

A Self-Guided Tour
Of
Historic Burlingame



In the year 1827, the United States Government opened a mail route from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The route had been selected sometime before by the Overland Freighters and was known as the Santa Fe Trail. The trail went through Burlingame, Kansas and Council Grove, Kansas as it wound its way to Santa Fe. The route was traveled by settlers during the era of wagon trains, stagecoaches, military companies, railroads, and homesteaders.

Burlingame, originally known as Council City, came about in the 1850s. At the eastern edge of town, a railroad bridge was built in 1869 when the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad expanded the line to Burlingame. The old Santa Fe Trail followed closely what is currently Highway 56. This was the only point where the Santa Fe Rail crossed the Santa Fe Trail.

Burlingame's historic Santa Fe Avenue was part of the old Santa Fe Trail. The street expanded 150 feet in width, allowing a wagon and team of oxen to readily turn around. The public well was located at the intersection of the two-block main business district. The well was used by travelers, as well as a source of water for the community. A fort was built around it during the Bleeding Kansas days and locals guarded it. No longer used, the well was covered when the street was paved with brick in 1925.

The brick main street is still maintained as are several buildings dating back to the 1800s. The town of Burlingame claims a colorful history which is displayed at the local Schuyler Museum.

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STOP #1: TINDELL HATCHERY

4433 West US 56 Highway

Tindell's hatchery opened in 1929 by Lloyd D. Tindell. It was located 2.5 miles east of Burlingame on old US-50N (now US-56) near Fostoria and a 1/2-mile past present-day Indian Hills Rd on the south side of the highway. Parts of the old facility remain today.



This property remains a private residence.

STOP #2: RAILROAD BRIDGE

US 56 Highway East of Burlingame

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail line was laid from Topeka to Burlingame in 1869. The arrival of this railroad brought great celebration and a feeling of permanency for the town. The next year the rail line was extended southwest to Emporia. In 1880, the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railway Company constructed a railroad between those towns. When it was purchased by the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, it was called the Alma Branch. The line from Eskridge to Alma was abandoned in 1970 and the remainder of the line was closed in 1972.



STOP #3 LINKENAUGER HOME

313 East Santa Fe Avenue

The first settlers to locate in Osage County came the summer of 1854. Charles Linkenauger, an anti-slavery businessman, arrived in August of that year. He was born in 1826 in Montgomery County, Virginia.

He made a claim at the mouth of Switzler Creek in 1854. In 1866 he sold that claim and bought an adjoining farm. In 1867 he built a two-story stone house at a cost of about \$2,500. This house is presently located at 313 E. Santa Fe Avenue. At the time, it was considered one of the best homes in the area. In the fall of 1880, parties leased his ground prospecting for coal. A twenty-four-inch vein of coal was discovered. The shaft was named the "Black Diamond," and proved a permanent paying investment for the parties.



This property remains a private residence.

STOP #4 VAUGHN BRIDGE

North Kansas Street

From 1854 until 1858 this was just a mud crossing. The original wood bridge across Switzler Creek at this location was built in 1858 when the Burlingame Road (sometimes called Angle or Western Road) was officially opened and there was a toll to cross. The road has been renamed Kansas Street.

The second bridge is referred to as Vaughn Bridge. It was built in the 1880s at a cost of \$2,100 and was made of wood and steel. It was named after William and Emily Vaughn who owned the property on the east side of the bridge at the time. The bridge partially collapsed in 1910 when two wagons loaded with sand and concrete caused the cave in. Vaughn Bridge was removed in 1915.



The current concrete bridge opened across Switzler Creek in November 1915 and replaced the old Vaughn Bridge. This new bridge took nearly four years to build and was commissioned in 1911. Originally, it had ornamental lights at each end and cost \$3,500 to build and is still in use as of 2022.

STOP #5: CHRISTMAS STAR

246 South Kansas Street

The star was placed on top of the COOP in 1971 by Monte Hicks and Clarence Wessel.

The Christmas star is turned on at Thanksgiving and shines over Burlingame during the holiday season.



STOP #6: TRAIN DEPOT

Between Dayton Ave and Seward Ave, just east off of Kansas Street

Construction of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe depot in Burlingame began in 1865 and it was completed in 1869. It was located just south of the COOP on the west side of the current tracks. Passengers could catch a horse drawn taxi at the depot that would take them anywhere in town. It remained at this location for over 110 years, but was sold and moved in 1980, and then finally destroyed in 1997. The original ATSF railroad route was planned and initially surveyed to be laid much further west than its current route through Burlingame. The route was initially intended to take a southwesterly path from Topeka to Wilmington, following the old Military Trail, but when coal was discovered in Osage County, Wilmington got "railroaded" and Burlingame and ATSF became the beneficiaries. This change helped Burlingame evolve into the booming trail and rail town of the early 1870s.



STOP #7: SUPERIOR SCHOOL

6717 West 189th Street

The county seat contest, common to nearly all new counties, took on a serious aspect in Osage. Before the organization of the county, voting took place in Burlingame, and no objections were raised. The first meeting of the county commissioners on April 27, 1859, was held at Superior. On June 7, officers were elected. The legislature of 1860 appointed a commission to select a location for the county seat. They selected a spot about midway between Superior and Burlingame, which they called Prescott. Prescott was rejected at the county seat election held in April, and Superior continued as the county seat. The first term of the district court was held there in October 1861.



This stage curtain hung in the Superior School House from 1925 until the school closed in 1952. The curtain was purchased by local patrons. Much of the community's livelihood was displayed on this curtain which now hangs in the Burlingame Schuyler Museum. The Superior School House still stands two miles south of Burlingame.



STOP #8: COAL MINES / BELL MINE #4

One Mile South of Burlingame

Osage County was once the leading center of coal mining and employment west of the Mississippi. In 1964, Burlingame's Bell Mine No. 4, with both deep and surface mines, was the last coal mine shaft in the state to close.

Coal was discovered near Carbondale in about 1860, influencing the development and route of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. However, production did not occur until at least 1867, when a strip mine was developed near Scranton. The discovery of coal early in 1869 by John F. Dodds at Carbon Hill was the catalyst that led to a rapid increase in mining activity. That year, several mines were opened in Osage City and at Carbondale. Shortly after, development began at Scranton. Mining was delayed in Burlingame until 1897. The coal was considerably deeper, and many felt it did not exist.



Bell Mine #4

Before the railroad's arrival, the market area for Osage coal was quite restricted. Coal at that time was hauled exclusively by wagon, and the market did not extend beyond a radius of 40 miles from the mining areas. By 1871, the coalfields became the leading coal mine center in the state.



Washington Coal Shaft

In the following years, other coalfields were developed in other areas of the state and country that were cleaner to burn with less sulfur content. This caused coal production to rapidly decline after the turn of the century. The last shaft mine in the state, south of Burlingame, Bell Mine #4, closed in 1964. However, the coalfields of Osage County continued to be the prime source of energy for the Santa Fe Railroad with its deployment to the west coast and other areas.

