



Quivira Notes



February 2010

**Don't
Forget!**

Next meeting

February 18th

Meeting: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00pm

Program: 7:00pm

**Galva
Community
Center
Galva, KS**

**Call Linda at
620-241-8719**

or email

blkcolle@swbell.net

**by February 15th
for
dinner
reservations**

Quivira Chapter Annual Meeting February 18th

The Quivira Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association will hold the first meeting of 2010 at the Galva Community Center in Galva, Kansas on Thursday, February 18th. The program, "Letters of Fort Dodge" presented by Joanne VanCoevern, President of the Santa Fe Trail Association, centers around a group of letters written by Isadore Bowman Douglas and her husband, Major Henry Douglas. These letters were written to Isadore's mother, Mrs. Bowman in Wilkes Barre, PA and are dated from May 21, 1866 to August 16, 1867. The letters were written while en route to Fort Dodge, KS from Columbus, Ohio, and during the year that Isadore lived at Fort Dodge. Isadore's husband, Major Henry Douglas, Third Infantry, served as the commanding officer of Fort Dodge December 1866 – October 1867; January – November 1868; and March 1869. The last two letters were written to Major Henry Douglas.

In addition to information contained in the letters, Joanne brings for display and discussion, vintage clothing of the era, as well as other artifacts and items of everyday use from the 1800's.

The annual business meeting will be held at 5:30pm, followed by dinner at 6:00pm. The program will begin at 7:00pm. Dinner will be catered by the ladies group of the Galva Christian Church. The cost will be \$7.00 and the menu will include, meat, vegetable, salad, potatoes, roll and dessert. Reservations are required for dinner as space is limited but reservations are not required to attend the program. For information or dinner reservations, call Linda Colle at 620-241-8719 by Monday, February 15, 2010.

Election of Officers and Board

The meeting on February 18th will include elections of officers and board members. Thanks to Bob Gibson for heading up the nominating committee. The election slate is as follows:

President Linda Colle
Vice Pres./Sec. Lorna Nelson
Treasurer Nancy Marteney

Rice Co. Director #1 Pat Hall
Rice Co. Director #2 Janel Cook
Barton Co. Director #1 Robert Button
Barton Co Director #2 Robert Yarmer
McPherson Co Director #1 Britt Colle
McPherson Co. Director #2 John Martin

All Quivira officers and board members must be members of the SFTA and the Quivira Chapter

RICE COUNTY

William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas*
was first published in 1883 by A. T. Andreas, Chicago, IL.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTY.

February 28, 1870, John A. Carlson homesteaded the northeast quarter of Section 3, Township 20, Range 6; Andrew John Johnson the northwest quarter of said section; C. S. Lindell the southeast quarter. April 4, 1870. August Johnson located a claim on the southeast quarter of Section 25 in the same town and range; John Enrick Johnson on the northeast quarter of said section; John P. Johnson on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 24, said town and range. April 18, 1870. O. W. Peterson on the northeast quarter of Section 14 of the same town and range.

August 20, 1870, R. M. Hutchinson, A. J. Howard and J. E. Perdue (firm of Hutchison & Co.) stopped upon the Little Arkansas River with 4,000 head of cattle. Messrs. Howard and Perdue located their claims in January, 1871.

March 1, 1872, a Sunday school was organized, and preaching had in Mr. H. P. Ninde's house, Rev. J. B. Schlichter. superintendent.

In April, 1871, Isaac Schoonover built his house on Plum Creek, hauling the lumber for it from Salina, sixty miles.

In November, 1872 O. Y. Smith built his house, bringing from Peoria, Ill., the brick for his chimney, having the first farmhouse in the county with a brick chimney.

Buffaloes were very plentiful in the spring and summer of 1871 in Rice County, and their meat was of great value to the early settlers. Leonard Loomis, on the day he was seventy five years old, killed five buffaloes at seven shots.

