The Annual Meeting

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society and board of directors was held in the rooms of the Society on October 18, 1949.

The meeting of the directors was called to order by President R. F. Brock at 10 a.m. First business was the reading of the annual report by the secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT, YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 18, 1949

At the conclusion of last year's meeting, the newly elected president, R. F. Brock, reappointed John S. Dawson and T. M. Lillard to the executive committee. The members holding over were Robert C. Rankin, Charles M. Correll and Milton R. McLean.

APPROPRIATIONS

The 1949 legislature granted a number of increases for the biennium which began July 1. The principal item was $92,000 for new steel shelving, which included a reappropriation of $38,000. Of this sum, $60,000 will be spent for two floors of shelving above the present library and for a book elevator which will service eight floors of newspaper and library stacks. The $32,000 balance will provide two floors of shelving in the basement for the archives division. Another important item was an increase of $10,000 a year in the microfilm fund, making a total of $20,000 a year for that division. A large part of this increase will be used for microfilming archives records.

A bill for increased salaries for members of the staff was introduced by Senators Beck and Porter at the beginning of the session. Later it was suggested by the senate fees and salaries committee that the Society's salaries be placed under the merit system. It will be remembered that when the system was established the Society, at our request, was not included. This year, however, it was felt best to accept the recommendation. For the most part, the increased salaries which became effective July 1 are satisfactory—or will be satisfactory when the maximum amounts within the ranges are reached. Two exceptions are the increases for the librarian and the state archivist, and it is hoped that an adjustment of their salaries can be made.

There has been some criticism of the merit system and there will always be attacks by some politicians, but on the whole it is operating effectively. It is my belief that few department heads, either elective or appointive, would choose to return to the spoils system, though they might not say so at party meetings. Experience so far does not appear to bear out the claim that inefficient people are frozen on the job, for they can always be reduced in grade or discharged for cause. The Historical Society, fortunately, has never been subject to political influence. There was a time, however, when our janitors were political appointees—when they could and did tell us how much and how little they would work. Until they were transferred to the Society it was
impossible to keep the Memorial building presentable. In my opinion, so long as there is no deliberate attack on the merit system by the party in office, as has been the case lately in Missouri, it will work to the advantage of both employees and the state.

Library

During the year 2,927 persons did research in the library. Of these, 1,215 worked on Kansas subjects, 995 on genealogy and 717 on general subjects. Numerous inquiries were answered by letter and 125 packages on Kansas subjects were sent out from the loan file. A total of 3,150 newspaper clippings were mounted from papers covering January 1, 1948, through March, 1949.

The library has become a repository for the Music Library Association, whose object is to preserve musical materials of local and regional interest. Help from individuals and institutions in collecting material will be appreciated.

Many gifts of Kansas books and genealogies were received from individuals. Typed and printed genealogical records were presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Colonial Dames presented a microfilm copy of the federal census of 1850 for Indiana. The 1850 census was the first in which the names of all members of families were included. Gifts from the Woman’s Kansas Day Club included music, books, pamphlets and clippings. A microfilm copy of a thesis by Joseph Wade, “A History of Kansas Trails and Roads,” has been added to the library.

Picture Collection

During the year, 219 pictures were classified and catalogued and added to the picture collection. Among them was an oil portrait of Sen. Arthur Capper, painted by A. L. Tice, and presented by the Capper employees.

Archives Division

The 1949 legislature authorized an assistant archivist, who began work on July 1. Plans and specifications for the new steel shelving are now being drawn up by the state architect. It is hoped that this work, which will be included in the same contract with the new library stacks, will be completed by early spring. When this is done it will be possible to go ahead with plans to film a substantial portion of the most bulky archival material. Pending installation of the stacks, no effort has been made to secure new archives accessions during the year. For this reason, too, the transfer of several groups of materials from the state house has been postponed. As a result, the division reports only the accessioning of the statistical rolls of Kansas counties for 1942, statistical rolls of Kansas cities for 1948 and 1949, and abstracts of statistical rolls for Kansas counties, 1940-1942. These total 4,599 volumes.

