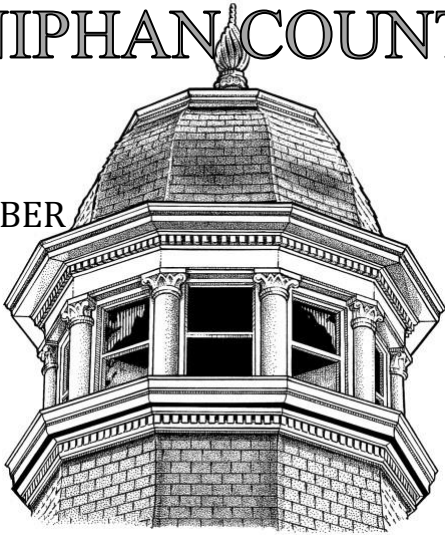


DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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News Notes

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November 16, 2023 6:00 pm

Claire and Anna : A Life Story in Postcards

by Jason Midyette

Historical Society Museum, 138 East Walnut, Troy

A collection of postcards can tell a story. Jason will tell the story of Claire and Anna Kenyon, a couple that lived in Iowa in the early 1900s. He will also offer some tips on how he put together their story using the clues from the postcards.

Though few people today think of it this way, the United States Post Office was once a very reliable and economical form of communication. In the early



*Claire and
Anna Kenyon
posed for this
real photo
postcard on
an outing
around 1910.*

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20th Century postcards were a popular way to stay in touch; for just one cent (about a quarter in today's money), you could send a quick message to a friend or loved one. In those days, the "postman always rang twice" (that is to say that mail was delivered twice a day in larger towns) and the transit time for mail, even between two small towns with a few states between them, was rarely more than two days. As an added bonus, the US Mail was available everywhere.

Postcards were used to let your family back home know you had arrived at your destination, let them know what train you were coming into town on, or just send a friend a neat picture from a different place. And, as can be imagined, they were popular with young couples who happened to find themselves in different towns. Should such a couple end up getting married and keep all of the postcards that they sent each other, it would certainly make for an interesting story a century or so down the road.

Many years ago, I ended up with just such a collection. The cards were written by Claire and Anna Kenyon of Iowa. Though it had ceased to be relevant to the descendants of the original authors of the cards, I found it interesting to piece together the story that the cards told, both about the writers and postcards themselves.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 14, 2023

OCT 14 BALANCE	\$38,124.10
INCOME:	
Dues	50.00
Income total:	\$50.00
EXPENDITURES:	
Internet at Museum	\$150.18
Donation for use of facility for October meeting	\$50
Expenditures total:	\$200.18
NOV 6 BALANCE	\$38,023.92
CD #7175	\$6,916.11
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project	\$7,702.22

MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2023

President Todd Miller welcomed approximately 40 attendees of the presentation of "Local Legends and Monsters" at the Iowa and Sac & Fox Mission at

Highland. Thank yous were extended to the presenters Mike Kelley and Lance Foster and for the use of the Museum for our meeting; and to Henry and Sharon Peuker for providing the refreshments.

The program was led by Mike and Lance with many legends, stories and information. Members of the audience also provided comments and stories. Various spirits were named with stories and legends. A very entertaining and informative presentation.

Upcoming meetings and events:

November 16 - program by Jason Midyette at Tennant Baker House, corner of Liberty and Walnut Streets in Troy. Election of officers will be held. Marla Cummins will provide refreshments.

December 1 - Annual Soup Supper at the Tennent Baker House in Troy. Preston Harness volunteered to provide ground beef for someone making chili for the soup dinner (Todd will do). Allison Ryan will entertain us with her beautiful violin music.

December 14, 6:00 - Christmas party at Star 36 in Wathena. Menu: ham, green beans, mashed potatoes, white gravy, salad, dessert, and tea/coffee. Cost will be in \$15 range. Contact Todd Miller to make a reservation.

January 2024 - a planning meeting will be held at Todd's home in Sparks for the upcoming year meetings and programs. Suggestions for topics included presentations on the towns such as Iowa Point and Sparks, etc.; original land surveys; history of apples in Doniphan County; school history. Additional suggestions can be given to one of the officers or Board members.

Todd updated the group on the internet access at the Baker House and Museum. A router, laptop and scanner are now in place and scanning of documents is in progress. More details to follow as procedures are developed. Margaret continues to work on historical archives and will help develop electronic files for storage. Anyone interested in assisting with the scanning is asked to contact one of the officers. Some members will be working there on Saturday, October 26.

