

# The Central Portion

## OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL

TWO-THIRDS OF THE ENTIRE TRAIL can be found in present-day Kansas. Unlike today, though, the trail to Santa Fe did not follow paved highways, because there were none. Ahead lay the vast, open prairie. Towns and other settlements, like those in Missouri and on the east coast, were few and far between.

The natural landscape changed as well. Upon leaving the eastern portion of the trail, freighters entered a land of grass, few trees, and smaller streams. The further west the travelers went, the drier the land. This land, however, was rich with wildlife. There were areas where herds of buffalo roamed, which supplied much-needed meat for the travelers' survival.

Although the land was new and unexplored to the

freighters of Missouri, the land of the central portion was not empty: it had already been crossed by native peoples and even traveled by European explorers. In many places, the trail actually followed ancient Indian trade and hunting trails.

At one time, most of the land the Santa Fe Trail passed through was considered Indian Territory. Traders traveled in larger groups through this part of the Trail for protection against raids by some tribes of American Indians, to whom the **caravans** of wagons appeared as intruders. Eventually, treaties between the U.S. government and various tribes of American Indians were signed to allow safe passage of the wagons. These efforts, along with the continued growth of trade along the trail, encouraged more people—whether they were fortune-seekers or settlers—to move west.



# COUNCIL GROVE

## KANSAS

CENTRAL PORTION



Madonna Park is located at the intersection of KS 177 and US 56 highways. The town of Council Grove has many historic sites related to the Santa Fe Trail. You can pick up a self-guiding tour map at two different locations at: Kaw Mission (see Side Trip below) or the Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism located at 225 Velie, Council Grove, Kansas 66846, (620) 767-5041. Kaw Mission State Historic Site is located at 500 North Mission, Council Grove, Kansas 66846, (620) 767-5410.

IN 1825, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT and the Osage Indians signed a **treaty** allowing Santa Fe Trail wagons to cross Indian land. The treaty was signed near the Neosho River. Major **George Sibley** named the grove of trees where the treaty was signed Council Grove.

The location became an important **rendezvous** point on the Santa Fe Trail. This was the last place that the **caravans** could get hard wood to repair heavy ox yokes, wheel parts, and tongues of wagons. It also had a good supply of water. Most traders would stay in this area until there were enough wagons gathered together to form a wagon train that could defend itself. The men would elect a **wagon master** for the train and start the long journey.

In this park is a statue placed by the DAR (**Daughters of**

**the American Revolution**) in 1928. This park is part of the old campground. The Santa Fe Trail was a merchant trail and not an emigrant trail, so few women and children traveled it. However, the Madonna of the Trail monument shows the strength and courage of women and children who traveled westward.

By 1857, two merchants, **Seth Hays** and **Malcolm Conn**, had set up businesses in this area to sell merchandise to the Kaw Indians living on the reservation and to travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. This led to more people settling in this area and the town of Council Grove was begun. Conn and Hays, like many other early settlers of Council Grove, are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery on the west side of town.

Visit the Kaw Mission: **see Page 52**



# TAKE THE NEOSHO RIVER WALK

When the wagon trains gathered in this area there was no town or highways. Once they were ready to leave, they would slowly cross the Neosho River north of this present-day walking bridge and head southwest to Santa Fe.

**1** Often you can see ripples in the water where the flat rock bottom of the river made it easier for the heavy wagons to cross.

a. Can you see the ripples today? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Why would a rock bottom like this one make river crossing easier? \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Life in Council Grove is much different today than it was in the days of the Trail. Use your imagination to take you back to a time when the trade on the Trail was at its height. It is early in the morning and the sun is just coming up. Your wagon train is forming. The oxen and mules are being hitched up. All of a sudden the leader shouts "Catch up!" and all two hundred men, numerous wagons, and animals begin to move west across the river. Sketch what you might have seen. Use thought bubbles to express the thoughts of the traders, bullwhackers, and even the oxen!





# LOST SPRING SITE

## KANSAS

CENTRAL PORTION



TRAVELING FROM COUNCIL GROVE ON HWY 56, turn right (west) onto 340th Road near the town of Lost Springs (340th Road). Continue through the town for 2 ½ miles west to the Lost Spring Site. COMING FROM THE SOUTH ON U.S. HIGHWAY 56, turn left (west) onto 340th Road near the town of Lost Springs. Continue through the town and go 2 ½ miles west to the Lost Spring Site.

IN GOOD CONDITIONS WAGON TRAINS on the Santa Fe Trail could travel from 12 to 15 miles per day. Scouts rode ahead of the caravans looking for camping areas that could supply water for people and animals. They also tried to find an area that had grass for the oxen and horses to eat. In addition they needed a spot that would be easy to defend from Indian attack. One such campground was Lost Spring Site. This place was two days travel from Council Grove. This place was named Lost Spring because the spring occasionally dried up and disappeared.

