

# Kickapoo Reservation Survey Field Notes (SC25)

## *Introduction*

This collection consists of eight pages of handwritten notes describing a survey for the demarcation of Indian reservations in what are now Doniphan, Atchison, and Leavenworth counties in northeastern Kansas. Notes include a brief description of the survey's purpose, Public Land Surveying System (PLSS) township-range-section locative data, surveyors' measurements, and physical descriptions of the benchmarks, landmarks, and monuments used by the surveyor. Pages are unnumbered.

## *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: Harkins, J.

Title: Kickapoo Reservation Survey Field Notes

Dates: ca. 1854

Size: 0.2 linear feet, 1 box

Collection Number: SC25

## *Donor Information*

Found in collection.

## *Citation Note*

Kickapoo Reservation Survey Field Notes (SC25), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## *Administrative Information*

Related Collections: A map drawn from the field notes is available in SC117, Series 3-11: Kansas #5, Barcode: 30000006.

Related information can be found in the book *Historic Spots or Mile-Stones in the Progress of Wyandotte County, Kansas* by Grant W. Harrington (MVSC 978.13 W97h); *Isaac McCoy: Apostle of the Western Trail* by George M. Ella; Vertical File: Indian Reservations; Vertical File: McCoy, Isaac; Vertical File: Great Nemaha Agency; Vertical File: Shawnee Indians; and in various articles in the *Journal of the West*, *Kansas History*, and the *Kansas State Historical Society Collections*.

## *Historical Sketch*

In June 1824, a Baptist missionary named Issac McCoy met with Secretary of War John C. Calhoun (that department also oversaw Indian affairs at the time) and proposed that the United States government officially set aside land west of the Mississippi for the purpose of Indian removal. The idea met with positive response, but Congress did not approve the Indian Removal Act until May 28, 1830. In the

meantime, McCoy repeatedly travelled in what are now Doniphan, Atchison, and Leavenworth counties in northeastern Kansas to assess the area for its appropriateness to his plan. Both before and after the passage of the Removal Act, Indian groups including the Sac and Fox, the Delaware, and the Kickapoo emigrated to and settled in the area described by McCoy. As the reservation system was implemented, McCoy continued his work as both a missionary and a government Indian agent; in 1834 McCoy conducted a survey formalizing the boundaries of reservations set aside for the Kickapoo, Delaware, and Sac and Fox peoples.

New treaties between the U.S. government, the Sac and Fox, and the Ioway resulted in the necessity of a new survey in the reservation lands were finalized in May 1854. As a result, sometime in the summer of 1854 Daniel Vanderslice, the Indian agent who oversaw those groups at the Great Nemaha Agency in Nebraska, contracted a surveyor named J. Harkins and charged him with mapping the area and determining new reservation boundaries. According to financial reports submitted to Congress by Vanderslice for the last two fiscal quarters of 1854, Harkins received \$59.45 for his work.

### *Scope and Content Note*

This collection consists of eight pages of handwritten notes that include a brief description of the survey's purpose, Public Land Surveying System (PLSS) township-range-section locative data, surveyors' measurements, and physical descriptions of the benchmarks, landmarks, and monuments used by Harkins. Pages are unnumbered.

### *Collection Inventory*

- f. 1 Original survey field notes, 8 pages
- f. 2 Photocopies

**Processed by Melissa Horak-Hern, Special Collections Associate, August 2015**