

**NEWSLETTER**  
**RICHARDSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**1401 CHASE ST. - PO BOX 45**  
**FALLS CITY, NE 68355**

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**Issue #33**

**Fall 2019**

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**Board of Directors 2019-2020:**

Richard Meinzer, President	Rita Seeba, Secretary
Leon Wilhelm, Vice President	Susan Nutzman, Treasurer
John Seeba	Austin Duerfeldt
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**President's Report**

Pablo Picasso once said "Give me a museum and I'll fill it." The new AG II building is completed and ready for filling. We have plenty of agricultural items ready to go into the building. Now we just need the time and manpower to complete the project. We still need your donations and memberships to help buy show cases, mannequins, and shelving for displays. But what a building we will have when finished! If you haven't seen it yet, stop in and we will show you around.

Thank you to the board of directors for having the foresight to follow through on this project. Thanks to all for your generous donations, memberships, and memorials to complete this fabulous building. A special thank you to John Seeba, Leon Wilhelm, and Richard Meinzer for the new kitchen and two restrooms addition. Thanks to all who donated cabinets, a new microwave, sinks, flooring, and more. See list of donations and services in this newsletter. Remember this all started with the generous donation of former board member, Jenny Margrave, to buy the property.

At the annual meeting in Aug., board members Nelle Pfister and Dee Pounds retired from the board. We thank them for their service. New members going on the board were Susan Sipple, Austin Duerfeldt, and June Bowers, returning member. Welcome.

We have received many visitors this summer and fall. Visitors coming for class or family reunions, home schooling projects, school tours, fun outings to Falls City and more expected since we are now the "City of Art". Special tours can be arranged. Call the museum at 402-245-4407 or Richard and Ann Meinzer at 402-245-3372 to make arrangements. Regular visiting hours are Tues. Wed. Thurs. 2-4. The museum will close Dec. 21 - Mar. 1 for the winter.

The museum is a good place for family items from Richardson County. Family members can then come to the museum to view the items. Memorials given to the museum in honor of family and friends is another great way to remember your family and to help preserve the history of Richardson County.

After Dec. 1, we will be decorated for Christmas. Come let us put you in the Christmas spirit. Enjoy some hot cider and a cookie. It only costs a small donation to visit.

The Waffleman will return again next Sept. 20. Come enjoy all you can eat waffles and sausages. A good time to eat and enjoy friends. This is the museum's biggest fund raiser.

A big THANK YOU to Norma Thompson for helping to update our museum with the internet. She is a wealth of information and loves genealogy. If she doesn't know the answer she will find it.

Hope to see you at the Richardson County museum real soon.

Richard Meinzer, RCHS Board President

### Greetings from Annie M's Kitchen

We are busy creating good food for our customers. Thanks to Rita Seeba, Richard Meinzer and Ann Meinzer, the Chef, good aromas and good food are flowing.

Christmas parties are planned, Christmas decorations are set, and the kitchen is ready with new menus and ideas. We are serving smaller parties since we only have a small kitchen staff now. But still great food.

Remember to call Ann at 402-245-4407 or home 402-245-3372 if you want to schedule a party. Rent is still reasonable and food prices are the same as last year. You won't need to clean, cook or even have to clean up after. We do it all. It helps the Museum, too, since Ann gives all tips back to the Museum along with the rent.

Have a Happy Holiday Season.

Ann, Richard, and Rita

The **Tractor Ride Across Nebraska** completed its tour June 8 in Falls City at the Museum. The RCHS Board served ice cream sundaes, pie, and cupcakes to the group.



Servers - JoAnn Koso, Carolyn Zentner, Ann Meinzer, Susan Nutzman, and Matt Beer





This 1951 Massey Ferguson TO 30, donated by Dennis Merz, was formerly owned by Merle Boggess of Salem.

It will join our 1919 restored by Wayne Pfister.



and a



in the new AG II building.



