

# SNSO Personnel



**1955 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Personnel**



**1966 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Personnel**



## SNSO Personnel



**1971 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office – Dwayne Juedes**



**1977 Uniform Patrol Division**



## SNSO Personnel



**1977 SNSO Personnel Receive Deputy Commission – Topeka Daily Capital - Staff**



**1979 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Football Team**



**1979 Sheriff Deputies meet with Commissioners during contract negotiations – Topeka Daily Capital**



## SNSO Personnel



**1982 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Softball Team**



**1985 Shawnee County Sheriff Office**



**1989 Swearing in Ceremony at Courthouse - Topeka Capital Journal - Staff**



# 2005 Personnel



Caleb Acree  
Corporal



Glenda Anderson  
Clerk



Andrew Adams  
Deputy



Adam Anderson  
Deputy



Carol Ashley  
Process Server



Scott Askew  
Detective



Scott Baker  
Sergeant



John Barber  
Deputy



Janelle Barnes  
Clerk



Richard Barta  
Sheriff



Russell Berry  
Deputy



Phil Blume  
Lieutenant



Kathy Bolan  
Clerk



Melanie Boos  
Clerk



Harry Bowen IV  
Deputy



Justin Boyles  
Deputy



Dave Brede  
Detective



Deborah Brock  
Clerk



Tom Bronaugh  
Sergeant



Randy Brown  
Mechanic



## 2005 Personnel



John A. Burghart  
Deputy



David Burkett  
Corporal



Brandy Burkholder  
Clerk



Don Burns  
Undersheriff



Brett Butell  
Corporal



Dustin Carlat  
Detective



Jodi Child  
Clerk



Robert Child Jr.  
Corporal



Don Christie  
Captain



Bryan Clemmons  
Deputy



Cecilia Craig  
Clerk



Kermit Crane  
Captain



Andrew Dale  
Corporal



Michael Dreher  
Process Server



Marguerita Essman  
Receptionist



Stephen Evans  
Corporal



Doug Fehr  
Deputy



Brian Flott  
Deputy



Jennifer Flott  
Deputy



Lynda Flowers  
Clerk





Judy Forster  
Administrative Assistant



Victoria Fox  
Clerk



Katie Franke  
Clerk



Eric Frey  
Deputy



James Garner  
Deputy



Rachel Gathers  
Clerk



Michael George  
General Counsel



Janie German  
Clerk



Scott Gilchrist  
Lieutenant



Vicki Gideon-Mauer  
Clerk



1993 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office



# 2005 Personnel



Todd Good  
Deputy



Dave Gowan  
Sergeant



Gerald Graham  
Deputy



Vicki Hamilton  
Animal Control



Rosemary Hanna  
Process Server



John Hansen  
Chaplain



John Harper Jr.  
Clerk



Glenn Hawks III  
Deputy



Roy Hawks  
Deputy



Julie Heinrich  
Property Room Tech



Philip Higdon  
Sergeant



Joyce Hines  
Clerk



Rick Hladky  
Major



Therese Hodges  
Property Room Tech



Scott Holladay  
Captain



Charles Holthaus  
Deputy



Shane Hoobler  
Lieutenant



Justin Hottman  
Animal Control



John Huball  
Deputy



Dan Jaramillo  
Detective





Dan Jenks  
Deputy



Buford Johnson  
Sergeant



Darrin Johnson  
Deputy



Judy Johnson  
Process Server



Mitch Johnson  
Deputy



Shannon Johnson  
Process Server



Matt Johnston  
Deputy



Brad Jones  
Deputy



Carey Jordan  
Deputy



Kelly Jordan  
Deputy



1997 Uniform Patrol Division



# 2005 Personnel



Tim Kampsen  
Corporal



Kevin Kasl  
Deputy



Chris Keys  