The State Board of Engineering Examiners recently filmed its “Engineering Applicants’ Folders,” 1931-1948, and its annual reports and rosters, 1932-1948, in order to eliminate unnecessary handling of the original records. Positive film copies were retained for current office use, while the negatives in 21 reels were deposited with the Historical Society as a protective measure.
MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION

Acquisitions of this division for the year were 78 manuscript volumes, four microfilm reels of manuscript material, and approximately 8,250 individual manuscripts.

The two largest collections received were the papers of George A. Root and Oscar K. Swayze. Both men spent most of their lives in Topeka, were long-time friends, and both died in 1949. George A. Root, who had worked for the Historical Society for more than 50 years, kept personal diaries covering the years 1885 to 1949. These, and a vast amount of data on Topeka and Shawnee county history, are of particular value. Also of interest are the papers of his father, Frank A. Root, an early-day Overland stage messenger and agent, and newspaper publisher of Kansas. The Swayze papers cover the years 1856-1949. Of special note are records of the Topeka Republican Flambeau Club, a colorful political organization of the 1880's and 1890's.

From Will T. Beck came 33 letters written between 1887 and 1898 by and to his father, M. M. Beck, Holton newspaperman. They deal largely with state and local political matters. Among the writers were John J. Ingalls, Preston B. Plumb, E. N. Morrill and D. R. Anthony.


Interesting details of pioneer life in territorial Kansas are contained in a diary for six months of 1858, kept by John H. Deering who settled in Palmyra, Douglas county, in that year. This volume was lent to the Society for copying by Dr. Homer K. Ebright of Baker University, Baldwin.

Through J. R. Hubbard of the Santa Fe railroad, the Society received photocopies of 40 letters which the railroad's founder, Cyrus K. Holliday, wrote to his family between 1864 and 1883.

A "Special Order Book," of the former army post, Fort Hays, has been microfilmed through the courtesy of Dr. Raymond L. Welty of Fort Hays Kansas State College. The volume includes orders dated between October 15, 1866, and May 26, 1868, some of them detailing troops to protect the mail and the stations on the Smoky Hill route from Indian depredations. United States troops stationed at this post, which was first called Fort Fletcher, included companies of the Third, Nineteenth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth infantry regiments.

From Frank Hodges, Olathe, the Society received 11 ledgers and day books of the Hodges Brothers, lumber dealers in Olathe. These volumes cover the years from 1888 to 1900, and are valuable for their detailed records of prices and business methods.

An account of life in Topeka is contained in the diaries of Mrs. Martha V. Farnsworth. These records for the years 1882-1897, 1899, 1902-1922, were given by Mrs. Lucille V. Farnsworth of Topeka. Other papers received in this collection include 34 letters (1870-1898) by William Blackford to H. W. Farnsworth, relating to settlement of Indian depredations claims.

Fifty-two Civil War letters (1862-1864) by Cyrus Leland, Jr., a lieutenant in the Tenth Kansas infantry, written from various points in Kansas and
Missouri, to his mother and brother, were given the Society by Charles Hay- 
den, of Topeka.

Mrs. Sara Morse of Mound City gave 89 letters mostly written by her 
father, Dr. Joseph H. Trego. The letters of the 1857-1858 period concern his 
coming to Kansas and his life in Mound City; those of the 1861-1864 period 
tell of his Civil War experiences as a lieutenant in the Fifth Kansas cavalry.

Four diaries of L. H. Riddle, of Marion county, covering the years 1887- 
1891, were lent the Society for copying by his son Kenyon Riddle, of Raton, 
N. M. These volumes contain family notes, items about local events, and 
political comment from the Democratic viewpoint.

The autobiography of Elbert Olin Raymond, a Methodist minister in 
Kansas from 1888 to 1921, was received from his grandson, Robert S. Ray- 
mond of Las Cruces, N. M. Pastorates held by the Rev. E. O. Raymond 
included Herington, Topeka, Overbrook, Sheranton, Havensville, Centralia, 
Olivet, Dunlap and Mount Ida.

Early records (1865-1889) of Lincoln College, later Washburn, including 
articles of incorporation, by-laws, faculty constitution and minutes of trustees' meetings, from a volume belonging to Washburn Municipal University, were microfilmed through the courtesy of Richard Vogel, treasurer.

