

Kansas History as Published in the Press

The Westerners Brand Book, Chicago, has in several recent issues published Kansas history items. The May, 1947, issue featured an address by Col. Edward N. Wentworth on the Southwest cattle empires. Colonel Wentworth mentioned some of the early cattle trails into Kansas, including the Chisholm trail. The story of Horace Greeley's journey through Kansas in 1859 was told by J. Monaghan, Illinois state historian, in the issue for July-August. W. Turrentine Jackson's speech on army engineers as road builders appeared in the December number. "Photographing the Frontier," a talk by Elmo Scott Watson, was printed in January, 1948. Watson referred extensively to Dr. Robert Taft's article, "Seeing Kansas in the Sixties," published in *The Kansas Magazine*, Manhattan, for 1939. A story of the battle of "Arickaree Fork," by Hilton Ira (Hi) Jones, appeared in the February, 1948, issue.

Included among recent articles in the series entitled, "The Birth of a State—This Month in Kansas History," by Cecil Howes, published in *The Kansas Teacher*, Topeka, were the following: "Indian Tribes in Kansas," September, 1947; "Fairs Still Retain the Old Flavor," October; "When Bicycles Swarmed on the Highways," November; "Buffalo All Gone—But Tracks Remain," December; "The Chisholm Cattle Trail," January, 1948; "Box Suppers and Pie Socials," February; "Opening of the Santa Fe Trail," March; "Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony," April, and "Rain Makers and Water Witches," May.

An article, "Historical Huron Cemetery," by Grant W. Harrington, was printed serially in the *Kansas City Kansan*, December 17-28, 1947. Huron cemetery, located in present Kansas City, Kan., first came into existence about 1843 when the Wyandot Indians buried 60 of their number who died from an epidemic. The Wyandots had arrived in the area from Ohio only a short time before. A few years later many of the Wyandot tribe became citizens and were granted land individually by the government. The burial place was set aside as a cemetery. However, because of the increasingly high value of the land, several attempts have been made in the past fifty years to have the bodies removed and the property sold. The first attempt was unsuccessful because of the objections from the Wyandots. The second was in 1906 when congress by law authorized the bodies to be removed and the land sold. The case went to the supreme court of the United States but the attempt was finally

stopped when Congressman Charles Curtis was successful in getting the law repealed. Another attempt was made in the 1948 session of congress, but the move was blocked by interested Kansas congressmen. In 1913 congress appropriated \$10,000 for the upkeep of the cemetery, and soon thereafter it was turned over to Kansas City for maintenance. For many years Huron cemetery was a burial ground for the Wyandots. A few of the graves are marked but many are unmarked and their locations unknown.

"Benjamin, or 'Pap' Singleton And His Followers," is the title of an article by Roy Garvin reprinted in pamphlet form from *The Journal of Negro History*, Washington, v. 33 (January, 1948), pp. 7-23. Benjamin "Pap" Singleton was one of the principal leaders of the greatest mass movement of Negroes in the United States. Mr. Garvin dealt principally with the movement of Negroes from the South to Kansas during the period of the 1870's and 1880's. Singleton had a major part in the founding of eleven colonies in Kansas during that period. The difficulties and the hardships the Negroes endured and the measures taken to aid them by the state and local governments of Kansas were discussed. Mention was made of several of the more prominent figures in the migration.

The Dodge City *Journal* in recent months has printed a historical column entitled "It's Worth Repeating," with Heinie Schmidt contributing much of the information. Some of the subjects discussed were: naming Southwest cities, January 8, 1948; a brief history of Fort Dodge, January 15; the original cowboy band of Dodge City, January 22; beginnings of Wright park, January 29, and O. A. (Brick) Bond, buffalo hunter, February 5. Beginning February 12 the column featured the reminiscences of F. A. Hobbie. The early days of the Methodist church were reviewed on February 26, "Ham" Bell, last of the Wild West sheriffs, and the blizzard of 1878, March 4. Later articles, several of which were written by Mr. Schmidt, included: highways of pioneers, April 15; establishment of the first church (Union) in Dodge City, May 6, and the first cattle drive over the old Palodura or Goodnight trail, June 10.

An article appearing in the Manhattan *Mercury-Chronicle*, January 29, 1948, and the Manhattan *Republic*, February 4, by Leslie Black, recalled the founding of Wabaunsee, in northern Wabaunsee county. The settlement was sponsored by Henry Ward Beecher, famous Congregational minister, and was known as the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony. When the group met in old North Church,

New Haven, Conn., Beecher, then pastor of the Plymouth Church in New York, pledged \$600 from his congregation for purchasing Sharps rifles. When the money arrived it was accompanied by Bibles. The pioneers arrived at their new home on April 28, 1856. Work was soon started on the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church which was completed in 1862. The church still stands today although it has not been used regularly for many years.

