

Monday, June 16, 2014 - Presentations

8:45-9:45 Keynote: One-Room Country Schools of Kansas - 1850's-1950's - Bill Samuelson

Dr. Bill Samuelson, retired professor, was a member of the faculty of the Teachers College of Emporia State University for more than thirty years. Before his retirement he frequently donned the clothes of a turn of the century schoolmaster and delivered lectures while standing in front of the classroom of the Dobbs School, a restored one-room schoolhouse located on the campus of Emporia State University. As a student and teacher of American education history, he focused his interest and research on the country schools of Kansas. After five years of research and writing, Mr. Samuelson combined written, pictorial, and oral histories, personal narrative, interviews and diary entries into his book, "One Room Schools of Kansas." Using photos of early Kansas school scenes from Jack Skillet's photo collection, Mr. Samuelson will be sharing his historic information to tell the story of one-room schools of Kansas, from the opening of the first teacher schools in Eastern Kansas to the last one teacher school in Southwestern Kansas in 1990.

10:00-10:45

Their Town, Their Schools, Their Words - Susan Fineman

From the historical town records of an early "mill city," Nashua, NH in 1840's-1850's, find out how town fathers promoted public education and planned for a burgeoning urban population. These chroniclers were prolific writers making very candid observations on the state of their eleven schools and never minced words! Follow the uncomplicated process of their decision to build the 1841 District #1 Schoolhouse, restored in 1976, and still hosting some 80 classes a year. This will include a visual presentation of the town, the 173 year-old classic New England brick schoolhouse, and the precious records that tell the story.

Wisconsin's Oak Grove Country School - Larry and Ann Scheckel

With the Oak Grove School as the backdrop, hear Larry's recollections of the Wisconsin School of the Air broadcasts, the basket social, the Christmas program, the end-of-the year picnic, the visiting supervising teacher, the county health nurse, schoolyard games, and a host of schoolhouse memories. This will be a visual presentation one family's experience over seventeen years!

11:00-11:45

Partnerships and How to Develop Them - Cindy Daffron

This presentation will illustrate different types of relationships and partnerships with funders and how to build or create them.

What Laura Ingalls Wilder Tells Us About One-Room Schools - Sarah Uthoff

Laura Ingalls Wilder and one-room school authority Sarah Uthoff will look at what Wilder's books, TV show, and museums tell us about life in one-room schools. Focus will be on sites in Missouri and Kansas.

1:00-1:45

Flag Over the Schoolhouse- Maureen O'Connor-Leach

The iconic image of the "Little Red Schoolhouse" nearly always includes "Old Glory" proudly flying from a flagpole in the schoolyard. But that was not always so. Throughout much of the 19th century our flag flew over governmental or military sites not private ones. The story of how the use of the American flag began to change and how it came to be associated with the schoolhouse is an interesting one. This presentation will consider The Youth Companion and The Columbian Exposition as it focuses on the genus, growth and nationwide acceptance of the idea of flags in the school and schoolchildren making a daily vow of allegiance to the flag and what for which it stands.

Walnut Grove School - Elizabeth Beckett

Hear the story of the preservation of Walnut Grove School, built in 1877. Fire destroyed the school in early 1917, but it was rebuilt later that year, and operated as a school for grades one through eight until 1944 when it was closed. The school sat empty for several years and was later used as farm storage. In the summer of 1991 the schoolhouse was moved and restored by a dedicated group of volunteers. It is open to school children and the public during special events and tours.

“All in the Family”: Remembering the One-Room School in Winnebago, Iowa - Hilma Stover

The six Kilen children attended “Kittleson” Center #2 School in Winnebago County, Iowa during the 25 years between 1926-1951. Hilma Kilen Stover was the youngest, and was taught by her sister, Grace. Today you will hear the memories of her time in the one-room school, where she unofficially attended Kindergarten in 1941. She graduated from Kittleson with the 8th grade class of 1951. In addition to Hilma’s memories, you will also “hear” memories of family members and friends. This school was very active in projects and all kinds of Progressive Education. She will talk about daily life in the school and after-school activities on the farm.

2:00-2:45

Country Schools In Iowa and Beyond: The Center History for Rural Iowa Education and Culture- Katherine Martin and Dustin Witsman

This presentation will provide an overview of the Rural School Collections that are part of the Center for the History of Rural Iowa Education and Culture (CHRIEC) an initiative of the Museums at The University of Northern Iowa. A large number of extant public records documenting rural schools in Iowa have been brought together by the Museums. The records are being cataloged, with a completion date of late spring 2014. Hear of the importance of these records to researchers and of the numerous and varied collections of schoolhouse documents, artifacts, and oral history interviews. Included will be a focus on the Marshall Center School where visitors experience an authentic rural school and UNI.

