



October 25, 2022

**To:** Capitol Preservation Committee

**From:** Melissa Renick, Assistant Director for Research

**Re:** Kansas 1st Colored Voluntary Infantry Regiment Mural

### **Historical Consideration of the Mural**

This memorandum addresses the requirements established in law regarding the plans to develop and place a mural honoring the 1st Kansas Colored Voluntary Infantry regiment within the Statehouse. This memorandum also includes a timeline outlining legislative committees' consideration of the mural and recommendations submitted to the Legislature. The regiment, often referenced as "first to serve," holds a distinctive place in Kansas and the Nation's Civil War experience. Kansas was the first Northern state to recruit, train, and send Black soldiers into combat during the war between the states. [Note: More information regarding the regiment and its flag is found [here](#).]

#### ***What does Kansas law require for the mural?***

Law that was passed in 2000 (SB 660) addressed the renovation, reconstruction, and repair of the Statehouse. Language enacted in New Section 4 of the bill provided the following direction regarding the mural:

"New Sec. 4. (a) The Kansas state historical society and the department of administration shall develop plans to place a mural in the capitol honoring the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment. Such plans shall be developed in consultation with the joint committee on arts and cultural resources.

(b) On or before January 1, 2002, the plans developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be submitted to the joint committee on arts and cultural resources." [Codified at KSA 75-2264].

These requirements were modified with enactment of 2013 law (HB 2216), which among other things, eliminated the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources. KSA 75-2264 now reads:

"The Kansas state historical society and the department of administration shall develop plans to place a mural in the capitol honoring the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment."

**Testimony and Legislative Action.** At the time of committee action in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (March 20, 2000), the bill’s subject matter was Capitol renovation bonds. The Senate Committee recommended a balloon amendment, which did not contain mural provisions. The bill, as amended by Senate Committee, passed the Senate on a vote of 32-8. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations on March 27 and subsequently referred to the General Government Budget Committee. On April 5, 2000, the full Appropriations Committee received a report on SB 660 from the Budget Committee. The report included a balloon amendment, which further addressed financing of the bonds for renovations and improvements, but did not address the mural. The full Committee recommended the bill, as amended, for passage. On April 6, 2000, the bill was advanced on a House Rule 2311 motion (Majority Leader Glasscock) to final action, subject to amendment, debate, and roll call. The motion did not prevail and the bill was considered on General Orders. During debate, Representative Haley offered the following amendment; this amendment was adopted:

“New Sec. 4.(a) The Kansas state historical society and the department of administration shall develop plans to place a mural in the capitol honoring the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment. Such plans shall be developed in consultation with the joint committee on arts and cultural resources.

(b) On or before January 1, 2002, the plans developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be submitted to the joint committee on arts and cultural resources.” (House Journal, April 6, 2000).

The bill passed the House on a vote of 116-9 on April 7, 2000. The Senate concurred in House amendments (35-5, April 7), and the bill was approved by the Governor on April 19, 2000.

## FROM INITIAL PASSAGE TO TODAY

The following table provides formal committee report reference and recommendations regarding the mural and relevant changes in committee oversight and review.

Year	Committee	Discussion	Recommendation
2001 INT	Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources (Joint Committee)	During review of various topics by the Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), the Director recommended due to other renovation and improvements to the Capitol, the decision on the location of the mural be delayed.	The decision on location of the mural to honor the 1st Colored Voluntary Infantry Regiment (mural) be delayed until after the completion of the Capitol Restoration program and proposed legislation to transfer the authority of implementation of the mural from the KSHS and the Department of Administration to the Capitol Restoration Commission. [formal recommendation]
2007 INT	Joint Committee	Discussion topics included Capitol renovation project update. The presentation from the Statehouse Architect included the future use	The Chairperson suggested the Committee meet during the 2008 Session to discuss the mural and its installation, as well as the