Cobblestone Parade August, 2019

### Some Recent Acquisitions

- Several additional United States, Nebraska. and local historical books and maps from Merle Stalder. He also sent us his US Army footlocker complete with uniform. Our military room is small, but mighty, in number of displayed items. Come take a look.

- The Gerlt family brought us their mother, Margaret Nussbaum's, pretty blue wedding dress worn when she married Raymond Gerlt in 1940. Do you remember the clip-on roller skates with a key to tighten them to one's shoes? Their daughter gave her pair to the museum.

- Large scrapbook binder compiled by long--time county teacher, Lucille Schloeder Buckminster. It contains class pictures from 1939-1982 from Center Dist. #85, Catalpa Grove Dist. #73, Gladstone-Brick Dist. #48, Brick Dist. #53, Glen Dale (Lichty) Dist. #30, Pleasant View Dist. #75, and Falls City Dist. #56 North School. Thank you, Joan Zoeller, for preparing it for display and bringing it to us.

- Broom hook and car cup holder from businesses owned by Robert & Mildred Appleoff

- Paul Zimmer family and Falls City 1950s-60s events scrapbooks, FCHS & Peru State yearbooks and memorabilia, local and state B.P.O.E. pictures from Nancy Zimmer Bok.

- Oil cups, two work aprons and farm tractor (Rumely) magazines from Betty Castan.

**Horse-drawn dump rake** in the garden of Don and Ruth Mullins south of Salem.

Soon it will rejoin other farm implements that were used by neighbor, Charles (Chick) Windle, when they are brought to our new AG II Building. Thank you, Ruth.



### Help Wanted

We do need help moving and placing the new acquisitions and relocating others. Some are large and some small. We need signs and descriptive labels. If you have any desire at all to share your time with us, don't wait for us to find you. Let a board member know you are willing to help, and we'll find something for you to do. - No amount of time is too small! Good things can happen with your input.

**We certainly appreciate our volunteer docents for their faithful service.**

## Looking Forward

Events 2019	Dates
Jam Sessions	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday – 7:30 PM
Board Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday, 9:30 AM
Themed Christmas Trees Display at Museum	December, 2019
Tri-State Corners Genealogical Society	1st Thursday - 7:30

### Memberships

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Membership/ Donation form and an addressed return envelope. Some of you have the previously offered lifetime memberships, some need to continue a current or lapsed membership, and some might be joining us for the first time. If your membership needs to be renewed, the mailing label will have a red 'X' beside your name. If you have questions about your membership status, don't hesitate to ask. We do welcome and appreciate your support.

Email: [rchs@sentco.net](mailto:rchs@sentco.net) Phone: 402-245-3372

Webpage: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nericchs>

## Memorial Contributions

In Memory of:	Contributed by:
Mildred Fritz	Don & Lloya Fritz
Jerry Rhodd	Shirley Gormley
John Parrish	Beverly Parrish, Barbara Parrish, Shirley Gormley
Betty Gruber	Don & Norma Thompson
Nancy Windle	Don & Natalie Windle Puett
Betty Jean Lee	Shirley Gormley
Denise Metzner	Doris Erickson
Ella Mae Romine	F & M Bank
Walter Pohlman	Mary Jane Weinert
Donald Vice	Shirley Gormley
Harley Herling	Shirley Gormley
Carolyn Meinzer	Shirley Gormley, Richard & Ann Meinzer
Virginia Stice	Shirley Gormley
Alyce Sickel	Richard & Ann Meinzer

The following played a large part in the AG II Building construction. Many donated their time and materials and/or offered reduced prices for services.

