



Talmage Historical Society

Museum & Library Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 2

Published Quarterly

Summer 2022

Calendar

May 28

Multi-family garage sale
at the Talmage Library
& Event Center,
8 a.m.—11:30 a.m.!

May 30

Memorial Day Service at
the Prairiedale Cemetery,
9 a.m., followed by
visiting and refreshments
at the Talmage Museum.

June 10

Senior Citizens meet for
lunch. Danny Wuthnow
will present program.

June 25

Multi-family garage sale
at the Talmage Library
& Event Center,
8 a.m.—11:30 a.m.!

September 17-18

**Car Show & Talmage
All-School Reunion.**

In Memoriam

Steve Anguiano

12/26/1937-04/02/2022

Daniel Britt

8/16/1950-04/13/2022

Genevieve Anguiano

Burwell

05/07/1933-03/10/2022

Donald Coup

01/12/1941-04/26/2022

Verl Eckman

08/04/1931-02/27/2022

Linda Allen

Middleton

12/05/1950-03/16/2022

Local Memorial Day activities planned

By Verl Coup

Museum Board President

The Talmage Museum has conducted a Memorial Day service every year since 2014, excluding the covid years and the rain out last year.

Weather permitting, this year we will once again have a service, beginning at 9 a.m. when the Chapman American Legion Post #240 will present their program.

The names of those buried during the past two years at the Prairiedale Cemetery will be read this year, and also a few of the pioneer founding fathers of Talmage buried in Prairiedale Cemetery will be recognized.

The public is invited to attend and adjourn to the museum afterwards for visiting and refreshments.



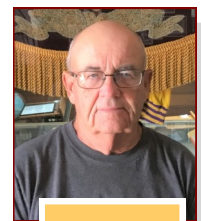
Kody Chase and his niece, Abbi Lillard (in the bucket), helped put new ropes on the flags at Prairiedale Cemetery to prepare for Memorial Day services.

Talking History with Verl Coup...

I'm amazed at the number of people who stop at the museum and can't believe a town this size has a place with so much history. A big "thank you" to all who are involved with the museum.

A thank you also goes out to Stan Clark of Hesston, formerly of Manchester, for making an introduction video for the museum. Stop in and view the video and see what else is new at the museum.

Join us for our Memorial Day service at Prairiedale Cemetery!



Verl Coup

Thank you for your donations to our endowment funds!

To help them continue their mission of “being a resource for area nonprofits,” the Community Foundation hosted its fourth match day on March 18, 2022.

We are so grateful to the Foundation and to all who donated dollars for the Talmage Historical Society Endowment Fund and for the Talmage Library & Event Center Endowment Fund.

You are making a significant difference in the lives of people from all over Dickinson County!

Did You Know?

By Kathy Marsteller Coup

Talmage will soon have more lights on Main Street.

A grant has allowed the museum to purchase two solar powered street lights with more to come when more places to install them are available.



TALMAGE LIBRARY & EVENT CENTER

2994 Main Street, P.O. Box 807

Talmage, Kansas 67482

shawnisheets@gmail.com

Spring & Summer Hours:

Open 7 days a week

by appointment or reservation.

Call 785/643-9126

Office Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Support for our projects is astounding

By Shawni Britt Sheets

We continue to be astounded by all of the support our community and alumni show for the renovation of the Talmage Library & Event Center.

Two individuals sent large donations ahead of the March 18 Community Foundation of Dickinson County Donate Day to be added to our Endowment Fund. I would like to thank Pauline Houtz Dukelow and Robert Bennett for their thoughtful and much appreciated donations that took us well beyond the \$5,000 we needed to meet the amount needed for a match donation. Thank you, Pauline and Bob!

Others donating included C.T. Herman, whose previous donation for new windows has brought a huge reduction in our utility bills. Thank you, C.T. & Susie!

Also donating were the families of Bathurst, Bennett, Howell, Burwell, Chase, Cundiff, Greenwood, Gibson, Hanson, Hermann, Lady, Manley, Noel, Romberger, Schmidt, Simpson, Smidt, Strobel, Thayer, Weese, and Wuthnow, plus others who wish to remain anonymous.

