



# Harvey County News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2013

## UPCOMING DATES

- **Courthouse Closed**  
May 27
- **City/BOE General Election**  
April 2,  
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- **Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class**  
April 8, 4 p.m.  
April 15, 11 a.m.  
May 6, 4 p.m.  
May 20, 11 a.m.
- **West Park Educational Series**  
April 13, 7 p.m.:  
Nature Hike  
May 11, 7 p.m.:  
"Whoo's There?"  
June 8, 7 p.m.:  
"Bug Off"

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## Welcome Commissioner Hague

By Randy Hague

As I step in as your newly-elected commissioner, I realize the importance of past experiences and relationships.

I am fortunate to have been employed by those whom I think were three top entrepreneurs in Harvey County; Sidney Nattier, Ben Skene and Charlie Newell.

For the past 36 years, I have been self-employed in our family business, Hague's Paint & Decorating. Our oldest customers shopped at the Davis Paint Store, which we purchased from Jerry and Flossie Mattison in 1977. We have also employed Newton High School

and Bethel College students. In 2004, we opened a second store in Salina and, after three years, sold it.



**Randy Hague**  
2nd District  
Commissioner

In my younger years, I took flight instruction through Hesston College and obtained a private pilot license. In 1984, my wife and I joined relatives and flew in a six-passenger Cessna 210 to North Carolina and New York state.

Five years ago, I gained back an inch in height after bilateral knee surgery at Newton Medical Center. Thank goodness I am now pain-free.

My current interests are entertaining friends and family at our

home, golf, bicycling, taking care of a huge yard, college football and basketball (Rock Chalk).

My family consists of my wonderful wife, Brenda; our lovely red-head daughters Ashley and Brooke; the best sons-in-law anyone could ask for, Trevor and Dustin; and our grandson Aiden, my coffee buddy, all of whom live in Newton.

As you can see, I have strong local ties to this community and I look forward to getting to know everyone who works for the county.

John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber, commissioners Westfall, Krehbiel and Roberson have made me feel welcome during this transition.

Wishing you optimism, peace, success and prosperity.

## Bike across Harvey County

A new project is on the horizon for bikers across Harvey County -- and not the kind of bikers with motorcycle jackets-- these bikers often use reflective gear and light-weight helmets.

Harvey County commissioners heard recently from a local group called ReNewton Bicycle Initiative detailing the need for bicycle signage.

Jerry Smith and Dana Shiflett, representing hundreds of bicyclists that ride in Harvey County, presented the commission with information requesting that certain county roads need signage.

The group wants to make roads in Harvey County safer

for those who bike for exercise or transportation.

Approximately 70 locations are proposed for the signage placement. Each sign would identify the road as being used by bicyclists and reinforce that motorists are required by law to stay at least three feet away from bicyclists.

Jim Meier, road and bridge superintendent, said signs would cost approximately \$25 each and posts would cost about \$12 each. Signs could not be placed on existing sign posts because they are required to be at a certain level on the post.

ReNewton Bicycle Initiative members proposed their group pay for the signs, an investment of about \$1,000 and Harvey County would take care of the installation.

The cycling group asked that signs be in place by March in time for the beginning of the bicycling season.





**To date, Harvey County has saved more than 30,000 pounds of textiles from going into the Reno County landfill through our partnership with Planet Aid.**

## Planet Aid

Transfer station supervisor Roy Patton is in the never-ending process of looking for ways to decrease waste in the landfill, hoping to aid the planet and its inhabitants in being healthier.

One of the things Patton has noticed over the years is how much of the waste entering the transfer station was discarded clothing and textiles.

As he was taking electronic waste to Leavenworth a year ago, Patton came across a tall, yellow box sitting at a service station. Upon closer investigation, Patton found that the box was used for collecting textiles for a non-profit company called Planet Aid.

The company collects and recycles used clothing and shoes to protect the environment and support sustainable development in impoverished communities around the world.

