



# THE SUNFLOWER

**Reno County Genealogical Society**

**P. O. Box 5**

**Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-0005**



**Volume 33 No. 4**

**November 2011**

The Reno County Genealogical Society of Hutchinson, Kansas was founded in 1978 for the purpose of fostering genealogical research, promoting the exchange of information and encouraging the deposit of genealogical and historical materials in established libraries and archives. Membership in the Reno County Genealogical Society is open to anyone interested in genealogy or local history. Dues are Level 1: \$12.00 or Level 2: \$15.00 per year, per couple from January 1 to December 31 each year. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month in the Auditorium of the Hutchinson Public Library, 9th and Main, 7:00 – 8:45 P. M.

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Corresponding Secretary	Jay Moore

### RCGS Email:

RenoCoGenSoc@gmail.com

### RCGS Web Site: 3 ways to find us on the web

<http://rootsweb.com/~ksrcgs>

<http://tinyurl.com/RenoCoGenSoc>

<http://bit.ly/RenoCoGenSoc>

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**The Sunflower** is published quarterly by the

Reno County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 5 - Hutchinson, KS 67504-0005

ISSN 1048 - 048X

Editor: Gale Stafford Wall, Hutchinson, KS

The Sunflower is indexed in the Periodical Source Index [PERSI] of the Allen County Public Library Foundation

The Reno County Genealogical Society is a member of the Federation  
of Genealogical Societies and the Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies.

## November 2011

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**NOTE: Time to pay your dues. Please mail before the end of the year and save us the time and expense of reminders. 2012 Dues increase to \$15**

- **January 17th**  
The Other Censuses
- **February 21st**  
10 Reasons to Love Local Histories
- **March 21st**  
The Grist Mill - Family History Story
- **April 18th**  
Internet Genealogy
- **May 16th**  
Welcome to the Melting Pot
- **June 20th**  
History and Changes in Funerals
- **July 18th**  
The Cherokee Strip Land Rush of 1893
- **August 15th**  
Using Time Lines
- **September 19th**  
Collateral Lines
- **October 17th**  
Annual Potluck - Show & Tell
- **November 21st**  
Uncle Bill's Suitcase
- **December 2011**  
Board Meeting Only

## Editor's Note



Where did the year go? Its been a blur for me. My apologies that you are receiving this issue so late. Life happened.

2012 will be a busy year for me traveling home very often to see to my Daddy's health and needs. And, my son is getting married in a few months.

It would be great to have 2, or more, people volunteer to help with articles for each issue. I want this to be a quarterly that you enjoy receiving and make time to sit down and read. You can drop me an email at [renocogensoc@gmail.com](mailto:renocogensoc@gmail.com) with any questions you may have.

You can also continue to share your Reno County family and photos.

**Merry Christmas**

**from my family:**

**Barry, Clayton, Tiffany, Kurtis,  
Kieli & Gale.**

**And, Sophie the cat!**



## New Members

- Judy Brown

# WELCOME!

**New members - Do we have your email?**

**If not, send to [renocogensoc@gmail.com](mailto:renocogensoc@gmail.com)**

## On The Cover

Convention Hall known today as Memorial Hall. Read the article on page 70 about the opening of the time capsule from its cornerstone.

## 2012 Programs

- 1/16: Reno County in Photos

“Santa Fe Railway Historical Collection 1929-1930”

Steve Conard & Steve Harmon, Guest Speakers.

This program will be held at the Reno County Historical Society, 100 S. Walnut St., at 7:00 pm.

- 2/20: No Meeting

- 3/19: Early Funeral Customs

Tom Elliott, Guest Speaker

- 4/16: Tech Time – R&R

- 5/21: Descendancy Research – R&R

- 6/18: “Kansas Through the Lens of F.M. Steel”

Jim Hoy, Kansas Humanities Council Presenter

- 7/16: Genealogy Disaster Plan - R&R

- 8/20: See you on Sunday, Church Records in Genealogy – R & R

- 9/17: Counties Histories and Your Family – R &R

- 10/15: October Pot Luck Dinner at DeLos Smith Senior Center

Celebrating Family History Month

- 11/19: “The GAR and Post Civil War Kansas History”

Doug McGovern, SUVCW, Guest Speaker

- 12/17: No Meeting

**Have you paid your 2012 dues?**

**Please submit yours today.**

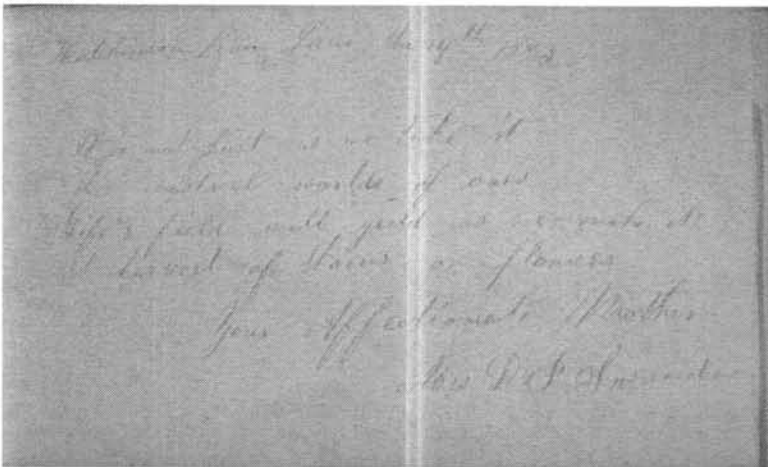
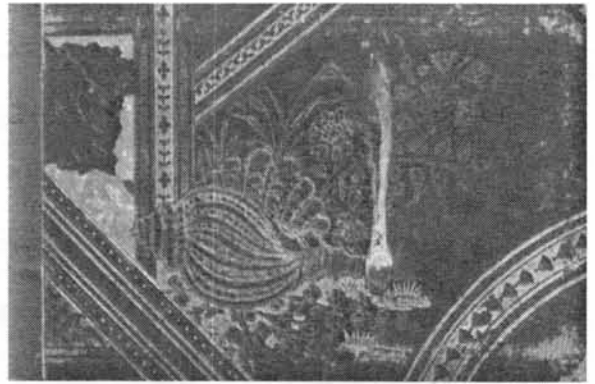
**\$15.00 beginning 2012**