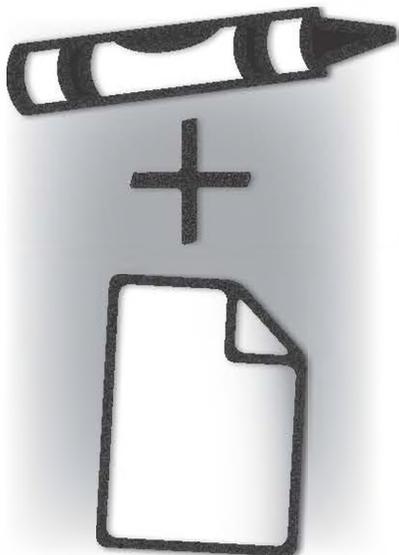
Food along the trail could become scarce. Traders usually brought dried beans, coffee, hardtack, and jerky with them. They also would buy a food called **pemmican** from the traders at Council Grove. However, their diet usually lacked fresh fruits and vegetables. Because of this, travelers on the trail often developed a disease called **scurvy**. In the late 1840s, watercress and strawberry plants were planted around this spring by the U.S. Army. Travelers and soldiers were encouraged to eat these to keep them healthy.

By the 1840s, a monthly stagecoach service began from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe. The stages hauled mostly mail but could also carry up to nine passengers. Some rode in the stagecoach and a few on top with the driver and guards. The cost of the journey was \$150. The trip to Santa Fe took as long as thirty days. The stagecoaches often ran day and night, stopping only to change horses, drivers, and provide the passengers with meals.

The need for stage stations that supplied extra horses, a place for drivers to stay, and food for the passengers led to settlers moving into the area. Eventually corrals, taverns, and blacksmith shops were built. By 1859, George Smith had built not only a stage station, but also a hotel and tavern at the Lost Spring site.

At this site you will find a marker and a sign describing Lost Spring. You may go through the gate, but be sure to shut it. Once you enter the property, walk northwest to the actual spring.

# IMAGES FROM THE PAST



1

*Have you ever made a stone rubbing? If you are careful, this is a great way to make a memento of a marker, monument, or gravestone.*

- a. Remove the paper wrapper from a crayon. Throw the wrapper in the trash; don't drop it on the ground.
- b. Place a blank piece of paper against the writing or carved drawing on the marker.
- c. Using the flat side of a crayon (not the point) gently rub the long side of your crayon across the paper.
- d. Be careful not to get crayon on the marker itself.
- e. The outline of the words will begin to appear on your paper.
- f. Label your rubbing—Lost Spring Site, add your name, and today's date.
- g. Place the paper in the pocket of your folder.

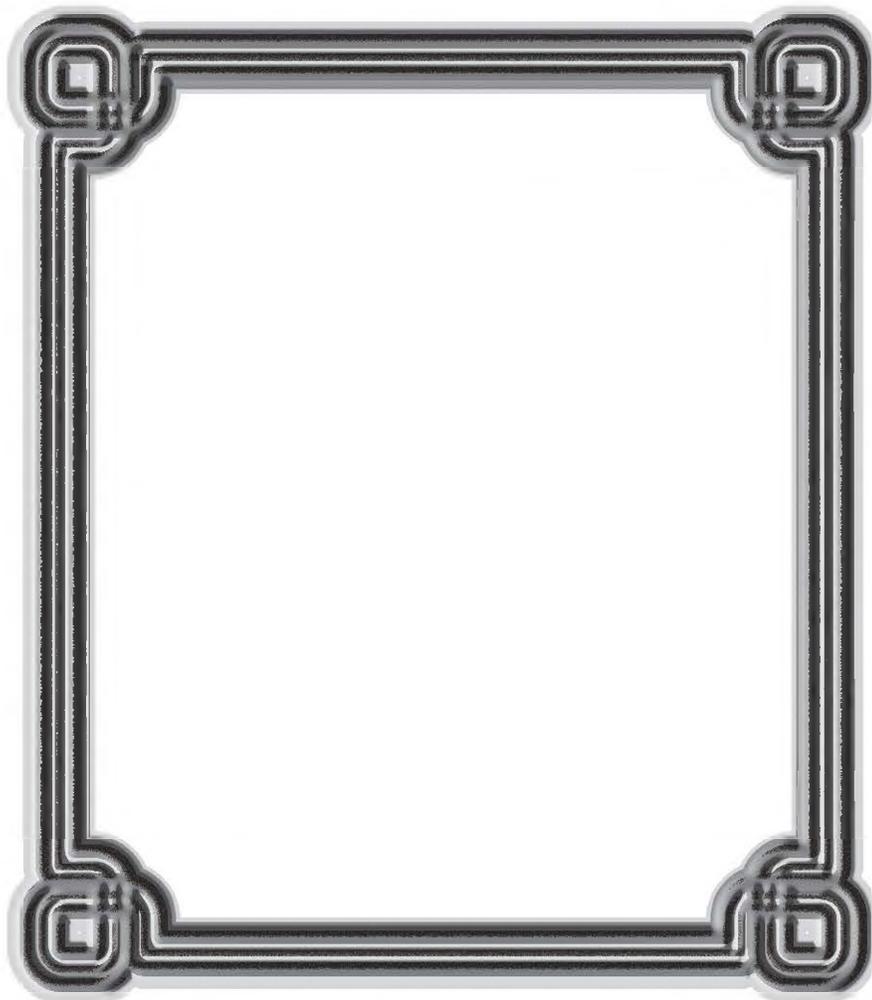
2

*Read the article below. Create a picture of riders in a stagecoach illustrating good manners.*

## STAGECOACH MANNERS FOR PASSENGERS

FROM THE  
*Omaha Herald*  
OF 1877

- ▶ Swearing or sleeping on your neighbor's shoulders is not allowed.
- ▶ If the team of horses runs away, sit in the coach, or be seriously injured by jumping out.
- ▶ Do not point out spots where murders had occurred especially when delicate passengers are aboard.
- ▶ Do not grease your hair as dust will stick to it.





