
The Memorial Building: A Center for Historical Research

FROM 1914 to 1983 all activities of the Kansas State Historical Society were headquartered in the Memorial Building, and most remain today in the "classic in marble" across the street from the Capitol. Often less visible than the artifacts and exhibits in the Kansas Museum of History, they are equally important in the Society's work of collecting, preserving, and interpreting Kansas history. As indicated in the following descriptions, these programs are grouped into several departments ranging from administration and archeology to microfilm and publications.

Administration

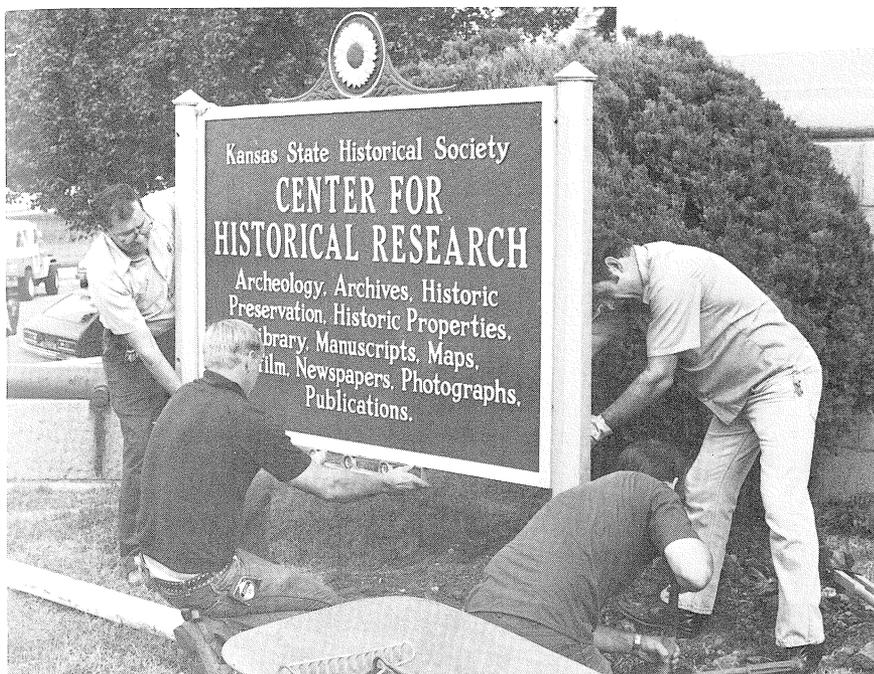
The Administration Department of the Society as a state agency is responsible for fiscal matters; personnel transactions; the maintenance and operation of the Memorial Building/Research Center, the Kansas Museum of History, and the historic properties administered by the Society; and liaison with both the legislative and the executive branches of state government. Also part of administration are certain aspects of research conducted by the research historian as well as the Society's own photographic services. The state folk arts program, which promotes and interprets the traditional arts of Kansas, also is in the Administration Department.

The Society as a private, non-profit corporation originally chartered in 1875 also transacts business. The executive director serves as its secretary, and the assistant executive director serves as assistant secretary and corporate treasurer. The corporation employs a development officer who seeks grants and other financial support from businesses, foundations, federal agencies, and other sources and a membership secretary who maintains the membership records. The corporation staff is responsible also for liaison with the board of directors, executive committee, and other officers and for planning the Society's annual meeting and annual spring meeting.

Archeology

The Archeology Department is a major archeological research organization in the state and the only one committed to work just in Kansas. Research, conservation of sites, curation of artifacts, and public service are the major program activities. Since it was created in 1960, the department has recovered almost a million individual specimens from prehistoric and historic sites as well as associated records, maps, and photographs. The department is the depository for all recorded site locations in the state, regardless of recording institution, and to date has more than six thousand sites in its files. Archeological sites and specimens are nonrenewable resources. The curation of recovered materials, records, and photographs, not only for present analysis but for future studies by more sophisticated techniques, is also an important part of the program.

The department provides service under contract to federal and state agencies, local government units, and private sector businesses and organizations whose activities, such as large-scale water projects, would result in the destruction and loss of significant sites and data. These investigations are usually mandatory under federal and state laws, directives, and regulations. In providing contract services on a reimbursable cost basis, the Society is able to recover, study, and preserve information important to Kansas history while helping agencies with compliance and with the execution of their programs. The department also works for the Kansas Department of Transportation in areas of proposed road construction including both the state primary and county secondary road systems. Other projects included are sewer districts, waterlines, powerlines, and oil and gas wells. The phases of contract work normally include project review to determine the potential for archeological resources, field inventory surveys to identify sites in proposed construction areas, testing to evaluate the scientific importance of identified sites, and scientific excava-



With the completion of the Kansas Museum of History, a new sign was erected identifying the departments remaining in the Memorial Building.

tion of significant sites which cannot be avoided by project redesign.

