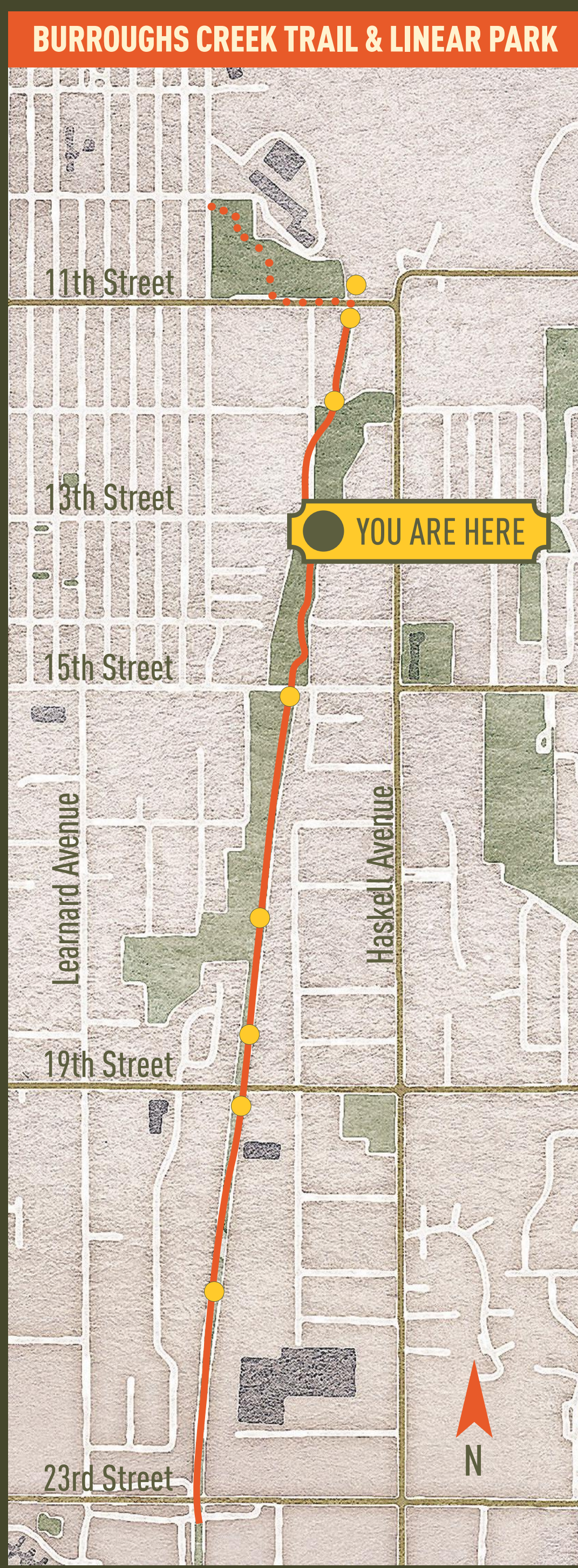


# HASKELL FAMILY'S HALF-CENTURY



For more than 50 years, three generations of the Haskell family lived in East Lawrence where they left an enduring legacy

Members of this prominent and influential family called Lawrence home from the mid-1850s to the first decade of the 20th century.

For most of this time, many of them lived just to the east of this spot in a line of three houses on the 1300 block of Haskell Avenue still known as Haskell Row.

Two Lawrence streets, a sub-division, the Haskell Rail-Trail that continues the Burroughs Creek trail south of 23rd St., and Haskell Indian Nations University commemorate the Haskell name today.

The local lineage of these civic-minded men and women dates from September 1854 and the arrival of the Second Party of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. A member of this group, Franklin Haskell, an itinerant farmer then of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, and

known for his anti-slavery sentiments, had moved frequently in search of new opportunities to improve his lot in life. His relocation to Kansas Territory

