The Santa Fe Trail
Chapter Tour Guide

The Quivira Chapter
Santa Fe Trail Association

McPherson, Rice
And Barton Counties in Kansas

Get Involved in Trail History!
There are many ways to learn more about the historic sites on the Santa Fe Trail.
• Visit other Trail related sites
• Visit a local museum
• Follow the local auto tour of the Trail
• Join the Quivira Chapter
• Join the Santa Fe Trail Association
• Walk in the ruts that made history!

For more information visit the SFTA website at: www.santafetrail.org and our chapter Facebook page at: Quivira Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

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interaction 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 at the Cottonwood Cemetery. There is also evidence of a ford about ½ 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.

13. CROSS - There is evidence that the trail crosses south of Dakota Road/Avenue P through the Ekholm homestead headed towards the crossing just to the south of the present bridge on Avenue P at the Cottonwood Cemetery. There is also evidence of a ford about ½ 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.

14. RUTS, BERG COTTONWOOD TREE AND CAMPGROUND - There are several sets of swales in the Nelson pasture just north of the northeast corner of the Berg pasture in the middle of the section and are not easily accessible. On the old Berg homestead, on the east side of 1st Avenue between Dakota Road and Eisenhower Road, there is a large Cottonwood Tree. It measures 29 feet 9 inches in circumference at the five foot level. Trail travlers used the area around the tree as a campsite. All sorts of artifacts littering the area were found here in earlier days. North of the Berg cottonwood, evidence of ruts and a cut down tree as the trail crossed the creek.

15. D.A.R. MARKER - Located on 1st Avenue. Both northern trail branches probably came back together near here, turning west near the D.A.R. marker site. The Fort Harker/Camp Shafter road intersects the trail here as it comes from the north.

16. SWANSON SWALES - 4 1/2 miles S of Highway 56 on Plum Avenue. Joe Swanson’s pasture is one of the best in southwestern Rice County which indicates a more southerly route. Both northern trail branches probably came back together near here, turning west near the D.A.R. marker site. The Fort Harker/Camp Shafter road intersects the trail here as it comes from the north.

17. CAMP GRIERSON - In 1864, troops were stationed here north of the Berg cottonwood. It was an overnight camping spot for trail travelers. For enclosure, having walls eight feet high and 30 inches thick, was an over night camping spot for trail travelers. For.

18. Little Arkansas River Crossing - The Little Arkansas River crossing was located less than a mile over McPherson County’s west line into Rice County. The huge, forked, Marker Cottonwood tree at the crossing’s east bank may have been a reference point in locating the river crossing. There are ruts in the pasture south of the Plum Buttes site. A DAR marker is located on west of Plum Buttes.

19. WALNUT CREEK CROSSING - In the summer of 1855, William Allison and Francis Boehe established a trading post at the.

20. RALPH’S RUTS - There are four DAR markers within a mile of the Stone Corral Site location. One is 5 miles south of U.S. 56 highway on the SE corner on the Plum Ave/Ave P Intersection. Another is located one half mile north of the 30th Ave/Ave P Intersection. Yet another can be seen from the 30th Ave marker looking in a slightly NE direction at the site of the main river crossing. Another is located on the south side all of Avenue P less than one mile west of the Stone Corral Site.

21. RUTS, SOUTH SIDE OF PAVILION - There were three large sand dunes on west of 3rd Avenue and just north of Ave L which were said to have been 80 to 100 feet high. This was usually the noon stop and a landmark that could be seen after crossing Cow Creek.

22. CAMPFIRE CROSSING - Just south of the crossing on what was originally called Owl Creek, a prominent Mexican trader, Don Antonio Jose Chavez, was robbed and murdered in 1843. This incident was written about in a book by Marc Simmons, Murder on the Santa Fe Trail. Refer to the Quivira Chapter Brochure:...