

EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS IN
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

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Chapter I

Introduction

A. Problem

The state of Kansas has many libraries and similar institutions which tell the history of the state, as well as that of many of her cities and counties. Most of this information concerns the records and events which occurred at the time of statehood or in the period which followed. Kansas City, Kansas had a strange and fascinating origin which has escaped the pen of many a proficient writer. No doubt, this has been due to the lack of information concerning its beginning and the fact that existing information has been widely scattered. Few cities are able to trace their origin to a small group of Indians desirous of establishing a thriving community among the surrounding white settlements. Nevertheless, this city, now consisting of over 125,000 people, started as a small, insignificant village of Indians who only desired to be recognized as equals among the whites.

The problem of gathering and compiling information concerning Kansas City, Kansas has been the objective of this study. This thesis will relate the early history of the city and the people who were instrumental in creating a large and prosperous Midwestern City.

B. Purpose of Study

This study has been prepared by a teacher of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School System. One of his duties, as a teacher in the Social Science Department, has been to present a unit of study of the early history and government of Kansas City, Kansas. Few instructors in our school system are familiar with this unit since a majority of them come to Kansas City from smaller Kansas Towns and communities. As a result, it is the expressed hope and purpose of the author that this study might not only acquaint these teachers with the early growth of the city, but through an annotated bibliography enable them to acquire additional information if so desired.

Most historians agree that the most effective means of studying the history of a nation or a state is to begin with the study of one's own city or community. In order for the students of the public schools of Kansas City, Kansas to understand the purpose of history, they must realize and appreciate the importance of knowing about their own historic city.

This study has been prepared at the request of Miss Hazel Kier, school supervisor of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School system. It has been purposely written at a level which senior high school students may read and

enjoy. It is the hope of the author that the continuation of this study might be made so as to compile a complete story of the development and progress of Kansas City, Kansas.

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Chapter II

History of Kansas City, Kansas Prior to Permanent Settlement

A. Early Explorers and Adventurers

For many centuries, the area now known as Kansas was the home of the American Indian. Due to the Indian not having a written language, little is known about the Great Plains Region prior to the time of the appearance of the white man. Consequently, the period prior to the white man's ascendancy has never been recorded and is, therefore, of little importance.

The first European adventurer to set foot on Kansas soil was Francisco de Coronado. After failing to locate the mythical Seven Cities of Cibola, Coronado traveled northeastward into Kansas in search of the fabulous Land of Quivera. Although the expedition did not reach the site of Kansas City, it nevertheless must be recorded as the first appearance of civilized man on Kansas soil.¹ Many cities of Kansas now claim that Coronado visited the area where their city now stands. However, no concrete evidence has been brought forth to justify their claims. Coronado did not establish a permanent settlement and left little of value for the generations that followed.

¹Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, p. 2.

For more than two centuries following Coronado's expedition, the land of Kansas was in the hands of the Spanish and French fur traders, trappers, and missionaries. Little was done by these people to explore and settle the region. No written records were kept by the French or Spanish adventurers which indicate any permanent settlement having been made. The only evidence disclosing their presence in the area have been maps and sketches showing the location of the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. Records indicating the presence of the French missionaries Father Marquette and Father Hennepin have been produced, but no permanent settlement was made by either.² Kansas City, Kansas, therefore, as far as written history, had its beginning with the Lewis and Clark expedition.

When Thomas Jefferson became President of the United States, he sent a message to Congress on January 18, 1803, pointing out the possibilities of securing the trade with the Indian tribes living along the Missouri River. He suggested that an intelligent officer with a small group of men might be able to explore the area between what was then the United States and the Pacific Ocean without too much expense. By having conferences with the Indians

²Ibid., pp. 2-6

on the subject of trade and commerce, it was thought the expedition might gain admission among them to organize depots for the exchange of goods. It was also hoped the expedition would return with information concerning the geography of the region. President Jefferson requested Congress appropriate \$2,500 to outfit the expedition. This appropriation was granted.³

The President placed at the head of this exploratory party Captain Merriwether Lewis. A close friend of Captain Lewis, William Clark, was placed second in command. On April 30, 1803, Napoleon surprised the world by agreeing to transfer the entire Louisiana Territory to the United States for fifteen million dollars. In the meantime, the expedition gathered at Camp River Dubois, just opposite the mouth of the Missouri River. On May 14, 1804, the famous exploration party started its journey into the unknown.⁴

On June 26, 1804, the party landed and set up camp at a point between the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. The next three days were spend exploring the region and resting their party.⁵

³Grant W. Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, Kansas (Merriam, Kansas: Mission Press, 1935) pp. 7-8.

⁴Ibid., pp. 9-10.

⁵Ibid., p. 10.

The following description of the region now known as Kansas City, Kansas was given by the party during their three day encampment.

. . . After 9 3/4 miles we camped at the upper point of the mouth of the Kansas River. Here we remained two days during which we made the necessary observations, recruited the party, and repaired the boat. The Kansas River takes its rise in the plains between the Arkansan (sic) and Platt rivers, and pursues a course generally east till (sic) its junction with the Missouri; here it is 340 1/4 yards wide, though it is wider a short distance above the mouth . . . On the South bank of the Kansas the hills or highlands come within 1 1/2 miles of the river . . . On the banks of the Kansas reside the Indians of the same name, consisting of two villages, . . . and amounting to about 300 men. This nation is now hunting on the plains for Buffalo which our hunters have seen for the first time. The Kansas river is very low at this time. About a mile below it we landed to view the situation of a high hill, which has many advantages for a trading house or a fort . . . The weather was oppressively hot. The low grounds were delightfully beautiful. ⁶

After this short stay, the expedition continued its journey to the Pacific Coast. The report of their journey definitely increased the interest and knowledge of the region and facilitated an earlier settlement of the area surrounding Kansas City.

⁶ Elliott Coues, History of the Expedition Under the Command of Lewis and Clark (New York: Francis P. Harper Publishing Co., 1893) Vol. 1, pp. 32-33. Also, Katharine Coman, Economic Beginnings in the Far West (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1912) Vol. 1, pp. 231-89, passim.

Other American explorers also visited the area and wrote vivid descriptions of the land now known as Kansas City, Kansas. In 1819, Major Stephen H. Long, accompanied by a Corps of Topographical Engineers, passed the site of present Wyandotte County on his way to the Yellowstone country. In 1825, Cyprian Chouteau, a Frenchman, established a trading post on the south side of the Kansas River near the present site of Muncie, Kansas.⁷ In 1842, Colonel John C. Fremont entered Wyandotte County and outfitted his expedition at the Chouteau Trading Post. From Fremont's Journal, a vivid description was given describing the landscape and vegetation existing in the Kansas City, Kansas area.⁸

B. The Pawnee and Kansas Indians Inhabit Wyandotte County.

Kansas was first occupied by Indians of the Caddoan linguistic family. The greater part of eastern Kansas, including Wyandotte County, was first occupied by the Pawnee Nation of Indians.⁹ The Pawnee maintained control

⁷Charles E. Goodspeed, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890) pp.147-48.

⁸Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 13.

⁹William E. Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas: Place in the History of the State", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1923) Vol. 15, p. 181.

over most of Kansas until 1832, when a smallpox epidemic ravaged the Tribe and reduced their number in half. The next year, 1833, the Pawnees negotiated a treaty with the United States in which the Tribe agreed to abandon all land lying south of the Platte River.¹⁰

The Kansas Indians, being members of the Siouan linguistic family, had at one time resided in the Piedmont Region of Virginia. When the Kansas Indians left this region, history does not record. It was probably the quest for an abundant supply of food that forced the Indians across the Alleghanies. The Kansas Indians, along with other Sioux Tribes, ascended the Mississippi to the present site of St. Louis where they resided for several years. From the St. Louis region, the tribes ascended the Missouri River to the mouth of the Osage River. Here a division was made and the Kansas Indians left the other tribes and continued their journey to the mouth of the Kansas River.¹¹

The Kansas Indians remained in the Kansas City, Kansas area until a treaty was arranged with the United States.

¹⁰Goodspeed, p. 148.

¹¹W.E. Connelley, History of Kansas State and People (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1928) Vol. 1, pp. 7-11.

On June 3, 1825, the treaty was signed by the two parties. By the terms of the treaty, the Tribe agreed to move a short distance westward to an area immediately north of Topeka, Kansas. In return, the United States paid annuities to the Tribe which they received at the mouth of the Kansas River.¹² The Kansas Indians remained at the Topeka location until 1846, when the Tribe ceded their Reservation to the United States in exchange for a reservation on the Neosho River near Council Grove, Kansas. The Tribe remained here until 1873 when a final move to the Indian Territory of Oklahoma took place.¹³

The Kansas Indians, although occupying only a small portion of Kansas, left their name to the state and to its second largest city. Numerous methods of spelling the word Kansas have been used. More than twenty-four different ways of spelling have been suggested. As to the meaning of the word, there have been disagreements. Several authorities have accepted the word as meaning "smoky", while others claim the word referred to "winds" or "wind people". However, the exact meaning has never been determined.¹⁴

¹²Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 27.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 18.

Chapter III

The Shawnee Indians Settle the Southern Part of Kansas City, Kansas

The history of Kansas City, Kansas and the neighboring communities would be incomplete if mention of the Shawnee Indians were not made. This warlike tribe was the first of the Eastern emigrant tribes placed on a reservation in the Indian Country by the United States Government. The history of the Shawnee Nation has been written many times, but primarily from a national viewpoint rather than a local one.

The Shawnee Indians have been referred to as the "gypsies" or "Bedouins" of the American Wilderness. The Tribe was constantly on the move.¹ The word Shawnee means "Southern", which indicates the Tribe was originally the southermost tribe of the Algonquin Family of Indians. These nomads lived, at times, in the present states of South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other Eastern states before their arrival in Kansas.²

¹Perl E. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, p. 29.

²W.E. Connelley, History of Kansas State and People (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1928) Vol. 1, p. 222. Hereafter cited as Connelley, History of Kansas, Vol. 1.

Unfortunately, the Shawnee Indians consistently selected the losing side when entering war involving the whites. This fierce, warlike tribe suffered a severe defeat during the French and Indian War, 1754-63. By allying themselves with the French, the Nation selected the wrong side. Shortly after the United States became an independent nation, the Shawnee Indians, along with other Indians, attempted to halt the westward migration of the European settlers by raiding their temporary establishments. At the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, the Shawnees were thoroughly defeated by "Mad" Anthony Wayne.³ This defeat was so complete, that the Tribe was never able to recover completely.⁴

A few years after the defeat at Fallen Timbers, the Shawnees tried to rally the various Indian tribes of the West and South in an endeavor to stop the advancement of the white settlers. The primary aim was to form a confederacy and unite the Indian tribes in an attempt to halt the whites. The leaders of this movement were Tecumseh and his half-brother Ten Squa-Ta-Wa-- better

³Ibid.

⁴Grant W. Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, Kansas (Merriam, Kansas: Mission Press, 1935) p. 13. Hereafter cited as Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County.

known as the "Prophet". Tecumseh set out in 1805 to visit the Indian tribes of the South and West. While recruiting warriors in the South, the Prophet so aroused the warlike spirits of the Shawnees that on November 7, 1811, the Shawnee Indians attacked and completely destroyed a group of Americans on the Wabash River. General William Henry Harrison had revenge for the United States by defeating the Shawnees at the Battle of Tippecanoe. This defeat not only broke the warlike spirit of the Shawnees, but sounded the end of Tecumseh's attempt to form a confederacy.⁵

After the defeat at Tippecanoe, the Shawnees separated into various clans and settled throughout the Mid-west. A large segment of the Tribe traveled to Missouri and settled near Cape Girardeau with other Shawnees who had previously moved there after the defeat by General Anthony Wayne in 1794. It wasn't long before the advancing Americans desired the area of Cape Girardeau. Consequently, Indian Agent William Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame, negotiated a treaty with the Shawnees in 1825.⁶ By the provisions of the treaty, the Tribe was to surrender their Missouri claims for a reservation in the Indian Country just west of Missouri. The Missouri Shawnees eventually

⁵ Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 30.

⁶ Appendix A. Treaty with the Shawnee Indians, Nov. 7, 1825.

selected the region immediately south of the Kansas River just west of the border of Missouri. This reservation included all of Johnson County and the section of Wyandotte County which is located south of the Kaw River.⁷

The Missouri Shawnees began their trek westward to the Kansas Reservation during the winter of 1825-26. The Fish band arrived in Kansas in 1828. It took approximately ten years for the Tribe to assemble on the new Reservation. A provision of the Treaty of 1825, made it possible for the Shawnees residing in Ohio also to move and settle on the same lands occupied by the Missouri Shawnees. According to Mr. Grant Harrington, approximately one-third of the Ohio Tribe took advantage of the provision and migrated to Kansas in 1828.⁸

The Shawnees remaining in Ohio were shocked to discover that an agent of the United States Government would arrive to purchase their lands in 1831. The Tribe's first reaction was to refuse to sell. But, after the bargainers put forth claims involving large sums of money owed to the white settlers in Ohio, the Tribe was forced to reconsider. Eventually, a meeting was held between the principal chiefs

⁷Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, loc. cit.

⁸Grant W. Harrington, The Shawnees of Kansas, (Kansas City, Kansas: The Western Pioneer Press, 1937) p. 5. Hereafter cited as Harrington, Shawnees in Kansas.

of the Nation and the Indian agent representing the United States. At this meeting, the agent explained the many advantages of surrendering their Ohio holdings and moving to the region in Kansas where their brothers resided. The tribe was divided in their decision. Those who had improved their homesteads were firmly against selling. But those of the vagrant and loafer class were in favor of disposing of the land. After much deliberation, the Ohio Shawnees decided to relinquish their claim to the area in exchange for the assumption of^f debts by the United States which had been incurred by the Tribe.⁹ The terms of the written agreement did not coincide with the verbal explanation made by Indian agent, James B. Gardiner. Once again, the Shawnees were greatly deceived by the overzealous white man.¹⁰ A delegation of Shawnee Chiefs and a few Quaker missionaries traveled to Washington D.C. and pointed out their objections to the terms of the treaty. After a short time, the case was referred to President Andrew Jackson, who had little sympathy with the Shawnee plea. As a last resort, the delegation approached Congress in an attempt to settle the dispute. But Congress also

⁹Appendix B. Treaty with the Shawnee Indians, August 8, 1831.

¹⁰Henry Harvey, History of the Shawnee Indians (Cincinnati: Ephriam Morgan and Sons, 1855) pp. 190-98.

turned a deaf ear to the Redman's plea.¹¹

When the delegation returned to Ohio, preparations for the long journey was made. As to when the Shawnees started this migration westward, few authorities agree. Henry Harvey, a Quaker missionary among the Shawnees, stated that the Wapanghkanetta band of Shawnees left Ohio approximately September 20, 1832. This band made up about four-fifths of the Tribe living on the Ohio Reservation. According to the terms of the treaty, the trip was to be a safe, comfortable journey made under the supervision of the Government. The trip was poorly planned by the Indian Agent, James B. Gardiner, and much suffering was encountered by all.

On arrival in Kansas-- which occurred around Christmas, 1832-- there were no houses waiting for them. As a result, the Indians had to live in tents until homes could be constructed the following spring.¹² The last band of Ohio Shawnees, the Hog Creek Band, traveled under the leadership of Joseph Parks. The journey was well-planned and the group arrived during the summer of 1833, with little suffering.¹³

¹¹Ibid., pp. 210-13.

¹²Ibid., pp. 230-32.

¹³Ibid., p. 233.

Originally, the Missouri Shawnees were to settle on a fifty square mile tract of land in Oklahoma. On examination of this land, it was found undesirable and the Tribe selected a secondary site located south of the Kansas River and bordering the Missouri State line. This Kansas Reservation consisted of 1,600,000 acres. An accurate description of the allotted territory is found in the treaty made with the Shawnees on May 10, 1854.¹⁴ The Tribe occupied very little of the 1,600,000 acre reservation. At first, they congregated near the Kansas River close to the present-day town of Turner. Later, the Tribe inhabited the area in the southern part of Wyandotte County and northern section of Johnson County close to the border of Missouri.¹⁵

Little was accomplished by the Shawnees while living in the Kansas City area. Missions were established among the tribe by various religious societies, but these societies met with little success in their attempt to Christianize and civilize the savage Tribe.¹⁶

The most notable event to transpire during the short time the Shawnees lived in Kansas was the establishment of several missions. The first effort to furnish the

¹⁴Connelley, History of Kansas, Vol. 1, p. 223.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 224.

¹⁶Harrington, Shawnees In Kansas, p. 6.

Shawnee Indians a mission belongs to Isaac McCoy. As a Baptist missionary, he thought more progress could be made among the Shawnees if they were isolated from the white man's civilization. In addition to being a missionary, Reverend McCoy had served as an Indian Commissioner for the United States in Indiana. While serving in this capacity, he traveled to Kansas in 1830 seeking a suitable location for his Indiana Indian friends. Before leaving Kansas, Reverend McCoy visited with several members of the Shawnee Tribe, including the Prophet, on the idea of establishing a mission among them. They were acceptable to the idea. The next move was made by George Vashon, the Tribe's agent, who responded by writing a letter to Reverend Jesse Green stating that certain members of the Shawnees were desirous of having a mission established. At the Methodist Episcopal Church Conference held at St. Louis on September 16, 1830, it was decided a mission should be maintained among the Shawnees. As a result, Reverend Thomas Johnson was sent to establish a mission at the Shawnee village.¹⁷

Reverend Thomas Johnson, accompanied by his newly wedded wife, began immediately the work of constructing a mission near Turner, Kansas. The mission was constructed

¹⁷Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp. 43-48.

in 1831 on the south side of the Kansas River just east of Turner near the Chouteau Trading Post. The first mission building was a two-story log cabin, which was used as a parsonage as well as a mission school. It was completed not later than the spring of 1831, and served the Tribe until 1838.

The mission was relocated near the site of Westport, Missouri, in 1838.¹⁸ The two principal structures were completed in 1839. The larger building, which housed a large auditorium, served as a church and school. The smaller building served as a dormitory as well as containing classrooms. Other smaller buildings were built and served as meeting places for specialized, vocational courses. The mission school served not only the Shawnees, but the children of the neighboring tribes located near the school. The school gave the children an opportunity to acquire the principles of Christian living and the American way of life, as well as teaching the students a worthwhile vocation.¹⁹

Life at the mission was rather routine and anything but exciting. The students began the day at five o'clock

¹⁸Edith Connelley Ross, "The Old Shawnee Mission", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1928) Vol. 17, p. 421.

¹⁹Ibid., pp. 421-24.

in the morning by doing the chores. Classes began at nine o'clock and ended at four, with a one hour lunch period and several recesses in between. The evenings were spent in preparation of lessons which were due the following day. The students were permitted a thirty minute recreation period in the evening just before retiring for the day. The school offered very little religious training. Before each morning and evening meal, one chapter of the Bible was read. This was the extent of the religious instruction until the Sabbath.²⁰

The girls at the mission played an important part in its maintenance. The girls were responsible for preparing the meals for the staff as well as for the school population. The clothes worn by both girls and boys were prepared by the girls. Primarily, it may be said, the girls learned how to spin, weave, cook, and other domestic trades while the boys were taught better methods of farming, carpentering, shoemaking, and brick-making. To complete the task of educating the youngsters, four teachers were employed. Two were assigned academic work, and two the vocational courses.²¹

²⁰Ibid., p. 424.

²¹J. J. Lutz, "The Methodist Missions Among the Indian Tribes of Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906) Vol. 9, pp. 174-75.

The school was managed by Reverend Thomas Johnson from its beginning until 1843, when he was forced to vacate the position because of poor health. During his absence, Reverend Jerome Berryman was in charge of the mission. Reverend Johnson journeyed to Cincinnati where he remained until his health was restored. After recovering, Reverend Johnson traveled to Fayette, Missouri, and purchased a small farm. Evidentially, farm life was not challenging enough. For in 1847, he returned to the Shawnee Mission.²² Reverend Johnson remained in charge of the Shawnee Mission until 1853, when he served as a delegate for the Provisional Government of Kansas to Congress. He returned to the Mission after serving in Washington for less than a year.²³

Reverend Johnson made a successful and valuable contribution to the American Nation by educating, discipling, and familiarizing these Indian children with the American civilization or mode of living. The mission proved to be very successful from its beginning to the end. The mission was forced to close as a result of the treaty negotiated with the United States in 1854. By the provisions of this treaty, the Reservation was divided equally among the mem-

²²

Ross, pp. 425.

²³

See page 136 for additional information concerning the position of Reverend Thomas Johnson as a delegate to Congress of the Provisional Government of Kansas.

bers or held in severalty. Since the members of the Shawnee Nation now owned their land individually, they had the right to retain or dispose of it as they saw fit. Slowly, the Shawnee's sold their property and moved to the Indian Territory located farther south. From 1854 to 1864, there was a gradual decline in the enrollment at the mission school. Finally, the mission was completely closed in 1864.²⁴ With the closing of the school, the minister retired to a small farm near Westport. Here he remained until his brutal death on January 2, 1865, at the hands of a band of would-be thieves and followers of Quantrill. He was buried in a small cemetery near the Mission. Reverend Johnson's wife and other members of the family were also buried in this cemetery following their deaths.²⁵ The Indian Institute of Haskell, located at Lawrence, Kansas, was patterned largely after the Shawnee Mission School established by the Reverend Thomas Johnson.²⁶

In addition to the Methodist mission, other religious denominations established missions among the Shawnees. The Baptists founded a mission on the Reservation in 1831. Reverend Doctor Johnson Lykins and his wife were appointed

²⁴Ross, pp. 429-31.

²⁵Lutz, pp. 162-63.

²⁶Ross, p. 431.

the first missionaries. The mission school was located in the northeastern part of Johnson County. In 1833, Reverend Moses Merrill arrived to assist Doctor Lykins. Also in 1833, Reverend Jotham Meeker brought with him a small printing press upon arriving at the mission. By the year 1834, Reverend Meeker had printed two books. A system of phonography was used in order that the Shawnees could read and understand their spoken language. On March 1, 1835, the first newspaper ever published in an Indian language was printed. It was edited by Dr. Lykins and was known as the Shau-waw-nowe-Keasuthwau, which meant the Shawnee Sun. In addition to being the first Indian newspaper, it was also the first newspaper printed in Kansas. The Baptist mission was discontinued in 1855.²⁷

In addition to the Methodist and Baptist Missions, the Quakers or Friends located a mission amid the Shawnees. This mission was begun in 1808 in Ohio, some twenty-three years before the Shawnees migrated westward. The Quakers were requested to re-establish a mission in Kansas among the Shawnees in 1834. The Ohio Mission had been closed when the Tribe left Ohio. The Kansas mission was located on 320 acres near the junction of United States Highways 50 and 69, near Merriam, Kansas. In 1837, Moses Pearson

²⁷Connelley, History of Kansas, Vol. 1, pp. 224-25.

became superintendent of the school, while his wife acted as matron. In 1842, Thomas H. Stanley relieved Reverend Pearson and built a new and larger school in 1845. The basic courses of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and English grammar were offered by the school. If advanced education was desired by the students, they were sent to Indiana or Ohio to attend classes in the better white schools.²⁸ In 1862, the school was compelled to close because of financial reasons. The mission school was reopened in 1865, when the Shawnee Chiefs agreed to pay tuition for their children's education. The school was closed again in 1869, but reopened temporarily in 1870. Later the same year, the mission was closed permanently. A red granite boulder was dedicated by the D. A. R. Chapter of Olathe in 1923, commemorating the site of the Quaker Mission.²⁹

The missions which were placed among the Shawnee Indians accomplished a great deal in breaking their warlike, suspicious character. However, the schools were not too successful in influencing the Tribe to adopt American customs and habits. This was due primarily to the pride which had been instilled in the Tribe from past generations.

As previously mentioned, the Shawnees ceded the Reservation to the United States in 1854. The United States

²⁸Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp. 81-82.

²⁹Ibid., pp. 82-86.

returned 200,000 acres of land to the Shawnees to be divided among themselves. Each member of the Tribe was permitted to receive two hundred acres. If desired, a small group or band within the Tribe could have the land set aside in a unit to be owned in common. By 1870, most of the property controlled by the Shawnees had been surrendered to the land-hungry whites. A large majority of the Shawnees migrated to Oklahoma after disposing of their land and merged themselves with the Cherokees.³⁰

Several interesting as well as colorful Shawnee Indians resided in or near Kansas City, Kansas at one time. No doubt, the most colorful member of the Shawnee Nation who lived in Wyandotte County was Ten Squa Ta Wa, better known as the "Prophet".³¹ Next to his half-brother, Tecumseh, the Prophet was unquestionably the greatest and most daring Shawnee who ever lived. His name, the Prophet, was given him by fellow tribesmen after he made a successful prediction of an eclipse of the sun in 1808. How he came in control of such knowledge has never been determined. Nevertheless, when his prophesy came true, he was thought to possess supernatural powers and was considered a man of great foresight.³²

³⁰Connelley, History of Kansas, Vol. 1, p. 225.

³¹Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 30.

³²Ibid., pp. 33-34.

The reputation and power of the Prophet was completely destroyed at the Battle of Tippecanoe. By declaring he could make the White man's powder turn into ashes, he so encouraged his followers that they went into battle with confidence but were defeated and greatly reduced in numbers. After the defeat, the Prophet migrated westward and lived among the Shawnees at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Reverend Isaac McCoy reported visiting the Prophet in 1830. This information indicated the Prophet took part in the migration in 1828. The Prophet, on arrival in Kansas, settled in a town which bore his name-- Prophet's Town. This small village was located directly east of old Junction School and south of the Maple Hill Cemetery. Here he remained until a short time before his death, when he moved to a friend's house near Thirty-eighth and Ruby Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas. Upon death, the Prophet was buried in an alley back of 3818 Ruby Avenue. A temporary monument was erected by Mr. E. F. Heisler when the grave was discovered through the assistance of Charles Blue Jacket. The marker has since been destroyed by vandals. Consequently, the grave has been left unmarked and the Prophet sleeps in peace.³³

³³ Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp. 87-92.

Charles Blue Jacket was another important figure in the Shawnee Nation. The grandfather of Blue Jacket was a white man. While living in Virginia, he and his brother were captured by the Shawnee Indians while on a hunting expedition. He bargained with his captors and agreed to remain with the Tribe if the younger brother would be set free. To this, the Shawnees agreed. At the time of the capture, Grandfather Blue Jacket was wearing a blue linsey hunting jacket or shirt and thereby received the name, Blue Jacket. The original name of Blue Jacket was Swerangen. Blue Jacket quickly adapted himself to the Shawnee way of life and at twenty-one was made a chief. A short time later, he married a Shawnee woman and became the father of a large family. One of his sons was Jim Blue Jacket, who was the father of Charles Blue Jacket.³⁴ Charles was born in Michigan Territory, but early in life he moved to Ohio with his parents. Here he remained until his journey to Kansas in 1832. Charles Blue Jacket received a valuable education at the Quaker Mission School in Ohio. Being well-educated and rescued from heathenism, he entered the Christian ministry. In 1859, he was ordained a minister of the Methodist Church and preached until his death in 1897. His death resulted from a cold developed while in Kansas City,

³⁴Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 35-36.

Kansas pointing out the burial place of the Prophet.³⁵
He was buried in Oklahoma.

Another man of distinction in the Shawnee Nation was Captain Joseph Parks. He was born in the territory of Michigan in 1792. At a very early age he won the affection of the General Lewis Cass family and received educational instruction not enjoyed by other Shawnee children. For a time, Captain Parks served as an interpreter for the United States Government. The commission of Captain was awarded Mr. Parks when he led a group of Shawnee warriors against the Seminole Indians of Florida.³⁶ Under his direction, the Hog Creek Band emigrated to Kansas. The trip was made with very few hardships, and the Band arrived in Kansas in good health. Captain Parks was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He lived on a farm near Westport and possessed a few Negro slaves.³⁷ He died April 3, 1859, and was buried in the Shawnee Indian Cemetery in Johnson County. A monument, with Masonic emblems, was erected marking the grave of this great Shawnee chief.³⁸

³⁵Lutz, pp. 182-84.

³⁶Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 36-37.

³⁷Lutz, p. 186.

³⁸Morgan, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

The Shawnee Indians left little in Kansas City, Kansas to indicate their presense. However, the history of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas would be incomplete without a statement about this Indian Nation.

Chapter IV

THE DELAWARE INDIANS

In tracing the early development of Kansas City, Kansas, the Delaware Indians played a very minor role. Nevertheless, without their presence, the familiar names of Wyandotte, Quindaro, Armstrong, Walker, and others would not be heard or located in the area today. Through the generosity of the Delaware Indians, it was possible for the Wyandotte Indians to establish themselves at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

The early history of the Delaware Nation has been traced to the region located between the Hudson and Potomac Rivers. While living in this region, Lord Delaware made a voyage along the River which bears his name. Here he attached his name to the Tribe.¹ Before this, the Tribe was referred to as "Lenape" or "Leni-Lenape"; a word meaning "original" or "pure". The Tribe claimed to be the original Tribe of Indians in North America and all other tribes descended from them.² While residing

¹W.E. Connelley, History of Kansas State and People (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1928) Vol. 1, p. 226. Hereafter cited as Connelley, History of Kansas, Vol. 1.

²A letter to Lyman Draper from William Walker. October 19, 1870. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

in this region, William Penn concluded a treaty, signed in 1682, permitting the Quakers to settle on land formerly controlled by the Delawares.³

Finding the area along the Delaware River becoming densely populated by whites, the Delawares commenced a series of migrations which ended in their settlement in Kansas. The first migration resulted in a settlement near the Susquehanna River. Before long, this region was desired by the European settlers and the Tribe was forced to move farther west. It was during this migration that the Delawares were given land by the Wyandotte Nation in the Ohio Territory. Having taken part in the Battle at Fallen Timbers in 1794, the Tribe, being defeated, migrated west of the Mississippi River and settled the Cape Girardeau region in Missouri. Here they lived among the Shawnee Indians until approximately 1815, when a large portion of the Tribe migrated to Arkansas and Texas. The remaining members of the Tribe journeyed west and settled in the southwestern part of the state of Missouri. On October 3, 1818, the Delawares still living along the White River in Indiana, agreed to surrender this area and move

³Alan W. Farley, "The Delaware Indians in Kansas, 1829-1867" (Pamphlet, Publisher Unknown, 1955) p. 1. Hereafter cited as Farley, Delaware Indians.

by the famed Chouteau Brothers. The Chouteaus were the first white men to establish a trading post in Wyandotte County, Kansas. This was done in 1812.⁹ According to Mr. Louis Burns, who wrote on the influence of the Chouteau Brothers in the settlement of the West,

. . . Francis Chouteau was sent to Kansas, and was employed for several years in this work (fur trading). The part known as the "Four Houses," so called from its being built on the four sides of an open square, was established on the north bank of the Kaw, twenty miles above its mouth. In 1825, Francis was joined by Cyprian, his brother, and a house was built opposite the present site of Muncie, on the south side of the Kaw¹⁰

There has been some question as to when the Four Houses Trading Post was erected. Frederick Chouteau, brother of the founders of the post, lists the date as 1820.¹¹ Mr. J. C. McCoy records the date as being 1822.¹²

⁹ Frank W. Blackmar, Kansas (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912) Vol. 1, p. 947.