<p><b>CONN CONSTRUCTION</b>  <b>SOJKA PLUMBING</b>  <b>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE</b>  <b>EL CAMINO ELECTRIC</b>  <b>FALLS CITY CITY COUNCIL</b>  <b>FALLS CITY UTILITY CREWS</b>  <b>- POWER</b>  <b>- WATER &amp; SEWER</b>  <b>- GAS</b>  <b>RICHARDSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b>  <b>CHARLES &amp; GAIL MACK</b>  <b>SCHOLL LAWN SERVICES</b>  <b>SCHEITEL FEED &amp; SEED</b>  <b>JIM HILL'S</b>  <b>DWIGHT THOMPSON</b>  <b>FARM &amp; CITY SUPPLY</b></p>	<p><b>TRUE VALUE HARDWARE</b>  <b>HOME LUMBER</b>  <b>FALLS CITY MERCANTILE</b>  <b>BILLY LIPPOLD</b>  <b>PONY CREEK RENTALS</b>  <b>DONNY STEVENS TRIPLE S CONSTRUCTION</b>  <b>RIESCHICK DRILLING</b>  <b>BLETSCHER TRUCKING</b>  <b>ROBERT FISHER</b>  <b>CONCRETE INDUSTRIES, INC.</b>  <b>BOB &amp; TAMMY WITT</b>  <b>JIM &amp; DEB GERWECK</b>  <b>VISION INN</b>  <b>LEON WILHELM, JOHN SEEBA, AND</b>  <b>RICHARD MEINZER</b></p>
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*Conn Construction*



*John Seeba*



*Seeding  
by Scholl's*



*El Camino Electric*



*Ben Installing  
AC*



*John & Leon*



*FC Gas*



*Sojka Plumbing*



*FC Power*

*Much Work in Alley*



*Fourakers and Matt*



## Art at the Museum

Falls City was declared a "City of Art" by Mayor Shawna Bindle in October. As part of the Museum's participation in this cooperative endeavor, we printed a brochure listing the works of art on display in our auditorium and throughout the main building. We look forward to learning more about the artists.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WORKS OF ALICE CLEAVER, JOHN FALTER, TOM PALMERTON, ALLAN TUBACH, AND OTHER LOCAL ARTISTS ON DISPLAY IN THE RICHARDSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, 1400 CHASE STREET, FALLS CITY.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Alice Cleaver</i></p> <p>Bridge on the Seine Trowbridge Man Walking Toward Building Southwest Indian Home A painting found in Cleaver home (doubtful if hers) and one of her paint palettes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>John Falter</i></p> <p>"New Land-Old Land" - Print "St. Joseph, MO, August 11, 1859" (Lincoln)___/750 Boy on Mule &amp; Two Boys in Stream – Large 1978 "St. Joseph Gateway West" – Large Print 1978 Tracing for "St. Joseph Gateway West" - Large 1978 "Snowy Afternoon in the Country Store" - 423/500 "Lincoln Reading in Offutt's Store" - 89/500 "The Bridge" - Print Fourteen Sketches "Down-Thru-The-Ages" FCJ 1926 George "PeeWee" Erwin – Sketch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>From Saturday Evening Post Covers</i></p> <p>Falls City Christmas Stone Street-Dec.21,1946 Water Tower – May 24, 1947 School Bus – Oct. 12, 1957</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Commemorative Postage Stamps</i></p> <p>Black Angus Chautauqua Hard Red Winter Wheat Signed First Day Covers of Chautauqua and Wheat</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cartoons &amp; Sketches</i></p> <p>Falls City High School Yearbooks 1925-1928</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tom Palmerton</i></p> <p>Richardson County Schools Collage – Print Falls City Collage Print</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Allan Tubach</i></p> <p>Two-sided poster of <i>Allegories &amp; Artifacts</i>, 2004 "Building Nebraska Through the Arts," 1965-2000</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Other Artists</i></p> <p>Kevin Anderson – Portrait of girl Avis Bailey – RCHS Museum, Teepee Margaret Lewis Bauer – Winter scene Mae Bowers -Rural scene with red barn Myrtle Simmons Bowers -Shoreline scene Virgil Brackhahn – Wood carving of RCHS Logo Mrs. Ingram (Jennie) Cain – Bell-Jenne House Aileen Camblin – House at 1624 Lane ___ Conner – Portraits of Gov. &amp; Mrs. Weaver Jane Davis – Salem School Muriel Krueger Docker – Wooded scene with boys Lenora Gerhardt – Lilacs (or hyacinths?) Virgene Hunley - Coffee grinder with fruit and book Iva Huston - Cardinal Myrtle Kentopp-Cabin,Fall trees&amp;stream, Trees&amp;brook Leonard V Kimmel – Indian Chief Mary Little – Mountain scene Luella Herr Marsh – "Salem City Mills" Maybell Mason – Brook with Birch Trees Irene Duerfeldt McDowell–Williamsville School #23 Bill Morsman - Bird Claudia Moseley – Salem Mill J Knox O'Neil – Portrait of Gov. Morehead Katherna Peters – Red cottage Nelle Pfister – Cottier School, Candlelight Cabin, Downtown FC, Harvest Alice Stumbo Prater – Falls City Mill Pauline Blunt Rose – Falls City Falls Mary Johnson Rowen – Falls City Falls Roma Ruegge – Two of flowers Michael I. Schaible – Lake in woods Emma Louise Schock – Scenery with a brook H Smith – Dutch windmills Gertrude Sare Sperry–Dunlow Castle on a tray, 1888 Mrs. Charles(Miranda Myers)Steele–Three of flowers Leslie Stevens – Glass etching of Salem School Gilbert Stuart – Portrait of GW Legion Club 1932 Janet Surman – RCHS Museum logo Helen Christine Tangney –Pasture scene man&amp;woman Luella Weddel – Tree scene</p> <p>Several Works by Unknown Artists</p>
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## Falls City's Veterans of WWI Organization

