

SFT crossing marker. Swales sometimes can be seen running southwest from the marker. Late in the afternoon, especially in the summer, dramatic swales can be seen on the hill in the distance to the southwest and to the right of the windmill in the distance.

**17** ON 250<sup>th</sup> ROAD, ABOUT ¼ MILE EAST OF Chisholm Trail Road is a SFT crossing marker. SFT swales are clearly visible running to the northeast.

**18** ON 245<sup>th</sup> ROAD, ABOUT ¼ MILE WEST OF Chisholm Trail Road is a D.A.R marker and SFT crossing sign. Swales are clearly visible running to the southwest from the marker. Running across the land to the southwest are five sets of two parallel swales, apparently created as travelers chose different routes over the years to cross the creek south of the marker. It was here that a French emigrant, Claude Frances Laloge (French Frank), established a road ranch in 1861 at what was known as Cottonwood Holes. The creek is named French Creek in honor of Mr. Laloge, the first homesteader in the area. Cottonwood Holes got its name because this was the first water that could be found west of the Cottonwood Crossing, and the water was found in small depressions along the creek, hence, Cottonwood Holes. The swales on this land are actually the westernmost extension of the Durham Ruts. Southwestward from here, the trail has been obliterated in Marion County by farming operations – well, almost.

**19** ON 230<sup>th</sup> ROAD, ABOUT 0.6 MILES WEST OF Bison Road, is a trail crossing sign. The SFT ran south-southwest from the sign across what is now a wheat field. No sign of the trail – except, in the summer, when the field is plowed after wheat harvest. Then the tractor pulling the plow works harder when cutting across the SFT, and the earth turned up by the plow has a different sheen along the Trail than in the rest of the field.

**20** A FEW YARDS NORTH OF HWY 56 ON THE Marion-McPherson County Line is a large stone marker placed by the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter. It depicts the locations of the Santa Fe Trail and the Chisholm Trail with a generalized map of the area.



Look for these signs to help guide you along the Auto Tour Route. These signs are located near road intersections at changes in direction of the Auto Tour Route.

**WARNING:** Some Roads may not be passable in wet weather.



**SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION**  
*Cottonwood Crossing Chapter*

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## Marion County Auto Tour *of the* **SANTA FE TRAIL**

*A Santa Fe National Historic Trail*  
**LOCAL TOUR ROUTE**



**SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION**  
*Cottonwood Crossing Chapter*

**1** DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN Revolution (D.A.R.) marker on Hwy 77, one mile east and 1.1 miles north of the Town of Lost Springs. This marker was originally placed in a park near the old Santa Fe and Rock Island depots in the town of Lost Springs. It is a little difficult to get to because it is set along the east right-of-way fence of the highway and you have walk across a drainage ditch to reach it.

**2** IN THE CITY PARK OF LOST SPRINGS IS a large stone monument with a bronze plaque placed by the D.A.R.'s Eunice Sterling Chapter (Wichita, Kansas). The park is in the northeast part of the town of Lost Springs.

**3** A SMALL LIMESTONE MARKER IN THE town of Lost Springs is located at the corner of Alexander and Jefferson Streets.

**4** ONE MILE WEST OF THE TOWN OF LOST Springs on the paved road (340<sup>th</sup>), then about ¼ mile north on Upland Road, on the east side of Upland is a small limestone marker reading "SFT 1908" placed by the Old Settlers. After the field to the east is mowed, shallow swales of the SFT can be seen running toward the oil tanks on the top of the hill to the east. At this point the SFT branched into two routes going westward, one almost due west and one running to the northwest toward a spring labeled Lost Spring on the 1857 Land Survey Plat.

**5** TWO AND ONE-HALF MILES WEST OF THE town of Lost Springs on 340<sup>th</sup> Road is the site of Lost Spring Station established in 1859 by Jack Costello, who won the station in a poker game. A post office was operated at the Lost Spring Station from August 29, 1861 to May 23, 1864. The post office was moved one mile east to the site of the Original Town of Lost Springs and re-opened July 9, 1879. A stone marker was erected in 1908 by the Old Settlers and the Shields Family. To the northwest of the stone monument is a spring also known as Lost Spring. An interpretive plaque presents information about the site and a map of the area.

**6** ON SUNFLOWER ROAD, ABOUT ¼ MILE south of 340<sup>th</sup> Road is a trail crossing sign and another small limestone marker on the west

side of the road. This marks a later branch of the SFT, most likely used from 1859 through approximately 1867. At least through 1857, the main trail swung south of the site of Lost Spring Station to avoid crossing the broken ground of the valley of what is now called Cress Creek.

lettering had become badly worn, so in 1965, John Borton, a contractor and builder from Hutchinson, Kansas had the monument refurbished and donated the bronze plaques to replace the badly worn lettering. Near here in the late 1850s and early 1860s was Moore's Ranch, a mail station and road ranch. A road ranch was the 1860s version of today's convenience store, bar, and grill.

on the hill to the south of the Cottonwood Crossing, but they are on private land.