¹⁰ Louis Burns, The Fur Trading Ventures of August Pierre Chouteau and Pierre "Cadet" Chouteau. Unpublished Masters Thesis, Wm. A. White Library, K.S.T.C., Emporia, Kansas, 1950. p. 29.

¹¹ Grant W. Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, Kansas (Merriam, Kansas: Mission Press, 1935) p. 11. Hereafter cited as Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County.

¹² Kansas City Journal, February 17, 1882, Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 95-97. This is a collection of newspaper articles concerning Wyandotte County and are found in "scrapbook" form at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

Among the first establishments to be constructed on the Delaware Reservation were ferries crossing the Kansas River. In 1830, Henry Tiblow, a member of the Delaware Nation, built a ferry near the Chouteau Trading Post near Bonner Springs, Kansas. Mr. Tiblow later became a prominent chief among the Delawares and served as an interpreter for the United States Government on occasions.¹³ Another ferry was established by Moses Grinter. He was sent by the Government to establish a ferry on the Kansas River connecting the military road running from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Gibson. He arrived in January, 1831, and constructed his ferry near the eastern edge of the Delaware Reservation. This crossing was famous during the pre-territorial and territorial days of Kansas. It was referred to as Grinter's Ferry, Delaware Crossing, Secondine Crossing, and other names.¹⁴ The ferry was in constant use by the military, traders, immigrants, and Indians for many years. Mr. Grinter built an elaborate home on the north side of the River near the site of the ferry. He became the first permanent

¹³Farley, Delaware Indians, p. 2.

¹⁴George A. Root, "Ferries in Kansas", Kansas Historical Quarterly (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society, 1933) Vol. 2, pp. 264-65.

white settler in Wyandotte County. In 1836, Mr. Grinter married a young Delaware woman, Anna Marshall, and reared a large family. He died in 1878. Another ferry was established by a Shawnee Indian soon after the arrival of the Delaware Tribe. The ferry, established by Mr. Charles Tooley, was located two miles up the Kansas River from Grinter's Ferry.¹⁵

An enterprising community was established by the Delawares on their arrival in Kansas. As agreed in the terms of the Treaty of 1829, the United States located a saw mill, grist mill, and furnished the Tribe with horses and cattle.¹⁶ Also, a blacksmith shop was placed on the Reservation and for many years was operated by Mr. Isaac Mundy. A number of well-developed farms were located along the military road leading to Fort Leavenworth. In addition to the planting of corn and a variety of other vegetables, the Tribe raised horses, cattle, swine and an abundance of fowls. With all this progress toward an agrarian way of life, a majority of the Delawares continued their nomadic ways by roaming the plains of Kansas until their removal in 1867.¹⁷

¹⁵Farley, Delaware Indians, loc. cit.

¹⁶Root, p. 226.

¹⁷Farley, Delaware Indians, pp. 2-7, passim.

The Delawares were unsurpassed in fighting ability. The Nation had participated in most of the Indian uprisings in the East and were respected for their fierceness in battle. When the Delawares arrived in Kansas, their love for roaming the plains and hunting the buffalo traveled with them. Members of the Tribe were constantly being killed as they hunted in the ten mile outlet strip as provided by the Treaty of 1829. This strip of land, which ran to the Rocky Mountains, was inhabited by the tribes of central Kansas, especially the Pawnees. When the Delawares came in contact with these tribes, small, deadly wars resulted. The losses from these skirmishes reduced the Tribe to around eight hundred. The Government eventually intervened and demanded the Tribe remain within the Reservation.¹⁸ The Delawares were not always the victims of defeat by their Indian brothers of Kansas. In 1832, Chief Suwaunock led a group of warriors against a large Pawnee village on the Republican River and completely destroyed it. Due to this encounter, John T. Irving, Jr., an Indian agent, called for a peace conference to be held

¹⁸ A.T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883) Vol. 1, p. 1226:

at Fort Leavenworth in 1833. The conference proved to be quite successful, as the tribes lived in peace, with a few exceptions.¹⁹

While located in Kansas, several religious groups established missions, churches, and schools amid the Delaware Nation. The attempts by the missionaries and educators to convert these Indians to Christianity met, to a great extent, with failure. The Delawares were addicted to drinking, fighting, and all other vices common to savages. This resulted in most of the Tribe refusing to accept the white man's mode of life. However, a few members did become converts and accepted the teachings of the missionaries.²⁰

The first mission established among the Delaware Indians in Kansas was through the Methodist Church. The Reverends Thomas and William Johnson constructed a log church five miles north of Grinter's Ferry.²¹ In 1832, the mission came under the direction of the Methodist Missionary Society and appointed Reverends William Johnson and Thomas Markham to be in charge of the mission

¹⁹Connelley, History of Kansas, Vol. 1, pp. 229-30.

²⁰Farley, Delaware Indians, pp. 9-10.

²¹Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, p. 55.

and school. The first report of membership included five whites and twenty-seven Indians. In 1833, Reverend E.T. Peery was appointed as missionary. He served until 1837. During Reverend Peery's stay, a church was constructed near the present town of White Church. It was a wooden frame building and was painted white, thereby giving the name to the town. In 1834, the Methodist Mission had a congregation of forty members and twenty-four school children. The mission was conducted by three teachers and one superintendent.²² In 1837, Reverend L.B. Stateler was appointed to head the mission. Reverend Stateler served until 1840. During his tenure as missionary, the Delaware Mission was moved to a more central location, a short distance southwest of the Stony Point Schoolhouse.²³ In 1844, the school was abandoned and the children were sent to the Shawnee Manual Labor School. The school funds as provided by the United States Government were transferred to the Shawnee School for ten years. In 1845, the Church

²²J.J. Lutz, "The Methodist Missions Among the Indian Tribes of Kansas," Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906) Vol. 9, pp. 204-26, passim.

²³Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp. 56-57.

was placed under the direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. A number of prominent missionaries who served the Delaware Methodist Mission included: Reverends E.T. and J.T. Peery, L.B. Stateler, and N.M. Talbot.²⁴

The mission which proved to be the most successful and beneficial to the Delaware Nation was the mission maintained by the Baptist Church. The first person to establish himself among the Delaware Tribe was Ira D. Blanchard. After being refused monetary assistance by the Baptist Church, Mr. Blanchard took it upon himself to live within the Tribe. His primary objective was to learn the Delaware language. The first Delaware Baptist Mission was started by Reverend Charles Wilson in 1832. However, Reverend Wilson vacated this position on December 13 of the same year in favor of the Choctaw Reservation. The Mission was re-established on February 23, 1833 by Reverend Johnson Lykins. Reverend Lykins employed Mr. Blanchard as the first teacher. By 1835, a school building had been constructed and employed three teachers; Mr. Blanchard, his wife, and Miss Sylvia Case.²⁵ The school was placed near the town of Edwards-

²⁴Lutz, pp. 204-06.

²⁵Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp.56-57.

ville. During the time Mr. Blanchard taught at the mission, at least three religious books were translated into the Delaware language. These books were printed at the Shawnee Baptist Mission.²⁶ By 1838, some fifty members of the Tribe had been taught how to read their own language. The flood of 1844 caused many of the Delawares to abandon the region surrounding the school. This move caused the permanent suspension of the school by 1848.²⁷ As a result, Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard eventually left the missionary field in January, 1848.²⁸

A church was also established by the Baptists on the Delaware Reservation. On April 5, 1841, the church was fully organized and had an initial membership of twenty-six souls. At the first regular meeting, held on April 21, the small group decided to call the church the Delaware and Mohegan Baptist Church. The Church was temporarily abandoned at about the same time as the closing of the Mission School. In 1848, the Mission and Church were re-established by Reverend John G. Pratt. Reverend

²⁶Farley, Delaware Indians, p. 4.

²⁷Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, p. 77.

²⁸Esther C. Hill, "Some Background of Early Baptist Missions in Kansas", Kansas Historical Quarterly (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society, 1932) Vol. 1, p. 90.

Pratt first arrived in the area as a printer in 1837. His assignment was to relieve Jotham Meeker of the Shawnee Mission until 1844. Being ordained a Baptist minister the previous year, he was appointed as a missionary at the Stockbridge Mission near Ft. Leavenworth.²⁹ After closing the Stockbridge Mission, Reverend Pratt re-opened the Baptist Mission among the Delawares. The new mission was located a short distance northeast of the first mission. It consisted of a house, church, schoolhouse, and a few other minor buildings. The mission has been well described by Clara Gowing when she visited the mission in 1859.

The mission consisted of five houses and the stables. A large square house with an "L" was occupied by Mr. Pratt and family . . . Part of the house was originally a log church at the Shawnee Mission, and was the first building used for worship in the country. Another large square house was used as a dormitory for the school. There was also a long school house divided by folding doors . . .³⁰

²⁹Esther C. Hill, "The Pratt Collection", Kansas Historical Quarterly (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society, 1932) Vol. 1, pp. 83-84. Hereafter cited as Hill, "Pratt Collection".

³⁰Clara Gowing, "Life Among the Delaware Indians", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1912) Vol. 12, p. 183.

The new mission was no more successful than the first. For in 1864, Reverend Pratt abandoned the Mission and was appointed to the position of Indian Agent for the Delaware Nation. While serving in this capacity, he aided the Delawares in their removal, in 1867-68, to the new Reservation located in Oklahoma territory.³¹

A third and final mission was established by the Moravians or United Brethern Church. The United Brethern Church had been very successful among the Delawares while they lived in Pennsylvania. Two able clergymen of the church, Reverends Zeisberger and Heckewelder, did much toward the Christianizing of the Delaware Indians. Approximately December 1, 1837, a small band of Delawares arrived from Canada under the direction of a Moravian minister, Reverend Jesse Vogler.³² This small group of Delawares located a mission near the town of Muncie, Kansas. However, by 1848 the group became associated with other members of the Delaware Nation.³³

³¹Hill, "Pratt Collection", p. 84.

³²Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp.93-94

³³Farley, Delaware Indians, p. 4.

The missionaries had little effect on the Delaware/ Indians. A majority of the Tribe questioned the white man's religion and, therefore, retained their own pagan beliefs. However, a small percentage did become converts and became stalwart members of the various mission organizations. Indians within the Tribe such as Charles and Isaac Journeycake later became ministers among their own people.³⁴

On December 14, 1843, a treaty was arranged between the Delaware and Wyandotte Indians. This treaty transferred the eastern part of the Delaware Reservation to the Wyandotte Nation. Before leaving Ohio, the Wyandottes concluded a treaty with the Shawnee Indians. By this agreement, the Shawnee Nation was to surrender to the Wyandottes a strip of land south of the Kansas River, running along the Missouri state line. On arrival in Kansas, the Shawnees repudiated the treaty. Being without a home, the Wyandottes turned to their Delaware brothers, who were living on the north bank of the Kansas River. The Delaware Indians, remembering that the Wyandottes had given the Tribe a home in Ohio,

³⁴Ibid., p. 10.

granted the Wyandottes a portion of their Reservation. Thirty-six sections of the Delaware Reservation was sold to the Wyandottes at a rate of \$1.87½ per acre, or \$46,080.³⁵ Three additional sections were given the Wyandottes to indicate that a pledge of friendship and perpetual amity existed between the two tribes.³⁶ The Delawares had not settled the land ceded to the Wyandottes, so no Delawares were dispossessed when the treaty was made.³⁷

The government of the Delaware Indians was very similar to the tribal government maintained by a majority of the Indian tribes of North America. It was composed of a council of chiefs and a court of law very similar to that in the Wyandotte Nation. However, on December 18, 1862, the counsellors of the Delaware Nation met at Council House, which was located a few miles north of Bonner Springs, and adopted a new code of laws or government. It consisted of ten articles

³⁵C. P. Deatherage, Early History of Greater Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri: Interstate Publishing Co., 1927) p. 692-93.

³⁶A Letter from William Walker to an Unknown Person, n. d. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

³⁷Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, p. 28.

which were subdivided into sections. The new government definitely indicated the great strides which had taken place within the Tribe toward becoming civilized. A few examples of the new code of laws included: "Article five, section one--if a person commit murder in the first degree, he shall, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of death. But if the evidence against him shall be insufficient or if the killing be in self-defense, the person doing the killing shall be released; Article five, section seven--it shall be the duty of the sheriff to attend all meetings for public worship; Article seven, section seven--the council shall appoint guardians for orphan children when they deem it expedient to do so."³⁸

When Kansas became a Federal Territory in 1854, the Delaware Reservation was doomed. The white men moving into the area disregarded the right of the Delawares to solely occupy the Reservation. The city of Leavenworth was formed by squatters who occupied the land without permission from the Delaware Tribe or United States. Eventually, the Government did approve the sale of three hundred and twenty acres to the Leavenworth Town Company for \$24,000. The

³⁸ Ibid., pp. 35-39, passim.

city of Leavenworth is now located on this land.³⁹

Several treaties followed the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act involving the United States and the Delaware Nation. The first of these treaties was arranged in Washington on May 6, 1854. The Delawares ceded to the United States the ten mile outlet strip of land. This resulted in setting the western boundary of the Delaware Reservation approximately forty miles west of the western boundary of the Wyandotte Reservation.⁴⁰ The next treaty was negotiated at Sarcovieville on May 30, 1860. Due to the increasing number of white settlers arriving in the area, the Government agents were instructed to influence the Tribe to surrender a part of their cherished Reservation. Also, railroad promotion was important at this time. The Delaware Tribe possessed land greatly desired by the Leavenworth, Pawnee, and Western Railroad.⁴¹ According to the provisions of the treaty, each member of the Tribe was to receive eighty acres of land. The remaining area was

³⁹ Farley, Delaware Indians, p. 10.

⁴⁰ Charles Kappler, Indian Affairs--Laws and Treaties (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904) Vol. 2, pp. 614-18.

⁴¹ Farley, Delaware Indians, pp. 13-14.

to be sold to the Leavenworth, Pawnee, and Western Railroad at a rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Other sections of the treaty provided for the Delaware missions, churches, and schools to be given a number of acres of land. In addition, the United States agreed to reimburse the Delawares for the loss of timber, horses, and cattle stolen by the emigrant whites.⁴² The final treaty with the Delaware Tribe was written at the Agency House on July 4, 1866. This treaty called for the remaining property controlled by the Delawares to be sold to the Missouri River Railroad at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents an acre. In return, the government agreed to establish a Reservation in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma.⁴³ The Tribe traveled to the Indian Territory during the years 1867 and 1868 and settled near Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Indian Agent John G. Pratt was placed in charge of removal.⁴⁴ At the time of removal, the Tribe numbered 1,160.⁴⁵

⁴² Kappler, Vol. 2, pp. 803-07.

⁴³ Ibid., pp. 937-42.

⁴⁴ Hill, "Pratt Collection", p. 84.

⁴⁵ Charles Goodspeed, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890) p. 149.

Chapter V

The Wyandotte Indians

A. Introduction

Although the Shawnee and Delaware Indians first settled the area that later became Kansas City, Kansas, the real development and progress of the city must be credited to the Wyandotte Indians. Little was done by either the Shawnee or Delaware Indians to create any type of permanent home. However, the Wyandotte Nation was very influential in the creating of a large, permanent city at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. The Tribe took a leading role in the establishment of Kansas as a Federal Territory. The Constitution by which Kansas became a state was written in the city created by this Indian Nation. As a result of the great influence of the Wyandotte Indians on both a local and state level, much of this study has been devoted to the early history of the Wyandottes, especially the period prior to statehood.

B. Early History of Wyandotte Nation

The Wyandotte Indians have had many names attached to them by early explorers and missionaries. A few of

these names include: Lelemants, Elionoutates, Kiondaddies, Tionoutates, and Hurons. The more modern name of Wyandotte came from the word meaning "of one speech".¹ Mr. Perl W. Morgan gave this version of how the modern name of Wyandotte came about.

"The Indian word was Wyandot. The English added another 'T' and it became Wyandott. Then the French tacked on a letter 'e' and so it became Wyandotte. It is the French version that is generally accepted by people today".²

Knowledge of the Wyandotte Indian Nation before the seventh century is derived from stories and legends passed down from generation to generation by its members. As a result, the early history of the Tribe cannot be accepted as being completely authentic.

¹C.P. Deatherage, Early History of Greater Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri: Interstate Publishing Co., 1927) Vol. 1, p. 687. The French missionaries referred to the Wyandottes as Hurons, a word meaning "shock heads". This name was given them because of the heavy, bristly hair which covered their heads. Also, the French found the Wyandottes living among the original Huron Indians in Canada and merely referred to the Wyandottes by the same name.

²Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, pp. 59-67. So that the reader will not have difficulty, the word "Wyandotte" will be used unless inserted in quotes or when used in connection with Wyandott City, Town of Wyandott, and the City of Wyandott.

The earliest history of the Wyandotte Nation reveals a number of migrations. Supposedly, the Wyandottes were "created" in the region between the St. James Bay and the coast of Labrador.³ However, the earliest known home of the Tribe has been traced to the north bank of the St. Lawrence River. From this region, the Tribe migrated south and inhabited the area near the present city of Montreal, Canada. Here a dispute arose with their cousins, the Senecas, who were located on the South bank of the St. Lawrence and was the westernmost tribe of the Iroquois of New York. This dispute destined the Wyandottes to continue their migration southward.⁴ A deadly war broke out between the two Tribes which continued, intermittently, for approximately one hundred years. According to legend, a young Wyandotte brave was desiring marriage with a certain girl within the Tribe. The girl refused to marry the brave on the grounds he had never participated on a war party. To overcome this obstruction, the young Indian organized a small raiding party and set out to prove himself a fighter.

³W.E. Connelley, Kansas and Kansans (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1918) Vol. 1, p. 254.

⁴Deatherage, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

The party encountered a small Seneca hunting party and attacked. Every member of the Seneca party was massacred and the scalps taken. So enraged was the Seneca Nation, that they swore everlasting vengeance against the Wyandottes.⁵ This event was the origin of a war which greatly reduced the numbers of both tribes and caused the Wyandottes to leave Canada.

The Wyandottes, being defeated on all occasions and facing the reality of complete annihilation, decided to escape this peril by migrating to the southwest. Moving into the area near Niagara Falls, the Wyandottes were safe from the Senecas until they also moved into Western New York. This forced the Wyandottes to migrate near Toronto, Canada.⁶ This settlement was called "plenty" or "land of plenty" by the Wyandottes because of the abundance of food. The Wyandotte name for Toronto is "To-run-to". Still being troubled by the nearness of the Senecas, the Tribe migrated to the territory possessed by the Canadian Hurons. The Hurons tried to expel the Wyandottes from their land, but failed to

⁵Ray E. Merwin, "The Wyandot Indians", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906) Vol. 9, p. 75.

⁶Ibid.

do so.⁷ While living among the Hurons in the early part of the seventeenth century, the Tribe came in contact with the Christian Religion through Jesuit priests.⁸ Many of the members of the Tribe adopted the Jesuit teachings and began their struggle to adopt a Christian civilization comparable to the Europeans. During the Wyandotte Nation's stay with the Hurons, they joined the Huron Confederacy. While members of the Confederacy, the Tribe took part in Champlain's war against the Iroquois of New York. Eventually, the Confederacy failed and the Iroquois forced the Wyandottes to move to the region of Illinois. The territory of Illinois was at the time occupied by the Sioux Indians and they would not permit the Wyandottes to settle there. As a result, the Tribe had to move to the region southwest of Lake Superior. From this region, the Wyandottes migrated to the southern edge of Lake Michigan. Shortly after the Tribe moved to a site near Detroit, Michigan.⁹

⁷Connelley, Kansas and Kansans, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

⁸Merwin, loc. cit.

⁹Deatherage, Vol. 1, pp. 688-89.

While living in the Detroit region, the Wyandottes allied themselves with the French in the wars with the English. During the French and Indian War (1754-63), the Wyandottes proved to be instrumental in the defeat of General Braddock near Dusquesne. The Wyandottes also took part in Pontiac's Conspiracy (1763) to drive the English colonists from the Ohio Valley. During the American Revolution (1775-83), the Wyandottes fought on the side of the British and thereby suffered another defeat.¹⁰ In each of the struggles prior to the War of 1812, the Wyandottes were unfortunate by allying themselves with the losing side. The primary reason for the Tribe allying themselves with the French during the Colonial Wars was due to the influence of the French missionaries. The French considered the Wyandottes excellent fighters. Although members of the Iroquois family of Indians, the Tribe fought with the French against their brothers.¹¹

When the English were defeated in the American Revolution, the Wyandottes divided into clans and settled

¹⁰Ibid., p. 690.

¹¹Ibid., p. 687.

along the southern shores of the Great Lakes in Ohio and Michigan. In the War of 1812, the Wyandottes living in the proximity of Lake Michigan aided the British, while their Ohio brothers remained faithful to the United States. After the Revolutionary War, the faithful Ohio Wyandottes were given a large grant of land on the Upper Sandusky River in present-day Wyandot County, Ohio.¹² The Wyandottes were considered not only good warriors, but good "quitters" as well. Once it was evident that the white man's civilization was permanently implanted, the Tribe discarded their ancient tribal customs and adopted the white man's way of life.¹³

Many treaties were concluded between the Wyandottes and the United States. The first treaty was signed in 1785. This was a perpetual treaty of friendship made at Ft. McIntosh on the Ohio River. Other treaties signed between the two parties included: Treaty of Greenville, Ohio, 1796;¹⁴ Treaty of Ft. Industry in Ohio, 1805; Treaty of Brownstown, Michigan, 1808; Treaty of Pacification at Greenville, 1814; and Treaty of Maumee Rapids,

¹²Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 59-67.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Deatherage, Vol. 1, p. 691.

1817.¹⁵ By the terms of this treaty, the Wyandottes surrendered their claim near Lake Erie. In return, the United States granted the Wyandottes a twelve mile square tract of land at Upper Sandusky, Ohio. In addition to the grant, the Tribe was to receive an annual payment of \$4,000 forever from the Government. A supplementary treaty was signed at St. Marys, on the Ohio River. This treaty changed the land granted by the treaty of September 29, 1817, to a reservation under the guidance and control of the United States. An additional 55,000 acres were added to the Reservation.¹⁶ The Wyandottes remained here until their move to Kansas.

C. Wyandottes Migrate to Kansas

Believing the treaty concluded with the United States in 1817 to be permanent, the Wyandottes proceeded to develop the Reservation. Many farms of the Wyandottes were more highly developed than those of the neighboring whites. These industrious Indians excelled in agriculture and lived a life very comparable to those Americans

¹⁵A Note Written by William Walker, n.d., Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. The treaty Mr. Walker mentions as occurring at Maumee Rapids is evidently the same as the treaty written at the Rapids of the Miami in 1817.

¹⁶A.T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883) Vol. 1, p. 70.

found in the East. The ever-advancing white population surrounded the Reservation and demanded the United States remove the Tribe to a new location. Many of these covetous American settlers desired the Wyandotte land because of their many improvements. An extract from Matthew R. Walker's journal fluently described the policy of the Government toward the removal of Eastern tribes to some out-of-the-way area.

"As early as the administration of Thomas Jefferson, it became his favourite policy removing all the different tribes of Indians inhabiting any organized state or territory to some wild region where they could with more freedom exercise their favourite pursuits of a nomadic life and continue (them) as they did in their primitive halcion (sic) days. This policy has been continuous through every succeeding administration to the present time. Consequently, no tribe of Indians were exempt from the ordeal of emigration as long as they remain in a tribal capacity without becoming citizens of the United States and dissolving their respective nationality. .¹⁷

With the above policy in mind, the United States faced the problem of finding a suitable area for the Wyandotte Nation to inhabit. This was deemed necessary so the Tribe could continue their simple customs and manners, if so desired, in the absence of their white brothers.

¹⁷ An Extract from Matthew R. Walker's Journal, n.p, n.d., Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

The Government had great difficulty finding an unoccupied area because of the rapid removal of other Eastern tribes to the western territory of the United States.¹⁸ In 1832, a delegation of Wyandotte Indians under the direction of William Walker, a prominent member of the Wyandotte Tribe, examined the Platte Purchase as a possible site for a reservation. This area investigated was located in the northwestern part of the present state of Missouri. Deciding the area to be unsatisfactory, the delegation returned to Ohio. The Wyandottes remained on their Ohio Reservation eleven years after the trip of the delegation to the Platte region before the Tribe was compelled to surrender their lands in Ohio.¹⁹ Another attempt to find an appropriate location for the Tribe in the West was made in 1839. This delegation examined Kansas very thoroughly, but found no unoccupied area to their liking.²⁰ It is obvious why the party failed to discover a suitable site for a reservation in

¹⁸ Deatherage, Vol. 1, p. 692.

¹⁹ William E. Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas: Its Place in the History of the State", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1923) Vol. 15, p. 183. Hereafter cited as Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas". The Platte Purchase was later included as part of the State of Missouri in 1839.

²⁰ Andreas, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

Kansas. Most of the land in Kansas, which at that time was known as Indian Country, was already occupied by former Eastern tribes who migrated to the area before 1839.²¹ Also, due to the advanced stage of civilization of the Wyandotte Nation, it was natural for the Tribe to desire a location near an area inhabited by whites.²²

With the white settlers of Ohio demanding the property of the Wyandotte Reservation in Ohio, a treaty was forced upon the Tribe in 1842. According to the provisions of the treaty, the Tribe was also to surrender the Michigan Reservation of approximately five thousand acres located on both sides of the Huron River. In return for these cessions, the United States agreed to set aside a reservation in Kansas consisting of 148,000 acres of land. The new home of the Wyandottes was to be located on Government land not already occupied by any other tribe.²³ The United States was to reimburse the Tribe for the many improvements made in Ohio and to

²¹Deatherage, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

²²Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas", p. 184.

²³Charles E. Kappler, Indian Affairs--Laws and Treaties (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903) Vol. 2, p. 395.

assume the debts incurred by the Tribe in favor of citizens of the United States. A blacksmith shop-- including tools, a blacksmith, and an assistant-- was to be placed on the new Reservation. An annuity payment of \$7,500 was to be paid for the support of a school. A total of \$10,000 was allowed by the Government for the cost of transferring the Tribe to Kansas. One half of the sum was to be paid when the first body left Ohio and the remainder when all had moved to the Kansas Reservation.²⁴ The treaty was signed March 17, 1842, with Indian agent John Johnston representing the United States.²⁵ By general agreement on both sides, the Reservation was to be situated on the Neosho River in the territory of Kansas. Discovering the proposed site was situated far from civilization and had been previously selected by another emigrant tribe, the leaders of the Wyandotte Indians proceeded to try to purchase an area adjoining the state of Missouri near the mouth of the Kansas River.²⁶ Before leaving Ohio, a treaty was arranged with the Shawnee Indians by the investigating party who traveled to Kansas in 1839. By the

²⁴Deatherage, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

²⁵Appendix D. Treaty with the Wyandotte Nation, March 17, 1842.

²⁶Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas", pp. 183-84.

provisions of this agreement, the Shawnees agreed to surrender a strip of land within the Shawnee Reservation to the Wyandotte Nation. The tract was to lay adjacent to the state line of Missouri, south of the mouth of the Kaw River. However, when the Wyandottes arrived in Kansas, the Shawnees repudiated the agreement and refused to part with any of their Reservation. The Wyandottes repoded by saying, "When the Shawnees were homeless in Ohio, the Wyandottes spread a deer skin for them to sit down upon, and had given them a large tract of land, and now, when the Wyandottes are without a home, the Shawnees would not even sell them one." ²⁷

Before leaving the Ohio Reservation, a delegation was sent to investigate their new home. The delegation consisted of the Silas Armstrong and George I. Clark families, and Miss Jane Tillis. The journey was made in May, 1843. While in the area, Silas Armstrong established a company store for the Tribe near the town of Westport, Missouri. ²⁸ When the delegations returned to Ohio, the Tribe prepared themselves for the long trip westward.

The Wyandottes commenced their long trip to their

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Deatherage, Vol. 1, pp. 692-93.

²⁸

Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 68.

new home in the early part of July, 1843. They traveled by foot and horseback to Cincinnati where two boats awaited to take them to Kansas. At Cincinnati, Matthew Walker, along with several young Indians, was given the task of driving the horses of the Tribe to the new Reservation.²⁹ After a very difficult and somewhat handicapped trip aboard the two boats, the more than seven hundred members of the Tribe arrived at Westport Landing, Missouri on July 22, 1843.³⁰ At the time the Wyandottes migrated from Ohio, there was not a full-blooded Wyandotte Indian living. Due to the early intermarriages with the whites, the last full-blooded Wyandotte died in Canada in about 1820.³¹

Great disappointment was felt by the Tribe on arrival in Kansas. The Tribe, being unable to settle on the land occupied by the Shawnee Indians, found themselves homeless. Until land could be obtained, the Wyandottes had no alternative but to establish a temporary camp located between the Missouri border and the Kansas River. This land was controlled by the United States and

²⁹ Andreas, Vol. 1, p. 1227.

³⁰ Morgan, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

³¹ Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas", p. 184.

was set aside for the construction of a fort. But, Colonel Henry Leavenworth considered floods a threat to the area and, therefore, proceeded up the Missouri River and established a fort which now bears his name. This camping area of the Wyandottes later developed into an industrial district consisting of railroad tracks, stockyards, packing houses, and factories. This area later became the original Kansas City, Kansas created by the Kansas City Town Company in 1858.³² The Wyandottes remained on this land from the latter part of July until October, 1843. Some of the wealthier families—such as, the Walkers, Armstrongs, and the Clerks—found houses at Westport Landing and resided there.³³ The majority of the Tribe, which stayed in the low lands area, was further saddened when some sixty members perished from sickness resulting from decayed vegetation caused by an earlier flood.³⁴

After the attempt to purchase land from the Shawnees failed, the Wyandottes turned to their nephews, the Delaware Indians. While living in Ohio, the Wyandottes had

³² Charles Goodspeed, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890) pp. 372-73.

