through historical documents that the actually treaty site was west of the creek and south of the road. In 1907, this was just a dirt road. It was later built up and the creek was straightened out with the building of the bridge. The D.A.R. marker now at the roadside park on the east side of Elyria was originally dedicated at the site of this marker in 1907.

After the treaty at Sora Kansas Creek, the Commissioners’ party moved west and met the Arkansas River near Nickerson. They moved up the river to the southwest of Sterling, to Alden, and then west of Raymond before rejoining the trail and their survey. The portion of the survey that was missed due to this detour was done on return trip. This information is taken from the surveyor Brown’s notes and Sibley’s journal.

The Osage Treaty, signed at Council Grove, Kansas, and the Kanza Treaty, signed on Sora Kansas Creek south of McPherson, Kansas are thought by many to be the only treaties. They were actually a total of eight treaties with eleven tribes concerning the passage to and from Santa Fe and the United States are listed in the Kansas Historical Collections for 1825. Between July and October in present North and South Dakota or at Council Bluffs, Nebraska, the following Indian tribes agreed not to molest American citizens who traversed the Santa Fe road:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tribe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Sioux and Ogallala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Cheyenne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Greater and Little Osage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Kanza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Otoe and Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Maha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources
- Kansas Historical Collections, Volume XVI; 1923-25, pp 750 - 753.
- The Beginnings of the West, by Louise Barry, Kansas State Historical Society; 1972, pp.118 -126.
- The Road to Santa Fe. The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley, University of New Mexico Press; 1952, pp 62-64.
- John Martin, Canton, Kansas.

Getting There
The actual site of the 1825 treaty was south of McPherson Kansas, between 14th and 15th Avenues, south of Comanche Road and just west of the Dry Turkey Creek. The small gray marker is on the north side of the road and east of the creek. The Kansas Historical marker and the DAR marker are located in the roadside park just east of Elyria Kansas on old Highway 81.

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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The 1825 Kaw Indian Peace Treaty

The independence of Mexico from Spain in 1821 opened the Santa Fe trade with the Anglos. William Becknell’s trip in 1821 opening the Santa Fe Trail trade is credited as the first successful trading venture. Numerous traders had attempted to trade prior to 1821 but had their goods confiscated by Spanish authorities and several were imprisoned. By 1824, the trade had increased between the states and Mexico to the point that it had come to the attention of Congress. Missouri newspapers were full of stories about the Santa Fe trade and attacks on the trains by Indians.

The Indian problem arose in part because of the closing of government trading posts in 1822. Thus there was a need to survey, mark, and protect the traders. The Missouri congressional delegation headed by Senator Thomas Hart Benton began trying to obtain protected routes for the traders in 1824. On March 3, 1825, President Monroe signed a bill authorizing $10,000 for a survey and marking of the trail to Santa Fe. An additional $20,000 was allotted for treaties with the Indians in exchange for safe passage for the traders.

On March 16, 1825, the new president, John Quincy Adams, appointed as commissioners for the survey: Benjamin Reeves, Pierre Menard, and George Sibley. Menard resigned because of business commitments and was replaced by Thomas Mather.

Captain Alphonse Wetmore suggested that one of the commissioners be a literary man who could describe the activities of the commissioners and the country through which they traveled.

George S. Sibley was appointed as an Indian Factor at Fort Osage in 1808 and had dealt with the Osage Indians and Kansas tribes with whom the commissioners would negotiate with for the right-of-way and agreement not to molest travelers on the Trail.

Sibley’s father was the publisher of the Fayetteville (North Carolina) Gazette and previously as an Indian agent and legislator, had earlier authored reports to President Jefferson.

There were two major treaties negotiated by the survey party in 1825. First was the Osage treaty, signed at Council Grove, Kansas. The second was the Kanza (Kaw) Treaty signed on Sora Kansas Creek south of McPherson, Kansas. Sora means dry. It is now called the Dry Turkey Creek.

Having hired W. S. (Old Bill) Williams, interpreter for the commission for the rest of the journey, the commissioners sent him to the Kansa village (about 45 miles north-near present Manhattan) to summon the Kansa’s for a treaty council at a point farther west on the Santa Fe Trail. Approximately 50 Indians came and held council with the commissioners on the 15th and signed the treaty on the 16th of August, 1825 under a large spreading oak in a small grove of trees. This was the only grove of trees seen for miles. The treaty with the Kanza provided the Indians with $500 cash and $300 in merchandise.

The treaty council site was about three miles south of the actual trail and five miles south of present day McPherson in section 28, township 29, range 3 west. This site is just south of Comanche Road, between 14th and 15th Avenues, west of the creek.

Those present at the treaty were: Benjamin Reeves, George Sibley, and Thomas Mathers, U.S. commissioners and witnesses Archibald Gamble, secretary of the commission, who was also a brother-in-law to Sibley, Williams, and Joseph C. Brown, surveyor. Fourteen other men, who were members of the survey party also witnessed the event. These included brothers Joseph and Joel Walker, Andrew Broadus, Benjamin Majors, father of freighter Alexander Majors, and Andrew Carson, the older half brother of Kit Carson.

For the Indians, Shone-gee-ne-gore, great chief of the Kanza Nation, signed first, followed by his eldest son Ke-hea-bash-ee, then Hu-ra-soo-gee, the red eagle [probably the same as He-roch-che (the Real War Eagle) Nee-a-ke-shall, warrior, brother of the great chief, Hah-ee-see-she, warrior, and deputy for White Plume, and Saw-nee-wah-nee, as well as other Indian leaders.

The above D.A.R. marker and Kansas State Historical Society roadside sign can be found at the roadside park on the south side of Elyria on Old 81 Highway and just south of the intersection with Comanche Road.

A mile and a half west of the Elyria roadside park and just north of Comanche Road, between 14th and 15th Avenues, and East of the Creek is a marker (pictured on the front cover) that was placed in 1907 by George Martin, Secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society. It was placed on the North side of the road for convenience even though he had discovered