*John G. Haskell became the first notable Kansas architect.*

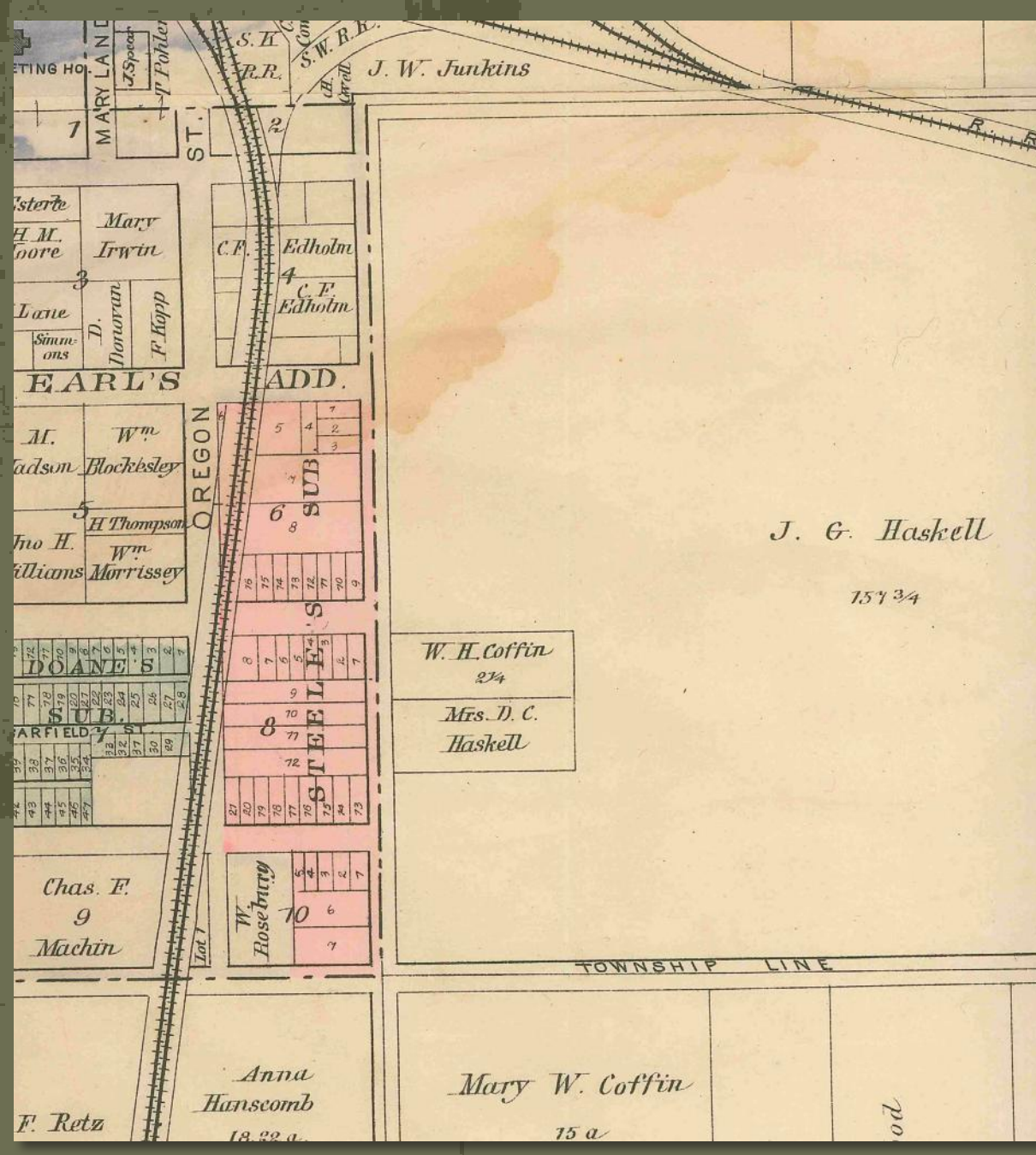
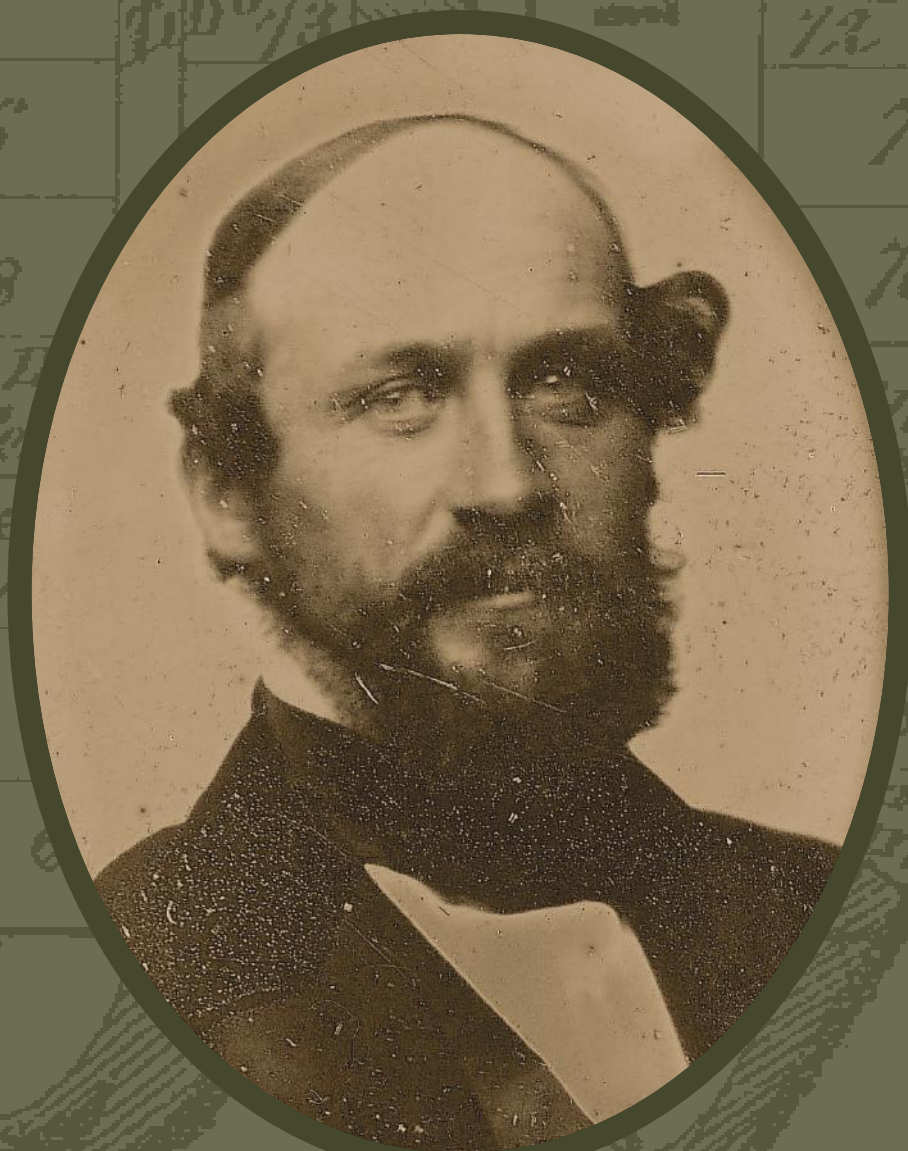
was probably motivated by his desire to make Kansas a free state as well as the potential financial advancement for his family.

