

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 14th.

Judge Jean F. Shepherd Leaving Law Library Board

With her retirement after 27 years on the bench in Division III of the Seventh Judicial District, Judge Jean F. Shepherd will be leaving the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees. In her capacity as district court judge, she has been a member of the Board since its creation in February of 2001.

The Editor takes this opportunity to thank Judge Shepherd for all her service to the Board and to the Library, and to wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Kay Huff Rejoining Law Library Board

Attorney Kay Huff has been chosen by Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson to take the bench in Division III of the Seventh Judicial District, replacing Judge Jean F. Shepherd. Ms. Huff will be sworn in to her new position on January 14, 2011.

With her swearing in as district court judge, Ms. Huff will again become a member of the Law Library's Board of Trustees. She was instrumental in the creation of the Law Library, serving on the Bench/Bar subcommittee that organized the 2001 election to

establish the Law Library. She was then elected by her peers to serve three two-year terms on the Board as an attorney representative, choosing not to run again for a fourth term in 2007.

The Editor takes this opportunity to welcome Ms. Huff back to the Board.

Annual Registration Fee Due January 17

This is a reminder that the 2011 Law Library Registration Fee for attorneys is due in the Court Clerk's office no later than 4:00 pm Monday, January 17, 2011. The annual fee has been set at \$25.00 for 2011.

Reminder to Take the User Survey on Law Library Resources

If you have not already taken the user survey of Library resources, please consider doing so. As explained in last month's newsletter, the Law Library is conducting the survey to ensure that Library funds are being expended on material that is valuable and useful to its users. If these resources prove to be of little or no value to Library users, then they will be considered for elimination from the Library budget.

There are two ways to participate in the survey. 1. Fill out a printed survey form available in the Library; or, 2. Take the survey on-line by clicking below.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DV29ZBN>

If you have not done so, please take a few minutes to respond to the survey and give your feedback on these resources. If you have a favorite resource and you do not indicate it is important to you, it may no longer be available in the Library.

Special Film Series Screening Next Month

The next entry in the Library's free Reels of Justice Film Series will be a special screening of the film *Amistad* at 1:00 pm on Sunday, February 27, 2011. The film, based on a true incident, recounts the case of a group of men who freed themselves from bondage on board a Spanish slave ship off the coast of the United States in 1839, and who were tried for mutiny and murder for doing so. The case against the men eventually was heard by the Supreme Court.

In addition to the screening, the program will include a discussion of the legal and historical aspects of the film. The discussion will be led by local attorney and author Napoleon Crews and historian and University of Kansas history professor Jonathan Earle.

The Lawrence Public Library is co-sponsoring the screening, which will help celebrate Black History Month and serve as a run-up to the beginning of the official Civil War Sesquicentennial in April.

Law Library Board Election

The two-year terms for the five attorneys serving on the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees will expire at the end of April. An election will be held this spring to choose the five attorneys who will serve for the 2011/2013 term.

The current attorney members on the Board are Jody Meyer, Kenzie Singleton, Craig A. Stancliffe, Charles E. Whitman, and Stephanie J. Wilson.

Information on the nominating process will be in next month's Newsletter.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The January exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are arts and crafts by Judicial and Law Enforcement Center staff.

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

The February 2011 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions are open for scheduling. 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 Membership Directory, 2010/2011.

AALL Spectrum, v. 15:3 (Dec. 2010).

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.291:1/v.44:2 (Nov. 2010).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 29:10 (Dec. 2010).

Juvenile Justice Update, v. 16:6 (Dec. 2010/Jan. 2011).

Kansas Legal Directory, 2010/2011.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume I - State, 2011.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume II - Federal, 2011.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure: KeyRules, Volume IIA - Federal, 2011.

Kansas Court Rules for Judicial Districts, Volume III - Local, 2011.

Pretrial Motions in Criminal Prosecutions, 4th., 2010 Cumulative Supplement.

West's Kansas Statutes Annotated, v. 1 - v. 45, 2010 General Index and 2010 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 can get access to material from other libraries through interlibrary loan for use in the Law Library.

This Month In Legal History

January 29, 1861 - Lawrence, Kansas, celebrates statehood with a bang.

"Old Sacramento" was one of ten cannons captured from Mexican forces by United States forces led by Colonel Alexander

Doniphan on February 28, 1847, in the Battle of Sacramento during the Mexican-American War. After the War, "Old Sacramento" and the other nine cannons were taken to the Federal arsenal in Liberty, Missouri. When President Franklin Pierce signed the Kansas-Nebraska Act on May 30, 1854, he unknowingly began seven years of violence and bloodshed as men fought over whether the new territory of Kansas would come into the Union as a state that allowed slavery. The town of Lawrence became the headquarters of the Free-State movement in the territory, and as such was the target of significant animosity from proslavery men. Despite this pressure, it continued to be locus of antislavery activity throughout the time that has come to be known as "Bleeding Kansas." Sometime in late 1855 or early 1856, proslavery forces took "Old Sacramento" from the Liberty Arsenal and brought it into Kansas to use against the Free-State forces in the Territory. They brought it to Lawrence on May 21, 1856, and fired it during the sacking of the town that day, using it to help destroy the Free State Hotel. After Lawrence had been sacked and burned, they moved the cannon to the town of Franklin a few miles southeast of Lawrence, and set it up in a fortified log structure there known as Fort Franklin. On June 4, 1856, Free-State men attacked the fort. The defenders fought back, firing "Old Sacramento" at least once during the fight. Eventually the proslavery men were forced to flee, leaving the cannon behind. The Free-State men took possession of the cannon and brought it back to Lawrence. A little over two months after the Battle of Franklin, on August 16, 1856, the cannon was used in the successful Free-State attack on Fort Titus, a proslavery stronghold about two miles south of Lecompton, Kansas. The cannon was supposedly loaded with shot made from lead printing type, recovered from the office of the *Herald of Freedom* newspaper that proslavery raiders had de-