		of art in the Capitol and the planning for and installation of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry Mural (KSA 75-2264).	need and possible locations for permanent (and temporary) art exhibition in the renovated areas. [discussion-only]
<b>2008 INT</b>	Joint Committee	The Statehouse Architect submitted a written report regarding renovation topics, including the mural. The mural report indicated that the Statehouse Mural Committee would be submitting its report to the Statehouse Art and History Committee during the 2009 Session; a final report is to then be submitted to the Joint Committee. Committee members requested additional information (noted in the next column.)	- Received a report detailing the status of the Statehouse Renovation Project, the Capitol mural – the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry Regiment mural, and planned exhibition space in the Capitol.  - Requested follow-up information on the following topics: if the Commission has determined a location for the mural and whether those results or recommendations are available; regular updates from the Commission, including fund-raising efforts (mural proposal to be directed to the Capitol Foundation for fund-raising). [formal recommendation]
<b>SB 54 is introduced (01/21/2009).</b> Following Senate and House committee hearings in 2009 (bill passed the Senate), the bill received a 2010 hearing in the House Committee on Economic Development. As amended by this House committee (the Senate concurred), SB 54 established the 12-member Capital Preservation Committee, eliminated the Statehouse Art and History Committee, and required the new committee to develop plans for the placement of a mural commemorating the U.S. Supreme Court case decision in <i>Brown v. Board</i> . <b>SB 54 is approved by Governor (05/17/2010).</b>			
<b>2010 INT</b>	Joint Committee	In conjunction with an update on Statehouse renovation, the Statehouse Architect reported the Statehouse Mural Committee has met and developed an outline of work for the acquisition of a mural recognizing the 1st Kansas Colored Voluntary Infantry Regiment. A draft of Stages One and Two, Request for Qualifications, and Request for Proposals, have been developed. Plans for the mural are to be developed in consultation with the Joint Committee pursuant to KSA 75-2264.	[No formal recommendation to the Legislature. The referenced Mural Committee report and drafts are attached to this memorandum.]
<b>The Capitol Preservation Committee</b> holds initial committee meetings during the 2010 Interim. Its review includes the Mural Committee recommendations for the 1st Kansas Colored Voluntary Infantry Mural (referenced above), which are used to formulate initial planning documents for <i>Brown v. Board</i> .			
<b>2011 INT</b>	Joint Committee	Among topics, the Capitol Preservation Committee Report was received by the Joint Committee. The report and the selection of a mural location	Noted the receipt of the initial Capitol Preservation Committee Report and encouraged that Committee to move forward with the planning for and installation

		within the Capitol ( <i>Brown v. Board</i> ), as well as the selection process for an artist, were discussed. A member of the Committee noted two locations in the Capitol being considered; however, a final recommendation would not be made until the artist had been selected.	of the <i>Brown v. Board</i> mural in the Capitol. The Joint Committee expressed appreciation for the updates and reports provided by the Capitol Preservation Committee.
<b>2012 INT</b>	Joint Committee		No formal recommendations or discussion regarding the mural (general tour of the Capitol, discussion of exhibits). <b>FINAL REPORT</b>
<b>2012 INT</b>	Capitol Preservation Committee	This Committee discussed oversight of the mural and received comment from the Committee revisor (the revisor indicated KSA 75-2269(c)(1) gives the Committee authority to approve proposals for renovation but the language does not extend to the other mural [1st Kansas]). It was noted the Joint Committee has present oversight (KSA 75-2255). Discussion included introduction of bill to transfer jurisdiction to the Capitol Preservation Committee.	The Committee is willing to work with legislators to resolve the ambiguity over the jurisdiction of the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry Regiment mural. If necessary, the Capitol Preservation Committee would be willing to assume responsibility for this other mural. [Formal recommendation]
<b>Legislation passed during the 2013 Session (HB 2216)</b> eliminates the following joint legislative committees: <i>Arts and Cultural Resources</i> ; Children’s Issues; Economic Development; Energy and Environmental Policy; Health Policy Oversight; Legislative Educational Planning; and the KPERs Study Commission.			
<b>2018 INT</b>	Capitol Preservation Committee	This Committee discussed other murals that have been requested through legislation, but have not yet been completed. Kansas Legislative Research Department staff noted one mural, to honor the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment. The Chairperson stated it was her understanding additional legislation would be needed to move forward with the project.	The Committee recommends future mural legislation clearly outline responsibilities and mechanisms for funding of such mural. [General recommendation]
<b>2019 INT</b>	Capitol Preservation Committee	From discussion (in report): A Committee member suggested the mural should be revisited by the Committee. The Chairperson indicated the Legislature would need to approve a bill for the mural project because the original legislation did not authorize creation of the mural, only the creation of a report.	The Committee recommends exploration of legislative approval for a 1st Kansas (Colored) Volunteer Infantry mural in the Capitol building during the 2020 Legislative Session. [Formal recommendation] <i>Note:</i> The Committee was not convened during the 2020 Interim.