Prairie Grove School: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - Gary Johnson

Prairie Grove opened its doors as a log cabin in 1840, closed its doors in 1960, and is currently owned and maintained by the Prairie Grove Cemetery Association. Learn how the Prairie Grove Fund Raising/Restoration Committee was formed in 2009 and consists of family members of the last students to attend Prairie Grove in the 1950’s. In addition to the restoration project, hear of the creation of a memory book that contains favorite memories from former students and the many plans for the future of the schoolhouse.

School Music and the Western Expansion - Pamela Stover

Music of the western expansion, including cowboy songs, songs of the prairie, and songs of the open range were often sung by children in the one-room schools. This presentation will focus on songs that were commonly sung either during the time of, or about the Pony Express and the western expansion covering the time periods from 1848 (the time of the California Gold Rush) through the era of the Pony Express (1860-1) through the Civil War. The geographical region will range from Missouri to California. Song topics will include: transportation, cowboy and prairie songs, songs of childhood, the Gold Rush and the Civil War. Enjoy all your old favorites in this presentation.

3:00-3:45

Victorian Features on Iowa Rural Schools-a Photographic Study 2011-2013 - Sandra Kessler Host

Willow Tree School, built in 1883, turned out to be a Victorian style rural school. The research question for the photo study was, "Was Willow Tree School, with its Victorian features, an exception or was it a genuine representative of Iowa rural schools?" As part of the journey to document the extent of the Victorian influence on Iowa rural schools, 260 schools were located, photographed and researched from 2011-2013. Numerous local historians were interviewed and old photos were examined when available. A decision was made that the 40 repurposed schools no longer represented original schools. This left a study group of 220 school structures. After

collecting and analyzing data 6 categories of historic schools emerged. When looking at the style, time built, who built them and the type and grade level of student served. Iowa's rural school system (1858-1966) happened to coincide with the Victorian Era (1860-1900). During this time 12,623 rural schools were built in Iowa. The photo study shows that over 30% of remaining rural schools have some Victorian remnants.

Back to the future to Attract Members and Money - Carla Barksdale

As historians, we're used to looking backwards to the past for answers, but maybe a solution to your problem is right here in the present - or even in the future! Join Carla Barksdale, Esq. as she shares the efforts of the Banneker School Foundation of Parkville, Missouri to use some newfangled methods to attract membership and donors for their restoration project. Learn how they have explored modern cyber space resources such as the internet, web pages, Facebook, Ancestry.com, Pay Pal, and others to address some age old problems, and what worked - and what didn't work.

4:00-4:45

A Primer in One Room Schoolhouse Literature and More - Caroline Bredekamp

This presentation will provide the audience with a bibliographical list of books and other publications and media available for use in their various one-room schoolhouse endeavors. Children's fiction and non-fiction, young adult fiction and non-fiction, adult fiction and non-fiction, periodicals, audio and video materials will be highlighted. Topics will range from short stories to poems, to recordings, both audio and visual, and periodicals.

From Country Lane to National Fame - Dale and Joan Prouty

Many national figures rose to prominence after receiving the roots of their education in a one room school. Several famous people were educated at rural schools in Washington County NY during the 19th century and those schoolhouses still exist today.

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8:30-9:30 Keynote Two Hundred Years of Missouri's One-Room Schools - 1774-1973 - Tiffany Patterson

This presentation gives an overview of the rise and fall of one-room schools in Missouri, highlighting the rising tide of support for public education following the Civil War, the Rural Renaissance, and the last days of the one-teacher public schools in Missouri.

9:45-10:30

The School of the Air: Speaking to Midwestern Country School Children - Veronica Ent

This session will introduce the early American "Schools of the Air" broadcasted curriculum of art, music, science, literature, and nature conservation of the 1920s and 30s. With beginnings in Ohio and Wisconsin, the School of the Air was a fascinating technology for the country schools of the Midwest.

Coming Full Circle: The 100-Year Journey of One Central Illinois Country School - Shana Condill

Center School, located in the heart of Illinois Amish country, is a one-room school, a diamond in the rough—saved by people who valued what it represented even before they knew its entire story or its full significance. During this presentation, we will take a journey through time, from Center School's construction in 1912, through its reincarnations as a consolidated school and 4-H Center, to its final home on a family farm open to an average of 50,000 visitors annually, including 4,000 school children for field trips. We'll also discuss the advantages this

preserved schoolhouse has to its owners, some of the obstacles faced & solutions discovered during its preservation and interpretation, and plans for expanding its programming.

