

1860, George Peacock was killed by a Kiowa chief name Santank. Charles Rath took over Walnut Creek Ranch after Peacock's death. In 1867, Joseph W. Douglas acquired the business until the store was burned down on May 19, 1868, by a party of Arapaho and Cheyennes.

FORT ZARAH - Fort Zarah was established here at the junction of the Santa Fe Trail and the Smoky Hill Military Road near Walnut Creek, south of Highway 56. In May 1864, Captain Dunlap and Company H, 15th Kansas, camped at the ranch on Walnut Creek, and established Fort Dunlap. On July 28, 1864, General Curtis renamed Fort Dunlap, Fort Zarah in honor of his son Zarah Curtis, killed by Quantrill Raiders in 1863. The first fort was abandoned April 7, 1866, and re-established with new stone buildings on June 30, 1866. The second fort was located north of Highway 56. This second phase lasted until it was abandoned in December 1869.

- 40. **D.A.R. MARKER** – A DAR marker is located on the west side of the Barton County Courthouse in Great Bend.
- 41. **PAWNEE ROCK** - Pawnee Rock was a well-known Trail landmark. It is an outcropping of Dakota sandstone, named for a battle with the Pawnee Indians. Many travelers carved their names in the rock. In Trail days, Pawnee Rock was nearly 30 feet higher than it is today. However, a large amount of rock was removed for railroad and home construction.

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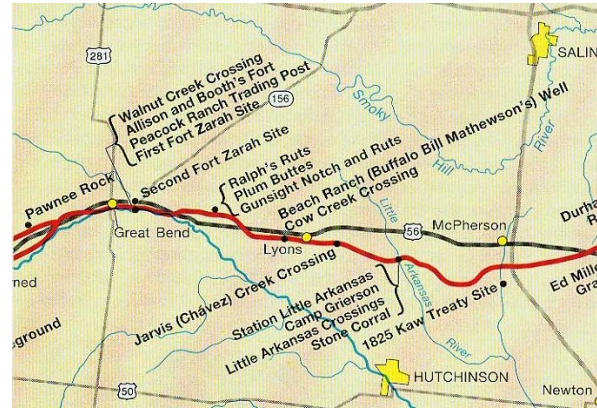


The Santa Fe Trail in McPherson Rice and Barton Counties in Kansas



The Quivira Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association

The Quivira Chapter covers McPherson, Rice and Barton Counties as shown in the map below.



Quivira Chapter Points of Interest

1. **ED MILLER'S GRAVE** - East of Canton near the center of the Jones Cemetery is the black marble gravestone of Ed Miller who was killed by the Cheyenne Indians in 1864. Back-to-back with the gravestone is a stone Santa Fe Trail marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1906 to mark the Santa Fe Trail.
2. **D.A.R. MARKER** – Located approximately 0.7 mile south of Canton.
3. **BIG TURKEY CREEK CROSSING** - Southeast of Galva near where the present bridge crosses Turkey Creek was located an overnight camp and water hole on the Santa Fe Trail. Big Turkey, also known as Running Turkey or Indian Creek, was fed by springs which never went dry.
4. **FULLER'S RANCH** - In 1855, Charles O. Fuller established a ranch adjacent to the Big Turkey Crossing and provided accommodations for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. This was probably the first white settlement in McPherson County. A post office named Big Turkey was located in the bend of the creek as shown in the 1884 McPherson County Atlas. In 1965, a monument was erected to mark the approximate location of Fuller's Ranch.
5. **MIDDLE TURKEY CREEK CROSSING** - On the West side of the creek, there is evidence of a cut down where the trail crossed the creek in the pasture belonging to Duane and Vivian Embers in Section 1, 19S, 3W east of 17th Avenue between Iron Horse Road and Frontier Road.
6. **TRAIL TRACES** - In Section 10, T20S, R3W, there are still traces where the trail can be identified in the north half of the section bordered by 15th Avenue, 16th Avenue,

Frontier Road, and Eisenhower Road. There appears to be some evidence of the Trail at a small creek crossing and in the alfalfa field that are located to the northeast quarter.