STOP #9: COUNTY HOME / POOR FARM

7831 West 181st

In January 1876, more than 150 acres of land was purchased central to the population center at the time. The land was called Rice's Grove, and was near Burlingame, adjacent to the Dragoon Creek. By March, the property was ready to take in homeless residents and by April the separate quarters for those declared insane was prepared.

The idea was for residents who were able to work to participate in farm activities for which they received payment. The farm had anywhere from 75 to 95 acres under cultivation for corn, wheat, millet and potatoes, as well as a garden and orchard. The farm ground was some of the most fertile in northeast Kansas and crops won awards at the Kansas State Fair. The hogs that were raised received top billing in the Kansas City markets.

In 1973, Osage County closed an era on how it cared for those unable to provide for themselves, whether they be poor, orphaned, or lacking the physical or mental capabilities to live independently. This institution was known as the Osage County Poor Farm.

The property where the Osage County Poor Farm was located is privately owned and the main building serves as a residence.



STOP #10 BURLINGAME COMMUNITY CEMETERY

One Mile South of Burlingame on Topeka Avenue

The only incorporated towns to send soldiers to fight in the Civil War were Burlingame and Superior. In 1861, there were other voting and tax precincts like Havana, Versailles, Ridgeway and 110 Mile, but they were not incorporated towns. Sac & Fox was a government agency and did not become Quenemo until 1870. Superior was still a town when the Civil War started; however, it had all but folded two years earlier in 1859 when a tornado destroyed most of it. The post office closed in 1862. There are several soldiers buried in other Osage County cemeteries, but they were mustered elsewhere. The Burlingame cemetery has over 250 Civil War burials and over 230 were Burlingame residents. There are Burlingame Civil War soldiers buried across the United States.



The “Old Burlingame Cemetery” was established in 1855 by the founders of Council City. It is located southwest of the present day intersection of K-31 highway and Hoch Road on private property. Most interments were moved to the present “New Burlingame Cemetery” location, pictured above, prior to 1880.

STOP #11: RODEO GROUNDS / PAUL LANG ARENA

829 South Rodeo Street

The Burlingame Saddle Club was formed in 1969 with eight members. Original board members were Clarence Helstrom, Paul Lang, Charles Peterson, Dean Prescott, Lyle Reeves, Norman Cow-boy Richmond and Ben Stout. The club's arena was dedicated to Paul Lang in 2015.

The Burlingame Santa Fe Trail Rodeo began in 1970. Burlingame hosts an annual Rodeo Days celebration on the third weekend in May. The event features a rodeo on Friday and Saturday evenings at the rodeo grounds and festivities planned by the community during the day Saturday.



STOP #12: SUMNER PARK/GAZEBO

127 West Seward Avenue

Sumner Park was named for Charles Sumner in 1857. Senator Sumner, a Massachusetts antislavery Republican, was beaten unconscious for a fiery speech entitled “Crime Against Kansas” about the violence in the state over slavery.

One of the first activities in Sumner Park was a buffalo market in the early 1860s. James Aikens, among others, bought buffalo hides and meat from men that had been hunting buffalos on the western plains. He would then market those goods to locals and travelers.

In the 1870s, the park was used as a baseball field for Burlingame’s two teams, the “Lightfoots” and the “Unknowns.” In 1871, the city made improvements, adding shrubs and a fence. Seven years later the Streets and Alleys Committee took over the park and installed wooden sidewalks.



There was an attempt to sink a coal shaft in Sumner Park in 1881 to help pay off some of the city’s debts, but never came to be. In 1889 Burlingame had a coronet band led by W.C. Chatfield.

He petitioned the City Council to build a bandstand gazebo in the middle of Sumner Park. It was built by several volunteer carpenters and there were brick sidewalks that led from all four corners of the park to the center, where the gazebo was located.

After the bandstand was complete, the band gave afternoon and evening concerts on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. It was torn down in the 1950s.



STOP #13: CAREY FUNERAL HOME

120 East Santa Fe Avenue (originally)

111 West Santa Fe Avenue and 502 South Topeka Avenue (current)

Carey Funeral Home was part of the Burlingame community for over 103 years from December 1916 to June 2020. A 20-year-old young man named Clifford Carey decided there was room for two undertakers in Burlingame. In the spring of 1913, he headed to Kansas City to start his formal education in the business. By December of 1916, he managed to lease space in the Miner-Farr hardware and furniture store at 120 E Santa Fe. Patrons could decide on auto or horse-drawn service.



120 East Santa Fe Avenue

In 1918, Clifford's wife, Beulah, ran the business while he fulfilled his military obligation. By 1921, Clifford was able to further expand and purchased the Farrar building at 111 West Santa Fe. The Careys would expand again, purchasing the old Sheldon home, built in 1870, at 503 South Topeka.

Clifford's grandfather and father, William Carey Sr., and Jr., had both come to Burlingame from England in 1870 and were farmers. Clifford's son, John W Carey Sr., took over the business when his father retired in the 1940s. John Sr. ran the business for nearly three decades, bringing in his son, John Jr., in the 1970s. It all came to an end in June of 2020 when John W. Carey Jr. sold the operation to the Lamb-Roberts-Price Funeral Home. Over the years there have been several other undertaking businesses in Burlingame, but none had the longevity of Carey's.



111 West Santa Fe Avenue



503 South Topeka Avenue

STOP #14: FEDERATED CHURCH

322 South Topeka Avenue

The first resident pastor, Rev. Henry Morell, organized the Congregational Church in the fall of 1856. The next year the Baptists and the Methodists organizations were formed. The Presbyterian Church organized in 1860 and joined the Congregationalists in later years. A new Methodist Episcopal Church was being built in Burlingame in 1908. An organ was installed in February 1909 shortly after the new church was completed and an organ recital was given at the dedication of the new church. Talk of federating three of the churches, including the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterians, began in the 1920s but it was not until 1948 these three churches consolidated into one, forming the Federated Church. "In union, there is strength" taught Aesop and so it was found with these churches meeting together in what formerly was the Methodist church building. It now bears on its front this sign: Welcome Federated Church.



First Methodist Church



In 2009, the Federated Church in Burlingame celebrated 100 years of service for the Estey Opus #635 Pipe Organ.



STOP #15: LINCOLN SCHOOL

317 South Dacotah Avenue

In 1857, District 7, Burlingame was finally organized. The first District 7 schoolhouse was located on the north side of Sumner Park and opened in 1858.

The “School on the Hill” was built in 1869 and the bell was installed in 1870. It was the first modern high school in Burlingame and Osage County. Initially students were only offered two years of high school. A proposal was made in 1893 to install a cable car to transport the teachers and students up the hill. When classes became too full, the courthouse, which had been purchased by the school, was sometimes used. The opera house on Santa Fe Avenue was used as the gymnasium and auditorium. In 1886, enrollment was over 600 students.

Classes were held on the hill for several decades, the last year being 1925. It was replaced in 1926 and torn down in 1929 . The original bell is still on display at the current Burlingame School.



Current location of the bell.