# COTTONWOOD RIVER CROSSING

## KANSAS

CENTRAL PORTION



Continue west on Road 340 for approximately 13 miles until reaching KS Highway 15. Turn left, or south, onto Hwy 15; go approximately 5 miles to Durham; turn right and go to Main Street. At the south end of Main Street there is a Santa Fe Trail Auto Route sign; turn west. It is about ½ mile to the crossing. You can pick up an auto tour map in the box beside the marker for Cottonwood area.

WHEN WAGONS REACHED RIVERS OR streams would they cross before nightfall or wait until morning? How would you find the answer to this and other questions?

The answers can be found in the journals and books written by people who traveled the Trail. **Josiah Gregg** was one of those travelers. In his book, *Commerce of the Prairies*, Gregg explains the reason why most caravans crossed rivers and streams before camping. If it rained upstream or at the site during the night the stream might become flooded and the banks too slippery to go down. Then the wagon train would be delayed, maybe several days. Another reason to cross when they arrived was that oxen rarely pulled as well in “cold collars.” If they had been pulling the wagons all day they would not fight crossing the water in the evening. If they waited until the next morning, the well-rested oxen often rebelled and would not pull across the water.

**Susan Magoffin** was another trail traveler who kept a journal of her travels. Her journal was also published as a book, *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico*. In the

book, Magoffin describes the troubles her **caravan** had in crossing Cottonwood Creek.

On June 25, 1846, Magoffin wrote, “We found the colonel in a sad predicament indeed. He had one wagon **fast** in a mud hole with the tongue twisted off, and the others so much disabled he could not move them.” Magoffin also mentioned a natural corral for animals formed by the bend in the creek at this spot.

Cottonwood Creek soon became an important camping spot on the Trail. As the travelers went west from here they would seldom find wood for fires or wagon repairs and there was more danger of Indian attacks. However, during the next stage of the trip, they saw buffalo.

You will notice a red granite engraved stone here. There are several of these red granite markers in many sites along the Santa Fe Trail. Perhaps you have already seen one of them. Years ago the DAR (**Daughters of the American Revolution**) made it a project to mark the Santa Fe Trail so that people would never forget its importance.

# TRAVELERS & TALES

1

*The exhibits at this site were made possible through the efforts of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. The association works hard to protect and preserve local places related to the Santa Fe Trail. You will learn more about the trail by reading the exhibits. Using the map shown on these exhibits, estimate how far the traders have gone of their 900-mile trip to Santa Fe.*

- a. Have they traveled one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ), one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ), or one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the way to Santa Fe? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How many miles have they traveled so far? \_\_\_\_\_

2

*The exhibits have Susan Magoffin's description of crossing Cottonwood Creek. Write what Magoffin said about this event.*

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3

*Magoffin writes about a "yoke of oxen." Study the picture and explain the phrase "yoke of oxen."*

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4

*Based on Magoffin's diary, how many animals were needed to pull the wagon across the Cottonwood Creek?*

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# CHISHOLM TRAIL CROSSING

## KANSAS

CENTRAL PORTION



From Cottonwood Crossing return to KS Hwy 15 and proceed south (right). Approximately 10 miles later, turn west (right) at the intersection of KS-15 and US 56. Approximately eight miles west of this intersection you will cross the Marion/McPherson county line. A few yards north of this point is a stone marker depicting the locations of the Santa Fe Trail and the Chisholm Trail.

FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS, MERCHANDISE was carried back and forth between Missouri and Mexico along the Santa Fe Trail. For most of these years, oxen were used to pull the heavily loaded wagons. As time passed, railroads were built west.

One of these, the **Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad** (AT&SF) followed the route of the Santa Fe Trail. In places, the rails of the railroad were laid directly on top of the wagon ruts. As the railroad progressed towards Santa Fe, the **jumping-off point** of the Trail moved along with the laying of the track.

Merchants traveling the Santa Fe Trail would ship their goods by train to the last town on the line (railheads), then freighters loaded their wagons and continued the trip to Santa Fe.

This meant the distance actually traveled by wagons became shorter and shorter. It was faster and cheaper to haul freight by rail than wagon

because one locomotive could pull freight cars holding the cargo of many large wagons.

