Kansas History as Published in the Press

The history of School District No. 28 (Little River) was sketched by Hale Stephenson and George Root in a two-column article in the Little River Monitor, January 20, 1938. A. G. Wolfe taught the first school which was started November 17, 1879.

Early-day experiences on the Kansas plains of Decatur Stout (Dick) Rees, trapper, Indian scout and pioneer settler of Ottawa county, were published in the Minneapolis Better Way, February 10 and 17, 1938.

"Winchester as She Was," a story of early events by Mrs. Althea Curry, was printed in the Winchester Star, February 18, 1938. The Leavenworth Times also included a historical sketch of the town by George Remsburg in its issue of June 8, 1939.

The founding of Harper in 1877 and several historical events of the years following were mentioned by Louis Walton in the Harper Advocate, February 24 and March 3, 1938.

Historical notes and reminiscences, under the title "History of Kincaid," were published in the Kincaid Dispatch each week from March 3 to April 14, 1938. Similar material was also recorded in the Dispatch in its issue of June 30, which marked the paper’s fifty-first anniversary.

Peter Robidoux, pioneer storekeeper, rancher and land baron of Wallace, was the subject of an illustrated article appearing in the Salina Journal, March 7, 1938. It was reprinted in the Junction City Union, March 14, and The Western Times, of Sharon Springs, March 17. The Western Times on August 25 issued a special illustrated historical edition featuring articles on Robidoux, Sharon Springs, Wallace, Fort Wallace and the Smoky basin cave-in.

Early efforts at irrigation in western Kansas were discussed in a two-column article in The Sherman County Herald, Goodland, March 10, 1938.

Reminiscences of life in Junction City since 1879, by Mrs. L. N. Carr, appeared in the Junction City Union, March 28, 1938.

The history of the Republic county courthouse was briefly outlined in the Scandia Journal, April 7, 1938.

A scrapbook of articles contributed to the Pittsburgh Gazette by Josiah Copley in 1867 is owned by the Saline County Historical So-
ciety. The articles, bearing the title "Kansas and the Country Beyond," were written by Copley while he was a guest on the Kansas Pacific railroad's special excursion train from the East. Mr. Copley's articles were discussed by the Salina Journal in its issue of April 21, 1938.

Mrs. Mable Mahin recalled early events in Kensington in the Kensington Mirror, April 21, 1938. A brief biography of one of the first settlers, Dr. A. E. Lapham, was contributed to the same issue by a granddaughter, Mrs. Carl Molzahn.

The history of the Marion post office since 1860 was reviewed by Mrs. William Burkholder in the Marion Review, April 27 and May 4, 1938.


Recollections of New Chicago, now a part of Chanute, and its rival settlement, Tioga, were published in the Chanute Tribune, June 16, 1938. The late Mrs. Charles T. Beatty, who came to New Chicago in 1870 soon after its settlement, was interviewed by Fletcher MacIvary for the Tribune, which had also recorded an interview with her on May 27.

Pioneer days in Bern, Nemaha county, as described by Mrs. F. W. Lehman and first printed in the Bern Gazette, June 4, 1931, were republished in the Sabetha Herald on June 1, 1938.

The Humboldt Union of June 2, 1938, announced the publication of a historical booklet in connection with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Humboldt Lutheran church.

Personal recollections and historical notes of Kiowa county, written by J. L. Coates for The Kiowa County Signal, of Greensburg, appeared during July, August and September, 1938.

The Robinson Index in its issues of August 11 to September 1, 1938, published historical material relating to the town as taken from its files, and particularly from its Kansas day edition of 1900.

Al J. Smith, of Halstead, possesses an unusually fine collection of old firearms and early Kansas relics, the Halstead Independent, of August 12, 1938, reported.
The history of Wolcott (Wyandotte county), formerly called Conner, was outlined in the Leavenworth Times, August 15, 1938.

A history of Bison was prepared for the town's fiftieth anniversary celebration by William Crotinger and appeared in the Otis Reporter and the La Crosse Chieftain on August 18, 25 and September 1, and in the La Crosse Republican on August 25 and September 1, 1938.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of Quantrill's raid on Lawrence was the occasion for a historical review of the incident in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World, August 20, 1938.

The Spring Hill New Era on August 25, 1938, announced that the Ohio Society of Spring Hill was sponsoring a movement to preserve the city's historic hotel.

September 25, 1938, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Kansas district of the Lutheran church. The White City Register of September 8 reported that the district was organized in Leavenworth with 30 pastors and 27 congregations, and now numbers 132 pastors and 30,000 members.