Also microfilmed were two record books (1859-1861) of Edward E. Oakley, 
who lived in Lecompton, and later in Bourbon county. These were lent by 
Mrs. Sidney Milbauer of West Hollywood, Cal. The first book includes a 
diary of Oakley's overland journey from Lecompton to the gold mines of 
Colorado in 1859 which is of particular interest.

Other donors were: Dr. George Anderson, Lawrence; F. C. Bartlett, To- 
peka; Cecil Baxter, Jr., Salina; George H. Browne, Kansas City, Mo.; Arthur 
Capper, Topeka; Redmond S. Cole, Tulsa, Okla.; Crawford County His- 
torical Society; Mrs. O. P. Dellinger, Pittsburg; Lillian Forrest, Jewell; 
Grant W. Harrington, Kansas City, Kan.; Dr. Nate Harwood, Manhattan; 
Irving Hill, Lawrence; Mrs. Lalla B. Jacobs, Washington, D. C.; U. M. Grant 
Jeffreys, Monmouth, Ill.; Legislative Wives; Louise McLellan, Topeka; Dr. 
Karl A. Menninger, Topeka; May E. Murphy, Meade; Mrs. Fred R. Nie- 
haus, Boulder, Colo.; Rev. J. J. Runyon, Duluth, Minn.; Judge J. C. Rup- 
penthal, Russell; Shawnee County Historical Society; W. C. Simons, Law- 
rence; Lena Martin Smith, Pittsburg; Marjorie Stauffer, Pasadena, Cal.; 
R. C. Wagner, Kansas City; William Henry Smith Memorial Library, In-
dianapolis, Ind.; James M. Williams, Jr., Trinidad, Colo.; Robert L. Wil-
liams, St. Petersburg, Fla., and the Woman's Kansas Day Club.

MICROFILM DIVISION

Nearly 1,500,000 pages of Kansas newspapers have now been photographed. 
Major projects for the year were the filming of the Iola Register, the Law- 

The Iola Register film, which ran to 174 reels, covered issues from 1869 
through 1947, a total of 79 years. Angelo Scott, publisher of the Register, is 
now having current issues of the paper filmed by a commercial concern. A 
copy of this film is being donated by Mr. Scott to the Society.

The Leavenworth Times film made 286 reels and covered the period from 
September 17, 1868, through 1944, a total of nearly 77 years. The publisher, 
Dan Anthony, III, has also planned to microfilm current issues.
Photographing is completed on the Lawrence Daily World from March 3, 1892, through February 18, 1911, the Weekly World from March 11, 1892, through March 25, 1909, and the Daily Journal-World from February 20, 1911, through December 31, 1945. At present, the Lawrence Daily Gazette, beginning October 1, 1884, one of the predecessors of the Journal-World, is being photographed.

NEWSPAPER AND CENSUS DIVISIONS

Four hundred and sixteen certified copies of census records were issued last month, a record that has not been equalled since early in the war. It is interesting to note that most of the requests now come by mail. Letters are being received from all parts of the United States and especially from California. A number of the applicants are old enough to be eligible for pensions of various kinds, and it is from this age class that many of the requests are coming. Copies of the census records, which the Society has been issuing for years without charge, can be used in many ways, including the filing of claims for old-age assistance, social security, railroad retirement, pensions and insurance endowments; for delayed birth certificates and passports, and to prove citizenship. Even after death, relatives in many instances have been asked to secure a certified record showing the age of the deceased.

How long this increased demand will keep up, no one knows. Perhaps it is becoming necessary for everyone, living or dead, to have documents on file proving his age and date of birth.

During the year, 3,186 patrons called in person at the newspaper and census divisions. Seventeen thousand three hundred single issues of newspapers, 5,878 bound volumes of newspapers and 879 microfilm reels were consulted; 5,699 census volumes were searched and from them 3,430 certified copies of family age records were issued.

The 1949 annual List of Kansas Newspapers and Periodicals was distributed in September. This is the 54th issue since the Society's organization. The 1949 List shows 656 newspapers and periodicals being received regularly for filing. These include 57 dailies, one triweekly, 15 semeweeklies, 385 weeklies, 16 fortnightlies, 25 semimonthlies, three once every three weeks, 118 monthlies, 17 bimonthlies, 27 quarterlies, 19 occasionals, one semiannual, and two annuals, coming from all the 105 Kansas counties. Of these 686 publications, 253 are listed as independent, 120 Republican and 19 as Democratic in politics; 90 are school or college, 39 religious, 22 fraternal, seven labor, seven industrial, 18 trade and 111 miscellaneous.

