

COUNTIES IN THE PROPOSED BLEEDING KANSAS AND THE ENDURING STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Each of the counties considered for inclusion in the proposed Heritage Area has had a role in Kansas history and development connecting it to the theme of the Enduring Struggle for Freedom. Following is a list of the counties currently involved and the themes that connect them to the enduring struggle for freedom:

GLACIATED REGION

LEAVENWORTH: Topographically part of the Glaciated Region with Pottawatomie, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties.

Thematically linked with Native Americans, African Americans, Proslavery, Free State, Kansas Conflict and Civil War. Additional themes include Underground Railroad and Military/Government. Well timbered and watered with the Missouri River to the North and the Kansas River on the South Leavenworth County was the home for the Kansas City Hopewell people in the prehistoric period and later the Kansa. The first known European settlers were the Coureurs des Bois and garrison located at **Fort Cavagnial** outside the Large **Kansa Village** or Town in 1746 on the grounds of present **Fort Leavenworth**. The site of the abandoned fort was visited by **Lewis and Clark** in 1804. In a demonstration of the premise that what makes a location desirable for settlement good for one group generally makes it good for any group the US Army established **Fort Leavenworth** on

the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River in 1827. Fort Leavenworth is the oldest continuously occupied military post west of the Mississippi River. The Fort was actually supposed to be built on the Missouri side of the River but attempts to locate there were flooded out. The military located the Fort illegally on Indian land and negotiated for the purchase after the fact. Over the years the Fort has continued to expand and occupy what was open land or farm land. This also increased the demand for supplies and provided a good opportunity for business. During and after the War the presence of the Fort was a boon to the town. After the War Fort Leavenworth became the home of the **“Buffalo Soldiers”** as the African Americans were known. Their presence is recognized by the **Buffalo Soldiers Monument** on post and at the **Richard Allen Cultural Center** in Leavenworth. These troops fought for a country which was based on liberty, yet denied them equality. A fact not lost on them. Even the story of the Monument is an indication of the Enduring Struggle. While an officer at Fort Leavenworth Brigadier General Colin Powell looked for the streets named after the 9th and 10th Cavalry. What he found were two “streets” that did nothing to honor those units. He began a personal crusade which led to the creation of the Monument that stands today to acknowledge the significant role these troops played in opening the West to settlement.

During the Territorial period many of the officers at Fort Leavenworth were from the South and supported the Proslavery faction. This support and the close proximity to Weston, Missouri led to the creation of the **Leavenworth Town Company** which initially was

Proslavery. Leavenworth did have a **Free Black settler** early on who came specifically to assist escaping Freedom Seekers. Free State settlers located in the area seeing the same economic potential that led their Proslavery counterparts to select the location. A **German colony** soon moved into the area as did other Free State settlers. Gradually Leavenworth changed from a Proslavery town to a Free State community. The African American population began to grow and swelled during the Civil War with Freedom Seekers and the elements which would form part of the **First Kansas Colored Infantry** and provide three Black officers, Captain Matthews, Lieutenant Minor and Lieutenant . One **Abolitionist** active in Leavenworth was Dan Anthony. When Dan was shot in an altercation his sister **Susan B. Anthony** came to nurse him back to health. While here Susan corresponded with an old friend from the East, Clarina Nichols, as they both worked on **Women's Rights** and began planning their next moves in the struggle for Freedom.

Leavenworth was a major commercial and manufacturing center for a time. Like other communities the floods along the Kansas and Missouri Rivers affected it.

Towns include Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth.

POTTAWATOMIE: Part of the Flint Hills Region and Glaciated Region.

Thematically tied to Native Americans.

Initially this was Kansa land until they were removed and replaced by **Potawatomi, Chippewa, Sac Fox** and **Kickapoo**. Jesuits established the community of **St. Marys**, which became the town of St. Marys. St. Marys served as a mission, school and trading site

throughout the 1860's. A government ferry was established when Fort Riley was built nearby and increased traffic brought opportunities and problems for the Tribes. Like most Tribes the Nations brought in as part of the Permanent Indian Frontier had mixed feelings and watched as whites increasingly moved through the area. In 1864 a group of Potawatomi and Kickapoo leave the region and settle in the state of Coahuila, Mexico. While crossing through Texas this group is attacked by Confederates resulting in a twenty-year war between the Saint Marys Band and the Texans in their new homes. The fertility of the river bottom lands was not lost on many of those going through the region and after the Civil War a number of former soldiers settled the county and developed crop land in the valleys and ranches in the uplands. The remaining **Potawatomi split** into two groups, the "**Citizen Band**" which chose citizenship and personal land holding and the "**Prairie Band**" which opts for traditional communal landholding and is removed to Jackson County. Eventually most of the Citizen Band intermarry with whites or remove to Oklahoma as they lose their lands to encroaching white settlers.

With the promise of the railroad more European immigrants arrive from Sweden, Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. **Part** of these settlers **retained their ethnic customs and languages** while others chose to join the mainstream culture.

Towns include Wamego and Westmoreland.

SHAWNEE: Part of the Glaciated Region.

