

- **Kansas Memory Digital Project** -
**Digitization of the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA) – Kroh U.S.G.S.
7.5 / 15.min Minute U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps (Quads)**

METADATA-MATERIALS

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Prologue

With the passing of KCAHTA Co-Founder Mr. Lee Kroh in February of 2019, materials of his personal estate were gifted to KCAHTA by the Kroh family being subsequently transferred to the newly established *Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection* of the KCAHTA Archives contained at the *Mabee Learning Commons* on the campus of MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) in Olathe, Kansas. Incorporated herein www.KansasMemory.org are digitized Quad files and associated materials pertaining to Mr. Kroh's mapping of the historic frontier route(s) of the Santa Fe Trail; segments of the Oregon-California Trail in the Kansas City Region; the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Scott Military Road, and historic territorial roads in the Kansas City region. **(See PART B for the complete listing of QUADS.)**

It is through the grateful cooperation of the Kroh family; the photographic digitization services provided by Kansas Historical Society; the partnership with MNU; and the many funding partners who without their generosity and services this project would not have been possible.

The following METADATA/MATERIALS is associated with the photographically digitized U.S.G.S. Quadrangles (Quads) uploaded to www.KansasMemory.org. The METADATA/MATERIALS support the **KCAHTA/KROH QUAD DIGITIZATION PROJECT** in partnership between the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA), MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) located in Olathe, Kansas, and the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS), located in Topeka, KS. These Quads affiliated with this project delineate the historic frontier route of the Santa Fe Trail; segments of the Oregon-California trail; the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Scott Military Road, and historic Kansas City regional territorial roads. **(See PART B for the complete listing of QUADS.)**

KCAHTA Quad project team includes the following members:

Gary L. Hicks, President
Robert Courtney, Chair, Archives Committee
Ross Marshall, Secretary
Craig Voorhees, Member
Lila Aamodt, Membership Chair

PART A (Project Description)

The KCAHTA Quad project team and its partners, by virtue of their vision and commitment are pleased to make available to the public the photographically digitized KCAHTA-Kroh Quad Collection through www.KansasMemory.org for the educational and research purposes. The affiliated Metadata and Materials noted herein detail aspects of the Quad digitalization project.

Part A outlines the following series of METADATA/MATERIALS associated with the **KCAHTA-KROH QUAD DIGITIZATION PROJECT**:

- I. Introduction
- II. www.KansasMemory.org
- III. Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA)
- IV. KCAHTA Archives (at MNU)
- V. *Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection* (contained within the KCAHTA Archives)
- VI. Digitization of the U.S.G.S. 7.5 / 15 -minute Quadrangles (Quads)
- VII. Funding Partners for the Quad Digitization Project
- VIII. Formatting / Access of the 7.5 / 15 -minute Quads - (See Part B)
- IX. Summary

I. Introduction

The Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) and MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) of Olathe Kansas, has served in partnership with KCAHTA (www.kcahta.org) to provide public access to KCAHTA's collection of digitized U.S.G.S. Topographic Map Quadrangles (Quads). The historic frontier routes noted on the Quads facilitated trade, commerce, transportation, and migration for the western expansion of our Nation. The trails were primarily delineated by Mr. Kroh on 7.5 minute series Quads, with the exception of several 15-minute Quads used within the State of New Mexico.

Incorporated within the **COLLECTIONS** category are the digitized files of the U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Topographical Maps (Quads) utilized by Mr. Kroh for mapping the historic route(s) of the Santa Fe Trail; segments of the Oregon-California historic trail; historic territorial roads of the Kansas City region; and the Ft. Leavenworth-to-Ft. Scott Military Road. In addition, (8) various digitized files from black/white replica prints of Quads are included. These replica copies were used by Mr. Kroh's during development of his mapping project, and contain additional information deemed of value.

(254) of the original total (342) Quads in the KCAHTA / Kroh Collection have been digitized and uploaded to www.KansasMemory.org included the upload of the digitized (8) replica 'black & white' prints of designated Quads. (See Items II.C &II.D.)

Those Quads NOT digitized are determined to have been used by Mr. Kroh for reference only, and not directly associated with the alignment of the historic frontier routes. The Quad originals are held at MNU and archived within the Kroh Collection of the KCAHTA archives at the *Mabee Learning Commons* on campus of MNU.

A listing of all the area Quads are included in Part B. The list is categorized by those Quads which are digitized, and those not digitized. They are further grouped according to historic Trail/Road name and State location of each area Quad. An independent Quad number has been assigned to each area Quad (e.g., 001 thru 342). Each of the (8) replica 'black & white' print is assigned the letter 'R' following its numbered associate Quad original (222R, Leavenworth KS-MO). The location of each

area Quad is highlighted on its corresponding State Index Map with its affiliated Quad number from the MSEXcel list featured in Part B.