As part of a state agency, the Archeology Department is committed to public service. Archeology is of interest to many people, and the department offers direct involvement by sponsoring an annual Kansas Archeology Training Program, a two-week training dig held for amateurs each spring. Concurrent with the dig, Society archeologists provide specialized training in site survey, excavation, laboratory work, and experimental archeology. A field lab is also operated so that the recovered materials can be processed in the field by the amateur volunteers. Some sixty to ninety people actively participate in the dig each year, and from three hundred to six hundred have been recorded as visitors. The department also offers programs, exhibits, and literature on Kansas archeology and annually presents an average of fifty programs to interested groups. Additional information is disseminated through such publications in the Anthropological Series as *Excavations in the Pomona Reservoir* (1970), by Roscoe Wilmeth; *The Grasshopper Falls Phase of the Plains Woodland* (1979), by John D. Reynolds; and *The Slough Creek, Two Dog and William Young Sites, Council Grove Lake, Kansas* (1982), by Thomas Witty, Jr.

With respect to formal research for major scientifically controlled work, the department has received state appropriations to develop interpretive sites for the benefit of the general public. Such interpretive

projects include the Pawnee Indian Village Museum in Republic County, Fort Hays at Hays, and the El Cuartelejo site in the Lake Scott State Park. The Tobias archeological site in Rice County, one of the Wichita Indian villages associated with Coronado, should be the subject of future research and interpretation.

Archives

The Archives Department of the Kansas State Historical Society is responsible for the acquisition, preservation, and public use of noncurrent, unpublished, state and local government records with enduring value. Since 1977 the department also has had administrative responsibility for the Society's large newspaper collection.

Government Records Division: During the 1870s the Society began to acquire a few government records, and in 1905 the legislature passed an act "to provide for the care and preservation of public records," which authorized state or local government agencies to turn over to the Historical Society noncurrent public records or printed material. A small body of archival legislation evolved over the years following the passage of the 1905 law, but it was not until 1981 that the Government Records Preservation Act clearly designated the Society as the official state archives.

Today the archives holds approximately 11,500 cubic feet of original state and local government documents and more than 4,000 rolls of microfilm.

Included are the correspondence of Kansas governors (1861-1966); territorial and state population and agricultural censuses (1855-1981); records of the adjutant general's office (1861-early 1940s); correspondence and opinion files of the attorney general (early 1880s-1955); corporation charters, correspondence, and election records from the secretary of state's office (1861-1938); case files, dockets, and journals of the state supreme court (1861-1962); and prisoner ledgers and case files from the state penitentiary (1867-1961).

For many years the small Society staff had little time available to process and catalog the archival holdings. A series of federal work-relief projects administered by the Society from 1934 to 1943 included some of the first efforts to arrange and store the holdings properly. Today the department relies heavily on volunteers and college interns to process records and furnish assistance to researchers.

In 1981 the National Historical Publications and Records Commission funded a local government records survey project to help develop a model for local archival programs. To be completed this year, the project will produce comprehensive published inventories of records in five counties as well as recommended retention and disposition schedules for local government records. In 1983 a local records archivist was added to the staff to assist local officials, members of county historical societies, genealogists, and other interested persons in carrying out records survey and preservation projects throughout the state.

Newspaper and Census Division: Since the mid-1870s the Kansas State Historical Society has tried to acquire every newspaper published in the state, and over the years it has also accepted donations of out-of-state newspapers. As a result, by mid-1983 the collections totaled some 70,000 volumes of Kansas newspapers (including those which have been micro-filmed), more than 12,000 out-of-state newspaper volumes, and more than 26,000 microfilm reels. One of the largest newspaper collections in the United States, it is probably the largest for a single state, and it continues to grow. Currently, Kansas publishers send 51 dailies, 2 tri-weeklies, 236 weeklies, 6 semi-weeklies, and 160 periodicals issued less frequently to the Society.

In order to provide better access to the collection, in November 1982 the Society, along with five other organizations, began participating in the United States Newspaper Program. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Society is inventorying its newspapers and entering selected biblio-

graphical information into a national data base. An accurate card catalog which can be updated easily also is being created.

The holdings of both the Government Records and the Newspaper and Census divisions of the archives are used extensively by scholars, reporters, and members of the general public; the department is open Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings (public records are available on Saturdays only by prior arrangement). Although the Newspaper and Census Division no longer conducts family history research by mail, the staff continues to provide documentation to persons seeking proof of birth for Social Security benefits, passport applications, or other such uses.

Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Department was created in 1969 to implement the provisions of the National Register of Historic Places under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Maintained by the Department of the Interior, the National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are associated with historic events or with the lives of significant persons or that embody distinctive architectural or artistic values. National Register listing is sought by private property owners, local governments, historical societies, and other organizations to make them eligible for federal tax incentives provided for rehabilitating historic commercial structures, to gain recognition for them, to obtain protection, at least in part, for their properties, and to make them eligible for federal preservation grants. As of March 1, 1984, there were 380 Kansas entries on the National Register. Included were such diverse sites, districts, and structures as Amelia Earhart's birthplace in Atchison, the Clements Stone Arch Bridge in the Clements vicinity, the Potwin Place Historic District in Topeka, and the old Dodge City Public Library.

Under the State Historic Preservation Act of 1977, the Society also was assigned the responsibility for historic preservation programs in Kansas. This law made the preservation of the state's historical, architectural, archeological, and cultural heritage a matter of public policy and designated the secretary of the Society as the state historic preservation officer. Review and comment by the Historic Preservation Department are required on a wide variety of federal projects and on projects that are federally funded, licensed, or approved as to their potential to affect historical or archeological sites.

