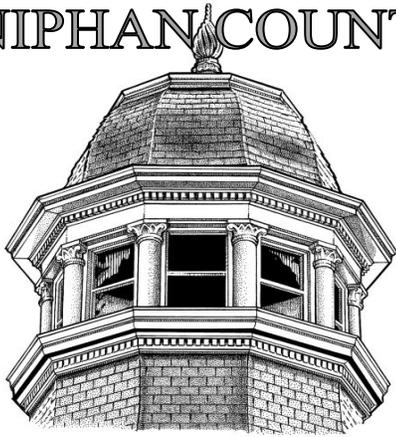


DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March
2026

Vol. 32
No. 3



News Notes

2026 OFFICERS

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President, Vice-President &
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785-850-0063

JASON MIDYETTE
PO Box 197
Bendena KS 66008
785-988-0796

History of the Denton Methodist Church

The Denton Methodist Church began in 1869 on the grounds of what was originally called the Ridge Prairie Cemetery. This is presently known as the Denton Cemetery located west of Denton. When the town of Denton formed, the church was relocated into the town of Denton.



Please join us in the sanctuary of the Denton Methodist Church Thursday, March 26 at 6 pm as we learn the history of this church and experience the building. Refreshments will follow in their fellowship hall downstairs. Address: 508 Maple Avenue, Denton KS 66017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April	Tour & History of Billups Gallery & Art Center by Wendall Ganstrom, 114 State Center, Robinson
28	Refreshments by the Robinson History Association
May	Lewis & Clark by Jackie Lewin, Fanning Community of Christ Church
28	Refreshments Lillian and Ruth Twombly
June	Gilmore Museum Tour by Keith Jaloma, Highland Community College
25	Refreshments by Peggy Engeman and Sharon Peuker
July	Nothing Fancy Vehicle Show (White Cloud Main St) & Potluck at the White Cloud American Legion
25	Vehicle Show coordinator Jason Midyette. More information to follow.
Aug	BBQ & live music hosted by the DCHS on the Museum grounds, Troy
27	More information to follow
Sept	Chautauqua Tribe by Joan Oyerly, Wathena Community Building
24	Refreshments by Joan Oyerly
Oct	Pony Express presented by Dr. Robert Corder, Elwood Community Center
22	Refreshments by Nancy Furman
Nov	Historical Geology of NE Kansas by Betty Gleason, Oakland Valley Six Scale House, 578 HWY 7. Refreshments by Sarah Erpelding and Jan Falk
Dec	Annual Soup Supper, Baker Tennent House, Troy
1	Soup etc. by DCHS members

FEBRUARY 26 MEETING MINUTES

President Joan Oyerly welcomed the 25 attendees. A sign-in sheet was routed with the request to also add your phone number. Tonight's presentation on Bicentennial License Plates was by Jason Midyette. During the bicentennial in 1976, 18 states issued a bicentennial license plate commemorating the event. Jason displayed four from his personal collection: Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Nebraska. Kansas issued special license plates for specific Kansas occasions, but not national events.

License plates were first seen 1912-1914; early on owners making their own plates. The process progressed to the states charging and issuing the plates to raise money for road maintenance. Every year different colors and designs of tags were issued, good for one year, with consecutive numbers issued as they were purchased. At first there was no standard way to mount the plates so there were multiple holes made.

Jason displayed numerous license plates from his collection. Throughout the course of time, the sizes of the plates varied. Plates transitioned into longer rectangles to allow for more information to be displayed; however, the holes did not match up from plate to plate.

Plates in many states were made by the inmates in prisons, often displaying a statement saying such. At first, they were painted on both sides; now they are only painted on one side. At one time, plates were made from aluminum, recycled from aircraft no longer needed from the war. Many of the Kansas license plates were made at the Hutchison Reformatory. As time went on, mottos or emblems were added to the plates and plates could be customized/personalized.

