

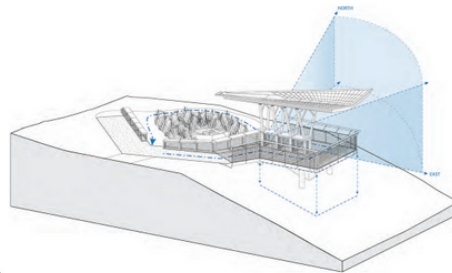
# THE PASSERINE PAVILION

Dirt Works Studio, University of Kansas + Douglas County Public Works

Perched atop this ridge, the Passerine Pavilion at Wells Overlook Park appears as a silhouette starting to detach from the earth. It has been designed to create a sense of lightness, like a grassland bird poised to leap from the slope into the expansive prairie landscape. The overlook's upturned wings and spine slope backward toward its tail, resting on four pairs of slender steel columns. The reclaimed feather-patterned, brushed aluminium road sign shingle roof provides shade and protection from rain. A low, angling, steel-framed gabion wall contains interlocking stacked limestones. A break in the wall acts as a threshold into a demonstration prairie garden. The wall itself was intended to guide visitors to the east. While the hill slopes downward and the timber roof slopes upward, the wooden deck you are standing on now projects into the open air, instilling a sensation of rising above the landscape. This arrangement affords all visitors, regardless of their mobility, an experience of beholding the Wakarusa River Valley.

Studio Director: Chad Kraus

Students: Zevi Aronstein, Max Avila-Franco, Megan Bruey, Ryan Daniels, Eva Eliasdottir, Dylan Frye, Kimberly Gordon, Christian Maglasang, Bret Majocon, Aaron Michalick, Benjamin Obadia, Elizabeth Overschmidt, Antonin Some, Isaac Taylor, Jordyn Tobias, and Lucie Zumsteeg



Credit: Dirt Works Studio, School of Architecture and Design, University of Kansas, 2020.

Scan for more information about the landscape



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**1. Wakarusa Valley / Baker Wetlands**

The wide Wakarusa floodplain was created when a dam of ice crossing the Kansas and Wakarusa River valleys broke at least 600,000 years ago. The melting glaciers released a vast lake created from the backed up waters. The Kaw River valley was still blocked so the flood waters widened the Wakarusa valley, creating ideal wetland conditions, which covered up to 13,000 acres. Today, 900 acres make up the Baker wetlands, a biologically diverse site that is home to wildlife and which serves as a stopping point for migratory birds and monarch butterflies.

**2. Fraser Hall / Mount Oread**

The new Fraser Hall was built in 1965 on the same site as the 1872 building that was renamed Fraser hall in 1897 to honor the KU Chancellor. Part of the building was made from stone quarried from this hill. Mt. Oread, elevation 1030ft., was the site where agents of the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Company camped upon their arrival in Lawrence.

**3. Kaw River / Santa Fe Railroad**

The Kansas or Kaw River drains 60,000 square miles of northern Kansas, Nebraska, south of the Platte River, and part of eastern Colorado. The Kaw is the largest river located entirely in the North American grasslands biome. The floodplain forests along the Kaw contain cottonwoods, maples, elms, walnuts, and willows.

Mexicans have been in Kansas since territorial days. They traveled the Santa Fe Trail to transport goods and participated in cattle drives. The Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s caused economic hardship and the Santa Fe Railroad took the opportunity to recruit needed workers. They lived in towns along the Santa Fe line from Kansas City to Topeka. The majority of workers who migrated to Douglas County were from Vera Cruz, Juarez, and Mexico City (see inset photo of workers at La Yarda/ Lawrence Santa Fe Work Yard).

La Yarda Project. (Credit: Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council)

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More information about the Baker/Wakarusa Wetlands:

<https://www.bakeru.edu/history-traditions/the-wetlands/>

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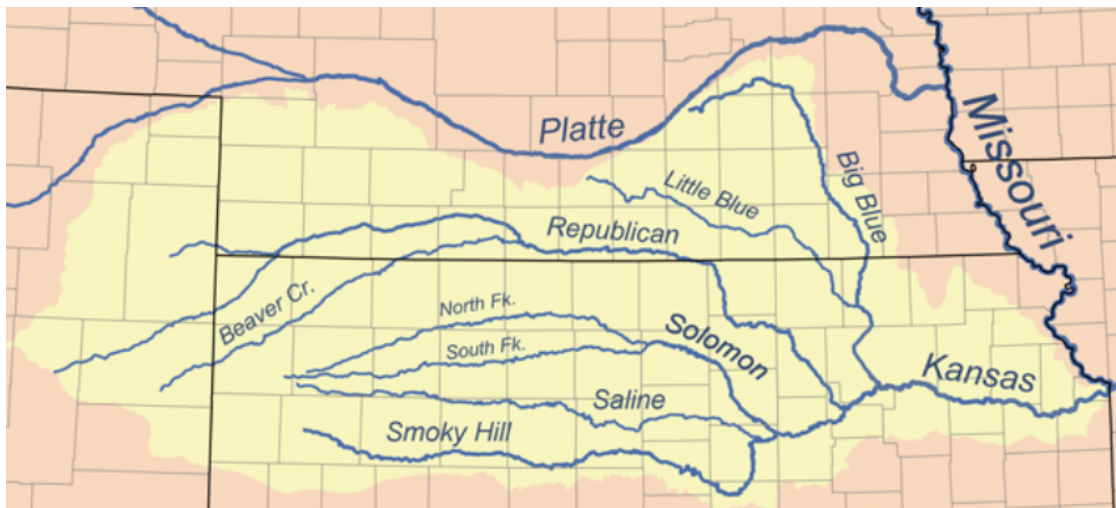
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More information about Fraser Hall: *Pictorial History of Lawrence* by David Dray, pp. 9, 95, Allen Books, Lawrence, KS, 1992.