2021 INT	Capitol Preservation Committee	The Chairperson provided an update on previously proposed projects, including the mural: the 1st Kansas (Colored) Infantry mural was proposed over 25 years ago. The legislation to authorize the mural was not passed by the Legislature, and no legislation has been introduced in many years. The Chairperson said one reason the mural has not moved forward is that no financing partner has been identified, as it is unlikely the Legislature would appropriate funds for the mural.	The Committee recommends legislation be drafted to authorize the installation of the 1st Kansas (Colored) Infantry mural in the Capitol. [Formal recommendation]
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**Legislation—2022 Session.** [SB 468](#), a bill directing the Capitol Preservation Committee to develop and approve plans for the mural was introduced in the Senate Committee on Federal and State on February 9, 2022, and referred to that committee on February 10, 2022. With no action taken, the bill died in committee on Sine Die (May 23, 2022). [HB 2660](#), a sponsor bill directing the Capitol Preservation Committee to develop and approve plans for the mural was introduced on February 9, 2022, and referred to the House Committee on Appropriations on February 10, 2022. With no action taken, the bill died in committee on Sine Die (May 23, 2022). A copy of SB 468 is appended to this memorandum.



**Kansas Department of Administration  
Duane A. Goossen, Secretary  
1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 500  
(785) 296-3011**

**Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources  
Statehouse Renovation Update**

**Marilyn Jacobson, Director  
Division of Finance and Facilities Management  
October 20, 2010**

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you on the Kansas Statehouse Preservation and Restoration project.

**NORTH WING and ROTUNDA**

The project is on schedule to complete the North Wing, floors 1 through 5, in June 2012 including:

- Relocation of House Speaker Pro Tem, Senate Minority Leader, Legislators in temporary offices in Statehouse and 45 Representatives from Docking State Office Building.
- State Library.
- Rotunda interior from 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Floors.
- 6 Committee Rooms and 1 Sub-committee room. Final totals are 13 Committee, 2 Sub-committee and 4 small Meeting rooms which double as future Legislative Research Department census Meeting rooms.
- Re-open the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor skylight at the North Wing (formerly in Leg. Research).
- Refurbish interior cabs of Northeast and Northwest elevators.
- Vending machine rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Floors in Northwest quadrants.
- Photocopier rooms on all floors.

**VISITOR CENTER and SITE WORK**

- Work will be completed using private funding.
- No completion scheduled has been determined using private funding.

**EXTERIOR MASONRY**

- ~~The South Wing and West Wing have been completed and scaffolding removed.~~
- Work continues on completing North Wing and East Wing.
- Bird protection has been installed as Exterior Masonry work is finished.
- Tower Crane installed and in use until November 2011.
- Steel beams are installed to support scaffolding for the renovation of the limestone drum.

Joint Committee on Arts & Cultural Resources  
October 20, 2010  
Attachment 2

**1<sup>st</sup> KANSAS (COLORED) VOLUNTARY INFANTRY REGIMENT**

Statehouse Mural Committee, an informal committee of the Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Arts Commission, and Department of Administration met and developed an outline of work for the acquisition of a mural. Recommendations include:

- Stage One – Request for Qualifications - DRAFT.
- Stage Two - Request for Proposals - DRAFT.
- Typical schedule.
- Suggested cost and private funding.
- Mural proposal is considered an enhancement and suggestion to the Capitol Foundation.



**Statehouse Mural Committee Report  
October 20, 2010 - Updated**

**History of Project:** As directed by Senate Bill 600 passed in the 2000 Legislative Session, the Kansas State Historical Society and Department of Administration shall develop plans to place a mural in the State Capitol honoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment. Plans will be developed in consultation with the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources. Reference: K.S.A. 75-2264.

**Statehouse Mural Committee (SMC):** This is an informal committee of the Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Arts Commission, and Department of Administration.

**Mission Statement of Statehouse Mural Committee:**

- The primary mission is to develop a plan for selection and placement of a mural in the Capitol honoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas (Colored) Volunteer Infantry.
- The secondary mission is to develop a plan for placing future artwork in the renovated Capitol.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

**I. Topic**

The topic for the artwork is the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, the unit of African-American soldiers from Kansas who fought bravely in the Civil War. Since this is an historic topic, it is important that the final piece of artwork has historical integrity and accuracy. Historical interpretation will be one of the judging criteria.

To assist artists with their task, an historical overview of the topic is provided (see Appendix 1). "The History of the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry" written by Blair Tarr, curator for the Kansas State Historical Society, is not the definitive work on this subject but an introduction for artists and panelists. Artists are encouraged to do more research on this topic.