Sergeant



Diana Kobs  
Accountant



Michael Kolbek  
Lieutenant



Steve Krueger  
Process Server



Robert Kunze III  
Deputy



Ernest Lauderback  
Deputy



Sam Leone III  
Lieutenant



Kenton Lewis  
Deputy



Daniel Lopez  
Deputy



Daniel Lotridge  
Deputy



Alicia Lott  
Clerk



Harold Louderback  
Corporal



Emily Lowe  
Deputy



Steven Luttjohann  
Sergeant



Martha Lutz  
Sergeant



Errin Mahan  
Deputy



Chris Margle  
Deputy



Darrin Marr  
Deputy





Dereck Martinez  
Deputy



Tim McCaffrey  
Deputy



Pat McGuire  
Sergeant



John McHatton  
Deputy



Phil McKay  
Detective



Tracy McKnight  
Deputy



Rich Mergen  
Sergeant



Brad Metz  
Sergeant



Jason Mills  
Deputy



Jack Morgan  
Sergeant



2000 New Deputies



# 2005 Personnel



Michael Mulford  
Deputy



James Mummey  
Detective



Ryan Myers  
Deputy



Jean Myers  
Clerk



Ed Nelson  
Deputy



Keith Oliver  
Deputy



John Ostenson  
Sergeant



John Peterson  
Deputy



Reanne Pfannenstiel  
Deputy



Nick Pipkin  
Deputy



Ashley Previty  
Deputy



Michael Rafferty  
Sergeant



Jere Randall  
Clerk



Akim Reynolds  
Deputy



Brian Rhodd  
Deputy



Kiley Rice  
Deputy



Aaron Rivera  
Deputy



Lance Royer  
Captain



Jerry Runkle  
Mechanic



Geroge Salehar  
Sergeant





Michael Schadegg  
Deputy



Kim Schreiner  
Clerk



David Seymour  
Deputy



Gerald Simecka II  
Deputy



Alan Simon  
Corporal



Rebecca Spielman  
Clerk



Caitlin St. Clair  
Deputy



Larry Stallbaumer  
Corporal



Todd Stallbaumer  
Deputy



Aaron Steinlage  
Deputy



2001 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office





John Suther  
Mechanic



Ed Swift  
Detective



Paul Tavares  
Process Server



Erin Thompson  
Deputy



Tracey Trammel  
Deputy



Jared Underwood  
Deputy



William Vaughn  
Detective



Justin Vest  
Deputy



Scott Wanamaker  
Deputy



James Ward Jr.  
Deputy



Debbie Wells  
Clerk



Richard Westgate  
Deputy



Thad Winkelman  
Deputy



Desiree Wright  
Deputy



Michael Wright  
Deputy



# Retired Personnel



Grace Artzer  
Retired Clerk



Larry Baer  
Retired Detective



Marsha Baird  
Retired Sergeant



Dan Bryant  
Retired Captain



John Burghart  
Retired Sergeant



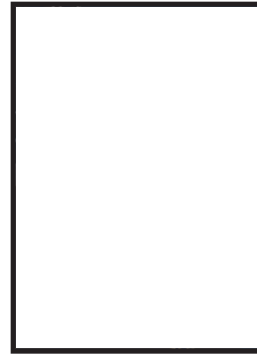
Larry Crady  
Retired Lieutenant



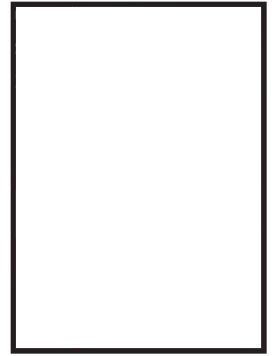
Wanda Crady  
Retired Clerk



Judy Forster  
Retired Sergeant



Richard Grassi  
Retired Sergeant



Robert Inman  
Retired Major





# Retired Personnel



John Kern  
Retired Corporal



Bill Kilian  
Retired Deputy



Richard Lee  
Retired Captain



Billy Lewis  
Retired Sergeant



Dawn Lines  
Retired Sergeant



Judy Lober  
Retired Secretary



Oren Long  
Retired Lieutenant



Roger Lovelace  
Retired Captain



J. D. Mauck  
Retired Sergeant



Jack Metz  
Retired Detective







Bob Miller  
Retired Sergeant



Ken Owensby  
Retired Sergeant



Jerry Petrel  
Retired Corporal



Ken Pierce  
Retired Major



Ted Rake  
Retired Deputy



Ed Ritchie  
Retired Sheriff



Tom Sargent  
Retired Lieutenant



Mark Wanamaker  
Retired Sergeant



Glenda Wilkinson  
Retired Clerk



Robert Wilcox  
Retired Deputy



Bill Workman  
Retired Sergeant

Photo Not Available, please see roster page:

