

T R A I L G U I D E

Santa Fe Trail Sites
Council Grove to Jarvis Creek

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PREFACE

One hundred and forty-five miles out of Independence, Missouri, the Santa Fe Trail reached a scenic location on the Neosho River called Council Grove. Five days journey to the southwest, the trail crossed the Little Arkansas River. Located between these two points were a number of major stops, each of them associated with a trading ranche, to accommodate the needs of travelers on this stretch of the trail. One exception, Diamond Spring, was established primarily as a mail station by Waldo Hall and Company. These ranches, strategically located at intervals which approximated a one day's journey of 15 to 20 miles, were all established at a water source, spring or stream. Additionally, some of the ranches served as mail stations and later post offices; and all of the early frontier enterprises were equipped to sell provisions for the trail. Without exception, every ranche sold a steady supply of liquor and gambling was a frequent source of entertainment. Though no explicit account remains of prostitution, several veiled references indicate that such a commodity was also for sale at some of the ranches. At different times, six separate ranches were in operation between the Neosho and Little Arkansas Rivers. Following is a list of these ranches with associated data.

RANCHES ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Council Grove to Little Arkansas River*

Council Grove

<u>Dates of Operation</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Proprietors</u>
1850 - 1863**	Diamond Spring (primarily a mail station)	15	Waldo Hall and Co.
1867 - 1868***	Six Mile Creek	6	Hartwell Bros. Charley Owens
1859 - 1868	Lost Spring	15	George Smith/Jack Costello and Tom Wise
1858 - 1871	Cottonwood Creek	12	George Smith/ Moore Bros.
1861 - 1866	Cottonwood Hole	5	Frank LaLoge and Peter Martin/ George Russel
1855 - 1865	Turkey Creek	20	Charles Fuller
1859 - 1864	Little Arkansas River	17	William Wheeler

Coupled with the many historic sites at Council Grove, these ranches contribute to a significant number of trail sites in this 84 mile portion of the Santa Fe Trail.

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November 10, 1987
Larned, Kansas

*Distances adapted from Gregg, Commerce of the Prairies, p.217.

**Approximate beginning date. Waldo Hall and Company, awarded the mail contract in 1849, established a mail station at Council Grove in 1850.

***William and Frank Hartwell purchased the ranche in 1865. The former owners are unknown.

MAPS

The following maps are from The Road to Santa Fe, Hobart E. Stocking, 1971.

Council Grove - Six Mile Ranche	Following Page 6
Lost Spring - Kaw Treaty Site	Following Page 9
Little Arkansas Crossing - Jarvis Creek	Following Page 13

1. Council Grove, in present day Morris County, Kansas is the location of numerous Santa Fe Trail sites including the Council Grove Oak located near the corner of 3rd and Main Streets. All that remains of that once giant tree is a portion of the trunk now enclosed in a protective canopy. Here in 1825, the Sibley Survey Team, commissioned by the United States Government to survey the Santa Fe Trail, met with the Osage. In this council, from which the town derives its name, a treaty was signed granting right of way to the Santa Fe Trail. In return, the head chief of the Osage received \$300 in gold and a \$500 order for trade goods. This sum of \$800 was small indeed in comparison to the \$20,000 appropriated by Congress for such treaties.

2. One and a half blocks to the west of the Council Grove Oak, another tree of landmark status still stands, the Post Office Oak. In the early days of the trail, mail was left hidden in the roots of the oak to be taken back to Missouri by traders returning from Santa Fe.

3. Immediately behind the Post Office Oak is the brewery built by Frederick Hebrank in 1864. Here in 1868, the women and children of Council Grove who lived east of the river took refuge from the Cheyenne who came to the city to war with their ancient Kaw enemies. When the Cheyenne reined up in front of the brewery demanding water and food, Hebrank's daughter drew water from a well in the basement for a full hour to meet the Cheyenne's demand. Meanwhile, the other women and children who cloistered on the ground floor were not disturbed, and the experience ended

without incident.

4. Five blocks south of Main Street on Neosho Street another tree of note remains, the Custer Elm. In the days of the trail, this elm rose some 100 feet. Today, only a portion of the trunk remains. The tree was named in honor of Col. George Armstrong Custer who camped at this site with his troops in 1867.

5. On the east side of the Neosho River just west of the Post Office Oak, a Madonna of the Trail statue is situated on the location of the well-known Council Grove campgrounds. In the early days of the trail, traders waited here to group up with other merchants before proceeding on to Santa Fe. While waiting, the traders cut timber from plentiful groves of hardwood which populated the river valley in a half-mile wide strip. These timbers, lashed to the undercarriage of the wagons, were later fashioned into spare wagon parts in the event of broken tongues and axles. Before departing on to Santa Fe, the various traders elected one of their ranks to act as captain of the caravan. Later in the trail's history, when trading firms and government contracted teamsters took to the trail with huge numbers of wagons (one caravan of 1,000 wagons was reported to have left Fort Larned in the 1860's) the need to group up for security's sake in case of Indian attack became obsolete.

