Kansas History as Published in the Press

Leslye Hardman Womer’s column, “As It Was Told to Me,” which was interrupted with the discontinuance of the Agra Sentinel in September, 1947, has been continued beginning with the first issue of the Agra Star, May 13, 1948. Family histories have been featured chiefly, with an occasional column on the history of Agra.

Articles on local history, by C. D. Smith, appear from time to time in the Blue Rapids Times. The discovery of gypsum near Blue Rapids and its use in the plaster industry was the subject of Mr. Smith’s articles printed August 19 and 26, 1948. Gypsum was first discovered in the Blue Rapids area about 1857, and since that time six firms erected seven plaster mills in the vicinity, of which only one is still in operation. In his article appearing November 4, Mr. Smith gave brief biographical sketches of some of the founders of Blue Rapids, many of whom moved to other parts of the country when the town failed to grow as had been anticipated.

Names of Gove county men and women who served in World War II appeared in The Gove County Advocate, Quinter, August 19, 26 and September 2, 1948, and in the Gove County Republican-Gazette, Gove City, August 19. A plaque featuring these names is to be hung in the Gove county courthouse.

Several articles of historical interest have been published recently in the Larned Chronoscope and The Tiller and Toiler. A biographical sketch of John Lindas, founder of the Lindas Lumber Co. of Pawnee Rock, by F. T. Brown, was printed in the Chronoscope, September 16, 1948. The lumber company was 70 years old on October 3. The Chronoscope, September 30, and The Tiller and Toiler for the same date, published a history of the William P. Webb family, as told to Lois Victor by Dr. O. E. Webb. Appearing in the same issues was a “Tribute to Albert A. Doerr,” by Harvey Eckert. Mr. Doerr was a Pawnee county pioneer and a benefactor to many during the “dust bowl” years. A brief history of Prairie Home school, District 39, in Pawnee county, by W. F. Bruce, appeared in The Tiller and Toiler, October 21. Names of former teachers and pupils, and friends who attended a reunion on September 30, were listed. The school building was erected under the direction of E. P. Condrey and is now 70 years old. Experiences of 70 years in
Pawnee county were reviewed by Mrs. John Wagner for Miss Victor and published in *The Tiller and Toiler* and *Chronoscope* of November 11. Mrs. Wagner and her husband arrived in Pawnee county in the spring of 1878. Mrs. Mary Kulow Frick, 92 years old, related to Miss Victor the early experiences of her family in Kansas which appeared in both papers on November 18. Mrs. Frick came to Pawnee county in 1876 with her father, mother and brother. Also by Dr. Webb are his reminiscences of the years when Larned was young, published in *The Tiller and Toiler*, December 16, and in the *Chronoscope*, December 16 and 23.

The Horton *Headlight*, September 20, 1948, briefly noted that the city of Horton had reached its 62nd birthday. It was incorporated September 20, 1886.

A series of illustrated historical articles on places around Manhattan, by R. A. Dalton, Jr., has been appearing in the Manhattan *Mercury-Chronicle* and the Manhattan *Republic*. Places discussed during October, November and December, 1948, included: Leonardville, Riley, Sunset park in Manhattan, Keats, Randolph, Mariadahl, Stockdale, Cleburne, Winkler, May Day, Zeandale and Ogden.

A pageant depicting the history of Bethel College of North Newton was presented October 12, 1948, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the college. Also honoring the occasion, *The Bethel Collegian* issued a 60th anniversary edition on October 8, featuring sketches and pictures.

The Holton *Recorder*, October 11, 1948, explained the source of the city's name. In May, 1856, John B. Coffin and wife, with about 40 others, started from Milwaukee, Wis., for Kansas. They had been outfitted and greatly aided in their preparations for the journey by Edward D. Holton, wealthy merchant, lawyer and banker of Milwaukee. Holton was also chairman of a committee which was helping to send Free-State men to Kansas. Other articles of general interest in the *Recorder* of October 11 were: “Historical Sketches of the School Districts of County,” by Corinne Richard, county superintendent, and “John Shields Tells of Introduction of the Peach and Crabapple Here.”

“Santa Fe: No. 1 Railroad” was published in the November, 1948, issue of Fortune. The article stated that although the Santa Fe does not claim the distinction nor has it been publicly bestowed, the road has climbed to an all-round eminence that can be challenged by no other. In all the attributes, taken together, that make a railroad great—size, location, finances, operations and history—the Santa Fe probably has no equal. Started in the late 1860’s by Cyrus Holliday of Topeka, the Santa Fe now has about 13,000 miles of track situated in the path of the nation’s present industrial expansion and in some of its most productive agricultural areas.

“Magic Circle Idea Is Growing,” was the title of a brief article by A. Q. Miller in the Belleville Telescope, November 4, 1948. The article was based on a recent story in Fortune from which Mr. Miller quotes extensively concerning the history of Roger Babson’s “Magic Circle” enterprise centering at Eureka, Kan.

