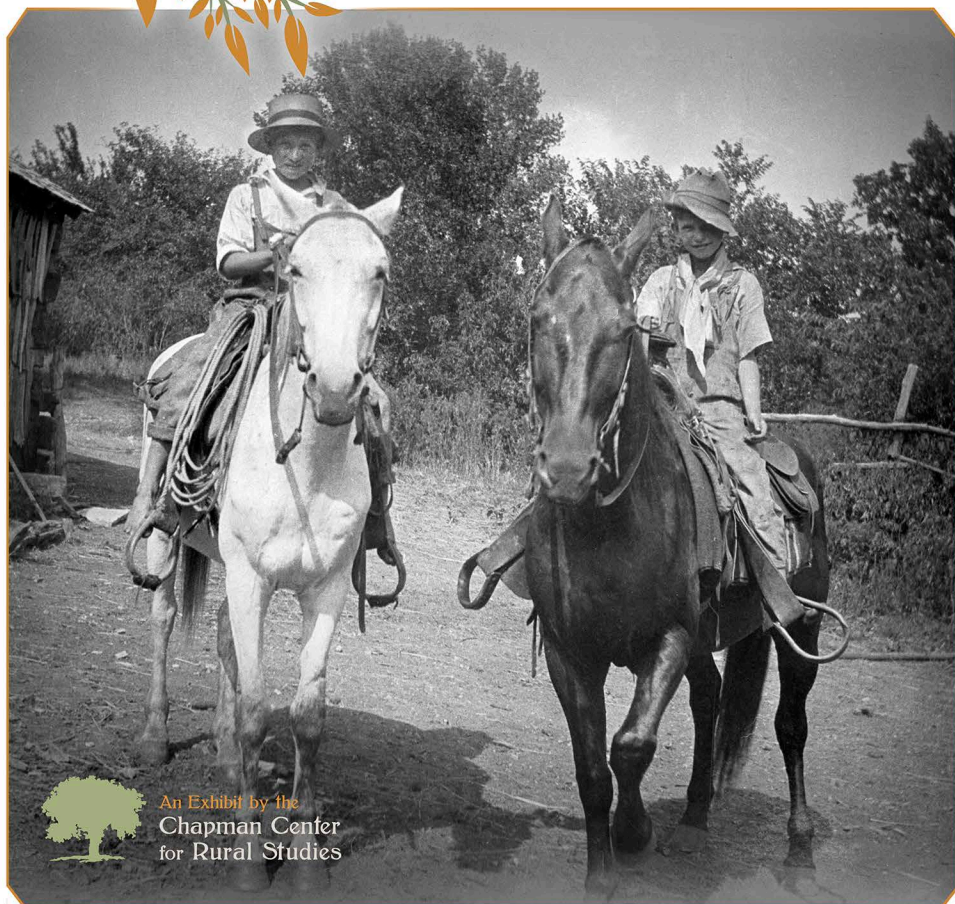


# GOING HOME

Hidden Histories  
of the Flint Hills



September 24, 2016 - January 8, 2017

## Gallery Guide

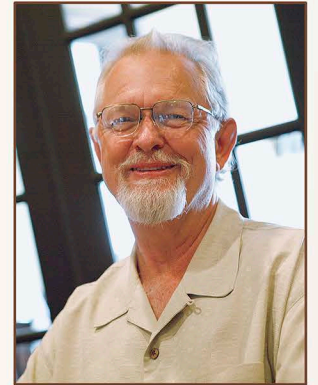
---

---

*WELCOME* to **Going Home: Hidden Histories of the Flint Hills**, produced by the Chapman Center for Rural Studies in the College of Arts and Science at Kansas State University, in cooperation with the Flint Hills Discovery Center and the City of Manhattan, Kansas.

Laura Ingalls Wilder once said, “Home is the nicest word there is.” Everyone yearns for a place to call home – a place of unconditional love and acceptance. One of the oldest narratives in human history, from Homer to Hollywood, we feel happy when we think about **Going Home**.