According to Planet Aid, 20 percent of clothing donated is sold to thrift stores, 25 percent reprocessed and made into other products, 20 percent of cotton clothing that is not able to be worn is made

into rags, 5 percent unusable material sent to the landfill and 30 percent wearable clothes are sold to consumers in developing countries.

Since their inception in 1997, Planet Aid states that their recycling program has saved more than 800 million pounds of clothing from wasteful disposal. This has prevented more than 1.5 million tons of greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere.

To date, Harvey County has saved more than 30,000 pounds from going into the Reno County landfill through our partnership with Planet Aid.

Harvey County residents often dispose of their old and worn cloth textiles in the trash. Not only are many of these items still in wearable condition, but these items could easily be donated to thrift stores, given to those less fortunate or donated to one of the big yellow boxes now located at the Harvey County courthouse and transfer station.

Our county continues to work to save unnecessary materials from going into the landfill. This saves the earth and saves our citizens' money.

If you are interested in disposing of your old clothes in one of Harvey County's yellow bins, just place any unwanted textile items in a bag and visit the south side of the Harvey County Courthouse building, 800 N. Main St. in Newton, or the Transfer Station, located at 3205 S.W. 24th St. in Newton.

For more information, contact transfer station supervisor Roy Patton at 283-5439.



## An ordinary, amazing woman

By Kristine Schmucker, HVCO Historical Museum Curator

At the time of her death in 1923, Mary Rickman Anderson Grant was among the last of the first settlers of Harvey County, but her name never appeared in any of the old settler lists. She is not pictured in the *Kansas 25th Anniversary Edition* printed in August 1922, a year before her death. Her story, and that of her pioneer family, remained alive through oral tradition within the larger Rickman, Anderson and Grant families.

Mary was born in Sparta, Tenn. in April 1835 to Mr. and

Mrs. Nathaniel Rickman. At some point she met and married David Anderson, a Civil War veteran from Co. I 14<sup>th</sup> Reg. U.S.C.T.

By 1870, the entire Anderson family was living in Ohio, with David listed as head of the household. Joseph, America, Lucy and Tennessee (all born in Tennessee) and four more children (born in Ohio): James Wayman, Thomas Jefferson, Nathaniel and Carrie were all listed.

In 1871, the Anderson fami-

ly decided to move to Kansas. Like many black families, they saw the opportunity to own land. The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed a citizen to file "first papers," pay a \$10 fee and claim 160 acres of land in the public domain.

The Anderson family left all that they knew and traveled by covered wagon to Emporia, then to Florence where the family stayed in a dugout while David Anderson went on to the homestead site in Pleasant Township, Harvey

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# Ordinary woman

Continued from pg. 2

County. Here he began building a new home, but met with misfortune almost immediately. One of the horses died, leaving only one older horse for the difficult work of breaking the prairie sod. Anderson decided to trade the horse for a pair of oxen and continued to work on improving the claim. Anderson filed for a homestead in Harvey County, but he did not live to see the fruits of his efforts.

David died on April 3, 1872, leaving Mary with eight children on the prairie. He was buried on the homestead.

Mary was determined to keep the homestead. Other members of the family helped her complete a sod house. For the first several years, Mary lived in the small soddy with her eight children.

The boys "slept in swinging beds hung from the cellar rafters so that they would be protected from snakes and insects," Marguerite Rickman

Huffman stated in her book, *Anderson, Rickman, & Rossiter Family Reunion Picnic*. Wild life of all types, including wolves and buffalo, would come within a short distance of the house. Fuel was scarce, so like other homesteaders, the Anderson family relied on cow chips and corn stalks for cooking and heating. From the homestead it was an all-day trip to Peabody, the site of the nearest mill for the Anderson family, where the older boys would go by horse with a sack of corn to be ground.

Death from accident or illness was a constant threat to the new settlers. In 1872, Mary's daughter, America Turner, died and was buried in the family plot on the homestead, with three granddaughters joining her over the next decade.

