

# The Winding Valley and the Craggy Hillside

**A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas by Margaret Landis.  
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## Chapter X SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD

The way thru the Turkey Creek Valley was first an Indian Trace amidst the woodlands and uncultivated tracts of land.

Kansas became a State in 1861. Most of the Shawnee Indians had sold their land and following the Civil War, settlers started coming to this area.

Dr. Simeon B. Bell had lived in Aubrey (Johnson County) during the Civil War. At the close of the war, he bought the 160-acre farm from Catherine Swatzell and Rebecca Fitzpatrick. (Mrs. Swatzell and Mrs. Fitzpatrick were granddaughters of the Head Chief - Captain Joseph Parks.) Part of this was described as "the north Boundary of the Shawnee Reserve" and "The Missouri-Kansas State Line." This land later comprised the North part of Rosedale.

Roads were non-existent at that time. In clearing his land, Dr. Bell opened up the first road around the bluff (following Turkey Creek) into the bottoms close to Twenty-Fourth Street. Other references tell that Dr. Bell, in clearing his land, took logs to a Saw Mill near the Missouri River that was operated by James E. Fisher and Abel Fisher.

The Townsite of Rosedale, Kansas was platted and recorded in Wyandotte County, May 16, 1872, by James G. Brown and Abraham Grandstaff.

Kansas City Avenue was the main street from the Western boundary at Rosedale Avenue to Hill Street, the Northern boundary. Kansas City Avenue was originally sixty (60) feet wide. A later Rolling Mill Plat shows Kansas City Avenue was sixty (60) feet wide from Shawnee Street to Rosedale Avenue. From Hill Street to Shawnee Street was one hundred (100) feet wide. (This is the "jog" in the boulevard at the Holy Name church.)

### "THE ROSEDALE ROAD"

According to the map of S.N. Simpson, a Real estate Dealer in the 1870's, "The Rosedale Road" began at 20th and Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri, ran in a Southwesterly direction, crossing Broadway and then Summit Street.

At 24th Street, the Shawnee Road went due West from the Rosedale Road.

From 24th Street, The Rosedale Road continued Southwesterly to the Missouri-Kansas State Line; also indicated as the North Boundary of the Shawnee Reserve.

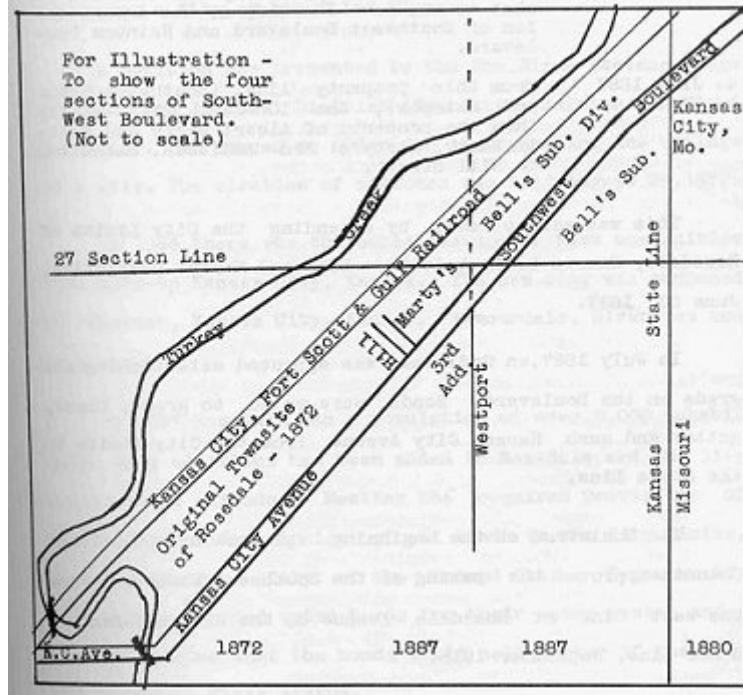
Later material refers to this road as the "Kansas City Boulevard" and then as "Southwest Boulevard."

Kansas City Boulevard was an avenue one hundred feet in width and four miles in length.

There was no direct connection from Kansas City Avenue, Rosedale, Kansas to the southwest Boulevard in Kansas City, Missouri.

Between the Missouri-Kansas State Line and the Northern Boundary of Rosedale was the property of Dr. Simeon B. Bell and a tract of land owned by Albert Marty and Nellie Marty, (Marty's Third Addition).

#### **"LINKING ROSEDALE TO KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI"**



Southwest Boulevard is the consummation of four separate sections:

1. May 1872 - Kansas City Avenue in the original Townsite of Rosedale, Kansas .. from Hill Street to Rosedale Avenue.
2. About 1880 - The Rosedale Road. Also referred to as Kansas City Boulevard and Southwest Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri. The Rosedale Road, ran from 20th and Main Street to the Missouri-Kansas State Line.
3. June 1887 - "The Connecting Links: " The 100-foot Right-of-Way thru Dr. S.B. Bell's farm from the Missouri-Kansas State Line to where his property line crosses at what we can now identify as the intersection of Southwest Boulevard and Rainbow Boulevard.
4. June 1887 - From this property line, (Southwest Blvd. And Rainbow), the 100-foot Right-of-Way thru the property of Albert Marty and Nellie Marty, Marty's 3rd Addition, extending to Hill Street.

This was accomplished by extending the City Limits of Rosedale, Kansas to include the Ball and Marty properties, June 27, 1887.

In July 1887, an Ordinance was approved establishing the grade on the boulevard. Bonds were voted to grade, block, gutter and curb Kansas City Avenue from the City Limits to the State Line.

The Boulevard at the beginning was macadamized. The Council approved the paving of the Southwest Boulevard from the west line of Rosedale Avenue to the Missouri-Kansas State Line, September 1915.