

# VIEWS OF THE PAST



The History of Kansas City, Kansas in pamphlet series

## **Series 3: "*IMPORTANT DATES IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY*" (Part 1)**

Sponsored by the Kansas City, Kansas Bicentennial Commission

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### **JANUARY**

- 1 1857 Ground broken for first building in Quindaro
- 1 1910 Argentine annexed to Kansas City, Ks.
- 4 1872 First issue of the Wyandotte Herald printed
- 6 1947 Petition presented to the City Clerk calling for adoption of city manager form of government
- 9 1865 Seventh annual prayer meeting of First Congregational Church of Kansas City, Ks., with 250 Civil War Union soldiers in attendance
- 12 1948 100 hunters show up at Wyandotte County Lake for a wolf and coyote hunt billed as the biggest in the history of the county
- 17 1925 Design chosen for new county courthouse. Estimated cost \$1 million
- 18 1853 First execution in Kansas takes place in Wyandot. John Coon shot for murder of Curtis Punch during a drunken brawl
- 21 1879 Kansas Senate passes a resolution declaring Kansas unopposed to Kansas City, Mo.'s request to annex itself to Kansas City, Ks
- 29 1859 Wyandotte County formed by taking land from Leavenworth and Johnson Counties. City of Wyandot chosen as the county seat, further damaging Quindaro's chances of surviving
- 29 1861 Kansas becomes 34th state of the Union. Bill signed by lame duck President James Buchanan
- 31 1855 Wyandot Indians declared United States citizens by Treaty of 1855

## FEBRUARY

- 3 1919 State law passed enabling Kansas City, Ks., to own and operate ice houses, brick plants and coal mines
- 8 1919 Kansas City, Ks. Churches asked to prepare memorial program in commemoration of President Theodore Roosevelt
- 9 1861 Charles Robinson inaugurated as first governor of Kansas
- 9 1858 Quindaro incorporated
  - First non-military post office in Kansas established at Delaware Indian
- 10 1855 Mission. Date of 1855 disputed by historians. Alternate date of 1849 offered
- 11 1858 Town of Wyandot incorporated, thus keeping pace with rival town of Quindaro
- 12 1866 The Wyandot and Kansas City Bridge Company incorporated to build first railroad bridge across Kaw River at City of Wyandot
- 14 1919 County Commissioners given authority to build 7th Street Bridge, linking City of Rosedale to Kansas City, Ks.
- 15 1919 Kansas City, Ks., files petition with state legislature to change its name back to Wyandotte
- 22 1861 President-elect Abraham Lincoln raises flag bearing new star of Kansas at Independence Hall in Philadelphia
- 23 1867 Wyandot Indians removed from City of Wyandot to 24,000 acre reservation in Oklahoma
- 27 1959 Bonner Springs chosen over forty cities as site of Agricultural Hall of Fame
- 29 1859 Quindaro and Wyandotte made cities of the third class on same day; rivalry continues at dead-even pace

## MARCH

1 1835 First newspaper printed in Kansas by Shawnee Baptist Mission, in the Indian language, called The Shawnee Sun

4 1947 Kansas City, Ks. voters reject proposal to change to city manager form of government by vote of 10,005 for to 17,996 against

6 1886 Consolidation of Wyandotte City, Kansas City, Armourdale, Armstrong and Riverview into the City of Kansas City, Ks. Wyandotte City refuses to acknowledge new name

7 1879 Delegation from Kansas City, Mo. arrives in Topeka to discuss with the governor the possibility of annexing to Kansas City, Ks.

8 1857 Town of Wyandot formed and sale of land begins, causing a land rush. Houses can't be built fast enough and are shipped pre-fabricated from Cincinnati

13 1857 Quindaro's first and only newspaper, *Chin-do-wan*, prints its first issue. Newspaper folds one year later as town begins its eclipse

16 1964 Wyandotte County@Park, Bonner Springs, opened with huge crowd in attendance

23 1879 150 to 200 destitute Negroes, later called Exodusters, arrive at Wyandotte City, aboard steamer "Fannie Lewis"

25 1937 Kansas City, Ks. opens "Great White Way," a system of mercury vapor lights on Minnesota Avenue, making it the best lighted street in the Midwest

26 1861 Legislature of the new state of Kansas convenes for the first time

30 1857 Contract let by Town of Quindaro to build free ferry across the Kaw River to open trade with the Southwest

31 1879 Steamer "Joe Kinney" arrives with 350 Exodusters

31 1964 Kansas City, Ks. public school students out of school with mumps

## APRIL

- 5 1869 Shawnee Township established
- 6 1879 450 Exodusters arrive in Wyandot aboard the "E.H. Durfee"
- 6 1886 Election of city officers for newly consolidated city of Kansas City, Ks.
- 8 1856 Wyandot Indian AME North and AME South churches burned by arsonists
- 8 1868 Wyandotte County Commissioners attempt to take possession of Presbyterian Church lot at Huron Park
- 12 1861 Civil War started with attack on Fort Sumter
- 13 1879 200 Exodusters arrive in Wyandot aboard "Joe Kinney"
- 14 1857 Steamer "Lightfoot" embarks on first and only trip up the Kaw River from Quindaro
- 14 1879 300 Exodusters bound for Wyandot, Ks. leave St. Louis on "E.H. Durfee"
- 15 1887 Construction begins on Kansas City, Ks. first hospital, St. Margaret's
- 17 1966 Dedication of New Public Library, built at a cost of \$1.6 million
- 19 1879 Arrangements made to transport 100 Negro Exodusters to Lawrence, Ks.
- 23 1879 Wyandotte passes recommendation to forcibly resist further landing of Exodusters
- 25 1911 Cornerstone laid for new Kansas City, Ks. City Hall at corner of 6th and Ann
- 30 1803 Louisiana ceded to the United States by France
- 30 1919 Kansas City, Ks. leads nation in World War I fund raising drive with \$13 million, averaging \$127 for every man, woman and child in the city

