

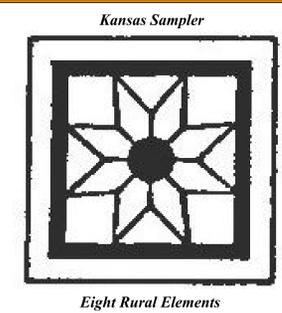
GLASCO

Established 1870

ARCHITECTURE

*Wrought Iron and
Stone Span a Century*

One-and-a-half miles southwest of Glasco a wrought iron bridge made in 1884 spans the Solomon River. The Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio built the Pratt truss design bridge that is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Take a stroll down Main Street and imagine life in Glasco, 100 years ago. The original street has remained intact, revealing many small businesses and styles of buildings. Note especially the historic two-story corner grocer store, built of locally-quarried limestone in 1902. The downtown was named A National Historic District in 2002.

Parishioners quarried the local limestone used to build St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1909. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of imported limestone, is of contemporary design.

ART

Stained Glass is a Capitol Idea!

As you approach Glasco, look up! For many years the top of the water tower was painted to look like stained glass in order to draw attention to the stained glass found in this Cloud County community, the *Stained Glass Capitol of Kansas*.

See fine examples of stained glass from 1910 in St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the WCTU windows at the United Methodist and Christian churches, and contemporary windows at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. More stained glass is found along Main Street. A free tour can be arranged most any time.

Murals depicting Glasco's history are displayed at The Corner Store. Other murals tracing the journey of the Hillhouse family from Scotland to the Solomon Valley and recording the businesses once found along Main Street, were community projects assisted by artists Diana Werts and Lora Jost.

Examples of the 100-year tradition of quilting can be seen at the Senior Center. Glasco was also once home to Polly Dell Stencils, a local business that distributed original art stencils internationally from 1950 to 1972.



*The 1884 Pratt
Iron Truss
Bridge.*

*Listed on the
National Regis-
ter of Historic
Places, it is lo-
cated just south-
west of Glasco.*



Glasco Main Street was a busy hub of commerce in 1920.

COMMERCE

*Agriculture and Recreation Drive
Economy*

Sunflower Feed Mills began operating in 1928 as one of the first alfalfa pellet mills between St. Louis and the Rockies. Sunflower Granular Feeds marketed and registered wholesale dealers in a 200-mile radius.

Back in town, Main Street's many mom-and-pop stores traded eggs and cream with local farmers. Local purebred stock breeders established the Livestock Show in 1903, paving the way for Glasco to become host of the Cloud County Fair, 1933-1982.

Trail Craft Canoes produced fiberglass canoes in Glasco during the 1960s.

Today, as hunting gains popularity around the area, Glasco Locker Plant, located on Railroad Street, processes a larger volume of deer each year.

Natural Gas Pipeline played a significant role in the community during the Depression years through the 70's.

CUISINE

"The Pie Place"

Dive into Glasco's rich Bohemian tradition, and enjoy popular bierocks and kolaches. Not full yet? Stop by for pie. The 1997 Sunrayce teams dubbed Glasco "The Pie Place," thanks to the heavenly aromas and tastes produced by local pie bakers.

Fun Day, the first Saturday in October, features a variety of heritage foods to feast upon. When they are not celebrating the tradition of the fair, locals sip smoothies at the 1930s soda fountain and enjoy soup suppers during the winter.

CUSTOMS

Flanders Field in Glasco Cemetery

The 1939 WPA Guide to Kansas includes Glasco Cemetery, with a plot reminiscent of Flanders Field and 16 crosses aligned beneath a flagpole. The poem *Flanders Field* was read for the Memorial Day service at the cemetery, honoring the memories of many local men and women who served their country. The service continues each year, presented by the VFW.

On Jan. 10, 1958, the *Saturday Evening Post* centerfold recognized 50 years of quilting at the Glasco Lutheran Church. Many women continue to quilt in their homes and at the church, maintaining the tradition for more than a century.

Each year, the annual Glasco High School Alumni Banquet draws an average of 400 alumni. The first class to graduate was in 1898.

GEOGRAPHY

Rich Soil Sold the Solomon Valley

Early settlers saw Glasco advertised for its location in the "rich Solomon Valley." Finding this to be true, they stayed.

White Hill, named for being capped with smooth, white limestone, can be seen north of town. Glasco marks the eastern limit of limestone escarpments projecting through the soil.

Glasco is bound by Cris Creek to the east, Fisher Creek to the west, and the Solomon River to the south. The town's elevation is 1,318 feet.

HISTORY

Fire Brings Water. Water Brings Wall.

Settlers began arriving in 1865. These founders were of Scottish, Irish, German, Scandinavian, English, French and Bohemian descent. Veterans from both the Union and Confederate armies homesteaded in the Glasco area.

The west end of Main Street was destroyed by a fire in 1911. The fire made citizens realize the need for water and electricity in town, and they installed a water system and city electricity in 1912.

The Solomon River frequently flooded parts of town. The major flood in the Solomon Valley in 1951 led to the construction of Glen Elder Dam. This changed the town's relationship to the river as it prevented future flooding.

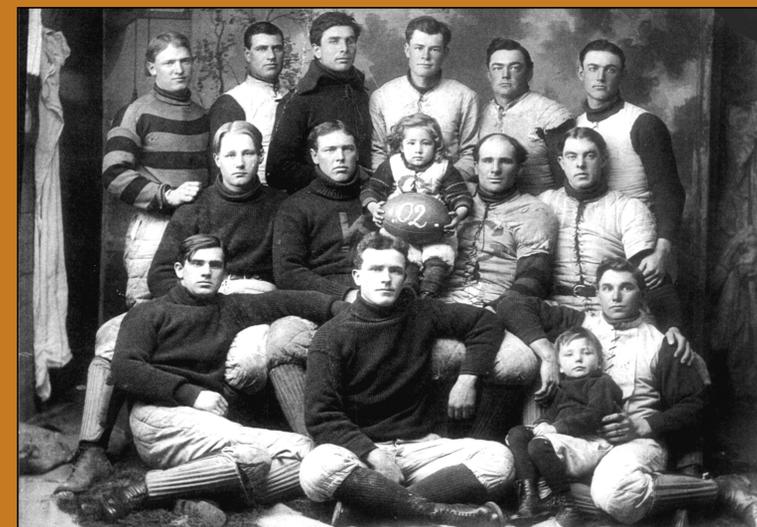
PEOPLE

*Home of the Inventors of the Padgett-
Hood Dermatome and the 'Spit Ball'*

Dr. Earl Padgett, 1912 Glasco High School graduate and professor of plastic surgery at the University of Kansas, invented the surgical instrument used to harvest skin for grafts. The Padgett-Hood dermatome was used extensively during World War II.

Sports teams have also been prominent in town history. Football, basketball and baseball teams brought fame to Glasco in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Elmer Strickett, pitcher for the Chicago White Sox (1904) and the Brooklyn Superbas (1905-1907), was born August 29, 1876, in Glasco. He invented the 'spit ball,' a pitching practice that was outlawed in the 1920s because no one could hit the ball.

More information is available at the Glasco City Library, in City Hall on Main Street, and at the Glasco Community Historical Museum on Main Street.



The Glasco football team of 1902 brought fame, if not fortune, to the proud community. Members are A. Klein, J. Downey, J. Butler, L. Franks, J. Louthan, G. Knowels, C. Franks, J. Davidson, W. Davidson, L. Davidson, and W. Pursell. The subs were T. Hurley, A. Halderson, and R. Brock.