

Douglas County Law Library

E-Mail Newsletter



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Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting will be on the 13th.

The Value of the Law Library

As an example of the value of the Law Library, had attorneys not been able to perform their Lexis searches free through the Law Library's Lexis connection, they would

have been charged \$2,794.00 for this past June's searches. Assuming forty individual attorneys performing searches that month, the average cost per attorney would have been approximately \$70.00. Considering this, and that the Library Registration Fee for attorneys is only \$10.00 per year, the Law Library is a good deal all around.

Presentation on Judge Louis Carpenter

The Law Library is sponsoring "Judge Louis Carpenter: Victim of the Raid" as part of the 15th Annual Civil War on the Western Frontier activities in Lawrence. Kerry Altenbernd, the Law Librarian, will make the presentation on Monday, August 16th.

Louis Carpenter was a young lawyer whose promising life and career were cut short by a bullet fired by one of the men who followed William Clarke Quantrill in his raid on Lawrence, August 21, 1863.

Few have heard of Carpenter, and those that have heard of him know only of his tragic death at the hands of one of Quantrill's Raiders. This presentation will attempt to better illuminate the life and accomplishments of this talented and enigmatic man.

The program will begin at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium, 707 Vermont Street in downtown Lawrence, Kansas. It is free and open to the public. More information on Judge Carpenter can be found on the [Judge Louis Carpenter page](#) on the Law Library's website.

Reels of Justice Film Series



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 2:00 PM, Sunday, August 22nd, with a screening of [Legally Blonde](#). The film stars Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson.

In the film, when a blonde sorority sister (Witherspoon) is dumped by her boyfriend, she decides to follow him to law school to get him back. She manages to get herself admitted to Harvard, and finds out that law school is nothing like what she knew back in California. As time goes on, she begins to find out that she actually has an aptitude for the law.

The program will include an appearance by a local attorney who will give commentary on the film and on how the film portrays the justice system.

The screening will be in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. All screenings in the film series are free and open to the public.

The next film in the "Reels of Justice Film Series" will be [The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean](#), scheduled for screening in November 2010.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The August exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division

IV Art Gallery are photography by local attorney Hudson Luce.

The exhibits will run through the end of August. All pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Mr. Luce is available in the Library.

The September 2010 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions are artwork by Helen Benson. More information on the exhibits will be in the September E-Mail Newsletter.

For more information on past, current, and future Art Gallery exhibitions, or for more information on the Art Gallery, please consult the Art Gallery page on the Law Library's website.

If you would like to exhibit your art in our gallery, or know of local artists who would like to show their original art here, contact the Law Library at 838-2477 or by e-mail at info@douglascolawlibrary.org.

New Acquisitions

Newly acquired material added to the Law Library's holdings:

AALL Spectrum, v. 14:9 (July 2010).

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.290:2/v.43:2 (Apr. 2010).

CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 91st ed.

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 29:5 (July 2010).

Child Support Guidelines: Interpretation and Application, 2010 Supplement.

Complete Manual of Criminal Forms, 2010 CD-ROM ed.

Internet guide for the legal researcher newsletter, v. 5:4 (July/Aug. 2010).

Kansas Appellate Practice Handbook, 4th ed., 2010 Supplement.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 47:7 (July 2010).

Understanding DUI Scientific Evidence, 2010 ed.

West's Kansas Legislative Service, 2010:3.

Did You Know?

Every month, a bit of Law Library trivia is posted in the Law Library and on the Law Library's website. The previous month's "Did You Know" tidbit is then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

July's entry was:

- The Law Library publishes a monthly e-mail newsletter in PDF format. If you are not already a subscriber but would like to be one, submit a request to the Law Library including your name and the e-mail address where you want the newsletter sent.

This Month In Legal History

August 27, 1855 - Sam Jones appointed as the first sheriff of Douglas County, Kansas.