STOP #16: SCHUYLER SCHOOL/MUSEUM

117 South Dacotah Avenue

The Schuyler Grade School, named for early settler Philip Schuyler, was built in 1902. It served generations of Burlingame elementary children in its 99-year existence.

In August of 2001, the Schuyler School students moved into a new facility adjoining the high school on the north side of Burlingame and the old school was closed. The Burlingame Historic Preservation Society was formed that spring for the purpose of transforming it into an historic museum. The Schuyler Museum opened in 2002, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the school. The museum features exhibits reflecting Burlingame's rich history including artifacts from the coal mining days, the Santa Fe Trail, and the Santa Fe Railroad. There is also a genealogy room where researchers can trace their heritage and study the history of this area.



Students in front of Schuyler School - 1921



STOP #17: DAR MARKER

101 South Dacotah Avenue

The DAR marker is a reminder of the old Santa Fe Trail and the role it played in the development of Burlingame, Kansas. It was originally put in place in September 1906 by the Topeka chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) at a cost of \$45. It was the first red granite DAR marker installed on the Santa Fe Trail.

It was originally located in the center of town and was moved several times. In 1961, before the Kansas Centennial, it was moved for the final time to its current location near the Schuyler Museum. In September 1992, it was rededicated.



STOP #18: FIRE DEPARTMENT

206 North Dacotah Street

In 1876, the city fathers formed the original fire department which has continued to this day. The department has always been manned by an all-volunteer membership. The original organization started out with one piece of equipment, a hose cart that was pulled to the fire by hand. Over the years, the department acquired motorized equipment.

Up until 1958, the fire department only responded to alarms inside the city limits. That same year, the City of Burlingame joined with Dragoon and Burlingame Townships to form a larger department and provide fire protection to the entire area. Shortly after that time, a new radio system was installed to better alert the firefighters when there was a fire call.

In the late 1970s, another volunteer group started the Rescue Squad which would respond to emergency medical calls. This group was completely donation funded and staffed by some members from the fire department as well as their own charter members. This group served a very important and appreciated service to the community and paved the way for our First Responder Program that we have today. In 1987, the Rescue Squad became a part of the fire department and is now supported by funds from within the fire department budget.



Mayor Roscoe Collins
in 1950 on the 1938
Ford Fire Engine



STOP #19: POWER PLANT

204 West Lincoln Avenue

On May 7, 1894, the Burlingame City Council granted a two-year franchise to W. M. Argelius to build an electric light plant. By January 1897, the Burlingame Municipal Light System Electric Light Plant was recorded as a one-story brick building on the Sanborn Insurance Company map.



The Electric Light Plant

December 1914

W. R. Howe is showing equipment.



STOP #20: OLDEST STANDING BUILDING DOWNTOWN

116 West Santa Fe Avenue

In the February 1885 Sanborn map of Burlingame, a two-story stone building was recorded at this location. This building has housed a billiards hall, a tailor with painting on the second floor in October 1891; a tailor with offices on the second floor in January 1897; a meat market in August 1905 and June 1912; and a grocery store; gentlemen's' furnishing store, and a restaurant and housing on the second floor from 1925-1940. In 1914 it was purchased by Mr. Frank Stahl, who owned the building until 1940.

118 West Santa Fe Avenue

By August 1905, a one-story stone building with a double storefront had been constructed. It housed a restaurant on the west side) and a barber on the east side. The same uses were recorded in the June 1912 Sanborn map. By 1925 Dutch Burger was recorded as the owner with a clothes pressing office in the west half and a barber shop in the east. Burger's Barber Shop continued at this location until after 1950. Diane Wilkins operated Diane's Beauty Salon; Josh's Barber Shop was the last building occupant.



STOP #21: OPERA HOUSE

122 West Santa Fe Avenue – current site of the Burlingame Library

The Shepard's Opera House opened in 1891 and could seat 500 people. Originally a place for traveling road shows, musicals, operas, plays, ministries, social gatherings, and dances, it also served as the Lincoln High School auditorium.

In later years, it was home to a wagon and implement dealership, a coop/feed store, creamery, grocery store, roller skating rink, and an ice cream parlor, in addition to showing movies.

It was torn down in 1969. If you look closely, you can see the opera house still has part of the first-floor east wall remaining.

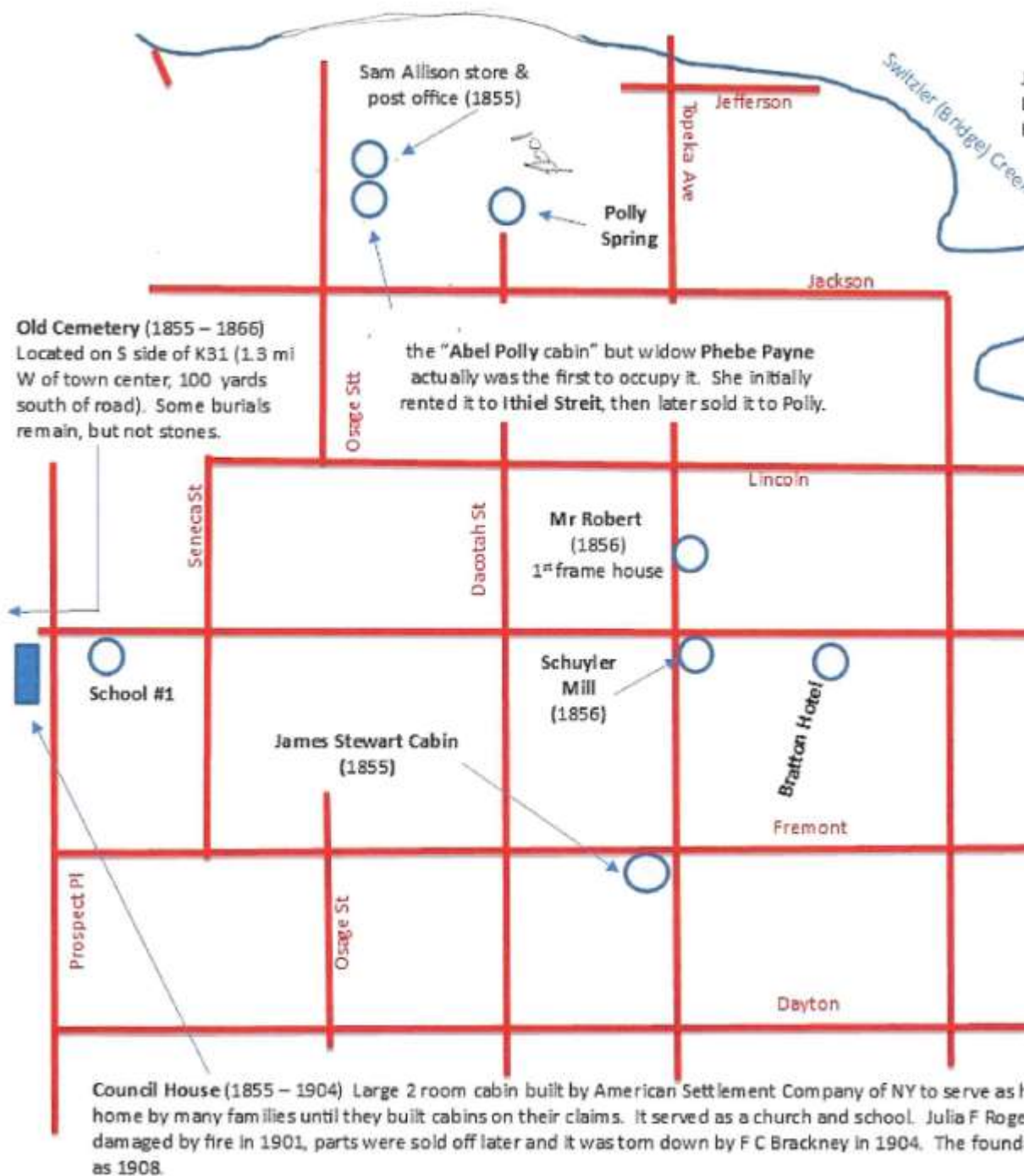
Today, all that remains of the old Opera House is a single stone wall.



