Kansas History as Published in the Press

Articles featuring the history of early Axtell vicinity and its citizens have been regularly printed in the Axtell Standard since 1946.

The Sedgwick Pantagraph, April 8, 1948, announced the 75th anniversary of the rural school, Diamond, District No. 54, in Sedgwick township, Harvey county. The district was organized and the first building erected in 1873. Historical information in the article included the names of many of those who have served as members of the school board, the teachers from beginning to present and a partial list of expenditures made by the district.

Some bits of early Wichita history were featured in The Democrat, Wichita, May 1, 1948. Articles included: “Wichita . . . About 1883,” by Rea Woodman; “Early Wichita Housing,” “Early Industries in Wichita,” and “Wichita’s First Church,” by Phil Aherne; “First National Bank Is Wichita’s Oldest,” and “A Pioneer Feminist [Mrs. Laura V. Gardiner].”

The story of the coming of the Prairie band of Pottawatomie Indians to Kansas was reviewed briefly by Gordon P. Martin in the Topeka State Journal, May 8, 1948. The Pottawatomies were one of several Indian tribes appearing before the Indian claims commission of the United States. Their hearing was in Topeka May 17.

A brief history of the Humboldt Union, established in 1866, was sketched in the Union, May 27, 1948.

The Larned Chronoscope and The Tiller and Toiler have continued to publish articles on the history of Pawnee county as told by members of some of the county’s pioneer families. The story of the Griffith family, who arrived in 1878, was related to Lois Victor by Mrs. Hallie Griffith Fulwiler, and was printed in The Tiller and Toiler, May 27, 1948, and the Chronoscope, June 3. The C. M. Bruce family arrived in 1878, and their experiences were told to Miss Victor by William Franklin Bruce, and were published in both newspapers on July 15. The history of the Roddy family, who also arrived in 1878, was told to Miss Victor by George Sipes Roddy, and was featured in the Larned Chronoscope, August 5 and 12, and in The Tiller and Toiler, August 5.
“It Took Work, Money and Some Shenanigans to Win the Kansas Capitol,” was the title of a feature article by Cecil Howes in the June, 1948, Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society of Topeka. Other articles were a review of the history of “Light and Power in Topeka,” by Arthur J. Carruth, Jr., “First Dry Goods Store Was Also the First Public Library,” by Paul A. Lovewell, the fourth installment of “Shawnee County Townships,” by William W. Cone, and the “Chronology of Shawnee County—1856, Continued,” by George A. Root.

The Abilene Reflectors-Chronicle of June 8, 1948, printed an article giving the sources of many of the names of towns, creeks and townships in Dickinson county.

A brief history of the brick plants at Hays, which operated in the latter 1880’s, was printed in The Ellis County News of Hays, June 17, 1948. Two historical articles featured in the July 1 issue of the News were: “‘Old-Timers’ Recount Colorful Days of Early Ellis County Politics,” and a description of early-day Hays as recalled by Mrs. Retta Freese Ingram of Strathmore, Cal. The history of the Hays Baptist church, organized on April 28, 1883, was reviewed by the News, July 15. The story described some of the items found in the cornerstone of the first church building. In the August 12 issue the News recalled the many adoptions of children by people in the Hays vicinity in a feature entitled: “Magazine Article Recalls Arrival of Orphan Train in Hays in 1902.”


Recent historical features by “The Roving Reporter” in The Tribune-News, Manhattan, included the following: “Old Stone Capitol Near Fort Riley Marks Turbulent Times When Kansas Was
Young," June 24, 1948, and "Township System in Riley County Started Before the Coming of Railroads in Sixties," July 15.

Historical articles of interest to Kansans in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) Star included: "Engines Chug Where War Horses Once Whinnied at Ft. Riley," by Edward R. Schauffler, June 27, 1948; "Fortune's Fast Comer [Charles J. Davis] Planned His Life in School Days Here [Kansas City]," story of a young farm machinery manufacturer at Wichita, by Charles W. Graham, "Riches From Wheat Reward Many in the Old Dust Bowl," by Conwell Carlison, and "Her Friends Said, 'There's Nothing To See in Kansas,'" the reactions to Kansas of a visitor from Great Britain, by Barbara Wace, July 18; "New Methods Are Restoring Native Grass Rapidly in Some Former Dust Bowl Areas," by Robert E. Geiger, August 2; "A Kansas Girl Helps in the Dutch Harvest," a letter from Edwina Frick of Manhattan concerning her work and travels in Holland, August 8; "Their [the Rev. and Mrs. John Beard] Long Trail From Oregon a 5-Month Horseback Trip," by Robert H. Clark, and "Sunflower, Adopted 45 Years Ago as Kansas Emblem, an Importation," by Cecil Howes, August 16, and "The Old Santa Fe Trail Is Now a Pleasure Route," by Dwight Pennington, September 5. Articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times were: "A Hermit in His Basement Hideaway, Dr. John Ise [of Kansas University] Revises His Textbook," by Fred Kiewit, July 15; "'Little Hill [Pawnee Rock]’ on Kansas Prairie Was Once Setting for Epics of Pioneers," by Eleanor Richey Johnston, August 5; "Pony Express Venture an Outgrowth of Alexander Majors’ Wagon Trains," by Dwight Pennington, August 10; "Country Young People Too, Enjoy a Summer Vacation in the Open Air," at a spot in the bluestem pastures, the 4-H clubs of Kansas assemble for a few days of recreation and comradeship, by Don Alexander, August 11; "Kansas' First Temperance Tornado Was Sparked by a Lawrence Woman," in 1880 Mrs. Drusilla Wilson traveled over Kansas for the temperance cause, by Cecil Howes, August 24; "William Menninger Shines Double Light Across the Dark Field of Psychiatry," by Charles W. Graham, August 27; "St. Mary’s College Centennial Recalls Early Day Kansas Mission to the Indians," by Cecil Howes, August 28, and " 'Beecher Bible and Rifle Church' Restored for the Use of a Wabaunsee Congregation," by Cecil Howes, September 13.

