

HALEWAY ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL



FORT MANN

FORT DODGE



FORT ATKINSON

2011 SANTA FE TRAIL SYMPOSIUM

Dodge City, Kansas

September 22, 23, 24, & 25



Sponsored by the Santa Fe Trail Association with assistance from the National Park Services, Kansas Travel & Tourism Division, Dodge City Festivals, Inc., the Dodge City Convention & Visitors Bureau & the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter

Program Design by Mike King

Welcome to Dodge City, "Halfway on the Santa Fe Trail"

(Please note that breakfast will not be served during the Symposium)

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Registration in Magouirk Conference Center Lobby & Vendors setup

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Michael Martin Murphey in concert - United Wireless Arena

(Shuttle service available to those without transportation)

Thursday, September 22, 2011

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration - Magouirk Conference Center Lobby - Vendor tables open

(Shuttle service available)

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Santa Fe Trail Association Board meeting - Dodge House Hotel

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Dodge City on your own - Sightseeing and shopping ***(Shuttle service available)***

Tour Boot Hill Museum (Admission is included in registration with your name tag), the Kansas Heritage Center (open 8:00 to 5:00 pm Thursday and Friday) and other sites

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Opening Reception at Fort Dodge - founded in 1865 - ***(Shuttle service available)***

(Please see map of Fort Dodge for parking instructions and location)

Heavy hors d'oeuvres - taster's delight - buffalo meat and side dishes & a real buffalo hunters camp by Lee Hawes under a big tent

Music - Muddy River Melodists

Entertainment - Libby Custer (Eisenhower Auditorium)

Isadora Douglas & husband with Civil War wagons

Tours of Superintendent's home (Custer House) and Fort Library/Museum

Friday, September 23, 2011

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM **Registration** - Magouirk Conference Center - Vendor tables open

(Shuttle service available)

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM **Opening Ceremony and Welcome** - Magouirk Conference Center

Welcome - Mayor of Dodge City

Welcome - President of the SFTA - Roger Slusher

Greetings from Marc Simmons - Phyllis Morgan

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Key Note Speaker: Dr. Leo Oliva - *"Forts Mann & Atkinson on the Santa Fe Trail"*

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM **Break - Visit Vendor Tables & Bid on Silent Auction Items**

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Speaker: Dr. Leo Oliva** - *"Fort Dodge on the Santa Fe Trail"*

11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon **Speaker: Noel Ary** - *"Daily Life in Early Dodge City - Warts and All"*

12:00 Noon - 12:30 PM **Distribute Lunch boxes and Board Buses for tours**

East Tour - Dodge City to Fort Dodge, (meet Isadora Douglas) & tour Fort Dodge, see wet/dry route sites, visit a camp site on the Wetzel farm

West Tour - Dodge City to Cimarron sites (meet Jedediah Smith), Forts Mann & Atkinson sites, caches site, Boot Hill Rut site and Chilton's camp site

12:30 - 5:00 PM Those not going on tours can tour Boot Hill Museum - **(Admission is included in registration, show name tag)**, the Kansas Heritage Center (Open until 5:00 pm), the Home of Stone, AT&SF Depot, The Trail of Fame and other historical sites

(Shuttle service available)

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boot Hill Museum - dinner and entertainment (Muddy River Melodists)

(Shuttle service available)

Saturday, September 24, 2011

- 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration open - Magourik Conference Center - Vendors tables open - Silent Auction items open for bidding (**Shuttle service available**)
- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM **SFTA General Association Meeting** - Magourik Conference Center
- 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Speaker: Marshall Gover - *"Impact of the Santa Fe Trail on Pawnee Hunting Grounds"*
- 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Break - Visit Vendor Tables & Bid on Silent Auction Items**
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Speaker: Barak Geertsen - *"Trouble with Texans: Dragoon Patrols on the Santa Fe Trail in 1843"*
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Speaker: Tim Kimball - *"Most Beautiful is the Evening: Fischer's German - American Artillery Volunteers and the March of the Army of the West, 1846"*
- 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM ... Distribute Lunch Boxes/Board Tour Buses**
- 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM **Board Buses for tours (Both buses will proceed to the Boot Hill Rut site for the re-dedication ceremony)**
- East Tour** - Dodge City to Fort Dodge (meet Isadora Douglas) & tour Fort Dodge, see wet/dry route sites and visit a camp site on the Wetzel farm
- West Tour** - Dodge City to Cimarron sites(meet Jedediah Smith), Forts Mann & Atkinson sites, caches site, Boot Hill Rut Site and Chilton's camp site
- 1:00 pm - 1:30 PM Re-Dedication ceremony for the Kiosk Signage and Rut Enhancement at the Santa Fe Trail Ruts west of town 9 miles on Hwy 50/400 (Shuttle service available)**
- 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Those not going on tours can tour Boot Hill Museum, the Home of Stone, 1898 AT&SF railroad depot, Trail of Fame and other historical sites (**Shuttle service available**)
- 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM Dinner and Awards & Recognition Ceremony - Magouirk Conference Center**
- 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Social Hour - Bid on silent auction items
- 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Dinner - Bidding on Silent Auction items closes at this time
- 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM Speaker: Dr. Sara Jane Richter - *"Plucky and Purty, Women on the Santa Fe Trail"*
- 8:15 PM - 8:45 PM Awards Ceremony - Dr. Leo Oliva
- 8:45 PM - 9:15 PM Power point presentation - "Our First 25 Years" - Mike Olsen
Silent Auction - Winning bidders announced
Drawing for the Quilted Santa Fe Trail Wall Hanging
Closing

Sunday, September 25

- 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM **Farewell** - Trail fare and short service - At Boot Hill Rut Site nine (9) miles west of town on Hwy 50/400 (**Shuttle service available**)

Shuttle Service Information

PLEASE NOTE - Shuttle service will be available for those who do not have transportation to the Magourik Conference Center each day, to all evening events, to visit historical sites daily, and to/from the Dodge City Regional Airport and Amtrak Station. Those who do not have personal transportation need to contact the front desk of your hotel for information on Symposium Shuttle Service.





