

# EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2019 NEWSLETTER

January 2019, Volume #31  
Written & Edited by Ben Terwilliger



## Message from the Executive Director: Ben Terwilliger



*Ben Terwilliger leads students on Field Trips in 2018.*

Happy New Year everyone! If you are reading this, then you are a friend of mine. I consider every single member and supporter of the Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS) to be a personal friend. I could not do my job without the support of all of you. But honestly, my job as Executive Director of the EAHS is more than a job for me; it is my calling, my purpose. Every single time that I start my work-day at the museum, I am excited for what lies ahead of me. During my 8 year tenure as the Executive Director of the EAHS, we have achieved many great accomplishments and we have faced and conquered many daunting challenges. And you better believe that I have loved every single second of the past 8 years. I am eternally grateful for the support the EAHS has earned from the Eudora City Commission, the government of Douglas County, and the residents of the Eudora Area.

The year of 2018 was filled with great moments for the EAHS. In early 2018, the Douglas County Appraiser's Office placed a new value on our museum property (720 Main Street), a value of: \$242,000!! When we were given 720 Main Street in 2013, the value the County had assigned to our physical building was \$370. Only an elite group of dedicated individuals can transform something

worth a few hundred dollars into a quarter of a million dollars in the span of a few years! In the Spring of 2018, the Eudora City Commission asked us to help them name two Eudora Streets and two Eudora Parks after historical Eudora figures. We came up with Leander Street (Leander Fish, brother of Eudora Fish), Beaumont Street (actor Hugh Beaumont), Abraham Still Park and Asher Cohn Park. We applaud the Eudora City Commission for their enthusiasm for naming Eudora places after historical figures! In 2018, our social media accounts grew at an unprecedented rate. We reach thousands via social media every single week. In 2019, our museum building (720 Main St.) turns 150 years old! We plan to throw a huge Birthday Party for our beloved building's Sesquicentennial.

If you are a member, thank you for your support! Your membership dues are VERY important. And if you're not a member, please consider joining! (See page 11 of this Newsletter for membership info.)

-Ben Terwilliger (Executive Director)

## Development of New Core Exhibit at Eudora Community Museum

In 2019, we are launching the start of our museum's most ambitious project yet: the development of our museum's new core exhibit. What is a core exhibit? It is essentially the main exhibit of any museum. In our case, it will be the exhibit that covers the entire History of Eudora. Currently, our museum is home to many small exhibits that cover the history of Eudora. These small exhibits were developed over the course of decades, and made with virtually no Budget. Our museum's current exhibits appear in the museum randomly; there is no chronological or thematic

order to our museum's exhibits. Our new core exhibit will change all of that. The core exhibit will be arranged chronologically and thematically. It will be professionally designed and manufactured. It will completely transform the visitor's experience at our museum. All visitors to the museum will be able to learn and experience the entire history of the Eudora Area from our new core exhibit.

The development of our core exhibit will not happen overnight. It may take us many years to fully develop the core exhibit. We are currently meeting with professional exhibit fabricators. We hope to select a design and bid from a professional manufacturer soon. We are also going to develop the content of the core exhibit in 2019. We are going to select the Eudora Area's most important historical facts and stories for inclusion with the exhibit. The biggest challenge for us relating to the development of the core exhibit will be to raise the necessary funds to design and build the exhibit. We will launch fundraisers and write grant applications in 2019 to raise funds. We have a beautiful building, and the next logical step for us is to complement our building with a beautiful, new, core exhibit. We are going to be working harder than ever in 2019 to reach these ambitious goals! Our goal remains the same, to give the people of the Eudora Area the greatest museum possible.

Before we finalize our core exhibit plans, we want public feedback for the exhibit's content. We want to know what the public thinks are the Eudora Area's most important stories and historical facts that we should include in the core exhibit. The feedback session will be after our January program, it will start at **8pm on Thursday January 17th** at the Eudora Community Center (1630 Elm Street).

### **Continued Rehab Work at 720 Main St.**

In 2018 we made some of the most dramatic progress yet in our ongoing quest to completely rehabilitate our historic museum property! The last remaining portion of our building that was not yet rehabbed when 2018 started was the southern half of our second story. In January of 2018, the City of Eudora awarded us a \$7,500 reimbursement grant for the rehabilitation of this part of the building. Our all-star volunteers Benny Dean and Bill Gordon led

the way and worked exceptionally hard rehabbing the southern half of the second story. In 2018, Benny and Bill completed the following projects in the southern half of the second story: removed deteriorated plaster, installed new plaster, installed insulation, installed new subflooring and repaired window frames. Professionals installed the drywall. We still need to paint and install flooring on this part of the building. We hope to finish those projects in 2019. We need your help painting!