The oldest son of Franklin and Almira Haskell, John Gideon Haskell – the most famous of the Haskell family in Lawrence – became the first notable Kansas architect. Buildings designed by J. G. Haskell still dot the Lawrence landscape and the University of Kansas campus. Elsewhere, other Haskell structures include the east wing of

the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka and numerous Kansas courthouses.

Another son, Dudley Haskell after serving in the Kansas Legislature, was elected to the US House of Representatives. He worked to secure for Lawrence the designation for an industrial training school for young Native Americans, the institution that became the present-day Haskell Indian Nations University.

In their Lawrence years, the Haskells enjoyed a degree of success in business, politics, and even baseball. They also endured untimely family deaths and financial reverses. Their story offers insights into lives of emigrants to Kansas Territory who were motivated to come here by a combination of principles and profit, and who persisted through the challenges of the pioneer era of border troubles in the 1850s-60s to play roles in the development of Kansas through the first several decades of statehood.



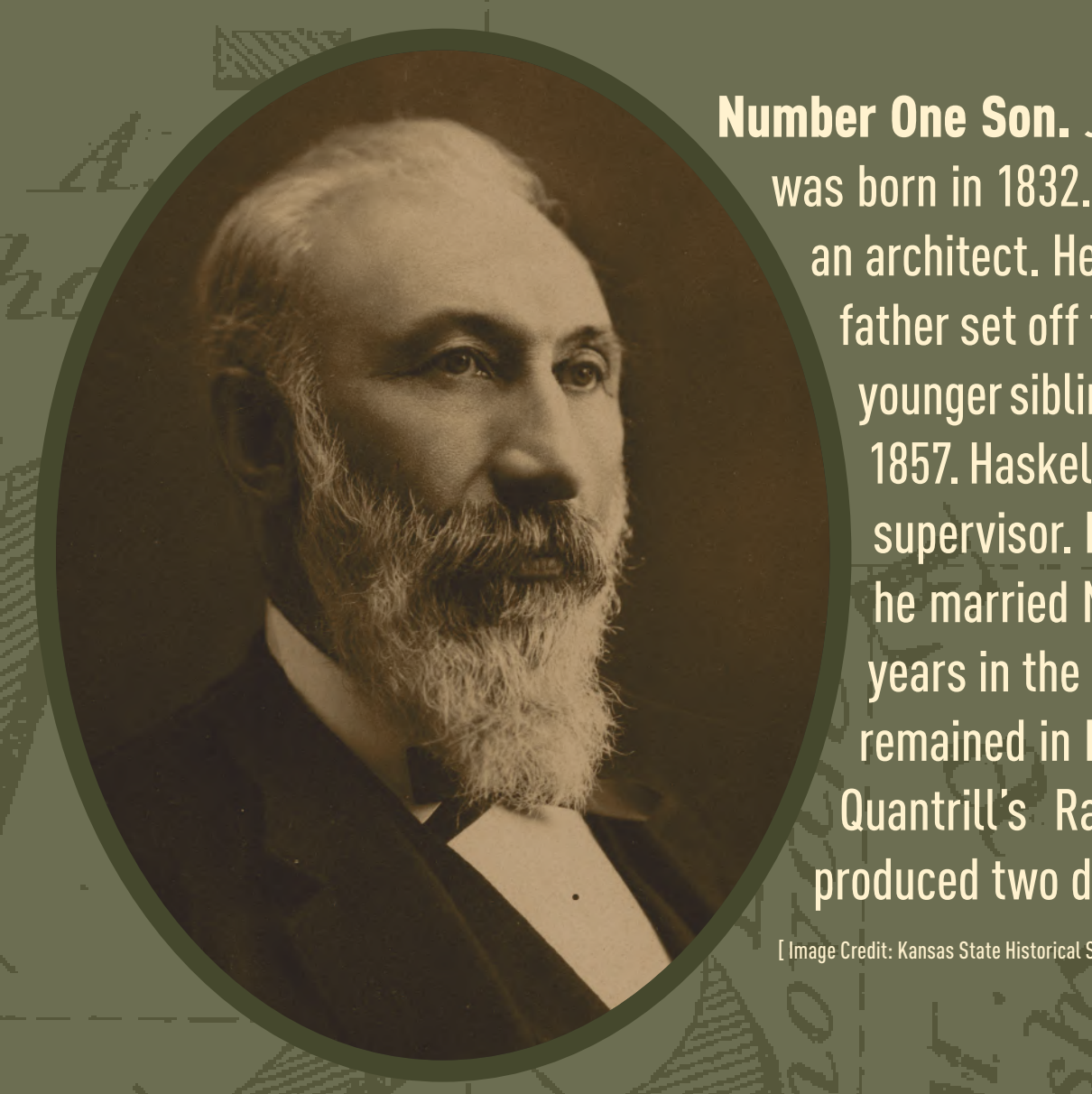
**"The good father."** Born in Weathersfield, Vermont in 1806, Franklin Haskell (right) spent his adult life as a farmer. With wife Almira, the family eventually included three sons, John, Charles, and Dudley and a daughter Elizabeth. Franklin moved around Vermont and Massachusetts multiple times before deciding that Kansas Territory offered new possibilities. Soon after his arrival in Kansas, Haskell obtained a 160-acre quarter section of land just east of the original Lawrence town site and built a log cabin. He was a member of the first town association. Almira, Charles, and Dudley joined him in the spring of 1855, and later Elizabeth and John came to Kansas as well. "No way-worn traveler ever called at the Haskell homestead... without feeling a spirit of respect for the hospitality of the good father and mother who made so pleasant an abode and so welcome a home to all who needed shelter" wrote Lawrence newspaper editor John Speer. Unfortunately, Franklin had only a brief time to enjoy his Kansas home. He died in January 1857 at age 50 of what was called "inflammation of the bowels." [Image Credit: Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History]