II. www.KansasMemory.org

The www.KansasMemory.org website is sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society as a database of primary resources of Kansas history and heritage. These primary resources are grouped into (17) primary categories and various subcategories contained therein. One of the primary categories of this database is the COLLECTIONS category.

III. Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (KCAHTA)

In the early 1990s, Lee Kroh with wife Dorothy, and other historic frontier trail preservationists established the *Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association* (KCAHTA), becoming the region's distinctive historic trails preservation and advocacy organization. The mission of KCAHTA is to educate the public of the significance of the historic frontier trails and roads to the nation's western migration movement in the 1800's, as pioneers traversed the area of the modern Greater Kansas City. KCAHTA is an active partner with the local KC area chapter affiliates of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Oregon-California Trail Association, and the National Park Service offices of Santa Fe, New Mexico. KCAHTA advocates and promotes public awareness and supports activities to preserve and protect the historic routes, sites, and trail remains through research, identification, mapping, marking, interpretation and education. On May 1, 1995, KCAHTA registered as a federally designated 501(c)(3) Not-For-Profit Corporation for charitable and educational purposes.

To aid in his early efforts to map and mark the historic trail alignments Mr. Kroh and translated the Federal Government's original 1850s General Land Office (GLO) surveys of a new Kansas Territory. (These surveys are housed at the Kansas Historical Society.) His efforts in the Kansas City area, particularly the regions of today's Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth counties evolved into KCAHTA's popular *Historic Frontier Trails Map* of which eighty-five hundred (8,500) copies were published in November 1997. This 35" x 36" two-sided four-color map denotes the routes of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails, the California Road, and the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Scott Military Road in Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth Counties in Kansas.

In conjunction with KCAHTA's mapping project evolved the development of its signage program. This program identifies for public education the precise locations of the KC area's historic trail routes where they crossed at 'hard points' (actual trail crossings at surveyed section lines), or other significant locations along today's modern roadways. In partnership with Kansas City area municipalities, KCAHTA maintains over 350 of its distinctive post-mounted 'Brown' signs, at over 140 designated historic trail crossings of the Independence Route; branches of the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails, and the historic Military Road. They give the modern public a visual opportunity to understand where the historic routes traversed through the region.

For further details, see www.KCAHTA.org.

IV. KCAHTA Archives (at MNU)

In 2019, KCAHTA and MNU established the framework for agreement and cooperation to pursue mutually beneficial opportunities to enhance heritage research, education, and advocacy, through archival means and methods of KCAHTA records and associated collections. Items in the *KCAHTA Archives* are contained within a climate-controlled environment administered by the *Mabee Learning Commons* located on the campus of MNU. See <https://www.mnu.edu/learning-commons>.

KCAHTA records and associated collections archived at MNU primarily relate to the historic frontier trails of the nation's western migration period in the 1800s. Associated archived materials include maps, books, records and collections association with the Santa Fe-Oregon-California National Historic Trails, and other related items. Also contained within the KCAHTA Archives is the designated *Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection* which includes the original (342) Quads used by Mr. Kroh. The KCAHTA Archives (including the *Kroh Collection*) are available for public access in accordance with MNU established policies and guidelines, as approved by KCAHTA.

KCAHTA extends gratitude to MidAmerica Nazarene University and the following individuals for providing archival facilities for KCAHTA records, the significant *Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection*, and for its support of the digitization of the KCAHTA-Kroh U.S.G.S. Quadrangle maps:

Dr. David Spittal, President
Dr. Darrin Tuck, Professor of History
Lon Dagley, Archivist / Computer Services Librarian

V. Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection

Upon on the passing of Mr. Kroh in February of 2019, trail research materials of his personal estate were gifted to KCAHTA by the Kroh family and subsequently transferred to the newly established *Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection* of the KCAHTA Archives contained at the *Mabee Learning Commons* of MNU. Included in the '*Kroh Collection*' are records incidental to the historic territorial trails and roads of the 1800s which traversed within the region of today's greater Kansas City area, including themed books of the historic trails period. **NOTE: In 2019, official copyright ownership of Lee Kroh's Quads were officially transferred to KCAHTA by the Kroh family. This copyright transfer is registered with the U.S. Copyright Office, Washington, D.C.**

