

White cliffs of Dover inspired name

By Ron Wilson

Director

*Huck Boyd National Institute
for Rural Development
at Kansas State University*
“The white cliffs of Dover.”

That's a reference to the scenic landscape along the British coastline in the English Channel. Those white cliffs have provided inspiration for many travelers and artists - and even inspiration for those who would name a town in far-off rural Kansas.

In a previous profile, we learned about the many attractions chronicled on a new CD about the Native Stone Scenic Byway. The byway is a 48-mile highway route between Topeka and Alma.

The easternmost community within the Native Stone Scenic

Byway is Dover, namesake of the famous landmark on the British coastline. Dover, Kansas is located in Shawnee County, at a point where the Southwest Trail crossed Mission Creek.

This area was first settled in 1856 by brothers Alfred and Mark Sage who had come from near Dover, England. They were soon joined by the Haskel, Loomis and Bassett families.

These early settlers spoke of living “Up Mission Creek” or “Down Mission Creek” depending on which side of the creek's crossing one lived. The first post office in the area was called Mission Creek. The village of Dover was established at the crossing in 1870.

According to the Sage family, Dover took its name from their

birthplace in England, since nearby Echo Cliff reminded them of the famous White Cliffs of Dover in their homeland. The Haskels claim it is named after Dover, N. H. Back in England, folks in Dover argue over whether the name is of Roman or Viking origin.

Today, Dover is known for its historic Sage Inn and the Somerset Hall Café. Somerset Hall was the original name of the three-story frame building erected in 1893 by members of the Sage family, descendants of the region of Somersetshire in England. The Sage Inn, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in the 1870s to serve travelers on the trail. Today it is a bed and breakfast serving the same purpose.

Dover was a natural spot for

growth because it was the halfway point on the Southwest Trail, which connected the Oregon Trail in east Topeka to the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, a one-day's ride from each.

It was also the route of the old Wells Fargo line between St. Louis and Denver and the only place where Mission Creek could be forded by wagons. Because it was the original “route west” through Kansas, today's K-4 Highway (formerly Southwest Trail Highway) was the first paved road in the state - built in 1913.

The Sage brothers were premier stone masons. They so impressed folks with their building of the Sage Inn and Stagecoach Station that they were invited to do the stone work on the first portion, now the East Wing,

of the State Capitol Building 18 miles away in Topeka. A total of four native stone buildings still remain in Dover, as well as the wall of what is called “Campbell's Curve” four miles to the north.

In the 1800s, a New York Times writer described Mission Creek in spring: “The woods in every direction are rendered beautiful by the gay attire of redbud trees covered in early spring with a rich pink blossom, before any appearance of the green leaves. Some of them are twenty feet high and now in full bloom. Plum trees are also in flower and very abundant. Grape vines, gooseberries, blackberries, mulberries, strawberries, raspberries, etc., are scattered in profusion in many places; hops also grow abundantly, wild.”

In modern times, Somerset Hall Café is the site of home cooking. In 2008, ABC's “Good Morning America” had a contest to find the best pie in the nation. The winner was a pie by the late Norma Grubb, age 88 at the time, who baked pies for Somerset Hall Café. After a taste test and online vote, Norma's Coconut Cream Pie was the winner. This made a difference in a rural town like Dover, with a population of maybe 50 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information about the byway, go to www.wabaunsee.com.

So, I get the Dover part. What about the white cliffs? We'll learn about that next week.

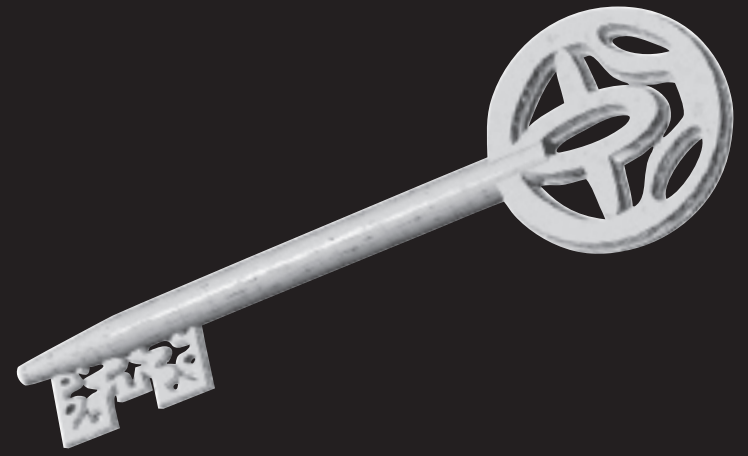
The Goodland Star News Service Directory

785-899-2338

Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you. Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.

Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Goodland Star-News and The Country Advocate.



Culligan
Better Water. Pure and Simple™
Quality Service since 1948

- * Drinking Systems
- * Water Softeners (Sales & Rentals)
- * Water Coolers
- * Salt Sales & Delivery

Scheopner's Water Conditioning, Inc.
904 Main, Goodland
(785) 899-2352

Hendricks Realty, Inc.
Farm, Ranch, Residential & Commercial
Phone: (719) 346-7187 • 1401 Rose Ave., Burlington, CO
Mike Hendricks: (719) 340-0217 (cell #)
Broker & Certified General Appraiser
Debra Miller-(719) 340-0345 (cell #)
Broker Associate
www.hendricksrealtyinc.com

NEWS
Subscriptions make great gifts!

Windy Plains Bike Shop
Professional bicycle repairs since 1978!
Parts, accessories and service for all makes
Pick up and delivery available in Goodland

TIRED OF FLATS?
ASK ABOUT OUR NO FLAT GUARANTEE!

Harold Snethen
6085 Rd. 17
(785) 899-4786 • (785) 899-5858 (home)
Same day service on most out of town repairs

Truck Lettering
800-886-2423
AWARD WINNING SIGNS AND PINSTRIPING SINCE 1974

Hot Brush 204 W. 4th Box 309
Bird City, Kan. 67731

Plains Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
FREE ESTIMATES! Scott Sitzman **FREE ESTIMATES!**
Residential & Commercial HVAC
New Installations-Replacements-Service
Phone: 785-890-2914 • Toll free: 800-678-2914
1104 Main Ave., Goodland, KS

“Serving Eastern Colorado for 35 years, and now serving Western Kansas!”

Discover the comfort of a Mendota Fire!
www.plainsheating.com

COMFORT SINCE 1986
LENNOX
Premier Dealer
LENNOX

Bowman's Heating / Air Conditioning
577 W. 31st St., Goodland, KS

785 899 5770

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

Brandon's Carpentry
Drywall • Painting • Flooring • Roofing
Doors • Windows • Siding • Decks • Ramps
Small Building Construction • Garages and More

BRANDON LEE (785)332-3370
St. Francis, KS 67756 Cell: (785)332-5264

Serving the tri-state area.

Cleaning Northwest Kansas one house at a time!

Pro Floor Care
Free Estimates

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialists Commercial & Residential

- * Advanced cleaning methods
- * Affordable Quality Service
- * Spot & Spill Service
- * Water Damage Restoration
- * VCT Tile & Ceramic Maintenance

Colby, Kan. (785) 462-8313 Toll Free (800) 473-4138
www.profloorcareandsupply.com

Proudly offering wide variety of cleaning products for Commercial and Residential

We don't cut corners We Clean Them

2003 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Ford

2005 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

“Where Service is an Affair of the Heart”

DAN BRENNER FORD
222 W. HWY. 24, I-70 BUSINESS LOOP, GOODLAND, KS
(Toll Free) 800-636-8770
(Business) 785-899-2316 (Fax) 785-899-2317

NEW SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL WINDOW CLEANING

Serving Northwest Kansas & Northeastern Colorado since 1992!

(785) 462-6995 OR (800) 611-6735
egriffith@st-tel.net

www.mywindowcleaner.net

Eldean and Janet Griffith 155 E. 5th, Box 692, Colby, KS

The Decorating Co.
Interior Design Consultants
Irene Smith & Rochelle Kling
There's no limit to our imagination.
1011 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS 67735
(785) 890-5441
E-mail: decorco@st-tel.net

Committed to serving the Goodland area since 1972!
The Genuine. The Original.

Weathercraft Roofing & Overhead Door
716 W. Highway 24, Goodland • (785) 899-3064

Let us do the hard work!!

Call today to find out how this space WILL work for you!

(785) 899-2338

“Seek Shelter Today!”
LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS

SHELTER INSURANCE

Jim Alcorn, Agent
1624 S. Main Street
Goodland, KS 67735-0727
Business: (785) 899-2553
www.shelterinsurance.com

Visit us on Facebook The Goodland Star News