

Kansas History as Published in the Press

Articles of a series, by various authors, concerning Coffeyville history and legends, have appeared weekly under the title "Coffeyville Lore" in the Coffeyville *Daily Journal* during the winter and spring months of 1951.

The history of the Missouri, Kansas, Texas railway—better known as the Katy—was sketched in the Emporia *Daily Gazette*, January 24, 1951. The railroad came into being at a meeting in Emporia on September 20, 1865, and the charter was filed with the secretary of state five days later. Construction started in 1869, from Junction City to Emporia. Some of the history surrounding Phillips Inn, near the Reading state lake, appeared in the *Gazette*, May 1. The building was constructed in 1856 or 1857 by Oliver Phillips, said to be Lyon county's second settler. A short history of Lyon county cemeteries was published in the *Gazette*, May 29. Probably the first area recognized in the county as a public burying ground was the Mount Hope cemetery near Neosho Rapids. Lucina Jones, Emporia, historian of the Lyon County Historical Society, has compiled a nine-volume manuscript on 21 of the county's 38 cemeteries. Short sketches of early-day Emporia, by O. W. Mosher, curator of the Lyon county historical museum, under the title "When Emporia Was Young," began appearing weekly in the *Gazette*, March 6, 1951, in the "Museum Notes" column.

An article on the history of Crawford county entitled "Father Came West," by the late Mrs. Oello Ingraham Martin, began appearing in installments in the *Girard Press*, February 1, 1951. Mrs. Martin came to Crawford county in 1870.

Some of the history of Merriam, Johnson county, as recalled by C. V. McLeod, appeared in an article by Mabel M. Henderson in the *Johnson County Herald*, Overland Park, February 15, 1951.

A history of Caney entitled "Caney in Retrospect," was presented at a meeting of the Sigourneyan club of Caney, February 15, 1951, by Mrs. J. F. Blackledge, a summary of which was printed in the *Caney Daily Chronicle*, February 16.

The research of Dr. Dudley Cornish, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, on the use of Negro troops in the Civil War was the

subject of a two-column article by Harold O. Taylor in the *Pittsburg Headlight*, February 19, 1951.

A history of the Arnold cemetery at Caldwell, by E. A. Detrick, was printed in the *Caldwell Messenger*, February 19, 1951. All burials in the cemetery were made before 1881, but the city did not purchase the plot until 1884.

A brief history of the public library of Russell appeared in the *Russell Daily News*, February 22, 1951. The institution was founded March 1, 1901, with Grace Stephens as the first librarian.

Historical and progress editions were published by the *Phillips County Review*, Phillipsburg, February 22, and March 22, 1951. Subjects in February included: the Indian battle on Prairie Dog creek, by George B. Jenness; the Lutheran church of Stuttgart, by Mrs. Leonard Preuss; first public road in the county; Phillipsburg men in the Spanish-American War, and Kirwin's schools. A description of Phillips county in the early 1870's, quoted from W. M. Wells' "The Desert's Hidden Wealth," and Phillips county post offices and postmasters were among the subjects in the March issue.

A short history of Cherokee was printed in the *Cherokee Sentinel*, February 23, 1951, in connection with the 77th anniversary of the city's incorporation. In the three following issues the *Sentinel* printed small items of information about the early residents.

Articles on the early history of Marshall county, by Lillian K. Farrar, Maxwell, Iowa, begun in the *Axtell Standard* on February 28, 1946, have continued to appear regularly.

A history of the Salina fire department was published in the *Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Journal*, Topeka, February-March, 1951. The first Salina fire department was a volunteer organization begun in 1879, which served until 1909 when Fred Brodbeck was appointed fire chief and the paid department was organized. A biographical sketch of J. E. Travis, present fire chief, also appeared in the *Journal*.

"Politics in the Midwest," by Walter Johnson, University of Chicago, was published in *Nebraska History*, Lincoln, March, 1951. The "Military Career of Robert W. Furnas," by Robert C. Farb, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, was also included in the March issue. Furnas was mustered into the service as a colonel in 1862 and immediately began recruiting and organizing the First Indian regiment in Kansas.

Among articles in the *Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society*, Topeka, March, 1951, were: Pt. IV of Russell K. Hickman's "The First Congregational Church of Topeka"; "Reminiscences of Mrs. E. F. Ritchie"; "Topeka in 1877," including a drawing of a bird's-eye view; "Felitz' Island [in the Kaw river]"; "The Generous Ichabod [Washburn]," by John Daniel Bright; the 11th and last installment of W. W. Cone's Shawnee county history; "Topeka Fetes Royalty," the visit of Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, to Topeka, by William Frank Zornow, and an installment of George A. Root's "Chronology of Shawnee County."

"Kansas Weather—1950," by R. A. Garrett, was published in the *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, Lawrence, March, 1951. Robert Taft's editorial, which was reprinted in pamphlet form, concerned Asa Gray's ascent of Gray's Peak in 1872.