David Bentley	Retired Lieutenant.....	123	William Hudson	Retired Lieutenant.....	121
Charles Bloss Jr.	Retired Deputy .....	111	Matt Luttjohann	Retired Deputy .....	125
Robert Bryant	Retired Sergeant .....	110	Richard McEntire	Retired Sergeant .....	100
Earl Busey	Retired Sergeant .....	116	Wanda McKay	Retired Clerk .....	100
Tim Byers	Retired Sergeant .....	123	Wallace Mechler	Retired Captain .....	98
Marcy Carlson	Retired Corporal .....	106	Kendall Myers	Retired Sergeant .....	97
Lloyd Cooper	Retired Corporal .....	115	Mike Ramirez	Retired Detective.....	103
Richard Denton	Retired Sergeant .....	120	Harley Sands	Retired Deputy .....	115
Ken Fisher	Retired Deputy .....	113	Ken Smith	Retired Deputy .....	122
Paul Fisher	Retired Sergeant .....	115	Michael Sweet	Retired Sergeant .....	115
Shirley Fitzgibbons	Retired Corporal .....	105	Gaylon Thompson	Retired Captain.....	128
Farrell Fouts	Retired Lieutenant.....	117	Rodney Tibbits	Retired Corporal .....	136
Larry Good	Retired Captain .....	117	Richard Warrington	Retired Sergeant.....	116
Mike Hamblin	Retired Deputy .....	106	Dudley Weed	Retired Corporal .....	106
Jim Honn	Retired Lieutenant.....	126			



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

**Chairman - Sergeant Richard Mergen** was responsible for overall project operations. He was involved in the badge design with Sergeant Scott Baker, designed the challenge coin, researched material for the book, collected old photos, and prepared layout of the book.

**Staff Advisor - Captain Don Christie** acted as liaison between committee and Sheriff's Office administration, was an advisor on all aspects of the project and was involved in obtaining open house exhibits, etc.

**Book - Retired Sergeant J. D. Mauck** was the primary "writer" of the book including the Sheriff bio's, feature stories, SNSO personalities, and information related to the buildings and courthouses. **Sergeant Pat McGuire** was responsible for locating Josten's Yearbook to produce the book and was involved in all aspects of the celebration.

**Banquet - Sergeant Phil Higdon** made preliminary plans with the Downtown Ramada Inn as the site of the banquet, solicited door prizes, and was involved in the overall event. **Detective Ed Swift** was involved in all aspects of the banquet, including the food selection, entertainment, door prizes, and the program agenda.

**Photo Library - Roxanne Kolbek**, a volunteer, worked many hours scanning hundreds of photos and old newspaper articles related to the Sheriff's Office.

**Open House - Sergeant Martha Lutz and Retired Sergeant Judy Forster** were involved in all planning for the anniversary celebration with emphasis on the Open House held at the Law Enforcement Center.

**Commemorative "Challenge" Coin - Sergeant John Ostenson** provided valuable input in making the coin become a reality and overall aspects of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Power Point - Lieutenant Scott Gilchrist** assisted with early committee discussions and plans. He produced an "informal" and "formal" 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary power point presentation shown at the banquet.



Shawnee County Sheriff's Office  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



Sgt. Higdon (left) and Sgt. John Ostenson receive instructions on how to be a good "tour guide" during the open house event.





## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Items



**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Badge** – A combination of the “old” and “new” style badge was selected to commemorate the 150 years of Shawnee County Sheriff Office. The 5-point round badge with “Deputy Sheriff” and ornamental leafing depicts early badge styles worn by law enforcement, while the 7-point badge with Kansas State seal is currently worn by Shawnee County Sheriff personnel. Size 2 3/8”

**175 serialized badges produced / Cost per badge \$43.75**

Designed by: Sergeant Rich Mergen & Sergeant Scott Baker  
Produced by: Sun Badge Company, Ontario, California



**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coin** – The front of the coin displays the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary badge, while the backside features the six different shoulder patch designs that have been worn by Shawnee County Sheriff's Office personnel since the mid 1950's. Size 1.5”

**1260 coins were produced / Cost per coin \$3.25**

Designed by: Sergeant Rich Mergen  
Produced by: Sun Badge Company, Ontario, California



**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lapel Pin** – The pin is a miniature of the commemorative badge. Size 7/8”

**380 lapel pins were produced / Cost per pin \$3.25**

Produced by: Sun Badge Company, Ontario, California



**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ID Case** – The ID case includes a flat badge inside the leather case with gold embossed lettering on the front that reads:

**Shawnee County Sheriff  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1855-2005**

**60 ID cases were produced / Cost per case \$59.50**

Produced by: Sun Badge Company, Ontario, California



# 2005 Reserve Personnel



Ron Barnes  
Reserve Corporal



Michael Dehaven  
Reserve Deputy



Kenneth Knox  
Reserve Deputy



David Kuzanek  
Reserve Deputy



Alvie Loveall  
Reserve Corporal



Nelson Martir  
Reserve Sergeant



Allen Moran  
Reserve Captain



Ronald Myers  
Reserve Deputy



Arlin Olson  
Reserve Deputy



Shawn Parcels  
Reserve Deputy



Len Richter  
Reserve Sergeant



Lawrence Smith  
Reserve Deputy



Myron Stucky  
Reserve Lieutenant



Gary Wadley  
Reserve Deputy



Charles Wichert  
Reserve Deputy



Michael Wikle  
Reserve Sergeant



# Open House

August 22, 2005  
Topeka Capital-Journal

## Open house looks to past

### Shawnee County Sheriff's Office is older than the state of Kansas

By Steve Fry

On Thursday, the public will get a chance to see the massive metal bars of the imposing jail door that first guarded prisoners in Shawnee County just a few years after Kansas became a state.

Unlike the 19<sup>th</sup> century prisoners who walked across the door's threshold and spent a lot of time staring out the bars, visitors attending the open house celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office will be able to leave at anytime.

The door, built seven years after Kansas was admitted to the union, weighs between 500 and 600 hundred pounds, is mounted in a frame of 4-inch channel iron and now stands on casters. On Friday, the 8-foot-tall door and frame was wheeled into the sheriff's office in preparation for the open house. The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office was responsible for the jail until 1981, when the Shawnee County Corrections Department took over management.

In its 150 years, the sheriff's office has had about 650 deputies and sheriffs. Current Sheriff Dick Barta is the department's 40<sup>th</sup> sheriff.

The open house planned for Thursday marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington Berry's appointment on August 25, 1855, by Kansas Territorial Gov. Andrew Reeder as the first Shawnee County Sheriff. Berry's appointment came in the midst of the Bleeding Kansas violence between abolitionists and pro-slavery forces, and Berry, a successful farmer in Monmouth Township and father of five children, ending up declining the sheriff's post, according to "Shawnee County Sheriff's Office 1855-2005", a soon-to-be-published book by J. D. Mauck, a retired deputy, and Rich Mergen, a sergeant in the detectives division at the sheriff's department.

"My hair is too precious to be hazarded by holding the position," the book quotes Berry as writing in a message to Reeder.

About a month later, John Wesley Horner, a farmer and Methodist minister who sometimes practiced medicine, was appointed to the office, officially becoming the county's second sheriff. He served in the post for 13 months.



August 25, 2005

Lobby area of the Sheriff's Office featured a variety of displays including the old jail cell door during the open house. Over 300 attended the event.