10:30-11:15

Learning the Latta Way: An Early 1900's Teacher Pinterest - Susan Webb

The John Latta Company, since the late 1800's was a prime source for teachers in their pursuit of effective teaching and classroom management. The company published Latta's Book for Teachers, a 300-plus page soft-sided manual filled with a wide variety of academic lessons, classroom activities, and school supplies. Learn how the Latta's Book for Teachers became a widely circulated and treasured guide for teachers, many of whom taught in small rural communities, removed from much needed library sources. Latta books became a primary source of ideas, instructional information and school supplies and proved to be extremely helpful for teaching arithmetic, phonics, reading, spelling, nature, history, economics, civics, health and art exercises....and so much more! Audience members attending *Learning the Latta Way* will view and receive a packet of images from authentic Latta books, and have the pleasure of participating in selected classroom lessons, activities, and recitations.

Problems Facing Iowa School Teachers in 1920 - William Sherman

In 1920 many Iowa schools were unable to employ teachers. Numerous stories were written about this in local newspapers. In January 1920 The Des Moines Register invited teachers and citizens to send a letter to the editor describing this problem. This presentation will illustrate some responses received by The Register and some actions taken by teachers.

11:30-12:15

'Mr. Gantt, Modified'- Shelton E. Ponder

The play written and performed by Mr. Ponder, is based on the life of Liberty, MO, native Mr. Clarence E. Gantt, a graduate of Garrison School in 1920. After graduating from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, Mr. Gantt accepted a teaching job in Kingfisher, OK for seven years. He returned to Liberty as a teacher and coach for the famous football 'Wonder Team Garrison High School' in 1932. He later became the principal of Garrison School, and an educator for thirty-six years (1932-1968) in the Liberty Public School District who refused to be marginalized because of personal and professional sacrifices. Though the triumphs in his life were numerous, or miniscule, he focused on equipping all students with the tools an education could afford, along with integrity and perseverance. The human condition is quite evident because many people can identify with a teacher/s who made a positive difference in her or his life. Travel with Mr. Gantt through Liberty, America, and the world as he views the 20th century with insightful, compassionate, and determined qualities as a man and an educator. The play written and performed by Mr. Ponder is based on the life of Liberty, MO, native Mr. Clarence E. Gantt, a graduate of Garrison School in 1920.

Amish One-room Schools of Missouri - Mark Dewalt

In the past twenty years there has been a remarkable increase in the number of Amish communities, church districts and one-room schools operating in Missouri. This growth has been caused by three factors: the dramatic rise in the Amish population, the need for farmland, and the huge number of new Amish communities being formed around the US and Canada. In addition to looking at school data, the presentation will explore some of the unique issues relative to Amish schooling, such as, is it too worldly for an Amish student to have a 32 or 64 pack of crayons at school? Who runs Amish one-room schools? What is the average number of pupils per school? What are the interesting events that take place at Amish one-room schools each year?

2:00-2:45

News Writing for the Non-Journalist - David Burton

Do you wish to step up your chances of getting good media coverage for your organization? This presentation is designed for any layperson to help maximize their chance of getting material picked up by the media. Learn how to write and effective media releases from a professional with over 20 years of experience. Included: Basic tips for success as well as a survey of editors about what can be done to increase the use of your media releases.

Re-enactment in the Country School - Nancy Hughes and Ellie Hardesty

This presentation will help the participants better understand the process of becoming and performing re-enactment in restored country schools based on 10 years of experience as Miss Ellie at the Pittsboro One Room School in Pittsboro, Indiana. Content will include: character and name selection, era selection, research references, scripts, costumes and props, and audience participation in the school and at the conference. It will include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Schoolhouse* with examples of incidents and comments of visitors and the joy of being a schoolmarm in a small rural community. Participants in the session will be encouraged to share their stories of re-enactment during this session. Fellow re-enactors are welcome and encouraged to come to this program in costume.

3:00-3:45

Identifying, Collecting, and Preserving Country School History - Mary Outlaw

This presentation will delineate the challenge of identifying where country schools once existed, collecting available information about those schools, and preserving that information for posterity. The project will describe several methods used in identifying schools, and will provide opportunity for conference participants to share strategies they have found successful. While the focus will be on schools in Georgia, the challenges and strategies will relate and be applicable to many locations. Specific emphasis will be placed on the location of information---where documentation is currently housed, as well as any potential repositories that may be developed to include country school histories. Examples of publications about country schools and teaching will be included.

The Effects of the “Peculiar Institution” of Slavery on African American Schools in Missouri- Mary Celeste and Elizabeth Miller

Did you ever wonder why there doesn't seem to be many black country schools, and why the ones that do exist are usually not as old as those for whites? This presentation will focus on the multiple roadblocks that African-Americans faced in their efforts to get an education, especially in Southern and “border states” like Missouri. And, once permitted, schools for blacks often had inferior construction, poorly prepared teachers, used furnishings, and out-of-date material. But that didn't deter the hunger the children (and their parents) had to learn. You will have a much greater understanding of the terms “separate but equal”, and will want to stand and applaud those citizens, both black and white, who defied the segregation and discrimination enabled by the Jim Crow laws, and those children who, in spite of the challenges, achieved their dreams through hard work, supportive parents, and loving teachers.