This exhibit was inspired by K-State Alumnus **Mark A. Chapman’s** love for his hometown, Broughton Kansas. Condemned for flood control and bulldozed into fragments in 1966, Broughton remained alive in the hearts and minds of those who had called it home. In 2008, Mr. Chapman’s connections to his home, to his alma mater, and to Kansas, moved him to create and fund the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University. Undergraduate students have been busy ever since, uncovering the stories of nearly-forgotten communities across the state, especially in the Flint Hills. The connections between students and community residents through oral history, photos and hands-on research in small historical societies has benefited both in powerful ways. Students see the world through new lenses and rural residents are pleased to share their memories with a new generation of Kansas scholars. The information presented in this exhibit was researched and written by K-State students under the guidance of faculty mentors, and illustrated with restored images that have rarely or never been displayed before this current exhibition.



**Going Home: Hidden Histories of the Flint Hills**, welcomes you to explore what home meant to the people who inhabited the many abandoned small towns of the Flint Hills. But more than this, we invite you to tell us about **your** home, your memories, activities, keepsakes and stories – no matter where you have lived or call home. The mission of the Chapman Center reminds that “the stories and lives of all peoples who shaped the history of this region are significant.” Your contribution to the work of the Center is warmly encouraged; by recording your experiences in our Story Store, suggesting new areas of research at the “voting booth,” or by simply sharing your memories with family and friends as you browse the exhibit. Or, help us keep the conversation going at [www.ksu.edu/history/chapman/hiddenhistories](http://www.ksu.edu/history/chapman/hiddenhistories). Here you can revisit the gallery, download the activity book and hear from other visitors young and old. We have been expecting you. **Come in and make yourself at Home.**

Bonnie Lynn-Sherow  
Exhibit Curator.

---

---





- Main Exhibit Area
- Children's Area
- Focused Thematic Area



Exhibit Map

## Featured Areas

**A. Main Entrance to Exhibit.** Pick up your gallery guide in the mailbox just outside the door. Mind the tricycle!

**B. Gone in an Afternoon.** Read more about Mark A. Chapman's remarkable gift and the Chapman Center for Rural Studies. This area features Mark Chapman's collection of custard cups from towns in the Flint Hills, an amazing folk art model of Broughton completed by memory, and a short documentary produced by K-State students with former residents and faculty.

*What have you done to help preserve the story of your hometown? What items have you kept?*

**C. Interactive Map.** Based on the extensive research of **Mr. Melvin Bruntzel**, Kansas has been home to more than 9000 place names in its history. Use this interactive map to see how many towns have come and gone in the Flint Hills. The full version of Mr. Bruntzel's research is nearby for browsing for information about **your** hometown. Write down the name of the town(s) you think we should research next and **VOTE** by putting your suggestion in the voting box near the exit to the exhibit.

**DID YOU HEAR THAT?** Be sure to pick up a **SOUND BINGO** card on your way past the Map. Listen overhead for the sounds of life in a small town. When you hear each sound, cross it off your card. When you make BINGO, taken your card to the front desk for a prize! (Elementary school kids' activity)

*What do you remember hearing as you lay awake at night in your hometown?*

**D. Staying Connected.** Before cell phones, planes and cars, there were plenty of ways to stay connected to your neighbors. This area features an original horse-drawn mail cart, photos of telegraph offices, railroad ephemera and some original clothing meant to protect men and women's clothes from dust and dirt before cars were enclosed and roads were paved.

*How did you stay connected with others in your hometown or far away? How do you stay in touch today?*

**E. Fun in the Flint Hills.** There was plenty to do in a small town. Fairs, rodeos, revivals, barnstorm baseball, dances and even the Circus were annual events in most small towns. Special activities with music and plenty of food marked religious and civic holidays. Most small towns had a full band, with uniforms. Adults and children each had their own weekly activities to attend, like 4H, Junior Red Cross, Literary Societies and service clubs. Unorganized fun might include fishing, collecting fossils or a midnight rendezvous to sample the latest home brew.

*What did you do for fun when you were growing up in your hometown?*



## Featured Areas (cont.)

**F. Town Kiosks.** These six places in the Flint Hills represent the wide diversity of places in the Flint Hills that no longer operate as urban centers. Each kiosk has a small artifact display, original images and first hand stories researched by students in the Chapman Center. Browse through the I-pad stations to learn, see and hear, even more.