Of significance in the Kroh Collection are three-hundred forty-two (342) U.S.G.S Topographic Quadrangle Maps (Quads.) (See <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geospatial-program/topographic-maps>). The Quads were utilized by Mr. Lee Kroh for the purpose of reference and mapping the historical trails and roads of the 1800s era as noted below:

- Historic route of the Santa Fe Trail between 'old' Franklin, MO and Santa Fe, NM, including alignments of the optional 'Mountain Route' and 'Cimarron Routes'
- Segments of the Oregon-California Trails in the Kansas City region, most of which were congruent with the route of the Santa Fe Trail
- Historic Ft. Leavenworth-to-Ft Scott Military Road (including portions of which traversed through Johnson County-Wyandotte County-Leavenworth County, Kansas regions of the general Kansas City area.)
- Miscellaneous territorial roads in the region of the Kansas City area

Each Quad is numbered sequentially from (001) through (342) corresponding to a designated trail Group, and primary era of usage . **See Part B for Category and Group listing of the Quads**

VI. Digitization of the Kroh Quadrangles (Quads)

The collaborative digitization effort by KCAHTA and KSHS included the following activities:

- A formal agreement between KCAHTA and KSHS established the framework for cooperation designed to enhance public education, awareness, and heritage interests related to the photographic digitization of the original Quad collection developed by Mr. Lee Kroh noted in Item V above. As result of the professional efforts of KSHS the digitized Quad files and

associated ‘materials’ are incorporated on www.kansasmemory.org for continuous storage, hosting and public access.

- ‘Photographic’ digitization of designated U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps (Quads).
- KSHS to provide the processing, hosting and storage services necessary to make possible the upload, structuring, and ongoing hosting of the digitized collection on www.kansasmemory.org.
- KSHS to provide processing, development, formatting, and application of metadata associated with the digitized Quad files hosted on the KSHS website (www.kansasmemory.org).

KCAHTA extends its gratitude to the following individuals with KSHS for their partnership in providing guidance and digital photographic support in the development of the process and program to digitize the Kroh Quad collections, including upload and maintenance of these digital files on www.kansasmemory.org:

Jennie Chen, Exec. Dir., Kansas Historical Society
Matt Veatch, Division Director – State Archives
Teresa Coble, Acquisitions Archivist

Benjamin Epps, Photographer
Michael A. Church, Senior Archivist
Dylan Sweyko-Kuhlman, Digital Archivist

VII. Funding Partners for the Quad Digitization Project

Following is listed the funding partners who, without their support, the digitization of the Quads would not have been possible! It is by their regards for the intrinsic nature of this project that the digitized collection of the KCAHTA-Lee Kroh U.S.G.S. Quadrangles is made possible, and publicly accessible to scholars, researchers, educators, students, and general public-at-large:

Lila Aamodt

Drew & Joanne Bodner

Norman Bowers

Alice Clapsaddle

Mary Conrad

Rob & Diane Cook

Shirley Coupal

Jim & Peggy Donovan

Margaret Endecott

M.J. Epstein

Thomas Hall III

Gary & Louise Hicks

Louise Hicks (IRA)

Steve Kaub

Ross Marshall

Jeanette & Mark Morgan

William Nicks Jr.

Jean Coupal-Smith

Trailside Center - Anne O’Hare

Pat Traffas

Ron Wagner

Dorothy Kroh

Judith Sharp

Bob and Lila Courtney

Roger Kroh

Brian Kroh

VIII. Summary

The KCAHTA Quad project team and its various partners are pleased to provide public access to the digitized KCAHTA-Kroh **U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps (Quads)**. It is trusted that each who benefit from this project will value the 10-year effort of Mr. Lee Kroh (and support from wife Dorothy). His one-time hobby has been transformed into a valued national resource!

To each of you noted herein a grateful public extends its gratitude,

Gary L. Hicks, President
Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association
www.kcahta.org

PART B (Formatting of the Quads)

Included within PART B is the complete listing of the Quad project's three hundred forty-two (342) **U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps (Quads)**. In addition, (5) digitized 1:24000 scale U.S.G.S. State Index Maps are provided for reference for the U.S. States of Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. It is within these States that the project Quads are relevant.

NOTE: To view the entire historic Santa Fe Trail or the Oregon-California trails, access the official digital National Park Service brochure maps at <https://www.nps.gov/safe/planyourvisit/maps.htm>. These maps note historic and geographic features along the trail routes and compliments the Quad project's U.S.G.S. State Index Maps which reflect the general routing of the frontier trails. For specific trail routes maps by Mr. Kroh, access specific area Quads noted on the State Index Maps.