Historical notes and recollections of Cherokee county and the city of Columbus by Ed C. Williams, a former resident, were printed in the Columbus Daily Advocate, September 24, 30 and October 3, 1938.

A historical sketch of Nemaha county, including the establishment of towns and townships, appeared in the Sabetha Herald, October 19, 1938. The facts were obtained from a progress report issued by the Nemaha County Planning Board.

The history of the Hanston Baptist church, organized on February 8, 1911, was reviewed in the Jetmore Republican, October 20, 1938.

A four-column article entitled "A Sketch of Early Days and Settlers of the White City Vicinity," by Nellie Wallace, was published in the White City Register, October 20, 1938. The Register reported that Miss Wallace has for several years been collecting material for a history of White City and the surrounding region.

The reminiscences of Mrs. E. Rasmussen, of Stafford, a pioneer school teacher of Turon, were printed in the Turon Press, October 20, 1938.

A historical sketch of the military post of Fort Scott by H. T. Wilson, a sutler, which appeared in the Fort Scott Pioneer for July 5, 1877, was quoted in the daily Fort Scott Tribune of October 29, 1938, and in the weekly Tribune of November 3.
“Earliest Beginnings in Pawnee County,” an article by Isabel Worrell Ball, was printed in the Larned Chronoscope, November 3, 1938. In the same and the succeeding issue, Jessie Bright Grove, secretary of the Pawnee County Historical Society, reviewed the early settlement and organization of the county.

Life in Kinsley in the latter 1870’s was described in the Kinsley Mercury, November 3, 1938, by Mrs. Walter Robley, a former resident.

Historical articles of interest to Kansans featured in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) Times include: “Rich Material for Moviemakers in the Story of Old Dodge City,” by Paul I. Wellman, January 3, 1939; “The Beginning of a Famous Novel in Edna Ferber’s Visit to Kansas,” January 24; “Notable Generation in G. O. P. Arrived With Kansas Day Club” in 1892 (the founders quickly rose to places of power after their historic protest against party rule of “The Bills”), January 27; “New Markers Prepared For Chain of Historical Sites in Kansas,” by Cecil Howes, March 30; “Forgotten Pathfinder [Jedediah Strong Smith] of the West Started Last Adventure at Westport,” by J. P. G., March 31; “Border Trouble and Indian Wars Could Not Stop This Cattle Drive [of Nelson Story, an adventurer, who in 1866 drove a herd of longhorns from Texas north into Kansas, then northwest through Nebraska and Wyoming to the Gallatin valley of Montana],” by Paul I. Wellman, April 13; “Spring Comes Again to Shawnee Mission,” (a poem) by Dorothy Brown Thompson, and “Methodists Introduced New Crafts to Shawnee Indians [at Shawnee mission] a Century Ago,” April 27; “Last Indian Massacre in Kansas [Sappa creek neighborhood] Recalled Vividly by [Mrs. Emmett Martin, of Eagleville, Mo.] a Witness,” by Paul I. Wellman, May 8; “Leader’s [Col. H. L. Moore] Diary of Heroic March of the Kansas 19th in 1868-1869 [organized to rescue whites kidnaped by Cheyenne Indians],” May 31; “Catholic Church Here [Kansas City, Mo.] Was Founded by French More Than Century Ago,” June 5; “Old Cattlemen Still Laugh About the Range’s Great ‘Legal Rustle’” in which John Chisum (owner of the famous Long Rail and Jingle Bob brand in New Mexico, the man who started the Lincoln county cattle war in which “Billy the Kid” rode to fame) sold a herd of 20,000 to Robert D. Hunter of the Hunter and Evans Commission Co. of Kansas City, Mo., and was paid in some of his own unredeemed and all but forgotten notes, June 9, and “Fights and Disasters Attended Arrival of Barbed Wire in West,” by Paul I. Wellman, June 16.

Staged a Hilarious Show for the Gay Grand Duke Alexis of Russia Sixty-seven Years Ago,” by H. V. B., June 8.

During February and March, 1939, the Natoma Independent published several articles dealing with the community’s history. Stories of Natoma by Twila Hoskins and Ruth Pfortmiller, high school students, appeared in the issues of February 2 and 16. An article on a journey of the Hammonds from Wisconsin to Kansas in 1878 was printed in the Independent, February 23. It was a reprint from the issue of July 17, 1930. Pioneer reminiscences of M. C. Brown originally published in the Independent, March 5, 1911, was reprinted in the issue of March 2, 1939, and also in the Paradise Farmer, March 6.

