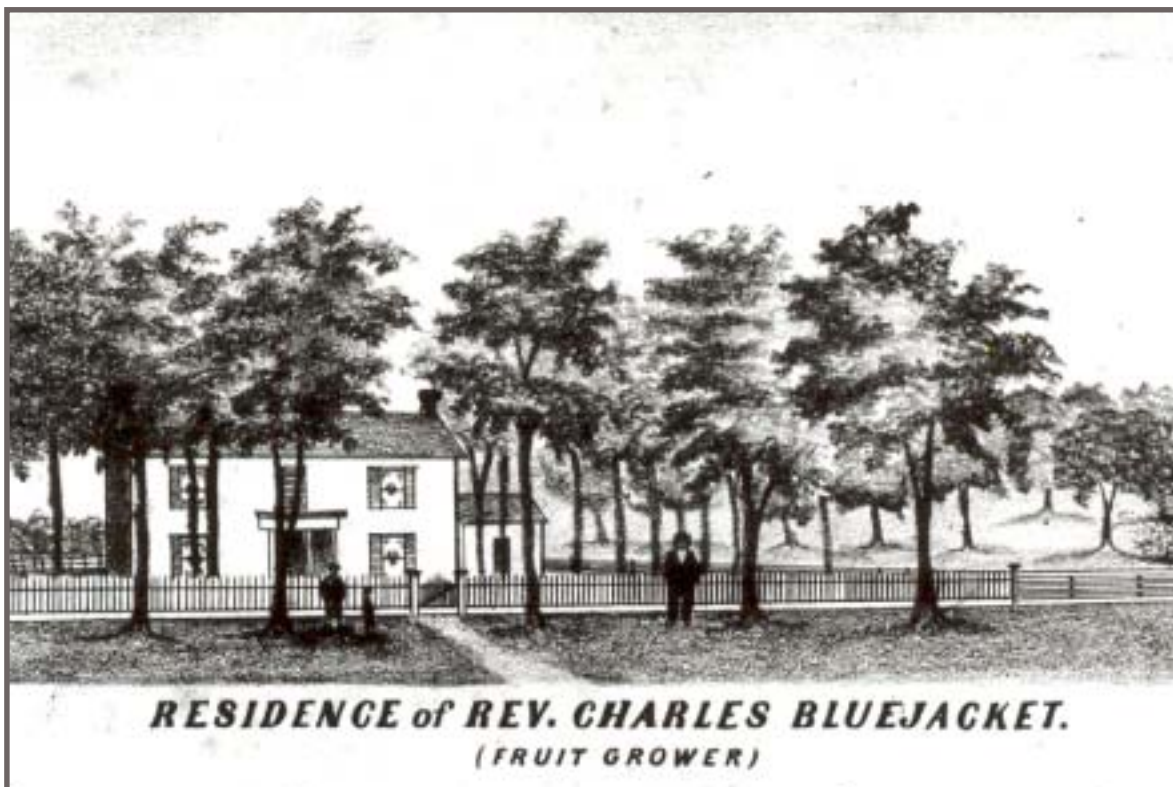


# ALBUM

## JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Volume XVII Number 2

Spring 2004



Charles Bluejacket, a member of the Shawnee Tribe, remained in Johnson County. From *Atlas Map of Johnson County, Kansas*. 1874.

## Being Shawnee in Territorial Kansas

Johnson County, Kansas Territory, was an uneasy place. J.C. McCoy summed up the situation tersely in October, 1855:

*I will only say that. . .the Territory of Kansas is filled with shrewd, designing and unscrupulous men who have a thousand different schemes concocted and that there seems to be a perfect mania for acquiring lands. . .*

McCoy had reason to be concerned. He wrote from the Baptist Indian Mission established by his father, Rev. Isaac McCoy, to serve the Shawnee Indians. The Mission was located a few miles west

of the Missouri line in the far northeast corner of the Shawnee Reserve. The Reserve, granted to the Shawnee through a series of treaties in the 1820s and 30s, had originally included 1.6 million acres stretching for 120 miles west from Missouri along the south side of the Kansas River. The tribe accepted this land in exchange for giving up their home territory in the Ohio Valley, where white settlement continued to press westward. The treaty had guaranteed that this land west of Missouri would be the Shawnee's for as long as the tribe remained together.

