

T.S Huffaker and Joseph S. Chick correspondence

This correspondence between T.S. Huffaker and Joseph S. Chick contains details of the Kaw Mission and the early settlers in the area surrounding it, including William Johnson, Mary Jane Chick, Cyprian and Frederick Chouteau, L.J. Huff, and, Joab Spencer. Huffaker's letter to Chick provides even further details on the Kaw Mission and the people who worked there.

Creator: Chick, Joseph S. (Joseph Smith), 1828-1908

Date: April 19, 1906-April 21, 1906

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Hist. Indians - Kansas

(3)

JOSEPH S. CHICK

JOSEPH S. CHICK, JR.

J. S. CHICK & SON

FIRE INSURANCE

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KANSAS CITY, MO.

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48760

Chick, J. S.

April 19, 1906.

Mr. T. S. Huffaker,

Council Grove, Kas.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 12th received. I am glad you have taken up the early history of Kansas, and will give to your inquiry my recollection of the facts.

William Johnson and Mary Jane Chick were married in Howard Co., Mo. May 24, 1834. William Johnson died at the Shawnee Mission April 8th, 1842. I have not the date when the Kaw Mission was established. I think it must have been in 1834, as they left Howard County soon after the marriage, and I think went directly to the Mission.

The Mission was located on the south side of Kaw river ^{on} Mission Creek (the creek derived its name from the Mission) about one mile east of its confluence with the Kaw. The house was a double log one and a half stories, passage in the middle. One of the down stairs rooms was used for a school room and for preaching. The other buildings were kitchen ^{and smoke house} detached from main building. *Possibly they lived in kitchen & smoke house while building the main building but I don't know this for a fact.*

The principal Kaw village was located about one and a half miles west of the Mission on south side of Kaw river above the mouth of Mission creek. All the other Indian villages were on the north side of the river, and the half breeds were at Papin town north of where Topeka is now located.

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Cyprion and Fredrick Chouteau had a trading house at the mouth of Mission Creek. I was at the Mission in 1838 and after that, and have a good remembrance of it. At that time the Kaws had a gun smith and a farmer some two to four miles from the Mission. In after years I had a trading house, four miles west of the old Mission, with the Patowatomies. In going there the road passed immediately by where the Mission had been, I was able to locate the place but the buildings had been destroyed.

Since writing the above I have seen a letter from L.J.Huff of Minnisota to Joab Spencer, who located the Kaw Mission on the N.E.Corner of Sec.33,Twp.II,Range I4, and that the house was erected in the summer of 1835, of hewn logs, two stories high, four rooms, two above and two below, was 18 X 36 feet, stone chimney at each end.

Very truly yours,

J S Chick

Joab Spencer has been writing up the Missions in Kansas and could give you a good deal of information



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Ind.
Kansas.

Council Grove
April 21st 1866

Huffaker

J. W. Martin
Topeka Kans.

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
42624.

I enclose two letters
which I think give the information
you desire. I well remember the
repeated statements of Mrs. Johnson
that she and her husband were in
charge of the Graw Mission for 7
years and his death occurred in 1842.
The two brothers Wm & Thomas
were sent to the Indian Missions
in 1830 Shawnees Graw Delaware
and Mandolts but the Graw
School was not established until the
year 35. The School building was
erected at Mission Creek by the Gov.
The money expended by the Mission

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Board of The Methodist Church the
building was sold and the funds
realized from the sale was used
in the building for the school
at Council Grove in 1850.

I will be in Topeka next week and
will make it a point to see you.

Respectfully T. S. Huffaker

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