

ALBUM

JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Volume XV Number 3

Summer 2007



Hyer Boot Shop, about 1910. As industrialization swept the nation, businesses sought new ways to stay competitive. Many, like the Hyer Boot Company, followed the lead of Henry Ford, who perfected the assembly line process. Instead of having one worker craft a boot from start to finish, they had a worker complete one step in the boot making process. JCM Collection.

MADE IN JOHNSON COUNTY

Ever wonder what those mysterious butler buildings and other commercial buildings found tucked by highways and railways throughout Johnson County actually produce?

Manufacturers in Johnson County have been a driving force in the development of the community and a key factor to growth. Take a step back and read about a few of the key products, businesses and innovations that have driven the development of Johnson County from its agriculturally-based economy to one based on today's cutting edge technology.

The Early Enterprises

Johnson County's earliest business endeavors focused on the area's natural resources. The first entrepreneurs were licensed traders, including cousins Francois and Gabriel Chouteau, who started a trade with Native Americans. In 1819, they built a trading post called "Four Houses," located near present-day De Soto along the Kansas River. The post was situated to trade with the Kansa Indians, who primarily used the area

including what is known today as Johnson County, as a hunting ground.

When the Shawnee Indian tribe was relocated by federal treaties to the area in the 1830s, other business ventures started. Aside from the Shawnee, only soldiers, missionaries, and licensed traders were allowed to live in the area. The missionaries played an important role in early entrepreneurial ventures. The first newspaper in Kansas was established by Jotham Meeker in 1834, who was associated with Shawnee Baptist Mission. The *Siwinowe Kesibwi* or the *Shawnee Sun* was the first periodical published in present day Kansas and the first in the nation to be printed entirely in a native language. It also represented the first mass produced item in the area that would become Johnson County.

As part of the treaty agreement with the Shawnee, the federal government also funded saw mills for lumber and grist mills for grinding corn and grain. In 1837, the Shawnee Saw & Grist Mill was built by Michael Rice for \$6,944.40 along Mill Creek in

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Preserving & Sharing the Community's Memory

DONORS TO THE COLLECTION

The Johnson County Museum thanks the many generous people and organizations whose donations have been added to the permanent collection since the last newsletter.

Jack and Catherine Lowry
Lois Hooper
Virginia Jarsulic
Elaine Kieffer
Tom Dill
Betty Arens
Mary Savage
Frances Robertson
Daisy Patton

Johnson County Sun
Shawnee Indian Mission Historical Society

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Johnson County Museum collects artifacts from all periods of the county's history, from early settlement through the present day. The following items are among the many recent donations to the permanent collection.

A NEW SUN RISING!

Earlier this year, the *Johnson County Sun* donated an expansive collection of photographs and negatives documenting people and places highlighted in the newspaper during the 1980s and 1990s. This collection has already proven to be a very fertile resource. This 1987 image of Innovative Software's corporate headquarters in Lenexa is featured in the Museum's current special exhibit *Made in Johnson County*. Researchers to the Museum's Library are also finding this new resource very helpful in their work.



REMEMBER J.R.?

This mug captures a moment in television history when the Ewing family of CBS's television series *Dallas* ruled the airwaves. Over 25 years ago, a media frenzy ensued when J.R., the character played by actor Larry Hagaman, was shot. During the summer of 1980, viewers waited impatiently to find out who of a dozen or so characters was the culprit. The show episode titled "Who done it" aired on November 21, 1980, and ranks as the second highest rated television episode in the U.S.

FOR THE BIRDS!

In 1917, the Hodges Brothers lumber company of Olathe sponsored a local birdhouse contest. Several dozen entries were proudly entered, photographed and judged, including the one depicted in this image. Other images, detailing the business's history and their expansion into home building in northeast Johnson County, were recently donated by Frances Robertson.



UNCOVERING OUR PAST

Members of the Shawnee Indian Mission Historical Society, established in 1930, were instrumental in the establishment of the Johnson County Museum in the 1960s. Recently, the Society donated some documents pertaining to the museum's formation. Early minutes, treasurer reports and a copy of the original bylaws were among the archival materials. An interesting piece of information was discovered—the historic Chase Home at 72nd and Antioch was another site considered for the home of the museum. This 1964 photograph depicts the home in that year.