7. **SANTA FE SCHOOL** - The old Santa Fe School was located on East side of 15th Avenue in the NW/4 of Section 10, T20S, R3W, at the north edge of the half mile line. Nothing is left now but the built up area in the field where the stone foundation was is apparent. Historical records indicate that ruts were visible in the schoolyard. The D.A.R. marker located south of McPherson on the east side of 14th Avenue north of Eisenhower Road was originally located in the school yard north of the school but was later moved to its present location.
8. **KAW INDIAN PEACE TREATY SITE** - In the NE/4, section 28, T20S, R3W, just South of Comanche Road and west of the bridge is a place on Dry Turkey creek (once called Sora Kansas creek) where the United States Commissioners, while surveying the trail, met the chiefs of the Kansa Indians in council on the 16th day of August, 1825 under a large spreading oak in a small grove of trees. This was the only grove of trees seen for miles. In exchange for \$800 in money and merchandise, the Indians promised their goodwill and right-of-way for travelers on the Trail. Just north of Comanche Road, between 14th and 15th Avenues, and East of the Creek is a marker that was placed in 1907. It was placed on the North side of the road for convenience even though historical documents indicated that the actually treaty site was west of the creek and south of the road. The D.A.R. marker now at the Old 81 Highway roadside park was also dedicated next to this little marker in 1907.
9. **HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER** - At the southeast edge of Elyria on Highway 81, a Kansas Historical Marker describes the Kaw Indian Peace Treaty (see 8. above).
10. **D.A.R. MARKER** - The D.A.R. marker located south of McPherson on the east side of 14th Avenue north of Eisenhower Road was originally located in the school yard north of the Santa Fe School but was later moved here.
11. **DRY TURKEY CREEK CROSSING** - The crossing of the Dry Turkey Creek was right at the half mile line in Section 9, T20S, R3W and East of the Old 81 Highway on land owned by Bill and Sharon Keeler and the trail goes under their house. There was a trading post there, a campsite, and numerous artifacts have been found in the area. Part of the campsite area west of the crossing was covered up when a previous owner built a pond there.

12. **TRAIL TRACES** - There are traces of the trail as it crosses the land across and south of the pond in the East half of Section 27, T20S, R3W and just west of where the trail crosses Highway 61.

13. **INMAN CAMPSITE** - North of Inman is the is an old campsite where people have found Indian arrowheads, pieces of wagons, and evidence of burned material.

14. **TRAIL SPLIT** - Traveling north on 3rd Avenue from the intersection of Comanche, the Trail split in preparation for the Little Arkansas crossings. The northern branch also split once again near the intersection of Dakota and 2nd Avenue. The northern branch angled northeast across Berg's pasture in Section 17, T20S, R3W. The southern branch of this split followed Dakota Avenue for about ¾ of a mile before turning straight north, probably through and near the Andover Lutheran Church.

The southern Trail route traveled a west/northwest route for the three miles, and crosses Plum Avenue (31st) just north of the intersection with Dakota Road which becomes Avenue P as it crosses into Rice County. It then angled southwest and crosses near the bridge on Avenue P.

There is evidence that the trail crosses south of Dakota Road/Avenue P through the Ekholm homestead headed towards the crossing at the present south of the present bridge on Avenue P at the Cottonwood Cemetery. There is also evidence of a ford about ¼ mile south of Avenue P in Rice County which indicates a more southerly route.

Both routes merge back together just south of the intersection of Avenue P and 29th Avenue.

15. **BERG RUTS, COTTONWOOD TREE AND CAMPGROUND** - There are several sets of swales in the northeast corner of the Berg pasture. These swales are in the middle of the section and not easily accessible. On the old Berg homestead in Section 17, T20S, R3W, east of 1st Avenue between Dakota Road and Eisenhower Road there is a large Cottonwood Tree. It measures 29 feet 8 inches in circumference at the one foot level and 29 feet 9 inches at the five foot level. Trail travelers used the area around the tree as a campsite. They used to find all sorts of artifacts littering the area in the earlier days. North of the Berg cottonwood, along side of 1st Avenue, there is evidence of ruts and a cut down as the trail crossed the creek.