April 19, 1872, at 8 o'clock P. M., on the **Santa Fe Trail**, near Little Cow Creek, in Atlanta Township, Probate Judges (*sic*) Levi Jay, by the silver light of the moon, united in marriage Daniel M. Bell and Miss Mary M. Houks.

April 3. 1871, Rev. F. J. Griffith turned the first furrow on his claim. In the same month P. G. Carter commenced breaking on the southwest quarter of Section 15, Township 20, Range 8.

June 23, 1872, a Sunday school was organized at Williston and Magoffin's Hall, at Atlanta; Dr. Henry Fones was elected superintendent; Mrs. William Lowrey and Mrs. F. Chitty, assistant superintendents; Mrs. M. Williston, secretary; W. T. Nicholas, assistant secretary.

August 10, 1882, Mr. Nicholas was a somewhat prominent candidate for Auditor in the Republican State Convention. August 31. 1882, William L. Brown, of Sterling was made the Democratic candidate for State Auditor, and at the polls, Rice County. gave him twenty majority, while Republican majorities in the county reached as high as 179.

H. L. Millard, of Sterling, on January 9, 1883, was elected Chief Clerk of the Kansas House of Representatives.

June 28, 1873, The Rice County Agricultural Society was formed. John M. Muscott was elected president; William C. Summer, vice-president; G. W. Voyls, secretary; T. C. Magoffin, treasurer; Moses Birch, Alexander Clark, M. J. Morse, J. H. Ricksecker, S. B. Terry and T. H. Watt, directors. During the year its membership reached 100. The society held a fair at Atlanta September 24 and 25, 1873. In 1877, at the Arkansas Valley Agricultural Society, Wilson Keys was chosen president; William R. Lee, vice-president; J. H. Stubbs, secretary; Samuel Jacobs, treasurer.

RICE COUNTY, continued

The Rice County Horticultural Society was organized November 8, 1871: Rev. J. B. Schlichter, president; Dr. George Bohrer, vice-president; C. Taber, secretary; S. B. Hampton, treasurer.

The Kansas Cane Growers and Manufacturers Association was organized at Sterling, December 29, 1881. Its officers were as follows: President, Reginald M. Sandys, of Sterling; Vice-President, John Bennyworth, Larned; Treasurer, J. V. Brinkman, Great Bend; Secretary, R. M. Rugg, Marion; Assistant-Secretary, W. E. Fostnot, Little River.

January 1, 1872, James A. Moore and Ada Cartwright were married by Judge Levi Jay. An early marriage in the county was that of Amelia, daughter of Rev. F. J. Griffith, to W. T. Nicholas.

John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, located at the mouth of Little Cow Creek in 1870.

Nelson Reed, who settled on Section 15, Township 20, Range 8, in 1870, claims to have been the first settler that found the first corner stone in the count erected by Government surveyors, which was located on Section 18 of said township and range. He made the first trip among the settlers to Ellsworth for provisions.

Leonard Russell came to the county in November, 1870. There were then four white men in the county. Union City, the headquarters of the Ohio Colony, located about three miles southeast of Atlanta, was the locality where Edward Swanson murdered P. B. Shannon by shooting him, August 27, 1871. Swanson fled, and was never arrested or punished for his crime, though James J. Spencer, the Sheriff, started to make the arrest, but never returned to Rice County. Spencer, the northwestern township of the county, named after Spencer, was afterward changed to Farmer. It is said that Shannon, a short time before this occurrence, remarked, "You must kill a man, before you can have a graveyard."

John Chitty, aged eighteen years, son of Ferguson Chitty, died August 28, 1871, the first death among the settlers.

In September, 1871, in Atlanta Township, George and Angie, twin children of Robert and Elizabeth McKinis, were born; in Union Township, a son of T. Cowger.

The first train of cars that passed through Rice County was on July 22, 1872, the line having been opened from Hutchinson to Larned.

The Salina, Atlanta & Raymond Railway Company was organized in 1872, and Rice County voted to its aid \$175,000, but it became defunct.