WISH LIST

In preparation for the museum's upcoming special exhibit, *Coming of Age in Johnson County, 1960-1976*, we're looking for the following items related to teenage life, school life, and Vietnam era materials. Please contact Kathy Daniels, Curator of Collections, at 913-715-2551 if you have any items you'd like to share. Thank you!

- Prom, homecoming or school dance photographs
- Images of high school sporting events, cheerleading outfits, football jerseys, etc.
- Social gatherings or outings at places like drive-in theaters, bowling alleys, local parks, etc.
- Draft induction notices, POW/MIA bracelets, etc.

Johnson County Museum

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MUSEUM NOTES

MUSEUM RECEIVES TWO NATIONAL AWARDS

The Museum recently was notified that it is the recipient of two Awards of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. The 2006 publication, *Johnson County, Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825-2005*, and the web site www.JoCoHistory.net were both honored. The awards, conferred by the American Association for State and Local History, based in Nashville, Tennessee, are the highest honors awarded to history organizations across the United States. The Johnson County Museum was the only Kansas organization to be honored. Said director Mindi Love, "We're extremely pleased to be recognized for both of these significant projects. We're especially excited about the award for the JoCoHistory project, because of the strong, long-term partnership we developed with the Johnson County Library. It's a resource that we'll

continue to add to from our collections, but also work with the Library and other city and community historical societies to build a unique resource for the community to continually learn about our shared history." The awards will be issued at the American Association for State and Local History's annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 8th.

WELCOME ERIN BEFORT!

The Museum is excited to welcome back Erin Befort as our new Curator of Education. Erin began her new position on June 11th and is already doing an amazing job. Erin earned her Master's degree in Education from The University of Kansas while working at the Johnson County Museum as a historical interpreter. She most recently taught Social Studies at Ascension Catholic School in Overland Park. Erin is anxious to contribute to the Museum's future goals, and one of her first projects will be to develop a curriculum program for middle and high school students. Welcome back Erin! 

LOOMIS HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Loomis Historic District, a recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places, provides a handy *Cliff's Notes* version of the progression of major architectural styles in Johnson County. The four structures in this Merriam district—the Emily Loomis House at 8325 Johnson Drive, the Charles Loomis House at 5900 Hadley Avenue, the Lloyd Griffith House at 5923 Hadley Avenue, and the Quaker Mission Shed which also sits on the Griffith House property—illustrate the trends that dominated residential building in the county from early settlement through the mid-20th century.

The Quaker Mission Shed, with a circa 1840 construction date, is the most venerable of the structures. Like the other buildings that populated the grounds of the Quaker Indian Mission, which operated on acreage near 63rd and Hadley Streets from 1834 until 1870, the shed was built of native hewn timbers assembled in a simple rectangular form. These hallmarks of early vernacular architecture reflect the early settlers' dependence on local resources, and their isolation from the finished goods of Eastern markets.

The Emily Loomis House, which bears an 1886 date marker, is a two-story Italianate farmhouse with decorative trimwork on its porches, eaves, and window surrounds. The house, originally sited on a quarter section of farmland, was built by Emily and Edgar Loomis, who divorced the next year. The fashionable homes of this period reflected the progress made in opening lines of


communication and transportation between the eastern United States and Kansas in the years after the earliest non-native settlements. The Loomis House is no exception—the home's Italianate style indicates the availability of both the publications which advertised architectural trends fashionable in the East, and the affordable mass-produced decorative trimwork which arrived in Kansas via the railroad.

The Charles Loomis House, constructed in 1912, displays the hallmarks of the Craftsman Bungalow; its wood shingled exterior, massive brick chimney, and low pitched roofline tie the house to the landscape. This architectural style, with its extensive use of natural materials, embodied the suburban

ideal of the time.

Suburban developers such as William Strang and J.C. Nichols urged middle-class families to leave the pollution and stress of the city for a "reunion with nature" in a house much like this one.

The simplicity of the Lloyd Griffith House, which was constructed in 1944 in

the Minimal Traditional style, reflects the building trends which dominated the years following World War II. During this time, materials for construction were still quite limited, but the return of servicemen and women and the beginning of the Baby Boom necessitated the quick construction of enormous numbers of homes for new families. Lloyd Griffith, a World War II veteran, constructed a simple structure distinguished by a large brick chimney and multiple-paned double-hung windows which nod to the Tudor style popular in the 1930s—the definition of the Minimal Traditional style. 