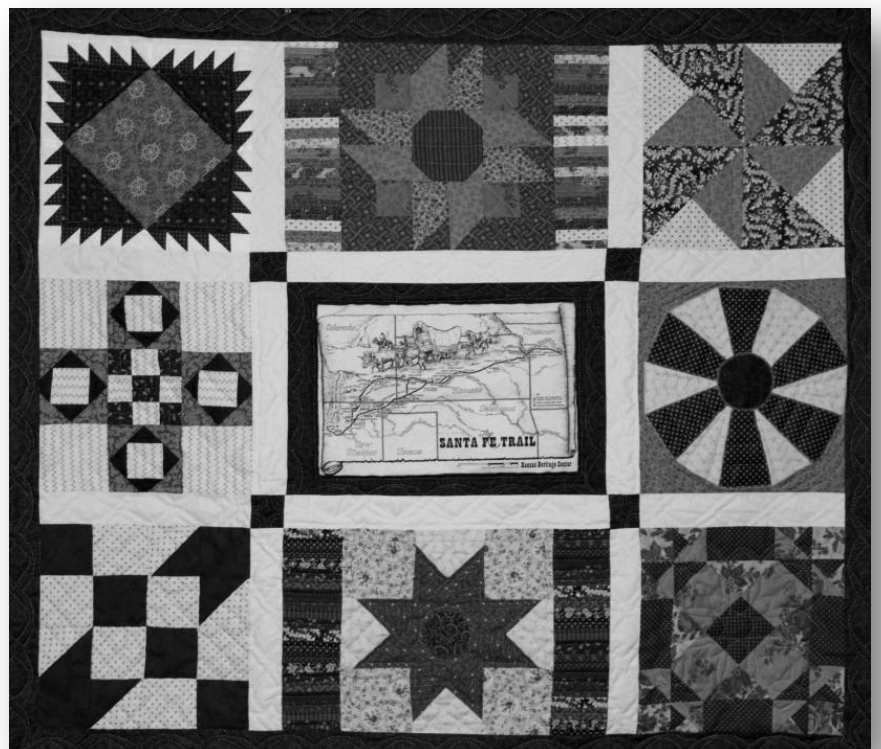
On behalf of the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron, Santa Fe Trail Chapter and our community, we welcome you to Dodge City and the 2011 Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium. We are proud to serve as the host chapter for this 2011 Symposium which will feature exciting historical presentations and visits to historical sites in our area that are available to students of history and the traveling public. This has been a total team effort with tremendous support from our Chapter members, our community, our Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dodge City Festivals, Inc., Kansas Travel and Tourism Division, the Santa Fe Trail Association and the National Park Service. We hope you will enjoy the 2011 Symposium and your visit to our part of the world as you experience, *"Forts Mann, Atkinson and Dodge: Halfway on the Santa Fe Trail."*

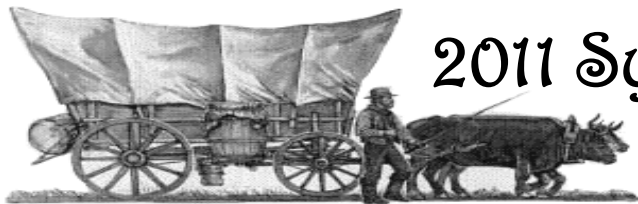
Happy Trails,
Jim Sherer, Coordinator

SANTA FE TRAIL 2011 SYMPOSIUM QUILT

Lovingly, pieced and hand quilted by Nancy Sherer of Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter. This quilted wall hanging is 54 inches x 45 inches and features blocks representing all six states of the Santa Fe Trail along with a Santa Fe Trail block, wagon wheel block and is highlighted by a Santa Fe Trail map.

The state blocks are: Missouri Windmill, Kansas Sunflower, Colorado Delectable Mountains, Road to Oklahoma, Texas Star and the New Mexico Beauty. Reproduced fabrics and colors of the 1800's were used in creating this unique quilt. ***Raffle drawing for the Quilt will be on Saturday at the Awards Dinner.***





2011 Symposium Speakers



Noel Ary

"Life in Early Dodge City - Warts and All"

Noel Ary is a Western Kansas native born near the end of the Great Depression in Lewis, Kansas, about 20 miles southwest of Fort Larned. His great-grandparents arrived just in time for the blizzards of 1885 and 1886, surviving in a dugout and later a sod house. Noel grew up on a small dairy farm, milking cows, bottling milk, and delivering it door-to-door. He attended Pratt Community College and Emporia State University, graduating with a degree in education with majors in biological and physical science. He taught biology in Lawrence and Dodge City, Kansas, before joining the staff of the Kansas Heritage Center (a resource center for the history of Kansas and the Old West) in Dodge. He worked there for 32 years, before retiring as director in 2000. During the summers Ary was a seasonal ranger naturalist for the National Park Service in both Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Since his retirement he spends his time traveling, taking pictures, volunteering at the Center, and doing a little writing.



Marshall Gover

"Impact of the Santa Fe Trail on Pawnee Hunting Grounds"

Marshall Gover was elected as the Tribal Council President for the Pawnee Nation on May 8, 2011. He is a current Council Member of the Pawnee Business Council and also served as President in the past. He is a Vietnam combat veteran and served in the United States Marine Corp. He is a college graduate of Lakeland College in Illinois with a degree of Business. Having worked on the pipeline welding and the owner of two construction businesses, Mr. Gover currently lives in Pawnee, Oklahoma where he is now retired.





Tim Kimball

"Military Life on the Trails;

Most Beautiful is the Evening: Fischer's German - American Artillery Volunteers and the March of the Army of the West, 1846"

Tim Kimball, Corrales, NM. Kimball is an amateur historian with a M. A. in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico, an Army-trained intelligence analyst (full tour in Vietnam, 1967-68), and a student of the

American Occupation Era in New Mexico. He is literate in Spanish and German, and a horseman of sorts, both saddle and draft. Kimball's article based on Fischer's Spaziergang (hike) up the-then Raton Peak during the Army of the West's 1846 march to Santa Fe was published in Colorado Heritage (November/December 2010) as "Stark and So Massive." He contributed "Adolf Wislizenus's 1846 Letters from the Far West," translations of and editorial comments for two previously unpublished letters and a poem by the naturalist, to Wagon Tracks (August 2009). Naturally, Kimball is working on a book about the Fischer Company, from muster to discharge. He has made recent presentations on "Fischer's German-American Artillery Volunteers" and "A People's History of the Taos Rising," "Hispanic Volunteers in U. S. Service, New Mexico 1846-1851," and "Early Germans on the Santa Fe Trail."