## Mary Hill's Autograph Book, concluded

I came across this autograph book at a local antique store. The locations of the signatures are local so I thought I'd try to find out more of the owner, Mary Hill and record it in the quarterly.

This issue will conclude Mary Hill's autograph book. What a treasure that became separated from its family.

These pages of the book, in my opinion, are the best. One from her mother and future husband. Throughout my research I found the name of Mary's husband spelled so many ways. Even his headstone doesn't match how he spelled his name in the autograph book.



Hutchinson Kan June the 14th 1883

It is not just as we take it

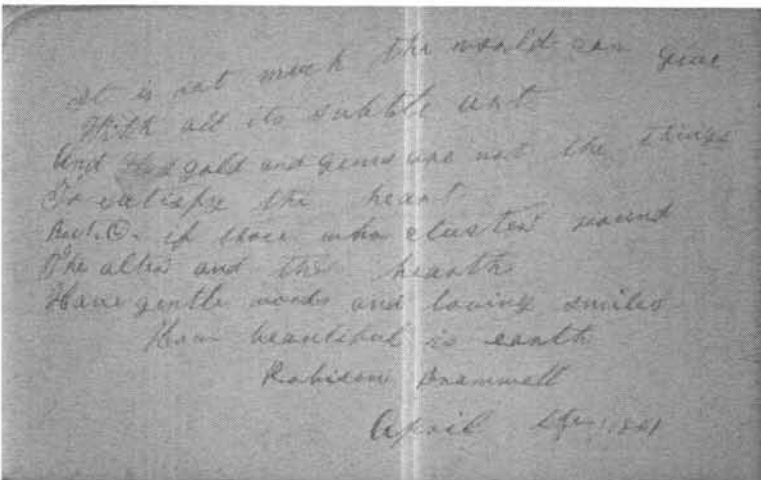
This mystical world of ours

Life's field will yield as we make it

A harvest of thorns or flowers

Your Affectionate Mother

Mrs. D. F. Swander



It is not much the world can give

With all its subtle art

And gold and gems are not the things

To satisfy the heart

But, O, if those who cluster round

The alter and the hearth

Have gentle words and loving smiles

How beautiful is the earth

Robison Bramwell

April 3, 1881



Robison/Roberson and Mary Hill Bramwell

Fairview Cemetery [Elmer]

While researching Mary's brother, Samuel, I found a school teacher listing for Mary A. Hill for the years 1884-1886 and believed this was my Mary. One of the pages in the autograph book says "dear teacher" and dated 1883. She married in 1887 and no listing is found under her married name so perhaps she settled down to be a farmer's wife.

In the 1885 state census her brother Samuel was listed as a teacher. Taking a second look at that census I now see the ditto [""] marks under his occupation that would also be for his sister, Mary below. I was tickled with this discovery! [School records 1884 to 1966]

### Mary's siblings:

#### 1. Samuel

1858 - Died between 1926 to 1930

1926 newspaper article about him visiting family in town.

1930 wife is a widow

Moved to Oklahoma in 1901 [article about his land purchase and upcoming move]

Most likely buried in Garfield County, OK

Samuel was a school teacher [as noted in the census] in the 1880's and 1890's. He was later the superintendent and a school was named after him: District 147 in Castleton Township.

He married Sarah E. Jones

11/3/1889 at the brides parents

Reno County, Kansas

### Half Siblings:

#### 2. Jessie Viola Swander Williams

1872 - 1919

Married Warren F. Williams

Buried Laurel Cemetery, Reno Co., KS

#### 3. Daisy Mabel Swander Chittenden

1875 - 1954

Married Llewellyn Chittenden

Died in Los Angeles, CA

#### 4. Otto Fave Swander

1879 - 1881

Fairview Cemetery

The Hutchinson News

12/21/1931

**Robinson Bramwell**  
Robinson Bramwell, 79, a pioneer farmer of this county died Saturday at the home of his son, Sidney Bramwell, 315 Liberty st. The funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:45 o'clock from the Johnson Funeral Parlors. Burial will be in the Harmony cemetery.

Mr. Bramwell came from Indiana to Reno county in 1873 with his parents, when he was 18 years of age, driving overland in a covered wagon. The family camped on the townsite of Hutchinson on Oct. 2, 1873, the town was only a year old at the time. The next day they took up a claim eight miles southeast of town, where Mr. Brawell lived for 43 years. He moved to Protection to engage in farming 23 years ago and was brought to Hutchinson six weeks ago for treatment.