6. Immediately to the west of the campgrounds location is the site of the Neosho River Crossing. Now spanned by a modern bridge, this same spot was once occupied by a toll bridge built in 1859. Records from the S. M. Hays and Company for the period

dated April 24 - October 1, 1860 accounted for the following traffic over the bridge:

Men	3,159
Wagons	2,267
Horses	478
Mules	5,819
Working Cattle (Oxen)	22,738
Carriages	61
Tons of Freight	6,819

The old, oak bridge is remembered for not only the tons of freight which passed over it but also for the men who swung under it. One such unfortunate was Jack McDowell, well-known horse thief, who was hanged from the bridge in the winter of 1866-67.

7. Crossing the Neosho River Bridge, the modern day traveler continues west 1/2 block on present day Main Street of Council Grove, the exact route of the trail as it approached the location of the trading post established by Albert Boone and James Hamilton, licensed to trade with the Kansas in April of 1847. In that year, the Kanza (or Kaw) Reservation was created from 20 square miles of lands purchased by the government from other tribal holdings. Originally, the trading post, a log house, located on the north side of the trail a few hundred yards west of the crossing, was operated by Seth Hays, the great-grandson of Daniel Boone and the cousin of Kit Carson. In the fall of 1847, Hays himself was licensed to trade with the Kansas. Ten years later he built a tavern on the site of the trading post. Today a

restaurant named the Hays House continues to operate at the same location. Evidence of the tavern's original structure can be observed in the building's basement.

8. Located 2 blocks south of Main on Wood Street is Seth Hays' home, constructed in 1866. The neat, brick house, still in excellent repair, presently houses the Morris County Museum. Here Hays lived out the balance of his life with Aunt Sally, a slave he brought with him from Missouri who remained with the household following her liberation.

9. Hays' grave is prominently marked in the Greenwood Cemetery located on U. S. Highway 56 on the west edge of town. Aunt Sally is buried nearby. Hays and Sam Woods donated the land for the cemetery in 1862.

10. At the corner of Neosho and Main Streets, diagonally across from the Hays House, is a stone building erected in 1858. This old structure, still in good repair, is only one of several buildings constructed during the territorial period at Council Grove.

11. Also at the corner of Neosho and Main Streets is a handsome 19th century building which houses the Farmers and Drovers Bank. On this location, a number of buildings and a corral were purchased by Waldo Hall and Company in 1850. One year earlier, this firm was awarded the contract to carry mail from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe. In addition to the mail business, Waldo Hall and Company were also licensed as traders to the Kaw in 1850, a business maintained through 1854.

12. To the north one block is the home of G. M. Simcock built sometime between 1857 and 1862. Simcock, an early Council Grove businessman, was a one time partner of Seth Hays.

13. One block west and 4 blocks north of the Simcock House is the Kaw Mission built in 1850 by the United States Government as a school for Kaw children. The school, contracted to the Methodist Episcopal Church South, operated until 1853. During this brief period, an average of 30 children per year, all boys, attended the school. The curricula was restricted to spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic. No trades were taught. Today, the Kaw Mission is operated as a museum by the Kansas Historical Society. Also on these grounds is a stone house originally built by the government for Kaw families and moved to this location from its original site on the reservation.