Starting in the 1920's license plates displayed a "T" to designate truck. In the 1930's Kansas started adding codes to signify specific counties, for example, Doniphan County was 45. The coding went from the most populous to the least. Other states followed. In the 1950's, Kansas switched from numbers to two letters to signify the county. In 1954-55 Kansas customized their plate by cutting out

the upper right-hand corner to resemble the State of Kansas. Around 1956, plates were standardized in size, with no changes allowed to the physical size, and standard mounting holes were added. By the 1970's the cost became too great to make a plate annually, thus stickers were issued to be placed on the same plate from year to year. A new plate was usually issued every five to ten years.

In 1971 Kansas switched to the system we have today, where the tag is issued according to your last name with the stickers annually. A private company now manufactures license plates as needed; they are not available at the County Treasurer's office. A paper temporary tag in a plastic sleeve is issued until your permanent tag is mailed.

Nine states are issuing a special license plate in honor of the 250th anniversary, but Kansas is not.

The presentation concluded with comments and questions on locations a person finds license plates, how antique tags were issued and changed over the years, front and back license plates, etc.

Thank you, Jason, for sharing.

BUSINESS MINUTES

Joan Oyerly called the meeting to order. If you did not receive the newsletter, please let Betty Gleason know. If you have an email or mail address change, please let Vicki Jones know as we are working on updating the listings. Thank you to Anna and Jason for the refreshments.

Minutes from the January meeting were printed in the February newsletter. A sign-in sheet was circulated among those in attendance as well as a sign-up sheet for those dates we need volunteers for refreshments. All slots were filled by the conclusion of the meeting. Thank you to everyone that volunteered.

The Treasurer's report is below. Our apologies for this not being included in the February newsletter. Corky Smith has spoken to Mike Brown of Hiawatha regarding redoing the signage needed. Work will begin on this soon.



Corky Smith received several items for the museum during February



2026. Janet and Tim Twombly donated a baby buggy along with 3 prints of the railroad extension from Severance to Highland in 1908. Two boar hide coats came from the Atchison Historical Society. The best one is in the museum with the other relocated to the St Joseph Pony Express Museum.

Joan has been working on the books donated to the Museum, to be displayed alphabetically on the shelves with an updated listing. Many of these books came from Doniphan County Library.

Carol Smith moved and Anna Midyette seconded the motion to remove the names of Jason Midyette, Pete Duncan and Tim Clary from the authorized signatures on the Historical Society's CD's and add the names of Joan Oyerly, Vicki Jones, and Corky Smith. Motion passed. These meeting notes will be presented to the Exchange Bank, Troy Branch, to update the authorized signatures.

Jason Midyette moved and Susan Holt seconded the motion to donate \$50 to St. John's Lutheran Church for the use of the building for tonight's meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

--- Vicki Jones – Secretary/Treasurer

DECEMBER 31, 2025		
Balance		\$35,792.91
INCOME:		
Dues	\$120.00	
Pete Duncan memorials	\$322.00	
Interest deposit	\$6.09	
Income Total		\$488.09
EXPENDITURES:		
Postage	\$156.00	
Troy Pioneer Center donation	\$50.00	
Cricket Wireless January	\$55.00	
Expenditures Total		\$261.00
JANUARY 31, 2026		
BALANCE		\$35,980.00
CD # 7175		\$7,359.22
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project)		\$8,083.32

JANUARY 31, 2026		
BALANCE		\$35,980.00
INCOME:		
Dues	\$195.00	
Cindy Hoverson memorial	\$25.00	
Donations	\$45.00	
Interest deposit	\$5.54	
Income Total		\$270.54
EXPENDITURES:		
Expenditures Total		\$0.00
FEBRUARY 28, 2026		
BALANCE		\$36,250.54
CD # 7175		\$7,359.22
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project)		\$8,143.83

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: Vicki Jones, 638 Highway 7, Bendena, KS 66008

OR email your name, address and email to vljonesrs@gmail.com

and pay by Venmo @doniphancountyhistory

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

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send newsletter by email. Email address: _____

Doniphan County Historical Society
634 HWY 7
Bendena, KS 66008

Your subscription will expire
in December 2025.

Ellen Cordonier Stiles
8850 Fabienne Way
La Mesa, CA 91941