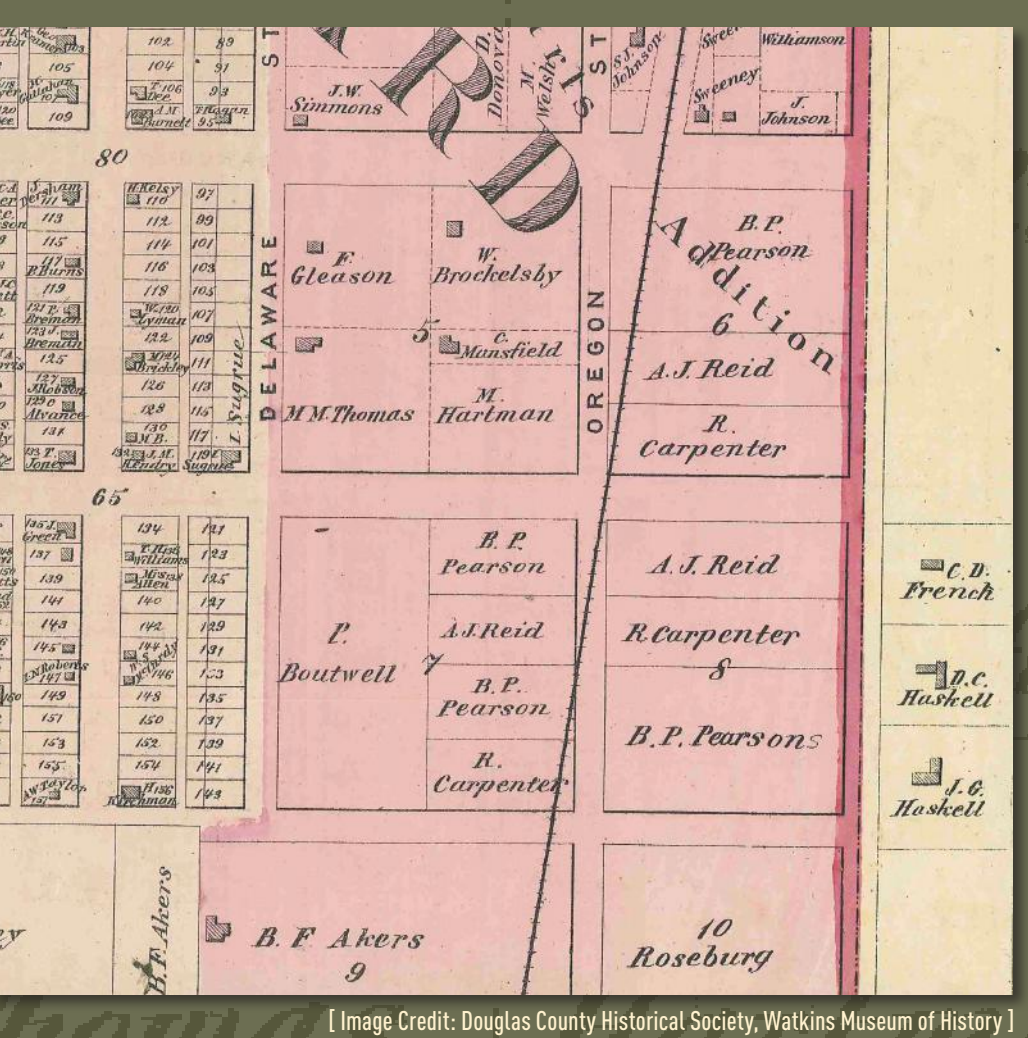
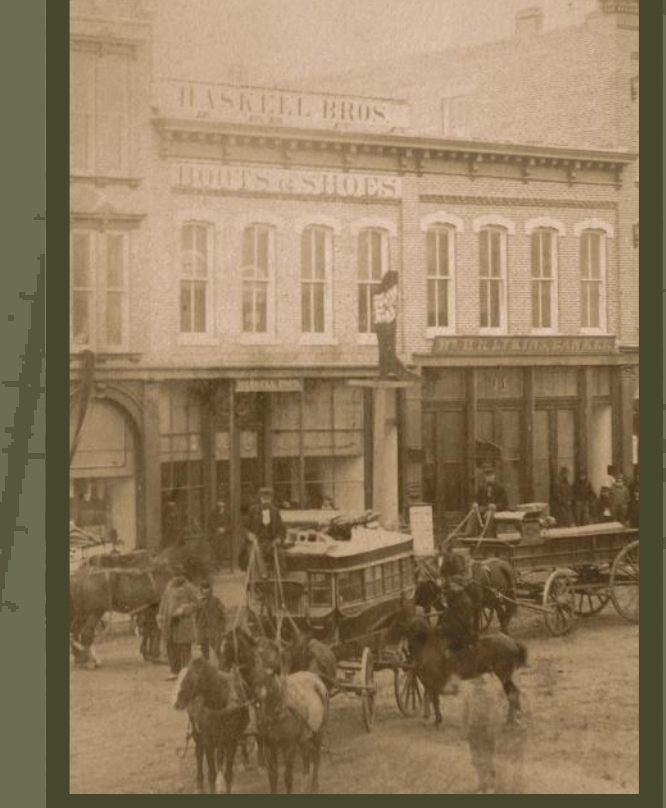
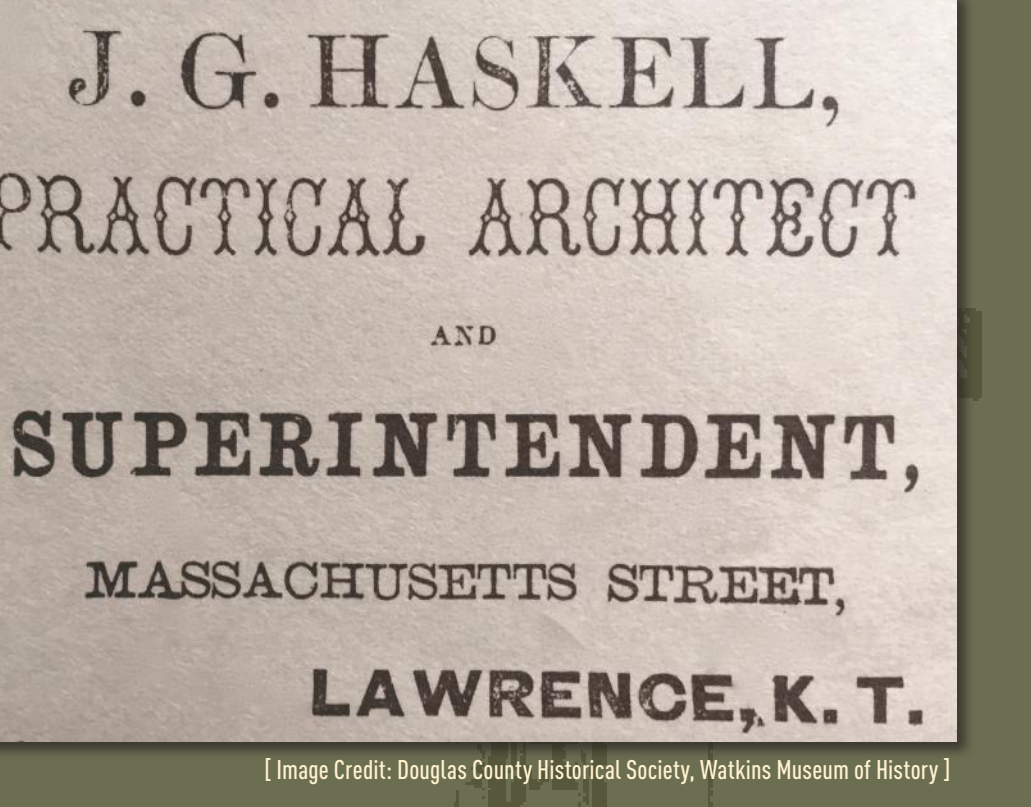
**Free State Supporter.** The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 mandated that "popular sovereignty" would determine whether these two new territories would enter the Union as free or slave states. Anti-slavery leaders in New England organized an Emigrant Aid Association to promote settlement of Kansas Territory by opponents of the extension of slavery. During 1854-55 the New England Emigrant Aid Company sponsored travel arrangements for six parties of free-state proponents to sites in the eastern part of Kansas Territory. Franklin Haskell was among the 67 members of the second group that set out from Massachusetts on August 29, 1854. Along the way other like-minded emigrants joined the party that arrived on the site that became Lawrence on September 9, 1854. This storied party included company agents, Dr. Charles Robinson (above left) who became a