Aaron Thakker installed electrical services in this part of the building. **Aaron Thakker and his business ATEC Services of Eudora are simply incredible by the way!** We give them our highest approval and recommendation; you should use them for all of your electrical needs! **(785-304-3904)**.



*All-star volunteers Benny Dean (L) and Bill Gordon (R).*

We also continued to rehab our building in other areas in 2018. The Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council (HCC) generously awarded us a \$27,000 grant in 2018 for: (1) New first story vinyl flooring: \$13,501, (2) New concrete deck, ramp, sidewalks in rear: \$11,553, (3) Exterior painting/materials: \$1,946. Chris Durkin was hired to paint the exterior of the property in the summer, and he did a great job! The color of paint we selected for the front was a bright golden-yellow color. This color compliments our building and neighboring buildings well, the color has received universally positive feedback from the community.

The new first story vinyl flooring was installed by Kring's Interiors in the summer of 2018. Volunteers helped move the museum's collections out of the way for the installation of the floor. The new floor looks fantastic! It has dramatically improved the interior aesthetic of the property. The new floor is meant to imitate the look of our building's original wood floor. Unfortunately, our

building's original wood floor was removed because of extensive termite and water damage long before we were given the property in 2013. The construction of the rear concrete flatwork by Tim Slavin began in the Fall of 2018. Benny and Bill graciously volunteered to help Tim. We expect the rear flatwork to be completed by January of 2019.



*We love our gorgeous new faux-wood vinyl floor!*

## **We Need Your Help (And There Are So Many Ways You Can Help Us)!!**

It is very easy for you to make a huge impact on our museum. And it doesn't require much!! The three big ways you can help our organization are to:

1. Make a financial contribution to the EAHS.
2. Donate time/labor on rehabbing the EAHS.
3. Donate unique Eudora area artifacts/archives.

We are grateful for all monetary donations made to the EAHS! Every donation truly makes a difference, and every donation helps us preserve the History of the Eudora area. **For info. on how to donate, please refer to page 11 of this newsletter.**

The operational expenses of the EAHS are 100% funded by private donations. Therefore, the annual membership dues are enormously helpful. We operate on a small and conservative budget. While paying your dues this year, please consider giving additional funds for our operational expenses.

We plan to undertake a number of big fund-raisers in 2019 to help us fund the development of our new Core Exhibit. In addition to these fund-raisers, we will apply for as many grants as we can in order to fund this important project. Finally, we may also solicit donations from our members and supporters for the development of the Core exhibit.

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, all donations are tax deductible.

## **Museum Visitation and Events**



*3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at the museum, October, 2018.*

We were happy to welcome thousands of visitors to the Eudora Community Museum in 2018! We hosted visitors from dozens of states around the United States, and we even hosted visitors from as far away as Germany and China in 2018!

Around 300 children visited the museum in 2018 through field trips, school groups and youth groups. The entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Eudora Elementary School visited the museum in 2018 for field trips, which included activities at the museum and a guided walking tour of historic downtown Eudora.

We hosted a variety of Programs in 2018, which drew around 300 spectators. In 2018 we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event and Fund-raiser. This event, led by Debbie Carden and other volunteers raised \$200 in donations for the museum. We collaborated with the generous owners of the Wakarusa Brewery (710 Main St.) and hosted two fund-raisers at their establishment for the museum. We were also thrilled to collaborate with our fantastic neighbors at the Twill Trade (704 Main St.) clothing store. In October, Twill Trade hosted historical tours of 700 Main Street and also hosted a fund-raiser for the museum. On October 27, we handed out 1,000 pieces of donated candy to trick-or-treaters during Eudora's Trunk or Treat event. We also proudly hosted an traveling exhibit on the Immigration History of Douglas County in 2018.

In December of 2018 the museum once again hosted a very special exhibit: “Back to the 80s.” This exhibit was created by 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in Ryan Jacobs’ Social Studies classes at the Eudora Middle School. The exhibit displayed unique 1980s artifacts and attracted hundreds of visitors. This was the second year in a row that we have hosted this event. We hope that hosting the “Back to the 80s” exhibit becomes a new tradition for our museum!