³³ Andreas, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

³⁴ Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 71.

given the Delawares a large section of Ohio when the latter was forced to leave Pennsylvania. Remembering this act of friendship, the Delawares agreed to relinquish claim to part of their Reservation to the homeless Wyandottes. According to the terms of the treaty, the Delawares sold the Wyandottes a total of thirty-six sections of land between the Missouri and Kansas Rivers for \$46,080. After an initial payment of \$6,080, the Tribe was to pay a total of \$4,000 annually for ten years. In addition to the thirty-six sections, three additional sections were donated to the Wyandottes. This donation was located on the point of juncture of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers.³⁵ This treaty was negotiated between the two tribes in December, 1843.³⁶ The treaty was not confirmed by the United States Senate until 1848. In the same year, the Wyandottes gave up all claim to the 148,000 acre reservation granted them in the treaty of 1842.³⁷ In consideration of this act,

³⁵Merwin, p. 83.

³⁶Appendix E. Treaty between the Wyandotte and Delaware Indians, December 14, 1843.

³⁷Morgan, Vol 1, p. 70.

the United States agreed to pay the Wyandotte Nation a sum of \$185,000.³⁸ Even before the treaty of 1843 was signed between the two tribes, the members of the Wyandotte Tribe were entering the area. Upon arrival in late October, the members of the Tribe proceeded to construct new comfortable homes.³⁹ Therefore, the beginning of the city of Kansas City, Kansas should be considered as the fall of 1843.

When the Territory of Kansas was formed in 1854, this opened the area of settlement to the land-hungry whites. The policy of the United States in the past had been to remove the Indian tribes to new reservations when they occupied lands desired by the whites. Realizing this, the Wyandottes knew it would be but a short time before the white emigrants would surround them and force their removal. The more intelligent and civilized Wyandottes decided that the Tribe would be in a better bargaining position if the land was owned individually. Another factor which influenced the Wyandottes to take their land in severalty was that the United

³⁸ Appendix F. Treaty between the Wyandottes and the United States. April 1, 1850.

³⁹ Morgan, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

States possessed little land which would be suitable for a reservation.⁴⁰ Sensing this, a treaty was negotiated between the United States and the Wyandotte Nation of January 31, 1855.⁴¹

The treaty was signed in Washington D.C. by the United States Agent, George W. Mannypenny, and six of the Wyandotte chiefs or councilmen. Soon after the treaty was concluded, the Surveyor General of the United States established an office in the area and proceeded to survey the land. During the winter of 1856-1857, the survey was completed by John C. Calhoun and the titles to the land were issued to the proper owners. Almost immediately, the Wyandottes began disposing of their property to the incoming settlers. Several of the Wyandotte families refused to sell their land and remained in the area throughout their lives. But, a majority of the tribe sold their lands and moved to the Indian territory on a new reservation provided by the terms of a later treaty.⁴²

⁴⁰A letter written by William Walker to an unknown person. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

⁴¹Appendix G. Treaty between the Wyandotte Indians and the United States. January 31, 1855.

⁴²Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 79-81.

Article one of the Treaty of 1855 was by far the most important article. According to the treaty, the Wyandotte Nation was to be dissolved forever. Those desiring to become American citizens could do so if they were far enough advanced in civilization and were competent to manage their own affairs. For those Wyandottes not desiring to become American citizens, an agent would be placed among them and the protection of the United States would be continued. But, after a limited period of time, assistance would be withdrawn and those remaining would also become American citizens.

The Reservation was divided among the members of the Tribe by the terms of article two. The Reservation was first ceded to the United States, who in return surveyed it and returned it to the members of the Tribe. Two acres of land were granted to both the Methodist Episcopal Church North and the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Also, four acres adjoining the Wyandotte ferry were to be retained by the Tribe. This ferry was to be sold to a member of the tribe at a public auction.⁴³

The most controversial and peculiar part of the treaty was contained in article three. The Wyandottes were

⁴³Happler, Vol. 2, pp. 506-10.

divided into two groups, the competent and the incompetent. Those of the competent class were issued titles to their lands to utilize as they saw fit. However, the incompetents were restricted from disposing of their lands for a period of five years, and not then until permission was given by the President of the United States.⁴⁴ This part caused great dissatisfaction among the incompetents. Many accused the government of placing such a provision in the treaty so as to secure possession of their lands.⁴⁵

The remaining articles may be summarized as follows: None of the land was to be subject to taxation for a period of five years after the territory became a state. The Wyandottes, by relieving the United States of obligations to all claims of annuity, school moneys, blacksmith shops, and other things of a national character, were paid a total of \$380,000.⁴⁶

Many of the Wyandottes, especially the ones of the incompetent class, became dissatisfied with conditions while living among the whites in Wyandotte City. As a

⁴⁴Merwin, p. 87.

⁴⁵Deatherage, Vol. 1, p. 696.

⁴⁶Kappler, Vol. 2, loc. cit.

result, another treaty was negotiated on February 23, 1867.⁴⁷ This treaty placed all those of the incompetent and orphan class as desired back under a tribal condition. Those who had previously become citizens of the United States were restricted from joining the Tribe. There was one exception, those who were considered destitute and unfit for citizenship by the agent could become members through permission of the newly formed tribal organization.⁴⁸ In 1868, more than two hundred of the Wyandottes took advantage of the treaty and moved to a new reservation on the Neosho River in Southeastern Kansas.⁴⁹

⁴⁷Appendix H. Treaty with the Seneca, Mixed Seneca, and Shawnee, Quapaw, etc. February 23, 1867.

⁴⁸Kappler, Vol. 2, loc. cit.

⁴⁹Deatherage, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

Chapter VI

The Early Development and Progress of Wyandott City

Every great city had its periods of rapid growth and development. Kansas City, Kansas was no exception. From the time the Wyandotte Indians occupied the area until the spring of 1857, Kansas City was merely a rallying point for adventurous individuals traveling to the California gold fields and other areas in Western United States. Very little progress had been made to develop the potential industrial and commercial interests which existed at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. The Wyandotte Indians, although a few were highly civilized, still retained many of their savage customs and traits commonly associated with the early American Indian. Their greatest contribution toward the development of the region was in the field of agriculture. Dr. Charles Robinson, the first governor of the state of Kansas, vividly described the Wyandotte civilization when he visited the area in 1857.

" . . . This enchanting region was occupied by a people, many of whom largely retained the characteristics of their Indian origin, and under the inspiration of "bourbon" not infrequently made night

hideous with their war songs and savage orgies. Dusky maidens in bright colors, mounted on ponies, mingled with the new settlers and scattered their coins with our tradesmen, while plumed and booted knights, adorned with revolvers . . . and mounted on firey chargers, moved at break-neck speed through our habitations, to the great consternation of the occupants.

"Others of this people were civilized, cultivated and refined, and by their kindness and hospitality to the new immigrant did much to make his stay here pleasant and agreeable. . ." ¹

Two important events occurred in the mid 1850's which enabled Kansas City to develop into an enterprising city. The first event occurred in 1854, when the Territory of Kansas was created by Congress. Before this date, Kansas was known as Indian Country and was restricted to occupancy by the Indians. The second event took place a year later, 1855, when the Wyandotte Indians became American citizens and received their lands in severalty. This transaction made it possible to dispose of their land without government interference or restriction. During the winter of 1856-57, the Wyandottes commenced selling their land. ² From then on, it was just a matter

¹ Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 81-83. This is a collection of newspaper articles concerning Wyandotte County and are found in "scrapbook" form at the Kansas Historical Building, Topeka, Kansas.

² Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, pp. 79-81.

of time before the area was completely dominated by the white settlers.

Kansas City, Kansas actually received its start during the winter months of 1856-57. At this time, the Wyandott Town Company was formed by a group of Eastern speculators who had in mind the investment of their savings in the future of a town with the hope of profitable returns.³ The formation of the town company was related by one of its original members, Dr. J.P. Root, at the silver anniversary celebration of the birth of the city.

" . . . I commenced a diligent inquiry touching the lay of the land around the mouth of the Kansas River, and after a few days thus quietly spent, I became fully persuaded that our Quindaro friends had made a vital mistake, and that the most eligible town site on the Missouri was directly at the mouth of the Kansas River. Once convinced of this, I stated to some friends of mine, . . . in Lawrence, that within an hour I should leave for Wyandotte, and if any of them so disposed, I should like their company. Within ten minutes a company was formed with the understanding that two of us should go immediately and quietly on horse back, . . . while the others within a day or two should meet us at Kansas City (Missouri). This was during the month of December, 1856. After a two days tedious ride. . . Mr. Thomas Eldridge and myself (Root) reached,

³ A.T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883) Vol. 1, p. 1231.

late at night, the hospitable home of the chief of the Wyandottes, Mr. Silas Armstrong . . .

"During the day after our first arrival in Wyandott from Lawrence, we visited Kansas City, where we not only found our expected friends, but others on a similar mission . . . Here a company was formed with the agreement that each should share alike in the enterprise and that the Indians, of whom purchases were to be made, might the more readily be dealt with, it was agreed to send only a portion of our number to commence negotiations for property . . . After waiting somewhat impatiently for several days it was believed that this deputation had gone to Wyandotte and formed a new company, consisting of themselves and a few of the Wyandotts. (A new company was formed) . . . After some rather strong talk to some of their delegation it was finally amicable arranged under a written agreement . . . that there should be two companies . . . known as the inside and outside companies. The first consisting of Silas Armstrong, Joel Walker, Isaiah Walker, Thomas H. Swope, W.Y. Roberts, Gains Jenkins, and John McAlpine, the four last of whom, in connection with Shuler W. Eldridge, James, M. Winchell, and J.P. Root should constitute the latter . . . The site of the city was plotted in the spring of 1857, and when said plot was filed in the office of then secretary of state of the territory at LeCompton, with its streets and broad avenues and two parks, the original owners thereof, by that act dedicated all their interest and control thereby and therein to the future public, which should be so fortunate as to make this beautiful city their home . . ."4

The plotting of the future city followed the organization of the town company. The original "inside" town consisted of four white men and three Wyandotte Indians.

⁴
 Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 87-89.

The official organization of the Wyandott Town Company was held at the home of Isaac Brown on December 9, 1856.⁵ Here the company was formed and elected Silas Armstrong, president; W.Y. Roberts, secretary; Isaiah Walker, treasurer; and John McAlpine, trustee.⁶ The allotments controlled by the three Wyandotte Indians, Isaiah Walker, Joel Walker, and Silas Armstrong were located within the boundaries of the perspective townsite and were donated to the company. The large farm or allotment of Isaac Brown was purchased by the company. No doubt, his land was purchased with funds furnished by Swope and McAlpine.⁷ Also included in the land containing the original townsite were the lands of Lucy B. Armstrong, H.M. Northrup, and Matthias Split-log. However, the company had no control over the lands of these Indians. The original townsite was of very irregular shape due to the refusal of some of the Wyandottes to sell their allotments.⁸

⁵Frank H. Betton, "The Genesis of a State's Metropolis", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1902) Vol. 7, p. 116.

⁶Andreas, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

⁷Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 93.

⁸Betton, loc. cit.

In the early part of March, 1857, the task of surveying the townsite was presented John Millar of Girard, Pennsylvania. In surveying the area, Mr. Millar laid out four broad avenues running east and west. Each avenue was to be one hundred feet wide and was to run from the Missouri River west for two miles. These boulevards were named from south to north after the four national territories then in existence--Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, and Washington. An irregular strip following the Missouri River was also reserved for the construction of a public levee.⁹ The roadways were to run north and south and be known as streets. These streets were numbered consecutively from east to west beginning with first street. There was one exception to this rule, Ferry Street was laid out at an angle of thirty degrees east of west and ran along the Kansas River. A public park to be known as Oakland Park was also to be located within the town. The park was surveyed to include the area between Kansas, which later became State Avenue, and Washington Avenues; and Tenth and Eleventh Streets. This park, although included on the original map, never existed.¹⁰ This land later became the location of the Kansas State School

⁹Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 93-95, passim.

¹⁰Charles Goodspeed, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890)pp. 357-58.

for the Blind. On completion of this survey in early March, Mr. Millar found the townsite to include four thousand lots.¹¹

A very life-like description of the area before the sounds of hammers and sawing of lumber filled the air was given by Dr. Charles Robinson.

. . . The townsite was generally overgrown with forest trees. Huge elms adorned one capacious levee. Walnut, ash, hickory, and other varieties, the upland. . . The forest extended west more than twenty miles, interspread here and there with a log house and an Indian cornfield, and threaded with bridal paths connecting the separate habitations. The growth of forest was dense, and interlaced with grape, climbing rose and other vines, was almost impenetrable. The air was redolent of fragrance from the flowering shrubs, and birds of gay plumage rejoiced on the trees, while the cardinal bird made the woods resonant with song.¹²

The wilderness on which the new town was to be built was readily advertised and on March 8, 1857, the initial sale of shares took place. The first disposal of shares, was held at the general store of Isaiah Walker, the treasurer of the Wyandott Town Company. This building was situated near the corner of Fourth Street and Nebraska Avenue. The crowd assembled on the second floor of the building and was so large that it was feared the floor might give way. One hundred shares were sold the first

¹¹ Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 93.

¹² Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 81-83.

day at the rate of \$500.00 a share. The sale was then postponed for a two week period, when the shares were sold at \$750.00 each.¹³ The price of shares rose from the original price to \$750.00, \$1,000.00, \$1,200.00, \$1,500.00, and \$1,700.00, and hard to buy at those prices. The real problem confronting the members of the company was not the selling of shares, but how to hold on to them. In addition to the shares sold, free lots were offered to anyone who would construct brick or stone buildings at least four stories high on the levee.¹⁴

The rapid transformation of a small village into an industrious city followed immediately after the sale of town lots. By April, 1857, several foundations had been laid and even a few houses erected.¹⁵ By fall, people from practically all states in the East could be found in the city establishing homes and businesses.¹⁶ At this time, the young city could boast a population of twelve hundred people and five hundred buildings of various sizes. The reason for this rapid development of Wyandott City was explained by Dr. J. P. Root.

¹³Betton, pp. 116-17.

¹⁴Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, ~~pp.~~ loc. cit.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Betton, p. 117.

. . . The principle reason for this rapid growth was the apparent faith we had in our town-- a faith which we demonstrated by our works-- for the stranger entering our midst if not our gates first noticed large numbers of men grading our streets whose labor was promptly paid by the town company, and when these visitors saw the dust flying from several hundred shovels, making highways, opening streets, alleys, and avenues on a grand scale, it looked as though we knew of a glorious future, fit for live men to enjoy. . .¹⁷

The years of 1857 and 1858 may well be considered the years of greatest progress and advancement in Wyandott City. New homes and business enterprises were being constructed. Professional men, such as physicians and lawyers, were opening offices. Roads were being built leading from the city in all directions with the hope of monopolizing the trade in the territory. Ferries and bridges were being constructed on the Kansas and Missouri Rivers to enable trade to enter and leave more freely. Newspapers were being established to tell the world of the city's existence. Many other innovations were taking place during these years which indicated that the growth of a great city was taking place. An editorial in the June 3, 1858, issue of the Western Argus revealed the faith of the early citizens in the future of Kansas City, Kansas.

¹⁷ Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 90-92.

It is cheering to see the almost unprecedented rapid strides, which our beautiful town is still making in improvement. Instead of one and two story buildings, as were put up last year, we now see the course of erection of two, three and four story brick and stone buildings, in every direction. . .

. . . The City of Wyandott is destined to become one of the great commercial cities of the West. Her geographical position gives her a decided advantage over all her competitors. With a townsite acknowledged to be the most beautiful and natural on the Missouri River, or indeed upon any river in the West, and a landing that is not only superior at present, but must ever remain so beyond a doubt; a levee which seems to have been formed by nature for that purpose--just right in every particular-- who can doubt that the future of Wyandott is to be upward and onward.¹⁸

Of the many business enterprises founded in 1857 and 1858, only a few of the earliest will be mentioned. This will indicate the rapid growth of Wyandott City. Most of the business establishments will be found along with the homes of the pioneer settlers and other points of interest on a map found elsewhere in this study. The first hotel in Wyandott City was the Gillis Hotel. Later the name was changed to the Catfish Hotel through a freak occurrence of nature. The hotel was located at the southwest corner of Fourth Street and State Avenue. The name, Catfish Hotel, resulted from the severe winter months of 1856-57. During the winter the Kansas and Missouri Rivers froze

¹⁸ The Western Argus, June 3, 1858. This newspaper is located in the newspaper files, Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

solidly. In the spring of 1857, the Kansas River had a huge breakup, and ice floated against the still solidly frozen Missouri River. The impact caused the ice to dig deep into the mud and removed the fish from their resting place and onto the Missouri River ice. The proprietors of the Hotel Gillis were able to keep a constant supply of catfish on the tables for their boarders. Thereafter, the hotel was known as the Catfish Hotel by the citizens of Wyandott.¹⁹ The second hotel to be established was by the Eldridge brothers. The hotel site was the former residence of Silas Armstrong near Fifth Street and Minnesota Avenue. The proprietor was Robert Ream, Chief Clerk of the Surveyor-General's Office. This hotel was maintained to accomodate the emigrants who were rushing to the city.²⁰ The next hotel was the Garno House, located at the northwest corner of Third Street and Minnesota Avenue. Mrs. Hester Garno came to Wyandott City from Leavenworth to establish the hotel.²¹ Another effort to accomodate the mass of people flocking to the area was made by Mr.

¹⁹Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, loc. cit.

²⁰Goodspeed, p. 359.

²¹Betton, loc. cit. The Garno House was extremely popular at the time of the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention. A majority of the delegates from other counties made this their place of residence while attending the Convention.

F. A. Hunt in 1857. Mr. Hunt removed the machinery from a wharf boat, the St. Paul, and stationed it on the levee near the foot of Washington Avenue. This boat served as a hotel, storage and commission house, and was very popular in the early days of Wyandotte for its good service.²² Several business houses were started during the first two years of the city to serve the incoming settlers. John McAlpine constructed a huge warehouse on the levee between Washington and Nebraska Avenues. It was a well-constructed ~~two~~^{wo}-story building. The second floor of the building served as a hall for conventions and social gatherings for years.²³ Isaiah Walker and Thomas J. Barker ran a general merchandise store at Fourth Street and Nebraska Avenue. This building was also the location of the first post office established in 1857. Mr. Barker was the first postmaster.²⁴ The Shriner, Gerlack and Company hardware store was found operating near Fourth Street and Minnesota Avenue. A grocery store under the proprietorship of Parr, Boyd and Company was located at Third Street and

²²Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1882. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 81-92, passim.

²³Betton, loc. cit.

²⁴Goodspeed, p. 362.

Minnesota Avenue.²⁵ These were but a few of the business establishments in operation in 1857 and 1858.

The newly formed city could boast several professional men serving the community. Four physicians inhabited the city. These were J. C. Bennett, J. P. Root, J. Speck and F. Speck. The following attorneys had located offices in the city: Davis and Post, B. Gray, J. W. Johnson, Bartlett and Glick, and D. B. Hadley.²⁶ No other city of comparable size could boast of having such a group of men.

Early newspapers in the city included the Telegraph, Democrat, Register, Citizen, The Western Argus, Gazette, and Chindowan. Little information can be found regarding the Telegraph and Democrat. Both were evidently short lived and in existence only during the early part of 1857. The Telegraph was established by Mark W. Delahay. Ephriam Abbot commenced publication of the Democrat about the same time ^{as} ~~of~~ the Telegraph.²⁷ The Wyandott City Register was established in May, 1857, and may be considered the first newspaper with any permanency. The first issue was printed in a tent at the corner of Third Street and Nebraska Avenue by the editor, Mark W. Delahay formerly of the Telegraph,

²⁵Betton, loc. cit.

²⁶Goodspeed, p. 358.

²⁷Ibid.

The Register was sold to Eddy and Patton, who in turn sold it to Ephriam Abbott. Mr. Abbott changed the name of the newspaper to the Wyandott Citizen. After a few months, the Citizen was succeeded by the Western Argus. The editor of the Western Argus was J. E. Benett. The first issue of the Western Argus was printed on May 25, 1858. The newspaper continued to serve the city until 1861, when it was sold to R. B. Taylor, owner of the Wyandotte Gazette. The Wyandotte Gazette was first published by S. D. MacDonald. Soon after its beginning, Mr. MacDonald retired from the newspaper business and sold the Gazette to Mr. R. B. Taylor. In January, 1861, the newspaper building housing the Gazette was destroyed by fire. Operation was continued when Mr. Taylor purchased the Western Argus in the same year. The Chindowan made its first appearance on February 13, 1857. This was the free-state newspaper of Quindaro. The editor was John M. Walden. In the story of Quindaro City, more will be told of the publication of the Chindowan.²⁸ These early newspapers did much to acquaint the settlers of Wyandott with the events occurring at both a local and national level. The newspapers were very helpful in selling the newly arrived settlers in the Territory of Kansas on the future of the city located at the Kaw's mouth.

²⁸W. E. Connelley, "History of Kansas Newspapers", Kansas State Historical Society and Department of Archives (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office, 1916)

The future of the City of Wyandott depended greatly on the amount of commerce that would enter and leave her limits. Therefore, the Town Company and private individuals began early the task of improving all means of transportation within the Wyandott City area. The amount spent by the Wyandott Town Company in grading streets, building roads, and constructing bridges was \$44,600.00.²⁹ Early in 1857, the Town Company employed a man by the name of Dickinson to construct a road to Lawrence. On completion of the Lawrence Road, which ran on the north side of the Kansas River, a regular coach service was maintained. Concord coaches traveled the road twice daily, both ways, and completed the trip in six hours.³⁰ To secure the trade with the section of Kansas lying south of the Kansas River, a road was constructed from Wyandott across the River to Johnson County. A ferry was constructed a short distance down from the present day Eighteenth Street Traffic-way Bridge. Quindaro, not desiring to lose out on the trade in southern Kansas, also built a road and ferry across the Kansas River which connected the city to the

²⁹The Western Weekly Argus, Feb. 19, 1859. The name of the newspaper was changed from the Western Argus to the Western Weekly Argus approximately August 19, 1858.

³⁰Kansas City Journal, Feb. 17, 1862. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 90-92.

Kaw.³¹ Mr. W. Wills ran a coach service between the ferry landing in Wyandott City and Kansas City, Missouri. Six to eight trips were made daily between the two cities.³² The road built to the west of Wyandotte intersected the Fort Leavenworth-Fort Gibson Road, while the road to the south connected with the Santa Fe road. Another road to the west ran into the Fort Leavenworth-Fort Riley road. Permission was also granted to certain individuals and companies by the territorial legislatures to build roads between Wyandotte and Atchison, Wyandotte and Mound City, and Wyandotte and Fort Scott.³³ Several other highways were under construction before 1860 which would aid in drawing the western trade to the City of Wyandott. The first bridge to be constructed across the Kansas River was completed in 1858. On February 12, 1858, Territorial Governor Denver signed a bill granting the Wyandotte Bridge Company permission to construct a bridge across the Kansas River. The bridge, a toll bridge, was to be located from two to six miles from the River's mouth.³⁴

³¹Goodspeed, pp. 360-61.

³²The Western Argus, June 3, 1858.

³³George A. Root, "Ferries in Kansas, Part 2", Kansas Historical Quarterly (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society, 1933) Vol. 2, p. 258.

³⁴Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858 (Leecompton, K.T.: S.W. Driggs and Co., 1858) Fourth Session, Chapter 30, pp. 48-50.

The bridge was located on the road leading to Johnson County and spanned the River near the present Eighteenth Street Traffic-way Bridge. The final cost of the bridge was \$28,000.00.³⁵ An article in the June 4, 1859, issue of the Commercial Gazette announced that the bridge was open and free only to those who desired to trade with Wyandott City.³⁶ Another act passed by the Territorial Legislature on February 28, 1858, granted the Wyandott City Bridge Company the right to construct a toll bridge within a mile of the mouth of the Kaw.³⁷ Although the attempt to secure the trade from Johnson County and regions south of the Kansas River was somewhat successful, it still remained easier and more convenient for these people to trade directly with Kansas City, Missouri.

Permission was granted to many companies or individuals by the Territorial Legislature to construct ferries across the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. The Wyandott Ferry, which was located near the mouth of the Kansas River, was purchased at public auction by Isaiah Walker. Mr. Walker put the ferry in operation in 1857. During the year of 1857, the owner was reported to have collected

³⁵Goodspeed, p. 361.

³⁶The Commercial Gazette, June 4, 1859. This newspaper is located in the newspaper files, Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

³⁷Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858, Chapter 30, pp. 51-53.

\$7,000.00, indicating the large number of people crossing the River.³⁸ Several other ferries were in operation before Kansas became a state. Captain Otis Webb had the largest ferryboat on the River. It was the "S. C. Pomeroy", and traveled between Wyandott City and Kansas City, Missouri. William Walker, T. H. Doyle, Cyrus Garrett, and H. McMullen were granted permission to construct a ferry across the Kansas River. It was to have a landing on property controlled by the Wyandott City Company. The Wyandott City Ferry Company was granted the right to build a ferry on the Missouri River from Wyandott City in 1858. This ferry operated between Wyandott City and Kansas City, Missouri for many years. Also, the Santa Fe Road Ferry was started in 1857. It was the hope that with its construction the city might insure herself of the trade south of the Kansas River.³⁹ Many other ferries had been constructed or were under construction during the first few years of the city's existence. With the appearance of bridges, the ferry system gradually disappeared.

Several steamboats made their appearance on the Kansas River and aided in the stimulation of trade. However, the River was considered, generally, too shallow and dangerous for heavy navigation. The advent of the railroad caused

³⁸Grant W. Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, Kansas (Merriam, Kansas: Mission Press, 1935) p.110.

³⁹Root, pp. 9-258, passim.

steamboating on the Kaw to be short-lived. The most famous of the early steamboats was the "Lightfoot". It was built for Kansas River navigation by Thaddeus Hyatt, of New York City. The first and only trip made by the "Lightfoot" on the Kansas River was in 1857, under the command of W. F. M. Arny. The steamer traveled from Wyandotte to Lawrence, a sixty mile trip. The trip, which started April 4 and ended May 9, 1857, proved to be too dangerous, so the "Lightfoot" devoted herself to travel on the Missouri River thereafter.⁴⁰ The "Otis Webb" was built in Ohio and brought to Kansas for duty in 1857. She made regular trips from Leavenworth to Topeka. Later, this steamer was used, exclusively, on the Missouri River and traveled from Quindaro to Fort Leavenworth. A few of the other Kaw River steamboats included: the "Lizzie", 1855-64; "Emma Harmon", 1855; "Lewis Burns", 1856; "Violet", 1857; "Lacon", 1857; "Minnie Belle", 1858; "Silver Lake", 1859; and others.⁴¹

The fervor of railroad construction had its birth about the same time as the City of Wyandotte. Transportation by rail was not found in Kansas prior to the Civil

⁴⁰Albert R. Greene, "The Kansas River-- Its Navigation", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Plant, 1906) Vol. 9, pp. 338-40.

⁴¹Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 125-26.

War. However, great strides were being made in the attempt to construct railroads west of the state of Missouri. Several railroad companies were granted permission by the territorial government to build railroads in the Wyandotte area. The first railway project to transpire in the Territory of Kansas was the Leavenworth, Pawnee, and Western Railroad Company. It was granted the right to construct a railroad west from Leavenworth to the Colorado border in 1855.⁴² In 1862, another act was passed which extended the Leavenworth, Pawnee, and Western Railroad Company to Wyandott City.⁴³ In 1858, a few railroad companies were incorporated by acts of the territorial legislature. The Kansas Central Railroad Corporation was given the right to construct a railroad from the mouth of the Kansas River to Fort Riley. Silas Armstrong, W. Y. Roberts, John McAlpine, J. P. Root and

⁴²Corporate History of the Union Pacific Railroad Company as of June 30, 1919. (Omaha, Nebraska: Valuation Department, 1921) pp. 122-24. The Kansas, Pawnee, and Western Railroad Co. was changed to the Union Pacific Railway Co., Eastern Division on June 6, 1863. Later, the name was again changed to the Kansas Pacific Railway Co. in 1869. The main-line of the railroad extended from Kansas City, Kansas to Denver, Colorado. Branch lines included: from Leavenworth to Lawrence; Detroit, Kansas, to Enterprise, Kansas; and a line from Armstrong, Kansas to Wyandott, Kansas. This latter line was only two miles long and within present limits of Kansas City, Kansas.

The Kansas Pacific Railway Co. consolidated with the Union Pacific Railroad Co. and the Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Co. to form the Union Pacific Railway Co. in 1880. Later in 1898, the Union Pacific Railway Co. sold out to the Union Pacific Railroad Co.

⁴³Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 442.

other leading citizens of Wyandott City were members of the corporation.⁴⁴ The Kansas Central Railroad was hoped to include trunk lines which would travel to all parts of Kansas and enable the produce of the area to be brought to Wyandotte.⁴⁵ Another railroad company was incorporated in 1858 under the title of The Wyandott, Mineola, and Council Grove Railroad Company. This Railroad was to run from Quindaro through Wyandott, to Olathe, Mineola, and as far west as the western boundary of the Territory of Kansas.⁴⁶ Another railroad company, the Missouri River Railroad Company, was given permission to construct a railroad from the mouth of the Kansas River to the Kansas-Nebraska border, through Leavenworth.⁴⁷ Other railroad companies were organized during the territorial days of Kansas, but little construction was completed because of the threat of civil war and a minor depression.

⁴⁴Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858, pp. 123-28. The Kansas Central Railroad Co. is not to be confused with the Kansas Central Railway Co. chartered May 31, 1871, by a group of Leavenworth businessmen. The Kansas Central Railway Co. built a three foot, narrow gauge railroad from Leavenworth, via Holton, to Miltonvale. It operated as the Leavenworth Western Branch of the Union Pacific from 1908 to 1935. Harold Crimmins, "A History of the Kansas Central Railway, 1871-1935", Emporia State Research Studies (Emporia, Kansas: Kansas State Teacher's College Publication, 1954) Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 3-34, passim.

⁴⁵The Commercial Gazette, Aug. 27, 1859.

⁴⁶Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858, pp. 165-71.

⁴⁷Ibid., pp. 144-51.

Other evidences of establishing a large city at the mouth of the Kansas River were indicated by the various civic and social organizations that were formed. As far back as 1855, several of the more educated Wyandotte Indians received permission from the Territorial Legislature to incorporate a Wyandott Lyceum and Library Association for the purpose of improving themselves in the knowledge of literature.⁴⁸ On November 5, 1857, the Lyceum of the Mercantile Association held a meeting at the library which was located on Nebraska Avenue.⁴⁹ A City Board of Trade was formed approximately November 12, 1859. W.Y. Roberts was elected chairman.⁵⁰ On August 6, 1859, the Republican Party Club was formed. Its purpose was to work towards the acceptance of the Wyandotte Constitution.⁵¹ Many other similar organizations were formed to show the faith the early settlers had in the permanency of their new city.

In summarizing on the early development of the city, two newspaper articles from the Western Weekly Argus

⁴⁸ The Statutes of the Territory of Kansas (Shawnee Manual Labor School: John T. Brady, Public Printer, 1855) pp. 861-62.

