

The Clark County Historical Society

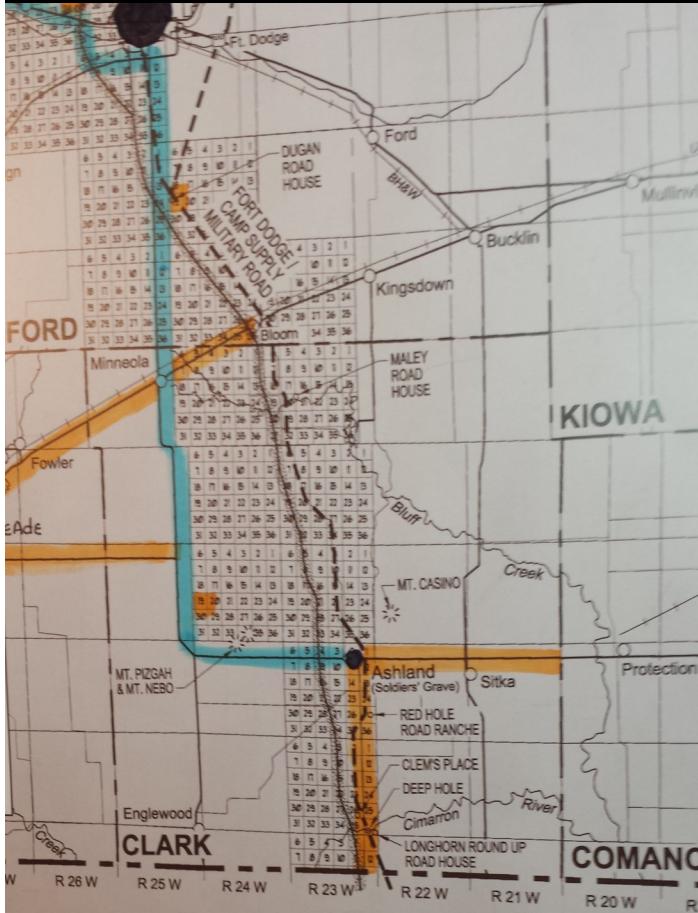
P.O. 862 Ashland, KS 67831
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November 2016

<http://www.pioneer-krier.com/>

Board of Directors

George Krier, Woody Woodruff, Denny Denton, Gary White, Jeff Krier, Mike Strodtman, Greg Goodnight
Tony Maphet "Curator"



Map of the Great Western Cattle trail through Clark County and into Ford County, Kansas.

Museum

There were many tourists this year traveling around the state visiting sites in Kansas. We were told several times that our museum was the most interesting they had found. We have a wide range of subjects, and the visitors said they found something of great interest. Our attendance is good, and many of the visitors had discovered our web site which led them to coming to see the Museum.



These sign posts have been installed at the Museum marking the Great Western Cattle Trail and the Military Dodge to Ft. Supply Trail. The Museum is located on these routes, and the marker posts are being installed along the trails. The Great Western trail has markers installed across several states now, starting from the Brownsville, Texas. area to the Montana and Canadian border.

On August 4th 22 members of the Western Cattle Trail Association traveled to Clark County, KS as part of a national conference. A tour of Clark County historic trail sites was one of the highlights of the national cattle trails weekend events.

Thanks went out to Gary White for doing the work of putting together the tour and getting permission from landowners. Of course, being able to walk in the still visible ruts was a highlight. Other favorite stops were north and south redoubts and the story of the Indian ambush of troops on the Fort Dodge/Camp Supply road as told by Vernon Howell.

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Early Clark County Kansas

Clark County was organized on May 5, 1885, by George Epperly, Daniel Burket, and John S. Myers. The county was named for Charles F. Clarke.

Clark City, located one and a half miles from the present site of Ashland, had become a ghost town in 1884 because of the town company choosing the newer location. When Ashland was formed an offer was made to the people of Clark City by the town company founders, to move those to Ashland who wished to go.



Henry Mull ranch, Clark County, Kansas. The house was formerly the jail at Clark City.

When the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad came through the county it offered to move the town of Appleton and offered those people a lot in Minneola to build on or move their homes to.

The first school was a subscription school founded in Englewood in October, 1885. Their first schoolhouse was finished in the fall of 1886.

The first school district was organized in 1885 as Appleton 16. Later, in the fall of 1886, School District 71, between Vesta and Clark, was organized and a sod schoolhouse was built that year for the school.

Interesting figures from Early Clark County.

Pearl Abel, a prominent local rancher, also served as a state representative.