**7** ON QUAIL CREEK ROAD (KNOWN LOCALLY as the Ramona Road) just north of 330<sup>th</sup> Road (known locally as the Tampa Road) is a stone marker placed by the Ramona school children and School District No. 90. Behind the marker to the west can be seen very shallow swales of the SFT when the grass has been cut and the lighting conditions are right. Between here and Tampa, Kansas, a few SFT swales can be seen in pastures and fields in various locations, but these are located on private land and are not accessible.

**13** ON 290<sup>th</sup> ROAD, ABOUT A MILE AND a half west of Durham is the site of the Cottonwood Crossing of the Santa Fe Trail. In addition to the kiosk and three historic interpretive plaques, adjacent to the kiosk is a D.A.R. marker and across the road to the south is a limestone SFT marker. Some excellent SFT swales are in a meadow

**14** SOUTHWEST OF DURHAM, ON 280<sup>th</sup> ROAD, about 1/2 mile west of Goldenrod Road is a SFT

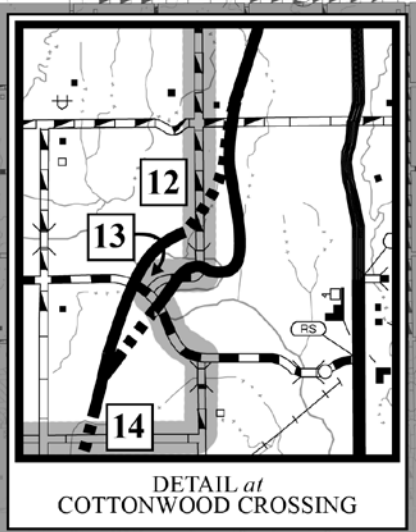
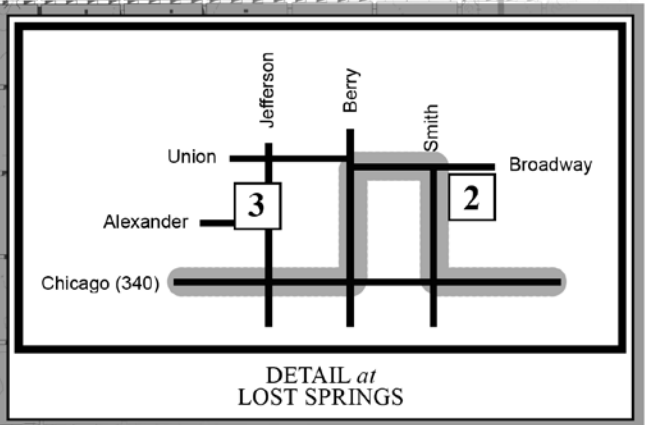
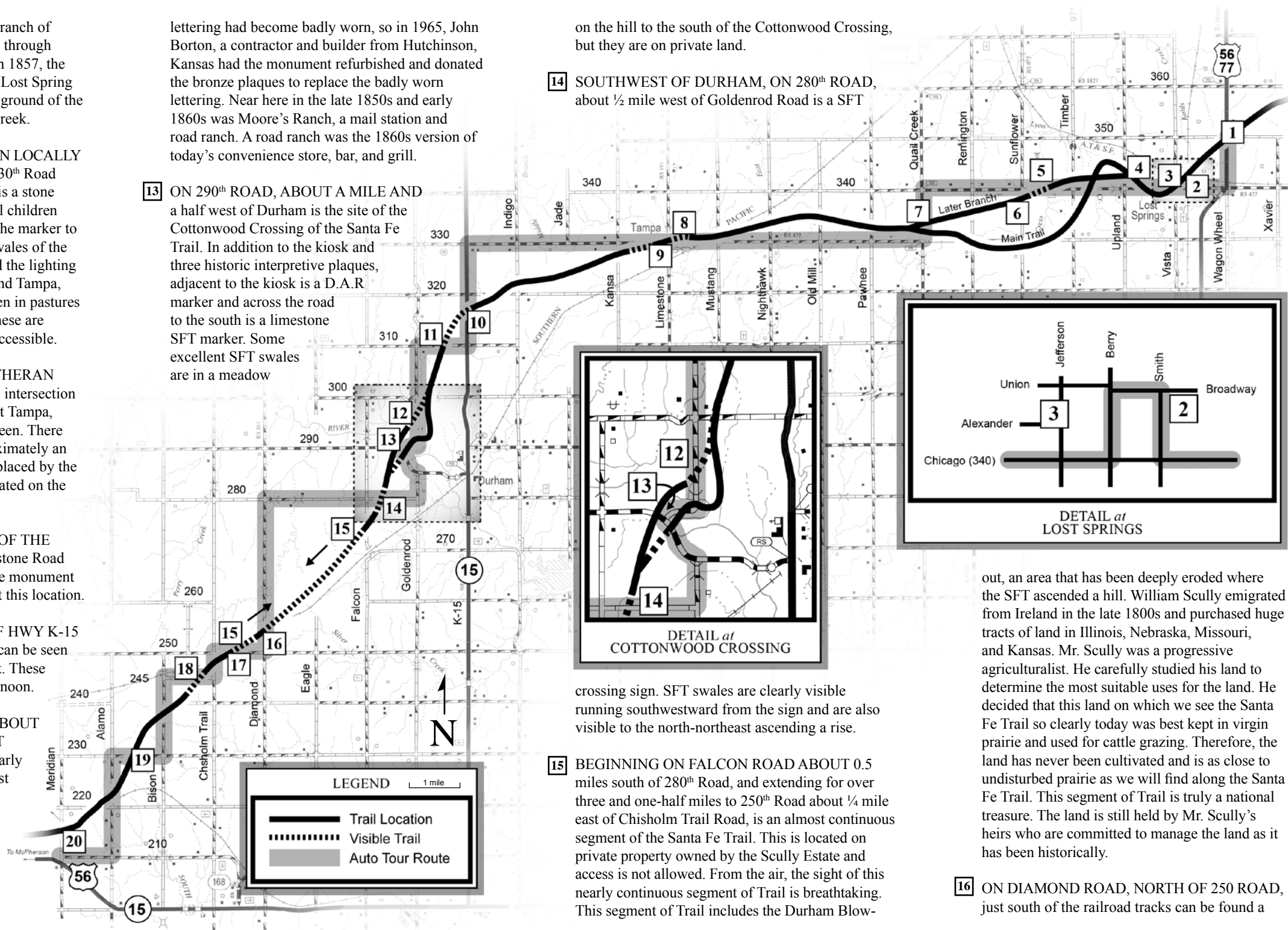
**8** ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE LUTHERAN Cemetery in Tampa (northeast of the intersection of 330<sup>th</sup> Road and Limestone Road at Tampa, Kansas) SFT swales can clearly be seen. There are several swales oriented in approximately an east-west direction. A stone marker placed by the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter is located on the east side of the cemetery.

