

Kansas History as Published in the Press

Kirke Mechem, writer of the new series, "Kansas History Through the Years," in *The Kansas Teacher*, Topeka, was introduced to readers by a biographical sketch in the September, 1950, issue. His first article which reviewed the history and work of the Kansas State Historical Society, also appeared in the September number. Other articles in the series during the past school year included: "When the Flag Was First Flown in Kansas," October; "Skeletons in the State House Closet," November; "Jotham Meeker: Indian Missionary, Teacher and First Printer in Kansas," December; "The Bullfight at Dodge City," January, 1951; "A Million Fake Heirlooms," the story of the *Ulster County Gazette* which contained the news of George Washington's death, February; "The 'Messiah Festival' at Lindsborg," March, and "The Grim Chieftain [James H. Lane]," May.

The history of the Centenary Methodist church, North Lawrence, appeared in the Lawrence *Journal-World*, May 28, 1951, in connection with the church's 85th anniversary. The *Journal-World*, August 9, published a brief history of the Hotel Eldridge in Lawrence. The Eldridge, built in 1855, was destroyed twice in border raids.

A sketch of the Kimbrough family which settled near Fact in Clay county in 1882 was printed in the Clay Center *Dispatch*, June 9, 1951. Included in the article were the reminiscences of Cass Kimbrough who operated the store at Fact for 53 years.

The experiences of Henry C. Prince, Marblehead, Mass., in the Dighton area, where he arrived in 1887, are related in his letter published in the Dighton *Herald*, June 20, 1951. Nolen Yates' story of how Dighton was named appeared in the *Herald*, July 25.

A series of biographical sketches taken from the *History of Wyandotte County, Kansas*, by Perl W. Morgan, has appeared in the *News Press*, Bonner Springs, in recent months. Included were: Oscar Hyoort, June 21, 1951; L. G. Frisbie, July 5; William Starr Twist, July 12, and George A. Perkins, July 19.

Excerpts from the diary of Mrs. A. G. Cron, describing a wagon trip from Dakota territory to Kansas in 1881, were printed in *The Butler County News*, El Dorado, June 21, 1951. The *Butler Free-Lance*, El Dorado, July 5, published a history of Prospect school, Butler county, which was organized in 1872.

The early railroad history of Kansas and particularly of the Russell area as told by O. P. Byers was published in the *Russell Record*, June 25, 1951.

Among short historical articles which have appeared in recent issues of the *Courtland Journal* were the history of White Rock by Grant Lovewell, June 28, 1951, and historical sketches of Courtland, July 5, 26 and August 2.

An article entitled "Frankfort's Early Day Merchants," was reprinted in the *Frankfort Index*, June 28, July 5, 1951, from the *National Headlight*, Frankfort, March 5, 1880.

A two-page article entitled "Council Grove, Kansas—Chosen as the Most Historical Town on the Old Santa Fe Trail," with pictures, appeared in the *Railroad Digest*, Ottawa, June, 1951.

Coats was featured July 3, 1951, and Iuka on August 30 in the series of two-page articles by Rowland R. Peters on communities in the Pratt area, printed by the *Pratt Daily Tribune*. On September 24, the *Tribune* published a 44-page friendship edition as a part of the "friendship week" activities in Pratt. Included in the edition were features on Pratt municipal and private organizations and institutions.

On July 5, 1951, the *Louisburg Herald*, in celebration of its 75th anniversary, printed a short historical sketch of Louisburg.

A three-column history of the Almena Congregational church was published in the *Almena Plaindealer*, July 5, 1951. The church was organized in 1886 and the Rev. Holly H. Avery was the first pastor.

The fourth in a series of historical and progress editions was published by the *Phillips County Review*, Phillipsburg, July 5, 1951. Featured were Phillipsburg schools, early Kirwin history, Phillips county officials and a biographical sketch of Mrs. Sarah Bentley, one of the county's pioneers, now 102 years of age.

A history of the Maydale Catholic church and school was published in the *Eastern Kansas Register*, Kansas City, July 13, 1951. The first Catholics arrived in the area late in 1869 and services were at first held at irregular intervals in the homes. The first church was erected in 1875.

Among articles of historical interest to Kansans published recently in the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star* were: "Terror in Flash Flood a Highlight of Recollections by Custer's Widow," excerpts from Elizabeth

B. Custer's *Tenting on the Plains* and a review of her life in Kansas, by Everett Rich, July 16, 1951, and "Climate and Circumstance Toughened People of Kansas in Pioneer Mold," by Dr. George N. Mendenhall, July 17. Articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Times* included: "Dr. [Harry R.] Wahl Links K. U. Medical Center to Its Beginnings on Seminary Hill," by Conwell Carlson, July 6; "K. U. Museum Memorializes Collector's Ardor of Prof. Lewis Lindsay Dyche," by Albert H. Hindman, July 25; "Settlers Moved Into the Last Great Pioneer Country [in Oklahoma] 50 Years Ago Today," by W. W. Baker, August 6; "Alfred Miller's Pictures and Words Provide a Tour of the West That Was," a review of Marvin C. Ross' *The West of Alfred Jacob Miller*, by Warren H. Griffith, August 13; "Finding of Tombstone *Epitaph's* Lost Files Adds to Luster of Wyatt Earp," by Dean Prichard, August 27, and "History and Scenery Are Mingled in the Far Northeast Corner of Kansas," by E. B. Dykes Beachy, September 15.