leader of the free-state cause in Kansas and the first governor of Kansas, and Samuel Pomeroy (above right) who became one of the first two Kansas US Senators after statehood was achieved in 1861.

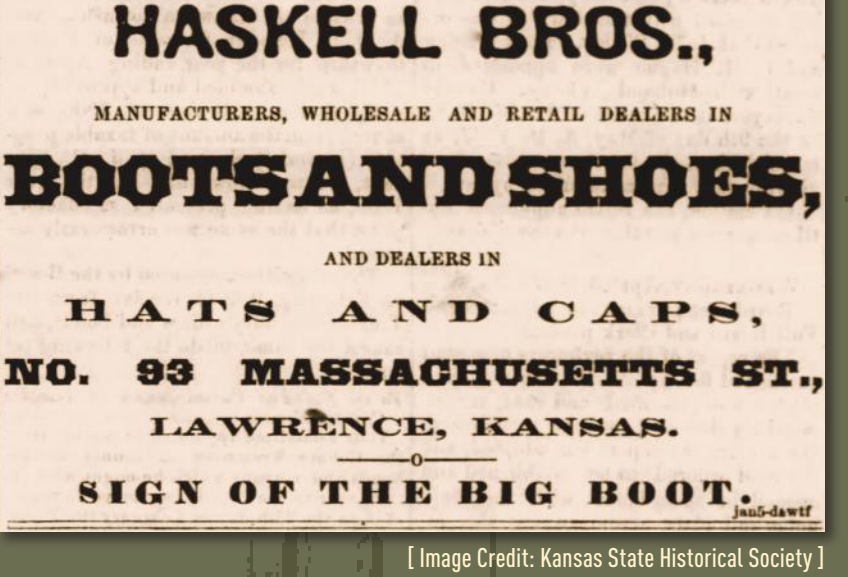


**Number One Son.** John Gideon Haskell, the first child of Franklin and Almira, was born in 1832. On his own at an early age, John's ambition was to become an architect. He was studying at Brown University in Rhode Island when his father set off for Kansas. After his father's death – leaving his mother and younger siblings without financial support – John came to Lawrence in July 1857. Haskell went into business as an architect and building construction supervisor. He also won election to Lawrence's first city council. In 1859, he married Mary Elizabeth Bliss. During the Civil War he served for four years in the Union Army as an officer and quartermaster, while Elizabeth remained in Lawrence where she survived Quantrell's Raid of 1863. Their marriage produced two daughters, Hattie and Mabel. [Image Credit: Kansas State Historical Society]

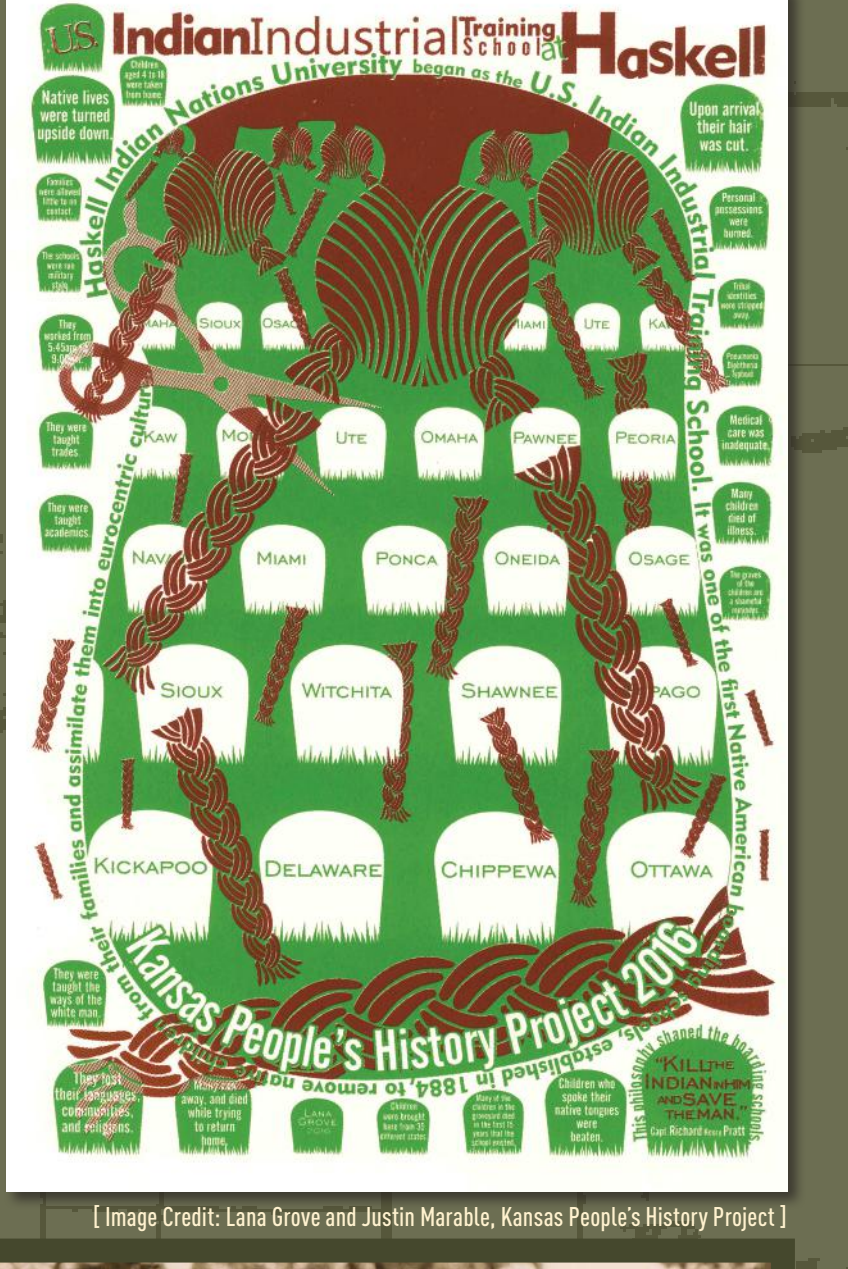
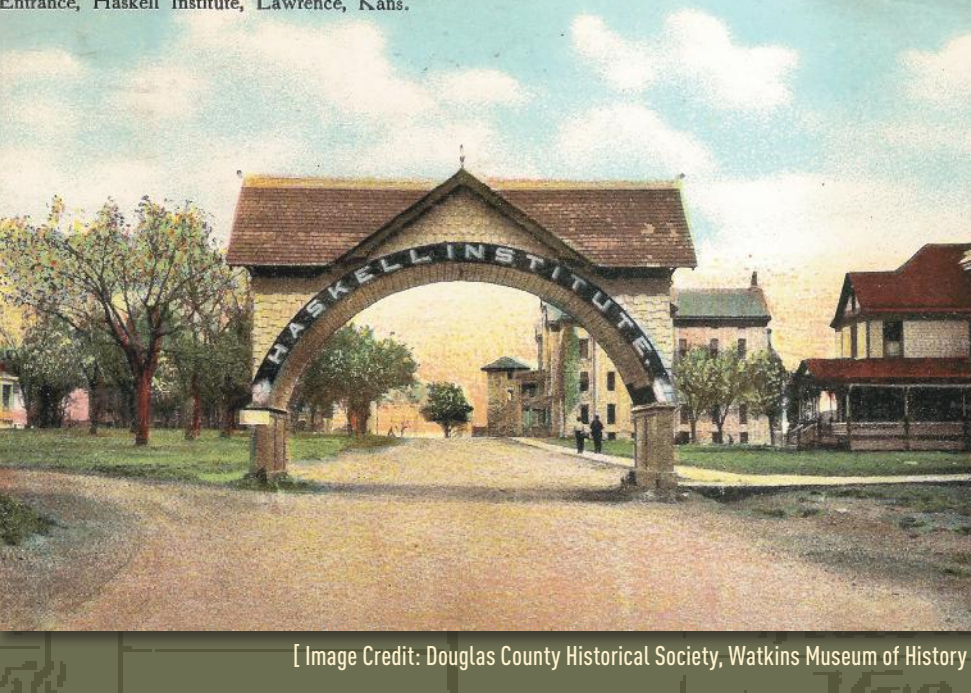


