



# Talmage Historical Society

## *Museum & Library Newsletter*

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### Calendar

*Talmage Library & Event Center Available 24/7*

Regular library hours are 9-11:30, Monday through Friday; and open by appointment or reservation any day of the week, including weekends.

“Our facility is used frequently by individuals, families, and organizations who want a large building to meet and spread out,” according to Board President Shawni Sheets. “We are busy most weekends, sometimes Friday through Sunday and other days and evenings of the week.

Call Sheets at 785/643-9126 to reserve.

### *All School Reunion Cancelled*

The new surge in Covid cases terminates plans for this year.

### In Memoriam

Grace Greep Ayre  
12-13-20 5-31-2021

Maridean Simpson  
Durham Bebermeyer  
12-20-39 8-14-2021

Shirley Sheets  
Bebermeyer

9-01-32 8-21-2021

Lori Hettenbach Flippo  
4-02-63 8-14-2021

Jack Meehan  
7-28-52 8-19-2021



Travelers are welcomed to Talmage by a newly renovated sign, donated by the Holt family. Pictured is Twila Holt of Talmage.

## Holt family donates sign for community use

By Verl Coup

The Twila Holt Family donated to the community the old portable sign that sat on the corner north of Talmage for years. After some serious renovations

and a new paint job, the sign again sets at that location.

With help from solar lights, the sign now can be seen at night. The sign says "Welcome to Talmage" and the new lettering can be

arranged to announce community events.

A big thank you to the Twila Holt family for their donation, and to Jim Collins and my wife, Kathy, for their help with the sign.

## Talking History with Verl Coup

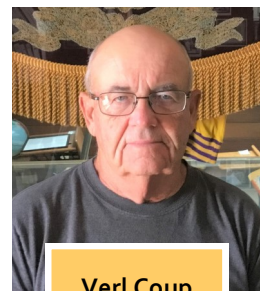
The Talmage Museum has been very busy this last couple of months. We hosted the Bathurst and Cundiff families, who were in Talmage celebrating their wedding anniversaries at the Talmage Library & Event Center.

The Dickinson County Highway Department recently completed the overlay of the Talmage Road (Fair Road) from K-18 to I-70. With the new stripping and the smooth surface, it looks and feels like a super highway.

Other improvements include new water lines. Dickinson County Rural Water Dist.

#1 has installed new lines in their district and are in Talmage now where they will finish that project.

Please remember, the All-School Reunion is cancelled for this year due to the Covid surge.



Verl Coup



# Herman family donation seeds TPL building fund

*By Shawni Britt Sheets*

C.T. Herman remembers the teachers, coaches, cooks, custodians, and all of his classmates, including the fastest runner in the seventh grade class, Karen Britt Watt. Those memories of time spent in Talmage during his formative years are just part of the reason C.T. and wife, Susie, decided to donate to the newly established building fund for the renovation of the Talmage School building, now the Talmage Library & Event Center.

His father, Earl Herman, a Talmage banker, instilled in his sons a responsibility to work hard and give back when they could.

C.T. remembers the move from Abilene in the second grade and his teachers Ms. Rowene, Gladys Alexander, Miss Mildred Olsen, Myron Lady, and Donald Shorman.

"Myron Lady and Donald Shorman were our coaches in all sports, and I remember that we dominated all of the other schools," he said.

His eighth grade class graduated nine students: Judy Lowry, Loretta Mustard, Kathy Simpson, Patty Ledy, Karen Britt, Curtis Coup, Frankie Drake, Roger Romberger, and C.T. Herman.

"To make up our basketball team, we added my brother, Bob Herman, and Micky Langdon. Rodney Watt was a long time class member before he moved to Sublett for his seventh grade year. If Rodney had stayed for the eighth grade, we could have beaten any big city team!"

"Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Stewart were our cooks, and unfortunately, they served fish each Friday, but all of their other meals were good. Harry Coup was our custodian."

C.T. doesn't remember much controversy, except for Miss Mildred Olsen occasionally sending Frankie Fry or Billie Hardin to the office for punishment.

"They were in the class in front of us, so we could only speculate their problem," C.T. said. "Overall, the school seemed to run well from our perspective."



Susie and C.T. Herman (left) and granddaughters Iliff, Brooke, MacKenzie, Eva, Tatum, and sons Blaine and wife Kristen, and Brett and wife Megan.



Talmage Library & Event Center sports new windows, which were made possible by a donation from C.T. and Susie Herman, Santa Fe, NM. To help with our renovation, make your checks payable to Talmage Library Building Fund and mail them to Sharon Chase, 2946 Eden Road, Abilene, Kansas

## ***Did You Know?***

*By Kathy Marsteller Coup*

Robert Henry Schaich was the first Dickinson County soldier to die in France in World War I. He died of pneumonia, an after effect of the flu, which he contracted at Ft. Riley. He was buried in France but three years later was brought back to Talmage and was buried in Prairiedale Cemetery.



# *Looking back at our community...*

## **The Iliff Family**



**Iliff family: (seated) Thomas C. Iliff and Sara Reese Iliff; (standing, l to r) John, Hattie, Laura, Wesley, Jeremiah, Ida, and Thomas Lloyd. (Inset) Iliff School #29, 1873-1930**

## ***Iliff family moves to county, benefits Talmage community***

**By Jennifer Veltman Smidt**

Thomas C. Iliff, one of the pioneer founders of Talmage, moved to Dickinson County in 1870 with his wife, Sarah Reese Iliff, both from Perry County, Ohio.

“He volunteered for the Civil War, and the veterans of the war received a stipend and/or a piece of homestead land,” said great great grandson, C.T. Herman. “His father also gave him \$500 to help him get started.”

