Kansas History as Published in the Press

Indian burial sites in Geary and Clay counties were discussed by Floyd Schultz and Albert C. Spaulding in an illustrated article, “A Hopewellian Burial Site in the Lower Republican Valley, Kansas,” printed in the April, 1948, number of American Antiquity, official publication of the Society for American Archaeology.

The first part of a series entitled, “The Geography of Kansas,” by Walter H. Schoewe, of the University of Kansas, was published in the September, 1948, number of the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Lawrence. This installment deals with the political geography of the state; subsequent installments will consider other phases of Kansas geography.

The September, 1948, number of the Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, Topeka, included the following articles: “History of the Topeka Free Public Library,” by William A. Biby, president of the board of directors; “Topeka Founded on Wyandott Float,” by Russell K. Hickman; the fifth installment of William W. Cone’s “Shawnee County Townships,” and a continuation of George Root’s “Chronology of Shawnee County.” A review of the life of Cyrus Kurtz Holliday, by Milton Tabor, was the feature of the December issue of the Bulletin. Other articles were: “The First Few Days,” as gleaned from F. W. Giles’ account of the founding of Topeka in his book, Thirty Years in Topeka, and other installments of Cone’s “Shawnee County Townships,” and Root’s “Chronology.”

A biographical sketch of the late Bert P. Walker appeared in the Osborne Farmer-Journal, September 16, 1948. Mr. Walker was born in Wisconsin in 1872 and came to Kansas with his parents when still a boy, settling at Peabody. When a young man he began work on the Osborne County Farmer which he bought in 1904 and owned for 38 years. Early in his journalistic career he began the use of the title, “The Village Deacon,” which was associated with his writing as long as he wrote for publication. In 1921 Walker was appointed state printer to fill a vacancy. He served in that capacity for 12 years, being re-elected five times. Mr. Walker died September 11, 1948.

Sedan’s newspaper history was sketched in the Sedan Times-Star, September 23, 1948. Also featured were a story of the Boston-Elk Falls county-seat fight and an article headed: “Do You Remember
When This And That Happened Thru the Years?” In the issue of September 30 the history of Cedar Vale, established in 1870, was reviewed.


A Meade County historical essay contest, sponsored by the County Council of Women’s Clubs, was won by Mrs. Rosetta Singley of Plains. Mrs. Singley’s essay, “My Pioneer Experience,” was printed in the Plains Journal, September 23, 30 and October 7, 1948; the Meade County Press, of Meade, September 23 and 30, and the Meade Globe-News, September 23. The announcement of the winners was made at the Meade county old settlers’ picnic at Meade, September 19, where Mrs. Singley spoke briefly about her early experiences. Second-place winner was Pauline Winkler Grey with her essay, “The Black Sunday [April 14, 1935],” published in the Meade Globe-News, September 26, and third place went to Lura Smith for an essay on “The Old Sugar Mill,” published in the Meade Globe-News, September 30. The essay submitted by Mrs. E. May Novinger of Plains, the subject of which was old pioneer trails, was printed in the Plains Journal, October 7, and the Meade Globe-News, October 3. The history of the Meade County State Park was told by Frank Sullivan in the Meade Globe-News, October 10, and the story of the settlement known as Irish Flats, by Mrs. O. E. Davidson of Meade, was printed in the Globe-News, October 17.
The story of Washington Irving’s trip through present Crawford county in 1832, as worked out in detail by Mrs. John Fink, was reviewed by Harold O. Taylor in the Pittsburg Sun, September 25, 1948. Mrs. Fink gave a report on her research at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, September 20.

Among Kansas historical articles in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) Star were: “All Thrills of the Chase as Dogs Catch Coyotes in Kansas,” the Southwestern Fox and Wolf Hunters’ Association holds its annual hunt near Yates Center, by Howard Turtle, and “K. U. Builds a ‘Gun’ to Fire Hydrogen Atoms,” an article on research projects at the University of Kansas, by Alvin S. McCoy, October 3, 1948; “U. S. Armies in Germany Commanded by a Kansan [Lt. Gen. Clarence Ralph Huebner],” by Philip W. Whitcomb, October 10; “Love Is Key to Healing in Work of the Menninger,” by Charles W. Graham, October 17; “Ghosts of Indian Forays in Ruins of Ft. Wallace,” and “Some Kansas Towns Have Names of Strange Origin,” October 31; “No Doctor Will Live in Your Town? Hear the Story of McLouth, Kas.,” how a small Kansas town got a doctor, by Charles W. Graham, November 7; “Larger Revenues and More Efficient Administration Urged for the Schools,” problems facing the public schools in Kansas and the nation analyzed by Prof. John Jacobs, Emporia State Teachers College, November 12; “Santa Fe Trail Markers To Be Dedicated This Week,” by E. P. H. Gempel, and “Print Shop Sage [Claude M. "Judge" Older] of Kansas Wins Laughs in Far Places,” the story of a linotype operator at Hays, by Helen D. Francis, November 14; “Cyrus Crane Was Editor When W. A. White Was a Cub at K. U.,” November 21; “Bagging Big Game for K. U. Is a Job for Entire Family,” J. R. Alcorn, field biologist, takes his family along on a hunting trip to Alaska, by Charles W. Graham, November 28; “Schoeppel Going to the Senate Will Keep the Kansas Viewpoint,” by Dwight Pennington, December 5, and “Pay of Kansas Prison Guards Higher Than That in State Mental Asylums,” by Charles W. Graham, December 8. Articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times were: “Frontier Doctor [S. J. Crumbine] in Kansas Made Himself a Pioneer in the Field of Public Health,” by Cecil Howes, September 23; “Kansas Never Has Paid All of Its Debt To Men Summoned to Repel Price’s Army,” scire issued to soldiers is still being offered in futile hope of redemption, by Cecil Howes, October 4; “Strange Characters on a Stone May Tell Story of Ancient Times on Kansas

A Clara Barton postal stamp was recently issued and the Great Bend Tribune, October 11, 1948, took advantage of the occasion to recall that Barton county was named after Clara Barton. The county was organized in 1872 and, after expanding considerably, reverted to its present size in 1879.

Two articles of especial interest to Kansans published in the December, 1948, number of The American Magazine were: "Eisenhower’s Mission in America," an answer to why the general refused the presidency of the United States and a picture of him in his new position as president of Columbia University, by Boyden Sparkes, and "Girl [Kyle MacDonnell] in a Hurry," the daughter of a Kansas wheat farmer, after being confined to her bed for three years, gains fame as a top model, singer and television star, by Roy Barclay Hodges.