



Convention Update: E-News

July 16, 2012

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[REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR  
THE AUGUST 6-11, 2012  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 30th  
ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION](#)

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**REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE  
AUGUST 6-11, 2012 LAWRENCE, KANSAS  
30th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION --  
AVOID LATE FEES BY REGISTERING ONLINE BY MIDNIGHT  
(CT) TONIGHT**

### **Depiction of Quantrill's 1863 Raid on Lawrence**

The Holiday Inn in Lawrence currently has a block of rooms reserved for the Oregon-California Trails Association Convention. This is a reminder that our room block expires today and any un-reserved rooms will be released back to the hotel for general sale. As such, the hotel has asked OCTA HQ to inform everyone who plans on coming to the convention to call and reserve their rooms today. Call (785) 841-7077 ext. 7999 to reserve your room today. Please refer to our group name "Oregon-California Trails Association" in order to make sure that you receive the special rate of \$72. Based on availability, the negotiated rates may still be available after the release date; however, the rate and/or room will not be guaranteed.

You will not want to miss OCTA's 30th Anniversary Annual Convention. To encourage you to come celebrate with us, our prices on tours and registration are lower than last year! And with a low price of \$72/night at the newly remodeled Holiday Inn & Convention Center, this may well be one of the most affordable conventions in recent history. This is the first OCTA convention held in historic Lawrence, Kansas, and only the second convention ever hosted in the state of Kansas (Manhattan, Kansas hosted the 2003 convention). Please join us in Lawrence as we tour the trails and historic sites in the finest modern motor coaches, enjoy evening meals and entertainment, renew acquaintances, and participate in all the annual features of an OCTA convention. And today is the last day to register online without paying the late fee, so don't delay -- [register now!](#)

There are lots of new wrinkles to help entice you to come spend a week with us in the rolling hills of eastern Kansas. If you attended the Kansas City convention in 2000 and think you have seen all the area has to offer in terms of trails, set that misconception aside! For the past dozen years, the

National Park Service has partnered with OCTA to build numerous new parks, interpretive panels, and auto tour routes throughout the region. The region is also actively promoting the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and the fighting along the Missouri/Kansas border was fierce and ongoing throughout the war years. One of the more famous episodes of the war occurred in Lawrence when William Quantrill and his band of Missouri marauders stormed the town one morning in August 1863, burning it to the ground and killing about 150 unarmed men and boys as they slept. Quantrill followed established trails into and out of Lawrence, and our tours will point out sites relevant to both the raid and the westward migration.

Other highlights include tours along the Westport Route from Kansas City to Lawrence, the route from Independence to Lawrence, a tour pointing out relevant sites along the Missouri River from Kansas City to Leavenworth, and a tour showcasing the route from Lawrence to the Kansas River crossing in Topeka.

The convention planners have include a diverse set of speakers who will touch on:

- Native American perspectives
- The evolution of the Santa Fe, Oregon, & California National Historic Trails
- Famed Missouri Merchant & Trader James Aull
- Trails Across Kansas
- The Smoky Hill Trail in Kansas
- Jayhawkers & the Civil War Brigade of James Henry Lane
- Guerrilla Massacres of the Civil War
- Early Lawrence & the Quantrill Raid
- The Cherokee Trail in South-Central Kansas
- The Grinter Delaware Trading Post in Modern-Day Kansas City, Kansas

You should have long ago received the registration book, but if not, you can [register online now](#). Don't hesitate! Many of the tours are proving to be very popular and some are already quite full. In fact, both the Tuesday "Independence to Lawrence" tour and the Thursday "Lawrence to Topeka" tour are sold out already.

If you are flying into Kansas City, Lawrence is only a 45 minute drive from the airport. Affordable shuttles head to and from Lawrence several times every day. Lawrence is located midway between Topeka and Kansas City along Interstate 70, and the hotel is mere blocks south of the highway. Many of the buildings and homes in Lawrence were built in the mid-19th century, and the charm of the town of roughly 100,000 people is undeniable. Home to both the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University, you will find Lawrence vibrant, clean, safe, and attractive. We look forward to seeing you in Lawrence this August!