

The Winding Valley and the Craggy Hillside

A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas by Margaret Landis.
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Chapter I PROLOGUE TO ROSEDALE

The title: "The Winding Valley and The Craggy Hillside" is descriptive of the physical geography of Rosedale.

Geographically, the position of Rosedale lies South of the Kaw River in Wyandotte County, Kansas and, if we choose to be technical, between the 94th and 95th Degree of West Longitude and about the 39th Degree of North Latitude.

"Kansas is a part of the great plain that slopes gradually from the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River. It's surface, cut by many Eastward-flowing streams, lies level in the West but in the East curves into countless hills and valleys."
[1]

Geologists record that glaciers carved the area including the Missouri and Kansas Rivers and Turkey Creek. (Turkey Creek originates in Johnson County, Kansas.)

Physical features of Rosedale: Turkey Creek meandering through the valley -- surrounded by hills and bluffs on either side. In the early days it was "A forest of trees and hazel-brush" amidst a profusion of Wild Roses. There were seven hills on the South side of the Turkey Creek Valley. The hills on the South side are marked with a "shelf" or "bench." On the North side there was one continuous high bluff that started in the West end of Rosedale and continued to Toadloupe where Turkey Creek emptied into the Kansas River.

Other early formations in Rosedale were evidenced; including the presence of coal and natural gas. The Rosedale Coal and Mining Company struck a twenty-one inch vein of coal at 335 feet.

The formation of the "Iola Ledge Rock", which, generally speaking, would surface at Iola, Kansas. This is the type of rock that was crushed by the F.H. Jennings and Son Crusher and Quarry Company, The American Rock Crusher Company and later the J. A. Tobin Company at 36th and Rainbow Boulevard. (This is the present location of the Simeon B. Bell Recreation Center.)

On Rainbow Boulevard about 37th Steer was The Godfrey and Stimson Brick Plant. The clay in this vicinity was suitable for the manufacture of brick. The Brick Plant was later operated by the United Clay Products Corporation. The daily output was 20,000 bricks. (This land is now a parking lot for the K.U. Medical Center.)

The artesian well, near Burns Park, was the result of drilling to locate a vein of coal in the vicinity. The water possessed medicinal qualities. The Geyser Mineral Springs and Bath House, South Rosedale Avenue at Turkey Creek, later operated as The Rosedale Mineral Baths. Various Soda Waters were compounded from the Lithia Spring near the Geyser Mineral Springs.

Many changes have been made in the physical appearance of Rosedale ... The Rosedale-University Urban Renewal Program, The Turkey Creek Expressway and Highway I-35. Yet there are remnants of land-marks that are reminders that Rosedale is truly "Old As The Hills."

In the Northeastern part of what we know as the State of Kansas lived the Kanza or the Kaw Indians on the North side of the Kansas River and on the South side were the Osages. For nearly 300 years they hunted, trapped, fished and farmed on land that included Wyandotte County.

During the term of President James Monroe, in 1825, by treaties, the Kanza and the Osage Tribes ceded their land to the Government, retaining only a small part of the territory. The Kanza or the Kaws moved to the Northern Boundary and the Osages to the Southern Boundary.

In the campaign to remove Eastern Indian Tribes, the Shawnee Indians settled on the South side of the Kansas River and adjacent to the State of Missouri. Their reservation was approximately 25 miles wide by 125 miles long on the South side of the Kansas River. Containing approximately 1,600,000 acres.

The Shawnees lived in Kansas for about 40 years. They built houses, fenced their property, farmed and conducted their tribal affairs.

After the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed in 1854 and the Territory was opened for settlement, a new treaty was made with the Shawnee Indians. Many of the Shawnees took their land but some did not.

The Indians were moved South to Indian Territory - now the State of Oklahoma. In 1868, the Shawnee Tribe of Kansas became incorporated into the Cherokee Nation in the Indian Territory.

Many Indian names appear on our Real Estate Abstracts.

[1] - A History of Kansas, Anna E. Arnold p.9