

DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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News Notes

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March 24, 2022 6:00 pm

Doniphan County Poor Farm

by Joan Oyerly

Wathena Library, 401 St. Joseph Street, Wathena

Learn about Doniphan County's Poor Farm, which was established with the intent to care for citizens in need. All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Poor Farms and Poor Houses in Kansas

Excerpt from "A Study of Kansas Poor Farms" published by The Kansas Emergency Relief Committee in 1935. This document is available online, and provides extensive statistics and anecdotes about this form of public assistance.

The Missouri territorial law enumerated the poor as "the lame, the blind, the sick, and other persons who from age or infirmity are unable to support themselves". The Kansas territorial law provided for the erection of poorhouses, in which the inmates were to be employed, and the superintendent of the poorhouse was given the authority to use certain "reasonable and humane" coercion if necessary.

The makers of the Wyandotte constitution, by which Kansas became a state, incorporated almost literally the section of the Indiana constitution pertaining to the care of the poor. This section made the county the responsible public unit and empowered the county commissioners to provide for those residents who because of age or infirmity or other misfortune have claims upon the sympathy and aid of society".

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All permanent county charges were to be cared for in the poorhouse if one was established by the county, and, in those counties without poorhouses, the overseers were to contract for the maintenance of the poor by sealed bids. There were no specified standards which such, care had to cover, just as there are none today.

There was steady growth of the establishment of county poor farms, especially in the eastern part of the state, beginning with the erection of poorhouses in Leavenworth and Douglas Counties in 1866, in Doniphan County in 1867, in Jefferson County in 1868, and in Nemaha County in 1869. In the following decade (1869-1879) 16 additional counties established poor-houses; and between 1879 and 1889, 33 more were added. By 1899 a total of 80 out of 105 counties was operating poorhouses, and by 1912 only 11 counties had. no poorhouses. However, by 1928-1929 the trend toward outdoor relief had become so marked that a total of \$791,352.38 was used for outdoor relief for 8,587 persons in Kansas, as compared to \$193,610.69 which provided for 1,164 persons in county poorhouses, and in 1934 only 77 counties operated poorhouses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

JANUARY 12 BALANCE	\$39,683.70
INCOME:	
Dues	140.00
Donations	15.00
January interest	1.51
Income total:	\$156.51
EXPENDITURES:	
Fanning church - use of building	50.00
Expenditures total:	\$50.00
MARCH 13 BALANCE	\$39,790.21
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project	\$7584.72
CD #7175	\$6,841.8

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Fanning Church
Clifton Israel is working on getting a plaque made for Belmont Landing.
Document scanning update: Anna has contacted Steve Uplinger with the Atchison County Historical Society and he's willing to give us some pointers on how to organize this process. Need volunteers to help with this project.

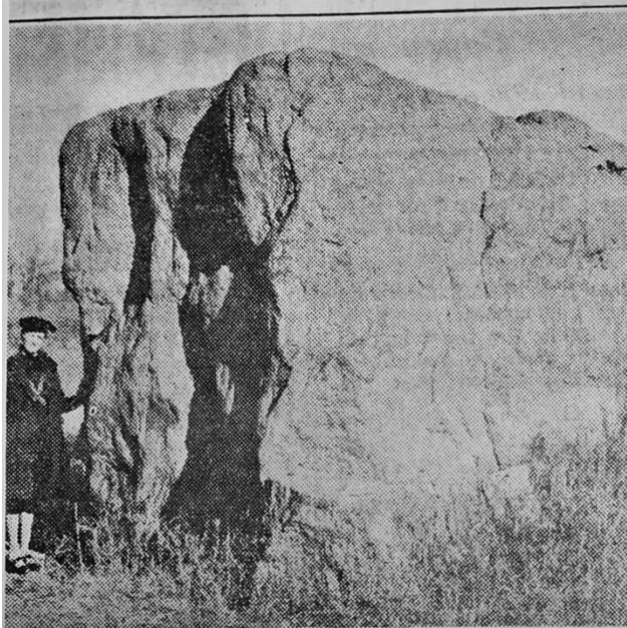
Corky Smith brought up the issue that the apple tree at the Museum needs to be pruned. He suggested an arborist needs to be consulted. Vote passed for him to contact an arborist and being pruning the tree.

Motion made by Kathleen Twombly to donate \$50 for use of the church.

An invitation was given by the Gateway Chapter of the Oregon Trail Society to join their October 1 meeting. More information to follow.

QUARTZITE BOULDER MYSTERY

Kansas Glacial Boulder



This picture was not taken in Colorado, but on a farm two miles south of Denton, Kan., where this red granite boulder was dropped by an ice age glacier.

This photo is from a copy of the *St. Joseph News Press* dated September 20, 1936. The caption reads:

This picture was not taken in Colorado, but on a farm two miles south of Denton, Kan., where this red granite boulder was dropped by an ice age glacier.

Where was this boulder? Is it still there? Who is the lady in the picture?

Quartzite is a metamorphic rock that forms when sandstone is altered, or metamorphosed, through heat, pressure, and chemical changes. Quartzite boulders that litter hillsides in parts of northeastern Kansas did not originate here but were carried in from the north about 700,000 years ago by massive sheets of ice.