In 1961, the Opera House was still standing.

The current Burlingame Library.





Sam Allison store & post office (1855)

Polly Spring

Old Cemetery (1855 - 1866)
 Located on S side of K31 (1.3 mi W of town center, 100 yards south of road). Some burials remain, but not stones.

the "Abel Polly cabin" but widow Phebe Payne actually was the first to occupy it. She initially rented it to Ithiel Streit, then later sold it to Polly.

School #1

James Stewart Cabin (1855)

Mr Robert (1856)
 1st frame house

Schuyler Mill (1856)

Bratton Hotel

Council House (1855 - 1904) Large 2 room cabin built by American Settlement Company of NY to serve as home by many families until they built cabins on their claims. It served as a church and school. Julia F Roge damaged by fire in 1901, parts were sold off later and it was torn down by F C Brackney in 1904. The found as 1908.

STOP #22: SHEPARD HOUSE / WILLIAMS HOTEL

102 West Santa Fe Avenue

The corner building in the complex originally was built as a wooden structure by Henry D. Shepard, a local banker who served as Burlingame's mayor for six terms. The building, which housed the Burlingame Bank on the ground floor and the Shepard House hotel on the second floor, was destroyed by fire in 1903.

The bank and hotel were rebuilt in 1906 as a brick structure. Over the years, the building was renovated for use as a dentist office, a hardware store, restaurant, laundromat, community center, and apartments upstairs.



STOP #23: RULISON BUILDING / GODDERZ LAW FIRM

101 West Santa Fe Avenue

The Rulison Building was built in 1900. C. H. McBurney opened his store in February 1901, according to the Burlingame Enterprise newspaper.

The Rulison Building is nearing completion, and will be ready to be occupied about the first of the year. In this building, Mr. Rulison has set a pace that will surely have a very good effect on the future business structures in Burlingame. It is made of pressed brick, two stories high. The front is plate glass, with a sixteen foot plate glass on the side at the corner and another twelve foot plate glass farther down the side. The stairway will be of a handsome design, there will be cash carriers and all modern conveniences of an up-to-date store. The building will be occupied by C. H. McBurney, who will carry his regular stock on the first floor and millinery and cloaks on the second floor.

McBURNER'S REMOVAL
I, McBurney, have moved from the familiar old stand,
To the Rulison building, the pride of the land.
My store is spacious and modern to a finish;
We hope and trust trade will increase instead
of diminish.
We have plenty of room and the best of lights,
So it is safe to select goods either by day or
by night.
Our goods are new, not a moth-eaten lot;
We sell for cash over the counter, no pennies
in the slot.
If ladies wish dress goods, corsets, hose or
shoes,
We have the greatest variety from which they
can choose.
For men we have all kind of goods, so please
come in and look.
We can dress you from the crown of the head
to the sole of the foot.
For boys and girls our department is complete,
Anything you want for play, school, church or
street.
I could enumerate the articles one by one,
But it would take a paper to hold them as big
as the New York Sun.
So I will thank you for the patronage of the
years that have past,
I feel sure when you examine our stock your
patronage will last.

Burlingame Enterprise - Feb 21, 1901



Until about 1925 the store sold dry goods, clothing, and shoes, followed by a drug store until the 1960s.

The Godderz Law Firm has occupied the building since 1992.

STOP #24: SCHUYLER MANSION AND STABLES

115-117 West Santa Fe Avenue

115 Empty lot west of Aunt B's and 117 is the Antique Store.

The primary residence of Philip Schuyler, known by locals as the Schuyler Mansion, was built on Santa Fe Avenue in 1859. Two large cottonwood trees were planted by Schuyler in 1863. After Philip Schuyler died in 1872, the residence was leased out like a modern-day strip mall. There were law offices, dentists, clothing stores, apartments and other businesses located in the old home. The mansion and barn were torn down in 1888.

Location of barn:

Schuyler's barn would have been attached to the house on the south side and sat back about 100 feet down this open lot.

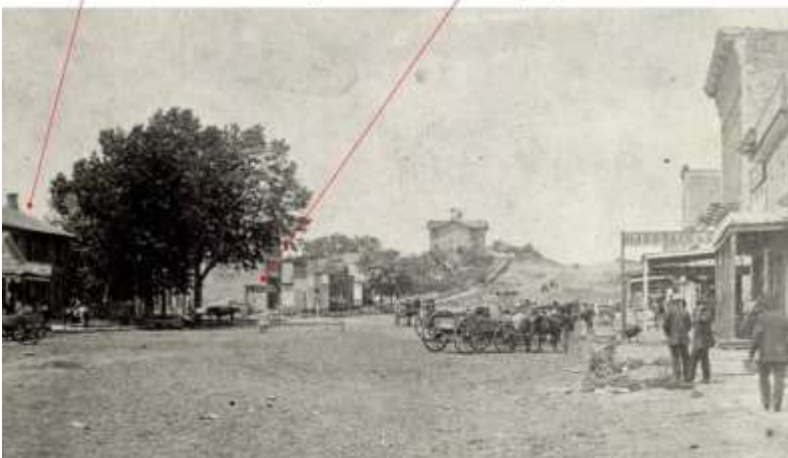
Location of stables: His stables were to the back and south of the alley directly behind the Shaffer Insurance building that takes up 121 and 123 W Santa Fe. They were not torn down in 1888.



Mid 1870s – early 1880s photo

Philip C Schuyler's home

Schuyler's old stables that became N B Corner livery
(notice the "LIVERY" sign ?)



Various livery businessmen leased the property, notably N. B. Connor in 1872. In the photo you can see the entrance on Santa Fe to his stables.

STOP #25: CENTER OF TOWN

The intersection of Topeka and Santa Fe Avenues

This intersection has had an important role over the years.

City Well– Digging began in 1857 by citizens and was used on and off for many decades until it was finally filled in.

Civil War Fort – In 1861 the citizens built a stone fort around the town well. It was 25’ across, 30” thick and had 25-gun holes. It was taken down in 1864 and its stones were used to construct the First Baptist Church.