The Sedan *Times-Star*, March 1, 1951, printed an article on the M. V. Floyd family, who came to Kansas in 1870. In 1872 the family settled in Howard (now Chautauqua) county where they built a log cabin which, until it was torn down recently, was one of the oldest and best known landmarks of the county.

Among recent articles of a historical nature in the Hays *Daily News* were: "Catherine Parishioners Carry Original Colony Cross Today," some of the religious history of the Russian colony of Catharinenstadt, March 4, 1951, and "Names of Signers of Petition for College at Hays Uncovered," April 22.

A history of the Russell county 4-H program, now 24 years old, by Gale Mullen, county 4-H agent, was published in the *Russell Record*, March 5 and 8, 1951. On April 9 the *Record* printed a historical sketch of Russell county. The *Russell Daily News*, May 23, published a special 60-page edition, and the *Record*, May 24, one of 34 pages, in celebration of Russell's 80th anniversary. Included in the editions were histories of Russell county and city, other towns in Russell county, and industries and institutions of the county. Russell was founded in May, 1871, by a group from Wisconsin, and incorporated the following year.

The Cowley county militia of 1874 and the James and Dalton gangs were the subjects of Walter Hutchison's column, "Folks Hereabouts," in the *Arkansas City Daily Traveler*, March 12 and April 6, 1951, respectively.

Reminiscences of Harry Johnson, Woodland Park, Colo., concerning the Central City church, Anderson county, were printed in the *Garnett Review*, March 15, 1951. The church building, recently sold, was constructed in 1870.

The *Belle Plaine News*, March 15, 1951, published a history by Mrs. O. F. Kilmer of the Belle Plaine Presbyterian Church which has reached its 75th anniversary. The church was formed March 11, 1876, under the leadership of the Rev. A. M. Mann, who became its first pastor.

A survey of the foreign-language groups in Kansas entitled "Babel in Kansas," by J. Neale Carman, was published in *Your Government, Bulletin of the Bureau of Government Research*, University of Kansas, Lawrence, March 15, 1951. The article was reprinted in the *Junction City Union*, April 16.

Two articles, by James L. Robinson, in the *Topeka Daily Capital*, March 18, 1951, reviewed the "Messiah" chorus and the art colony at Lindsborg and Bethany College. The 70th annual "Messiah" festival was observed in Lindsborg in March.

Early Pawnee county history was recalled by Ed Christian in *The Tiller and Toiler*, Larned, March 22 and 29, 1951. Christian came to Kansas from Indiana about 1880 when he was 13 years old.

The pioneer experiences of G. J. Peebles, as written by him in 1889, were printed in the *Cawker City Ledger*, March 22 and 29, 1951. Peebles first settled in Brown county in 1857, but in 1870 moved west to near Cawker City.

Articles of historical interest to Kansans appearing in recent issues of the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star* included: "Funston Captured Aguinaldo by Ruse 50 Years Ago, Ending Island Revolt," by J. M. Dow, March 23, 1951; "Pithy Wisdom of William Allen White in Autographs for a Boy's Collection," by Ruby Holland Rosenberg, April 3; "Hope, Kas., a Town of 538, Boasts of Its Native Sons," among whom are Arthur and Edgar Eisenhower, John Cameron Swayze and Oscar Stauffer, by Howard Turtle, April 29; "Glory of a Civilization Nourished by Grass Was Sung by Great Kansas Orator [John J. Ingalls]," May 16; "Famous Old School at Council Grove Becomes Museum of the Storied Past," by Margaret Whittemore, May 19, and "Towns of the Prairie Dogs Stretched Like Ocean Waves in the Early West," by E. B. Dykes Beachy, May 29.

Articles appearing in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Times* were: "The Early Texans Found a Word [Maverick] for Unbranded Cattle of Western Plains," by Lewis Nordyke, April 23; "Many Reminders of the Shawnee Indians Seen in Kansas Area Where They Lived," by E. B. Dykes Beachy, April 27, and "Eisenhower's Strength Is Credited to His Ability to Speak 'Kansas Language,'" by Everett Rich, April 28.

An article by Wayne A. O'Connell on the history of the old Hopefield Mission was published by the Oswego *Independent*, March 30, 1951, and the Oswego *Democrat*, March 30, April 6 and 13. The mission was established in present Oklahoma in the early 1820's by a group sponsored by the Presbyterian church and under the leadership of Dr. William C. Requa. About 1836 the mission was moved to present Labette county where it operated only until 1837 when forced to close because of a severe drought and trouble with the Indians.

A brief biographical sketch of the Hugh Francis Reid family was printed in the Bonner Springs *Chieftain*, April 5, 1951. Reid brought his family to Kansas about 1860, settling near Muncie, Wyandotte county. Mrs. Perle Mesta, U. S. minister to Luxembourg, is a granddaughter of Reid.