He is survived by two sons, Sidney of Hutchinson and Leo Bramwell of Longmont, Col.; two sisters, Mrs. Martha Freeman, and Mrs. Percilla Rinehardt, both of Greensburg, two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The Hutchinson News

12/21/1936

#### **Mrs. Robert Bramwell.**

Mrs. Robert Bramwell, 70 years old, well-known pioneer settler of Reno county, died yesterday morning at her home in Protection. She had been ill for several months.

She is survived by her husband and two sons, Sidney Bramwell and Leo Bramwell all of Protection.

Funeral services will be held at the Johnson parlors tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, with Rev. John Vin of Perry, Okla., formerly pastor of the Harmony church, in charge. Burial will be in the Harmony cemetery.

Mrs. Bramwell was born in Ohio, and came to Kansas as a pioneer, settling near Harmony, about 9 miles south of the city. She had been living in Protection for about 15 years.

## Fredrick Baker

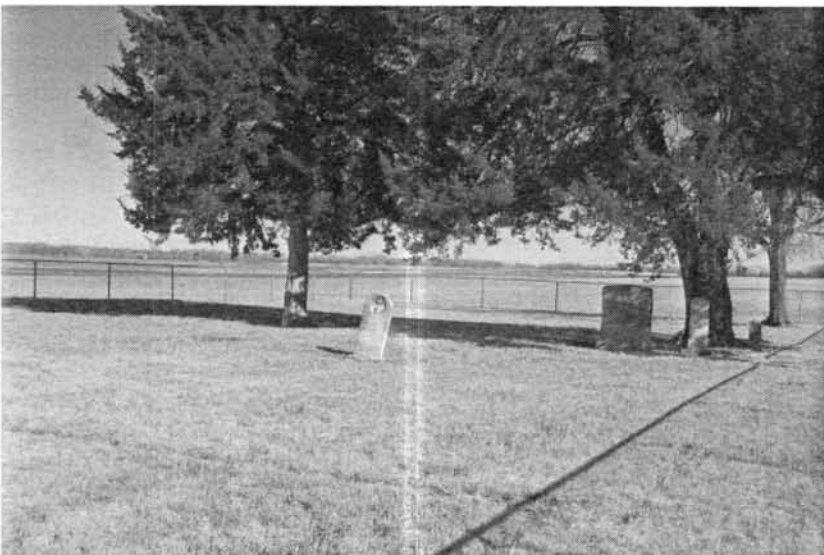
Submitted by RCGS Member, Jay Moore

This article is a brief history of the life of a Civil War Veteran, Fredrick W. Baker, Great-Great Grandfather of Jay L. Moore a member of RCGS. Most of this History is taken from his obituary which was published in the Arlington KS Enterprise News paper. He died at Arlington, KS April 18, 1913 at age of 80 years. He was born in Bradley County, Tennessee on March 8, 1833. Mr. Baker moved with his family to Troy Township [Reno County] in 1873, and in 1888 to Arlington where he resided.

A large portion of the residents of Eastern Tennessee where Fredrick was born and where he lived during the Civil War were most bitter sympathizers with the Confederacy and it was worth an man's life to be known as a Union man. During the first two years of the war Fredrick piloted Union men through the mountains, furnished them with food, clothing, horses, and money, contributing in this way to the Union cause, of which he was a most devoted and loyal supporter and defender, he contributed more than 2,000 dollars but little of which he ever received back. For months at a time during these years Fredrick did not dare to sleep in his own house but sleep in the woods. After two years of this most dangerous warfare he enlisted in Company 1 of the Tenth Tennessee Calvary as a private and because of his knowledge of the country and his fearless bravery and deep loyalty to the Union and his ability to lead men, he soon rose to the captaincy of his company and after two years of active service he was discharged because of broken health. He was pensioned by a special act of Congress. Fredrick W. Baker was a "HERO" of the great Civil War period of our nations history.

He was no less a "HERO" in the years of peace that followed the strive between North and South when he came to Reno county in 1873 in help to civilize this, then unbroken wilderness. He was in fact a "HERO" of two wars, with his large family he helped carve a home from the "Great American Dessert", to fight the Indian and the Buffalo with the most continuous and persistent warfare. Captain Baker spent half of his strenuous 80 years in Reno County and was a gallant soldier always. Although his health failed in the last years he bore his trials with the solid bravery of a good soldier never wavering in his allegiance to his God, his family, and his Country. A true and gallant American "HERO".

Fredrick W. Baker is buried in the Baker Cemetery; a family cemetery which is located 7 miles south of Partridge, KS,  $\frac{3}{4}$  East on the North side of the road. It is very well kept by the township mostly due to the fact that a veteran of the Civil War is buried there along with his second wife and some other relatives.





# Fredrick Baker



## Time Capsule

On Monday, September 26, 2011, a small crowd gathered to commemorate the 100th anniversary and witness the opening of the time capsule that had been laid in the cornerstone of the Hutchinson Convention Hall, now Memorial Hall, by President William H. Taft.

On September 26, 1911 President Taft arrived by train and participated in festivities leading up to the occasion. He used a golden trowel to apply the final touches of mortar to the cornerstone containing the time capsule.



Above: The cornerstone after removal of the time capsule. A new box of items will be placed back into the cornerstone in 2012.

