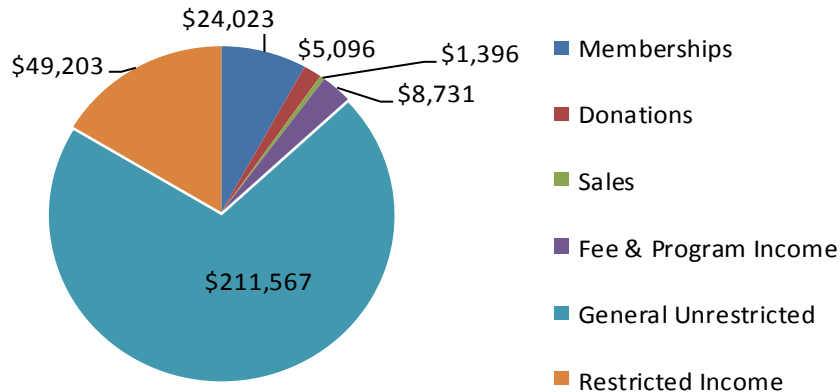
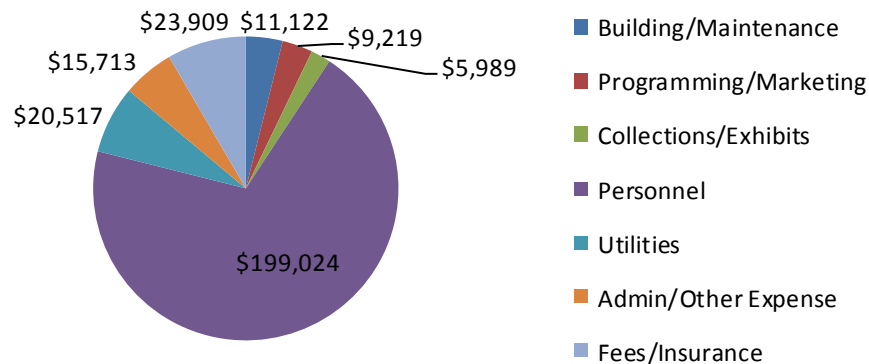


**FY 2015 Income: \$300,016**



**FY 2015 Expenses: \$285,493**



#### **DCHS 2016 Board of Directors**

##### **Officers/Executive Committee**

David Ambler, President  
Charles Jones, Vice-president  
Jerree Catlin, Past President  
Suzanne Nutt, Secretary  
Webster Golden, Treasurer  
Judy Billings, Member-at-large

##### **Members:**

Jeannette Blackmar	Pat Kehde
Marsha Buhler	Clarence Lang
Brady Flannery	Lew Phillips
Ann Gardner	John Pierce
Sandra Gautt	Harold Riehm

##### **Staff**

Steve Nowak, *Executive Director*  
John Jewell, *Business Manager*  
Brittany Keegan,  
*Curator-Collections Manager*  
Abby Magariel,  
*Education and Programs Coordinator*  
Will Hickox,  
*Assistant Programs Coordinator*  
Cole Finley, *Collections Assistant*  
Suzi Decker, *Education Intern*  
Jilliene Jaeger, *Education Intern*

# Douglas County Historical Society Watkins Museum of History Annual Report 2015



#### **Mission Statement**

*The Douglas County Historical Society encourages civic engagement by supporting the research and interpretation of county history through active exhibits and thought-provoking educational programs.*



Watkins Museum of History  
1047 Massachusetts Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
785-841-4109  
[www.watkinsmuseum.org](http://www.watkinsmuseum.org)



Bike Polo was one of the unusual sports featured at *Larryville Offbeat Sports Day* at the East Lawrence Rec Center in June.



At an April *Hometown Teams* program, Leonard Monroe shares his memories of playing basketball for the Lawrence Promoters during the days when segregation was common.



Participants in December's *Tails and Traditions Festival* enjoy Lawrence's Old Fashioned Christmas Parade from the front steps of the Watkins.



Students from Haskell Indian Nations University help celebrate the September opening of the exhibit *Under Protest*.

