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**BCHS Silver Engineers**

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**A Huge Thanks to our Silver and Gold Engineers for their support of the BCBS/Trails & Rails Museum**

(Contact Trails & Rails Museum for more information on becoming an Engineer)

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Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2016 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

Student.....	\$10.00
Individual.....	\$35.00
Family.....	\$40.00
Institutional Membership.....	\$50.00
Supporting Membership.....	\$75.00

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Term expiring June 1, 2017: Kelly Krier, Mary Beth Lowe, Mike Peak, Dr. Jinny Turman

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**Trails & Rails Museum**  
**Buffalo County Historical Society**  
**710 West 11th St. P.O. Box 523**  
**Kearney, NE 68848-0523**



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# Buffalo Tales

March/April 2016

**John Sheckler, Sr and John Sheckler, Jr. by Harriet Phillips from Pleasanton on the Loup: Pleasanton's Centennial**

**John and Christina Mauler Sheckler**

John Sheckler, Sr. was born August 1, 1830 in Ohio. He came to Nebraska in the early years of the 1870s, settling in Cass County where he owned 80 acres of land and was engaged in raising crops and cattle.

In 1876, at the age of 46, he left Cass County, coming to Sections 34 and 35 of Loup Township, Buffalo County. He had purchased a covered wagon costing \$96.45, a fire-arm for \$20.25, and provisions totaling \$60.25. His first home was a dugout, for which he spend \$25.30, beside the lake on his property.



John and Christina [Mauler] Sheckler

John hauled all of his supplies from Kearney that were not grown on his homestead. The spring and summer of 1877 were spent planting potatoes, corn, and the garden. Hens were set on eggs to provide a new crop of chickens. John continued breaking more prairie. His cows were milked and a cave dug to keep the milk cool. Wheat and oats were harvested in July, and the sand cherries which grew along the river were picked. Wheat was ground in Kearney. The straw tick was washed and filled with fresh straw. Wheat and oats were stored, potatoes dug, and covered with manure. After establishing his home, John traveled by team and wagon to Cass County, leaving September 19 and returning October 22, 1877. He sold his corn for 21 cents a bushel in Nebraska City and took care of other business matters.

In November of 1877, John began building a frame house on his homestead land. It was located about one-fourth mile west of

John and Christina [Mauler] Sheckler  
 Photo from Pleasanton on the Loup: Pleasanton's Centennial

the cemetery. His good friend and neighbor, Mr. Keach, helped with the carpentry work. Lumber was hauled from Kearney by team and wagon. At this time, John was tearing down his dugout and the new house walls were plastered and papered.

The winter months were spent making comforters, butchering, making sausage, frying out lard, getting molasses at Peters', smoking meat, hauling wood, churning, and working on his new home.

The spring of 1878 was busy with farm work and work on the new homestead. John planted 16 box elder trees by his house and built his doorstep. He shingled the house and bought a new stove June 4, 1878 in Kearney, where he and John Jones had their picture taken. Mr. Dick dug the well that month also. In August, grass was mowed in the draw north of the homestead and hauled home. Mr. Rusco and Frank Boyer went to Kearney to be his witnesses for the homestead filing. Siding was put on the house in November.

John and Christina (Cecelia) Mauler were married November 25, 1880 and went to live in the new frame house built by John. It was a very modern home in the area where dugouts and sod houses reigned. Christina, born December 25, 1862 in Oskau, Austria, was the daughter of Joseph and Frances Framel Mauler, a weaver. John and Christina were the parents of six children: Catherine, born February of 1882 and died August of 1882; Josie, born March 29, 1883; John Gaylord, born March 12, 1884 and died March 27, 1884; Mary, born September 16, 1886; John, born August 9 1888; and Minnie, born September 18, 1891. John died August 8, 1892 soon after the birth of Minnie and is buried in Kearney beside his two infant children. Christina died March 20, 1943 and is buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery.



North Side of Elm Street, Pleasanton, looking west. ca 1917

### John and Rose Hadwiger Sheckler

John Richard Sheckler was born August 9, 1888 on the farm his father homesteaded. His parents were John and Christina (Mauler) Sheckler. John was educated in Buffalo County where he lived his entire life. John and Rose Hadwiger were married December 14, 1911 in Kearney. She was the daughter of Joseph and Tracy (Kirschner)



**John and Rose [Hadwiger] Sheckler**  
Photo from Pleasanton on the Loup: Pleasanton's Centennial

Hadwiger. The Shecklers had four children: two died in infancy; Harriet born February 2, 1914; and Marsella born May 21, 1915.