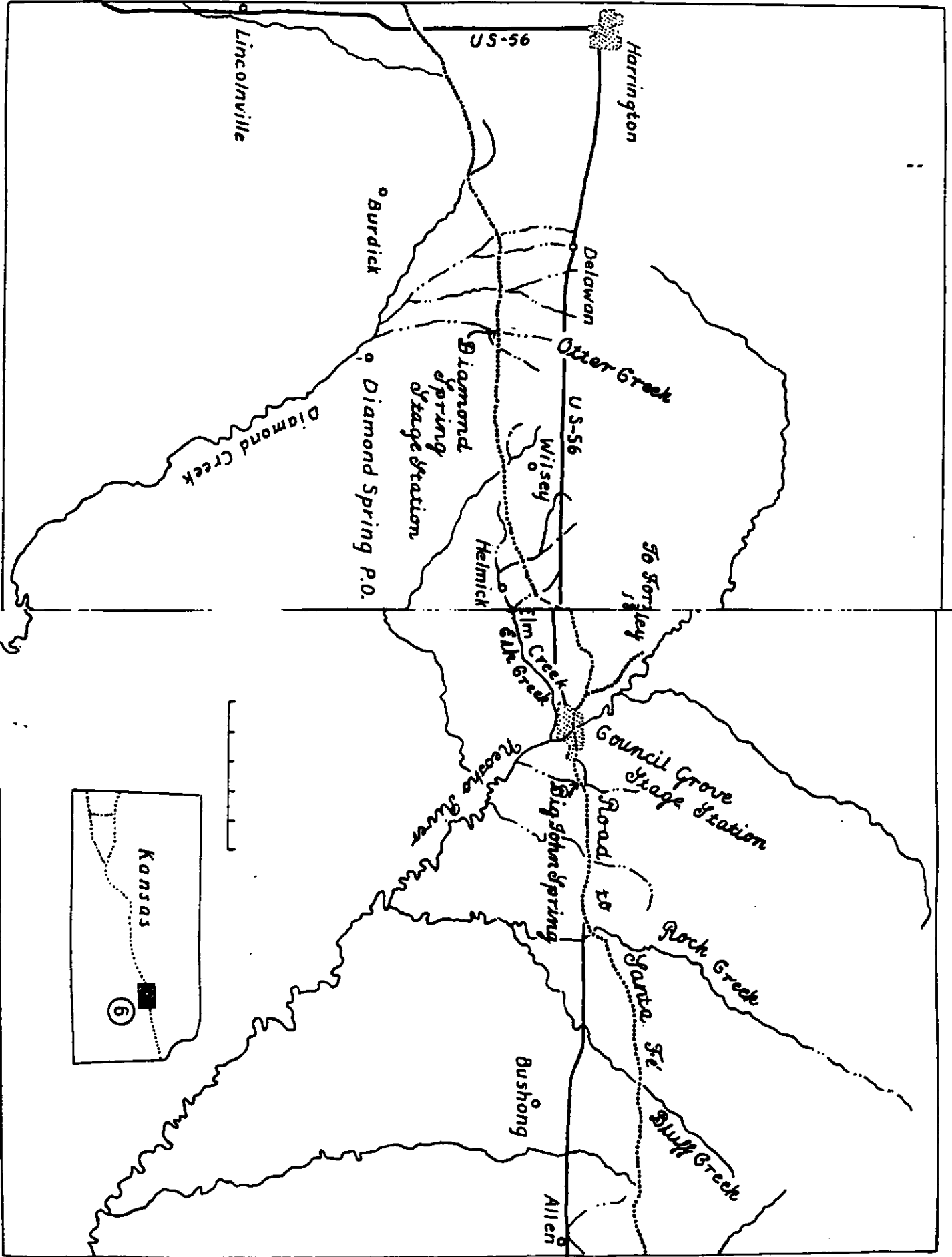
14. On the Kaw Mission grounds is located a marker commemorating the Mormom Battalion. This battalion was composed of five companies of infantry recruited to serve in the Army of the West during the Mexican War. In 1846, several companies of the battalion reached Council Grove on their way to Santa Fe (both the Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley Military Roads joined the Santa Fe Trail at Council Grove). Earlier in the year, a blacksmith had been sent from Fort Leavenworth to establish a depot for the repair of government wagons (a similar depot was established at Fort Mann in present day Ford County in 1847). When the Mormons sought repairs for their wagons at the Council Grove depot, their request was refused because their mules did

not carry the government brand. Only when they agreed to personally pay for the work were the repairs made.

15. Other trail markers at Council Grove include the memorial dedicated to William Becknell called the Father of the Trail, located at the intersection of Main and Missouri Streets. In 1821, Becknell led a small group of traders into the southwest seeking to trade with the Comanche. In that year, Mexico had won her independence from Spain. Mexican soldiers directed the Becknell party to Santa Fe where their goods were quickly sold at a handsome profit. Thus, the Santa Fe trade was opened. Becknell and other early traders transported their trade goods by pack animals. A few years later, mule drawn wagons were used, and in 1829, Major Bennett Riley made a successful trip on the trail with oxen. From that point on, oxen were used almost exclusively to haul the Santa Fe freight. Simply called cattle, these huge steers outperformed the mules because of their finely tuned digestive systems which converted the sparse dry forage of semi-desert lands of the southwest into protein-providing energy. Additionally, oxen were far less costly than mules, and they were not highly prized by the Indians as were mules and horses.

16. A block and half north of Main Street on Belfrey is the Old Bell erected in 1863 to warn the townspeople of impending Indian attack, prairie fires, or other disasters.