## Conservator (continued)

Nancy Helmstadter  
Jene Herron  
Bill & Carolie Hougland  
John & Sheila Immel  
Robert & Sheryl Jacobs  
Don & Alice Ann Johnston  
Charles & Carol Jones  
Thomas F. Keegan, Sr.  
Kennedy Glass  
Paul Kincaid  
Betty Laird  
John & Linda Lungstrum  
Jane W. Malin  
Julia & Joe Manglitz  
Gayle B. Matchett  
Newton C. McCluggage  
Bill & Jean Mitchell  
Brian Moss  
Tom Murray  
Bill & Becky Myers  
Jerry Nossaman  
Steve Nowak

Suzanne & David Nutt  
Dean Owens  
Mary Lou Penny  
G. Joseph & Diana Carlin Pierron  
Roger & Sue Pine  
Kent & Cathy Pringle  
Bob & Sandra Schumm  
Jan Sheldon & Jim Sherman  
Glee & Geraldine Smith  
Smith Service Company, Inc.  
Joe & Rita Spradlin  
Ruth D. Stoebener  
Steve & Pat Sublett  
Nancy & Scott Thellman  
Victoria Thomas & Roger Lambson  
Austin & Ruth Turney  
Randy & Edna Van Schmus  
Lorie A. Vanchena  
Dustin & Kathy Walker  
Chuck & Karen Warner  
Dan & Phyllis Watkins  
Norman & Anne Yetman  
Kurt & Pennie Von Achen

## The following members contributed to the 2015 Members' Challenge:

David & Mary Kate Ambler  
Judy & Dave Billings  
Peter and Rosalea Carttar  
Phil & Phoebe Godwin  
Leonard Hollman  
Jane & Michael Imber  
Ken Karr  
Jerome & Joan Nowak  
Suzanne & David Nutt  
Harold Riehm

Kathleen & Bill Argersinger, in memory of Bill and Marnie Argersinger and in honor of Eliza Mae and Blythe Fewins

## Sponsorships

In 2015, program support was provided by the following:

- Checkers Foods—*Oak Hill Cemetery Tour/Tails and Traditions Festival*
- Englewood Florist—*Oak Hill Cemetery Tour*
- Stephens Real Estate, Inc.—*Oak Hill Cemetery Tour*
- Warren-McElwain Mortuary—*Oak Hill Cemetery Tour*
- The Toy Store—*Summer Games Series*
- Mass Street Soda—*Soda Fountains of Kansas*
- City of Lawrence—*Offbeat Sports Day/Civil War on the Western Frontier*
- Lawrence Transit System—*Civil War on the Western Frontier*
- Scotch Fabric Care Services—*Civil War on the Western Frontier*
- Eldridge Hotel—*DCHS Annual Meeting*

## Membership

The Douglas County Historical Society closed 2015 with 232 members. Funds raised through membership dues are the primary source of support for exhibitions and public programming at the Watkins Museum. 45% of our members support the Society at an enhanced level with annual gifts of \$100 or more. We would like to recognize those members in particular for their generosity.

### **Jabez Watkins Director's Circle** (\$5,000 +)

Capitol Federal Foundation  
Barton P and Mary D. Cohen  
Charitable Trust  
Patrick & Maureen Costello  
Ethel and Raymond F. Rice  
Foundation  
Dolph Simons Family Fund  
of the Douglas County  
Community Foundation

### **Benefactor** (\$1,000-2,499)

Jerree and Harley Catlin  
Lew & Carolyn Phillips  
Mick Ranney  
Gary Smith & Janet Cinelli  
D. Elaine Taylor

### **Patron** (\$500-999)

David & Mary Kate Ambler  
Katie & Ken Armitage  
Redmond & Aileen Callaway  
Ann Gardner & Tom Gleason  
Norma Decker Hoagland  
Thomas & Barbara Holland  
John & Ardith Pierce  
Scotch Fabric Care Services

### **Preservationist** (\$250-499)

Cork & Barrel  
Webster & Joan Golden  
Ken Karr  
McDonald's of Lawrence  
Jerry & Judy Niebaum  
Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home  
Dale Slusser & Sherry Fowler

Byron & Marion Springer  
Bill & Katherine Tuttle  
US Bank  
Laurie Ward  
Warren-McElwain Mortuary  
Peter & Elizabeth Welsh  
Sean Williams

