

# VIEWS OF THE PAST



The History of Kansas City, Kansas in pamphlet series

## **Series 4: "IMPORTANT DATES IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY" (Part 2)**

Sponsored by the Kansas City, Kansas Bicentennial Commission

---

### **JUNE**

- 1 1911 Monument to John Brown unveiled at the townsite of Old Quindaro as part of commencement exercises at Western University.
- 3 1927 Largest graduating class at Western University -- 114 receive degrees.
- 4 1861 First Kansas regiment to Civil War mustered at Fort Leavenworth.  
1875 Locusts invade Kansas.
- 6 1952 All three city commissioners indicted on charges of mishandling asphalt purchases.. Charges later dropped.
- 8 1858 Wyandot Indian village incorporated as a town with 1,259 inhabitants.
- 13 1844 Biggest flood ever to hit Kansas City, Ks. area; 5 to 10 feet higher than flood of 1951.
- 14 1878 Moses Grinter, first white settler in Wyandotte County, dies in home overlooking ferry he started 47 years before.
- 15 1875 Locust invasion leaves Kansas.
- 19 1859 Beginning of drought of 1859. Lasted from June, 1859, to November, 1860.
- 20 1907 Kansas City Structural Steel opens at site of old Argentine smelter.
- 21 1919 Kansas City, Ks. dairies told to clean up facilities or quit business. City inspectors pour out 1,000 gallons of milk in one week.
- 26 1804 Lewis and Clark Expedition arrives and camps at Kaw Point. Guard given 50

## JULY

- 1 1844 First free school in Kansas opened at Wyandot by John W. Armstrong, Wyandot Indian.
  - 2 1855 First meeting of Territorial Legislature of Kansas convenes at Pawnee, Ks.
  - 5 1859 Wyandotte Constitutional Convention convenes to write constitution as first step toward statehood. Convention lasted 24 days and passed legislation forbidding slavery, paving the way for admission as a free state.
  - 6 1904 Flood of 1904. Height of 1 to 10 feet. Proved that the narrow river channel of the Kaw River would not hold even normal rainfall.
  - 7 1857 Wyandot Reporter, first newspaper in Wyandot, Ks. prints first issue.
  - 19 1927 Cornerstone laid for \$1 million courthouse. Most expensive building in history of Kansas City, Ks., up to that time.
- 



*Wyandotte County Commissioner Dave Espenlaub (fourth from left) and Probate Judge Henry Mead (right) help lay the cornerstone for the Wyandotte County Courthouse.*

---

- 13 1951 Friday the 13th. Flood of 1951. Second biggest flood in history of Kansas City, Ks.
- 18 1918 Old Seventh Street Viaduct falls in.
- 20 1923 World War I Memorial Arch dedicated by people of Rosedale.
- 23 1959 Kansas Attorney General takes over Fairfax annexation case, eventually resulting in Fairfax becoming part of Kansas City, Ks.
- 29 1854 First group of free state sympathizers, the Emigrant Aid Society of Massachusetts, arrives in Kansas City, Ks. The 29 men quickly move on to Lawrence.
- 1859 Wyandotte Constitution adopted in convention.
- 31 1843 Wyandot Indians arrive at Westport Landing.

## AUGUST

- 3 1877 Newly incorporated city of Rosedale holds its first election.
- 7 1858 First issue of *Wyandot Gazette* printed
- 12 1905 Battleship "Kansas" launched.
- 21 1863 Quantrill Massacre at Lawrence, Ks.
- 22 1828 Napoleon Boone, grandson of Daniel Boone, born near Lawrence, Ks.; first white child born in Kansas.
- 28 1882 \$7,000 bond proposal for construction of a school in Argentine approved by voters.

## SEPTEMBER

- 6 1902 Kansas City, Ks. new Carnegie Library dedicated. Library made possible by \$75,000 gift of Andrew Carnegie. Books purchased through unique dog tax.
- 7 1863 Ground broken in Wyandot Town for Kansas Pacific Railroad.
- 1868 Kansas State School for Blind opened. State-supported with initial attendance of 7 students.
- 12 1866 First German newspaper in Wyandot, *Die Fackel* (The Torch), printed by editor H.W. Kaster.
- 1949 New Brotherhood Building dedicated.
- 15 1854 Leavenworth *Herald* becomes first newspaper published in Kansas.
- 28 1859 Huron Cemetery filed with Register of Deeds.
- 29 1866 Lt. Zebulon Pike raises U.S. flag on Kansas soil for the first time at Pawnee Village in Republic County.

## OCTOBER

- 4 1859 Wyandotte Constitution ratified by election of the citizens of Kansas; 10,421 for and 5,530 against.
- 1901 Argentine smelter ceases operation; 50% of Argentine out of work.
- 12 1850 St. Mary's new church dedicated.
- 15 1909 Argentine annexed to Kansas City, Ks.
- 20 1906 Carnival Fire at Huron Park destroys 60 to 70 exposition booths including many new Bell telephones and a Wild West Show tent.
- 23 1864 Battle of Westport. "Gettysburg of the West."

## NOVEMBER

- 2 1880 Kansas amends constitution to prohibit manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors by a vote of 92,302 to 84,304, a 52.3% majority.
  - 8 1880 James W. Coburn purchases 60 acres from Shawnee Indians and plats town called Silver City, later renamed Argentine.
- 



*Argentine's City Hall was located on the southwest corner of 24th and Silver Avenue. The brick building was completed in November of 1891, built at a cost of \$8,000. The basement housed the city prisoners. Each morning the chain gangs were marched up to the rock quarry on Monkey Mountain to break rock for use by the city street department. In the early 1930's the building was torn down.*

---

- 14 1960 Ground broken for Juniper Gardens, an Urban Renewal Housing Project; 390 dwelling units at a cost of \$6 million.
- 15 1910 Contract let to build levees from mouth of Kaw River to Turner Bridge.
- 1918 16,000 packing house workers ask federal judge for minimum wage of \$.65 an hour.
- 27 1845 First marriage in Wyandot takes place between Margaret Clark, daughter of a Wyandot Indian chief, and Hiram Northrup, a white man from the East.
- 28 1849 Wyandotte Hotel project begins.

## DECEMBER

- 10 1964 Ground broken at 38th and State for Tower Plaza Shopping Center.
- 14 1843 Wyandot Indians purchase 36 sections of land from the Delawares for \$48,000 and founded village of Wyandot.
- 23 1863 City of Wyandotte deeds levee to Union Pacific Railroad.