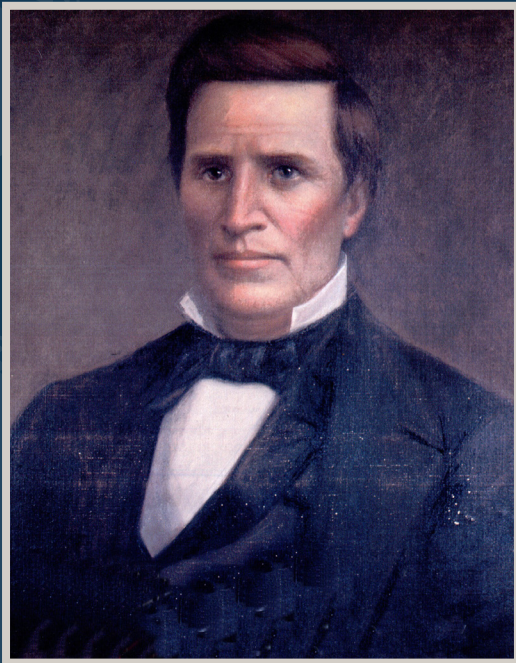


Alexander W. Doniphan

COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION



Community Service & Leadership Award

APRIL 27, 2026 | 7 PM

WOODNEATH LIBRARY CENTER AUDITORIUM

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*The Alexander W. Doniphan Community
Service & Leadership Foundation*

&

Clay County Millennium Historical Board

wish to express their sincere gratitude to Woodneath Library Center at the Mid-Continent Public Library, for their generous support and the use of the beautiful facilities.

The Foundation offers their sincere thanks for the support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Kansas City area.



*The Alexander W. Doniphan Community
Service & Leadership Foundation*

Allen Jones and Steven V. Potter, Co-Chairs

Rodney Ames, Joseph Bailey, Sheryl Gallagher, Lori Garcia, Heather Hall,
Laurie Jacobus, Cynthia McDavitt, Karen Mecham, Steve Mecham,
Jeremiah J. Morgan, Lora Morgan, Diana Reiter, Matthew Russell,
W. Christian Sizemore, and Eric Zahnd

John A. Dillingham & Craig Walker, Advisory

*Jerome E.
Brant*



Jerome “Jerry” Brant is the Managing Partner of the Liberty law firm Withers, Brant, Igoe & Mullennix, P.C. He was born and raised in Liberty, Missouri, and attended Liberty Public Schools, where his mother, Dorothy, was a teacher. He graduated from Liberty High School, received a B.A. Degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and attended law school at St. Louis University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, receiving a Juris Doctor Degree in 1972. Following his admission to the Bar, he started practicing law with Conn Withers, a longtime, and legendary Clay County lawyer. That partnership led to today’s preeminent law firm, Withers, Brant, Igoe & Mullennix, P.C.

Jerry has practiced law for over 50 years. He has tried hundreds of both judge and jury trials in the areas of real estate, probate, trust, tort, municipal, business, and school law. He has served in various leadership roles in Missouri and locally in Clay County government.

Over the years, Jerry contributed to the legal community, the Northland, and his hometown, Liberty. Jerry served on the prestigious

Missouri Bar Board of Governors from 1976- 1980, and then again from 1986 - 1996. He was twice the recipient of the Missouri Bar President's Award, receiving it in 1996 and again in 2005.

In 2024, he received the Dean of the Trial Bar Award from the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association.

Jerry's legal career included not only his private practice, but he also served as Liberty's City Prosecutor, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Clay County, the first Clay County Counselor, and for 20 years was a member of the Board of Directors of the Bar Plan Mutual Insurance Company, including 8 years as Chair of that Board.

Jerry's community service includes serving as Chair of the Clay County Economic Development Council in 2003, serving as a Director of the Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce, serving as President of the Liberty Sertoma Club, and serving as a member of the commission that wrote Clay County's Constitution. Since its inception, he has been a Board Member of the Irvin and Nevada Linscomb Foundation, the largest charitable foundation focused on the Northland. He was involved in the creation of and served for many years on the Board of Level Up Kids, Inc. which provides free dental care and vision care for needy children in the Northland.