stroyed during the attack on Lawrence on May 21st. Two of the defenders were killed that day and six severely injured. Eight Free-State men were wounded, one of them mortally. After the Battle of Fort Titus, the cannon was brought back to Lawrence. On September 14, 1856, "Old Sacramento" was brought up to Hickory Point, a small settlement in Jefferson County, Kansas Territory, and was fired a number of times as Free-State forces tried to dislodge a large company of proslavery men who had taken refuge in several fortified log buildings. After several unsuccessful assaults, the fighting ended with a negotiated compromise. One proslavery man was killed, and four proslavery and five Free-State men were wounded in the fighting. After the Battle of Hickory Point, the cannon was taken back to Douglas County. It was never used again in battle. When the violence in the Territory subsided, a decision was made to hide the cannon to keep it safe in case the violence returned and it were needed again. "Old Sacramento" was taken to Thomas Bickerton's farm near Clinton, Kansas Territory, and buried on his property there. On January 21, 1861, a bill for the admission of Kansas to the Union under the Free-State Wyandotte Constitution was passed by the United States Senate. One week later, on January 28th, the bill passed the House of Representatives. President James Buchanan signed the bill into law the next day, January 29, 1861, a date to be known forever after as "Kansas Day". At the time of the House vote, five Southern states had already seceded from the Union, so the vote in favor of Kansas being admitted to the Union as a state that did not allow slavery was in part made possible by the seceded states having given up their ability to vote against it. Word of the passing of the bill admitting Kansas to the Union was quickly telegraphed to Leavenworth, Kansas, and the *Leavenworth Conservative* published an extra edition. Copies of the paper announcing statehood were

rushed to Lawrence. The news that Douglas County, Kansas Territory, was now Douglas County, Kansas, and that the long struggle to legally exclude slavery from the area had been successfully concluded, reached town before dark, and was met by music and wild celebration in Lawrence. A large company of men was dispatched to the farm of Thomas Bickerton to dig up "Old Sacramento." They did so, and brought it back to Lawrence, arriving after dark. The jubilant citizens began firing the cannon to celebrate the admission of Kansas to the Union as a Free State. The firing continued through the late evening of the 29th and on through the early morning hours of the 30th. The cannon stayed in Lawrence, and after the end of the Civil War, it was brought out for parades and special occasions. Sometime before the turn of the century, "Old Sacramento" was employed to help recover the bodies of several people who had drowned in the Kaw River in Lawrence. There was a widely held belief that the concussion from a fired cannon would cause sunken bodies to rise to the surface. The gun was taken to the riverbank and loaded and fired repeatedly, each time with a heavier charge, until the recoil wrecked the carriage. Finally, a charge of three pounds of gunpowder was loaded into the cannon, and gunny sacks, wet grass, wet clay, and other material was pounded in with a sledgehammer on top of the powder. When the cannon was fired, it exploded, blowing out a large section of the barrel at the firing chamber. The largest piece of the blown out section went through the Consolidated Barb Wire Mill building, and smaller pieces were thrown clear across the river. While there was no report of any spectators or foolhardy cannoneers being injured by the explosion, "Old Sacramento" was destroyed. The shattered barrel of the historic cannon was put on display in the Museum at the University of Kansas. Sometime later, it was transferred to the custody of the Douglas County Historical Society, and the remains of "Old

Sacramento" are currently on display in the Watkins Community Museum of History in Lawrence.

From: A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, written and compiled by William E. Connelley, [Chapter 39](#), 1918; Order of Secession During the American Civil War, [Order of Seceding States](#), by Martin Kelly, About.com Guide; When Kansas Became a State, Kansas Historical Quarterly, vol. 27, no. 1 (Spring 1961), [pp. 1-21](#); The Civil War Muse, [Watkins Community Museum](#); [The Kansas Centennial: An Intellectual Journey](#), part IV in Variations on a Theme: History as Knowledge of the Past, by George L. Anderson, Coronado Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1970; Kansas day: containing a brief history of Kansas, and a collection by Kansas authors, by F. H. Barrington, Geo. W. Crane & company, 1892, [p. 62](#); Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc., Standard Publishing Co, Chicago, 1912, v. 1, [pp. 841-842](#) and v. 2, [pp. 617-618](#); Legends of America, [Battle of Franklin of Bleeding Kansas](#); Historic Lecompton, [The Battle of Fort Titus](#); and, National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, [Historic Resources of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas](#).

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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