Sheriff Richard Barta (right) and former Deputy Merle Busey. Busey received his deputy commission from former Sheriff Engler in 1955. Busey is believed to be the first deputy promoted to the rank of Sergeant



The 160-page book will be published and available for sale later this year.

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Horner's appointment will be marked on September 24 with a banquet for current and retired deputies. The jail door will be displayed at the banquet, too.

Besides the open house, banquet and book about the sheriff's department, 175 specially designed badges with serial numbers, a commemorative coin illustrating the seven designs of shoulder patches for the department, and lapel pins have been issued to mark the sesquicentennial.

The jail door surfaced this spring, when Mergen and Capt. Don Christie were tracking down photographs at the Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 S. W. 6<sup>th</sup>. Mergen was looking at the card catalog index when he saw a notation for a 1978 Topeka Daily Capital story about recovery of the door during demolition of the Norva Hotel on the southwest corner of S. Kansas Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> street.

"How would you like to look at it?" Christie said a curator asked the researchers.

The courthouse jail was built in 1867- and 1868 - Kansas became a state on January 29, 1861. there were numerous prisoner escapes from the basement-level jail because it north side windows were next to a sidewalk where passers-by could pass contraband into the hands of inmates, Mergen said. The jail moved to another courthouse in 1886, but the door remained at 4<sup>th</sup> and S. Kansas, which was remodeled into first the Reid Hotel, then the Norva Hotel.

When the Norva was demolished by Champney Wrecking Co. in 1977, company owner George W. Champney donated the jail door to the state historical society, the article said.

The door, which is on loan to the sheriff's office, stands 6 feet 7 inches tall, is 3 feet 1 inch wide and is 3.25 inches thick. It will be returned to the state historical society with the iron frame and caster, Christie said.

### **Sheriff's department open house**

When: 4p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday  
Where: Law Enforcement Center, 320 Kansas Ave  
Who: Open to the public, free admission

### **What can you see:**

- \*Jail keys from a jail in the county courthouse at S. W. 5<sup>th</sup> & Van Buren
- \*Tours led by deputies of the sheriff's department

\*The Special Weapons and Tactics vehicle, which formerly was an armored truck

\*The canine unit \* Patrol Vehicle



Sheriff Barta with Jean & William Fitzgibbons. Jean is the daughter of former Sheriff Elburn Beal.



Deputy Harry Bowen IV (right) and Detective Dave Brede, SWAT team members, provided information about equipment used by SWAT members.



Deputy Rhodd (left) and Deputy Trammell talk with open house guests about highway interdiction.



# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

September 25, 2005  
TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## Sheriff Office's History Recalled

### Department began in violent days of Bleeding Kansas

By Steve Fry

On Saturday, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office celebrated 150 years of service and bravery, with perhaps emphasis on the latter.

It turns out that the first person appointed as sheriff didn't want the job and never served, saying it was too dangerous because of the Bleeding Kansas violence between abolitionists and pro-slavery adherents slightly more than five years before Kansas was a state.

A banquet Saturday evening at the Ramada Inn Downtown coincided with the second anniversary observe by the sheriff's office in less than a month. In August, the department had an open house. The two dates are tied to the anniversaries of its first two sheriffs.

The first anniversary is linked to Aug. 25, 1855, when George Washington Berry was appointed by Kansas Territorial Gov. Andrew Reeder as the first Shawnee County sheriff. Berry, a successful farmer and father of five children, declined to serve.

On September 24, 1855, John Wesley Horner, a farmer, Methodist minister and sometimes doctor, was appointed. He accepted and served as sheriff for 13 months.

Shawnee County historian Richard Friedstrom talked about the county's early sheriff and the turbulent, violent days in Shawnee County when there were shootings and the burning of homes spurred by clashes between abolitionist and pro-slavery forces.

"The sheriff had a tough job," Friedstrom said during an interview at the banquet.

Free-staters and pro-slavery forces collided in northeast Kansas, and guns and violence replaced words during the five-plus years before Kansas became a state on Jan. 29, 1861, Friedstrom said.