Political developments in the mid-1850s put the Shawnee Reserve at risk. Pressure was growing to open more lands for white settlement and to clear a pathway for the development of western railroads. On May 30, 1854, the U.S. Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, establishing Kansas Territory immediately west of Missouri and opening the area to white settlers. At that time, much of eastern Kansas was occupied by various Indian tribes that had been granted the land through treaties with the federal government in the 1820s, 30s and 40s.



Area of original Shawnee Reserve

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# DONORS TO THE COLLECTION

The Johnson County Museums thanks the many generous people and organizations whose donations have been added to the permanent collection since the last newsletter:

- Craig Butter
- Anne Francis
- Ruth Ann Hackler
- B. Ann Lavery
- Cathy Loftus
- Verne McNatt
- Saleeta Oswalt
- Aletha Simon
- Charlene Upton
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Watkins Community Museum

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Johnson County Museums collects artifacts from all periods of the county's history, from early settlement through the present day. The following items are among the many recent donations to the permanent collection.

### MARKING THE SPOT

This photograph records the dedication of a historical marker on October 15, 1929 at 55<sup>th</sup> and Walmer in Mission, the site of the Baptist Mission to the Shawnee Indians. The marker is one of nine placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) along the route of the Santa Fe Trail in Johnson County. Donated by the D.A.R.



### GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME

This plastic mug dating from the 1970s bears the likenesses of the Kansas City Royals baseball team as well as an advertisement for Eight O'Clock Coffee and the words "Fan Appreciation Day." Among those pictured are George Brett, Hal McRae, Fred Patek, Cookie Rojas and Whitey Herzog, who managed the Royals from 1975 to 1979. Donated by Aletha Simon.

### TEAM SPIRIT

The Gardner High School girls' basketball team posed for this group portrait in 1910. The photographic postcard was passed on to us by the Watkins Community Museum in Lawrence. The message on the back was signed by "Edna B.," who mentioned that she was in the picture. Can anyone identify these girls or the man, presumably their coach?



### WHAT'S COOKIN'?

The red and white checked cover of the Better Homes and Gardens Cook Book has been a familiar sight in American kitchens for several decades. This 1950 edition was donated by B. Ann Lavery.



### A STITCH IN TIME

This woman's three-piece suit includes a sleeveless shell, jacket and skirt. It was hand-knitted in the 1950s by Catherine Belinder (1907-1975), a native of Johnson County. Donated by her daughter, Charlene Upton.



## WISH LIST

The Museums staff is planning an exhibit about the history of law enforcement in Johnson County. We are looking for materials pertaining to city police forces as well as to the county sheriff's department. If you have any related items or photographs that you would be willing to donate or loan for use in the exhibit, please call Anne Marvin, Curator of Collections, at 913-631-6709.

#### Johnson County Museums

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Laura Grinstead, Lanesfield School Site Manager  
Erin Befort, Historical Interpreter  
Stephanie Clayton, Historical Interpreter  
Georgia Deming, Historical Interpreter

## MUSEUM NOTES

### THANK YOU TO OUR QUILTED LEGACY SPONSORS

*Quilted Legacy: Patterns from the Kansas City Star* is the latest temporary exhibit at the Museum of History and is proving to be very popular with visitors! To date, we have had visitors from as far away as South Dakota, Colorado, Ohio and Iowa, specifically to tour our exhibit on *Star* quilts. This success, in part, is due to the phenomenal support of our sponsors. The Kansas City Star Books and Kansas City Star Quilt Books served as major sponsors for this exhibit. They provided support for local advertising and highlighted the exhibit to quilters nationwide on the Kansas City Star Quilts' website, [www.pickledish.com](http://www.pickledish.com). The Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund and the Friends of Johnson County Museums also provided support for this exhibit. We are very grateful to each of our sponsors for their generosity!