Another early challenge that faced the Anderson family was a winged

creature known as the Rocky Mountain Locust. Aug. 7, 1874, no doubt started out like any other day for the Anderson family. Perhaps Mary was up early making breakfast when she noticed that the sky seemed to be darkening. At first she may have thought the low, dark gray cloud "being blown swiftly from the northwest" was a rainstorm. It was soon apparent that this was something else entirely.



**Mary Anderson Grant and her family were some of the last to first settle Harvey County land**

Billions of grasshoppers had arrived in "swarms so large they blocked out the sun." For three days the locusts, only 1.25-1.4 inches long, whirred and chewed their way across Harvey County. In their wake, total destruction. "At the end of that time every stalk of corn and garden and every vestige of vegetation that was green enough for them to eat simply was not. It did not exist. All paint and even

the old black boards and logs were eaten until they looked like new lumber," Rickman Huffman stated.

In 1876 the Anderson family confronted another challenge of the prairie. A prairie fire broke out near Whitewater, south and east of the Anderson claim. Soon the flames were sweeping across Harvey County in a 10-mile-wide swath and a neighbor lost his barn and 20 head of cattle. Young Jefferson Anderson was home alone at the time. He did the only things he could think of -- he turned the oxen loose and chased them to the creek. Amazingly, the house was spared. The main loss was of a pig pen and a stable.

46-year-old Mary Anderson married Orison Grant, a Civil War

veteran, in September 1878, with a Justice of the Peace performing the ceremony. Grant was 61 at the time and had also come to Kansas in search of land to call his own. He settled on a claim in Highland Township in 1871.

After their marriage, the Grants sold the Highland claim in two parts; the first in 1885 for \$1,350 and the second in 1886 for \$2,000. In 1889, Mary made the final \$8 payment on her homestead in Pleasant Township -- the farm was officially hers. Orison Grant died Feb. 3, 1893. His *Newton Kansan* obituary noted that "people that knew him intimately dubbed him 'General' which always pleased him. He was respected by all who knew him."

Mary stayed on the homestead until 1910. At that time she sold the farm for \$8,500.

Family was important to Mary and it was important to her that the family stayed together. When she moved to Newton, she had the six members of the family who had been buried in the family plot on the farm moved to Greenwood Cemetery, Newton. For the next 13 years Mary lived with her daughter, Lucy Rickman Mayfield in Newton.

Mary Grant, Harvey County pioneer, died August 1, 1923 at the Mayfield home.

***"The boys slept in swinging beds hung from the cellar rafters so that they would be protected from snakes and insects."***

***-Marguerite Rickman Huffman (in her book Anderson, Rickman, & Rossiter Family Reunion Picnic)***



Anderson Homestead

**The Anderson family struggled through multiple challenges, including death and pests, as they worked to settle their homestead land in Harvey County.**

## April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 HVCO Commission Advance Voting Public Health Week	2 City/BOE General Election	3	4	5	6
7	8 HVCO Commission Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class	9	10	11	12	13 HVCO West Park Educational Series Nature Hike
14	15 HVCO Commission Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 HVCO Commission	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 HVCO Commission	30				

## May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 HVCO Commission Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class	7	8	9	10	11 HVCO West Park Educational Series "Who's There?"
12	13 HVCO Commission	14	15	16	17 Camp Hawk Disc Golf Tournament	18 Camp Hawk Disc Golf Tournament
19 Camp Hawk Disc Golf Tournament	20 HVCO Commission Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Courthouse closed	28 HVCO Commission	29	30	31	

## June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 HVCO Commission Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class	4	5	6	7	8 HVCO West Park Educational Series "Bug Off" East Park C.A.S.T. Event
9	10 HVCO Commission	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 HVCO Commission Health Dept. Breastfeeding Class	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 HVCO Commission	25	26	27	28	29
30						