

DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE
2025

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News Notes

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JUNE MEETING

Denton Cemetery

By Paul Roberts

June 26, 6:00 pm

Half mile west of Denton on 150th Road

Cemeteries are substantial symbols of our local history, culture, and heritage. Paul Roberts, an expert on Denton history, will give us a tour of Denton's Cemetery and help us learn more about the town's past.

According to findagrave.com, the first burial was James Madison Hopkins in 1861. He was born in Vermont April 8, 1809. The earliest birth date was Samuel Riley August 4, 1795 – August 26, 1872. He came to America in 1848 from Halifax, Yorkshire, England and married Mary Oates there. He was a weaver. They went to Jefferson Township, Madison County, OH before relocating to Kansas.

What ties do you have to this cemetery? Learn more at our June meeting! All are welcome to attend. Bring a lawn chair. Refreshments will be served.



2025 BOARD MEMBERS

PETE DUNCAN
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NOTHING FANCY VEHICLE SHOW

Not like other car shows! We hope to see cars, pick-ups, grain trucks, tractors, and more that tell stories about Doniphan County. Maybe it's the truck you hauled hay with when you were a teen. Maybe it's Grandpa's tractor that you hope to restore someday. Or maybe it's the antique hay rake that's a marvel of moving parts.

It doesn't have to be fancy or perfect - just fun to look at!

**PULLED PORK DINNER
FREE WILL DONATION**

🕒 4:30 set up vehicles,
5:00 ready to show,
5:30 meal

📅 No registration fee,
no competition, no prizes

presented by
Doniphan County Historical Society

785-988-0796 📞

JULY 26

**Main Street
White Cloud, KS**

NOTHING FANCY VEHICLE SHOW

We are fine-tuning the details of our July meeting and car show. The meeting will be on SATURDAY, July 26. Vehicles can start showing up at 4:30. Ready for viewing at 5:00. Food served at 5:30. MEMBERS are asked to bring potato salad, pasta salad or cookies/brownies. Society will provide pulled pork, buns, baked beans, tea, water and table ware. We always appreciate using the American Legion's nice facilities. I'm including a flyer as part of this newsletter – please share it with someone who has an interesting vehicle or likes to look at interesting vehicles. We hope to see a wide variety of things on wheels. Jason Midyette is bringing at least three vehicles (depending on their willingness to cooperate) to get the ball rolling.

WHY CEMETERIES MATTER

Cemeteries are tangible links to our historical past. They are akin to open history books, which provide an invaluable perspective on the cultural, social, and political aspects of the past. Historic cemeteries can unravel a wealth of information about the lifestyles and eras of those who existed before us. They give us a first-hand account of how society has evolved over time.

In addition to being living museums, cemeteries also function as patches of green space, particularly in urban settings. They provide a refuge to local flora and fauna. They transform into mini-ecosystems, providing habitats for various species, some of which might be threatened by the relentless tide of urbanization.

On a deeply personal level, cemeteries provide a serene space for individuals to grieve and remember their loved ones. They offer a sense of solace and tranquility to those in mourning, offering them a physical location to visit and connect with the memories of their departed loved ones.

Cemeteries also hold immense educational value. They offer real-world examples of historic events, cultural practices, and artistic trends. For instance, the architectural styles of mausoleums and burial structures throw light on the prevalent design trends of a particular time period. In essence, cemeteries can serve as open-air museums, offering students and enthusiasts a unique opportunity to learn and appreciate history and culture from a distinct perspective.

Cemeteries are not just repositories of past lives but also mirrors reflecting our identity and heritage. They are the custodians of the stories of countless individuals, each contributing to the rich tapestry of our shared history.

MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2025

President Jason Midyette welcomed the 20 Historical Society members and visitors.

Jaso gave a presentation on the Kansas City Southern Railroad Photo Archives. He has spent time organizing, researching and scanning film negatives and pictures from the 1920s and 1930s. The photos seem to be a project to

document all railroad property such as depots, speeders, berry sleds and cotton platforms. Depots used to be the center of activity. Railroad express came before UPS.