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The Kaw River basin (Kansas River and its tributaries) Source:

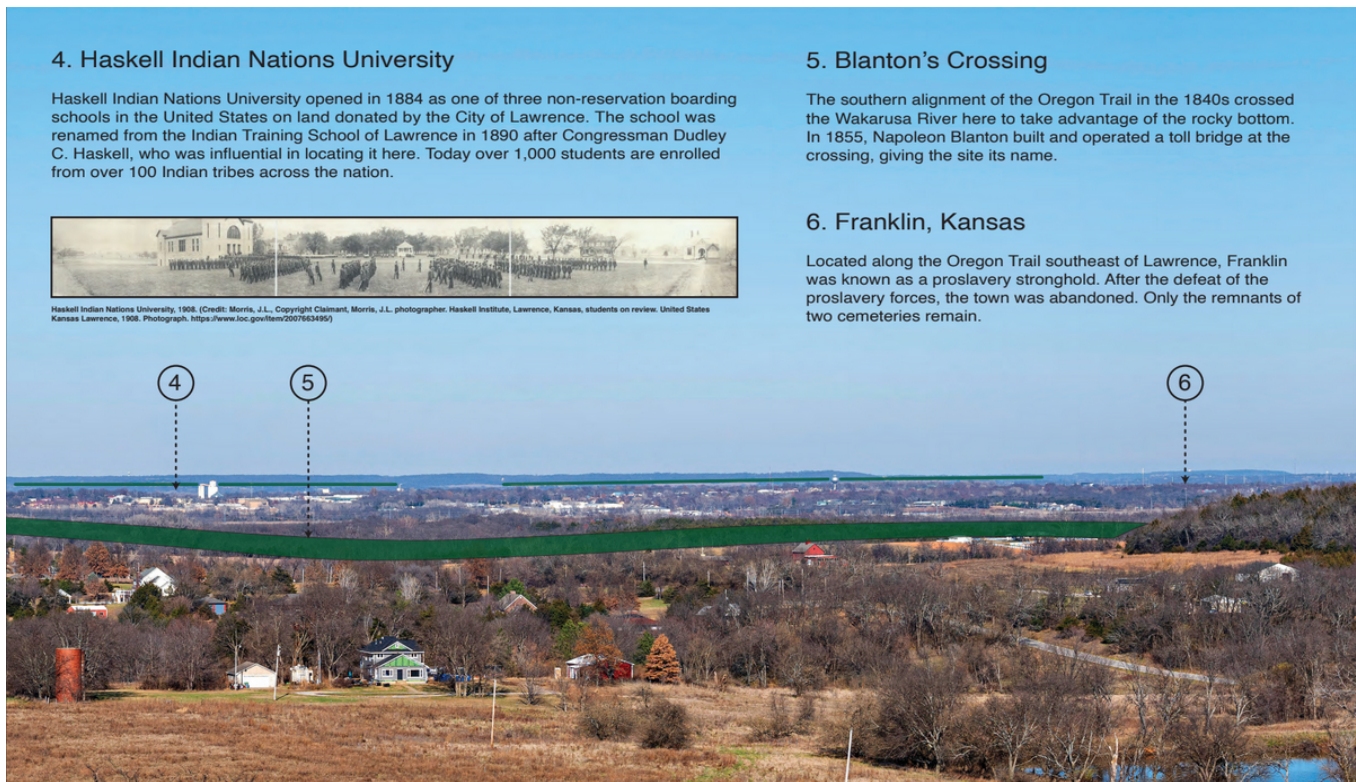


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas\\_River#/media/File:Kansasrivermap.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas_River#/media/File:Kansasrivermap.png)



Photo Credit: La Yarda Project/Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council

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#### 4. Haskell Indian Nations University

Haskell Indian Nations University opened in 1884 as one of three non-reservation boarding schools in the United States on land donated by the City of Lawrence. The school was renamed from the Indian Training School of Lawrence in 1890 after Congressman Dudley C. Haskell, who was influential in locating it here. Today over 1,000 students are enrolled from over 100 Indian tribes across the nation.

More information about Haskell Indian Nations University: <https://www.haskell.edu/> and its history: <https://www.haskell.edu/about/history/>



Photo: Library of Congress.

The *WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas*, Introduction by James R. Shortridge, University Press of Kansas, 1984, p.228.

### 5. Blanton's Crossing

The southern alignment of the Oregon Trail in the 1840s crossed the Wakarusa River at this point to take advantage of the rocky bottom. In 1855, Napoleon Blanton built and operated a toll bridge at the crossing, giving the site its name.



ancestry.com

Illustration in *Baker Lands: The Struggle to Start a School and a Town on the Santa Fe Trail* by Katherine Burke Graziano, p. 24, Mennonite Press, Inc. Newton, KS, 2008.

### 6. Franklin

The town of Franklin was located along the Oregon Trail and was a proslavery stronghold southeast of Lawrence. After the defeat of the proslavery forces Franklin was abandoned. Only the remnants of two cemeteries remain.



Tombstones at Franklin Cemetery and Franklin Catholic Cemetery  
Photo Credit: Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council

## African American History in Douglas County

Lawrence has had an African American presence almost from the start. The Black community in Douglas County can trace its origins back to 1861 when Chaplain Hugh Dunn Fisher of James H. Lane's Union army brigade escorted a contingent of newly liberated black refugees or "contrabands" from Springfield, Lamar, and other Missouri towns to Lawrence. In November 1861, Lawrence's Kansas State Journal reported, in the language of the time, "Our colored population is now not far from one hundred."

An example of this is found in the story of David and Rebecca Brooks Harvey, who came to Douglas County in 1863 with other recently freed slaves following President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. They rented land from Stephen A. Ogden, the Sheriff of Douglas County and eventually owned their farm near Blue Mound where they raised four sons. Rebecca was known for her skills as a nurse and midwife. They were inspired by the growing university and encouraged their sons to study and earn degrees. Sherman A. Harvey graduated from the University of Kansas, taught in Douglas County schools, and despite opposition from local banker J.B. Watkins, was elected on the Republican Ticket to the position of Douglas County Clerk in 1893.