Jerry's wife, Lorraine, who had a highly respected CPA practice in the Northland for many years, assisted him in many of his endeavors. Jerry and Lorraine contributed land to Habitat for Humanity and a duplex to charitable organization to be used for transitional housing for families in need.

Award Ceremony

WELCOME

Steven Potter, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Co-Chair

INVOCATION

Sheryl Gallagher, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Member

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Troop 374 "The Fireballs" (*Mr. Brant received his Eagle Scout Award from this troop*)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Isaac Ames and his Friends

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Eric Zahnd, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Member

INTRODUCTION OF DONIPHAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Laurie Jacobus, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Member

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Sophia Grote

VETERANS COMMUNITY PROJECT PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION TO DONIPHAN MARCH

Laurie Jacobus, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Member

"COLONEL DONIPHAN GRAND MARCH"

Composed by A. Waldoner, Recorded by Alexandra Graham

Lives of Leadership

ALEXANDER W DONIPHAN

Allen Jones, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Co-Chair

JEROME E. BRANT

Rodney Ames, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Member



PRESENTATION OF THE ALEXANDER W. DONIPHAN COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP AWARD TO

Jerome E. Brant

PRESENTATION

Steven Potter and Allen Jones, Alexander W. Doniphan Community
Service & Leadership Foundation Co-Chairs

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

Jerome E. Brant

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

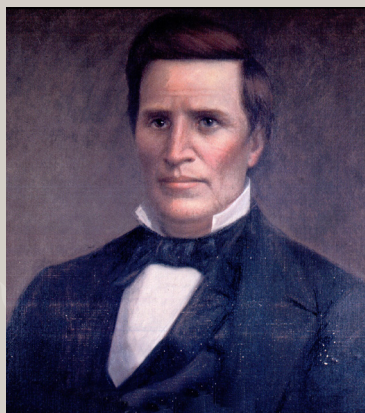
Heather Hall, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation Member

BENEDICTION

Elder Steve Meachem, Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Foundation
Member

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

Alexander William Doniphan



Alexander William Doniphan was born near Maysville in Mason County, Kentucky, on July 9, 1808, and died in Richmond, Ray County, Missouri, on August 8, 1887. Doniphan graduated from Augusta College in Kentucky in 1827 at age 19. In 1829, after studying law for two years, he was admitted to practice in the courts of Ohio and Kentucky. In 1830 he relocated to Lafayette County, Missouri, where he established a law office. Within a few years, he traveled to Liberty, Clay County, where he became known as a fearless orator in the courts of law.

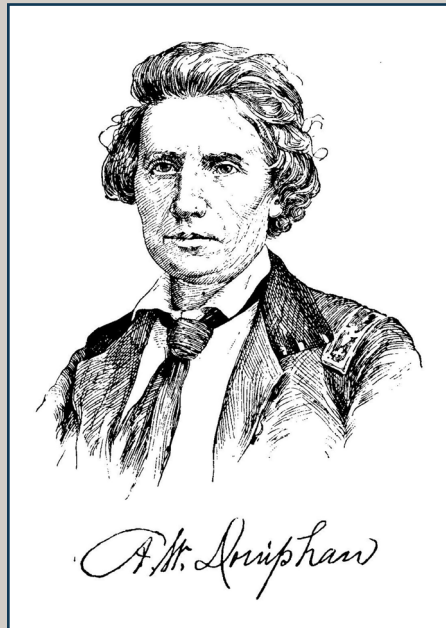
In 1837 he married Elizabeth Jane Thornton, a daughter of Colonel John Thornton, one of Clay County's first settlers. That marriage produced two sons, both of whom died in their youth by separate accidents. During Doniphan's 30 years in Clay County he was regarded as a leading citizen, giving the best of his abilities to the county's social and economic development. However, like nearly every other similarly situated man in his community at this time, Doniphan benefited from the labor and was the owner of enslaved people.

During Doniphan's 30 years in Clay County he was regarded as a leading

citizen, giving the best of his abilities to the county's social and economic development. Although a member of the Disciples of Christ Church, he was one of the founders of William Jewell College, a Baptist-affiliated school in Liberty, Missouri. His name appears as a trustee of a number of early schools and he later became the first Clay County School Commissioner.