Veterans of World War I, Inc., Barracks 1485, was established in Falls City in the late 1950s. VWWI was incorporated by Congress July 18, 1958, but is little known today. However, this veterans organization wasn't the first to be established by WWI vets. The American Legion was founded in 1919 by veterans returning home from France, what song writer George M. Cohan called "Over There." Their war, called the "Great War," or "the war to end all wars," was to "make the world safe for democracy," according to President Woodrow Wilson. It didn't turn out that way. Other wars came.

The American Legion grew, large numbers of WWII and Korean War vets swelling the Legion ranks. Some of the WWI veterans perceived that their needs were being neglected and felt that a separate organization was necessary. Consequently, the VWWI was soon founded nationwide. The Great War vets didn't abandon the Legion, however; many retained their membership, not joining the new organization. One of them was Falls City lawyer, Jean Cain, a founder of the Nebraska Legion, and a former State Commander in 1928.

The national VWWI organization was set up similar to that of the old G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War vet's organization), consisting of departments (states), districts (Falls City was in the 6<sup>th</sup>), and Barracks (local posts). Falls City's was designated 1485, it being the 1485<sup>th</sup> post in the country. There were other Barracks nearby; Auburn had one, Nebraska City (2536), and Peru (2563). Members were referred to as "buddies." Two years earlier (1956) the Veterans Service listed 123 living WWI vets in Falls City.

The charter of the Falls City Barracks was dated Oct. 23, 1958 with No. 1485 officially recognized Jan. 11, 1959 at the initiation held at the local Vet's Club. The first officers were C. O. Richardson - Commander, Jesse Dunn - Senior Vice-Commander, Erwin Lionberger - Junior Vice-Commander, Joseph B. Fleskoski - Quartermaster, Oscar Oakes - Judge Advocate, Jesse Grush - Chaplain, and Rubeen Hasenyager, Floyd McCarty, and William Van Meluney - Trustees. Meluney was the principal organizer of the Barracks. On Apr. 20, 1959, they acquired the former G. A. R. hall from the Women's Relief Corps, successor of the G. A. R.

There were 34 members listed on the Charter, one of them, Jesse Grush, listed twice. There were at least 19 others who joined later for a total of 53 known members. The majority, obviously were army vets, since most of the battles were fought in France. There were however, at least four navy vets, one of them having also served in the army, Van Meluney.