Right: President Taft

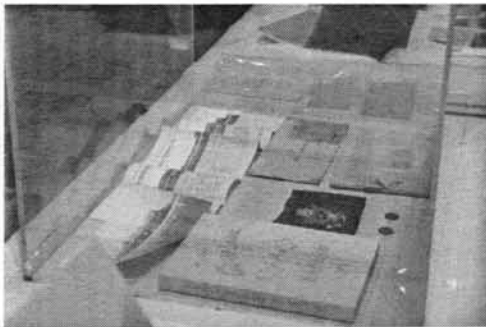
A list of items said to be in the time capsule from newspaper articles:

Bible, American flag, President's flag, proceeding from the Grand Lodge, copy of Shavers Monitor, copy of the program, Hutchinson Daily News, Hutchinson Daily Gazette, Brief history of Reno County, roster of the members of the Reno Lodge no. 140, A. F. & A. M., Reno Chapter no 34, Royal Arch Masons, Hutchinson Order of the Eastern Star, photo of C. C. Hutchinson, series of postage stamps and coins.

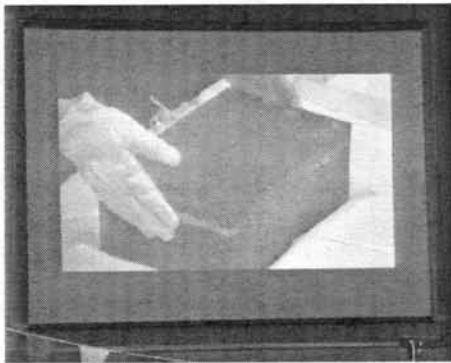
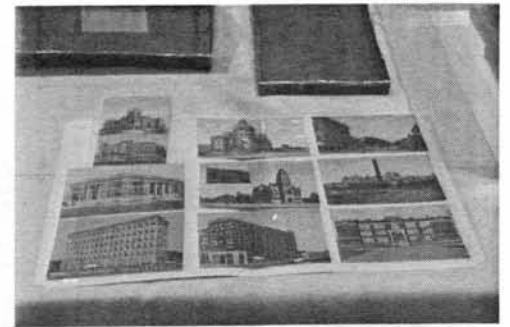




Left: Doug McGovern portraying President Taft, Center: TV & Newspaper Media, Right: One view of the crowd inside the Hall.



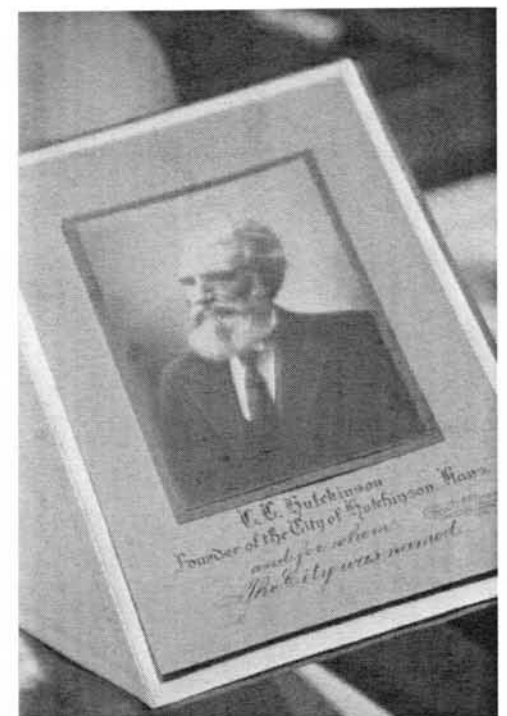
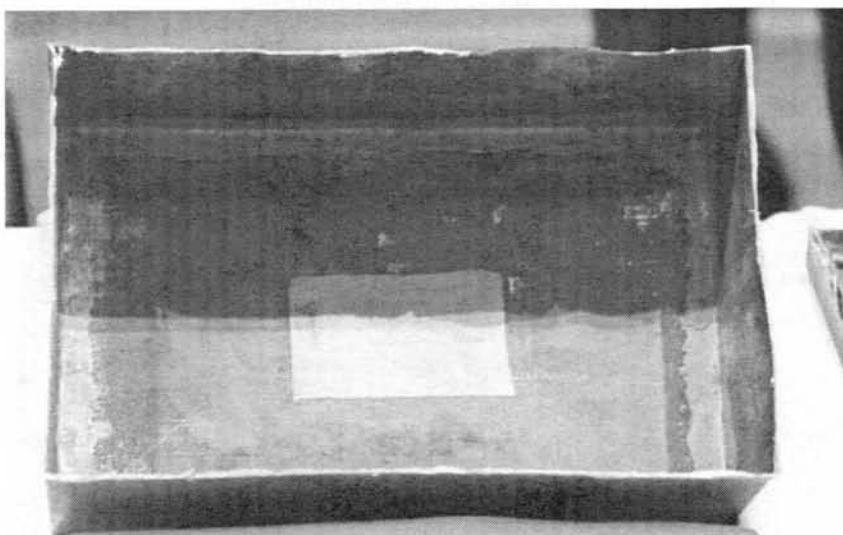
Items from the time capsule, placed under protective boxes for public viewing