He owned and farmed section 1 in Willowdale Township and was named postmaster of Willowdale, later known as Talmage, in 1873.

He also donated the land for the first area school called the Iliff School located on Fair Road and Highway 18, which became Talmage School.

T.C. and Sarah had eight children, five boys and three girls. Sadly three boys, one an infant, died before their father who passed in 1909. The offspring were Salome Harriet, Ida May, Jeremiah Simpson, Thomas Lloyd, Laura E, William Wesley, and John Harrison. Thomas Lloyd died from a heat stroke during harvest at the age of 30, and Wesley died at 21.

Thomas Lloyd had married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Chase and had one son, Thomas Alga, born in 1901. He grew up in Bonner Springs but spent summers in Talmage and moved here, marrying second wife, Eva Britt, in 1930.

His daughter Mary Elizabeth (with first wife, Edna Fosket) was nine or ten at that time. She grew up to marry Earl Herman from Solomon. To this union were born C.T. and Robert. The Iliff most well known in this community was “Hal,” John Harrison, son of T.C. who lived north of town on the Funk place. T.C. was a great benefactor of Talmage, well regarded in all of Dickinson County, and later moved to Abilene leaving son Hal to farm.

T.C. had a brother, John Wesley Iliff, who moved to Denver and made a fortune in cattle and supplying beef to army detachments. Following his death in 1878, his wife later remarried but honored his wish to create a training school for ministers and 100K was donated to the University of Denver to create the Iliff School of Theology in the late 1880’s. This school has been well supported by the Iliff family through the decades and continues today.

Interestingly this writer was at the LeCompton Kansas Territorial Capitol Museum and found many Iliffs mentioned having lived there and also in Barber County, Kansas. This group was from Pennsylvania and surely must have been cousins to the Talmage family as T.C.’s father was originally from Pennsylvania.

**(See picture of C.T. Herman family on page 2.)**



# North Dickinson County Women in the Military

by Pat Gormley Bowell

## Bonnie R. Funk



Graduating from Abilene High School, Bonnie joined VISTA and served 18 months in Baltimore, Maryland as a volunteer social worker. Traveling and seeing the world became paramount; Bonnie joined the Air Force in 1969.

Basic training was at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio for six weeks, with 36 women recruits in her class. Being one of the oldest in her class and her good test scores, she was chosen to train as an Air Traffic Controller. Fourteen men, Bonnie, and one other woman were selected to go to Air Traffic Control Tech. School for sixteen weeks at Keesler AFB, in Biloxi, Miss. Classes were delayed two weeks as Hurricane Camille hit 2 days after their arrival.

Bonnie's first duty was Carswell AF Base at Ft. Worth, Texas. A year later, she was stationed in Japan, Yokota Air Base, Tokyo. The women's barracks in Tachikawa were 20 minutes from the Air Base. There was plenty of time to see local sites, including spending a New Year's Eve at the top of Tokyo Tower. Eventually she moved from the barracks to a house in the small town of Yama, where she rode a bicycle to work. Most of arriving aircraft were Air Force passenger planes, taking our soldiers to and from Vietnam.

Rotating shifts allowed Bonnie to take 3 day passes into the mountains to visit small villages, usually traveling by bus, train or taxi. Friends and herself climbed Mt. Fuji in a seven hour hiking day, staying overnight at a stopover. Two hours hiking next morning ended a challenging climb, but an awesome experience. She was in Japan for two years. Returning home in 1973, Bonnie attended K State, graduating in 1976 with a degree in Interior Design. She is married to Kevin Stroda and they live on the Funk family farm North of Talmage. Her daughter, Morgan, and son-in-law, Filipe, and four grandchildren live in Kansas City.

## Clara Houtz Lawson



Clara Mae Lawson, Hebron, NE, the daughter of Eli H. and Eulalia (Bell) Houtz, was born in Abilene, Ks, 1913, and grew up in Talmage. She attended the First Methodist Church in Talmage, and graduated Talmage High School. In 1933 she joined Job-Seekers, went to Denver, Co. and worked for a Jewish family of five, earning \$5 a week, plus room and board. Always looking for better salaries and work hours, some of her jobs included maid service, invalid care, family bakery, a commercial bakery, and the munitions plant.

At age 30, Clara joined the U.S. Navy Waves. After boot camp at Hunters College she was stationed at Wave Quarters D and I in Washington, D.C. As she had considerable experience at bakeries, she served as pastry chef at the Pentagon and was discharged in 1946 with a Second Class Bakers rating. After attending the American Academy of Arts in Chicago, she returned to Denver University and received a B.A. of Arts degree in 1950 at age 37.

In 1951, she worked at the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service for 27 years. Clara married Clarence Lawson in 1969 and had an immediate family of three boys and one girl. Traveling was her number one love, as well as decorating, yard work, quilting, spinning, weaving, genealogy, reading and flowers. Clara's military service was unusual and reflected her effort to learn, teach and experience life to its fullest, always looking for new opportunities.

She made several trips to visit the Talmage Museum in the last three years of her life, and we got to know her well. She donated her grandfather's (Louis Philip Houtz) desk to the museum that he used at the lumberyard here in Talmage in the early 1900's.

### TALMAGE MUSEUM

2978 Main Street, P.O. Box 766

Talmage, Kansas 67482

thsoc@live.com

HOURS: Wed., Friday,

Saturday & Sunday, 2-4 p.m.

Or by appointment, call 785/200-0214.

Closed Tues. & Thursday

We're on the Web!

[www.talmagekansas.com](http://www.talmagekansas.com)