Articles of historical interest in the March, 1948, number of the *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, Lawrence, include: "Kansas Weather: 1947," by S. D. Flora; "The Climate of Kansas, 1871," from *Resources of Kansas*, by C. C. Hutchinson, 1871; "The Flora of Douglas County, Kansas," by Ronald L. McGregor; "Kansas and the Geodetic Datum of North America," by Walter H. Schoewe; "Ground Waters Available for Water-Flooding Oil Projects in Southeastern Kansas," by G. E. Abernathy, and "Some Effects of Burning Upon a Prairie in West-Central Kansas," by Harold Hopkins, F. W. Albertson and Andrew Riegel.

"Mennonites in Comanche County, Kansas," by Mrs. S. Enos Miller, appeared in the Protection Historical Society columns of the *Protection Post*, March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 1948. Other subjects discussed recently were: the banks of Protection, April 9; Protection's livery stables or barns, April 16, 23 and 30; Protection's postal service, May 7 and 14; Protection's first vacation Bible school, May 28, and Protection's first band, June 11 and 18.

A brief history of the newspapers of Rooks county by W. F. Hughes was printed in the *Rooks County Record*, of Stockton, March 11, 1948, and republished in the *Plainville Times*, March 18. The first newspaper in the county was the *Stockton News* in 1876. Of all the newspapers started in Rooks county, only the *Record* and the *Times* are now in existence.

Osage county history, as compiled several years ago by the Kansas Historical Records Survey, Division of Community Service Programs of the Works Progress Administration, is being printed in *The Peoples Herald*, Lyndon, beginning March 11, 1948. Topics discussed include: origin and name of Osage county, March 11; early explorations, March 18; Indian occupancy, March 25, April 1 and 8; white settlement—early towns, April 8, 15, 22 and 29; first elections, April 29 and May 6; first townships, May 13; judicial districts and organization, May 13, 20 and 27; the county seat question, May 27, June 3 and 10, and county buildings, June 10, 17 and 24.

W. E. Baer's "Across the Years—A History of La Cygne," has continued to appear in the *La Cygne Journal*. The issue of March 12, 1948, stated that J. W. Mitchell bought the *Journal* and became its editor and publisher in November, 1896. In August, 1897, the *Journal* again changed hands, going to Bruce Dennis. Other subjects discussed include: the G. A. R. reunion at Leavenworth in 1897, March 26; the graduating class of 1898 from La Cygne High School, April 9, and the response from La Cygne boys to the first call for volunteers for the Spanish-American war in the spring of 1898, April 23. On April 16 a list of marriages from 1893 to 1898 was published. The members of the Twentieth Kansas regiment from La Cygne were listed on April 30. Brief biographical notes on some of the early settlers in La Cygne who died late in 1899 and early in 1900 were printed on May 21.

"History of Neosho County," by W. W. Graves, has been featured in recent issues of the *St. Paul Journal*. In the issue for March 18, 1948, Mr. Graves described the judicial, legislative and congressional districts relating to Neosho county. Also the commissioner districts and townships of the county were discussed. On March 25, April 1, 8, 15 and 29 several Neosho county poets were mentioned with brief samples of their work. Included were: Esther Clark Hill, Clarence Oakes, Dr. J. A. DeMoss, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lease, the Rev. Thomas A. McKernan, Mrs. Helen B. Kyser, J. M. Cavaness, the Rev. Knowles Shaw, Mrs. Mary Haufler Carpenter, Susie Gibbons Graves and Mrs. Fannie Smith Gray. Histories of some of the Neosho county townships were given as follows: Big Creek township, April 22; Canville township, April 29 and May 13, and Centerville township, June 3 and 17.

Pictures of "Historic, Beautiful Kansas," by Russell Walker of St. John, have continued to appear in the *Hutchinson News-Herald*. Recent pictures include: Wamego windmill, built in 1879 by J. B. Schonhoff, March 22, 1948; a college building said to be the oldest in Kansas, at Baker University, Baldwin, April 5; the mansion built by Frederick P. Stanton in 1857, near Lecompton, April 19; Monument Rocks, sometimes called Kansas Pyramids, in Gove county, April 26; a covered bridge near Springdale, in Leavenworth county, May 3; Taury Jones home near Ottawa, built in the 1860's, May 10, and the old Kaw Mission, at Council Grove, May 17.

A brief history of Sunset cemetery at Manhattan was sketched in the *Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle*, March 29, 1948. The cemetery site was selected in June, 1860, and Mrs. Juliette Lovejoy

Whitehorn, who died in November, 1860, was among the first burials. (See *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, May, 1948, p. 175.) The name "Sunset" was not officially applied until 1935. Today the cemetery contains about 75 acres.

