



Kansas State University Libraries  
New Prairie Press

---

Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal

2013 – Fort Riley, Kansas (Bonnie Lynn-Sherow,  
Editor)

---

## Fauntleroy's Letter to Quartermaster General 1852

T. T. Fauntleroy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://newprairiepress.org/sfh>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

---

### Recommended Citation

Fauntleroy, T. T. (2013). "Fauntleroy's Letter to Quartermaster General 1852," *Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal*. <https://newprairiepress.org/sfh/2013/campcenter/2>

To order hard copies of the Field Journals, go to [shop.symphonyintheflinthills.org](http://shop.symphonyintheflinthills.org).

The Field Journals are made possible in part with funding from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation.

This is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences at New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. For more information, please contact [cads@k-state.edu](mailto:cads@k-state.edu).

## *Fauntleroy's Letter to Quartermaster General 1852*



Washington, July 31, 1852

General: Some time since an estimate for repairs, &c., at Fort Leavenworth, I.T. [Indian Territory], was submitted to me as commanding officer of that post, on which I made an endorsement unfavorable to the expenditure of the amount estimated for, on the ground that I did not consider that post as best suited for the military operations in that quarter.

In order that my objection may not be considered captious, I now propose to give you some facts which I think will justify my opinion in that regard, and will be of importance to your department in an economical point of view at least. By a simple view of the map prepared in 1850, in the bureau of topographical engineers, of the United States and its Territories, you will perceive that a common road can be obtained from Fort Leavenworth to Oregon and Santa Fe, at or near a point on the Kansas rive[r] where the Republican Fork unites with it. This will be in advance of the first-mentioned point about two hundred and fifty miles. Here are the finest land and the best timber in all the western world—capable, the first, of the highest production by cultivation, and the latter affording the most abundant and suitable supply for building materials. It is admitted by all that the attainment of a common route to the several points west of Fort Leavenworth, in several hundred miles, would



T. T. FAUNTLEROY,  
COLONEL FIRST DRAGOONS  
CIRCA 1870s  
*Library of Congress*

*Following image—*MAP OF THE KANZAS TERRITORY  
ENLARGED FROM MAP OF THE CORPS OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS  
PUBLISHED IN 1850

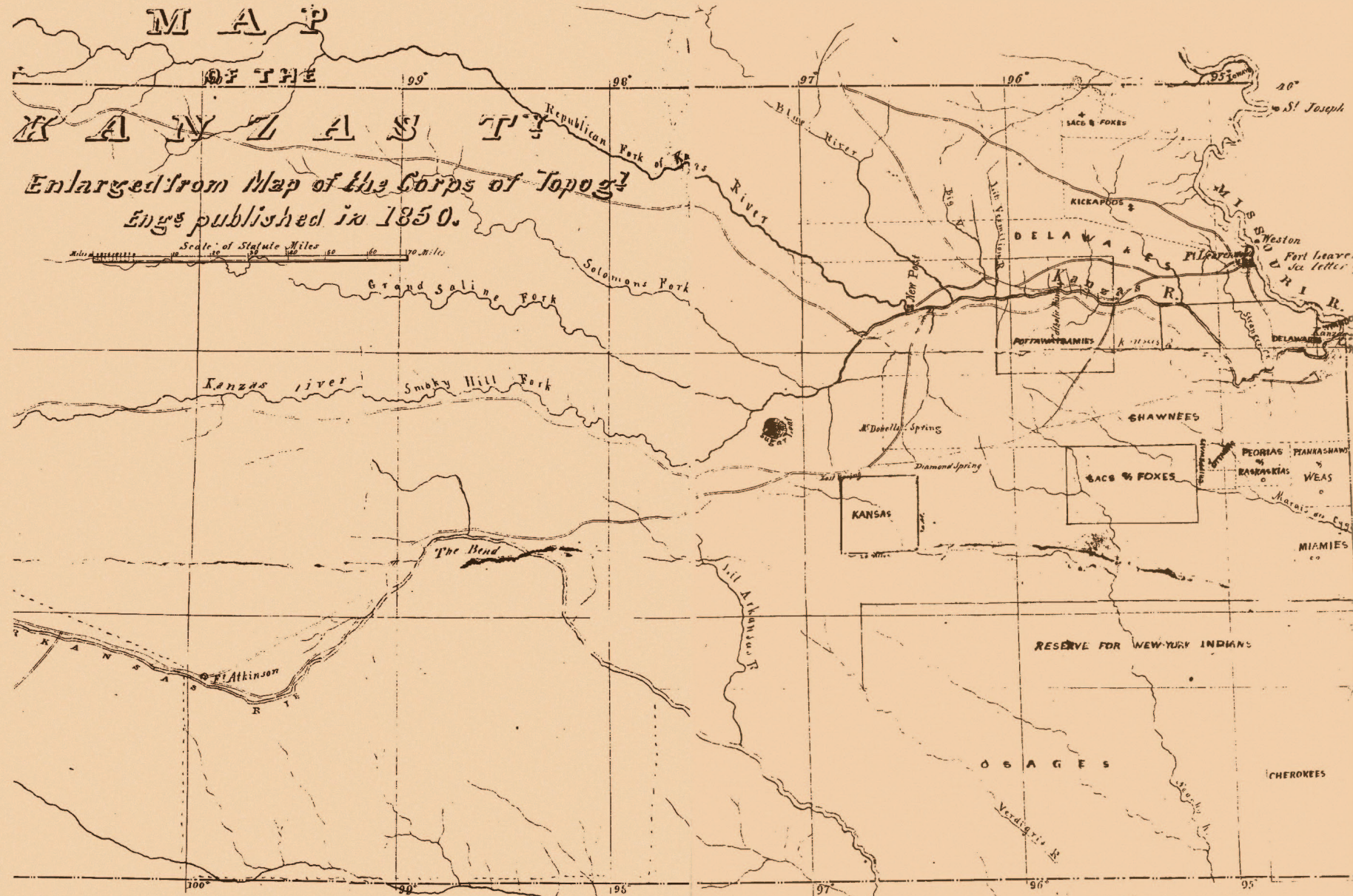
*Cartographically enhanced by John Dunham, Kansas Geological Survey, University of Kansas  
Early Kansas — An Historical Atlas, Ralph and Monte Preston  
(Pioneer Press, a division of NW Distributors, Tidewater, Oregon), 1997*