DAR Marker – Initially dedicated at this location in 1906 and moved in 1920.

Flagpole – Installed in 1917 to commemorate Burlingame’s WWI soldiers. It was 75 feet tall with a 7x14 flag. It was taken down in 1925.

Christmas Tree – Originally located at the center of town in the late 1920s. In recent years, the tree has been relocated a little further west, due to safety concerns.



Through the efforts of the Saturday Afternoon Club, Burlingame held a sunrise celebration on the July 4, 1917, to commemorate the WWI soldiers. Sunrise was at five o'clock. A bundle of 50 sticks of dynamite was fired about four o'clock to ensure citizens were awake and prepared to attend the ceremonies.



STOP #26: BRICK STREETS

Santa Fe Avenue

Discussion concerning paving the streets of Burlingame began in 1923. In a half-page advertisement by the Western Paving Brick Manufacturers Association published in the Enterprise-Chronicle on December 18, 1924, George W. Thurston and L. C. Jones argued for brick paving. “No Vitrified Brick pavement has ever been worn out. Go to your Councilman now and ask that your street be paved with 3-inch Vertical Fiber Brick with asphalt filler, but it is the taxpayers value and the pavement that outlasts the bonds.”



At the City Council meeting of February 16, 1925, a majority decided to pave the business district with brick. As the Enterprise-Chronicle announced on February 26, “the two business blocks on Santa Fe Avenue and one block on Topeka Avenue are to be paved with brick instead of concrete. A majority of the property owners interested consider the move a wise one and signed a petition asking the change be made.” Work began early in March, 1925. Penny Construction of Pond Creek, Oklahoma was awarded

the contract. Later, the newspaper reported, “the weather the past week has been ideal for paving – no rain and quite cool most of the time—enabling Contractor Penny, Foreman Lacy, and their force of competent workmen to make splendid progress. One-half of the five-inch concrete base on Santa Fe Avenue is in—two strips 24 feet wide and 120 feet long. Work on the two center strips of the same dimensions was begun yesterday. It hoped to have the two Santa Fe avenue blocks open in about three weeks.”

There are approximately 825,000 bricks downtown on Santa Fe Avenue (between Dacotah and Delaware) and the small portion on Topeka Avenue.



STOP #27: LEVI EMPIES STORE

140 West Santa Fe Avenue

One of Burlingame's founders that often gets overlooked is Levi Empie. He moved to Burlingame from Wisconsin in 1857 and added the Empie Addition to town which occupied 2 blocks from Santa Fe to Jackson and Osage to Seneca. He built a large stone home and store at the northeast corner of Santa Fe and Dacotah - 140 W Santa Fe. It was called the "Burlingame Country Store" and carried groceries, furniture, shoes, dry goods, hardware, implements, livestock feed and dishware.

With constant expansion, the store became known as "Empie Hall" and was host to many balls and dances over the years. Empie Hall suffered a minor fire in 1881, destroying the attached barn and livery. In 1883, disaster struck, and fire destroyed Empie Hall. Levi Empie died four years later in 1887 with a net wealth of over \$1 million dollars in today's money. The crumbled stone remains of Empie Hall were replaced with a large two-story building in the 1890s, shown below, but it is also gone. Recently, Kraus hardware occupied the old Empie Hall location, and it is currently home to the Burlingame School's "bus barn".

1890s – looking northeast from where the DAR marker is now. The building that replaced Empie Hall. This is now home to USD 454's "bus barn"

Library now sits here

Open grass lot today



STOP #28: SCHUYLER MILL/LYONS BUILDING/CITY HALL

Southeast Corner of Santa Fe and Topeka

The southeast corner of Santa Fe and Topeka Avenue has been host to a couple of businesses that helped shape Osage County.

The first was the Schuyler Mill. It was a very large two-story structure that reached south back to the alley. The mill was instrumental to the region. Initially it was a sawmill for lumber, but later grain milling capability was added. It became operational in 1856 and burned down in 1873. The fire burned down three wooden buildings that contained the original city hall, a saloon, clothing store, law offices, the city band office, and the Dan Wortz residence.

In July 1881, the new bank building and a new hall was built on the site of the mill. In 1882 the Charles Lyon building was erected. It's still standing as of 2022.

1856 – 1873
(Schuyler Mill)



1882 – 1892
(Lyons Bldg/Burlingame Bank)



This corner of town sat in ruins from 1873 – 1881 after the fire that destroyed the Schuyler Mill. The chimney stood until 1881.

1993 – Today
(Lyons Bldg/City Hall)



STOP #29: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

106 East Fremont Avenue



The First Baptist Church was originally built in 1907. The foundation was laid from stones taken from the fort surrounding the town well that was used during the Civil War. The church was razed in 1980 and a new Masonic Hall was built.



Southeast corner of Fremont and Topeka Avenue

STOP #30: SCHUYLER BANK

105 East Santa Fe Avenue

This two-story stone Lyon's Building with a brick front was built in 1882. It was the Schuyler Bank from 1868-1886, until it housed a drug store on the first floor with sleeping rooms and a doctor's office on the second floor. In 1912 it housed an implement business and sold auto accessories and tires; adding an office and club room on the second floor in 1925. By 1930, the building housed a grocery store and later a pool hall.

Burlingame TV Repair has occupied the building since 1987. The business closed in 2005.



STOP #31: CITY HALL

101 East Santa Fe Avenue



STOP #31: CITY HALL

101 East Santa Fe Avenue

In July 1881, the new bank building and a new hall was built. In 1882 the Charles Lyon building was erected.

On March 30, 1992 at four minutes past midnight, a fire was reported in Burlingame's City Hall. Firefighters arrived moments later to find heavy smoke coming from the main floor windows. These conditions in an old building in a downtown setting was a firefighter's nightmare. The fire could easily spread to the adjoining buildings and eventually burn down an entire block.

Firefighting apparatus was staged in the middle of the street on the west side of the building. A supply line was laid from the pumper in front of the building to a hydrant ½ block away in front of the Post Office.

There was an open stairway that connected the main city clerk's office with the city library that was in the basement. The firefighters encountered heavy fire coming up the stairway and quickly knocked it down. The focus then was to extend lines to the basement as it was obvious



there was significant fire there also. This fire was knocked down quickly in the basement. Even though the fires seemed to be under control there was a lot of work yet to do. The search for hot spots was always difficult in old structures due to many hidden voids.



Once the smoke cleared it was time to investigate the cause of the fire. It didn't take long to realize that the fire was not an accident. The building had been ransacked in areas that were not involved in fire and tracker feed computer paper was strewn throughout the building in an attempt to spread the fire.

A basement door had been forced to gain entry and there was vandalism throughout the library and city clerk's office. A call was made to the State Fire Marshal's office requesting an investigator. Once the investigator arrived and evaluated



the scene he immediately called for assistance from the ATF and the US Treasury Department due to the fact the fire involved a government building.