### **Conservator** (\$100-249)

Adecco Personnel  
Kathleen & Bill Argersinger  
Markie & Peter Bieri  
Judy & Dave Billings  
Jeannette Blackmar &  
Jack & Jacob Hofman  
Robert & Sharon Brown  
Patricia Campbell  
Peter & Rosalea Carttar  
Leslie E. Christenson  
Marshall & Sandee Crowther  
Dennis & Judy Dailey  
Virgil & Jan Dean  
Vicki & Joe Douglas  
Christopher & Kaye Drahozal  
Guy & Dede Dresser  
David Dunfield & Pat Graham  
The Eldridge Hotel  
Emprise Bank  
Donna Gatts  
Mike & Julia Gaughan  
Sandra Gautt  
Stephen Glass & Terese Gorman  
Phil & Phoebe Godwin  
Cap & Kitty Gray  
Sue & Al Hack  
Emil & Bette Heck

## **From the President, David Ambler**

It has been another year of growth and development for the Douglas County Historical Society and the Watkins Museum of History! In every aspect, it has been a year of new achievements in our facilities, programs and, most importantly, our visibility and importance to the Douglas County community. Success is not always measured in numbers. Several special and unique gifts this past year underscore the increasing importance and regard that local families have for the Watkins Museum. In particular, two families have enhanced the value of the museum's iconic 1870 children's playhouse. The shutters that once covered its windows were found and donated by the playhouse's original donor. Another family gave a memorial gift to renovate the playhouse which will be an important feature in the upcoming remodeling of the third floor. Other gifts this year give witness to a growing value of the Society and Watkins Museum to Douglas County.

Growth in the number of exhibition visitors and program participants was exceeded only in the quality and uniqueness of these offerings. The variety of exhibitions ranged from a textile history of Lawrence through a review of the 1939 National Cornhusking Contest held in Lawrence to thought provoking activities examining the treatment of emigrant tribes in Franklin County, Kansas.

During 2015, we completed the renovation of the main stair hall that not only made it more physically attractive but allowed it to become another area for displaying Douglas County history through new wall hangings and window coverings. Now the Board and museum staff are turning their attention to the major renovation of the third floor. This renovation will pave the way for new core exhibits focusing on the social, educational, commercial and political forces that have shaped Lawrence and Douglas County throughout its history.

No report on the Society and Watkins Museum can end without a resounding "thank you" for our talented and energetic staff and volunteers and you, the members, who help make all this possible. We hope you will join us for the exciting events and activities planned for this year!

## **From the Director, Steve Nowak**

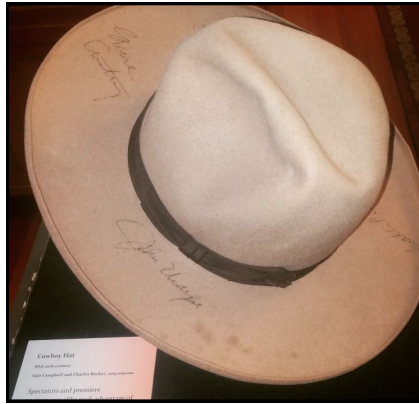
Sometimes it's not a matter of who you are, but who you know. "Who we know" at the Watkins has helped make the museum much more than it could be on its own. As you look through this annual report, you will find many examples of the great work, creative programs, and engaging outreach we accomplished with the help of volunteers, government agencies, and area cultural organizations. Without them, 2015 would not have been so successful.

Partnerships have helped us engage new audiences, communicate with a broader public, share resources, and host appealing programs and exhibits. We look forward to working with partners old and new in the coming year. With their help, we have a whole range of exciting opportunities for our visitors and the community in the works for 2016. We hope you will visit the Watkins soon.



## Collections

2015 was a great year for collections at the Watkins. New collections additions cover a diverse range of Douglas County history. As information spread about last year's *Dark Command* exhibit, the museum received a number of artifacts related to the premiere. Sam and Becky Campbell, along with Charles and Katie Becker, donated a hat signed by John Wayne, Gene Autry, and other movie stars who visited Lawrence for the premiere. Other donors gave the museum a magazine from Republic Studios documenting the premiere, production stills, and a Spanish language movie poster from the film's showing in Mexico.