### THE 1950S ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the 1950s All-Electric House celebrated its Golden Anniversary with great fanfare. Over 650 members of the community

enjoyed the fun-filled day which included free tours of the All-Electric House, craft activities for children, hula hoop contests, and electric appliance give-aways. A display of vintage 1950s Thunderbird cars, courtesy of Vintage Thunderbirds of Kansas City, was also very popular with visitors. The event was made



**Dave Wagner, KCP&L; Johnson County Commissioner Dolores Furtado; Johnson County Board of Commissioners Chairman Annabeth Surbaugh; Mindi Love, Director; Robin Burch, KCP&L; and Patti and Marty Bauer, the couple that donated the house cut the ribbon celebrating the 50th anniversary.**

possible by the generosity of many businesses in our community. Kansas City Power & Light was the major sponsor. Appliance give-aways were provided by Bed, Bath and Beyond, Kansas City Power & Light, Target and Walgreens. Refreshments were provided by Costco, Hy-Vee and WaterOne. In addition, Rosehill Gardens provided landscaping services. We are very grateful for their support and thank them for helping to make this event truly a community affair!

## JAMES BEATTY MAHAFFIE HOME

A part of our pioneer heritage can be found at the James Beatty Mahaffie home, located at 1100 Kansas City Road in Olathe. Recognized early as a historically significant structure, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 29, 1977. This vernacular style native stone and wood frame home not only documents a working farmstead from the mid-1800s, but also reflects a unique aspect of transportation history, travel by stagecoach.

Opportunity and location helped shape the development of this unique farm. The James Beatty Mahaffie claim was located just north of the Santa Fe Trail. A local story reports that on the first night of his claim in 1857, Mahaffie received \$5.00 from travelers to sleep on the wood floors of his residence. From this humble beginning, his house rapidly earned the reputation for hospitality as various stagecoach lines began to stop there regularly for food, rest and fresh horses.

In 1865, Mahaffie completed the two-story stone home we recognize today. The two-foot thick limestone blocks were quarried from his land. The structure had many unique characteristics including a cellar used as a dining hall for stagecoach passengers. In 1867, the peak year for stagecoach travel in

the area, the Mahaffie station is estimated to have served more than 70 passengers daily.

In 1869, the railroad reached Olathe, ending the need for stagecoach travel in our area. The Mahaffie station ceased operation the next year. The farm, however, continued to prosper. Mahaffie's stage stop and his later railroad investments, as well as his

extensive land and livestock holdings, helped make him one of the most prosperous early settlers of Johnson County.

The Mahaffie Farmstead and Stagecoach Stop is now operated by the City of Olathe and remains the last of the stagecoach stations along the Santa Fe Trail still open to the public. In addition to the home, two other buildings on the site are also on the National Register. The two story ice-house, used to store ice gathered from Indian Creek and the Kaw River, is made of the same limestone as the home. The barn features post and beam construction using round wooden pegs instead of nails. The role of this property as the residence of an influential pioneer and as a stagecoach station along the Santa Fe Trail guarantees its spot as one of the most historically significant homes in Johnson County.



**James Beatty Mahaffie Home, 1100 Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS. JCM Collection.**

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Many thanks to the following corporations and foundations who have contributed to the success of the Museums through the Annual Campaign.

### BENEFACTORS

(\$5,000 and above)

V & H Charitable Foundation

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American Family Insurance, Steve Taylor

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## CHILLICOTHE—THE LITTLE TOWN THAT TIME FORGOT

Townsite speculation was a major activity on the 19<sup>th</sup> century frontier. A landowner would declare the existence of a town on his property, list its (often fictional) assets and start selling business and residential lots to eager buyers. Things did not always work out, of course, and many “towns” quickly faded away. Chillicothe, once located on land southwest of the current intersection of Shawnee Mission Parkway and I-435, was one such site. It is of particular interest because the developer was a Shawnee Indian.

The 1854 treaty between the U.S. government and the Shawnee tribe opened the way for the first big wave of real estate development in Johnson County. The treaty provided for an allotment of 200 acres to each member of the tribe. While some Shawnee farmed their land, others established town sites or otherwise engaged in land speculation.