We reached 261 percent of our goal with a total of 26 gifts.

The museum also received more than their goal with 37 gifts.

We appreciate our donors!

Thank you all so much!

History and research located in Talmage Museum...

Museum display documents school history

DICKINSON COUNTY PRAIRIE SCHOOLS PROJECT

By Patsy Gormley Bowell



The Talmage Museum staff has enjoyed the Dickinson County Prairie Schools publications by Marie Strunk since the book was published in 1997.

She wanted all her original research notes, photos, and maps to come to the museum, with information on all 125 prairie schools displayed in some manner. This project is being displayed this winter and will be completed soon.

Marie attended a prairie school, Scotia #55, in southwest Dickinson County. She graduated from Dickinson County High School in Normal Training in 1943. Because there were many teachers called to serve in WWII, she was able to renew her certificate and she taught Victory School #56, grades 1-8 for three years.

Marie and Melvin were married at that time, then she taught one year, 3rd and 4th grades in Enterprise #16.

When their children were both in school, Marie attended Marymount College, Salina, graduating in 1960. She taught 4 years of fourth grade at McKinley School, Abilene. She then taught language arts and was librarian in Chapman Junior High and Middle School for 25 years.

When she retired in 1990 and saw other county school books, she was motivated to gather information by letters, phone calls, and many driven miles to complete Dickinson County's prairie schools history. She credited Melvin for his help, for driving and proof reading all information involved.

That history involves many of us who are still here and are very grateful that our prairie one room school system, from the 1880's through the early 1950's, is documented here in Dickinson County at the Talmage Museum.

The Britt Family

Britt family arrives from England

By Jennifer Smidt

The Britts came from England and the town of Brit in Dorsetshire. Though there were several Britt families on the east coast early in our nation's history, those in Dickinson County descended from Joseph and Rebecca Morgan Britt from Moore County, North Carolina.

They settled in Geary County and had ten children. John Calvin Britt was among the eight youngest who were orphaned when their mother passed.

John eventually came to live in Dickinson County with the Henry Paul family. The year 1900 finds him and his brother Ed buying land west of Talmage and farming there.

Then he moved to Talmage and ran a livery stable and married Myrtle Elizabeth Luke in 1904, the daughter of Trolney and Susan Luke, one of the Talmage town founders.

As automobiles became popular, John bought another farm west of Talmage and returned to farming. Later he opened a store and gas station across Highway 18 north and it was called Brittville.

He and Myrtle had six children, Mildred, Ava, Elvin, Zella, Bernice and Lowell. Mildred married Harvey Cooley and had one son, Carl.

Ava married Fred Reiff and they had one son, Max.

Elvin married Lona Conn and they had five children, Gerald, Ronald, Karen, Daniel and Stephen.

Zella married Haines Wendell and they had three children, Larry, Max (adopted by sister Ava), and Lloyd. She later married Reo Tomlinson and they had a son Darrell.

Bernice married Paul Frazier and they had two children, Joy and Paulette.

Lowell married Beatrice Gravatt and their five children are Timothy, Patricia, Christine, Richard and Michael.



Children of John Calvin Britt include (seated, l to r) Mildred Cooley, Bernice Frazier, Zella Tomlinson; (standing, l to r) Ava Reiff, Lowell Dean Britt, and Elvin Britt.

Today, the local descendants of Elvin Britt include Shawni Sheets, administrator of Talmage Library/Event Center; Rory, Austin, Steve, and Shane Britt, and Karen Britt Watt. Her son Tobey is still farming the family land west of Talmage.

Family historian, Ron Britt of Ohio, son of Elvin Britt, donated years of research and Britt history to the Talmage Museum.

TALMAGE MUSEUM
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HOURS: Wed., Friday,
Saturday & Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
or by appointment.
Call 785/200-0214.
Closed Monday, Tuesday & Thursday