*Dark Command* Souvenir Hat  
Donor: Sam & Becky Campbell, Charles & Katie Becker, 2015..009.001



Button  
Donor: Mike Silverman,  
2015.030.018.005

Acquisitions also provided more information on civil rights issues in Lawrence. Mike Silverman donated 20 years' worth of information about the LGBT community in Kansas as well as the Simply Equal campaign to protect the housing and civil rights of citizens discriminated against based on their sexual orientation. Sports fans will appreciate the LHS letter jacket and *LIFE Magazine* article documenting Lawrence High's 1960 football team, whose record-breaking streak of winning games drew national attention.

Staff and volunteers worked hard to continue organizing unprocessed collections from past years. Through their efforts the museum has uncovered a number of artifacts previously unknown by staff. These rediscovered objects include an ushers badge from the 1940 premiere of the film *Dark Command*, a chair and dresser made for the Van Hoesen/Wilhelmi playhouse, popular with the museum's youngest visitors, and nails fused together by the heat from fires set during Quantrill's raid.



Usher's Badge  
2015.048.001

## Volunteers

Twenty-seven individuals provided 3,270 hours of volunteer service in 2015. DCHS/Watkins Museum volunteers helped improve record-keeping and storage of the collection, welcomed visitors, helped keep the museum looking great, and assisted with tours and public programs. We thank the following dedicated volunteers for their ongoing commitment to the DCHS and Watkins Museum:

Bill Arick  
Katie Armitage  
Tom Arnold  
Lindsay Crick  
Monica Davis  
Abe Eitzen  
Donna Gatts  
Will Hickox  
Mike Higley

Joan Hughes  
Dorothy Ingersol  
Ken Karr  
Charles Kelly  
Aylo Lippe  
Jeff Lopez  
Alissa Mehan  
Tegan Modica  
Kathryn Newman

Kaustubh Nimkar  
Bethann Rea  
Edward Reyes  
Precious Sanders  
Anne Sargent  
Charlie Thomas  
Dustin Walker  
Kathy Walker  
Zach Dodson

### 2015 Volunteer of the Year

2015's volunteer of the year has not been involved with the museum for long, but has made many contributions in that short time. Monica Davis assists public researchers, staffs the front door on Wednesday mornings, has helped restore woodwork, and carries out research for museum programs and exhibits. We are very glad she chooses to share her many talents with us. Thanks Monica!



2015 Volunteer of the Year,  
Monica Davis



New Window Coverings in  
Main Stair Hall

### Special Thanks

Many people helped make the May 3 Oak Hill Cemetery walking tour a success:

#### Event Committee:

Katie Armitage, Monica Davis, John Jewell, Jan Shupert-Arick

#### Event Tour Guides and Volunteers:

Dave Ambler, Bill Arick, Ken Carr, Jerree Catlin, Cole Finley, Ann Gardner, Judy Jewell, Brittany Keegan, Abby Magariel, Steve Nowak, Charles Thomas, Bob Thurber

#### Interpreters:

Frank Baron, Maggie Postma Carttar, Monica Davis, Jan Elder, Charles Jones, John Musgrave, Verdell Taylor, Bob Wandel

## Facilities Improvements

In 2015 the DCHS carried out just over \$34,000 in capital repairs and improvement projects. These projects help ensure the long-term preservation of the Watkins Building and enhance visitors' experiences of the museum.

2015 capital projects included:

- Gutter and storm drain cleaning and repair, \$3,345
- Replace HVAC systems in collections storage rooms, \$13,443
- Replace AC condenser for second floor gallery, \$3,856
- Replace damaged slate roof tiles, \$7,057
- Complete restoration of third floor windows, \$6,384

## Grants

In 2015, the Douglas County Historical Society received grants from:

- The Ethel and Raymond F. Rice Foundation  
*\$18,278 to support museum internships*
- Douglas County Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program  
*\$85,125 to support infrastructure improvement and renovation on the museum's third floor to prepare for core exhibit installation*
- Douglas County Community Foundation  
*\$5,000 Community Grant for window coverings and interpretive wall panels in main stair hall*
- City of Lawrence  
*\$30,000 to support main stair hall renovation and third floor core exhibit development*
- Kansas Humanities Council  
*\$300 for Speakers' Series program*  
*\$1,485 for Hometown Teams presentations and Larryville Offbeat Sports Day.*
- Mid-America Arts Alliance  
*\$7,500 Artistic Innovations Grant for Kansas Peoples History Project*
- Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission  
*\$5,000 Strategic Investment Program grant for Kansas Peoples History Project*



