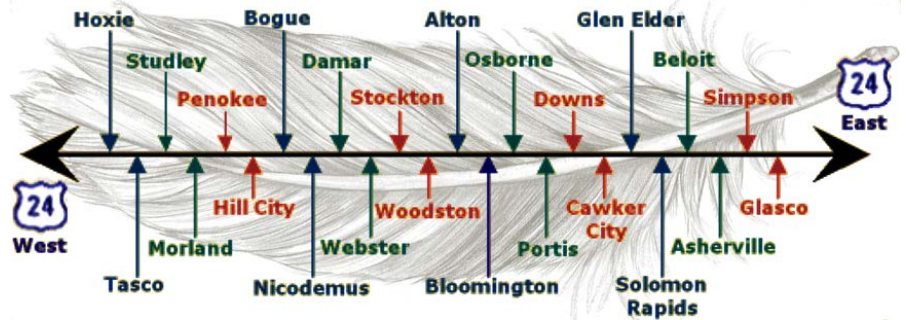
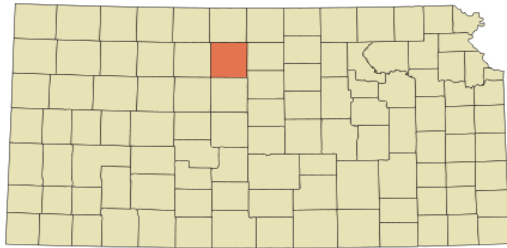




Alton, Kansas

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A Brief History of Alton

by Deanna Roach

Alton, Kansas, founded as Bull City on September 12, 1870, is a proud community with a rich heritage. Flanked by a meandering river and compelling limestone bluffs to the south and Highway 24 on the north, Alton is securely anchored in the heart of the fertile South Solomon River Valley.

A flip of the coin determined that Osborne County's first town was named after General Hiram C. Bull, who was known throughout the country for his charismatic leadership abilities. Bull's visionary partner and exact opposite was Lyman T. Earl, a man who accomplished things with little fanfare.

Bull, never one to know fear, was gored to death by his pet elk after entering the enraged animal's pen on October 12, 1879. Six years later, the town's name was changed to Alton when a few leading citizens deemed that the original name was too vulgar.

Those who love Alton today strive to replicate its proven standards of excellence. From their ranks have risen the dedicated volunteer leaders of far-reaching organizations: Alton PRIDE, Bull City Community Foundation (BCCF), Alton Rural Fire District #3, Osborne County Tourism, Osborne County Historical Society, Solomon Valley-Highway 24-Heritage Alliance, and the coalition for Osborne County Growth and Preservation.

The annual summer jubilee, held the fourth Saturday in August, is the crown jewel for an award-winning PRIDE organization recognized throughout Kansas. The PRIDE-sponsored annual chocolate festival, held the first Saturday of December, honors the community's claim to native-born Russell Stover.

The BCCF's biggest accomplishment to date has been the relocation of the Bohemian Hall from Smith County to its new home in Alton. As a newly resurrected Bohemian Cultural Center, the building has become a focal gathering place for young and old.

When economic times in 2003 forced the closing and ensuing sale of the Alton school, a handful of visionary individuals perceived it as a golden opportunity for the community. With

lightning speed, enthusiasm for developing their new acquisition evolved into Wildcat Development Group, an organization formed to accentuate the property's endless potential.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life, the community of Alton embodies a true pioneer spirit: "Where there is a will, there is a way." The Alton PRIDE committee's logo contains the statement: "Alton Has It All." Alton is home to the spirit of the Solomon Valley.

Stories Of Land Of Man Of Nature