Reminiscences written in 1901 by J. R. Marsh, early settler of Chautauqua county, concerning early county history were printed in the Cedar Vale *Messenger*, July 19, 1951.

Notes on the history of Lebanon appeared in the *Smith County Pioneer*, Smith Center, July 19, 1951, in recognition of the town's 64th anniversary.

Short historical sketches printed recently in the Atchison *Daily Globe* included the story of a roadhouse on the old Oregon trail which still stands, July 23, 1951; and an article published July 30 on the history of the Missouri Pacific railroad for which ground breaking ceremonies were held in July, 1851. Passenger service was initiated in December, 1852, said to be the first west of the Mississippi.

The first log cabin near present Marysville was the subject of a brief article in the Marysville *Advocate*, July 26, 1951. The cabin was erected in 1851 by F. J. Marshall, for whom the county was named. A marker has been placed on the site by the Marysville Rotary club.

A brief historical article entitled "Leavenworth Pioneer City," appeared in the July, 1951, issue of *To the Stars*, Topeka, and was reprinted in the Leavenworth *Times*, July 18.

A description and the history of the old Jewett ranch in Sedgwick county appeared in the Cheney *Sentinel*, August 2, 1951. The

ranch was started in 1884 when Henry C. Jewett, Buffalo, N. Y., bought 5,160 acres of land and built extensive improvements on it. Jewett sold the ranch in 1897 and soon thereafter it was broken up. The house, originally used by the ranch managers, is now being torn down. Short histories of Marshall, early Sedgwick county town, and Cheney, with a biographical sketch of Benjamin P. Cheney, for whom the town was named, were printed in the *Sentinel*, August 16, 1951. Marshall, established in the 1870's, moved to Cheney in 1883 when the railroad reached that place.

Early days in Graham county were briefly discussed by Mrs. Minnie Vesper in an article in the *Hill City Times*, August 2, 1951. Mrs. Vesper came to Graham county in 1887.

A 112-page, eight-section, "pride in progress" edition was published by the Great Bend *Tribune*, August 10, 1951. Printed in celebration of the *Tribune's* 75th anniversary, the edition contains histories of the paper and of many phases of Great Bend and Barton county life. The *Tribune* first appeared as *The Inland Tribune*, edited and published by Chan P. Townsley, in 1876.

The Ebenezer Methodist church, near Clay Center, recently observed its 75th anniversary, and a brief history of the church appeared in the *Clay Center Times*, August 16, 1951. It was organized in 1876 by the Rev. John Ehram and the Rev. Jacob Tanner.

A pioneer edition of *The Modern Light*, Columbus, devoted to events in the history of Columbus and Cherokee county, was published August 16, 1951. A column of historical notes, "Do You Remember," has continued to appear regularly in the *Light*.

"The Story of General Jim" is the title of a four-column article by Wayne O'Connell, on the military activities of Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt in southeastern Kansas during the Civil War, which appeared in the *Baxter Springs Citizen*, August 20, 1951, and the *Chetopa Advance*, September 6.

Emil Abrahamson's story of the early days at Garfield as told to Lois J. Black, appeared in *The Tiller and Toiler*, Larned, August 30, 1951. Abrahamson came to Pawnee county from Illinois in 1879 when he was one year old.

A column-length letter by Judge John S. Dawson recalling some of his experiences as a school teacher in and near Fremont, now Morland, in the early 1890's was printed in the *Morland Monitor*, August 30, 1951.

A brief biographical sketch of William A. Phillips, founder of Salina, and some of the early history of Salina are included in an article by Barbara Jean Orendorff and Marilyn Lou Peters, Kansas Wesleyan University students, in the *Salina Advertiser-Sun*, August 30, 1951. Phillips and other members of the town company began a survey of the townsite early in 1858.

Several publications have made pictorial records of the July, 1951, Kansas and Missouri flood. Among these are: *Southwestern Telephone News*, St. Louis, August, 1951; a 24-page publication by the *Topeka Daily Capital*; a 48-page pamphlet of pictures of the flood in Manhattan by the *Manhattan Tribune-News*; "Picture Story of the Flood Waters in Marion and Vicinity, July, 1951," 20 pages, by the *Marion Record-Review*, and "The 1951 Flood in Greater Kansas City, a Picture Review," privately published.

The founding of Manhattan was briefly discussed in the *Manhattan Tribune-News*, September 2, 1951. Juniata, established in 1853 or before, was the first town near the present site of Manhattan, followed by Poliska, Canton and Boston in 1854 and 1855. Plans are being made by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and the Riley County Historical Association for the centennial celebration.

A page-length article on Stockton by Helen Francis, was published in the *Hays Daily News*, September 9, 1951. The first settlers arrived at the Stockton townsite in the early 1870's and the town was incorporated in 1879.

The story of the journey through Kansas of Grand Duke Alexis of Russia in 1872, and of his buffalo hunt in central Kansas, was published in the *Lyons Daily News*, September 17, 1951.

Articles in the September, 1951, number of the *Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society* included: T. M. Lillard's description in verse of Topeka as it was 40 years ago; another installment of "Old Shawnee County Families"; part 5 of Russell K. Hickman's "The First Congregational Church of Topeka"; the conclusion of John Daniel Bright's "The Generous Ichabod [Washburn]"; "In the Tradition," a memorial to the late Paul B. Sweet, by T. M. Lillard; "They Came to Kansas," the story of two German emigrants who settled near Meriden in the 1850's; a continuation of George A. Root's "Chronology of Shawnee County," and several short articles.