The Italianate style of the Emily Loomis house, pictured here about 1905, symbolized the prosperity of the Loomis family. Courtesy Historic Merriam, Inc.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Many thanks to the following corporations and foundations who have contributed to the success of the Museum in 2006-07 by making a contribution to the Annual Campaign to fund the educational programming at the Johnson County Museum sites.

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JOHNSON COUNTY INVENTORS AND THEIR INVENTIONS

What do a solar powered bait box, Styrofoam and transparent drums all have in common? All were invented and patented by people from Johnson County. The spirit of invention has always been closely linked to the American dream and visionary people from Johnson County who "think outside of the box" have created innovative and sometimes "off the wall" inventions.

Johnson County can lay claim to a number of inventors and inventions that have made a worldwide impact. George Washington Carver, an African American botanist who lived briefly in Olathe, was known as an outstanding educator and innovator in the agricultural sciences. Over his lifetime, Carver discovered three hundred uses for the peanut as well as hundreds of uses for pecans, sweet potatoes and soybeans. Carver also developed ways to make paving blocks from cotton, plastic from soybeans, and synthetic marble from wood shavings. During World War I, he invented 500 different shades of dye from agricultural crops, to replace those dyes previously imported from Europe.

As a young chemist for Dow Chemical in the 1940s, Gardner native Ray McIntire was experimenting with a variety of chemicals in hopes of producing a material that would be a suitable replacement for rubber. Instead, by mistake, he invented Styrofoam. The first envisioned use for Styrofoam was as floatation material for steel tanks, but it failed miserably due to its flammable nature. The second envisioned use, as Christmas tree ornaments, was more successful. Today, Styrofoam continues to be used for insulation for homes, craft materials, packing material, and disposable plates and cups.

William Zickos, a well known jazz/big band drummer invented acrylic drums in 1959. With the help of investors in 1970, Zickos opened a manufacturing plant in Lenexa and mass produced the Zickos "400" set. The clear acrylic drums were endorsed by famous drummers such as Keith Moon of *The Who*, Ron Bushy of *Iron Butterfly* and Floyd Sneed of *Three Dog Night*.

Inventors today continue to add new and sometimes odd inventions to society. In 1989, a patent for a solar powered bait box, an improvement in fishing equipment storage of live bait, was submitted by two Johnson County residents. In 2001 a Merriam inventor patented a process for atmospheric cremation and a Spring Hill resident actually invented a new variety of apple tree in 1982.

continued from page 1

present day Shawnee. This particular mill site was chosen because it was an ideal site for the water needed to power the mill but unfortunately, it was not near regularly traveled transportation routes or a labor pool. This water-powered mill operated for a few short years, and was likely destroyed in an 1844 flood. Steam power was introduced in 1843 at the Shawnee Methodist Mission, near present day Fairway. The government built the steam mill for the Shawnee, near transportation routes, natural resources and a ready source of labor. The establishment of water-based and later steam power-sources jumpstarted later industries in the new territory, such as the lumber, furniture, tobacco, textiles, printing, milling, publishing and leather work.



Siwinowe Kesibwi (Shawnee Sun). Only one original of this Shawnee language newspaper is known to exist today. Reproduced courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society.

The Rise of Industry

The Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 opened the area to settlement and brought new business enterprises. Grist mills were the most common type of business, and, by 1875, 72% of the population worked in agriculture. Although agriculture dominated most of the economy, small manufacturing industries including a cheese factory, a winery, a mattress spring manufacturer and a cigar manufacturer also existed. Leather work, including harness making and cobbling, also thrived. Around 1870, the railroad came to Johnson County, opening the area to new regional and national markets. The railroad meant that raw materials, like lumber, coal and iron ore could be shipped in, and agricultural goods could be more easily shipped out. Manufactured goods from across the nation, including furniture, clothes and even fruits and vegetables, were also made available to local markets, and often times at prices cheaper than if produced locally.

As industrialization swept the nation, local businesses sought new ways to stay competitive. Olathe's Charles Hyer of the Hyer Boot Company exemplified some of these early changes. Employed as a leather working teacher at the Kansas School for the Deaf, he learned boot making from his father William, a German immigrant. He started a small cobbling shop in Olathe in 1875. According to legend, a cowboy came into town requesting a specially-designed boot. The cowboy wanted a pointed toe that would easily slide into stirrups; a high, slanted heel for a better foothold in the stirrup; and a high, scalloped top, so the boot would be easier to put on. The cowboy returned to Colorado with his custom-designed "cowboy" boots and Hyer's business boomed.