Thematically linked to Native Americans, African Americans, Free State, and Kansas Conflict. Additional

theme includes Underground Railroad.

The Wakarusa and Kansas Rivers water Shawnee County with smaller streams and contained stands of timber along the waterways. Initially the Kansa occupied this county. After the Kansa were removed the Shawnee, Delaware and Pottawatomie settled it. Missions were established along with a ferry across the Kansas River at the site of Topeka. A number of **Free Staters** and elements of the **New England Emigrant Aid Company** settled in the vicinity of **Big Springs** and **Topeka**. Topeka became the seat of the opposition Free State government. With settlement mills were constructed and timber harvested, crops were put in and creeks dammed or bridged. After statehood in 1861 Topeka became capitol and has been the seat of government. The county became a rail center with the development of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. African Americans came as part of the **Underground Railroad** with some remaining. Exodusters fleeing the oppression in the South later joined these settlers. **Mexicans** were brought in to work on the railroad and were also classed as **People of Color** with similar treatment by white culture. In 1954 Topeka would come to national attention as the focus of “**Brown vs. Board of Education**”. This landmark Civil Rights case is commemorated with the National Historic Site at Monroe School.

Towns include Big Springs and Topeka.

WYANDOTTE: Part of the Glaciated Region.

Thematically linked to Native Americans, African Americans, Women, Free State, Proslavery, and Civil War. Additional themes include

Civil Rights, Mexican Immigrants, Asian Immigrants and the Underground Railroad.

Wyandotte County is largely located between the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. Prairies in the west end of the county merged with the heavy woods along the rivers. The **Kansas City Hopewell** were the first known prehistoric residents as they settled on bluffs along the Missouri River. Some plants were grown but cultivation and land modification were minimal. The **Kansa** used the region but their main villages were further up the Missouri. Roads crossed the area early after Fort Leavenworth was established and the county became home for the **Shawnee, Delaware** and later **Wyandot** Tribes. Each of these groups had different experiences as they struggled to decide whether to adopt the white culture or retain their own religion and customs. The main settlements of the Shawnee were in Johnson County but individuals intermarried with the other tribes and moved onto their reserves. The Delaware had several towns along the Kansas River and its tributaries but were forced to move to a different set of sites after the 1844 Flood. The **Wyandot**, who arrived last had intermarried extensively with Whites, other tribes and Blacks. This Tribe **split over the issue of Slavery** in 1847 and **Proslavery elements** established what would become the town of **Wyandott** while the **Abolitionist members** retreated to other areas, especially in the Northern part of the county near what would become **Quindaro**.

When the Territory opened in 1854 the town of Wyandott boomed as a river town. By 1856 the **New England Emigrant Aid Society** combined with Abolitionist Wyandots to establish the

Free State town of Quindaro. Quindaro quickly gained a reputation as both a Free State and Abolition center and became a stopping point on the Underground Railroad. A number of sites were used including the cistern at Clarina Nichols home. Mrs. Nichols was an active **Suffragette** and is credited with getting the Kansas Constitution to include **Women's Rights**. In **1859 a city election board allowed two Runaway Slaves to vote in local elections**. This was one of the first instances where Blacks were allowed to vote in any election. Quindaro suffered with the economic crash but was seen by escaping Slaves as a safe haven. This became especially important in the winter of 1861 when the Missouri River froze solid enough for horses to cross. Many of the **Freedom Seekers** avoided Wyandott due to its earlier reputation. By 1862 Quindaro was largely abandoned due to its threatened position across the river from Confederate held Parkville, Missouri.

Wyandott rose in prominence as refugees gathered there and Union troops established a military post. Some where in the county was located "**Camp Jim Lane**" where the **First Colored Kansas Volunteer Infantry** gathered and began training. By 1863 the railroad reached Wyandott and began moving west. The coming of the railroad helped develop other businesses and later industries. A series of towns consolidated in 1887 and became known as **Kansas City, Kansas**. Eventually Kansas City would swallow all other communities and entities in the county except **Bonner Springs** and **Edwardsville**. By 2004 all of Wyandotte County is part of the Unified Government of Kansas City/Wyandotte County, Kansas except Bonner Springs

and Edwardsville. Other communities swallowed up included Argentine with what was for a time the worlds largest silver smelter and the Argentine rail yards, Armourdale and the packinghouse and stockyards districts, and Rosedale with the University of Kansas Medical Center and School.

Wyandotte County initially focused on agriculture, meatpacking and the railroad. It was in part this agricultural focus that resulted in the selection of Bonner Springs as the home of **The Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Farmers Monument**. Over the years it developed manufacturing and during World War II was producing both landing craft and medium range bombers. During the Korean War the General Motors plant had two assembly lines going. One on the floor produced automobiles. The Overhead line produced jet fighter aircraft

Towns include Kansas City including former towns of Quindaro and Wyandott.

OSAGE CUESTAS REGION

ALLEN: linked topographically with Anderson, Bourbon, Coffey, Crawford, Douglas, Johnson, Labette, Linn, Miami, Wilson and Woodson counties in the Osage Cuestas Region. This area of rolling hills and plains is heavily underlain with limestone and results in good, fertile soils.

