

## Kansas Historical Notes

The 76th 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 16, 1951.

Luther D. Landon was elected president of the Russell County Historical Society at its annual meeting in Russell February 7, 1951. J. C. Ruppenthal was elected to succeed Landon as second vice-president. Re-elected were: John G. Deines, first vice-president; Merlin Morphy, secretary; A. J. Olson, treasurer, and Mrs. H. A. Opdycke, chairman of the board of directors. Clarence Peck was the retiring president. The Kennebec Landon Valley Historical Association has been made a chapter of the Russell county society. May 28 was homecoming and pioneer day, sponsored by the society, of the eight-day "Prairiesta" held at Russell, beginning May 23. Mrs. Emma Woelk, who came to Russell in 1872, was chosen the city's pioneer mother. A pageant entitled "Pioneers of Progress," was presented in the evenings of May 28, 29 and 30.

Mrs. W. W. Austin was chosen chief historian of the Chase County Historical Society at a meeting of the society's executive committee at Cottonwood Falls, March 3, 1951. Plans were made for publishing the third volume of the history of Chase county. Mrs. Ida Vinson is chairman of the committee.

Officers elected or re-elected by the Ford Historical Society at a luncheon March 9, 1951, included: Mrs. Guy Wooten, president; Mrs. F. M. Coffman, vice-president; Mrs. I. L. Plattner, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Lyman Emrie and Mrs. E. H. Patterson, historians.

H. D. Lester was elected president of the Wichita Historical Museum Association at a meeting March 29, 1951. Other officers chosen were: H. M. Quinius, first vice-president; Mrs. Wallis Haines, second vice-president; Carl Bitting, secretary, and Dr. H. C. Holmes, treasurer.

The board of directors of the Finney County Historical Society met at Garden City April 10, 1951, and re-elected all officers of the society. They are: Gus Norton, president; Mrs. A. F. Smith, first vice-president; Frederick Finnup, second vice-president; Mrs. Jose-

phine Cowgill, third vice-president; Mrs. Ella Condra, secretary; Mrs. Eva B. Sharer, treasurer; Ralph T. Kersey, historian; Mrs. Emma Weeks White, custodian of relics, and P. A. Burtis, business manager. C. L. Reeve is a new member of the board. Mr. Finnup presided at the meeting.

The Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields held its annual meeting at the Memorial Building, Topeka, April 27 and 28, 1951. Speakers and their subjects were: "Greece Under Nazi Occupation and the Greek Underground," G. Georgiades Arnakis, University of Kansas City; "The Effect of Witchcraft on European Royalty During the Seventeenth Century," Floyd W. Snyder, Sterling College; "Carlyle as a British Historian," F. R. Flournoy, College of Emporia; "Petain: Traitor or Scapegoat?" Leslie Anders, University of Missouri; "The Kansas Raid of Sterling Price," Albert Castel, Wichita University; "Kansas Negro Regiments in the Civil War," Dudley T. Cornish, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg; "Father Dumortier, Itinerant Missionary in Kansas in the 1850's and 1860's," Sister M. Evangeline Thomas, Marymount College, and "The Unwanted Mr. Lincoln," William F. Zornow, Washburn University. At the luncheon session John Rydjord, Wichita University, addressed the group on "Nationalism: Notions and Nonsense." Flournoy was elected president of the association for the coming year. Other officers elected were: Elizabeth Cochran, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, vice-president; Ernest Baders, Washburn University, secretary-treasurer. Other members of the executive committee are: Alvin H. Proctor, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg; Deane Postlewaite, Baker University; the Rev. Peter Beckman, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, and George L. Anderson, University of Kansas. Anderson was the retiring president.

An antique melodian, which was a gift from John Brown to his oldest daughter, Ruth Brown Thompson, and which was played at Brown's funeral, was presented to the board of the John Brown Memorial Park in Osawatimie at ceremonies held at the Osawatimie high school May 9, 1951. This instrument, since 1925 the property of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Simmons, Altadena, Cal., has been permanently placed in the John Brown cabin in the park. Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg publisher, principal speaker for the occasion, discussed Brown's antislavery activities in Kansas and his attempt to seize the government arsenal at Harper's Ferry. Others

participating in the program included: the Rev. William I. Hastie, Osawatomie; State Senator Ben F. Bowers, Ottawa; James A. Day, Osawatomie, who played the melodian, and Ada Remington and Rosalie Ward, members of the Brown family.

Organization of the Edwards County Historical Society was completed at a meeting in Kinsley May 25, 1951. Mrs. E. G. Peterson was elected president. Other officers elected were: Lavina Trotter, Harry Offerle and Ruth Roenbaugh, vice-presidents; Henry J. Draut, secretary; John Newlin, treasurer; Mrs. Myrtle Richardson, historian, and Beulah Moletor, custodian of relics. Mrs. Richardson presided at the meeting and H. F. Schmidt, of Ford county, was the principal speaker.

*The Price of the Prairie Grass*, is the title of a recently-published 18-page pamphlet by Cecil Calvert, Hays. The article begins with the arrival of Calvert's father in western Kansas in 1884, describes pioneer life, and traces the agricultural practices which led to wind and water erosion of the soil and the disappearance of the prairie grass.

A 75-page pamphlet entitled *A History of the First 30 Years of the Kansas Division of the American Association of University Women*, by Teresa Marie Ryan, was published recently. The first local organization of the AAUW, known then as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, in Kansas was formed at Lawrence in 1906. The state unit was organized in 1919 and Alice Winston, Lawrence, was elected the first president.

*Agricultural Discontent in the Middle West* (Madison, Wis., c1951), by Theodore Saloutos and John D. Hicks, is the title of a 581-page historical treatment of the agrarian unrest and the resulting farm movements and farm legislation from 1900 to 1939.

*Willie Whitewater*, the 309-page story of W. R. Honnell's life and adventures among the Indians as he grew up with the state of Kansas, as told by him to Caroline Cain Durkee, has been published by the Burton Publishing Company, Kansas City, Mo. Honnell, known among the Indians as Willie Whitewater, was born in November, 1860. In 1899 he was appointed Indian agent for Kansas. Later he had a part in the preservation of the Huron cemetery which was laid out by the Wyandot Indians in 1844. Mr. Honnell died in 1946.