

Martin O. Weddington Papers.

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## KANSAS HISTORICAL MARKER

## FORT LEAVENWORTH

Oldest Army Post in Continuous Existence West of the Missouri Rive

Long before white men settled Kansas, traffic over the Santa Fe trail was so heavy that troops were detailed to protect it from the Indians. Fort Leavenworth was established in 1627 by Col. Henry Leavenworth For thirty years it was the chief base of operations for the Indian frontier. In 1839, Col. S. W. Kearny marched against the Cherokees with the largest U. S. mounted force yet assembled: ten companies of dragoons. In 1846, Col. A. W. Doniphan set out on his Mexican expedition: throughout the war with Mexico the Fort was the outfitting post for the Army of the West. During the 1850's, wagon teams hauled supplies over the Santa Fe, Oregon and other trails to all forts, posts and military camps of the West, some as far as the Pacific.

When Kansas territory was organized in 1854. Gov. Andrew Reeder set up executive offices at Fort Leavenworth. In 1881. General Sherman established the school which later became the Command and General Staff college, the highest tactical school in the Army educational system combining all arms and services. A 1926 graduate, with highest honors in his class, was

Maj. Dwight D. Elsenhower.

Erected by Kansas Historical Society and State Highway Commission



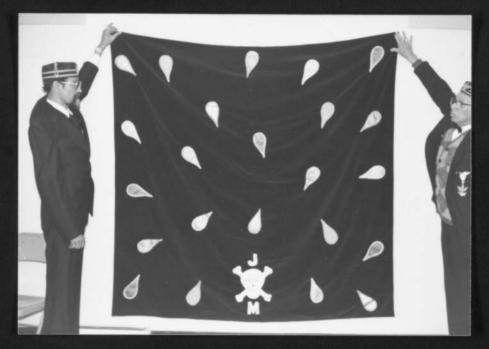


















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