

KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal
of the
Central Plains

Volume 27, Number 4
Winter 2004-2005



Samuel J. Reader's

Samuel James Reader's
Private Journal

Cette encre est la même de l'autre.
This ink is "OLD AS THE HILLS."

Veni, vidi, vici

La Harpe Ill.

VOL. 3.

SAMUEL J. READER'S JOURNAL

La Harpe Hancock Co Ill.

Sept. 20 A.D. 1853... La Harpe Ill.

Obituary of



*Cette lièvre appartient
à moi. Le papier est dur
Deux pages car un mois.*



Samuel Reader

Catching a new idea.

T.x

*J. M. Cole wrote this, and
drew the hands in May 1855
May 15 74*



PRIVATE JOURNALISM.

Drawn by S. J. Reader Feb. 5, 1854.

La Harpe Illinois.

The Kansans who experienced the territorial era first-hand knew they were participating in something of historic proportions. Thus, many of them wrote of this time and their involvement during and after the fact. Some were more prolific than others, but few, perhaps, could match the record left by Samuel J. Reader, who contributed several hundreds pages of illustrated diary and autobiographical commentary about his varied experiences in Kansas Territory.

Born in Greenfield, Pennsylvania, on January 25, 1836, Samuel James Reader removed with his family to La Harpe, Illinois, in 1841. His diary begins with the latter part of his initial trip to Kansas and goes on to describe his life in Kansas Territory. Reader, an amateur artist who settled in Shawnee County north of Topeka, described mundane daily activities as well as events related to the territorial struggle; with his free-state militia company, for example, Reader participated in the battles of Indianola and Hickory Point.

The Reader diaries are but one more example of the hundreds of items available on the Territorial Kansas Online website. Visit www.territorialkansasonline.org to discover letters, diaries, photographs, maps, newspapers, government documents, and historical artifacts, all of which provide a tangible connection to the people who lived and experienced Bleeding Kansas.

KANSAS HISTORY

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COVER: *Painting (detail) by Barry G. Price of the Rock Island in Horton. An article about Horton's railroad legacy begins on page 232. BACK COVER: Invitation to Beyond Lewis & Clark: The Army Explores the West at the Kansas Museum of History. This issue's review essay examines the military's roles in the development of the West.*

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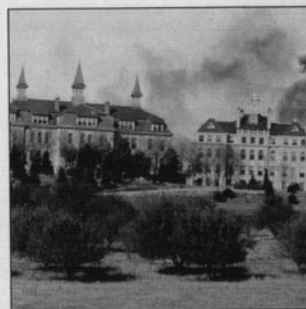
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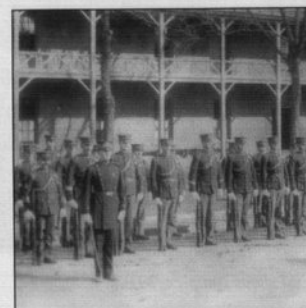
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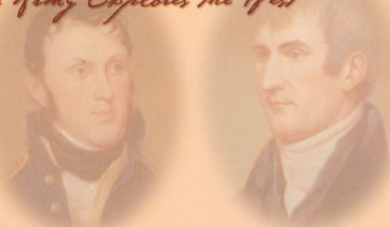
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***** Now, discover the rest of the story *****

Beyond Lewis & Clark

The Army Explores the West



A Special Exhibits Gallery Opening
Kansas Museum of History