

Clifford Lee Kroh (1930 – 2019)



Lee was born March 1, 1930 and was a life-long resident of the Kansas City area in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties of Kansas. Lee married his high school sweetheart Dorothy Jean (Hart) Kroh.

He served in the U.S. Army in Austria and Italy. He worked for 38 years with Proctor and Gamble at their Kansas City, Kansas plant, missing only one day of work during that time.

For many years, Lee and Dorothy lived essentially on the Fort Leavenworth Military Road in Wyandotte County, Kansas. Lee became very interested in that history and began researching maps and documents along that Road spanning the 1830s to 1850s.

In particular, he focused on the 1855 General Land Office (GLO) Surveys and Maps in the Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Johnson County areas where the Military Road passed through. Since the Military Road connected with the Santa Fe Trail, particularly in Johnson County, Lee began to research the Santa Fe Trail from Old Franklin, Missouri to Santa Fe, NM. His collection includes hundreds of accurately researched maps of the Santa Fe Trail across its entire length.

Dorothy is also interested in history and the trails and authored a book entitled *Morris 1821 – 1997*, which was a Kansas City area community on the Fort Leavenworth Military Road.

In 1995, Lee and Dorothy founded *The Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association*, which has become Kansas City area's distinctive historic trails organization. One of the results of this organization was the publication of an incredibly accurate map of the historic trails in Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Johnson Counties called the *Historic Frontier Trails Map*.

In conjunction with the mapping project came the development of a signage program to identify for the public the precise locations of the area's historic trail route crossings at 'hard points' (section lines) along today's modern roadways in those three counties. Today, in partnership with area municipalities, KCAHTA maintains approximately 350 of its distinctive brown signs at nearly 175 trail roadway locations noting the crossings of the historic Military Road, the Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail, and the north and south branches of the Westport Route of the Santa Fe Trail.

Lee was a Charter Member of SFTA and has left an outstanding legacy concerning the history and mapping of the Santa Fe Trail.