**II. Location**

Identifying the location of the mural is a principal component of the entire mural project. The location needs to be identified prior to the Request for Qualifications from the artists.

**A. History**

When identifying a location for a new piece of artwork it is also important to have an understanding of the architect's original design intent. What fine art features were intended for the building when it was conceived in 1866? Unfortunately for Kansas, our state Capitol does not have a single architect who completed the entire process. Instead many architects were involved in the design of this building over its various stages of construction. The result has been the addition of artwork through various processes over the last 139 years.

The Capitol is currently home to four large mural groups, all of which will be preserved as part of the renovation project. Topeka artist David H. Overmeyer painted eight murals on the 1st floor in the early 1950s. On the second floor are the murals in the east and west wing created between 1937 and 1942 by regionalist painter John Stuart Curry. Also on the second floor, in the rotunda, are eight Lumen Martin Winter murals installed in 1976. These murals completed the history of Kansas begun by Curry. The dome murals are the oldest murals in the Capitol. The firm of Crossman and Study from Chicago painted the four allegorical murals in 1902.

Since 1976 there has been no addition of murals to the Capitol. There have been two additions of major artwork but both have been sculptures. The Peter F. "Fritz" Felten, Jr. statues of four famous Kansans are limestone sculptures. They were placed in the second floor rotunda alcoves in 1981. The last addition of artwork was the installation of the bronze statue *Ad Astra* to the Capitol dome in 2002.

## **B. Design Parameters**

The Statehouse Mural Committee has reviewed design parameters for placement of murals and artwork for the state Capitols of Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. While every state does it a little differently, a common theme is the separation of historic space and interpretive space. The historic space is to be preserved to maintain the structures historic integrity. The interpretive space is much more flexible in terms of use and appearance.

Design parameters for the Capitol are addressed in Chapter Two of the *Historic Structure Report*. "The specific purpose of the design parameters is to ensure that proposed alterations to the Kansas State Capitol Building do not violate the historic integrity of the original design, space, or finishes. The design parameters will specify guidelines for the renovation of interior spaces in a way that is sympathetic to the historic fabric of the structure, to the maximum practical extent." (II-1) There are three zones (A –C) identified in the report as follows.

### ***Zone A – Areas to be Restored***

*Includes spaces which are generally in their original configuration with original materials and details. Historically, these spaces have been used as major public spaces, and include such areas as lobbies, atrium, House, Senate, courtroom, and entrances. Areas of more utilitarian importance which retain their original configuration, materials, and details, as well as spaces associated with major historic events or technological achievement may also be placed in this zoning classification. (II-3)*

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### ***Zone B – Areas to be Rehabilitated While Retaining Significant Historic Details***

*Includes those areas of secondary importance which still retain significant historic details worthy of preservation. Examples of such details include, but are not limited to, stairs, balustrades, floor materials, wainscot, trim, doors, windows, ornamental plaster, glass, light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, mechanical system fixtures, and site features. (II-3)*

### ***Zone C – Areas Suitable for Major Redesign***

*Includes secondary spaces without historical or technological significance, and in which significant historic details have not been retained, or were never in place. The original function and/or historic character of the space may have been lost or is beyond recognition at this time. (II-3)*

The classification of space in the *Historic Structure Report* clearly differentiates between historic space (Zones A and B) and non-historic space (Zone C). The intention of Zones A and B is to maintain as much of the original fabric and appearance as possible and practical. Zone C is “typically utilitarian spaces throughout the building that have been utilized for a variety of functions over time.” (II-8).

#### **C. Basement-Zone C**

The basement, or new ground floor, is almost completely classified as Zone C. It will be refurbished as offices and public space. Once the renovation is complete, the main visitor entrance to the Capitol will be through the north doors at this level. The Capitol Tour Center information desk will be immediately inside these doors in the lobby. Tour groups and individual visitors will receive their 1st orientation to the building at this location.

The *Historic Structure Report* identifies an auditorium and a classroom to be placed on either side of this hallway/lobby on the ground floor. The auditorium will be used by visitors to view an orientation video. The classroom will provide much needed space for activities with school groups. Continuing through the lobby/hallway, visitors will encounter a lunchroom and gift shop.

The wall space in the lobby/hallway is expansive. It is the largest uninterrupted wall space on the ground floor. It should be able to accommodate four monumental-size paintings. The largest spaces are the two lobby walls outside the classroom and auditorium. These walls reach up two-and-one-half stories. They are approximately 20 feet in length and 21 feet high. The two walls along the south end of the lobby/hallway are 19 feet in length and 9 feet high.

