



Jefferson County Historical Society Newsletter

APRIL 2026

America 250 at Old Jefferson Town

CHECK IT OUT:

- **America 250 Exhibits and Events for 2026**
- **We have a new phone number (see page 4)**

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Last fall, Humanities Kansas (HK) announced our selection to host the “Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy” traveling exhibition from March 14 – April 12, 2026. It is certainly a cause for celebration and a



great opportunity for JCHS to shine! We hosted 276 visitors including 7 student groups during these dates. The prep-

aration for this display created an opportunity for a new vision of the front room of our library, now called the Kilgour Room as this part of

the library was previously the Kilgour one room school house. Come see the many changes and displays planned for this room!



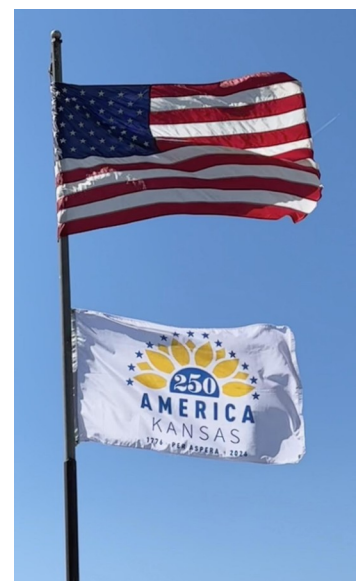
Exhibits & Events for 2026

Volunteers have worked in conjunction with America 250 plans to create a season of celebration and patriotic displays. We received a donation of a Kansas 250 flag from Rep. Susan Estes, House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Kansas 250 Commission.

We also had a special surprise guest of Dr. Roger Marshall, one of our United States Senators visited on April 2nd.

For updates on our Exhibits and Events check us out on Facebook and our website!

More info on Page 3



Historical Society Hires Manager



Deb Case,
Museum Manager/
Director

The board voted to hire a Museum Manager/Director in January and we are thrilled that Deb Case accepted the position.

The Museum Manager provides limited, high-impact support to the daily operations and long-term sustainability of the Jefferson County Historical Society (JCHS) and Old

Jefferson Town. This part-time independent contractor role focuses on coordination, planning, documentation, and communication, working collaboratively with the JCHS Executive Board and volunteers to advance priority projects and community engagement within a 6 hour per week schedule.

Key Responsibilities

- Volunteer Coordination
- Project & Event Support
- Education & Community Outreach
- Digital Documentation & Collections
- Accountability & Communication
- Other duties as assigned by the Board

Grant\$

Free State Electric Coop awarded the Jefferson County Historical Society a \$3,700 grant toward the accessibility project at Old Jefferson Town. Work was completed on a Curry House restroom to ensure accessibility, as well as entry ramps into the buildings on the boardwalk.

We also received a \$1,000 mini-grant from Freedom's

Frontier to assist with some of the costs in the our technology plan.

Progress has been made toward implementing interactive electronic displays in our buildings. There is a scrolling screen with OJT and JCHS information in the front window of the Reynolds Store Building (the 1st building guests see on the boardwalk). QR codes are ready with

information for the various buildings to facilitate a "walking tour" for guests whether we are open or not. As the budget allows, plans are in the works for other displays such as this placed throughout the buildings. The need for better internet service and electronic devices to facilitate access to these methods is ongoing.

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

Genealogy and Research Library

The library is open year round for research on Saturday mornings from 9:00am to 1:00pm and on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Or you may email us at info@jchks.com to make an appointment for the library and/or tours of our buildings and grounds.

