

Moses and Anna Marshall Grinter

Pioneers

Moses (1810-1878); Anna (1820-1905)

by Barbara Magerl

In 1829, the U.S. government created the Delaware Reserve in Kansas for Native Americans of that tribe resettling there. Across the river to the south was the Shawnee Reserve. To accommodate the Delaware and Shawnee, the Army authorized a ferry at the river near today's 78th Street in Kansas City, Kansas.

Chosen to operate the ferry service was Kentucky-born Moses Grinter, who came to this area either as a soldier or a civilian assigned to the Delaware. The ferry became a key segment when the Army opened a road in the 1830s from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Gibson in Oklahoma. During the Mexican War (1846-1848), the ferry was a link to the Santa Fe Trail in Johnson County, a supply line for troops in New Mexico. Civilians on the Oregon-California Trail used it, too, for 50 cents per person or \$2 per wagon.

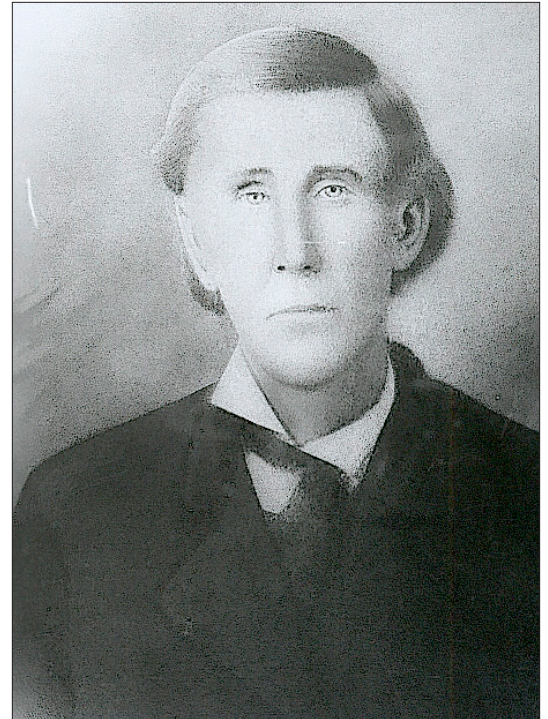
In 1830 Moses married Anna Marshall, daughter of a Delaware woman and an Indian trader. Their original log cabin, swept away in a flood, was replaced by a larger log home. By 1850 the second non-military post office in Kansas opened there.

The Grinters, who had ten children, built a two-story house in 1857, using brick made on the property and woodwork from Fort Leavenworth and St. Louis. In 1968, the Friends of Grinter Place, who bought the house from the descendants, gave it to the state. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the home is now a museum operated by the Kansas State Historical Society. It is a tribute to Anna Grinter and to Moses Grinter, the first permanent white settlers in Kansas. They lie in nearby Grinter Cemetery.

Sources

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