*Do any of these towns remind you of your hometown? Do you have a story like the ones you heard here?*

**G. Story Store.** This small building was inspired by the original Kratzer Brothers' general store in Volland Kansas. It looks old on the outside, but inside you will find comfortable chairs and modern recording equipment. We invite you to record a conversation with a family member or a friend about what it was like to grow up in your hometown. Follow the instructions inside the store to upload your story with the StoryCorps App to the Library of Congress!

**H. A "Living Room."** The people who lived in small towns were just as fashionable as other people and updated their homes just as we do today. This room was inspired by the beautiful photo of "Patty" who was photographed in her prom dress in 1966. Relax and enjoy all of the touchable artifacts in this space while watching our main feature film, "Hidden Histories of the Flint Hills" produced by faculty and students in the Chapman Center for Rural Studies

*Look for the story writing activity on the wall next to Patty's picture. (middle and junior high school activity)*

**I. Going to Town.** Flint Hills' towns relied on the business of nearby farmers and ranchers who came weekly to shop, worship, and socialize. This area features an original pair of bellows used by a Flint Hills blacksmith to shoe horses and repair wagons and later to make parts for cars and other equipment. Check out the scales that store owners used to measure out bulk goods. And here you will find a genuine voting box used in the town of Chalk where you can deposit your own "votes" for the next places we should research.

*Was there a general store in your hometown? What could you buy there? Do you remember voting for the first time?*

**J. Children's Area.** This space is for children and adults willing to use their imaginations! Play hopscotch, drive a turkey cart, do chores in the barn, play school or build something amazing with our Tinker Toys, the most popular game of the 20th Century. There's even some paper dolls for little fingers to try. Exhibits in this area highlight original school items from some of our seven featured towns. Watch original film footage from the Golden Rule School, recently digitized at the Chapman Center for Rural Studies.

*Who was your first teacher? What was your favorite subject in school?*





## Featured Areas (cont.)

**F. Town Kiosks.** These six places in the Flint Hills represent the wide diversity of places in the Flint Hills that no longer operate as urban centers. Each kiosk has a small artifact display, original images and first hand stories researched by students in the Chapman Center. Browse through the I-pad stations to learn, see and hear, even more.

*Do any of these towns remind you of your hometown? Do you have a story like the ones you heard here?*

**G. Story Store.** This small building was inspired by the original Kratzer Brothers' general store in Volland Kansas. It looks old on the outside, but inside you will find comfortable chairs and modern recording equipment. We invite you to record a conversation with a family member or a friend about what it was like to grow up in your hometown. Follow the instructions inside the store to upload your story with the StoryCorps App to the Library of Congress!

**H. A "Living Room."** The people who lived in small towns were just as fashionable as other people and updated their homes just as we do today. This room was inspired by the beautiful photo of "Patty" who was photographed in her prom dress in 1966. Relax and enjoy all of the touchable artifacts in this space while watching our main feature film, "Hidden Histories of the Flint Hills" produced by faculty and students in the Chapman Center for Rural Studies

*Look for the story writing activity on the wall next to Patty's picture. (middle and junior high school activity)*

**I. Going to Town.** Flint Hills' towns relied on the business of nearby farmers and ranchers who came weekly to shop, worship, and socialize. This area features an original pair of bellows used by a Flint Hills blacksmith to shoe horses and repair wagons and later to make parts for cars and other equipment. Check out the scales that store owners used to measure out bulk goods. And here you will find a genuine voting box used in the town of Chalk where you can deposit your own "votes" for the next places we should research.

*Was there a general store in your hometown? What could you buy there? Do you remember voting for the first time?*

**J. Children's Area.** This space is for children and adults willing to use their imaginations! Play hopscotch, drive a turkey cart, do chores in the barn, play school or build something amazing with our Tinker Toys, the most popular game of the 20th Century. There's even some paper dolls for little fingers to try. Exhibits in this area highlight original school items from some of our seven featured towns. Watch original film footage from the Golden Rule School, recently digitized at the Chapman Center for Rural Studies.

*Who was your first teacher? What was your favorite subject in school?*





## The Chapman Center at Work







Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 Interns at The Chapman Center for Rural Studies.



Chapman Center  
for Rural Studies

[www.k-state.edu/history/chapman](http://www.k-state.edu/history/chapman)

Also find us on:



**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

