

DOUGLAS COUNTY KANSAS HERITAGE SITES TOUR

In cooperation with the Kaw Valley Farm Tour

Saturday, October 2, 2021 9 am – 6 pm

Sunday, October 3, 2021 10 am - 5 pm



The Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council invites you to explore several unique rural heritage sites during the 2021 Kaw Valley Farm Tour. These sites reflect various aspects of rural life in times past. Enjoy exploring and learning about the cultural and natural history of our county.



The HCC is an appointed 7-member council under the Douglas County Commission and is working to preserve the natural and cultural history of Douglas County, KS.

[Who We Are | Douglas County Kansas \(douglascountyks.org\)](http://douglascountyks.org)

For more information or to purchase tickets for the Kaw Valley Farm Tour visit:

<http://www.kawvalleyfarmtour.org/>

"This publication has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, a division of the United States Department of the Interior and administered by the Kansas Historical Society. The contents and opinions, however, do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of The United States Department of the Interior or the Kansas Historical Society."

VINLAND AREA HERITAGE SITES

FVFT Site B BARNES APPLE BARN & FARMHOUSE

714 E 1728 Road



This farm property was owned by Vinland co-founder, William Eliot Barnes (1832-1925). In 1856, Barnes purchased 160 acres of land and established the Coal Creek Nursery and started what is believed to be the first vineyard in the state of Kansas. Mr. Barnes brought Concord

and Dracut Amber vine cuttings from his hometown of Dracut, Massachusetts, when he came to the Kansas Territory. The business known as Barnes and Kelly at Coal Creek boasted 22 acres of vines “all in splendid condition, fruitful, and flourishing. On that part of the vineyard that has come into full bearing, the annual yield is \$1,000, or more per acre.” (Emporia Weekly News, July 19, 1867)



The impressive limestone fruit barn was built by local stone mason Lewis Swanson in 1891 for the purpose of processing various products including grapes, apples, and pears. The fruit was brought into the lower level where it was stored in the cool, ventilated area. Later the fruit was brought up to the main level where it was sorted and packaged for shipment. *Local interpreters greet visitors at this site.



The stone barn is one of several historic buildings in Vinland listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In 1868, the Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston Railroad cut through a strip of his donated property, allowing Barnes to ship his fruits and trees across the country from the Vinland Depot (no longer stands). He married Gertrude Dunn in 1867 later the couple built a fine farmhouse on the hill overlooking the valley. The Barnes provided a wooded “Pine Walk” so the local children could cut through his property to school and gave them apples.

FVFT Site E

VINLAND GRANGE HALL & 1930s WPA PRIVY

690 E 1719 Road, Baldwin City (Upper Level Only - Not handicapped accessible.)



Land for the Grange Building was donated by William & Gertrude Barnes who also donated land for the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The Grange Building was built in 1884 of native limestone and mortared with twenty loads of sand hauled from the Kansas River. The two-story stone building was designed with an upstairs meeting hall and a farm-cooperative store downstairs. The Vinland chapter of the Grange was one of the oldest in Kansas and served the southern Douglas County community for over one hundred years. The building was deeded to the Santa Fe Trail Historical Society in 1985. The Vinland Fair was established by the Vinland Grange – an organization for local farmers. The first fair was held in 1874 and

included fruit and vegetable displays.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the fair became the center of community activity, when winning fair entries meant income for struggling farm families. The Grange sponsored the fair most of the years from 1907 until 1977 when it was incorporated as the Vinland Fair Association. The building



was designed for a business on the main level and an upstairs meeting hall. Over the years the building has been used as a library, a bank, a cream station, a barbershop, an art gallery, and a cooperative farm store. The building was eventually wired for electricity, but water had to be hauled upstairs when the stove was used to prepare oyster dinners.

Today the building is preserved by the Douglas County Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Be sure to explore this unique historic site complete with a 1930s Sanitary WPA (Works Project Administration – an American New Deal agency) privy! The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000. Local interpreters will greet visitors.



