

D.A.R. CHAPTER MARKS
LOCATION OF OLD FORT

Outlines of Fort Kirwin Still are Visible.

Ceremony First of Series of Markers Planned by D.A.R.
for Historic places in Kansas.

Phillipsburg, Kan., June 19--

(Special)--Stirring incidents of early Kansas history were called to mind this week when the Phebe Dustin D.A.R. chapter of Phillipsburg, Kansas, formally marked the site of Old Fort Kirwin, a fort established 62 years ago as a protection for early settlers of Phillips county against the Indians then roaming the prairies.

The marker was placed by the chapter in the center of the old fort whose dimensions are still clearly marked by a trench about a foot deep which defines its boundaries. The fort was more than 80 feet square and was large enough to accomodate all the settlers of the surrounding country.

Mr. H. A. Royce of Kirwin, a town named for Captain Kirwin who had charge of the fort, led in the ceremony, reading a paper contrasting the Kirwin and Phillips county of today with that of 60 years ago. Numerous papers of historic importance were lowered into the marker by Mrs. Ingersoll of Ames, Iowa, who as a little girl spent much time at Old Fort Kirwin, and a wreath was placed in the marker in memory of those who in years gone by valiantly protected their homes and families at the old fort. Each member of the chapter had a part in placing the earth about the cement shaft, in which the flag was placed.

The fort was located on the Perkins homestead about two miles southwest of Kirwin, within just a few rods of the Perkins' dugout home. The land still belongs to the Perkins' family but the dugout has long since given place to a pleasant farm home. The fort was well situated on a high bluff, with a view for miles in every direction, and proptected [sic] from marouding Indians by the Solomon river on three sides.

The marking of old Fort Kirwin is the first of a series of markers which the Phebe Dustin chapter plans to place at historic places in northwestern Kansas.