Osage county history as compiled by the Kansas Historical Records Survey, W. P. A., has continued to appear regularly in The Peoples Herald, Lyndon. Information on various types of county records, including description and location, has been featured in recent articles.

Soil and water are two of our basic natural resources which must be utilized rather than wasted, Maj. Gen. Lewis Pick, co-author of the Pick-Sloan plan for the Missouri river basin and Missouri river basin engineer for the U. S. corps of engineers, told delegates to the annual meeting of the Kansas Reclamation Association in Belleville recently. General Pick’s remarks were published in the Belleville Telescope, November 11, 13, 25 and December 2, 1948. The general described the Missouri basin’s comparatively rapid development as the bread basket of the nation and emphasized that the agricultural peak reached in the basin in recent years must be maintained. A summary of what has been done in the way of constructing dams, electric power plants and irrigation projects, and a few words about what more can be expected from the reclamation program, concluded General Pick’s talk.

A historical sketch of Neodesha by Mrs. C. O. Pingrey was printed in the Neodesha Register, November 25, 1948. The article was written for the Consolidator, published by the Consolidated Gas Utilities Corporation, where it appeared in the September issue. Neodesha began in 1867 as a trading post owned by Dr. Allen Mc-
Cartney and Alex Phelon. The most important event in the history of the town, according to Mrs. Pingrey, was the bringing in of the first commercial oil well in the mid-continent field in 1892. Mrs. Pingrey touched briefly on the industries, civic organizations and other institutions of Neodesha.

A list of 20 junior colleges and 22 senior colleges of Kansas, with enrollment figures for the fall terms of 1947 and 1948, was published in the December, 1948, number of the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Lawrence. A total of 37,181 students were enrolled in 1948, a decrease of 149 from the 1947 enrollment. Among other articles of interest was, “The Petroleum Industry in Kansas,” a 56-page review of the gas and oil industry and the vital part it has played in Kansas economy, by Earl K. Nixon. Articles in the March, 1949, number included: “Kansas Weather: 1948,” by S. D. Flora; “The Growth and Development of Black Walnut on Coal Strip-Mined Land in Southeast Kansas,” by Nelson F. Rogers; “Kansas Meteorite Discoveries 1873-1948,” and “Significance of the Norton, Kansas, Meteorite,” by H. H. Nininger.

John Redmond, editor and publisher of The Daily Republican, Burlington, commented on his “first” half-century as a publisher on December 1, 1948, the 50th anniversary of his purchase of the paper. He bought the newspaper, then called The Jeffersonian, from Dan Kellar Swearingen. The present Republican is said to have the largest circulation of any daily paper in the nation in proportion to the population of its town. The Chanute Tribune, December 6, noted the Burlington editor’s anniversary and devoted an editorial to his hobby, flood control.

The Altamont Journal, December 2, 1948, mentioned briefly that it was beginning its 46th year of publication. Frank E. George founded the Journal in 1903 and published it until 1946. Victor L. George is the present editor and publisher.

Harry H. Seckler’s articles on early Leavenworth have continued in recent issues of the Leavenworth Times. Among them were: “Many Facts of City’s Early Life in Danger of Being Lost Forever,” December 5, 1948; “Recalling a Few Facts About Leavenworth in the Old Days,” December 12; “A Number of ‘Firsts’ in the Bygone History of Leavenworth,” including a review of the life of David J. Brewer, prominent Kansas jurist, December 19; “The Old Morris School Was the Pride of Every Leavenworthian,” December 26;