17. One half block north of the Old Bell is the hermit's cave, a cavern which housed an eccentric mystic during the 1860's,



Lincolnville

US-56

Harrington

Burdick

Delawan

U-S-56

Wilsey

Diamond Spring Stage Station

Helmick

50 Fortley

Elm Creek

Council Grove Stage Station

Big Spring

Road to

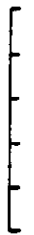
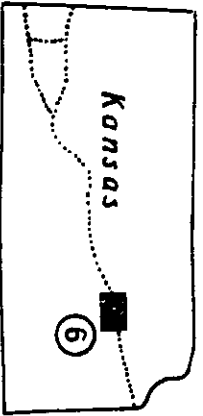
Rock Creek

Bushong

Road to

Bluff Creek

Allen



Giovanni Augustini, said to have lived in similar caves in South American and Canada before arriving at Council Grove. In 1863, he accompanied a caravan to New Mexico where Hermit's Peak near Las Vegas was named in memory. A shrine erected at the summit of the peak in honor of the miracles and cures he performed is still visited by the local faithful.

18. The final trail site in Council Grove is the Last Chance Store built in 1857. Located on the western edge of the little community at the corner of Chautauqua and Main Streets, the stone building originally housed a post office, later a general store. Claim was made that this store was the last place provisions could be purchased on the trail to Santa Fe. A dubious claim, as other stores were established as early as 1855, Fuller's Rancho on Turkey Creek and the Walnut Creek Rancho operated by Allison and Boothe.

19. Continue west 5 miles from Council Grove on U. S. Highway 56. At this intersection, turn left and drive 1/2 mile to a sign reading Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here. Here a faint trace of ruts can be identified.

20. From the ruts location, return to U. S. 56 and drive west 8 miles. At the intersection of state road 149 and U. S. 56, turn south 2.2 miles on an unpaved road to the entrance of the Diamond Spring Ranch. Turn right across a cattle guard and drive 1 mile through open range to the ranch headquarters. Permission should be obtained at the ranch house to visit Diamond Spring located to the left of a nearby barn. The location is marked by

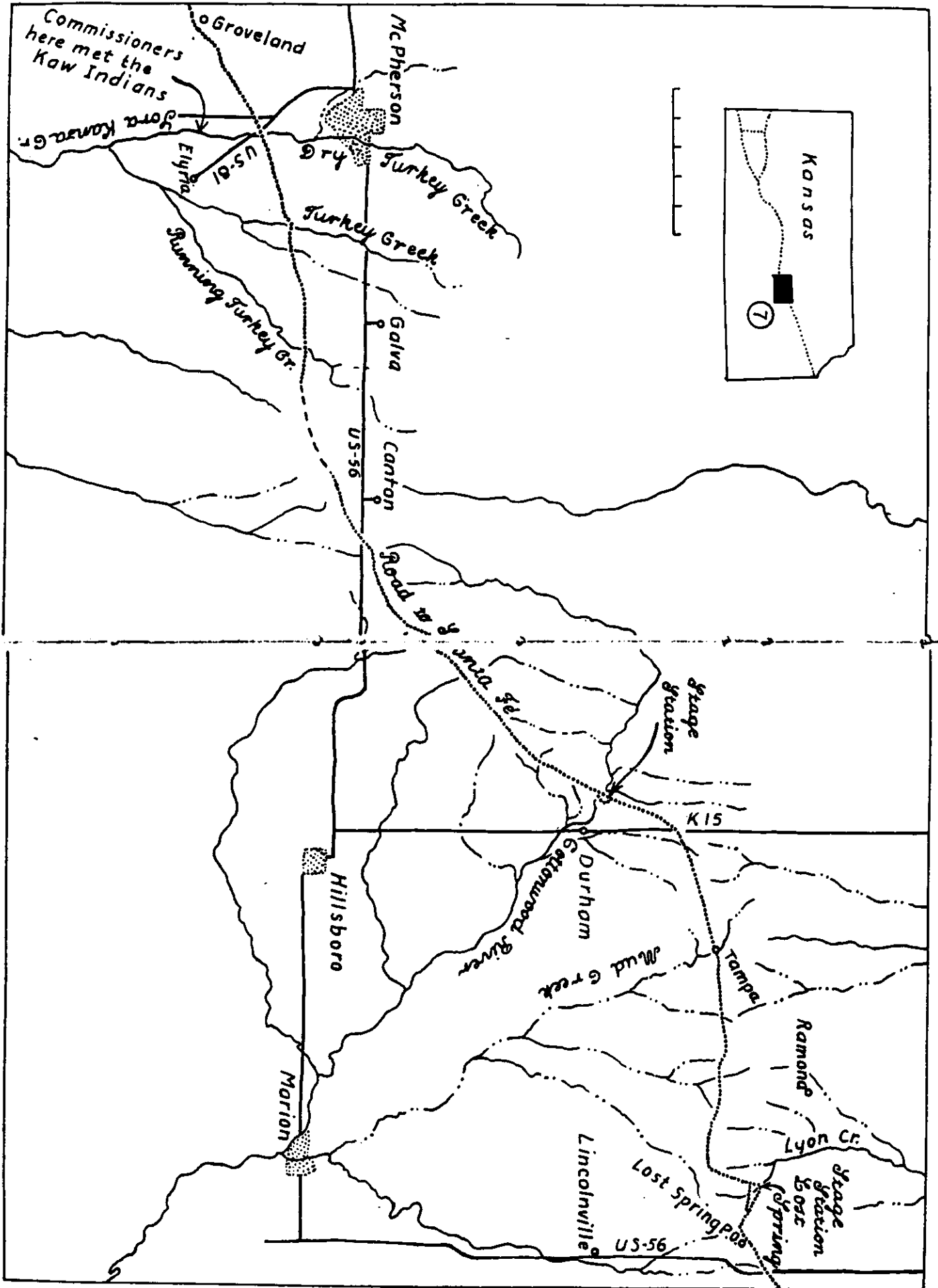
a Daughters of the American Revolution monument. A one day's journey out of Council Grove, Diamond Spring was always considered an oasis of the trail. The spring, named by George Sibley in 1825, produced a gush of clean water Sibley likened to the Diamond of the Desert, a noted spring in Arabia. Here, Waldo Hall and Company built a mail station. Included in the enterprise was a large stone building which served as a hotel, restaurant, saloon, and general store. Also constructed were a blacksmith shop and a storage building. The station continued to operate through three successive owners, all associated with Jacob Hall: Waldo Hall and Company; Hockaday and Hall; Hall and Porter. A post office was added in 1859. In May of 1863 Dick Yeager and a party of Quantrill's men raided the ranch, burning the buildings and killing the proprietor, Augustus Howell.