It is reported that, in 1863, a train of emigrants was broken up near the Plum Buttes, in Farmer Township, and William Magee reported to Historian Muscott. Two miles from there, on the trail, in April, 1874, he found in the vicinity broken and partly burned wagons, plows, barrels, tubs, boxes and earthenware, and that for miles there lay scattered around unworn boots and shoes, crisped by prairie fires and the scorching sun, with other articles, indicating the place to have been the scene of a general massacre, as a row of graves was visible, for some years after, near this spot. Directly east of the Buttes, in a basin surrounded by sand hills, a small party of Mexicans were surprised, and all butchered, at about the same time of the first event. Tradition has it, that in 1846, a man by the name of Jarvis was murdered near the creek that bears his name, by three doctors, who were his companions, from the mountains. He was said to have much money.

Blackman E. Lawrence, County Treasurer of Rice County, in October, 1876, proclaimed that the safe of the County Treasurer was robbed of \$9,000. Treasurer Lawrence resigned November 25, 1876, and was succeeded by Patton Himrod, who had been appointed by the County Commissioners. Willam T. Drew, of Burlingame, who had been County Clerk of Osage County six years, was employed as an expert, and a report was made in December that there was a deficit of \$18,126. Mr. Lawrence was arrested and held for trial. A change of venue having been taken to Reno County, the trial commenced a (*sic*) Hutchinson in January, 1878, and in February, on a jury verdict of guilty, Judge Peters sentenced the prisoner three years to the State penitentiary.

RICE COUNTY, continued

Of the railroad lands in Rice County the A., T. & S. F. Railroad Company had 169,459 acres of which 66,415 acres remained unsold January 1, 1883. The Kansas Division of the U. P. Railroad had 24,456 acres. The statistics of the county for 1874, show 180,299 taxable acres in Rice County; 12,387 under cultivation; 18,040 bushels of spring wheat; 1,092 of winter wheat; 2,880 of rye; 1,488 of barley; 30,220 of oats; 18 of buck-wheat; 450 of sweet potatoes; 3,975 of Irish potatoes; 1,840 gallons of sorghum; 2,463 cattle; 10 sheep; 1,688 swine; 975 horses and mules. Relief bonds were voted by the county to the amount of \$4,000, the vote being 136 to 117. S. T. Kelsey thought 500 persons in the county would need assistance; another correspondent to the State Board of Agriculture reported 450. W. T. Nicholas, County Clerk, reported: There will be unusual suffering in our county the coming winter, but how many families I am not prepared to state correctly. There was not anything raised but some wheat, oats, rye and barley, and very little of the above-mentioned articles, on account of the grasshoppers. Another correspondent reported that three-fourths of the people needed assistance, and added: Having traveled over the largest part of our county, I find that about three-fourths of our people are almost entirely destitute of food, fuel and clothing. Some are now living on boiled wheat, and not half enough of that. The amount of bonds issued will not be half the amount required to support the people until the new crops come in.

The Grasshopper Incursion of 1874. The centennial historian of Rice County, John M. Muscott, gives the following sketch of the grasshopper scourge:

"This pest, about the time of the first settlement of the county, had visited us on one or two occasions, and departed without any serious injury. But when they came in 1874, the details of the sufferings of our people at that period, in consequence of this terrible visitation, have been so freely and vividly portrayed through the press of the United States, as to render any extended repetition of them unnecessary at this time. Suffice it to say, that for five days preceding the appearance of the grasshoppers in that year, unusually hot winds from the southwest prevailed, until July 25, when the mercury stood at 106 degrees in the shade, 116 degrees in the sun, at 2 o'clock P. M. On the following day the wind suddenly shifted into the northeast, and about 2 o'clock P. M. the grasshopper storm burst upon us; and they increased in numbers until the 28th, when the climax was reached. The wind shifted on the following day to the south, and remained there until August 1, when it returned into the northeast, and on August 2, a fresh installment came from that quarter, and remained until August 7, when most of them took their departure, the wind still blowing from the northeast.