With his new innovative design for cowboy boots in high demand, Hyer utilized two innovative

measures: a mail order measuring system and the assembly line. His mail-order catalogs included a measuring system, enabling people from all over the country to order his boots. As demand for the boots grew, it became clear that he could not employ enough skilled labor. Hyer developed an assembly line system, breaking down the process into individual steps. Instead of having one skilled worker craft a boot from start to finish, Hyer trained several unskilled workers to complete just a part of the process. With this adjustment from skilled craftsmen to an assembly line process, Hyer Boot Company remained competitive and produced high quality boots at a faster pace.

Diversify

The diversification in all areas of Johnson County's economy continued into the early 20th century. Transportation improvements, close proximity to Kansas City, as well as a number of growing communities contributed to Johnson County's economic success. At the time, Olathe was the business center of the county. Industries that favored larger centers of population including transportation equipment, fabricated metal products and electrical and non-electrical machinery, apparel, food products, as well as chemical and petroleum products began to develop. Many specialty ventures also began in Johnson County, including early movies and flight training films made in Overland Park, spurs and bits crafted by Crockett Bit and Spur in Lenexa, rubber products made at the Kansas Rubber Company in Olathe and a short-lived dress manufacturer in Olathe.

Gardner-based Cramer Products is an example of a specialty venture that became an international success. In 1912, as a University of Kansas pharmacy student, Charles Cramer concocted a liniment to soothe an ankle he injured while pole vaulting. He continued to perfect the liniment and in 1918, he and his brother Frank began sharing it with local athletic teams. With a successful product on hand, the brothers started Cramer Chemical Company in 1922, and received their big break in 1928 when famed Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne endorsed their product. The Cramer brothers became recognized leaders in the field of athletic training and in 1932, were selected as trainers for the United States Olympic team. Through their newsletter, *The First Aider*, and hundreds of workshops and training sessions, Cramer dominated the education of athletic trainers in the United States and continues to be a leader in the sports medicine industry.



Work order from Will Rogers, 1932. Hyer was known for an innovative measuring system that allowed customers from all over the country to mail order their boots. A version of the above chart is still used by boot makers today. JCM Collection.

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Economic Bust or Boom?

The Great Depression not only represented a time of great economic anguish for society, but in a few cases, it also served as a catalyst for innovation and invention. When Johnson County resident Howard White lost his job in 1937, he and his wife, Donna White, began a new venture, Velvet Crème popcorn. It started Halloween night in 1937 when Donna sold popcorn door-to-door, to much success. They eventually moved their popcorn operation from their home to a storefront in Kansas City, and finally in 1967 to Westwood, where this year the company celebrated its 70th anniversary.

Like the Whites, Forest Gill's business started after he lost his job printing advertisements on the back of spare-tire covers. Unable to find work, Gill started a screen-printing business in 1934 producing decals, signs and posters. He eventually moved his business from his basement to an office in Kansas City. During World War II, Gill obtained military subcontracts printing and sewing canvas goods, specifically gun covers and truck covers. When the war ended, it was back to square one, vying for commercial printing jobs. In 1946, Gill successfully combined the World War II-era innovation of Day-Glo ink with self-adhesive paper to produce the first bumper stickers. The company moved to Mission in 1963 and in 1968, to its current location in Lenexa. Gill Studios, still family owned and operated, continues to produce specialty advertising products such as refrigerator magnets, political yard signs and, of course, bumper stickers.

The Industrial Boom

World War II brought a return to economic stability and prosperity that continued after the war ended. In the 1950s and beyond, growth of larger manufacturing industries depended on the availability and cost of land, labor, capital and transportation, all of which were easily found in Johnson County. In 1956, the Olathe community celebrated as Delco Battery built a new battery production plant. At the time, the plant was hailed as the world's finest and most modern facility for manufacture of automotive storage batteries.

Aviation businesses also became firmly established in Johnson County during the post World War II period.



Ed King, founder of King Radio, about 1960. Courtesy of Mark Worley.