The records of Barracks 1485 are missing but there are six men known to have served as Commander. Richardson was the first (1959). He was followed by Jesse Dunn and Erwin Lionberger. In 1964 Edwin L. Haynes was elected. He later was elected District 6 Commander (1966) and in 1968 District Chaplain. In 1966 Given Spragins was chosen Commander. In 1969 Jacob R. Nanomantube received the office. He later served as District Commander and was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff at the national HQ in Washington, D. C. After 1975 the only Commander known is Spragins, who held the post apparently until his death in 1987. The Barracks held their monthly meetings in conjunction with their auxiliary. The auxiliary reported their activities in the paper, but the vets didn't. They would meet for pot luck dinners and then have separate meetings.

The VWWI held national conventions; two of them in Kansas City (1974 and 1975), now the site of the National WWI museum.



The national organization, like the G.A.R. before it, was destined to go out of existence when the last member died (2011). In Richardson County, the last member (and last WWI vet in the county) was Roy G. Myers, who died in 1996.

It had been recognized by the 1980s that the organization in Falls City was rapidly declining; the vets realizing that they could no longer maintain their historic hall. The Barracks trustees, Loys F. Smith, Roy G. Myers, and Leo P. Ducy approached the city council with suggestions on what to do with the building. Possibilities included use by a theatrical group, the Falls City Jaycees, or as a museum. After some deliberation, it was deeded to the Disabled American Veterans on Apr. 13, 1984. At this time, only 11 members still lived. Former Commander Nanomantube's death was reported in the same paper as the hall's sale. The sale of the hall also complied with the G.A.R.'s wish that the hall continue to be used for patriotic purposes. The original VWWI charter and a photo of the first officers are now on display at the D.A.V. hall with other service memorabilia.

After the hall was sold, the Barracks established a small office (HQ) at 1609 Lane St. until 1987 when it, and presumably the Barracks, was discontinued. After Spragins died that year, only two members remained – Leo Ducy (d. 1989), and Roy Myers (d. 1996).

Submitted by **Bill Rowan, Historian**

Seven Charter Officers of Falls City Barracks 1485  
1959



Front: Chalmer O. Richardson-Com., Jesse R. Dunn - Sr. V. Com., Erwin A. Lionberger - Jr. V. Com., Jesse Grush- Chap.

Back: William V. Meluney - Adj., Reuben H. Hasenyager-Trus., Joseph Fleskoski - Qm



In the Lucille Buckminster scrapbook there is this 1941 picture of the German WWI cannon that was in Falls City's Legion Park until it was donated to the scrap iron drive during WW II. Dist. #85 (Center) pupils shown are: Johnny Meyers, Phyllis Lundy, Betty Huston (Hone), Ralph Bauman, Billy Bowen, Duane Eickhoff, and Gene Ruegge.

Photo courtesy of Falls City  
Disabled American Veterans



## **The Falls City Rural Fire District, Inc.**

### **The First Years**

The first Fire District meeting, no date, but prior to April 30, 1947. Mr. Ed Poteet called the meeting to order and explained what the meeting was called for and what this organization would try to accomplish. Mr. Poteet appointed Mr. Tom Aitken as Temporary Chairman and John Lichty as Temporary Secretary. Next meeting would be April 30th, 1947 in District Court room. That meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. with approximately 20 present. It was decided to divide the district into four areas, with the courthouse forming the center of the area. Permanent officers we elected and one trustee from each area. These men will serve until the first annual meeting, September, 1947. A group discussion was held regarding the purchase and prices of a fire truck. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 midnight.

In 1947 trustees looked at fire trucks and equipment to purchase and initiated a drive to obtain memberships. The fees would be annually, owners living in the residence - \$3.00, tenants - \$1.00 and absent owners - \$2.00. It was decided to exchange fire fighting services with villages and other rural districts within an equitable distance.