## 7. Quantrill's Escape Route

William Quantrill's group of Confederate raiders, after sacking Lawrence in 1863, fled south across Blanton's Crossing and followed the current E 1400 Road. They continued looting, killing, and burning to the southern end of the county. Pursuers attempted to intervene but nearly all the raiders reached Missouri safely.

These green patches were the only part of the panorama that a settler would see that was not prairie. See the inset Douglas County map to see where these old growth forests were located.



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Sherman A. Harvey/Photo Courtesy: Katie Armitage



Blue Mound School

Photo Courtesy: Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum

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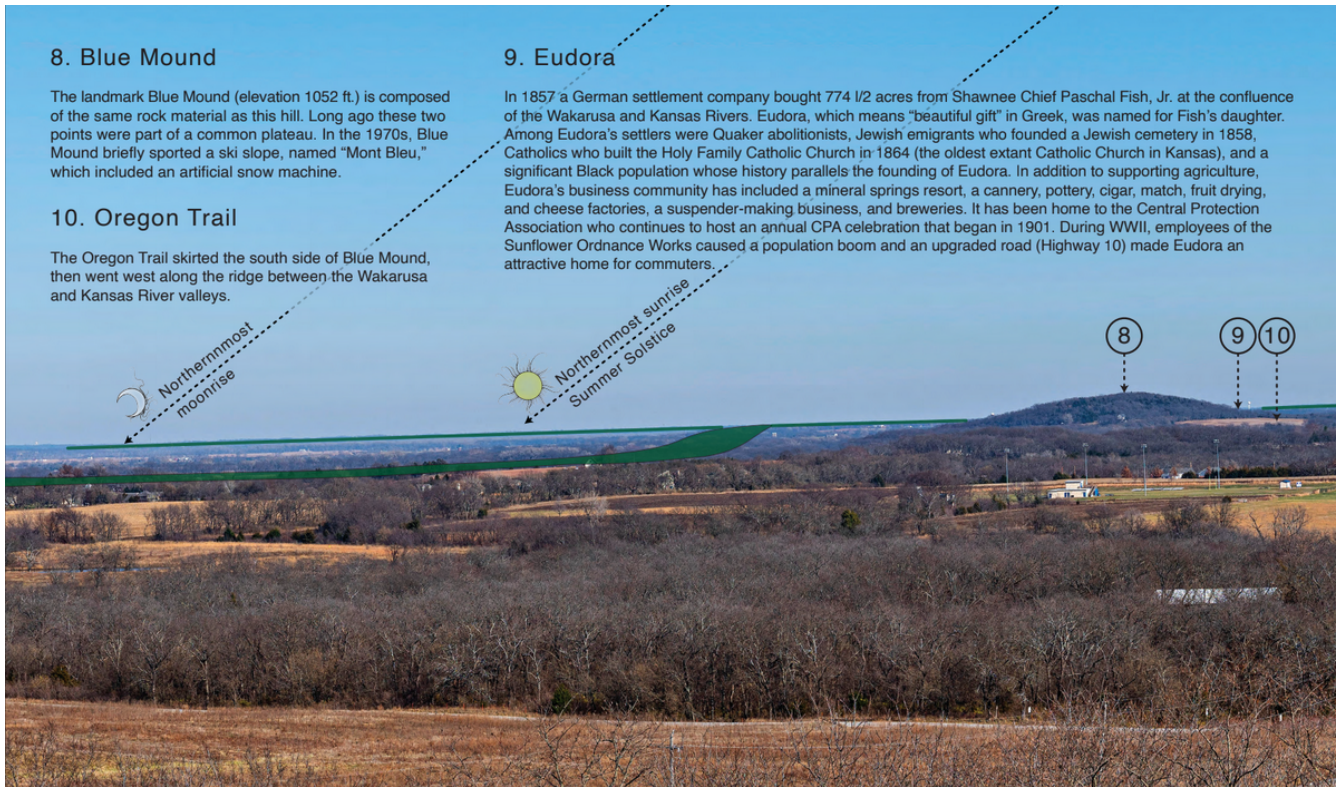


Photo Credit: Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council

Many of Quantrill's victims were buried at Pioneer Cemetery- now part of the KU West Campus.

Green shading on the panorama photos were the only part of the landscape that a settler would see that was not prairie. See the inset Douglas County map to see where these old growth forests were located.





**8. Blue Mound**

The landmark Blue Mound (elevation 1052 ft.) is composed of the same rock material as this hill. Long ago these two points were part of a common plateau. In the 1970s, Blue Mound briefly sported a ski slope, named "Mont Bleu," which included an artificial snow machine.

**10. Oregon Trail**

The Oregon Trail skirted the south side of Blue Mound, then went west along the ridge between the Wakarusa and Kansas River valleys.

**9. Eudora**

In 1857 a German settlement company bought 774 1/2 acres from Shawnee Chief Paschal Fish, Jr. at the confluence of the Wakarusa and Kansas Rivers. Eudora, which means "beautiful gift" in Greek, was named for Fish's daughter. Among Eudora's settlers were Quaker abolitionists, Jewish emigrants who founded a Jewish cemetery in 1858, Catholics who built the Holy Family Catholic Church in 1864 (the oldest extant Catholic Church in Kansas), and a significant Black population whose history parallels the founding of Eudora. In addition to supporting agriculture, Eudora's business community has included a mineral springs resort, a cannery, pottery, cigar, match, fruit drying, and cheese factories, a suspender-making business, and breweries. It has been home to the Central Protection Association who continues to host an annual CPA celebration that began in 1901. During WWII, employees of the Sunflower Ordnance Works caused a population boom and an upgraded road (Highway 10) made Eudora an attractive home for commuters.

