Kansas History as Published in the Press

W. W. Graves' "History of Neosho County," has continued to be published regularly in the St. Paul Journal. A history of Chanute was included in issues of recent months.

A history of the county-seat fight in Gray county was told by George W. Bolds, one of the few Gray county pioneers still living. His "Story of Battle of Cimarron, Jan. 12, 1889," was published serially in The Jacksonian, Cimarron, beginning February 16, 1950. High light of the contest between Cimarron and Ingalls for the county seat was the gun battle in Cimarron when the sheriff and his deputies attempted to move the county records to Ingalls.

"Kansas Weather—1949," by R. A. Garrett, was published in Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Lawrence, March, 1950. Also of historical interest was the editor's page, devoted to the history of Kansas and the West in 1850 and their development since that time. Robert Taft, University of Kansas, is the editor.

"Interesting Early Day Sketches," by Clayton Hall, Minneola, appeared in the Clark County Clipper, Ashland, March 2, 1950. Hall, the son of R. L. Hall, was born April 7, 1886, the second white boy born in Clark county.

Memories of early days in Caldwell were recalled by C. Ross Hume, Anadarko, Okla., in the Caldwell Messenger, March 2, 1950. Hume lived in Caldwell, where he attended public school, from 1881 to late in 1890.

A brief history of North Blue Rapids, Marshall county, by C. D. Smith, was printed in the Blue Rapids Times, March 2, 1950. Although platted in 1874, little progress was made in the development of North Blue Rapids until 1878 when a foundry and machine shop was built. The community reached its zenith of prosperity in 1891 but soon afterward began to deteriorate. Most of the buildings were destroyed by the floods of 1902 and 1903.

"Wyatt Earp Rides Again," was the title of an article by Ernest Dewey published in the Hutchinson News-Herald, March 5, 1950. A series of articles by Mr. Dewey, entitled "Legends of Wheat Country," first appeared in the News-Herald, April 30, when "Carry Nation Was a Fiction Who Tried Hard to Be a Fact," was published. Later articles in the series included: "Was Madoc's Visit Fact or
Fantasy?”, on May 7, a discussion of whether the Welsh prince, Madoc, and his followers were the ancestors of the Mandan Indians, and “Calamity Jane Was a Caution,” May 14.

The history of the old Whitley opera house in Emporia and recollections of the attractions presented there, as revealed by a large scrapbook belonging to the Lyon County Historical Society, were printed in the Emporia Weekly Gazette, March 9, 1950.

The reminiscences of Irving Buchanan, whose parents settled in Chelsea, Butler county, in 1868, were printed in the Butler Free-Lance, El Dorado, March 9, 1950.


The history of The Modern Light, Columbus, was printed in the issue of March 9, 1950. The Light, now owned by C. W. Grant, was established in 1891 by Joe Clawson and C. Len Albin. A column, “Do You Remember When?” composed of local historical items, has appeared in The Modern Light regularly in recent months.

Among historical articles of interest to Kansans appearing recently in the Kansas City (Mo.) Star were: “Railroad Men Gave Their Names to Towns Which Grew on Kansas Prairie,” by E. B. Dykes Beachy, March 9, 1950; “Centennial Trek With Little Mo Draws Crowds Along Old Trails,” Ed Gallinagh and his pack mule, Little Mo, retrace on foot the 750 miles of the Santa Fe trail, by John Alexander, March 26; “Old Cattle Brands Recall the Story of Great Days on Western Grasslands,” a review of J. Evetts Haley’s The Heraldry of the Range, by John Edward Hicks, April 3, and “Nathan Scarritt Found Wilderness Here in Early [late 1840’s] Missions to Indians,” by Lt. Col. Ralph E. Pearson, April 11. Articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times were: “Jim Bridger Was Long Well Known Here But Little Appreciated in His Time,” by E. B. Dykes Beachy, April 11, and “Big Growth of College and Friendships Is Record of Eisenhower at Manhattan,” by Roger Swanson, May 10.


"The Southwestern Expedition of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, 1806-1807," by Dick Blackburn, student at Kansas Wesleyan University, was published in serial form in the Courtland Journal, beginning March 16, 1950. Pike started on his journey in the summer of 1806, traveling across Missouri and much of Kansas to the village of the Pawnee Republic on the Republican river, where he lowered the Spanish flag and raised the stars and stripes for the first time. From there he marched on into the mountains to face a severe winter and discover the peak that now bears his name.

A history of old Runnymede, dead Harper county town about two and one-half miles northeast of present Runnymede, by Ralph Hoover, was published serially in the Harper Advocate, March 23, 30, April 6, 27, May 4, 11, 1950. In 1888 Ned Turnley brought 40 young Englishmen to Harper county. Not long afterward Turnley lost control of his charges, and under the leadership of Richard Wathrough they planned and built the town of Runnymede. The town boomed briefly and money was raised to bring a railroad through, but the railroad didn't come and Runnymede began to wither. The grave of Lord Thomas Sharpe Hudson is all that now remains to mark the location of the townsite.

A biographical sketch of John Mathews, founder of Little Town—present Oswego—was published in the Oswego Democrat, March 24, 1950. Mathews, said to be the first permanent white settler in southeast Kansas, located where Oswego now stands in the early 1840's and built a house and other buildings where he operated a trading post and tavern.

The Clay Center Dispatch published a diamond jubilee edition, March 25, 1950, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of Clay Center. The townsite was selected in 1862 by John and Alonzo F. Dexter, who were the first settlers, but the town was not incorporated until 1875.

A 134-page Mid-Century Resources edition of the Arkansas City Daily Traveler was published March 28, 1950. Included in the edition were sections on the resources, industries, history, culture, recreation, agriculture and progress of Arkansas City.