

DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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News Notes

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October 28 6:00

Ghostly Stories from Around Doniphan County

which includes history from the files of DCIS
(Doniphan County Crime Scene Investigations)
by Cindy Hoverson with the cooperation of members from the DCHS
OV6 Family Barn, 578 Highway 7, Bendena (between 120th and 130th Roads)

The stories told this creepy evening may not start with "Once Upon a Time" or end with "They Lived Happily Ever After" but it will be all about eerie tales from Doniphan County's past packed with ghosts, myths, murder, tragedies and weird happenings. Join Cindy and her Jones family as they host the October meeting at the Oakland Valley Six Family Farm.

It gets darker by the day so be brave, be bold and come with your own ghostly stories of Doniphan County to be included in the written pages of our county's history. There are chairs in the barn to sit on and refreshments will be served. Be sure to bring a guest to ride along cause we wouldn't want anything to happen to you, would we?

Funny thought ---- These stories are not told "to protect the innocent" but rather raise the awareness of what has happened or could happen here again.

*What did the ghost of Grandpa Andy say to his children?
Don't spook until you're spoken to.*

Why didn't the skeleton cross K7 Highway? Because he had no guts.

What kind of spirit haunts the Hoverson henhouse? A poultry-geist.

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SYMNS TO JONES: A CENTURY PLUS FAMILY FARM

by Cindy Jones Hoverson

The venue for the October meeting is the barn located at 578 Highway 7, on land purchased by William Perrin Symns, from Peterstown, Virginia, in 1854. He married Maria Kent of Troy and had five children William, Andrew Burns, Perrin, Isabel (Reeder) and Elizabeth.

The three brothers managed an extensive cattle and farming operation which covered 12 quarters. Andrew Burns (A.B.) our grandfather, graduated from Kansas State University where he majored in animal husbandry. He returned to the family farm and married a neighbor's daughter, Edith Pearl Hagaman.

He and his brothers' efforts with the breeding and finishing of prime beef made a distinctive record and won many awards at the American Royal in Kansas City. During the 1938 Chicago World's Fair, their carload of shorthorn calves received top awards. Their horse and mule herds enabled them to sell eighty head annually. A.B.'s wife Pearl oversaw the apple, peach, apricot orchards and strawberry fields.

Andrew and Pearl had two children. The first child died of diphtheria at 1 ½ years old. Their daughter, Anna Hagaman Symns, after graduating from Emporia, married Bernard "Red" Jones of Emporia. They resided in Atchison until they moved to the family farm in 1966. Red and Anna had six children, who now share joint ownership of the property.

Construction began on the Symns barn in 1896 with the structural members being milled on site from oak and walnut as well as the stone foundation. The siding and wood shingles were shipped by train and transported from Doniphan Station. Barns on the south and eastern portion of the farm had 5/4x12 oak and walnut siding on the south side, all milled on the farm. This barn was the only barn with lap siding. Construction was completed by farm hands.

Some unique features of the barn are that Midwest 3 Portal barns are wonderfully designed for a variety of uses and interior configurations. The Symns barn is no exception, combining the use of hay storage, grain storage, horse stalls and cattle feeding into a single facility. Typical 3 Portal barns are configured with a center aisle with either corn cribs and/or hay storage on the sides. In the case of this barn, A.B. Symns felt that he could feed cattle more efficiently from the center hay storage, which allowed for grain feeders on the outside of each exterior aisle, too.

Although this reduced the capacity for hay storage, the Symns Farm had no less than five barns of similar size located through the operation, decreasing the need for a central barn that maximized hay storage. On the west side of the barn was a large corral that was demolished in the 1960s.

The barn is a comfortable meeting place, with gravel or rough cement flooring, plenty of seating, and restroom facilities.



TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 11, 2021

SEPTEMBER 11 BALANCE	\$38,707.70
INCOME:	
Dues	10.00
August interest	1.58
Income total:	\$10.58
EXPENDITURES:	
Expenditures total:	\$0
OCTOBER 11 BALANCE	\$38,718.28
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project	\$7584.72
CD #7175	\$6,841.86

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Jordan Creek Baptist Church, rural Bendena

September 23

Approximately 45 members and guests in attendance

Thank you to Ruthanna Seward for hosting and presenting about the church.

Thank you to Kathleen Twombly, Cheril McKay and

Discussion was held regarding accepting donation of a dress from Vicki Douglas. The dress belonged to one of her ancestors who was married in Leona in 1903. With much regret, it was decided to not accept the dress as we cannot store nor display it safely. We will contact other local groups (Atchison County Historical

Society, Evah Cray Museum, Brown County Historical Society) to see if we can help her out.