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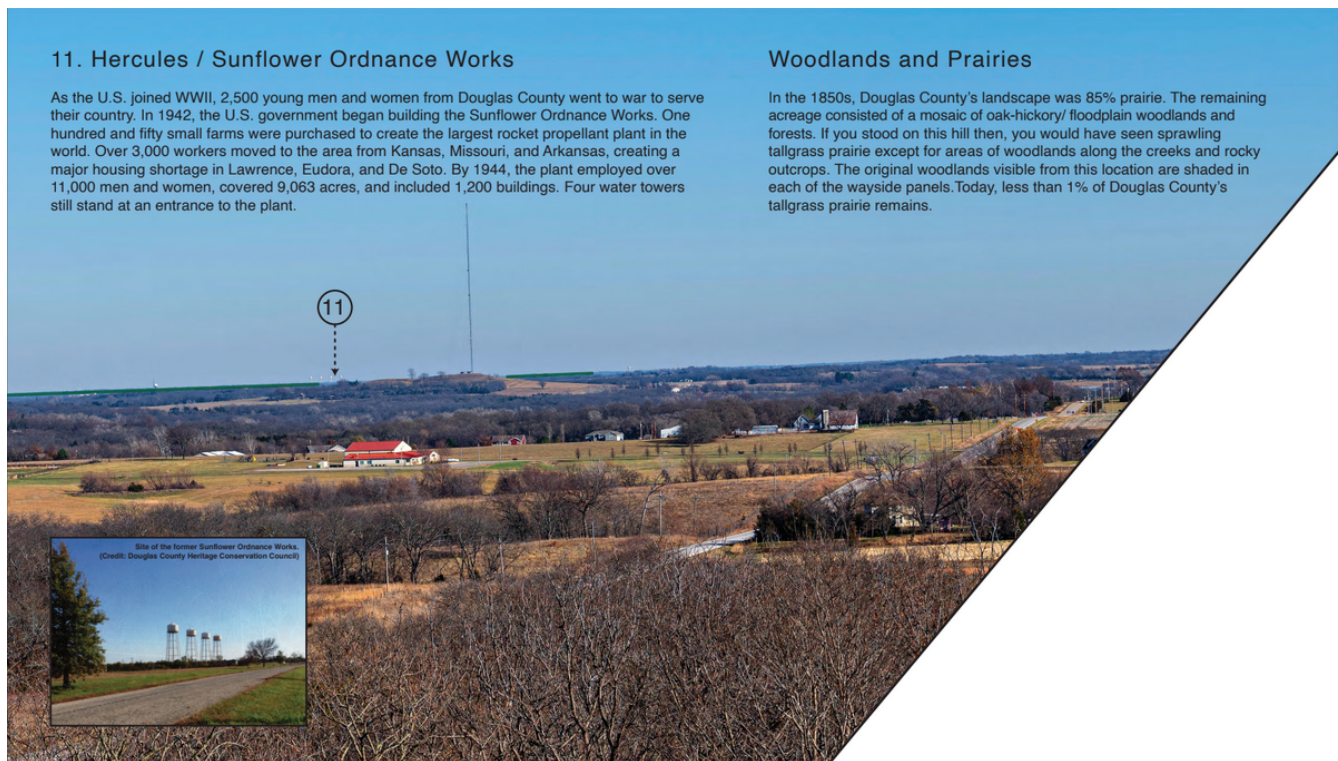
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Between 1840 and circa 1860, the Oregon Trail became a popular route for Western travelers and explorers. The trail began as a network of Indian trade and migration routes that connected the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains and then on to the Pacific Northwest. Some estimates of the numbers of travelers on the 2,200-mile trail during this era exceed 300,000. In Douglas County the Oregon Trail passed Blue Mound on the south side and then headed west along the ridge between the Wakarusa and Kansas River Valleys with an important stop at Big Springs on the western side of Douglas County where travelers rested and found a plentiful water supply.

(See illustration in *Baker Lands: The Struggle to Start a School and a Town on the Santa Fe Trail* by Katherine Burke Graziano, p. 24, Mennonite Press, Inc. Newton, KS, 2008.) [Us Map of entire Oregon Trail/QR code?]



## 11. Hercules/Sunflower Ordnance Works

As the U.S. joined WWII, 2,500 young men and women from Douglas County went to war to serve their country. In 1942, the U.S. government began building the Sunflower Ordnance Works. One hundred and fifty small farms were purchased to create the largest rocket

propellant plant in the world. Over 3,000 workers moved to the area from Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas, creating a major housing shortage in Lawrence, Eudora, and De Soto. By 1944, the plant employed over 11,000 men and women, covered 9,063 acres, and included 1,200 buildings. Four water towers still stand at an entrance to the plant.