Friedstrom admired the sheriffs who didn't always agree with the law of the territory but enforced it nevertheless.



Captain Don Christie (left)  
and Keynote Speaker Rick Friedstrom



Sergeant Jack Morgan, a banquet speaker, with  
Shawnee County Commissioner Marice Kane.



Topeka Capital Journal Reporter Steve Fry (right)  
and 150<sup>th</sup> Committee Chairman Sgt. Rich Mergen



Friedstrom noted that Benjamin Castleman, the county's third sheriff from October 1856 to March 1857 who had been a prosperous owner of a general store in Tecumseh, was a pro-slavery backer.

When Topeka abolitionist John Ritchie and his followers ran low on supplies, they raided Castleman's store, helping themselves to whatever they needed, Friedstrom said.

When Castleman became sheriff, the tables turned, and the new sheriff pursued Ritchie, Friedstrom said. Before there was gunfire between the two, Castleman wisely backed away from a confrontation with Ritchie, Friedstrom said.

Twice during Saturday night's banquet, the four Shawnee County deputies who volunteered to enforce the law in hurricane-wracked Mississippi were honored.

Capt. Lance Royer asked for a moment of silence for Deputies Kenton Lewis and Kelly Jordan, Sgt. John Ostenson and Cpl. Brett Butell.

Working 12-hour days in heat, large mosquitos and smelly conditions, the four are doing general law enforcement work, including comforting homeowners. One woman found only a foundation where her summer home had stood, Royer said.

"You just have to be humble and do what you can," one of the four deputies told Royer.

Former Sheriff Ed Ritchie, former Undersheriff Dale Collie, and retired deputies, including Gaylon Thompson and Richard Warrington, joined Sheriff Dick Barta and current deputies Saturday in celebrating the department's anniversary.

The sheriff's office also is observing its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with "Shawnee County Sheriff's Office 1855-2005," a soon-to-be-published book by J. D. Mauck, a retired deputy, and Rich Mergen, a sergeant in the detectives division. A limited number of books will be printed. For information, call Mergen at 268-2234.

### By The Numbers

**Five:** Number of sheriff's department sites: Tecumseh, 4<sup>th</sup> and Kansas Avenue, S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> and Van Buren, 200 S.E. 7<sup>th</sup>, and 320 S. Kansas Ave.

**35:** Number of deputies in 1968, including five jailers

**133:** Number of deputies in 1981

**150:** Number of current and former sheriff's employees attending banquet Saturday

**160:** Number of pages in soon-to-be-published book "Shawnee County Sheriff's Office 1855-2005"

**About 650:** Number of deputies and sheriffs in Shawnee County in 150 years

**First sheriff:** George Washington Berry appointed Aug. 25, 1855, when Kansas was a territory

**40<sup>th</sup> (and current) sheriff:** Dick Barta



Sheriff Richard Barta and wife Marcia (left) with Major Rick Hladky and wife Rose Ann

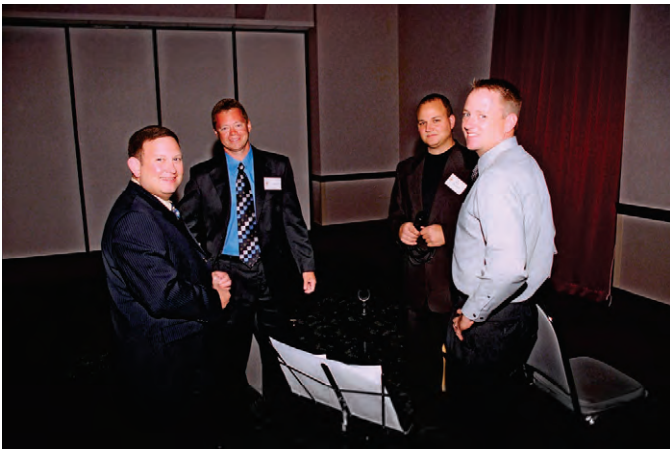


Diana Kob, Cecilia Craig (left to right) Glenda Anderson (background) and Judy Forster.