Around 1859, William Morgan Donaldson tried to promote building a town on his property. He named the place Chillicothe after a band of the Shawnee tribe. Donaldson was a Shawnee blacksmith who also happened to be the son-in-law of Chief Joseph Parks and adopted son of John Penny, a former chief.

Chillicothe was in a well-traveled location along the road from the south to Leavenworth. The route took travelers through Chillicothe on the way to the Bluejacket ferry across the Kaw River. The townsite was also along the Westport-to-Lawrence road, one route of the Kansas Stage Company. Donaldson is believed to have opened a hotel at Chillicothe to serve stagecoach travelers.

Few written records exist to document the establishment or development of the Chillicothe site. Supposedly a Shawnee council house and perhaps a tribal pay station had been located there. In 1978, before construction of I-435 in the area, local tradition, scattered written references and the remains of a stone foundation were enough to warrant an archeological survey of the site. Investigators from the Kansas State Historical Society found over 1,800 artifacts including dishes, bottles and

*continued on page 5*

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## LAND HUNGER

The Shawnee Reserve included lands easily accessible to settlers arriving via Missouri, but for several years after the creation of Kansas Territory it was unavailable for purchase or claims by whites.

In early May 1854, a new treaty between the Shawnee and the United States government set the western boundary of the Reserve only 30 miles from the Missouri border, reducing the total acreage by almost 75 per cent. The treaty stipulated that the government would first survey the remaining reservation acreage, then withhold it from white settlers until each member of the tribe had selected an allotment of 200 acres. Enforcing this plan would prove difficult, however. All land set aside for Indian tribes had been protected since 1834 by the Trade and Intercourse Act, which empowered the President to use military force if necessary to remove intruders from Indian country. This power was seldom used, in Kansas or elsewhere. As early as 1837, several hundred settlers had infiltrated the Delaware lands around Fort Leavenworth and staked their claims, and the military had done little to discourage them. Similarly, there was little to stop white settlers from moving onto the Shawnee Reserve prematurely.

The Shawnee lands in what was to become Johnson County were particularly well known to whites. Traders and emigrants had been traveling through the area for years on the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. The California Trail cut across the northern part of the Reserve not far from the Kansas River, and the military road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Scott ran north-south along the eastern edge of Shawnee land. Most of the Shawnee remained in the eastern parts of their reserve, near the Kaw River and its tributaries such as Turkey Creek. The area had many fine springs, stone suitable for building, and good timber along the waterways.

In addition to the plentiful natural resources, the Shawnee had made impressive improvements on their lands. In general, the Shawnee had been farmers for some time, and most continued this endeavor in their new territory. By the 1850s, white observers described the

Shawnees' prosperous farmsteads with their neat log houses equipped with stone chimneys and flanked by smokehouses, corn cribs, stables and other outbuildings. Rail fences bordered fertile fields of vegetables, corn and oats, and fine horses and cattle grazed on the prairie. Besides farming, the Shawnee also prospered by trading with overland travelers and practicing trades such as blacksmithing.

## MEN OF GOD

Despite the Shawnees' apparent success in their new territory, many whites still saw room for improvement. Missionaries in particular were intent on upgrading the Shawnees' lot in life by converting them to Christianity. Quakers had worked among

the Shawnee when they still lived in the Ohio Valley. As the tribe moved to lands that would become Johnson County, the Quakers followed and built a mission in 1836 located at today's 61st and Hemlock. The Baptists were in Kansas by 1830 and established a mission in 1832 near present-day 53rd



Shawnee Indian Methodist Mission, North Building. JCM Collection.

and Walmer. Baptist missionary Isaac McCoy transcribed the Shawnee language and from 1835 to 1842 printed the *Shawnee Sun*, the first native language newspaper.

The Methodists established the earliest and most ambitious operation, beginning in 1831 with a mission in an area that would become part of Wyandotte County. In 1839 the Methodists relocated to what is now 53rd and Mission Road in Fairway. There they erected substantial buildings, farmed 1,500 acres and operated an Indian manual labor school. Indian students were given English names and taught farming, homemaking, carpentry, blacksmithing and milling, as well as basic reading, writing and arithmetic.