When the preservation and restoration project is finished, the north wing of the ground level will again become the front door to the Capitol. It is here that we recommend placing the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas Colored Infantry mural.

### **III. Artwork**

The 2000 legislation identified the format for the artwork as a mural. There are two ways to interpret this term. First, a mural is by general perception a monumental painting. This was undoubtedly the intent of the legislature--to honor the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry with an impressive piece of art.

By definition, a mural is applied to and made integral with a wall or ceiling surface. Historically, this has been the format for artwork in the Capital. There are, however, several preservation and conservation concerns with this format.

This mural will be subject to a variety of environmental conditions. Moisture, condensation, possible mold on the walls, and rapid temperature are concerns. The north entrance will have double doors that will reduce drafts but not totally prevent them. Large groups entering the building will inevitably have both doors open at the same time resulting in drafts and temperature swings.

A monumental painting that is removable does not imply that it is not "permanent." Identifying and acquiring this significant piece of artwork involves a major investment of time and money by the people of Kansas. Placement in the Capitol, the most significant building in Kansas, implies that the artwork be a permanent addition to our state's history.

It is the recommendation of the committee that the project retain the term "mural" with the understanding that it is not permanently attached to the wall for purposes of conservation.

### **IV. Panel Selection**

A panel of eleven (11) voting members plus one (1) non-voting chairperson will be assembled to make the artist selection. Specifically, we recommend that the panel include the statehouse architect, a member of the Kansas State Historical Society, a member of the Kansas Arts Commission, and two art professionals recommended by the Kansas Arts Commission. Four members of the panel will be selected by the Legislature and two members by the Governor. The total voting membership of the panel needs to be an odd number.

Serving on a selection panel requires a significant investment of time. Panelists will receive educational training on topics related to the project. These topics include but are not limited to: the Visual Artists Rights Act and copyright protection issues, conflict of interests, review of the Statehouse Mural Committee Report, the Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposal documents, and review of art projects at other state capitols. This will be done prior to meeting for artist selection.

## Appendix 1

### FORGOTTEN "GLORY"—THE FIRST KANSAS COLORED INFANTRY

In 1989 the movie "Glory" brought much needed exposure to the African-Americans who fought during the Civil War. The film depicted the trials, tribulations, and gallantry of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, a mix of educated Free Blacks and former slaves recruited early in 1863. Their service is important because the attention this regiment received did much to dispel any thoughts harbored by white army officers that African-Americans would make terrible soldiers. The movie, however, also leaves many with the impression they were the first Black regiment. It was not the case.

During the month of August 1862, efforts began in Kansas for an African-American regiment. President Lincoln had placed United States Senator James Henry Lane in charge of recruitment for the state, and Lane took the opportunity to liberally interpret the instructions and include Blacks. Lane, a prominent figure in Kansas since 1855, was often deeply involved in the turmoil in gaining statehood, and was a force in the politics of the young state. The motives for Lane's actions were often questioned, and the issue of black recruitment was no different. Many suggest that he truly believed in the ability of blacks to fight. Others believe he saw black recruitment as a means to fill the quota of soldiers needed from Kansas, and that a black soldier could stop a bullet as well as a white one.

Whatever Lane's motives, Kansas soon had a regiment of African-American soldiers. Recruitment was carried out in both Leavenworth and Mound City. Unfortunately, the Federal government did not want them. That did not stop them from training, and eventually, from fighting.

At the end of October 1862, 225 men from the First Kansas Colored Infantry were sent into Bates County, Missouri, to flush out a force of 500 pro-Southern guerillas that had been disrupting activities on the border. By the 28<sup>th</sup> the First Kansas had established a camp at the farm of Enoch Toothman, a known southern supporter, west of Butler, Missouri, and on that day had a light skirmish with the guerillas. The next day the regiment was engaged in a fight with the guerillas at a site known locally as Island Mound.

The First Kansas Colored Infantry won this first skirmish with the enemy. The first African-American regiment in the northern states had seen their first action, and shed their first blood. Eight men were killed, and another eleven men wounded.

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Because they were not mustered in as a Federal regiment, the First Kansas at this time included black officers. At Island Mound, Lt. Patrick Minor of Leavenworth would also be the first black to command fellow members of his race.

It is also worthy to note that among the dead was John Six-Killer, who had led a scouting party of "Cherokee Negroes"—Native Americans who also were of African-American ancestry.