The early history of Rosedale school, district 68, Jewell county, by Mrs. Pearl Gifford, was printed in *The Jewell County Republican*, Jewell, April 5, 1951, and in *The Kansas Optimist*, Jamestown, May 3. The district was organized in 1878 and Flora Dayton was the first teacher.

The reminiscences of R. W. Akin of Hewins, were published in the Cedar Vale *Messenger*, April 5, 12, 19, 26, and May 3, 1951. Akin came to Kansas from Illinois in 1872 with his father's family, settling near Cedar Vale.

A 24-page 75th anniversary edition of the *Erie Record* was published April 6, 1951. The *Record* was founded in 1876 by George W. McMillen at Thayer. Histories of the *Record* and of Erie are included in the edition.

An article on the historic Elkhorn mill at Minneapolis appeared in the *Salina Journal*, April 8, 1951. The mill, operated by water power, was first built in 1865 by Israel Markley who had discovered the site while on a buffalo hunt in 1860. Destroyed and rebuilt in 1893, the mill is now to be razed.

A brief biographical sketch of the Rev. Isaac Mooney, by Mrs. Corah Mooney Bullock, appeared in the *Butler Free-Lance*, El Dorado, April 12 and 19, 1951. Mooney was the founder of the Towanda Congregational-Christian Church which celebrated its 75th anniversary in April. Notes from Mooney's journal were printed in the *Free-Lance*, April 26.

The school history of Cuba, in Republic county, was traced briefly by Robert Benyshek in the *Belleville Telescope*, April 19, 1951. The first school building was erected in 1869.

Brief biographical sketches of Theodore Rand and D. R. Jay, pony express riders, were printed in the *Atchison Daily Globe*, April 22, 1951.

A brief biographical sketch of Dick Rogers, Minneola, by J. C. Denious, Jr., was printed in the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, April 25, 1951. The Rogers family came to the Minneola area in 1885 and built a sod house which still stands.

A sketch of the Baptist church of Downs appeared in the *Downs News*, April 26, 1951. Organized in 1876, the church installed an elder, Z. Thomas, as the first pastor. The Rev. S. Renfrow was called in 1877.

The front page of the *Frankfort Index*, April 26, 1951, was devoted to historical articles on Frankfort, Frankfort newspapers, the Wyandotte constitution and the Kansas State Historical Society. Frankfort's earliest newspaper was the *Record*, first published in 1876.

A short, early history of Winfield, reprinted from the *Winfield Daily Telegram*, May 9, 1879, was included in the historical section of the 1951 achievement edition of the *Winfield Daily Courier*, published February 26, 1951.

The history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, near Albert, was briefly sketched in the *Great Bend Herald*, May 10, 1951. The church was organized in 1876 under the leadership of a Reverend Hengist.

A brief history of the Hopewell United Presbyterian Church, near Beloit, which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary, was published in the *Beloit Daily Call*, May 15, 1951. The church was organized March 13, 1876, with 38 members. The Rev. J. P. Finney was the first full-time pastor. On June 1 the *Call* printed the Mitchell county reminiscences of Frank Douglass, now of Garden City.

The Pittsburg *Headlight and Sun*, May 16, 1951, published 74-page diamond jubilee editions in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the founding of Pittsburg. Included were biographical sketches of early-day community leaders, and historical articles on Pittsburg industries, businesses, schools, churches and other organizations and institutions.

The Rush County News, La Crosse, May 17, 1951, printed a brief historical article on the community of Liebenthal, which was founded February 22, 1876.

The reminiscences of Andrew G. Nelson, Chanute, concerning his family's early years in Neosho county, written by H. G. Curl, were printed in the Chanute *Tribune*, May 25, 1951. Nelson came to Kansas from Sweden in the late 1860's. The article, in shorter form, was reprinted in the Coffeyville *Daily Journal*, May 27, 1951.

The beginning and growth of the Leavenworth Catholic Church was traced in *The Eastern Kansas Register*, Kansas City, May 25, 1951. The first building was constructed in 1855 under the leadership of Bishop Miede.

A brief history of Kinsley, by Mrs. Nell Lewis Woods, appeared in the Kinsley *Mercury*, May 31, 1951. The town was founded in 1873 and incorporated in 1878.

A two-column story of Old Cherokee, by Wayne A. O'Connell, was published in the Chetopa *Advance*, May 31, 1951; the Oswego *Democrat*, June 1, and the Baxter Springs *Citizen*, June 4. Old Cherokee was a settlement near present Oswego which was destroyed by federal troops in 1860 because the area was not yet open for settlement.

The "colorful past and sizable achievements" of Kansas are reviewed by Debs Myers in "The Exciting Story of Kansas," published in *Holiday* magazine in June, 1951. Abolition, prohibition, Populism, weather, agriculture and industries are some of the phases of Kansas history discussed by Myers, along with sketches of such Kansans as John Brown, William Allen White, Carry Nation, Sockless Jerry Simpson and others.

"Holton's Colorful History," assembled by Will T. Beck, has continued to appear regularly in recent issues of the Holton *Recorder*.