A five-column history of Kill Creek, by Mrs. E. A. Harris, was featured in the Osborne Farmer-Journal, July 1 and 8, 1948. Kill
Creek was established on the old Russell-Bull City (now Alton) trail in the 1870's.

*The Peoples Herald*, Lyndon, has continued to publish Osage county history as compiled by the Kansas Historical Records Survey, Division of Community Service Programs of the Works Progress Administration. Recent subjects include: Building of railroads in Osage county, July 1 and 8, 1948; cities and towns, July 8 and 15; churches and schools, July 22; county finances, July 22 and 29; agriculture and industry, July 29 and August 5; population trends, August 5; governmental organization, August 5, 12 and 19, and housing, care and accessibility of records, August 26 and September 2.

Protection's first wedding was the subject of the Protection Historical Society's column, "Notes From the Early Days," in the Protection *Post*, July 2, 1948. It was that of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wuecher which took place December 29, 1885. The column for July 23 and 30 described some of the Fourth of July celebrations held at Protection.

Feature articles in recent issues of the *Butler Free-Lance*, El Dorado, included the following: "The Old El Dorado," a four-column article by Myra Lockwood Brown, July 8, 1948; "Here Is Story of Early Day Mail Service in This County as Told by Thomas G. Watkins," and "Butler County Marriages of 1885," July 15.

"Sketching Early Wilson," by Rosanna Healey, was the title of an article printed serially in four installments in the *Wilson World*, July 8, 15, 22 and 29, 1948. The first settlement in Ellsworth county was about 1857 or 1860 on Thompson creek. There was Indian trouble in 1863 and the settlers moved away. In 1867 the Union Pacific railroad pushed westward through Indian country. After the railroad came soldiers and settlers. A group settled on Wilson creek and called the settlement Bosland. The railroad was a short distance away and Bosland gradually moved to the area of the station. Before long the new town became known as Wilson. The first permanent settlement around Wilson was made by J. T. Mckittrick in 1871. Immigration was very rapid for a short time. Later it consisted chiefly of Swedes, Bohemians and Germans. The town was incorporated in 1883 and John A. Lang was the first mayor. The final installment of the article discussed the industries in and near Wilson and the social life of early Wilson.
Members of the Marion Volunteer Fire Department were guests of honor at a luncheon given by the Marion Chamber of Commerce, July 13, 1948, on the occasion of the retirement of Joe Swan, the fire chief, after over 41 years service. Included on the program was the reading of a history of the Marion fire department and an address by Clyde Latchem, state fire marshal. The history, by Alex H. Case, was published in the Marion Record-Review, July 15, 22, and August 5, 1948.

A full-page history of the St. Paul Journal was featured in the issue of July 29, 1948, in observance of its 80th anniversary. The paper was first printed on August 5, 1868, by John H. Scott, and was called the Osage Mission Journal. After several changes it was purchased in 1896 by the Journal Publishing Co., W. W. Graves, editor. The name was changed to the St. Paul Journal in 1901. Except for brief intervals, W. W. Graves edited the paper until April, 1948, when it was purchased by the present editor, George L. Hodges.

“Kansas City’s Past and Future—Johnson County,” was featured in the August, 1948, number of Town—Pictorial Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo. The article was divided into several parts under the following titles: “Mission Was Farming Center,” “Shawnee Among Oldest Johnson County Towns,” “Merriam’s First Name Was Campbelltown,” “Overland Park to Celebrate Fiftieth Birthday,” “Lenexa Named After Indian Maiden,” “Johnson County Residential Areas Growing Rapidly,” and “County Organizations, Institutions Well Known.” Numerous pictures of historic places in Johnson county were included with the article.

Among recent articles in the Leavenworth Times were: “Two Local Men [the Uline brothers] Made the Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous,” by Harry H. Seckler, August 1, 1948, and “Recall Historical Items of More Than Century Ago Here,” a brief chronology of events in the early Leavenworth area, August 9.

A brief article in the Junction City Republic, August 5, 1948, stated that the Republic has finished its 75th year of publication. It was first printed as the Tribune on August 3, 1873, by Henry Farey and Theodore Alvord. The C. H. Manley family acquired the paper in 1902 and changed its name to Republic.
The fiftieth anniversary of the Overbrook fair was celebrated September 1-3, 1948. The early history of the fair was sketched in an article by Floyd C. Butel in the Overbrook Citizen, August 19, 1948.

The town of St. Marys staged a four-day celebration September 6-9, 1948, in observance of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic mission there. The Jesuits located their mission for the Pottawatomie Indians in present St. Marys on September 9, 1848. Prominent among the founders were Father Felix Verreydt and Father Christian Hoecken. Schools for boys and girls were established in connection with the mission and were maintained for several years. They were exclusively for Indians until 1869 when white boys and girls were admitted and work of college level was offered. The state granted a charter to St. Mary's College in 1869 and the college operated until 1931 when it became a theological seminary. Historical sketches of the institution in its three phases were printed in the St. Marys Star, September 9, 16 and 23, 1948. Also, on September 9 excerpts from Gov. Frank Carlson's talk at St. Marys September 7, and a brief review of the history of the Methodists in St. Marys were featured. In the September 16 number the history of St. Mary's college was traced by Fr. Jim Mc-Williams of St. Louis.