

Douglas County Law Library

E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 7, No. 1; January 2010

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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 8th.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure

With the recent publication of the 2010 edition, West has added a new forth volume to its *Kansas Court Rules and Procedure* set. According to the publisher, the new

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure: KeyRules - Volume IIA, Federal, "provides the practitioner with a comprehensive 'single source' procedural guide for a civil practice in the United States District Courts, combining applicable provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, United States Code, local rules of practice for the United States Districts Courts, and analytical materials." The volume is shelved with the three other volumes in the set in the "Kansas Practice" section of the shelving unit located below the windows in the Library.

Reels of Justice Film Series

The next screening in the Library's free Reels of Justice Film Series will be "A Few Good Men," starring Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, and Kevin Bacon. It will be shown at 6:00 PM, Friday, February 19th in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. Mark your calendars.

Notes From the John Brown Trail

Library regulars may have noticed that I have been absent from my desk a good deal lately. For those who do not know why, I provide an explanation.

In October, I attended the commemoration activities for the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. I was there to shepherd a new traveling exhibit on the Battle of Black Jack, which had its premier public showing during the October 16-18 events there. Among other things, I was able to participate in a walk late on the evening of the 16th that recreated the trip that Brown and his men took from the Kennedy Farm to begin the raid on Harpers Ferry. It began on the same date and at the exact time as 150 years earlier. We followed the same route that he and his men took, and experienced exactly the same weather conditions that they did, cold and rainy. It was a surreal experience to be in such a historic place at the exact time that such historic events took place, and then to experience the same conditions that were experienced by Brown and his men 150 years before. I returned to Kansas enthused to continue on the John Brown trail.

I was back east again last month to attend the activities in Charles Town, West Virginia, commemorating the 150th anniversary of John Brown's hanging there on December 2, 1859. Among the events, there was a recreation of John Brown's journey from the jailhouse to the site of his hanging. Greg Artzner, a John Brown reenactor, rode in the back of a horse drawn wagon, sitting on a coffin, just as did John Brown, to the site of the hanging, where a three-quarters recreation of the scaffold had been erected on the exact site where the original one had been 150 years earlier.

I then proceeded to North Elba, New York, just outside the town of Lake Placid, to participate in activities to commemorate John Brown's burial on his farm on December 8, 1859. His burial site and farm are now a New York State Historic Site. One of the activities was a conference on December 5th, exploring the legacy of Brown, which

included presentations on modern slavery. We were told there are currently an estimated 27,000,000 slaves worldwide, 50,000 of these in the United States. It is not institutionalized slavery as was in this country 150 years ago, slavery is now illegal in every country on earth, but today it is more individualized. We were told that action is needed to rid the world of what Brown called "that sum of all villainies." To that end, attendees were challenged to schedule 100 anti-slavery events in New York State during 2010, something that would not be a bad idea to copy in Kansas. Attendees were also encouraged to join with organizations who are working against modern day slavery, such as the Frederick Douglass Family Foundation, <http://www.fdff.org>, and Free the Slaves, <http://www.freetheslaves.net>.

Late in the morning of December 8th, there was a ceremony at the graveside of John Brown in which soil that had been collected from his wife Mary's grave in Saratoga, California, was placed on his grave by John and Mary's great-great-granddaughter, Alice Keesey Mecoy, at the exact same time as soil from John Brown's grave was placed on Mary's grave in California by Mecoy's father, Paul Keesey, John and Mary's great-great-grandson. This was a very moving experience, and capped what had been for me an exciting and rewarding Fall, first in Harpers Ferry, then in Charles Town, and finally in North Elba.

I returned to Kansas energized and more dedicated to getting the true story of John Brown and his first battle against slavery, the Battle of Black Jack, out to the public.

Kerry Altenbernd, Law Librarian

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

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

IV Art Gallery are acrylics by Jewell Willhite.

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

The February 2010 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be photography by Marciana Vequist. More information on the exhibits will be in the February 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.14:3 (Dec. 2009).

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.289:1/v.42:2 (Nov. 2009).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 28:10 (Dec. 2009).

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume I - State, 2010.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume II - Federal, 2010.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure: KeyRules, Volume IIA - Federal, 2010.

Kansas Court Rules for Judicial Districts, Volume III - Local, 2010.

Kansas Legal Directory, 2009/2010.

Law Library Journal, v. 101:4 (Fall 2009).

Lawyer's Guide to Kansas Evidence, 5th ed., 2009-2010.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 46:12 (Dec. 2009).

West's Kansas Statutes Annotated: Using the Classification and Numbering System of the Kansas Statutes as amended, 2009 General Index and 2009 Pocket Parts.

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.

December's entry was:

- Library users may make local calls using the Library telephone, 24/7, by dialing "8" for an outside line. Toll-free long-distance calls may be made during regular business hours.

This Month In Legal History

January 24-28, 1859 - Joel and Emily Grover violate the Fugitive Slave Act.

