

At Beach Valley, temporary seat of short-lived Peketon county, an election was held on November 6, 1860. Abijah I. Beach, William Mathewson, and Robert Odell were election judges. William I. Mason served as clerk. Twelve men -- all frontiersmen -- voted for one legislator, and 10 county officials. The names of 11 are shown on the election return (Mathewson, and the 10 county officials chosen).

		<i>Votes</i>
Legislature*	S. N. Wood	12
	( H. Bickford	12
County comm'rs	( A. I. Beach	12
	( Geo. M. Gordon	11
<b>County assessor</b>	<b>Hubble</b>	12
Probate judge	W. D. Wheeler	12
County clerk	Robert Odell	12
Sheriff	Wm. I. Mason	11
Treasurer	Wm. N. Edwards	12
Justice of the peace	Chauncey Jones	12
Constable	Charles Rath	12

\*The counties of Madison, Chase, Peketon, and Morris constituted the 23d election district. For the legislature, in this election, S. N. Wood, of Council Grove, Morris county (with 177 votes) won over candidates T. S. Huffaker (99), and N. B. Moulton (102). Wood, of course, voted at Council Grove.

Beach, Mathewson, and Edwards all have been identified as related to Cow Creek Crossing. Robert Odell also seems to have been at Beach Valley in 1860. He was there in 1863. H. Bickford was Harvey L. Bickford, rancher and postmaster at Big Turkey (Creek Crossing). His partner **Hubble(s) may have been related to J. W. Hubbles, who, in 1869**, was one of the first settlers on the Cowskin, in what became Salem township, Sedgwick county. William D. Wheeler had been at Little Arkansas Crossing since 1858. Charles Rath, probably just before election, had taken over the ranch at Walnut Creek Crossing. George M. Gordon's address in August, 1860, was Pawnee Fork. No information has been found on Mason or Jones. [31]

31. Peketon county election returns, November 6, 1860 (in KHi archives division). In Baughman, Kansas Post Offices, p. 202, Big Turkey's first postmaster should be

listed as Harvey (not Harry) L. Bickford. "**Hubbell**" is mentioned in the *Council Grove Press* of June 1, 1861, as follows: "Mr. Wm. Wheeler, Dr. A. I. Beach, and Hubbell and Bickford, have Ranches [all the way out to Little Arkansas and Cow creek] ..." Frank Stahl recollected the Big Turkey ranch was run by "Harvey Bickford and Lester Buttles (i.e., Hubble[s]?). See Horace Jones, *Up From the Sod* (Lyons, c1968), p. 41. For Rath, see *KHQ*, v. 37, p. 140. "G. M. Gordon, with 3 men, Pawnee Fork," was "Registered at S. M. Hays & Co.," Council Grove, for the week ending August 23, 1860. -- See *Council Grove Press*, August 25, 1860