

# Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 11, No. 2; February 2014

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### Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting is on the 14th.

The February Douglas County Bar Association Brown Bag CLE program will be on Thursday, February 20, 2014, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room in the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center. Branden Smith will present a program on *The Use of Technology in Legal Practice*. One hour of ethics CLE credit is

pending approval. Handout material can be downloaded from the [DCBA website](#).

### Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The February/March 2014 Law Library and Division IV art gallery exhibitions are silk paintings by Sophia Compton.

The exhibitions will run through the end of March 2014.

The April/May exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are scheduled to be paintings by Joanna Ward. More information on these exhibitions will be in the April 2014 E-Mail Newsletter.

For more information on past, current, and future Art Gallery exhibitions, or for more information on the Art Galleries, please consult the Art Gallery page on the Law Library's website.

If you would like to exhibit your art in our galleries, or know of local artists who would like to show their original art here, contact the Law Library at 838-2477 or by e-mail at [info@douglascolawlibrary.org](mailto:info@douglascolawlibrary.org).

### **New Acquisitions**

Newly acquired material added to the Law Library's holdings:

ABA Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 32:11 (Nov. 2013).

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v. 297:3/v. 49:2 (Nov. 2013).

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 51:1 (Jan. 2014).

### **Did You Know?**

Every month, a bit of Law Library trivia is posted in the Law Library and on the Law Library's website. The previous month's "Did You Know" tidbit is then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

January's entry was:

The Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter is marking the 10th Anniversary of its first issue being published on January 5, 2004.

### **This Month In Legal History**

February 14, 1889 - Christian Long disappears before breakfast.

Christian Long was born on December 21, 1840, in Pennsylvania. He was later referred to as being a "German," so he must have been born into a German speaking family there. Sometime later he married a woman named Elizabeth, who was born June 28, 1845<sup>1</sup>, in the German state of Hesse-Kassel. The couple was living in Illinois when their first child, Jerome, was born around 1865. Jerome was followed by Amos and Mary, born around 1867 and

1868, respectively. Sometime before Edward<sup>2</sup> was born in October of 1869, the family had relocated to Kansas and was living on a farm in Willow Springs Township in Douglas County, about seven miles west of Baldwin City. Christian and Elizabeth became active members of the mostly German community there, and they were founding members of the Willow Springs Evangelical Church<sup>3</sup> when it opened in 1872. By 1873, Long owned 80 acres about a mile north of the Franklin County line. The family continued to grow, with Adam being born around 1874, followed by Charles around 1875, John around 1876, Susan around 1877, Henry around 1881, and finally Christian around 1884. With such a large family to support, Long must have worked very hard on his farm. His older children undoubtedly helped out, but supporting such a large family could not have been easy. By 1885, Long had increased his land holdings to 160 acres, and was reported to have had his farm heavily mortgaged, not an unusual condition for farmers then or now. A farmer's life was always hard, but Long's burden increased significantly on August 7, 1887, when Elizabeth died, leaving him with ten children, seven under the age of 18. By the winter of 1888/89, Long was reported to have been having financial troubles, and was very worried about them. He may have been in danger of having the bank foreclose on his farm, which would have been a humiliating disaster. The grief he felt for his late wife would likely have made his hardships even more difficult to face. On the morning of Thursday, February 14, 1889, Long arose before the rest of his family and left the house. He did not come in when breakfast was called, and the children became concerned when he could not be located around the farmstead. A wider search was instituted, but nothing was found by the time it was halted that evening on account of darkness. The search was resumed again on Friday morning, but proved equally