Thirty years later a claim would be made that this fight would encourage Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. What Lincoln actually thought is not known; it may well have encouraged him in believing the Proclamation was the right move. But in September, Lincoln, spurred by the success in turning back Confederate troops at the Battle of Antietam, had already declared publicly his intent to issue the Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

The Emancipation Proclamation had a positive effect on the First Kansas. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the regiment was finally mustered into Federal service. Thirteen days later, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew announced that recruitment would begin for what would become the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry.

But the First Kansas lost something when they became a Federal unit. Neither of the black officers, Lt. Minor and Captain William Matthews, was allowed to muster in as officers. All officers from the date of muster would be white.

The First Kansas continued to build a distinguished service record. On July 2, 1863, black troops fought alongside white troops for the first time at Cabin Creek, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). Fifteen days later at Honey Springs, also in the Indian Territory, the First had perhaps their best day of the war. Here they held the Federal center against attack, and they did so in a line with both white and Native American troops. If there were any doubters left in the Trans-Mississippi about the abilities of African-American soldiers, Honey Springs should have erased them.

Major General James Blunt would comment after Honey Springs: "I never saw such fighting as was done by the Negro regiment. . . they make better soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command."

On April 14, 1864 at Poison Spring, Arkansas, the First Kansas would suffer its worst day of the war, where 117 were killed and 65 were wounded. The losses were out of proportion to other Federal units that day; this was due to the execution of the wounded and captured men of the First by the Confederate victors. A few days later, the Second Kansas Colored Infantry would use the battle cry, "Remember Poison Spring!" to rally themselves against the enemy.

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On December 13, 1864, the First Kansas was redesignated as the 79<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops. They were mustered out of service in October 1865.

So why hasn't the First Kansas Colored Infantry received more recognition for its efforts? The Trans-Mississippi war has only recently received increasing interest by historians. When in the past it has been addressed, it is usually in regards to the pre-war Bleeding Kansas conflict, or by William Quantrill's raid of Lawrence. Perhaps the First Kansas has also suffered from bad timing.

When the First Kansas was fighting the battles of Cabin Creek and Honey Springs in July of 1863, some of the more prominent events of the war were taking place. The Battle of Gettysburg was fought July 1-3; the surrender of Vicksburg took place on July 4. The day after Honey Springs, the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts made their famous—and deadly—charge at Battery Wagner in South Carolina. These events found far more coverage in the Eastern press than the events west of the Mississippi.

### Bibliography

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**SENATE BILL No. 468**

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-9

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1 AN ACT concerning the state capitol; relating to permanent displays and  
2 murals; directing the capitol preservation committee to develop and  
3 approve plans for a mural honoring the 1st Kansas (Colored) Voluntary  
4 Infantry regiment; creating the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry  
5 regiment mural fund; amending K.S.A. 75-2264 and repealing the  
6 existing section.  
7

8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. K.S.A. 75-2264 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-  
10 2264. (a) ~~The Kansas state historical society and the department of~~  
11 ~~administration~~ *capitol preservation committee shall develop and approve*  
12 *plans to place a mural in the capitol honoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas (Colored)*  
13 *Voluntary Infantry regiment pursuant to K.S.A. 75-2269, and amendments*  
14 *thereto.*

15 (b) *There is hereby established in the state treasury the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas*  
16 *(Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment mural fund. Expenditures from the*  
17 *fund may be made for the purposes of creating and installing the 1<sup>st</sup>*  
18 *Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment mural and for such other*  
19 *purposes as may be specified with regard to any grant, gift, contribution*  
20 *or bequest. All such expenditures shall be made upon warrants of the*  
21 *director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by*  
22 *the secretary of administration or the secretary's designee.*

23 (c) *The secretary of administration is hereby authorized to receive*  
24 *moneys from any grants, gifts, contributions or bequests made for the*  
25 *purpose of financing the creation and installation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas*  
26 *(Colored) Voluntary Infantry regiment mural and to expend such moneys*  
27 *for the purposes for which received. The secretary of administration shall*  
28 *remit all moneys so received to the state treasurer in accordance with the*  
29 *provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of*  
30 *such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the*  
31 *state treasury to the credit of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas (Colored) Voluntary Infantry*  
32 *regiment mural fund. Except for the costs associated with the preparation*  
33 *and submission of the plans under subsection (a), no public funds shall be*  
34 *expended for the purpose of financing the creation or installation of the*  
35 *mural developed under this section.*

36 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 75-2264 is hereby repealed.



1       Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
2       publication in the statute book.