The department also distributes accurate historic

preservation information throughout the state. Requests for such information have been increasing steadily, demonstrating an interest and awareness on the part of Kansans that historic properties require maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation treatments especially suited to historic materials.

In addition, the office provides information on technical problems and conservation measures that retain or enhance the characteristics that make historic properties valuable. Plans and specifications for work for which the federal tax incentives will be sought also are reviewed.

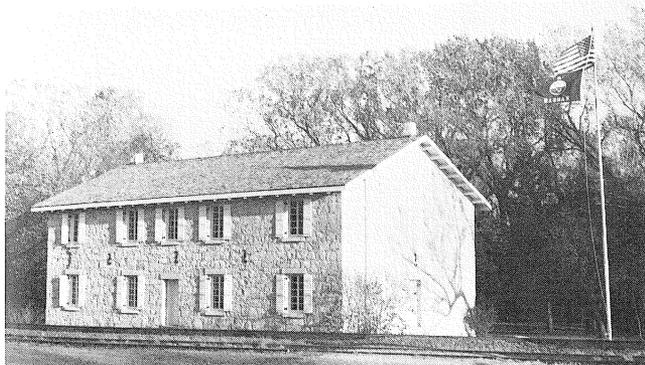
In order to disseminate information on historic preservation throughout the state, the department publishes a bimonthly newsletter, *Kansas Preservation*. It also issues occasional thematic publications such as *Black Historic Sites* (1977), *Legacies: Kansas' Older County Courthouses* (1981), and *Kansas Rock Art* (1982).

Historic Properties

The first historic site to come under the supervision of the Society was Pike's Pawnee Indian Village. Accepted by the legislature in 1901, it was then the supposed site of the first raising of the American flag in Kansas by explorer Zebulon Pike in 1806. Subsequent investigations have shown that the actual site of the flag raising was farther north. The site is important archeologically, however, and several Indian lodge sites have been excavated. Today the Pawnee Indian Village is one of eighteen historic sites and properties administered by the Historic Properties Department.

First Territorial Capitol

On July 2, 1855, Gov. Andrew H. Reeder called the territorial legislature to order in a partially finished stone warehouse located in Pawnee, a town near Fort Riley. Most of the legislators were pro-



FIRST TERRITORIAL CAPITOL

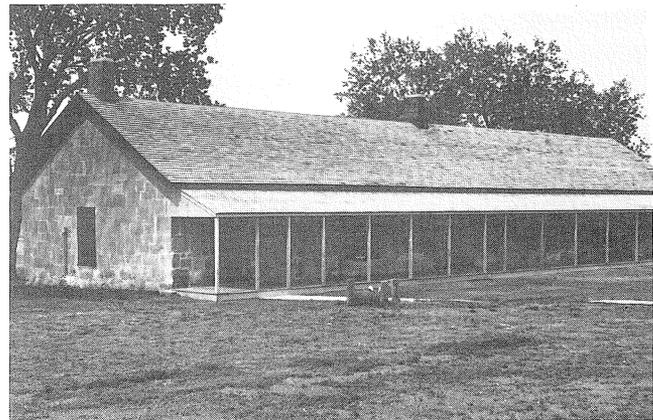
slavery advocates. Their primary objective was to move the capital farther east since most of them were from border towns and held interests in Missouri. Meeting for only four days in the First Territorial Capitol, these legislators accomplished little except to move the capital temporarily to the Shawnee Methodist Mission.

Location: via K-18 on the Fort Riley Military Reservation.

Fort Hays

Shortly after the Civil War, railroads and settlers began pushing into central and western Kansas with ever-increasing intensity. To provide protection against hostile Indians, who attacked the travelers, railroad builders, and settlers encroaching on their lands, the federal government in 1865 established three new military posts in Kansas. One of these was Camp Fletcher, later known as Fort Hays, located on the Smoky Hill Trail, a stagecoach road to Denver. During the post's active life, both cavalry and infantry were stationed there. Of the twenty-one regiments serving at the fort, three were all-black units. Until 1889 when Fort Hays was abandoned, several famous military figures were associated with it, including Philip H. Sheridan, Winfield Scott Hancock, George A. Custer, and George A. Forsyth.

Location: on Alternate US-183, south of I-70, Hays.



FORT HAYS

Funston Home

In 1901 scarcely an American lived who did not know the story of Frederick Funston, congressional Medal of Honor winner and hero of the Philippine Insurrection. Through a daring ruse, this Kansan captured Emilio Aguinaldo, the insurrectionist

leader, and diffused the uprising. The Funston Home is a simple farm home in which General Funston spent his boyhood and to which he returned a hero.

Location: on US-169, four miles north of Iola.

