

Rock Creek Valley Historical Society



October — November 2018 Newsletter

Address: PO Box 13
507 Burkman St.
Westmoreland, KS
66549

Phone: 785-457-0100

Website:
museum@westmorelandkshistory.org

Museum Hours:
1-4 p.m. Tuesday through
Sunday. Other times scheduled by
appointment.

Board of Directors

Judy Hinrichsen, president
Dan Schlochtermeyer, vice-president
Jenni Moore, secretary
Jackie Blenn, treasurer
"Chick" Roberts
Jill Lenauer Overkamp
Rita Newell

The Board of Directors meets
monthly on the first Wednesday at
7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings
are open to the public; please call
ahead if you have items for the
agenda.

Rock Creek Valley
Historical Society is a
501(C)3 organization.
Donations or memorial gifts are tax
deductible and will be put to careful
use in preserving our local history.

Happening this weekend:

The Riley County Genealogical Society
is partnering with us to present
a beginning workshop on

Saturday morning, November 3, from 10 a.m. to noon.

It will be held in the Farmers State Bank Directors Room,
307 Main Street, Westmoreland.

The cost is \$5.00. It is open to the public but registration
is requested by calling Jenni Moore at 785-457-3483.

Leave a message if necessary.

This class is for anyone who has ever wondered where his/her
ancestors came from, or who knows a little and wanted to know
more about their family history but didn't know how to get started.
It will also help those who have dabbled some in exploring their
roots but don't really know what to do next to determine the next
step and keep moving! We hope to see you there!



Can you help us? Did you or someone you
know (and can tell us about so we can ask them) grow
up using horse drawn equipment? We would like to
get together and talk about how this equipment was
used and record stories of what life was like using lit-
eral horse power! First hand stories can make these
exhibits come alive!



The Rock Creek Valley Historical Society is excited to receive one of the \$1,000.00 grants awarded from the Caring Community Foundation for 2018. The grant will be used to purchase a scanner and other computer equipment for preservation of documents and photos. In the photo, left to right are Jay Rezac, president of the Foundation, Jackie Blenn RCVHS treasurer, Jenni Moore RCVHS secretary, and Margaret Parker, writer of the grant. Margaret and Jenni volunteer as part of a group that meets regularly on most Monday mornings at the museum. Let us know if you would like to join in this work group!

The Board of Directors of the RCVHS has opened an account with the Caring Community Foundation. This means that tax deductible donations can be made to the historical society that will earn a higher interest rate. The historical society will have access to the interest earned on the account if we want to spend it at any time; we also retain ownership of the principal should an emergency arise. Every donation becomes a gift that keeps on giving. If you would like to contribute a gift to the historical society foundation fund of any amount, just contact a board member.

Other Notes From the Board

1. The Westmoreland Community Service Club met at the museum for their monthly meeting in September. They used the Wiziarde Building for the meal, followed by a treasure hunt tour of the museum and Annex for the program. These facilities are available for other groups, too!
2. We participated in the annual "Fabulous Finds on Highway 99" collectibles and garage sales in September. It took a lot of hard work but resulted \$940.90 in profit.
3. You may have noticed from the front page that we have a slightly new list of officers and a new board member. Scott Schwinn's term on the board has ended and Rita Newell has been elected to fill his place. Scott will be missed and we welcome Rita!
4. As fall moves along, we move closer to our closing date. Saturday, November 17 is the final day which we will be open for visitors for this season!



As you drive south about a quarter of a mile from Westmoreland on Highway 99 (just north of the Oregon Trail crossing of Rock Creek), you may have noticed this barn on the east side of the highway. It was built around 1865 by John McKimmons who came here in the mid-1850s from Westmoreland, Pennsylvania. He settled the farmstead in 1857-1858 which was later split in half by the highway. The barn is a 2 1/2 story bank barn, built in the style familiar to him from his former home in Pennsylvania with a forebay, or overhang, on the south side.

Mr. McKimmons is also responsible for the name of the town of Westmoreland as he established the post office in his home before there was a town platted here. A post office required a name, so he named it after his home county in Pennsylvania.

The barn was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. It is owned by John Reese who purchased it in 1997 from Steve Frank.