Thematically linked with Native American, African-American, Free State themes defined in the main body of the Feasibility Study. Additional themes or perspectives include European Immigrants and Underground Railroad.

Originally this was part of the Osage hunting area until they were

removed by the Treaty of 1825. Later part of the Reservation. Lands were initially grasses until crops were planted. Timbered areas along streams and rivers were used by white settlers although much construction was made of stone. **Humboldt** was settled by German immigrants in 1857 and was associated with the New England Emigrant Aid Society. These settlers were strongly affiliated with the Free Staters and chose Kansas in part **because it provided an opportunity for the Germans to control their own fates as a majority, not minority component** of the settlement. A **Vegetarian Colony** was established six miles Southeast of Humboldt in 1856 but was short lived. During the Civil War over 1000 Loyal Creeks, Cherokees their slaves and freedmen fought their way out of Oklahoma under **Opothleyahola**. This group would become the core of the **First Volunteer Indian Home Guard Regiment**, which formed part of the **Tricolor Brigade**. Blacks enlisted in this Regiment with their former masters and also found work as interpreters for the white officers. Humboldt served a time as headquarters for the Creek Agency until Confederate raiders burned the town. The refugees who formed the Home Guard Regiment retreated. They were provided with the weapons and training to allow them to retake their homes.

Towns include Iola and Humboldt

ANDERSON: linked topographically to the other counties in the Osage Cuestas Region.

Thematically linked to Native American, African American, Free State themes in the main body. Additional themes include European

Immigrants, Underground Railroad and John Brown.

Originally this was part of the Osage hunting lands until the Treaty of 1825. Later part of the Potawatomi, Sac and Fox Reservations until removal by the Treaty of. Part of the **Permanent Indian Frontier** until extinguished through the Opening of the Kansas Territory in 1854. Early settlers in the vicinity of **Garnett** and **Greeley** were largely Free State supporters. John Brown brought a party of Slaves he was liberating through the area and one gave birth in the Gerth Cabin, now moved into Greeley as a historic site for interpretation. Early European settlements included **Emerald** founded by Irish Catholics in the 1850's and **Scipio** founded by Catholics and joined by residents of Scipio, Indiana from 1855-1857. These early settlers came in part to make Kansas free but also to avoid anti-Catholic sentiment in the East and acquire land.

Fertile soils aided the transition from prairie grasses to agriculture. Small communities located near water sources and survived drought and flood until their economic reasons for existence caught up with them. Those towns located in the best areas for laying rails got the railroads. Those without rail traffic found themselves off the beaten path and had to transport their produce and goods farther to market. The development of roads along the Section lines helped here as throughout the Midwest. With increased personal transportation and better roads conditions improved for the farmers for a time. Better farm machinery allowed more land to be put under cultivation. With the coming of the Depression and the drought of the 1930's agriculture suffered. New methods of farming

focusing on dry-land methods were developed.

Towns include Garnett, Greeley and Scipio

BOURBON: linked topographically to the other counties in the Osage Cuestas Region. Portions of the county are also included with Cherokee, Crawford and Labette counties in the Cherokee Lowlands Region. The Cherokee Lowlands included areas with good fertile soils combined with underlying minerals including natural gas, oil and coal.

Thematically linked to Native American, African American, Free State, and Proslavery, Kansas Conflict and Civil War themes. Additional themes include Military/Government role in the Enduring Struggle for Freedom.

Bourbon County was part of the Osage lands until they were removed. **Fort Scott** was established as an outpost of the Permanent Indian Frontier in 1843 and served as a troop center throughout the Mexican War until it was replaced by Fort Riley in 1853. One of Fort Scott's main duties was to protect the Emigrant Tribes being relocated into Kansas. To do this mounted troops from the post made a number of "Demonstrations" onto the prairie to awe the Plains Tribes into submission. These attempts to control the Plains Tribes were successful but attempts to resettle some Emigrant Tribes were not. The Wyandot of Ohio were supposed to remove to the area adjacent to Fort Scott but refused. Eventually they would be forced to relocate in present Wyandotte County but these initial resettlement attempts were successfully resisted. Later efforts to resettle the New York Indians to the area originally set aside

for the Wyandot were also largely unsuccessful. By 1853 when the Fort was being abandoned it was clear the area would soon be open for white settlement. Squatters from Missouri illegally settled the land and began developing the future town site. The same reasons that led the Army to establish the Fort on the bluff overlooking the Marmaton River contributed to the success of the settlement. Prairies to the west merged with the timber of the Marmaton Valley and the limestone bluffs provided stone, which was easily accessible. Initially the settlers were mostly Proslavery partisans from Missouri intent on bringing Kansas into the Union as a Slave State. As more Free State settlers arrived in the region violence flared and Fort Scott became both a source of raids from Proslavers and a target of raids from Free Staters. Eventually Kansas settled into the calm before the Civil War officially began. With statehood in 1861 came the War. Fort Scott once again became a military outpost but the old fort had been sold and many of the structures were otherwise occupied. The main military activity moved outside of town and would eventually become one of the sites where the **First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry** would be mustered into Kansas service in 1862. This unit was the first African American unit raised in the North to see combat. One of the unit leaders who saw combat on October 29, 1862 was Lieutenant Patrick Minor, an African American who would lose his rank when the unit transferred into federal service in 1863. This unit would also form part of the **Tricolor Brigade** with the Indian Home Guard Regiments and elements of Kansas Cavalry units. Fort Scott also is home to **National Cemetery #1** where a number

of Civil War and later soldiers are interred.

