

Quindaro Chindowan, May 13, 1857

## Quindaro: Its History

As we have commenced publishing a new paper in a new town, our readers will, perhaps expect us to say something of the prospects and promises of the place which, above all others in Kansas, we preferred. It has become so common for persons interested in a new place, who have an opportunity to speak to the public relative thereto, to do so in such glowing terms, that we approach the task before us with reluctance, and with the old and homely adage forcing itself upon our mind, that "self praise is half scandal." That little coin which because of its influence is frequently called the almighty dollar, we can assume our readers, has lost none of its potency by being transported to Kansas. Persons pursue it with an avidity that would astonish many of its zealous devotees in the States. Speculation is the resort of many of its votaries, and this speculation very often causes them to see their interests through a colored medium.

There are few town or "cities" started in the Territory, that were not originated for the purpose of making money, and very few persons become interested in a town enterprise through any other motive. If they buy lots, or open a business, or even only select it for a home, as a general thing, one consideration, and often the paramount one, will be of a pecuniary character, which, while it may be altogether right and proper, makes it natural for them to think they have made a good selection, and quite as natural for them to try to convince others of the same thing. At most it is pleasant for a person to have others concur in any opinion, and particularly so when that concurrence is likely to result in a pecuniary advantage. Hence we infer that our readers will expect us to say something very nice about Quindaro, to dilate upon the wonderful advantages of which we think it possessed, and go into a rhapsody over some vision in which we may behold it a city, with busy wharves and thronged streets, great stores and extensive factories, lecture-rooms and seminaries, "gorgeous palaces and solemn temples!" in which conjecture, however, they are likely to be mistaken. We must leave the journalists of other places to write about "the great metropolis of that vast region of country lying between Missouri and the Rocky Mountains," which "is destined to hold a proud position as a commercial and mercantile emporium," and, in the nature of things, "is the National gateway into Kansas."

The position of Kansas and the rapidly expanding commerce of the Great West, or rather the Great Center of our country, will cause the upbuilding of a mart of trade at some point on the Missouri river, and that too, within the limits of Kansas, but we do not say that point will be Quindaro. It may with certainty be predicted that in a few years there will be some city west of St. Louis, in Kansas, and on the Missouri, that will hold the same commercial relation to the western portion of the Mississippi Valley that Cincinnati does to the eastern, but we are not disposed to predict that the village which is now our pioneer home, will be the Cincinnati of this region. There will be some great Railway center, some commercial point where northern and southern and eastern and western routes will intersect each other, but those roads

are yet to be built, and it is the business of capitalists to select the location of their routes, and not ours to prophesy in regard to them. wherever this fortune-favored point may be, there most surely will a fair proportion of American artisans and manufacturers make for themselves a useful and profitable field of labor. As there are "cities" in Kansas on the Missouri, whilst this place is only a thriving village, might it not hazard our foresight to vaticinate in its especial favor? We think it best to state what we know, in preference to what we may anticipate about Quindaro.

### **ITS HISTORY.**

The founding of Quindaro was the result of necessity. Its existence is attributable to circumstances which form an important chapter in the history of Kansas. A large proportion of the Free-State men residing in the Territory one year ago had sought homes on the Kansas river, and in portions of the country south of that stream. Many had selected those locations when all was tranquil and subsequent difficulties were not dreamed of. When the disturbances arose and the opposition "Came down like the wolf on the fold," the Free-State men found themselves hemmed in by their foes, found that even in the Territory they could only reach the nearest national highway, the Missouri river, by going to ports under the control of the enemy, for there was not a town on the river which was not under the dominion of the Pro-Slavery men.

These circumstances led active Free-State men to engage in the project of selecting and improving a town site on the Missouri, through which they might with safety, pass into and out of the Territory. The party that engaged in this were somewhat divided as to where that place should be located, but after a careful examination of all the practicable points, the leaders and most prominent Free-State men of the prospecting party and engaged in the enterprise, selected this site, organized a town company, bought the land, plotted the town and styled it Quindaro, the given name of the person from whom part of the purchase was made—a favorite name for females, common among the Wyandott Indians. The officers of the town were chosen: Joel Walker, President; A. Guthrie, Vice President; C. Robinson, Treasurer, and S.N. Simpson, Secretary. The town was surveyed by O.A. Bassett, in December, 1856.

