



City of Holden, MO Bio

The City of Holden, Missouri is a vibrant community of roughly 2,300 residents located about fifty miles from Kansas City. It was built in 1857 in anticipation of the arrival of the Pacific Railroad, largely due to the efforts of Isaac Jacobs and Samuel Cummings. The town was named in honor of Major N.B. Holden a member of the legislature and a major figure in bringing the railroad to the area. Holden was first registered in a plat (land plot map) on April 27, 1858. It was later incorporated in 1861.

The City has a rich history, and a deep love of sports as evidenced by the numerous sports figures who have come from Holden and the sports teams that have called it home. The Tennessee Rats were an African American baseball team that was based in Holden from 1910-1926, and the Holden Chiefs were a semi-pro baseball team that was considered one of the best in the region. The chiefs played over 74 teams including the Kansas City Monarchs. Harvey Louis "Hooks" Cotter (Chicago Cubs) and George Gillpatrick (St. Louis Browns) were baseball players from Holden that made it into the big leagues. The tradition continues to this day, the Lady Eagles volleyball team has won the state championship twice.

Holden is not only known for its sports, many of its residents have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways. Anti-saloon advocate Carrie Nation lived in Holden in the 1870's working as a teacher, World War One veteran John L. Barkley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1918, and Edgar Lewis was an actor/director who made his debut in 1914 and directed various westerns and adventure films in the 1920's. Nowadays Holden has grown into a larger community that is not only proud of its history but also of its potential. The Holden City Lake, its parks, and the wide variety of community and events (rodeos, car shows, and tractor pulls to name a few) show the deep affection the people of Holden have for their home. There is something exceptional here in the Missouri heartland, a rugged sense of community and civic pride that is evident in its populace and the hard working civil servants that make it their home. It is a delightful place to visit and a wonderful place to live. As the town motto says "Small town, Big future."