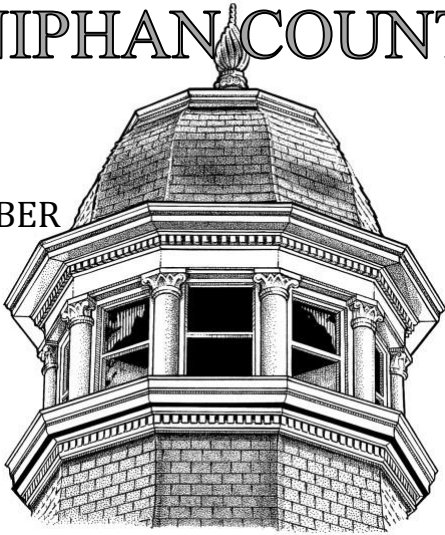


DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER
2023

Vol. 29
No. 12



News Notes

2023 OFFICERS

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December Events

December 1 Annual Soup Supper at the Tennent Baker House / Historical Society Museum, 138 East Walnut, Troy. Members are asked to bring soup or cookies. Soups will be kept hot on the woodburning stove. Tableware, coffee and water will be provided. Alison Ryan (daughter of Board Member Larry Faulkner) will play her violin for us. Free will donation.

December 14 6:00 Christmas Dinner. Star 36 Diner in Wathena. Make reservations with President Todd Miller by December 10 so they can set up enough chairs for us. Cost is \$15 and you will pay the Diner directly. Menu is ham, potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert and tea or coffee. We have a fun time visiting and sharing stories.

2023 BOARD MEMBERS

PETE DUNCAN

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MINUTES

November 16, 2023

President Todd Miller welcomed the approximately 30 individuals to the presentation and meeting. He opened the meeting with a few jokes. Reminder of the upcoming December 1 annual soup supper at the Tennent-Baker House in Troy and the December 14 Christmas Dinner at Star 36 Diner in Wathena. If you plan to attend the Christmas Dinner, please let Todd know for a headcount for reservations. Election of officers will be held December 14. Thank you to Marla Cummings for the tasty refreshments. Pete Duncan would enjoy visitors at the Wathena care facility. And remember Linda Guy; she will be attending meetings a little later. There will be an author in Troy on November 30 and he wishes to tour the Tennant Baker Home and museum as he is writing a book on Lincoln. Todd and Corky will coordinate with the author and provide the tour.

Todd has completed and submitted the paperwork for the bank building in Sparks to be considered by the State Historical Society for inclusion on the registry.

Jason Midyette gave the presentation on the history of postcards as told through the story of such by a collection exchanged between Claire and Anna Kenyon. The couple lived in Iowa in the 1900s. Once the Post Office was a very reliable and economical form of communication; one cent for the postcard and one cent to mail. Postcards originated as a method for businesses to communicate with their customers; even banking information. Some smaller towns could have mail delivery twice a day; allowing one to communicate when their train would arrive or that one had arrived at their destination. Mail traveled by train with post office cars on trains. There were specific cameras to take postcard photos and portraits. If you have ever wondered why some of the postcards have the message written sideways, there are two possibilities, at least. One, this would offer a little more privacy as the person sorting the mail wouldn't really have time to turn the card and read the message. Or second, the ease of writing. Postcards delivered to small towns rarely had the complete address on the card; just the name and city. Many cards were delivered to post offices and the recipients went to check if they had mail.

A variety of postcards were shown as we learned of the many uses and types. There is some difference between then and now with the postal service for certain. Thank you, Jason, for a very informative presentation.

Business meeting:

Nominations are needed for a vice president and co-treasurer and to fill Cindy Hoverson's position on the Board. Any suggestions should be given to Todd Miller, President, prior to December 14.

When the wi-fi was set up, the monthly fee was mistakenly linked to Todd's bank account; this will be

adjusted to be paid by the Historical Society with the first payment reimbursed to Todd.

Updates are needed to be completed on the checking account signatures on file.

Corky moved and Joan seconded the motion to purchase fire extinguishers for both the museum and the Tennant Baker House. Motion carried. Corky and Todd will coordinate these purchases.

Discussion of the missing Pony Express sign from John Paden's property. The missing sign was not part of the collection at the sheriff's office. There are two new signs available and one will be taken to John Paden and installed.

The Sycamore tree by the museum bell tower is split. Concern was expressed of the tree falling and causing damage. Marla will contact Roger Blanton to obtain a quote.

There will be a planning meeting in January for programs and presentations for 2024. Please submit ideas to Todd Miller. An article will also be placed in the Kansas Chief requesting suggestions and on Facebook. The planning meeting will be at Todd and Faye Miller's home with the date to be announced.

Meeting was adjourned.

Vicki Jones, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOV 26, 2023

NOV 6 BALANCE

\$38,023.92

INCOME:

Dues 70.00

Donation 15.00

Income total: \$85.00

EXPENDITURES:

Expenditures total: \$0

NOV 26 BALANCE \$38,108.92

CD #7175 \$6,916.11

CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project \$7,702.22

OFFICER AND BOARD ELECTIONS

On second thought, the officers decided it might take up too much time at our Christmas dinner to have an election since we've had multiple people interested in serving.

At the January meeting we will elect new officers - we will take nominations and then vote. If there is someone you would like to nominate, check with them to make

sure they are willing, and you can put their name forward. Using proper parliamentary procedure, the nomination would need a second and then we can vote. Open positions are board member and vice president since the rest of the officers/board members have agreed to continue.

