



George Martin (1841 – 1914)

George Washington Martin was born in Pennsylvania to David and Mary Howell Martin on 30 June 1841. In 1855 his father went to Kansas, taking a claim near Lecompton, Douglas County, and two years later brought his family back with him. In the meantime, George had started working in the printing trade. He continued in this line in Kansas and finished his apprenticeship back east in Philadelphia. Returning to Kansas in the early 1860s, he started publishing the Republican newspaper the Union in Junction City, Geary County (then called Davis County). In 1888 he went to Kansas City, Kansas to publish the daily newspaper the Gazette George was one of the founders of the Kansas State Historical Society. In 1899 he took over as secretary of the Kansas State

Historical Society when Franklin Adams, the first secretary, died. He held that position from 1899 - 1914. As secretary of KSHS, George supported the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and committee member Zu Adams (daughter of Franklin Adams), in their endeavor to mark the Santa Fe Trail. Martin held numerous public offices, including postmaster, register for the Junction City land office, assessor of internal revenue, Junction City mayor, state printer, etc. In 1863 in Pottawatomie County, George Martin married Lydia Coulson. They had five children, two of whom died in infancy. Lydia died in 1900, and Martin remarried in 1901 to Josephine Blakely. Both women he had known throughout most of his life in Kansas. His health beginning to fail him in 1913, on 27 March 1914 George Washington Martin died. He is buried in Junction City Kansas.