



## DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS

### BIG SPRINGS

#### **Rufus B. Sage**

**1841 September 7, from 1846 book**

“[stopped for the night] ...at a place known as the Springs [Big Springs].”

\*\*\*\*\*According to Louise Barry in *The Beginning of the West*, Lancaster P. Lupton had organized a caravan to go to Fort Platte, now in Wyoming. The 24-year-old Rufus Sage was an employee of Lupton. Sage wanted to collect information about the West. Sage authored a book that included his travels from 1841 through 1843. This book titled *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains* was published in 1846. Big Springs was located in what is now western Douglas County. In that area, the main trail headed toward the Kansas River in what is now downtown Topeka, and an alternate trail branched from the main trail and swung around to the south staying on the south side of the Kansas River to cross various ferries west of what is now Topeka. This alternate southern branch rejoined the main trail on the eastern edge of the current town of Rossville, Kansas. **Source:** Barry, Louise. *The Beginning of the West*. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972, quote on p. 435.

#### **David Adams**

**1844 September 6**

“[stopped for the night at] ...the spring [Big Springs].”

\*\*\*\*\*Trader David Adams left the Shawnee Reserve with a small contingent to go to the Laramie River. **Source:** Barry, Louise. *The Beginning of the West*. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972, quote on p. 526.

#### **Count Leonetto Cipriani**

**1853 June 12, from English translation published in 1962**

“[stopped for the night] ...near a cold-water spring surrounded by giant oak trees...a veritable oasis...”

\*\*\*\*\*The Italian Count Cipriani left Westport to drive cattle to California. His entourage included 11 wagons, one omnibus, 24 hired hands, 60 horses, 40 mules, and 600 oxen. Cipriani's writings, first written in Italian, were translated into English and published as *California and Overland Diaries of Count Leonetto Cipriani* in 1962. **Source:** Barry, Louise. *The Beginning of the West*. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972, quote on p. 1163.