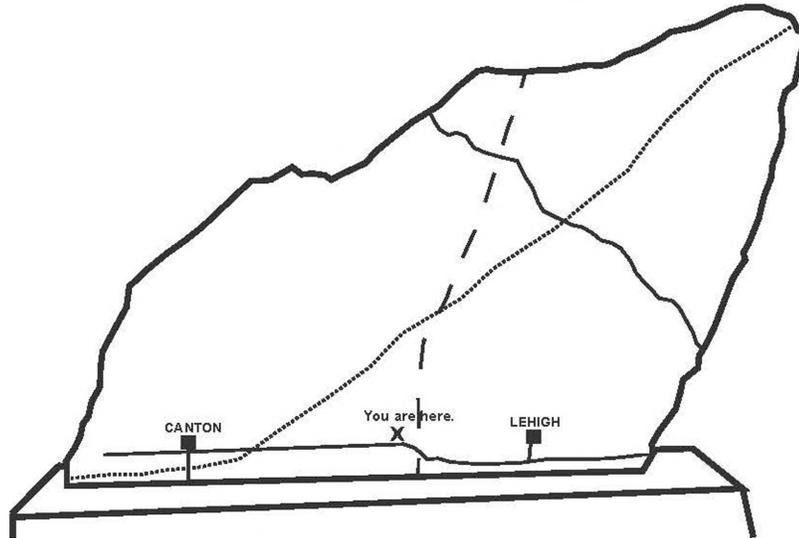
The railroads not only shortened the distance the freighters traveled but also brought settlers to the area. Railroads were also responsible for bringing thousands of head of longhorn cattle into Kansas.

After the Civil War, there was a great demand for meat in the eastern parts of the United States. Texas cattlemen found a way to sell their cattle at great profits by driving them to the railheads in Kansas where the cattle were loaded onto trains.

The longhorn cattle were taken to markets in the East to be sold. One of the trails used to drive the cattle to the railhead in Kansas was the Chisholm Trail. This marker shows where the Chisholm Trail crossed the Santa Fe Trail on its way to the railhead of Abilene. Both were important economic trails.



# SING ALONG



CENTRAL PORTION

1

On the drawing of the marker, label the trails and the river that both trails crossed. Be sure to include the dates of both trails.

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2

The Chisholm Trail is one of the most well-known of all the cattle trails because of a song "The Old Chisholm Trail," which became a favorite of cowboys who rode herd on the cattle. Experts say there are well over 1,000 verses to this song which began:

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Come along boys and listen to my tale,  
I'll tell you of my troubles on the old  
Chisholm Trail.

Come a ti yi yippee,  
yippee yea, yippee yea

Come a ti yi yippee,  
yippee yea, yippee yea!




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Using what you know about the Santa Fe Trail, write the words to a song that describes that trail.

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# WAGON MASTER

## C · H · A · L · L · E · N · G · E

Decode the message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

\_\_\_\_\_

(1+8)      (6+6) (10+5) (11+11) (3+2)      (10+10) (2+2+4) (3+2)

\_\_\_\_\_

(20-1) (10-9) (7+7) (10+10) (3-2)      (2+3+1) (2+3)

\_\_\_\_\_

(10+10) (9+9) (10-9) (12-3) (15-3)

# WAGON MASTER

## C · H · A · L · L · E · N · G · E

The Santa Fe Trail covers more miles of Kansas than any other state. Study the Kansas State Seal, then list the items pictured in the Seal that relate to the Trail.



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# CORONADO- QUIVIRA MUSEUM

..... LYONS, KANSAS .....

CENTRAL PORTION



Lyons, Kansas, is located on US Hwy 56. To reach the Coronado-Quivira Museum, turn south on Grand Avenue, go to Lyon Street and turn west (right).  
105 West Lyon, Lyons, Kansas 67554  
(620) 257-3941

ONE OF THE GROUPS OF American Indians living in this area for years prior to the Santa Fe Trail were the **Quivira** (Wichita) Indians. There were several thousand living in this area. They lived in grass huts and were farmers. They followed the ancient trails as they traded their corn and other crops with Indians to the west who hunted buffalo.

Almost three hundred years before **William Becknell** began trading with the Mexicans in Santa Fe, a Spanish **conquistador** and his men traveled along the same Indian hunting and trading trails. **Francisco Vásquez de Coronado** was the Spaniard searching for the Seven Cities of Gold. He traveled from Mexico into the area that is known today as Kansas. He didn't find the Cities of Gold but he did find **Quivira** (Wichita) Indians living in grass huts. Imagine how disappointed he would have been as he returned to Mexico a failure.

Years later, the American traders from Missouri followed

nearly the same route as Coronado to trade with the people of the newly formed country of Mexico. As the traders passed through this area, they did not see the grass huts of the Quiviran Indians that Coronado had seen. These Indians had moved further south long before the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail. However, the Trail did pass through lands of many other American Indians.

The Coronado-Quivira Museum has many items from the three cultures—Indians, Spanish, and American traders. You will see a model of a grass lodge in which the Quivira Indians lived. You will also see **chain mail** and other artifacts believed to have belonged to Coronado or his men. Don't worry, though, the Santa Fe Trail has not been forgotten in this museum. Look for the display cases that show artifacts believed to have been from the Plum Buttes Massacre, a nearby site where Indians attacked a wagon train, killed some of the members, and burned the wagons.