Group Photo - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet





Captain Royer (left) with Sgt. Brad Metz, Deputy Justin Boyles, who sang several Patriotic songs, and Sgt. Thomas Bronaugh



Major Ken Pierce (Ret), guest speaker, and Captain Lance Royer (right), Master of Ceremony during the banquet event.



Deputy Akim Reynolds (left) and wife Jami, along with Criminal Investigations secretary Rachel Gathers and husband Greg



Sgt. Ken Owensby (Ret) and wife Christeen Owensby



Group Photo – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet



Seaman High School Jazz Band provided entertainment during the banquet. Directed by Cary Stahly

**Banquet Photographers**  
**Myron & Jennifer Stucky**





Former Deputies Scott Teeselink, retired from Kansas Bureau of Investigation and Earl Hindman (right), former director of Shawnee County DOC.



Det. Larry Baer (Ret), Sgt. Dick Warrington (Ret), Reserve Lieutenant Myron Stucky, and Reserve Captain Allen Moran (Left to right)



Major Bob Inman (Ret), Lt. Tom Sargent (Ret), and former Sheriff Ed Ritchie (Left to right)



Corporal Larry Stallbaumer (Ret) wife Danni, Corporal Caleb Acree and wife Fran.



Group Photo – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet



Tina Mummey, winner of the Glock model 27 and husband Det. Jim Mummey.



## Acknowledgements

My interest in the history of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office began in 1985. I had worked at SNSO for around six years at that point and never really thought much about the people who were involved in establishing one of the early law enforcement agencies in Kansas. After going to the Kansas State Historical Society Research library one day and reading some of the early Topeka newspapers, I developed an interest, if not a passion, to learn as much as I could about the "people" of the Sheriff's Office.

The emphasis of this book has been to showcase the people that committed many years of service to the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office and citizens of this community. From the day I met a granddaughter of George Washington Berry, to the afternoon I spent with Mattie McIntosh learning about Deputy Benjamin J. Davidson, to the present day when I met former Deputy Merle Busey, I knew I was involved in something special.

The history of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office has never before been revealed in one source - until now. Even saying that, this is merely a start at recreating the first 150 years of the Sheriff's Office. Perhaps the easiest way to present the past was to focus on the people. The people are the heart and soul of any organization, so that is why they have been featured in this book. There no doubt will be some men and women that were not recognized in this book, and that is only because their connection to this agency has not yet been found. To those individuals I apologize, but believe me you are not forgotten.

There are so many people to thank. First and foremost, I recognize my wife Nancy. Without her support and understanding, this book would remain only a dream. To some of the children of past Sheriffs, namely Jean Beal Fitzgibbons, Shirley Rogers Rausch, Jerry Rogers, and others who have provided old photos, badges, and stories, I thank you.

Thanks goes out to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee members who graciously allowed themselves to become involved in a short-term project, but one that will be remembered forever. Thanks also to Sheriff Richard Barta and staff who supported the entire project from start to finish. Tricia Johnston, Thad Allton, and Steve Fry at The Topeka Capital-Journal, I thank you for your response, support, and assistance when I was looking for that much needed help.

I would like to express my gratitude to my immediate supervisors, Captain Kermit Crane and Lieutenant Phil Blume, along with Detective secretary Rachel Gathers who assisted with many tedious typing assignments. To all those associated with the Sheriff's Office, current, former, and retired personnel, I thank you for making my first involvement in preparing a book enjoyable and unforgettable.



Thank you to the many other individuals that have assisted with this endeavor, but are too numerous to identify. I want to personally thank co-author J. D. Mauck for all his support and assistance throughout the entire project. Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with my wife Nancy at the Topeka Public Library conducting research in the Topeka Room and reviewing old newspapers on microfilm.