Samuel J. Jones was born in Virginia in 1828(1). Along with his wife and two young children, he moved to Westport, Missouri, in the fall of 1854. He was soon appointed postmaster of the town, and became involved in local politics, which at that time

was dominated by the issue of whether the newly created Kansas Territory would enter the Union as a state that allowed slavery. Jones was a strong supporter of slavery, and the struggle over the future of Kansas may have been the reason he brought his family west. During the election for the first Kansas territorial legislature on March 30, 1855, Jones led a party of proslavery Missourians into the territory and took over the polling station at Bloomington. He destroyed the ballot box to prevent the votes of Free-State men from being counted in the election. Thousands of Missourians had come into the territory specifically to influence the voting, and the result was the election of a proslavery legislature, known to Free-Staters as the "Bogus Legislature." Jones' raid into Kansas caught the eye of Acting Territorial Governor Daniel Woodson, a fellow Virginian and supporter of slavery, who appointed Jones as the first sheriff of Douglas County, Kansas Territory, on August 27, 1855. The Territorial Legislature intended for LeCompton to be the capital of Kansas when it was admitted to the Union, and set about having a capitol building constructed. The United States Congress authorized \$50,000 for construction of the capital, and Sheriff Jones became one of the contractors on the project. On November 21, 1855, a proslavery man named Franklin Coleman shot and killed Charles Dow, his Free-State neighbor, over a land dispute. The killing took place at Hickory Point, a small settlement in Douglas County about ten miles south of Lawrence, Kansas. Coleman fled to Westport, Missouri, and Free-State friends of Dow complained that Sheriff Jones made no effort to capture the killer. Jacob Branson, a Free-State supporter and friend of the murdered man, made comments about Coleman that prompted a friend of Coleman to swear out a warrant against Branson. On the night of November 26, Sheriff Jones took some fifteen men and went to Branson's house to

arrest him, which they proceeded to do. Some of Branson's neighbors got word of this, banded together, and confronted Sheriff Jones and his posse at about 1:00 AM. After a tense standoff lasting over an hour, Sheriff Jones released Branson to the Free-State men. Branson was taken to Lawrence, the headquarters of the Free-State movement in the territory, for safekeeping. Sheriff Jones issued a call for help to recapture Branson, and a force totaling around 1,500 Missourians came into Kansas and besieged Lawrence. The townspeople mobilized for defense, erecting a number of crude forts to repel any attacks made by the proslavery men. Another standoff developed, which lasted for about a week. A peace treaty was negotiated and signed in early December, ending the incident that came to be known as the Wakarusa War. The Missourians disbanded and went home. On April 19 and again on April 20, 1856, Sheriff Jones tried to arrest Samuel N. Wood, an active Free-State supporter who had participated in both the rescue of Jacob Branson and in the defense of Lawrence during the Wakarusa War. On both occasions, he was prevented from doing so by Wood's friends in Lawrence. On the afternoon of the 23rd, Sheriff Jones returned to Lawrence, accompanied by ten soldiers, and took six men, not including Wood, into custody. That evening, Sheriff Jones retired to his tent, pitched near the building housing the prisoners. His shadow was cast on the tent by light from the lamp inside, so his form was plainly visible from the outside. Someone out in the dark took advantage of this and shot Sheriff Jones in the back, hitting him between the right shoulder and the spine. He fell, saying, "I am shot!" Although badly wounded, he received medical treatment and survived. A reward of \$500 was offered for the arrest of the shooter, but no one was ever identified. Jones was sufficiently recovered by May 21, 1856, to accompany a large force of proslavery men under the command of United

States Marshal Israel B. Donaldson when they invaded Lawrence to serve warrants on several Free-State supporters. After Donaldson had completed his mission, Sheriff Jones took command of the proslavery men and proceeded to sack and burn the town. Under his orders, they burned the Free State Hotel, headquarters of the New England Emigrant Aid Company, an organization bringing Free-State settlers to Kansas. They also destroyed the offices and printing presses of the two Free-State newspapers in town. For the rest of 1856, Sheriff Jones enforced the laws of the Territorial Legislature, causing much hardship and anguish on Free-State settlers. At the end of the year, Sheriff Jones became involved in a dispute with then Territorial Governor John Geary. He wanted to be provided with balls and chains to restrain some Free-State prisoners he had jailed in Lecompton. Governor Geary refused to allow him to use the devices. In protest, Jones resigned as Sheriff of Douglas County on January 7, 1857. After his resignation, Jones left Kansas, moving to New Mexico Territory. In September 1858, he accepted an appointment as collector of customs at El Paso del Norte, and eventually purchased a ranch near La Mesilla, New Mexico Territory. William A. Phillips, an old Free-Stater who knew Jones from their time in Kansas, visited him there in the summer of 1879. Phillips reported that he found Jones to be suffering from the effects of a stroke that affected his speech. Jones died sometime after June 6, 1880(2), probably in New Mexico Territory.