After the War the railroads and eventually US Highway 69 would also go through Fort Scott following the old military road. The same reasons it was attractive to the early road builders held true for the later ones, following the path of least resistance. Fort Scott would also find notoriety as the setting for Gordon Parks autobiographical film “**The Learning Tree**”. Parks, an African American photographer and filmmaker recounted “growing up in a small Southern town”. The film and the ensuing controversy showed that while Kansas had one image as a place where people fought to end Slavery it also had another darker image for those African Americans who had experienced the Racism present in many towns. In 2004 there is progress reconciling between Mr. Parks and the community. The town also hosts Fort Scott National Historic Site established in 1976 and focusing on the role of the military on the Frontier, especially along the Permanent Indian Frontier. Part of the county has retained its grassland heritage as ranching country while part has become more heavily timbered as the woods overtake prairie and unused fields.

Towns include Fort Scott.

COFFEY: linked topographically with other counties in the Osage Cuestas Region.

Thematically linked to Native Americans, Free State and Civil War. Traditionally part of the Osage country until removal. During the 1850’s **Burlington** was settled by Pennsylvanians and members of the **New England Emigrant Aid Society**. These settlers were later joined by more **Free Staters** at **Leroy, which** replaced

Humboldt as the headquarters for the Southern Indian Agency after Humboldt was burned. Refugee Creek and Cherokee settled the area temporarily outside the local military post.

Towns include Burlington and Leroy

CRAWFORD: Topographically linked to other counties in the Osage Cuestas Region and the Cherokee Lowlands Region.

Thematically linked to Native American, African American, and Women. Additional themes include Mining, Labor and European Immigrants. Part of the Osage lands, Crawford county contained timber as well as mineral wealth. Primarily settled from the 1870’s on. Crawford County experienced a variety of variations on the Enduring Struggle. A group of **Exodusters** settled in Cherokee and soon found themselves surrounded by miners brought in from Eastern Europe to work in the coalmines. These Italian and Bohemian miners would contribute to the areas nickname as “**the Little Balkans**”. In their struggle for better working conditions and wages several things would occur. **African Americans** would be imported from the South as strike breakers or “scabs”. When they found out why they were being brought in and kept away from white workers they promptly joined the Union effectively combining the African American Struggle with the Labor Struggle. Girard, the county seat would elect a Socialist city council and serve as home to Eugene Debs and “Mother” Jones. Between 1919 and 1951 Girard was also home to the “Little Blue Books” printed by Emanuel Haldeman-Julius, “the Henry Ford of the Printing Press”. In 1920 between 3000-6000

women met to support their striking husbands and staged “the **Amazon Army March**”. These women were marching in protest against the **Industrial Court Law**, which restricted the right of miners to strike. By taking this action the women were actually marching for the miners struggle for freedom. Pittsburg would provide the new labor union, the United Mine Workers of America, with its first president, Matt Walters. As the mineral deposits ran out and technology changed to move to strip pits rather than deep shaft mining a number of workers found themselves looking for work.

Towns include Girard and Pittsburg.

DOUGLAS: linked topographically to the other counties of the Osage Cuestas Region.

Thematically linked with Native Americans, African Americans, Free State and Proslavery, Kansas Conflict, Civil War. Additional themes include the Underground Railroad and John Brown. Originally considered part of the Kansa hunting region until removal. Included **Delaware** settlements including a town near what became North Lawrence. During the violence of the 1850’s both **Delaware** and **Shawnee** Tribal leaders offered warriors to help protect the town from Proslavery forces. The Delaware tried to remain in the area but were later removed to Oklahoma after the Civil War. For a time Lawrence was the headquarters of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Later it became home to Haskell, currently **Haskell Indian Nations University**. Started as a boarding school for Western tribes Haskell grew and changed with the times to provide a four-year Liberal Arts

program with special focus on indigenous peoples. Recently the scene of struggles over the South Lawrence Traffic way which had been planned to take part of Haskell’s grounds including an area where students secretly met their parents as late as the 1960’s.

Clinton was adjacent to the old **Free State town of Bloomington** where one of the incidents of Voter Fraud occurred in the territorial Elections. Clinton also became home to an integrated farming community of Runaway Slaves from Missouri and Free State whites. This community remained until descendants were removed for the construction of **Clinton Reservoir** in the late 1960’s. Currently descendants of these early settlers are relocating near the reservoir as they retire.

