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Emanuel F. Heisler correspondence

In these two letters, Emanuel F. Heisler discusses the Old Shawnee Indian Mission near Kansas City, Kansas.

Creator: Heisler, Emanuel F.

Date: July 15, 1912

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Emanuel F. Heisler correspondence

Shawnee Methodist Mission

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OFFICE OF
COUNTY ATTORNEY
WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS
Telephones: Bell 3320 West. Home 1600 West

Kansas City, Kansas July 15th 1912.

Ans Jul 17 1912

Geo. W. Martin:

Dear Sir,—yours of the 10th inst, and another of an earlier date, requesting me to cooperate with Wm. M. Johnson in locating the site of the old Shawnee Methodist Mission, near Turner, came to hand in due time. Mr. Johnson came over to go out with me about a month ago, but I had not received any word of his coming, and on that day was out of town.

If Johnson had ever been on the ground, it was only when he was a very ~~sma~~ small boy—perhaps in company with his brother.

After Johnson was here a month ago, I tried to make a date to go with him, but he could not go at the time of the week that I could leave my office, on account of getting out my paper.

So yesterday I concluded to make "a Sabbath-days-journey" of it and in company with Mr. Luke Babcock, I went over to the site, where I had been with him before—in fact I have been on the site scores of times in the last ten years. Mr. Babcock owns a large farm within about half a mile of the old mission site, and has lived there since before the war, frequently he went to the blacksmith shop in one of the buildings and frequently attended dances at the home of Polly Rogers, dancing with her comely daughters in one of the old Mission buildings—So you see there was no occasion to be in doubt about the location. But to make the evidence more convincing for Mr. Joab Spencer, I took a Kodack with me and took a photograph of the largest rock-pile, the remains

(over)

of one of the foundations, which I sent to Mr. Spencer. There is no house with a quarter of a mile, however there are several rock and brick-bats scattered over the ground — the site is about a mile South-east of Turner, near the center of the N. E. ¼ of the S. W. ¼ of Sec. 24, T. 11, Range 24.

I also sent Mr. Spencer a copy of the Kansas City Sun of about four years ago, where the site of the mission is shown by a red figure 4, exactly as I have described above — So you see there was no need of any one going along to help locate the site, when it is as plain as the nose on your face — under a Seperate cover I today send you one of those maps, by the aid of which, a blind man could locate the site, if he had never been within 100 miles of the place.

I may go over again next Wednesday, to take another Snap-shot as the one I took yesterday was not a very good one, if you want to go along, telephone your Son at the Hardware Store, as I may be away from the office.

Hoping that this may be satisfactory,

I am yours as ever, E. F. Heisler

Thursday

Emanuel F. Heisler correspondence

Heisler, E.F.

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NOTE.—The largest State monument erected to commemorate the valor of the revolutionary soldiers, was that of Bunker Hill, which was commenced when Massachusetts had a smaller population and less wealth than Kansas now has, and it is claimed by some that with well directed effort, Kansas can and will do as well as Massachusetts. Let us not continue inactive, but by proper effort do an act of justice to our heroes by erecting an enduring monument which will be an everlasting educator to the youth, and a credit to the state. Can any good reason be given why Kansas should not stand in the front rank?

Kansas City ~~Olathe~~, Kansas July 15th 1912

Joab Spencer;

Dear Sir;— yours of June 12" and Geo. W. Martin's two letters of later date, were received in due time. The request of Mr. Martin that I go with Wm. M. Johnson to locate the site of the old Mission, was not necessary as Mr. Johnson had never been on the ground, (except when he was a small boy, he may have been.) The fact that the Mission was once located here, seemed to have been lost sight of by the seven historians who have written histories of Kansas, until I took the matter up more than ten years ago, after many days searching, I found the site, since which time I have frequently been on the ground with several persons who saw the buildings before they decayed—

Mr. Johnson once came over to go out with me, but I was away from home; since that time I have tried to make a date with him, but he could not go when I was at leisure, so yesterday I concluded to make a "Sabbath-days-Journey" of it, and took with me a Kodack, and enclosed find a foto of some of the remaining rocks of the foundation— it is not a good foto, but it is the next thing to seeing the foundation yourself,— Mr. Luke Babcock, who has for over 50 years lived within a half mile of the place, and who frequently attended dances in the buildings while they were standing, went with me yesterday and verified the location— I send you under a separate cover, a copy of my paper, the Kansas City Sun of four years ago, in which I show the location by a red figure 4, the same as you have it— N. E. ¼ of S. W. ¼ of Sec. 24, T. 11, Range 24.— I hope this will be satisfactory to you.— Respectfully yours, &c. E. F. Heisler

What record have you to show that this Mission was built in 1839?— According to my data, it was about 1828. E.F.H.