Barak V. Geertsens

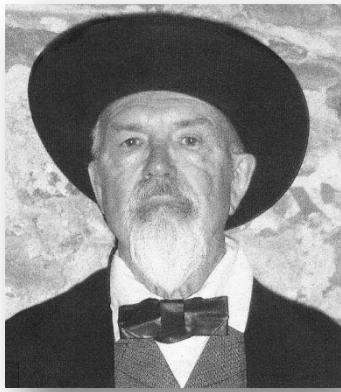
"Trouble with Texans: Dragoon Patrols of the Santa Fe Trail in 1843"

Originally from Salt Lake City, Barak graduated from the University of Utah in 1986 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both history and geography. He has been employed by the National Park Service since 1987 and has worked the last eighteen years at Fort



Scott National Historical Site. As a park ranger, Barak leads interpretive talks and tours, runs the education programs, manages the website, and serves as an interpretive trainer and coach. He has studied the role that soldiers from Fort Scott played along the Santa Fe Trail extensively.

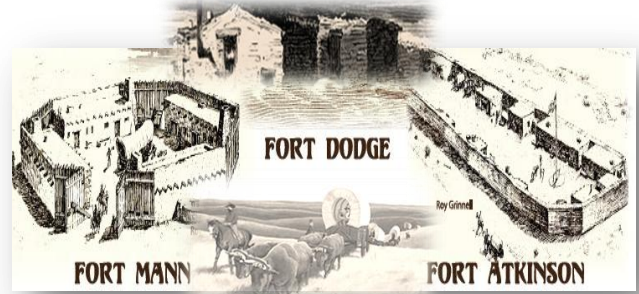
He has presented several interpretive talks and education programs and written articles for the park's newspaper and website on Fort Scott's role in westward expansion. He also served as a historical consultant in the production of Fort Scott's film, *Dreams and Dilemmas*. Barak lives in Nevada, Missouri, is married and has five kids and five grandkids.



Dr. Leo E. Oliva

"History of Forts Mann Atkinson and Dodge on the Santa Fe Trail"

Leo E. Oliva became interested in frontier military history during the 1959 centennial celebration of the founding of Fort Larned and has been writing about frontier



military posts and trails ever since. A graduate of Fort Hays State University, he earned graduate degrees at the University of Denver. He is the author of a dozen books and many articles, and writes a weekly newspaper column on "Our Kansas Heritage." He served as editor and publisher of the Santa Fe Trail Association quarterly, *Wagon Tracks*, for 25 years. He is former chairman of the Fort Larned Old Guard, friends support group for Fort Larned National Historic Site, which has purchased the site of the Cheyenne and Sioux village on Pawnee Fork in Ness County that was captured and burned by Gen. W. S. Hancock's command in April 1867. He is currently manager of the village site. He is a frequent lecturer on Kansas history, the frontier army, and overland trails. He is a founding member of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Smoky Hill Trail Association. He currently is one of the speakers for the Kansas Humanities Council 150th Kansas statehood anniversary series, with the topic "Kansas Military Posts."



Dr. Sara Jane Richter

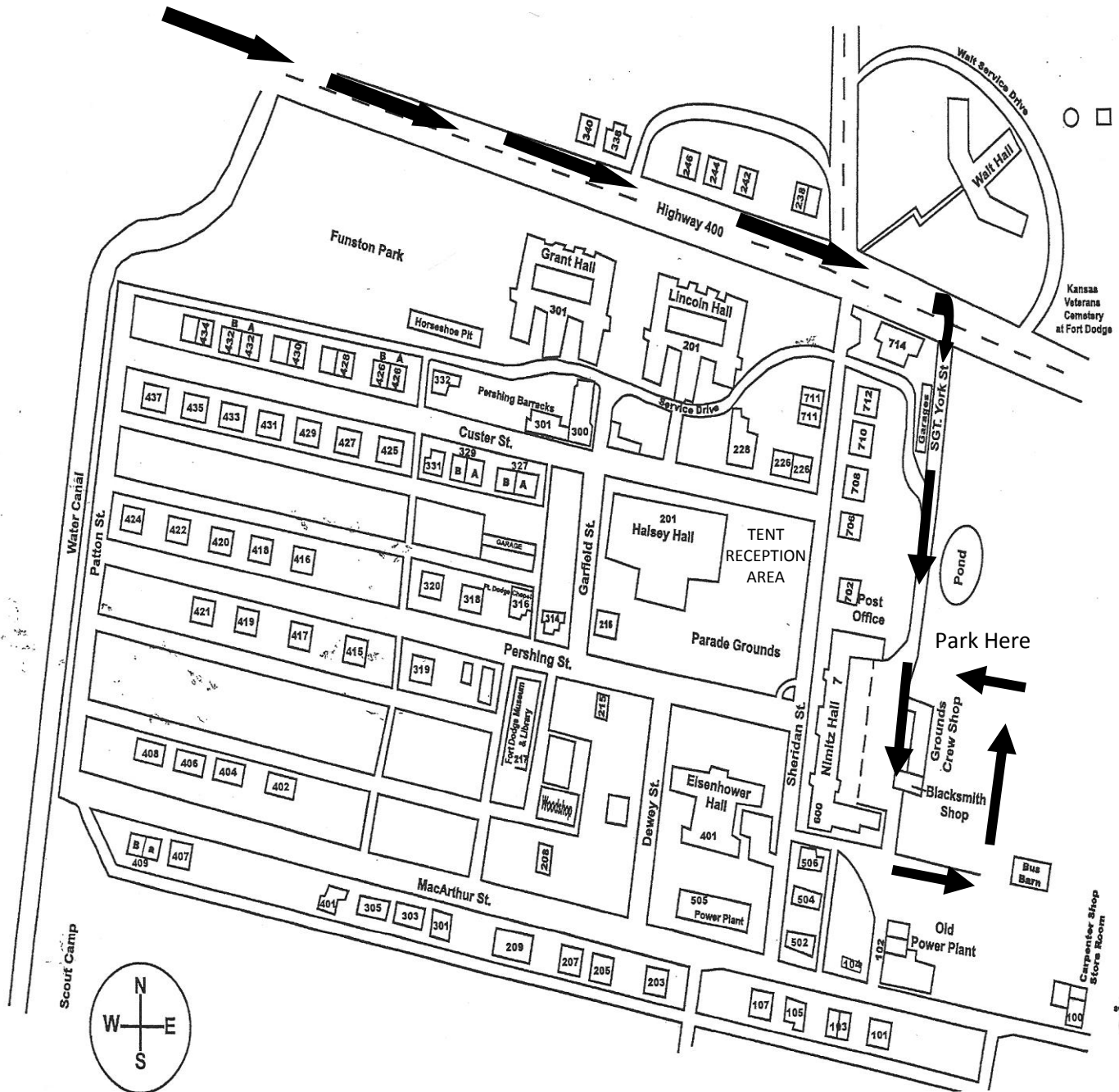
"Plucky and Purty: Women of the Santa Fe Trail"

As Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professor of English, Dr. Sara Jane Richter has taught English, geography, history, and humanities classes at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell since 1985. Originally from Atchison, Kansas, she calls Hennessey, Oklahoma, her hometown. She received her BA in history from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and a MA in history and a second MA in English from Oklahoma State University which also granted her the Ph. D. in English in 1985. Her masters' thesis concerned Willa Cather's Nebraska prairie literature



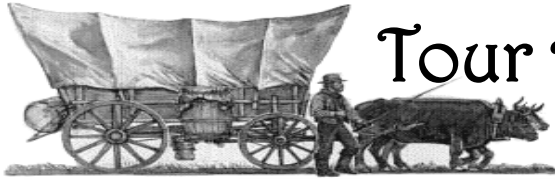
while her doctoral dissertation examined the work of Oklahoma Osage writer John Joseph Mathews. Richter maintains an active speaking engagement schedule as she gives literary and historical programs at local, regional, national, and international conferences on various topics like Depression-era women, women of the Santa Fe and Oregon trails, Christmases on the Plains, the Hominy Indians Native American football team, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and women of the western gold fields. In addition, she speaks on behalf of the Kansas Humanities Council and the Oklahoma Humanities Council and those two entities' book discussion programs. She is also a member of the Kansas Humanities Council Speakers Bureau. Smoky Hills Public Television has asked her to work as a consultant on documentaries concerning orphan trains, the WPA, and the Dust Bowl. Richter has served as a member of the board of directors of the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Oklahoma Arts Institute, and High Plains Public Radio. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma DaVinci Institute. She belongs to Toastmasters International as well and serves as the Area 51 Governor. The Oklahoma Humanities Council honored her in 2011 with the prestigious Public Humanities Award for her life-long commitment to sharing humanities through teaching, writing, and lecturing. A "grammarian" by trade, her first love is teaching. Somehow, she finds time to research, write, sing, act, travel, shoot, and enjoy the company of the love of her life--her cat Louie Bob.

Fort Dodge Opening Reception



Driving Directions to Fort Dodge

From the hotels, proceed to 2nd Avenue, turn right across tracks to stop light. Turn left on Trail Street and then east to Fort Dodge in Highway 400. The entrance to Fort Dodge is east of the Sutter Store on Sergeant York street where you will turn right. Watch for parking guides as you will be given directions to park by the grounds and crew shop parking area. There will be no parking allowed except in the designated parking area east of Nimitz Hall. The reception will be held at the Parade Grounds one block West of the parking area, just across Sheridan street, and East of the post office.



Tour Historic Fort Dodge

Historic Fort Dodge
1865 1882



Located five miles east of Dodge City, Kansas, Fort Dodge was established following the Civil War in 1865 to protect travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. Situated on the banks of the Arkansas River, the initial fortifications were dugouts along the river 'bank. In 1866 sod structures for officer's quarters and a temporary hospital were built following the arrival of lumber. Permanent buildings of wood and then stone were eventually constructed.

The Fort encompassed 43,000 acres as a military reservation. Troops campaigned against the Indians and protected stagecoaches, mail, and railroad construction crews traveling the Santa Fe Trail. Over a two year period permanent sandstone barracks, a hospital, quartermaster building, headquarters and commanding officer's quarters were built. Several original buildings stand and are in continuous use today.



The Commanding Officer's quarters (Custer House) is a two story structure. The first floor housed administrative offices and the second floor was used as family living space. Between 1870 and 1875, more new structures were built at Fort Dodge. Ten sets of officer and family quarters were erected in addition to buildings for civilian employees. A new jailhouse replaced the original (now at the Boot Hill Museum) and a granary with a one million pound capacity was also built.

Notables visiting at the Fort included Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, General William Tecumseh Sherman and, from 1865 to 1882 there were thirty Commanding Officers. In 1886 a portion of the land opened for settlement. Dodge City residents were among the first to purchase land.



General Philip Sheridan

On April 5, 1882, the Fort was abandoned by the U. S. Army. The last troops marched southward to Camp Supply (95 miles in Indian Territory) when the flag was lowered on October 2, 1882. Fort Dodge, guardian of the commercial frontier, the cattleman and homesteader had fulfilled its purpose.



For eight years the land and Fort were managed by a Custodian of the Department of the Interior. In 1889, Fort Dodge was deeded to the State of Kansas for a Soldiers' Home.

Kansas Soldiers' Home

The Mission of the Kansas Soldiers' Home is: "To provide quality health care facilities for veterans and their dependents based on the values of choice, respect and self determination.

Fort Dodge Legend & Map

2.a Fort Dodge - The military established the fort in 1865 to protect a long section of the Santa Fe Trail. Streets are named for Presidents and famous military officers.

2.b The Sutler's Store - Operated by civilians, the Sutler's Store provided "extra" supplies to soldiers and to travelers following the Santa Fe Trail. The store also served as a recreation hall for card games and music.

