

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

→ → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Topeka Regional Airport Topeka, Kansas

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CAM member presents the History of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Colonel Jon Boursaw, US Air Force (RET), a CAM member and Gift Shop volunteer was our guest presenter at the December Membership Luncheon. Jon's topic was the HISTORY OF THE CITIZEN POTAWATOMI. Jon is a Tribal Member of the Citizen Potawatomi and currently serves as District 4 Representative in the Tribe's Legislative Branch. His presentation included over 50 images. Jon wore a Tribal shirt that included two rows of beads worn as a bandolier and colored horizontal and vertical piping were sewn to the shirt.

There is really no way this writer could do justice to Jon's presentation, and he graciously provided us a transcript of his talk. Here is Jon's presentation.

"I am a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a fifth generation Kansan. I am a descendant of two Great-Great-Grandfathers, who were removed to Kansas in the late 1830s. Both were Headmen or leaders of the Tribe during the period of time the Potawatomi were in Kansas. They were members of the tribe's Business Committee [forerunner of today's Legislature] and both signed the Treaties of 1861 and 1867.

"Today my family, along with over 2,600 descendants of other Potawatomi who were relocated, continues to live in Kansas, which means our tribe has had a presence in Kansas for nearly 176 years, 26 years longer than Kansas has been a state.

"I am pleased to present the following brief history of the Potawatomi people. Who are we and where did we come from?

"There is evidence that a group of Algonquin speaking Indians known as the Bodewadmi, now called the Potawatomi, dates back well before the 13th century. At that time we considered ourselves to be the Nishnabe or the Original People and were living in what is now Eastern Canada and Northern Maine. The Nishnabe was an alliance of the Odawa, the Ojibwe and the Bodewadmi. With that alliance the Potawatomi were, and



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Legislature.

Jon Boursaw is in the back row, second from right.

still are, known as the Keepers of the Fire or People of the Place of the Fire.

"Over the following decades we migrated west and south through the St. Lawrence River Valley finally entering the Great Lakes region. One of our early prophecies was that we would eventually find our final destination in an area where food grew on water. The area we found was the land of wild rice.

"We continued to roam the area of the Great Lakes, moving when forced by war or poor hunting. In the early 1600s the Iroquois who had invaded the region from the east forced us to the west side of now Lake Michigan. This was later known as the Beaver Wars. Shortly after that occurred another one of our proph-

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Ted Nolde

Dick Trupp

Museum Hours

January 2 - February 28/29

Mon. - Sun. Noon - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

March 1 - December 31

Mon. - Sat. 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter,

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

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Your comments are welcomed.

From the Chairman's Desk

Gene Howerter, Chairman, BOD

It is time again for the annual State of the State and State of the Union speeches. I figure I will take my cue and jump on the band wagon.

The good news is we made it through another year without having to visit our friendly banker. Trust me, there are a lot of things which must take place for that to play out. For starters we did top the 9,000 paying visitors mark in 2014, although for a while it looked as if we may be short of that mark. Even though that was down from the 10,000 level we achieved in both 2010 and 2012, total operating income remained close to that of last year. For this we have many of you to thank.

Our motto at the Museum is that we are a "Family Friendly" institution as well as an amazing Educational experience for all who visit the Museum. It is our purpose to honor those who have served our country as military and military-related personnel, past and present, living or deceased. We understand that freedom is not free, and a lot of good men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice or a very large personal investment in our armed forces. We honor them and thank them all for their service. This message must be presented to our youth and the younger generations if it is going to make a positive impact in the future. This is what the Combat Air Museum would like to achieve.

Let me share a few of the financial and Key Performance Indicators with you as I thank Les Carlson and Dave Murray for the role they play in crunching our numbers all year long. In 2014 the Museum had total operating income in excess of \$110,000 with operating expenses at \$109,000. For this small surplus we credit good responsible management and planning, wonderful volunteers and your support with

donations. Without your active support we would not be able to keep our doors open. Other Key Performance Indicators include entrance rate paid and Gift Shop sales along with fund-raising events. In 2014 the entrance fee per visitor averaged out at \$4.64 which was augmented and enhanced by an average of \$1.53 per visitor spent in our Gift Shop. That brings the total to \$6.17 per paying visitor. At this time our two annual fund-raising events are the Celebrity Pancake Feed in April and the Winged Foot Run/Walk in September. Again, without your support of these events, we would never have been able to achieve the levels of operating income listed above.

Some goals for 2015 include hosting more school tours and filling our four Young Aviators Education Classes. School tours have dropped a bit as schools are not able to travel as they once did. However, with the cost of fuel in decline possibly things will change during 2015. We need to more widely advertise our Young Aviators program, which should help fill the classes. You, as members, can help, by publicizing these classes to family and friends.

For all of you who sent extra donations when paying your dues please consider helping again this year. If you were a sponsor of the Fun Run we need you again and thank you in advance. For all of those who pitched in with financial contributions of any kind, we thank you and please consider helping again in 2015.

Remember, we get no federal, state or local funding and can only stay afloat through the combined and generous efforts of our members and through our community service to the general public.

