

# OUR LEGACY

‘Creating a future for our past’



3RD QUARTER 2024

VOL. 53, NO. 3

## COMING EVENTS

### MONTHLY MEETING

**September 18, 2024**  
4:00 p.m., Legacy Center,  
310 Gunsmoke

### SPECIAL EVENT

**Historic Cemetery Tours**  
**October 12 - 13, 2024**  
2:00, 3:00, & 4:00 p.m.  
Maple Grove Cemetery

## COMMUNITIES

- Bellefont
- Bloom
- Bucklin
- Dodge City
- Ford
- Fort Dodge
- Howell
- Kingsdown
- Spearville
- Wilroads Gardens
- Windthorst
- Wright

## OFFICERS

- Kent Stehlik**, president
- Vacant**, vice-president
- Sonya Hughes**, treasurer
- Vacant**, secretary
- George Laughead**, past-president
- Aaron Fisher**, member at large

## 150-YEAR LEGACY OF THE WESTERN CATTLE TRAIL

by Michael D. King

The 150-Year Legacy of the Western Cattle Trail stands as a testament to the pioneering spirit and resilience of the early American cattlemen who helped shape the nation's westward expansion. Originating in 1874, this historic trail played a pivotal role in the growth of the cattle industry, connecting ranches in Texas to burgeoning markets in the Midwest.

The Western Cattle Trail, also known as the Dodge City Trail or the Texas Trail, originated in the hill country of Texas near present-day Kerrville and was not just a route but a lifeline for the continuation of the cattle trade. During the 1880s, the drives frequently passed by Dodge City, heading to Ogallala, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

‘Trail’ continued on Page 3

## FCHS is Seeking Volunteers!

If you have an interest in preserving Ford County history and have time to give, we want you!

Docent/Greeting/Reception  
 Event Planning & Organization  
 Photography/Videography  
 Community Outreach  
 Youth Programs/Organization & Ideas  
 Housekeeping/Janitorial  
 Computer Input/Data Entry  
 Help w/Mailings/Labeling/Stuffing  
 Artifact Cleaning, Repair & Restoration  
 Carpentry/Woodworking  
 Oral Histories/Capturing/Transcribing  
 Help with Grant Writing  
 Exhibits/Set-Ups and Tear-Downs  
 Writing/Researching  
 Demonstrations

Schedules are very flexible and we do not require a lengthy commitment. Couples and families are welcome!

**For more information, please call 620-789-3247 or send a message to [media@fordcountyhistory.org](mailto:media@fordcountyhistory.org).**

## Did you know?

FCHS has a new website! Visit us at [fordcountyhistory.org](http://fordcountyhistory.org) to learn more about the people and communities of Ford County.

Be sure to check back regularly for updates about our projects, events, and collections.

## Share Your Story

Our yesterdays define our tomorrows differently when we understand the path that led us here...

- As a country
- As a community
- As a family
- As an individual

**We want to hear your story in your own words!**



## LEGACY CENTER IS PROGRESSING!

Alan Salmans has generously lent us his beautiful gas pump from the H. B. Bell Auto Co. in Dodge City! It is the perfect companion to Violet Watson's 1941 Chevrolet Special Deluxe two-door sedan. This very special car was last registered to Irvin E Robinson in 1977.

The Motorsports Legends exhibit continues and we expect to see new pieces added to that collection this Fall.

FCHS is adding to the displays on our side every day. We have moved several antique cases into the building and are filling them with numerous items which have been in storage at the Home of Stone as well as several new donated artifacts.

Fall hours are Tues - Sat 10 am to 4 pm. The Ford County Legacy Center is closed on Sundays and Mondays.



## HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR

Mark your calendars for the Fourth Annual Historic Cemetery Tour October 12 and 13 at Maple Grove Cemetery. This year, we are returning to the oldest areas of the cemetery in Divisions 4 and 5. Guides will share stories about the Stubbs, Theis, and Hulpieu families, plus many more.

Tours start at 2pm, 3pm, & 4pm each day on the Dodge City Trolley. Tickets are \$20 and available at the Visitors Center (by the Matt Dillon statue) - cash or check only. Due to construction on Gunsmoke, we will announce the departure location as more information becomes available.

Join us as we travel back in time to learn about some of the characters in Dodge City's past.

### 'Trail' continued from Page 1

Some herds even journeyed to Canada. The Western Trail was paramount in transporting over nine million longhorns, of which 75,000 head of cattle were shipped out of Dodge City annually from 1875 through 1885. The last recorded herd to use the trail was in 1897, originating from the XIT ranch, the largest ranch in the world under the fence, in the Texas Panhandle.

Cattle drives were essential for the movement of large herds of cattle to markets, often hundreds of miles away. Cowboys played a vital role in the roundup process, which involved herding cattle, branding them, and separating them into manageable herds.

The heritage of the Western Cattle Trail can still be seen today in the western United States, with historical markers, museums, and annual events commemorating its significance. The trail continues to capture the imagination of people around the world, serving as a reminder of a bygone era when cowboys and cattle drives roamed the vast open spaces of the American frontier.

The Western Cattle Trail Association is excited to announce an exclusive 150-anniversary conference in Dodge City, Kansas, dedicated to the Western Cattle Trail. This two-day event, tailored for passionate trail historians, is a unique opportunity to delve into its history. The conference offers high-profile presenters, a complimentary historical trolley ride of Dodge City, and insightful discussions on the formation of a cattle trail consortium, all for a reasonable fee of \$75.00, providing exceptional value for your investment.

The conference will occur on Friday and Saturday, November 1st and 2nd, 2024, followed by the prestigious Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame induction ceremony. On the evening of November 2, Michael Martin Murphey will give a captivating solo performance at the Dodge City Convention Center. Tickets for the Cowboy Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and concert will be sold separately.

**HOME OF STONE MUSEUM  
MUELLER-SCHMIDT HOUSE**

**SEPTEMBER HOURS**

Mon - Sat 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**OCTOBER HOURS**

Sat - Sun 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



**CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTORS**

Ford County Commission & Administration

Kansas State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)

“Why Not Dodge” (CFAB)

Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas

The Mariah Fund

Humanities Kansas

Main Street Dodge City

United Telephone and Communications

IdeaTek

**CONTACT US**

**EMAIL** [media@fordcountyhistory.org](mailto:media@fordcountyhistory.org)

**MAIL** PO Box 131 Dodge City, KS 67801

**PHONE** 620-789-3247 **WEBSITE** [fordcountyhistory.org](http://fordcountyhistory.org)



[FordCountyHistory](https://www.facebook.com/FordCountyHistory)  
[fordcolegacycenter](https://www.facebook.com/fordcolegacycenter)  
[muellerschmidthouse](https://www.facebook.com/muellerschmidthouse)  
[PreserveFtDodge](https://www.facebook.com/PreserveFtDodge)



[fordcountyhistory](https://www.instagram.com/fordcountyhistory)

Dodge City, KS 67801  
PO Box 131  
Ford County Historical Society