1930, the 20s saw increased use not only in households but by big businesses in their holiday displays. Urban migration was in full swing thanks in part to wide-spread use of automobiles, and businesses had to catch the attention of patrons amid the hustle and bustle of the Roaring 20s.

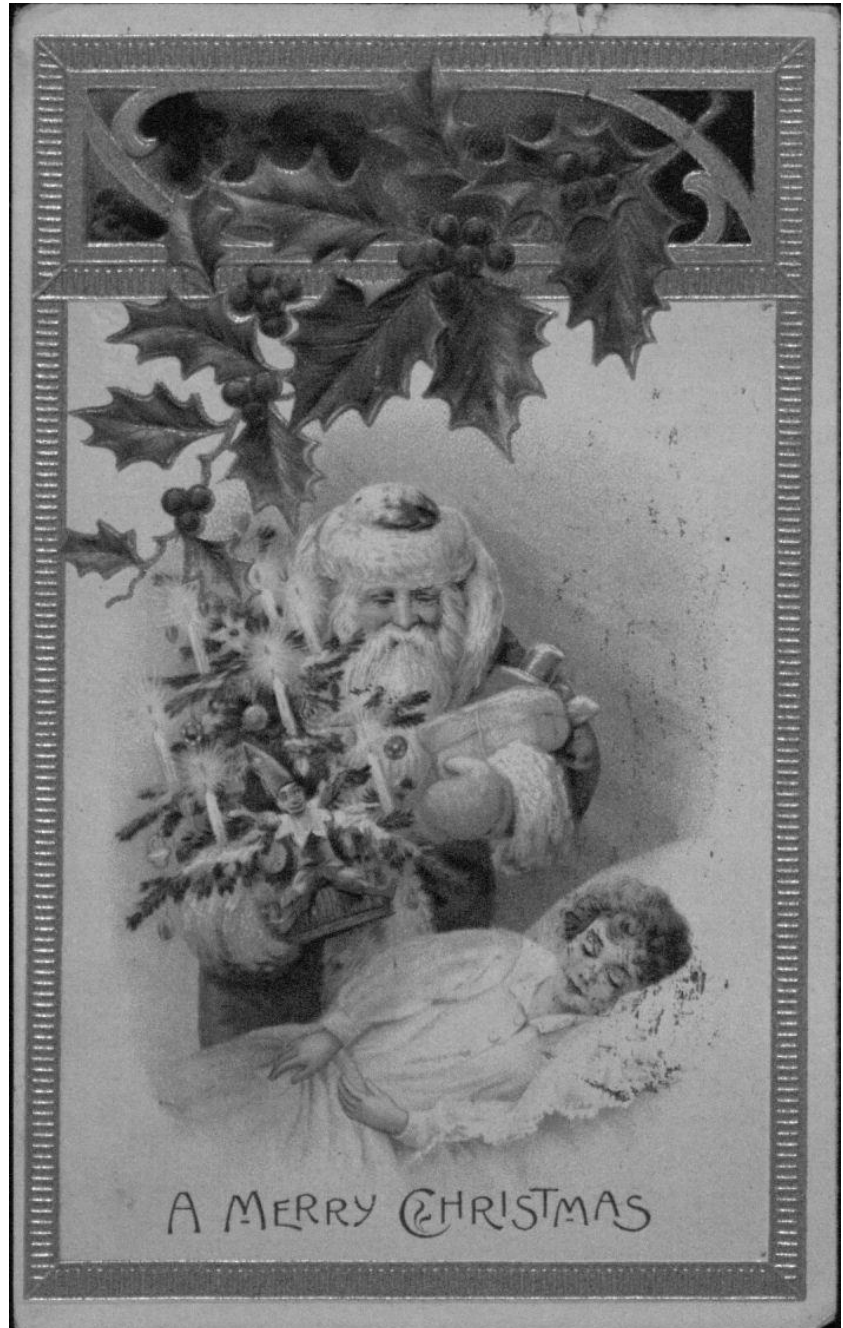
CHRISTMAS ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Following World War I, a period of economic growth began in the United States and Christmas celebrations, which had been evolving since the mid nineteenth century, would solidify into what we know today. Extravagant Christmas trees, sending holiday cards, holiday lights, extensive gift giving, lavish feasts, and the wide spread use of Santa Claus images in advertising would all be solidified by the mid-1920s.

This decade saw some of the first strong holiday advertising campaigns thanks to a prosperity that increased consumer demand as well as aspirations. Families that previously would not have been able to splurge on holiday gifts were now encouraged to buy the latest and greatest gadgets for loved ones. Popular items included radios, model train sets, and Kodak cameras. The use of Santa Claus in advertisements also became widely popular during this time as a universal figure that businesses could use at little advertising expense.

One innovation that became popular during this era was the artificial tree. Feather trees became widely used, especially in the UK. These were trees with green-dyed goose feathers arranged into pine needles and attached to wire branches. These branch arrangements were then attached to a central dowel for a trunk. Department stores sold these modern decorative trees in a range of color and size options, including trees anywhere from two to 98 inches tall.

Perhaps the most notable trend to emerge during the 20s was that of electric lights for the tree. Prior to this period, candles were still widely used to light the Christmas tree. Although these lights would not be extensively used in average households until





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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

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send newsletter by email. Email address: _____