We need and thank you. Please visit your Museum often and consider volunteering this year. I hope to see you at the Museum soon.

Happy New Year!

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Former Aviation Education student returns to CAM with many flights logged since his student days



Jack Vaughn, Austin Fick and Dick Trupp at the flight simulator.

On Tuesday, December 30, 2014, Topekan Austin Fick returned to Combat Air Museum for a visit. Austin was a student in Topeka's Washburn Rural school system when he attended many of the first Aviation Education Classes offered to young students by the Museum. Dick Trupp met with Austin that day, and Dick was the class instructor during the many sessions attended by Austin.

Since high school graduation Austin graduated from Kansas State University in Salina in aviation studies and flew commercially, including cloud seeding in western Kansas. He then attended and graduated from the US Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, followed by flight training at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida, NAS Kingsville, Texas, and Vance Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma.

Upon receiving his Wings of Gold, he entered the F/A-18 Hornet fighter/attack aircraft pipeline and is now qualified and carrier qualified in the EA-18G Growler electronic warfare aircraft. Austin is stationed with Electronic Attack Squadron VAQ-129 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, near Oak Harbor.

On behalf of CAM, Dick congratulated Austin on his many aviation achievements and wished him the best in his Naval Aviation flight career.

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In Memoriam

Russell O. Willis

#5368

1935-2014

December 29, 2014

Topeka, Kansas

*Learn more about the
2015 Young Aviators
Education classes on page 11.*

Calendar of Events

February

Monday, February 9 Membership Luncheon

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room
11:30am

Howard Ward, M.D., J.D.

will present his
experience collecting World War II artifacts.

March

Monday -Thursday, March 16-19 Young Aviators Education Class

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room
9 am – 12:30 pm.

There is no Membership Luncheon
in March.

The next luncheon will be
Monday, April 13, 2015.

→ → →

"Citizen Potawatomi" con't. from Page 1

ecies, which was that we would encounter another kind of people who came in peace, came to be.

"In 1634, near present day Green Bay, we had our first contact with the white man, French trappers and explorers led by Jean Nicolet, who had traveled south from Canada into what is now Wisconsin in search of furs and expansion. They proved to be peaceful and primarily only interested in exploration and trapping. We quickly became business partners with the French and were very successful in the fur trade business. So much so that to ensure a lasting alliance the Tribal leaders encouraged the French to marry the Potawatomi women, hence the vast number of French names that exist even today within our Tribe. Some of these are Wilmette, Bourbonnais, Vieux, Bertrand, Madore, Bergeron, Navarre, Juneau, Beubien, Pappan, and yes, Bourassa and Ogee. As with most Native American tribes from the Great Lakes region we have been of mixed blood for over 350 years. But now armed with French weapons and joined by other tribes in the area we were able to force the Iroquois out of the region.

"It was also during this period that we first met the Jesuit Missionaries and the acceptance of the Christianity and the Catholic Church by many Tribal members began.

"This association with the French continued until a century later when we allied with the French against the British in the French and Indian War. This alliance proved to be unsuccessful, but we quickly allied with the British and continued to prosper in fur trading.

"Later we fought with the British against the Americans in the Revolutionary War – many believe this was the beginning of the early hatred of the Indians by the Federal Government. Some of our warriors fought as far east as Connecticut. Unfortunately, the end of the war resulted in the opening of the then Northwest Territory to white settlers. Later many of our warriors would again ally with the British in the War of 1812, which only strengthen[ed] that previous hatred.

"During this period the Potawatomi were not as organized in recognized Bands or Nations as we are today, but identified more along regions or family settlements. The core of our Tribe today was known as either the Mission Potawatomi, because of their acceptance of the Catholic faith or the St. Joseph Potawatomi as they had settled on the St. Joseph River. Decades before, both groups had settled in what is now Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan. An interesting note is that in the early 1800s we donated to the Holy Cross Priests, who were missionaries in that region, land that was to later become the University of Notre Dame.

"During this period one missionary who ministered to the Potawatomi was a young French priest by the name of Benjamin Petit, who would later play a very important role in the Tribe's history. An interesting point about Father Petit was that while performing his missionary duties

among the Potawatomi he actually received harsh criticism from his Catholic superiors because after repeatedly being instructed to stop, he continued to conduct mass in Potawatomi rather than Latin.

"Throughout this period the Potawatomi was a principal tribe with land holding of over 500 million acres in the Great Lakes area as we continued to prosper from fur trading and other business ventures. But the westward movement of settlers had begun and during the latter part of the 18th Century and the early period of the 19th Century the Potawatomi Indians through numerous treaties with the US Government lost millions of acres of land, accounting for most of their land holdings in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan. In total we have been part of 44 such treaties with the US Government, the last being in 1867, the most of any tribe in US history. In one treaty alone we relinquished 5 million acres.

"As you know in 1830 President Andrew Jackson determined the US Government needed to permanently remove all of the Indians living east of the Mississippi River. Urged on by Jackson, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. This Act allowed Jackson to make treaties with Indian Tribes to trade their tribal homelands for reservations in the Western or Indian Territory (now Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.)

