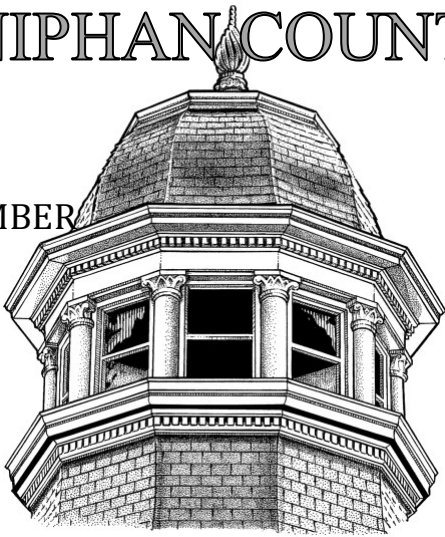


# DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER  
2025

Vol. 31  
No. 9



## News Notes &

### 2025 OFFICERS

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### AUGUST MEETING

## Denton Cemetery

By Paul Roberts

**September 25, 6:00 pm**

Half mile west of Denton on 150<sup>th</sup> 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  
HONORARY BOARD MEMBER

JOAN OYERLY  
510 Fremont St, Wathena, KS 66090  
816-261-0676

MARVIN SMITH  
785-850-0063  
1288 Peck Rd Troy KS 66087

LARRY FAULKNER  
816-591-8898  
6108 Kentucky Ave, Raytown, MO

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

September 15, 2025

AUGUST 12 BALANCE \$35,716.84

#### **INCOME:**

Augst interest 5.97  
Income total: \$5.97

#### **EXPENDITURES:**

Cricket Wireless September 55.00  
Expenditures total: \$55.00

AUGUST 12 BALANCE \$35,667.81

CD #7175 \$7,196.97  
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project) \$7,871.86

### **LOOKING FOR . . .**

Did anyone talk to a lady, possible from Maryville, MO, at the August meeting? She gave us \$10 for dues and wrote her information on a note. I put both in my pocket. After being washed, the note is no longer readable and we don't know who the lady was! The \$10 bill survived the washing machine and dryer.

With apologies, Jason Midyette

### **WHAT WERE DONIPHAN COUNTY SCHOOLS DOING IN THE WAR EFFORT?**

By Glendon Hartman

I've had interest in American History since the Fifth Grade. I used to have a scrapbook. My mother put clippings from News-Press, The Gazette, and The Wathena Times, in my notebook. She had kept War Bond Stamps and we glued a few stamps in my scrapbook. My Grandad Dan Wilson gave me two steel Lincoln pennies that were made only in 1943.

Mother kept a diary from 1941-1946. I wish to share what my mother, Marjorie Wilson Hartman, told after she was married in 1946. She was a telephone operator and said during the War the telephone employees helped wherever needed. Mother described the Japanese sneak attack on the Hawaiian Islands on Sunday, December 7, 1941, which caused President Roosevelt to declare War on Japan on December 8, 1941. On December 7,



*District 55 Bellemont School, Taken in 1944-45 school Year, Teacher is Ida B. Schneider, Taken by Mabel Isearel of Wathena, KS*

three men from Wathena were killed on the Arizona: Junior Lakin, Donald Lakin, and Russell Schuler.

Doris Weis Wiedmer told me that her teacher and cousin, Garnet Livingston Adams, were at Gladden School and went out to Miss Livingston's car to listen to President Roosevelt's speech.

My mother's mother and father were listening to the radio. They knew my Uncle, Colonel Charles W.G. Craig (a dentist in St. Joe).

My father, Marvin G. Hartman, was eating breakfast with his parents and his three brothers when they heard the news. They said the boys would be called to war. My Uncle, Kenneth L. Hartman, was called in 1942. He served with the Air Force in India and China.

My dad registered for the draft, but since there were shortages of people to work in the fields, he farmed. They had people who worked for them picking strawberries, apples, and other fruits. Gas was rationed, rubber tires hard to get so they farmed with teams as well as tractors.

Esther Beals Merrill, a former teacher, told me that she had Russell Schuler at Columbus School, and Junior Lakin and Donald Lakin she taught at Palermo School. There was a Memorial to Russell Schuler, Junior and Donald Lakin at Pearl Harbor Memorial.