⁴⁹ The Wyandott Citizen, Nov. 7, 1857. This newspaper is located in the newspaper files, Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

⁵⁰ The Western Weekly Argus, Nov. 13, 1859.

⁵¹ The Commercial Gazette, Aug. 6, 1859.

reveal the deep convictions felt by these early pioneers. In a lecture by Charles F. Vivaldi in 1859, reported in the Western Weekly Argus, the following statement was made:

. . . In a social point of view, Wyandotte is not excelled by any city west of St. Louis. A great number of gentlemen from the highest reputation, both professional and commercial, have fixed their residence in this city. . .

With the greatest advantages that you possess now, namely a large number of energetic, talented and moral men, and the most excellent and beautiful point on the Missouri river, you may reasonably expect to see, in a very few years, an immense city where Wyandotte now stands. . . ⁵²

The second article appeared as an editorial on October 8, 1859. It displays an intense belief in the future superiority of a city which has come about.

No town in Kansas presents at the present so many inducements to those seeking a location in the west as Wyandott. It is conceded by all that its natural position at the junction of the Missouri and Kansas rivers will ultimately give it immense trade. . .

No town in Kansas can present as fine a block of buildings as stands on our levee; almost completed. . . Everything can be found here in the way of dry goods, groceries, drugs and medicines, etc. etc. . . We commenced with nothing and have grown to a city, respectable in business, population and wealth, and none but the blind can fail to see it. . . ⁵³

⁵² The Western Weekly Argus, Feb. 19, 1859.

⁵³ The Western Weekly Argus, Oct. 8, 1859.

Chapter VII

Early Political Life of Kansas City, Kansas

A. Early Government of Kansas City, Kansas by the Wyandotte Indians

The policy of the United States toward the Maintenance of a government in the "Indian Country" was that of laissez faire. In all treaties and agreements made with the emigrant Indian tribes who moved west, the Government asserted a position that the area would be devoid of the jurisdiction and interference of the United States. Therefore, tribal government prevailed until the organization of the area into a federal territory. The only control the Federal Government had over the region prior to the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was through the jurisdiction of the Federal District Court of Missouri and the Indian agents. However, this control was practically none.¹ Consequently, the first government within the Kansas City, Kansas area was that maintained by the Wyandotte Indians.

A typical Indian form of government existed within the Wyandotte Nation previous to 1828. This government consisted of a head chief, war chief, and other chiefs within the various clans. In 1828, a great change in

¹William E. Connelley, "The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory", Proceedings and Collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society (Lincoln, Nebraska: State Journal Co., 1899) Vol. 3, p. 22. Hereafter cited as Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr."

civil government occurred. A general election was held and the Tribe voted in favor of selecting one principal chief and seven councilmen, without reference to clanship. In addition, the office of war chief was abolished. The Council and Head Chief were to be elected for a term of one year by the members of the Tribe.² This was altered slightly on July 16, 1846, when at the General Convention of the Nation, the Tribe decided to have only four Councilmen and a Head Chief.³

Before migrating to Kansas, the Wyandottes established a well-organized form of civil government. It was a constitutional form of government and was put into action in December, 1843. This written constitution was the first of its kind to be found within the territory of Kansas. It consisted of a written code of laws, including both civil and criminal law, and was put in effect immediately.⁴ This constitution was patterned after the constitution of the state of Ohio, and was prepared under the direction of John McIntyre Armstrong, a young lawyer within the Tribe.

²A letter from William Walker to Lyman C. Draper, November 10, 1854. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

³Diary of William Walker, July 16, 1846. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

⁴William E. Connelley, The Emigrant Indian Tribes of Wyandotte County (Topeka, Kansas: Crane and Company, 1901) pp. 15-16.

William E. Connelley indicated the democratic principles that prevailed within the Wyandotte Nation by writing:

" . . . The Government of the Wyandottes was a pure democracy. Any matter of importance that affected the Tribe had to be sanctioned by a National Council of the whole people. The tribal council . . . fixed the day for a National Convention and notified the people of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. This notice was sent by the sheriffs, of which there were two. Women participated in these National Councils and voted in them if they chose to do so. A majority vote was sufficient to pass a measure."⁵

The most powerful group within the Nation was the Council. The entire Council had to be present before any business could be transacted.⁶ The most powerful group within the Council was the legislative committee. It had the responsibility of recommending revisions within the Constitution and the forming of the general laws of the Nation.⁷

The Wyandottes maintained their own system of courts. The courts were patterned largely after the court system as established by the whites at that time. An impaneled jury, a prosecutor, and a defense attorney all existed within their system of justice. The first public execution

⁵Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr.," p. 204.

⁶Ibid.

⁷William E. Connelley, "First Provisional Constitution of Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1900) Vol. 6, p. 103.

to take place within the state of Kansas transpired within the borders of Kansas City, Kansas. The execution of John Coon Jr., for the murder of Curtis Punch, took place on January 18, 1853 after the defendant had been given a public trial.⁸

Although considered uncivilized savages by Easterners, the Wyandottes maintained a very satisfactory and efficient system of civil government. This government, considered to be very competent and modern, was in operation until the disbanding of the Wyandotte Nation of 1855 and the forming of Wyandott City.

B. Town of Wyandott Incorporated

The first truly organized and sanctioned government of Kansas City, Kansas began with the incorporation of the Town of Wyandott in 1858. Before this date, the inhabitants of the area were under a government provided by the Wyandotte Indians or county government, as administered by the County of Leavenworth. The first attempt at incorporation was made on February 11, 1858. J. W. Denver, acting territorial governor at this time, approved a petition of four residents of Wyandott City to incorporate the Wyandott Company. The petition called for the

⁸Diary of William Walker, Jan. 18, 1853. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

election of certain officers to serve the town.⁹ The actual formation of the Town of Wyandott took place on June 8, 1858.¹⁰ The ensuing paragraph is the first recorded in clerk's journal of the Town of Wyandott.

Be it known on this 8th day of June, A. D., 1858, in open court, came Charles S. Glick and presented the petition of B. Gray, A. D. Bartlett, Daniel Killen and other resident taxpayers of the following described territory, the same being in the township of Wyandott in the County of Leavenworth and Territory of Kansas, . . . asking that they be incorporated by the name and style of "The Inhabitants of the Town of Wyandott," . . . and that they may have a local government established therein. --And the Court being fully satisfied that said petition is subscribed by two-thirds of the resident tax payers and voters therein does hereby make and incorporate the petitioners and all others residing in said described territory, as a body corporate under the name and style of "The Inhabitants of the Town of Wyandott," . . . and do hereby appoint as Trustees therefor William McKay, George Russell, Daniel Killen, Charles S. Glick, and William Simpson.¹¹

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 12, 1858. At this time, the Board of Trustees were sworn into office by William S. McMath, justice of peace for Wyandott Township of Leavenworth County. After

⁹Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas 1858 (Lecompton, K. T.: S.W. Driggs and Co., 1858) 4th Session, pp. 397-98.

¹⁰Charles Goodspeed, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890) P. 363.

¹¹Town of Wyandott, Journal A., June 12, 1858. Journal A., June 12, 1858 to March 6, 1866. Journal is located at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

the oath was administered to the Board, the following officers were elected: Chairman, William McKay; Temporary Clerk, William Simpson; Town Assessor, Charles W. Patterson; Clerk of the Board, Joseph Watson; Town Collector, Walter Canfield; and Town Constable, Samuel Forsyth.

The articles of government for the Town of Wyandott were written and presented on June 15, 1858. The first four articles denote the general structure of the principles of government as prepared by these first members of the Board. Article one stated that regular meetings were to be held weekly on Tuesday. Article two authorized the Chairman of the Board to make all appointments with the concurrence of the Board. Article three fixed a fine of two dollars and fifty cents for a delinquent member failing to attend a called meeting. Article four revealed the proper procedure of voting at Board meetings.¹²

This first organized government carried out the duties of serving the community much the same as our government does today. The following list of occurrences took place within the Board meetings during the less than one year it was in power.

June 15-0. B. Gunn was appointed Town Engineer.

¹² Ibid., June 12, 1858 and June 15, 1858.

June 22-The Board defined the duties of the Town Marshall which was just recently created. Mr. Seavitt defeated Mr. Forsyth for the position of Town Marshall. An ordinance was passed requiring all dram shops to be licensed. Mr. B. Gray was elected Town Attorney.

June 23-An ordinance was passed requiring all possessors of billiard tables to be licensed. Also, a committee was appointed to procure a town jail.

June 25-Permission was granted to a company to establish a slaughter and packing house.

June 29-Town jail was obtained from John M. Funk.

July 13-A total of \$1,058 was to be appropriated for the construction of a new school.

August 31- A family of fourteen, being sick and destitute, were given housing and ten dollars for relief of their condition.

October 14- Total indebtedness of the Town was \$1,384.¹³

Many other important acts were accomplished during the short life of the government of the Inhabitants of the Town of Wyandott. Property was assessed and taxed, building permits were granted, streets were built and improved, a public cemetery was procured, to mention but

¹³Ibid., This is a selection of entries for the year 1858.

a few of the acts.¹⁴ The year 1858, although the people were suffering a great amount of sickness and the nation was confronted with a panic, was a very prosperous year for the Town of Wyandott. It may be correctly said that efficient and just government existed that year and was a principal reason for the boom in business and the increase in population.

C. City of Wyandott Incorporated

In 1859, the Territorial Legislature granted permission to the inhabitants of Wyandotte to incorporate as a city. The act was approved by the Territorial Governor on January 29, 1859. The City of Wyandott held its first election on Feb. 15, 1859. The results were announced Feb. 21, and the following officials were elected: mayor, James Parr; aldermen, Daniel Killen, William P. Overton, Bryan Judd, Isaac White, Isaiah Walker, and Harrison MacDowell; city clerk, E.T. Vedder; assessor, D. Kirkbride; treasurer, James H. Harris; attorney, William S. McMath; city marshal, N.A. Kirk; engineer, William Miller; and street commissioner, H. Burgard. Bryan Judd was elected chairman pro tempore by the City Council.¹⁵

¹⁴Ibid. This is a summary of Journal A., as to the operation of the government of the Town of Wyandott.

¹⁵City Clerk Journal, Journal A., Feb. 21, 1859. This Journal is located at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas. Journal includes Council meetings from June 12, 1858 to March 6, 1866.

A motion was made and accepted on Feb. 25, 1859, that the Council follow a regular order of business at Council meetings. The order of business would consist of: first, reading of the minutes; second, petitions and applications; third, reports from city officers; fourth, report from standing committees; fifth, report from special committees; sixth, unfinished business from previous meetings; and seventh, resolutions and other matters offered for consideration. During the same meeting, the following standing committees were created by the Council and the positions filled by Mayor Parr: on Claims and Accounts, Judd and Killen; on Ways and Means, Overton and White; on Streets and Grades, Walker and Killen; on Printing, McDowell and Judd; and on Science, Judd and Overton.¹⁶

When the new municipality was founded, the population was 1,259. The City also assumed the debt of the Town of Wyandott, which amounted to \$1,500.00.¹⁷

Some of the typical actions taken by the Council during the first year of the City's existence and recorded in the clerk's journal were:

¹⁶Ibid., Feb. 25, 1859.

¹⁷Goodspeed, p. 364.

March 10, 1859-- City marshall was ordered to remove all buildings and shanties on the levee.

June 6, 1859-- A census was taken by the city marshall, N. A. Kirk, and his deputies, Mr. M. Gregory, Mr. W. Hood, and Mr. Frazier. The population within the City was 1,252.

Aug. 2, 1859-- Right of way given to the Kansas Central Railroad to enter the city.

Sept. 1, 1859-- Mayor Parr was authorized to have a map made of the City showing the property belonging to each person.

Nov. 24, 1859-- A petition by Silas Armstrong, David James, and William Weir requesting permission to construct a ferry across the Kansas River was granted.

Dec. 15, 1859-- The City was divided into two wards. The area south of Kansas (State) Avenue was ward one, the area north of said avenue was ward two.

Feb. 22, 1860-- Results of the election held Feb. 21, 1860, were revealed. George Russell was elected mayor. Other officers included: aldermen- first ward, Joseph Speck, Philip Hescher, and A. D. Downs; aldermen- second ward, B. Washington, S. A. Bartlett, and C. R. Stuckslager; clerk, Thomas Darling; assessor, J. W. Dyer; treasurer, G. H. Van Fossen; city attorney, Stephen Cobb;

marshall, H. H. Sawyer; street commissioner, David Leavitt; and engineer, William Miller.¹⁸

D. The Forming of Wyandotte County

When Kansas became a territory, the present County of Wyandotte was included in Leavenworth and Johnson Counties. It remained as such until January 29, 1859, when the County was created by an act of the Territorial Legislature, meeting at Lawrence, Kansas. The act creating this new county was signed by Territorial Governor Medary.¹⁹ The County consists of one hundred and fifty-three square miles; and, therefore, the smallest in area in the state of Kansas.²⁰ The creative act placed the boundaries as follows: to be bounded on the north and west sides by Leavenworth County, on the east by the Missouri River, and on the south by Johnson County. The southwestern boundary of the county follows the Kansas River.²¹

¹⁸City Clerk Journal, Journal A., This is a summary of entries found in Journal. Entries are for Council Meetings for day mentioned. See footnote 44, Chapter 6, page 89 for discussion of the Kansas Central Railway Company of 1871.

¹⁹The Wyandott Herald, July 5, 1883. Wyandotte County Clippings, This is a collection of newspaper articles concerning Wyandotte County and are found in "scrapbook" form at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas. See also Kansas Government (1959-60 edition) (Topeka, Kansas: League of Kansas Municipalities, 1959) p. 129.

²⁰Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, p. 271.

²¹Goodspeed, p. 176.

The act called for an election to be held the fourth Tuesday on February, 1859. The election of county officers was, therefore, held on February 22, 1859. On February 25, the Board of Supervisors, consisting of George Russell, George W. Veole, and acting secretary Myron J. Pratt, met at the Eldridge House and canvassed the votes. The following officers were elected: Probate judge, Jaques W. Johnson; sheriff, Samuel Forsythe; clerk of Board of Supervisors, Marshall A. Garrett; register of deeds, Vincent J. Lane; county attorney, William L. McMath; treasurer, Robert Robitaille; surveyor, C. L. Gorton; coroner, Dr. George B. Wood; and superintendent of schools, Jacob B. Welborn. Due to the untimely death of Jaques W. Johnson in the summer of 1859, Barzillai Gray was elected by the Board to fill the vacancy of probate judge.²²

The first act of the County Commissioners or Supervisors was to rent from Mr. S. D. McDonald an appropriate number of rooms for county offices. This building was located at Third Street and Nebraska Avenue. All of the county offices were located in this building except the office of county attorney which was located in the Post Office Building also on Nebraska Avenue.²³

²²Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 273.

²³A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883) Vol. 1, p. 1230.

On April 18, 1859, the chairman of the Board of Commissioners and sheriff were authorized to rent or purchase a building which would be suitable for a jail. Alfred Gray was given the responsibility of finding someone who would be capable of building an iron jail.²⁴

The first court to be held in Wyandotte County convened June 6, 1859. Justice Joseph Williams presided. Other officers of the court included J. H. Cruise, clerk; William Roy, deputy clerk; and S. E. Forsythe, sheriff.²⁵ The court room was located on the second floor of the Lippman Meyer Building at First Street, between Nebraska and Washington Avenues.²⁶ The court was in session for six days. During this time, both petit (trial) and grand juries (investigating and recommending that accused persons be held for trial) were summoned and impanelled, cases were tried, citizens were naturalized, and lawyers admitted for practice. Another session of the court was held in the same building during the fall of the same year.²⁷

²⁴Grant W. Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, Kansas (Merriam, Kansas: Mission Press, 1935) p. 313. Hereafter cited as Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County.

²⁵The Wyandott Herald, July 5, 1883, loc. cit.

²⁶Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, loc. cit.

²⁷Katharine Kemper, "The Courthouse of Wyandotte County", n.p., n.d. Unpublished Manuscript Located at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

In 1860, a two story building was procured from Isaiah Walker. This building was located on Nebraska Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. The building had previously housed the general merchandise store of Isaiah Walker and Thomas Barker. In addition, the building was dually famous as being the site of the first Post Office of the city. After its purchase, the building, being located at the back of the lot, was moved to the front. Behind this court house, a log jail was built at a cost of two hundred dollars.²⁸

The county offices were located in various buildings prior to the construction of a permanent court house. In 1867, the county offices were relocated at Minnesota Avenue and Third Street at the Cooper and Judd Building. In 1871, Dunning's Hall, at Fourth Street and Nebraska, was rented for use as a courtroom.²⁹ During the summer of 1872, six rooms on the third floor of the Cook Building were rented for offices for the county.³⁰ In the latter part of 1872, the county offices were once again stationed in the Cooper and Judd Building. In 1875, both the Cooper and Judd Building and Dunning's Hall were used to house

²⁸Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, pp. 313-14.

²⁹Ibid., pp. 315-24, passim.

³⁰Kemper, loc. cit.

the county offices. In 1879, the basement of the Methodist Episcopal Church building was used for a court room. In 1883, a county court house was completed on Seventh Street between State and Minnesota Avenues. This building served the county until the present court house at Seventh and Ann Streets was completed. The new building was ready for use in 1927.³¹

³¹ Harrington, Historic Spots of Wyandotte County,
loc. cit.

Chapter VIII

Early Churches in Kansas City, Kansas

A. Introduction of Methodism among the Wyandottes

The first churches or institutions of religious training in the Wyandotte County area were the missions established for the Delaware and Shawnee Indians. Mention has been made in previous chapters of the success and failure of these religious institutions. The Wyandottes had the distinction of having an organized mission placed among them before migrating to Kansas. Consequently, as the Wyandotte Indians moved westward, so did the church.

The earliest religious instruction of the Wyandottes has been traced to the time the tribe resided in Canada. Here, the Wyandottes were introduced to Catholicism by Jesuit Priests. The priests, evidently, had a lasting influence on the Tribe, since many still remained ardent followers of the Catholic religion when Methodism was introduced to them.

The first mission ever to be founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church was placed within the Wyandotte Nation.¹

¹W. E. Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas: Its place in the History of the State", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1923) Vol. 15, p. 185. Hereafter cited as Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas".

The mission was established by John Stewart, a young mulatto from Virginia. When John Stewart introduced Methodism into the Tribe in Ohio, he was not an ordained minister of the Church. In fact, during his early life he was a member of the Baptist Church. A series of events caused Reverend Stewart to become a missionary among the Wyandottes. During his early period of life, Reverend Stewart had been abandoned by his parents. While attempting to find his parents, he was beaten and robbed by thieves. This caused him to become discouraged and despondent and resulted in his leading an extremely sinful life. Penniless, Reverend Stewart decided to reform and stationed himself on a sugar plantation. One evening while walking in a city close to the plantation where he worked, John Stewart was converted to the Methodist faith. Hearing the voices of singing and praying within the Methodist Church, Mr. Stewart entered and joined the congregation in their praise to God. Subsequently, he was converted to the Methodist faith and resulted in his joining the Church.

In 1814, Mr. Stewart became gravely ill and was close to death. After repeated prayers to God and promising to serve Him if given his health, he recovered. While still in the state of recovery, visions appeared calling for him to travel to the northwest to minister among the people

residing there. When fully recovered, he started northward and settled among the Delaware Indians in Pennsylvania. Sensing this was not his call, Mr. Stewart left the Delawares and traveled on northwest to the Wyandotte camp in Ohio.

While with the Wyandottes, Reverend Stewart preached to the Indians through a Negro interpreter by the name of Johathan Pointer. Great success was attained only after William Walker Sr. examined the Catholic and Methodist Bibles and pronounced them one and the same. Up to that time, many of the Wyandottes refused to accept the Methodist teachings because of their previous indoctrination in the Catholic religion by the Jesuit priests.²

Although not an ordained minister of the Methodist Church, Reverend Stewart introduced Methodism to the Wyandotte Nation. In 1817, Reverend Stewart was forced to abandon the Tribe, but was replaced, within a short time, by James B. Finley. In 1819, through the financial assistance of the United States Government, Reverend Finley erected a church on the Wyandotte Reservation. The church gained great strength in the twenty years prior to the transfer to Kansas.³

²James B. Finley, Life Among the Indians (Cincinnati: Methodist Book Concern, 1860) pp. 234-245, passim.

³C. P. Deatherage, Early History of Greater Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri: Interstate Publishing Co., 1927) Vol. 1, p. 691. Herwin states the building was constructed in 1821 rather than 1819.

According to the historian, William E. Connelley, the Methodist Episcopal Church served as both a church and a school. Many of the Wyandotte men and women who arrived in Kansas in 1843 received the educational, civilizing as well as Christianizing, courses of the church and school. It was the central figure of attraction for both young and old.⁴ The Methodist Indian Mission, established in Ohio, was the first industrial school inaugurated by a church in the United States where Indian children could be trained for various industrial trades.⁵

As previously stated, the Methodist Episcopal Church moved west with the Wyandotte Nation in 1843. Religious services were held during the journey by Reverend James Wheeler, the missionary at the time of the migration. On arrival in Kansas, services were held at the encampment in the low lands prior to the purchase of land from the Delawares.⁶ The Methodist Episcopal Church boasted a

⁴Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas", loc. cit.

⁵Ray E. Merwin, "The Wyandot Indians", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906) Vol. 9, pp. 81-82.

⁶Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, p. 344.

membership of about two-hundred and fifty Wyandottes when the Tribe reached Kansas.⁷

After the Wyandottes vacated the bottoms and moved to the reservation purchased from the Delawares, most of the members became busy constructing their homes. But, a matter of utmost importance arose at an early Council meeting. The Reverend Esquire Gray-eyes, wishing to provide a home for his soul, suggested the construction of a church before his own dwelling was completed. As a result, a church was built and in use by April, 1844. The church was located about three miles west of the mouth of the Kansas River, or near Eighteenth Street and State Avenue. It was a small building, thirty by forty feet in size. The construction of a parsonage soonⁿ followed and was placed within a mile of the mouth of the Kaw River.⁸ This church building served the entire Tribe until 1847, when a brick structure was built near Tenth Street and Walker Avenue.⁹

Reverend James Wheeler served as minister to the Wyandottes until 1846, when he was replaced by Reverend E. T. Peery. During Reverend Wheeler's ministry, George

⁷Merwin, p. 84.

⁸A. T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883) Vol. 1, p. 1228.

⁹Morgan, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

I. Clark and John M. Armstrong served as interpreters. Reverend Wheeler was kept extremely busy the first three months after arrival due to the sixty deaths which occurred in the bottoms east of the Kaw's mouth. Religious services were often held under the open skies due to the reality that no church building existed until April, 1844.¹⁰

Before Kansas became a Federal Territory, the slavery issue caused the Methodist Episcopal Church to split into two groups, the Church North and Church South. This difference of opinion first started in 1844 when Reverend E.T. Peery, substituting for Reverend Wheeler during his brief absence, denounced slavery as evil.¹¹ Although a law forbidding any further introduction of slaves into the Wyandotte Nation was passed by the Wyandotte Council in 1843-44, the denunciation by Reverend Peery caused bitter feelings to exist within the church.¹² When Reverend Wheeler left in May, 1846, he was replaced by Reverend E.T. Peery. Reverend Peery was received on the assumption that he personally was opposed to slavery. But soon

¹⁰J.J. Lutz, "The Methodist Missions Among the Indian Tribes of Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906) Vol. 9, p. 214.

¹¹Ibid., p. 215.

¹²The Kansas City Gazette, Jan. 2, 1892. Found on Microfilm in the Newspaper Room at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

afterwards, he proposed the division of the Church into two separate entities. On October 29, 1848, Reverend E. T. Peery organized the Methodist Episcopal Church South.¹³ A short while later, the Missouri Conference appointed Reverend J. T. Peery, Reverend E. T. Peery's brother, to the Church South. Reverend J. T. Peery moved into the church parsonage on November 28, 1848, and became the first regular pastor of the Church South. Reverend J. T. Peery remained at the Wyandotte Church until October 31, 1849, when he was relieved by a Reverend Russell.¹⁴ Reverend Russell was but a temporary appointee. He was replaced by Reverend L. B. Stateler, who was placed in charge of both the Wyandotte and Delaware missions.¹⁵ In 1851, Reverend Nathan Scarett, and assistant D. D. Dofflemeyer, was placed in control of the Church South Missions on the Shawnee, Delaware, and Wyandotte Reservations. Reverend Dofflemeyer was replaced by Reverend Baker.¹⁶ In the fall of 1855, the Missouri Conference

¹³Lutz, loc. cit.

¹⁴Diary of William Walker. Entries for Nov. 28, 1848 and Oct. 31, 1849. Connelley Collection. Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

¹⁵B. D. Pennington, History of the 7th Street Methodist Church, South, Kansas City, Kansas (Kansas City, Missouri: The Buckley Publishing Co., 1915) pp. 30-32.

¹⁶Diary of William Walker, April 10, 1852. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

sent Reverend William Barnett as a minister for Church South. How long Reverend Barnett remained is unknown. During the Civil War, it was impossible for the Church South to work in Kansas. As a result, no minister was appointed to work in Kansas in the Wyandotte Church South until 1867. At that time, Reverend Joseph King became pastor. In 1868, Reverend William Barnett returned as pastor.¹⁷

Before the separation of the Methodist Episcopal Church took place, a new brick church was constructed and put into use November 1, 1847. Many members opposed the building of the new church for fear it would be controlled by the pro-slavery group. Nevertheless, the building was constructed and paid for by funds received primarily from members of the church and with money received from their Ohio improvements annuity. The new building fell into the hands of the Church South after the separation.¹⁸ The Church North held their services primarily in the homes of several members of their faith. At various times, the Church North was offered the

¹⁷Pennington, pp. 33-38, passim.

¹⁸Lutz, pp. 215-21. Mr. Lutz records the Church building being controlled by the Church North because of having more members. William Walker's Diary, Perl Morgan, and D. B. Pennington state otherwise.

opportunity to worship in the brick church, but the offer was refused on grounds that it would stir up trouble.¹⁹

Before the separation officially took place, a petition from the Church North group was sent to Reverend J.B. Finley of the Ohio Conference, requesting a missionary be sent to them.²⁰ The Conference responded and appointed Reverend James Gurley to head the Church North.²¹ Although the Council and Wyandotte Nation as a whole sent a protest against the sending of a missionary, Reverend Gurley arrived and presented a letter of introduction from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. In addition to the letter of introduction, a letter of instructions from Bishop Morris of the Conference was presented to the Indian Agent, Richard Hewitt.²² Against the will of the majority of

¹⁹Letter from J.M. Armstrong to the Western Christian Advocate, Feb. 20, 1849. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. The Kansas City Gazette, June 2, 1892, reports that a large hewed log house was constructed by J.M. Armstrong for worship by the followers of the Church North. Also, a report from a manuscript commemorating the silver anniversary of the Methodist Episcopal Church reports a church building, later destroyed, being constructed near the Quindaro cemetery. Mr. B.D. Pennington confirms the above statement.

²⁰A petition of the Wyandotte Society to the Reverend J.B. Finley, Jan. 29, 1848. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

²¹Diary of William Walker, Dec. 1, 1848. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

²²A letter to William Walker from an unknown writer. Probable date, 1852. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

the Wyandotte people, Reverend Gurley established himself as minister of the Church North. A prejudicial letter sent to William Walker revealed the turmoil caused by the arrival of Reverend Gurley. The letter described the minister's action while attending the members of the Church North.

. . . Preaching the Gospel was only a small part of his employment. I do not believe he preached exceeding a half dozen sermons to the Wyandotts. The use of his lectures were of purely partisan character during his two months stay. He succeeded in raising a storm where but a brief space of time before peace and tranquility reigned . . . Our new brick building was assailed in the night by Mr. Gurley's followers-- the windows shivered to atoms, the stoves, the pipes, and other fixtures were torn down and thrown out of doors, and nearly everything of a fragil (sic) nature destroyed . . . This brot (sic) about . . . acts of retaliation from the rude young men of the opposite party . . . These young men had sagacity and sense enough to see that his conduct did not graduate with his profession. . . An appeal was made in writing to the Sub-Agent (Mr. Hewitt) by the Chiefs for his interference but he (was) unwilling to assume the responsibility of removing this disturbance of our peace.

. . . At Mr. Gurley's earnest solicitation the official order was issued to leave the Indian territory. . . He was in danger from the citizens of the state. The truth is D. Hewitt ought to have expelled him at an earlier period. . .²³

On a night in February, 1849, the two sheriffs of the Nation along with Matthew R. Walker entered Reverend Gurley's home and took him to the Sub-Agent, Richard Hewitt. He was ordered to leave the Reservation by the afternoon of the following day; which he did. Before parting, Rev-

²³Ibid.

erand Gurley gave an address which greatly stirred the emotions of his followers.²⁴ The action by Hewitt caused his removal by the Interior Department.²⁵

Following the removal of Reverend Gurley, Doctor Abram Sill of Missouri came to minister to the Wyandottes until Reverend G. B. Markham was sent by the Ohio Conference as a missionary. Following Markham's removal in 1851, a number of missionaries followed. These included: James Witten, 1851; M. G. Klepper, 1852; J. M. Chivington, 1853; J. T. Hopkins, 1853; J. H. Dennis, 1855; William Butt, 1856; R. P. Duvall, 1857; H. H. Moore, 1858; G. W. Paddock, 1859; and Strange Brooks, 1861.²⁶

During the ministry of Reverend J. H. Dennis, both church buildings were burned by incendiaries. Services for the Church North were then held in the home of Mrs. Lucy B. Armstrong until a frame church was built at the corner of Fifth Street and Washington Avenue. The church was reorganized in 1857 when Wyandott City was formed.²⁷

²⁴A letter from J. M. Armstrong to the Western Christian Advocate, loc. cit.

²⁵A letter from J. E. Wing to Reverend James Gurley, May 28, 1849. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

²⁶Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 345-47.

²⁷Ibid.

As to the progress and development of the Church South, it was faced with the problem of having too few members. On November 25, 1854, a letter was sent to the Methodist Episcopal Church South headquarters requesting permission to rejoin the Church North, due to lack of members. The reason for having so few members was blamed on ineffective ministers.²⁸ The request was evidently denied because the Church South continued in existence. In fact, the Church received a plot of land located at Seventh Street and Minnesota Avenue from the Wyandott City Company in 1857. The Church South constructed a new building on the land granted by the Wyandott City Company in 1871, but sold the property to a business enterprise in 1889.²⁹ A new church structure, still standing, was then constructed at Seventh Street and State Avenue in 1890.³⁰

The story of the early development and progress of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Kansas indicates the turmoil and struggle which existed between the two opposing factions over slavery. Although other churches were organized and in existence before the War

²⁸A letter from the officials of the Methodist Episcopal Church South to the officers of the Methodist Episcopal Church at their headquarters, Nov. 25, 1854. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

²⁹Pennington, p. 38.