21. From Diamond Spring, return to U. S. 56 and continue west past the little town of Devalan 2.3 miles. At this intersection, turn left 3.7 miles to the Six Mile Creek Bridge. Past the bridge .1 mile is a DAR marker. From the marker, proceed for 150 yards through a group of old farm buildings to the crossing site of Six Mile Creek. Six Mile Creek was so named because of the distance from Diamond Spring as was Three Mile and One and a Half Mile Creeks to the east. In 1865, William and Frank Hartwell purchased the Six Mile Creek Rancho which consisted of a low, 3-room stone building, a log house which served as a grocery store, a stable, and a stone corral. Nine months later, the Hartwell's sold the property to Charley Owens and moved to the Cimarron

crossing area west of present day Cimarron where they established a stage station. Owens operated the ranche through 1868 when it was burned by the Cheyenne. Luckily Owens and his wife were away at the time. Today one wall of the stone building remains plus piles of huge stones, the residue of the old corral.

22. From the Six Mile Ranche location, continue south 2 1/2 miles and turn right 6 miles to the little town of Lost Springs. Though the town has no historical connection with the Santa Fe Trail, two trail markers are located within its limits, an attractive granite monument in the little city park and a rough sandstone marker two blocks west. North of the little community a few blocks, another familiar green and white Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here Sign identifies the trail's march to the southwest.

23. From the city of Lost Springs, continue west on the paved county road 2.3 miles to the original site of Lost Spring, two wagon days' journey from Council Grove. Here, on the north side of the road is an interpretive sign; and to the south of the road, a granite monument marks the location where George Smith established a ranche in 1859. In the same year, the Lost Spring ranche became a mail station for the Hall and Porter Company. The terms, mail station and stage station, were synonymous. Though primarily contracted to carry mail, the mail companies also transported passengers. The term stage did not refer to a stagecoach but rather to an interval on the route. In fact, not until the 1860's were the familiar concord stagecoaches used on the Santa Fe Trail. Before then, the mail wagons were similar to



the army ambulances, light vehicles used for a variety of purposes.

During the first year of the ranche's operation, a former soldier named Jack Costello, drifting through the county, stopped at Smith's place for a night of drinking and cards. By daybreak, Costello's poker prowess had won him the ranche. Joined by the Thomas Wise family in the operation of the ranche, Costello made a number of improvements in the three-room, sod-roofed building. Clapboard was added to the outside walls in vertical fashion and newspaper was used to paper the inside walls. Additionally, a well was dug and a stockade to accommodate mail company livestock was erected. The ranche was known as a hangout for the more lawless element on the frontier. Eleven graves at the ranche testify to this reputation.

Costello married Wise's sister before moving to Marion Centre where he opened a mercantile store and became the town's first mayor. Upon his departure from the ranche, he sold his interest in the business as well as the 160 acres he had homesteaded to his partner Wise. Wise's son, Thomas Jr., later was appointed postmaster at the nearby town of Lincolnville. The senior Mr. Wise was likewise appointed to the same office at Antelope.

Before leaving this location, observe the cutdown located about 150 yards to the south of the granite marker. The term "cutdown" refers to the bank of a stream being cut away by shovels and hoes, thus reducing the grade and allowing the wagons

to make safe approach to the crossing. To the northwest of the granite marker about 200 yards, Lost Spring still flows, its clear water draining into Lyon Creek.

