

EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2017, Volume #29
Written & edited by Ben Terwilliger

Message from the Executive Director: Ben Terwilliger



Pictured: Ben Terwilliger leads Eudora Cub Scouts on a tour of the Eudora Community Museum in November, 2016.

Happy New Year everyone! 2016 was another year of breath-taking progress for our museum. The two most notable accomplishments for our museum from this past year include: (1) building a MUCH needed \$100,000 addition to make our second story publicly accessible, and (2) our selection to host an exhibit from the Smithsonian Museum.

We are thankful for the City of Eudora and for Douglas County because without the funds they provide none of our progress would be possible. We are thankful to have a dedicated Board of Directors, supportive and attentive membership, amazing volunteers, and a community that genuinely supports and values our important work.

From time to time, it's worth reflecting on the progress of our museum. Thirteen years ago, we did not even have a museum. As few as six years ago our museum was visited by maybe a few dozen

have invested the equivalent of \$500,000 in funds, volunteer labor and donated materials. We are visited each year by thousands of people and we will host an exhibit developed by the most prestigious museum in the United States. But we're not done yet, we're just getting started! Stay tuned because we have so much more left to accomplish!

If you are a member, thank you for your support! Your membership dues are VERY important; we would struggle mightily without them. And if you're not a member, please consider joining!

-Ben Terwilliger (Executive Director)

Eudora Community Museum to Host Traveling Smithsonian "Water/Ways" Exhibit in the Summer of 2017!



One of the greatest things to ever happen to our museum occurred in 2016. We were selected by the Kansas Humanities Council to be the first host site in the state of Kansas for the traveling Smithsonian exhibit *Water/Ways*!! **We will host the exhibit from June 24th until August 6th, 2017.** On June 24th, we will have a large grand-opening festival in partnership with the Eudora Heritage Festival event. Stay tuned for more details regarding our exciting opening event. You will receive an invitation!

The *Water/Ways* exhibit is a modern, sleek, technologically advanced, well researched and written exhibit. *Water/Ways* focuses on the

numerous relationships between people and water. How has water shaped our history and traditions? How does it impact our daily life? What does the future hold for water? Our museum will host a variety of programs that explores *Water/Ways* themes in 2017. We will also develop a companion exhibit to *Water/Ways* that relates to the history of water and Eudora. The companion exhibit will have a focus on the Kansas River in Eudora and the devastating 1951 Flood.

This Smithsonian exhibit will be heavily promoted across the state and it has the potential to attract thousands of new visitors to Eudora. Please help us spread the word about the exhibit, and consider helping us as a volunteer with the exhibit. We will be in need of tour-guides to handle the much larger than expected crowds at the museum during that six week period. We owe a debt of gratitude for the Kansas Humanities Council and the Smithsonian Institute for giving us this once in a lifetime opportunity!

New \$100,000 Museum Addition Connects the First and Second Stories



The exterior of the new \$100,000 addition (part with siding).

Prior to 2016, the two stories of our museum building had no internal connection. The only way to access the second story was to leave the first story, go outside, climb a set of unsafe concrete steps, scale an embankment and then climb a second set of wooden steps to get to the upper floor. This unsafe, inconvenient route basically made public usage of our second story impossible. Therefore, the need for a new addition that would contain internal stairs and an elevator connecting the two stories became obviously apparent.

In 2016, we went from only talking about the need for an addition at the beginning of the year, to

having a complete addition with both stairs and an elevator at the end of the year. The progress of the addition in 2016 was beyond our wildest dreams!

We started the year by hiring Stan Hernly to create the drawings for the addition. Once he completed the drawings we sought and obtained approval for the project from the Kansas Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We next sought bids and determined the project for the addition and elevator would cost \$100,000. We next sought and obtained funding from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council (HCC) for the project. The HCC very generously awarded us \$89,000, meaning we only had to contribute \$11,000 to the project.

Once we had the drawings, the approval, the bids, the funds, the building permit and the contactors, we started building the addition! Construction started in July of 2016. By the early fall, the entire addition was built. In the early winter the finishing touches of the addition were completed. Larry Carden and Innovative Design LLC constructed the addition and did a fantastic job. The addition makes access between the two stories of the museum easy and safe for everyone. The addition preserves the existing features of the building and the new construction complements the existing structure.



Left: New addition. Right: Benny Dean and the brick arch.