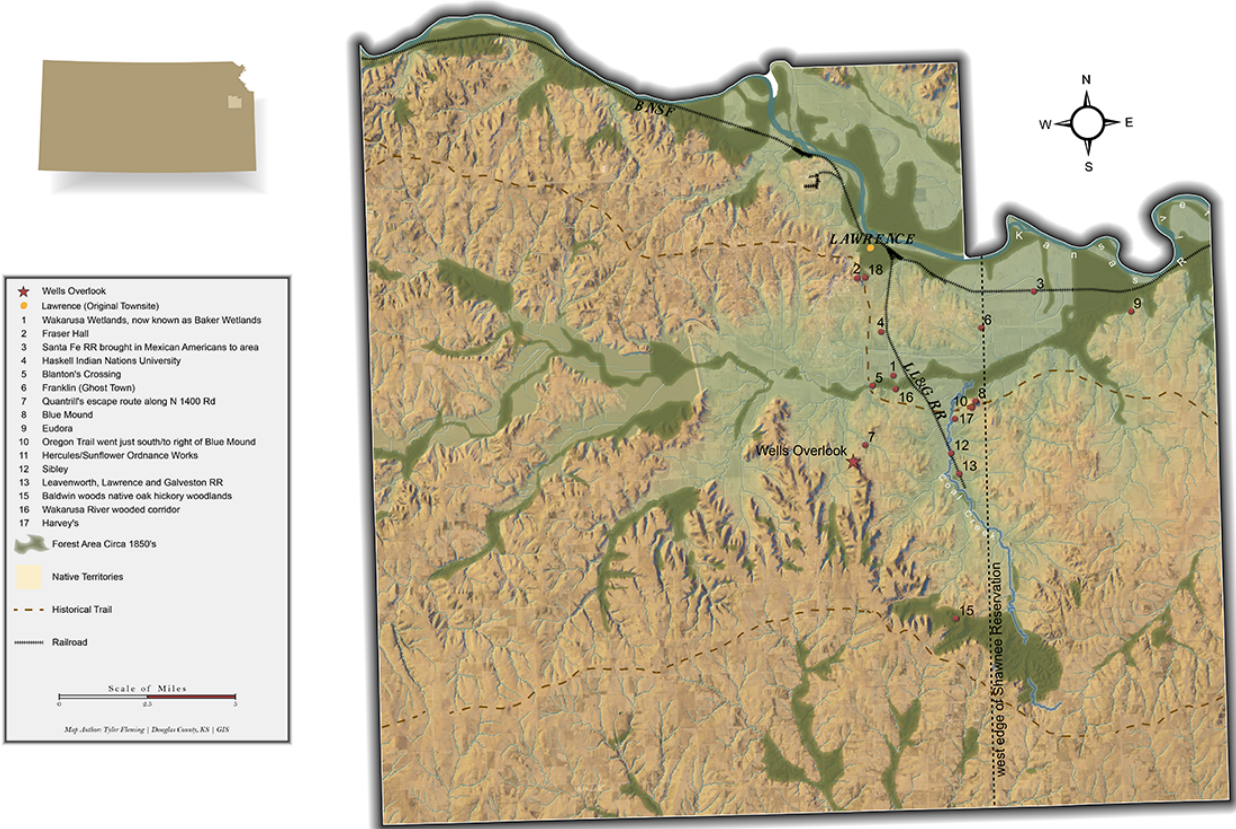
Photo Credit: Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council



#### Woodlands, Prairies/Douglas County map

In the 1850s, Douglas County's landscape was 85% prairie. The remaining acreage consisted of a mosaic of oak-hickory/floodplain woodlands and forests. If you stood on this hill then, you would have seen sprawling tallgrass prairie except for areas of woodlands along the creeks and rocky outcrops. The original woodlands visible from this location are shaded green in each of the wayside panels. Today, less than 1% of Douglas County's tallgrass prairie remains.

*See map on next page.*



This map shows the extent of the old growth woodlands in Douglas County, which covered some 15% of the county, primarily along the Kaw River, the Wakarusa River, and rocky outcrops scattered around the county, including Baldwin Woods, the largest oak hickory woodland in the county that contained several thousand acres. The map also shows the path of the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, both of which passed through Douglas County, as well as the western boundary of the Shawnee Indian Reservation, which encompassed the eastern part of the county starting just west of Eudora and went all the way east to the Missouri state line.

## 12. Coal Creek / Sibleyville

Coal Creek is a north-flowing tributary of the Wakarusa River. The area's coal was formed hundreds of millions of years ago when the land rose above the inland ocean. The resulting lush vegetation was later compressed into the coal found today sandwiched between sedimentary limestones and shales that were formed when the land slipped back underneath the waters.

The unincorporated town of Sibleyville is the location of a mine that employed 10-12 miners beginning in the 1880s, who harvested coal which was loaded and shipped via rail. The coal was used primarily as fuel for locomotives. By 1892, mining in the Sibleyville area and near Blue Mound had nearly been abandoned.

## 13. Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston Railroad

The Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston Railroad was part of an ill-fated private venture to make Lawrence, instead of Kansas City, the regional railroad hub in the mid to late 1800s. The initial leg from Lawrence to Ottawa was completed in 1868 and in 1871 a bridge across the Kansas River connected the line to Leavenworth.

Eventually the railway was extended south to Iola, Kansas but was never completed to Galveston, Texas. The railroad had various owners but was abandoned altogether in the 1970s, eventually becoming a pleasure railroad excursion between Baldwin City and Ottawa and the Prairie Spirit State Park hiking and biking trail from Ottawa to Iola.