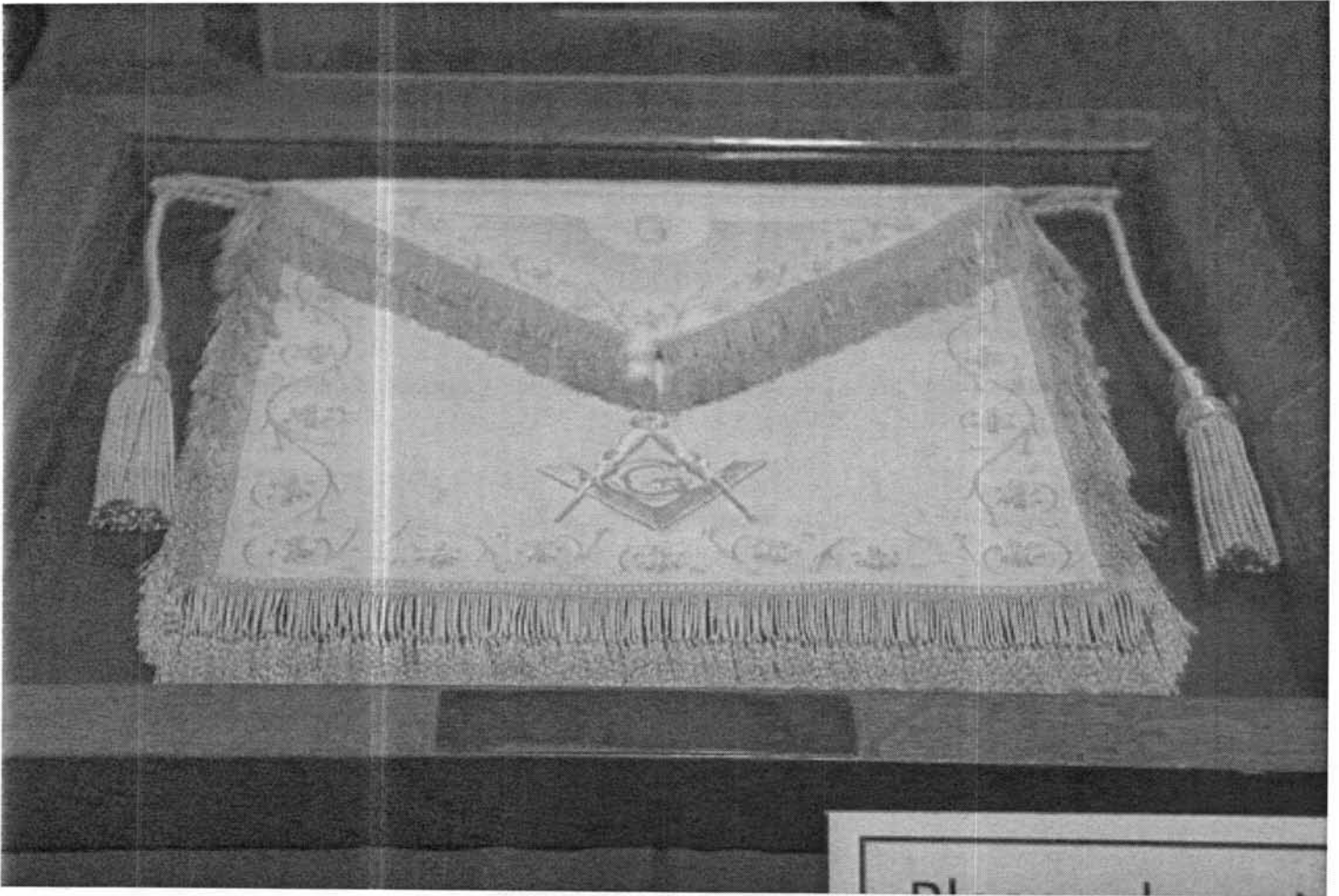


The opening of the time capsule.

Bottom left: inside the box.

Bottom right: Photo of C. C. Hutchinson that was also in the box.

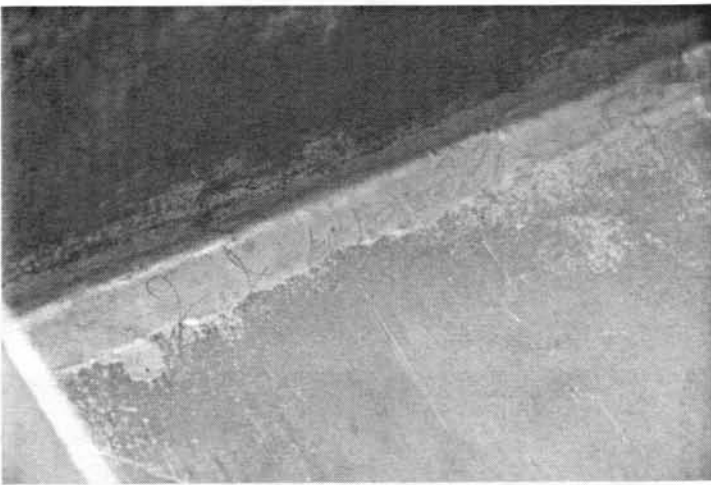
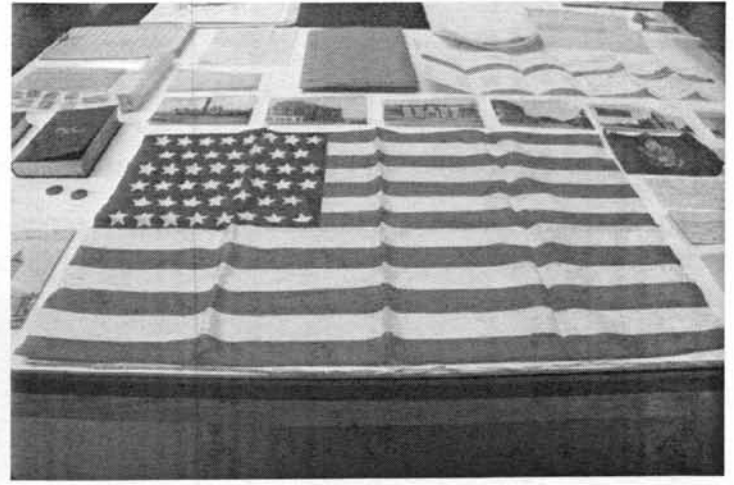




This white leather Mason's apron was presented to President William Howard Taft by the local Masonic lodge, and was worn during the laying of the cornerstone at Convention Hall.