Cow Creek Station Historical Marker  
& Father Padilla Cross: see Page 52



# THREE CULTURES

1

*This museum has displays that illustrate the three cultures that made an impact on this area. What are the three cultures?*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

2

*Ask the museum personnel if you may try on the Spanish helmet. Have someone take a picture of you in the helmet or if you don't have a camera, draw a picture of yourself wearing the helmet. Label the picture "Me in a Conquistador helmet." Date the picture and put it in your folder. If you don't have a camera, you can draw the helmet.*

- a. What did the helmet feel like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Would you have liked to wear this as you traveled by horse or walked across the prairie in the hot summer days? \_\_\_\_\_

3

*Use this Venn Diagram to compare the three cultures in method of transportation, tools, clothing, and occupations. The word bank to the right may help you finish this project.*

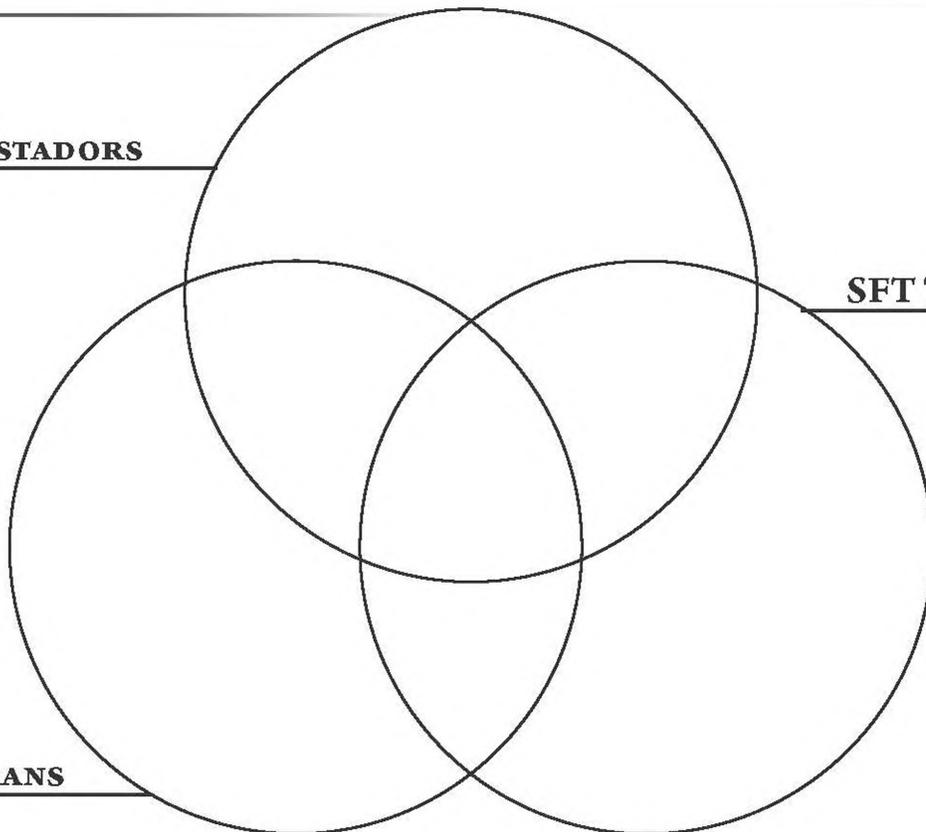
- |                      |              |             |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| horse                | merchants    | oxen        |
| made of animal parts | dog          | animal hide |
| farmers              | cotton cloth | farmers     |
| metal                | soldiers     | wagon       |

CENTRAL PORTION

**CONQUISTADORS**

**SFT TRADERS**

**QUIVIRANS**





# RALPH'S RUTS & PLUM BUTTES

NEAR CHASE, KS

CENTRAL PORTION



15 miles west of Lyons on Hwy 56, turn north on 4th Road. The ruts are one mile north and on the east side of the road. This is known as Ralph's Ruts. Stop here to visit the ruts then continue to Plum Buttes which is northwest of the ruts. To get there, continue north on 4th Road to the next intersection (Avenue L) turn left (west). Look up the road and to the left. You will see an example of a **notch**. Travel west to the next intersection turn south (left) and return to U.S. Highway 56. 422 Avenue L, Chase, Kansas 67524.

RALPH'S RUTS IS THE NAME given to an outstanding example of preserved Santa Fe Trail ruts. Ralph Hathaway was a long time caretaker of Santa Fe Trail ruts and Plum Buttes, which are on land originally settled by his grandfather. There are several distinct ruts running parallel east and west through the pasture. When Ralph's grandfather **broke the sod** on this farm he found several things: a pistol, a watch, and many pieces of hardware from burned wagons. Other artifacts that were found later were broken bits of ironstone china and a few large caliber bullets. You may have seen some of these items at the Coronado-Quivira Museum.