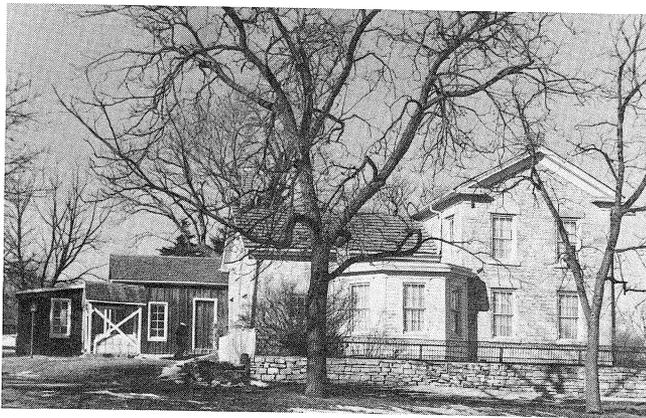


FUNSTON HOME

Goodnow House

Goodnow House in Manhattan was the residence of Isaac T. Goodnow, a free-state pioneer and educator. Upon his arrival in Kansas Territory in 1855, he became active in local and territorial affairs, serving as a Manhattan representative to the 1855 free-state convention, as a delegate to the Leavenworth constitutional convention, and as a member of the state house of representatives, convened in 1862. He served as one of the first superintendents of public instruction and persuaded the legislature in 1863 to accept the land and other possessions of Bluemont Central College in order to establish the Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University).

Location: 2301 Claflin Road, Manhattan.

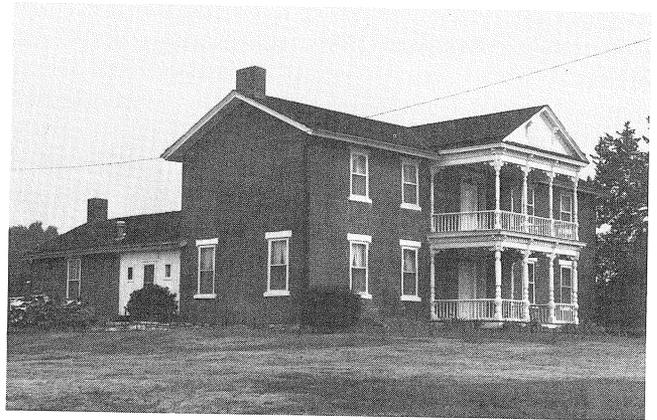


GOODNOW HOUSE

Grinter Place

In 1831, on Delaware Indian lands, Moses Grinter first operated a ferry across the Kansas River. The Delawares used the ferry as a means of communicating with the Shawnees on the other side of the river, and military personnel coming to and from Leavenworth also crossed there. During the 1840s and 1850s many immigrants to Oregon and California made use of the ferry. Grinter also operated a trading post and post office at the site after 1850. At first, he lived in a small log cabin near the landing; but in 1857, he built the handsome, two-story, red brick house now known as Grinter Place.

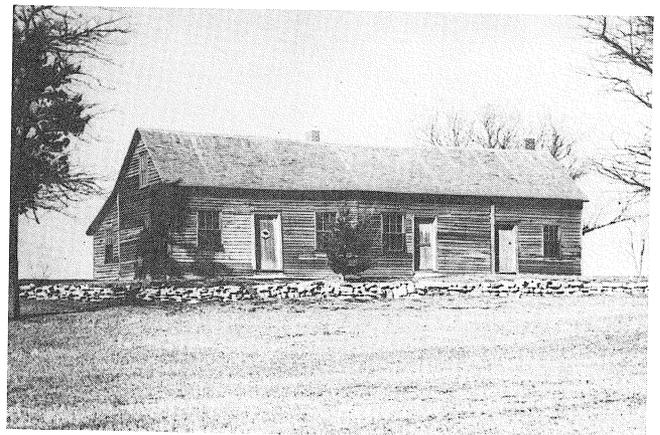
Location: 1420 South Seventy-eighth Street, Muncie, or eight miles east of Bonner Springs on K-32.



GRINTER PLACE

Hollenberg Pony Express Station

The Hollenberg Pony Express Station, Hanover, was the most westerly Pony Express station in Kansas, located 123 miles from Saint Joseph, Missouri. In 1857 or 1858, Gerat H. Hollenberg, a German immi-



HOLLENBERG PONY EXPRESS STATION

grant, built a house on the ranch he had established in Washington County. His house served as family home, neighborhood store, tavern, stage station for the Overland Express, and in 1860 as a Pony Express station. Since the ranch was located on the Oregon-California Trail, countless wagon trains were provisioned with clothing, food, and other supplies. Hollenberg is believed to be the only unaltered Pony Express station remaining in its original location.

Location: five miles north of US-36, via K-15 and K-243, near Hanover.

Iowa, Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission

In 1836, as a result of a treaty signed at Fort Leavenworth, lands in Missouri belonging to the Iowa and Sac and Fox were traded for lands in present Kansas and Nebraska. On these lands, west of Wolf River, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel M. Irvin established the Iowa, Sac and Fox Presbyterian Mission. Educating Indian children was the primary goal. However, frequent hunts and tribal mistrust kept attendance small and erratic. The mission was closed after 1863.

Location: on K-136, east of Highland.



IOWA, SAC AND FOX PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

John Brown Museum

John Brown, one of the most controversial figures in territorial Kansas, was a zealous abolitionist. Coming from Ohio in 1855, he joined the free-staters in defending Lawrence during the bloodless Wakarusa War. A year later he led an unprovoked attack on two proslavery families, killing five men. Proslavery sympathizers retaliated with the "battle" of Osawatimie. After going east to enlist followers and

support, he returned to Kansas and made his only slave liberation raid into Missouri, taking eleven slaves to their freedom in Canada. The John Brown Museum in Osawatimie serves as a museum and memorial to his life in Kansas.

