

DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July
2026
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News & Notes

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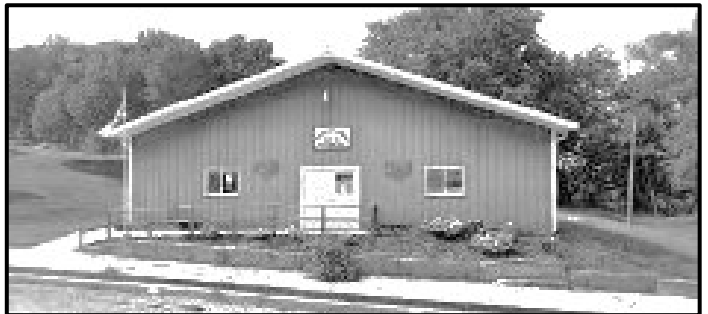
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Nothing Fancy Vehicle Show & Potluck

Please note: this is a **Saturday**, July 25th event of the DCHS. The vehicle show on Main Street will be followed by the potluck in the American Legion Post 154, 102 Main St, White Cloud, Kansas. The 6 pm business meeting will follow the potluck at the Legion building.

Feel free to share this information with anyone you feel might be interested. Bring a side dish for the potluck keeping in mind that the pulled pork, buns, baked beans, condiments, drinks and table service will be provided. Details are in the following flyer.



(photo credit: Google Maps)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6 pm

Aug 27	BBQ & live music hosted by the DCHS on the Museum grounds, Troy More information to follow.
Sept 24	Chautauqua 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 26	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

Train Day in Highland

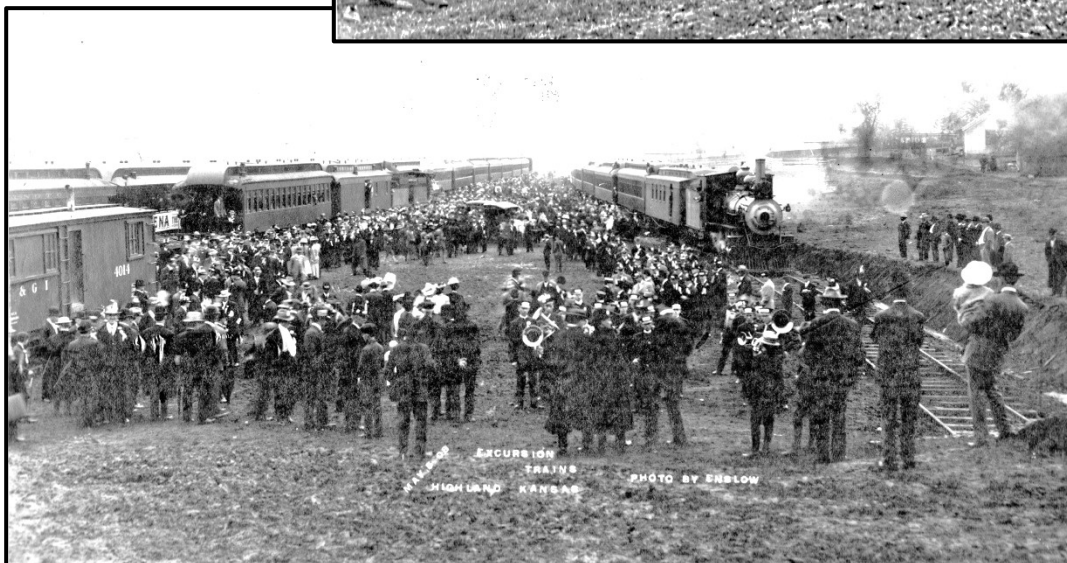
by Jason Midyette

Highland, like most any American town in the mid to late 19th century, had a strong desire for a railroad connection from the moment the town was platted in 1857. Despite extensive campaigning on Highland's behalf, it would be just over half a century before Highland would become a railroad town with the arrival of the St Joseph & Grand Island Railroad (St. J & GI) in April on 1908.

Highland's railroad connection came in the form of a branch line that the St. J & GI constructed from Stouts (just east of Severance) to Highland. The Highland Branch would last just over 40 years, being abandoned in November of 1951. The last relic of the branch, the Highland Depot, would outlive the rail line by over half a century, being demolished in the early 2000's.

The arrival of the railroad in Highland was a big event with an official opening celebration held on May 8, 1908, a few weeks or so after the tracks reached town. A local photographer, with the last name of Enslow, was on hand to record the events of the day and two of his cabinet card views reside today in the Society's collection and are reproduced below.

Entitled "WAITING FOR THE TRAINS", this photo shows part of the crowd, decked out in their Sunday Best, waiting for the arrival of the excursion trains and start of the celebration on May 8, 1908.



Entitled "EXCURSION TRAINS HIGHLAND", the photographer snapped this shot as the last of the three trains arrived in Highland and slowed to a stop at the end of the track.