Historical articles of interest to Kansans in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) Star included: “Factory in Lawrence, Kas., Makes Church Pipe Organs,” by Pat James, December 12, 1948; “Part of Kansas Was Ceded to Spain by United States in Deal for Florida,” a review of an article by Prof. Walter H. Schoewe of the departments of geology and geography at the University of Kansas, by Edward R. Schaufler, December 29; “Former Kansas Citian [John S. Stamm] Is Head of 24 Million Protestants,” a native of Kansas chosen president of the Federal Council of Churches, January 8, 1949; “The Kansas ‘Doctor of the Year’ [Dr. Charles S. Huffman of Columbus] Still a Bedside Physician at 83,” by Conwell Carlson, and “A Kansas City [Kan.] Girl [Jean Budinger] Scores in Film and Writing Fields,” by Erma Young, January 9; “Frontier Editors of Old West Often Backed Printed Word With Weapons,” reprinted from an article in the American Mercury by Wayne Gard, January 12; “His 38 Years on Court Bench Builds the Good Will of All,” a biographical sketch of Judge J. H. Wendorff of Leaven-
worth, by Harry Hannon, and “Hers [Elizabeth Blackwell] a Medical Epic,” a Topeka woman doctor, Margaret D. Craighill, one of several to be honored at a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the awarding of a medical degree to Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor, January 23; “Crumbling Headstones Near Ottawa, Kas., a Link With Cultural Pioneers,” the historic cemetery is the final resting place of several early missionaries and many Indians, among whom are Jotham Meeker and John Tecumseh (Tauny) Jones, by Charles Arthur Hawley, January 27; “Visiting King Ranch, an Empire of Cattle, Horses and Oil,” a brief history and description of the million-acre Texas ranch, by Roy A. Roberts, and “Through the Snow to Jetmore After Kansas Blizzard of 1912,” Edward R. Schaufller recalls his own experiences in reaching the snowbound village, January 30, and “Kansas Song Up Fast,” the story behind Mack David’s new Kansas song, “Sunflower,” March 6. Articles appearing in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times were: “Dream of Kansas Pioneer Bishop [Jesse Engle] Is Fulfilled in Central Africa,” a mission in Rhodesia, founded by the “River Brethren” of Abilene, celebrates its 50th anniversary, by C. M. Hargr, December 27, 1948; “Two Historic Brass Cannon Boomed When Kansas Reached Statehood 88 Years Ago,” Leavenworth and Lawrence each found old cannon with which to celebrate the state’s admission to the Union, by Cecil Howes, January 29, 1949; “Captain Kipp, Renowned Fort Builder and Trader, a Platte County [Mo.] Settler,” a biographical sketch of a pioneer who established and maintained numerous outposts on the upper Missouri river, by John Edward Hicks, February 21, and “Two Priests [the Rev. Francis Jerasa and the Rev. August Heimann] Who Know Hardships of Different Kinds Join Hands in Kansas,” one suffered at the hands of the Nazis and Communists and the other suffered the early-day hardships in Kansas, by Mary M. Hobbs, February 28. A series of articles on the mentally ill in Kansas and the state mental institutions by Charles W. Graham has been published in the Star and Times in recent months. Mr. Graham’s articles in the Star included: “New Hope for Senile Aged Is Offered by Program Under Way at Great Bend,” December 17, 1948; “Woman Who Knows the Inside of State Hospitals Keeps Up Fight for Reform,” January 3, 1949; “Definite Limits on Mental Ability of Wards of the State at Winfield School,” January 6; “Homicide Charge Implied in Deaths of Some Mental Hospital Patients,” January 29; “Kansas Has 180,000 Persons Each Year Suffering Mental Ills, Survey Shows,” February 4, and “Menninger

In the Lawrence Daily Journal-World, December 14, 1948, W. C. Simons commented in an editorial on his 57 years of newspaper work in Lawrence. Mr. Simons and two associates began the operation of the Lawrence Record in December, 1891. In March, 1892, the Lawrence World, published by Mr. Simons and his associates, made its first appearance, and by July, 1921, the World had absorbed all its competitors. Editorial remarks on Mr. Simons’ career as a newspaper man appeared in the Pittsburg Headlight, December 20, 1948.

“Over Early Shawnee Trails With Olathe’s Charley Hoge,” was the title of a brief article in The Johnson County Democrat, Olathe, December 16, 1948. Mr. Hoge, born in 1871, recalled some of the early history of the area around Shawnee. In the same issue was, “There’s No Profit in Kansas Gold,” a brief report of an interview with Dr. Walter H. Schoewe of the State Geological Survey at the University of Kansas.

Mayors of Blue Rapids from 1872 to 1947 were named in a historical sketch of the city published in the Blue Rapids Times, December 16, 1948.

“The Eisenhowers of Kansas,” by Quentin Reynolds, was a feature article in the December 18, 1948, issue of Collier’s. Accompanying the story were two pictures of the family, taken in 1902 and 1926, and a full-page picture of the five brothers as they visited together in Dwight’s study just before he was made president of Columbia University. Parts of the brothers' conversation, as they talked of the days when they grew up in Abilene, were reported. The article also included a brief biographical sketch of each
member of the family, a glance at the family ancestry and facts about their home and neighbors in Abilene.


Mrs. Anna Ward’s recollections of the Quantrill raid on Lawrence in 1863 and other early events appeared in the St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press, January 2, 1949, and in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World, January 27. Mrs. Ward, now a resident of St. Joseph, Mo., was five years of age and living in Lawrence at the time of the raid, in which her own home was destroyed. The article was written by Ada Lyon.

With the issue of January 6, 1949, the Chetopa Advance began the 80th year of its publication. Founded by Col. John W. Horner and A. S. Corey, the Advance first made its appearance early in January, 1869.

A history of the Lucas schools from 1872 to 1894, by J. C. Ruppenthal, was printed in the Lucas Independent, January 19, 1949. Hiram Colby Hibbard, elected county superintendent of public instruction in 1872, began the organization of school districts in Russell county in 1873. The meager early school records indicate that Miss Elma Pratt taught one of the first schools near Lucas in a dugout about 1876-1877. Lucas school history was also briefly sketched in the Russell Daily News, January 17, 1949.