When John married, he built the house which now is owned by Gerald Nickman. He [John] sold this farm in 1924 and moved to Pleasanton. For three years, he drove the truck for the Standard Oil Company. Then he bought a farm south of Pleasanton which is owned by Lynn Martin. The family lived there for five years and then moved back to town. He bought

and farmed land south of town until he retired. After retirement he did various jobs around town.

John died November 5, 1964. Rose continued living in their home until her death, February 12, 1982.

Their daughter, Harriet, married Dean Phillips, August 4, 1935. The Phillips' Farmed south of Pleasanton. John Sheckler helped Dean build the house in which Harriet is now living. Dean died November 17, 1980.

On April 27, 1938 Marsella Married Frederick Ewer who died June 1, 1956. She lives in North Platte and has one son, Robert, born November 18, 1943.

### 2016 Calendar of Events

**Sunday, June 5: 9th Annual 1/2 Marathon, 10K, & 5K Buffalo County Stampede**-registration is at 6 am-race begins at 7.

**Saturday, June 18 10-1 pm: 31st Annual Wagons West Celebration**-Live music, delicious food, exhibitors, demonstrators, archive researchers, kids' games, and contests (including, back by popular demand ---the BEARD contest). FREE admission/donations are appreciated.

**Prairie Blacksmith Association's Fall Conference**-Date TBD  
**Dec.3-4 and Dec. 10-11 from 1-5 pm:** Open to the public: **29th Annual Christmas Tree Walk** -check out dozens of trees decorated by area not-for-profits that tie their mission into this year's theme, Christmas Cinema. \*\*\*All of November: Decorating (during regular business hours plus open late on Thursday, Nov. 3 for decorating)\*\*\* **Saturday, December 3 from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 29th Annual Christmas Tree Walk\*\*\***

### Education notes (see website for additional details):

\***Listen to Mardi Anderson on KGFW 1340 AM** at 9 am on the last Friday of each month for fabulous stories about Buffalo County!

\*Join the **1733 Blacksmiths** (time and dates TBD) to learn about blacksmithing and/or possibly join in the fun!

\*The **Archive Department** will be open on Mondays from 1:30-4 year-round or by appointment.

\***Fabulous Fridays** are held on the 2nd Friday monthly at 2 pm. Check the website for locations.

**January:** Flour Sack Quilts

**February:** The History of the WCTU Mother Hull Home

**March:** The Sod Town Band and Hall

**April:** Bee Keeping

**May:** On the Road to Ravenna for a tour of the Historical Center of Ravenna

**June:** The Brick Yard in Kearney, NE

**July:** Washday in the Olden Days

**August:** Jelly Making of Long Ago with Choke Cherries, Grapes, and other available fruits

**September:** Chickens on the Farm

**October:** U.S. Postal Service through the Years in Buffalo County

**November:** Kearney Goes to War, 1941

**December:** Christmas Traditions

Volunteers, chairpersons, and sponsors are still needed. Please contact the office for more information on supporting your Buffalo County Historical Society!

PO Box 523, 710 W. 11th St., Kearney, NE 68848

(308) 234-3041 www.bchs.us bchs.us@hotmail.com

We hope you enjoy these stories about Buffalo County. We would love to have a stock pile of Buffalo Tales ready so they can go out in a more timely manner. Please submit your memories and stories to us by e-mailing them to bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848.

### We appreciate your support!

### Director's Report

-Very busy time of year at the museum! In one weekend we had a wedding, blacksmith hammer-in, 1/2 marathon packet pick-up, and the 1/2 marathon, 10K, and 5K.

-Helped promote the author Rinker Buck. The Kearney Public Library had 112 in attendance and promoted our Wagons West for us. Great partnership. Christy and I are already working on partnering for another one.

-I worked with Evan Paitz on finding new laptops, a tablet, and wifi equipment for the museum. He managed to find us a good deal on laptops so we could get one more than anticipated. He has gotten them all set up and they are working wonderfully.

-Taylor did a great job organizing Wagons West this year. We had the Kearney Community Theatre here for two showing of a ½ an hour long melodrama and music for the last hour. Several exhibitors and cultural partners joined us, also.

-Kearney Community Learning Center is coming out once a week to do different projects at Trails & Rails such as gardening, sewing, and painting. We appreciate their efforts and are glad we could partner with them this summer.

**Be our friend on Facebook: "BuffaloCountyHistoricalSociety"**