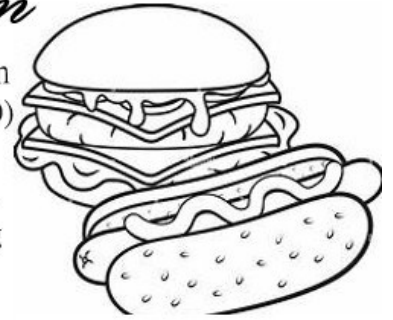
Note the large crowd and the brass band in the foreground. The short, two car train in the middle is a St. J & GI work train that had been operating on the Highland branch for at least a week prior to this event. To the left of the work train is a long (at least 10 cars) passenger train. The last car on that train is lettered "BURLINGTON" for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad (CB&Q), which indicates that the St. J & GI borrowed cars from the CB&Q or perhaps the CB&Q ran its own excursion train over the St. J & GI's track. Also visible on the left side of the photo is St. J & GI boxcar No. 4014, which served as Highland's depot until the actual building was completed.

An Evening at The Museum



On August 27th, DCHS will be hosting a BBQ at the Troy Museum grounds. In addition to the BBQ, there will be live music (TBD) & the museum will be open.

The BBQd items, buns, condiments, baked beans, drinks, & table service will be provided. **Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.**



June 25, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Thirty individuals of varying ages had the opportunity to tour the Beulah Gilmore Memorial Hall. Joan Oyerly, President, welcomed the group. Keith Jaloma, Executive Director of the Highland Community College Foundation and David Reist, former President of HCC provided the history and background and answered questions. The museum is open to the public on the first Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 am, or by appointment by contacting Keith Jaloma at 816-872-8729. The plan is for the museum to also be open during home football games. While there is no admission fee, donations are gladly accepted to assist with operating costs.

Larry Gilmore, class of 1957 purchased a plot of land from Highland Community College in 2018 and told then President David Reist, that after the building was built, he would consider gifting it to the College. Little did anyone at the College know that Larry would not only gift the land and the new building to the College, but he would include all the contents. The grand opening was November 8, 2025. This generous gift amounts to the second largest gift in the College history.

The Beulah Gilmore Memorial Hall, named after Larry Gilmore's mother, features an impressive collection: 15 antique tractors, 10 trucks from the 1920's, over 30 hand-crafted clocks and pieces of furniture made by Larry Gilmore, and a Christmas village with over 100 pieces. Also included are a large collection of model airplanes, war-time memorabilia, limited edition paintings, limited edition figurines and collectibles, a large collection of peddle cars and tractors (144+), and a collection of original work from artist Bernard Martin, originally from Hiawatha, KS. The Gilmore Oil

Company gas pumps on display at the entrance of the building are replicas.

Larry was a math instructor and loved to work with wood. He made all the display cases in the museum, had ridden in every plane of which there is a model on display (except one) and restored many of the vehicles himself. Many of the tractors were used on the family farm.

Such a treasure! Take the opportunity to visit and tour.

BUSINESS MINUTES

Joan Oyerly, President, called the meeting to order. There were no corrections to the May 2025 minutes, nor the Treasurer's report as presented in the newsletter. Preston Harness made the motion to donate \$100 to the Highland Community College Foundation for the Beulah Gilmore Memorial Hall. Ted Hargis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Our July meeting will be on Saturday, July 25th at White Cloud. Fliers were distributed to post in various locations, giving the details of the **Nothing Fancy Vehicle Show** and potluck. Pulled pork, buns, beans, condiments, table service and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish or food to share at the meal. Set up of the vehicles begins at 4:30 pm, vehicles available for viewing at 5 pm and the meal will begin at 5:30 pm in the White Cloud American Legion Building. Jason Midyette will oversee the setup of the vehicles. Janet Harness will coordinate the setup of the meal with volunteer help.

Our August activity will be a barbecue potluck on Thursday, August 27 at the Doniphan County Museum and Tennent-Baker House. Hamburgers, buns, etc. will be provided with participants encouraged to bring a dish to share. There will be at least one activity for children or anyone in

attendance. If you have an idea for another activity, contact one of the Board members. We will also be entertained with live music. Plans are being discussed for additional activities in 2027 at the Museum and Tennett-Baker House.

Thank you to Peggy Engeman and Sharon Peuker for the refreshments.

Cynthia Peterson made the motion to adjourn. Peggy Harden seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

-- Vicki Jones

Secretary/Treasurer

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TREASURER'S REPORT

05/31/2026 BALANCE		\$36,125.11
INCOME:		
Interest deposit	\$5.94	
Pete Duncan Memorial	\$25.00	
Dues	\$45.00	
Income Total		\$75.94
EXPENDITURES		
Postage	\$156.00	
Gleason – copier paper	8.38	
Fanning Comm Church	50.00	
Expenditure Total		\$214.38
06/30/2026 BALANCE		\$35,996.67
CD # 7175 (12 mo CD)		
<i>Save Our Liberty Project</i>	\$7,468.60	
CD #6519 (24 mo CD)	\$8,202.81	

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

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

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☐ Please send newsletter by email. Email address: _____