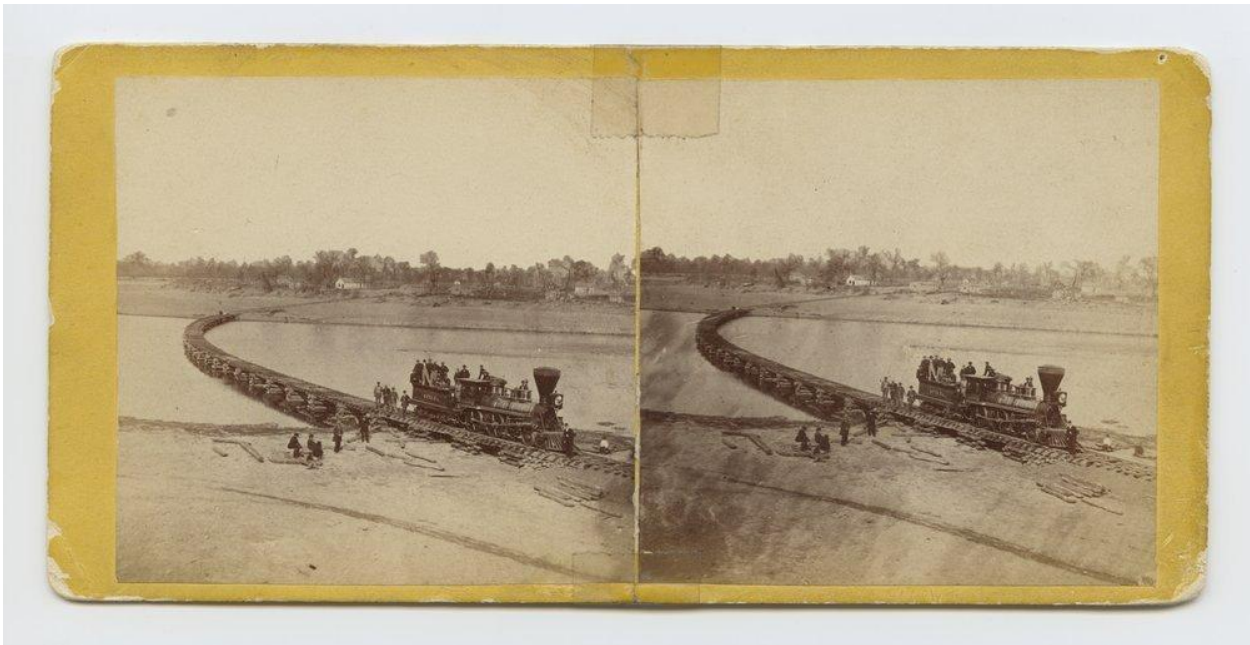


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This stereograph shows a Leavenworth, Lawrence, & Galveston Railroad locomotive and a railroad bridge over the Kansas River at Lawrence, Kansas. It is from Alexander Gardner's series, *Across the Continent on the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division*.

Creator: [Gardner, Alexander, 1821-1882](#) Date: 1867 Item Number: 28 Call Number: Gardner Coll. No. 32 KSHS Identifier: [DaRT ID: 28](#)

Beginning in March 1873, the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad connected Baldwin City to Lawrence and Leavenworth to the north and Galveston to the South. A small depot at Sibleyville (or Sibley on the map) provided locals with shipping services. Coal from nearby Coal Creek was mined and shipped via the rail line. Located 5 miles southeast of Lawrence, Sibleyville has always been a small unincorporated area. In addition to the railroad depot, there was a post office, but never more than a dozen houses.

Sibleyville was located alongside Coal Creek, a north-flowing tributary of the Wakarusa. The coal was formed hundreds of millions of years ago when the land rose above the inland sea. Lush plant growth compressed into the vein of coal found today was sandwiched between sedimentary limestones and shales that were formed when the land slipped back underneath the waters. Sibleyville was the location of a mine that employed 10-12 miners who harvested coal from 3 shafts, 40-50 feet deep each, which were then loaded and shipped via rail for railroad and other uses.

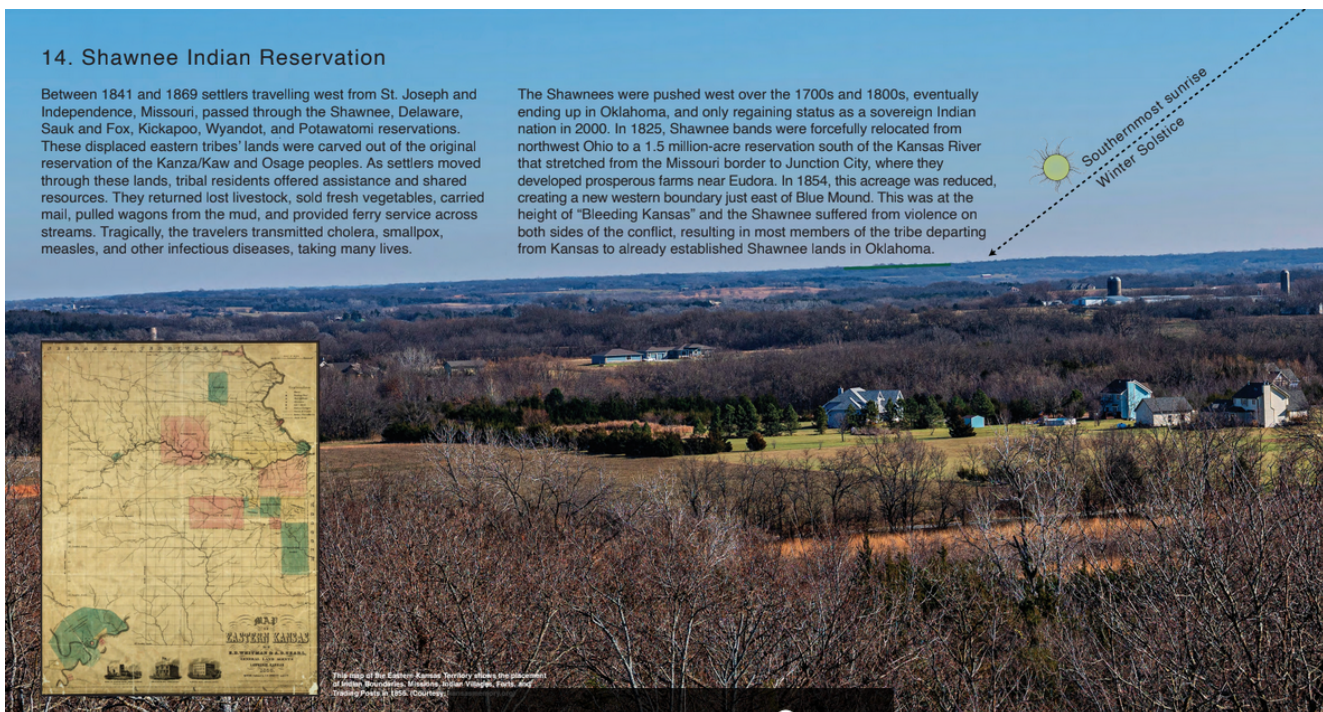
“In the first part of the 1880's mines were operated by Mr. McLavy at the town of Sibleyville, 1 3/4 miles south and west of the Mound. These mines were in the Blue Mound coal bed. There were three shafts 40 to 50 feet in depth. Ten to 12 miners were employed in the mines. An inclined track was built from one of the shafts, which lies on the east wall of Cole Creek valley,

