



Photo by Max Good (courtesy of Labette County Tourism)

Land: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/miami/kinsella/kinsel11.html#PartIV>

• Territorial Kansas Online: <http://www.territorialkansasonline.org/cgiwrap/imlskto/index.php>

PARSONS & GREATER LABETTE COUNTY

Labette County is a destination offering an escape from the every day grind. Our lakes and rivers team with outdoor activity and our cities and towns are alive and well with wonderful citizens to greet you at every turn.

For those interested in the outdoors welcome to the Outdoor Recreational Capital of Kansas. Our largest lake is Big Hill Lake, a 1,200 acre fisherman's paradise offering largemouth, small mouth, crappie and catfish. We are also home to the Neosho River which offers unparalleled catfish and the unique sport of spoonbill fishing.

If you like the quiet and peacefulness of a small lake try any one of the hundreds of strip pit fisheries scattered throughout the Mined Land Area that we share with our neighboring counties of Cherokee and Crawford. The **Labette County** area also offers several different camp sites with a range of choices from primitive to Class A depending on your needs and travel plans. While here you might want to visit one

of our many museums and historical attractions. Nearby notables include a civil war era cemetery, the Corona Railroad Museum and Big Brutus the worlds' Largest Electric Shovel.

Other museums in **Parsons**, Oswego and Chetopa chronicle the early days of the region and our heritage of the early railroad. Be sure to experience the true American town, **Parsons**, as you step into yesterday's downtown and explore specialty shopping, dining and wonderful atmosphere. For those looking for that relaxing travel experience **Labette County** is for you.

For more information about **Parsons & Greater Labette County**, Kansas please phone: (620) 421-7030.

QUINTER

"Half Mile High City"

Located on Interstate 70, Exit 107

Quinter is a small town in Northwest Kansas on Interstate 70. Park facilities and recreational areas are available to all. There are eating establishments, fuel and service facilities, repair businesses, auto services, food services, motel accommodations and camping facilities.

Quinter is the hub of a farming community. Excellent grain and livestock production exist here. These, along with a strong

business district and several small manufacturing firms, give **Quinter** a lively economy.

Our first hospital was built in 1926. Since that time, health care has been superior for a rural area. The Gove County Community continued this tradition by building a new three million dollar medical clinic and two long term care additions. Five medical doctors, a dentist and an optometrist, currently serve the area.

The Jay Johnson Memorial Library offers an enlightening experience for all and the facilities are beautiful and a pleasure to visit.

Quinter maintains an outstanding school system, excelling in all fields – academics, sports, music, debate, forensics and art. **Quinter Bulldogs** are achievers!

Castle Rock, a chalk pinnacle rising from the prairie, is 20 miles southeast of **Quinter**. Thousands of years ago, this area was covered by a chalk ocean, which accounts for the chalk bluffs and beds. Much fossil work was done in this area by the Sternbergs. Their fossil finds are in museums all over the world. Voted by Kansas's to be one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas in January 2008!

Quinter's City Park with a large swimming pool is a haven of rest for weary travelers. The park has playground equipment, picnic

tables and shelter houses nestled under many shade trees.

Quinter doesn't have "everything under the sun," but we do have many good stores and facilities to support the bustling community. For more information, please phone **Quinter Area Chamber of Commerce** (785) 754-3538 or visit our web site at www.discoverquinter.com

RUSSELL

For hundreds of years, the prairie land destined to become **Russell County** was a hunting ground of tribes of Indians including Cheyenne and Kanza. The bloody Smoky Hill Trail and Butterfield Overland Despatch stage and freight lines crossed the Southern part of the county on their way to the Colorado gold fields. In 1867 the Kansas Pacific Railroad passed through this land, which would forever change the landscape. Kits Fork, the last Indian raid on a Kansas railroad took place in 1869 just 3 miles west of **Russell**.

In April 1871 a colony of 70 Civil War Veterans and civilians from Ripon, Wisconsin arrived at Fossil Station. They were looking for free land and seeking milder weather. At the time Fossil Station was a water stop on the Union Pacific Railroad.



Castle Rock, located 20 miles southeast of Quinter, was voted one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas in January 2008 and announced by our Governor in a contest sponsored by the Sampler Foundation, a grassroots foundation on promoting small towns in Kansas (photo courtesy Carolyn Tuttle, Quinter Area Chamber of Commerce)



City of Parsons

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Quinter Area Chamber of Commerce

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Welcome to the "Half Mile High City" of






*Garden of Eden, Play Park
(photo courtesy Russell County Convention & Visitors Bureau)*

Russell and Russell County were named for Avra P. Russell. He is recognized for raising a company for the Second Kansas Infantry, was elected First Lieutenant, commissioned by Governor Robinson and rose to the rank of Captain under President Lincoln. He was killed in battle in Arkansas and never got to **Russell**.