Location: in Memorial Park, near US-169, Osawatimie.



JOHN BROWN MUSEUM

Kaw Methodist Mission

In 1846, a treaty with the Kaw (or Kansa) Indians created a reservation which included the site of present Council Grove. Among its provisions, the treaty included an educational annuity for the Kaw. In 1851, the Methodist Episcopal Church, through an agreement with the federal government, opened the Kaw Methodist Mission. However, the Kaw never responded well to the efforts of the church, sending only orphaned boys or dependents of the tribe. After the government withdrew its support in 1854, a school for the white children of Council Grove was established, one of the first in Kansas Territory.

Location: near US-56 and K-177, Council Grove.



KAW METHODIST MISSION

Marais des Cygnes Massacre

Kansas from 1854 to 1859 was embroiled by the argument of whether or not the territory would enter the Union as a free or a slave state. Instances of lawlessness occurred during this period, including the Marais des Cygnes Massacre. In May 1858 eleven free-staters, all unarmed and presumably uninvolved in the factional fighting, were shot by a proslavery group led by Charles A. Hamelton. Five died at the site in Linn County, now recognized as a registered National Historic Landmark.

Location: five miles northeast of US-69 at Trading Post.



MARAIS DES CYGNES MASSACRE SITE

Mine Creek Battlefield

The Battle of Mine Creek was one of the last significant Civil War engagements fought west of the Mississippi River. On October 25, 1864, about two thousand Union soldiers and seven thousand Con-



BRIDGE AT MINE CREEK BATTLEFIELD

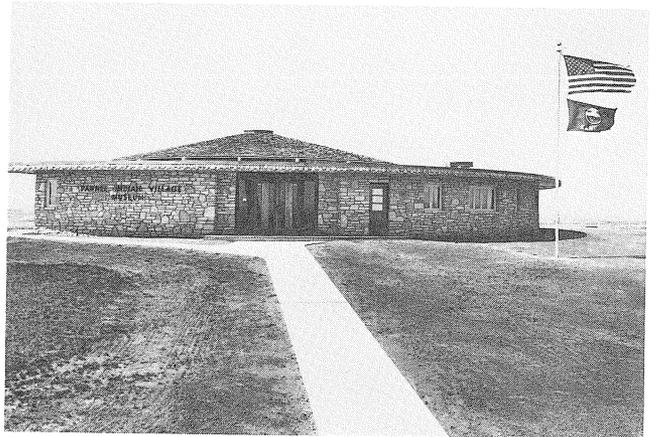
federate troops battled along a stretch of Mine Creek, two miles south of the present town of Pleasanton. Union forces won the confrontation, forcing the southern troops out of Kansas, saving Fort Scott from attack, and ending any hope of Confederate success in the West.

Location: one mile west of the intersection of US-69 and K-52, Linn County.

Pawnee Indian Village Museum

The Pawnee Indian Village site near Republic was probably inhabited in the 1820s and 1830s by nearly one thousand Republican Band Pawnees. The village consisted of thirty to forty earth lodges which served as permanent residences for the Indians. One of the larger lodge sites was excavated by archeologists in the 1960s. The present museum encloses the original lodge floor, exposing the hearth, storage pits, and recovered artifacts.

Location: on K-266, eight miles north of US-36, near Republic.



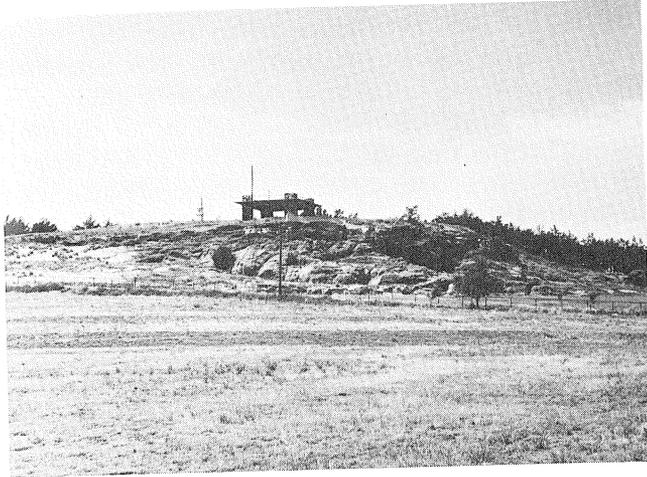
PAWNEE INDIAN VILLAGE MUSEUM

Pawnee Rock

Pawnee Rock was a famous landmark on the Santa Fe Trail where trappers, freighters, gold seekers, and other emigrants carved their names in the stone. Zebulon Pike, James Webb, Josiah Gregg, and Alexander Doniphan were among the travelers who mentioned it in their journals. Pawnee Rock also provided a lookout and ambush for Indians to attack those who ventured into their hunting grounds, making it one of the most dangerous points for overlanders on the Central Plains. In later years railroad builders and settlers stripped the top of the

rock and greatly reduced its elevation. It is now a state park and historic property.