Portable toilet at this location west of the building and at the Vinland United Methodist Church basement – Use the northeast ramp door. The church invites you to check out the Vinland High school picture room in the basement. Please respect church service time 10: 30 to 11:30 am.

VINLAND.

The village of Vinland more or less of a town for the past twenty years. There has been a saw mill, a church or a cheese factory there ever since '58. The town now comprises two stores, two blacksmith shops, a hotel, a cider mill and a Grange lodge. There are only about 300 souls in the village proper but the community is very thickly settled live and many rich and prosperous farmers near the place.

-The Lawrence Weekly Journal, June 20, 1889

The National Register of Historic Places

National Register Buildings in the village of Vinland include the Vinland Grange Hall, the Coal Creek Library (currently under restoration), the Star Cash Grocery, the former Presbyterian Church built in 1878 (where KU's first basketball Coach James Naismith served as minister from 1914-1916) and the Exhibition Barn at the Vinland Fairgrounds.



During the 2021 Kaw Valley Farm Tour, the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council pays a special tribute to local stone mason, Lewis Swanson, who is buried at the Vinland Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Swanson built homes, barns, one-room school houses, and other buildings in the Vinland area in the mid to late 19th century. Several of his buildings remain as part of the Douglas County rural landscape.

Photo courtesy Vinland Cemetery Association

FVFT Site F

THE VINLAND CEMETERY 748 E 1750 Road



Photo taken soon after Frank L. Varnum had the arch erected in memory of his parents. C1920

The Vinland Cemetery is the final resting place of early pioneers who settled the Coal Creek area southeast of Lawrence. Those interred here are representative of many themes of the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area including Civil War and pre-Civil War heritage, settlement stories before and after the Civil War, and the enduring struggle for freedom. They include:

- Abolitionists who came west wanting to make Kansas a free state, helped conduct the Underground Railroad and experienced the "Bleeding Kansas" conflict.
- At least 16 Civil War veterans as well as approximately 72 other military veterans.
- Formerly enslaved people who found freedom in Douglas County and toiled to create better futures for their descendants.



Vinland Cemetery Shelter House

- European immigrants who introduced culture and customs into the Vinland community.
- Merchants and businessmen who built Vinland as a commercial center.
- Pioneer settlers who tamed the frontier, survived severe winters, and drought and grasshopper invasions to become successful farmers and raise families known throughout the county.
- Men and women who led civic, cultural, religious and political endeavors for the betterment of the community and beyond.

FVFT Site G

WELLS OVERLOOK PARK & PASSERINE PAVILION, INTERPRETIVE PANELS, AND VIEWING TOWER

Wells Overlook Park is located $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of U.S. Highway 59 on the south side of the road at 1372 N 1000 Road. Wells Park was donated in 1971 to Douglas County by William Wells. More info: <http://dgcoks.org/news090721>.

An interpreter will greet visitors at the pavilion from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. each day of the tour.



The new accessible viewing pavilion at the northern end of Well Overlook Park provides a breathtaking view of Lawrence, the University of Kansas campus and the surrounding hills, valleys and farmlands. Interpretive panels share the history of the Wakarusa Valley.



Then take the steps to the top of the viewing tower for a view to the north and west. Bring your binoculars and your camera! A picnic area with tables and shelter are available. Also on site is a small playground. The park is open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Photo courtesy Clinton Lake Historical Society

FVFT Site A

BALDWIN CITY'S PIONEER CEMETERY & PIONEER CEMETERY PRAIRIE 174 E 1700 Road Baldwin City, KS

(The cemetery entrance is south of Ad Astra Alpaca Farm)



Pioneer Cemetery, originally known as Baldwin City Cemetery, was the result of a charter issued February 3rd, 1858 to the Kansas Educational Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the establishment of Baker University and a cemetery of less than forty acres. Nothing was done about the cemetery until the August 30th, 1858 death of Milton Baldwin, the son of the town's namesake. Many other notable persons from Baldwin's earliest history were buried here as well, including the Barricklow families, Prather's, Reverend Mudge and the wife and several children of Dr. A.T. Still, the founder of Osteopathic medicine. A few families in the cemetery also had ties to the Battle of Black Jack, namely the Moore's and Pearson's. Burials slowed in the 1910's as the underground water table made the cemetery unsuitable for use. Some previous burials were moved to nearby cemeteries, including Oakwood and Vinland.