"In 1836 President Jackson signed a treaty with St. Joseph and Mission Potawatomi, resulting in loss of their remaining lands in Indiana and Illinois for approximately \$8,000 and new land in Indian Territory, with transportation, food and shelter provided. At this point the term Kansas did not yet exist. Many resisted the terms of the treaty, including Chief Menominee and his group of Potawatomi who lived in Northern Indiana.

"The Potawatomi in Indiana were given a two-year grace period before their removal would take place. Since they had become an integral part of the community and the church, and several had businesses in the area, they were very reluctant to leave. Tribal leaders made two trips to then Washington City to meet with President Van Buren who had succeeded Jackson, the War Department that oversaw Indian Affairs and members of Congress in an attempt to revoke the treaty allowing us to remain in Indiana. Although it was felt that most were sympathetic with our request, our leaders were unsuccessful in both trips. The old Potawatomi warrior, Chief Wabaunsee, participated in the first of these efforts in 1836. A young man who was later to become our ancestral grandfather, Joseph Napoleon Bourassa, also known as "Bourassa, the Interpreter," accompanied him. In 1845 Wabaunsee again visited Washington with a delegation from Council Bluffs and died as a result of complications from injuries received in a stagecoach accident. Today there is a county, town and lake named after him in Kansas, and he never set foot in the state.

Jon added that Wabaunsee meant 'Light of Dawn,' a name given him because that was when he attacked his enemies.

"Trouble between the Potawatomi and settlers moving into Northern Indiana continued to escalate until August 30, 1838 when, with no advance notice, members of the Tribe were invited to the Church at Twin Lakes, IN to meet with Gen John Tipton, the local Indian Agent. Once everyone was inside the church the doors were locked and the tribal leaders were informed that the Tribe was to be relocated within a few days. Armed soldiers were sent out as far as 30 miles to forcibly remove other Potawatomi from their homes and take them to the Church at Twin Lakes. They were held in the Church by armed guards for 4 days. One member of each family was allowed to return to their home under guard to gather what they could carry in 30 minutes, but basically they only had the clothes they wore to the meeting and no other personal belongings. Following this their homes, crops and businesses were burned to ensure that they had nothing to return too. A few of the better homes and farms were immediately occupied by the settlers and not burned.

"On September 4th, the Tribal Leaders were placed in chains and loaded in to wagons, elders were placed in wagons and the march, later to be called the Potawatomi Trail of Death, began. Over 850 men, women and children left Twin Lakes, most on foot. The distance to be traveled was 660 miles. Over 50 died on the Trail, mostly elders and children. Several new babies were born during the march, but unfortunately very few survived. Over 60 were able to escape.

"On the morning of the third day of the march Father Petit and his superior, Bishop Brute, met the sick and despondent travelers in Logansport, IN and conducted mass. Previously Father Petit had repeatedly requested permission to accompany the tribe on the march but had been denied. After seeing firsthand the conditions that existed, Bishop Brute granted permission for Petit to accompany the Potawatomi, many of whom Petit had previously baptized. Over the next two months Father Petit held morning mass, baptized babies, cared for the sick, and conducted funeral services for those who died. But by the time the tribe reached its destination Father Petit had become seriously ill himself. Shortly after arriving at their destination Abram Burnett, a young Tribal Chief, who had become a close friend of Petit, escorted him back to St Louis, where the Jesuits cared for him until his death in February 1839. In 1856 his remains were removed to the University of Notre Dame and reburied. Burnett would later reside near present day Topeka.

"On Sunday, 4th Nov, [1838] the Trail of Death ended for 756 Potawatomi as they arrived at Pottawattomie [note the spelling] Creek, a reservation in [present day] Miami County, KS occupied by some 150 Osage Indians and a few Potawatomi who had been removed a year earlier from Northern Illinois.

"On November 5th Chief Pe-Pish-Kaysaid: 'We now have arrived at our journey's end. The Government must now be satisfied. We have been taken from homes affording us

plenty, and brought to a desert – a wilderness – and now are to be scattered and left as the farmer scatters his seed.'

"A few weeks later we moved on to the Sugar Creek Reservation located just south of [present day] Osawatomie and in [present day] Linn County. This reservation exceeded 1,500 square miles. The original relocation treaty contained a provision that houses would be available upon their arrival; none were available, making their first winter at Sugar Creek extremely difficult.

"Last fall marked the 175th Anniversary of our forced removal from Indiana to Kansas and we observed that with a ceremony at Sugar Creek on September 29th. We were joined by Governor Sam Brownback, who presented us with a Proclamation expressing an apology for the maltreatment and hardships imposed upon the Potawatomi people during their removal. The Governor spent three hours with us that Sunday learning about the forced relocation, the history of Sugar Creek, attending Mass and talking with Tribal members. On several occasions I have said that this day made a proud people even prouder.

"Over the next eight years several hundred Potawatomi would continue to be relocated to the Sugar Creek Reservation. Unfortunately over 600 Potawatomi would die, primarily of cholera, and were buried at Sugar Creek in unmarked graves. [In reference to a slide] Plaques on these crosses, which have been erected at Sugar Creek, contain the names of those who died there.

"[In reference to a slide] This memorial located at Sugar Creek is of Sister Rose Philippine Duchesne who was canonized in 1988 for her service to the Potawatomi at Sugar Creek. She is one of only twelve in America who have been canonized by the Catholic Church and the first for service west of the Mississippi. The tribe named her 'Kwah-Kah-Kum-ad,' Potawatomi for 'Woman Who Prays Always.' Legend has it that before they went to bed the Potawatomi children would place small stones or acorns on the fringe of her robe as she knelt in prayer and then hurry back in the morning to find the stones or acorns still on her robe as she continued to pray.

"Included in the names of those who completed the Trail of Death are ancestors of many current members of today's tribe. On the list is Joseph Napoleon's father, Daniel Bourassa II and an annotation that he was accompanied by nine members of his family. Daniel later died at Sugar Creek and his name is on one of the crosses.

"Joseph Napoleon, Daniel's oldest son, had been removed to the Pottawattomie Creek Reservation a year earlier. The wedding ceremony for Joseph and his first wife was conducted at Sugar Creek by Father Petit, just prior to Petit's return to St. Louis. Joseph later lived near Valencia, an early settlement on the Kansas River.

"Another of Daniel's sons, Jude, who later was to live near Maple Hill [Kansas], did not arrive until 1840 from southern Michigan.

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"Citizen Potawatomi" con't. from Page 5

"Our other ancestral grandfather, Louis Ogee, who was relocated from Illinois, would later acquire a stone house near Silver Lake [Kansas] that is still being lived in today. Built in 1827 it is considered to be the oldest continuously lived-in home in Shawnee County.

"In 1834, prior to the Trail of Death, the Prairie Potawatomi of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, along with a few Ottawa and Chippewa, had been removed and assigned to land between the Missouri and Little Platte Rivers, near what is now the area of the Kansas City [Missouri] Airport. Subsequently, in 1837 the Prairie Potawatomi were relocated again, this time north to a reservation near Council Bluffs, in the Territory of Iowa. Louis Ogee may have been part of this relocation.

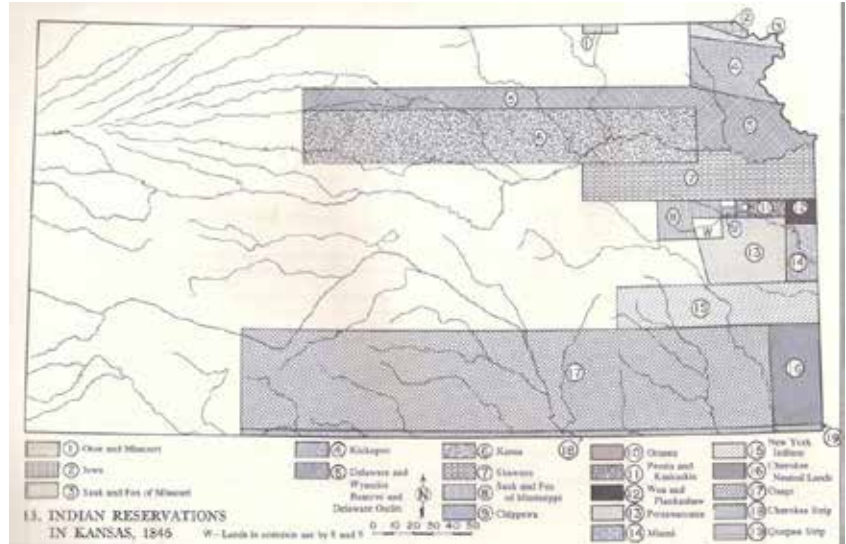
"We remained at Sugar Creek until 1846 when the Tribe was once again relocated by treaty to the Pottawatomie [again, note the spelling] Reserve west of present day Topeka. The Kansa or Kaw Indians had previously occupied this area. A year later the Catholic priests and nuns, who had served us at Sugar Creek, relocated as well, establishing a Church and Academy, founding what is now the town of St. Marys [Kansas]. A short while later the Baptist established a training academy on the south side of the river. The former Potawatomi Baptist Mission is located on the grounds of the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka.

Jon added that the Pottawatomie Reserve's east border would be present day Gage Street in Topeka. The south border would be present day 45th Street in Topeka. The north border would be present day 206 Road, north of Topeka and about three miles south of Holton, KS. The western border ended about two miles east of present day Wamego, KS. Jon said the present day Governor's Mansion lay within the Reserve.

"We were co-located on this reservation with the Prairie Band Potawatomi who had been relocated from Council Bluffs in an attempt by the Government to combine the two tribes. The estimated population of Potawatomi on this reservation was approximately 4,000 individuals. The reservation was 900 square miles in size or 30 X 30 miles.