Local firefighters and Burlingame Police Department worked closely with the investigating agencies for the better part of the following week, sifting through the debris and carefully removing evidence and finally valuable city records. It was feared that all records would be lost in the fire. Due to the fact the old building had formerly been a bank, it had a large vault. City Clerk Cheryl Holloway and Assistant City Clerk Kim Tyson, at the time, were always diligent about securing all records and backup tapes in the vault at the close of every business day. When the vault was opened two days after the fire there was no sign of smoke, heat or fire damage and all records were in perfect condition.

City hall was temporarily located in the fire station a few blocks away. There was discussion of trying to save the old city hall structure, but it was not feasible, and a new city hall was erected on the same spot one year later. A new library was built in the 100 block of west Santa Fe Avenue one year after the new city hall was finished.

The total loss estimate at the time of the fire was approximately \$450,000 which translates to \$901,000 in 2022. A local young man was indicted on April 21, 1992 for one count of malicious damage by fire and was later sentenced to 10 years in prison.



STOP #32: OSAGE CHRONICLE

1/2 Block North of Santa Fe Avenue on the East side of Topeka Avenue.

Early newspapers played a significant role in development of communities and dissemination of information. The first newspaper published in Osage County was known as the Weekly Osage Chronicle and the Osage Burlingame Chronicle. It began publishing October 12, 1863. This was a Saturday weekly paper published in Burlingame by pioneer newspaperman M. Marshall Murdock.

In 1873, Murdock sold to W.F. Chalfant, and the name was changed to The Osage County Chronicle. Murdock then moved to Wichita, founded The Wichita Eagle, becoming an icon in his field. As was frequently done, newspaper operations popped up overnight, then were sold months or years later, switching owners and names. The Burlingame Enterprise was first published in October 1895 by C.A. and Ed Stoddard. The Burlingame Enterprise bought The Chronicle on May 29, 1919, and a week later, changed its official name to The Enterprise-Chronicle. This newspaper outlasted all the county's other newspapers.

On July 15, 1977, Kathleen and Kurt Kessinger bought The Enterprise-Chronicle from Jerry and Belinda Engler. On March 2, 2002 Kurt Kessinger died and his wife sold it in January 2007 to Chris and Catherine Faimon, ending a nearly 30-year newspaper career. The combined newspaper was known as The Osage County Herald-Chronicle, but the name has more recently been shortened to The Osage County Chronicle, reflecting its 150-year history in Burlingame. The building was torn down in 2013.



STOP #33: POLLEY SPRING

Dacotah Street and Jackson Avenue

The old Polley Spring, south of the city swimming pool, was widely used as the first watering source for settlers and Santa Fe Trail travelers. The only person legally hanged in Osage County, and the ninth person legally hanged in Kansas, was Martin William Bates. It was carried out on February 20, 1867 at the Osage County courthouse that was torn down to make place for the Schuyler school building.

In September 1866, Martin William Bates stole money and a horse from Alfred M Jarboe who lived east of town. Bates and his wife, Eliza (Loney) Bates, were vagrants and thieves who presented themselves as farmhands in need of work. Jarboe did initially hire them, but after a few days they were fired after he found some items missing. Shortly after the firing, an angry Bates came back to rob Jarboe, but he was caught by Jarboe as he entered his home. Jarboe and his brother held Bates until the next morning when he was arrested by Under Sheriff John Polley for robbery. Eliza was not held. Martin and Eliza Bates' families were both from Ohio but had moved to the Emporia area a few years prior.

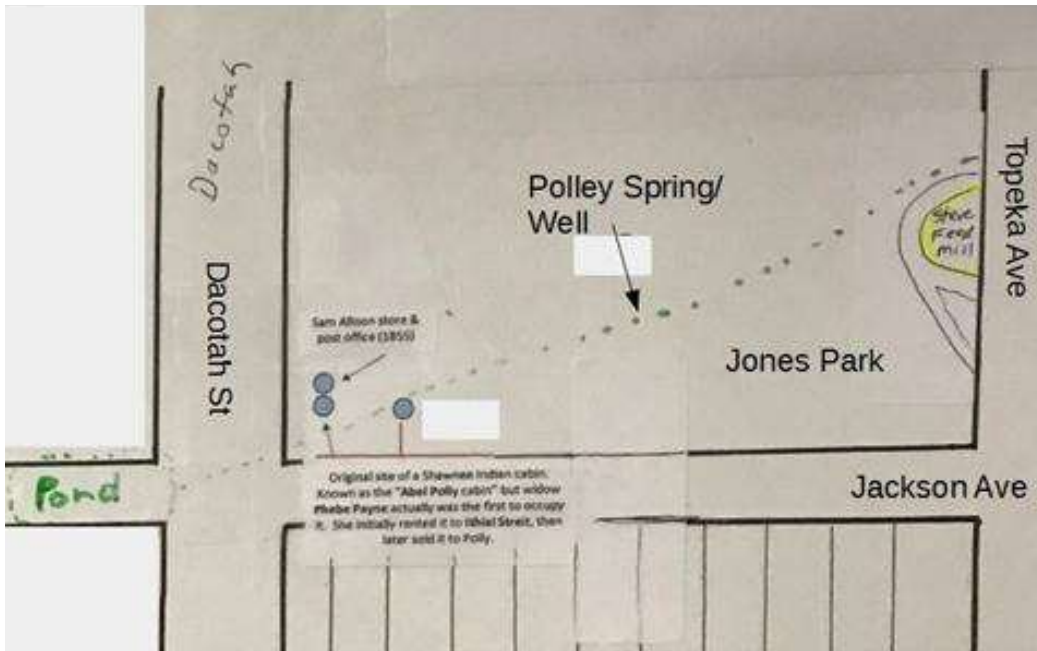
There was no jail in Burlingame at the time, so Bates was confined, with leg shackles made by George Hoover, at the home of Abel Polley, an appointed deputy sheriff and father of John Polley. While in Polley's home, near the present-day site of the high school, Bates wrestled a shotgun from Abel Polley and shot him. He cut off his shackles with a file and escaped. Abel Polley died from his injuries and Bates was charged with murder. After three days on the loose, he was caught east of Olathe and imprisoned at Lawrence during the trial. Martin Bates returned to Burlingame on the day of the hanging at the Osage County courthouse.

Bates was hung from the second floor of the Osage County courthouse which was located at the NW corner of Fremont & Dacotah, about where the Schuyler Museum is now. No one from Bates' family attended the hanging – not even his wife or parents. William A Cozine was the Sheriff. W C Chatfield built the scaffolding from which Bates was hung. James R Stewart prosecuted Bates and James Rogers was the defender. Dr John H. Watson was the presiding judge. Marshall Murdock, Elijah S Borland, Methodist Preacher J. B. Orwig and Catholic priest Ferrier were other witnesses to the hanging. Guards during Bates' trial were E. D. Palmer, John H. Crumb and D. P. Drew.

After Bates was pronounced dead, his body was drug behind a horse with a rope up Fremont Avenue and buried in a pasture west of the Prospect and Fremont intersection. He was deemed unfit to warrant burial in the Burlingame City Cemetery. His grave is unmarked.