Articles of historical interest relating to Kansas appearing in recent months in the Magazine Section of the Wichita Sunday Eagle were: “‘Horse and Buggy Doctor’ Creates Stir in Medical World,” by Harold Streeter, February 5, 1939; “Kansas Woman Recalls Tragedy of Lincoln’s Assassination,” by Harry Peebles, February 12; “Wichitan Recalls Lucas’ Famous Ride Warning of Indian Raid,” by Arch O’Bryant, March 19; “Dodge City to Again Become Cow Town for Movie Premiere,” by Francis Heacock, March 26; “Harper County Tour Shows Farmers Turning to Livestock,” by Bruce Behymer, March 26.

Fred Redmond and Herbert Leiker, workers on the Works Progress Administration’s Historical Records Survey, compiled a brief history of Gove county which was printed in the Grinnell Record-Leader, February 16, 1939.


Reminiscences of A. J. Bieber, of Bazine, who went to Rush county in 1879, were recorded under the heading “Pioneer Days in
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Kansas," in the La Crosse Chieftain and the Otis Reporter in their issues of March 30, 1939.

The Kingman Journal celebrated its fiftieth birthday anniversary by issuing a twenty-four page historical edition March 31, 1939. Of special interest is the front-page article, "The Kingman Journal Has 50th Birthday Anniversary," in which the writer traces the history of the Journal through its hardships and vicissitudes. Special articles were devoted to the development of Kingman's industries, and histories of the county and the city's business institutions were featured.

A special edition entitled, "Wichita's 68th Anniversary Dedicated to Industry and Commerce," was issued by the Wichita Sunday Eagle, April 16, 1939.

A historical sketch of Great Bend, one of a series of articles featuring the ten towns and cities in the United States with the word "Bend" in their titles, was printed in the Great Bend Tribune, May 3, 1939.

Early experiences in northwest Kansas were recalled by Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Anthony in the Selden Advocate in issues from May 4 to June 3, 1939.

The Junction City Republic for May 11, 1939, includes a souvenir section describing the early years of the Union Pacific railroad in Kansas.

A brief history of the Kansas Avenue Methodist church was featured in the Topeka State Journal, May 20, 1939. The church was chartered May 25, 1869.

"Progress Marks Lindley's Term," was the caption of the seventy-fifth anniversary edition of the University Daily Kansan, of Lawrence, issued May 28, 1939. The "Anniversary Index" of the thirty-four page edition lists four sections. "Section A," in addition to the regular campus news, contains special articles by William A. White, Raymond Clapper, Harry H. Woodring, Theodore C. Alford and Alfred M. Landon. "Section B" is devoted to the history of the schools and departments. "Section C" presents the social life at the university as seen through its many activities and organizations. "Section D" features athletics, rating James Aloysius Bausch, "Jarring Jim," as the greatest athlete graduated from the University of Kansas, Glenn Cunningham trailing him as a close second. James A. Naismith and F. C. Allen were rated as "Two Doctors . . . Famous in Kansas Sports." The picture section showed, among
other things, pictures of seven of the eight men who served as chancellor of the university.

The early history of Ellis, from 1873 to 1883, was recalled by Mrs. Jessie Bell Ormerod, a pioneer settler, in the Ellis Review, June 1 to 22, and July 6 and 13, 1939.

"Pioneer Rural Route Days," relating the experiences of Warren Zimmerman as a rural mail carrier at Portis, was the title of an article in the Portis Independent, June 8, 15 and 22, 1939.

The story of Silkville, a town organized on a communal plan in the 1870's by Ernest Valetton de Boissiere, a French philanthropist, was told by Jennie Small Owen in the Topeka State Journal, June 19, 1939. The land on which the town was located is now a Franklin county farm.

Celebrating its sixtieth birthday the Oberlin Herald published a fifty-six page anniversary edition June 29, 1939. Included in the seven sections of the paper were historical sketches of Decatur county by Glenn Rogers and Mrs. Sarah J. Harvie, histories of its schools, churches and industries, sketches of the towns of Jennings and Norcatur, and stories of Oberlin's civic organizations, fraternal and social groups, and other phases of community activity. A history of the newspaper was outlined. The Herald also printed a list of county officers from the organization of the county, and the minutes of the first meeting of the board of county commissioners. More than 500 pictures were featured.

The Clark County Clipper of Ashland, June 29, 1939, printed an article by Mrs. Dorothy Berryman Shrewder, historian for the Clark county Council of Women's Clubs, on the establishment of the Benedictine monastery "Bueffel Au" on Mount Cassino, north of present Ashland, in 1876. The article was prepared from papers of the Rev. Gerard Heinz, O. S. B., who was told the story by one of the founding party, Brother Andrew Allermann. A drawing made from memory by Father Boniface Verheyen, O. S. B., which shows the group of buildings that comprised the monastery, accompanied the article. Both story and cut were republished in the Wichita Evening Eagle, July 7.

