



(Photo courtesy Louisburg Chamber of Commerce)

The city is an easy, 20-minute drive south from Overland Park and the Kansas City metropolitan area. Located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 69 and Kansas Highway 68, **Louisburg** beckons visitors and residents looking for relaxation, shopping, entertainment and a bit of history.

Running along the west side of **Louisburg**, U.S. 69 is part of the Frontier Military Scenic Byway, a 168-mile route between Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Oklahoma border. The historic byway closely follows the original road built between 1838 and 1844 to move soldiers and supplies from Fort Leavenworth through Fort Scott to Fort Gibson, OK. Settlers, traders, missionaries, outlaws and others also traveled the original road.

As it did in pioneer days, the city's prime location continues to offer great opportunities for growth and prosperity. City officials strive to preserve the small-town atmosphere while preparing for that growth with high-quality residential and commercial developments. **Louisburg's** up-to-date schools provide an excellent education, consistently exceeding state assessment targets and sending almost 90 percent of high school graduates to post-secondary schools.

The land on which **Louisburg** sits was part of an Indian reserve. Traders and missionaries often

visited, and in 1854, white settlers began building homes. After buying most of the Indian trust lands, the federal government in 1866 put up for sale the land that became the town site of Little St. Louis or New St. Louis.

The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad served the new community. The city's name was changed to **Louisburg** in 1871 or 1872 to avoid confusion with St. Louis, MO, where the railroad also had a depot.

Louisburg was incorporated as a third-class city in 1882. It had a population of 400. By the early 1900s, downtown **Louisburg** was thriving with retail stores, two livery stables and a hotel. In the 1920s, James L. Williams built the city's first gasoline station at K-68 and Broadway. The original building still stands, although it has gone through several renovations and been the home of different businesses over the years.

In the 1930s, increased truck traffic coming from Missouri prompted the State of Kansas to contact Williams about setting up a port of entry. The new inspection station opened in a structure that originally was the front porch of a Victorian home in nearby Paola. What eventually was known as the Little Round House was located at the corner of K-68 and Metcalf Road for decades. After serving as the port of entry, it held various small businesses

and was used as temporary housing during World War II.

The Little Round House was moved a few years ago to Louisburg City Lake at 287th Street and Metcalf, where volunteers restored the historic building and built a shelter house nearby.

LUCAS

Lucas, a farming community of 427 people, is known as the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas. It's home to a thriving downtown, a community-based, first-run movie theater, and some wonderful art experiences.

World famous outsider art environment "The Garden of Eden" has been an attraction since 1907, built by Civil War Veteran S.P. Dinsmoor. Three story concrete structures show the pioneering spirit of this town that embraces art by everyday people. Mr. Dinsmoor offered some of his views on early politics and religion in his sculptures. He is still at work today, as you can view his decaying body in the backyard mausoleum.

The Grassroots Art Center houses the work of untrained artists of the region. The Post Rock Courtyard demonstrates how the limestone rock of the area was used by early settlers.

The Deeble Sculpture Rock Garden was created by a school teacher after watching S. P. Dinsmoor work for years. She trav-

eled and created concrete post-card scenes of her favorite places in her yard.

Whimsical Ceramic wonders await you at the Flying Pig Studio and Gallery. The World's Largest Souvenir Travel Plate welcomes you to town, and traditional Post Rock limestone architecture enhances neighborhoods and downtown businesses. Stop by for a taste of traditional recipe bologna from Brant's Meat Market, now in its third generation, and experience the quirky wonderful things **Lucas** has to offer.

For more information please phone (785) 525-6288 or visit our web site at www.LucasKansas.com

LYONS

The City of **Lyons** is very well positioned to major transportation links along 3 major highways, K-14, K-96 and US Highway 56. **Lyons** also boasts various cultural activities, three parks, a picturesque downtown business district, a lush nine hole golf course, local community hospital, FREE RV Overnight Trailer Park with 18 sites, and one of the best small museums in Kansas: Coronado-Quivira Museum.