## DIVIDING THE LAND

Until the lands west of Missouri were officially opened to settlers, the missionaries and government

Indian agents were the only whites allowed to live on the Shawnee Reserve. Despite this legal status, Indian lands were constantly threatened by white squatters, who would come over from the Missouri side and try to establish claims by making marginal improvements or simply staking off a plot of land. In 1855 the Indian Agent for the Shawnee wrote to his superiors, reporting that despite his warnings that it was against the law,

trespassers were still appearing on Shawnee lands. He predicted destruction of the Reserve and the rights of the Shawnee if no action were taken, and suggested that the government consider buying off persons who had settled “unintentionally” on Shawnee land.

It wasn't until July 9, 1858, that land unclaimed by the Shawnee, totaling almost 220,000 acres, was opened to the whites. Prior to that time, according to the terms of the 1854 treaty, each member of the Shawnee tribe was to choose 200 acres out of the Reserve lands. By late 1856, the land had been surveyed and the Shawnee were beginning to select their acreages. The timbered lands along the Kaw River and Turkey Creek were among the first to be chosen. Shawnee with established farms often designated acreages that would include the areas

*continued on page 5*



Pipe-tomahawk, mid-1800s. White settlers often traded this type of manufactured item with Native Americans in exchange for goods. JCM Collection.

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they had already improved. In all, 690 Shawnee selected allotments totaling about 138,000 acres. Over 4,000 acres was allotted to tribal leaders as a reward for their cooperation with the government. One group of the Shawnee, known as the Black Bob band, chose to retain the traditional practice of holding land in common and moved onto 33,000 acres that they had selected in the Tomahawk Creek area near the current intersection of 119th and Black Bob. Finally, some of the Shawnee chose to move away entirely, to the new Indian Territory known as Oklahoma.

Even before any Shawnee selected their allotments, local officials reported to President Franklin Pierce that there was a plan afoot in Westport for 1,000 non-Shawnee men to invade the Reserve and make claims. By March, 1857, the number of illegal land claims on the reserve was estimated at 2,700. In addition, would-be settlers complained that, while they were not allowed to buy land from the Shawnee, chiefs of the tribe were purchasing plots directly from their own people, thus adding to their already extensive acreages.

On the Reserve, resentment against the Indians erupted into violence. In June, 1856, the Indian agent, a man named Gay, was shot to death on the road to Westport while carrying Indian moneys. Whites persisted in pillaging timber from Indian land. Several Shawnee were killed trying to protect their property, and the whites seemed to expect to escape unpunished. In fact, the Shawnee complained that the Indian agent did nothing to prevent the thievery. Problems with would-be settlers continued and were exacerbated by the fact that as of 1858, the tribe still hadn't received the results of a survey from the Indian office showing exactly which tracts of land had been allotted to individual Shawnee. In June of that year, a group of young Shawnee burned the houses of squatters near the place where a tribal member had been killed.

## FRIEND OR FOE?

If there had been any chance of handling the matter of the Indian lands in an orderly manner, it was quickly overshadowed by an even bigger political concern—whether the future state of Kansas would enter the Union as slave state or free state. The Kansas-Nebraska Act had established Kansas as a U.S. territory, but it left the slavery issue to a vote of the Territory's citizens. During the Territorial years, from 1854 through 1860, pro- and anti-slavery advocates jockeyed for political advantage and the struggle quickly became a free-for-all. During the six-year period, Kansas Territory went through four constitutions, several official seats of government, ten governors and even two opposing legislatures meeting simultaneously.

In the area that was to become Johnson County, the white population was overwhelmingly pro-slavery, and some of the Shawnee, too, were slave owners. Rev. Thomas Johnson, who ran the Methodist Mission and Manual Training School and had been on the Shawnee Reserve since 1839, was of southern background and owned slaves. The Methodist

Church had split over the slavery issue some years before, and it was the southern branch that owned the mission in Kansas. Early on Johnson became involved in pushing the interests of pro-slavery partisans.

