

6 Geography

White Woman Creek

White Woman Creek got its name following an Indian attack in the late 1860's. An Indian war party attacked homesteads in the area, including an Army ambulance. A mutilated body of a soldier was found in the ambulance carnage and settlers later learned that a woman was traveling with the ambulance and was kidnapped by the Indians. The woman, to avoid the same tortures she had seen inflicted upon the ambulance driver, stole a rope from the Indians while they camped, ran to a tree on the banks of this little stream and hanged herself before her captors could stop her. From that time, the story goes, the Indians called this stream White Woman Creek. The creek runs through the western and southern parts of the county.

Other Nominees:

Ladder Creek, also known as Beaver Creek, was named by a surveying party who found a ladder imbedded in the grass by the creek, almost hidden.

Most who have grown up in Wichita County have dared to speed through 'Devil's Dip' at least once. Located 4 miles north and 3 miles west of Leoti.

7 History

Leoti-Coronado County Seat Fight

Billed as one of the bloodiest county seat fights in Kansas, the cities of Leoti and Coronado battled for the right to be the county seat on February 27, 1887. Visit the Museum of the Great Plains to see Old Leoti City and county seat fight displays, 201 North 4th, Leoti. 620.375.2316

Other Nominees:

Built for the Santa Fe Railroad in 1887, the Selkirk Hand-Dug Well is lined with stone and is 24 feet in diameter and 102 feet deep. Located on the north side of the railroad tracks in Selkirk, the site also features a depot and caboose.

Lake Pla-More, a private resort located north of Marienthal along the Beaver Creek in the 1930's, featured fishing, canoeing, swimming, playground equipment, beach house and cabins.



The 8 Wonders of Wichita County are based on the Kansas Sampler Foundation's Eight Rural Cultural Elements. For more information, visit www.kansassampler.org



8 People

Steve Tasker

Maybe Wichita County's most famous son, Steve Tasker played in 4 Super Bowls as a special teams player with the Buffalo Bills and was named MVP of the 1993 NFL Pro Bowl. Visit the Steve Tasker display at the Museum of the Great Plains, 201 North 4th, Leoti. 620.375.2316

Other

Nominees:

From a foxhole in Germany during World War II, Willis Reimer promised God that if he got back to Kansas

alive, he'd build a chapel in his honor. Visit the Little Chapel that he built. 1/2 mile north and 1 mile west of Selkirk.

Leonard Mullen is keeping the old-time craft of leather boot and saddle repair alive in his shop, Mullen's Boot and Shoe Repair, located at 104 North 4th, Leoti. 620.375.4715

For more information about Leoti and Wichita County, Kansas visit www.wichitacounty.org

8 Wonders OF WICHITA COUNTY



Modeled after the 8 Wonders of Kansas program initiated by the Kansas Sampler Foundation, the 8 Wonders of Wichita County is an opportunity to explore & celebrate the remarkable stories that make Wichita County unique.

1 Architecture

Wichita County Courthouse

The Wichita County Courthouse was completed in 1917 and built in a plantation style. Located at 206 South 4th Street, Leoti.



Marion Bonner. Chuck Bonner, Marion's son, is the artist. Located at 201 North 4th Street, Leoti. 620.375.2316

Other Nominees:

"Buffalo Woman", a bronze sculpture by Wichita County artist Charlie Norton, is located in front of the Wichita County Courthouse, 206 South 4th Street, Leoti.

A series of western bronzes grace the walls of the lobby of the Western State Bank, 202 South 2nd Street, Leoti.

Other Nominees:

The Leoti Cemetery, laid out in a wagon wheel design, was established in 1887. Located 1 mile south and 1 mile east of Leoti.

Beulah Stone Church was built in 1904 for the Free Methodists. Located 11 miles north, 3 miles east and 3/4 miles north of Leoti.



3 Commerce

Cargill Cattle Feeders

One of the largest commercial cattle feeders in the United States, with 120,000 head, it is located 7 miles north of Leoti on Highway 25. 620.375.2255

Other Nominees:

ESE Alcohol, established in 1980, was one of the first ethanol plants in Kansas. It produces 1.5 million gallons annually. Located 1 mile east of Leoti on Highway 96. 620.375.4904

Seaboard Foods, established in Wichita County in 2000, processes 450,000 ton of feed annually and has 210,000 head of hogs under contract in the county. Seaboard Foods feedmill is located 1 mile east and 1/2 mile north of Leoti.

4 Cuisine

Charlie's Restaurant

An authentic Mexican food restaurant owned by the Campas family since 1961. Located at 510 East Broadway, Leoti. 620.375.4541

Other Nominees:

Dairy King, another long-standing eatery, has been owned by members of the Biel family since 1957. Located at 412 East Broadway. 620.375.2313

Heartland Mill, Inc., a grower-owned certified organic mill, processes flour, oats, corn and more, and does business globally. Located in Marienthal. Also featured at the mill is The Country Oven, a bakery using Heartland Mill products. 620.379.4472

5 Customs

Wichita County Fair & Carnival

Famous for the community-owned and operated carnival and its 25 cent rides and games, the 100+ year old fair also features many long standing traditions such as the parade, Old Settlers' Breakfast, rodeo and turtle race. Held the first weekend in August each year. July 30—August 2, 2008. Located at 800 East "M" Street.



Other Nominees:

Wichita County Courthouse Cannon honors Wichita County's native sons who have fought for our freedom. Names of each veteran is listed on the base of the cannon. 206 S. 4th Street.

The community comes together on National Day of Prayer to pray around the courthouse flagpole and hold a prayer vigil in the pocket park located at 104 East Broadway, Leoti.

2 Art

Museum of the Great Plains Murals

Commissioned in 2007, these three murals depict the prehistoric era of western Kansas and honors Wichita County native and paleontologist