Ed King started King Radio in 1959, after being dissatisfied with the poor quality and high price of radio equipment available for private aircrafts. He designed and made his own radio units by hand. King Radio quickly became one of the world's largest suppliers of electronics for private aircraft. Ed King fostered a sense of innovation in his company, creating a highly innovative "think-tank" environment. Many former King Radio employees became entrepreneurs themselves, creating start-up businesses. The most notable example is Garmin Industries, founded by Dr. Min Kao and Gary Burrell, a leader in the design and manufacture of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) devices. The company opened its first retail store on Chicago's Michigan Mile in 2006.

New opportunities continued to emerge as some aging industries declined and former military areas were made available to businesses. Dazey Corporation established headquarters at the former Olathe Naval Air Station site in 1976, producing a variety of small appliances and personal care items such as the Seal-A-Meal and the Donut Factory into the 1990s. The corporation helped to transform the former base into a




Forest Gill, founder of Gill Studios, installing a sign about 1940. Courtesy of Gill Studios.

premier regional industrial business park, now known as New Century AirCenter.

Technology Rules

Computer technology also began to flourish and at one time, Johnson County appeared poised to become another Silicon Valley. Innovative Software, founded in 1979, created a DOS-based front end operating system called SmartWare that competed fiercely with Microsoft in the early 1980s, with hopes of becoming the standard software system for business use. SmartWare was a set of integrated business programs for personal computers that included spreadsheet, word processing, and data storage capacities similar to Microsoft Office Suite. SmartWare's Wingz program rivaled Microsoft Excel in its features, outperforming Excel for large capacity spreadsheets, in-cell editing and 3-D graphics. Innovative Software did not achieve its goal of becoming the premier personal computing software, and the company's assets were eventually purchased by IBM in 2001. Other software companies in the area such as Shawnee-based Perceptive Software (document imaging software) and Overland Park's Cactus Software (software for hospitals and health management companies) continue to find success in niche markets.

Johnson County has also become a hub for technology giants in the robotics industry. Sokkia, Inc. relocated its multi-million dollar U.S. headquarters from California to Overland Park in 1978. Sokkia is known for its surveying and mapping equipment, including robotics equipment. Mission-based ScriptPro, established in 1994, has also achieved great success in the robotics industry. They develop innovative robotic machinery which automatically dispenses medications for the pharmaceutical industry. This new technology streamlined the industry, lowered costs and most importantly, significantly reduced errors in dispensing medication.

The evolution of industries and products continues to grow phenomenally and today's leading Johnson County businesses demonstrate much of the substance and entrepreneurship of past inventors and entrepreneurs. This sustained growth and diverse economic development continues to position Johnson County not only as a premier suburban community but also as a place where industry continues to thrive. 

TO LEARN MORE...

Note: This article is based on the Museum's current special exhibit, Made in Johnson County, which features companies and products made right here in Johnson County. Be sure to check the exhibit out, before it closes on August 12, 2007.

To learn more about Johnson County manufacturers and inventors, check out these informative books!

Caldwell, Martha B. *Annals of the Shawnee Methodist Mission and Indian Manual Labor School*. Topeka, KS: Kansas State Historical Society, 1939.

Kremer, Gary. R. *George Washington Carver: In His Own Words*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1987

Love, Mindi C. *Johnson County, Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825 – 2005*. Shawnee, KS: Johnson County Museum, 2006.

Marra, Dorothy. *Cher Oncle, Cher Papa: The Letters of Francois and Berenice Chouteau*. Kansas City, MO: Cushing-Malloy, Inc., 2001.

Patton, Phil. *Made in the USA: The Secret Histories of the Things that Made America*. New York, NY: Grove Weidenfeld, 1992.

**FAST FACTS
ABOUT JOHNSON
COUNTY INVENTORS!**

Charles Hyer, inventor of the cowboy boot and owner of the Hyer Boot Company, made boots for everyone from presidents to actors. Some of Hyer’s clients included Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Theodore Roosevelt, cowboy Buffalo Bill Cody, outlaws Jesse James and Billy the Kidd, actor Clark Gable, and humorist Will Rogers.

