

The Augusta Land Office: 1870-1872

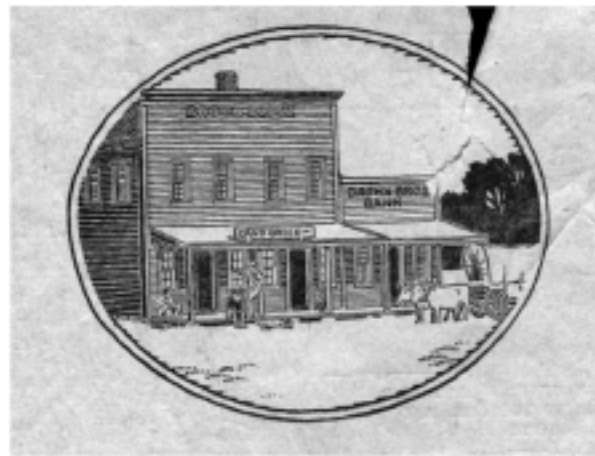
In 1870 pioneers were flocking to southern Kansas to settle land recently opened for settlement. The Humboldt, Kansas land office was too far away from the settlement site to be useful to many of these families. With significant legislative influence a land office was opened in Augusta, Kansas just east of Wichita. For two years it was responsible for hundreds of miles of land transactions. Behind the scenes a variety of forces were working to make life challenging for the operators of that office.

The location of the Land Office had long been forgotten and the story behind its removal to Wichita had not been told. With the help of a letter from the grand jury investigating the office, newspaper clippings, Government documents, photographs, and diligent searching for the history of the men involved this story emerged of intrigue, bitterness, and the general affairs of the settlers who applied at the office.

This 72 page book is the only book ever written about this land office, and it helps complete a history of the early settlement of Butler County, Kansas and more specifically Augusta, Kansas. The building is gone, but a sketch of it and its location is provided and the duties of the men and the office are recorded with official letters from Washington, D.C.

(see also <http://www.butlercountytimesgazette.com/article/20130919/NEWS/130919174/1014/LIFESTYLE>)

The Augusta Land Office: 1870-1872



By LaRoux K. Gillespie