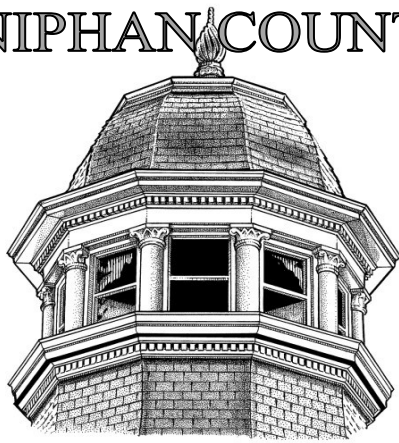


DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April
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News Notes

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Tour & History of the Billups Gallery & Art Center

For the **April 23rd** meeting, Wendell Ganstrom will be sharing not only the artistic life of his aunt Betty Billups but also the transformation of the building into what is



now the present gallery of her work. The Robinson History Association members will be in attendance and will be providing refreshments. Wendell said they are anxious to meet more members of the Doniphan County Historical Society.

He will have signs with a balloon up at the different intersections in Robinson to help direct you to

the gallery at **114 State Center, Robinson.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 28	Lewis & Clark by Jackie Lewin, Fanning Community of Christ Church Refreshments Lillian and Ruth Twombly
June 25	Gilmore Museum Tour by Keith Jaloma, Highland Community College Refreshments by Peggy Engeman and Sharon Peuker
July 25	Nothing Fancy Vehicle Show (White Cloud Main St) & Potluck at the White Cloud American Legion Vehicle Show coordinator Jason Midyette. More information to follow.
Aug 27	BBQ & live music hosted by the DCHS on the Museum grounds, Troy More information to follow
Sept 24	Chautauqua Tribe by Joan Oyerly, Wathena Community Building Refreshments by Joan Oyerly
Oct 22	Pony Express presented by Dr. Robert Corder, Elwood Community Center 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 1	Annual Soup Supper, Baker Tennent House, Troy Soup etc. by DCHS members

March 26 MEETING MINUTES

President Joan Oyerly welcomed the 35 people who attended the presentation on the history of the Denton Methodist Church. Thank you to Mary Linn Johnson for providing us with the history and to the members of the church for hosting.

Mary Linn provided historical information from the 120^{-year} celebration booklet and a newspaper article. The church has been meeting for 157 years. Denton Methodist is Mary Linn's home church starting at the age of four or five. She was married in the church; their four children were baptized here, and the funeral of both of her parents were in the church.

At least three things are necessary in the formation of a new church -- people, purpose and a place to worship. Two other items might also be included -- a preacher and the presence of God. On June 12, 1869, people in this frame of mind were receptive to the invitation given by the Rev. B. F. Bowman, a circuit rider from Doniphan, to form a Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the beginning without a permanent building, they probably met in homes of members, or perhaps a rural school building, or even outdoors when the weather

The Ridge Prairie Cemetery Association (now the Denton Cemetery) was formed in 1870 and received five acres of land from the farm of George and Frances Ellis, located west of Denton. The Association sold one acre in the southeast corner for \$2.00 to the Ridge Prairie Methodist Episcopal Church. The first "Church House" belonged to the Methodists in Atchison, located on Parallel Street across from the courthouse between 5th and 6th Streets. The building was damaged by a storm and was propped up with poles. The Atchison Methodists relocated to the corner of 5th and Kansas. When the former building was put up for sale, Amanda Blair purchased the building and gave it to the trustees of the Ridge Prairie M.E. Church. The Church was taken down in sections and rebuilt at Ridge Prairie. The dedication was held in August 1871, six months after the dedication of the Servance M.E. Church. The churches began a shared pastor arrangement that lasted at least the 75 years.

The Ridge Prairie M. E. Church was the first Protestant church in the area that later became Union Township. The St. Benedict's Catholic Church is older, completed in 1863. St. Mary's Catholic Church in Purcell was erected in 1896.

BUSINESS MINUTES

President Joan Oyerly called the meeting to order. She thanked the Methodist ladies for the delightful desserts and refreshments.

The minutes from February 26, 2026, meeting were approved. Vicki Jones, Treasurer, reviewed the Treasurer's Report as printed in the March newsletter.

Mike Brown of Hiawatha will be painting the signs as he can. Projects we need completed at the Baker House and Museum are guttering on one side of the Baker House, painting windows, doors, etc. at the museum, and replacing bulbs in the museum with LED bulbs. Joan Oyerly moved and Larry Faulkner seconded the motion to approve these repairs up to \$1,000 with Corky coordinating the purchases and repairs. Motion carried.

Articles of interest are requested for consideration to be published in the newsletter. The museum is open every Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm for those wishing to visit or if you would like to assist with projects. Joan requested members think of special events we could host in the summer with the emphasis on youth participation.



Items donated to the museum during March included:

- *Carriage replica – donated by Joan Oyerly
- *Framed photos of a fruit harvest – donated by Joan Oyerly

*Book of newspaper clippings bound in an Edward Rose & Co Spring & Summer catalog cover – donated by the Troy Library.

Meschelle Foos moved and Cynthia Pederson seconded the motion to donate \$50 to the Denton Methodist Church. Motion passed. A request will be made of Wendell Ganstrom to place signs in Robinson indicating where to find the Billups Gallery and Art Center. The Robinson History Association will be our hosts and provide refreshments. Please plan to attend

this presentation and tour of the Gallery on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Meeting was adjourned.

Vicki Jones -- Secretary/Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 28, 2026 BALANCE		\$36,250.54
INCOME:		
Dues	\$45	
Donations	\$15	
Interest deposit	\$6.16	
Income Total		\$61.16
EXPENDITURES: donation St John's		\$50.00
Donation to St John's Lutheran Church,		
MARCH 31, 2026 BALANCE		\$36,261.70
CD # 7175 (12 mo CD) <i>Save Our Liberty Project</i>		\$7,413.11
CD #6519 (24 mo CD)		\$8,143.83

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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

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