Early Santa Fé trail history was discussed in the New Mexico Historical Review, of Santa Fé, in the July, 1939, issue. The "Report of the Commissioners on the Road From Missouri to New Mexico, October, 1827," edited by Buford Rowland, described topographical features of the region, relations with Indians, and the work
of surveying the route. This report, which was for many years forgotten in the files of the secretary of the senate of the United States, is now in the National Archives. The field notes of Joseph C. Brown, the surveyor who accompanied the expedition, were printed in the *Eighteenth Biennial Report* of the Kansas State Historical Society (1913), pp. 117-125.

An article by Allan E. Paris in the Leavenworth *Times* of July 2, 1939, related the story of Mrs. Lizzie Allen, a 100-year-old ex-slave, who has lived in Leavenworth since 1859.

Raidding of a Mound City saloon in 1861, in the manner made famous many years later by Carrie Nation, was described by Theodore W. Morse in the Mound City *Republic*, July 6, 1939.

A two-column story of an early negro settlement near Burlington, by Dan M. Hatch, was published in the Gridley *Light*, July 13, 1939.

filled Dreams of Founders ...,” “Mother Nature Very Liberal in Distribution of Resources ...,” and “Phones to Kansas in 1879.” “Section D” presented the automotive industry and highways. Included among its outstanding articles were: “Automobile Industry Changes American Way of Life in Brief Span of Forty Years,” “Kansas Highway Department Organized to Keep 10,000 Miles of Roads in Shipshape,” “Transportation in Process of Evolution Since Advent of Motorcar, Better Highways,” and “Railroads Help Tame Great American Desert.” “Section E” dealt with the farm, college and church. Its leading articles included: “Kansas a Leading Farm State Since Pioneers Broke Plains and Tamed the Wilderness,” “Civilizations Rise or Fall Upon Condition of Nearby Soil, Say Conservationists,” “Washburn College Has Long Served People of Kansas,” “University of Kansas 75 Years Old,” “A Brief History of Organized Religion in Topeka.” “Section F,” devoted to retail and wholesale, contained such articles as: “From an Humble Beginning, Topeka Forged Ahead Until It Now Has 75,000 Population,” “Businessmen Founded Topeka Made It Into One of Best Cities of Its Size in Country,” “Topeka C. of C. Dates Back Sixty Years,” “Old Santa Fé Trail Paved Way for a Great Railroad.” “Section G,” a “Retail — Historical” feature, presented articles on, “Topeka’s Fine Park System Best in Whole Middle West, Constantly Growing Better,” “State Historical Society’s Collection of Kansas Annals Dates Back to Pioneer Times,” “Shawnee County Has Cared for Needy, Aged and Blind During the Long Depression.” Important historical articles were interspersed here and there with such titles as: “Congress Opened Kansas,” “Bogus Legislature Chose Lecompton for Capital,” “Youngsters Wrote Kansas Constitution,” “Southerners Felt Kansas Worth Taking,” “Horse Thieves Were Hanged in Early Days,” “Jayhawkers Were Rough on Missourians,” “Heavily-Armed Southerners a Menace,” “First Governor Was Impeached,” “Kansas Negro Citizens Keep Pace With State and Nation,” “Mennonites Brought Winter Wheat,” “Populists Had Short, Merry Existence,” “Y. M. C. A. Celebrates Sixtieth Anniversary With Capital ...,” “Topeka Y. W. C. A. 52 Years Old ...,” “Droughts, Storms, Locusts, Good Crops, Failures, Panics, Made Kansans Courageous,” “War Claims Used to Erect Memorial Hall,” and “Third Kansas Generation Treks Back on Trail Over Which Their Pioneer Ancestors Came.” Other articles dealt with Sheriff S. J. Jones, John Brown, Republican party in 1856, Horace Greeley, John C. Frémont, Marais des Cygnes mas-
sacred, Topeka vigilantes, buffalo herds, goldfields of west Kansas, Kansas colleges, Kansas pioneer towns, cooperative marketing, WPA and PWA projects, 4-H club, girls' and boys' scout work.

An account of some pioneer Caldwell history by Grant Harris, an early-day printer on the Caldwell Post, appeared in the Caldwell Daily Messenger, July 24, 1939. Originally printed in the Wagoner (Okla.) Tribune, the story told how the "toughest town on the border had been tamed."


Experiences as a member of a freighting crew working between Palermo, Kan., and Fort Kearney, Neb., in 1865 were recalled by A. A. Campbell in The Kiowa County Signal, Greensburg, August 3, 1939.