Volunteers continue data entry of our OJT collections into Past Perfect. You can search by several variables including

your last name, an object, a place, etc. on our public access page at:

<https://oldjeffersontown.catalogaccess.com/search>



Exhibits & Events continued



2026 Schedule
May 2 to Sept 27
Museum & Grounds

- Saturdays 9-1
- Sundays 1-4
- Wednesdays 1-4

Research Library

- Saturdays 9-1
- Year Round

703 Walnut | Oskaloosa, KS 66066



REMEMBER THE LADIES Exhibit
Abigail Durr
May 2026 Exhibit

Old Jefferson Town
 703 Walnut, Oskaloosa, KS 66066
 OldJeffersonTown.com

OldJeffersonTown.com

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Society was held in the Edmonds Chapel on the grounds of Old Jefferson Town on Sunday, November 2nd.

Chris Hotchkiss presented an interesting PowerPoint presentation featuring the history of Perry, KS. We plan to feature additional Jefferson County towns in the future.

Volunteers were thanked for their many hours spent maintaining, preserving and documenting the history of Jefferson County.

A brief business meeting was held followed by the election of officers:

- Greg Noll, President
- Lisa Leyva, Vice President
- Clifford Burk, Treasurer
- Bev Schuler, Secretary

Current board members include:

- Leanne Chapman, Past President
- Eileen Young, Membership
- Jeanette Waters, Ozawkie
- Chris Hotchkiss, Perry
- Nelda Rathert, Nortonville
- Denise Spainhower, Oskaloosa
- Bill Manville, Valley Falls



L to R: Greg Noll, Lisa Leyva, Bev Schuler & Cliff Burk

Events

- ✓ March 13 Sneak Peak (by invitation only)
- ✓ March 14-April 12 Declaration 1776 Exhibit
- ✓ April 4 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt
- ✓ April 5 Easter Sunrise Service
- ✓ April 18 America 250 Parade @ McLouth
- ✓ **May Remembering the Ladies Exhibit**
- May 1 Oskaloosa 4th Grade Wax Museum, 1-2 pm
- May 2 Bonner Springs Tractor Lunch
- May 24 Memorial Day Service, 2 pm
- May 23 – July 5 Military Uniform Display**



MILITARY UNIFORM DISPLAY
WWI to Korea
 May 24 - July 4, 2026

Old Jefferson Town
 703 Walnut
 Oskaloosa, KS

- June ?? Children's Day Camp
- June 20 – 28 Bridal Dress Display, Edmonds Chapel
- June 27 Old Settler's Breakfast, Oskaloosa City Hall
- July Patriotic Quilt Display**
- July 12 Ice Cream Social, Music and Car Show, 1 pm
- August Indigenous People Exhibit**
- August 30 – September 13 Signature Quilts**
- September 27 Quilt Turning
- October 4 Family Scavenger Hunt
- November 1 Annual Meeting
- November 11 Veteran's Day @ Valley Falls School

All events at Old Jefferson Town unless noted and during our regular hours.

Saturdays 9 to 1
Sundays 1 to 4
Wednesdays 1 to 4
703 Walnut | Oskaloosa, KS 66066



Jefferson County KS Historical Society
Old Jefferson Town

703 Walnut Street
Oskaloosa, KS 66066

CONTACTS



Info@ichsks.com



[703 Walnut | PO Box 146
Oskaloosa, KS 66066](#)



OldJeffersonTown.com



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[https://www.youtube.com/
@OldJeffersonTown](https://www.youtube.com/@OldJeffersonTown)



(785) 218-4482

OldJeffersonTown.com

How you can help

We are thrilled when we have visitors to our Genealogy Library, Museum Buildings and Grounds! Our visitor's donations, members paying dues and volunteers keep our museum looking great for everyone!

Online donations can be made at www.jchsks.com/donations. Please consider a direct transfer of your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA or include us in your estate plan.

Donations & membership dues may also be mailed to:
Jefferson County KS Historical Society
PO Box 146
Oskaloosa KS 66066

Also, if you are interested in **volunteering**, we have many opportunities (cleaning, IT, data entry and more). Send us an email or visit us.

If you have not had time to update your membership, there is no time like the present! \$25/year

<https://www.jchsks.com/copy-of-membership>

Scan to Donate!



Visitors

Members

Donors

Genealogists

Volunteers