Sergeant Richard Mergen  
Shawnee County Sheriff's Office



## About the Authors



### **J. D. MAUCK** **Deputy 1979-1999**

Jake Douglas Mauck was born in Topeka, Kansas in 1938. In 1947, Mauck's family moved to a farm north of Silver Lake, Kansas where Mauck attended a one-room country grade school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. J. D. Mauck graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1956 in a class numbering only 28. In

1978, J. D. Mauck earned an Associate of Arts degree from Washburn University in Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Mauck's first employment was an apprenticeship at the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. After 5 years employment with the railroad, Mauck went to work at the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Cellophane plant at Tecumseh, Kansas as a draftsman in the engineering department. Five years later, Mauck began employment with Seymour Foods, Inc. where he served as Parts Department Manager. In 1973, Mauck began working for the Hydra-Tool Corporation as Production Manager where he worked until the company moved to Mississippi in 1978.

J. D. Mauck's first experience in law enforcement began in 1972 when he joined the Topeka Police Reserve program. At the time, reserve officers, after receiving basic training, served as police officers by occupying a patrol area and answering all calls within that area. While serving as a reserve officer for seven years, Mauck realized that his part-time, volunteer activity was more satisfying than working in industry where every day was pretty much like the day before.

In January 1979, Mauck began his career with the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department and was assigned to work in the jail for the first few months of employment. Mauck later worked in Patrol for five years, Warrants for two years and then was assigned to Criminal Intelligence as a Detective in 1985. In 1995, Mauck was promoted to Sergeant and remained in Criminal Intelligence until he retired in March 1999. Because of his work in investigating local anti-government and militia groups, Mauck was subpoenaed to the Terry Nichols trial in Denver, Colorado in 1997 to testify about the possible involvement of Shawnee County militants in the Oklahoma City bombing.

J. D. Mauck worked with Richard Mergen in gathering data on the history of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department for the observance of 130 years of department history in 1985. The experience of learning the history of the department developed into an appreciation of the history and of the people who have lived and died serving the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department over the years.

After retirement, J. D. Mauck served four years as a member of the Shawnee County Civil Service Board, serving as Chairman during 2002, his last year of service.



### **RICHARD MERGEN** **Deputy 1979-Present**

Rich Mergen was born at the Westover Air Force Base Hospital, Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1957, and is the son of Don and Mary Mergen. Rich is the second child of three with an older brother, Doug, and younger sister, Carol.

Rich grew up in Salina, Kansas after his father was stationed at Schilling Air Force Base. Rich attended Sacred Heart grade school, junior high, and high school, graduating in 1975. While in high school, Rich was a proud member of the undefeated 2A State football and basketball championship teams his senior year. Rich continued his education at Washburn University of Topeka. He joined the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity his freshman year, and served as President of the Kansas Delta Chapter in 1978. Rich graduated from Washburn University in 1979 earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice.

In May 1979, one day after graduating, Rich began his law enforcement career with the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office. After completing the 5-week basic training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, 55<sup>th</sup> Session, Rich was assigned to the Patrol Division. In September 1981, Rich requested and received transfer into the Community Relations and Crime Prevention unit. He was promoted to Corporal in January 1984, and served in that capacity until December 1985.

Rich accepted a 3-month cross training in the Detective Division and received permanent status as a Detective in March 1986. Rich remained in the Criminal Investigation Division as a general case work detective until July 2002, when he accepted a position as the Criminal Intelligence & Crime Analysis detective. Mergen was promoted to Sergeant in March 2004 and serves as the first shift supervisor of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Rich became interested in the history of the Sheriff's Office in 1985 spending nearly two months reviewing old newspaper articles. During that time he learned about the Sheriffs and deputies who first served Topeka and Shawnee County. He also gathered much information about the Sheriff's Office and the death of deputy and jailor Benjamin J. Davidson. This information was unknown by all at the Sheriff's Office at the time. Rich acquired a passion for gathering and locating the names of all those who have served with the Sheriff's Office and the rest is history. Rich's main focus has been on the "people" of the Sheriff's Office and that became the inspiration for this book.

In 1980, Rich married Nancy Lea Rinehart, the daughter of William and Ardith Rinehart. Rich and Nancy have two sons, Andy and Matt.