While no longer an active cemetery work was recently completed to restore this historic site. A substantial grant from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council was utilized to repair and restore over 40 stones that were most in need. The Santa Fe Trail Historical Society of Douglas County and a Pearson Memorial provided funding for the recently completed interpretive kiosk. In addition, community donations and volunteers made this restoration work possible. Volunteers will continue the project by properly cleaning tombstones and researching the history of those buried here. Each stone holds an amazing history of the person it memorializes. Please visit the Kansas Room of the Baldwin City Library to learn more about our wonderful history. This site is owned by Baldwin City.



PIONEER CEMETERY PRAIRIE

Rural Douglas County

is a landscape of pastoral beauty, a place of rolling fields and deep woods interspersed with wetlands, rivers and lakes. Scattered throughout this countryside, archaeological sites and crumbling old buildings remind us of the human history that has played out on this land. But the lives of indigenous peoples and early pioneers took place in a landscape much different from what we see today. Two hundred years ago Douglas County was nearly 90 percent tallgrass prairie, part of a vast ecosystem that covered more than 170 million acres from Canada through Texas and east as far as Ohio. These rolling hills and plains were interrupted by fingers of forest that hugged north-facing slopes, and the rivers and streams that snaked across the prairie. Today, cultivated land, planted pasturelands and young woodlands have replaced the prairies and old-growth forests. But vestiges of the original landscape still can be found scattered across the county. We invite you to learn about the splendor of the original Douglas County landscape, to understand how settlement transformed the land, and to protect the few remaining gems of our natural heritage.

Native prairies and forests are still disappearing from the Douglas County countryside. But you can help preserve and restore this rich natural heritage for future generations. Here's how:

- **Protection:** Landowners can manage their prairies and forests in ways that preserve their unique biological character, and can protect them in perpetuity using conservation easements.
- **Restoration:** Rural property owners can plant native trees where forest once grew, and re-establish native grasses and wildflowers on open fields.
- **Advocacy:** All Douglas County residents can support city and county initiatives that endeavor to protect these precious lands.

Photo and text excerpt from the Kansas Biological Survey publication, *Discovering Our Natural Heritage: Prairies and Forests of Douglas County*, funded by a Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council grant. (A limited number of copies of this publication and Black-eyed Susan seed packets available at this site.)

KVFT Site D

REYNOLDS DAIRY BARN & HISTORIC ROOT CELLAR

571 E 1000 Road Baldwin City

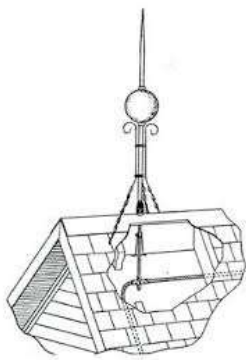


The Reynolds Barn is a late 19th century multi-purpose structure located in Willow Springs Township. The wood-frame building has vertical siding, an original wood-shingled roof covered with metal roofing. The center section features a gable roof, hay hood, and lightning rods. The north section contains a loafing area. The south section is

divided into two rooms that appear to have been a milking parlor and a milk processing room. The barn owners are currently in the process of restoring this historic dairy barn. Local interpreters greet visitors.

LIGHTNING RODS!

Why did farmers place lightning rods on barn roofs?