24. From Lost Spring, drive west 2.6 miles on the paved county road. At this intersection turn south .7 miles to a granite marker and a Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here sign.

25. From the markers, proceed south .3 mile and turn west 5 miles to Tampa. Traces of the trail can be seen in the Lutheran Cemetery on the east edge of Tampa. Across the road from the cemetery, another granite trail marker is stationed.

26. From the cemetery, continue west 4 miles and turn left on State Road 15 about 1 1/2 miles. Here, a considerable length of ruts can be observed to the west of the road. A distinction needs to be made between ruts and tracks. People, unaccustomed to trail ruts, often look for a pronounced set of wagon tracks, two 5-inch depressions separated by the width of a wagon box. The continual wearing of the sod by thousands of wagons coupled with the natural erosion would leave no such marks. Rather, ruts take on the appearance of a swale, several yards in width, or a series of depressions separated by furrowed-like embankments. On a hillside, these furrows can take on the appearance of terraces.

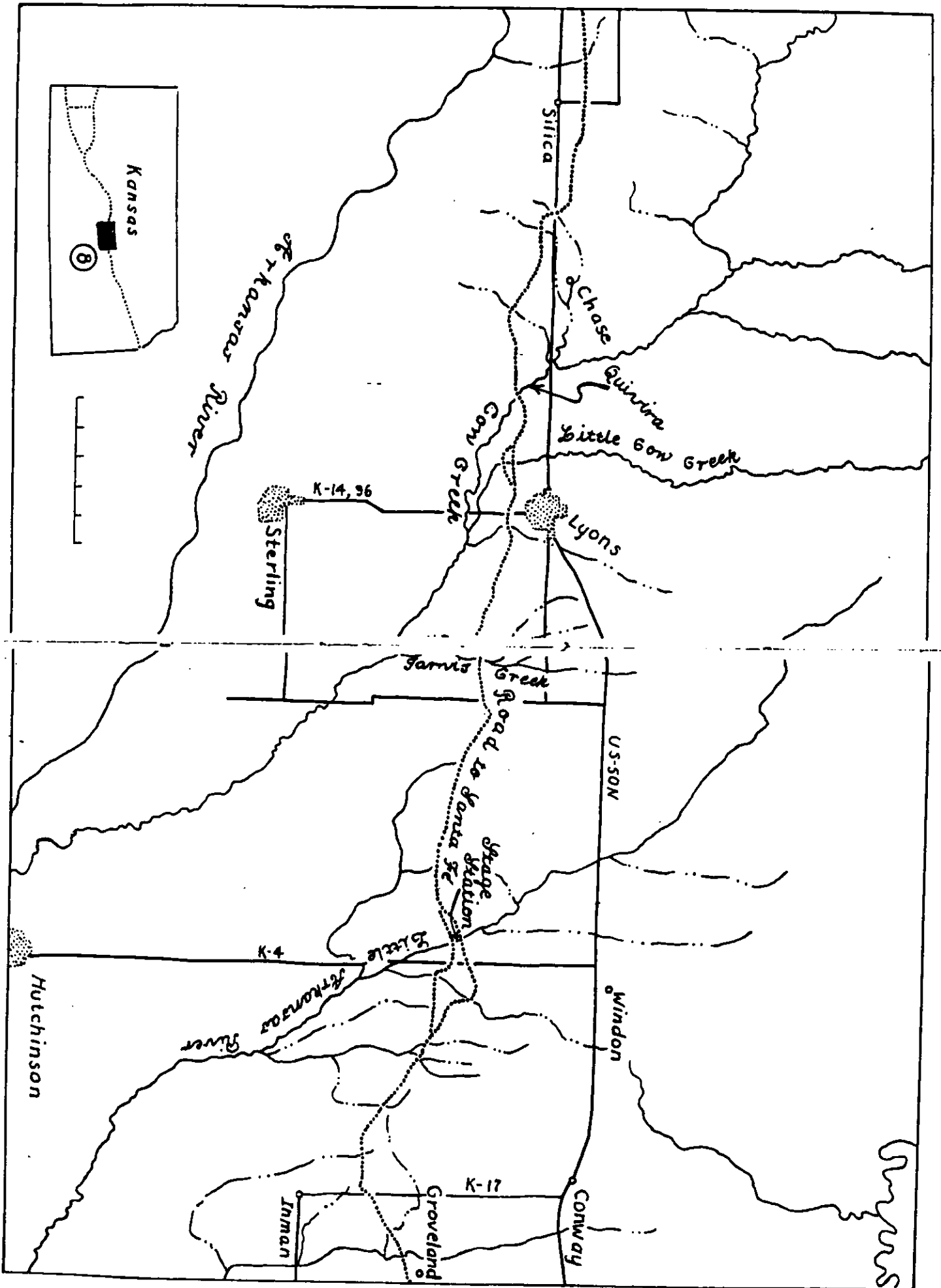
27. From the ruts location, continue south to the little town of Durham. At the south edge of the little business district, proceed west on 5th Street and cross a bridge before turning right, then left and then right again to cross two small bridges. Continue past the bridges 1/2 mile to a Santa Fe Trail monument