## MAY

3 1869 Original town of Kansas City, Ks. on the east bank of the Kaw River, platted

5 1882 First election of newly incorporated city of Argentine held. Frank W. Patterson chosen mayor

7 1907 Opening night at Carnival Park. Snow falls  
Moses Grinter instructed to open and operate a ferry across the Kaw River

8 1827 for use as a government supply road and starting point for military expeditions to the West

10 1882 Site of old courthouse at northwest corner of 7th and Minnesota purchased from Hiram Northrup and his Indian wife

14 1857 Town plat of Wyandot filed in Leaven worth county

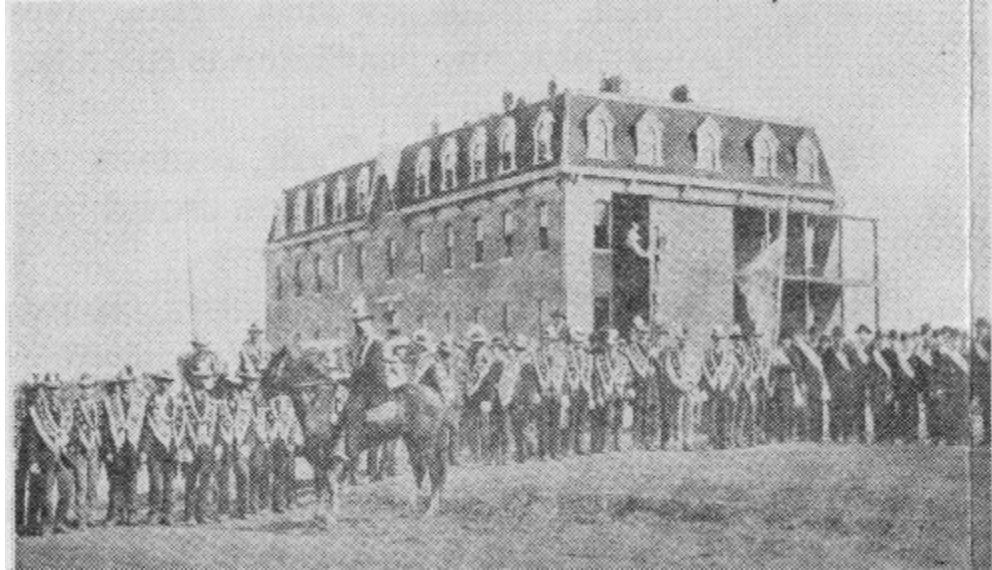
15 1886 200 employees of smelter in Argentine strike for fewer hours and same pay. Strike fails

15 1892 Public Library opens

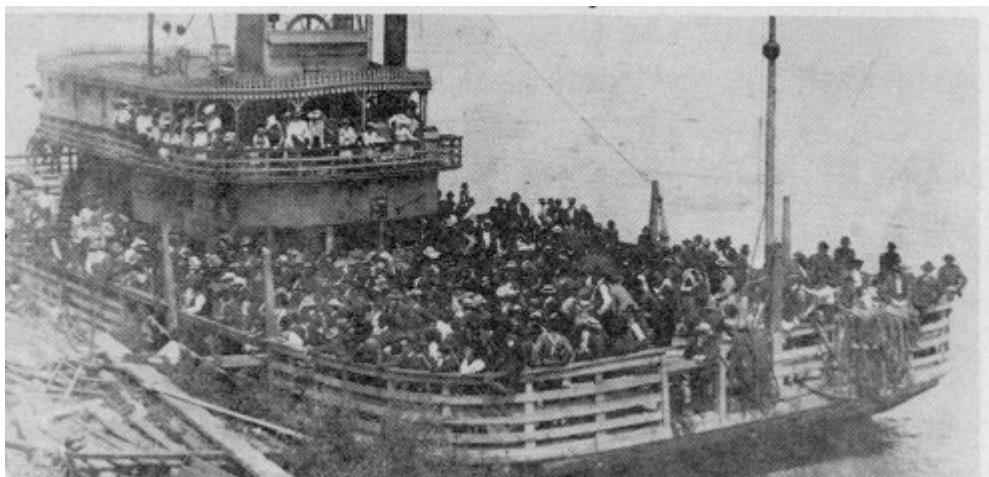
30 1854 The Kansas and Nebraska Bill signed by President Franklin Pierce, making Kansas an organized territory

30 1903 Flood of 1903. Flood waters reached a height of 6 to 10 feet, making it the third greatest flood in the history of Wyandotte County

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St. Margaret's Hospital as it appeared in 1887, when handed to the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis by the Right Reverend Monsignor Anthony Kuhls, founder of the hospital. The building cost about \$35,000.



Ferry was the only means of transportation between the two Kansas Cities after the 1903 Flood. This ferry loaded at the foot of Minnesota Avenue.