I learned that Jack White from Elwood was killed on the Arizona on December 7, 1941.

In February 1945, my cousin, Milton F. Gummig, Jr., went in the Navy while he was in high school at Wathena. I was told that Kenneth Roland left Severance High School and was killed in the War.

The Wathena High School, teachers and students, brought radios to hear if war would be declared on Japan on December 8, 1941. The following 1941 events occurred. They were: Red Cross Drive, Victory Fund Bond Drive, collect scraps, metal, and rubber, and Pre-Aviation and Flight training. Students made toy tanks. Some students picked apples because of the short labor help.

St. Joseph's School in Wathena collected scraps for Uncle Sam, October 12, 1942.

All Doniphan County Schools organized an "All Out Scrap Drive." Leona School led the collection with 43 tons, and Elwood School was second with 13 tons. By October 28, 1942, at least 54 tons had been collected.

Teacher Shortage, Teacher's Meeting for National Physical Fitness. And patriotic letter writing.

The teacher shortage created lack of teachers. Veva Horner said in 1943, the School Board wanted her to teach Chapple School. She had to go the County Superintendent's Office to take a test to qualify for an Emergency Teacher Certificate. Mrs. Geo. Schneider taught at the Burr Oak School to help out the emergency created by the War. Mrs. Zora Burnham took a course to renew her teaching certificate. (1943). Vera Louise Schmidtke Dean said she returned to Spring Grove School for the second year. During this term, war was declared, and gasoline was rationed. She stayed home and helped her father on the farm. Emergency teaching certificates were issued so she went back to teaching, and taught at Eureka, a school about four miles south of Troy.

In 1944, Miss LeEtta Schmille, sixth grade teacher, made a dozen ash trays from cans and paints. These will be sent by the Junior Red Cross to Servicemen. The children of St. Joseph's School wrote "Dear Boys In Service". They gathered scrap paper, war bonds and stamps, iron, rags, planted a victory garden, wrote poems, and raised turkeys. Little boys made toy attack boomers.

In 1944, all schools collected milkweed pods for parachutes and jackets. In 1945, the St. Joseph's School with the girls and boys collected rags and papers of all kinds for Uncle Sam.

Beverly Prawl Kentzler said they had savings stamps, milkweed pods, gum wrappers, and tin foil. They rolled tinfoil into balls, and collected tooth paste for foil. Ronald Brown said that the Lincoln School Grades 1 through 5 had scrap metal drives.

Dixie Forbes Paden took wagons to gather scrap. At Burr Oak School, Norma Dinning Cluck said they collected iron scraps and stored them in the yard. Duane Kleppe collected milkweed pods with his teacher Lyle Hegenderfer. Mary Lou French Colley as girl at the Highand Grade School collected milkweed pods and war stamps.

A number of men teachers left for service. They were Bernard Earhart, Bernard Moser, Alden Simpson, Louis Denton, Herbert Schmolt, Richard Abbott, and Horst H. Sternsdorff. Brush Creek School closed because Mr. Schmolt went to the Service.

Mamie Cummings, Veda Prophet, and Jean Zimmerman collected milkweed pods. Lucille and Evelyn Jeschke gave me teacher patterns where they made paper dolls and colored them and decorated with patriotic themes.

Monica Schoeneck said that one special day being set as "Scrap Day". They collected scraps and they took little wagons of scraps. The P.T.A. asked all of us to save the linings of chicken gizzards and all milkweed pods.

The War ended in Germany on D-Day in May, 1945, and the V- Day ended with the bomb attacks on Japan, in August, 1945.

## 2025 MEETINGS

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

**September 25** – *Denton Cemetery* with Paul Roberts.

Refreshments by Sharon Peuker.

**October 23**– *Geologic History of Northeast Kansas* by Betty

Gleason. Jones Family Barn, 548 Hwy 7, Bendena.

Refreshments by Nancy Fuhrman.

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

**December 1** – Soup Supper.

**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](mailto:annam2807@gmail.com) and pay by Venmo  
@doniphancountyhistory

All Memberships are \$15.00. This is a: ☐ Renewal Membership ☐ New Membership

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