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# Manhattan / Riley County Preservation Alliance Newsletter

August, 2001

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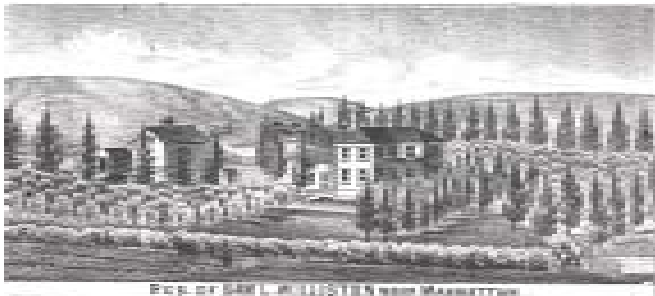
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## STONE HOUSE

### From Small Beginnings Come Great Accomplishments

Our June meeting took place in the spanking new Early Childhood Education Center, an expansion of the building long called the “Hoeflin Stone House” in honor of former Dean Ruth Hoeflin, who was instrumental in developing the property. Dr. Carol Kellett, Dean of the College of Human Ecology, Tresa Weaver, Development Director, and Barbara Anderson, historian and member of the Human Ecology Department, were our hostesses and guides.

The builders of the first stone house would hardly recognize their handiwork. The original dwelling, once a small comfortable home, was constructed in 1866 on a 160-acre homestead by Samuel L. Williston, blacksmith and operator of a stone quarry. From this quarry came building material not only for what was then called Black Walnut House, but for many of Manhattan’s



earliest buildings, including those on the campus of Kansas State Agricultural College.

John Gish bought the house plus 15 acres in 1905, for \$3,000. The family had relocated to Manhattan so their children could attend KSAC. When he sold his property to Kansas State for \$12,000 some 20 years later, eight of his 10 children had graduated from the college. An exemplary investment indeed! Would that we all could do as well!

Stone House has had many names: Williston House, Black Walnut House, North House—but would you believe Chicken Roost?



In 1912, Kansas State Agricultural College established a Poultry Husbandry Department, with a teaching poultry farm located on property just south of the Stone House. When the Gishes



sold the Stone House to KSAC to expand those facilities, the poultry husbandry students bunked in the upstairs bedrooms of the original house, and proudly called themselves the

“Roosters.” Their friends and professors became the Rooster Boosters. The 1935 Poultry Judging Team is pictured here. Teams such as this won intercollegiate competitions 10 times between 1929 and 1960.

The Poultry Farm moved elsewhere in 1965, and the Stone House did duty as temporary housing for students, farm staff and storage.

In 1977 the old vine-covered house was beginning to deteriorate. Dr. Ruth Hoeflin, who served as Dean of the College of Home Economics



from 1975 to 1983, envisioned its use as a teaching child care center, and went to KSU Vice President John Chalmers with her ideas. The Architecture Department was set to work on the old building, and it was transformed once again. Rehabilitation accomplished, the Ruth Hoeflin Stone House Early Childhood Education Center



opened its doors during the 1977-78 academic year to students in the Home Economics and Education Departments, and to Manhattan and faculty children, some of whom have since become K-State alumni themselves.

The most recent change came with the decision to build an extensive addition to accommodate a complete Early Childhood Education Center. With a generous donation of

private funds and Wichita architects trained at Kansas State, the facility has been expanded by 13,000 square-feet. The new addition is called, for its principal donors, the C.Q. and Georgia Chandler Institute for Child and Family Studies.

The old walls of the original Williston house can still be seen in the Intergenerational Center, and the attractive bay windows of the earlier additions are reflected in the windows of the new building. Sunlight permeates the rooms. Deep window sills invite seating. Everything is bright, cheerful, and conducive to learning. The former owners of Stone House would surely be pleased.



May 2000



June 2000

August 2000



April 2001




M/RCPA—August 2001

✠ **FIRST CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING** ✠

The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13 at the First Congregational church at Juliette and Poyntz. Dues date from that evening, \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

Following the Annual meeting, *dues-paying* members will tour Mel and Jan Borst's home at 1918 Humboldt. Wear your walking shoes, because we have been asked to park on Delaware and walk up the steps. There is not enough parking on the hill above without encroaching on the Borst's neighbors.



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**WHERE IS THIS HOUSE?**



Last month's mystery house was the large stone apartment building on the southwest corner of Laramie and Manhattan Streets, which looks somewhat different now. Dixie West came up with the answer. In 1931-32 this fine home was Farm House. Does it still exist? Where is it?

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**MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE, INC.**

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, August 9**, 7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church at Poyntz and Juliette. Barbara Anderson will update the membership on the Goodnow Park cabin. ★ Have you volunteered yet to serve on a committee for the Holiday Historic Homes Tour? ★ See the newest Depot candlehouse! How can it be used to build funds for the Depot restoration? ★

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE, INC.**

Dues date from the Annual Meeting in September. Dues paid mid-year confer membership status until the next Annual Meeting. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Checks should be made out to the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. c/o P.O. Box 1893, Manhattan, Kansas 66505. Questions? Call Linda Glasgow at 785-565-6490.

If anyone has news to put in future M/RCPA newsletters, please contact the Editor, Marolyn Caldwell, at 776-4862, or email [marolync@flintheills.com](mailto:marolync@flintheills.com).

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 9, 7:30 PM**

M/RCPA  
The Riley Co. Historical Society  
2309 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS 66502