In 1857, a scarcely-remembered expedition occurred, departing from Fort Leavenworth, KS. The 165th anniversary of the Utah Expedition will take place this summer, with several reenactment events planned along the route to Utah. Wyandotte County was originally carved from Leavenworth and Johnson Counties in 1859, making Wyandotte County Park and Museum an ideal location to reenact the preparation, organization, and training for this expedition. On June 24-26th reenactors will join for a high-quality historically accurate living history weekend. Units will portray U.S. Dragoons, artillery, infantry, laundresses, officer’s families, civilian contractors, and local citizens. Visitors can expect to see organization reenactments, training exercises, mounted horses, firing demonstrations, and more. Step back in time and learn about how an expedition came together in the 1850s.

This event will be open to the public. Details and schedules TBA.

www.wycokck.org/wycomuseum - 913-573-5002 - wycomuseum@wycokck.org

Background: In 1857, President Buchanan saw the Utah Territory, almost entirely settled by the Latter Day Saints and led by their church leader and Territorial Governor Brigham Young, grow increasingly hostile to Federal intervention and oversight. The President named a new Governor, Alfred Cumming, to replace Young in July 1857. Cumming was ordered to move, with his newly appointed civil officers, to Salt Lake City, with a military escort, as soon as practicable. That escort and the military force to support the new Governor was to be known by several names, including the U.S. Army’s Utah Expedition. The Units that comprised the Utah Expedition were spread around the frontier in 1857, including from Fort Riley and Lawrence in Kansas Territory, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, Fort Snelling, Minnesota Territory, to forts out on the prairie. Units from the 2nd US Dragoons, 10th and 5th US Infantry, 4th US Artillery, US Ordnance Corps, and other supporting organizations collected in and around Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory beginning in July, 1857. Learn more about the Utah Expedition of 1857.