"Although the Oregon Trail crossed diagonally through the Reservation from the late 1840s into the 1870s, Tribal members as a whole did not prosper as most eked out an existence on their Federal annuities and commodities. However, several individuals did quite well. Among these were Louis and John Ogee and Lucius Darling who

operated ferries across the Kansas River. Lewis Vieux and Peter Bourbonnais owned and operated toll bridges on the Oregon Trail near St. Marys. Louis Vieux was the Great-Grandfather of Jim Thorpe [two time gold medalist, 1912 summer Olympics.] According [to] the Kansas Historical Society Vieux's toll was \$1.00 per wagon and it was reported that sometimes 300 wagons crossed the Vermillion River on his bridge in one day. Several others



This map illustrates the part of the Indian Territory of 1846 that lay inside present day borders of Kansas. The Potawatomi, No. 13, were at the Sugar Creek Reservation in this plate. They moved to the eastern end of the Kansa Reservation, No. 6, in 1846.

- Historical Atlas of Kansas © 1972
by the University of Oklahoma Press.

ran boarding houses and inns. Jude Bourassa operated a grist mill and boarding house on Mill Creek between Maple Hill and Willard, while others like Abram Burnett farmed, raised cattle and traded horses. Joseph Bourassa was an attorney and served as the official US Interpreter.

"Tribal members became very adept at convincing pioneers on the Oregon Trail that they needed fresh teams of oxen and horses to continue the trip west and we were their last opportunity to obtain fresh stock. We then rested and fed their old stock and had them available for sale to the next group of settlers passing through.

"We bought excess or heavy items like pianos, clocks, and iron stoves from travelers who at this point on the trail realized these items weren't going to make the trip over the mountains. We then used them in our own homes, sold them locally or barged them east as far as St. Louis and sold them to settlers heading west.

"We also sold the travelers grain, fresh produce and meat, as well as performing wagon repair and resupply of utensils and tools.

"With the increasing number of white settlers passing through the reservation, Potawatomi were, as were countless other Indian tribes throughout the United States, exposed to diseases such as smallpox and cholera. At this time many Potawatomi lived in and around the

leaders at the time also saw this as a way to protect their lands from the growing problem of squatters settling on the reservation land.

"Contained in the Treaty of 1861 were provisions for Tribal members to be granted US Citizenship, in exchange for accepting allotments on the Reservation; hence the name Citizen Potawatomi was later adopted. It was not until 1924 that the other Native Americans in the United States received their citizenship.

"[In reference to a slide] This is a picture of some of the Tribal members who signed the treaty and you will recognize several of the names I've already mentioned. Unfortunately, it is not possible to match the names to the individuals in the picture.

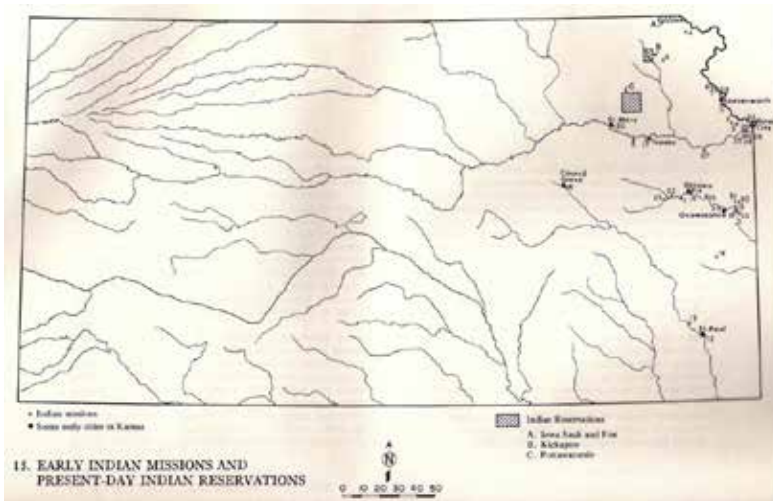
"The Prairie Band Potawatomi however did not enter into this treaty as they wished to hold their land in common and subsequently were allocated what is called the Diminished Reserve, which they still have today. That area is 121 square miles in size.

"Initially, many of the families in both tribes were divided over the issue of accepting allotments resulting in several crossings over from one tribe to the other. Today we will find several family names in both tribes. There are even some instances where families have alternated the enrollment of the children between the two tribes.

"However, the problems continued with squatters, disease, and the availability of alcohol; also not all of the tribal members made good farmers and consequently were unable to operate their farms successfully. Additionally several farms were lost because of non-payment of taxes. In 1867, realizing that the allotment process wasn't working, our leaders entered into our last treaty with the US Government, allowing us to return our land holdings on the Kansas Reserve back

to the Government, who in turn sold that land and all unallotted property to the railroads, and then used those proceeds to purchase a new reservation, similar in size, in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. This new reservation was also divided into allotments by the Dawes Act of 1887.