The Society's collection of Kansas newspapers, as of January 1, 1949, totaled 52,836 bound volumes, in addition to more than 10,000 bound volumes of out-of-state newspapers dated from 1767 to 1949.

This Society has subscribed for microfilm copies of the Kansas City (Mo.) Times and Star. The service started with the issues of June 1, 1949. The film runs about one 100-ft. reel for every ten days of papers, or three rolls per month.

Among the donors of newspapers during the year, exclusive of the editors of Kansas, were: Cherokee Advocate, Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, January 15 and 22, 1846, from Genevieve Scheer, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Topeka Daily Blade, February 21, 1876-February 28, 1878, from Oscar Swayne, Topeka; and a miscellaneous collection of World War I papers, including Camp Dodger,

**Annals of Kansas**

Compilation of the "Annals" has been completed to 1913. The work began four years ago with the year 1886. In the past year six "Annals" years were compiled. In addition, proceedings of 65 organizations were recorded.

It may be of interest to note some of the events which took place in Kansas during the period just completed—1906 to 1912, inclusive. The University of Kansas, for example, developed the process of separating helium from gas. Kansas State College extended its teachings through farmers' institutes, dairy trains, county agents and boys and girls clubs. Dr. S. J. Crumbley waged a law-the-fly campaign and lowered infant mortality. Labor and industry reported fewer violations of the Eight-hour and Child Labor laws, together with improved working conditions, more arbitration and fewer strikes. Charles Curtis became senator in spite of White, Allen, Stubbs and Bristow, who said he was "nominated by men on passes." Capper lost the governorship to George Hodges because of the Progressive uprising and "misapprehension of the ballot." The Memorial building was under construction. George Root found the original draft of the Wyandotte constitution while searching for historic documents in the secretary of state's office. The Equal Suffrage law, the Blue Sky law and the Bank Guaranty law were passed. Wireless stations were installed at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth. Ed Howe divided his estate and retired to Potato Hill to edit his magazine.

Deaths included those of Governors Morrill, Stanley and Glick, and Daniel Webster Wilder, Eugene Ware and Carry Nation.

Reading and checking "Annals" for the period entailed the handling of 1,700 bound newspaper volumes. The Topeka *Daily Capital* was read carefully for the gist of "Annals." Kansas City and Wichita dailies were read and checked with the *Capital* items. The Topeka *State Journal*, official state paper for the period, was also scanned closely. Over-the-state items were checked in local newspapers, which averaged 100 weeklies and 42 dailies for each "Annals" year. The microfilm was used for checking Iola and Leavenworth items.

Approximately 500 library volumes were handled in recording organization proceedings. They included bound volumes of transactions, pamphlets, programs, clippings and journals. Date, place of meeting and officers elected were recorded. Incomplete records were supplemented from newspapers wherever possible; for example, the Christian church, the YMCA and the State Dental Association's records. Other organizations which have not kept records, or at least have not filed them with the State Historical library, are being compiled. There are at least 25 of these "forgotten" groups, which include agriculture, professional, religious, educational, fraternal and sports organizations.

Summaries of the annual reports on population, finance, banks, insurance, labor and industry, agriculture, education, charitable institutions and public utilities conclude each "Annals" year. This entails the use of about 75 library
volumes. The library is also used for checking laws, legislators' records, biographies, book and magazine publications of Kansas writers, names, dates and initials. Charter books provide information for tables which show various developments in the state. Good roads movements were shown for the first time, and organized sports increased rapidly in the picture the charters present.

It takes two annuals an average of seven and a half weeks to read, check and write an "Annals" year. About half of that time is spent in reading. Checking has become easier, probably because of better news coverage and more daily papers. Manuscripts averaged 85 pages, making a total of 510 pages of typing, or about 150,000 words.

MUSEUM

The attendance for the year in the museum was 43,426. The largest number on any one day was 1,074, when the Santa Fe railroad sponsored a special educational tour.

