful. While paying your dues this year, please consider giving additional funds for our operational expenses. It really will make a difference and help us continue to grow as an organization and serve the community.

Please consider adding the EAHS to your Estate planning as well. The EAHS is a great opportunity for you to pass on your values and Eudora's History to subsequent generations. The EAHS is a registered 501c3 and all donations to the EAHS are tax deductible.

Finally, we are in need of camcorder that can record up to 90 minutes worth of video that we can use to record our programs. Thanks!

## Eudora Fish Gravesite in KCK

In the summer of 2015, the EAHS made a pilgrimage to Kansas City, KS to visit the final resting place of Eudora Emmons (Fish), the namesake of our community. Eudora is buried in the Huron Indian Cemetery in downtown KCK. Eudora, a Shawnee Indian, was born around 1848 and passed away in 1877.



*Eudora's headstone (top), headstone location (lower left), and her only known portrait (lower right).*

## Historic Collections Updates



*The Eudora High School Cardinals mascot from the late 1990s was donated to the museum in 2015.*

This has been perhaps the best year yet in terms of donations of artifacts to the museum. The Trefz/Staab family donated the abstracts and deeds to 720 Main St. Leonard Hollman has donated hundreds of artifacts to the EAHS in the past

several months. These artifacts are some of the best, most pristine artifacts ever donated to the EAHS. Military artifacts from the Civil War era belonging to the Gerstenberger family were also among the highlights donated this year.

## Museum Visitation

We had another great year at the Eudora Community Museum in terms of visitation. In fact, we set a new visitation record with over 1,900 visitors in 2015.

Around 280 children visited the museum in 2015 through field trips, school groups and youth groups. The entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Eudora Elementary School and the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade from Eudora Middle School visited the museum in 2015 for field trips, which included activities at the museum and a guided walking tour of historic downtown Eudora.

In the Summer of 2015 we debuted the new exhibit, "Eudora High School Football: Rising to New Heights." This popular exhibit has been well attended. The 2015 EHS football team toured the exhibit in November in the midst of their season, which was one of the most successful seasons in EHS History as they advanced to sub-state.



*7<sup>th</sup> grade students at the museum, April 2015.*

We also welcomed tours to the museum this year from the Welcome Lawrence Club, the Lawrence Preservation Alliance, the Douglas County Historical Society, the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council and the Eudora High School Class of 1965.

## Treasurer's Report

*(As of January 1, 2016)*

### EAHS Operational Accounts:

Checking	\$2,537.66
Savings	\$4,002

Total Operational: \$6,539.66

**Museum Rehabilitation Account:** \$29,561.63

## Programs for 2016

### January 21, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"Historic Properties of the Rural Eudora Township." A program presented by Stan Hernly and made possible by funding from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council.

### March 17, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"Women Rising: How Kansas Women Gained the Vote, 1859-1912." Presented by Diane Eickhoff. Kansas Humanities Council sponsored speaker and program.

### May 19, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"Lost Kansas Communities." Presented by M.J. Morgan. Kansas Humanities Council sponsored speaker and program.

### July 21, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

Program TBD.

### September 15, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

"720 Main Street: The History and Rehabilitation of its 2<sup>nd</sup> Story." Presentation by Ben Terwilliger.  
*Note: this program will be held only if the 2<sup>nd</sup> story rehab work is completed.*

### November 17, 7:00pm at Eudora City Hall

Program TBD.

## EAHS Elections

The Officers and Directors elected for the year 2016 are as follows:

### Officers:

President: Steven Neis

Vice President: Benny Dean  
Treasurer: Jim Harris  
Secretary: Pennie Neff

### Message from the President

I would like to thank everyone for electing me President for 2016. We had a very successful year in 2015. We moved in to our new location on Main Street and work has started on the second floor. We hope to have this project done this year. I hope everyone may have a happy 2016.

**-Steven Neis, President**

#### Area Directors:

Clearfield: John More  
Eudora: Debbie Carden  
Fall Leaf: Kevin Reetz  
Hesper: Bill Gordon  
Prairie Center: Benny Dean  
Weaver: Lorene Cox

*To join or renew your membership, or to make a donation, please provide the following information and return this form with your payment to:*

**Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, Kansas 66025**

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Membership Type (check one):**

Individual      \$10.00

Contributing      \$25.00

Business      \$50.00

Sustaining      \$50.00

Lifetime      \$200.00

#### **Please check all that applies:**

New Member       Membership Renewal       Donation

Cash       Check      Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### Other Donations:

I wish to make a donation to the EAHS operational general fund.

Cash       Check    Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a donation to the project to restore the Trefz Buildings (720 Main Street) for use of the Eudora Community Museum.

Cash       Check    Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Information for the Eudora Community Museum

#### Location

720 Main Street, Eudora, KS.

#### Hours

Typically open Tuesdays through  
Saturdays from 11am to 5pm.

#### Contact

Executive Director:  
Ben Terwilliger

[EudoraHistory@gmail.com](mailto:EudoraHistory@gmail.com)

785-690-7900

#### Mailing

Eudora Area Historical Society  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, KS 66025

#### Online

City of Eudora's website, direct link:

[www.cityofeudoraks.gov/  
index.aspx?NID=100](http://www.cityofeudoraks.gov/index.aspx?NID=100)

“Like” the EAHS on Facebook!

EAHS Instagram/Twitter:  
@EudoraHistory

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