About one mile east of here was the location of a massacre led by Charley Bent, (son of Santa Fe Trail trader, William Bent and his Cheyenne wife). Charley Bent and his followers who were mostly Cheyenne, attacked a single column wagon **caravan** in 1867. He and his fellow renegades cut off the last four wagons, killing members of the family of **Franz Huning**. Huning was escorting his mother-in-law and her son to New Mexico. Knowing that there was danger of Indian attack, Huning

had requested a military escort from the **Buffalo Soldiers** stationed at the Little Arkansas Crossing before traveling through this area. This request had been denied. After the attack, Huning went to **Fort Zarah** for help. There were no soldiers in the camp, but two civilian scouts went back to the site with him. Not only had the family and one of the **teamsters** been killed, but the prairie had been set on fire preventing the rest of the wagon train from returning to help.

After visiting Ralph's Ruts, drive to the top of the hill beside the **notch**. The notch was probably formed as many wagons passed through the sand at the top of the hill. Look to the north (right). At one time you would have been able to see three large hills made of sand known as "Plum **Buttes**." Plum bushes once covered these hills. Now you have to use your imagination because the wind has eroded away the hills. During trail days, the hills were nearly 100 feet high. Historians call the Indian attack on the Huning family the Plum Buttes massacre because the wagons were near their lunch stop which would have been at Plum Buttes. Even though there was no firewood on the buttes, wagon trains usually stopped here for lunch.





# PAWNEE ROCK STATE MONUMENT

## PAWNEE ROCK, KANSAS

CENTRAL PORTION



The Pawnee Rock State Monument is located six miles west of Larned, Kansas, on Hwy 156. Turn right (north) at the sign in the center of town. Go approximately ½ mile; the site is on the left.

PAWNEE ROCK IS THE MOST famous natural **landmark** on the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas. Most historians believe this natural landmark was a sacred ground for the Pawnee Indians. They may have held tribal councils on the flat top of the rock. This was also the location of battles between the Pawnee and other tribes including the Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Arapaho.

For those reasons, freighters on the trail considered it one of the most dangerous places on the trail. Plains Indians often used the high point as a place from which to watch buffalo herds, wagon trains, and soldiers as they crossed the prairie. Pawnee Rock is located approximately half way between **Fort Zarah** to the east and Fort Larned to the west. For years visitors could see hundreds of names carved into the soft sandstone of the rock. At one time this landmark rose above the prairie 150 feet. In modern times, the rock was **quarried** for building materials for houses and the railroad, removing 20-30 feet of its original height. The stone pavilion which is on the top of the landmark now was built to give an idea of the height of the rock during the days of the Trail.

**Marion Sloan (Russell)**, who was seven years old when she first traveled the Trail, told of an Indian raid at Pawnee Rock. Marion, her brother, and mother had



joined the wagon train at **Fort Leavenworth**. This train combined with a government wagon train at the fort making for a safer trip. At Pawnee Rock, the wagon train circled for the night. A double guard was posted to watch the herd of two hundred Army horses as they grazed. The horses were to be delivered to Fort Union, further down the trail. During the night Indians stampeded the horses. **Captain Francis Aubry**, head of the wagon train, refused to continue the trip until the horses had been replaced. Men were sent back to Fort Leavenworth to gather more horses. The entire train camped for two weeks at Pawnee Rock until the men and horses returned.

Another famed traveler of the Santa Fe Trail was eighteen year-old **Susan Magoffin**. She traveled the Trail in 1844 with her husband, James Magoffin, a Santa Fe trader. At the Ash Creek crossing near here, Susan's carriage overturned as she attempted to cross the creek. Injuries from this accident caused her to lose her baby later along the trail at Bent's Fort. Her diary became the basis of a book, *Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico*.

# PAWNEE ROCK POETRY



1

Drive to the top of the rock. Look at the monument. Right in the middle there is a carving of an Indian, and on the other side is a buffalo.

a. Draw these carvings on the outline of the monument.

b. Why would these two pictures be related to the Santa Fe Trail? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2

While standing on the pavilion, gaze across the land. Let your imagination take you back to the time of the Pawnee as they hunted buffalo. At the same time, Santa Fe Trail wagon trains were winding their way across the prairie. Imagine that you are sitting on this landmark more than 150 years ago, write your thoughts into a cinquain, a type of poem. A cinquain is a five-line poem using a particular word pattern:

**LINE 1** one word subject (noun or name)

**LINE 2** two adjectives describing the subject

**LINE 3** three verbs describing actions of the subject

**LINE 4** four words providing a descriptive feeling or opinion about the subject

**LINE 5** another name for the subject

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sibley's Camp, Larned, KS:  
see Page 53



CENTRAL PORTION



# SANTA FE TRAIL CENTER

..... WEST OF LARNED, KANSAS .....

CENTRAL PORTION



Traveling west from Pawnee Rock on US Hwy 56, you will come to a four-way stop in Larned. Continue west on KS Hwy 156 for two and ½ miles to the center.