Valomilk candies were created by accident in 1931 at the candy company founded by Samuel Sifers. Vanilla is a key ingredient in marshmallows. In the early 1900s, vanilla had a high alcohol content and candy makers were known to indulge in the vanilla from time to time. Valomilk’s trademark center is actually a botched batch of marshmallows, made by a candy maker who drank just a little too much vanilla! The flowing centers were put into chocolate cups and named Valomilk: V for vanilla, ALO for marshmallow, and milk to describe the candy’s creamy center.

Henry David Lee opened the H.D. Lee Mercantile in 1889 in Salina, Kansas. It was there that Lee began manufacturing work wear in 1911. Today, we know this work wear as Lee Jeans. Lee Jeans moved its headquarters in 1966 to the city of Merriam in Johnson County. In the 1980s, Lee introduced two new pairs of jeans that made reference to their home in Johnson County. The “66202” jeans line was a reference to the company’s Merriam zip code. The “Shawnee” western jean line had the tagline, “From Liberty to Independence,” a clever reference to the metropolitan community and the historical ties to the Shawnee Indians.

Located in Shawnee, Vita Craft Corporation was founded by Glen Slough, Eddie Durwachter and Win Cook in 1939. Today they are a leader in cookware in the Japanese market.

With no business plan, brothers Jack and Jim Paradise started a plastics company in 1973, today doing business as Jayhawk Plastics in Olathe.

**PEEK INTO THE PAST...
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

Johnson County has been home to many inventors and entrepreneurs from the early 1800s to the present day. Interesting products such as blue jeans, cowboy boots and GPS (global positioning systems) devices all have roots right here in Johnson County! Over time, Johnson County has grown from a small, agriculturally-based economy, to one of the leading business communities in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Can you match these Johnson County inventors and entrepreneurs to their products?

MATCH MANIA!

Directions: Draw a line matching the inventors and entrepreneurs to their products!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Henry David Lee | Velvet Crème Popcorn |
| Charles Hyer | Vita Craft Cookware |
| Samuel Sifers | Jayhawk Plastics |
| Gary Burrell and Dr. Min Kao | Blue Jeans |
| Howard and Donna White | Cowboy Boots |
| Glen Slough, Eddie Durwachter, and Win Cook | GPS |
| Jack and Jim Paradise | Valomilk Candy |



What do you think this woman is doing?

Find the answers on page 7.

HISTORY MYSTERY



Dated 1982, this baseball team portrait was taken at Leawood's Brookridge School. Brian Vervynck and Daniel Rogovein are identified, but not in their exact positions. The other six boys are not named. If you can help identify any of these individuals, please contact the Museum's Collection Manager, Russ Czaplewski, at 913-715-2554.

CLICK!

Over fifty professional photographers operated studios in Johnson County during its first century, although prior to 1880 their numbers were small. Four, however, were in Olathe within a few years of the Civil War's end—a period in which a studio portrait was a relative novelty and something particularly cherished. As in the case of these photographers from the 1860s—L. Morgan, T. J. Hadley, N. Short and Truman G. Tuttle—a studio tended to be a relatively short-lived business venture. The majority of the county's early careers in photography were of limited duration—and apparently limited financial success. The short time the studios operated make documenting the studio careers of many of them a distinct challenge.

The majority of Johnson County's early photographers were men, but women also made a living with the relatively new profession. Emily Brockway, of Olathe, advertised her business from 1908-1918. In 1920 Jessie Goresline provided photography services in Gardner.

The two most prominent names of Johnson County photographers would be Garfield Arthur Roberds and Montie Shields, both long-time studio owners in Olathe.

Garfield Arthur Roberds, a native of Indiana, moved to Olathe by 1905 after graduating from the Illinois College of Photography. By 1908, Roberds Studio was located at 119 East Park Street. A 1912 newspaper article described his studio in glowing details, even referring to his renting of Kodak cameras. As a measure of the studio's success, after seven years in business, Roberds had accumulated well over five thousand negatives. Beyond photography, Roberds pursued a career in law, attending Kansas City School of Law. In 1914, citizens elected him probate judge, at which time he decided to close his studio. Roberds went on to serve as a district court judge, hearing approximately 12,000 cases.

Montie Shields arrived at the Frisco depot in east Olathe on March 15, 1920, to establish a studio. For many years located in the Ott Building, Shields set the record for studio longevity in early Johnson County—29 years behind the camera. The long career came to a close in 1949 when he died of a stroke.

Thankfully a great many views and portraits by Roberds and Shields have been preserved—wonderful records of the area's heritage and a testimony to two successful careers behind the camera.