Lecompton was established and recognized as the **official capitol** of the Kansas Territory. The Federal Government in Washington recognized this Proslavery settlement even though it was considered Bogus by the Free Staters. Located along the Kansas River the area had fertile ground and was largely agricultural after Kansas became a state and the capitol was officially removed to Topeka. Today Lecompton contains both a state historic site (Constitution Hall) and a local museum housed in the old Lane University building. Residents of the small town are very aware and proud of their role in the national controversy that stopped the spread of Slavery.

Lawrence, located along the Kansas River, was considered the epitome of a **Free State town** and contained both Westerners from Indiana and members of the New England Emigrant Aid Society. This town started in 1854 and gained national and international recognition as it was

sacked and burned by Proslavery Missourians in 1856 and became the scene of the Lawrence Massacre in 1863. In retaliation for the 1856 attack **John Brown** butchered Proslavery settlers at Dutch Henry's Crossing in the Pottawatomie Massacre. Brown and a number of other conductors on the Underground Railroad brought escaping slaves through Lawrence and Douglas County. Runaway Slaves were welcome in the community and were emancipated as Kansas troops under Jim Lane moved into Missouri on military raids. Lane would also give orders to recruit the **First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry** in 1862 in spite of official War Department refusals to enlist African American troops. Later Lawrence developed an active and thriving African American community including the grandparents of poet and author **Langston Hughes**. For a time Langston lived with his grandmother and they were the only People of Color on the stage when President Teddy Roosevelt dedicated the John Brown Park in Osawatomie. In spite of its role as a Free State center the city maintained a segregated swimming pool until 1964. Over the years Lawrence has survived a number of droughts, fires and floods.

Towns include Lecompton, Lawrence and Clinton.

FRANKLIN: Topographically part of the Osage Cuestas.

Thematically linked with Native Americans, Free State, Proslavery, and Kansas Conflict. Other theme includes John Brown. Once Osage hunting ground Franklin County became home to the Chippewa, Ottawa, Munsee, Peoria and Kaskaskia who were relocated in the Permanent Indian Frontier. Part of the **Munsee** have

remained and intermarried with the whites while retaining elements of their culture. This group is not federally recognized and receives no direct government support. The other tribes removed to Oklahoma after 1867. Under terms of an agreement with the Baptist Church the **Ottawa** provided land for what is today **Ottawa University** in exchange for free college educations for tribal members. In 1980's a book was published and a battle to enforce the terms of the agreement occurred. Ottawa is located along the Marais des Cygnes in an area with hardwood forest along the river and had open prairies beyond. Over the years much of Franklin County came under cultivation or was used as pasture. One practice still followed in much of the region as of 2004 is the seasonal burning of pastures to kill off weeds, and prevent the spread of scrub brush and trees. During 1951 Ottawa and other locations downstream were hard hit by the flooding this helped lead to the construction of **Melvern Reservoir** in Osage County in the 1960's as part of the flood control program developed.

The area around **Lane** included both the **Free State** settlement of **Brown's Station** (founded by John Brown's sons) and the **Proslavery settlement** at "**Dutch Henry's Crossing**". Both settlements were along Pottawatomie Creek in a well-timbered region with good prairie for cultivation and pasture. In 1856 "Dutch Henry's" would become the scene of the Pottawatomie Massacre. Brown's Free State Abolitionist followers killed Proslavery settlers in retaliation for the destruction of Lawrence by Proslavery Missourians. In this area both parties would form military companies and engage in hit and run combat as they

tried to force out the opposition. Lane also for a time was the home of Clarina Nichols who is credited with persuading the legislators drafting the Wyandotte Constitution to include Women's Rights issues. Mrs. Nichols sons also rode with John Brown at the Battle of Black Jack. When presenting talks in Vermont and the East on conditions in Kansas she used the bullet removed from her son, A.O. Carpenter to demonstrate what was occurring. Much of the area around Lane is still owned by small family farmers including a number of descendants of early Free State settlers.

Towns include Lane and Ottawa.

JOHNSON: Part of the Osage Cuestas Region.

Thematically linked to Native Americans, Proslavery, Kansas Conflict, and Civil War.

Johnson County was ceded as part of the Osage Treaty of 1825. The **Shawnee** were relocated into the area and tended to settle in small villages and homesteads. Timber along well-watered creeks and the Kansas River provided logs for "Dog Trot" cabins and fence rails. The Shawnee already farmed before they got to Kansas and continued raising both traditional foods and developing orchards. The Shawnee were considered good farmers and generally produced excess crops, which they sold along the side of the Santa Fe Trail, which passed through the grounds of the Shawnee Methodist Mission. Rev. Thomas Johnson, a Methodist missionary and slave owner became an influential political figure in the Territorial period. During the Civil War he sided with the Union and was murdered by Confederate guerrillas.

Towns include Lenexa, Mission, Shawnee and Olathe.

LABETTE: Part of the Osage Cuestas Region with parts in the Cherokee Lowlands.

Thematically linked with Native Americans and African Americans. Labette County was part of Neosho County until 1867. Refugees from the Creek and Cherokee made their way through Labette on their way to safe locations where they would organize the **First Indian Home Guard Regiment**. After the county was established a sizable African American population moved in as part of the **Exoduster** movement. Many of the members of this group came up from Texas along the railroad and settled in towns where they worked for wages. Others moved out along the Neosho River Valley where they began farming.

