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The Santa Fe Trail (Sandy Carlson, editor)

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Above the Line
Mary Gordon McFall

SYMPHONY IN THE
FLINT  HILLS

FIELD JOURNAL

Volume XIII, 2021

THE SANTA FE TRAIL

PREVIOUS SPREAD

Map of the Santa Fe Trail
Kansas Historical Society



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Special thanks to Leo E. Oliva and Joanne VanCoevern.

FOLLOWING SPREAD

Santa Fe Trail (wheel, wall with moon)

Tod Seelie





Prairie Cadence #4
Diana Werts

SYMPHONY IN THE FLINT HILLS, INC.

OUR MISSION

*Heighten appreciation and knowledge
of the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie*

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc., works to build awareness for the last stand of tallgrass prairie. Those of us who live in the Flint Hills know this: The land dictates the terms and beauty of our lives, and our culture is shaped by this landscape. Its stone, soil, flora and skies above pull on our souls and care for us, and we are called to care for this place in return.

We answer this call to stewardship with education. We directly engage with the land; we collaborate with musicians, artists, historians, scientists and community members to provide transcendent experiences that open our minds to both the traditions of today and the future of the Flint Hills of tomorrow.

At Symphony in the Flint Hills, we envision a future where our efforts inspire people to strengthen the Kansas prairie by sustaining the region's unique culture and landscape. You can learn about ways to join us at symphonyintheflinthills.org.

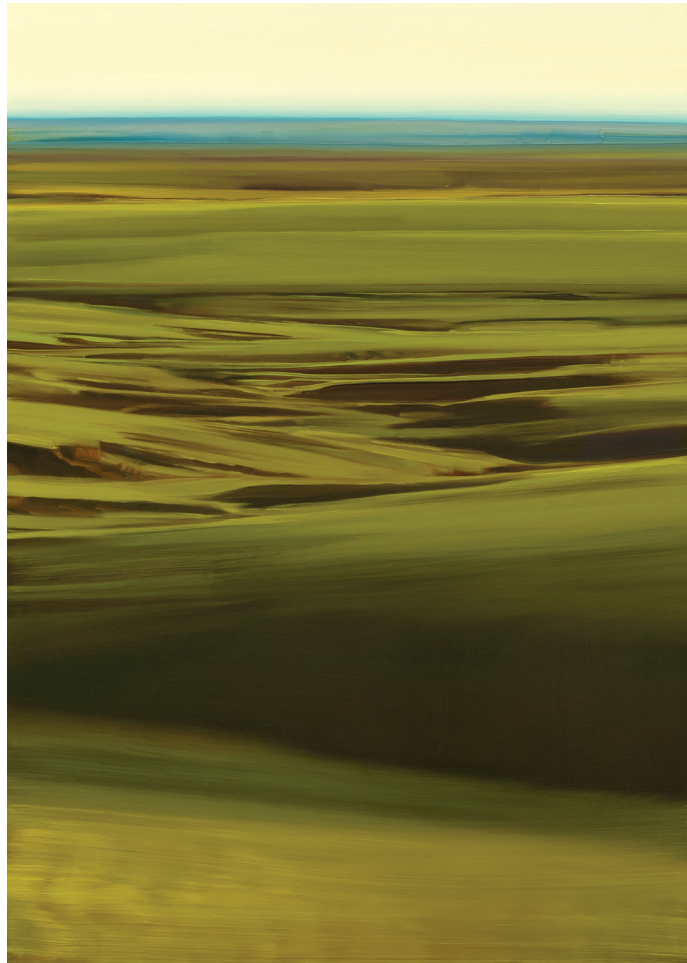


Rewilding #1
Kelly Yarbrough

MAJOR PRESENTING SPONSOR



BNSF Railway is proud to partner with Symphony in the Flint Hills as the Santa Fe Trail bicentennial approaches. Both Kansas and BNSF have deep roots in the Santa Fe Trail, which started moving the state's economy nearly 200 years ago. Today that tradition is stronger than ever as the BNSF network links Kansas farmers, manufacturers and industries to markets across the globe.



Valley 1
Lisa Grossman

THE SANTA FE TRAIL

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Approaching Storm

Phil Epp

FOREWORD

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, which stretched westward from Missouri through the Flint Hills and on to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Our 2021 Field Journal commemorates the milestone with stories about the trail itself, life on the trail, the wagons and freight hauled over it, and the men and women who traveled or were affected by the trail.

The journal's first section, "The Great Prairie Highway," takes a broad look at the trail from end to end – everything from trail history to reminiscences of trail travelers, to facts and details about the great lumbering wagons that hauled the freight. There's even an "explainer" about trail jargon.

The focus narrows to the trail through the Flint Hills in the journal's second section. Here, roam the route across the hills, and learn the important role played by the Flint Hills community of Council Grove.

The saga of the Santa Fe Trail also has a darker, sadder side regarding the fate of Indian tribes living along the trail. The journal's third section is devoted to this Indigenous American perspective, which hasn't been included in much of what has historically been written or taught about the trail. Although this perspective may be uncomfortable for some to read, it's an important part of the Santa Fe Trail story.

Throughout this Field Journal, the given length of the Santa Fe Trail may differ from story to story. The trail's length shortened over time as the trailhead moved from near Franklin, Missouri, to points west. Rather than changing the stories to reflect a uniform trail length, we've decided just to let this be.