



## JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

### JUNCTION OF SANTA FE & OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS

#### **John Ball**

**1832 May 15 under entry of May 12**

“May 12—Left Independence, traveling west on the Santa Fe road. The fifteenth we [Nathaniel Wyeth’s expedition] left Santa Fe trail.”

\*\*\*\*\*Explorers, fur trappers, traders, naturalists, and missionaries already were traveling to Oregon before the flood of emigrants began in the early 1840s. They traveled southwesterly through what is now Johnson County, Kansas before leaving the Santa Fe Trail and took the trappers’ trail that would become the Oregon Trail. This junction now is interpreted with many signs at Gardner Junction Park on Highway 56 west of Gardner, although the actual junction site is on private property to the northwest of the mini-park. **Source:** Eide, Ingvard Henry. *Oregon Trail*. Foreword by Ernest S. Good. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1972, quote on p. 48.

#### **James Clyman**

**1844 May 16**

“[May] 16...about non [sic] to day left the Sant a [sic] fee trace these are two of the longest roads that are perhaps in the world the one to Sant Afee [sic] and the other to oregon [sic] doubled teams nearly all the way Both teams Swamped down and had to unload our team breakeing [sic] an axletree.”

\*\*\*\*\*This junction of the Santa Fe and Oregon trails has come to be called the Gardner Junction. A Gardner Junction mini-park is on Highway 56 west of Gardner. The actual junction is on private property to the northwest of the mini-park. **Source:** Eide, Ingvard Henry. *Oregon Trail*. Foreword by Ernest S. Good. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1972, quote on p. 48.

#### **James A. Pritchard**

**1849 May 4**

“...in 8 miles [from Lone Elm Campground] came to where the Santa Fe road leaves the old Oregon trail.”

\*\*\*\*\***Source:** Haines, Aubrey L. *Historic Sites along the Oregon Trail*. Tucson, Ariz.: Patrice Press, 1981, quote on p. 34.



**W.H. BRADY**

**1854, from letter of 1906 November 5**

“... I remember seeing a way bill for emigrants to California, starting from Independence, Missouri. The first point was Barnes’ Spring, Big Blue, State Line, or New Santa Fe.... Next point was “Lone Elm” then Bull Creek. There the Santa Fe Trail and the California Trail forked, the Santa Fe Trail went on west to Black Jack and so on, the California Trail went northwest by Spy Bucks, Waukaroose, and ....”

\*\*\*\*\*When the Santa Fe Trail still was active with travelers, Brady was a Kansas settler. **Source:** Brady, W.H. “Brady’s Letter” [letter read at 1906 dedication of DAR Santa Fe Trail marker since Brady unable to attend], *Lone Elm Marker, Lone Elm CampGround, Santa Fe Trail Monument, Erected 1906*. [booklet does not give publisher, but trail historian Craig Crease thinks this was published privately by Newton Ainsworth; *WorldCat* indicates this was reprinted from *Olathe Register* of November 13, 1906], quote on 6th unpagged page.