

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 9th.

WestlawNext for Libraries Free Trial

Through September 30th, Law Library patrons will be able to try out Westlaw's new legal database search engine designed for library users. WestlawNext for Libraries is West's library version of WestlawNext, their redesigned, Google-like search interface.

The library has arranged for a free trial through the end of this month. It can be accessed through an icon available on the desktops of the five patron workstations in the Law Library

If you would like more information on the features, or would like to see a short video on how the search engine works, click [here](#).

Form Bank

As reported in last month's newsletter, the Library is attempting to organize a Form Bank for use by its patrons. If you have legal forms that you have created that you would be willing to share with your colleagues, please submit a copy to the Library for inclusion in the Form Bank. The format does not matter, hard copy, electronic, whatever.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The August/September exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are paintings by Anastacia Drake.

The exhibitions will run through the end of September. All pieces are for sale and may

be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Ms. Drake is available in the Library.

The October/November 2011 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions are scheduled to be watercolors by Shannon Cloud. More information on these exhibitions will be in the October 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:

ABA Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 30:6 (Aug. 2011).

Complete Manual of Criminal Forms, 2011 CD-ROM ed.

Criminal Procedure, 5th, 2011 Pocket Part.

Drunk Driving Defense, Seventh Edition, 2011 Supplement.

Drunk Driving Defense, Seventh Edition, 2011 Supplement, Forms CD.

Juvenile Justice Update, v. 17:4 (Aug./Sept. 2011).

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

Kansas Reports, v. 285.

Law Library Journal, v. 103:3 (Summer 2011).

Lawyer's Guide to Kansas Evidence, 5th ed., 2011 update.

Search and Seizure Checklists, 2011 ed.

Search and Seizure Checklists, CD-ROM 2011 ed.

True Believer, DVD.

West's Kansas Legislative Service, 2011:3-5.

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.

August's entry was:

The Law Library encourages attorneys to suggest CLE material to add to its holdings.

This Month In Legal History

September 18, 1856 - Mr. Perkins imprisoned in Lecompton, Kansas.

On September 9, 1856, John White Geary, a Pennsylvania native, was installed as the third governor of the newly organized Territory of Kansas. Unlike the two men who held the office before him, Geary was an Independent who had the reputation of being at least neutral on the issue of whether Kansas should be admitted to the Union as a state that allowed slavery. Former governors Andrew Horatio Reeder and Wilson Shan-

non were both Democrats, and were both sympathetic to, some said actively in support of, the proslavery faction in the Territory. The months preceding Geary taking the oath of office had been anything but calm. With the sacking of Lawrence by proslavery forces on May 21st, the Pottawatomie Massacre on the night of May 24th-25th, the Battle of Black Jack on June 2nd, the first Battle of Franklin on June 4th, the murder of Free-State supporter David Starr Hoyt on August 11th, the second Battle of Franklin on August 12th, and the Battle of Fort Titus on August 16th, the deadly violence in "Bleeding Kansas" seemed to be escalating out of control. Geary wanted to re-establish the rule of law so that the question over slavery for the territory could be decided by peaceful means. Complicating this was the fact that the two former territorial governors were not the only public officials who supported slavery in Kansas. Samuel Dexter Lecompte was chief justice of the Kansas Territorial Supreme Court, and a strong supporter of slavery in Kansas. In September of 1856, he issued warrants for the arrest of a number of Free-State men, and instructed Israel B. Donaldson, United States Marshal of Kansas Territory, to execute the warrants. Donaldson, himself a proslavery supporter, was "considerably advanced in years," and did not usually go out into the field, instead sending out his deputies. Many of them were considered rabid supporters of slavery by the Free-State men in the Territory. Because of the animosity between Donaldson's deputies and Free-State men, his men were reluctant to serve warrants without armed escort by United States dragoons(1) that had been stationed in Kansas to help keep the peace. Donaldson made numerous requests of Governor Geary for the assistance of the dragoons. One such request was made by Donaldson to Geary on September 17, 1856, for "a posse of United States troops [to] be furnished me to assist in making...arrests, and for the due execution

of a number of other warrants, now in my hands." Colonel Philip St. George Cook, commander of the United States dragoons stationed near Lecompton, then the capital of the Territory, supplied 200 mounted men for the task. The dragoons left Lecompton on the afternoon of the 17th, accompanied by Donaldson and Governor Geary, and headed for Topeka. Donaldson was going to Topeka because that is where the men named in the warrants were reported to be residing. Geary was going to Topeka to begin his efforts to re-establish order. A bad storm broke out soon after they set out from Lecompton, forcing them to stop after only about ten miles and camp for the night at Tecumseh. They broke camp early the next day and arrived in Topeka about 8:00 am. Word had reached Topeka that Geary was coming to town to speak, and a crowd met the procession as it arrived. The dragoons surrounded the crowd, and Donaldson read out the names of those who were to be arrested. The named men were soon placed in custody. The remaining citizens organized a town meeting at which the Governor spoke. His words inspired the crowd, and "resolutions were passed approving his course, and promising a hearty support to his administration." The Governor and the Marshall returned to Lecompton that day, presumably accompanied by the dragoons and the prisoners. One of those prisoners was a Mr. Perkins. A letter written on October 23, 1856, by Milton Dickey addressed to Thaddeus Hyatt, describes Mr. Perkins' experiences as a prisoner in Lecompton. The letter reports that Perkins was "held as prisoner at Lecompton[,] charged with over a hundred others with the crimes of Murder[,] Treason[,] Arson[,] Manslaughter[,] and Robbery [sic]." Dickey wrote that Perkins reported the prisoners had been left for forty hours without anything to eat, and that they had tried to buy food from their guards, offering as much as twenty-five cents for one cracker, but were turned down. Sometime

later, Perkins managed to escape from his confinement, crawling four hours on his belly to get away. He subsequently left Kansas Territory, arriving in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on the evening of October 23, 1856. There he related his experiences to Dickey, which likely prompted Dickey to write to Hyatt. Just who was this Mr. Perkins, and what was his origin and subsequent fate, is not known. As to John W. Geary's fate, he was fired as Governor of Kansas Territory by President James Buchanan on March 20, 1857, eventually being replaced by Robert J. Walker, a Democrat. Geary served in the Union Army during the Civil War, being wounded three times, and rose to the rank of brevetted major general. After the war, he was elected to two terms as Governor of Pennsylvania, serving from 1867 to 1873.

(1) Until 1861, the mounted branch of the United State military was called the dragoons. From 1861 on, it was called the cavalry.

From: [John W. Geary](#), Wikipedia website; Geary and Kansas: Governor Geary's Administration in Kansas with a complete history of the Territory until July 1857..., by John H. Gihon, Charles C. Rhodes, Philadelphia, 1857, [Chapter XXXVII](#); [Letter, M. C. Dickey to Mr. \[Thaddeus\] Hyatt, October 23, 1856](#), Territorial Kansas Online website; and, [Dragoon](#), Wikipedia website.

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 spe-

cial 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 ad-

dress 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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