

Doris Cress (1923 – 2015)

Doris was a member of the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. She was very active in the history of Council Grove and the Trail and gave historic tours of key sites in and around Council Grove. Doris was heavily involved in helping with the SFTA Symposium held in Council Grove in 1999.

Doris Cress was a farm wife, community leader, and historian. Born August 27, 1923, she passed Away January 26, 2015 in Olathe, KS at the age of 91. Doris was born as an only child to Esther (Mcrabb) Wild and Charles Augustus Wild on August 27, 1923. Doris graduated from Wilsey High School in 1941 and later that year married Donald B. Cress on October 21. Together they ran the family farm south of Council Grove in the 4-Mile township along Spring Creek and raised one daughter Carole and two sons Donald and Lynn.

Doris was a lifelong person of faith and was a teacher at the 4-Mile Sunday School and Church and also as a member of the Council Grove Christian Church. Doris was also involved in the community as leader in the Four Mile 4-H Club, was a member of the General Federated Women's Clubs branch of the Philatheatan Club from 1982 to 2002, served as president of Fidelis for 2 years, participated in fundraising for the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, and served as HEW President and District President. An interest in the history of Council Grove kept Doris busy in later years where, as a member of the Morris County Historical Society she was instrumental in designing guided tours of the area and served as a tour guide for 9 years. She also helped develop signage for historical homes around Council Grove and worked on a City of Trees project to date the age of historic trees in Council Grove. Along with husband Don Cress, she was a member of the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association and helped sponsor activities surrounding the national Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium held in Council Grove in 1999. Don and Doris helped promote Old Stone Barn Day bringing awareness to the preservation of the stone barn built by Seth Hays east of Council Grove and they participated in many Wah-Shun-Gah Days parades with their horses and stagecoach.



Submitted by Mark Eric Brooks