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War memorials abound here



The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th, contains the honor rolls of servicemen who died in World War I and World War II.
Kansan File Photo

(Editor's note: This is the 8th in a series of "then and now" articles on places and things of interest in Kansas City, Kan., compiled by area historian Margaret Landis in observance of the 100th birthday of KCK in 1986. Much of the information has appeared in past editions of The Kansan.)

(Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.)

With the exception of the Korean and Vietnam wars, all wars are represented in Kansas City, Kan., by memorials of one sort or another honoring those servicemen who fought for our country.

And if a project is completed by the Wyandotte County commissioners, a Korean and vietnam memorial will be erected in Wyandotte County Lake Park.

On this memorial day, as in the past, the many memorials erected here, dating back to the Revolutionary War, will take on a special significance.

By far the most prominent and largest of the memorials is the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial hall, 600 N. 7th, dedicated to the more than 6,480 Wyandotte Countians who served in the Great War, as World War I was to be called.

It was a group of these veterans, led by Harry Darby, who petitioned the City Commissioners to approve a special election for \$500,000 in bonds to build a memorial hall. The bond issue passed by a large majority in July 1921, but groundbreaking ceremonies were not held until May 13, 1923.

Inside is the honor roll of those who died in World War I. Also inside (in the lobby) are two plaques containing the honor roll of World War II.

The Rosedale Arch on Mount Marty north of 36th and Springfield also is an imposing structure. It was dedicated by the citizens of Rosedale to those Rosedale servicemen who died in World War I and rededicated in 1962 to veterans of all wars.

John LeRoy Marshall, a Rosedale Legionnaire, designed the arch. While in France, he sketched many scenes, including the Arc de Triomphe, Paris after which the Rosedale Memorial Arch was designed.

Westport Road, also known as Hudson road, was renamed Rosedale Boulevard "forever in honor of the Rosedale boys who gave their lives serving in the Rainbow Division."

Other impressive memorials:

- The soldier and Sailors Monument, Maple Hill Cemetery, 2301 S. 34th. This statue, the city's principal memorial to its Civil War Dead, was erected by the Woman's Relief Corps in 1910 on ground dedicated by the cemetery. The W.R.C. was the auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans organization.
- John Brown Statue, 27th and Sewell. The monument to John Brown was the project of Bishop Abram Grant of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The statue was carved in Italy from Carrera marble and placed atop a granite base. The unveiling was June 8, 1911 on the campus of Western University.

A list of all the war memorials, from the Civil War on:

Revolutionary War

- DAR Monument, James Ross Chapter, Huron Park.

War of 1812

- Veterans Marker, Huron Cemetery.

Civil War

- Soldier and Salors Monument (statue), Maple Hill Cemetery, 2301 N. 34th.
- John Brown Statue, 27th and Sewell.
- Mary Sturgis Marker and Eulogy, oak Grove Cemetery.
- W.R.C. Flag Pole (plates on pole base), Huron Park.

Spanish-American War

- Marker and Shell from Battleship Main, Huron Park.
- Spanish-American Insignia, Oak Grove Cemetery.

World War I

- Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, 600 N. 7th.
- Rosedale memorial Arch, Mt. Marty.
- Trowbridge-Kent-Frost VFW Flag Pole and Circle, Maple Hill Cemetery.
- Flag Pole and Circle of Veterans Graves and Markers, Bonner Springs Cemetery.

World War II

- Blue Star memorial Highway Marker, 110th and State (roadside park).

- memorial of gray granite, about 10 feet high and 3 1/2 feet wide dedicated to the Catholics of Wyandotte County, located in front of Bishop Ward High School, 18th and Barnett.
- 155 MM Howitzer of World War II, Shawnee Park, 7th Street Trafficway. A plaque reads that the howitzer replaces a Spanish-American War cannon that was contributed to scrap iron salvage during the steel production crisis of 1942.

Veterans of All Wars

- Rosedale Memorial Arch, Mt. Marty.
- VFW Flagpole, Maple Hill Cemetery, rededicated by Adams-Peterson-Switala & Auxiliary Post 111, VFW.