According to an early history of Johnson County, pro-slavery whites and their Indian allies met in the late summer of 1853. Anticipating the creation of Kansas Territory, they organized a provisional government sympathetic to their cause. The group

elected Thomas Johnson as a delegate to Congress from the territory. Although this was not an office recognized by Congress, Johnson lobbied in Washington in 1853 and 1854 pushing for legislation that might allow the spread of slavery into Kansas. The Kansas-Nebraska Act left open that option, and the pro-slavery element in the territory took care to push their cause.

Members of the first territorial legislature were elected March 30, 1855. Thomas Johnson was elected to the Territorial Council (later called the senate) and his son Alexander

S. Johnson to the Territorial Legislature. The legislature convened at Pawnee, near Ft. Riley, and quickly elected Thomas Johnson president of the council and relocated the capital to the Shawnee Methodist Mission. Upon reconvening there on July 16, the legislature organized the settled portions of the territory into counties and named Johnson County for Rev. Thomas Johnson. In the fall, the territorial governor appointed officers for Johnson County and the townships within the county were organized. The county, then, was fully organized politically long before actual settlement by whites was even allowed.

The legislature continued in session at Shawnee Mission until August 30, 1855. Among its actions was passing an act on August 14 detailing punishment for "Offences Against Slave Property" in the Territory. The act prohibited anyone opposed to slavery from serving on a jury, outlined penalties for aiding the escape of slaves and included the death penalty for people caught aiding in any "rebellion or insurrection of slaves, free Negroes, or mulattoes." Other offences outlined were any "speaking, writing, or printing" that encouraged slave rebellions or that argued that slavery was prohibited in Kansas Territory.

Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act forever changed life in Johnson County. Political unrest over the slavery issue periodically erupted into violence, and would-be settlers persisted in their efforts to acquire property in the former Shawnee Reserve. Tribal members continued to suffer from raids against their homes and property throughout the Territorial years. The continual threat of property damage and denial of their rights caused many Shawnee to either sell or abandon their property and move to Indian Territory. Those who remained struggled to preserve their culture and their property rights as guaranteed by treaty with the federal government.

*Editor's Note: Earlier ALBUM articles related to the Shawnee Indians in Johnson County (Winter 1994 and Winter 1997) and the Bleeding Kansas era (Fall 1998) are available by calling the Museum at 913-631-6709.*



One of a series of hand-drawn maps showing lands allotted to individual Shawnee in Johnson County, 1855-1860. JCM Collection.

## TO LEARN MORE...

***The End of Indian Kansas: A Study of Cultural Revolution, 1854 – 1871.* By H. Craig Miner and William E. Unrau. (Lawrence: The Regents Press of Kansas, 1978).**

***Fifty Million Acres: Conflicts Over Kansas Land Policy, 1854 – 1890.* By Paul Wallace Gates. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1954).**

[www.shawnee-tribe.org](http://www.shawnee-tribe.org)

[www.territorialkansasonline.org](http://www.territorialkansasonline.org)

continued from sidebar on page 5

**fragments of pipes. Evidence was inconclusive as to the exact nature of any structures or their uses. Little is known about why or when the little settlement disappeared. One factor may have been the red tape involved in Shawnee land transactions. In order to buy or sell land, a tribal member was required to obtain certificates from two chiefs and the Indian agent attesting to his or her competency. The certificates then had to be sent to the Interior Department for approval. The whole process tended to be so slow that many purchasers did not want to go to the trouble of dealing with Shawnee property owners.**

# FUN FACTS ABOUT JOHNSON COUNTY DURING TERRITORIAL DAYS

If you desire the defeat of *Jim Lane* – Jay-Hawking and Brown Republicanism, vote the Democratic Ticket, on Tuesday next.

*The Olathe Herald*  
December 1, 1859

Border warfare was in evidence during the days preceding the secession by the Southern states, and Kansas counties that bordered on the Missouri line were marked for bitter conflict. There were pro-slavery and anti-slavery forces in Johnson County as well as over the territory before statehood.

