

## Kansas Historical Notes

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society will be held in the rooms of the Society in the Memorial building at Topeka on October 18, 1949.

The annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields was held in the Memorial building, Topeka, April 29 and 30, 1949. Papers were presented as follows: "The Way of Democracy in Central and Southeastern Europe," Dr. Otakar Odlozilik, Prague (visiting professor of history at the University of Kansas, Lawrence); "The Effect of Populism on the Personnel and Policies of the Republican Party in Kansas," Dr. Karl A. Svenson, Washburn Municipal University, Topeka; "Liberal Concepts of Democracy in the United States and Britain in the Nineteenth Century," Dr. Alvin H. Proctor, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg; "The Reverend T. A. Butler and the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union," the Rev. Peter Beckman, O. S. B., St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison; "State Regulation of Certain Professions in Kansas," Deane Postlethwaite, Baker University, Baldwin; "History From Monuments and Museums," Prof. V. L. Damon, Sterling College, and "U. S. Loans to Peru, 1922 to 1930," Dr. James C. Carey, Kansas State College, Manhattan. The group was addressed at a luncheon by Dr. Dale Zeller, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, on "German Education." Newly-elected officers are: C. Stewart Boertman, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, president; George L. Anderson, University of Kansas, vice-president, and Ruth Friedrich, Washburn Municipal University, secretary-treasurer. John W. Heaton, Baker University, was the retiring president. Mr. Heaton, the Rev. Peter Beckman, Miss Golda Crawford of Kansas State College and Charles Onion of Fort Hays Kansas State College are directors of the association.

Several new historical markers have been erected by the Riley County Historical Association in recent months. On June 3, 1949, a plaque, to mark the birthplace of Damon Runyon, was officially received by the association from Paramount Pictures. It has been placed at the old Runyon home at 400 Osage, Manhattan. Other markers have been set up at Tabor Valley school, Rocky Ford, Deep Creek school, Pillsbury crossing, Wabaunsee and Ogden.

Sen. O. P. Dellinger was the featured speaker at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, June 8, 1949. He discussed the controversial issues before the 1949 session of the Kansas legislature.

A stone marker has been erected in Osborne county on the site of the old Kill Creek store and post office on the Russell-Bull City trail. The *Natoma Independent*, June 9, 1949, printed a picture of the marker and a brief history of the site, including the names of those who served as postmasters at Kill Creek.

Volume 2 of *Chase County Historical Sketches* was recently published by the Chase County Historical Society. The 454-page book features biographies of Chase county pioneers and present-day citizens, and gives detailed histories of the communities of Grandview, Bazaar, Cedar Point, Matfield Green, Strong City and Cottonwood Falls. The Chase county census of 1860 and a history of Camp Wood were also published. Volume 1 of the *Sketches* was issued in 1940-1941, and few counties now have as up-to-date historical records as Chase. Officers of the Chase County Historical Society are: George T. Dawson, president; Henry Rogler, vice-president; T. R. Wells, treasurer; Mrs. Helen P. Austin, secretary, and Mrs. Clara B. Hildebrand, chief historian. On the executive committee are: Claude Hawkins, Howel Jones, Henry Rogler, D. M. Smith and George Miller.

A study of *Early Kansas Churches*, by E. R. DeZurko, formerly assistant professor of architecture at Kansas State College, Manhattan, was published as *Kansas State College Bulletin No. 60*, issued April 1, 1949. The 71-page booklet reviews the history of some of the early Kansas churches having architectural interest which were built prior to 1876. Thirty-four pictures and drawings make the study especially valuable. Mr. DeZurko was the author of "A Report and Remarks on Cantonment Leavenworth," published in *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, v. XV (1947), pp. 353-359.

*Writing Local History Articles*, by Marvin Wilson Schlegel, is the title of the May, 1949, number of *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History*, distributed by the secretary, Earle W. Newton, State House, Montpelier, Vt. Some of the steps in writing local history discussed by Mr. Schlegel were: train-



ing needed by the writer, subjects about which to write, sources of information (manuscripts, old-timers, archives, newspapers), taking notes, organizing the material and writing the article.

*Kansas Rocks and Minerals*, by Laura Lu Tolsted and Ada Swineford, is the title of a 56-page booklet issued recently by the State Geological Survey of Kansas at Lawrence. The publication featured the geologic history of Kansas with descriptions and illustrations of various kinds of rocks and minerals found in the state.

*Tales of Western Kansas* (Kansas City, Mo., 1948) is the title of a 152-page book, compiled by Amy Lathrop and containing a collection of stories of western Kansas in the early days as told by some of the early residents.

A second edition of *Scenic Kansas*, 16-page booklet by Kenneth K. Landes of the State Geological Survey of Kansas, Lawrence, first published in 1935, was reissued in February, 1949. All the photographic plates of the first edition were used in the present edition. Another pamphlet by the State Geological Survey, *Glimpses From Resource-Full Kansas*, first published in 1946, has recently been reprinted. The publication contains stories about the scenery, mineral fuels, deposits of industrial minerals, rocks, fossils and well water supplies of Kansas, by various members of the Geological Survey staff.

The story of William H. Russell, Alexander Majors and William Bradford Waddell has been told by Raymond W. Settle and Mary Lund Settle in their new 153-page book, *Empire on Wheels* (Stanford, Cal., 1949). The book describes the freighting, stagecoach, express and mail business handled by the company organized by Russell, Majors and Waddell. The partnership of the three men began with the signing of an agreement which became effective January 1, 1855. It ended when the company ran into financial difficulties and was sold in March, 1862.

"Yankee From Kansas" is the title of a chapter in A. Richard Crabb's recent book, *The Hybrid-Corn Makers: Prophets of Plenty* (New Brunswick, 1948). In the book, Mr. Crabb traced the development of hybrid corn from its beginning at the University of Illinois in 1896 down to the present day. The Yankee, Donald F. Jones, of Sterling, was one of those who contributed most to make hybrid corn possible. Jones, whose work was done at the Connecti-

cut Agricultural Experiment Station, was the first to produce a double-cross hybrid.

The story of how Kansas has organized in support of UNESCO—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—is told in *The Kansas Story on UNESCO*, prepared at Kansas State College, Manhattan, and issued by the U. S. Government Printing Office in March, 1949. Kansas first came in contact with the organization at the Mountain-Plains Regional Conference on UNESCO in Denver, May, 1947, where the Kansas delegates voted to constitute themselves a temporary committee to discuss plans for a permanent Kansas UNESCO council. In July the committee met at Manhattan and made plans for a Kansas conference, similar to the regional conference in Denver, for the purposes of acquainting Kansans with the work of UNESCO and establishing a permanent organization. The conference met at Wichita December 12 and 13, 1947, and the Kansas commission was established, with the following officers: Dr. Robert A. Walker, Kansas State College, chairman; Victor W. Haflich, Garden City, Mrs. P. A. Pettit, Paola, Father Thomas Ryan, Wichita, and F. L. Schlagle, Kansas City, vice-chairmen; Dorothy Lubber, Topeka, secretary, and Bert A. Hedges, Wichita, treasurer.

A summary of his experiences during the years he lived and worked with William F. Cody has been given by Dan Muller in his new book, *My Life With Buffalo Bill* (Chicago, 1948). When he was nine years of age Muller went to live with the Cody family, with whom he remained most of the time until Cody's death in 1917, 18 years later.