2.c Commander's Quarters - Presently referred to as the "Custer House", the building housed the Fort's Commanding Officer family quarters and administrative offices. Please note the small windows along the top of the porch's roofline reportedly used as rifle ports. *(Not open for viewing)*

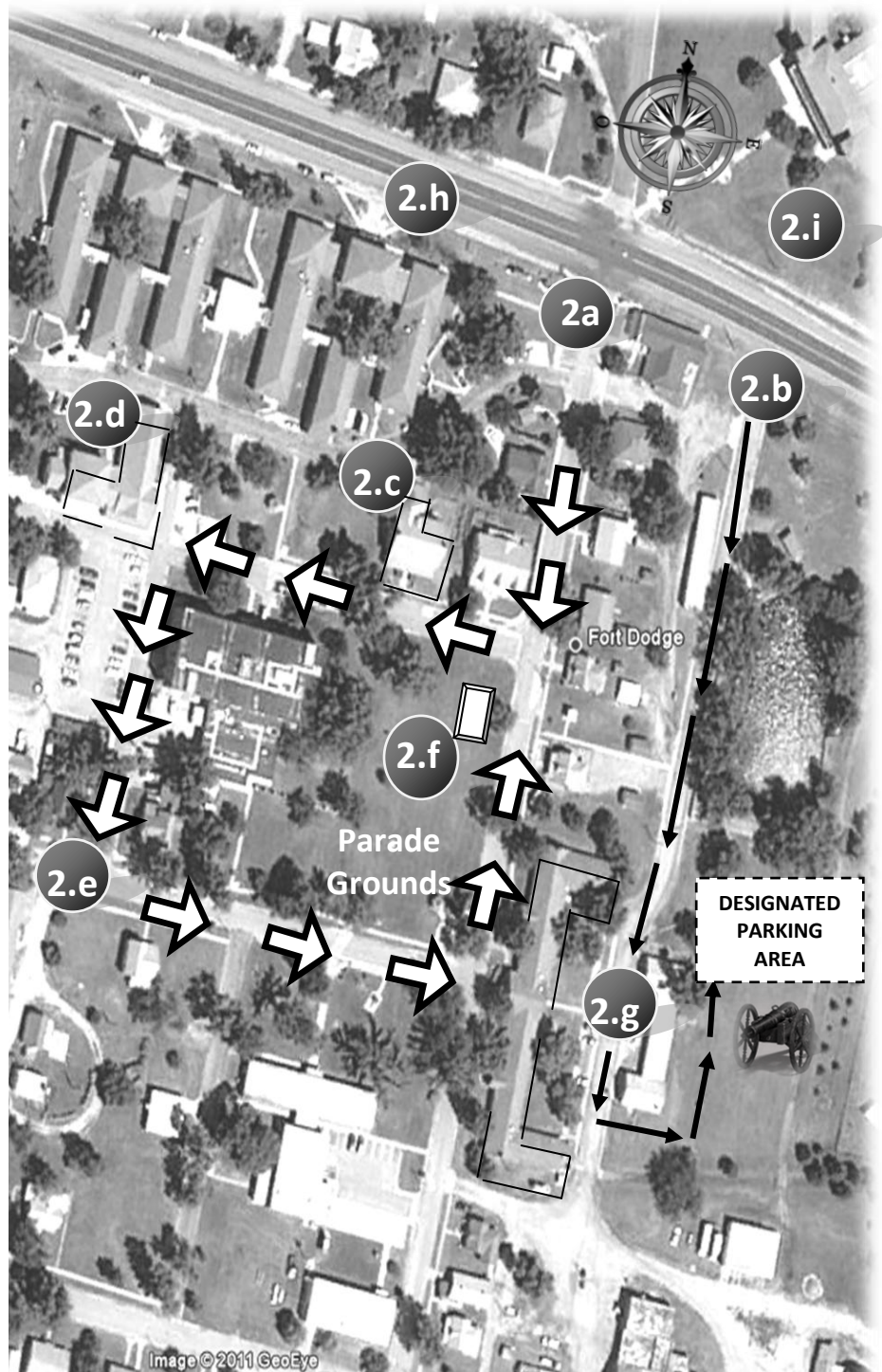
2.d Post Hospital - The east side of this building is the original post hospital that formerly housed a ward for twelve beds. *(Not open for viewing)*

2.e Storehouse - (Museum/Library) storehouse contained a supply of food, clothing and equipment for the fort's troops. One half of this structure remains and serves as a museum and library. *(Open for viewing)*

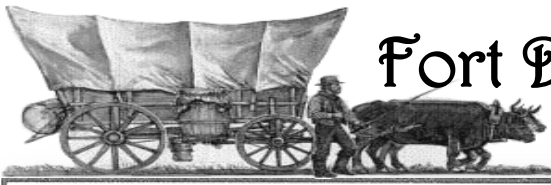
2.f Parade Ground - Existing Custer, Garfield, Sheridan and Pershing Streets border the original parade ground of the fort.

2.g Barracks - Each dormitory contained 22 double two-tier bunks providing sleeping spaces for 88 men. Opposite doors and windows allowed for ventilation. Wood stoves heated the quarters. A 1930 WPA construction project connected two stone barrack structures. *(Not open for viewing)*

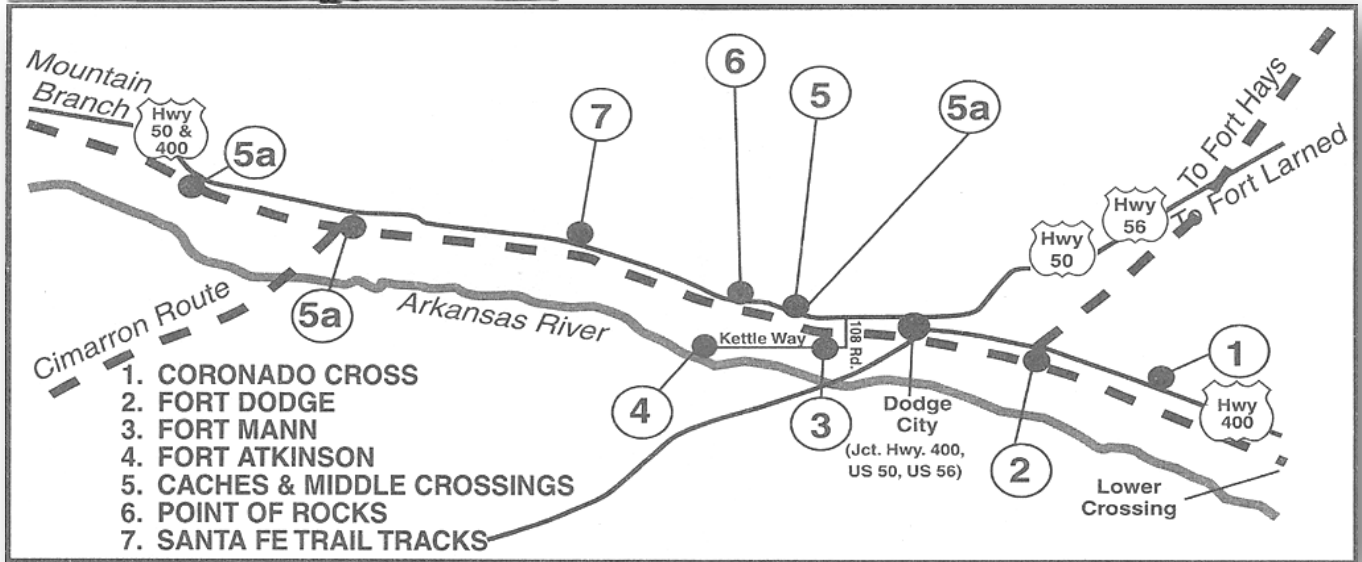
2.h Fort Hays/Fort Dodge - Road Marker A limestone marker indicates the end of an important branch of the Santa Fe Trail used by freighters from 1867-1872. When the Union Pacific Railroad reached Hays in 1867, all military freight and most commercial freight destined for Santa Fe and beyond was shipped to Hays and then hauled by wagon to the main Santa Fe Trail near Fort Dodge. Military freight volume attained immense proportions during 1867-1869, a period of warfare with the Plains Indians. This branch came to an end in 1872 when the Santa Fe Railroad reached Dodge City.