down to a loading tipple above a siding on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad which runs through Sibleyville. The coal was used primarily as fuel for locomotives, but some carloads were shipped to distant markets. There is no information available pertaining to production. Mining in the Sibleyville area and near Blue Mound had nearly been abandoned by 1892 (Haworth, 1898, p. 303), and the coal has been mined only sporadically since. During the last forty years coal occasionally has been dug from the northeast side of Blue Mound in NE sec. 22, T. 13 S., R. 20 E. The last mining of Blue Mound coal was in the period from 1933-34 (Whitla, 1940, p. 12). During 1934, 200 tons of coal were produced from the Blue Mound area. Although locations are not given by Whitla, the mines were probably those operated by Mr. Hamey east of the Mound in E2 SW sec. 21, T. 13 S., R. 20 E. At one time there were 12 men working at these two mines. There are no mines recovering coal from the Blue Mound coal at present.” from *Coal Resources of the Douglas Group in East-Central Kansas*, by Arthur L Bowsher and John M. Jewett, published in 1943 as Kansas Geological Survey Bulletin 46.

#### 14. Shawnee Indian Reservation

Between 1841 and 1869 settlers travelling west from St. Joseph and Independence, Missouri, passed through the Shawnee, Delaware, Sauk and Fox, Kickapoo, Wyandot, and Potawatomi reservations. These displaced eastern tribes' lands were carved out of the original reservation of the Kanza/Kaw and Osage peoples. As settlers moved through these lands, tribal residents offered assistance and shared resources. They returned lost livestock, sold fresh vegetables, carried mail, pulled wagons from the mud, and provided ferry service across streams. Tragically, the travelers transmitted cholera, smallpox, measles, and other infectious diseases, taking many lives.

The Shawnees were pushed west over the 1700s and 1800s, eventually ending up in Oklahoma, and only regaining status as a sovereign Indian nation in 2000. In 1825, Shawnee bands were forcefully relocated from northwest Ohio to a 1.5 million-acre reservation south of the Kansas River that stretched from the Missouri border to Junction City, where they developed prosperous farms near Eudora. In 1854, this acreage was reduced, creating a new western boundary just east of Blue Mound. This was at the height of "Bleeding Kansas" and the Shawnee suffered from violence on both sides of the conflict, resulting in most members of the tribe departing from Kansas to already established Shawnee lands in Oklahoma.



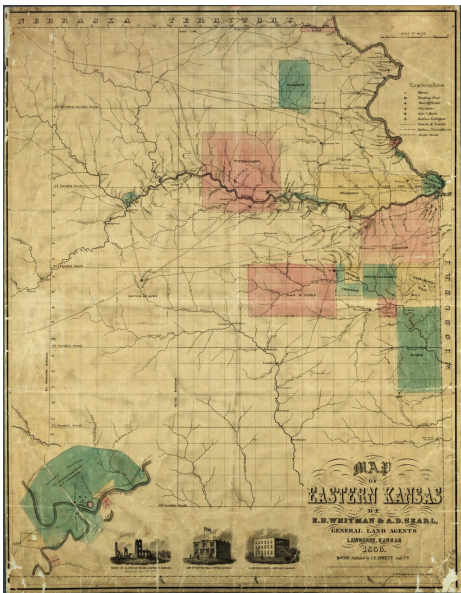
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Source: <https://www.shawnee-tribe.org/history/>



Courtesy kansasmemory.org

This map of the Eastern Kansas Territory shows the placement of Indian Boundaries, Missions, Indian Villages, Forts, and Trading Posts in 1856.

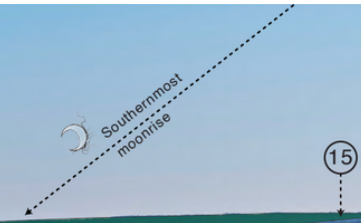


## 15. Baldwin Woods

This area is the largest native woodlands in the area, covering 3,700 acres before the 1850s. Today the remnants are designated a National Natural Landmark and are largely incorporated into the University of Kansas Forest Reserve System for protection and for research purposes.

## Sunrises and Moonrises

Due to the 23.5° tilt of the earth's axis, the sun rises, sets, and moves across the sky in different locations throughout the year as the earth revolves around the sun, giving us seasons. The sun rises north of east in the summer and south of east in the winter. Since the moon's orbit around the earth is tilted relative to the Earth's revolution around the sun, the moon rises even further north/south on the horizon than the sunrise.



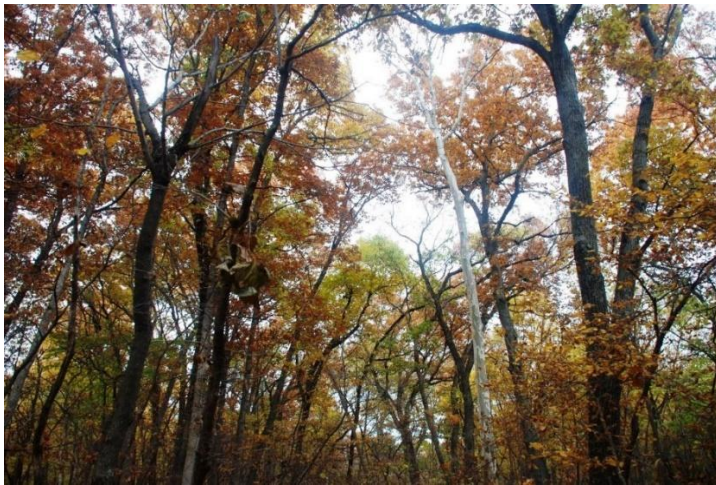
## Acknowledgements

In 1970, William H. Wells donated sixteen acres to Douglas County to create Wells Overlook Park in order to provide the area with an unparalleled view of the Wakanusa River Valley, Mount Oread, KU, and the other parts of Douglas County visible from the prominent hill. Wells also wanted to honor his father Charles and his grandfather William Dougal Wells, who at age 19 came to help establish Lawrence, arriving in the area as part of the third party of the New England Emigrant Aid Society in October 1854. Douglas County constructed the tower, access road, and other amenities and dedicated it in October 1974 "with the thought that it be kept as natural as possible and as a recreation area for the public."

