

= Cyrus K. Holliday =

Colonel Cyrus Kurtz Holliday ( April 3 , 1826 ? March 29 , 1900 ) was one of the founders of the township of Topeka , Kansas , in the mid 19th century ; and was Adjutant General of Kansas during the American Civil War . The title Colonel , however , was honorary . He was the first president of the Atchison , Topeka and Santa Fe Railway , as well as one of the railroad 's directors for nearly 40 years , up to 1900 . A number of railway locomotives have been named after him .

= = Education and early career = =

He was born on April 3 , 1826 , to David and Mary ( Kennedy ) Holliday , in Kidderminster , Pennsylvania ( near Carlisle ) . The younger Holliday received a public school education , graduating from Allegheny College in Meadville , Pennsylvania , where he studied law , in 1852 . Although he moved to Kansas in 1854 , Allegheny College 's alumni records show Holliday receiving a master 's degree in 1855 .

While he was still in Meadville , he was asked to prepare legal documentation for a new railroad that would connect to the city . The proposed railroad ( likely the Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad which was sometimes known as " The Meadville Line " ) would almost connect with a larger nearby system ( the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad ) , which meant that it could become a feeder route to the larger railroad . Holliday saw the potential of the line and instead of asking for a standard fee to create the documents , he asked for and was granted a partnership in the new railroad . When this railroad was purchased by the larger system , Holliday earned \$ 20 @, @ 000 from the sale .

After the sale was completed , he married Mary Dillon Jones . He soon followed the many others making the migration to settle land west of the Mississippi River , but Mary stayed behind in Pennsylvania . The two were reunited later in Kansas after the births of their children , Lillie and Charles King .

= = Founding Topeka and military service = =

In 1854 he moved to Kansas , leaving his wife behind in Pennsylvania to follow later . He first settled in Lawrence in October 1854 . On December 10 , 1854 , after helping to find a location for the new townsite of Topeka , he wrote a letter to his wife saying :

" I am now thirty miles above Lawrence on the Kansas River assisting in starting a new town . We are just about in the central portion of the " settled " Territory and with perhaps the best landing and the most eligible site for a city in the entire country . ... So I think it must be , and in a few years when civilization by its magic influence shall have transformed this glorious country from what it is now to the brilliant destiny awaiting it , the Sun in all his course will visit no land more truly lovely and desirable than this . Here , Mary , with God 's kind permission , we will make our home ; and I have every reason to believe a home it will truly be . "

In 1855 Holliday received the honorary title of Colonel for supervising a regiment during the Wakarusa War . He also served as the Adjutant General of Kansas during the Civil War from May 2 , 1864 to March 31 , 1865 . Although his Colonel title was only honorary , he continued to use it long after his military service .

In 1861 , Holliday served in the Kansas State Senate , and although he ran for Congress in 1874 , he was defeated in that election . He was a Republican .

Holliday had broad interests in developing the natural resources of Kansas . In the 1890s he became mistakenly convinced that Ellis and Trego counties in central Kansas contained mineral deposits of tin , zinc , and gold . In 1899 his son Charles K. Holliday founded Smoky Hill City , Kansas near the supposed mineral deposits .

= = The Santa Fe Railroad = =

Once Topeka was founded , it needed transportation to connect it to the rest of the country .

Holliday 's legal skills were called on again to create the paperwork for a new railroad . In 1859 he singlehandedly wrote the charter for the Atchison and Topeka Railroad Company , which would connect the two cities by rail following the route of the Santa Fe Trail . Kansas Territory governor Samuel Medary approved the charter on February 11 , 1859 . Holliday was named a director and president of the new railroad on September 17 , 1860 , which was renamed in 1863 to the Atchison , Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad . During his tenure as president , Holliday secured land grants from the federal government that would soon be used by the railroad to populate the western portion of Kansas in order to build a customer base for the railroad . He stepped down from the presidency at the end of 1863 , but remained on the board of directors until July 27 , 1865 . He rejoined the board on September 24 , 1868 , this time serving until his death on March 29 , 1900 .

= = Legacy = =

Holliday is buried in Topeka Cemetery , Topeka , Kansas . He is memorialized for his contributions to Kansas and the Santa Fe :

Cyrus K. Holliday , Locomotive # 1 , a vintage locomotive was displayed by the A , T & SF into the 1960s .

He is portrayed in the 1940 movie " Santa Fe Trail " by Henry O 'Neill as a promoter of commerce and development in the American West of his time .

In World War II , the United States liberty ship SS Cyrus K. Holliday was named in his honor .

Locomotive # 1 on the Disneyland Railroad bore the name " C.K. Holliday " since the park 's opening in 1955 .

Locomotive # 2 of the Paris Disneyland Railroad was also named C.K. Holliday in his honor .