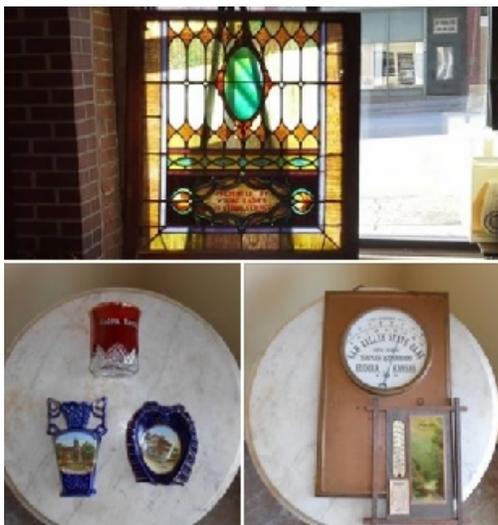
Continued Rehab Work on the 2nd Story

In 2016 we made great progress towards rehabbing our second story. Most of the work was performed by volunteers, with Benny Dean and Bill Gordon taking the lead. Typically, Benny and Bill both spend three days per week volunteering at the museum doing rehab work. Their endless energy,

effort and devotion to our museum make all the difference in the world! This year, we insulated the second story, installed and painted drywall on our northern half and plastered many of the walls. We also filled-in a deep cistern behind our museum. Benny and Bill also constructed a gorgeous brick archway that connects our second story and the new addition. In 2017, we will finish all rehab work on the second story. The two major tasks we still need to complete are to install drywall on the south side and install a new wood floor on the entire story. We will complete all work just in time. The *Water/Ways* exhibit will be housed on the second story. A new exhibit in development by Jan Schupert-Arick that focuses on the settlement history of Douglas County will also be housed on the second story.

Remembering Leonard Hollmann

We sadly lost one of our most beloved members in 2016. Our long-time EAHS Secretary Leonard Hollmann passed away on January 16, 2016 at the age of 80. Leonard was active with us in just about every project we ever did. He volunteered 200 hours towards the rehab. of our current museum building. He compiled many books and historical articles about Eudora's history. He collected and purchased thousands of artifacts relating Eudora's history, most of which he donated to us before he passed away. Around 25% of all items in our museum were donated to us by Leonard.



Leonard Hollmann estate items donated to the EAHS.

Leonard was not able to donate all of the Eudora related items he owned to us before he passed away.

Therefore, his remaining Eudora items went up for sale at three estate auctions. At the auctions, Ernie Hollmann (Leonard's brother) generously bought our museum most of the few remaining Eudora related items in the estate. He spent around \$1,500. Many of these artifacts (including a beautiful stained glass window from the St. Paul Church) are already on display in the museum. Our museum received \$1,610 in memorial donations in honor of Leonard in 2016. Even a year later, Leonard's passing still hurts, we miss him terribly. But his contributions to our museum and the Eudora community will live on forever.

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 largely 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 will help us continue to grow as an organization.

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.

Museum Visitation

We had another good year at the Eudora Community Museum in terms of visitation. We welcomed around 1,300 visitors to the museum from all over the world. We even welcomed visitors from England and South Korea in 2016!

Around 175 children visited the museum in 2016 through field trips, school groups and youth groups. The entire 3rd grade from Eudora Elementary School visited the museum in 2016 for field trips, which included activities at the museum and a guided walking tour of historic downtown Eudora.



3rd grade students at the museum, October, 2016.

We also welcomed tours to the museum this year from Pyramid Palace daycare, the Eudora Cub Scouts, several Eudora High School class reunion groups. We had open houses during the CPA Picnic, Eudorafest and happily handed out candy to over 700 children during the “Trunk or Treat” event.

We hosted seven programs throughout the year. Our July program on the “Oregon Trail and Eudora” by Craig Voorhees set a new record for program attendance, we welcomed 85 people to the program.

Treasurer’s Report

(As of January 1, 2017)

EAHS Operational Accounts:

Checking	\$1,093.10
Savings	\$4,004.00

Total Operational: \$5,097.10

Museum Rehabilitation Account: \$9,562.90

Programs for 2017

(All programs are free and will be held at the
Eudora Community Center: 1630 Elm Street.)

January 19, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center
“*Water in Kansas: Past & Present*” by Rex Buchanan. Program related to the “Water/Ways”

Smithsonian exhibit. Sponsored by the KHC.

March 16, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center
“*Soda Fountains in Kansas*” by Cindy Higgins. Ice cream will be served as a fundraiser.

May 18, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center
“*The Kansas River and Eudora.*” Local historians and River experts will present. Program related to the “Water/Ways” Smithsonian exhibit.

July 20, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center
TBD. Program will be related to the “Water/Ways” Smithsonian exhibit and sponsored by KHC.

September 21, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center
TBD, the program will possibly be on the settlement of and migrations to Douglas County.

November 16, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center
TBD, likely a Kansas Humanities Council program.

EAHS Elections

The Officers and Directors elected for the year 2017 are as follows:

Officers:

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

Area Directors:

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

Message from the President

It is an honor to serve another term as President of the EAHS. 2017 will be another exciting year for us. The second floor of the museum will be completed this year. Also we will host a Smithsonian exhibit. This will be a great attraction for the Historical Society and Eudora. I'm looking forward to another successful year!

-Steven Neis, President

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

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/
100/Eudora-Community-Museum](http://www.cityofeudoraks.gov/100/Eudora-Community-Museum)

“Like” the EAHS on Facebook!

EAHS Instagram/Twitter:
@EudoraHistory

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