September 27, 1947, Falls City Journal, notice was given of the incorporation of Falls City Rural Fire District, Inc. as a non-profit corporation under Article 6, Chapter 21, Revised Statues of Nebraska. Incorporators were Jesse H. Grush, Leslie Bippes, Herman Bisseger, John L. Nutzman and John H. Lichty. The general nature of it's business is to furnish fire protection to rural property adjacent to Falls City, Nebraska. Corporate life commenced April 30, 1947. Dean Arnold was President and Trustee, Heasty W. Reesman was Secretary-Treasurer and Trustee's were John Nutzman, Jesse W. Grush, Ralph L. Burgner, and Leslie Bippes.

May 29, 1948, bylaws were adopted and active members were accepted. My Father, Robert Zimmerman is the last living original member. It was decided to charge \$50.00 for a fire run to a non membership. By the September, 1948 annual meeting a fire truck had been purchased at a cost of \$7149.81. At least 543 memberships were sold for \$1689 and along with a loan for \$6500.00 from Farmers Mutual Insurance financed their first year. A 1948 Falls City Journal article reported the first runs by the Rural Truck. Throughout the years, the Journal reported many fire runs and demonstrations by the Rural Fire District. Many fire runs stand out, February 4, 1949, March 21, 1949 and in 1950 and 1951 homes destroyed completely including a death. The Rural Fire District assisted in many big fires in Falls City and the biggest being the Braniff Airline plane crash near Falls City on August 6, 1966.

There were many fundraisers through the years, February 18, 1949 - *DANCE to Silver Prague and His Orchestra*, \$1.00 per couple; April 24, 1953 - *Wes Hammon and his Orchestra* annual Spring Benefit, \$1.50 per couple; to the current Super Bowl day Pancake Feed! Always support your Rural Volunteer Fire Department!

Memories from my Dad: Going from farm to farm to try to obtain memberships in the newly organized Rural Fire District. Most said yes, a few said no. Monthly meetings on Monday nights. The many, many dances sometime right after Easter. The telephone on the wall ringing one long, long ring telling us, this was a fire call! The many demonstrations and practices. They put oil on the pond by the Preston Corner (it's no longer there) and practiced putting it out. There was a big fire at the Pumping Station north of town, the highway was closed, they had to use foam to put it out. They ran out of foam and Offutt Air force Base brought a pickup load of foam and they finally got it out. Pulling the fire hose through corn fields with the corn still in it. Of course, the most memorable, the Braniff Airline crash on a rainy stormy night.

Submitted by **Susan Sipple**

## The local history "jam sessions"

There were some sessions held in the past year. There are often events discussed that are the first time the group has become aware of. Members bring items to show; members tell of things their family has told them. One session detailed the ordeal for establishing the county seat. The root of the account goes back to 1832, long before the territory was formed. At the 4<sup>th</sup> Treaty of Prairie Du Chein (in Wisc.), (at those treaties, the Indians were being moved off of their homelands for a price) the half breed Indians were given a reservation since they weren't being included with full blood tribes. This Half Breed Reservation was on the general Indian land west of the Missouri River between the Nemaha River and the Little Nemaha River and extending west for ten miles. No allotments were made at that time. After the Kansas Nebraska Act was signed in 1854, the land was surveyed and real estate sections were assigned to individuals. Soon white settlers began acquiring land. One group chose to establish a village just west of the Half Breed Line. This village of Archer in turn was named the county seat of Richardson County. A problem arose when the south point of the line which had been measured ten miles along the meandering bank of the Nemaha and should have been a direct line from the Mo. R. This set the south point much farther to the west. The result of that placed Archer in the reservation. The residents moved out. Archer was no more.

The legislature named Salem as the temporary county seat. A new county seat had to be selected. The legislature directed it be chosen by vote of the countians. The town with a majority vote would be the county seat. With four choices, it was probable that none would get a majority of the votes. And, that's how the first election turned out.

The next election would pick the four highest.

The 4<sup>th</sup> election After contesting the count, vote was a tie! next choices to be Salem F C, Rulo and Arago

Followed by an election with the two highest to be the choices: Falls City and Rulo.