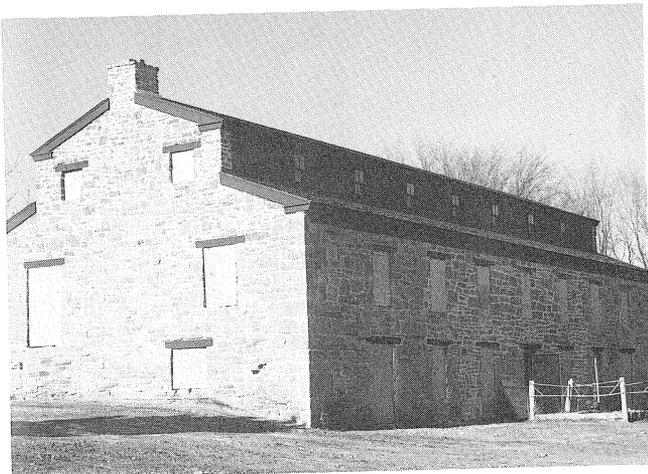
Location: near US-56, Pawnee Rock.



PAWNEE ROCK

Pottawatomie Baptist Mission

Pottawatomie Indian treaties of 1846 led to the establishment of the second Baptist Pottawatomie station in Kansas, which came to be known as the Pottawatomie Baptist Manual Labor Training School. Constructed of native limestone, the school building was three stories high and divided into twelve rooms. It was completed in 1850 and served as the community center with missionaries supervising a farm program, teaching domestic skills to the women, and instructing the men in agricultural reform. The school for children was self-sustaining and included classes in reading, writing, and geography, as well as needlework for the girls. The exterior of the building,



POTTAWATOMIE BAPTIST MISSION

which is located adjacent to the new Kansas Museum of History, has been restored to that period when it served in one of the frontier efforts by a religious body, the Baptists, to educate and convert a native American group, the Pottawatomies.

Location: adjacent to the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka.

Pratt Ranch

A twenty-three-acre English sheep ranch near Studley in Sheridan County was purchased by the state in 1982 to be developed by the Historical Society as a historic site. John Fenton Pratt was one of several English immigrants who settled in the county in 1879. The settlers started sheep ranching operations which had been profitable in England and planted so many trees that the Pratt Ranch was later known as Cottonwood Ranch. Existing structures on the ranch include a stone house, well house, shearing shed, blacksmith shop, and storage/feed building, all relatively unchanged since their construction. Long-range plans call for restoring the site as a working ranch with living history demonstrations.

Location: on US-24 west of Studley.



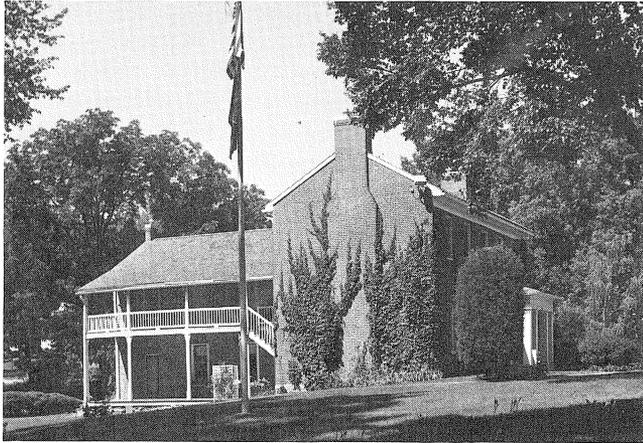
PRATT RANCH

Shawnee Methodist Mission

Shawnee Methodist Mission, established in 1830 by Rev. Thomas Johnson, was one of the earliest Indian missions in preterritorial Kansas. In 1838, by agreement between the Methodist church and the federal government, the manual labor school was organized. In 1839 construction of permanent buildings began on Shawnee lands in what is now Johnson County. Here Indian children of many tribes learned English, manual arts, and agriculture. In 1855, after

its adjournment from the First Capitol, the first territorial legislature met here and passed the "Bogus Laws" in an attempt to perpetuate slavery in Kansas. The mission also served as a way station on the Santa Fe Trail.

Location: 340 West Fifty-third Street, Shawnee Mission.

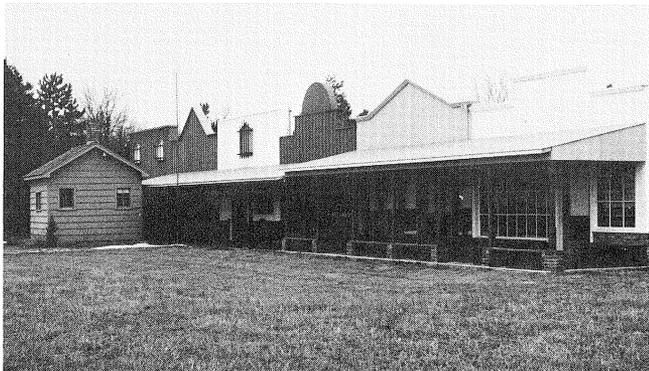


SHAWNEE METHODIST MISSION

Souders Farm-Museum

Twelve and one-half acres of farmland southwest of Cheney, which had been in the family of Floyd Souders since 1893, were donated to the state in 1978. The gift included a cluster of museum buildings full of memorabilia collected over the years by Souders and his wife. A number of old businesses, with equipment and furnishings from the early 1900s, are depicted in the museum's main building. Other features on the site include a cemetery, windmill, blacksmith shop, greenhouse, machine shed, country schoolroom, and chapel.

