

THE SUNSET OBSERVER

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Trains, dogs and contractors

June 3, 2021 was a momentous day for Sunset Home and the Concordia community. Over forty people gathered on the front lawn and balconies to watch the unveiling of the latest Orphan Train statue.

The statue is the 33rd placed in and around the Concordia area and was sponsored by the Marilyn and Dean Johnston family, in memory of Dean Johnston. It features a boy with his arm around his dog and honors the

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William James Family who were placed out by the Children's Aid Society (CAS) in 1879. Museum curator, Shaley George, and eldest son of Marilyn and Dean Johnston, Bruce Johnston, spoke to commemorate the event.

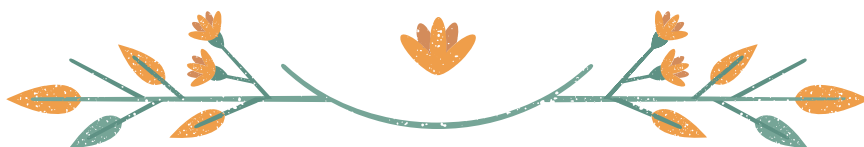


Perhaps not as well known as the orphan trains, the CAS sponsored a family emigration program from 1874 to 1926. The purpose was to keep families together and provide new opportunities for them out west. William James, his wife, and their four children, along with five other families rode a train to Fort Scott, Kansas and met with success. William became a contractor and later in life ran a boarding house in Cheyenne, Wyoming. More about the emigration program and the William James family can be found in the insert.



Many family members and friends were present for the ceremony. An active member of the community, Dean Johnston was a builder like the emigrant families that rode the train in 1879. Dean also served on the board of Sunset Home

for twelve years. Marilyn was beaming with pride during the event and recalled that in his childhood photos Dean "always had his arm around a dog", another lasting reminder represented in the commemorative statue.



Hello, New Residents

It's always nice to see the friendly faces we have at Sunset Home. We hope you get to know our caring staff and the newest members of our community.



Gerald & Grace Thompson
Agenda, KS

Grace and Gerald farmed for 60 years. They love to camp, boat and spend time with family, which includes 16 great-grandchildren!

Spotlight on Caitlan Ryser

Business Office Manager at Sunset Home

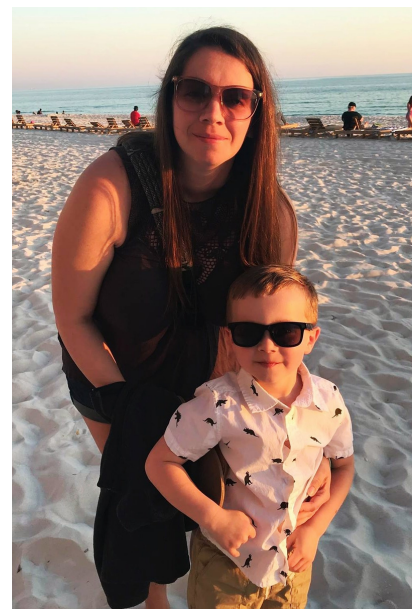
What is one of your favorite places and why?

Any beach! It's such a relaxing escape from home that my whole family enjoys. We've gone there to celebrate, heal, and for no real reason at all!

What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

I let my husband talk me into hiking into an active volcano in Guatemala when I was pregnant with my son. I normally despise hiking, but once I started, I refused to give up. We made it to the lava and got to roast marshmallows on it!

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What's a fact about you that nobody would guess?

I love cars. My dad is a mechanic and he raced when I was growing up, so I grew up around cars. When I was in high school, he bought a 1967 Ford Mustang for me that was in 1,000 pieces. We restored it basically from the ground up and I still have it.

If money were not a consideration, how would you spend your days?

Travel with my family, hands down! We've been a lot of places, but even my six-year-old has started a list of places he still wants to see.



About that year 1776...

By 1776, the colonies had actually been working on declaring independence for years...

1773: the Boston Tea Party took place as a protest against British taxation of colonial tea.

1774: the First Continental Congress began meeting to discuss what to do about Britain imposing unfair laws on the colonies.

1775: the Revolutionary War began on April 19, 1775, with the battles at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, and would continue until 1783 with America's victory at Yorktown, New York.

1789: the Constitution defined the new United States government, but wasn't in place in any form until five years after the Revolutionary War.

We ♥ Our Veterans!



Shown left to right: Larry McLaughlin (Army), Lowell Stukey (Army), Dean Hardaway (Army), Carl "Bill" Forshee (Army), Troy Anderson (Army), Gene Ganstrom (National Guard), Robert St. Pierre (Airforce), Arthur McKinley (Airforce).

Not pictured: Les Hemphill (Army), James Ramsey (Marines).

Happening at Sunset...

July 2 - 2:30 pm

Celebrate July birthdays!

July 8 - 2:30 pm

Guess that Staff Member!

July 12-16

Christmas in July Week

July 15 - 2:30 pm

Sugar Cookie Decorating

July 20 - 2:30 pm

Ladies Tea



Happy Birthday!



July

Lorraine Bramwell

LaRue Hansen

Grace Thompson

July 22 - 2:30 pm

Quilt Show

July 26 - 2:30 pm

Make Hot Air Balloons

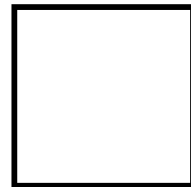
July 28 - 2:30 pm

B-I-N-G-O!





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WHO LOVES MAIL?!?!

JULY 2021

Do you know someone who might like to receive our newsletter, no strings attached? Simply fill out this form and send it to us at Sunset Home, 620 2nd Ave., Concordia, KS 66901.

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ME INSTEAD _____