**9** ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE intersection of 330<sup>th</sup> Road and Limestone Road at Tampa, Kansas can be seen a stone monument marking the trail. The SFT crosses at this location.

**10** ALONG THE HILLSIDE WEST OF HWY K-15 about 0.4 miles south of 320<sup>th</sup> Road can be seen SFT swales running south-southwest. These are most easily seen later in the afternoon.

**11** TO THE NORTH OF 310<sup>th</sup> ROAD, ABOUT 0.4 miles west of Hwy K-15 is a SFT crossing marker. SFT swales can clearly be seen running to the north-northeast of the sign.

**12** ON GOLDENROD ROAD JUST north of Cottonwood Creek is a monument marking the SFT that was placed in 1906 by School District No. 57. The monument's



out, an area that has been deeply eroded where the SFT ascended a hill. William Scully emigrated from Ireland in the late 1800s and purchased huge tracts of land in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas. Mr. Scully was a progressive agriculturalist. He carefully studied his land to determine the most suitable uses for the land. He decided that this land on which we see the Santa Fe Trail so clearly today was best kept in virgin prairie and used for cattle grazing. Therefore, the land has never been cultivated and is as close to undisturbed prairie as we will find along the Santa Fe Trail. This segment of Trail is truly a national treasure. The land is still held by Mr. Scully's heirs who are committed to manage the land as it has been historically.

crossing sign. SFT swales are clearly visible running southwestward from the sign and are also visible to the north-northeast ascending a rise.

**15** BEGINNING ON FALCON ROAD ABOUT 0.5 miles south of 280<sup>th</sup> Road, and extending for over three and one-half miles to 250<sup>th</sup> Road about 1/4 mile east of Chisholm Trail Road, is an almost continuous segment of the Santa Fe Trail. This is located on private property owned by the Scully Estate and access is not allowed. From the air, the sight of this nearly continuous segment of Trail is breathtaking. This segment of Trail includes the Durham Blow-

**16** ON DIAMOND ROAD, NORTH OF 250 ROAD, just south of the railroad tracks can be found a