On September 18, 1850, President Millard Fillmore signed into law a new Fugitive Slave Act. It was one of five bills Fillmore signed into law as part of the Compromise

of 1850. Prior to the Act, laws in the United States covering the capture and return of slaves who had run away from bondage were weak. Once fugitive slaves had escaped to a state that did not allow slavery, they were relatively safe from being forcibly returned to bondage. There was always the possibility of being discovered and taken back by a slave catcher, but the majority of people in Free states left them alone. Most officials did nothing unless specific legal action was taken by slave owners attempting to reclaim their slaves. Thus, most fugitive slaves who did not continue on to security in Canada were able to settle in northern states and begin life as relatively free men and women. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 changed all that. It required that all fugitive slaves be returned to their masters. It further required that Federal marshals and other officials actively seek out, capture, and return any fugitive slave, from anywhere in the United States, regardless of the laws of the state in which the fugitive was found. Failure to do so made the official liable to a \$1,000 fine. In addition, any person who aided a runaway slave in any manner was subject to six months Federal imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. In September 1854, Joel Grover, born August 5, 1825, in Springwater, New York, came to what was to become Lawrence, Kansas, in the second party of Free-State immigrants sponsored by the New England Emigrant Aid Company. They came to make certain that the Territory of Kansas would be admitted to the Union as a state that did not allow slavery. That November, Grover was appointed Constable for the First District, Territory of Kansas, and served as marshal of the newly established town of Lawrence. On November 27 of the following year, he was commissioned as Colonel of the 6th Regiment, First Brigade of Kansas Volunteers, by James Henry Lane, "to defend the City of Lawrence from threatened destruction by foreign invaders" during the Wakarusa War, the war without a

battle, when the Free-State town was threatened by a large force of pro-slavery men. On October 13, 1857, Grover married Emily Jane Hunt. She had been born September 1, 1839, in Medway, Massachusetts, and was described as a passionate abolitionist. She had come to Kansas in 1855 in the care of Charles Robinson, future first Governor of the State of Kansas, and had worked for him and his wife as their housekeeper prior to her marriage to Grover. In 1858, Grover built a stone barn on the farm he and Emily had acquired about three miles southwest of Lawrence. On January 24, 1859, the abolitionist John Brown arrived on the doorstep of Joel and Emily Grover with twelve people escaping to freedom. The Grovers were conductors on the Underground Railroad, the nationwide network of clandestine safe houses run by abolitionists who assisted fugitive slaves to escape to freedom. Joel and Emily did this in spite of the risks it entailed to all they had built up over the past few years. Their participation was known by certain members of the abolitionist community, so when John Brown came to the area escorting twelve human beings fleeing slavery, he came to them. Five weeks earlier, on December 19, 1858, Brown had received a request from Jim Daniels, a slave who had come into Kansas from his home in Missouri, ostensibly to sell brooms, but in reality seeking help for his family. Daniels had asked the abolitionist to rescue his wife and children who were about to be sold and sent away south. The next day, December 20th, Brown and his men went into Vernon County, Missouri, and freed 11 slaves, including the family of Daniels, and brought them into Kansas. Near the town of Garnett, Kansas, a baby boy was born to Daniels' wife, who named her new freeborn son John Brown Daniels. When John Brown arrived on the doorstep of Joel and Emily Grover on January 24, 1859, with twelve tired, hungry souls, the Grovers took them in. They hid the fugitives in their barn, and by taking in

and sheltering the runaway slaves, they violated the Fugitive Slave Act. If the fugitives were discovered on their property, Joel and Emily each risked receiving six months in Federal prison and a \$1,000 fine for each of their twelve guests. The fugitives stayed in the Grover's barn until the 28th, when Brown moved them along on their road to freedom, eventually taking them all the way to Detroit, Michigan, where the fugitives crossed to safety in Canada. The presence of fugitives on their property did not diminish the Grover's standing in the community, as witnessed by Joel serving as Douglas County Commissioner later that year. His standing in the community was further illustrated by his being elected to represent the 36th District in the Kansas House for the 1868/69 term. The Grovers stayed on their farm the rest of their lives, eventually parenting seven children. Joel died July 28, 1879. Emily died in 1921. The farm passed through several hands until it was sold and subdivided into suburban lots as part of a growing Lawrence. In the 1980s, the City of Lawrence acquired the barn, by then surrounded by houses and lawns, and converted it into a fire station, preserving the majority of the structure. In 2006, the barn was deactivated as a fire station and the City began looking for how to utilize the building in the future. One proposal was to turn the barn into an Underground Railroad Interpretative Center/Abolition Museum. On February 14, 2006, the Lawrence City Commission passed an ordinance designating the barn a landmark on the Lawrence Register of Historic Place, and on January 20, 2009, Lawrence Mayor Michael Dever signed a proclamation commemorating the stay of the twelve "freedom-seekers" in the Grover Barn. At present, the barn is being used by the City for storage and its future remains uncertain.

From: Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society, embracing biographical sketches...at Topeka, January 29, 1886. Kansas Publishing House, Topeka, 1886, [p. 40](#); [Joel Grover](#), Kansas Legislators Past & Present, State Library of Kansas; A History

of Lawrence from the earliest settlement to the close of the rebellion, by Richard Cordley, E. F. Caldwell, Lawrence, Kansas, 1895, [Chapter 1](#); [Militia Commission, issued by James H. Lane to Joel Grover](#), November 27, 1855; Emily Hunt Grover, by Diana Welsh, The Lecompton Reenactor, [v. 3, issue 9](#) (September 2008), Lecompton, Kansas; [Letter, William A. Phillips, State Marshall, to Joel Grover](#), June 24, 1859; The Grover Barn: A Proposal for Preservation, by Craig S. Crosswhite, Unpublished Manuscript, July 10, 1980; [Proclamation](#), January 20, 2009.

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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Published monthly by:

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