Kansas History as Published in the Press

Dr. Ernst F. Pihlblad's reminiscences of Bethany College have been appearing in a series of articles in The Kansas Conference Lutheran, Lindsborg, under the title, "By-Gone Days." The series began with the issue of September, 1941.

Stories of interest to Kansans in recent issues of the Pony Express Courier, of Placerville, Cal., include: "Lawyers Milk 'Em Dry in Marysville," a lawsuit to determine the ownership of a twenty-five dollar calf, by Gerald F. Harrington, December, 1941, and January, 1942; "Legend of Father Padilla's Coffin," by H. E. Whiteside, February; "Was Wild Bill Hickok a Hero, or Murderer?" by J. G. Ellenbecker and Guy Giffen, and a biographical sketch of Albert Lowe, plainmsman, by George J. Remsburg, August.


Victor Murdock probably writes more articles about Kansas history than anybody in the state. From February through August, 1942, he printed the following in the Wichita (Evening) Eagle: “Land Around Wichita That Was Once Property of Osage Indian Tribe,” February 2; “Ferment Here When the Territory of Cimarron That Is No Man’s Land and Oklahoma Were Both Pressing Congress For Openings,” February 3; “Some Terms From Indians That Have Survived Here and Some That Have Not,” February 5; “Wichita Lumber Yards Once Hauled Their Stocks Overland From Emporia,” February 9; “City Building Wonders That Were Witnessed by the Late Will Hoover,” February 10; “Official Records Which Show That the Exodus [of the Wichitas] From This Place [site of Wichita] Was Attended by Considerable Difficulty at the Start,” February 12; “Floods in the Spring of 1867 and a Terrible Plague in the Summer of That Year Which Beset the People Then Living at This Place [Wichita],” February 13; “When Wichita Slipped Out of Its Earliest Era Into an Embryonic City,” February 14; “Memorable Night Here Now Seventy Years Ago When First Train Came In,” February 23; “When Shift to Motor-Car Among the Wichitans Introduced a New Era,” February 24; “Homes of the Wichitans Described by a Visitor From New York in 1869,” February 25;

Some early history of Salina recalled by George Reed, Assaria farmer who came to Saline county March 4, 1878, was published in the Salina Journal, March 5, 1942.

Leonard W. Thompson briefly reviewed "The History of Railway Development in Kansas" in the spring, 1942, issue of The Aerend, publication of Fort Hays Kansas State College, of Hays. Construction for the first railway in Kansas began at Elwood in 1859. "From 1861 to 1923," Thompson reported, "no less than 1,112 [railroad] charters were recorded in the office of the secretary of state; 900 of these projects appeared to have been but paper roads, leaving 212 corporations that at one time or another actually constructed and maintained a railroad in the state. The above does not include the 54 territorial roads, few of which reached the construction stage. During the decade 1880-1890 no less than 556 charters were issued." Boom years for railway building were 1885-1888, when the state's actual rail mileage was more than doubled. "On a per capita basis," the survey disclosed, "Kansas in 1888 was the best equipped with railroads of any state in the United States or any country in the world. For every one thousand of her population Kansas had five and one-half miles of railroad; Missouri, two and three-tenths miles; the Western states, two and one-half miles; and the Middle and Eastern states not to exceed one and one-half miles."

That Kansas was once a jungle filled with prehistoric monsters is affirmed in an account of Alvin Scranton of Fort Hays Kansas State College in the Hill City Times, March 19, 1942. The article is entitled, "Graham County Group of Mammal Tracks Is Largest Ever Found in This Country."

A story and portrait of Maj. Gen. Emory Sherwood Adams, first printed in the April, 1942, number of the United States Army Recruiting News, Governors Island, N. Y., was reproduced in The Kansas Industrialist, Manhattan, May 6. General Adams, native of Manhattan and graduate of Kansas State College, recently retired as adjutant general. He saw service in China, the Philippine Islands, France and the United States.

Holton history was reviewed by Mrs. Florence Gabel in the Holton Recorder, April 6, 1942.

The Marion Presbyterian Church celebrated the seventieth anniversary of its founding May 3, 1942. Articles on the history of the church and the list of charter members were published in the Marion
"Havana Methodists Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary Sunday," was the title of an article briefly reviewing the church's history in the Caney Daily Chronicle, May 4, 1942.


The oldest building in Irving has been remodeled and was opened as a museum by Mrs. Olin Dibert of Irving. A story of her work and pictures of the museum were featured in the Topeka Daily Capital, May 24, 1942.

An article by Mrs. Jessie Hill Rowland about the coming of Anders Sorensen to the United States was printed in the McPherson Daily Republican, May 28, 1942, under the title, "McPherson Is 70 Today and Here's a Story About One of Its Pioneers."