2.i Fort Dodge Cemetery - Both civilians and soldiers were buried in the military cemetery. The saying then was "the rich are buried at the Fort and the cowhands and poor are buried on Boot Hill or gone to 'hell'." Friends and family buried Marshal Ed Masterson, Bat's brother, at Fort Dodge in 1878. Some drunken cowboys killed the Marshal in a dance hall south of the railroad tracks in Dodge City. The body was later moved to a cemetery that no longer exists in Dodge City. No evidence of his burial site remains today. The bodies of military personnel were removed to Fort Leavenworth in 1886. Presently, the cemetery is part of the Kansas Soldiers' Home property.

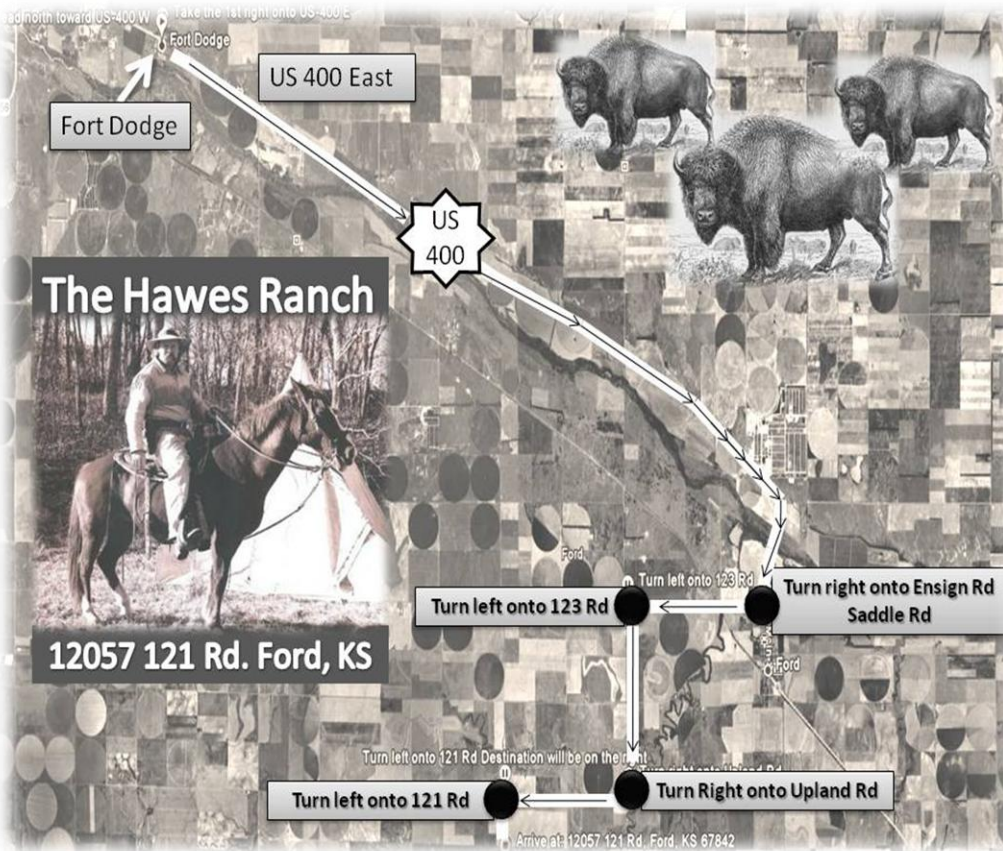


Fort Dodge & the Santa Fe Trail



Experience Western Heritage

Tour The Hawes Ranch 620-369-2204

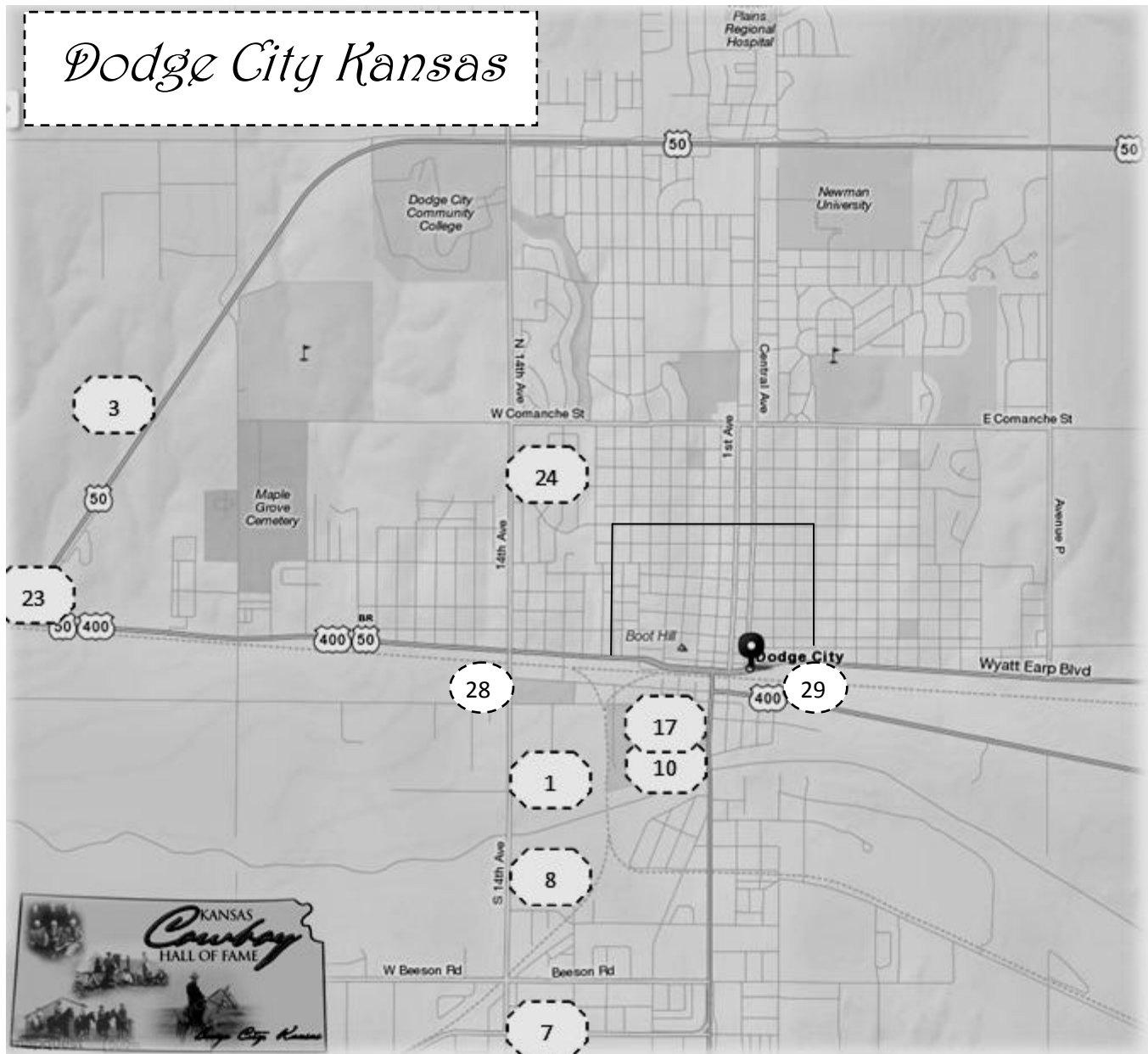


Visit one of the last open range ranches in the Dodge City area. Come and enjoy the history of the ranch that was established in 1884 by "Judge" Hawes.

Privately owned reserve on the Hawes Ranch that encompasses a large herd of buffalo, prairie, chicken, coyotes and an old time Buffalo Hunters camp and dugout.

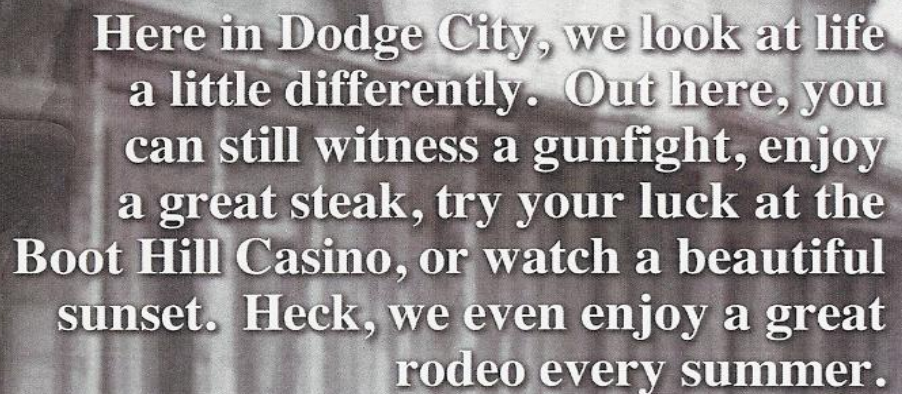
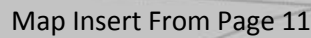
Motorized group tours and horseback day trips by appointment. Relive the Buffalo hunting era where it happened. (620-369-2204)

Dodge City Kansas



▲ Visitor Information Center, Walking/Driving

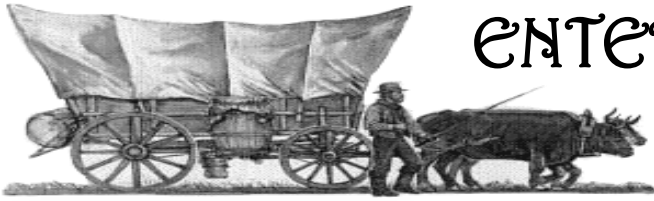
1. All4Fun
2. Boot Hill Museum & Front Street
3. Boot Hill Casino & Resort/Special Events Center
4. Carnegie Center for the Arts