M A P  
OF THE  
K A N S A S T E R R I T O R Y

Enlarged from Map of the Corps of Topog<sup>rs</sup>  
Eng<sup>s</sup> published in 1850.

Scale of Statute Miles 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100



be an object of the highest importance, as it would enable the government to keep up bridges and fences to that extent safe and sure without expense; and the advantage of having supplies thrown forward – at least the article of forage and such other supplies as may readily be produced there – to a point so much nearer the necessary scene of military operations, will almost be incalculable.

In order to show the full confidence which I have in the plan that I would propose, I would cheerfully give bond and security, if it could be thought necessary, to pay for every horse of my own regiment that might be lost or injured by a deficiency in the supplies.

Farmers, I have ascertained, of the first character in Missouri, and no doubt elsewhere, can be induced readily to go to this country for the use of the public lands in the vicinity and the promise of the Saint Louis prices for their products.

Mechanics and merchants can also be carried there with the simple hope of selling to, and working for, the emigrants on the several routes [which] diverge from this point; and thus the government will be enabled at all times, and every season of the year, to have all its work done at prices not to exceed those of old settled neighborhoods in the interior of the States.

The foregoing are some of the reasons which operated on me in giving the opinion which I did, and which apply with great force to your department, if true; but when we come to estimate the advantages to the military operations and the certain and sure protection to the line of emigration to New Mexico, Oregon, and California, which form the great object of a military force on these routes, I feel well satisfied that you will require no further justification from me.

By the establishment of a post at the point indicated, it will be competent to send out troops from four to six weeks earlier in the spring, and continue out for the same period later in the fall. By discontinuing the Leavenworth, Scott, Atkinson,

Kearny, and Laramie, and concentrating the troops at the post proposed to the amount of ten companies, (which would require but one in addition to garrisons of the several posts mentioned,) eight of which are dragoons, much expense would be saved to the government in the discontinuance of the said posts, and to the efficiency of the troops greatly increased by being enabled to throw upon each of the routes beyond, four companies at [least], which, being at different periods, would alternate on the whole extent of the routes during the continuance of the entire emigrating season.

It only remains for me to give you the evidence that the several routes to Santa Fe, Oregon, and California, may be advantageously continued [from] the point mentioned. This is rendered perfectly certain by the fact that Colonel Fremont made a route from near this point to the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains, and Captain Easton came from Fort Laramie down the valley of the Republican Fork; and the concurrent evidence of several experienced hunters and traders leaves no doubt of the perfect practicability of the country each way, and cutting off on the route at least a considerable extent of travel. By looking at the map you will readily see that all the tributaries of the Kansas of any magnitude come in on the north side, whilst there are none to impede the progress of travelers on the south. By then crossing the Kansas about one hundred miles from Leavenworth, and proceeding up the valley of that river to, or near, the point selected, you will have a clear and open country in the direction of Choteau's island, exactly in a line with Santa Fe.

I have thrown these remarks hastily together merely to indicate the subject, and would be glad, if you think my views worth entertaining, to fill out my plan fully.

I am, General, with great respect, your obedient servant,

*T.T. Fauntleroy,  
Colonel First Dragoons*