On May 30, 1942, the Fort Scott Tribune published a sixty-page centennial edition commemorating the establishment of Fort Scott. Lists of county and city officials and histories of the city's schools, newspapers, clubs, railroads and sports were printed. Included among the titles of other historical articles were: "At Dawn of City's History"; "From Louisiana Purchase in 1803 This County Was Eventually Made"; "Slain by Night Riders—Gang Raid on Marmaton on Oct. 22, 1864"; "A Woman Spy [Emma Edmonds] Made History in Civil War"; "An Era of Trouble, Progress [1854-1860]"; "Spilled the Blood of Martyrs [Marais des Cygnes massacre, May 19, 1858]"; "Kansas' Greatest Battle [Mine Creek, 1864]"; "Trading Post Is One of Oldest Settlements in the Entire State"; "Great Drought of 1860 Was One of Nature's Scourges"; "A Dream of the Farms Has Now Become Reality—R. E. A. Has Brought Light and Power . . . ."; "Steady Upward Climb as a Beef Cattle County"; "National Cemetery, Established in 1861, One of First Military Cemeteries in U. S."; "Bourbon County's First Agriculture Organization Was Formed in 1860"; "Pike, the Great Explorer, Through the County on Way West in 1806";
“Troops on the March Once More [During Civil War];” “Streets Preserve Names of Many Early Day Leaders,” and “Origin of Names of Bourbon County’s Streams Reveals Interesting Side-lights.” A featured picture was one of Gen. Winfield Scott, for whom the fort was named.

Stories giving the history of the old Hollenberg ranch house, “the only unaltered Pony Express station now remaining in the United States,” were printed in the Hanover Democrat, June 5, 1942, The Advocate-Democrat, Marysville, June 11, and the Linn-Palmer Record, June 19. The state recently purchased the ranch house and seven and one-half acres for a state park. The Advocate-Democrat and the Hanover Democrat printed pictures of the old station as did the Kansas City (Mo.) Star of July 12.

On the eve of his golden wedding anniversary O. J. Rose, editor of The Peoples Herald, Lyndon, wrote an editorial recalling fifty years of life in rural Kansas, during which he operated newspapers at Eskridge, Waverly and Lyndon. The article appeared first in The Peoples Herald, July 9, 1942, under the caption, “Looking Backward Over Fifty Years.” It was reprinted in part in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times, July 21, under the title “A Kansas Editor’s Journey Along ‘the American Way’ for 50 Years.”

An article, “Heroes on the Home Front,” by E. B. Garnett, was printed in the Kansas City (Mo.) Star, July 12, 1942. It is a biographical sketch of Lt. John Paul Adams, U. S. N., of Brown county, recently decorated for distinguished service in the Southwest Pacific. A brief note on the parents, the Rev. and Mrs. N. J. Adams, by Hester Potter, the Star’s correspondent at Robinson, was also featured. The Rev. N. J. Adams is a rural pastor of the Mount Zion Methodist Church in Brown county.

The 1942 “Progress Edition” published annually by the Manhattan Morning Chronicle and Mercury appeared July 26 and 27, respectively. Among the articles of historical interest were: “Manhattan’s Stone Houses Have Stood Like Monuments Down Through the Years,” by Mrs. Loyal Payne; “Chamber of Commerce Plays Active Role in War Efforts”; “Manhattan Man [First Lt. Arthur A. Farrell] Decorated for Heroism Beyond Call of Duty”; “The College and the War,” by F. D. Farrell; “For Second Time K. S. C. Is on a War Footing”; “K. S. C. Faculty Contributes to Armed Ranks”; “Women Don Overalls, Grease to Do Their Part in War
Effort”; “Who’s Who at Ft. Riley”; “For Half a Century Ft. Riley Has Trained Expert Horsemen”; “Huge Fort Riley Expansion Project in Full Swing”; “Highlights of Year’s Activities at Fort Riley”; “MacArthur, Craig, Wainwright, Lear—All Have Been at Ft. Riley”; “Military Police Trained in Only School in Country”; “Once More Camp Funston Is Scene of Hustle and Bustle”; “Riley County Has Many Men in the Service.” The illustrated features included: “Boys From Manhattan Serving All Over the World”; “Many Manhattan Men Serving as Army, Navy Officers”; “Manhattan Boys With the Army Or the Navy,” and “An Airplane View of a Portion of Fort Riley.” The edition also contained biographical sketches of commanding officers at Fort Riley and articles on the Manhattan Red Cross, local defense organization, first-aid course, enlisted reserves, soldiers’ center, Douglas community center, college R. O. T. C., local airport, national defense classes, public health, Triple A as a war machine, Four-H club, Farm Bureau, Camp Funston, cavalrymen, Wounded Knee monument, armored division at Camp Funston, and religion at Fort Riley.


“Dissolution of the Osage Reservation” was the title of an article by Berlin B. Chapman starting in the September, 1942, issue of The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. The study is a sequel to Chapman’s article, “Removal of the Osages From Kansas,” printed in The Kansas Historical Quarterly in August and November, 1938.

The Mound City Catholic Church was dedicated September 7, 1942, as a memorial to Blessed Rose Philippine Duchesne who established a school for Pottawatomie Indian girls in 1841 at Old Sugar Creek Mission, present Linn county. The mission was located on a part of what is now the Frank Zimmerman farm, about five miles northeast of Centerville. The history of the church was reviewed briefly in the Mound City Republic, September 3 and 10, 1942, and by Theodore W. Morse in a two-column article in the Topeka Daily Capital, September 13.

A brief history of the Oakland Presbyterian Church of Topeka, organized October 4, 1892, was printed in the Topeka State Journal, October 3, 1942.