"For the first three days after their appearance, the whole heavens were darkened with their presence and the earth with their bodies. They covered every tree and plant, and every green thing -- the prairie and water courses. They flew like hail in the faces of men, dashed themselves against every object, animate and inanimate, and as they rushed through the air or near the earth, and struck an opposing object, the rattle of their contact resembled the sound of a hailstorm on the roof, or the clashing of sabres in the scabbards of a squadron of cavalry at full gallop. Like the frogs and the locusts in Pharaohs time, they were every where.

"When this scourge had fairly settled down upon us, the stoutest hearts quailed before it, and gloom was depicted on every countenance. The plow was left standing midway in the furrow, and for a while all farm labor was virtually suspended. The most gifted pen and the most eloquent tongue are inadequate for the task, for language is too poor to paint the scene of desolation wrought by the grasshoppers of 1874.

"But the silver lining soon rose above the dark cloud. Early in September, copious rains refreshed the parched earth, and thus prepared the way for the most bountiful crops the ensuing year that Kansas ever produced. Relief to the stricken people poured in from abroad, and never was aid more timely and necessary, or even more gratefully received by any people, than it was by the citizens of this county, that fall and the ensuing winter. For our people knew and felt that their destitution was not the result of slothfulness or extravagance on their part, and that no human foresight could have averted this calamity. Joyfully and without any humiliation on their part, they received the bounty of others. The scourge of 1874 was not wholly unmixed with blessings, nor without some useful lessons. Mens hearts grew larger and beat with quicker sympathy for each other, in the presence of this wide desolation."

Quivira Chapter Christmas Party

The Quivira Chapter celebrated the holidays with a chapter Christmas Party on Friday December 4th. Everyone enjoyed dinner and lots of conversation. Almost everyone took advantage of our “meal deal” and paid their 2010 chapter dues. Members provided many ideas for programs for 2010.

Dues

Thanks to everyone who has paid their 2010 dues. Quivira Chapter dues are still a low \$10 for individual or family. That is still a great deal! Our dues help provide funds for speakers, projects and education activities for the Santa Fe Trail.

Don't forget to submit your 2010 chapter dues!

Chapter Bylaws

Chapter members will receive a copy of proposed revisions to the Quivira Chapter Bylaws. The chapter bylaws were written and approved in September 1992 when the chapter was originally organized. It is time we take a look at the bylaws and update them to reflect how the chapter is operating in 2010 and beyond. Please review the proposed changes. We will discuss them at the annual meeting on February 18th.

Quivira Chapter 2010 Schedule

The Quivira Chapter is in the process of planning the 2010 activities. The Chapter has the following meetings planned this year with more to come. So mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

Date	Time	Place	Program
February 18	Annual Meeting: 5:30 pm Supper: 6:00 pm Speaker: TBD	Galva Community Center (Next to Museum) Galva, KS	Joanne VanCoevern: Letters from Ft. Larned
May 1	2:00pm Joint Meeting with the McPherson County Historical Society	McPherson Municipal Center City Commission Meeting Room 400 E. Kansas McPherson, KS	John Martin: The Ed Miller Story
May 8	1:00pm	Cheyenne Bottoms Museum	History of Cheyenne Bottoms and tour
June 19	TBD	Ellsworth	Tentative Jim Gray Tour of Ellsworth, Ft . Harker and Kanopolis area
July - Date TBD	TBD	Larned	George Elmore: Tour of Fort Larned area
October 24	2:00 pm	TBD	Leo Oliva: Kansas Military Posts

QUIVIRA CHAPTER, SFTA

President Linda Colle
724 Penn Drive
McPherson, KS 67460



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February 18th
Galva Community Center
Galva, KS

Call Linda at
620-241-8719
by February 15th for
dinner reservations