

DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August

2026

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News Notes

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An Evening at the Troy Museum

The Doniphan County Historical Society will be hosting a BBQ and live music on August 27 starting 6 pm. The BBQ and music will be on the grounds of the DCHS Museum located at 138 E Walnut St, Troy.

Pulled pork, hot dogs, baked beans, condiments, drinks and table service will be provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert and to arrive early to help prepare for serving to start at 6 pm.

In addition to enjoying the live music provided by Rustin & Marcola Smith, the museum will be open for browsing. Rustin is a native of Troy, so bring your lawn chairs, family, friends, and appetites.



photo from Google Maps

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6 pm

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

How Do We Know What We Know: A Geology Primer Part 1: Uniformitarianism by Betty Gleason

How does anyone form theories about what happened on Earth 66 million yrs ago, way before mankind was around to notice? Well, apparently, Mother Nature left us clues which geologists have used to develop laws also referred to as **geologic principles** to help us interpret those clues. As background to my program, “*Geologic History of Northeast Kansas*”, basic principles will be introduced here in the DCHS News & Notes before November. Most will seem to you to be “no brainers”, but you have got to start somewhere.



(image from gelogia.com)

Every science has to start with some broad assumption. In historical geology, it is known as the **Principle of Uniformitarianism** (try saying that five times as fast as you can). Simplify it to the **Law of Uniformity**. It was developed in 1785 by James Hutton but was expanded by other geologists over time. I like Charles Lyell’s description of it as the “present is the key to the past”. Today it would have been popular to use “what it is, it was”. In reality, it means that processes such as weathering, erosion, sediment formation, volcanic activity, earthquakes, etc. that shape the earth today are the same processes that shaped the earth millions of years ago. By studying these processes now, it is possible to apply today’s event to geologic history.

Weathering, erosion and sediment formation (deposition) are the processes that help see into much of Kansas’s prehistoric past since the Midwest spent a lot of time covered by water. Weathering would have broken down the larger rock on land then erosional forces (wind, running water, glaciers) would have moved them. These forces would become weak over time dropping their load causing it to collect inches, feet, or miles away forming sediments

But sediments are not all created equal. By examining sediments in today’s ocean, it is found the deep ocean sediments are composed of fine particles that were formerly dissolved or suspended, closer to shore are the silts, then the sands at the edges. A mixture of pebble sizes, sands, and silts, etc., are found at energetic locations such as at the mouths of rivers. If left undisturbed, these sediments will reform rock through cementation, pressure and/or heat.

Using the Law of Uniformity, a rock found consisting of sand particles (sandstone) would be assumed to have formed from sand near the edge of a prehistoric ocean. Shales would form in areas where muds deposit such as in shallow, slow moving swampy water. The lime of limestone forms deposits in deep water; therefore, indicates a previous deep ocean environment. So, studying the composition of the present rock layers, helps us determine the past, prehistoric Kansas ocean’s relative depth throughout its existence.

Upcoming Part 2: Laws of Superposition, Horizontality, Continuity, Cross-Cutting, Inclusions & Succession.

I promise not more than one paragraph each! or two

TREASURER’S REPORT		
June 30, 2026 BALANCE		\$36,996.67
INCOME:		
Dues	\$95.00	
July meal Free will donations	\$298.50	
Interest deposit	\$6.11	
Income Total		\$399.61
EXPENDITURES:		

Donation to HCC Foundation	\$100.00	
Joan Oyerly: Hy-Vee reimbursement	\$311.52	
Walmart (meal items)	27.45	
Expenditure Total		\$438.97
July 31, 2026 BALANCE		\$35,957.31
CD #6519 (24 mo CD)		\$8,202.81
CD #7175 (12 mo CD)		
Save Our Liberty Project		\$7,468.60



A) 1965 Pontiac GTO – Clint Wagner
B) 1954 Hudson Hornet – Steve Higgins

C) 1980 Corvette – Cliff Israel
D) 1966 Ford farm truck – Tim

JULY PROGRAM

On July 25, 2026, on a very hot afternoon, four “Nothing Fancy Vehicle Show” entries arrived on main street of White Cloud. Each of these vehicle’s (pictured above) owners provided the history of his vehicle.

Forty individuals gathered to view the vehicles and enjoyed a potluck dinner including pulled pork, beans, side dishes and desserts. Free will donations were received totaling \$298.50.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Joan Oyerly opened the meeting. The following thank yous were extended:

*Corky Smith for taking the outside Baker House sign to be repainted and transporting to Hiawatha and back.

*Corky Smith and Larry Faulkner for cutting up a tree on the grounds of the museum.

* Jason Midyette for his work on the *Nothing Fancy Vehicle Show*.

*Janet & Preston Harness and Betty Gleason for the setup of tables and chairs for the potluck and decorations.

*Janet and Preston Harness for their donation of paper products, drink and ice for today.

Minutes of the June 25, 2026, meeting and Treasurer’s Report as of June 30, 2026 were reviewed as printed in the Newsletter. Anna Midyette moved and Betty Gleason seconded the motion to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried.

Anna Midyette moved and Nancy Fuhrman seconded the motion of a \$50 donation to the American Legion Post #154 for the use of their facilities today. Motion carried. And thank you for the facility and the air conditioning!

The Legion had historical postcards available for sale this evening. One for 50 cents or three for \$1. See Preston Harness.

The museum was open on 4th of July and had thirty visitors.

If anyone is not receiving the newsletter either by email or US mail, please let an officer or newsletter editor know. Articles are being published in The Kansas Chief giving information about the upcoming meetings.

We are hoping the sign will be finished and installed in front of the Baker House and museum by the August meeting.

Patty Woodruff has donated a booklet on the Eylar Ranch. Janet and Tim Twombly have donated pictures and a baby buggy which resulted in the article published in the newsletter.

Four to five years ago the Historical Society received information on an old house north of Doniphan. Recently we received a great deal more information on this house. The original program compiled is being revised to add the recent information and will be presented as one of the programs next year.

Fliers for the upcoming August 27th barbecue and music were available for members to post in various

locations throughout the county. Members were encouraged to please take and post to inform people of our program at the Historical Museum in Troy. Bring a friend! Members will meet at 5 pm Thursday, August 27 to set up the event. Serving begins at 6 pm. Pulled pork, hot dogs, buns, table service, and drinks will be provided. Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring a lawn chair, if

you wish. Music will be provided by Rustin and Marcola Smith.

-- Vicki Jones

Secretary/Treasurer

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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

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

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DCHS *News & Notes*
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in December 2026.