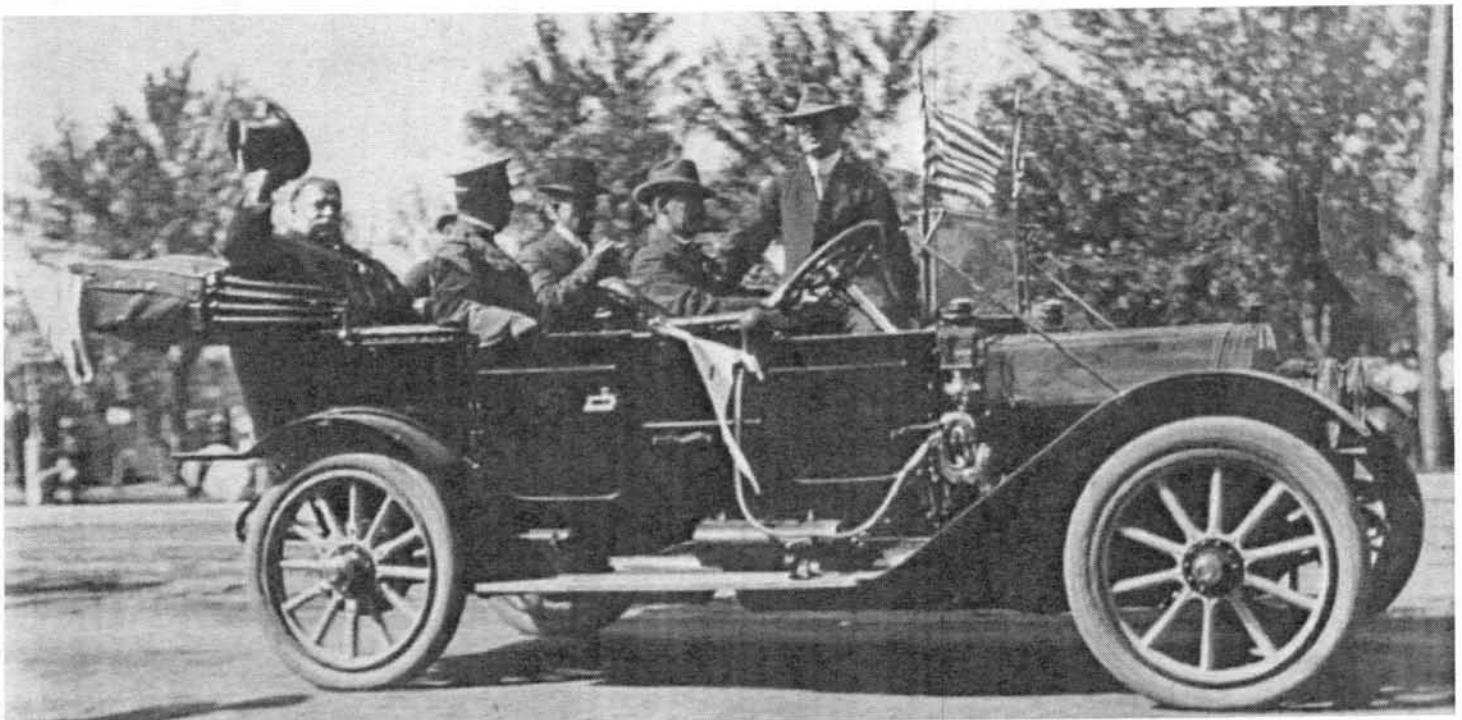
Below: A copy of The Hutchinson News dated September 26, 1911 and the Presidential Flag.





Top rows: Items photographed after moved back to the Reno County Museum

Below: President Taft riding in the parade car from the fair grounds to Convention Hall [on display by the Reno County Museum]