Abel Polley became the first official burial in the new Burlingame Cemetery south of town.





Original site of a Shawnee Indian cabin, known as the “Abel Polley” cabin but was originally occupied by widow Phoebe Payne. She later sold it to Abel Polley.

This is the current location of Jones Park and the City of Burlingame pool.



STOP #34: BURLINGAME SCHOOLS AND THE BELL

100 Bloomquist Drive

In 1855, the first school in present day Burlingame, Osage County, Kansas, was established. The school consisted of a canvas cover from a Prairie Schooner wagon suspended between two cabins of the Council House. This first school was taught by 12-year-old Louisa Todd, whose parents lived in the north cabin of the Council House. Louisa had no formal training as a teacher, but prior to coming to Kansas had lived in New York City and may have been more schooled than many of the immigrants coming to Kansas. Schools were usually taught for about three-and-one-half months. Each family of children brought with them as many old schoolbooks as could be stowed away in the corners of their wagons. These books were as varied as the places from whence they came, and fortunate was the teacher who found two or more of a kind for class use. There were no special teachers, but all the fundamental principles were established and through “supplementary readings” the children were well grounded in the three R’s. In following years various log cabins and buildings in the settlement would serve as schools, churches, and meeting halls.

By the 1860s Burlingame was a well-established community and had raised more than \$20,000 to build a formal high school. In 1869 a schoolhouse was built on the hill overlooking the west end of Main Street. On March 18, 1870, a 400-pound Vanduzen & Tift bronze bell was placed in the belfry of the Lincoln High School. Being much larger than the typical school bell of the day, and with its location high above the city, it could be heard for many miles. For several years, the local fire brigade called out volunteers to fight fires using the school bell. The bell was also used by area churches to call to worship and by the community for important events and celebrations. A favorite Halloween night prank was to ring the bell or steal the clapper. In 1882, the Baptist Church purchased an identical bell which now sits in front of the Federated Church.



As enrollment in the Burlingame school increased, some students began holding classes in the old courthouse. The courthouse was eventually razed, and Schuyler Elementary School was completed in 1902. Even with two wings added to the original structure on the hill, the school was overcrowded, and construction of a new high school began west of Sumner Park. It was completed in 1926. Students enrolled there and the old building was abandoned. The old bell hung silent in a building damaged by a fire and a windstorm until May 1929, when it was removed and placed in the basement of the Schuyler School for safe keeping. In the spring of 1936, BHS graduate and teacher Bernard Arnold and his eighth-grade class raised enough money to have it mounted on a brick pedestal in front of the new Lincoln School as a memorial dedicated “To all who have passed through our doors, and those yet to come.” The work was completed by mason Lester Parker in September 1936.

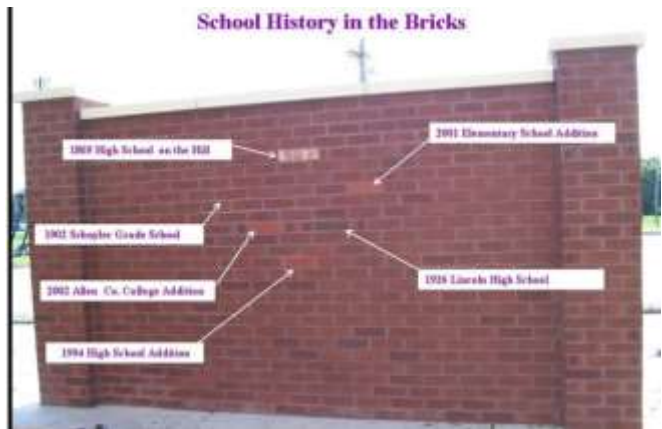
On Halloween night 1945, someone decided “if the bell could not be heard, it should be seen” and proceeded to paint it bright yellow and stole away in the night. The next morning Supt. Heilman was near the door as all students arrived for school; and noticed a young lad with fresh yellow paint on his shoes. Deeming the young man guilty, he sentenced him to remove all traces of yellow from the bell. During the 2009 dedication ceremony Supt. Konicek officially pardoned Joe McFarland for his eighth-grade mischief.

In the 1950s a new addition was added to the Schuyler School and a new high school was built on the north end of town in 1961. The Lincoln School continued to be used as a middle school for the district. An annex building was completed in 1982 behind the Schuyler School.

During 2001, a new addition was added to the high school and all grades K through 12 became housed in one complex. The Schuyler building was purchased by the newly formed Burlingame Historical Preservation Society and became home to the Schuyler Museum. The Lincoln building, in need of some repair and not compliant with new school building codes, was offered to the public and sold. The concrete from the bell’s pedestal was chipped away to free the old bronze bell and it was moved to the high school for storage, its future uncertain.

Fred Diver, vice president of the school board at that time, felt it a shame for the bell to collect dust in storage, and vowed to make it ring again. The clapper was missing and the cast iron mount from which the bell swung was broken. Undeterred, Fred had a new bronze clapper cast by a foundry in Topeka and he made a temporary mount which could be wheeled around. After a final polish, he made a surprise presentation of the bell at the All School Alumni Banquet on May 25, 2002. For the first time in 75 years the bell rang out.

Mr. Diver coordinated a drive to secure funds to build a permanent display featuring a sculptured brick memorial and incorporating the old bell. The bell mural was designed and sculpted by Endicott Brickworks, Fairbury, Neb. and was constructed in 2008 by mason Jim Jackson. The bell now sits in front of the Burlingame School Complex as a proud reminder the heritage of our school and our community.



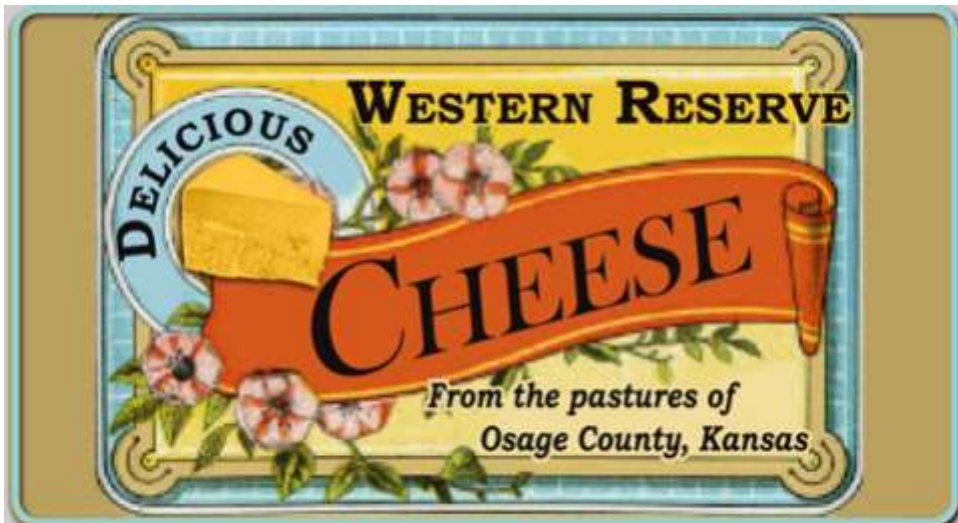
STOP #35: CHEESE FACTORY

118-126 East Lincoln

Wellington Deloss Canfield came to Burlingame in early 1873 and along with partners Harvey W. Parker and Homer D. Rogers converted an old furniture factory into their cheese factory at a cost of \$5,000. A steam mill and boiler were added to heat and pump the water needed to process the cheese. It had a capacity of 1,000 lbs. of cheese per day and the factory bought over 35,000 gallons of milk annually from area farmers for 3 cents per lb. (or about 27 cents per gallon).