Doniphan was instrumental in organizing Caldwell County as a home for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He had previously represented the claims of members of the church in property disputes from Jackson County. In the fall of 1838, Doniphan was called to lead a detachment of approximately 200 Clay County militia to Caldwell and Daviess counties, to assist in settling a dispute between residents in the area.

In what would become known as the Mormon War, Brigadier General Doniphan was ordered by General Lucas of the State Militia to execute Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, his older brother Hyrum and other Church leaders. He flatly refused the direct order, stating, "It is cold-blooded murder." Though his disobedience could have





led to his own court-martial, the refusal saved the lives of those Church leaders, who were turned over to civilian authorities.

Alexander Doniphan led one of the most famous expeditions in American history to Old Mexico in 1846-1847. His service during this war is recognized by

his inclusion in the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame.

Following his service in the war, Doniphan returned to his law practice in Liberty where he grew in reputation as a supporter of business, political and economic growth of the local community and the nation. He was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to serve as a delegate to the Washington Peace Conference in 1861. In 1862 he moved to St. Louis, where he worked as a lawyer with the Missouri Claims Commission seeking pensions for refugees during the Civil War.

Following the Civil War he relocated to Richmond, Ray County, Missouri, where he practiced law until his death at age 79. He is buried in Liberty, Missouri, beside his wife and two sons.

Alexander W. Doniphan

THE FIRST CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL COMMISSIONER

As a leader in education, Doniphan's name appears as trustee of a number of early schools in Missouri.

WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

He joined with Major Alvin Lightburne and others as founders of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, more than 160 years ago.

FORT LEAVENWORTH HALL OF FAME

Alexander Doniphan is one of nine distinguished pre-Civil War honorees who share placement on this Hall of Fame with General Douglas MacArthur, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Colin L. Powell, General William C. Westmoreland and other distinguished military leaders. Doniphan was the Brigade Commander in the Missouri State Militia during the Mexican American War. His brigade, including Clay County Militia, marched more than 5,500 miles and fought three important battles - Brazito, Sacramento and El Paso - conquering the states

of Mexico and Chihuahua. Following the war, Doniphan drafted the code of civil law for the territory in both English and Spanish.

A MISSOURI LEGISLATOR OF THE WHIG PARTY

Elected to represent Clay County in 1836, 1840 and 1854, Doniphan was instrumental in organizing Caldwell and Daviess counties. He is also credited as a leading force in facilitating the Platte Purchase.

WASHINGTON PEACE CONFERENCE

Doniphan was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as a delegate to the conference in 1861.



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

As Brigadier General of the Clay County Militia, serving during the Mormon War of 1838, he refused a direct order to execute Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Church, his brother Hyrum and five other Church leaders, thus saving their lives. During the following months, Joseph and Hyrum Smith and four other Church leaders were held in the Liberty jail awaiting trial. The charges against them proved to be false and they were allowed to escape and reunite with their families.



About the Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award

The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award recognizes the honoree as one who exemplifies General Doniphan's outstanding characteristics and personal commitments in one or more of the diverse components of his life, mainly Education, Jurisprudence, Statesmanship, Patriotism in Defense of Country, and Integrity in Business.

On his 200th birthday, July 9, 2008, Alexander W. Doniphan was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians by the Speaker of the

Missouri House, and a life-sized bust was placed in the Missouri State Capitol in honor of his exemplary life and achievements.

The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award is made possible through the efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Kansas City area, the Clay County Millennium Historical Board and the Clay County Commission.



Past Recipients

2025 - Dr Gary Armstrong

2023 - Alvin Brooks

2021 - Anita Gorman

2018 - Senator John C. Danforth

2016 - Susan Easton Black

2014 - Elder Lance B. Wickman

2012 - Robert Arter, Lt. Gen., Ret.

2010 - S. Preston Williams

2009 - Dr. W. Christian Sizemore

2008 - Raymond R. Brock, Jr.

2007 - Juarenne Hester

2005 - John A. Dillingham

2003- John & Mary Pritchard

2002- Judge R. Kenneth Elliott



Alexander W. Doniphan

COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION