

## Kansas Historical Notes

A limestone marker has been placed on the grave of Sarah Handley Keyes who died and was buried at Alcove Spring while the famous Donner party was camped there in May, 1846. It was erected by the Arthur Barrett chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The annual meeting of the Chase County Historical Society was held at the courthouse in Cottonwood Falls, September 3, 1949. New officers elected were: G. M. Miller, president; Henry Rogler, vice-president; Mrs. Helen Austin, secretary; Geo. T. Dawson, treasurer, and Mrs. S. B. Replogle, chief historian. Mrs. Clara Hildebrand was made chief historian emeritus. Mr. Dawson was the retiring president.

The annual Meade county Old Settlers' picnic was held at Meade, September 25, 1949. Judge Karl Miller of Dodge City was the principal speaker. Others were: Mrs. Essie May Novinger, Lura Smith, Mrs. Sarah Waters, Frank Johnson, W. H. Sourbier, R. A. Brannan, W. V. Brown, Riley Hanson, Art Bowen and the Rev. L. C. Campbell. At the business meeting E. E. Innis was elected president; H. L. Easterday, vice-president, and W. H. Painter, secretary-treasurer. J. R. Painter was the retiring president.

Mrs. John Barkley was elected president of the Shawnee-Mission Indian Historical Society in Johnson county at a meeting September 26, 1949. Others elected were: Mrs. C. D. Cheatum, first vice-president; Mrs. James Glenn Bell, second vice-president; Mrs. Homer Bair, recording secretary; Mrs. R. D. Grayson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Arthur Wolf, treasurer; Mrs. Harry Meyer, curator, and Mrs. George Cox, historian. Mrs. Frank D. Belinder was the retiring president.

"Museum week," sponsored by the Fort Scott and Bourbon County Historical Society to obtain funds to aid in the preservation and advertising of the county's fine historical assets, began September 26, 1949, and resulted in contributions of several hundred dollars. October 1 was designated as a county-wide "tag day." The tags, presented to everyone making contributions, were membership cards in the society. G. W. Marble is the society's president.

Prof. John Cortelyou of the University of Nebraska, who spoke on Indian relics in the Manhattan area, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Riley County Historical Association at Manhattan, October 7, 1949. Prof. George A. Filinger was elected president of the association. Others elected were: Walter E. McKeen, vice-president; Mrs. Eva Knox, secretary; Joe D. Haines, treasurer, and F. I. Burt, historian and curator. Sam Charlson, Clyde Rodkey and Dr. N. D. Harwood were elected to the board of directors for three-year terms. Charlson was the retiring president.

The annual Gold Ribbon party and Pioneer Day gathering, sponsored by the Kiowa County Historical Society, drew a record crowd of 288 at Greensburg, October 13, 1949. Fifteen couples wore yellow flowers, signifying that they had been married 50 years or more. Henry Schwarm of Greensburg was elected president at the business session. Other officers elected were: Will Sluder, Mullinville, first vice-president; E. W. Freeman, Wellsford, second vice-president; Mrs. L. V. Keller, Greensburg, treasurer, and Mrs. Benj. O. Weaver, Mullinville, secretary. Mrs. Emma Meyer of Haviland was the retiring president.

Mrs. F. E. Munsell, Herington, was elected president of the Dickinson County Historical Society at the annual meeting October 26, 1949, in Abilene. Other officers chosen at the meeting were: Mrs. Elsie Rohrer, Elmo, second vice-president, and Mrs. Lawrence Kehler, Solomon, secretary. Fred Ramsey is first vice-president, and Mrs. Adele Wilkins, Chapman, is treasurer. Mrs. Carl Peterson, Enterprise, was the retiring president.

A record crowd attended the annual meeting of the Clark county chapter of the Kansas State Historical Society at Ashland on October 29, 1949. The society's officers for the coming year are: Frank Dakin Arnold, president; Mrs. Charles McCasland, vice-president; Jerome C. Berryman, first honorary vice-president; John E. Stephens, second honorary vice-president; Mrs. Sidney Dorsey, recording secretary; Mrs. W. B. Nunemacher, assistant recording secretary; Rhea Gross, corresponding secretary; William T. Moore, treasurer; Mrs. Roy V. Shrewder, historian; Mrs. H. Barth Gabbert, curator, and M. G. Stevenson, auditor. Township directors include: Clayton Hall, Appleton; Mrs. Charley Pike, Ashland (city); Lena Smith,

Brown; Roy Shupe, Cimarron; Mrs. Robert Lee, Englewood; Willis H. Shattuck, Lexington; Mrs. Vernon McMinimy, Sitka, and Mrs. George McCarty, Vesta. The society was recently incorporated and now owns and exhibits the Lon Ford gun and relic collection. Four volumes of *Notes on Early Clark County* have been published by the society to date.

Mrs. W. G. Anderson was elected president of the Cowley County Historical Society at the annual meeting November 17, 1949, at Winfield. Other officers elected were: Bert Moore, vice-president; G. A. Kuhlmann, secretary-curator, and Lena Williams, treasurer. Directors elected in addition to the officers were: Martin W. Baden, Lloyd S. Roberts, Ira A. Wilson, Mrs. J. P. Stuber and Mary Jane Brock.

A regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta, national honorary history fraternity, was held at the Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, November 19, 1949. Fred W. Brinkerhoff of Pittsburg, former president of the Kansas State Historical Society, was the featured speaker at the luncheon meeting.

