

The Michael J. Malone 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 is on the 11th.

The December Douglas County Bar Association Brown Bag CLE program will be on Thursday, December 17th, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room in the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center. The presenter and topic were not available at the time of publication. Check the [DCBA website](#) for information on the program, on the CLE credits, and whether handout material is available.

Mandatory Juvenile, Misdemeanor, and Felony Panels CLE

The Douglas County Criminal Bar Association will be conducting a CLE on December 11, 2015, that is mandatory for all attorneys who wish to take juvenile, misdemeanor and felony appointment cases in Douglas County in 2016. This free CLE will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. that day in the Jury Assembly Room in the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center in Lawrence.

Free CLE in Topeka December 4th

YoungWilliams is sponsoring a free CLE that is open to the public on Friday, December 4th, for five hours of credit including

one of ethics. It will be held at the new Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF) building in Topeka located at the northeast corner of Kansas Avenue and 6th Street. The CLE will focus on domestic law with a presentation on the new child support guidelines. For more information and to register, contact Morgan Hall at: Morgan.Hall@dcf.ks.gov.

2016 Law Library Registration Fee Due By January 15th

The 2016 Law Library Registration Fee for attorneys required* to register with the Law Library is due in the Law Library no later than 5:00 p.m., January 15, 2016. It is also time for attorneys who do not have to register and pay the fee, but do so anyway to have access to a Library key, to renew their annual registration and pay their fee.

If you have not already paid your 2016 fee, please fill out, print, sign, and date the form, and, along with your 2016 fee payment of \$50.00 made out to the Michael J. Malone Douglas County Law Library, get it to the Law Library no later than January 15th.

A 2016 Law Library Registration Renewal Form/Invoice was e-mailed to all attorneys for whom the Library had an e-mail address. If you need it re-sent, please contact the Library. The form is also available in fillable PDF format on the Law Library's website by clicking [here](#).

* K.S.A. 20-3126(e) states: "For the purposes of this section, an attorney shall be required to be registered in the county: (1) Where the attorney's principal office is located, if such attorney is a resident of Kansas or a resident of another state; or (2) where the attorney resides, if such attorney's principal office is located in another state. The principal office shall be the principal

office of the attorney and not the principal office of such attorney's firm."

No Changes in Law Library Hours

As of the publication of this newsletter, no changes have been made to the public hours schedule for the law library. It was reported in last month's newsletter that the law librarian position will be reduced to twenty hours per week as of the beginning of the new year.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The December 2015/January 2016 Law Library and Division III art gallery exhibitions are artwork by Perry Shepard.

The February/March 2016 exhibition slots in the Michael J. Malone Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division III Art Gallery are scheduled to be artwork by Aram Aghdaie. More information will be in the February 2016 E-Mail Newsletter.

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

If you would like to exhibit your art in our galleries, 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:

ABA Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 34:11 (Nov. 2015).

Juvenile Justice Update, v. 21:5 (Oct./Nov. 2015).

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.

November's entry was:

The Douglas County Law Library is one of more than 80 county law libraries in Kansas. Only five of them: Douglas County, Johnson County, Lyon County, Sedgwick County, and Wyandotte County have library staff.

This Month In Legal History

December 1, 1855 - Lawrence, Kansas Territory, is put under siege by a Missouri posse.

Although there had been some sporadic incidents before, the trouble that had been brewing between Free State and proslavery factions in Kansas Territory since the Kansas-Nebraska Act had opened it up to white settlement in 1854 was beginning to escalate by late 1855. On November 21st, slavery supporter Franklin Coleman shot and killed his Free State neighbor Charles Dow over a land dispute. Friends of Dow perceived what they thought was inaction by the authorities to capture Coleman, which led to a heightening of tensions. Jacob Branson, one of Dow's friends, was alleged to have been overheard making threatening remarks about Coleman and other proslavery men. The proslavery sheriff of Douglas County, Sam Jones, organized a posse and went to arrest Branson late on November 26th. They took him prisoner and intended to bring him to Lecompton, the headquarters of the proslav-