## 2015 Exhibitions

- *A Stitch in Time:  
Lawrence History Through Textiles*  
January 30-April 11, 2015
- *Pleasant Distractions:  
Leisure Time in Lawrence*  
Opened February 27, 2015
- *Movie Stars on Mass Street:  
Lawrence and the Dark Command  
Premiere*  
April 18-August 23, 2015
- *Progress Report:  
Education in Lawrence*  
May 19-September 9, 2015
- *Memorials and Memories:  
Honoring Lawrence's Union Veterans*  
May 22-September 27, 2015
- *Four Days in Cornville: The 1939 National Cornhusking Contest*  
August 28-December 5, 2015
- *Under Protest: Emigrant Tribes  
in Franklin County, Kansas*  
September 25, 2015-January 9, 2016
- *Shared Spirits:  
Exploring Dia de los Muertos*  
October 6-November 30, 2015



*Progress Report*



*Under Protest*



*Four Days in Cornville*



## 2015 Programs Overview

Events at the Watkins grew in new directions in 2015. Audiences new to the museum attended programs both on- and off-site, and collaborations between the Watkins and other organizations from across the city and state continued to serve the community.

### New Audiences

Several sports-themed programs linked to the Kansas Humanities Council and Smithsonian “Museum on Main Street” program welcomed audiences and participants that had never visited the Watkins. The Offbeat Sports Day in June, the Lawrence Promoters talk in April, and the “Four Days in Cornville” exhibit all drew widespread attention to the Watkins.

### Partnerships

The Watkins and the City of Lawrence partnered for several programs in 2015. The Oak Hill Cemetery Tour in May, the Offbeat Sports Day, the Mud Fort program, and the improved bus services for Quantrill’s raid tours during Civil War on the Western Frontier in August were all a result of this great partnership. In addition, collaborations with the Spencer Museum of Art, the Lawrence Public Library, KU Museum Studies, the Toy Store, Kansas Public Radio, the Kansas Humanities Council and other groups continued to provide new and engaging programs to the public.



A cooking demonstration using healthy foods at October’s Food Day



Athletes on the KU Quidditch Team demonstrate the sport during the Watkins Offbeat Sports Day held at the East Lawrence Recreation Center.

### Maggie Herrington

The flagship educational program at the Watkins continued to grow, this year reaching nearly 650 third-graders and their teachers at twelve Lawrence elementary schools. This hands-on history lesson encourages children to think about life in 1860s Lawrence from the perspective of a real girl from that time.

## 2015 Attendance at a Glance

- Attendance for the year was 15,482, a .5% increase over FY 2014
- Walk-in visitors accounted for 6,669 of the total
- 983 people participated in a guided tour of the Watkins Museum
- 2,017 people attended meetings or rental events at the museum
- 118 researchers visited the archives
- 3,828 people attended programs at the museum
- 1,862 attended museum programs and presentations held off-site

### Distinguished Visitors

In July, the Australian Ambassador to the U.S., Hon. Kim C. Beazley, AC, and a party from the embassy in Washington, D.C. visited the Watkins Museum. Museum staff led the party on a Quantrill’s raid walking tour of downtown Lawrence. Ambassador Beazley has a great interest in the history of the American Civil War and was fascinated to learn more about Lawrence’s role in the conflict.



Julie McPike, FFNHA Managing Director, and Steve Nowak, DCHS Executive Director, welcome Ambassador Beazley (4th from left) and his party to Lawrence.

### Research

In 2015, collections staff Brittany Keegan and Cole Finley, and research volunteers Monica Davis and Tom Arnold, devoted 487 hours to assisting 164 patrons with research questions by phone, e-mail, and in person. As part of fulfilling these requests, 113 photographs and 275 pages of documents were scanned. \$365.40 in research fees were collected and several hundred dollars in donations were received in gratitude for their research efforts.

### Rights and Reproductions

The museum received 25 reproduction requests in 2015. Collections staff provided scanned images of 75 items from the collection for reproduction in a variety of print and online publications and exhibits.