(1) Contemporary accounts indicate that Samuel J. Jones was born around 1820, but newly discovered evidence points to this being incorrect and that he was a younger man than was thought at the time. The 1860 United States Census for Las Cruces, New Mexico Territory, enumerated on July 30, 1860, lists a Samuel J. Jones, 32, born in Virginia, whose occupation was listed as "Collector of Port" and whose wife was named Mary C. Jones. The 1870 US Census for La Mesilla, New Mexico Territory, enumerated on September 6, 1870, lists a Samuel J. Jones,

43, as a farmer whose wife was named Mary C. Jones. The 1880 US Census for La Mesilla, enumerated on June 6, 1880, lists a Samuel J. Jones, 52, as a retired merchant suffering from partial paralysis, whose wife was named Mary C. Jones. There is only one man named Samuel J. Jones listed in each of the 1860 and 1870 census for the area of the New Mexico Territory where he was reputed to have settled. The only other Samuel J. Jones listed in the 1880 census is 14 years old. Because the ages, state of birth, and wife's name all correspond exactly, it is apparent that all three of these census listings are for the same man. The Samuel J. Jones from Kansas was known to have been born in Virginia, as is the man in the census records. Jones was known to have been collector of customs at El Paso del Norte after he left Kansas. The Jones in the 1860 census was "Collector of Port," which is another name for collector of customs. Las Cruces is only about 40 miles from El Paso. William A. Phillips reported that the Jones he had known from Kansas was a victim of a stroke when he visited him in La Mesilla, New Mexico Territory, in 1879. The Jones in the 1880 New Mexico census lived in La Mesilla, and was suffering from partial paralysis, which can result from a stroke. Considering all this, the circumstantial evidence points to the man listed in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 New Mexico census records being the same Samuel J. Jones who was Sheriff of Douglas County from 1855 to 1857. By comparing the enumeration dates of the three census records with his recorded ages in the census records, it appears that Jones was born sometime after July 30 and on or before September 9, 1828, and not around 1820.

(2) The 1880 United States Census for La Mesilla, New Mexico Territory, that lists Samuel J. Jones, was enumerated on June 6, 1880. Since he had to be alive to be counted in the census, he did not die until after that date.

From: [Samuel J. Jones \(Sheriff\), ca.1820-ca.1880](#), Territorial Kansas Online; [Samuel J. Jones](#), The Civil War Muse; [Samuel J. Jones \(1820-1880\)](#), Legends of Kansas; Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc., Standard Publishing Co, Chicago, 1912, [v. 1](#) and [v. 2](#); [Samuel N. Wood](#), Kansas Bogus Legislature; [Letter, \[unknown\] to Hiram Hill](#), April 30, 1856, Kansas State Historical Society; Kansas: Its Interior and Exterior Life, by Sara Robinson, Crosby, Nichols and Company, Boston, 1856, [Chapter 14](#); [William A. Phillips, 1824-1893](#), Territorial Kansas Online.

Each month, an event from "This Month In Legal History," the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month, is included in the Newsletter. The current entry is also posted for the month on the Law Library's website. Entries from past months are archived on the website. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

Law Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Law Library Volunteer Program provides a capable and dependable volunteer work force to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Law Library and with its special projects. This work force supplements the paid Library staff and allows the Library to provide the best possible service to attorneys, local judges, and the public.

The Volunteer Program is instrumental in linking a valuable community resource - the citizens - with a valuable community institution - the Douglas County Law Library - for the benefit, growth, and enrichment of both.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for one of them, or if you would like more information on our program and/or the positions we have open, please contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

Feedback

This Newsletter is intended to be useful to its readers. As in any enterprise, feedback on how the Newsletter is fulfilling this goal is crucial to our achieving it. If our articles are helpful, let us know. If they are not, let us know. If you have suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter, please let us know. Thank you.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter

The Editor encourages readers to submit articles for publication and/or make suggestions on material to be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

To Subscribe

Contact the Law Library by mail, e-mail, or telephone and request a free subscription to the Newsletter. It will be sent to you as a PDF attachment to an e-mail. The Library's mailing address is: Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11th Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library's e-mail address is: info@douglascolawlibrary.org. The Law Library's telephone number is: 785-838-2477.

Classified Ads

Free classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter by contacting the Law Library. The Editor reserves the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate and to add restrictions as the need arises.

No Ads this Month.

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