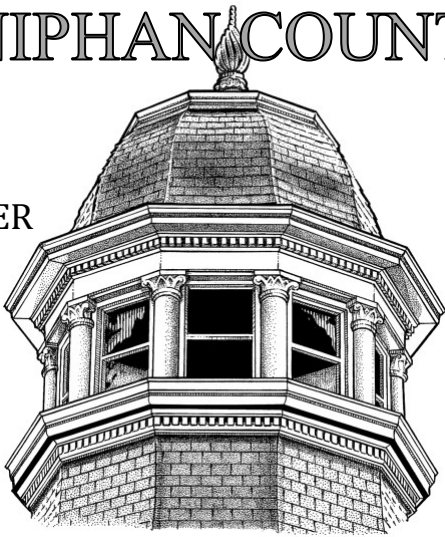


DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER
2025

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News Notes &

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OCTOBER MEETING

Americans

The Smithsonian is Coming to Kansas!

October 23, 6:00 pm

Iowa and Sac & Fox Mission Museum

1737 Elgin Rd Highland, KS 66035-9801

Humanities Kansas is bringing Americans, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, to Kansas for an exclusive tour August 2025 – July 2026. We are fortunate that the exhibit will be in our own backyard! The Iowa and Sac & Fox Mission Museum is hosting the display from October 11, 2025 - November 16, 2025, and we have arranged to see it as our October meeting.

Americans is based on the exhibition of the same name currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Curated by Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) and Cécile R. Ganteaume, the exhibit uncovers the many ways American Indian images, names, and stories have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. Americans uses historical photographs and objects representative of those in the Smithsonian's collection to tell their stories.



We won't have a formal presentation. Instead, we can take in the exhibit and then gather for refreshments.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

September 15, 2025

OCTOBER 15 BALANCE \$35,667.81

INCOME:

Sep 30 interest 5.77
Income total: \$5.77

EXPENDITURES:

Cricket Wireless October 55.00
Expenditures total: \$55.00

AUGUST 12 BALANCE \$35,618.58

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

CHANGES

I submitted my resignation, with regrets, as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor effective at the end of the year. Both jobs are fun, but I need to be able to focus on some other things. Plus, maybe a new person has fresh ideas for the newsletter! I appreciate everything I've learned about our local history. If you're interested in either job, please contact a board member. I'll help transition everything needed to a new person. The Society does have a laptop that is for the Newsletter Editor.

MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2025

Twenty-nine persons gathered at the home of Jason and Anna Midyette for Jason's presentation on Farm Wagons. A variety of wagons were on display and Jason told us the story behind each one and how he came to be in possession of them. For well over a century, the horse drawn wagon was found on most American farms. The progression to tractors over the horse drawn equipment was slow. While at one time there were hundreds of wagon companies in operation, most ceased production as the tractors and trucks found their way to the farming industry. Some wagons were modified to be drawn by tractors rather than horses. While some wagons were preserved in barns and sheds, many were left out in the weather to slowly fall apart. Today many people use the wagon seats and wheels as decorations.

The attendees enjoyed looking closely at the various wagons on display and telling stories of their memories of family members using wagons and horse drawn equipment. It was a beautiful evening for this outdoor presentation. Thank you, Jason.

Refreshments were provided by Susan Holt and Vicki Jones.

September 25, 2025

Sixteen members gathered at Denton Cemetery for a presentation by Paul Roberts and a tour of some of the gravesites. The weather cooperated with us as we have been waiting for this program. Thanks to Sharon Peuker and Peggy Engeman for refreshments.

There are four generations of Paul's family buried at the cemetery. Paul, as his father did, spends time cleaning headstones and doing research of the veterans buried in the cemetery.

In 1870, the area was the Ridge Prairie Cemetery with the Ridge Prairie Church located in the southeastern part of the cemetery. Initially the address was Severance as the town of Denton was not formed at that time. In 1893, the Denton Cemetery Association was recorded with the State of Kansas. Paul distributed handouts and spoke of some specific gravesites before we toured.

Robert Hall's gravesite has a tombstone with a bell engraved as well as the Morse Code message, "at rest." (Fun fact: there is an error in the code.)

William Martin was the brother of the tenth Governor of Kansas. He served in the Civil War. Paul submitted the necessary paperwork to the United States Government and a proper headstone was sent acknowledging his service. Members of the Cemetery Association placed the headstone.

As the group toured, Paul pointed out some of the headstones are made of zinc and not the usual stone. One such plot of the zinc headstones is the Shulsky family. The markers have a blue-gray color.

William Hamilton was a veteran from Severance. Although Paul could not find any official civil war records on him, there was mention of his service in the Navy. Due to the lack of official records, the US Government would not issue a headstone as a veteran. The initial headstone was faded out and in poor condition, but the Denton Cemetery Association purchased and installed a new headstone honoring Mr. Hamilton and his service.

