

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.

Solo Firm Group Update

As noted in last month's E-Newsletter, the Solo Firm Group is no longer meeting as a separate entity. Solo attorneys are encouraged to attend the Defense Bar monthly meetings at noon on the second Friday of the month. There is also a listserv through the Douglas County Bar Association for solo

and small firm attorneys. Sign up at http://lists.dgbar.org/listinfo.cgi/small_firm-dgbar.org for the listserv.

Current Art Gallery Exhibitions

The June exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are photographs by Don Stevanov.

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

The July 2008 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be photographs by Beth Ridenour. More information on the exhibits will be in the July 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

Bill Pendleton, the Library's Art Gallery Exhibitions Coordinator at 843-3536 ext. 19 or billpen@pendletonandsutton.com, or 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:

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.285:4/39:1 (Apr. 2008).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 27:3 (May 2008).

Criminal Trial Techniques, v. 1 - v. 3, 2008 Supplements.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, State, 2008 Supplement.

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.

May's entry was:

- Since its inception, the Douglas County Law Library has recycled all recyclable waste generated by its operation.

This Month In Legal History

Each month, an event from the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month will be included in the Newsletter. Entries will also be posted on the Law Library's website for

the month. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

June 2, 1856 - Deputy Marshal Henry Clay Pate gets taken by "Old Brown" at Black Jack.

On the night of May 24th-25th, five men who supported having Kansas Territory be admitted to the Union as a slave state were dragged from their houses near Pottawatomie Creek in Franklin County, Kansas, and were hacked to death by broad swords, in what has become known as the Pottawatomie Massacre. Descriptions given by the surviving family members were said to match the description of the abolitionist John Brown. This, combined with his known hostility to slavery and those supporting the proslavery cause, lead many to believe that Brown was responsible for the deed. Henry Clay Pate, a 24-year old proslavery man originally from Virginia, who had participated in the sack of Lawrence, Kansas, on May 21st, was able to get himself appointed deputy United States' marshal, with the intent to "Get Old Brown." Pate and his proslavery militia of sixty to seventy men were camped at Black Jack Springs Campground, a popular stopping place along the Santa Fe Trail in southeastern Douglas County, Kansas Territory. On June 1, 1856, some of his men decided to raid Prairie City, a Free-State town some three miles west of the campground. When they arrived in town, they found around twenty armed Free-State men there who were led by John Brown. They had not bargained on this, so, rather than fighting, Pate's men left and headed back to Black Jack. Some of Brown's men wanted to follow and attack them immediately, but Brown said no, it would be better to wait and attack the camp at dawn when Pate and his men would not be expecting trouble. Brown and his men waited until dark and then moved out towards Black Jack, arriving

in the vicinity early in the morning of June 2nd. It was still dark when they occupied positions on the high ground overlooking the camp where Pate's men were sleeping. Sometime after first light, probably around 4:30 AM, one of the Free-State men mistakenly exposed himself in the growing light and one of Pate's sentries saw him and fired his weapon, signaling the start of the Battle of Black Jack. As the battle progressed, Pate and his men abandoned the superior position they held around their wagons and moved down towards the Free-Staters and into the eastern branch of a "Y" shaped creek. Brown and his men moved down to occupy the western branch of the creek. After several hours of intense fighting with neither side gaining the advantage, Brown decided to force the issue by ordering two of his men to begin shooting Pate's horses and mules, knowing that if Pate were stranded on foot, he and his men would be in serious trouble. Pate also knew he and his men would be in trouble without animals to carry them away if Free-State reinforcements arrived, so, as his animals begin dying, Pate began to think about trying to get a truce. Soon after, Frederick Brown, one of John Brown's sons, rode a horse down between the opposing forces, waving his sword over his head yelling "Father, we have them surrounded and have cut off their lines of communications." Pate thought that Frederick was the vanguard of Free-State reinforcements and immediately put up a flag of truce to get the battle stopped. He strode over to Brown and began dictating what the terms of the truce would be, acting more like a conqueror than a man asking for a truce. Pate declared that he was a deputy United States marshal and was acting under orders of the government looking for "certain persons" who had been indicted. Brown became fed up with Pate's actions and demanded that he surrender unconditionally. At first, Pate refused, protesting that Brown was violating the rules of war by not honor-

ing the white flag. When Brown pointed his cocked pistol at Pate, he quickly agreed to surrender, thereby ending the Battle of Black Jack after three hours of intense fighting in which a number of men were wounded but, thanks to prompt medical attention, no one was killed. Brown called the Battle of Black Jack, "the first regular battle fought between Free-State and proslavery forces in Kansas." Eastern newspapers called it "civil war." Pate later commented on the battle, writing, "I went to take Old Brown, but Old Brown took me."

From: *To Purge this Land With Blood*, by Stephen Oates. Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 1970; and *The Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park* website, <http://www.blackjackbattlefield.org>.

Law Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Library is looking for individuals to fill the following volunteer positions:

E-Mail Newsletter Editor.

Film Series Commentators

Patron Education and Training Assistant.

Publicity and Marketing Assistant.

Recycling Assistant

Reference Assistant.

Volunteer Coordinator.

Work Station Maintenance Assistant.

The Library also has opportunities for volunteers to create positions around their own interests and skills.

For more information and/or for position descriptions, contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

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