Lance and Mike will be meeting with members of the Historical Society to discuss what items need to be returned to the Iowa and Sax & Fox Mission Museum now that their renovations have been completed. Corky commented that a record needs to

be maintained as to what is being returned for future reference.

Todd continues to work on having the Sparks Bank added to the Historical Registry.

Pete Duncan is at the Wathena care facility in room 101.

It was reported that Steve Harness has made contact with Rick Anderson at the Kansas Historical Society regarding the addition of signage at Iowa Point. The Pony Express sign south of Troy is missing as well as some others. Todd will check with the Doniphan County Sheriff's Office as there were some arrests a few weeks ago for thefts of several signs.

A letter has been received from Julie Dorrell advising she has reapplied for a Heritage Trust Grant and signatures are needed from members of the Historical Society. A signature page was available to those in attendance to sign. If you would like a copy of the letter, contact Todd or Anna.

Anna moved and Corky seconded the motion to make a \$50 donation to the Museum. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned. Members were able to tour other parts of the museum after the meeting.

Vicki Jones
Secretary

DELTIOLOGY

Deltiology is the study and collection of postcards. The practice appeared at the end of the 19th century, when the mass production of postcards began and received international distribution as the cheapest type of postal items.

Cards with messages have been sporadically created and posted by individuals since the beginning of postal services. The earliest known picture postcard was a hand-painted design on card created by the writer Theodore Hook. Hook posted the card, which bears a penny black stamp, to himself in 1840 from Fulham (part of London). He probably did so as a practical joke on the postal service, since the image is a caricature of workers in the post office.

In the United States, the custom of sending through the mail, at letter rate, a picture or blank card stock that held a message, began with a card postmarked in December 1848 containing printed advertising. The first commercially produced card was created in

1861 by John P. Charlton of Philadelphia, who patented a private postal card, and sold the rights to Hymen Lipman, whose postcards, complete with a decorated border, were marketed as "Lipman's Postal Card". These cards had no images. While the United States government allowed privately printed cards as early as February 1861, they saw little use until 1870, when experiments were done on their commercial viability.

The first postcard was published in 1869, and by 1875, 231.5 million open letters were sent in the member countries of the Universal Postal Union.

Since the beginning of the 20th century deltiology has become one of the most popular types of collecting facilitated by the mass production of postcards of diverse topics (geography, ethnography, history, various types of art, technology, sports, portraits, etc.) and of high-quality art and printings, and by postal exchange between countries which expanded significantly with the strengthening of international relations.

The initial views on deltiology were somewhat different from the ones we have today. At the beginning of the 20th century, it was believed that only a postcard that had been mailed, and thus "fulfilled its function", could be a worthy collectible. Moreover, many collectors would only be interested in a postcard with a view of a city or locality if it had been mailed from that city or locality. A blank postcard without a postmark was equated to a simple "picture". Today, however, some collectors actually ignore cards with writing on them. Postcards are usually valued in proportion to their age and rarity of their subject.



The first known postcard. 1840

A WOODEN PUMP AND WATER PIPE

By Anna Midyette

On a recent visit to The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame at 630 North 126th Street in Bonner Springs, this wooden pump and water pipe was spotted. The sign says "125 yr old wooden pump and water pipe donated by Thomas J. Roberts, Denton, KS". It's hard to know exactly how old the pipe is since there was no indication of when 125 years ago was.

Paul Roberts, at The Bank of Denton, says the farm the pump came from was homesteaded by George W. Roberts. He was a Civil War Veteran (30th Ohio Voluntary Infantry) and was a brother to his Great Grandfather James B. Roberts. Like so many homesteads, the house and barns are gone. The farm was the SW 1/4 of Section 9-4-19 (140th and Blackjack Roads southwest of Denton. He was one of the many veterans who came to Doniphan County after the Civil War.



2023 MEETINGS

All meetings at 6:00 unless otherwise noted.

Presenters/topics/locations subject to change.

November 16 *Claire and Anna; a Life in Postcards*

Program by Jason Midyette. Refreshments by Marla Cummings.

December 1 Annual soup dinner at the Tennent Baker House in Troy.

December 14 6:00 Christmas Dinner. Star 36 Diner in Wathena. Make reservations with President Todd Miller.

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: _____