

# DONIPHAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY  
2023

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## News Notes

### 2023 OFFICERS

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May 25 6:00 pm

## Elwood's Lincoln School

by Joan Oyerly

Elwood Community Building, 207 North Sixth Street



Joan Oyerly, a retired area teacher, has researched the school to be part of the HISTORICAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF KANSAS multiple property nomination for its local significance in the areas of education and African American heritage.

Elwood's Lincoln School was the last building in Doniphan County to be used for racially segregated education. It replaced McKinley School, which burned in 1934. The school served African American students in the Elwood area from 1935 until it closed in 1955 as a result of Brown vs. the Board of Education. The information presented will show the important role it played in the history of the county.

Because of construction projects, we will not be able to tour the inside of the Lincoln School Building as originally planned, but you can still see the outside. The address is 410 North Ninth. The community building is located to the northeast of the Lincoln School (around the corner.) After the program, refreshments will be served by Kent and Marcia Symns. A business meeting will be held after. The public is welcome, especially the residents of Elwood.



### 2022 BOARD MEMBERS

PETE DUNCAN  
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## TREASURER'S REPORT

MAY 15, 2023

MAR 26 BALANCE	\$37,792.83
INCOME:	
Dues	50.00
Donation	1.11
April meeting	640.00
March interest	3.61
April interest	6.20
Income total:	\$700.92
EXPENDITURES:	
Newsletter printing	23.45
Best Buy (new printer)	130.19
April meeting	740.00
Annual report to Kansas	40.00
Expenditures total:	\$913.65
MAR 26 BALANCE	\$37,580.01
CD #7175	\$6,876.28
CD #6519 (for Save Our Liberty Project)	\$7,636.19

## MEETING NOTES

April 27, 2023

*There was no business meeting on April 27.*

A very unique experience was hosted by the Doniphan County Historical Society on April 27, 2023 at the Highland Community Center. Approximately 41 individuals enjoyed an indigenous meal prepared by Jason Champagne, MPH, of Native Chef LLC. The meal consisted of Bluecorn Cakes, Anasazi Beans, Buffalo Arm Roast, Green Chile Sauce and Red Lake Wild Rice with Butternut Squash. Delicious!

Jason is from Baldwin, Kansas and is a member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. He spoke of his education, work experiences, and his life journey and challenges.

There were also native plants on display at each table accompanied by a sheet with the names and uses of the plants. Participants were invited to match up the plants with their description.

Vicki Jones, Secretary

## MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES

March 23, 2023

President Todd Miller welcomed everyone to this month's presentation of "Barns and Quilts of Doniphan County." There were 55 in attendance with individuals from Atchison, Missouri, Hiawatha, Highland, Troy, Wathena, Elwood, White Cloud, Moray, Severance, Denton, Bendena, and Topeka. Thanks to Mike and Susan Holt for the quilt-looking refreshments.

Cindy Hoverson introduced our quilt presenters: Eula Mae Drake, Leona; Nancy Fuhrman, Highland; Cheril McKay, Wolf River; Beverly Kintzler, Troy; and Lois Elrod, White Cloud.

Eula Mae Drake displayed quilts as well as pictures of quilts she has made. The quilts on display included one of individual barns, a patriotic one, as well as the first quilt she

made. There was a picture of each barn displayed beside the appropriate quilt block. The pictures included many quilts she has made for family members.

Nancy Fuhrman inherited quilts from her mother; including ones made by her mother and ladies of the community. Quilts Nancy displayed included a quilt of those who lived on the old Highway 36, Nancy's is the last name stitched on a block; a baby quilt that was tied by couples (both men and women) as a gift; and her wooden barn quilt, as well. She also spoke of a quilt made by her great, great grandmother, Julia Jenkins from the 1800's. Over 2,000 pieces; all one-inch squares. She showed some of the various tools and items her mom used as patterns.

Cheril McKay displayed a quilt made by her grandmother, Elma McKay. Each member of the Wolf River Club made a square and then the group quilt the squares together. They made several quilts with perhaps each member receiving one.

Beverly Kentzler displayed a quilt that is a result of her wedding shower 70 years ago. Each attendee at the Severance wedding shower wrote their name on a square and Bev later traced them with fabric paint. She had the squares put together into a quilt which she uses all the time. Her grandmother belonged to the Laverentz group and completed several quilts.

Lois Elrod displayed her family quilt including the names of parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc.