5. Coronado Cross
6. Depot Theater Company & Santa Fe Depot
7. Dodge City Raceway Park
8. Dodge City Roundup Rodeo
9. Dodge City Trail of Fame and Wyatt Earp Statue
10. Dodge City Zoo
11. "El Capitan"
12. Fort Dodge & Kansas Veterans Cemetery
13. Gospel Hill Churches
14. Historic Trolley Tours
15. Kansas Heritage Center
16. Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame & Gunfighters
17. Wax Museum
18. Liberty Gardens
19. Longhorn Park
20. Mexican Village Marker
21. Mueller-Schmidt House
22. Old Dodge Photo Parlor
23. One Hundred Meridian Marker
24. Santa Fe Trail Tracks "
25. Southwest Kansas Veterans Memorial
26. Stan Herd Mural
27. "Out West" Western Store
28. Home of Stone
29. 100th Meridian Marker



**Experience the history
of Dodge City, where
the Marshal still
roams the streets.**

800-OLD-WEST www.VisitDodgeCity.org
Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau





ENTERTAINMENT



Michael Martin Murphey

Michael Martin Murphey was born in Oak Cliff, Texas, on March 14, 1945, and grew up in Dallas. He had a special love for cowboy stories and songs and also read avidly as a boy -- especially the work of Mark Twain and William Faulkner -- and was writing poetry before he was in his teens. He began performing as an amateur while in junior high school and **within a few years was playing the clubs around Dallas in the** early '60s, combining country, folk, and rock music. Somehow, despite the inherently conservative nature of all of those audiences, Murphey made it work, and he formed a band with a decent following in the area around Dallas. He now calls Colorado home.