I. Quad Categories

- **Access to the digital Quad files is made through the 'Collections' group of www.Kansas Memory at: <https://www.kansasmemory.org/category/1309>**
- Each Quad has been assigned a unique sequential number (i.e., 001, 107, 342). This number is located in the proximity of the Quad title.
- The attached MSEXcel format spreadsheet lists all the project U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Area Maps (Quads). Listing of the (Quads) is structured in (2) primary categories:

Category 1 - **Digitized Quads**: These Quads are organized into (5) groups accordingly by U.S. State, period of usage: associated frontier routes the Santa Fe Trail; segments of the Oregon-California trail; the Ft. Leavenworth-Ft. Scott Military Road, and Kansas City area historic territorial roads. These Quads are numbered (001) through **(254)**.

Category 2 - **Non-Digitized Quads**: These Quads are generally organized by U.S. State and associated historic frontier routes (e.g. Santa Fe Trail). The Quads are sequentially numbered **(255)** through (342). Originals of these Quads are available of access at the Mabee Learning Commons on campus of MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, Kansas.

For reference, five (5) digitized 1:24000 scale U.S.G.S. State Index Maps are included: (Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Oklahoma). These Index Maps have been added to the collection to associate the location of individual 'area' Quads with the location shown on the U.S.G.S. State Index Maps. These Maps compliment the listing of the Quads and serve in the research process when accessing a specific digitized Quad file within **www.kansasmemory**.

On each State Index Map the general routing(s) of the historic frontier trails can be followed by tracking the bold outlines of the Quads associated with each trail route.

The location of each area Quad is highlighted on its affiliated State Index Map along with its corresponding Quad number as listed in the MSEXcel Spreadsheet featured here in Part B. The general alignment(s) of the various frontier routes of this Quad project are reflected in the highlighted Quad areas noted on the associated State Index Maps.

II. Quad Indexing

- As noted, an independent, unique number has been assigned to each area Quad (e.g., 001 thru 342). The location of each digitized area Quad is indicated on its corresponding State Index Map with the associated Quad number from the listing featured in Part B.
- The MSEXcel index listing of the project Quads is categorized and grouped as follows:
Category I (DIGITIZED): These Quads are listed in Groups as follows:

- | | Quads #s | Period of Use |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Group 1 - Santa Fe Trail | | |
| • Early Route (ER) | 001 thru 022 | (1820s -1840s) |
| • Main Route (MR) | 023 thru 084 | (1840s – post Civil War) |
| • Mountain Route (MOU) | 085 thru 158 | (1840s-thru post-Civil War) |
| • Cimarron Route (CR) | 159 thru 207 | (1820s-thru early 1840s) |
| • Aubry Cutoff (AC) | 208 thru 218 | (Early 1850s) |
| B. Group 2 - Oregon-California Trail segments (Kansas City region only) | | |
| • 219 thru 221 (Note: <u>Alignments of the Oregon Trail, California Trail, and the Santa Fe Trail are congruent in the Kansas City region. The Oregon Trail and California Trail separate from the Santa Fe Trail at GARDNER JUNCTION west of Gardner, Kansas. For reference, Quads #23 through #31 map the congruent routes of the Oregon Trail, California Trail, and the Santa Fe in the Kansas City region from Independence, MO through Gardner, Kansas.</u> Quads #219, #220, and #221 represent mapped segments of the congruent Oregon Trail-California Trail between De Soto, Kansas and Lawrence, Kansas. The term ‘California Road’ shown on these Quads is an alternative reference to the historic Oregon-California Trail. | | |
| C. Group 3 - Fort Leavenworth-to-Fort Scott Military Road | | |
| • 222 thru 240 (In addition to digital files from original Quads, this group includes replica digitized of copies Quad B/W prints 222R, 223R, 224R, 225R, 226R, 228R, and 230R. These replica copies were used by Mr. Kroh during development of his ‘trails project. These replicas contain additional information deemed of value.) | | |
| D. Group 4 - Territorial Roads (Kansas City region) | | |
| • 241 thru 254 (In addition to digital files from original Quads, this group includes a replica digitized copy of Quad B/W print 241R) | | |
| E. Group 5 - Miscellaneous Quads NOT DIGITIZED (for reference only) | | |
| • 255 thru 342 | | |

Category 2 (NOT DIGITIZED): These Quads are in the collection yet **have not been digitized, and** considered to have been used by Mr. Kroh primarily for reference only. The Non-digitized list of area Quads provides a general description of associated trail routes, organized by State. **All ORIGINAL Lee Kroh Quads are archived at the Mabee Learning Commons on the campus of MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, Kansas.**