Donation of \$50 to Jordan Creek Cemetery fund was made for use of facility.

Meeting adjourned.



Society members enjoy documents from the church's history.

BRIDGES IN DONIPHAN COUNTY

Bridgehunter.com is an interesting website that catalogs bridges in the United States. You can search by county, and it will show you bridges in that county. You can sort the list to show existing and/or lost bridges. There are links to maps, and lots of pictures.

This is what they have listed as existing bridges in Doniphan County:

Charlie Creek Bridge Skewed stone arch bridge over Charlie Creek on 190th Road Open to traffic

Cottonwood Creek Bridge Through truss bridge over Cottonwood Creek, 3.5 mi. east and 1.7 mi. south of Bendena Open to traffic Built pre-1900.

Doniphan Co. Waddell "A" Truss Bridge (New Location) Waddell "A" through truss bridge over Unnamed Creek Open to pedestrians only Built 1900

Duncan Creek Bridge Through truss bridge over Duncan Creek, 0.5 mi. north of Blair Open to traffic Built 1935

Old US 36 Bridge/190th Rd Bridge Stringer bridge over Trib. to Peters Creek on Local T-433-3 Open to traffic Built 1920

Old US 36 Bridge/Duncan Creek Bridge Stringer bridge over Duncan Creek on Local T-433-1 Open to traffic Built 1923

Old US 36 Viaduct Concrete through girder bridge over abandoned UP/CRI&P railroad grade Open to traffic, posted

Oxide Road Plank Bridge 1 Timber stringer bridge over Unnamed Creek on Oxide Road Open to traffic

Oxide Road Plank Bridge 2 Timber stringer bridge over unnamed creek on Oxide Road Open to traffic

St. Joseph Swing Bridge Pennsylvania through truss swing bridge over Missouri River on the Union Pacific Railroad in St. Joseph, MO and Elwood, KS. Open to traffic Built 1906; Swing Span and Piers Replaced 1918/19

Striker Branch Bridge Slab bridge over Striker Branch on US 36, K7 Hwy Open to traffic Built 1939

CANINE "SHADOWS" PROBATE JUDGE AT TROY COURTHOUSE

Trixie is a popular pet at the courthouse in Troy. She belongs to Probate Judge W. H. Strahan, and follows him to and from the office each day.

She usually stays around the office all day, but frequently takes a stroll on the courthouse lawn. Sometimes she goes home for short periods, but is always there when the judge leaves to walk home with him.

When she is in the judge's office, Trixie sleeps on a chair or sits on a chair and watches out a window.

She particularly likes to visit other offices at the courthouse and hunt for candy. Some of her admirers often have candy for her.

Trixie, a fox terrier, is particularly a favorite among employees of the welfare department and she especially like Fred Worman, custodian, who frequently feeds her.

She is a little over eight years old, and has been visiting the courthouse each day since September of 1952, when Judge Strahan was appointed to his present office.

"The dog was given to me by the late Frank Blake," Judge Strahan said. "He slipped her into my law office on the west side of the square one night, and I found her the next morning.

"I didn't want to keep her at first, but she stayed around a few days and I began to like her. She has been with me since."

Often when the Judge is out of town, Trixie roams the streets of Troy looking for him. If he isn't at the office at closing time, she searches the other court house offices in quest of him.

(posted on www.genealogytrails.com from *Atchison Daily Globe*, March 29, 1956, Page 20, submitted by Lori DeWinkler)



Fred Worman, custodian at the Troy courthouse, makes Trixie sit up before he feeds her.

2021 MEETINGS

All meetings at 6:00 unless otherwise noted.

Presenters/topics subject to change.

OCT 28 *Haunted History of Doniphan County* by
Cindy Hoverson. Refreshments Midyette
Family.

NOV 18 *Musical Heritage of Local Churches* by
Wanda Olson and Melissa Blanton. St.
John's Lutheran Church, Bendena.
Refreshments Kent and Marcia Symns

DEC 1 Annual Soup Supper



«firstname» «LastName» «Paid»
«Address1» «Address2»
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If there is a number lower than "21" next to your name, it is time to renew your membership. Please continue to support your Doniphan County Historical Society. *Your membership is greatly appreciated.* Please consider receiving this newsletter by email to keep our mailing costs low.

DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Detach and mail with payment to: Anna Midyette, PO Box 197, Bendena, KS 66008

All Memberships are \$10.00. This is a: ☐ Renewal Membership ☐ New Membership

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