As farmsteads and other towns grew up wells were dug for water and tree rows established as windbreaks. Crops were rotated and sorghum grains became some of the leading crops in this area.

Towns include Oswego and Parsons.

LINN: Part of the Osage Cuestas Region

Thematically linked to Native Americans, Free State, Proslavery, Kansas Conflict, Civil War, and African Americans. Additional theme includes the Underground Railroad.

Linn County was initially Osage land and included a **trading post** set up by the Chouteau family in the early 1800's. Well watered and timbered with high prairie and fertile bottomland the area was highly attractive for farming. When the **Osage** were removed the **Potawatomi** were initially resettled in both Linn and Miami counties. Later the **Miami** were resettled here. When the

Territory was opened the Indian lands were reduced and the first white settlers were Proslavery Missourians who were quickly replaced by Free Staters from Indiana, Ohio and the other western states. Farmsteads were initially the most common form of settlement. Military companies for both sides quickly developed and the running battles spread throughout the county. **Free State** leaders connected with **John Brown** and some Free Staters became **Abolitionists** as their own stances hardened. These Free Staters wanted to contain the spread of slavery. After their conversion they began actively assisting Freedom Seekers and raiding into Missouri to liberate Slaves. These Freedom Seekers were routed through the area as part of the **Underground Railroad** on their way to safety. Linn County was also the site of the “**Marais des Cygnes Massacre**” where a group of eleven Free Staters were shot by Proslavery forces. This event was commemorated in the poem by John Greenleaf Whittier and served to further harden the lines between North and South.

During the Civil War Linn County was the site of Kansas only official battle at **Mine Creek**. Here the largest frontal cavalry charge of the war took place on the tenth anniversary of the charge of the Light Brigade. Tactics developed in this battle are still taught at the Command and General Staff College to both American and foreign officers.

Towns include Trading Post, Mound City and Pleasanton.

MIAMI: Part of the Osage Cuestas Region.

Thematically tied to Native American, African American, Free State, Proslavery, Kansas Conflict,

and Civil War. Other themes include Underground Railroad, John Brown.

Originally Miami County was mostly prairie with hardwood forests along the rivers and streams. Part of the Osage lands until **Shawnee, Potawatomi, Piankishaw, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea and Miami Indians were relocated in the Permanent Indian Frontier**. With the opening of the Territory Indian lands were reduced until the last Tribes left after the Civil War. The county was originally named Lykins in honor of Reverend David Lykins. In 1861 the name was changed to Miami in honor of the Tribe. Rev. Lykins left the area at about the same time due to his Proslavery politics. It was in the 1850's that the River formerly known as the “Osage”(a name it retains in Missouri) became known as the “Marais des Cygnes”. It appears that both name changes were attempts to differentiate Kansas from Missouri.

The first community was **Miami, which** no longer exists. It was established as a mission and Indian Agency. Not far from this old community is the scene of a new controversy as Oklahoma members of the **Miami Tribe** sued for the return of lands illegally taken by whites. The Miami wanted to establish a Bingo Parlor but have so far been stopped through legal action by the State of Kansas.

Osawatomie developed when a group of Quakers stopped at the town site and gave up their interests to a party from the **New England Emigrant Aid Society** when assured the settlement would be **Free State** and **Antislavery** in political orientation. This settlement became home to the Reverend Samuel Adair and his wife, the sister of John Brown. These graduates of Oberlin

College came specifically to see Kansas become a Free State, as did other Oberlin alumni. One of the things that makes the situation in Kansas unique is the convergence of a number of diverse groups with a specific political agenda, either seeking to expand or restrict the number of Slave states. The East in particular saw it as both a holy crusade and a direct tie to their Pilgrim past. An example of this is the “**Song of the Kansas Immigrant**”...”We cross the Prairies as of old our fathers crossed the sea, to make the West as they the East, the homestead of the Free...” Another thing making the situation in Kansas unique and volatile was the sense of desperation both sides felt. In Kansas this desperation turned violent and spilled over to become the Civil War.

In answer to Osawatomie the community of **Paola** was founded by **Proslavery** Missourians. Paola became the county seat and would modify its political views as it became clear Kansas was lost to the Proslavery cause. It also became home to the first oil well west of the Mississippi in 1860. The development of this venture demonstrates how things changed. The primary developer of this project was G.W. Brown, the former editor of “The Herald of Freedom” a Free State publication from Lawrence. Most of the financial backers of the venture were Southerners. Brown had visited Pennsylvania where an oil boom was taking place and remembered hearing stories of oil springs in Kansas. Before significant production could take place the Civil War broke out and the Southern investors returned to the South. During the Civil War Paola served as a headquarters and a garrison site.

Towns include Osawatomie, Paola, and Louisburg.

NEOSHO: Part of the Osage Cuestas Region.

Thematically tied to Native Americans, Mexican Americans. Additional themes include Asians, Land Use Reform.