The first cheese was made available to the public on May 7, 1873. It was the only cheese factory in Osage County when it opened and only one of five in the entire state of Kansas. W D Canfield continued to operate the Burlingame Cheese Factory until 1880, when he sold his interest to the Finch brothers.

In 1883, Ira Mead became the last person to operate the cheese factory. The old cheese factory building was sold and converted into a washing machine factory later that year. In 1884, Martin Lund bought the old cheese factory building where he opened a lumber yard/planing mill. Lund operated in the old cheese factory until 1886, when he moved his operation to just north of the NE corner of Santa Fe and Topeka (where the RWD #8 building is now). The old cheese factory building was finally torn down between 1892 – 1897 and a new house was built on the site.



STOP #36: MARTIN LUND LUMBERYARD

116 North Topeka Avenue

In October 1885 Martin Lund opened the lumber yard on Topeka Avenue. It was the site of the first gas pump in town. It was located 1/2 Block North of Santa Fe Avenue on the East side of Topeka Avenue (approximately where Rural Water District #8 is located).

New Lumber Yard.
Martin Lund has leased the corner lot north of Armstrong & Gifford's livery stable for a lumber yard. He received several cars of lumber last week. Mr. Lund is an honorable, industrious gentleman, and justly merits a successful business. THE CHRONICLE hopes he will receive a full share of the patronage of the town and surrounding country. Read his advertisement in another column and give him a call.



STOP #37: SAM HUNT GRAVE

Four miles west of Burlingame on Highway 31

Samuel Hunt, Kentucky Private, U.S. Dragoons, September 11, 1835. Private Hunt was listed as the only casualty on an otherwise successful US Dragoons expedition to the Rocky Mountains. He died on the return of the 1645-mile trip from Fort Leavenworth along the Santa Fe Trail. He was buried north of the stream later named in his memory, Dragoon Creek.

In 1971, the pine fence was replaced with pipe and a new marker was added. The original inscription on the old stone read: "S Hunt, 11 September 1835, U.S.D."



In the photo, the new stone and the remnants of the original can be seen.

MANY THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUTTING THIS BROCHURE TOGETHER

William G Pomeroy Foundation

Sources and Photos -

Patty Quaney-Atchison

JF2 Farms - Fred Diver

John Hill

Kansas History Geeks

Kaylyn Masters Photography

Carolyn Strohm

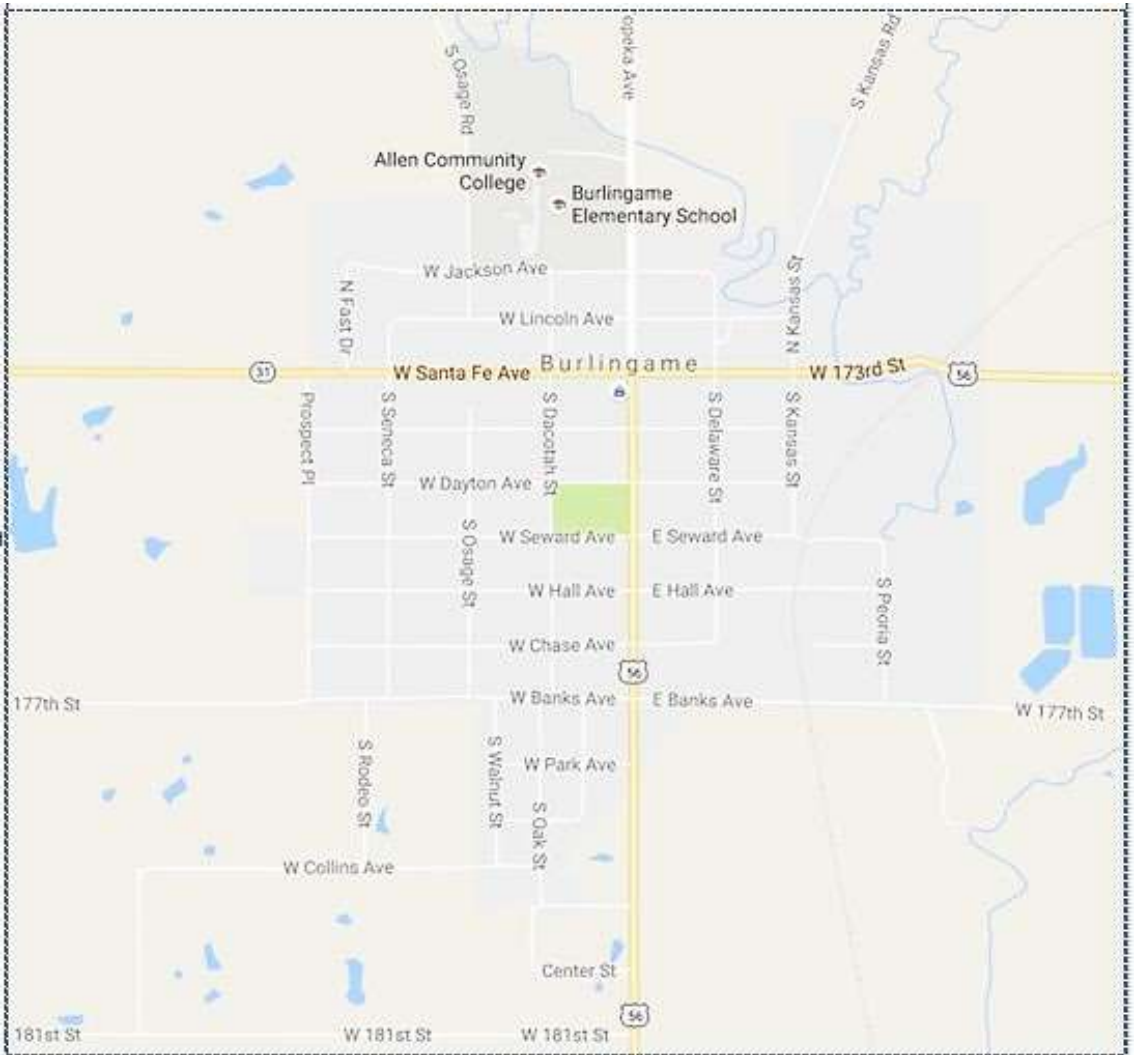
City of Burlingame

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The Osage Herald Chronicle

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Yellow items are history sites not on the walking trail map
Green are businesses
Blue are the walking trail map locations