### **NATURAL ADVANTAGES.**

Quindaro is situated on the Missouri, about three miles by land and six by water, above the mouth of the Kansas river. The site is hilly and rocky. Without a rocky formation it is almost impossible to make a wharf on the Missouri that will be permanent, and along its course such a formation is found only where the banks rise up into hills. Besides this solid base for a wharf the course of the river is such that the channel must remain on this side, which will insure the continuation of a good landing for steamers. Along the town site, when the river has been at a very low stage, by accurate sounding the shallowest place found was seven feet, and most of the way the water was ten feet deep.

To persons accustomed to living in a level country, the hills here at first sight, seem high, but one soon becomes so familiarized to them that they lose their apparent magnitude. The rock which they contain are of a good quality for building purposes, durable and yet not hard to work.

The townsite was a woodland, and it is yet surrounded by an extensive tract of forest, which abound in huge walnut, hickory, lin, ash and oak trees, and other valuable timber. Excellent stone and lusty trees being so near at hand, will render the erection of substantial business houses and elegant dwellings comparatively easy.

The lands adjacent in Kansas, composed o the grants of the Wyandott and Delaware Indians are very fertile. These grants extend westward from the Missouri along the north side jof the Kansas river, so that while they contain much valuable prairiue lands, they also are abundantly supplied with timber. To the south and south west lie the Shawnee Lands, that desirable portion of the Territory, with which we are already connected by a good road, as well as, the rich region beyond them. Immediately opposite to Quindaro, and extending northward in Missouri is a belt of fine country, much of which is now under cultivation.

### **PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENTS.**

Under this head we will not speak of the future, which to all persons is adorned with glorious expectatious, but of the past, which is a reality.--On that day nearly every primitive tree stood here scarcely one had ever been cut down; the rocks juttet their grey edges out of the hill-side, but eh mooss that grew on them had not been disturbed; the river swept along in its swift course, washing against a bank that had not been touched by pick-axe or shovel. since then there have been two rigorous winter months, and two inclement spring kmonths to impede the transportation of implements and machinery essential to improvements, and to retard the labor here. The ice, snow, rain and cold weather werej obstacles not to be controlled.

The trees have been removed from several acres of the town site. Enough grading has been done on the hills nearest the river to make access to the wharf very easy. Kansas Avenue, the main street running south from the river, has been sufficiently improved to its jundtion with a good road leading into the country, to enable heavy loads to be hauled along it without difficulty. A considerable force is now engaged upon grading the wharf and this avenue. Between thirty and forty houses have been erected and are occupied. The largest is a hbotel, which is the second in size in the Territory, and among other buildings ia a school house, in which during the week there is school, and fot the kpresent, on every Sabbath there is church. there are also sixteen business houses in progress of erection, some of which are nearly completed. Mostj of them are being built of stone, in a substantial manner andk good style.

### **CHARACTER OF BUSINESS.**

By referring to our advertising columns it will be seen that there are already opened, two Hotels, two commission houses, two dry goods stores, and an apothecary shop, a saw mill, stone yard, carpenter shops, several land agencies, a surveyor's office, and, that in case of affliction the citizens will not be without medical attendance. Besides the business exhibited in the advertisements, there are builders, cabinet makers and blacksmiths located here.

The term Hotel, as used in this Territory, is very equivocal in its signification. It is applied in common, to places where travelers are fleeced for sleeping on boards, and where they can get good accommodations at reasonable prices. The accommodations

here are ample and good enough for us, and persons who have traveled extensively in Kansas attest that they are not equalled at any other point. the stores are not mere "shops" where remnants and antiquated articles are sold at exorbitant prices, but are furnished with complete and fresh stocks, which besides supplying an already active retail trade, are sold to other dealers in wholesale quantities at wholesale prices. The saw-mill is projected on a large scale, having sufficient motive power to drive five saws, a lath machine, turning lathe, &c. One saw in operation that cuts at the rate of 5,000 feet of lumber per day.

### **PROSPECTS.**

In this paper we are not inclined to expatiate upon the future, but feel disposed to say in conclusion, that the prospects for the rapid growth of Quindaro in size and business importance are flattering. The fact that her citizens manifest no discouragement and no laxity in their respective enterprises, we do not think attributable to any illusion from speculation but to actual profits which they are already realizing, and richer rewards which they have a conscious assurance will soon be theirs.

In regard to Quindaro it has been our object to deliver a "a round unvarnished tale," that whoever may be induced to come here, will not be disappointed through aught we have published.