Location: southwest of Cheney in Sedgwick County.



SOUDERS FARM-MUSEUM

Tobias Archeological Site

In 1541 an expedition led by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado entered the Central Plains region in search of the fabled land of Quivira. The men found a series of grass lodge villages believed to be inhabited by early bands of the Wichita Indian tribe. The Tobias archeological site, near Lyons, is the best preserved of the major sites in the Rice County area which have yielded artifacts of Indian as well as of Spanish origin for the time of Coronado's visit. A National Historic Landmark, the site on an eighty-acre tract of land was purchased by the state of Kansas in 1980. Historical Society plans for its development include active archeological research in adjacent areas with the eventual goal of developing a museum/visitors' center complex and archeological laboratory.

Location: rural Rice County.



TOBIAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

Library

When the Kansas State Historical Society was organized in 1875, one of the stated objectives was to "collect, embody, arrange, and preserve a library of books, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary and other materials illustrative of the history and antiquities of the state..." At that time the collections of the library consisted of "copies of all histories of Kansas together with legislative documents" that fit into one bookcase in the corner of the state auditor's office in the Capitol.

In the 109 years since then, many changes have

come to the library of the Society, which was moved in 1914 into the Memorial Building along with the other departments. The collections grew through gift and purchase, until by 1983 the holdings totaled 144,931 bound volumes (including books, clippings, and periodicals), 11,870 sheets of microfiche, 2,933 rolls of library microfilm, and 204,984 pamphlets. From one bookcase, the collections today fill four floors on the east end of the building and scattered storage areas elsewhere.

With the creation of Society departments specializing in manuscripts, maps, and museum artifacts, the library's collecting responsibilities now center on the acquisition of all printed materials on Kansas and on particular topics such as the range cattle industry, dust storms, or the aviation industry that relate to Kansas history. The library also acquires representative printed works on the West, North American Indians, and genealogy. Much of the Kansas material is cataloged in great detail, so that the Kansas card catalog serves more as an index to the Kansas collection than as just a catalog. The library also has a fine collection of directories, county plat books, yearbooks, theses and dissertations, Kansas textbooks, and cemetery transcriptions.

In 1879 the state legislature designated the library as an official depository for state publications. Consequently, the library today has an extensive and comprehensive research collection of state documents such as Kansas laws and statutes, legislative publications, reports, directories, and yearbooks from state universities. Earlier, in 1877, the library had been designated a selective depository for United States government documents. The federal documents collection contains virtually complete runs of the Serial Set and the *Congressional Globe* and *Congressional Record*, a set of the federal *Statutes at Large*, a set of the Bureau of American Ethnology bulletins, and many other valuable historical items.

In addition, the library has one of the finest collections of genealogical materials west of the Mississippi River, with virtually all states represented to some degree. The holdings include microfilm copies of all available federal censuses for the period 1790 to 1850 and, for a few states, some later years. Printed indexes also are available for many of these censuses.

Each year the library staff answers hundreds of letters requesting information on Kansas history topics. The very volume of correspondence precludes any extensive research, but the staff is glad to check the card catalog and indexes for a specific person or to answer specific questions relating to Kansas

history. Of course, the librarians are always happy to help patrons who come in to do research; the library is open Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings. Informal orientation sessions are conducted frequently for groups or individuals, and a slide talk on genealogical resources is available for group presentation.

Manuscripts

The Manuscripts Department collects unpublished private papers of individuals, firms, and organizations; photographs, slides, and films; and maps. Virtually all materials have been acquired through donation, and the staff is always glad to learn of additional collections relating to Kansas and western history.

Manuscripts: The manuscript collections are as varied as Kansas itself, with diaries, company records, papers of organizations, correspondence, and other materials comprising the various holdings. The diaries cover a wide variety of topics from the territorial to the modern periods including Indians, homesteading, agriculture, the military, immigrant colonies, and social life. The department also has many other items relating to Indians such as the papers of missionaries, mission school reports, reminiscences, and records of the Saint Louis superintendency of Indian affairs. Territorial Kansas is represented by the papers of John Brown, the New England Emigrant Aid Company, and settlers and politicians.

Several collections document railroad expansion in the state, the largest being the files of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway and its predecessors and the records of the Kansas Town and Land Company, the land-sales subsidiary of the Rock Island Railroad. Other business records include those of funeral homes, financial institutions, and retail stores. The papers of writers constitute a significant number of collections; these include both newspaper people and literary figures. Papers of military leaders complement the records of military units and collections relating to the Spanish-American War and World War I veterans held by the department.

Papers of politicians at all levels constitute some of the largest collections; these include personal papers of governors (their official papers are in the Archives Department) and personal and official papers of members of the Kansas legislature and the United States Congress. Other occupations represented include educators, doctors, religious leaders, women's rights activists, and scientists. The department also holds papers of organizations such as fraternal societies, literary guilds, churches, ethnic groups, and clubs.