### Bluejacket’s Crossing Artifacts Discovered!



In 2018, a local metal-detector enthusiast named Zach Stahl uncovered an incredible amount of 19<sup>th</sup> Century artifacts from the area close to Bluejacket’s Crossing of the Wakarusa River! Bluejacket’s Crossing was located just south of where modern K-10 highway crosses over the Wakarusa River in the western portion of the Eudora Township. Bluejacket’s Crossing was part of the Oregon Trail. Thousands of travelers crossed over Bluejacket’s Crossing from the 1830s until the 1860s. The Crossing was operated by Charles Bluejacket, a Shawnee Indian. Zach very generously brought these artifacts to the Eudora Community Museum, where they are now on display! Some of the artifacts include: an 1842 half-dime, US army buttons, NY State Militia buttons, Dragoon buttons, a harmonica reed, and a wedding ring.

### Treasurer’s Report

*(As of January 1, 2019)*

#### EAHS Operational Accounts:

1. Checking Account:	\$1,666.77
2. Savings	\$4,015.78

**Total Operational: \$5,682.55**

**Museum Rehabilitation Account: \$24,519.52**

### 2019 EAHS Historical Programs

(All programs are FREE. Most will be held at the **Eudora Community Center:** 1630 Elm Street. TBD: Programs will be announced at a later date.)

#### January 17, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

“An Evening With John Brown,” a living history demonstration by Kerry Altenbernd, showcasing his legendary depiction of the militant Abolitionist.

#### March 21, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

“History of Eudora Boy Scouts.” All current/former Eudora Boy Scouts invited. In commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Boy Scouts in Eudora.

#### May 16, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

Program is TBD.

#### July 18, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

Program is TBD. It will likely be a Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) sponsored program.

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

“150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 720 Main Street,” a program and a birthday party for our museum building.

#### November 21, 7:00pm at Eudora Comm. Center

Program is TBD. It will likely be a Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) sponsored program.

### 2019 EAHS Board of Directors

#### Officers:

President:	Steven Neis (joined Board 2002)
Vice President:	Benny Dean (joined Board 2013)
Treasurer:	Kelly Jones (joined Board 2019)
Secretary:	Stephanie Jones (joined 2017)

#### Area Directors:

Clearfield:	John More (joined Board 2010)
Eudora:	Debbie Carden (joined 2014)
Fall Leaf:	Kevin Reetz (joined Board 2014)
Hesper:	Jim Harris (joined Board 2004)
Prairie Center:	Pennie Neff (joined Board 2016)
Weaver:	Waylon Ziesenis (joined 2019)

### Message from the President

I would like to thank the members of the EAHS for electing me to another term as president. We have had lots of success this year. I look forward to working with the board and Ben to continue our success in 2019. - **Steven Neis, President**

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# Eudora United Methodist Church

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[Http://www.eudoraumc.org/](http://www.eudoraumc.org/)



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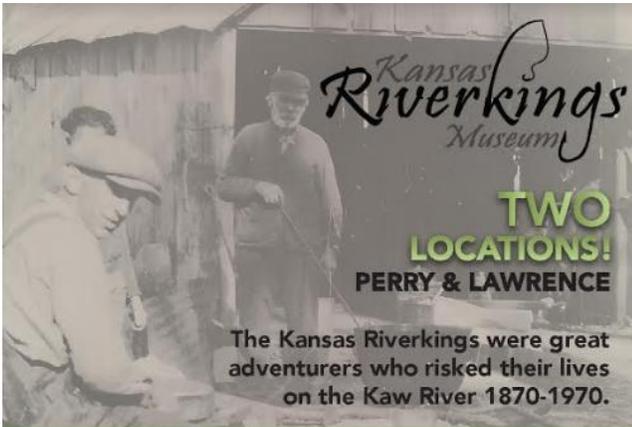
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Financial Advisor

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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  
720 Main Street, PO Box 158  
Eudora, Kansas 66025**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Membership Type (check one):**

Individual      \$10.00

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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 help with the ongoing museum building rehab efforts.

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

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**Eudora Area Historical Society**  
720 Main Street  
PO Box 158  
Eudora, KS 66025

### EAHS Newsletter 2019