as fruitless as the one the day before had been. The searchers began again on Saturday morning, and sometime towards evening they came across an unused well on Long's farm. They investigated its depths, and finally located Long, dead at the bottom of the well. They retrieved his body, and one of them sent a telegram to Dr. Horton, the coroner, who lived in Lawrence, approximately twenty miles northeast of Long's farm. He called an inquest, which was held on the afternoon of Monday the 18th. After examining the body and hearing the testimony of witnesses, the jury found that Long had taken his own life by jumping into the well in a fit of temporary insanity. He was buried in the Willow Springs Evangelical Cemetery<sup>4</sup>, alongside his wife Elizabeth. In 1900, the youngest son Christian was living with his uncle and aunt in Willow Springs Township, and there are indications that Amos, John, and Susan were living elsewhere in Kansas, but what eventually happened to the children that Long left behind is not known. One wonders if the date of Long's suicide is significant, February 14th, Valentine's Day. By the latter part of the 19th Century, it had become an important holiday in the United States, witnessed by the availability of mass-produced printed valentines since before the Civil War, and so was a part of American culture. With all the troubles Long was experiencing, the advent of a holiday with such a strong reminder of the loved one he had lost just eighteen months earlier may very well have sent him over the edge on that fateful day.

<sup>1</sup> According to her tombstone, she was 42 years, 1 month, and 10 days old when she died on August 7, 1887. Calculating back from that date results in a birth date of June 28, 1845.

<sup>2</sup> His name appears as Edwin in the 1870 census.

<sup>3</sup> Now known as the Worden United Methodist Church.

<sup>4</sup> Now known as the Worden Cemetery.

From: Complete Tombstone Census of Douglas County, Kansas, Volume 2, by B. Jean Snedeger, Douglas County Genealogical Society, [Lawrence, Kansas], 1989, pp. 304 and 308; The Lawrence Gazette, v. 7, no. 338 (February 21, 1889), [p. 2](#); 1870 U.S. Census, Willow Springs Township, Douglas County, Kansas, 6/21/1870; [Landgraviate of Hesse-Kassel](#), Wikipedia website; [Worden United Methodist Church](#), Worden United Methodist Church website; 1880 U.S. Census, Willow Springs Township, Douglas County, Kansas, 6/3/1880; Atlas of Douglas County Kansas, F.W. Beers and Co., New York, 1873, [p. 23](#); Decennial census, Kansas 1885, Willow Springs Township, March 1885; The Lawrence Weekly Journal, v. 5, no. 8 (February 21, 1889) [p. 3](#); Wichita Eagle, v. 10, no. 82 (February 20, 1889) [p. 1](#); 1900 U.S. Census, Willow Springs Township, Douglas County, Kansas, 6/8/1900; and, [Valentine's Day](#), Wikipedia website.

Each month, an event from "This Month In Legal History," the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month, is included in the Newsletter. The current entry is also posted for the month on the Law Library's website. Entries from past months are [archived](#) on the website. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

### **Law Library Volunteer Opportunities**

The Law Library Volunteer Program provides a capable and dependable volunteer work force to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Law Library and with its special projects. This work force supplements the paid Library staff and allows the Library to provide the best possible service to attorneys, local judges, and the public.

The Volunteer Program is instrumental in linking a valuable community resource - the citizens - with a valuable community institution - the Douglas County Law Library - for the benefit, growth, and enrichment of both.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for one of them, or if

you would like more information on our program and/or the positions we have open, please contact the Library or visit the “Volunteers” page on the Law Library’s website.

### **Feedback**

This Newsletter is intended to be useful to its readers. As in any enterprise, feedback on how the Newsletter is fulfilling this goal is crucial to our achieving it. If our articles are helpful, let us know. If they are not, let us know. If you have suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter, or comments and suggestions on the Law Library itself, please let us know. For your convenience, there is a link to a [feedback form](#) available on most pages of the Law Library's website. Thank you.

### **Submitting Articles for Newsletter**

The Editor encourages readers to submit articles for publication and/or make suggestions on material to be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

### **To Subscribe**

Contact the Law Library by mail, e-mail, or telephone and request a free subscription to the Newsletter. It will be sent to you as a PDF attachment to an e-mail. The Library’s mailing address is: Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library’s e-mail address is: [info@douglascolawlibrary.org](mailto:info@douglascolawlibrary.org). The Law Library’s telephone number is: 785-838-2477.

### **Back Issues**

Back issues of the Newsletter are [archived](#) on the Library's website.

### **Classified Ads**

Free classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter by contacting the Law Library. The Editor reserves the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate and to add restrictions as the need arises.

No Ads this Month.



### **Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter**

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