Neosho County adjoins Allen, Crawford, Labette, Wilson and Bourbon Counties. Home of the **Osage** Indians and later the **Osage Mission** station established by the Jesuits in 1847. The Osage settled near the rivers and streams and Osage Mission grew into the city of Saint Paul and served as a hub for establishing other missions through the region. The missionaries were followed by farmers who cleared out much of the timber and planted crops. Like the rest of the region Neosho County suffered through the grasshoppers, droughts and floods. Over tillage resulted in erosion and the loss of soil productivity requiring more intensive use of fertilizers. Over the years small family farms have been especially hard hit and have gradually been replaced by larger corporate farms. Mexican labor was initially brought in on a seasonal basis but is now staying settled along with new refugees from Vietnam. Both of these groups have had to adapt to the “mainstream” society. Asians have also come in and purchased some of the remaining small farms with extra capital. In 2004 there appears to be a cultural exchange going on and both the mainstream and the newcomers are learning from each other. Some former croplands are diverted to wildlife preservation and others have become involved with the Land Institute focusing on more sustainable farming in a prairie ecosystem.

Towns include Erie and Chanute.

CHEROKEE LOWLANDS REGION AND OZARK PLATEAU

CHEROKEE: linked topographically with other counties in the Cherokee Lowlands Region. Portions of this county are also part of the Ozark Plateau Region. Local minerals included lead and zinc along with mineral springs.

Thematically linked with Native American, African American, and Civil War. Additional perspectives or themes include Mining, European Immigrants and Labor. Cherokee County was part of the Osage lands until 1826. It became part of the Cherokee Neutral Lands and part of the Quapaw Strip. By 1862 **Baxter Springs** became a center for settlement and an outpost on the military road between Fort Leavenworth and Fort Gibson. In 1863 this was to be the site of the Baxter Springs Massacre and involve elements of the Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry and the escort for General James Blunt attacked by elements of Quantrill's Confederate Guerillas. For the men of the Kansas Colored Infantry there was no doubt as to their fate if they lost. They had to win or die. Blunt's escort was fooled by Quantrill's use of federal uniforms and were soon massacred while the Colored Infantry did what it could from its defensive positions. Baxter Springs was Kansas first cow town and would later become important with the coal and lead mining in the region. After the War a number of **Exodusters** settled in the "**Singleton Colony**" where they farmed and later found work in the towns and coalmines with immigrants from Eastern Europe. Eventually the mine tailings and shafts produced pollution as the waste leached into groundwater and soils.

Towns include Columbus, Baxter Springs and West Mineral.

FLINT HILLS REGION

CLAY: Topographically linked with Geary, Pottawatomie, Riley and Wabaunsee counties in the Flint Hills Region. This region has tall grass prairie and is mostly used for pasture.

Thematically linked to Native Americans. Additional themes include European immigrants. Clay County was initially part of the Kansa hunting lands. With the removal of the Kansa to their Reservation in Morris County the area was occupied by the. Some small settlement occurred in the 1850's but the area received more attention when a colony of English came in 1869. These English would concentrate on town building at **Wakefield**. One of the most interesting groups of English colonists was a party of **orphan boys** between 16 and 19 years old. This group appeared to be the predecessors of the **Orphan Trains** that would later bring orphans out to the West for placement. Initially sod homes were most common in the county but later construction was often of stone. Timber was only found along the rivers and creeks and was often conserved due to its scarcity. New tools encouraged cultivation but the ground was mostly kept in grasses except for small areas for local needs. A series of droughts interspersed with floods and the grasshopper plague affected farming initially. Later lands were put in corn and wheat and the communities prospered.

Towns include Clay Center and Wakefield

GEARY: Part of the Flint Hills Region.

Thematically linked to Native Americans, Free State. Additional themes include Military/Government.

Geary County was home to a **Free State** Community of **Pawnee**. This town is also claimed by Riley County, as is the military post at **Fort Riley**. Fort Riley played a role in the 1850's as it shut down the Free State legislature in Topeka. Several attempts to form towns between 1855 and 1857 failed before Junction City was established. At that time (1857) the county was known as **Davis County**. Named for **Jefferson Davis**, at that time Secretary of the War Department the name proved so unpopular that several attempts were made to change the name. In 1889 the county officially changed its name to Geary. From the 1850's through the 1880's Fort Riley provided troops for **campaigns against the Plains Tribes** such as the Cheyenne, Plains Apache, Kiowa and Comanche. For a time the "**Buffalo Soldiers**" were stationed at Fort Riley and experienced the same difficulties they had elsewhere.

Towns include Junction City.

RILEY: Part of the Flint Hills Region.

Thematically tied to Native Americans, African Americans, Free State, Kansas Conflict and the Military and Government Role in the Conflict.

