

SMCHA Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 20, 2011, 2:30 p.m. Eden Mennonite Church

Business meeting – election, budget, new business

Program – “Exploring Early Moundridge Through Photographs”

Rosemary Fisher, President of Moundridge Historical Association, has been a Moundridge resident for the past 40 years. She recognizes the rich heritage that Moundridge claims. Fisher has written grants for Moundridge Historical Association, one to preserve 3,500 photographs owned by the organization. Part of that grant was to produce a traveling photography exhibit to be shared with interested groups. This program includes those photographs and stories.

Refreshments and fellowship time following – RSVPs helpful by phoning 620-345-8532 or the Eden Mennonite Church Office 620-345-8320.

Annual SMCHA Membership dues for 2011 - \$15.00/individual (or \$100 for ten years); annual dues are valid only for the year fees are paid. Send dues to Treasurer Keith Goering, 1823 Arrowhead Rd., Moundridge KS 67107. If you are unable to attend, please complete and return the signed proxy below to Secretary Kathy Goering at 1906 Carnation Vlg., Moundridge KS 67107.



Founding of Moundridge Topic at 2011 SMCHA Annual Meeting

Elections at the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, added Val Krehbiel as vice president, Kathy Goering continuing as secretary, and Gerry Schrag and Keith Albrecht continuing as trustee.

Mervin Schrag was introduced as sexton of the SMCHA Cemetery at Hopefield Church. Four people were buried there in 2010: Vera Lyn Goering, Marlys Kaufman Voran, Mary Stucky Beebe, and Phil Stucky. The records of plots at the SMCHA cemetery have been updated and a copy exhibited. Copies could be made available if requested. Currently costs of plots are \$250.

Rosemary Fisher, president of the Moundridge Historical Association, brought a traveling exhibit of 50 photographs of 3,500 found from early Moundridge. She spoke about early history and the pioneers who managed the challenging climate, grasshoppers, and weather. She spoke of James Edwards, first settler in 1868 and Thornton Cole from Illinois who arrived in 1871. Christian Voran, Christian Hirschler and Christian Krehbiel founded the town of Christian just one mile south of present day Moundridge. When the railroad came, Christian was moved one mile north. Thornton Cole, Christian Kreh-

biel, Jacob Wedel, and John Wedel became Mound Town Co. in 1886, the beginning of Mound Ridge. Date of incorporation was July 5, 1887. One hundred signatures were on the application. The first newspaper, *Moundridge Leader*, started in March 1887 before the town was incorporated, and is the source of much historical data today. Some other firsts: In November 1887, the first school opened (the teacher was paid \$35 a month), first telephone company opened for business in 1904, first electricity 1908; rural electricity was not in place until 1936.



SMCHA Members Browse the Photography Display at the 2011 Annual Meeting

The SMCHA Research Committee is working on locating original homesteads of those ancestors who came on the City of Richmond in August 1874 and settled in Mound, Turkey Creek, King City, and Lone Tree Townships in McPherson County and Alta and Garden in Harvey County. A map of homesteads in

Mound Township in 1884 was displayed. The Research Committee is looking at church records, family genealogies, county deed offices, and county atlases but information is hard to find. Of 144 quarter sections, 15 did not list an owner. Almost all the land had already been homesteaded in 1887; very few were deeded directly to our ancestors.

The 82 attending enjoyed fellowship and sandwiches, cherry prei and poppyseed cake served by Eden's Mary Martha organization.