"Our migration to Oklahoma began in 1871 and continued for over 30 years. This relocation differed from the earlier ones as we traveled in small groups, sometimes just individual families. In many cases families, or parts of families, elected to remain in Kansas. Years ago, my grandfather, Louis Leo Boursaw, told me about traveling with his parents and other family members by buckboard to see his mother's, Julia Ogee Boursaw's, allotments on the new reservation. This had to be sometime around 1900. My grandfather said he remembered that upon



There are four Reservations in Kansas today (shaded areas) for the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, and Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribes/Nations.

Haskell Indian Nations University is in Lawrence, KS.

- Historical Atlas of Kansas © 1972
by the University of Oklahoma Press.

community of Uniontown, which was located just south of the Kansas River on the Oregon Trail [near present day Willard, KS] Dozens of these Tribal members were infected with the cholera epidemic that hit Uniontown, in 1849. According to a first-person historical account at least 22 Potawatomi, who died of cholera, are buried in a mass grave in the Uniontown Cemetery, which has recently been placed on the National Registry of Historical Sites in Kansas. Researchers believe that possibly hundreds of other victims were buried in fields that surround this tiny cemetery. Uniontown was burn[ed] to the ground in 1849, then rebuilt only to be abandoned in 1854.

"However, all of that was not to last. In an attempt to assimilate Indians into the ways of the white man, the US Government created the idea of allotting reservation lands to individual tribal members with the goal that they would become self-supporting as farmers or ranchers. Our

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arriving at the property his father, Anthony, stood up in the buckboard, looked at the land and said, 'It's not worth a God Damn!!,' then turned the buckboard around and headed back to their homestead on Stubbs Road in Shawnee County. Jon added that a Mr. Ed Heck now lives on the site of the homestead.

"Five of Louis' seven sisters and only brother also received allotments on the reservation in Oklahoma, all of which were eventually sold. Louis and two younger sisters, Nell and Clara, were born after the allotments were assigned.

"Today, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is the 10th largest Native American Tribe in the country with nearly 31,000 members. Approximately 2,600 of these reside in Kansas, while nearly 13,000 live in Oklahoma. We are governed by a sixteen member national legislature with eight representatives in Oklahoma and eight serving in their respective districts outside of Oklahoma.

"We have come a long way from trapping furs, operating toll bridges and guiding ferries as we now own and operate two casinos and have recently opened a 14 story luxury hotel adjacent to the Grand Casino located on I-40, east of Oklahoma City. We operate Firelake Discount Foods - the largest independently owned grocery operation in Oklahoma. Firelake Discount Foods also operates a Travel Plaza adjacent to the Grand Casino and a convenient store. Our 18 hole golf course is one of the finest public courses in Central Oklahoma.

"We own and operate the 3rd Rural Water District in Pottawatomie County that offers water service to 60% of the county's geographic area. We have a 36,000 sq. ft. Cultural Heritage Center [Shawnee, OK.] We recently opened a 24 lane bowling center. We own the First National Bank of Oklahoma - the largest Native American owned bank in the country - over \$300M strong. The main bank is in Shawnee and we have eight branches. In addition we have a new Event Center: The arena size is 220 ft. X 240 ft. with a seating capacity of just under 5,000.

"We now have six softball fields that are all identical in all areas as in distance, each has 80 permanent seats behind home plate, water fountains and misters in every dugout, and there is a state-of-the-art watering system that not only waters the grass but it also wets down the dirt playing surface to keep the fans from having dirt blown in their faces. We host events at least three out of every four weekends during the spring, summer, and fall. Typically three-day tournaments bring in around 20-25,000 parents, students and players. This



Gene Howerter presenting Jon with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**"I think it only fitting
that I mention
the Citizen Potawatomi veterans.
Our warriors, both male and female,
have served in the
US military since the Civil War
when several were members
of the 11th Kansas Cavalry.
We have been privates, marines,
NCOs, officers, seamen,
riflemen, cooks, fighter pilots,
helmsmen, and even POWs,
and we have
served with honor."**

past July we set a record in the Firelake World Series when we hosted 80 teams from all over the country to participate. In addition to the fees collected for the tournaments we have realized a substantial increase in revenue in the grocery store, convenient store and gas station, our small casino, as well as the bowling alley. All of this is within walking distance of the softball complex.

"I think it only fitting that I mention the Citizen Potawatomi veterans. Our warriors, both male and female, have served in the US military since the Civil War when several were members of the 11th Kansas Cavalry. We have been privates, marines, NCOs, officers, seamen, riflemen, cooks, fighter pilots, helmsmen, and even POWs, and we have served with honor.

"I would like to thank you for this opportunity to tell our story. Are there any questions?"

Jon told us that the Potawatomi language is taught in their child care center, and that they have a language dictionary. The Potawatomi language is being brought back to life.

He told us his shirt was a ribbon shirt. The bead bandolier was decorative, and he had a pouch of tobacco on the back of the shirt - a prayer pouch.

In answer to a question about the former Uniontown settlement, Jon said it was between West Union and Carlson roads, north-south roads that bracket Willard.

An audience member asked about the origin of the Potawatomi in North America. Jon said they may have

been in Newfoundland or Labrador and were driven south by the Ice Age. Tribal records began in Brunswick, Maine.