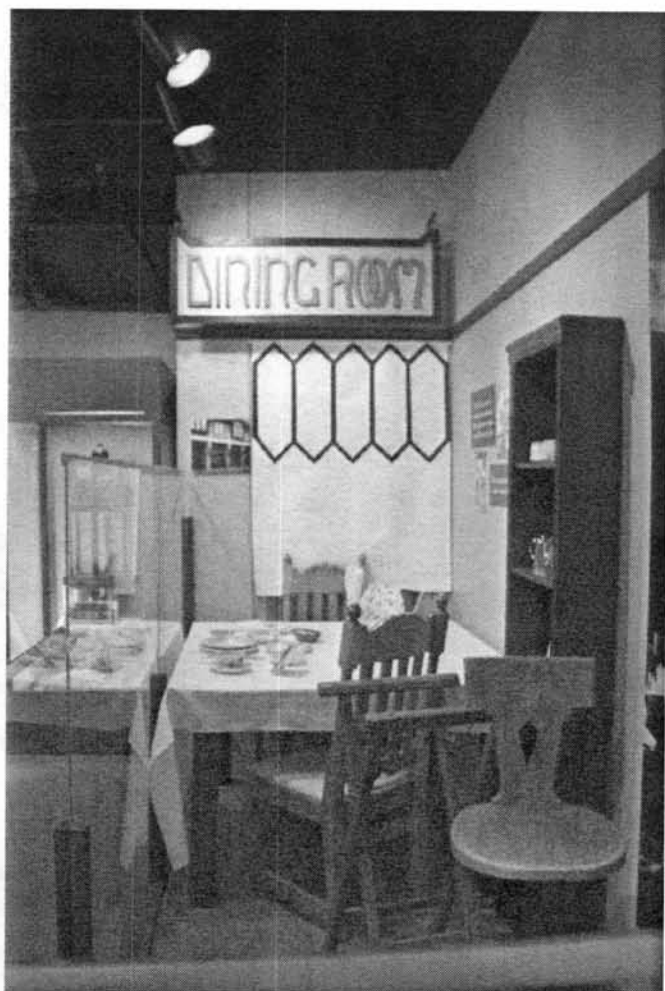
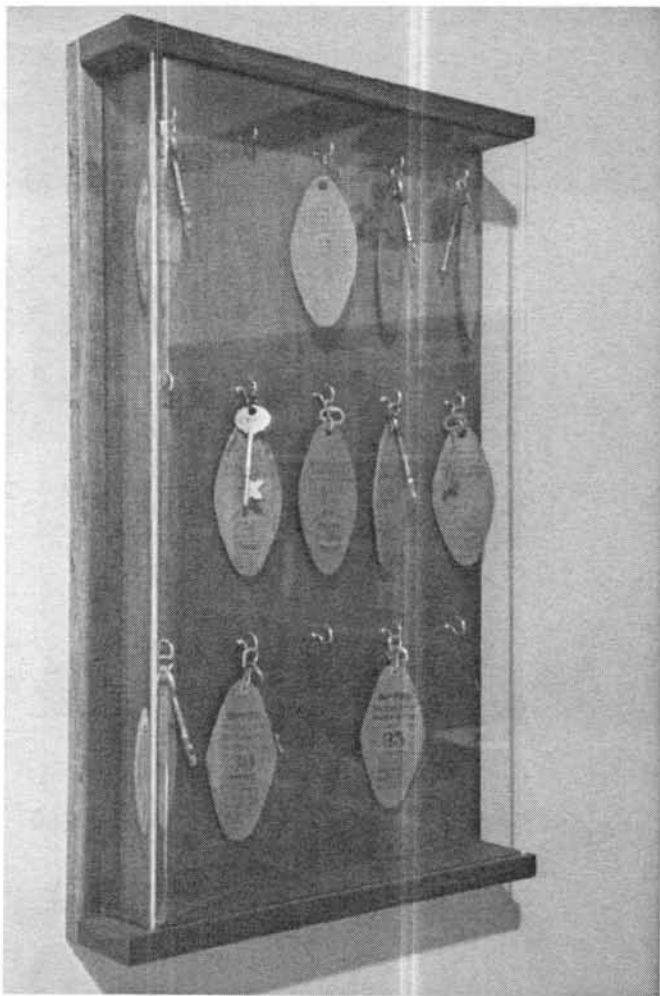


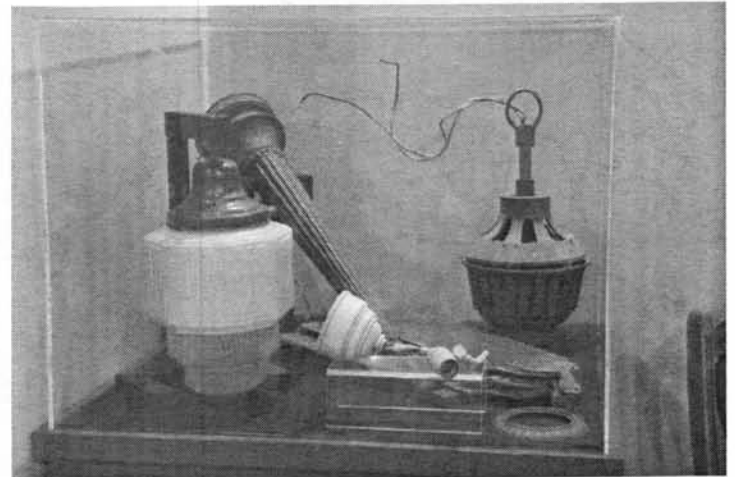
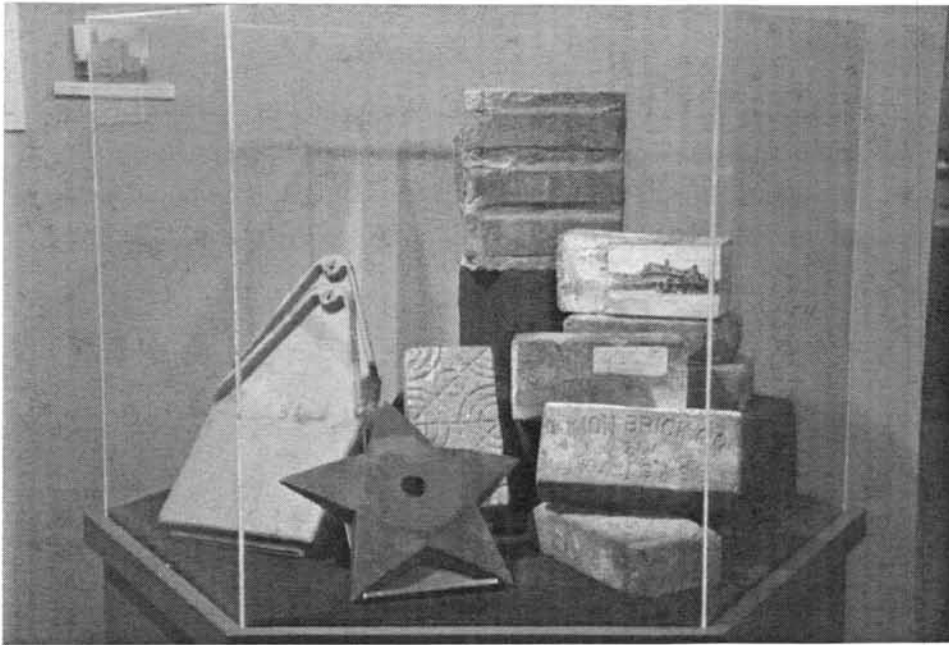
## Bisonte Hotel