financed by the children from the Durham School District. Shortly to the north of the marker, Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here signs are stationed on both sides of the road. To the right of the sign a few hundred yards, the trail split. One branch proceeded to the nearest bend in the creek; the other branch crossed upstream about 1/4 mile. Thus, these crossings were known as the Short Crossing and the Long Crossing. Return to the intersection just north of the twin bridges and turn right on a paved road a few hundred yards to a DAR marker on the north side of the road. To the north of the marker, the tree line of Cottonwood Creek identifies the original site of the well known Moore Ranche. Here, George Smith of Lost Springs fame established a ranche in 1858. In the same year, he sold out to Abraham Atlantic (Lank) Moore and his brother Ira. Considered a major stop on the trail, the ranche consisted of two log houses, one used as a dwelling, the other as a store. The ranche functioned as a mail station for a number of years, and a post office was established in 1860 with Ira Moore as postmaster. Later Lank Moore moved to Marion where he established the community's first store, leaving William P. Shreve to operate the ranch. After Shreve's death in 1865, Moore continued to operate the ranche with additional employees. His cattle operation expanded to include 1200-1800 head wintered through the winter of 1870-71. Active in the early political life of Kansas, Moore served in the Kansas Senate of 1868 and was elected to the House of Representative in 1865, 1867, and 1871.

Cottonwood Crossing was also remembered as the scene of disaster for a number of parties attempting to cross the trail during winter. One of the most notable disasters occurred in November of 1841 when a caravan headed by Antoine Robidoux was caught in a blizzard at Cottonwood Crossing. The loss of one or two men (the records are at odds on this point) was reported and over 100 horses and mules froze to death. The lone axe in the party was lost, and no implements were available to cut cottonwood to feed the animals. During such emergencies, bark was stripped from the cottonwoods to feed the animals, a practice borrowed from the Indians.

28. From the Cottonwood Crossing location, proceed west 3 miles before turning south 3.7 miles. Here, near a railroad crossing is a Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here sign. In this immediate area, trail ruts are very much in evidence.

29. A few miles southwest of this location was Cottonwood Hole, about 2.5 miles north of present day Lehigh. Here Frank Laloge established a ranche in 1861. Laloge, an 1857 French emigrant, was joined in the operation of the ranche by Peter Martin whom he had met on the way over from France. The ranche was generally known as French Frank's. In May of 1863, Laloge was married and his wife joined him at the ranche. Laloge and Martin, wary of impending Indian trouble, sold the ranche in 1865 to George Russell and moved to a French settlement in eastern Marion County. Although the location of Laloge's 160 acre homestead can be identified, the exact location of the ranche remains unknown.



30. From the ruts location (#27) continue south 5.7 miles to Highway 56, and proceed west to Canton. At the Canton intersection, turn left .7 miles. Here another Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here sign is coupled with a DAR marker to chart the trail's past to the southwest.

31. Continue 1.3 miles south before turning west 5 miles. At this intersection, turn right a brief distance to the site of Turkey Creek Ranche. Here a tall brick monument commemorates the ranche established by Charles O. Fuller in 1855. Before operating the ranche, Fuller had driven mail wagons on the Santa Fe Trail. Coincidentally, William Allison and Francis Boothe, who established the Walnut Creek Ranche in present day Barton County, in 1855, had also been previously employed by the mail company. Fuller's Ranche became a favorite stopping place by 1865 due to the presence of two French women employed to cook and wait tables. Fuller later moved to Marion where he built a hotel and opened a flour mill in cooperation with Ira Moore of Cottonwood Crossing fame. In 1868, Fuller served in the Kansas House of Representatives.

32. From the Turkey Creek Ranche site, continue south 4.3 miles before turning right 6 miles to the little town of Elyria. South of Elyria a brief distance on State Road 153 is a roadside park containing a DAR monument and a Kansas Historical Marker which describes the 1825 treaty between the Sibley Survey Team and the Kaw Indians on nearby Sora Kansas Creek. Like the similar treaty struck between the Sibley Party and the Osage,

right of way to the trail was granted to the government for the total consideration of \$800. Bill Williams, noted mountain man, acted as interpreter for these negotiations, a role he also played with the Osage in the Council Grove Treaty. Beyond the marker to the west, a tree line marks the location of Sora Kansas Creek (now Dry Turkey Creek) and the approximate site of the treaty.