The goal of mounting lightning rods was to protect barns, horses and other animals, as well as farm equipment. How do they work? Grounded, the lightning rod directs the lightning strike's energy harmlessly into the ground, thus sparing the building.



Why did the old lightning rods on top of the barns have a glass ball on the rod? The glass ball was used to prevent the electrical charge from jumping off the conductor, the copper wire that actually made up the rod, and thus preventing it from hitting other parts of the building. It also provided a greater degree of stability to the rod itself. (For additional information, refer to the National Park Service Preservation Brief 50, Lightning Protection for Historic Structures by Charles E. Fisher.)

KVFT Site D Continued - ROOT CELLAR

A root cellar is essentially an underground “cave” which is cold, dark, and humid. This provides a perfect environment for storing vegetables (especially root veggies, hence the name root cellar). Usually crops were put in the root cellar after the harvest so they could be saved and eaten throughout the winter.



Photo courtesy Robert Elder

Root cellars were often built for the purpose of food storage but were also used as storm shelters and sometimes referred to as “fraidy holes”. Most cellars were constructed partially or completely underground, utilizing the earth as a natural insulator. Before there were refrigerators, there were root cellars!

Farms were often listed for sale in the *Western Home Journal*. The farm advertisement below is dated May 3, 1883.

2. A place of $8\frac{1}{3}$ acres, near Lawrence, all in cultivation, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story frame house of 5 rooms and closets; good cellar and well, a frame barn, orchard of apple and peach trees, grapes and currants. Price. \$800. Possession given soon.

KVFT Site C

CLEARFIELD SCHOOL –ONE ROOM SCHOOL

2162 N 600 Road – Eudora Area –

Open Saturday 9 – 6 pm & Sunday 1-5 pm



The Clearfield Community began in 1850s when Fredrick Breithaupt came as a young man from Germany to settle in this area of Douglas County in 1854. As other Germans arrived, a settlement formed. A school was established by the immigrants who taught in German. The Clearfield Schoolhaus building is the 2nd schoolhouse to serve school district 5, and was originally built in 1900 a mile east, then moved to its current location in 1908. The school is a wood-frame, rectangle building with wood clapboard siding. It features a front gable roof and is built on a stone foundation.

Two entrances with vestibules provided separate spaces for the boys and the girls. The intact interior features wood floors, plaster walls, wainscoting, chalkboards, and a tin ceiling. The teacher's desk was placed on a raised platform. Two WPA privies (built during the Great Depression in the 1930s) still stand behind the school. The school was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. Historic school desks were found, restored, and placed in the school. Local interpreters greet visitors. A portable restroom is available at this location.



Historic Preservation, Helpful Tour Tips & Tour Etiquette!

Privacy – Thank you for remembering that the properties on the heritage tour are privately owned and only open to the public during special tours. Please respect properties on the tour and the neighbors' privacy and property lines. Thank you!

Parking and Handicapped Parking – In Vinland, please park near the United Methodist Church and walk to the Grange Hall. You may also drive up the hill to the Barnes Apple Barn to see the historic stone barn built by the Barnes family for their well-known vineyard business. This setting provides an overlook of the Vinland Valley.

Safety - The Vinland Grange is accessible only by a steep stairs at the back of the building. Only the second level of the building is open. Please exercise caution with young children.

Public Health – The CDC recommends everyone 2 and older, even those fully vaccinated, to wear masks in indoor public spaces and practice social distancing.

Portable Toilets/Restroom– Porta Potty in Vinland west of the Grange & at the Vinland UM Church's Basement – look for the sign. Porta Potty also at the Clearfield School.

Thanks to... This tour is made possible through the support of Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council, the Kaw Valley Farm Tour, the Santa Fe Trail Historical Society of Douglas County, the Vinland Cemetery Association, Douglas County, and private property owners. For more information, follow these links:

<http://www.kawvalleyfarmtour.org/> or [Who We Are & Contact Us | Douglas County Kansas](#)
(douglascountyks.org)