New exhibit at the Reno County Museum.

Experience the grandeur of the lovely hotel as the museum brings it to life again.

The Bisonte, opened in 1908, once graced the corner of 2nd and Walnut is where many residents experienced fine food as it was part of the Fred Harvey line of restaurants.





**Reno County Museum**  
**100 S. Walnut**  
**[renocomuseum.org](http://renocomuseum.org)**

## Annual Potluck & Talking Tombstones

Thanks to the 42 members and guests that attended our 2011 annual potluck. We had a fun evening of food and fellowship, along with door prizes. Instead of our show & tell we went with something new this year. Three members of the Hutchinson Theatre Guild performed part of their Talking Tombstones annual fundraiser at Eastside Cemetery. Kathleen Dankanyin, Rita Lingg and Gale Wall provided the research for the guild.



Vivian Gobin, President, getting the evening started



Karen Burgess getting it all organized.



Lots of catching up and good eats







Left: Mattie Blanchard as portrayed by Deidre Mattox. Mattie's first husband, John Moore, murdered their 5 children in 1899. He was sentenced to death and later pardoned. His [research] trail goes cold after his release with such a common name. Mattie would remain in Hutchinson, remarry twice and have other children. Her 5 babies are in an unmarked grave at Eastside and Mattie rests not far from them with her other husbands.

Peggy Livingston introducing the actors.



Left: Ed Moore as portrayed by Denny Vick. Ed was a son of the city's first Presbyterian minister, was involved with the newspaper and real estate and one of the men to assist getting the state fair in Hutchinson.

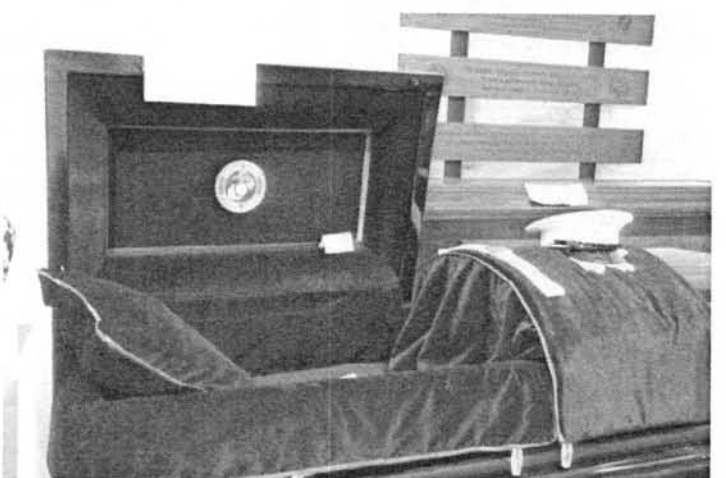
Right: Frank McDermid as portrayed by Steven Mills. Frank was a businessman and politician and owner of a general store on Main Street.



### Coffins at the Kansas State Fair

I do believe you can find just about anything at the state fair. Look what I found this year. A display from a new business in town.

'Til We Meet Again  
306 N. Main Street



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RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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 North Newton, KS 67117-0387



**Be sure to visit our blog for events & news : [renocogensoc.blogspot.com](http://renocogensoc.blogspot.com)**

Births - Recorded Early Births of Reno Co. 1890-1911 & Index	\$5.00	Naturalization Records of Reno County Index 1875-1955 filed at courthouse	\$8.00
Cemetery Book of Reno County, 1865-1978	SOLD OUT	Teachers of Reno County, 1884-1966	\$15.00
Cemetery Records of North Inman, Superior Township, McPherson County, KS	\$5.00	<i>The Sunflower</i> Back Issues - CD ONLY	\$10.00
Deaths - Recorded Deaths of Reno County 4 volumes, 1890-1911 & Index	\$5.00	Harper's Weekly 1888 - City of Hutchinson - featured supplement - PDF on CD	\$5.00
Homestead Records of Reno County Name, location & file date 1875-1945	\$10.00	Plat Book of Reno Co. 1902 - PDF on CD	\$10.00
Marriages of Reno County, 1872 - 1913	\$15.00	Postage & Handling included in price Kansas residents add 8.05% sales tax	

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