It appears that the first raid to take place within the county was when, in August 1856, a band descended on the Quaker Mission in Shawnee and caused much trouble. Some plundering was done but no blood shed.

*Johnson County Democrat*  
September 1, 1927

Johnson County was organized in 1855, but there was no full set of officers until March 1857, when Gov[ernor] Robert J. Walker appointed the following officers: commissioners John J. Ector, John Evans and William Fisher, Jr.; probate judge, John B. Campbell; treasurer John T. Barton; and sheriff, Pat Cosgrove.

*The Sun Newspapers*  
February 2, 1976

When the Wyandotte Constitution, which prohibited slavery, was put to a vote of the people of Kansas on Oct. 14, 1859 it was approved 10,391 to 5,540. In Johnson County, however, the vote was 377 against it and 373 in favor. This opposition may be attributed to the fact that Johnson County had been a hot bed of pro-slavery sentiment since the territory was formed in 1854.

Source Unknown  
May 29, 1987

## PEEK INTO THE PAST...

### WORD SEARCH

Find the words relating to Territorial Kansas and the Shawnee Indians in the word search puzzle. Words can be found across, down or diagonally.

- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| Kansas  | Territory |
| Shawnee | Settler   |
| Land    | Black Bob |

U E R W L M L A N D L  
P M K X T W O N I W Q  
S C Z A I D M G K Y X  
H L M C N H B V A O P  
A S H T Q S L E M N J  
W S R J L A A I L L R  
N Z E B H R C S E A Z  
E F M T L E K I S D H  
E G C R T V B J E O R  
P U W E N L O D T P E  
S T P S G R B L T E O  
C R A E J P Z I L T O  
M S G R P M C N E N B  
T T E R R I T O R Y B



Shawnee Chief Tucker and his wife.  
JCM Collection.



Painting of Shawnee Council House by Charles Goslin. JCM Collection.

## TO LEARN MORE...

To learn more about Territorial Kansas you can visit these places and websites:

Territorial Kansas Online is a great database of photographs and papers from Kansas 150 years ago. Visit it at [www.territorialkansasonline.org](http://www.territorialkansasonline.org).

Want to meet famous people from the Kansas Territory? Now you can at the Kansas Chautauqua sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council. Listen to speakers, such as John Brown, describe their part in "Bleeding Kansas." The Chautauqua will be traveling to Junction City, Colby, Fort Scott and Lawrence in June 2004. Go to [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org) for more information.

# HISTORY MYSTERY

A class of nearly fifty posed for this Overland Park School eighth grade graduation portrait in 1943. Suits, dresses, and even corsages appear in this formal, but unidentified, portrait. Should you be able to provide identifications of the students or teachers, please contact us at 913-631-6709. Thank you!



# ENDOWMENT GIFTS

We thank those who have invested in the Museums' future with donations to the Endowment Fund.

- Paul and Dorcas Doering
- Exxon matching gift for Dick and Gloria Haberkorn
- Paul and Barbara Gorman in memory of Ruth Hervey
- Ralph Hays
- IBM Foundation matching gift for Randall and Helen Ferguson

## CORINTHIAN CLAY NUTTER



Corinthian Clay Nutter, an inspiring teacher and civil rights activist, passed away on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 97. She was best known for her efforts in the 1940s to help desegregate Merriam schools. At that time, she was a teacher at Walker School, an all-black institution, in an area known as South Park (since

annexed into Merriam). The local school district built the new, modern South Park Elementary School in 1947, but only allowed the white children to attend. In protest, the parents of the black students filed a lawsuit against the school district. They also refused to send their children to the sub-standard Walker School and instead organized a walk-out. Students were instructed in private homes by Mrs. Nutter and another teacher. The community held fundraisers and received financial support from the NAACP to pay some compensation to the teachers.

The case resulting from the law suit, *Webb v. School District No. 90*, eventually was heard by the Kansas Supreme Court. Mrs. Nutter testified before the court, later saying, "I felt it was the right thing to do and that is what I did." The final outcome was a ruling in favor of the students' right to attend the new modern school, five years before the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Mrs. Nutter, having played an important role in the Walker case, continued teaching in Johnson County until her 1972 retirement from the Olathe School District.