There was lively discussion of caring for quilts, proper cleaning, displaying, 20 stitches per inch when hand quilting, machine quilting vs hand quilting, and the obsession of quilting for some!

Cindy Hoverson had a pictorial display of barns in Doniphan County and folders with information on individual ones that are on the register. There was a barn tour flier that was put together by Andrew Clements when he worked as the Director of the Highland Museum approximately 30 years ago. The information, including pictures, was gathered and put together on a very tight schedule; thus several barns were excluded due to the time constraints. She spoke of the Kansas Barn Alliance and the National Barn Registry. There are individual folders available of some of the barns on the registry. If a barn has been altered from the original construction, that barn cannot be included on the register. Cindy has been working in conjunction with some others on updating the information on both the barns and barn quilts as some barns are no longer standing.

There were a few sample barn quilts samples for sale, made by Rise' Hoffman.

### **Business meeting:**

President Todd Miller called the business meeting to order. Cindy Hoverson moved and Jan Falk seconded the motion to approve the February meeting notes. Minutes approved.

We will touch base with Corky to schedule a spring cleanup day and tasks that need to be completed. The date will be announced.

Reminder to pay your annual dues of \$10 to Anna Midyette. \$20 per person must be paid by April 5, 2023 to Anna for the meal at the April meeting.

Joan Oyerly advised for the May meeting the Lincoln School in Elwood will be open from 5 – 6 pm if anyone wishes to tour prior to the meeting at 6 pm May 25 at the Elwood Community Center.

Cindy Hoverson made the motion that the Doniphan County Historical Society work on updating the historical barn information with pictures, addresses, present owners and any historical information. Once all the information is collected and updated, the information will be available through a publication, website, social media, etc., as other areas and states do to allow individuals to take a self-guided tour. Barn quilt information would also be included. Joan Oyerly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cheril McKay asked the notes of the January Show and Tell be revised to reflect the donation of the Wolf River Community Club meeting notes were from her mother, Jackie Huss Sisk. Noted.

Meeting adjourned Vicki Jones, Secretary

## A PEN SKETCH OF EARLY ELWOOD

*The sketch here presented is from the St. Joseph Gazette of date December 22, 1901. It presents matter that has not appeared in any of the histories of the County, and, as the Gazette always took great and kindly interest in the affairs of our County, we may rest assured that the sketch is well worthy of our confidence. The New York, Daily Times, December 18, 1861: "Elwood is one of the most promising places in Kansas, and from the eligibility of its position and great local advantages, bids fair to become the chief commercial metropolis of the future state."*

Forty years have elapsed since the prophecy was made, and now the residents of St. Joseph's Kansas suburb believe it is about to be fulfilled.

A city directory of Elwood and St. Joseph combined for the years 1860-61 contains the foregoing extract from the *New York Daily Times*. Continuing, the article says: "Situated directly opposite St. Joseph, Elwood is placed by the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad in direct communication with the most populous and wealthy cities of the East, and by the first of April will be within fifty hours' travel of New York. It is the starting point of the railroad chartered to Palmetto, on the South Pass route to Salt Lake and California, and of the St. Joseph & Topeka railroad, which will command a great portion of the trade of New Mexico. It lies on the west bank of the Missouri, on the verge of extensive, elevated and thickly wooded bottoms, which require no grading; its streets are broad and rectangular and its levee can be approached with safety by the largest boats and is sufficiently spacious for an immense commerce."

The *New York Tribune* of January, 1859, commenting upon the prospects of Elwood, said: "The rapid growth of Elwood, the principal town in Northern Kansas, is due to its position on the Missouri river directly opposite St. Joseph --- the second city in Missouri. Since 1849, when the overland emigration to California commenced, this point has been an important one.

The largest overland emigration to Kansas, has been, and continues to go through St. Joseph and Elwood. The government trains and the Salt Lake wail have long made this their starting point. It is the only town in Kansas that can be reached by railroad."