Prof. John Ise, of the University of Kansas, was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Lawrence Historical Society, December 2, 1949. Dolph Simons was elected president of the society for the coming year. Other officers chosen were: M. N. Penny, vice-president; Mrs. L. H. Menger, secretary, and T. J. Sweeney, treasurer. Elected to the board of directors were: Mrs. T. D. Prentice, Walter H. Varnum, Mrs. Ida Lyons, Mary M. Smelser and Prof. Frank E. Melvin. Varnum was the retiring president.

Historical projects of the Lyon County Historical Society have continued during the past year. Volume 8 of the "Lyon County Cemetery Records" has been completed, most of the work being done by Lucina Jones. Clippings and typed data have been added to the family records collection. The bell from the frigate *Emporia*, active in World War II, has been received by the museum. A flag, which had been carried in parades by Lyon county veterans of the Union army and owned by the Preston B. Plumb post of the Woman's Relief Corps, was presented to the society on September 17, 1949.

*A Bloomer Girl on Pike's Peak—1858*, edited by Agnes Wright Spring, and published by the Western History Department, Denver Public Library, c1949, is a 66-page story of Julia Archibald Holmes, first white woman to climb Pike's Peak. Julia Archibald's father was a town founder of Lawrence in 1854. James H. Holmes, whom she married in 1857, arrived in Kansas in 1856 and became one of John Brown's men. The Holmeses after their marriage spent part of 1857-1858 on a farm near Emporia, but joined the Lawrence party of gold-seekers bound for present Colorado in June, 1858. Mrs. Holmes climbed Pike's Peak between August 1 and 5, 1858, accompanied by her husband and two other men. She was 20 years old at the time. Two photographs of Julia Archibald Holmes are reproduced in the book, and there is also one of her brother Albert, who was a member of the Lawrence party. Another illustration shows the "Bloomer" costume advocated by Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, a woman's rights champion. Mrs. Holmes wore a bloomer dress while crossing the Kansas plains and in climbing Pike's Peak.

A journey to Oregon by wagon train in the middle 1840's was the background of a recent historical novel by A. B. Guthrie, Jr., of Lexington, Ky., published under the title *The Way West* (William Sloane Associates, New York). The work was a Book-of-the-Month selection and quickly made the best-seller lists. Mr. Guthrie, a life member of the Kansas State Historical Society, visited the Historical Society in the summer of 1948 preliminary to writing the book. He was following the old trail to Oregon as closely as possible by way of modern highways.

Publication of an excellent five-volume pictorial history, *Album of American History* (New York, 1944-1949), edited by James Truslow Adams and published by Charles Scribner's Sons, has recently been completed. Mr. Adams explained in the foreword of Vol. 1 that the "intent of the present work is to tell the history of America through pictures made at the time the history was being made."

*A Union Forever* (Glendale, Cal., 1949), a 470-page book by Muriel Culp Barbe, is a historical story based on the records, documents and letters of Lewis Hanback. The story takes place in Illinois and along the Kansas-Missouri border in 1854-1865. In

Kansas Hanback came in contact with John Brown; later he served with the Union forces in the Civil War.

*Frontier Justice*, by Wayne Gard, is the title of a 324-page book published recently by the University of Oklahoma press. The author described the book in his foreword as "an informal study of the rise of order and law west of the Mississippi."

A fictionized biography of the Kansas painter, John Noble, entitled, *The Passionate Journey*, by Irving Stone, was recently published by Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N. Y.

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## ***Metadata***

## NOT A "PIE-FACED HYPOCRITE!"

An enterprising young newspaperman, William Allen White, a graduate of the University of Kansas, served as a member of the board of regents of his alma mater from 1905 to 1912. In 1907 he found himself in an embarrassing financial position, in which he feared that his integrity might be compromised for a smaller sum than he considered it worth. Consequently he wrote the following letter to the auditor of state, James M. Nation. It is now on file, with other correspondence received by the auditor, in the Archives division of the Kansas State Historical Society.

## THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

DAILY AND WEEKLY

W. A. WHITE, Editor

EMPORIA, KANSAS, FEB. 13

My Dear Sir:

I am checking a matter enclosed up to you for advice. While I rode on editorial mileage as regent of the state University, I did not charge the state any mileage at all— only charging my three dollars per day per diem. I did this because it was obvious that to sell my editorial mileage to the state would be just like selling advertising to the state, and I have been told that the state law prohibits a regent from selling anything to the state.

When the Inter-State Commerce commission ruled that it was illegal for railroads and newspapers to swap under the Hepburn bill,— that was sometime in last October as I recollect, when I heard of this ruling definitely— I turned in my editorial transportation and began paying fare, and hence began charging the state mileage. I told Mr. Brown, clerk of the University to make out my voucher from that time. He made it out, but I did not swear to it as I remember it, but when the check came back from the state I looked up for the first time and found that he had one trip charged up upon which— to the best of my recollection, I rode on editorial transportation. This was his mistake.

Now I can't accept that check. I don't know how to fix it up. But I want you to fix it up somehow for me. Of course this is not a matter that I care to have any one know of outside of those whose official business it is to straighten the matter up. It puts me in the light of a pie-faced hypocrite, who is what we used to call nasty nice, when we were kids. But on the other hand I don't want any \$16.40 cents of stolen goods on my old clothes. I may sell out sometime, for I know I am as weak as the average man going, but that isn't my price.

I shall be personally and officially obliged to you if you can find so[me] way to get that \$16.40— the mileage for the October trip— out of this check. I did not swear it into the check, and it is not up to me to turn it back into the state.

Truly—

(signed) W. A. WHITE