The last gravesite we visited was that of the Jacob Stout family. In October 1916, he erected what was said to have been the largest and finest monument ever placed in a Kansas County cemetery, in memory of his wife who died June 1914. At that time, the cost was over \$5,000. The monument is made entirely of the Barre granite, all fine hammered finish, except the columns being polished. You truly have to see this monument in person to fully appreciate.

The group spent the remainder of the evening walking throughout the cemetery and sharing information, memories and history. Thank you, Paul.

Joan Oyerly advised of the time capsule that was part of the bicentennial celebration in Troy on July 4, 1976. The capsule is scheduled to be opened July 4, 2026. The suggestion was made of adding some items to the capsule at that time if they are going to reseal. Joan will pass along the suggestion to the committee.

WHAT IS NORMAL TRAINING?

By Glendon E. Hartman

Mrs. Beulah Cox told me she took Normal Training in high school to become a teacher. I asked Mrs. Cox, "What is Normal Training?" This term was new to me. She said that

Normal Training is where you usually take your senior year to study to become a teacher. You would receive a Teaching Certificate if you passed tests in different subjects. Some things they did were observing, substituting, and conducting some teaching. Mr. Charlie Marble, the teacher, shared teaching patterns and introduced future teachers to teacher magazines such as *Normal Instructor* and *Primary Plans*, or *Grade Teacher*. Prof. Marble wanted teachers to experience a rural school or a town school by visiting.

From *School Directory Doniphan County 1926-1927*, Requirements For Renewal Of All Normal Training Certificates (1) Eight semester hours of college credit, (2) Credit in Professional Reading Examination, (3) Thirty-two weeks' teaching experience, and (4) County Superintendent's Reports of county normal institute, reading circle books, etc. Eight hours of college credit must be secured by resident work at a standard college or university. This credit must be earned in a two-year period for which the Certificate is valid.

Holders of regular training certificates are required to follow a course of professional reading as prescribed by the State Board of Education. Teacher candidates must take an examination for regular training certificates. Eighty percent is the passing grade. The examination on May 21, 1927, will be based on "How to Teach Reading" by Penell and Cusack. State Professional Reading credit is required for each renewal of a standard training certificate. The State Professional Reading work is not necessary for a permanent regular training certificate. The application, accompanied by a one-dollar fee, requires an official transcript showing eight semester hours of college credit and the standard teaching Certificate to be submitted to the Secretary of the State Board of Education. The Certificate is good only in the county where it is used, and a copy of the Certificate is provided to the County Superintendent.

Mrs. Cox wrote about her teaching experiences from 1937 to 1976 in "BiCentennial by Retired Teachers." Veva Horner is also listed in the Retired Teachers Book under Normal Training. Mrs. Cox graduated from Troy High School in May 1924. She went to Kansas State Teachers' College that summer with Veva Horner and several other girls.

Miss Gurwell taught at Fanning School from 1924 to 1925. The following year, in 1925-1926, she taught at Iowa Point alongside Dena Simmons. In some schools, married teachers couldn't teach.

Veva Earhart Horner told me, and also in the Retired Teachers Book, "When I was a senior in high school, I took a course called 'Normal Training', which was to prepare a person to teach school. We learned a lot about methods and management in the course. We also had the privilege of getting some practice teaching in the grade school. My certificate to teach school, which was given for Normal Training, lasted just one year. The following summer, I had to attend Kansas State Teachers College to obtain a one-year certificate. I went to college with three other girls.

Miss Earhart started teaching in 1924-1925 at Aberle School. In 1925-1926, she taught at the Cordonier School. If you got married, they couldn't teach.

County Superintendent Edna Whitney stated in 1915 that, according to *Illustrated Doniphan County*, the State pays money to operate a regular school. At least one-third of our rural and graded teachers hold regular training certificates. This means four years of high school work; it

should prove of great benefit to the county's teaching force. Regular Training was held in Wathena, Troy, and Highland.

Ruth Schoenberger Bingman told that she graduated from White Cloud High in 1919, and she had Veta Slater for Normal Training. Ruth Chalk Groh wrote in her teaching experiences that when she began teaching in the fall of 1915, there were two professions open to girls: secretarial work and teaching. In the Wathena High School, commercial courses were not available, but teachers' Normal Training was offered. "Following in my mother's and two sisters' footsteps, I chose to be a teacher." Mrs. Groh said Charlie Vinsonhale taught Normal Training. There was a photograph of Miss Chalk substituting at Cordonier School for her sisters, Reva or Bethel, who also got to substitute. At the same time, she took Normal Training in high school. Miss Chalk taught at her first school, Mt. Airy School, from 1915 to 1916.

