Kansas Memory



South-eastern view of Leavenworth City, Kansas

This is a book illustration, possibly from Historical Collections of the Great West by Henry Howe, showing the city as viewed from the Missouri side of the river. Visible in the illustration is the Market House and theater building with a flag on the left, the Planters' House, a steamboat, and steam ferry landings on the right.

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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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above the mouth of Kansas River, and 4 miles below Weston, Mo. 'This is the oldest fort on the Missouri, having been established in 1827: it received its name from Col. Leavenworth, an officer of distinction in the Niagara campaign. It is the great frontier depot for other military posts on the Santa Fe, Utah and Oregon routes, and the general rendezvous for troops proceeding to the western forts. The fort stands on an elevation of about 150 feet, and about 150 yards back from the steamboat landing. Several thousand acres of fine land in the vicinity are reserved for the use of the force at this point.



South-eastern view of Leavenworth City.

The view shows the appearance of the city as seen from the Missouri side of the river. The Market House and Theater building, surmounted by a flag, is shown on the left; and the Planters' House, the Steamboat and Steam Ferry Landings on the right.

On some occasions, as many as 1,000 laborers and artisans have been employed here in the government service at one time. The buildings consist of the barracks, magazines, the officers' houses, hospital, the quartermaster's building, and others. General Persifer F. Smith, the commander of the Utah expedition, died here on Sunday evening, May 16, 1858: his remains were taken east for burial. The government has a small chapel here, in which the Rev. Leander Ker, of Scotch descent, officiates as chaplain of the post. Mr. Ker likewise has the charge of a school of 30 or 40 children, the books, stationery, etc., being furnished by the government.

During the difficulties with Utah, in 1858, the transportation establishment of the army, under Russell & Waddell, the contractors, between the fort and the city, was the great feature of this vicinity, with its acres of wagons, herds of oxen, and regiments of drivers and other employees. This firm had millions of dollars invested in the business, employed six thousand teamsters, and worked forty-five thousand oxen.

LEAVENWORTH CITY, on the W. bank of Missouri River, the largest town and commercial metropolis of Kansas, is 3 miles below the fort, 37 N.E from Lawrence, 70 S. from St. Joseph, Mo., and by the Missouri River 495