The negatives and photos were part of the Robert Campbell estate auction that Jason attended. In the 1960s and 1970s railroads disposed of their archives. Mr. Campbell worked for the Kansas City Southern Railroad from 1940 – 1984 and apparently retrieved a great deal of the archives.

There were many employees of the railroad during these times. Section crews were responsible for eight to ten miles of track maintenance. The Section Foreman was provided a house. Each crew's location had a tool shed and bunk houses. A telephone box building was at each location to communicate with the Railroad employees. Now they have traveling rail crews to maintain the tracks.

The Kansas City Southern Railroad operated in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. Port Arthur, Texas was the southern point of the line. The photos showed a wide variety of depot buildings, some brick structures, and some old box cars converted into a building. Some locations had scales and freight sheds for the freight delivered until the owner picked it up. The freight charges were set based on the weight of the cargo. The larger depots had automobile unloading areas. Water towers were located at some stations depending upon the locomotive traveling the tracks. They used a speeder car as transportation as it was light weight enough two men could lift it on and off the tracks.

Many of the depots had two wait stations based on the passenger's color. Only Kansas and Missouri did not require separate waiting areas

Jason spoke of the delicate and various stages of deterioration of the photos. The photos were taken with a box camera. The film was nitrocellulose which is highly flammable. Some photos were in good condition, some brittle and shattered when removing from the scanner, some hard as bricks, and some compressed together with other photos and inseparable.

Business meeting

Jason called the meeting to order. Anna advised the slides from the Doniphan County In Pictures high school project have been scanned and returned. The cost was \$250. There is a link on our website to view these. www.doniphancountyhistory.blogspot.com The process of identifying and labeling is ongoing. Please go to the website and help label the pictures. The actual slides will be preserved in plastic protectors.

A motion was made and seconded to pay Corky \$60 reimbursement for paving blocks to be used between Bakers House and the museum. Motion passed.

New Business

An inquiry was made of someone to clean headstones. BJ Talley has started *Family Gravecare*. BJ is from St Joseph. He has a Facebook page for the gravecare and his phone number is 816-344-3399.

Becky Pinger donated the globe to one of the old street lights in Troy. A lamppost is needed. This would be a nice addition between the Bakers House and Museum to provide lighting.

Discussion of the upcoming vintage vehicle show in White Cloud on Saturday, July 26. We need to contact surrounding towns regarding car shows and participants to generate further interest. More information to follow.

Refreshments were provided by Sharon Peuker, Peggy Engeman, and Vicki Jones. Refreshment volunteers are needed for future meetings in June, August and November.

Donation of \$50 to St John's Lutheran Church for use of the facility.

Meeting adjourned Vicki Jones, Secretary

2025 MEETINGS

All meetings at 6:00 unless otherwise noted. **Presenters/topics/locations subject to change.**

June 26 – Denton Cemetery with Paul Roberts. Refreshments by Sharon Peuker.

July 26 – SATURDAY. Car Show and Pot Luck in White Cloud.

August 28 – Trains, Trucks and Vintage Farm Equipment by Jason Midyette at his home 544 Hwy 7, Bendena. Refreshment volunteer needed.

September 25 – Wathena Chautauqua by Joan Oyerly. Wathena Community Center, 303 E. St. Joseph. Refreshment volunteer needed.

October 23– Geologic History of Northeast Kansas by Betty Gleason. Jones Family Barn, 548 Hwy 7, Bendena. Refreshment volunteer needed.

November 20 – Abraham Lincoln by Larry Faulkner. Jones Family Barn, 548 Hwy 7, Bendena. Refreshment volunteer needed.

December 1 – Soup Supper.

CONTACT VICKI JONES IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS 785-226-3995.

Other local events:

July 3 – Marvin Irvin Murders, 7:00 pm. Troy Library. Adults only.

July 9 – Kansas Music History, 6:30 pm, Troy Library. Adults only.

Sponsored by Humanities Kansas

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
OR email your name, address and email to annam2807@gmail.com and pay by Venmo
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All Memberships are \$15.00. This is a: Renewal Membership New Membership

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