

# DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER  
2025

Vol. 31  
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# News Notes

## 2025 OFFICERS

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## NOVEMBER MEETING

# COLD?

November 20, 6:00 pm  
Presented by Larry Faulkner

Doniphan County Historical Society Museum  
138 East Walnut, Troy

That's the only clue Larry would give about his presentation – COLD? If you know Larry, a good guess would be that the presentation will have something to do with Abraham Lincoln.

Join us to find out! All are welcome.  
Refreshments will be provided.



## 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	
OCTOBER 12 BALANCE	\$35,618.58
INCOME:	
Dues	110.00
Income total:	\$110.00
EXPENDITURES:	
Cricket Wireless November	55.00
Expenditures total:	\$55.00
NOVEMBER 10 BALANCE	\$35,673.58
CD #7175	\$7,305.13
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project)	\$8,023.26

**MEETING MINUTES**

October 23, 2025

Thirty-five individuals experienced the self-guided *Americans* exhibition at the Iowa Sac & Fox Mission Museum. *Americans* is based on the exhibition of the same name currently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum at the American Indian (NMAI). *Americans* opened in 2018 at the Smithsonian. The touring exhibition is an adaptation from the flagship exhibition, made possible in Kansas by Humanities Kansas. *Americans* will travel to small towns across approximately 20 states throughout the next six years. You can find the touring schedule online.

Based on a major exhibition at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., “*Americans*” highlights the ways in which American Indians have been part of the nation’s identity since before the country began. Images of American Indians are everywhere, from imagery on commercial products and professional and high school sports mascots, to classic Westerns and episodes of *Seinfeld* and *South Park*. Indian names are everywhere too, from state, city and street names to the Tomahawk missile. Beyond these images and names are familiar historical events and stories—Thanksgiving, Pocahontas, the Trail of Tears and Battle of Little Bighorn—that have become part of everyday conversation. These images, words and stories offer insight into how the country’s history and identity have been influenced by its relationship with American Indians.

Through photographs, hands-on interactives, objects and videos, the exhibition offers a new way of understanding a country forever fascinated, conflicted, and shaped by its relationship with American Indians.

A short, animated film, The Invention of Thanksgiving, provides a whimsical take on how a simple meal shared between Native Americans and early English settlers evolved into a central part of America’s traditional origin story and a national holiday.

The exhibition examines three stories that are part of American national consciousness and popular culture. The first is devoted to Pocahontas, the young Powhatan woman who played a key role in saving the colony of Jamestown. Another story explores the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Signed by President Andrew Jackson, the act envisioned a United States without Indians. One of the boldest and most far-reaching laws in American history, removal transformed the country—generating great wealth for the nation and catastrophe for Native Americans. The third looks at the complicated story of the Battle of Little Bighorn, also known as Custer’s Last Stand. “*Americans*” explores how these events have been remembered and represented throughout the years.

Various points of the exhibition included:

\*The Big Chief writing tablet was the most popular American writing tablet during most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although production ended in 2001, it resumed after 2012, and the tablet is still going strong.

\*The Indian Removal Act was signed into law May 30, 1830, by President Andrew Jackson. Carrying out removal tested the young nation’s capacity, infrastructure, and political will. (You can google and read more specifics.)

\*A Dress Made of Treaties is a performance piece that explores the change in lifeways and foodways of American Indians because of treaties with the United States government. The dress is constructed out of paper printed with treaties between the Ioway tribe and the US government and maps of original homelands. It was modeled after a Victorian era dress from the 1880s, the same time the treaties were signed.

Thank you to  
Nancy Fuhrman for  
the refreshments.

Vicki Jones,  
Secretary

Scan me to learn more



Scan this code with your phone  
to learn more about the exhibit.

## THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

By Jason Midyette

As you cross the Wolf River on Kansas Highway 7, just east of Sparks, you may notice the remains of a concrete bridge south of the present bridge, on the west bank of the river. These ruins are the remains of the "Rainbow Bridge" built in 1925 for what was then the Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway. It became US 36 in 1926.

The bridge drew its name from its distinctive arch structure. Built of reinforced concrete, the Rainbow Arch bridge was a popular highway bridge design in the 1920s and 1930s. The bridge was designed by engineer James B. Marsh, who patented the design in 1912 and dubbed his design the "Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge".

Marsh's design resulted in a sturdy and strong bridge that could last for many years, and "Rainbow" bridges could be found on highways throughout the Midwest. Typically, the bridges were replaced as they became too narrow for modern traffic. Though I have yet to find any official record, it would seem that the Sparks Rainbow bridge was replaced in the 1950s, when US 36 was widened and modernized.

Interestingly, while the Sparks Rainbow Bridge was torn down, it was not actually removed from its site. The chunks of the demolished bridge were placed along the banks of the Wolf River, just to the south of the bridge, rather than removed entirely. The structure at each end of the bridge was left standing.



*The remains of the west end of the Rainbow Bridge near Sparks, January 28, 2025.*



*Another look at remains of the west end of the bridge. Note the present bridge over the Wolf River in the background and pieces of the Rainbow Bridge in the foreground. January 28, 2025*

If you would like to see a Marsh Rainbow Arch bridge that is still in one piece, there are three still standing in Kansas: one on old US 66 near Baxter Springs, and two on old US 69 north of Fort Scott.



*A closer look at the chunks of the Rainbow bridge lying on the west bank of the Wolf River. It becomes a bit easier to visualize what these pieces were when you compare this photo with one of an intact Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge. January 28, 2025.*



*Seen here on March 23, 2025, this Rainbow Bridge still stands on old US 69, north of Fort Scott. The bridge near Sparks was very similar.*



*Another look at the Rainbow Bridge north of Fort Scott. March 23, 2025.*

**Annual Soup Supper  
December 1, 2025  
6:00 pm**

Commemorates Lincoln's 1859 visit to  
Troy  
Tennent-Baker House  
138 East Walnut, Troy

Dine by candlelight and wood fire in this home  
untouched by time. Members are asked to  
provide soup, chili, crackers or

**Help us plan for  
2026  
presentations!**

If you've heard a great speaker, know an  
expert on a topic, or have a request for a  
presentation, let an officer or board member  
know. There will be a planning in early January  
to set the schedule.

**First meeting of 2026 will be January 22 6:00  
pm – SHOW and TELL! Location TBD.**

**A new Treasurer and Newsletter Editor need to be chosen  
at the November meeting.  
It would be great if two different people could fill those roles.**

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 @doniphancountyhistory

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

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