During the Pleistocene Epoch, also known as the Ice Age, glaciers dipped into the northeastern corner of the

state at least twice, dragging along sediment ranging in size from silt particles to boulders. The boulders were eroded off outcrops around the intersection of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Known as Sioux quartzite, the rock ranges in color from pink to reddish purple. Unlike sandstone, it is too hard to scratch with a knife.

In Kansas, quartzite boulders are found only in the Glaciated Region, unless they have been transported elsewhere by people. *Source: Kansas Geological Survey*

The Sioux Quartzite is a Proterozoic quartzite that is found in the region around the intersection of Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa, and correlates with other rock units throughout the upper midwestern and southwestern United States. It was formed by braided river deposits, and its correlative units are thought to possibly define a large sedimentary wedge that once covered the passive margin on the then-southern side of the North American craton.

In human history, it provided the catlinite, or pipestone, that was used by the Plains Indians to carve ceremonial pipes. With the arrival of Europeans, it was heavily quarried for building stone, and was used in many prominent structures in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and shipped to construction sites around the Midwest. Sioux Quartzite has been and continues to be quarried in Jasper, Minnesota at the Jasper Stone Company and Quarry. *Source: Wikipedia*

Characteristics and Properties of Quartzite

You needn't be a geologist to appreciate the hardness and durability of quartzite.

Not only does this make for a tough stone, but it also makes it easy to tell quartzite from the imposters. Quartz is 7 on Mohs hardness scale. That means it's harder than glass and harder than a knife blade.

Resistance to acids: Quartzite will not etch from acids like lemon juice or vinegar. Marble and dolomitic marble, on the other hand, will etch from these acids. Dolomitic marble etches slightly more slowly than regular marble. But quartzite will not etch at all from normal kitchen acids.

Porosity: Quartzite has a range of porosities. Some, like Taj Mahal or Sea Pearl, have been highly metamorphosed, and the minerals are bonded together tightly. White Macaubas and Calacatta Macaubas have been exposed to less intense pressure, so they are more porous and will benefit from sealing. If you prefer the beauty and color of quartzite, rest assured that you are selecting a material that is strong, beautiful, and very durable. These materials may be more scratch resistant, but they are not "scratch proof." Quartzite is ideal for

any countertop surface due to its strength and long-lasting composition. Consider quartzite countertops for its strength, beauty, and overall durability.

Uses of Quartzite

Quartzite is used for making bricks and other strong building materials. It is also growing in popularity as a decorative stone, and has a limited use as crushed stone. As it is so hard, quartzite is not quarried as much as softer stone, and tends to be taken from the surface rather than underground. Quartzite is also quite dense and extremely hard. Crushed quartzite can be used as railroad track ballast because it is so hard and durable.

Quartzite is extremely versatile and can be used both indoors and outdoors. It can be used in many different shapes and forms including landscaping, building stone, as a feature wall, tiles or even stone cladding.

Facts About Quartzite

- Quartzite is the result of sandstone and the mineral quartz being put under extreme heat and pressure.
- At least ninety percent of a quartzite rock is quartz.
- Quartzite is usually white or a light shade of pink or gray.
- Mountains and hillsides are typical places to find quartzite.
- Quartzite tends to be smooth with a grainy and lustrous appearance.
- The purest form of silica found on Earth can be found in quartzite.
- Bricks and other strong building material are made of quartzite.
- Quartzite tends to be very strong and thick so it is taken from the Earth's surface rather than mined underground.
- The shade of quartzite is dependent upon the amount of iron oxide that is present.
- Hilltops made of quartzite usually do not change because quartzite is resistant to weathering.
- The bedding around railroad tracks often contains quartzite because of its durability.
- Quartzite is very versatile in construction and is used as flooring, decorative wall coverings, and roofing.
- During the Stone Age when flint was not available, quartzite was often used as a replacement.
- Quartzite can be found in many countries including Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Because of the high amount of silica in quartzite, the soil around the developing quartzite does not have enough nutrients to sustain vegetation.

Source: GeologyScience.com

2022 MEETINGS

All meetings at 6:00 unless otherwise noted.

Presenters/topics/locations subject to change.

March 24 Doniphan County Poor Farm by Joan Oyerly.

Wathena Library. Refreshments Mary Johnson.

April 28 Catholics in Doniphan County by Brother Placidus of Atchison. St. Benedict's Church, 676 St. Benedict's Road, Bendena. *Need volunteer for refreshments.*

May 26 Historic Gilmore Kent Limestone Farmhouse Tour by Julie Dorrell. 841 220th Rd, Highland.

June 23 Shepherders' Wagon with Larry Whitham and Val Engelken at Elwood Community Center. Refreshments Clifton Israel.

July 28 White Cloud Projects by Deborah Bryant, White Cloud American Legion. Pot Luck "Picnic".

August 25 Doniphan Historic District by Bob and Kitty Nourie. Refreshments by Nouries.

September 22 4 "M"s of Doniphan County: Mystery, Murder, Malice, Mayhem by Cindy Hoverson at Jones-Symns Barn, 578 Highway 7, Bendena. Refreshments by Midyettes.

October 27 Midway School History by Glendon Hartman. *Need volunteer for refreshments.*

November 17 Who Welcomed Lincoln? by Larry Faulkner. Historical Society Museum. *Need volunteer for refreshments.*

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If your membership has expired, please send your renewal to the address below.

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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: Anna Midyette, PO Box 197, Bendena, KS 66008

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