TREASURES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Located on I-70 in central Kansas in a setting of rolling hills is **Russell County**. It's beauty is found in the state's clearest lakes, fields of green and gold, beautiful sunrises and sunsets, limestone structures and, deeper yet, a rich heritage of fossil discoveries that sets it apart from the norm.

The traveler is invited to embrace this rich heritage and experience history not only in the cultural arts, oil and domestic museums, historical homes and unique parks, but also in the knowledge that Kits Fork, the last Indian raid on a Kansas railroad occurred 3-miles west of the City of **Russell** and that the bloody Smoky Hill Trail and Butterfield Overland Despatch Trail ran through the Southern part of the county on its way to the gold fields of Colorado. Other photo opportunities include the home of legendary Senator Bob Dole.

Wilson Lake "The Clearest Lake in Kansas", holds 9,000

acres of water with 100 miles of shoreline that attracts 1,000 species of wildlife and 360 different kinds of birds. It is considered to be a premier striped bass and small mouth bass haven.

The **City of Russell** offers the traveling family 6 parks. The largest, Memorial Park Sports Complex offers a 0-entry swimming pool, a grand playground, 6-lighted regulation tennis courts, scenic 9-hole golf course, 5-ball diamonds and more.

The Carrie Oswald Wildcat oil discovery of 1923 opened up drilling to two-thirds of Kansas. Oil history can be heard and turn of the century cable tool drilling and rotary drilling equipment seen at Oil Patch Museum I-70 exit I84.

Downtown is enhanced by four buildings listed on the National Registry of Historical Places; The Dream Theater, U. S. Post Office, Waudby's Sports Bar and Grill and Waudby and Company Clothiers. The theatre, restored to its original 1940 beauty, installed a digital projection system with 3D capabilities in the spring of 2009. It is the only one in Western Kansas. The community owned facility is run by volunteers.

Take a walking tour on Kansas Historical Avenue just one block east of Main Street to see or tour post rock architectures: the County Court House, the Fossil Station Museum, the Gernon

House, the Heym-Oliver House and post rock sidewalks.

The Deines Cultural Center is the permanent home of the E. Hubert Deines wood engravings collection. In addition a permanent display of another area favorite son Bob Dole depicts his life in photos and memorabilia. Traveling visual collections, as well as local artist showings are offered in the gallery. Musicians from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado gather every third Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for an acoustic jam session. A covered dish dinner is served at 5:00 p.m. followed by more music.

Heading north out of **Russell** on highway 281 to K-18, turn right one mile to Paradise and see the limestone water tower still in use today. Return to K-18 and go east to Luray the home of the first log cabin in **Russell County**, a challenging golf course and historic native limestone buildings.

Continue on K-18 East to Lucas known as the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas. It houses the work of 17 untrained artists of the region and the Post Rock Limestone courtyard that is a tribute to early stonemasons. Lucas has been the home of The Garden of Eden since 1907 and was named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Art by the Kansas Sampler. Continue a half mile east on K-18 and turn south on the Scenic Byways to I-70 crossing Wilson Lake Reservoir.

For more information: **Russell County CVB**; (785) 483-2828, rscocvb@ruraltel.com or www.visitrussellcoks.com

SENECA

Nestled in the Nemaha River Valley (where the Nemaha River actually runs North) on U.S. Highway 36 in Nemaha County, **Seneca** can be reached from the North or South on K-63 or by heading west a short ways from the U.S. 75 and U.S. 36 junction.

Whether you're senior citizens traveling as a couple, a family with young children, or a single person, **Seneca** offers a wide variety of activities for all to enjoy. Golfing, fishing, hunting, history and shopping – you'll find it all when you come to **Seneca**.

Re-live a part of the Old West with a trip to the Pony Express Museum; get a glimpse into early American fire-fighting by touring the Fire House Museum, complete with a fully restored 1922 Stutz Fire Engine; learn about the history of Nemaha County and the **Seneca** area by touring the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

Special attractions include a 1950s-style marquee at Seneca Twin Theaters, where contemporary movies are shown nightly; a hand-dug well in the city park which happens to be the world's widest; St. Mary's Catholic Church at St. Benedict, listed on both the Kansas and National historical registers; and a modern public library, complete with an extensive genealogy department, attached to a stone Universalist church built by pioneers in 1867.

If shopping is your thing, then **Seneca** is perfect for you. Boasting one of the strongest



(Photo courtesy Seneca Chamber of Commerce)

Russell County Convention and Visitor's Bureau
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