She was also involved in the community in a number of ways. She actively supported the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the American Association of University Woman and the Northeast chapter of the NAACP. She was also a member of Paseo Baptist Church where she had attended services since moving to the Kansas City area in the mid 1920s. The community, in turn, recognized her contributions. She was honored many times during her lifetime, most recently in 2003 by the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame.

Understanding the importance of the Walker case, Mrs. Nutter openly shared her knowledge of the events with members of the community. She had donated many of her photographs and papers to the Johnson County Museums so they could be preserved and shared with future generations. She also was a member of the Friends of Johnson County Museums and regularly brought her family to the museum to show them the area of the exhibit that highlights the 1947 desegregation case. Throughout her life, she was an advocate for education for all young people, regardless of background. And that is her lasting legacy.

The Museum would like to thank those who have made contributions to the Museums' Endowment Fund in memory of Corinthian Clay Nutter.

Mindi C. Love  
Janet Campbell Vaughan

If you would like to make a gift to the Endowment Fund in her memory, please send your contribution to the Johnson County Museum, 6305 Lackman Road, Shawnee, KS66217.

# JOIN US!

We invite you to be part of the Museums' future by joining the Friends of Johnson County Museums. The Friends support exhibit development, educational programs and special events. Your membership and other contributions are tax deductible.

Your membership brings you the following annual benefits:

- **Free admission to 1950s All-Electric House**
- **Quarterly newsletter, ALBUM**
- **10% off museum store purchases**
- **50% discount on programs**
- **Invitations to Members' Only events**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to **Friends of Johnson County Museums.**

Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card.  
 Mastercard  Visa

Acct. Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- \$25-49 **Friend**
- \$50-99 **Good Friend**
- \$100-249 **Really Good Friend**
- \$250 and up **Best Friend**

I am making an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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# BLEEDING KANSAS: CONTESTED LIBERTY IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA



*Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era by Nicole Etcheson. University of Kansas Press, 2004.*

The first shots of the Civil War may have been fired at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, but the battles over the issue of slavery began almost a decade before in Kansas towns such as LeCompton, Osawatomie,

Lawrence and Black Jack. The Pottawatomie Massacre and battles at Fort Titus, Hickory Point and Slough Creek were in the newspapers long before places like Bull Run, Gettysburg and Shiloh. Kansas was a hotly contested battleground and changed the way America looked at the institution of slavery within its borders.

When Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, it opened the debate of popular sovereignty – allowing the citizens of the territories of Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves the status of slavery within their borders. Few people expected the bloodshed that was to come. Kansas Territory contained few slaves and the land was not considered fertile enough to allow slavery to flourish. Two factions settled in the territory with different ideas about whether the territory would become free or slave. Fraud in local elections and intimidation of voters and settlers brought the hard feelings over the issue to a head in Kansas and eventually led to violence and the nickname “Bleeding Kansas.”

From the ego-maniacal antics of James Lane and Charles Jennison to the religious zealotry of John Brown, author Nicole Etcheson brings the reader straight onto the battlefields of Bleeding Kansas. Etcheson, associate professor of history at the University of Texas at El Paso, examines the argument of free or slave state from both sides of the conflict as well as presenting the social aspects of living on the frontier at the time just before the Civil War. She explores how the region’s turmoil reached across the state border into Missouri with figures such as Senator David Rice Atchison and Westport Sheriff Samuel Jones, and across America to Washington with President Pierce, the Massachusetts’ New England Emigrant Aid Society and the Stephen-Douglas debates.

Covering the period from the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 to the 1879 “Exoduster” migration, Etcheson offers up an extensively researched and well-written book covering one of America’s most overlooked periods of history. Twenty-six photographs of some of the regions more involved characters and locations accompany the nearly 400 pages of history. Anyone who has ever wondered why America fought a Civil War should pick up this fast-paced account of the turmoil of *Bleeding Kansas*.

*Editor's note: This book is for sale in the Museum of History's Museum Store. Members get a 10% discount.*

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