**Family Ties.** Returning to Lawrence after the war, John G. Haskell built houses for his own family, the family of his sister Elizabeth – known as "Lizzie" – and married to Charles D. French in 1865, and his brother Dudley. These houses – 1300, 1320, and 1340 (above) Haskell Avenue – are still known as Haskell Row. In the late 1860s, a stand of trees, north of the Haskell homes became known as Haskell Grove, a popular picnic spot used by a number of organizations. This grove was the site of the Kaw Valley Fair in 1876 and years later featured thrill rides on the "Daisy Dozer" and other amusement attractions in Woodland Park. [Image Credit: Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History]

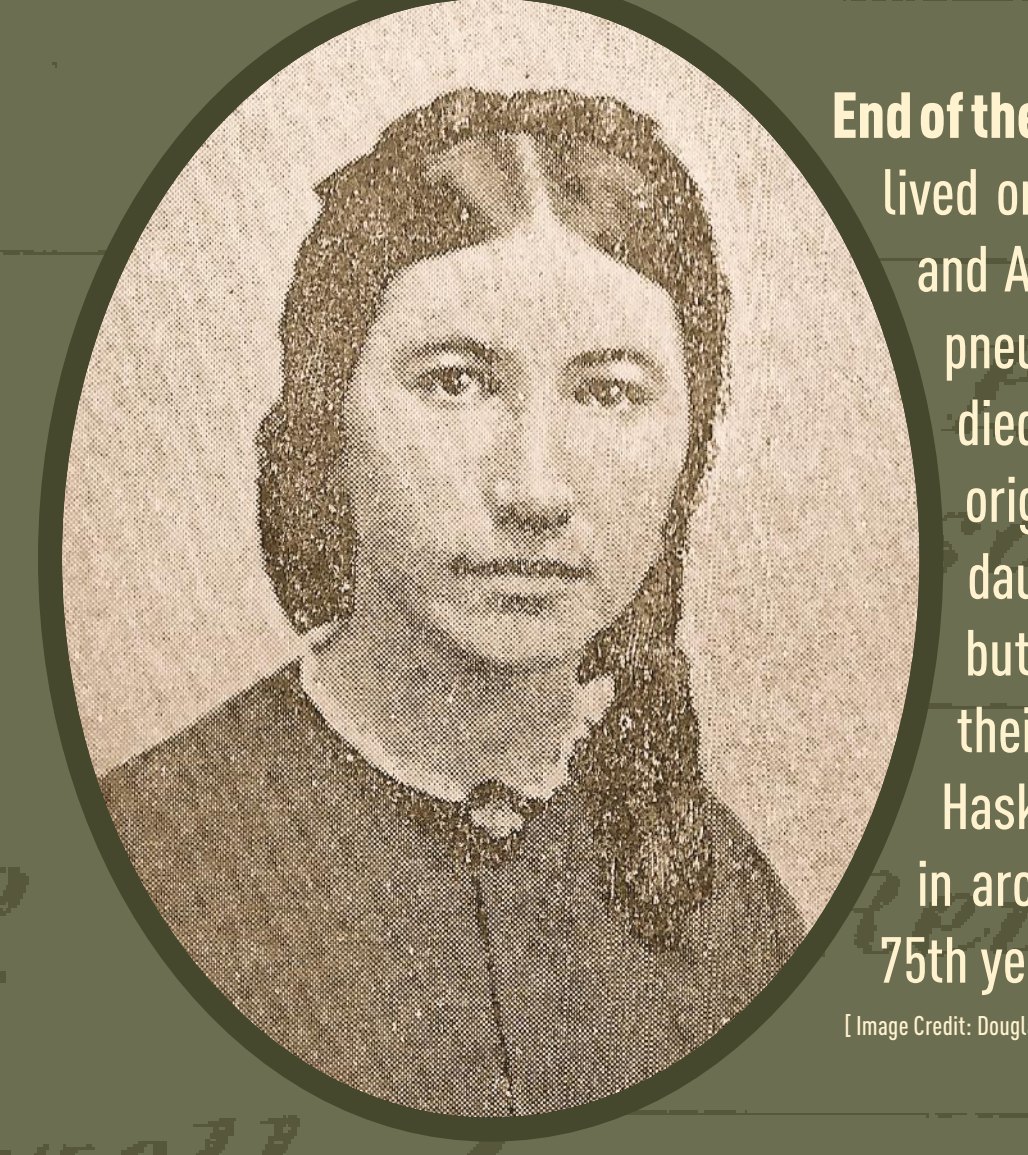
**Soldier, Merchant, Athlete, Politician.** Following his service in the Union Army during the Civil War, Dudley Chase Haskell, the youngest of the Haskell children, opened a shoe store in Lawrence with his brother Charles. A member of the local baseball team, the Kaw Valleys, Dudley became known for hitting home runs, and this activity likely enhanced his popularity. In 1871, he ran successfully for a seat in the Kansas House of Representatives. Re-elected to that post, he leveraged his experience in a successful campaign for a seat in the United States House of Representatives in 1876. During this period his business failed and he declared bankruptcy. Dudley continued to be elected to Congress for the rest of his life, but his finances remained dismal. When he died suddenly at age 39 in 1883, in Washington, D.C., the value of his estate did not exceed \$500. [Image Credit: Library of Congress]



**"Beauty costs no more than ugliness."** John G. Haskell planned and often supervised more than 80 buildings during a 50-year career as a Kansas architect. Most prominent of his oeuvre is the east wing of the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka (top left), a design followed for the rest of the complex. He also designed the much-admired Second Empire-style Chase County Courthouse (top right) in Cottonwood Falls, as well as the original Fraser Hall (bottom left) at the University of Kansas, built in 1872, razed in 1965. Haskell buildings still standing in Lawrence include his home and the two others he designed for sister Elizabeth and brother Dudley on the 1300 block of Haskell Avenue; the Roberts home, long known as the Castle Tea Room, 1309 Massachusetts St.; the Old English Lutheran Church, 1040 New Hampshire St.; Bailey Hall on Jayhawk Boulevard, University of Kansas; and the Douglas County Courthouse (bottom right), at 11th and Massachusetts.



**The Premier Tribal University in the United States.** At the time of his death, Representative Dudley Haskell was chairman of the House Committee on Indian Affairs. This position helped secure the location of the federally-funded Indian boarding school in Lawrence and the naming of that institution in his honor. Opened in 1884, the Haskell campus operated under military-like discipline and over time expanded with new buildings and courses. Instruction at the school emphasized vocational training, sports, and music. In the 20th century, the curriculum evolved from trade school education to university-level courses. Much of the curriculum honors and preserves indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions. Today Haskell Indian Nations University offers instruction to about 1,000 Native American students from federally-recognized tribes across the United States. [Image Credit: Seneca County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History]



**End of the Line.** Franklin Haskell's widow, Almira, two sons, and a daughter, lived on the original claim for most of the rest of their lives. Franklin and Almira's second son, Charles, died early in 1868 after contacting pneumonia during a winter trip to southeast Kansas. Almira Haskell died in October 1876. Almira Street on the northeast side of the original Haskell quarter section recalls her life. Franklin and Almira's daughter Elizabeth Haskell French (left) gave birth to three children, but her untimely death in 1877 left her husband Charles to raise their children while working at various Lawrence stores. John G. Haskell lived the longest. John was partially retired but still working in architecture and active in the Congregational Church when in his 75th year, after a brief illness, he died on Nov. 25, 1907. [Image Credit: Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History]

**Departures.** By 1899, as members of the extended Haskell family passed away, two of the houses on Haskell Row had been sold to non-family members. After John G. Haskell's death, his widow Mary Elizabeth and daughter Mabel remained in their home until selling it around 1910. Mary Elizabeth Haskell died in California in June 1919. Following a 10-year absence, daughter Hattie Haskell McDonald returned to Lawrence with her daughter and in 1929 built a home in one of the subdivisions carved from the original Franklin Haskell claim. No Haskell descendants remain in Lawrence today but members of the family are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery where a handsome obelisk memorializes the Haskell clan that for more than half a century was one of the best known and respected families in the area. [Image Credit: Seneca County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History]