³⁰Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 348.

Between the States, none had as an exciting tale to tell as the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the paragraphs which follow, mention will be made of the religious societies or organizations that were in Kansas City, Kansas prior to the Civil War.

B. St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In May, 1857, the organization of the first Protestant Episcopal Church took place in Kansas City, Kansas. At the time of its organization, Kansas City was a small, struggling village known as Wyandott City. The church was created under the able leadership of Reverend Rodney S. Nash. Among the original members who were influential in the church's incorporation were Doctor Frederick Speck, W. Y. Roberts, A. G. Davis, W. L. McMeth and James Chestnut. The first church building was located at Fourth Street and Minnesota Avenue. During the summer of 1857, Reverend Nash journeyed to the East and was able to raise sufficient funds to establish a church and parsonage.³¹ On August 12, 1859, the church structure was consecrated by the first missionary bishop of the Midwest, Right Reverend Jackson Kemper. Also in 1859, a convention of the diocese was held at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This meeting was held August 11 and 12. The Town Company

³¹Andrews, Vol. 1, p. 1233.

allotted the Episcopal Church a plot of land located at Sixth Street and Ann Avenue in 1857. The Grand Hotel now occupies this area. Due to the construction of a second church at Huron Place on Sixth and Ann, the original church on Fourth Street was sold in 1882 for \$1,000. On July 10, 1882, the cornerstone of the second church building was laid by Right Reverend Thomas H. Vail, first bishop of Kansas. This new church served the members of the Episcopal Church until 1896, when a new and third place of worship was constructed. The old church building was relocated on the north side of State Avenue, west of Seventh Street. The cornerstone of this third church was re-laid on Maundy Thursday without official ceremony. The church was open for worship in October, 1896. In December 1925, the Church on State Avenue was considered too small and a proposal to build a new church building at Eighteenth Street and Washington Avenue was accepted. On February 21, 1926, a ground-breaking ceremony was held. On November 21, 1926, the cornerstone was officially laid by Right Reverend James Wise. The property of the old church site at Seventh Street and State Avenue was sold in February, 1936. Among the early ministers who served the St. Paul's Episcopal Church were Rodney S. Nash, 1857-62 and 1864-65; William Haddon, 1865-66; Archibald Beatty, 1866-69; L. L. Holden, 1869-70; J. Godfrey Jones, 1871-73; and

Thomas Betts, 1874-77.³²

C. The Catholic Church

The Catholic religion was introduced into Kansas during the pre-territorial period. Tradition has it that Reverend Charles De La Croix, a Jesuit Priest, visited the region at the mouth of the Kansas River in 1822. Here, Reverend De La Croix ministered to a few French settlers. In 1833, Father Benedict Roux established residence at the Ghouateau Trading Post on the Kansas River near Argentine. While located here, Reverend Roux ministered to the Catholics along the Missouri River. Later, the first Catholic Church in Kansas City, Missouri was built by Reverend Roux. Other Catholic Priests labored fervently among the Indian tribes of Kansas in the 1840's. The organizing of the Indian Country for mission work was proposed in 1849. The petition to formally organize was accepted in 1851, when Reverend John B. Meige was sent to establish a Catholic mission among the Pottawatomies near St. Mary's, Kansas. In 1855, Bishop Meige left the St. Mary's Mission in favor of constructing a mission at

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An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebrations of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, May 4, 1957. Manuscript in the possession of the author and at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 18th and Washington Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

Leavenworth. While located at Leavenworth, he sent priests throughout the Territory to build churches and missions.³³

The Catholic Church was formally established in Kansas City, Kansas in January of 1858. The Reverend Theodore Heineman was sent to Wyandott City by Bishop Meigs and held services in the homes of Catholic families. The principal place of worship was the home of Mother Warren at 412 Minnesota Avenue. During the month of March, 1858, Reverend William Fish was sent to this area and constructed the first church building. The structure was a small brick building located at the southwest corner of Ninth Street and Ann Avenue.³⁴ The cornerstone was laid May 9, 1858. The church cost a total of \$1,500. The church building served as a parlor, dining room, kitchen, dormitory, and infirmary as well as a place of worship. This small building served as St. Mary's Parish until 1866, when it was sold to James Hennessey.³⁵ Rev-

³³An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebration of the Establishment of the St. Mary's Church of Kansas City, Kansas. Written by William L. Phillip, n.p. A copy of the manuscript is in the possession of this author. Original manuscript located at St. Mary's Church, 5th and Ann Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

³⁴A. Kuhls, A Few Reminiscences of First Years In Wyandotte County, Kansas (Kansas City, Missouri: The Lane PFG Company, 1924) pp.8-9.

³⁵An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebration of St. Mary's Church.

erend Fish remained until July, 1859 when, due to lack of support, he left and took charge of St. Joseph's Church in Leavenworth. Reverend James McGee arrived in Wyandott City the same month Reverend Fish left. Reverend McGee remained at St. Mary's until 1860 when he left for Ireland.³⁶ The Church was without a minister until February, 1861 when Reverend Casper Mueller arrived. Reverend Mueller remained until December of the same year when the church was temporarily suspended for lack of financial support. In 1864, the Church was re-established by Reverend Anton Kuhls. Father Kuhls was faced with a very discouraging situation when he arrived at St. Mary's. The Civil War was still raging and resulted in a great decrease of Catholic families living in the area. Father Kuhls stated that about forty Catholic families resided in the Wyandott City area at the end of the War. Of these forty families, only seven families resided in the city, the remainder lived near Muncie.³⁷

In 1865, Father Kuhls constructed a new church building. It was built at the corner of Fifth Street and Ann Avenue. The land was purchased from a Wyandott Indian, Matthias Splitlog, for \$800.³⁸ An additional two acres

³⁶Kuhls, loc. cit.

³⁷An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebration of St. Mary's Church.

³⁸Andreas, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

was donated to the parish. These two acres was the Bishop Meigs Addition, which had been previously donated for church purposes by Hiram Northrup in 1865. The church was built by Isaiah Walker at a cost of \$9,000, and was dedicated in September, 1866.³⁹ During the next fifteen years, the following additions were added: a school, a sisters' home, a parsonage, and a large hall.⁴⁰

D. Congregational Church

In 1858, the First Congregational Church of Wyandotte County was organized. The Reverend Dana Storrs first established a church at the boom-town of Quindaro in 1857. This was his first ministerial assignment upon graduation from Andover Seminary in Massachusetts.⁴¹ Reverend Storrs also established a place of worship in Wyandott in the same year.⁴² The members first assembled at Kirk's Hall,

³⁹An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebration of St. Mary's Church.

⁴⁰Andreas, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

⁴¹Charles M. Correll, A Century of Congregationalism in Kansas, 1854-1954 (Wichita, Kansas: McCormick-Armstrong Company, 1953) pp. 23-26. Reverend Storrs was a member of the group at Andover Seminary who studied the peril of Kansas concerning slavery. Even though Kansas was destined to become a free-state, Reverend Storrs and his bride came to Kansas in 1857. He remained in the Kansas City, Kansas area for five years and then went to Atchison. From Atchison, he traveled to Iowa for his ministry.

⁴²Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 349.

located at Third Street and Nebraska Avenue. Later, the small group worshipped for two months in a store room of the R. S. Leavitt Building at Third Street and State Avenue. From the Leavitt Building, the followers of Congregationalism moved to the Overton Building, on Third Street between Minnesota and State Avenues. On July 17, 1857, the First Congregational Church of Wyandotte was officially organized at a meeting held at the Methodist Episcopal Church North Building. The church roster included twelve charter members.⁴³ Reverend Storrs remained pastor of the Church in Wyandotte until 1859, when he was replaced by Reverend Roswell D. Parker, who had previously organized a church at Leavenworth.⁴⁴ In 1860, Reverend Parker would often be seen ministering to people on the levee who were waiting for steamboats to arrive bearing supplies. Many of these adventurers had not heard a sermon since coming west. During the years 1859-60, services were held at McKay's Hall located on Minnesota Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. On July 15, 1860, services were held for the last time at McKay's Hall. On August 1, 1860, a new Church edifice was dedicated on Fifth Street between State

⁴³ An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebration of the Establishment of the Congregational Church of Kansas City, Kansas. Written by Don D. Ballou, the Church's Historian, n.p. A copy of manuscript in possession of author. Original located at the First Pilgrim Congregational Church 22nd and Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

⁴⁴ Andreas, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

and Nebraska Avenues. Mr. Cordley of Lawrence, delivered the dedicatory address. The Congregational Church was formed in the New England region and was, therefore, devoted to free-state activities. During the Civil War, the Church served as a haven for Union soldiers. Slaves who escaped from Missouri often found refuge in the Church. The purpose of the Wyandotte Congregational Church was set forth in its first constitution. "The object of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing in worship of God and in making His will dominant in the lives of men, individually and collectively. . ."⁴⁵

E. Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church was organized in Wyandott City in 1857. A small group of believers of this faith organized a church under the direction of Reverend E. Hatchley. Reverend Hatchley was succeeded by Reverend Baird of Philadelphia, who served for only a short time.⁴⁶

Services were held at various locations, one being the

⁴⁵An Unpublished Manuscript Commemorating the Centennial Celebration of the Congregational Church.

⁴⁶The Wyandott Herald, Sept. 1, 1884. This Newspaper is Found on Microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

R. S. Leavitt Building at Third Street and State Avenue.⁴⁷

In 1859, the Wyandott City Company granted the Presbyterian Church a plot of land consisting of one hundred and fifty feet square at the northeast corner of Huron Place on Sixth Street and Minnesota Avenue. The Church was forced to close during the Civil War and left the allotted tract undeveloped.⁴⁸

In 1862, Reverend Michael Hummer reorganized the Church which remained until 1865 when it was again closed.⁴⁹ In 1868, the County Commissioners attempted to take possession of the land granted the Presbyterian Church for a church site to build a new court house. However, the court held the property was still under the control of the Presbyterian Church. In 1881, the Church was re-established by Reverend Alex Starrett. A frame church built on the allotted land was completed in 1882. In 1889, the property at Sixth Street and Minnesota Avenue was sold for \$60,000.00. In 1890, a new building was constructed at Seventh Street and Nebraska Avenue.⁵⁰

⁴⁷The Western Argus, Aug. 5, 1858. This Newspaper is Found on Microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

⁴⁸Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 354.

⁴⁹The Wyandott Herald, Sept. 1, 1884, loc. cit.

⁵⁰Morgan, Vol. 1, pp. 354-55.

F. German Methodist Episcopal Church

The German Methodist Episcopal Church was organized August 24, 1859.⁵¹ Charter members included Frank Weber, Maria Weber, Louis Feisel, Marie Feisel, Abelhard Holzbeierlain, Catharine Shatz, Margaret Ortman, Henry Helm, August Gabriel, Carl Gabriel, Henrietta Gabriel, Gottlieb Kneipfer, and Margeret Kneipfer.⁵²

⁵¹Andress, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

⁵²Morgan, Vol. 1, p. 348.

Chapter IX

The Influence of the Wyandotte Indians in the Forming of the State of Kansas

A. The Territory of Kansas is Organized.

The forming of the "Indian Country" of the Nebraska territory into a national territory was primarily due to the efforts of the Wyandotte Indians. This tribe of Indians, although living on a reservation set aside by the United States, realized it was but a matter of time before the entire territory would be open to the ever-advancing white settlers. Therefore, the Wyandottes took the initiative in organizing the Territory of Kansas. The plan, as explained by the better-educated members of the Tribe, was to organize the "Indian Country" into a national territory, and, therefore, increase the monetary value of their property.

Before the Territory of Kansas was organized, it was under various plans of government and known by several names. After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Kansas was included in the Territory of Louisiana. On June 4, 1812, the name was changed from the Territory of Louisiana to the Territory of Missouri. On June 30, 1812, the Territory of Missouri was divided into two districts and was declared to be "Indian Country". Most of the state of Kansas was included in the northern district. When the Territory of

Michigan was formed in 1834, the remaining part of the northern division was included in the southern district. From 1834 until the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854, Kansas remained part of this district.¹

Many unsuccessful attempts were made to organize a territorial government for the "Indian Country". The first effort was made on December 17, 1844, when Stephen A. Douglas, then a member of the United States House of Representatives, introduced a bill before The House to establish the Territory of Nebraska. An amendatory bill was presented on January 7, 1845 before the Committee of the Whole House of Representatives. Both of these efforts proved unsuccessful. The next attempt at organization was on April 24, 1848, when Mr. Douglas, then a member of the Senate, introduced a new bill. This bill, also, was unsuccessful. The famed Senator introduced another bill, calling for the territory to be organized, on December 20, 1848. No action was taken by Congress to pass this bill. This was the final attempt to organize a Federal Territory until the Wyandotte Indians established a Provisional Government for the Territory of Nebraska.²

¹W. E. Connelley, "The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory", Proceedings and Collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society (Lincoln, Nebraska: State Journal Co., 1899) Vol. 1, pp. 19-21. Hereafter cited as Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr."

²Ibid., pp. 22-23.

These attempts in Congress to organize the region as a Federal Territory greatly concerned the Wyandotte Indians and other tribes residing in the area. These so-called savages began to realize that the land which was granted to them forever might be opened to white settlers. Most of the tribes desired to be free to roam the prairies and hunt wild game which was abundant at the time. This freedom would be greatly jeopardized if the region was to be occupied jointly with the white population. This uneasiness necessitated the calling of an all-Indian Congress of eleven tribes to discuss their peril.³ These tribes included the Wyandottes, Delawares, Shawnees, Ottawas, Miamies, Pottawatomies, Chippewas, Sacs, Fox, Kickapoos, and Kansas. The Kansas and Kickapoo Indians were not original members of the Confederacy when formed in the Eastern part of the United States; but, were received at this time. The Sac and Fox Tribes were present at the start of the conclave, but were frightened away by a speech made by William Walker, one of the Wyandotte representatives.⁴ The Indian Congress met near Fort Leaven-

³C. P. Deatherage, Early History of Greater Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri: Interstate Publishing Co., 1927) Vol. 1, p. 693.

⁴W. E. Connelley, "First Provisional Constitution of Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1900) Vol. 6, p. 99. Hereafter cited as Connelley, "First Prov. Const. of Kans."

worth from September 10 to September 18, 1848.⁵ The Wyandotte Indians were once again selected to assume the leadership of the newly rekindled Confederacy. As leaders, the Wyandotte representatives were able to convince the other tribes that the organization of a national territory would greatly increase the value of their possessions. From then on, the Wyandottes were the leading advocates of territorial change.⁶

After the Indian Congress of 1848, several changes occurred which increased the Wyandotte's zeal to bring about territorial change. The gold rush ^{to} ~~in~~ California caused thousands of people to travel through the Indian territory. The Indians comprehended this action as meaning a great highway or railroad would be built to the Pacific in the near future. Along this highway would be located many white settlers; thereby, resulting in the removal of the Indian tribes.⁷ Further proof that a highway would soon be constructed was made on December 16, 1850, when Senator Benton, from Missouri, introduced a bill before the Senate advocating the building of a transcontinental railroad.⁸

⁵ Diary of William Walker, Sept. 10, 1848 and Sept. 18, 1848. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library.

⁶ Deatherage, Vol. 1, p. 694.

⁷ Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr.", p. 23.

⁸ Connelley, "First Prov. Const. of Kans.", p. 100.

These events caused the Wyandottes to take the initiative in forming a territorial government. During the first session of the Thirty-second Congress, the Wyandotte Nation petitioned Congress for admission as a Federal Territory. When no consideration was given this request, the Wyandottes met at the Council House on October 12, 1852, and elected Abelard Guthrie as territorial delegate to the Thirty-second Congress. The representatives serving the United States stationed at Fort Leavenworth opposed the sending of a delegate to Congress. But, if a delegate was to be sent, the Fort Leavenworth faction wanted him to represent the pro-slavery group in the territory. Consequently, another election was held and resulted in Mr. Guthrie defeating a Mr. Barrow by a vote of fifty-four to sixteen.⁹

Although not given a seat in the Thirty-second Congress, Mr. Guthrie influenced Congress to take action on the territorial question. The newly elected delegate departed for Washington on November 20, 1852. Upon arrival in Washington, Guthrie contacted Williard P. Hall, a Representative from Missouri. Through a great amount of perseverance, Mr. Hall was influenced to present a bill calling for the forming of the Territory

⁹Ibid., p. 102.

of Nebraska. Although introduced on December 13, 1852, the Congressional Committee on Territories never reported the bill out of their committee. Another bill was introduced by William Richardson, from Illinois, providing for a territory to be organized. This bill called for the same boundaries as was included in the Hall Bill. On February 10, 1853, the Richardson Bill was accepted by the House and sent to the Senate. The bill was defeated in the Senate as a result of Congress adjourning before proper action could be taken.¹⁰ Even though Abelard Guthrie failed in his attempt to convince Congress to organize the Territory of Nebraska, the matter was brought into the open for future consideration.

The next action taken by the members of the Wyandotte Nation was the forming of a Provisional Government for the Territory of Nebraska. As leaders of the Indian Confederacy, the Wyandottes notified the remaining tribes of the Confederation that a convention would be held August 9, 1853. This was the day of the "Green Corn Feast", a celebrated anniversary among the Indians. Not only were the various Indian tribes to send delegates,

¹⁰Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr.", pp. 26-30. The boundaries of the Hall Bill were: southern boundary, 36 degrees 30 minutes; northern boundary, 43 degrees; eastern boundary, the western state line of Missouri; and the western boundary, the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

but all white men living in the area were invited to attend. Before the convention day arrived, an assembly was called together for the purpose of discussing the proposed railroad to be built to the Pacific Ocean.¹¹ For unknown reasons, the members of this convention were anxious for the area to become a Federal Territory. Consequently, the meeting which was to be held on August 9, 1853, was moved up to July 26, 1853. This assembly, which met at the Wyandotte Council House, formed a Provisional Government for the Territory of Nebraska. William Walker, a noted Wyandotte Indian, was elected Provisional Governor. In addition to a governor, the following officers were elected: Secretary for the Territory, George I. Clark; Councilmen, R. C. Miller, Isaac Mundy, and Matthew R. Walker, and the nominee as a candidate for delegate to Congress was Abelard Guthrie.¹² Governor Walker issued a proclamation calling for an election for the purpose of electing a delegate to Congress on July 30, 1853. The election was to be held on the second Tuesday of October.¹³

¹¹Deatherage, Vol. 1, loc. cit.

¹²Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr.", pp. 32-36, passim.

¹³Diary of William Walker, July 30, 1853. Connelley Collection.

The pro-slavery faction of Missouri was determined to have selected for Congressional delegate a person who would be sympathetic to their cause. As a result, Reverend Thomas Johnson, minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at the Shawnee Mission, was selected to oppose Abelard Guthrie. Because Reverend Johnson was supported by members of the Church South, the pro-slavery group of Missouri, and the influence of the various Government Indian Agents, he won the election. In addition to the votes cast for Reverend Johnson and Mr. Guthrie, three hundred and fifty-eight ballots were cast for Hadley D. Johnson of Iowa. These votes were rejected since Mr. Hadley Johnson had received most of the votes from citizens of Iowa who followed him to the territory. On November 8, 1853, Reverend Johnson was given a Certificate of Election by Governor Walker.¹⁴ Actually, all three candidates traveled to Washington desiring to be given a seat as delegate from Nebraska Territory in Congress. However, recognition was not given any of the three delegates, the two Johnsons did have a desk in the House until they were forced to leave.

¹⁴Connelley, "Prov. Govt. of Neb. Terr." pp. 36-41, passim.

The organization of the territory was accomplished during this session of Congress, and Abelard Guthrie had accomplished what he had set out to do.¹⁵ On May 27, 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed by Congress and approved by President Franklin Pierce on May 30.¹⁶ The objective of establishing a territorial government had been realized by members of the Wyandotte Nation.

The real significance of the Provisional Government which was started by the Wyandotte Indians was described by Mr. William E. Connelley.

Abelard Guthrie declared that Kansas was the arbiter of the destinies of the republic. At the time of the adoption of our constitution (Wyandotte), slavery was not molested, but was suffered to remain one of the institutions of our government. . . Who could have conceived that the spark to ignite the fires destined to burn away this foul barrier to perfect freedom was to be struck out by a people, who were at the time of the formation of our government pagan savages. . . The organization of the provisional government. . . was the immediate cause. . . of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the pro-slavery and free-state conflict in Kansas, and finally the war of the rebellion. The Wyandottes. . . moved for this provisional government for the Nebraska Territory. This antagonized the plans of the slave power for that country. . . It forced the conflict. The slave power mastered every resource for the final struggle, which it foresaw

¹⁵ W.E. Connelley, "Kansas City, Kansas: Its place in the History of the State", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1923) Vol. 15, p. 284.

¹⁶ A.T. Andreas, History of the State of Kansas (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883) Vol. 1, p. 81.

must be a desperate one for its existence. . . . The first aggressive act in opposition to this movement was the introduction of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill.

The second was the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. At this stage the conflict became national, and the little band at the mouth of the Kansas, whose action precipitated the struggle had nothing to say in its settlement until it came to open blows, and became a question of the life of the nation.¹⁷

B. Kansas or Wyandotte Constitutional Convention

The Kansas Constitutional Convention or Wyandotte Convention, held at Wyandotte City, Kansas in 1859, was an event pertaining to the history of the state. Moreover, it was an important event held in the city and during a time which this study includes. Therefore, a brief description of the action which took place at the convention is necessary.

After Kansas was created a national territory in 1854, it was but a matter of time before the people would be desirous of becoming a state. Immediately after being recognized as a territory, the pioneer settlers of the area promoted plans for becoming a state. Actually, Kansas had four constitutions framed and submitted to the people before becoming a state: (1) the Topeka Constitution of 1855; (2) the Lecompton Constitution framed in 1857, (3) the Leavenworth Constitution accepted by the people of Kansas in 1858 but not by Congress; and

¹⁷Connelley, "First Prov. Const. of Kans.", p. 110.

(4) the Wyandotte Constitution framed and accepted by the people in 1859 and by Congress in 1861.¹⁸

Before the fourth and final convention was held at Wyandotte, the Territory of Kansas had experienced a period of internal strife and civil warfare. Neighboring slave states had sent bands of marauding ruffians into the territory for the purpose of destroying all free-state sympathizers. These ruffians killed in cold blood; burned and destroyed towns; invaded the election polls; and searched for free-staters like a pack of bloodhounds pursuing an escaped criminal.¹⁹ Under this unpleasant atmosphere the fourth and final constitutional convention was called.

The same territorial legislature that incorporated the City of Wyandotte and the County of Wyandotte issued the call for the convention. The territorial legislature, on February 11, 1859, passed an act calling on the people to vote on a question whether a fourth constitutional convention should be held. On March 28, the vote was taken and resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of holding

¹⁸ See Appendix I for the history of first three constitutional conventions held in Kansas.

¹⁹ Benjamin F. Simpson, "The Wyandotte Convention", Kansas Historical Society Collections (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Publishing House, 1886) Vol. 3, p. 386. Hereafter cited as Simpson, "Wyandotte Convention".

the convention.²⁰ The vote for selecting the delegates to the convention was held June 7.²¹ On the fifth day of July, 1859, the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention met under "an act providing for the formation of a state government of the state of Kansas."²²

Why should the City of Wyandotte be selected as the site for the Constitution-makers? Many individuals thought it only right that the convention be held near slave soil.²³ Lecompton was dying and Topeka and Leavenworth had had their try at constitution making. In addition to these reasons, Wyandotte was fast becoming a prominent city. Many were interested, but few seemed to be jealous of her progress.²⁴ When it was determined that another convention was to take place, Manhattan and Lawrence received consideration as possible locations. However, the legislature finally agreed upon Wyandotte.²⁵

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Raymond Gaeddart, Birth of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Publication, 1940) p. 34.

²²Kansas City Gazette, January 29, 1890. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 100-102.

²³Simpson, "Wyandotte Convention", loc. cit.

²⁴William A. Phillips, "The Wyandotte Convention", The Kansas Magazine (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Magazine Publishing Co., 1872) Vol. 1, p. 1.

²⁵Gaeddart, p. 31.

The Wyandotte Convention was held in Lippman Meyer's Hall, then the largest building in the territory. It was a four-story, brick building located on First Street between Nebraska and State Avenues. The lower floors of the building were used primarily as a warehouse, while the upper floors were being used for public meetings.²⁶

William A. Phillips, a delegate at the convention, described the building as being unfinished and for the most part, unoccupied. The convention met on the fourth floor, which was enclosed, and its walls were of unplastered brick. The room contained a table composed of a plank lying on empty barrels. The president's seat was placed on a raised platform. Behind the president's chair draped the flag of the United States on the bare wall.²⁷ The building was known as Constitutional Hall after 1859.

It was partially destroyed when a company of recruits were drilling during the Civil War and the floor gave way.

For a time, it was used as a depot for the Union Pacific Railroad. Later, what remained of the building was destroyed by fire. A grain elevator was then built on the same location.²⁸

²⁶Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, pp. 147-49.

²⁷Phillips, pp. 2-3.

²⁸Morgan, Vol.1, loc. cit.

The Wyandotte Constitutional Convention first met at noon, July 5, 1859. The fifty-two delegates representing the various counties cannot be regarded as men with great lawmaking ability. Rather, they were young, energetic individuals representing the great middle class. The group was ably described as representatives who "had no personal ambition to gratify, no animosities to resent, no friends to favor. Their sole aim and object seemed to be . . . to frame a fundamental law that embodied every safe guard to the citizen, in favor of human freedom and human rights . . ." ²⁹ Of the fifty-two delegates, thirty-five were Republicans and the remainder Democrats. This was the first convention where both parties were present. The representatives of the convention were comparatively young. Robert Graham, of Atchison County, was the oldest at fifty-five. The youngest, Benjamin F. Simpson of Lykins County, was only twenty-three. ³⁰ This group of able but mediocre men were responsible

²⁹Gaeddart, p. 36.

³⁰Benjamin F. Simpson, "The Wyandotte Constitutional Convention", Kansas Constitutional Convention (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1950) p. 652. Hereafter cited as Simpson, "Wyandotte Constitutional Convention". Eighteen delegates were under thirty, only seven between forty and fifty, and one delegate over fifty. John A. Martin was only twenty-one, but he was not a delegate but rather a newspaper reporter from Atchison covering the progress of the convention.

for framing the constitution under which Kansas became a state.³¹

The first week of the convention was devoted to effecting an organization. The following officers were elected to carry out the work of the conclave. J. M. Winchell, of Osage County, defeated his Democratic opponent J. T. Barton for the presidency. A newspaper reporter from Atchison, John A. Martin, defeated William Spencer for the secretary position.³² Other officers elected, included: George F. Warren, sergeant-at-arms; and Werter P. Davis, Chaplin. Committees were formed to draw up the various parts of the constitution and the chairman of each was appointed by the President Winchell.³³ The Kansas Constitution was patterned primarily after the Ohio Constitution of 1851. This was due to the plurality of delegates being formerly from Ohio. However, the constitutions of other states were used liberally.³⁴ Before the actual work in constructing a constitution could begin, the credentials of the delegates had to be accepted.

³¹Phillips, p. 4.

³²Gaeddart, p. 38.

³³Simpson, "Wyandotte Constitutional Convention", p. 656.

³⁴Kansas City Times, June 7, 1947. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, p. 35.

Strangely enough, Wyandotte County, the site of the convention, was officially unrepresented.³⁵ According to the journals of the legislature which provided for the convention, it had been intended that the newly formed county of Wyandotte be given representation. However, through an error in preparing the allotment of delegates for each county, Wyandotte was omitted and was included with Leavenworth County.³⁶ Nevertheless, an election was held in Wyandotte County June 7, as in other counties, and Dr. J. E. Bennett of Wyandott City and Dr. J. B. Welborn of Quindaro were elected. Their Republican opponents were W. Y. Roberts and Fielding Johnson.³⁷ On July 8, a vote was polled to determine whether the Wyandotte representatives should be given seats. They were denied seats. But, on July 11, a second vote was taken and this time the two delegates were awarded honorary seats and permitted to participate in the proceedings, but, were denied the right to vote.³⁸ As a result, Wyandotte, the birthplace of Kansas statehood, was unofficially represented.

³⁵Kansas City Times, July 5, 1939. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, p. 28.

³⁶Gaeddart, p. 40.

³⁷Kansas City Gazette, loc. cit.

³⁸Gaeddart, loc. cit.

After the organizational part of the convention was completed, the actual work on constructing a constitution commenced. The constitution, itself, was very similar to the previous constitutions written for the state. It contained a preamble; articles creating and explaining the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; a bill of rights; a schedule; and other matters found in most constitutions.³⁹ Several interesting points did arise, however, and are worthy of mention. When formed, the Territory of Kansas contained all the land west to the Continental Divide or Rocky Mountains. For unknown reasons, the delegates voted to abandon the lands of present-day eastern Colorado and place the western boundary of Kansas where it now stands. Also, a delegation representing southern Nebraska was present and made a valiant plea to be admitted as part of the state of Kansas. This group argued that the river Platte formed a natural northern boundary. Therefore, it would insure protection against the raids of savage Indians. But, the plea was made in vain; for the convention fixed the northern boundary according to the boundary as provided by the Kansas-Nebraska Bill.⁴⁰

³⁹Phillips, loc. cit.

⁴⁰Kansas City Times, loc. cit.

Kansas was one of the forerunners in granting voting privileges and property rights to women. This was accomplished by no mere accident. A delegation of women were present during most of the convention proceedings. Their object--women's rights.⁴¹ The leader of the delegation was Mrs. C.I.H. Nichols.⁴¹ She was not an unwelcomed nor uninvited delegate. She had previously been invited to attend the Topeka Convention, but could not because of her husband's ill health. In addition to Mrs. Nichols, a famous Wyandotte Indian Mrs. Lucy B. Armstrong was present. These two, from time to time, were given an opportunity to speak and express their views. Primarily through the efforts of these two--especially Mrs. Nichols--Kansas women were given equal voting rights in the administration and direction of all common schools and institutions controlled by the state. The right to retain custody and control of children and to accumulate property were also awarded to women.⁴² Kansas women were also given the right to one half of the husband's property.⁴³

⁴¹Kansas City Gazette, loc. cit.

⁴²The Topeka Journal, March 2, 1939. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 7, p. 9. The Kansas City Star, July 25, 1959, Section 'E', Reports that Mary Tenny Gray was a resident of the Garne House wheremost of the delegates were staying. She was, undoubtedly, influential in persuading certain individuals to propose and accept certain policies.