A question was asked about Tribal names. Jon replied that he was scheduled to conduct a naming ceremony in Lawrence before the end of the year for over two dozen members. He said the ages for naming begin at 14 and some that were to be named were in their 60s. The members fill out a questionnaire and from these, Jon discerns what name to bestow upon each candidate.

A question was asked about Jim Thorpe's heritage. Jon replied that his grandmother and mother were Potawatomi and married into the Sac and Fox in Oklahoma.

Reference was made to an article in The Topeka Capital-Journal about a new bridge at the Bourbonnais Creek Crossing on US Highway 24, east of St. Marys, KS. The previous bridge, demolished in 2012, had signs identifying the creek as Bourbonais Creek, and that was an incorrect spelling of the name. The creek was named for a principle Potawatomi member, Peter Bourbonnais, who lived on the land prior to Kansas statehood. The crossing was near the Oregon Trail and where Bourbonnais operated a saw mill. The crossing also served as a military road between Forts Leavenworth and Riley.

Jon noticed that no new signs went up after the new bridge was complete and spoke with members of the Citizen Potawatomi about this. They wanted to get new signs installed and Jon took on the task. He first contacted the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and was told that under current guidelines the bridge needed to be at least 250 feet long, and the new bridge was only 174 feet long. Because of the historical significance of Peter Bournonnais, KDOT made an exception, but a new hurdle came up, involving the name change. KDOT found out that a formal process had to be completed to correct the spelling of the name for the new sign. The matter of adding a second "n" on the new sign required approval from the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, and this Board resides in Reston, VA.

Jon completed the necessary paperwork for the spelling correction, and the Board ruled in favor of the spelling change. New signs commemorating Bourbonnais Creek were unveiled on October 8, 2014. The Citizen Potawatomi paid for the signs. It took Jon a year to get this all done.

A question was asked about how a person is determined to be a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Jon replied that Citizen Potawatomi has no minimum blood amount. Members are enrolled by descendency, or lineal descent. It has to be continuous with no breaks.

A final question was asked about the comparable sizes of the Prairie Band Potawatomi, who have a reservation north of Topeka, and the Citizen Potawatomi. Jon said the Prairie Band has less than 5,000 members while the Citizen Potawatomi has over 31,000.

Gene Howerter then presented Jon with a Certificate of Appreciation.

→ → →

2015 Events

February

9 – Membership luncheon

March

8 – Begin Daylight Savings Time

16-19 - Young Aviators Education Class

April

5 – Museum closed; Easter Sunday

13 – Membership Luncheon

25 – Annual Celebrity Pancake Feed

June

1-4 – Young Aviators Education Class

8 – Membership Luncheon

July

6-9 – Young Aviators Education Class

August

3-7 – Young Aviators Education Class

10 – Membership Luncheon

September

26 - 11th Annual Winged Foot 5K/10K Run

October

12 – Membership Luncheon

November

1 – End Daylight Savings Time

26 – Thanksgiving; Museum closed

December

14 – Membership Luncheon

25 – Christmas Day; Museum closed

→ → →

Your
membership
is important
to us.
Join the
Combat Air
Museum

Work continues in the CAM work shop on artifacts that will add to our collection

Shenyang J-8II Fuselage

Don Dawson and Danny San Romani removed the nose cone from the Shenyang J-8II forward fuselage to the work shop for repainting on November 7. The fiberglass nose cone had been repainted prior to CAM's acquisition of the fuselage from the Kansas Aviation Museum in Wichita. The top coat is wrinkling and peeling from the nose cone. The cone was about 70 inches long and 39-1/2 inches in diameter at its base. Don and Danny rolled a large wagon under the nose and placed padding on it. They removed the cone to the workshop where Don repainted it. About a week later it was back on the fuselage.

Ejection Seats

Don Dawson took over a project in 2014 involving some Lockheed T-33 ejections seats. For a number of years, we have had the carcasses of four ejection seats from the US Air Force's first jet propelled trainer. These were brought into the work shop with the plan to assemble, as much as possible, one complete seat for exhibit. Each of the four seats was missing parts and assemblies, and showed obvious rough treatment.

Using illustrations from technical manuals and images from the internet of complete seats, Don first made a visual inventory of what we had, and which seat would make the best candidate for repair/restoration. While we confirmed all four seats are for a T-33 aircraft, we have

two styles of seats and two of each style. Most parts are interchangeable on the seats, but there are a few assemblies distinct for each style.

Don selected his "restoration" seat and has already taken parts and assemblies from the remaining three. He has also had to do some straightening of bent metal in various areas on the seat. Parts came off the one seat and parts from the three others replaced those removed or filled an empty space. There finally came a point where Don had no other parts to put on the selected seat. There are still some empty spots, but these are common to all four seats.

Don worked on areas of corrosion, cleaning and spot-priming these. In preparation for painting the entire seat he taped off wiring, cables, labels, and other surfaces of the seat not to be painted. Once this was completed, he first removed and painted the headrest with green zinc phosphate primer. With exceptions of specific parts, all four seats were originally in a green, zinc chromate paint. Over time zinc phosphate paint has been replacing zinc chromate as the latter is toxic, and it is also a carcinogen.