The construction of the Passerine Pavilion was made possible through funding from Douglas County and a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant from the National Parks Service. Generous support — in the form of in-kind donations — was provided by local business HMC Performance Coating. Design services were provided by the University of Kansas Dirt Works Studio and engineering by Douglas County Public Works. Dirt Works Studio constructed the pavilion with assistance from Douglas County Public Works. In addition to the students of the Dirt Works Studio 2020 Spring, we would like to acknowledge the assistance of Dirt Works Studio 2020 Fall, for lending a helping hand to bring the project to fruition.

Special thanks goes to Ken Lassman, whose dedication to the land guided the project throughout every stage; to Jan Shupert-Arick, Heritage Coordinator at Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council, for her assistance in researching for the waysides; to the Master Gardeners of Douglas County, for their contributions to the prairie demonstration garden; to Karl Ramberg, for his inspiration; to Douglas County Public Works, including Keith Browning, Chad Voigt, Doug Stephens, Alan Hollinger, and to everyone else who provided valuable contributions along the way.

Scan for more information about the landscape



Courtesy Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council

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Source: <https://biosurvey.ku.edu/field-station/individual-tracts>

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For more information: check out the following links:

<https://physics.weber.edu/schroeder/ua/SunAndSeasons.html>

<http://www.umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/moonteaching.html>

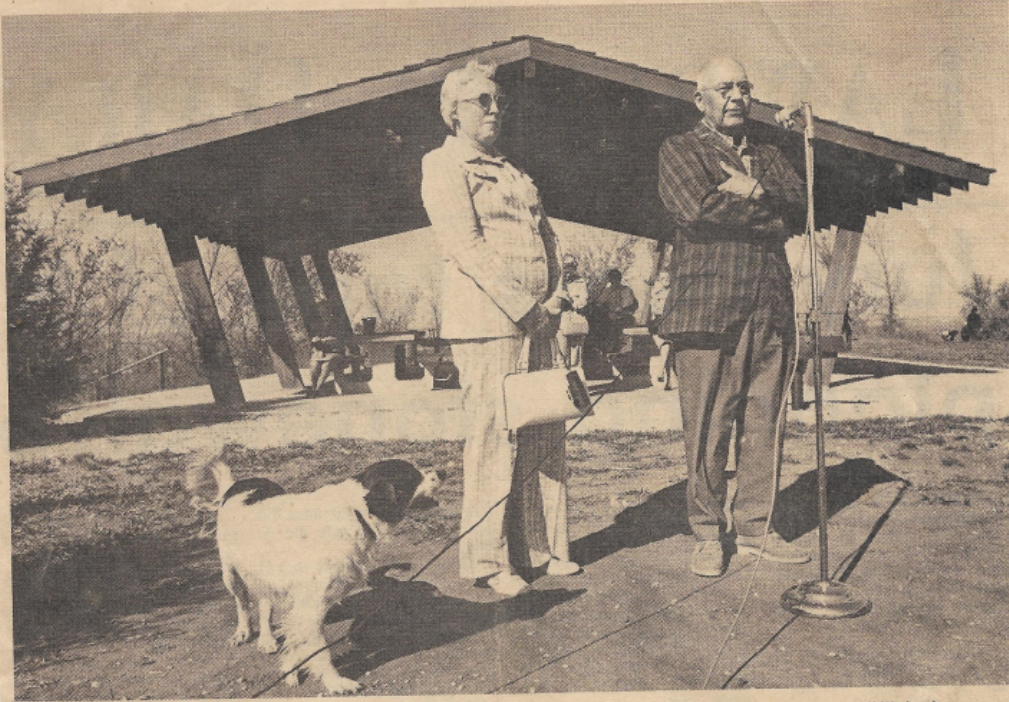
## Acknowledgements

The construction of the Passerine Pavilion was made possible through funding from Douglas County and a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant from the National Parks Service.

In 1970, William H. Wells donated sixteen acres to Douglas County to create Wells Overlook Park in order to provide the area with an unparalleled view of the Wakarusa River Valley, Mount Oread, KU, and the other parts of Douglas County visible from the prominent hill. Wells also wanted to honor his father Charles and his grandfather William Dougal Wells, who at age 19 came to help establish Lawrence, arriving in the area as part of the third party of the New England Emigrant Aid Society in October 1854. Douglas County constructed the tower, access road, and other amenities and dedicated it in October 1974 "with the thought that it be kept as natural as possible and as a recreation area for the public."

Generous support-- in the form of in-kind donations-- was provided by local business HMC Performance Coating. Design services were provided by the University of Kansas Dirt Works Studio and engineering by Douglas County Public Works. Dirt Works Studio constructed the pavilion with assistance from Douglas County Public Works. In addition to the students of the Dirt Works Studio 2020 Spring, we would like to acknowledge the assistance of Dirt Works Studio 2020 Fall, for lending a helping hand to bring the project to fruition.

Special thanks goes to Ken Lassman, whose dedication to the land guided the project throughout every stage; to Jan Shupert-Arick, Heritage Coordinator at Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council, for her assistance in researching historical sites and topics for the waysides; to the Master Gardeners of Douglas County, for their contributions to the prairie demonstration garden; to Karl Ramberg, for his inspiration; to Douglas County Public Works, including Keith Browning, Chad Voigt, Doug Stephens, Alan Hollinger, and to everyone else who provided valuable contributions along the way.



(J-W photo)

### **Park dedicted**

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Wells, Topkea, who donated the land on which Wells Park is located, speak to an audience of about 50 persons at dedication ceremonies for the park Sunday. The new park, located on a bluff four miles south of Lawrence has picnic facilities, restrooms, playground equipment, and a lookout tower that provides a view of the surrounding countryside.