JOIN US!

We invite you to be part of the Museum's future by joining the Friends of Johnson County Museum. The Friends support exhibit development, educational programs and special events. Your membership and other contributions are tax deductible.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ payable to **Friends of Johnson County Museum.**
 Please charge \$_____ to my credit card.
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- **Enrollment in national Time Travelers program**

- \$25-49 **Friend**
 \$50-99 **Good Friend**
 \$100-249 **Really Good Friend**
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 I am making an additional contribution of \$_____ in honor/memory of _____
 My company matches charitable donations. The matching form is enclosed.
 Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Return to 6305 Lackman Road, Shawnee, KS 66217.

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to thank those who invested in the Museum's future in 2006 and 2007 with a donation to the Endowment Fund. Thank you for your generous support!

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- Paul and Barbara Gorman in memory of Ruth Hervey
- Margie Lundy
- Charlyne Rothman
- Sprint matching gifts:
 - John Jenia
 - Monica Moll
- Peter and Pamela Steitz
- Joan Barkley Wells in memory of Marguerite M. Barkley
- Donna Williams

Answers from page 6:

- Matching Game:
- Henry David Lee – Blue Jeans
 - Charles Hyer – Cowboy Boots
 - Samuel Sifers – Valomilk Candy
 - Howard and Donna White – Velvet Crème Popcorn
 - Glen Slough, Eddie Durwachter, and Win Cook – Vita Craft Cookware
 - Jack and Jim Paradise – Jayhawk Plastics
 - Gary Burrell and Dr. Min Kao – GPS

The woman depicted in the photograph is handpainting cans used for popcorn by Velvet Crème during the holiday season.

MUSEUM OF HISTORY

6305 Lackman Road
Shawnee, KS 66217
(913) 715-2550
Fax: (913) 715-2565
Email: jcmuseum@jocogov.org
www.jocomuseum.org
Tues-Sat 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
ADMISSION IS FREE

THE 1950s ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE

6305 Lackman Road
Shawnee, KS 66217
(913) 715-2550
www.jocomuseum.org
Tues - Sun 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
guided tours every half hour
ADMISSION: \$2 for adults;
\$1 for 3-12 children.

LANESFIELD SCHOOL HISTORIC SITE

18745 S. Dillie Road
Edgerton, KS 66021
(913) 893-6645
www.jocomuseum.org
Tues - Sun 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
ADMISSION IS FREE

GREAT PLAINS ORIGINALS: HISTORIC DOCUMENTS FROM AMERICA'S HEARTLAND



Kansas City Star Books, 2006.


Brian Burnes, history reporter for the *Kansas City Star*, acts as a tour guide in this book as he takes you through the records of the National Archives—Central Plains Region in Kansas City. The Central Plains Archives

holds the retired records of federal agencies located in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, and in them can be found records of the ordinary and the extraordinary, the famous and the infamous.

Guiding you through seven themes—The West; War and Its Offspring; Civil Rights—And Wrongs; Doing Time; Government Gears Up; In Court; and In and Out of Fashion—Burnes ushers you through finely reproduced copies of photographs and documents which reflect on every day events, some with enduring legacies. Examples include letters urging the arrest of Sitting Bull in 1890 and the documentation of his ensuing death culminating in the massacre at Wounded Knee. Records of the terrorists of 1917 who were non-naturalized Germans and considered alien enemies after the declaration of World War I as well as nuns, Union veterans of the Civil War, and native-born

American spouses are among those registered, photographed and fingerprinted.

The original court records of Dred Scott are in the Central Plains Archives as are those of Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka. But the lesser known court documents of Winnebago Indian John Elk are there as well, who, having been born in the United States attempted to vote in an 1880 Omaha election and was denied, eventually leading to the Indian Naturalization Act of 1890. Few ordinary records, though, are as simple or as understated as the 1920s bankruptcy documents from the United States District Court of Western Missouri showing the neglect of the business of a young visionary animator, Walt Disney, who learned his lesson and used what he had left to purchase a train ticket to Hollywood.

Great Plains Originals is like watching a personal slide show of the amazing records to be found at the Central Plains Archives. It might even spark a personal visit. First editions of this book are available at Museum of History's Store. 

Editor's note: Members receive a 10% discount on all items in the Museum Store.

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