The history of the Frankfort *Index* was printed in a special anniversary edition issued April 1, 1948. Forrest Warren established the Vliets *Echo* April 6, 1898, which was changed to *The Marshall County Index* when it was moved to Frankfort in 1905. The daily *Index* was started February 26, 1906, and continued until 1944. Frank Hartman, father of the present publishers, joined Mr. Warren in publishing the *Index* shortly after it was moved to Frankfort. It is now published by H. H. and A. P. Hartman.

An article, "Genealogy Research Is Walter McKeen's Hobby," by Marietta McLeod, was printed in the Manhattan *Mercury-Chronicle*, April 4, 1948, and in the Manhattan *Republic*, April 7. Mr. McKeen, a resident of Manhattan, began tracing his lineage and that of his wife in 1935. He discovered that both he and Mrs. McKeen had ancestors on the Mayflower. Another of Mr. McKeen's hobbies is collecting books on the history of Kansas. He also has a file on the history of Riley county.

Among historical articles of interest to Kansans in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) *Star* were: "Towers in the Western Sky Attest Faith of Pioneers," the story of the building of the "Cathedral of the Plains" at Victoria, by Victor C. Leiker, April 4, 1948; "Epic Stand by Quantrill Raiders Is Subject of a Manuscript in Pencil," a Quantrill battle recorded in a penciled manuscript by one of his men, by Edward R. Schaufler, April 10; "A Doctor [Dr. Julius A. Burger] and His Wife Find Joy in Family of Fourteen," by Sarah Kroh, April 11; "A Young Man [Dr. Franklin D. Murphy] Looks To New Goals in Kansas Medicine," an article on the new dean of the University of Kansas school of medicine, by Charles W. Graham, April 18; "Portrait of Indian Ancestor of Charles Curtis To Light," a brief sketch of the life and ancestry of Charles Curtis, by Mrs. Clyde H. Porter, May 16; "Sunflower Village, a Dormitory on the Kansas Prairie," by Margery Stubbs Handy, and "K. U. Had Four Graduates at First Commencement [in 1873]," by Patricia James, May 23, and "'Governor's' [Charles Robinson] Treason Trial Highlighted the Exciting Year of 1857 in Kansas," by Edward R. Schaufler, June 16. Articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Times* were: "Carry Nation Recalled as a Crusader Who Could Laugh at Own Discom-

future," personal recollections written by E. A. Braniff, March 29; "Carl Sandburg, Poet, Found America's Traditions Summed Up in [Gen. Dwight] Eisenhower," by Duncan Emrich, April 5; "Frederic Remington Learned About West in a Year as Owner of a Kansas Ranch," May 14, and "Graduating Veterans at K. U. Have Been a Stimulus To Student Body," by Fred Kiewit, June 4.

The *Overbrook Citizen* and the *Scranton Gazette-Record* of April 8, 1948, printed a brief story of the journey of the Jim Simmons family from Chico, Cal., to Pomona, Kan., by covered wagon in 1915. The journey was begun July 6 and ended November 30. A diary, kept by the oldest daughter, Corgia, shows that the average distance traveled in a day was about 20 miles.

The Larned *Chronoscope* and *The Tiller and Toiler* have continued the publication from time to time of historical articles on Pawnee county. The reminiscences of Mrs. Elizabeth Halloway appeared in the weekly *Tiller and Toiler* April 8, *The Daily Tiller and Toiler* April 9, and the *Chronoscope* April 15. Mrs. Halloway's father, William Montgomery DuMont, brought his family to Kansas in 1866, settling near Olathe. In 1874 the family moved to Larned where Mrs. Halloway still lives.

A five-column article by Rolland Jacquart on the history of old Fort Wallace, located in extreme western Kansas in the 1860's and 1870's, was published by the *Goodland Daily News*, April 18, 1948.

The *Johnson County Herald*, Overland Park, published a 70-page anniversary edition on May 13, 1948. The *Herald* was first issued July 17, 1924. Included among the articles of historical interest were: "Story About Great Seal of the State of Kansas," "Slavery Question in Kansas Was a Bitter Incident," and "Story of John Brown in Kansas." Articles by Martha Peto were: "The Pony Express in Johnson County," "Edgar Porter Reminisces About Early Days Here," "Indians, Bushwhackers in A. E. Wedd's Story" and "Frank Schepers Recalls Early Overland Days." Also by Martha Peto was a biographical sketch of John L. Barkley, Johnson county farmer who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War I. Articles by other contributors included: "History of Quivira," by V. R. Clark; "Olathe, County Seat, Dates Back to 1857," by Ernie W. Miller; "Shawnee Indians Early Settlers in This Territory," by Frank Hedrick; "Merriam Was Formerly Called Campbelltown," by Mrs. James B. Fairhurst, and "Recollections of Early Lenexa Days," by E. A. Legler. A history of the Shawnee