1349 KS Hwy 156, Larned, Kansas 67550  
(620) 285-2054

THE SANTA FE TRAIL CENTER Museum and Research Library is the headquarters of the Santa Fe Trail Association. The Association is composed of people who are interested in the history and preservation of the Santa Fe Trail. Surrounding the museum are examples of pioneer life that grew out of the Trail itself. You can see a sod house, dugout, one-room school house, Santa Fe Railroad **depot**, windmill, and an African American church. The museum shows that the Santa Fe Trail was not a one-way trail. American traders moved **goods** to Mexico and brought different items back to Missouri. Merchants from Mexico were traveling east to Missouri to sell their goods. This made the Trail an **international** road.

Then these wealthy Mexican merchants often traveled by steamboat to the East (to Philadelphia or New York)

where they would purchase items for their stores in Santa Fe. Sometimes they brought their children with them and left them at boarding schools in the East. The goods the Mexicans purchased were sent back to Missouri by steamboat. There they were loaded onto freight wagons where they began the trip over the Santa Fe Trail to Santa Fe. Some merchants sent a portion of their goods further south to Chihuahua, Mexico, and their other stores.

By 1830, most of the traders going to Chihuahua were Mexican. In the 1840s, there were more Mexican traders on the Santa Fe Trail than American merchants. One of these important Mexican merchants was **Don Antonio José Chávez**. This wealthy merchant was attacked by bandits on a creek not too far from here. He was killed, and his silver and supplies were stolen.

## CARTS & CARRETAS

Look at the exhibit of the Mexican *carreta* (cart) and read about the Mexican trade goods that would have traveled east to Missouri. Look at the list below and decide if the goods would have traveled east towards Missouri or west toward Santa Fe. Label the items with an “E” for things going eastward and a “W” for things going westward.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furs & Pelts             | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Traps                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beads, Shells & Feathers | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspenders                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beans, Rice              | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonnet Ribbons                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> & Chili Peppers          | <input type="checkbox"/> Guns & Percussion Caps              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Silk               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hairpins                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Pesos             | <input type="checkbox"/> Brass Nails                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woven Wool Blankets      | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Denims                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo Robes & Rugs     | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Items (Pots/<br>Pans & Plows) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mules                    |  |



# FORT LARNED

## KANSAS



Located six miles west of Larned on U.S. Highway 156. Watch for the large American flag flying above the fort's parade grounds as you approach the fort.

1767 KS Highway 156, Larned, Kansas 67550

(620) 285-6911

IN 1859, FORT LARNED WAS opened. Its purpose was to protect western mail routes, the Santa Fe Trail freighters, and the settlers that were moving into the area. For years many American Indian tribes had lived along the route of the Santa Fe Trail. These included the Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Arapaho, and Cheyenne. Once the traders began moving through their lands and settlers followed, the fighting between the two increased. Not only were the tribes losing their homelands, but also the buffalo were being killed.

The freighters (large wagons) heavily loaded with trade goods became easy prey. Often they had large herds of horses with them, which were valued prizes for the Indians. After many requests from the freighters, the United States government responded by building a series of forts along the trail to offer protection. Fort Larned was one of these. Other forts built along the trail in Kansas included **Fort Zarah**, located to the northeast and

**Fort Dodge** to the southwest. **Fort Hays** located about 60 miles north was nearer the railroad route that eventually replaced the wagons on the Santa Fe Trail.

The buildings at Fort Larned were constructed from sandstone blocks. Unlike some other forts, no wall surrounded it for protection. The fort was located on the **Dry Route** of the Santa Fe Trail, which follows the Pawnee Fork of the Arkansas River. It was just a few miles north of the **Wet Route**, which follows the Arkansas River. Fort Larned's troops patrolled the Santa Fe Trail for seventy miles in either direction from the fort. Some times, the soldiers escorted wagon trains down the Trail to try to prevent attacks. Major John C. McFerran reported, "It is a proper place for a military post, and should be the **depot** of supplies for any troops acting against Indians on that line." As the railroad crossed Kansas, the fort was no longer needed. It was closed in 1878. Today, Fort Larned is a National Historic Site and a unit of the National Park System.

## VISITING A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



Stop at the visitors center and pick up a Fort Larned Junior Ranger booklet. Ask one of the rangers to sign this page. Enjoy your visit to the fort and work on the Junior Ranger booklet as part of the requirement for the Junior Wagon Master Program.

SIGNATURE OF FORT LARNED STAFF MEMBER



# SANTA FE TRAIL TRACKS

## WEST OF DODGE CITY, KANSAS



Located on US Hwy 50/400. The tracks are approximately 12 miles east of Cimarron, Kansas, or 6 miles west of Dodge City, Kansas.

CENTRAL PORTION

THIS SET OF RUTS IS located near the present-day town of Dodge City. During Santa Fe Trail days, the town did not exist. As you stand in the parking lot near the ruts, look to the south (across the highway). You will see trees along the Arkansas River. Today the river is usually dry, however, in trail days it often had enough water in it to make crossing dangerous.

Approximately 12 miles west of this site is the location of one of the crossings of the Arkansas River. Before the Mexican-American War in 1846, the south side of the river was Mexico. When the Santa Fe Trail traders crossed

the river, they were in a foreign country.