Jesse Harper, a rancher and well-known Notre Dame football coach who coached Knute Rockne, was later president of the Kansas Livestock Association (1930-1931). He was honored in 1958 with the Helms Hall of Fame Award as a college football coach.

Mike Sughrue, first Clark County sheriff, who was elected five times, was known for his resourcefulness and courage and is included in many of the "wild west" accounts of Kansas.

In 1923, **William Harvey** was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court, serving as a Justice until appointed Chief Justice later that year.

Famous people of Clark County;

Leland Shaffer was running back and quarterback in the NFL for the New York Giants from 1935 to 1945. He was born in Mineola in 1912.

Wes Santee nicknamed the "Ashland Antelope" was a middle distance runner who competed mainly in the 1,500 meters and mile events. He was born in 1932 in Ashland, Kansas and attended high school in Ashland, where he set a state record in the mile run. In 1955 he won the silver medal in the 1,500 meters at Pan American Games in Mexico City.

Ronald Johnson was an American poet who was born in Ashland, in 1935.

J.W. Berryman 1899-1940, a prominent Kansas Banker, He founded the Home Lumber and Supply Company in 1905. Mr. Berryman also represented Clark County in the State House of Representatives. In 1900, he re-chartered the current Stockgrowers National Bank. Mr. J.W. Berryman assumed complete control of the bank in 1907.

Rodney Hardesty, a countertenor and a recitalist, soloist with the English Bach Festival, Leonard Bernstein invited him to sing at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Harold Krier was a dominant figure in the air show industry. He was a US National Aerobatic Champion in 1965 and 1968. Harold Krier was added to the distinguished list of honorees in the Aerobatics Hall of Fame.



Colonel and Mrs. C.D. Perry

Colonel and Mrs. C. D. Perry sitting in front of their house on Snake Creek in Clark County, Kansas. Early settler near Englewood, Kansas. He was one of the founders of the town of Englewood.

Perry moved to Englewood in the early 1880's and became one of largest land owners there.

He build a 6 mile irrigation ditch from the Cimarron river to water his farming operation. He owned land from the western Clark county line to the Snake creek ranch south of Sitka, Ks.

Perry came here from Chicago and sold his business there to purchase land. He had several family and friends to help with his investments. He fenced most of his property which was not popular at the time. At his retirement age he sold the land to Beck, who later sold it to a local rancher investor, George Thies. Note there is a lot of history in the Museum about this time.

Museum news

The Museum has experienced some changes this past year. We were finally able to replace the hanger door and get access to the north building to add the Great Lakes airplane to the collection. There was some readjustment of the collections to make room for the arrival of this plane. All this has brought a lot of new attention to the Museum with new visitors.

Several years ago we started to work on the museum by updating and working on the much needed maintenance to the building. We outlined several problems that existed, mostly due to the past years of not keeping up with ageing of the facility. Some of these projects were a total remodel of the lobby and bath rooms, windows and air-conditioning in the lobby created serious energy loss. Next the air conditioning in the main building had to be replaced. After that we began work on the north building as the roof had serious problems being 40 years old, it was replaced and insulated. We worked on getting rid of the bird problems there also. At last we got to the hanger door which was in serious need of being replaced, and that has been taken care of. We feel that we have completed the facility needs, and with good management and care it will last for many years to come.

We are being tasked very heavily with the loss of funds for operations the past two years. Our income has declined seriously, and the funds used to pay operation expenses are down by nearly 28 %, which was already at a minimum operating level.

We are working hard to hold our costs in line. We look forward to the support of all members to help with the critical shortage for this year's end.

We have a wonderful Museum, and it is here because of the support of its members. We look forward to all of the members and friends coming in to visit the museum.

We would like to find more volunteers to spend time in the museum. If anyone would like to volunteer, there are many opportunities and interesting things to do.

Endowment Fund

The Pioneer Museum is grateful to those who have remembered us by making contributions to the newly established endowment fund. This can be done with individual contributions and through estate planning. This fund has grown each year. Hopefully some day this fund will have grown to the point that it will support the museum.

Pioneer-Krier Museum
P. O. Box 862
Ashland, KS. 67831
Return Service Requested

Visit our Web Site at

<http://www.pioneer-krier.com/>

You can tour the Museum, read past new letters and links to other important Kansas sites.

**Join the
Clark County Historical Society**

Lifetime Memberships are only \$25.00

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Please send to:

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**Yes, I would like to help the
Clark County Historical Society.**

Enclosed is my donation of
\$ _____ to be used for the Pioneer-
Krier Museum.

(Please make checks payable to the Clark County
Historical Society.)

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