⁴³Kansas City Gazette, Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 100-102.

So, a few women, sitting and knitting, helped to form our state constitution.

The slavery question, which was the principal cause of Kansas not being admitted a state sooner, was thoroughly discussed. By a vote of forty-eight to one, slavery was prohibited in the state. An amendment proposing to prohibit Negroes from attending school was almost passed. Only whites were enfranchised and, therefore, permitted to vote in any election.⁴⁴

At the close of the Convention, the question was asked whether the word Wyandotte should contain an "e". Mrs. Lucy B. Armstrong answered by saying the clerk who wrote the Treaty of 1855 misspelled the word by leaving off the final "e". Later when the city and county were formed, the same spelling was used. As a result, the name "Wyandott" grew out of error.⁴⁵

Sixteen years to the day after the first boatload of Wyandotte Indians arrived in Kansas City, the Constitution was adopted by the Convention. It was placed before the people on October 4, 1859, for ratification.⁴⁶ Of the

⁴⁴The Kansas City Star, loc. cit.

⁴⁵Kansas City Gazette, loc. cit. See Supra, Chapt. V, p. 49, for information concerning the spelling of the word Wyandotte.

⁴⁶Ibid.

approximate 16,000 votes cast, more than two-thirds¹⁴⁸ were in favor of the constitution. On December 6, 1859, an election of state officials and representatives to Congress took place. The House of Representatives voted Kansas a state on April 11, 1860. The proposal was then submitted to the Senate who voted in favor of the bill on January 21, 1861. The last step in proclaiming Kansas a state was completed on January 29, 1861, when President Buchanan signed the statehood bill.⁴⁷

⁴⁷Simpson, "Wyandotte Convention", p. 387.

Chapter X

Quindaro

Quindaro was born during the nation's darkest hour. The slavery controversy was causing sections of the Nation to drift farther and farther apart. Two distinct factions had arisen--those sustaining slavery and those against. At the time Quindaro was breathing its first breaths of life, the Territory of Kansas was overwhelmingly pro-slavery. With the support of the national administration of Franklin Pierce and the embargo techniques of Missouri regarding free-staters crossing their state, the Territory of Kansas was most assuredly on the path of becoming a slave state. From this atmosphere rose a town--a town to support the cause of the free-state advocates.

Quindaro was founded in 1856 by a small group of men supported financially by New Englanders advocating the nonextension of slavery. Before the establishment of Quindaro, no town existed along the Missouri River that was friendly toward the free-state movement. Realizing this, a group examined the bank of the Missouri River to the Nebraska border hoping to find a friendly location for a town that would prove to be a mecca for the free-state cause.¹ At a point approximately six miles above

¹Quindaro Chindowan, May, 1857. This newspaper is located in the newspaper files, Kansas Historical Building, Topeka, Kansas.

the mouth of the Kansas River by water, a townsite was selected. The site was found to have a natural rock ledge where the water ran from six to twelve feet deep. Realizing this as being an ideal landing, the group decided to locate their city at that spot. The accompanying land was situated on land owned by several Wyandotte Indians.² Through the efforts of Abelard Guthrie and his Indian wife, Nancy Quindaro, the land was purchased from the owners.³ A town company was then formed and the following officers were elected: Joel Walker, president; Charles Robinson, treasurer; and S.N. Simpson, secretary. The company immediately employed the services of O.A. Bassett to survey the townsite; which he completed in December, 1856.⁴

The problem of selecting a proper name for the town fell upon the members of the town company. In appreciation of the service rendered by Abelard Guthrie and his wife, Nancy Quindaro Brown Guthrie, the town was called "Quindaro".

² Alan W. Farley, Annals of Quindaro: A Kansas Ghost Town (Topeka, Kansas: Reprinted from the Kansas Historical Quarterly, 1956) p.2. Hereafter cited as Farley, Annals of Quindaro. This pamphlet is in the possession of this author and was used in this research. Citations are to the pamphlet.

³ The Wyandotte Gazette, Dec. 30, 1881. This newspaper is on Microfilm at the Kansas Historical Building, Topeka, Kansas.

⁴ Quindaro Chindowan, loc. cit.

The Indian name of Mrs. Guthrie was actually "Sucquindaro", but for practical purposes, the "Suc" was omitted.⁵ The name "Quindaro" was a common Wyandotte word meaning "A bundle of sticks" and interpreted as "in union there is strength".⁶

The townsite, as surveyed by Mr. O. A. Bassett, included a levee running parallel to the Missouri River. A street running parallel to the levee was called Main Street. The principal street running north and south was "Kansas" Avenue. The remaining streets which ran adjacent to "Kansas" Avenue were lettered from "A to Y". The streets running east and west were numbered from Third to Tenth Street. On paper, the townsite was ideal. But, the map failed to show the rough terrain and dense forest which was located on the townsite.⁷

The town was officially started on January 1, 1857. At that time, ground was broken and Quindaro was on the way to becoming the first free-state town along the Missouri River.⁸ The act of incorporation for the City of Quindaro was signed by the acting governor of the

⁵The Wyandotte Gazette, loc. cit.

⁶Farley, Annals of Quindaro, p. 2.

⁷Ibid., pp.2-3.

⁸Quindaro Chindowan, loc. cit.

Territory of Kansas on February 9, 1858. The act specified the number of city officials to be elected, how they were to be elected, and when the election was to be held. The mayor was placed at the head of the city council which was composed of a group of aldermen.⁹ The first city election was held in February, 1858. There were two political parties, the "Peoples" and the "Workingmen's". Alfred Gray was endorsed by both parties and was elected, unanimously, the first mayor of Quindaro.¹⁰

A very important enterprise was started in the spring of 1857. This was the founding of the newspaper, the Quindaro Chindowan. The newspaper was under the direction of Mr. J. M. Walden and a Mr. Babb. Both men had previously been associated with newspaper work in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Walden was the acting editor of the Chindowan.¹¹ The first issue was published May 13, 1857. The name "Chindowan" was a Wyandott word meaning "leader". The newspaper was founded for the purpose of making Kansas a free state.¹²

⁹Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858 (Le-compton, K.T.: S. W. Driggs and Co., 1858) pp. 254-59.

¹⁰The St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, Oct. 27, 1895. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 39-47, passim.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Quindaro Chindowan, loc. cit.

In June, 1858, the newspaper was temporarily suspended when Mr. Walden retired from the newspaper business. A new company was formed in January, 1859, consisting of George W. Vesle, Alfred Gray, George Budington, James White, M. W. Bottum, and V. J. Lane. This company published the Chindowan for a period of six months when it was transferred to John Francis. Mr. Francis agreed to publish the newspaper for one year with the agreement that he would receive the printing type and press. The new editor carried out the contract, but the name was changed from the Chindowan to the Tribune. When the contract expired, the newspaper equipment was removed to Olathe, Kansas, where Mr. Francis established the Olathe Mirror.¹³

Articles of the Quindaro newspaper were republished in many of the Eastern newspapers and did much to aid Quindaro in her attempt to become a large, prosperous, free city.

Great progress was made at Quindaro during the first six months which revealed a large, permanent city was in the making. No other town in Kansas had a more glorious beginning. The Quindaro Company advertised the city widely as the only town on the Missouri River where free-staters were truly welcome. Soon, migration from all

¹³The Wyandott Herald, July 6, 1876. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 3, pp. 180-82.

sections of the northeastern part of the United States was being made to Quindaro.¹⁴ During the first six months, it appeared that Quindaro might shove her rivals-- Wyandotte City and Kansas City, Mo. --right out of existence. The second largest hotel in the Territory, the Quindaro House, had been built. It consisted of forty-five rooms and was four and a half stories high.¹⁵ It was constantly filled after its completion and a few guests were reported to have slept on the office floor and in the halls.¹⁶ The principal street, Kansas Avenue, had been graded from the levee to the southern part of the city where it connected to another road leading far into the interior. Some thirty to forty homes had been constructed and inhabited. Several business enterprises had been started or were about to start. A stone schoolhouse had been constructed and doubled as a church on Sunday.¹⁷ Miss Carpenter, from Vermont, was employed as a teacher early in May.¹⁸ A

¹⁴A Letter from O. B. Yums to an Unknown Receiver, June 24, 1900. Connelley Collection, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

¹⁵Farley, Annals of Quindaro, p. 5.

¹⁶Perl W. Morgan, History of Wyandotte County, Kansas and Its People (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911) Vol. 1, p. 103.

¹⁷Quindaro Chindowan, loc. cit.

¹⁸St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, loc. cit.

highway had been built to Lawrence. The road, thirty-one miles in length, crossed three streams and was traveled in six hours time.¹⁹ The total fare by Concord stage to Lawrence was three dollars.²⁰ Another road was constructed from Quindaro to Osawatimie. It ran south to the Kansas River where a free ferry was maintained by the Quindaro Town Company.²¹ On May 15, 1857, a meeting was held to discuss how to aid the Parkville and Burlington Railroad which was to travel through Quindaro. A five story business building was under construction by Mr. Park of Parkville. In the middle of May, two church buildings had been constructed costing approximately \$2,000.00 each. On April 14, a meeting of the leading citizens took place with the intention of starting an academy.²² On June 12, a post office was established. Charles S. Parker was appointed postmaster.²³ On June 16, the Quindaro Temperance Society was inaugurated. One of its first actions was to organize a committee to rid the town of the sale of intoxicating liquors. The next morn-

¹⁹Quindaro Chindown, May 23, 1857.

²⁰Ibid., May 30, 1857.

²¹Ibid., May 23, 1857.

²²Ibid., May 30, 1857.

²³Ibid., June 12, 1858. This is a yearly progress report.

ing, June 17, the committee destroyed the liquors being sold at three different locations in the city.²⁴ A stone quarry had been opened by Mr. Klaus.²⁵ The Lightning Line Steamers were running from St. Louis up the Missouri River and made many stops at Quindaro.²⁶ Many other achievements could be boasted by the citizens of Quindaro at the expiration of the first six months.

Quindaro continued to grow rapidly until the spring of 1858. An old steam boat captain described the city as the "rippinest, snortinest thing that ever happened-- while her paddles were workin', an' they wa'nt no blommin' side-wheeler a-goin' to catch her when she was a throwin' soap suds."²⁷ Other indications of her continued progress can be verified by the following statements. The Wyandott House had been completed and was about half as large as the Quindaro House. It was under the proprietorship of Mr. O. H. Zene. A Literary Society was formed²⁸ as well as a Debating Society.²⁹ The largest saw mill in Kansas was built and had the capacity of making 16,000 feet of

²⁴Ibid., June 20, 1857.

²⁵Ibid., May 23, 1857.

²⁶Ibid., June 13, 1857.

²⁷Farley, Annals of Quindaro, p. 5.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Quindaro Chindowen, Aug. 22, 1857.

lumber a day.³⁰ The stone church of the Congregational Church had been completed. The first service was held October 11, 1857, with the Reverend S. D. Storrs delivering the sermon. The Methodists had completed the erection of their large, brick church. Reverend Ephriam Nute, of Lawrence, preached the first sermon September 13, 1857. The Church was dedicated April 25, 1858.³¹ Reverend O. Perincheef, from New York City, held services for the followers of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The new Parkville and Quindaro ferry boat, the "Otis Webb" had arrived from Wellsville, Ohio, and was in operation. It was the largest ferry boat on the Missouri River.³² Photography services were offered by Mr. J. J. Barker. An underground railroad had been established.³³ And, even a Negro had been permitted to vote in the election of Oct. 4, 1858. Although the Negro, Henry Drake, had been permitted to vote, the vote was withdrawn when an angry mob threatened to lynch both the Negro and the election judges as well.³⁴ These were but a few of the

³⁰Morgan, loc. cit.

³¹St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat, loc. cit.

³²Quindaro Chindowan, Aug. 1, 1857.

³³Farley, Annals of Quindaro, pp. 7-8.

³⁴The Western Weekly Argus, Oct. 9, 1858. This newspaper is located in the newspaper files, Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

incidents occurring during Quindaro's initial year of existence. Little evidence that the city would disappear within a decade could be seen.

In the spring of 1858, Quindaro began to fade. Few new citizens were arriving. Construction of new homes and business buildings came to practically a halt. Still, a few of the more loyal citizens had faith in the future of Quindaro.³⁵ What caused this bustling city to collapse? There were a series of events that brought about the downfall of the city. First, the failure of the Ohio Life and Trust Company in August, 1857, caused a widespread panic to develop throughout the United States. As a result of the incurring depression, speculation in Kansas towns, such as Quindaro, began to dwindle.³⁶ The depression, in general, was caused by over-speculation in the construction of railroads. Second, the fact that the territorial legislature was controlled by free-staters indicated that slavery would never exist in Kansas. Former pro-slavery towns such as Leaverworth and Atchison in 1858 leaned toward the ideals of the Territory becoming a free state. As a result, Quindaro was no longer necessary as a port of entry for free-staters. Third, Quindaro had hoped to

³⁵Farley, Annals of Quindaro, p. 10.

³⁶A Letter from O. B. Yums to an Unknown Receiver, loc. cit.

have the county seat located in the city when the county of Wyandotte was formed in 1859. However, the seat of government of the newly formed county was placed at Wyandott City. Also, since the land on which Wyandott City was Indian land not subject to immediate taxation, caused the citizens of Quindaro to bear the greater burden of financing the county.³⁷

The final blow in the collapse of Quindaro arrived with the outbreak of the Civil War. Nearly every able man in Quindaro enlisted in the Union Army. The women and children were sent back to their former Eastern homes where they would be safe and secure. Almost in a day, Quindaro was abandoned. William Tecumseh Sherman, a lawyer in Quindaro at the outbreak of the war, formed a military company of fellow townsmen. His subsequent experiences led him to national fame.³⁸ The culminating blow came during the war when federal troops were housed in the residences of Quindaro. The Kansas Second Cavalry, under the leadership of Col. Davis literally gutted Quindaro before leaving.³⁹ According to Mr. V. J. Lane, a

³⁷Farley, Annals of Quindaro, loc. cit.

³⁸Lincoln Phifer, "Ruins of Old Quindaro". The name of the newspaper and the date printed is not given. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 5, pp. 227-33, passim.

³⁹The Wyandott Herald, loc. cit.

prominent citizen of Quindaro, "If the Civil War had not come Quindaro would have been the big city instead of Kansas City, Mo. . . The great city would have been Quindaro and Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Mo., would be straggling villages now, but the war came and the majority of the inhabitants. . . got scared and ran away."⁴⁰

Quindaro died easily. There were a few who declined to admit the city was on its way out. Abelard Guthrie, who at one time was considered a rich man, struggled hard in Washington to promote Quindaro as a logical terminus for the transcontinental railroad to be constructed.⁴¹ The Quindaro Tribune reported in 1860 that the town seemed to have more life, and improvements were taking place. It predicted better times were coming.⁴² However, it was merely a matter of time before the city no longer existed. In 1863, the town was occupied by one man and his "crazy" wife. The couple resided in the halls of the hotel. Ten years later, it was reported in a newspaper, the Vermont Union, "Quindaro was, but now she is not. . . Buildings were in good preservation, but empty. . . The

⁴⁰The Kansas City Star, May 25, 1913. Wyandotte County Clippings, Vol. 5, p. 281.

⁴¹Parley, Annals of Quindaro, p. 11.

⁴²Quindaro Tribune, March 8, 1860.

owls were making selection of choice localities for places of abode. The solitary family of 1863 even has abandoned the place."⁴³

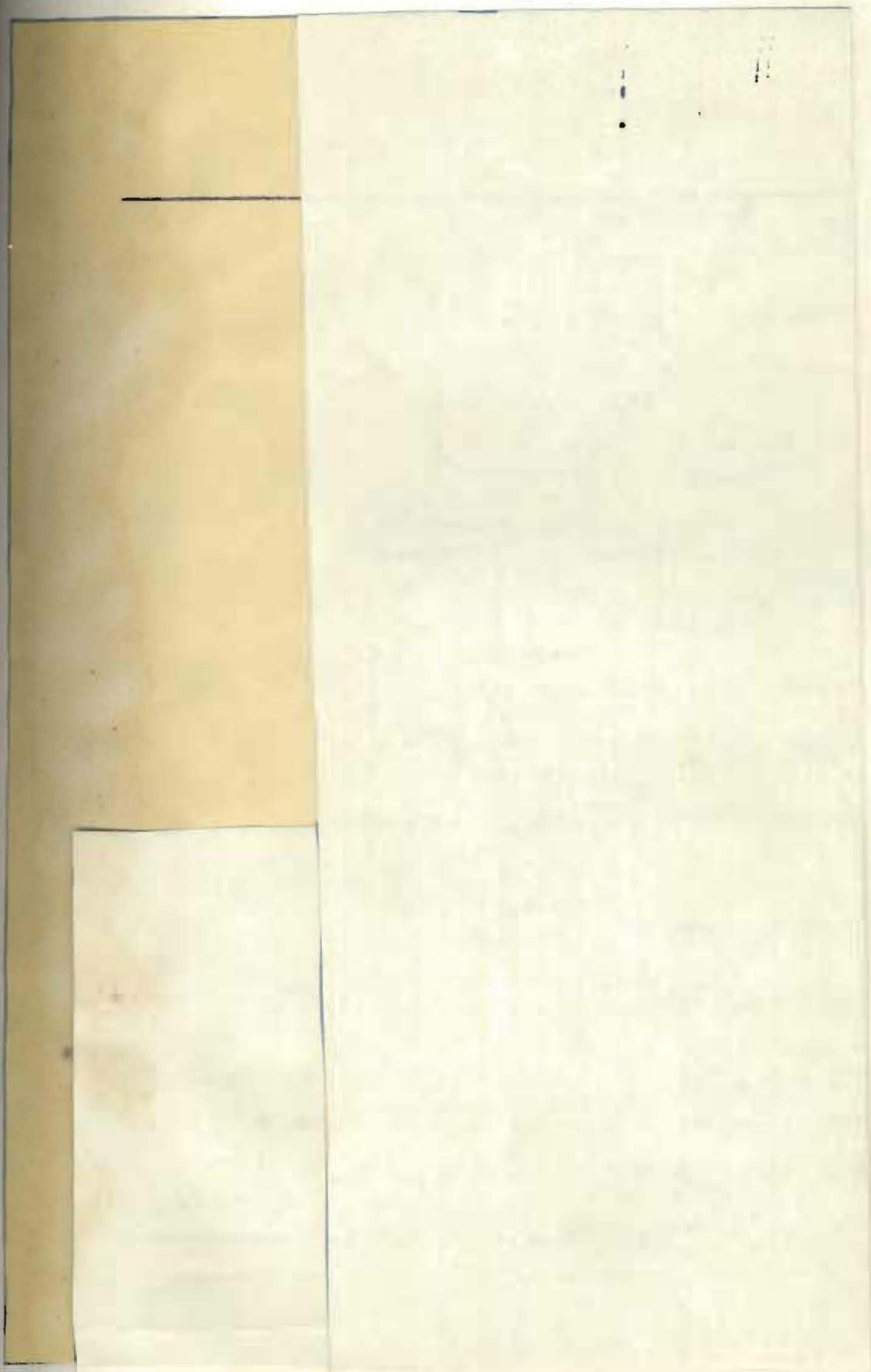
Quindaro remains in memory only. The once thriving city had its incorporation charter repealed by the State Legislature of Kansas in 1862. The town company was dissolved and the town was deserted. Little remains today which would indicate a thriving city once existed just north of Kansas City, Kansas. Recently, a pipe line concern graded part of the area where Quindaro once stood and destroyed what tangible memories that existed.⁴⁴ Part of the area is now a neat residential section occupied primarily by Negroes and is part of Kansas City, Kansas. "Quindaro was, but now she is not."⁴⁵

⁴³Farley, Annals of Quindaro, pp. 12-13..

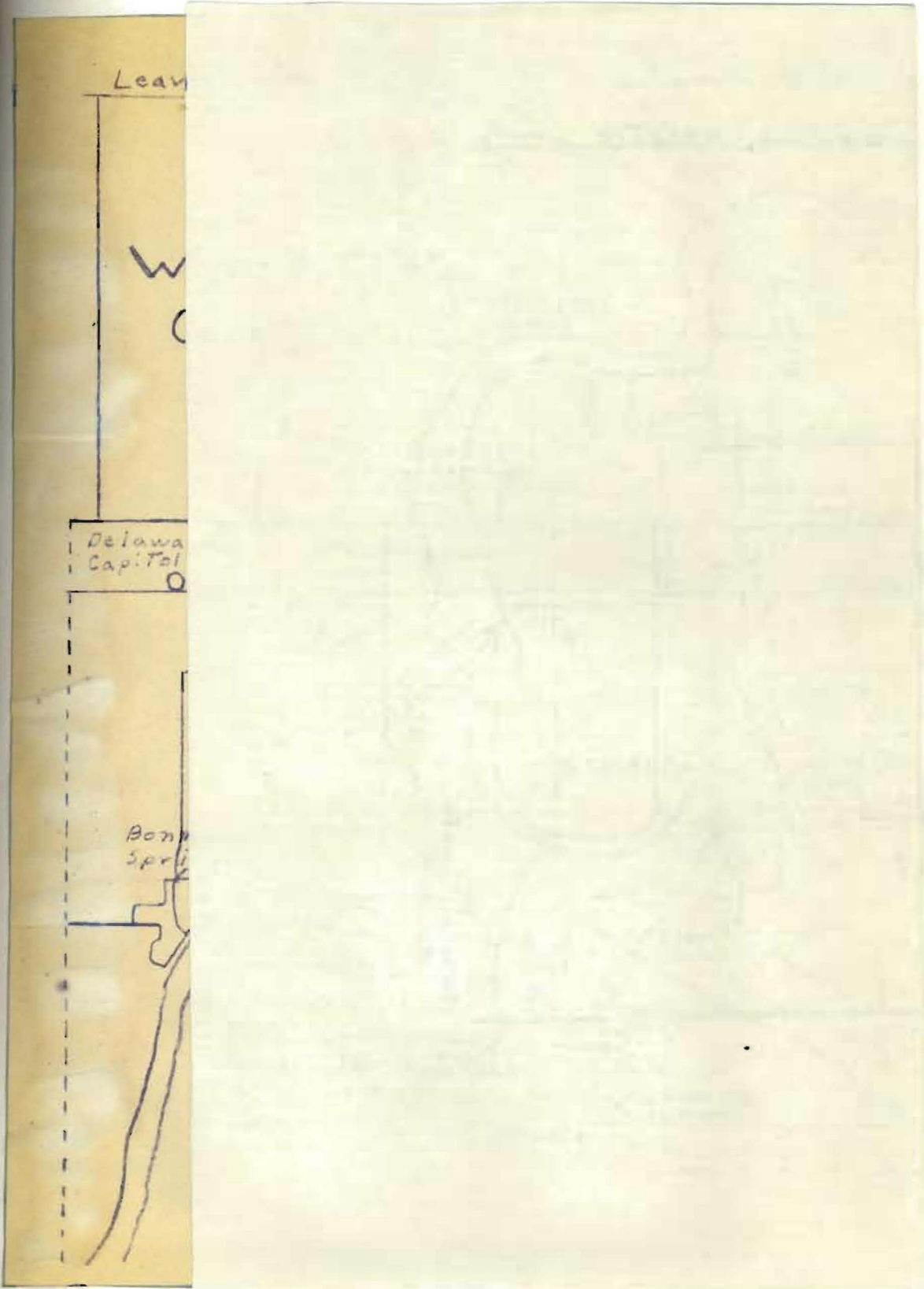
⁴⁴Ibid., p. 13.

⁴⁵Ibid., p. 12.

Map showing location of various Indian Reservations in
Kansas.



Points of Interest in Wyandotte County.



Location of Early Points of Interest, Residences, and
Business Establishments.

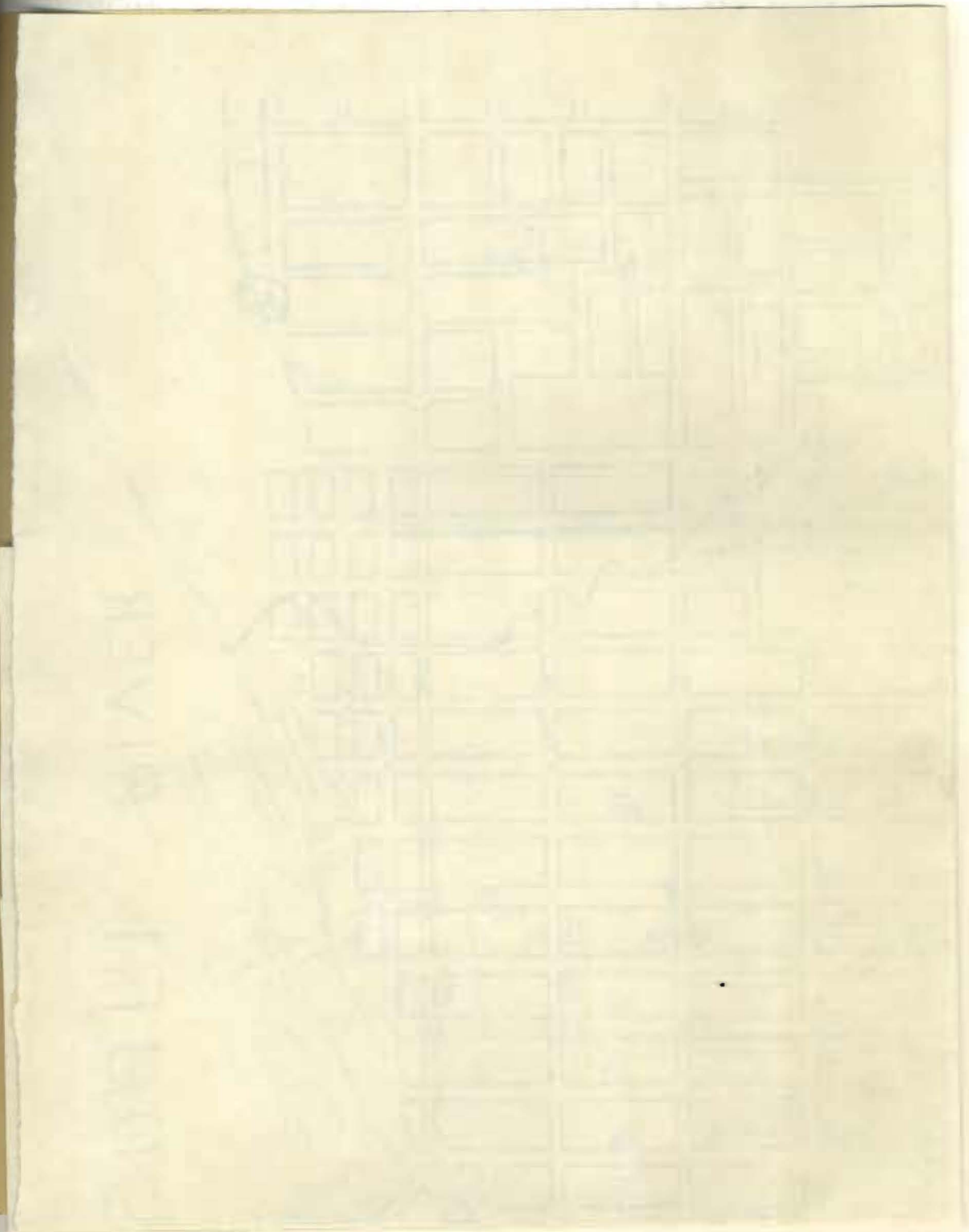
1. McAlpine Hall and Site of Wyandotte Constitutional Convention. On the Levee (First Street) between Washington and Nebraska Avenues.
2. St. Paul Wharfbboat Hotel. Foot of Washington Avenue on the Missouri River.
3. Parr, Boyd, and Co. Grocery Store. 3rd. Street and Washington Avenue.
Joel Walker Residence. Same location.
4. Charles Graham, Tribe Blacksmith Shop. Northwest Corner of 3rd Street and Nebraska Avenue.
Hain's Shoe Store. Same location.
Robert Robitaille Residence. Same location.
W. F. Simpson Drug Store. Same vicinity.
First issue of Wyandott City Register printed. Same vicinity.
5. County Court House and County Jail for a time. 314 Nebraska Avenue.
First Post Office. Same building.
Isaiah Walker and Thomas Barker General Store. Same building.
Temporary place where Presbyterian Services were held. Same building.
Dr. J. S. Glick, Dentist and Physician. Same building.
6. Leavitt Building. 3rd Street and State Avenue.
7. Zeitz and Buesche Building. North side of State between 3rd and 4th Streets.
8. Wyandotte Nation Company Store. Just West of 3rd Street between State and Minnesota Avenues.
9. McKay and Judd, Bankers and Dealers in Real Estate. Minnesota Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets.
10. Garno House. Northwest Corner of 3rd Street and Minnesota Avenue.
11. First Schoolhouse of Wyandotte Nation. 4th Street between State and Nebraska Avenues.
12. Wyandotte Council House. Intersection at 4th Street and Nebraska Avenue.
13. Dr. J. P. Root Residence. Same vicinity.
Henry Jaques Residence. Also used as a jail. Same vicinity.
13. Catfish Hotel. Southwest corner of State Avenue and 4th Street.
First Building of Protestant Episcopal Church (St. Pauls). 4th Street between State and Minnesota avenues.
Isaac Brown Residence. Same vicinity.
14. Gerlack, Shriner, and Co. Corner of 4th Street and Minnesota Avenue.

15. George Nelson Residence. Armstrong Street between 4th and 5th Streets.
F. A. Hunt Residence. South of the Nelson residence on Ann Street.
16. William Cook Warehouse. Minnesota Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets.
17. Methodist Episcopal Church North. 18th and State Ave.--not indicated on map; 10th Street and Walker Ave.; between 4th and 5th Streets on Washington Ave.; 5th and State Ave.; and 7th and Washington Ave.
18. Congregational Church. Corner of 5th Street and State Avenue; 21st and Minnesota Avenue, not indicated on map.
19. Silas Armstrong Residence. Corner of 5th Street and Minnesota Avenue.
Eldridge House. Same location.
20. St. Mary's Catholic Church. First Building, Ann Street between 8th and 9th Streets; Second location, southwest corner of 5th street and Ann Street.
21. City Hall Today. Southeast corner of 6th Street and Armstrong.
22. Presbyterian Church Property. Southwest corner of 6th Street and Minnesota Avenue.
23. African Methodist Church Property. Northeast corner of 7th street and Ann street.
24. Methodist Episcopal Church South. Corner of 7th street and Minnesota Avenue; 7th Street and State Avenue.
25. St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Northwest corner of 6th Street and Ann Street; not shown, 18th Street and Washington Avenue.
26. Huron Cemetery and Park. Area between Minnesota and Ann Street, and 6th and 7th Streets.
27. Hiram M. Northrup Residence. Corner of Wyandotte Avenue and Armstrong Street.
28. John McIntyre Armstrong Residence. South of the William Walker residence on the south side of Jersey Creek.
29. Charles E. Garrett Residence. Back from Jersey Creek just east of 7th Street.
30. William Walker Residence. North of Jersey Creek on 6th Street.
31. George Fowler Residence. Between Edgewood and Central Avenues on 4th Street. (This is the old Central Avenue).
32. Matthew R. Walker Residence. Home overlooking the Missouri River near the George Fowler Residence.