33. From Elyria, proceed west on County Road 445 2.2 miles before turning north 2.1 miles to a DAR marker and a Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here Sign.

34. Two other Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here Signs identify the locations where the trail intercepted the modern County Road 445. One is located 3 miles west of Elyria, and another 4.5 miles further west.

35. Continue 3 miles on County Road 445 past the last Santa Fe Trail Crossed Here Sign to County Road 443. At this intersection, turn right 1 mile. At the southeast corner of this intersection, observe a DAR marker and a hand lettered Stone Corral Sign.

36. A few miles east of this location, the trail split into two separate branches. To observe ruts of the northern branch, continue .7 mile north and turn left into a field (bordered by a windbreak on the north) 1/4 mile. Here turn left .1 mile to an abandoned irrigation pond. Immediately to the south of the pond, six distinct ruts can be seen heading toward the northern crossing. Permission needs to be obtained from the landowner to

view the ruts.

37. Retrace your steps to the DAR marker and the Stone Corral Sign. Here turn right .6 mile. On the south side of the road is a sign with a map of historical points in the area. Immediately south of the sign is a series of depressions, the remains of trenches said to have been dug by Custer's 7th Cavalry stationed here in 1867.

38. To the south of the trenches .1 mile is Cottonwood Grove Cemetery. Here soldiers killed in combat were buried in the late 1860's. Though the bodies have long been exhumed and reburied in the Fort Leavenworth Cemetery, ample evidence of the graves remains.

39. Return to the county road and proceed west past the Little Arkansas River Bridge to an access road leading north to a gas well. To the east of the gas well near the present tree line of the Little Arkansas, William Wheeler established a ranche in 1858. At this location, he also operated a toll bridge which accommodated travelers on the southern branch of the trail. In 1864, Wheeler abandoned the ranche because of impending Indian attack. The following year, U. S. Troopers expanded a dry masonry corral at the ranche location. This corral, called Camp Grierson, commonly known as the Stone Corral, measured 300-400 feet long and 200 feet wide. Constructed with loopholes, the corral served as a military fortification. In one corner, a small room of stone was constructed. A wash stand, now in the Coronado Quivera Museum in Lyons, is said to have come from that

small room. Among the troops stationed at Camp Grierson were Custer's 7th Cavalry and the 10th Cavalry composed of black troopers. For a more exhaustive treatment of the Little Arkansas Crossing, see Louise Barry's "The Rancho at Little Arkansas Crossing," The Kansas Historical Quarterly, Autumn, 1972. Barry mentions a number of other notables at the crossing, including William Mathewson and A. J. Greenway.

40. From the Stone Corral site, follow, on foot, the tree line about 1/4 mile to the north. Here is stationed a granite Santa Fe Trail Marker on the west bank of the northern crossing.

41. Across the river on the east side of the crossing stands the Marker Cottonwood. During trail days, this giant tree could be seen from some distance and served as a guide to the northern crossing. Permission needs to be gained from the land owner to visit the Marker Cottonwood location.

42. Return to the gas well and proceed south to the county road. Here, turn right about 1/4 mile to the next intersection before turning north .4 mile to a DAR marker. This marker identifies the area traversed by the trail as it left the northern crossing of the Little Arkansas River.

43. From the DAR marker, return south .4 mile and turn west 1/2 mile to another DAR marker. Past the marker a brief distance, turn south into a pasture .1 mile. Here ruts leading from the southern crossing are yet visible. In one of the ruts, a small iron cross is stationed.

44. From this location, proceed west on the county road 8 1/2

miles before turning north 1 mile and then west 1/2 mile to a bridge spanning Jarvis Creek. Jarvis is a corruption of Chavez, so named for Don Antonio Chavez, a prominent Mexican trader. Chavez was killed in 1843 by a group of Missouri ruffians under the leadership of John McDaniel who claimed to be commissioned by the Republic of Texas to raid Mexican traders on the Santa Fe Trail. The exact location of the murder is not known, but somewhere along Jarvis Creek, Chavez was taken off the trail some distance and shot, his cargo of coins, bullion, and furs stolen. This approximate location of the Chavez murder is 2 1/4 miles north and 1/2 mile east of the little town of Saxman in Rice County. When word of this atrocity reached Missouri, the citizens were outraged. Resultantly, the U. S. Government took swift action arresting 10 of the culprits, 8 of whom were fined and imprisoned, and 2 were hanged. Much of the literature speaks only to the American commerce on the trail. Chavez' presence in 1843 is indicative of Mexican traders who also drove the trail in great numbers. In fact, beginning in the mid 1840's, at least 50% of the trade conducted by way of the trail was Mexican in origin.

Trail enthusiasts interested in learning more about this section of the trail are referred to the following Bibliography.

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