It was near these ruts that the traders had to make a decision—to take a shortcut to Santa Fe or continue west through the mountains. There were dangers in both routes. Those who crossed the river here and turned south to Santa Fe traveled through an extremely dry land. This was very difficult for men and animals. This cut-off was known as the Cimarron Route. Those choosing to continue along the Arkansas River to the west were on the Mountain Route. It was also a long hard journey getting their wagons across those mountains.



# VIEWING THE RUTS

Walk the boardwalk to the kiosk and read the exhibits to learn what happened to the east of this site, what happened at this site, and what to expect to the west.

a. Write one interesting piece of information about events or places to the east. \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Identify one fact about this Santa Fe Trail site. \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Choose one thing that you could see if you were to travel west from this site. \_\_\_\_\_

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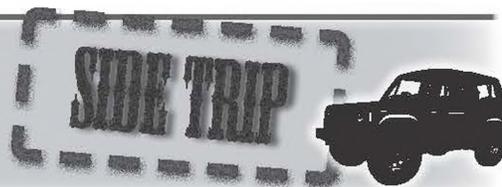
d. Count the number of ruts that you see in the prairie in front of you. \_\_\_\_\_

e. What is the name of the river to the south (left if you are looking at the ruts)? \_\_\_\_\_

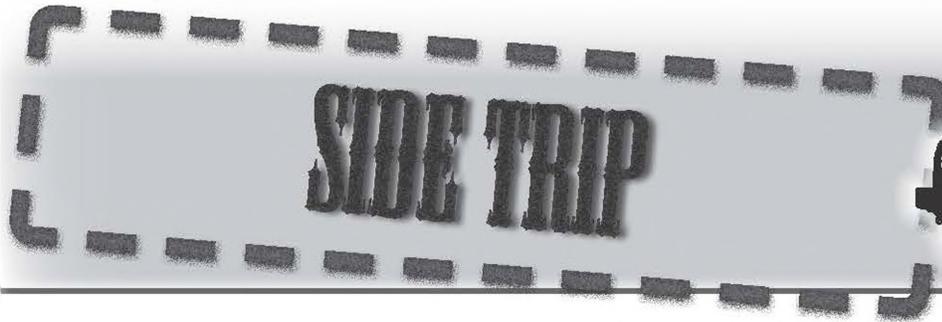
f. In the early days of the trail, what country would have been on the other side of this river? \_\_\_\_\_

CENTRAL PORTION

Visit Fort Dodge:  
see Page 53



# Explore More—Take a Santa Fe Trail



If you're near **Council Grove** (page 32) visit:



Photo Filename/Date:



## KAW MISSION



Take US 56/KS 177/East Main to 500 N. Mission, Council Grove, Kansas, 66846.

The Council Grove treaty stated that the government would provide funds to advance the education of the Kaws in their own country. In 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which had ministered to the tribe since 1830, entered into a contract with the government, and construction of the mission and school building was completed by February 1851. Call (620) 767-5410 for more information.

If you're near the **Coronado-Quivira Museum** (page 42) visit:



Photo Filename/Date:

## COW CREEK STATION HISTORICAL MARKER & FATHER PADILLA CROSS



Go 4 miles west of Lyons on US Hwy 56; the site is on the south side of the highway.

IN THIS ROADSIDE PARK YOU will find a 30-foot marble cross honoring **Spanish Father Juan de Padilla** who traveled with **Coronado** in 1541. Also in this park is a marker telling about Cow Creek Station, a trading

post and ranch at the crossing of the Santa Fe Trail. This trading post was operated by "**Buffalo Bill**" **Mathewson**. In 1864 Kiowa Indians laid siege to the trading post and a nearby wagon train for five days.

If you're near the **Pawnee Rock State Monument** (page 46) visit:



Photo Filename/Date:

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# SIBLEY'S CAMP



From KS Hwy 156, turn south onto Broadway. Follow Broadway to Second Street; turn right (west). The camp was located on the northwest corner of Second and State Streets. 502 West Second Street, Larned, Kansas.

THIS IS THE CAMPSITE OF the Santa Fe Trail Survey Team led by **George Sibley**. This team was sent by the U.S. Government to map the route to Santa Fe. Throughout this survey the team signed treaties allowing for safe passage of American and Mexican wagons through Indian

territory. Sibley's survey crew would build dirt mounds marking the Trail. However, they often varied from the actual route taken by traders and this "road" to Santa Fe was seldom used. Historians learned about Sibley's survey from his diary.

If you're near the **Santa Fe Trail Tracks** (page 51) visit:



Photo Filename/Date:

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# FORT DODGE



The fort and its grounds are located five miles east of Dodge City, Kansas, and can be reached by taking U.S. Highway 400 .

THIS IMPORTANT FORT ON THE frontier opened in 1865. It laid on the north bank of the Arkansas River. The soldiers were quartered in dugouts (sod buildings) when the post first opened. A large Santa Fe Trail campground near this location attracted the attention of many Indians.

The soldiers were assigned to protect traders and other travelers from attacks. The fort was relocated in 1867 and rebuilt in stone. It is now the Kansas Soldiers' Home for retired military and their families.

CENTRAL PORTION