Both Lyons and Rice County abound in History. Four miles west of **Lyons** on US Highway 56 is a large concrete cross which was erected by the Knights of Columbus of Kansas



(Photo courtesy Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce)



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Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce
 "Lucas, the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas!"
LUCAS
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*Statue in front of the museum
(photo courtesy Lyons Chamber of Commerce)*

to commemorate the martyrdom of Father Juan de Padilla, the first Christian martyr on the North American continent. Father Padilla was slain by a group of hostile Indians in 1542, before any person who came over on the Mayflower was born.

About a mile south of this cross is the old Buffalo Bill well, hand-dug, which is reputed to have been dug and cased by the famous Indian fighter and buffalo hunter, William Mathewson, commonly called Buffalo Bill. This well was restored by the Rice County Historical Society as a tourist attraction. The Coronado Quivira Museum, located at 105 W. Lyon, completed a 1/2 million dollar expansion in 1984. The structure contains many Quiviran Indian artifacts and items from pioneer days.

Rice County is on the route of the old Santa Fe Trail, which was surveyed in 1825. In 1867 the county was created by the legislature and organized on August 18, 1871. The county was named in honor of Brigadier General Samuel A. Rice of the US Volunteers, a Civil War hero who was killed at the battle of Jenkins Ferry. The first settlers entered the county in February, 1870. Buffalo were plentiful in the county as late as 1871 and were a staple food for the early settlers.

The city of Atlanta was established on the Santa Fe Trail in 1871 and the Atlanta Town Company erected a hotel which they deeded to the county to be used as a courthouse. Atlanta was located just 1 1/2 miles south of the present location in Lyons. In 1876 an election determined

that the county seat should be located in the exact center of the county and the city of Lyons was established there, being named for the owner of the property upon which the new town was built. Immediately after the election the buildings of Atlanta were, for the most part, moved to the site of the new city.

In June, 1880, the branch of the Santa Fe connecting Emporia and Ellinwood reached Lyons. Early manufacturing included a carriage maker and a flourmill.

McPHERSON

Meet in the middle, meet in McPherson!

Whether you're looking for a fun weekend away with the family or a place to hold your next meeting, McPherson is just a short drive away.

Centrally located near Interstates I-70 and I-135, McPherson is big enough to accommodate conventions yet still full of small-town charm and hospitality. The beautiful downtown area has one-of-a-kind dining and shopping. Feast on a wide variety of cuisine from mouthwatering wraps and deli sandwiches to Mediterranean, and Mexican cuisine.

Families looking for a fun weekend will enjoy water activities at the McPherson Water Park. The water park features a

500-foot lazy river, take a deep breath as you scream your way down the Giant Water Slide, experience the deep diving area, or ease your way to a zero-depth-entry pool and play in the children's spray recreation area. For those family members who just want to relax, there are sun bathing areas as well as shade, with concession and eating areas.

Just across from the water park is Lakeside Park. Lakeside offers fishing in the waterway that flows through the park, picnic shelters and three playgrounds. Walking trails were recently installed that follow the waterway with stops at Swan Court and the popular duck and goose feeding area.

Lakeside Park is the location of the annual McPherson Scottish Festival the fourth weekend of September (www.macfestival.org). In its 16th year, the festival offers live entertainment from singer Alex Beaton and the Shortleaf Band just to name a few.

This year's festival is the Year of the Clans with representatives from more than 25 Scottish clans planning to attend. Festival goers can trace their Scottish roots and learn the significance of Scottish tartans. The Highland Athletic games showcase skills of both men and women in such events as the caber toss, hammer



Water Park (photo courtesy McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau)

**McPherson
Scottish Festival**

Sept. 25-27, 2009
Lakeside Park
Highland Athletics
Dance Competition
Scottish Clan Heritage
Pipe Band Competition

McPHERSON

macfestival.org (800) 324-8022

Lyons Chamber of Commerce

Lyons... an unexpected pleasure!

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