1860 June 4 The 6<sup>th</sup> Election for county seat was held As for the election result, Rulo got the most votes but Falls City filed notice of contest. Falls City now won.

It was at this election that the following occurred: The polling place was across the street and one door south from the hotel.

About 4:00 it happened that Dr J H Davis and Thomas (Richard?) Meek became involved in a personal confrontation, and a gun shot was fired and Meek was wounded in the thigh; the two were separated and the doctor returned to his room in the hotel along with his friend Mr Dunn. After buying a gun Meek soon forced his way to the hotel door. He met there Dr Davis. Shots rang out at the same instant. The two fell dead, upon investigation, it was Dr Davis's friend, Mr Dunn who fired the shot that killed Meek. He proceeded to ride out of town, being shot at but not being pursued. He returned to his home, a free man..

Rulo, succeeded in having the vote of St Stephen precinct thrown out by the canvassing board.. However, after a proper hearing in court found that the St Stephen precinct was regular which gave Falls City the winning count. The court house would be located block 59 in Falls City by vote of the people (Back in 1859, the mayor offered the town square, block 59, and would have a court house built.) A frame building was built in 1863.

1871.Sept, after the Civil War, the issue raised its head again. Salemites circulated petitions to change and reestablish the county seat in Salem. Two-thirds of the previous voters were needed to call for an election. The number was achieved! The county commissioners set an election date: Oct 10, 1871

1871.Oct 10, the election result: Falls City 1171, Salem 1030. Salem would have had to receive two-thirds of the vote. Still, the vote against Falls City was high.

In 1873 May 13. Falls City township voted to sell \$15,000 in bonds for a larger court house.

If that ordeal wasn't enough, after the court house was greatly damaged by fire in 1919, Humboldt campaigned to get the county seat there. More on that, later.

Submitted by **Richard Zentner, Moderator**

### On Our Shelves

- County plat atlases. These are good sources for finding land ownership. The 1896 and 1913 ones were indexed by the Tri-State Corners Genealogical Society.
- Cemetery Indexes. There are at least 56 burial sites in RC. One book is from Holt Co., MO.
- Phone Books and City Directories.
- School, Church, and Town Histories.
- Historical books and biographies including Edwards 1917 History of Richardson County.
- Books by Local Authors and Noted Nebraska Writers

Feel free to come browse our collection and sit down to read on comfortable seating. We will loan some books.

The museum has so many pictures of people, things, and events from the county's past that need to be sorted and placed into files. The process has been started, but we have a long way to go. We would appreciate any help we can get with this. It really is quite interesting to see the pictures and read about their sources.

The picture below was shared with us from the Nemaha Valley Museum in Auburn. The Jam Session report (p10) refers to this second County Courthouse.

### "Salvation Army Doughnuts

Here is the recipe for the Salvation Army doughnut the lassies served American fighting men overseas to give them a literal taste of home. Knead 5 cups of flour, 2 cups of sugar, 5 teaspoons of baking powder, 1 teaspoon of salt, 2 eggs, 3/4 cup of milk, and 1 tablespoon of lard. Cut and drop into boiling lard. When throughly brown, serve with a smile."

Source: Found by Ann in an old newspaper.



**Waffleman Bill serves at the first event in the new AG II Building.**





Richardson County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 45  
Falls City, NE 68355

### Sixteen Years of Progress



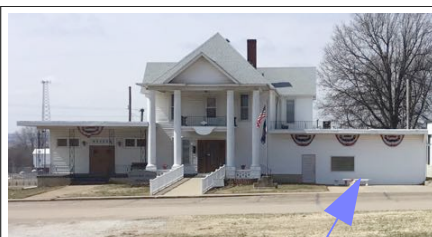
First Building 2003

>>>>>>>



AG Warehouse Building

Added 2011 >>>>>>>



Military Room Created from  
Garage 2015 >>>>>>>



AG II Building Completed September, 2019 !!

Support for mailing this newsletter graciously provided by Falls City Health Care Community.