Mae Cummings Brandt, W.H.S. Graduate of 1913, took Normal Training from Chas. Todd. I was told that Wathena High School had the first Normal Training in 1909-1910. The *Wathena Times*, about 1909, reported that Wathena would have the first Normal High School Training.

"Miss Frances" Madinger Reed said they had textbooks, methods of reading, and classroom management. She learned about the *Normal Instructor*, a teacher magazine. After taking the Normal Training Class at Wathena in 1923, Miss Madinger taught at Old Sixty School from 1923 to 1924 and from 1924 to 1925.

The *Booster*, an exciting newspaper, was published by the Wathena High School Journal Class in April 1925. Ralph Wilkerson, Editor, and Staff reported that the Normal Training Class visited, taught classes, and reported the following: future teachers have accepted positions for the next term. They were: Flora Blum (Hoffman)-Dist. # 74 (Mt. Airy), LeEtta Schmille-Dist.#60- (Old Sixty), Margaret Deckard-Dist#5-(Liberty), Gladys Weigant (Euler)-Dist.#30-(LaGrange), Glen Lehman- Dist.#38-(Burr Oak), and Irene Winn (Meng)-Dist.34 (Brush Creek). Miss Schmille told Mr. Hartman she had Love Brown for Normal Training.

Wathena High School did not have Normal Training when Mildred Laipple Haupt in 1926 and Frances Hewins Reish in 1927 didn't have Normal Training. I think Mrs. Reish said they took tests and did other requirements.

Vere Kiehnoff Meng, a Wathena High School Graduate, came back for Normal Training in 1930. Mrs Meng said the Principal was the Normal Training teacher. She also showed me an elementary geography methods book. This was the last year for Normal Training in the Wathena.

Marjorie Powell, who started teaching at Highland Grade School in 1920-1921, told me that there were three teachers from Wathena who took Normal Training and accepted teaching positions near Highland. Thelma Morgan Hargis taught at Cedar Creek, while Wilma Meng Olgen taught at the Arnold School. Josephine Kaulens Marolf taught at Fairview School.

At Troy, Adam B. Moser said to me that in 1935, Mr. Charles Marble taught Normal Training. He went to Troy with Veda Kasselhute Prophet and Hubert Wiedmer.

Miss Florence Stratton graduated from Wathena High School. They didn't have Normal Training. She went to Troy for Normal Training in 1940. Gertrude Hewins Kiehnoff from Wathena took the teacher course. Miss Stratton taught at Palermo School with Josephine Marolf.

Vera Schmidtke Dean said that she was the last person in the Normal Training students. Other students were Marjorie McIntyre, Judd, and Alma Frances Chapple. These teachers told me they taught. Miss Schmidtke taught at Spring Grove, Miss Chapple taught at Klipple School, and Miss Hewins taught Randolph School.

Mamie Meers Cummings said that from 1916 to 1967, for four weeks during the summer, one planning to teach, was required to attend classes called the Institute. At the end of the session, they were given an examination in fourteen subjects. They had to have an average to receive a certificate. (First Grade, Second Grade, or Third Grade). The Institute was later held for one week, with the first two or three days dedicated to the Institute.

Dr. Steven Hanschu wrote in 2013 about the 150th Anniversary of Emporia State University (E.S.U.). In the Biennial Report of the Board of Regents in 1891-1892, Kansas State Normal School was reported "as the largest Normal in this country, if not in the World." It was the first Normal School. In 1865, Principal Kellogg announced the

opening of an experimental school, or model school, in which "theory might be put into practice." Kansas State Normal became one of the first Normal schools recognized and accredited by the North Central Association. In 1923, Kansas State Normal School was named the Kansas State Teacher's College. Butcher Children's School was named in his honor.

I interviewed Alice Gfeller Dubach, who told me that she attended school at Emporia Normal School, and Mrs. Dubach gave her the normal school teacher book she used at Emporia. Miss Gfeller taught music and German at Wathena Schools in 1915-1916 and 1916-1917.

I took elementary teacher classes at Kansas State Teachers' College in 1973. The school was changed twice while I was attending. I had observation and participation at Emporia from 1973 to 1975 at Butcher's Children's School. In 1974, the school was known as Emporia State College. Then in 1977, the school was called Emporia State University. While I attended school in Emporia, I took a "make and take " two-week graduate course with the Wathena Teachers.

2025 MEETINGS

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

October 23– CHANGED! See Page 1! We will reschedule the Geologic History of Northeast Kansas by Betty Gleason in 2026.

November 20 – *Abraham Lincoln* by Larry Faulkner. Historical Society Museum, Troy.

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.

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