16. **D.A.R. MARKER** – Located on 1st Avenue. Both branches came back together probably at the creek crossing in the seame section, turning west near where the D.A.R. marer sits

17. **SWANSON SWALES** - In Section 13, 20S, R2W, in Joe Swanson's pasture is one of the best sets of swales found on the Santa Fe Trail and comparable to Ralph

Hathaway's ruts. These ruts are lined up eight or nine wide and very deep. This is the area where wagon masters would begin or end using double and triple teams of oxen and mules for the trip across the ford of the Little Arkansas which accounts for why the trail widened out so much right there.

18. **COTTONWOOD GROVE CEMETERY AND DEPRESSIONS** – Calvary troops who died at the Little Arkansas station were buried here. The graves include four men killed by Indians and eight men who died from cholera. Records state that fifteen or sixteen bodies were exhumed and move to the Fort Leavenworth Cemetery in 1888 or 1889. The shallow depressions north of the Cottonwood Grove Cemetery were once rifle pits or dugouts used during the times troops were stationed at the Stone Corral.

19. **LITTLE ARKANSAS RIVER CROSSING** - The Little Arkansas River crossing was located less than a mile over McPherson County's west line into Rice County. Still visible when the water is low are the stones that were laid in the river bed for the wagons to cross on while fording the stream. The huge, forked, Marker Cottonwood tree at the crossing's east bank may have been a reference point in locating the river crossing.

20. **STONE CORRAL** - The Stone Corral was located to the southwest of the main crossing. This 200 by 300 foot stone enclosure, having walls eight feet high and 30 inches thick, was an over-night camping spot for trail travelers. There was a trading post here and military troops were stationed here in 1865 and 1867. Pieces of stone are still found in the field where the Stone Corral was located.

21. **D.A.R. MARKERS** - There are three DAR markers within a mile of the Stone Corral Site location. Five miles south of U. S. 56 highway on Plum Street on the southeast corner stands a granite Santa Fe Trail Marker. The second marker is located one mile west and one half mile south and commemorates the Stone Corral. The third marker can be seen from this site in a slightly northeast direction. It is located at the site of the north crossing. A fourth D.A.R. marker is located on the south side of the road in Section 23, approximately 1 miles west of the Cottonwood Cemetery, along Avenue P.

22. **FRY RUTS** - More Trail ruts can be seen to the south of Avenue P in the Fry pasture. A silhouette of oxen pulling a wagon along the Trail can be seen in the pasture.

23. **JARVIS CREEK CROSSING** - In this area a prominent Mexican trader, Don Antonio Jose Chavez, was robbed and murdered in 1843. This incident, the murder of a Mexican citizen in United States territory, threatened to disrupt the Santa Fe trade.

24. **CORONADO QUIVIRA MUSEUM** - Located at 105 West Lyon and sponsored by the Rice County Historical Society, this museum has on display artifacts representing the Santa Fe Trail, 1821 to 1872, and Rice County, 1902, the settlement period that followed the close of the Trail.

25. **LITTLE COW CREEK CROSSING** - Some wagon trains camped overnight here, although the usual practice was to camp at the Cow Creek crossing.

26. **COW CREEK CROSSING** - This crossing was adjacent to the south side of the present bridge one mile south of the Father Padilla Cross. There was a toll bridge about 150 yards upstream during the 1860's. About a hundred and fifty yards above the post, the creek was spanned by a bridge eight feet wide and thirty feet long William Mathewson, the original Buffalo Bill, established a trading post near the Cow Creek Crossing in 1853. In 1860 he hunted buffalo to supply meat to settlers of Eastern Kansas whose cattle herds had been reduced by a drought from 1859 and 1860. This area was also known as Beach Valley for Dr. Asahel Beach and his son Abijah who also had a supply ranche here in the 1850's.