ery movement in the territory. A group of friends of Branson got word of this, and around 1:00 a.m. on the 27th they confronted Jones and his posse. After more than an hour of armed standoff, during which threats and insults were traded back and forth, Branson's friends were able to get Jones to release his prisoner. Branson was taken to Lawrence, the headquarters of the Free State movement, which was already the focus of much of the proslavery men's wrath. Jones sent word to his father-in-law, Colonel Boone, in Westport, Missouri, asking for aid in recapturing Branson. Word also was sent to Territorial Governor Wilson Shannon requesting 3,000 troops to put down what was being characterized to him as a rebellion in Lawrence. Without first determining what was actually happening, Shannon issued a proclamation calling out the militias in Kansas to put down the rebellion. In response to Jones' and Shannon's actions, close to 2,000 men came into Kansas from Missouri "fully equipped and expecting to fight." Shannon later observed "Missouri sent not only her young men, but her gray-haired citizens were there. The man of seventy winters stood shoulder to shoulder with the youth of sixteen. There were volunteers in that camp and with them were not only their sons, but their grandsons to join in the fray." Word quickly spread of what the Free State men saw as an invasion, and the residents of Lawrence began making preparations to defend their town. All the men who had participated in the rescue of Branson were asked to leave Lawrence to show that the town had had no part in the rescue. A committee of safety was appointed that organized the citizens into guards of 15 or 20 men in a squad. Free State men from all over the territory rushed to Lawrence, eventually raising the number of defenders to nearly 800. Future Kansas Governor Charles Robinson was appointed commander-in-chief of the men. Five temporary forts were built out of mud and logs

at key locations commanding every approach to the town. In addition to the guns the Free State men brought with them, a cannon was smuggled into town. The men in the proslavery posse who were marching on Lawrence became aware of how the town had been fortified, so instead of attacking immediately upon their arrival, they instead surrounded Lawrence and put it under siege. The siege began on December 1, 1855. The main camp of the besiegers was near Franklin, about 3 miles southeast of Lawrence, and the other camp was near Lecompton. The defenders spent most of their time drilling and strengthening their position, while the invaders waited for the command by Sheriff Jones to move on Lawrence. The weather had turned bitterly cold, and the proslavery men had trouble keeping warm while living outside in such harsh conditions. Governor Shannon became increasingly alarmed by the whole situation and sent for Colonel Edwin Sumner, commander of the dragoons at Fort Leavenworth, to bring a force of men to Lawrence. Sumner refused to do so without orders from Washington. A delegation from Lawrence managed to get out of town and went to Shannon to advise him of the true nature of the situation there, that the men in Lawrence were not being belligerent but merely were organized to defend themselves from what they saw as an unwarranted assault. He at first did not believe them, but eventually agreed to go to Lawrence and assess the situation himself. On December 6th, Robert and Thomas Barber and their brother-in-law Thomas Peirson, slipped out of Lawrence to go home to chop wood for their families. They had gone only a few miles when they were stopped by two proslavery men, George W. Clarke and James Burnes. Clarke ordered Thomas Barber to come with them, and when he refused, Clarke and Burnes pulled out pistols and fired at Barber, killing him. The next day, December 7th, Shannon arrived in Lawrence. The defend-

ers tried to reinforce what the men in the delegation had told him. Among the evidence they gave was the fact that Jones had been allowed to come into Lawrence during the siege, and that he was able to leave town unmolested. Shannon realized that the true nature of things was not what he had been told before he called out the militias. Shannon then called for a truce to negotiate an end to the crisis. Both sides stood down, and a delegation of proslavery men, including Sheriff Jones' father-in-law, Colonel Boone, were given safe conduct into Lawrence for the negotiations being held in the Free State Hotel, the same building where Thomas Barber's body was laid out in one of the rooms. After some heated negotiations, the two sides came to an agreement and a peace treaty was drawn up. At this time a company of Free State men from the Pottawatomie area arrived in Lawrence under the command of the abolitionist John Brown. The peace treaty was signed on December 8, 1855, ending the siege, and the Missouri men went home for the winter. The treaty ended the siege but not the troubles, which began again early in the new year of 1856, the year that would prove to be the most violent one in the "Bleeding Kansas" era.

From: Wakarusa War, Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc. ... / with a supplementary volume devoted to selected personal history and reminiscence. Standard Pub. Co., Chicago, 1912, Vol. 2, [pp. 855-857](#).

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 Michael J. Malone 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, or comments and suggestions on the Law Library itself, please let us know. For your convenience, there is a link to a [feedback form](#) available on most pages of the Law Library's website. 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: Michael J. Malone Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11th Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Law Library's telephone number is: 785-838-2477. The Library's e-mail address is: info@douglascolawlibrary.org.

Back Issues

Back issues of the Newsletter are [archived](#) on the Library's website.

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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