Don completed painting the seat green. He is now working on specific assemblies/parts of the seat that have different colors or markings. A new headrest pad needs to be made and two armrest pads need to be recovered.

→ → →

Guest speaker for our next Membership Luncheon

Howard N. Ward, M.D., J.D. is our guest presenter for the February 9 Membership Luncheon with the topic World War II Artifacts and Relics.

Dr. Ward will discuss his experience of collecting World War II artifacts covering uniforms, insignia, and weapons used during the war.

His collection includes many German artifacts. Dr. Ward is most knowledgeable about his topic; bring your questions.

→ → →

Visitors

During **November 2014**
the Museum had
589 visitors

from **30 states**,
and

Argentina

Australia

Belize

Canada

Colombia

Great Britain

Japan

During **December 2014**
we had

366 visitors

from **29 states**, and
Australia

→ → →

Supporters

New Supporters

Rick & Laura Anderson
Gary Bender
Ford & Catherine Ross
Dennis & Galene SanRomani

Renewing Supporters

Ted & Cindy Berard
COL Jon & Peggy Boursaw
Leonard Faulconer
Ramon Gonzalez, Jr.
Justin & Leslie Gordon
Ernest Hedges
Mary & Denis Hill
Larry & Nancy Mann
Jerry Milbradt
LTCOL Ray Miller
Roger & Lois Miller
Mary Naylor
Richard Painter
Tad & Dee Pritchett
Don Thun
Chuck & Marlene Urban
Jack & Carlene Vaughn
Dr. Howard & Marilyn Ward
→ → →

Young Aviators Education Classes are offered in 2015

Come and join the fun at the Combat Air Museum. Our "Young Aviators" Classes, for youth age eight to twelve years, will be held four times in 2015.

The four-day courses are held from 9 am until 12:30 pm. The class fee is \$50 per student. The instruction sessions will cover a brief history of early aviation, fundamentals of flight theory, aircraft structures, including control systems and engines, weather, and how to read aviation charts and maps.

There will be hands-on time in the Museum's computer Flight Simulator, the phonetic alphabet, used for aviation contact and control, and a guided tour of the Museum.

Visits outside the classroom will include the 108th Aviation Regiment of the Kansas Army National Guard (H-60 Blackhawk helicopters), the 190th Air refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard (KC-135 tankers), The Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority Fire, Rescue, and Security Station (Firetrucks) and The Topeka Regional Airport Control Tower.

Enrollment in each four-day session is limited to 20 students per class, and the Museum will accept youth on a first-come-first-serve basis.

For details, please call the Museum's Office Manager (785-862-3303) between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm on weekdays.

→ → →

Young Aviators Education Classes will be held

March 16-19

June 1-4

July 6-9

August 3-7

Learn more
about the
Combat Air
Museum at

www.combatairmuseum.org

2014 Attendance Summary for Combat Air Museum

The following is a summary of recorded visitor attendance at Combat Air Museum for calendar year 2014. We finished the year with 9,132 visitors.

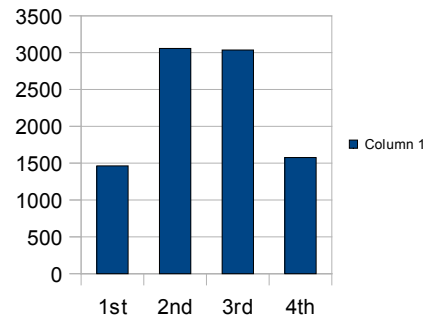
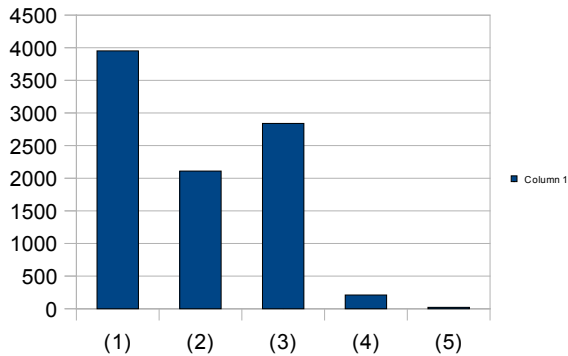
(1) 3,951 (43.27%) of the total were from Kansas, outside of Shawnee County.

(2) 2,110 (23.11%) of the total were from Shawnee County.

(3) 2,840 (31.1%) of the total were from the remaining 49 States, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico.

(4) 210 (2.3%) of the total were from 29 other Countries.

(5) 21 (0.23%) of the total from residences not known.



Museum tour-guides conducted 42 scheduled tours for a total of 1,201 visitors.

The top five states outside of Kansas were Missouri (638), Texas (245), Colorado (198), Iowa (150), and Nebraska (146).

The top five countries were Great Britain (46), Canada (27), Australia (21), Germany (16) and the Czech Republic (11).

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1st Quarter	1,463	2nd Quarter	3,057
3rd Quarter	3,036	4th Quarter	1,576