Bypaths of Kansas History

A Census of Lawrence Bachelors

From the Kansas Daily Tribune, Lawrence, February 26, 1868.

We have endeavored heretofore to keep the public thoroughly posted in regard to the advantages, resources, capabilities, prospects, &c., of Lawrence, giving statistics and facts in support of all statements. In prospecting the city of late in search of various matters, we happened to strike a new “lead,” though whether it can properly be classed under the head of either advantages, resources, or capabilities, is rather difficult to determine. This “lead” is the bachelors, or single men of the city, taken as a class, and considered numerically.

It is to be presumed every town has more or less of that class of unfortunates, who have not carried out the original plan, as intended for man and woman, but it seems that Lawrence can claim as great a number as any other town of its size, and a great many more than even those best acquainted with the city would suppose. The matter was first brought to our attention, a few days since, by a dispute between a couple of individuals in regard to the comparative advantages of married and single life, and the influence each exerted on the community. The married man claimed that the presence of a large number of single men in a town would operate to its disadvantage, and stated the reason why Lawrence was such an eminently moral, proper, nice, well-behaved town, was because nearly all the citizens were subjected to the humanizing influences, and watchful care of some divinity in crinoline, or in other words we had but few bachelors among us.

Of course the opposition denied it stoutly, and claimed there were not less than two hundred or more of those fractions called bachelors in the city, and proper inquiry would prove the statement correct. It is our business to inquire into things, and we were delegated to find out the truth of the matter.

An hour was all that was required, which was spent in propounding queries to boarding house keepers, as it is well known a bachelor gravitates as naturally to a boarding house, as a young lady to a milliner shop. They are of gregarious habits, and love company, and hash is their hobby.

We will commence with the hotels first, as they extend their sheltering care over a goodly number, premising that, as it is leap year, all particulars, outside of enumeration, is for the benefit of the ladies.

In the Eldridge House we find eleven, all nice, proper fellows, well-dressed, well-behaved, and very susceptible to female influences.

The Durfee House furnishes thirty-five, following all manner of occupations, and generally doing well. It is reported that a few tough old birds are to be found among them, who don’t take kindly to the women at all. The rest show a different disposition.

At the Union House are thirty-four, who have the reputation of being very industrious, and devote but little time or attention to the ladies.

The Lawrence House follows with twenty, all ranging from twenty-five to thirty-five years, generally lawyers (sharp ones, too), clerks, agents, &c. They are a leisurely set of fellows, and up to snuff.

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At Fluke's restaurant, twenty-five gobble their soup in a hurry, and dash off to store, counting room and shop, and closely scan all the ladies they meet—very susceptible.

At Mosser's boarding house there are twenty very moral, nice young men, all with good appetites, and fond of home comforts.

At the Germania House are thirteen sober fellows, addicted to smoking, but with no other vices to speak of.

Mrs. Dix has ten, all industrious and making money.

Mrs. Donnelly has eleven gallant blades, who fairly worship the ladies, and will marry at the first offer.

At Mrs. Brown's are six—five of them printers, and consequently on the psalm-singing, tea-drinking order, and not fond of women at all.

In nine other boarding houses are to be found from five to fifteen, running up to the number of ninety-one in all, and following all kinds of business.

From this list it will be seen that three hundred and five are to be found in herds at hotels and regular boarding houses, while as near as we can estimate not less than two hundred more find homes in private houses, making over five hundred in all.

If another town of the size can show a greater amount of marriageable material, of the masculine gender, we would like to see their figures.

The little town in Massachusetts, that has an excess of fifteen hundred females, in a population of nine thousand, will probably find these statistics of interest. In regard to the influence bachelors have on the morals of a town, we give the figures, and every one can draw their own conclusions.

From the *Tribune* of March 1, 1868.

**ATTENTION, BACHELORS**

**Baldwin City, Kansas,**

**February 26, 1868.**

**Editor Tribune:** I see in to-day's paper an editorial giving the number of bachelors in Lawrence. I judge that there are not many young ladies in Lawrence; if there are they are not very persevering or those bachelors would either have to marry or leave the town. Now, in Baldwin there are over one hundred marriageable young ladies, and about ten or fifteen marriageable young gentlemen. I wish you would persuade some of the "bachelors" to come to Baldwin and see some of us "maids"—get some of them to come from the Lawrence House, those "sharp ones." The Baldwin "maids" would like to see some sharp young men. They would be as much of a curiosity here as Mark Twain is to the world. We have one lawyer in our town, but we can't persuade ourselves to say he is "sharp"—not by any means.

Your friend and reader,

**One of the Maids.**

We hope our lady friend will excuse us if we fail to comply with her request that we induce our bachelors to visit Baldwin. As it is leap year it would be more proper for the ladies of that section to come to Lawrence and attend to the business themselves. Furthermore, we have a greater interest in the increase of the population of Lawrence than of Baldwin City. We can't afford to lose any of our nice young men just yet for the sake of benefiting other towns.
For Mice or Men?

From the Wilson County Citizen, Fredonia, August 28, 1874.

War may be declared between Rooks and Norton counties. Some state arms and ammunitions were lately sent to Stockton, Rooks county, but when the Norton county supplies arrived, the ammunition boxes were discovered to be filled with limestone and mouse traps. Norton county says Rooks county did it.

For That “New Look”

Below is an excerpt from the advertisement of Smith’s Illustrated Pattern Bazaar which probably was widely published in newspapers of the United States in 1874 and 1875 (see Leavenworth Daily Times, December 29, 1874, January 26, 1875, etc.):

SMITH’S

“INSTANT DRESS ELEVATOR”

THIS CUT shows how beautifully a LONG Skirt is changed into a Straight Front Walking Dress by the INSTANT ELEVATOR. You can raise your skirt while passing a muddy place and then let it fall, or you can keep it raised with the ELEVATOR. It keeps the skirt from the FILTH. IT LOOPS the skirt in a TASTEFUL and FASHIONABLE MANNER. IT SAVES more than TEN TIMES its COST, besides being CONVENIENT, NEAT and GRACEFUL. IT can be changed from ONE DRESS to ANOTHER in LESS than TWO MINUTES.

YOU NEED BUT ONE FOR A DOZEN DRESSES.

Price SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS each. Send 2 stamps for postage. The above ELEVATOR will be given FREE as PREMIUM to the person who sends $1.25 for ONE YEARS subscription to “SMITH’S PATTERN BAZAAR.”