Ms. Marla Matkin

Ms. Marla Matkin is a lifelong Kansan, tracing her Plains roots to her great-grandparents, who homesteaded in Southwest Kansas in the 1870's. Growing up near Dodge City, her love of history developed at an early age. Time and exposure, to American History and the West in particular, only increased her curiosity. Becoming a living historian and independent scholar was a perfect marriage of history and theater, yet another of her interests. These two disciplines prove a powerful combination in telling the story of the West and the people, who colored its landscape. Ms. Matkin received a degree in education from Fort Hays State University, which lends yet another dimension to

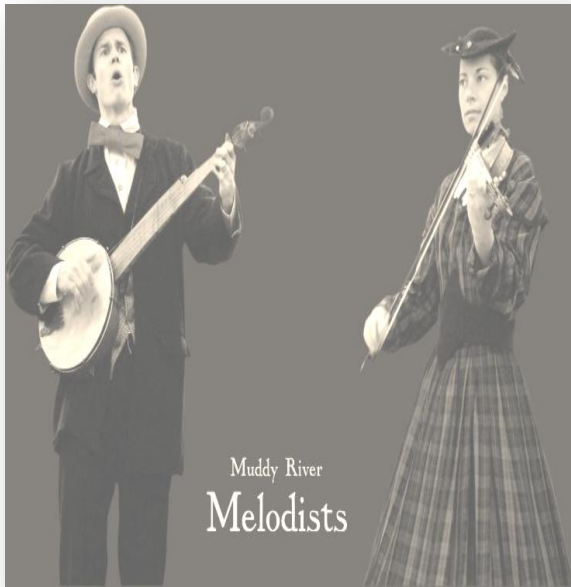
her portrayal. Her desire has always been to educate, inform and entertain her audiences and make history come alive. The presentations she has given over the last fourteen years have provided her the opportunity to fulfill that ambition, but there is still more to do.

Ms. Matkin now lives midway between two of the frontier forts that were important locales in the Kansas chapter of the Custer Story, Fort Hays and Fort Wallace. She can look across the same vistas and breathe the same "prairie champagne" that captured Libbie's imagination. Her characterization brings to audiences Libbie's intriguing story, while at the same time maintaining an aura of mystery, romance and legend. This glimpse into history is like a puzzle that is never quite complete but keeps drawing Ms. Matkin back to study the possibilities and find that unexpected piece of information that will give the puzzle new depth and meaning, which she can then share with others.

Ms. Matkin is grateful to have had the opportunity to present her programs at such noted places as the Smithsonian, Washington D.C., The Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY, The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City, as well as a number of National Park Sites throughout the country, to name but a few. The people she has met and the places she has visited have enriched her life's journey. History for her is a passion.

Muddy River Melodists

The Muddy River Melodists play music from the era of the American Civil War. The group consists of Jonathon and Betsey Goering, who formed it in the summer of 2010. They were formerly members of The Free Staters, which disbanded in late 2009.



The Muddy River Melodists will take audiences of all ages back in time to the era of the American Civil War with their fun, family-friendly performances. The group is one of the few Midwestern bands touring today that recreates this unique music on historically-accurate stringed instruments and in period-correct clothing. Their instruments consist of a late 19th century fiddle, a reproduction fretless skin-head gut-string banjo, guitar, bones, and tambourine.



OUT WEST
Western &
Native American Specialties

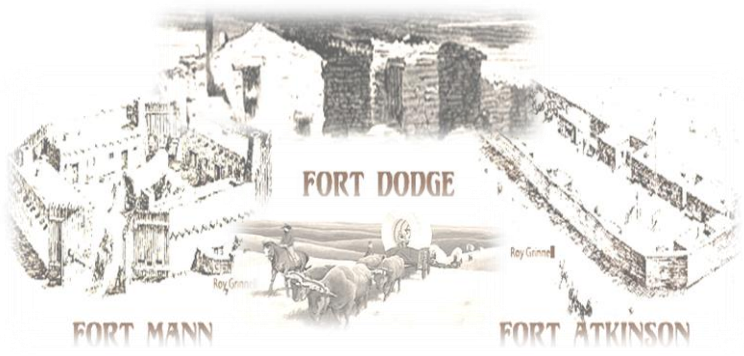
**Western Wear
Tack,
Saddles,
Ropes,
Boots,
Hats,
Jewelry, Pottery
Cowboy Decor
Indian Art**

309 N. 14th, Dodge City
620-225-9025
724 N. Campus Dr., Garden City
620-260-9025

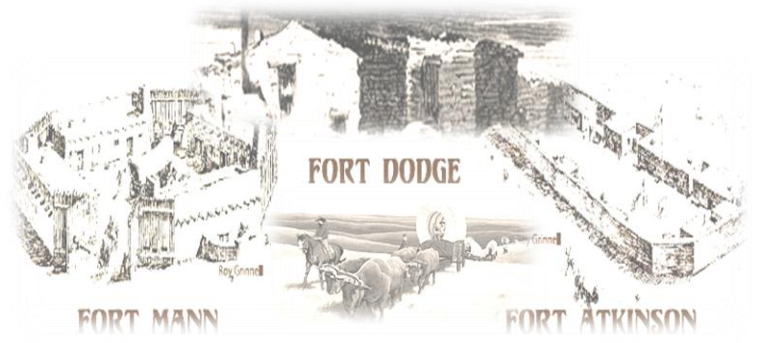
Open: Mon. - Sat. 9-7p.m. Sun. 1-5p.m.



Notes



Notes



Trails on the Prairie

You are standing on a bluff above the Arkansas River, an international boundary between the United States and Mexico during the early years of the Santa Fe Trail. This area was prone to flooding and the ruts offer an excellent illustration of how the freighters worked with the terrain to make the easiest passage.

Making Their Way

Wagons were hauled up onto this high ground to avoid the wet bottomlands around the river. Aerial photographs show the marks left on the land.

Choosing a Path

The trail split only a few miles west of here. Traders chose either the Mountain Route or followed the Cimarron Route via multiple river crossings into Mexico.

We next came to the Cimarron [river], where everything looked lush and green, but not a tree or a bush. The river...here is nothing more than a dirty pool of stagnant water.

Rebecca Mayer, 1852



Fort Dodge, shown ca. 1867, protected travelers on the trail.

Courtesy of Boot Hill Museum



The ruts became deeper as more wagons traveled past.

Courtesy of Boot Hill Museum



Wagons traveled abreast, leaving parallel ruts. The deeper, curving mark on the landscape is the remains of Soule Canal.

Courtesy of Boot Hill Museum