This is Elwood as it was looked upon forty years ago. The town did not progress as was expected, but, on the other hand declined for years. The city directory for 1860-61 is owned by Charles M. Betts, a local real estate dealer. It contains 165 names, and among them are found those of persons who later figured prominently in the history of Kansas. The town was at one time known as Roseport, but the name was changed to Elwood a short time previous to the date that the directory was issued. The town was an active rival of St. Joseph in early days. The old directory seeks to advertise the town as an outfitting point in the following terms:

"All persons who have determined to undertake the journey over the plains are quite anxious to learn the best route, and the best place for procuring teams and an outfit. An experience of 10 years has fixed upon the route beginning at Elwood, Kansas, (directly opposite St. Joseph, Mo.) and proceeding thence by Ft. Kearney and the valley of the Platte as the shortest, safest and best route from the Missouri river to the great West. Elwood, Kan., is connected with St. Joseph by the best ferry on the Missouri; it has first class hotels and large business houses, where everything in the line of provisions and outfitting articles can be obtained at low prices. Oxen, wagons, mules, tents, blankets, and everything needed for a trip over the plains, can be bought better at Elwood than at any other point on the frontier.

"Elwood is situated at the eastern terminus of the old California road, which has been the route taken by the overland travelers since 1849 and is now established as the best road to the gold mines of the Rocky mountains. The road from Elwood to the prairie has been recently entirely repaired and is now a first class road in all kinds of weather. Elwood is situated in a rich valley where grass shoots early and those who wish to spend a few days in getting ready for a trip to the mines will find excellent camping ground there, and plenty of wood to burn and grass for cattle. Elwood is the terminus of the Elwood & Marysville railroad, which is already graded for many miles. It is expected to be in running order to Troy, twelve miles west, in a few months. It is the first railroad built in Kansas."

In the lowlands of eastern Kansas, Elwood has peacefully slumbered since the optimistic views expressed in the foregoing. The war put a quietus, for a time on the railroad prospects and the equipment of the one lone railroad of the state was returned to St. Joseph, whence it was first taken on a ferry.

The historic town has put on new life during the last few weeks. When the announcement was made that the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad intended to build a bridge across the river to Elwood, the people of the hamlet awoke from their slumber of nearly half a century. Many of them had hoped, during all of those years, that the tide which had swept on to the great west would some day recede, and that Elwood would, by some unknown chance yet become a figure in the world of commerce and manufacture. There was little tangible basis for the hope, it is true, but the fulfillment of the dream is said by railroad men to be near at hand.

The bill authorizing the construction of the Rock Island bridge has been introduced in the senate. It is believed that it will pass

without trouble, and to Elwood this will mean much, if the reports that have been current recently can be relied upon. It is stated to be the intention of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad to build switch yards on the Kansas side. A large grain elevator, with the capacity of a half million bushels has been

built during the last few years at Elwood, and those who never lost confidence in the town, say that the day is near at hand, when, from the sleeping burg, there will arise a big town; that the natural advantages of the place will no longer be overlooked, since abundant railroad facilities are assured.

## 2023 MEETINGS

*All meetings at 6:00 unless otherwise noted.*

**Presenters/topics/locations subject to change.**

**May 25 Lincoln School History** by Joan Oyerly. Elwood Community Center, 803 Massachusetts St, Elwood. Refreshments Kent and Marcia Symns.

**June 9 St John's Baptist Oratory Feast Day Mass and Potluck.** Mass at 5:00 followed by potluck.

**June 10 Work day #1** at the museum in Troy 9:00 – noon. Help clean up the inside of the museum, yard work, etc. Donuts will be provided.

**June 17 Work day #2** at the museum in Troy 9:00 – noon. Help clean up the inside of the museum, yard work, etc. Donuts will be provided.

**July 27 Annual potluck at White Cloud.** NEW this year - Antique Vehicle Show. Anyone is welcome to bring any antique vehicle with a connection to Doniphan County. There will also be a brief presentation on

genealogy. Bring a dish to share. Tableware and drinks will be provided.

**August 24 Historic Gilmore Kent Limestone Farmhouse Tour** by Julie Dorrell. 841 220th Rd, Highland. Refreshments Corky Smith.

**September 28 Early Stage Roads** by Todd Miller. Sparks State Bank, Sparks. Refreshments by Todd and Faye Miller.

**October 26 Local Legends and Monsters** by Michael Kelley and Lance Foster. Iowa and Sac & Fox Mission at Highland. 1737 Elgin Rd, Highland. *Refreshments needed.*

**November 23** To be announced.

**December 1** Annual soup dinner at the Tenant Baker House in Troy.

**Christmas party** at Star 36 Diner in Wathena. Date to be decided

**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

All Memberships are \$10.00. This is a:  Renewal Membership  New Membership

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