27. **BUFFALO BILL MATHEWSON'S WELL** - Perhaps the best known surviving feature of the Cow Creek Crossing area is Buffalo Bill's Hand Dug Well. The well, with a DAR marker to the north of it is still there.

28. **WAGON TRAIN SIEGE AREA** - The area just west of Cow Creek was a favorite over-night campground. Several important battles with Indians occurred here. One of particular note occurred in 1864 when a military supply train was pinned down by Indians for six days. The critical item was water - after the third day the men dug a well which was actually seepage from the creek.. After six days the Indians gave up and departed.

29. **TRAIL RUTS** - From Cow Creek the Trail proceeds west to southwest crossing the sections of 11, 10, 9, and 8 of Center Township. Near the east side of the farm in the northwest quarter of section 8, Center Township, a short segment of the Santa Fe Trail can still be seen. This is a small acreage of native sod that has never been touched by the plow. After cutting the prairie hay, four ruts not to deep show up quite well.

30. **D.A.R. MARKER** - The Chase/Alden county blacktop crosses the Trail about nine tenths of a mile south of U.S. 56 Highway. On the west side of the blacktop, is another DAR marker. The barn on this farm is sitting on the Trail as it travels through the farmstead.

31. **TRAIL RUTS** - U.S. 56 Highway crosses the Trail about two and one tenth miles west of the Chase/Alden blacktop. The highway also crosses the drainage channel just mentioned at this point. On the north side of U.S. 56, in

the Sieker pasture or the southwest quarter of section 35, of Pioneer Township, two ruts can be seen.

32. **PLUM BUTTES MASSACRE SITE** - The northwest quarter of section 34 was where the wagon train of trader Franz Huning was attacked September 9, 1867, by a band of Indians led by Charley Bent, son of William Bent of Bent's Fort.

33. **RALPH'S RUTS** - These are among the most prominent trail ruts to be found anywhere. They have become known among trail buffs as Ralph's Ruts. This is the farm on which the grandparents of Ralph Hathaway, John L. and Mary E. Hathaway, filed a homestead claim in 1878. While breaking sod on the northeast forty acres of this quarter John L. Hathaway and his sons plowed up a pistol, a watch, pieces of hardware from burned out wagons and bits of broken ironstone china, grim evidence of the Plum Buttes Massacre.

34. **PLUM BUTTES SITE** - There were three large sand dunes which are said to have been 80 to 100 feet high. This was usually the noon stop and was a landmark that could be seen after crossing Cow Creek. Shortly after the Trail closed the wind, which was their builder, began their reduction; only small, grassed-over dunes remain.

35. **GUNSIGHT NOTCH** - Several trail ruts converged to cross a low ridge south of Plum Buttes. Sixty years of commercial traffic wore a wide notch in this ridge known to some trail buffs as "Gunsight Notch".

36. **TRAIL RUTS** - There are ruts in the Ringwald pasture, south of the Plum Buttes site, that are just as profound and dramatic as "Ralph Hathaway's Ruts".

37. **D.A.R. MARKER** - A DAR marker in the southwest part of Ellinwood confirms that the Trail was in this vicinity. This marker is on the north side of Santa Fe Boulevard (U.S. 56 highway) near the United Methodist Church.

38. **BIG BEND OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER** - This was the next over-night campground after leaving Cow Creek and the only reliable source of water in the area. The location of the campground lays south of U.S. 56 highway in the present day golf course, near the west side of Ellinwood.

39. **WALNUT CREEK CROSSING** - In the summer of 1855, William Allison and Francis Boothe, established a Santa Fe Trail trading post at Walnut Creek Crossing. The site was about 100 yards from the crossing of the Walnut Creek on the east side, and north side of the Santa Fe road. In September 1857, Mr. Boothe was murdered by a Mexican. In April of 1859, Allison had gone to Missouri and died suddenly of heart failure. George Peacock, of Independence, was Allison's successor. In September