Riley County adjoins the Kansas River, which proved both a blessing and a bane as it did further downstream. Much of the land has remained as prairie and grassland except along the rivers and streams. Traditionally **Kansa** land until their removal. **Fort Riley** was established in 1853 and served as the Horse Cavalry School through 1943. The post is still in use in 2004. **Free State communities** were established in 1854

and provided the roots for what would become **Manhattan** when **Canton, Poliska and Boston** merged. Pawnee was established as the county seat and site of the first territorial legislature. The town was found to be on the grounds of the Fort and was destroyed by the military in 1855. Troops from Fort Riley were important in patrolling the Free State and Proslavery communities to minimize violence. Troops under Colonel E.V. Sumner disbanded the Free State legislature at Topeka. Towns grew up along the waterways and roads to the Kansas Gold Fields (Colorado) were established. Floods in 1856 were followed by the drought of 1859, which severely impacted the region. **Bluemont College**, today's Kansas State University, was given to the state in 1863 and became a Land Grant College. In 1865 a dam was built which was washed out in the Flood of 1866. In 1867 another dam was constructed which was destroyed by a flood in the 1880's.

The persistence of Kansans is demonstrated by **Bala**. In 1870 a Welsh settlement was established at Powys. When insufficient water was available the town moved two miles East and was renamed Bala. The new town survived the grasshopper plague of the 1870's. In 1887 the railroad built a depot at Bala City (1 mile South and 1 mile West) and most of Bala moved to Bala City.

The **Konza Research Prairie** managed by Kansas State University is an important source researching and working with the prairie ecosystem to understand the past and present as well as look towards the future.

Towns include Manhattan and Fort Riley.

WABAUNSEE: Part of the Flint Hills Region.

Thematically linked to Native Americans, African Americans, Free State, Underground Railroad and the Kansas Conflict.

Historically Wabaunsee County was occupied by the Kansa before their removal. Remnants of prehistoric villages indicate the area was initially settled between. Located, like the Tribal settlements near the river, **Alma** was founded as a **German** and German-American **colony** in 1857. This colony became the county seat and controlled local and county politics. It also provided a springboard for other German agricultural settlements over the years. **Wabaunsee** was a **Free State** settlement and had a number of sites connected with the **Underground Railroad**. After the Civil War a **Freedmen's** colony with a unique heritage came to the county. This colony was composed of former slaves from the plantation belonging to the family of **Jefferson Davis**, former President of the Confederacy.

Towns include Wabaunsee and Alma.

CHAUTAUQUA HILLS REGION

WILSON: Part of the Chautauqua Hills Region with Woodson County. This area is heavily underlain with sandstone and is mostly used for pasture.

Thematically linked with Native Americans, Free State, and Civil War.

Wilson County has some water resources with the Verdigris River but the underlying sandstone in the West and thin soils in the East do not provide as good a base for crop agriculture. In the 1850's much of the western part was in Black Jack Oak, which was cut out. Recently this area has begun a

reforestation project. Until 1868 this was home to the **Osage** although some whites settled nearby.

Mainly settled by Civil War veterans Wilson County had some agriculture early on in the river bottoms, but the uplands thin soil proved better for cattle grazing and livestock production. Under state and federal programs a number of trees were planted from the 1880's on. **Neodesha** was the site of Norman #1, the first commercial oil well west of the Mississippi and has continued involvement with oil and gas production to the present. In 2004 a number of leases have been taken out for new methane gas production along the old coal and oil fields. Local farms are still producing crops and livestock but hunting outfitters based in Wichita and Kansas City metropolitan areas are now leasing hunting rights for their customers and a new business is developing based on commercial recreation.

Towns include Fredonia and Neodesha.

WOODSON: Part of the Chautauqua Hills Region.

Thematically tied to Native Americans, Free State. The earliest known occupants of the region were **Kansas City Hopewell Culture** from 200BC to 500 AD. The Hopewell were related to the Mound builders of Cahokia and Ohio. Historically the Osage occupied the area but **Wichita, Sac and Fox** and later **Pawnee** and **Seminole** roved the area but did not have permanent settlements. Although officially designated part of the New York Indian Lands they never occupied the area as they refused to be relocated. In 1855 some Free State settlers began occupying the county. In 1856 and 1857 **German colonists** arrived to reinforce

the **Free Staters**. In 1861 **Opothleyahola's** Refugees came into the area and settled here and in the neighboring areas. In 1863 a unit of **Osage Indians was sent to protect the white settlers from Confederate Indians**. With the coming of the railroad in 1870 settlement picked up only to have the financial panic of 1873 hit, followed by the grasshoppers in 1874. Some people who could afford to left. Others tightened their belts and held on because they felt they had no other options but to hold on. Cattle ranchers rebuilt along with the farmers. Things got better with oil and gas boom but the drought of the 1930's affected the farmers who received some help from the **Agricultural Adjustment Act** in 1933 and with the establishment of the **Soil Erosion Service** (later known as the **Soil Conservation Service**). A number of farms were abandoned due to the lack of water and nature reclaimed what had been disturbed by man. Instead of returning to prairie a number of these sites were taken over by scrub brush and trees. Elements of the **Civilian Conservation Corps** came in and taught local farmers newer techniques for farming while protecting the soil. The Works Progress Administration also played a role as locals were hired to work on community projects, which could assist with conservation. A number of lakes were created by the WPA and remain in service today.