

Derby Houses/Farmhouses Project

The Derby houses/farmhouse project seeks to preserve the history of houses/farmhouses in the area. Historical atlases from 1882 and 1905 show the location of these dwellings.

The objectives include:

1. Identifying historical houses/farmhouses in the Derby area.
2. Photographs of houses/farmhouses, if available, to be donate to Derby Historical Museum.
3. Concise history of the farm and the family.
4. Information about the construction of the house to be based on a shortened version of the application for the historical register,
5. GPS, legal description (township, range, section), and current address of house/farmhouse or site of former house/farmhouse.
6. Diagram of farmstead (farmhouse and outbuildings)
7. Current status - being used as a residence, in what condition, torn down, other.

The Derby Historical Museum will be the repository for collected information.

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Museum hours ~~2nd and 4th~~ Saturday 10 AM- 2 PM

April - October

Farms were the basis of Derby's economy from the 1870's to the 1930's. Farmhouses had historical importance in that agricultural environment. The Derby area was reliant on farming for there were no natural resources such as timber for logging, minerals for mining, and any scenic mountains or large bodies of water.

The goal of this project was to identify the location of farmhouses in the Derby area, and obtain photographs and information about the families that were a part of Derby's history. The boundaries of the Derby area were not always clear with the surrounding towns of: Haysville; Rose Hill; Wichita; and Mulvane. The boundaries for the project were:

North boundary - 47 St. South

South boundary - 95th St. South

East boundary - 127th St. East

West boundary - South Hydraulic

Some exceptions were made for families described as Derby families.

Within these boundaries, the following sections were researched for farmhouses:

Township 28 South, Range 1 East - Sections 23-27, 34-36.

Township 28 South, Range 2 East - Sections 19-22, 27-34.

Township 29 South Range 1 East - Sections 1-3, 10-15.

Township 29 South Range 2 East - Sections 3-10, 15-18.

The map, Osage Trust Lands - Derby area, was created and present day streets were included for easier interpretation.

This map of the Derby area shows the first land owners. These land records were found on microfilm at the Kansas State Historical Society Library at Topeka and the actual records ledger at the National Archives in Kansas City.

The Derby area was located in Osage Trust Lands, officially opened for land sales in 1870. The settlers were charged \$1.25 per acre. No free land grants were available in the Osage Lands but some free land was available in other parts of Kansas. The land patent records show the land sale date and the land patent date. The land patents included information about the farmhouses that had been built:

Adam Glaser's farmhouse was 14 feet by 16 feet,
1 story high, shingle roof, 2 doors, and windows
Date March 29, 1876.

James Goodacre's farmhouse was 12 feet by 14 feet,
1 story high, shingle roof, 1 door, 1 window.
Date October 20, 1872.

John Goodacre's farmhouse was 14 feet by 16 feet,
1 1/2 story high, 2 doors, 3 windows. Date
March 7, 1874.

I am indebted to Alma (Schweitzer) Bacon for sharing the above land patent records which a family member had already obtained from the National Archives, Washington, D.C. The Osage Trust land records were reviewed a second time to obtain the patent certificate numbers.

The Derby area included some 176 land sales with the potential that 176 farmhouses would be built. The 1882 historical atlas only had 96 farmhouses for the area. The historical atlas for 1905 showed an increase to 113 houses. Some 52 farmhouses were found at the same site in both the 1882 and 1905 historical atlases. One of these 52 farmhouses is the oldest surviving farmhouse found to date: the Snyder / Mohr farmhouse in Township 29 South, Range 2 East, southeast quarter of Section 8. The lintel over the front door was inscribed "H H Snyder 1880". The Mohr family bought the farm when the Snyder family moved to Mulvane.

The OsageTrust Lands record only gave a description of the farmhouses but not the location. The 1882 and 1905 atlases platted the farmhouse locationa. The 1872 description of the James Goodacre farmhouse (12 feet by 14 feet, 1 story high, shingle roof, 2 doors and windows) does not match the donated photograph. The 1872 farmhouse had been enlarged or replaced by a larger and more permanent building. Alma Bacon reported that the original cabin was found in the Adam Glaser farmhouse when it was torn down.

The historical atlases had provided the location of the farmhouses and the land records gave the owners' names. The focus then became finding photographs of the farmhouses and

identifying those still standing. So far, these include:

Snyder / Mohr stone farmhouse

for down 2014 — Hamilton farmhouse built about 1905

Goodin farmhouse built about 1905

The photographs, family information, and land records all combine to help tell the history of the Derby area. No big farmhouse mansions were found and little was known about the builders or when the houses were built.

The project goal was to promote awareness of local history for current residents. This research found that the information could promote family history awareness for some descendants of the first Derby settlers. The farmhouse photograph collection will include a 1970's era aerial view of the Gerties/ Lauber farm and the Hopkins farm with encroaching suburban housing sprawl. The farmhouses are mostly gone but their legacy can be preserved with the help of photographs.

Bibliography

This bibliography is arranged by category and priority rather than alphabetical.

Land records

Osage Trust Lands records. Microfilmed copy at Kansas State Historical Society Library at Topeka and the actual records ledger at National Archives, Kansas City Branch.

Historical atlases

Edwards, John P. Historical atlas of Sedgwick County, Kansas 1882. Philadelphia: F. Bourquin, 1882. Reprint in 1982 by Midwest Historical and Genealogical Society, Wichita.

Ogle, George, compiler. Standard atlas of Sedgwick County, Kansas. Chicago: George Ogle and Company, 1905.

Censuses

Kansas State censuses - 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925
United States Federal censuses - 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

Sedgwick County, Kansas marriages and cemetery records

Pennington, Bill. Sedgwick County, Kansas marriages.

Wichita, Kansas: Bill Pennington, 1988. 9 volumes, records dated 1870-1928.

Pennington, Teresa. Sedgwick County, Kansas cemetery inscriptions. Wichita, Kansas: Bill Pennington, 1986. 4 volumes, El Paso Cemetery in Volume II.

Death records

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Derby history

Blue, Lyle Raymond. Derby - past and present. 1971. A paper for American Studies class at Wichita State. Early Derby history and current government (1971). Bound in hard bound cover with Kay Crowell's history of Derby.

Crowell, Kay. A history of Derby 1870-1934. A paper for Wichita Public Library local history series, 1971. Early Derby settlers and town history.

Sedgwick County, Kansas history

History of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas. Chicago: C. F. Cooper & Company, 1910. 2 volumes with index.

2015 Addenda

Hamilton, Beverly Saving the farm 2014. Hamilton farm story, Derby.

Ise, John Sod and Stubble 1938, 1968, 1996
German immigrant farmer family, Osborne Co, Ks. Reads like a novel, but is historical.

Penner, Mel Section 27. Mennonite farm family in central Kansas

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on the prairie.

County maps of land patent. Apha Publishing Online for available counties