Photographs: Numbering over 150,000 images, the photograph collection documents the history of Kansas and the Great Plains from the 1850s to the present. It is divided into three areas; the largest and most frequently used photographs are arranged by location with a variety of subject headings. The second area has general subject categories such as "agriculture," "amusements/sports," "railroads," "transportation," and "industries." The third component contains portraits arranged in alphabetical order. Most Kansas counties are represented, and the department tries to collect examples illustrating all aspects of life in Kansas. Major collections include the photographs of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and Railway and of photographers Alexander Gardner, L. W. Halbe, Alfred Lawrence, and H. L. Wolf. The military section is arranged chronologically and has a large concentration of Spanish-American War photographs. The Indian photographs are organized by tribes and individuals.

Maps: The map collection contains approximately twelve thousand manuscript and printed maps, map reproductions, and drawings. The Kansas map holdings are particularly strong in the areas of nineteenth-

century state maps, county maps, and maps and plats of cities, Indian lands, military exploration, railroad development, and roads and trails. Other Kansas subject areas represented include waterways, surveys, schools, geology, and battles.

Less well known is the collection of non-Kansas maps containing both originals and reproductions dating from 1602 to the present. Almost all states are represented, as are many large cities and a number of counties. There is also a small collection of early maps of the New World as well as maps showing American military involvement in Europe and Asia.

The Map Division is a depository for United States Geological Survey maps of Kansas and neighboring states. It also receives maps produced by a number of Kansas state agencies.

The majority of the architectural drawings held by the division are of structures constructed by the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Works Company (records of the company are in the manuscript collections). Other drawings include historic buildings, the statehouse and other buildings constructed by the state of Kansas, and private businesses and homes.

The primary access to each of the collections is through a card catalog; some large collections also



As this early view of the library suggests, fashions may change but researchers are always the same.

have narrative finding aids. The department is open to researchers Monday through Friday; with advance arrangements it is possible to use some materials on Saturday mornings. Most microfilm publications are available through interlibrary loan, and the photograph section has a number of slide and filmstrip programs on Kansas history which can be borrowed.

Exhibits and Projects: Also part of the Manuscripts Department are a variety of special exhibits and projects such as "From Horses to Horsepower: Photographs of Russell County" and "In Search of the American Dream: The Experiences of Blacks in Kansas." Educational activities include publishing Kansas history resource packets of primary source materials and sponsoring a social history seminar for teachers in June 1984. Kansas History Day, a program of local, district, and state competitions for students in grades six through twelve, is directed by the staff in cooperation with the Division of Museum Education.

Microfilm

Both economical and compact, microfilm is usually considered the best medium for long-term document preservation. The Society's Microfilm Department was organized in 1946, and since that time the staff has preserved on film a variety of archival, manuscript, and library materials, in addition to thousands of volumes of newspapers. Last year, for example, the Society added to its holdings almost two thousand rolls of microfilm, representing some one and three-quarter million exposures. Included were such documents as the records of teachers employed in Pratt County (1882-1936), the library's clippings on the Victoria Colony of Ellis County, and the Topeka West Side Baptist Church records, in addition to newspapers from Abilene to Woodston.

Before filming any material the staff first performs necessary repair work and makes sure that all items are in the proper order. Once prepared, the documents are filmed on 35mm planetary or 16mm rotary cameras. The film then is developed, inspected, and sent to the laboratory where positive copies, used for research, are made. For security purposes the original negative film is stored in a temperature- and humidity-controlled vault located away from the Research Center.

Publications

Almost from the beginning the Kansas State Historical Society has had a distinguished publishing program. Over the years it has issued such standard works as *The Annals of Kansas, 1886-1925*, edited by Kirke Mechem and Jennie S. Owen (1954-56); *Kansas in Newspapers*, by Nyle H. Miller, Edgar Langsdorf, and Robert W. Richmond (1963); *Why the West Was Wild*, by Nyle H. Miller and Joseph W. Snell (1963); and *The Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West, 1540-1854*, by Louise Barry (1972), along with numerous booklets and brochures. As the successor to the *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, 1881-1928* (also called *Transactions*), the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, featuring scholarly articles on all aspects of Kansas history, was published from 1931 through 1977.

In 1977 the present Publications Department was formed out of a need to bring together the various Society publishing activities, and the following year *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* was launched. Published quarterly, *Kansas History* continues in the tradition of the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, with articles, edited documents, and other materials that contribute to an understanding of the history and prehistory of Kansas and the Central Plains. It also includes critical reviews and other notices of recent books. The Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing is given for the best article published each year in *Kansas History*.

The department also publishes the bimonthly *Mirror*, a newsletter with current information on Society events and activities. Like *Kansas History*, it is sent to all Society members.

From time to time the Society also issues other publications. *Cyrus K. Holliday: A Documentary Biography*, by William E. Treadway, was published in 1979, and two studies of Kansas forts by Leo E. Oliva, *Fort Hays* (1980) and *Fort Larned* (1982) have been published to date, with *Fort Scott* due off the press in 1984.

In addition, a staff newsletter for all Society personnel is prepared and distributed weekly, and all news releases are coordinated through the department. The editorial staff also advises and assists other departments which have their own publications. [KH]