33. Ferry House and Ferry. East side on Ferry Street
on the east side of Barnett Avenue.
34. School for the Blind. 10 Street and State Avenue.
35. Court House Today. 7th Street and Ann Street.

When location on map is found to be in the middle of inter-
section, this indicates the exact location is not known
by the author.

Map of Wyandotte City With the Location of Early Business
Establishments and Major Points of Interest.



Chapter XII

Summary

The state of Kansas was inhabited by the American Indian centuries before the appearance of the Europeans. Due to the Red Man not having a written language, little is known of the culture he possessed. The first white men in Kansas were Spanish and French missionaries and adventurers. Spanish and French explorers and adventurers such as Coronado, Father Hennepin, Father Marquette, and others explored the area but failed to establish any permanent settlement. Therefore, their presence is of little importance to the reader.

Several well-known adventurers visited the mouth of the Kansas River. The first Americans to reach the Kansas City, Kansas region were members of the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition. In the early summer months of 1804, the party camped near the mouth of the Kansas River for three days. Others, such as Stephen H. Long, the Chouteau Brothers, John C. Fremont visited the region and wrote interesting and descriptive material concerning the landscape, vegetation, and tribes of Indians.

The Pawnee Tribe occupied the greater portion of Kansas until 1833. At that time, because of an epidemic resulting in the reduction of their Tribe, a treaty was

negotiated with the United States agreeing to settle the area north of the Platte River.

The Kansas Indians, after a series of migrations from the East, settled in what is now Wyandotte County for a short period of time. A treaty was arranged between the Tribe and the United States in 1825. By the terms of the treaty, the Kansas Indians moved to an area just north of Topeka, Kansas. Here they remained until 1846, when an area of land was provided the Tribe on the Neosho River near Council Grove, Kansas. The final move to the Territory of Oklahoma was made in 1873,

The first emigrant tribe from the East to be placed on a Kansas reservation was the Shawnee Tribe. This war-like tribe was awarded a large reservation immediately south of the Kansas River and bordering the state of Missouri. The treaty was written in 1825. While occupying this region--which included portions of both Wyandotte and Johnson Counties--the Tribe made little progress. Consequently, the Shawnees left little in Kansas City to even indicate their presence.

This southermost tribe of the Algonquin Family of Indians was respected for their fierceness and ability in battle. This caused Europeans occupying Colonial America to vie for their support during the Colonial Wars. By allying themselves with the French during the French and

Indian War, the Shawnees selected the losing side and suffered a humiliating defeat. Later, in 1794, the Tribe was defeated by Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. In the first few years of the nineteenth century, the Shawnee Nation under the leadership of Tecumseh and the Prophet attempted to rally the southern and western tribes of Indians to stop the ever-advancing white man. This plan went awry when the Shawnee warriors were defeated at the Battle of Tippecanoe by William Henry Harrison. This disaster broke the warlike spirit of the Tribe and scattered the Nation to different parts of Ohio and Missouri.

After the defeat at Fallen Timbers, the greater part of the Shawnee Tribe began a series of migrations which eventually ended in Kansas. For a period, a large part of the tribe settled near Cape Girardeau, Missouri. While living there, a treaty was negotiated with the United States in 1825. By this treaty, the Shawnees were to settle on a reservation in Oklahoma. After a thorough investigation, the tract of land was denounced as being undesirable and a 1,600,000 acre reservation was set aside in Kansas. The Tribe immediately began to inhabit their Kansas Reservation. By 1833, the entire Tribe was located in Kansas.

While in Kansas, several religious societies established missions among the Shawnees. The Methodist Mission,

established near the town of Turner by Reverend Thomas Johnson, was organized in 1831. It was later removed to near Westport, Missouri in 1838. The Mission served both as a church and a school. Children of the Shawnee Nation, as well as children of the neighboring tribes, were invited to attend the mission school. Life at the Mission was rather routine as the students followed an extremely rigid schedule. In general, the boys were taught better methods of farming, carpentering, and other valuable trades, while the girls were instructed how to spin, weave, cook, and do other domestic arts. Rev. Johnson remained at the Mission until 1843, when he was replaced by Rev. Jerome Berryman. In 1847, Rev. Johnson returned to the Mission where he remained until its final closing in 1864-- except for a short time which he served as a delegate of the Provisional Government of the Nebraska Territory in Congress.

The Baptist Church established a Mission in the northeastern section of Johnson County in 1831. The Mission's first representative was Rev Johnson Lykins. In 1834, Jotham Meeker arrived at the Baptist Mission. Rev. Meeker brought a printing press to the Mission and through a system of phonography, published the first newspaper in Kansas. It was printed in the Shawnee language

and was known as the Shaw-way-nowe-Kesauthwau. The Mission was discontinued in 1855.

The Quaker or Friends Society established a Mission among the Shawnees while the Tribe was living in Ohio. However, when the Tribe left Ohio, the Quakers failed to accompany the Tribe. In 1834, the Mission was re-established in Kansas. The site of the Mission was near the junction of present-day United States Highways 50 and 69. The basic courses of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and English were taught at the school. The Mission was permanently closed in 1870.

In 1854, a treaty between the United States and the Shawnee Tribe was negotiated. The Tribe ceded to the United States their entire Reservation. In return, the Government returned 200,000 acres to the Shawnees to be divided equally among its members. As a result of this transaction, most of the land had been sold to the whites entering the region by 1870. By this time, most of the Shawnees had moved to Oklahoma on a new Reservation provided by the United States Government.

Several colorful members of the Shawnee Nation resided in or near Kansas City, Kansas. Three members who played important roles in forming the history of the Nation were the Prophet, Charles Blue Jacket, and Captain Joseph Parks. The Prophet became prominent while the Tribe was

in Ohio. He was considered, for a time, to possess supernatural powers which enabled him to become a leader within the Tribe. After leading the Shawnee warriors in defeat at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, the Prophet lost his prestige and leadership. After the defeat, the Prophet migrated to Kansas--via Cape Girardeau-- and settled in the Argentine district. Charles Blue Jacket received his importance as a Christian minister. Through his efforts, many of the Shawnees were converted to the Christian religion. Another important member of the Tribe was Captain Joseph Parks. Through his capable leadership, a small clan of the Tribe was able to successfully migrate to Kansas with a minimum of suffering.

When the Shawnees left Kansas very little of their Reservation had been improved. Even though the Tribe was virtually surrounded by religious societies and the civilized whites, the Tribe retained many of its pagan customs and savage ways of life. Kansas did little to improve the lot of the Shawnee Nation, and the same could be said as to the Shawnee Indian's improvement of Kansas.

Another tribe of Indians who were not too influential in the development of Kansas City, Kansas was the Delaware Indians. However, since the Delaware Reservation did include most of Wyandotte County--and consequently, the city-- their presense cannot be overlooked. Only through the generosity and congeniality of this primitive tribe

were the Wyandotte Indians able to inhabit the eastern part of Wyandotte County.

The early history of the Delawares has been traced to the region between the Potomac and Hudson Rivers. Like so many Eastern Tribes, the appearance of European settlers forced the Tribe to migrate westward. In 1794, the Delawares, Shawnees, and other Indian tribes assembled and fought to halt the westward advancing whites. They were completely overwhelmed by the strength of the whites. As a result, a majority of the Delawares migrated west of the Mississippi and settled with the Shawnees near Cape Girardeau, Missouri. From this location, the Tribe scattered and settled parts of Texas, Arkansas, as well as Southern Missouri. The Delawares remaining in Missouri signed a treaty with the United States in 1829, surrendering their Missouri lands in favor of a Reservation located at the junction of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. The migration to Kansas began immediately. By 1833, nearly all the Tribe had arrived in Kansas.

The Delawares showed few signs of progress and advancement while in Kansas. A majority of the Tribe retained their uncivilized mannerisms and customs in preference to the white men's way of living. While in Wyandotte County, the greatest amount of progress was in the field of agriculture. A few of the members main-

tained very modern farms along the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Gibson Military Road.

Several trading posts and ferries were maintained on the Delaware Reservation. On arrival in Kansas, the Tribe found the Chouteau Brothers had already established a trading post near Bonner Springs. Henry Tiblow maintained a ferry on the Kansas River near Bonner Springs in 1830. In 1831, Moses Grinter, the first permanent white settler in Kansas, arrived and established a ferry near Muncie, Kansas. Charles Tooley established a ferry a few miles from the Grinter Ferry.

The Delawares were highly respected for their fighting ability. While in Kansas, warriors roamed the Kansas plains and engaged themselves in minor wars with other tribes living in Central Kansas. With all the attempts to civilize the Tribe, a majority of the members still lived nomadic lives and roamed the plains engaging in hunting and fishing for a living.

As with the Shawnees and Wyandottes, various religious societies established missions and churches among the Delawares. Very little success was ever realized by these societies. The Methodist Episcopal Church was the first to organize a mission. Such notable missionaries and ministers as William and Thomas Johnson, E.T. Peery, L.B. Stateler, and others served the Methodist Mission

The Baptist Church also established a Mission in 1832. This Mission proved to be the most helpful to the Tribe. Missionaries and teachers who served the Baptist Mission included: Johnson Lykins, Ira Blanchard, and John Pratt. Through Mr. Blanchard's efforts, the Delaware language was reduced to writing. Several books were written in the Delaware tongue. The Moravian or United Brethern Church maintained a Mission near Muncie, Kansas. It was established in 1837 by Rev. Jesse Vogler. Very few accepted the Christian way of life. Many of the Delawares were skeptical of the beliefs of the white man because of the suffering he caused the American Indian to endure.

In 1843, a treaty was arranged between the Delaware and the Wyandotte Nations. By this treaty, the Delawares sold thirty-six sections of their reservation to the Wyandottes. Three additional sections were given the Wyandottes, as a sign of the perpetual friendship that existed between the two parties. Most of the Wyandotte Reservation later developed into Kansas City, Kansas.

The early government of the Delawares was similar to that of the majority of the North American Indians. It consisted, primarily, of a Council of Chiefs whose duty was to maintain a just system of rule within the Tribe. In 1862, a new and revised code of laws was written.

Many of the laws took on a modern look; but, a few still evidenced the backwardness of the Delaware Indians.

Several treaties were written involving the United States and Delawares before their final departure from Kansas. In 1854, the ten-mile outlet strip was surrendered. In 1860, a large portion of the Reservation was transferred to the United States. In return, each member was given eighty acres of land of the former Reservation. Finally, in 1866, a treaty was signed whereby the Tribe surrendered their Kansas lands for a new Reservation which was located in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma.

The early development and progress of Kansas City, Kansas, is most closely associated with the Wyandotte Indians. The early home of this Tribe was found on the north bank of the St. Lawrence River. After migrating to near Montreal, Canada, a dispute arose with the Seneca Indians. This dispute destined the Wyandottes to commence a series of migrations that, eventually, resulted in the Tribe settling in parts of continental United States. Areas of settlement inhabited by the Tribe during their migrations included: a region near Niagara Falls; Toronto, Canada; among the Canadian Hurons where they became acquainted with the Christian religion; a camp located southwest of Lake Superior; on the southern banks of Lake Michigan and near the present city of Detroit;

and after the American Revolution, in both the Ohio Territory and Lake Michigan regions.

Although considered great warriors, the Tribe was unfortunate by always selecting the losing side during the Colonial Wars. The Wyandottes suffered defeats in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution that greatly crushed their warlike aspirations. During the War of 1812, the Ohio Wyandottes were sympathetic to the cause of the United States, while the Michigan clan allied themselves with the British. After the War, the Ohio clan was awarded a large Reservation on the Upper Sandusky River for their support. Here the greater portion of the Tribe remained until their journey to Kansas.

Through a treaty signed at the Rapids of the Miami in 1817, the Wyandottes received a twelve square mile tract of land in Ohio. Later, a treaty was negotiated which converted this tract into a reservation. While living on the Ohio Reservation, they developed their land to a point where it was more productive than the neighboring white's. Because of the white population encompassing and desiring the land, the United States was determined to locate the Tribe farther west and open the Ohio Reservation to white settlement. After much deliberation, a treaty was signed in 1842 providing for the removal of the Wyandottes to Kansas.

Letter of 1856-57.

gathering point

The new Reservation was to consist of 148,000 acres of land on the Neosho River. However, the Tribe felt this site was too distant from the civilization of the whites. By an agreement with Shawnee Indians, concluded before leaving Ohio, the Wyandottes were to receive permission to occupy a part of the Shawnee Reservation in Kansas. The Shawnees repudiated this agreement. The Wyandottes then turned to their cousins the Delawares, and procured a portion of their Reservation for their future home. The treaty was signed December, 1843.

The Wyandottes arrived in Kansas in July, 1843. This was several months before the treaty with the Delawares was written. A temporary camp was established east of the Kansas River near the Missouri border. This area later became an industrial district consisting of railroads, stockyards, packing houses, and a number of factories. In October, two months before the treaty permitting the settlement of Wyandotte County was negotiated, the Tribe began to move into the new Reservation. Here the members of the Tribe commenced to erect their homes and develop the area which was destined to become the large industrial city of Kansas City, Kansas.

Kansas City, Kansas, as a city, received its official start as a white settlement during the winter of 1856-57. Before this date, Wyandotte was merely a rallying point,

for adventurous Americans journeying to the Far West in quest of gold. The Wyandotte Indians, who first inhabited the region in 1843, were considered by many to be very advanced in culture. However, a majority of the Tribe still retained their savage, pagan ways of life and did little toward the development of the area.

Two important events occurred during the 1850's which destined the area at the mouth of the Kansas River to become a large, modern, industrial city. The first event occurred in 1854 when Kansas became a National Territory. This opened the region to the covetous whites who desired to settle the area. The second event occurred a year later when a treaty was negotiated with the United States, whereby, the Wyandottes divided their Reservation in severalty. This transaction enabled the Indians to retain or dispose of their property as they desired. As a result, most of the land was sold to the white settlers arriving from the Eastern states.

In December, 1856, the Wyandotte Company was formed by a group of white land speculators and three Wyandotte Indians. The land speculators and Indians surveyed the land they controlled in the spring of 1857 and was found to consist of 4,000 lots. On March 8, a public auction was held and the first one hundred shares were sold. Later the price of a share ranged from \$500.00 to \$1,700.00.

During the spring of 1857, the transformation of a dense, primeval wilderness into a charming, thriving village was initiated. By fall, the community could boast a population of 1200 energetic citizens and at least 500 elegant homes and business buildings.

The years 1857 and 1858 may well be considered as the period of greatest progress. Capable individuals representing all fields of endeavor were arriving daily in Wyandotte City. "Gigantic" buildings, never dreamed of a few years earlier, of four stories were being constructed of brick and stone. Hotels were quickly established to accommodate new residents arriving daily in the city. Grocer, drug, dry goods, bakery, hardware, and other stores were being established to serve the residents of the city. Newspapers were being printed to acquaint the people with local, national, and world events and problems. Highways leading far into the interior were being constructed and being maintained to insure the city of her share of commerce with the rest of Kansas. Ferry systems and bridges were constructed to facilitate entry and departure from the city. Steamboats, traveling both the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, were continually landing on the Wyandotte levee depositing both new citizens and provisions. Railroad talk filled the air and resulted in the incorporation of several companies. Truly, Wyandotte

City--before the turn of the decade-- was an exciting place to live. Not only were tangible evidences of progress transpiring, but intangible ones as well. Literary and political organizations were being inaugurated to fulfill the cultural demands of the people. These organizations and societies increased the knowledge of the citizen concerning the events, problems and their possible solutions, of the community and nation.

The most pleasurable task or undertaking of the old settlers during the late 1850's was to sit and talk about the great progress that was being made in the city. With the many advantages Kansas City, Kansas, possessed, it was concluded that only the blind could fail to see the transition of this wilderness into a great industrial metropolis.

The earliest government provided for the area, which now included Kansas City, Kansas, was the tribal government maintained by the Indians. The policy of the United States prior to organizing the Indian Country of Kansas into a federal territory was that of laissez faire-- or let alone.

The Wyandotte Nation exhibited a typical Indian government before 1828, when a great change took place. During this year, it was determined that the governing force would consist of one principal chief and seven councilmen--without regard to clanship. Before this

date, the Tribe was divided into many clans, each having their principal and minor chiefs.

Before migrating to Kansas, the Wyandottes formed a written constitution, patterned after the state constitution of Ohio. The government was a pure democracy with any member-- man or woman-- permitted to vote. The government included a strong council, a system of courts similar to those of the United States, and a chief who served at the head of the Council. This government of the Wyandotte Indians proved to be very efficient and up-to-date.

The first truly organized and sanctioned government of Kansas City, Kansas commenced with the incorporation of the Town of Wyandott in 1858. The formation of the Town took place on June 8, 1858. The initial meeting of the Board of Trustees was held June 12, and officers were elected.

This early government of the Town of Wyandott carried out the functions of good government by serving the community much the same as our present government does today. Ordinances were passed. Appointments were made. The needy were provided for. Fines were imposed. The year 1858 was a very prosperous year for the Town of Wyandott. A well-organized and fair government contributed greatly to this boom.

The City of Wyandotte was incorporated by an act signed by the Territorial Governor on January 29, 1859. The newly formed city government replaced the capable town government which existed during the year 1858. The officers were elected on February 15 and took the oath of office on February 21. The Council then proceeded to outline the order of business to be followed at ensuing meetings. Standing committees were created; and, the members of each were duly appointed. On completion of the organizational part of the city Council, this body politic, capable of suing and being sued, proceeded to carry on the administration of good municipal government.

Also established or created in 1859 was the County of Wyandotte. Prior to 1859, Wyandotte County was included as a portion of Leavenworth and Johnson Counties. On January 29, the new county was formed and the county seat was located at Wyandott City. The county, which contains only one hundred and fifty-three square miles, is the smallest county in the state of Kansas. After the first election, held on February 22, the Board of County Commissioners proceeded to procure a place for the county offices and court to meet. From 1859 to 1883, the county offices and court were moved continually until a courthouse was built at Seventh Street between State and Minnesota Avenues. This building served the county

successfully until 1927, when a new structure was completed at Seventh Street and Ann Avenue.

An influencing factor which played an important part in the cultural and civilizing growth of the city was the church. Some of the earliest churches of Wyandotte county were brought to the area with the Indians from the East. When the Wyandotte Indians arrived in Kansas, the Tribe had already been introduced to the Christian Religion. While in Canada, the Jesuit Priests greatly indoctrinated or associated the Tribe with the Catholic faith. When the Wyandottes were located in Ohio, the Methodist Episcopal Church established a Mission among them. This first Mission was established by a young mulatto, John Stewart. Mr. Stewart was replaced by Rev. James B. Finley in 1817. Through his guidance, the Methodist Church gained great strength.

When the Wyandottes migrated to Kansas, the Methodist Church moved with them. Upon arrival, the membership was reported to have included two hundred and fifty Souls. One of the first projects of the Tribe, when settled on their new Reservation, was to construct a church building. The building, which was located within a mile of the mouth of the Kansas River, served the Church until 1847, when a new structure was built near Tenth Street and Walker Avenue. In 1848, the slavery issue caused the

Church to divide into two groups-- the Church South and the Church North. Services of the Church South were held in the brick building which had been constructed in 1847. The services for the Church North were held in the homes of members until the erection of a frame building near the Quindaro Cemetery. In 1855, both buildings were burned by incendiaries. Services of the Church North were then held in the home of Mrs. Lucy B. Armstrong until the completion of a new frame building at the corner of Fifth Street and Washington Avenue. The Church South constructed a frame building at the northwest corner of Huron Place, and was ready for use in the winter of 1857. During the Civil War, the Church South was unable to continue its work in Kansas. However, prayer meetings were held in the homes of those who remained faithful to the Church South.

Many prominent ministers served the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kansas. Rev. James Wheeler accompanied the Tribe to Kansas in 1843, and served the Tribe until 1846. Rev. E. T. Peery replaced Rev. Wheeler in that year, and under his direction the Church divided into two parts. Rev. J. T. Peery replaced his brother, E. T. Peery, as minister of the Church in 1848. Rev. James Gurley became the newly appointed pastor of the Church North. After a ministry filled with bitterness

and turmoil Mr. Gurley was forced to vacate his position in February, 1849. Reverend Gurley was replaced by Dr. Abram Sill of Missouri. In future years, many ministers representing both divisions of the Church followed Rev. E. T. Peery and Dr. Sill.

The Methodist Episcopal Church served as an educational, civilizing as well as Christianizing agent within the Wyandotte Nation. It was the central figure of attraction for both young and old. The struggle within the Church concerning slavery indicates the bitterness which existed over the issue. Other churches were established before the Civil War, but none had as an exciting a tale to tell as the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Another important transaction which occurred that greatly aided in the development of Kansas City, Kansas was the forming of the Territory of Kansas. The Wyandotte Indians was cognizant that the creation of the area into a Federal Territory would greatly increase the value of their Reservation if the region was opened to white settlers. Through the leadership of this Tribe, the other tribes occupying Kansas were convinced of the eventuality of the Indian Country of Kansas being opened to outsiders. Consequently, land would be in great demand. As a result of this reasoning, the Wyandotte Nation was

selected by the tribes of northern Kansas to assume the leadership in the quest of becoming a national territory. The responsibility was given the Wyandottes at a Conference of the various tribes held near Ft. Leavenworth in 1848. From this date on, the Wyandottes were the leading advocates of the formation of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

Prior to the formation of the Indian Confederacy of 1848, several attempts were made in Congress to create a federal territory from the Indian Country. As far back as 1844, Representative Stephen A. Douglas introduced a bill calling for the creation of the Territory of Nebraska. This measure, as well as others which subsequently followed, failed to pass Congress.

Beginning in 1848, a series of events resulted with the Wyandottes taking the initiative on the territorial question. The gold rush to California caused thousands of people to travel through Kansas. The Indians visioned this action as meaning that great highways and railroads would be built on their property. If this happened, white settlers would be demanding the right to settle along these highways and would result in the removal of the Indians from the area. Previous experiences and relationships with the white men forced the Indians to arrive at this conclusion. During the first session of the Thirty-

second Congress, the Wyandottes, speaking for the Indian Confederacy, petitioned Congress for admission as a national territory. When no action was taken, the Tribe met at the Council House in 1852 and elected Abelard Guthrie as a delegate to Congress. Arriving in Washington, Mr. Guthrie, although not permitted a seat, influenced several Congressmen to endorse his cause. The Thirty-second Congress failed to pass any measure calling for the creation of a territory. Thereupon the Wyandottes used another plan to coerce the United States to recognize the Territory of Kansas-- or Nebraska.

On July 26, 1853, the principal members of the Wyandotte Tribe met at the Council House and organized the Provisional Government of the Territory of Nebraska. William Walker was elected Provisional Governor. After a bitterly contested election, Rev. Thomas Johnson was given a Certificate of Election authorizing him to represent the Provisional Government in Congress. However, when Rev. Johnson arrived in Washington, he found the two opposing candidates of the election seeking recognition. None of the three persons were given seats in Congress. But, through their lobbying efforts, the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska were created during that session of Congress.

Through the concentrated work of Abelard Guthrie, William Welker, and other Wyandottes, the Territory of Kansas was created and formally acknowledged on May 30, 1854. This small band of Indians, inhabiting the region at the mouth of the Kansas River, had realized their goal. Within a short time, the land-hungry whites flocked to Kansas and the Wyandottes and members of the other tribes sold their lands at great profit.

Kansas became a state on January 29, 1861. The seven years prior to state-hood found the Territory of Kansas experiencing election frauds, cold-blooded murders, the burning and sacking of Kansas towns, and, in general, civil war taking place. Immediately following the creation of the Territory, judicious men began the struggle of creating a constitution which would be acceptable to the people of Kansas and to Congress. Between 1855 and 1859, four conventions were held to write a constitution for the state. These conventions were held at Topeka, Lecompton, Leavenworth, and Wyandott City. The convention held at Wyandott City proved to be the birthplace of Kansas statehood. This convention met from July 5 to July 29, 1859. The large, specious hall of the Lipman Meyer Building was the site of this conclave. The building, although being unfinished and poorly furnished, was at the time the largest building in the Territory.

The fifty-two delegates from the various counties of Kansas were individuals of moderate ability. The group, as a whole, was composed of relatively young men and represented the great middle class.

During the first week of the convention, the organizing of the group into a workable body took place. Officers were elected, committees were formed, and credentials of the delegates were presented and reviewed. Wyandotte County was unrepresented, due to an oversight of the territorial legislature. Representatives from Wyandotte County were included with the Leavenworth County representation.

In general, the Kansas Constitution was very similar to the three previous state constitutions formed at the other conventions. It contained a preamble, bill of rights, executive, legislative, and judicial sections, and other parts found in most state constitutions. Because a majority of the delegates formerly resided in Ohio, the accepted constitution was patterned after the Ohio Constitution of 1851.

Several interesting events occurred during the convention. For unknown reasons, the delegates refused to extend the western boundary of Kansas to the Rocky Mountains as it existed during the territorial days. Also, a delegation from southern Nebraska was present and

requested the extension of the northern boundary of Kansas to the Platte River. This proposal was also refused. An interesting group of women appeared on the floor of the convention and petitioned the group to extend limited voting privileges and property rights to the women of Kansas. This action was accepted by the delegates. The slavery question was completely debated and slavery was prohibited by an overwhelming vote.

The completed constitution was placed before the voters on October 4, 1859, and was accepted by two-thirds of the eligible voters. It was then sent to Congress and was accepted. On January 29, 1861, President Buchanan affixed his name to the statehood bill and Kansas became a state.

Out of the darkness of slavery was conceived a city situated a few miles north of the mouth of the Kansas River. This was the noble city of Quindaro. In December, 1856, a group of free-state men from the East commenced the building of a city on the banks of the Missouri River. This determined group were set on establishing a port of entry for all free-staters desiring to enter Kansas. The village was located on land owned by certain Wyandotte Indians, especially the land of Nancy Quindaro Guthrie. In appreciation for the services rendered by Mrs. Guthrie and her husband, the city was named Quindaro in her honor.

During the month of December, 1856, the Quindaro Town Company was formed, and immediately employed a civil engineer to survey the town site. On completion of the survey the town was open for settlement. In general, the streets were numbered consecutively from Third to Tenth; while the avenues were lettered from "A to Y". On paper, the town was ideal, but, on paper, it failed to show the dense forest and undulating hills which existed.

Many signs of progress and permanency occurred during the early years of Quindaro. Great advancements were made rapidly for a town which officially received her start January 1, 1857. The responsibility of selling others on the future of Quindaro as well as informing her own citizens of contemporary incidents caused a newspaper, the Quindaro Chindowan, to be started. The second largest hotel in the Territory, the Quindaro House, was completed. Construction of streets and highways within and beyond the city limits took place. Schools and churches were dedicated to the task of educating its citizens to lead worthwhile lives. Business enterprises were maintained to provide people with an abundance of worldly goods and services. Social and literary organizations were formed to stimulate the occurrence of enjoyable activities and the use of rational thinking. Steamboat lines were in operation, bringing in new citizens,

provisions, and news of the outside world. A photography service was offered. In general, life was very pleasant and exciting for the residents of Quindaro.

Then it happened! The city which was destined to be the great metropolis began to fade. After the spring of 1858, few new citizens arrived. Also, few houses and business buildings were being constructed. For the most part, a static condition prevailed. What caused the downfall of this once spirited city? A series of events caused her final collapse. A general depression encompassed the Nation which caused speculators in towns and railroads to withdraw their support. Slavery in Kansas--the very reason for Quindaro's existence--was no longer a threat. The advent of the Civil War deprived her of energetic, ambitious citizens who promptly enlisted in the Union Army. Other minor reasons caused the city to disappear almost overnight.

Quindaro died easily. There was no great struggle to rebuild the city after the Civil War. After all, hadn't the city completed her mission to make Kansas a free state? Little remains of the once enthusiastic, firey city that was located on the banks of the Missouri River. "Quindaro was, but now she is not".

The purpose of this study was to provide a story of the early history of the development of Kansas City, Kansas. It was especially written at the reading level of high school students. It is hoped that the students may read, enjoy, and learn of the early settlers who struggled to create this large, industrial city. An annotated bibliography has been provided for the use of both students and teachers which will enable them to acquire additional information if so desired.

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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A: BOOKS

Andreas, A. T. History of the State of Kansas. 2 Vols. Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1883. 1616pp.

Volume one of Mr. Andreas' work gives a general history of the Kansas City area. It was exceedingly valuable to the completion of this work.

Blackmar, Frank W. Kansas. 3 vols. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912. 3501 pp.

Volume one of Mr. Blackmar's book relates a very interesting history of the Wyandotte Indians.

Coman, Katharine. Economic Beginnings in the Far West. 2 Vols. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1912. 868 pp.

This work contains a very accurate description of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It was used in this work because of the availability of the book to most high school students.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Treaties Between the United States of America and the Several Indian Tribes from 1778 to 1837. Washington: Lantree and Sullivan Publishing Company, 1837. 699 pp.

The treaties negotiated between the United States and several of the Indian tribes are found in this book.

Connelley, William E. Emigrant Indian Tribes of Wyandotte County, Topeka, Kansas: Crane and Company, 1901. 27 pp.

This was a speech given by Mr. Connelley before a group of students at Wyandotte High School concerning the Wyandotte and Shawnee Indians.

. History of Kansas State and People. 5 Vols. Chicago: American Historical Society Inc., 1928. 2592 pp.

This work by Mr. Connelley contains a brief description of life in Kansas City, Kansas during its initial settlement.

. Kansas and Kansans. 5 Vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918. 2731 pp.

Only a small portion of this work is devoted to Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte, County, Kansas. It does, however, contain information concerning the early migrations of the Wyandotte Indians.

Corporate History of the Union Pacific Railroad as of June 30, 1919. Omaha, Nebraska: Valuation Department, 1921. 161 pp.

Gives information distinguishing the difference between the Union Pacific Railway and the Union Pacific Railroad Companies.

Correll, Charles M. A Century of Congregationalism in Kansas, 1854-1954. Wichita, Kansas: McCormick-Armstrong Company, 1953. 207 pp.

Little information in this book pertains to the Kansas City area, but it does contain material concerning the spread of the Congregationalism in Kansas.

Coues, Elliott. History of the Expedition Under the Command of Lewis and Clark. 4 Vols. New York: Francis P. Harper, 1893. 1364 pp.

The story relating the experiences of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers are found in Mr. Coue's work.

Deatherage, C.P. Early History of Greater Kansas City. 3 Vols. Chicago: Interstate Publishing Company, 1927. 701 pp.

A small section of Mr. Deatherage's work is devoted to the Kansas City, Kansas area. However, most of this work concerns Kansas City, Missouri.

Farley, Alan W. Annals of Quindaro: A Kansas Ghost Town. Topeka, Kansas: Reprinted from the Kansas Historical Quarterly, 1956. 16 pp.

This pamphlet contains an accurate history of the rise and fall of the city of Quindaro. It is well written and was extremely valuable to the completion of this thesis.

• Delaware Indians in Kansas, 1829-1867. Pamphlet; no known Publisher, 1955. 15 pp.

Mr. Farley has given by this pamphlet the Delaware Indians a place of prominence in the early settlement of Wyandotte County by writing of the arrival, settlement, and departure of this Eastern Tribe.

Gaeddart, G. Raymond. Birth of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Publications, 1940. 232 pp.

A very thorough history of the Wyandotte Convention and the formation of the state Constitution of Kansas is vividly described.

Goodspeed, Charles F. Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890. 895 pp.

This voluminous book by Mr. Goodspeed relates an interesting story of the early history of Kansas City, Kansas. It was very helpful in the writing of this thesis.

Harrington, Grant W. Historic Spots of Wyandotte County, Kansas. Merriam, Kansas: Mission Press, 1935. 360 pp.

This book is of great value to any person desiring to learn the historic incidents and sites which surround the Kansas City area. It was of great value to the author of this work for it's interesting and concise report on the Wyandotte and Shawnee Indians.

The Shawnees in Kansas. Kansas City, Kansas: The Western Pioneer Press, 1937. 14 pp.

This is a short report on the influence of the Shawnee Indians in the development of the Wyandotte and Johnson County area.

Harvey, Henry. History of the Shawnee Indians. Cincinnati Ephriam Morgan and Sons, 1855. 316 pp.

The early struggles of the Shawnee Nation are well described by Mr. Harvey. This book contains a composite description of the life of the Shawnee Nation before coming to Kansas.

Kappler, Charles J. Indian Affairs - Laws and Treaties. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903. 2 Vols. 2171 pp.

This book was of great value to the author of this work. It contains the treaties negotiated between the United States and the Indians of North America.

Kuhls, A. A Few Reminiscences of First Years in Wyandotte County, Kansas. Kansas City, Missouri: The Lane PTG Company, 1924. 45 pp.

The early history of the Catholic Church in Kansas City, Kansas is evidenced in this work by Mr. Kuhls.

League of Kansas Municipalities. Kansas Government, 1959-60. Topeka, Kan.: League of Kan. Municipalities, 1959.

This booklet was not used too greatly by the author. However, since most of the Kansas High Schools have copies of this pamphlet, it was deemed wise to include this booklet with regard to the history of the formation of the State's Constitution.

Morgan, Perl W. History of Wyandotte County, Kansas and Its People. 2 Vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911. 1053 pp.

This book contains a complete history of the progress and development of Kansas City, Kansas. The second volume contains a biographical account of the early settlers of Kansas City, Kansas.

Pennington, B.B. History of the 7th Street Methodist Church South, Kansas City, Kansas. Kansas City, Missouri: The Buckley Publishing Company, 1915. 72 pp.

A complete history of the separation of the Methodist Church into two distinct groups are related in this book. Also, the history of the Church South in Kansas City, Kansas is given.

B: PUBLICATIONS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

Betton, Frank H. "The Genesis of a State's Metropolis", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 7. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1902. 619 pp.

A brief description of the early development of Kansas City, Kansas is given by Mr. Betton. Its lack of detail caused it to be of not too much value in the completion of this thesis.

Connelley, William E. "First Provisional Constitution of Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol 6. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office, 1900. 507 pp.

An interesting report of the events which occurred during the construction of the Kansas Constitution. It is very similar to the one published by the Nebraska Historical Society.

_____. "History of Kansas Newspapers", Kansas State Historical Society and Department of Archives. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Office, 1916. 373 pp.

This work contains a brief history of the development of Kansas newspapers. Very little of the history of each newspaper is offered.

_____. "Kansas City, Kansas: Its Place in the History of the State", Kansas Historical Society Collections. Vol. 15. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1923. 673 pp.

Mr. Connelley gives a very good description of the early history of the city and how her early citizens contributed to the success of the city.

_____. "The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory", Proceedings and Collections of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 2nd Series, Vol. 3. Lincoln, Nebraska: State Journal Company, 1899. 423 pp.

A complete coverage of the Constitutional Convention at Wyandotte and the Provisional Government established by the Wyandotte Indians are described by Mr. Connelley.

Connelley Committee, "Wyandotte and Shawnee Indian Lands in Wyandotte County, Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 15. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Plant, 1923. 673 pp.

This work contains maps showing the location of lands once owned by the Wyandotte Indians. A summary on the distribution of the land as concluded by the Treaty of 1855 is also given.

Gowing Clara. "Life Among the Delaware Indians", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 12. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1912. 569 pp.

The influence of the Delaware Indians on the development of the western part of Wyandotte County is related by Miss Gowing.

Greene, Albert R. "The Kansas River--Its Navigation", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 9. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1909. 654 pp.

The success of river transportation on the Kansas River was greatly limited by lack of depth. However, Mr. Greene has told the complete story of how the Kaw influenced the growth of Kansas City Kansas.

Hill, Esther Clark. "Some Background of Early Baptist Missions", Kansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Historical Society, 1932. 526 pp.

This information concerns the influx of the Baptist Church among the Delaware Indians. It gives the influence of the Church on their civilization.

. "The Pratt Collection", Kansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 1. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Historical Society, 1932. 526 pp.

A thorough description of the Baptist Church and the work of Reverend Pratt among the Delaware Indians is found in this article by Miss Hill.

Lutz, J.J. "the Methodist Missions Among the Indian Tribes of Kansas", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 9. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906. 654 pp.

This work by Mr. Lutz tells a very complete story of the work of the Methodist Church among the emigrant Indian Tribes who settled in Kansas.

Merwin, Ray E. "The Wyandot Indians", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 9. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Office, 1906. 654 pp.

The very earliest history of the Wyandotte Indians is given in this work by Mr. Merwin. It was of great value in the writing of the early history of the Wyandottes in this thesis.

Phillips, William A. "The Wyandotte Convention", The Kansas Magazine, Vol. 1. Topeka, Kansas: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911. 576 pp.

Due to Mr. Phillips presence at the convention, a complete and accurate description of the various events occurring there is given. For information concerning the background of the members of the convention, this article is very good.

Root, George A. "Ferries in Kansas", Kansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. 2. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society, 1933. 444 pp.

Mr. Root has given a complete account of the ferries along the Kansas River. Very little of this information was used in the writing of this thesis.

Ross, Edith Connelley. "The Old Shawnee Mission", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 17. Topeka, Kansas: State Printing Plant, 1928. 976 pp.

The value of the Shawnee Mission in the civilization of the various Indian Tribes in Kansas is well described by Miss Ross.

Simpson, Benjamin F. "The Wyandotte Convention", Kansas Historical Society Collections, Vol. 3. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Publishing House, 1886. 519 pp.

As a member of the convention, Mr. Simpson was able to give an extremely detailed account of the proceedings. It was of great value to the author of this work.

Simpson, Benjamin F. "The Wyandotte Constitutional Convention", Kansas Constitutional Convention. Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Printing Plant, 1920. 771 pp.

This article by Mr. Simpson was very similar to the one published by the Historical Society in 1886. However, a more detailed account of the convention is given in this book.

C: GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858. 4th Session. Lecompton, K.T.S.W. Driggs and Company, 1858. 398 pp.

The various acts passed by the Territorial Government during the year 1858 are found in this book. It was not of too much value in the writing of this thesis.

Statutes of the Territory of Kansas. Shawnee Manual Labor School: John T. Brady, Public Printer, 1855. 1058 pp.

This book contains the various statutes passed by the territorial government of Kansas during the year of 1855.

D: COLLECTIONS

Connelley Collections, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

This work contains the actual letters written and received by Mr. William Walker and other members of the Wyandotte Tribe while here in Kansas City. It also contains the diary of William Walker. It is located in the vault at the public library in Kansas City, Kansas.

Grimmins, Harold. "A History of the Kansas Central Railway". Emporia State Research Studies, Kansas State Teacher's College, Emporia, Kansas, 1954. 34 pp. Vol. 2, No. 4.

This master's thesis aided greatly in distinguishing between the Central Pacific Railroad Company and the Central Pacific Railway Company.

Wyandotte County Clippings. 8 Vols. Kansas State Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

These volumes contain newspaper clippings of leading Kansas newspapers depicting incidents concerning the rise of the City of Kansas City, Kansas. These clippings were very valuable to the author of this thesis.

E: NEWSPAPERS

Commercial Gazette, The, June 4, 1859-August 27, 1859.

This newspaper is found in the newspaper files at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas. It contains many interesting events about the early experiences of Kansas City, Kansas.

Kansas City Gazette, December 30, 1881-January 2, 1892.

This newspaper contains a historical account of the early development of Kansas City, Kansas. It is found on microfilm at the Kansas State Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

Kansas City Star, July 26, 1959.

This newspaper contains an article concerning The Wyandotte Convention.

Quindaro Chindowan, May 13, 1857 - June 12, 1858.

This newspaper is found in the newspaper room at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas. This newspaper contains the early history of the development of the city of Quindaro. It was very important in the writing of this thesis.

Quindaro Tribune, March 8, 1860.

This is merely a continuation of the old Quindaro Chindowan. It contained an article predicting the revival of Quindaro.

Western Argus, The, June 3, 1858 - November 13, 1858.

This newspaper was very valuable for its information relating the events as they occurred in early Kansas City, Kansas. This newspaper is found in the newspaper room at the Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas.

Western Weekly Argus, The, October 9, 1858 - February 19, 1859.

This is continuation of the old Western Argus. It was of great value.

Wyandotte Citizen, The, November 7, 1857.

Another newspaper found at the Kansas Historical Society Building. It, like its competitors, relates the early development of Kansas City, Kansas.

Wyandotte Gazette, The, December 30, 1881.

This newspaper is found at the Historical Society Building in Topeka, Kansas. It is on microfilm and depicts events concerning early Kansas City, Kansas, as told by a few of the old-timers.

Wyandotte Herald, The, September 1, 1884.

This newspaper is located at the Kansas Historical Society Building. It relates the early development of Kansas City, Kansas, and the people who helped her-to progress.

F: UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

"A Glorious Century of Faith". (Unpublished Manuscript by an Author Unknown, St. Mary's Church, Kansas City, Kansas, 1958), n.p.

This unpublished manuscript contains the beginning of the Catholic faith in the greater Kansas City area. This pamphlet commemorated the centennial of the St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Ballou, Don B. "Pilgrim Heritage, 1858-1959". (An Unpublished Manuscript. The Pilgrim Congregational Church, Kansas City, Kansas, 1957), n.p.

This pamphlet contains a brief history of the formation of the Congregational Church in Kansas City, Kansas. The pamphlet may be obtained at the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Kansas City, Kansas.

Burns, Louis F. "The Fur Trading Ventures of Auguste Pierre Chouteau and Pierre 'Cadet' Chouteau". (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Kansas State Teachers' College, Emporia, Kansas, 1954).

This Master's thesis was of little value to the author, but contains the experiences of the Chouteau brothers while living and trading in the Kansas area.

Kemper, Katharine. "The Courthouse of Wyandotte County". (Unpublished Manuscript, Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas, n.d.), n.p.

This manuscript contains information concerning the various locations of the courthouse of Wyandotte County and a brief history of each location.

"One Hundredth Anniversary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Kansas". (Unpublished Manuscript by an author unknown, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Kansas, 1957), n.p.

This manuscript contains the early history of the Episcopalian religion in Kansas City, Kansas. It contains not only the early history of the congregation but, also, the locations of the early church buildings

Wyandott City Clerk's Journal. Journal A, 1858-1866.
(Kansas State Historical Society Building, Topeka,
Kansas, n.d.) n.p.

This journal was extremely valuable in the writing of this thesis. The first section of the journal contains the activities of the Town of Wyandott. The latter section contains information on the work of the city government after it was incorporated as a city in 1859.

APPENDIX A

TREATY WITH THE SHAWNEE 1825

Nov. 7, 1825

Article 1: The Shawnee tribe, do hereby cede and relinquish to the United States, all their claim...to the lands on which they settled, near Cape Gerideau,^(61c) under an authority of the Spanish government...lying, and being between the River St. Come and Cape Gerideau,^(61c) and bounded on the east by the Mississippi, and westwardly by White Water.

Article 2: ... The United States do, hereby, agree to give to the Shawnee tribe of Indians ... a tract of land equal to fifty miles square, situated west of the State of Missouri and within the purchase lately made from the Osages, ... But, whereas the said Shawnee tribe had valuable and lasting improvements within the tract of land hereby ceded, ...the United States agree to pay the tribe ... the sum of fourteen thousand dollars, ... (and) five thousand dollars of which amount shall be furnished in domestic animals, implements of husbandry, and provisions, as soon as said tribe remove upon the lands assigned them.

Article 3: It is further stipulated, that a deputation of the said parties of the second part may be sent to explore the lands assigned to them in the preceding articles; and if the same be not acceptable to them, ... shall assign to them an equal quantity of land, to be selected on the Kansas River, and laid off either south or north of that river, and west of the boundary of Missouri, not reserved or ceded to any other tribe.

Article 4: In appearing that the Shawnee Indians have various claims against the citizens of the United States to a large amount, for spoiliations of various kinds, ... the United States ... do hereby agree to pay the Shawnee nation, the sum of eleven thousand dollars; ... and to support and keep a blacksmith for their use ... for a term of five years, or as long as the President may deem advisable ...

* * *

Article 6: These articles shall take affect ... so as soon as the same shall be ratified by the President and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the United States.

APPENDIX B

TREATY WITH THE SHAWNEE 1831

Aug. 8, 1831

Article 1: The tribe or band of Shawnee Indians residing at Wapaghkonnetta and on Hog Creek in the State of Ohio, ... do forever cede, release and quit claim to the United States the land granted to them ... by the sixth section of the treaty made at the foot of the Rapids of the Miami river of Lake Erie on the 29th day of September in the year of our Lord 1817, containing one hundred and twenty-five sections or square miles ...

Article 2: In consideration of the cessions stipulated in the foregoing article, the United States agree to cause the said tribe or band of Shawnees, consisting of about four hundred souls, to be removed in a convenient and suitable manner to the Western side of the Mississippi river, and will grant by patent in fee-simple ... a tract of land to contain one hundred thousand acres, to be located, ... within the tract of land equal to fifty miles square, which was granted to the Shawnee Indians of the State of Missouri by the second article of a treaty made at the city of Saint Louis in said State, which with said Shawnees of Missouri by William Clark ... on the 7th day of November in the year 1825 ...

Article 3: The United States will defray the expenses of the removal, ... and will moreover supply them with a sufficiency of good and wholesome provisions, to support them for one year after their arrival ...

Article 4: The United States will cause a good and substantial saw mill, and a grist mill, ... The United States will ... cause a blacksmith shop, (to contain all the necessary tools), to be built for the said Shawnees, ... and a blacksmith shall be employed by the United States ...

Article 5: In lieu of the improvements which have been made on the lands herein ceded, it is agreed that the United States shall advance ... the sum of thirteen thousand dollars ...

Article 6: The farming utensils, live stock and

other chattel property, which the said Shawnees now own, and may not be able to carry with them, shall be sold, ... and the proceeds paid over to the owners ...

* * *

Article 9: In consideration of the good conduct and friendly dispositions of the said band of Shawnee towards the American Government ... it is agreed that the United States, will give them, as presents, the following articles ... two hundred blankets, forty ploughs, forty sets of horse gears, one hundred and fifty hoes, fifty axes, and Russia sheeting sufficient for fifty tents.

Article 10: The lands granted by this agreement ... shall not be sold nor ceded by them, except to the United States. And the United States guarantee that said lands shall never be within the bounds of any State or territory, nor subject to the laws thereof ...

* * *

Article 12: In addition to the presents given in the ninth article, ... there shall be also given to the Shawnees, twenty-five rifle guns ...

* * *

Article 14: (Additional small presents)

APPENDIX C

TREATY WITH THE DELAWARES 1829 1842

Sept. 24, 1829

Supplementary article to the Delaware Treaty, concluded at St. Mary's in the State of Ohio, on the 3rd of October, 1818

Whereas the foregoing treaty stipulates that the United States shall provide for the Delaware Nation, a country to reside in, ... and whereas the said Delaware Nation are now willing to remove ... from the country on Jame's fork of White river in the State of Missouri, to the country selected in the fork of the Kansas and Missouri River ... It is hereby agreed upon by the parties, that the country in the fork of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, extending up the Kansas River, to the Kansas Line, and up the Missouri River to Camp Leavenworth, and thence by a line drawn Westwardly, leaving a space ten miles wide, north of the Kansas boundary line, for an outlet ... shall be conveyed and forever secured by the United States, to the said Delaware Nation, as their permanent residence ...

And the United States hereby agrees to furnish the Delaware Nation with forty horses, to be given to their poor and destitute people, and the use of six wagons and ox-teams, to assist the nation in removing their heavy articles to their permanent home; and to supply them with all necessary farming utensils and tools necessary for building houses, ... and to supply them with all necessary provisions on their journey, and with one year's provisions after they get to their permanent residence; and to have a grit and saw mill erected for their use ...

... The United States shall pay to the said Delaware Nation, an additional permanent annuity of one thousand dollars. And it is further stipulated that thirty-six sections of the best land within the limits hereby relinquished, shall be ... sold for the purpose of raising a fund to be support of schools for the education of the Delaware children.

APPENDIX D

TREATY WITH THE WYANDOTT MARCH 17, 1842

John Tyler, President of the United States of America, by John Johnston, formerly agent for Indian Affairs, now a citizen of the state of Ohio commissioner duly authorized and appointed to treat with the Wyandott Nation of Indians for a cession of all their lands lying and being in the states of Ohio and Michigan; and the duly constituted chiefs, counsellors, and head-men of the said Wyandott Nation, in the full council assembled, on the other part, have entered into the following articles and conditions, viz:

Article 1: The Wyandott Nation of Indians do hereby cede to the United States all that track of land situated, lying, and being in the county Crawford and State of Ohio, and containing one hundred and nine thousand one hundred and forty-four acres, more or less. The said nation also hereby cedes to the United States all their right and title to the Wyandott Reserve, on both sides of the river Huron, in the state of Michigan, containing four thousand nine hundred and ninety-six acres, be the same more or less, being all the remaining lands claimed or set apart for the use of the Wyandotts within the state of Michigan; and the United States hereby promises to pay the sum of five hundred dollars towards the expenses of removing the Indian of the river Huron to Upper Sandusky, but before the latter clause of this article is binding on the contracting parties, the consent of the head-men of the river Huron Wyandotts is to be had in writing.

Article 2: In consideration of the foregoing cession, the United States hereby grant to the aforesaid Wyandott Nation a tract of land west of the Mississippi River, to contain one hundred and forty-eight thousand acres, and to be located upon any lands owned by the United States, now set apart, or may in the future be set apart for Indian use, and not already assigned to any other tribe of nation.

Article 3: The United States agree to pay the Wyandott Nation a perpetual annuity of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars in specie, the first payment to be made within the present year, 1842 ...

Article 4: The United States agree to make a permanent provision of five hundred dollars per annum, for the support of a school ...

Article 5: The United States agree to pay the Wyandotts the full value of their improvements in the country hereby ceded by them in Ohio and Michigan ...

Article 6: The United States hereby agree to pay the debts by members of the Wyandott Nation to citizens of the United States, amounting to twenty-three thousand eight hundred and sixty dollars ...

Article 7: The Wyandotts shall be allowed the use and occupancy of their improvements until the 1st of April, 1844 ...

Article 8: The United States engage to provide and support a blacksmith and an assistant blacksmith for the Wyandott Nation, ... and to erect a suitable shop and house or houses ...

Article 9: The United States engage to maintain and support a sub-agent and interpreter to reside among the Wyandotts ...

Article 10: The buildings and farms occupied by the mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall remain in possession of the present incumbents until the 1st day of April, 1844 ...

Article 11: All persons identified as members of the Wyandott Nation, and their heirs, and who may emigrate to the west, shall, participate equally in the benefits of the annuity ...

* * *

Article 13: The chiefs of the Wyandott Nation hereby agree to remove their whole people to the west of the Mississippi without any other cost to the United States than the sum of ten thousand dollars; five thousand dollars ... is to be paid ... when the first detachment of their people sets out on their journey to the west, and the remaining five thousand dollars on arrival of the whole nation ...

Article 14: The United States agree to grant by patent in fee-simple to each of the following named persons, ... one section of land, ... out of any lands west of the Mississippi River set apart for Indian use, not already claimed or occupied by any person or tribe, viz. Silas Armstrong, John M. Armstrong, Matthew B. Walker, William Walker, Joel Walker, Charles B. Garrett, George Garrett, George I. Clark, Irwin P. Long, Ethan A. Long, Joseph L. Tennery, Robert Robertaille, Jared S. Dawson, Joseph Newell, Henry Clay Walker, Ebenezer Z. Reed, and Joel Walker Garrett, and to the following chiefs and councilors and one section each: Francis A. Hicks, James Washington, Squeendehtee, Henry Jaques, Tauroonee, Doctor Grey Eyes, George Armstrong, Warpole, John Hicks, Peacock, and George Punch ...

Article 15: The United States agree to pay to William Walker and Joel Walker, each, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, and to John M. Armstrong the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, for services rendered and interpreters in the progress of the negotiation ...

* * * * *

Article 18: This treaty shall take effect and be obligatory on the contracting parties as soon as the same be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof.

APPENDIX E

TREATY WITH DELAWARES

Agreement between the Delaware and Wyandot nations of Indians, concluded on the 14th day of December 1843.

Whereas from a long intimate acquaintance, and the ardent friendship what has for a great many years existed between the Delaware and Wyandots, and from a mutual desire that the same feeling shall continue and be more strengthened by becoming near neighbors to each other; therefore the said parties ... have agreed and do agree, to the following stipulations, to wit:

Article 1: The Delaware Nation of Indians, residing between the Missouri and Kansas rivers, being very anxious to have their uncles, the Wyandots, to settle and reside near them, do hereby donate, grant and quitclaim forever, to the Wyandot nation, three sections of land ... lying and being situated at the point of the junction of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers.

Article 2: The Delaware chiefs ... do hereby cede ... thirty-six sections of land, ... situated between the aforesaid Missouri and Kansas rivers, and adjoining the west the aforesaid three donated sections, making all thirty-nine sections of land, bounded as follows, viz: Commencing at the point of the junction, ... running west along the Kansas river sufficiently far to include the aforesaid thirty-nine sections; thence running north to the Missouri river; thence down the said river ... to the place of beginning ...

Article 3: In consideration of the foregoing donation and cession of land, the Wyandot chiefs bind themselves ... to pay ... forty-six thousand and eighty dollars, as follows, viz; six thousand and eighty dollars to be paid the year eighteen hundred and forty-four and four thousand dollars annually thereafter for ten years.

Article 4: ... The aforesaid agreement shall not be binding or obligatory until the President of the United States shall have approved the same and caused it to be recorded in the War Department.

APPENDIX G

TREATY WITH THE WYANDOTT, 1855

Jan. 31, 1855

Article 1: The Wyandott Indians having become sufficiently advanced in civilization, and being desirous of becoming citizens, it is hereby agreed and stipulated, that their organization, and their relations with the United States as an Indian tribe shall be dissolved and terminated on the ratification, the said Wyandott Indians, and each and every one of them, except as hereinafter provided, shall be deemed, and hereby declared, to be citizens of the United States, ... and shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities of such citizens ... But such of the said Indians as may so desire and make application accordingly ... shall be exempt from the immediate operation of the preceding provisions, extending citizenship to the Wyandott Indians, and shall have continued to them the assistance and protection of the United States, and an Indian agent in th ir vicinity, for such a limited period or periods of time, ... as shall be determined by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and on the expiration of such period or periods, the said exemption, protection, and assistance shall cease; and said persons shall then, also, become citizens of the United States ...

Article 2: The Wyandott Nation hereby cede and relinquish to the United States, all their right, title and interest in and to the tract of country situated in the fork of the Missouri and Kansas rivers ... the object of which cession is, that the said lands shall be subdivided, assigned, and reconveyed, by patent, in fee-simple, in the manner hereinafter provided for, to the individuals and members of the Wyandott Nation, in severalty; except as follows, viz; The portion now enclosed and used is a public burying-ground shall be permanently reserved and appropriated for that purpose; two acres; to include the church-building of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the present burying-ground connected therewith, are hereby reserved, granted, and conveyed to the said Episcopal Church South, are hereby reserved, granted, and conveyed to said church. Four acres, at adjoining the Wyandott ferry ... shall be reserved, and together with the rights of the Wyandotts in said ferry shall be sold to the highest bidder, among the Wyandott people ...

Article 3: ... On the completion of the division and assignment of the lands as aforesaid, said commissioners shall cause a plot and schedule to be made, showing the lands assigned to each family or individual, and the quantity thereof. They shall also make up carefully prepared lists of all the individuals and members of the Wyandott tribe ... which lists shall exhibit separately, first, those families the head of which the commissioners ... shall be satisfied are sufficiently intelligent, competent, and prudent to control and manage their affairs and interests, and also all persons without families.

Second, those families the heads of which are not competent and proper persons to be entrusted with their shares of the money, payable under this agreement; and, third, those who are orphans, idiots, or insane, Accurate copies of the lists of the second and third of the above classes, shall be furnished ... to the Wyandott Council; whereupon said council shall proceed to appoint or designate the proper person or persons to be recognized as the representatives of those of the second class, for the purpose of receiving and properly applying the sums of money due and payable to or for them, ... and also those who are to be entrusted with the guardianship of the individuals of the third class, and the custody and management of their rights and interests ...

The said commissioners shall likewise prepare a list of all such persons and families ... as may apply to be temporarily exempted from citizenship and for continued protection and assistance from the United States and an Indian agent ...

The aforesaid plat and schedule, and lists of persons, ... shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and filed in his office, and copies ... shall be filed by them in each of the offices of the secretary of the Territory of Kansas, and the clerk of the county in which the Wyandott lands are situated.

Article 4: ... Patents shall be issued by the General Land Office of the United States, ... to the Wyandott tribe, for the lands severally assigned to them ... To those (who are) competent to be entrusted with the control and management of their affairs and interests, and patents shall contain an absolute and unconditional grant in fee-simple; ... but to those not so competent, the patents shall contain an express conditions that the lands are not to be sold or alienated for a period of five years, and not then, without the express consent of the President of the United States ...

None of the lands ... shall be subject to taxation for a period of five years from and after the organization of a State government over the territory where they reside; and those of the incompetent classes shall not be alienated or released for a longer period than two years, and shall be exempt from levy, sale, or forfeiture, until otherwise provided by State legislation, with the assent of Congress.

Article 5: Disinterested person, not to exceed three, shall ... make a just and fair appraisal of the parsonage houses, and other improvements connected therewith, ... belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the amounts of which appraisements shall be paid the said churches ...

Article 6: The Wyandott Nation hereby relinquish, and release the United States from all their rights to and claims to annuity, school moneys, blacksmith establishments, assistance and materials, employment of an agent for their benefit, or any other object or thing, of a national character, ... provided for or contained in former treaties ... In consideration of which release and relinquishment, the United States hereby agrees to pay ... the sum of three hundred and eighty thousand dollars, to be equally distributed ... in three annual installments.

* * *

Article 10: This instrument shall be obligatory on the contracting parties whenever the same shall be ratified by the President and Senate of the United States.

APPENDIX I

KANSAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

"The state was admitted under what is known as the Wyandotte Constitution, which was framed by a constitutional convention that convened July 5, 1859, and closed its labors on the 29th day of the same month. Four constitutions had been framed before admission into the Union. The first was the Topeka Constitution. It was adopted by the convention which framed it, May 11, 1855, and by the people Dec. 15, of the same year. The Topeka Constitutional convention met without any authority of law ... it was a spontaneous movement on the part of the free state men. For precedent it had the action of California ...

A bill was passed by the House of Representatives to admit the territory under the Topeka Constitution but it never became law ...

Next came the Lecompton constitution. This was adopted by the convention November 7, 1857, and submitted to the people on the 21st of the following December. The prescribed form for voting on its adoption was "For the Constitution with Slavery" and "For the Constitution without Slavery" ... The free state people did not participate in the election ...

An extra session of the Legislature passed an Act submitting the constitution (Lecompton) to a vote of the people a second time January 4, 1858. At this election there were 138 votes for the constitution and 10,226 votes against it ... President Buchanan recommended Congress to pass a bill for admission ... under this obnoxious constitution. Congress would not pass the bill, but did pass the English Bill to resubmit the constitution (Lecompton) to the people ... August 4, 1858 ...

During the pendency of the Lecompton constitution in Congress, the legislature passed an act in February of 1858 providing for a third constitutional convention to meet at Minneola, a town existing only on paper near the present city of Garnett. The day following the assembling of the convention an adjournment was taken to Leavenworth. Here a constitution was framed and adopted April 3. On the following month it was adopted by the people. This constitution was as nearly as the framers could make it the direct opposite of the Lecompton constitution ... In the meantime, the English

Bill, resubmitting the Lecompton Constitution to a vote of the people, was passed by Congress. . . . On account of this, . . . no further attempt was made to secure the admission of the territory under the Leavenworth constitution. . . . when the Lecompton constitution was submitted to the people, August 4, 1858, there were 1,788 votes in favor of it and 11,300 votes against it.

Early in February, 1859, the territorial legislature passed an act submitting to the people the question of calling a constitutional convention. The vote was taken in March and resulted in favor of the convention by a vote of 5 to 1, over 6,700 votes being cast. The election of delegates. . . . was held June 7. . . .

The convention (Wyandotte) assembled July 5, 1859, in what was known as Meyer's Hall. . . . This was at that time the finest building in the territory. It was four story brick, located on First Street, between what is now State Avenue and Nebraska Avenue. . . . The hall in which the convention met was in the fourth story of the building. . . . After the holding of the convention in this building until it fell down it was known as Constitutional Hall. . . .

Kansas City Gazette, Jan. 29, 1890. The Wyandotte County Clippings, Kansas Historical Society Building, Topeka, Kansas. Vol. 3, pp. 100-102.