There were 70 accessions. One of the most interesting was a Spanish sword given by Ray R. Kepley of Ulysses. It was found by Mr. Kepley in southwest Grant county in 1935, about 200 yards from the North fork of the Cimarron. The hilt bears the mark of Juan Morena, a principal swordsmith of Toledo before 1700. A Latin phrase on one side means "Everything From God." On the other side are Spanish words meaning "In Toledo."

An unusual cradle used from the early 1830's in the family of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gardner, Scranton, was given by their children.

A horse block from the home of Gov. John W. Leedy, Le Roy, was given by Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Colton of that city. The gift was made through Glick Fockele of Le Roy.

Civil War relics of Col. James M. Williams, 1st regiment Kansas Colored volunteers, were presented by his sons, James M. Williams, Jr., and Robert L. Williams.

A mounted steer head and an unusual pair of steer horns were given by Will J. Miller.

Three relics of horse and buggy days were a felloe trough, used for soaking wheel rims; gift of L. L. Culp, Burden; a corkscrew stake for tying horses and cattle; gift of Lydia Anna Eddleman, Hollenberg; and a hitching weight, gift of George Geisen, Topeka.

Gov. Frank Carlson sent to the Society a Sevres vase, a gift from Pres. Vincent Auriol of France. It was brought to Kansas on the "Merci Train."

SUBJECTS FOR RESEARCH

Extended research on the following subjects was done during the year: Biography: J. K. Codding; Dr. John R. Brinkley. General: Geographic factors in railroad promotion of settlement in the central Great Plains; sugar beet industry; Santa Fe trail; railroad building in Kansas; building of the Union Pacific railroad; evolution of schools in Phillips county; Pottawatomie Indian agency, Horton, function, services, process of rehabilitation; pioneer credit in the Plains states; negro exodus to Kansas with special reference to Benjamin Singleton; Winter Veterans Hospital; legislative and congressional apportionment; history of the layout tools used in the wood-working shop; veterans problems in Kansas after the Civil War; people of Czech (Bo-
hemian) descent in Republic county, Kansas; pro-slavery activities as given in the Webb scrapbooks; bibliography of American autobiographies; social aspects of the distribution of the United States lands; Populism; Populist newspapers; Oklahoma territorial newspapers; negro troops in the Union army 1861-1865; state fair in Kansas; Miami Indians.

ACCESSIONS

October 1, 1948, to September 30, 1949

Library:
Books ................................................. 874
Pamphlets ............................................. 1,310
Magazines (bound volumes) ......................... 148

Archives:
Separate manuscripts ................................ None
Manuscripts volumes ................................ 4,599
Manuscript maps ..................................... None
21 reels of microfilm.
Private manuscripts:
Separate manuscripts ................................ 8,250
Volumes ................................................. 78
4 reels of microfilm.
Printed maps, atlases and charts ..................... 301
Newspapers (bound volumes) ........................ 662
Pictures ............................................... 219
Museum objects ....................................... 70

TOTAL ACCESSIONS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1949

Books, pamphlets, bound newspapers and magazines .......... 437,737
Separate manuscripts (archives) ................................ 1,632,610
Manuscript volumes (archives) ............................ 52,973
Manuscript maps (archives) ................................ 583
Printed maps, atlases and charts ........................... 11,698
Pictures ................................................. 23,937
Museum objects ....................................... 33,421

THE QUARTERLY

The 17th bound volume of *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, which is now in its 18th year, will soon be ready for distribution. A feature of this volume is the diary of James R. Stewart, who started as a farmer, studied and peddled medicine, studied and practiced law, and became a justice of the peace, postmaster and school teacher all within five years.

Dr. Robert Taft's articles on the artists of the West continue to attract comment. Scribner's has arranged to reissue the articles in book form.

The *Quarterly* is widely quoted by Kansas newspapers, and apparently has even been heard of in Hollywood. Not long ago a man who lives in Spokane, Wash., wrote: "Gentlemen: Having just been able to debunk this new movie epic, 'Red River,' that showed Hereford cattle being driven into Abilene in 1867, with an article out of your August issue, I should like to get back on your subscription list. . . ."
OLD SHAWNEE MISSION

During the past year sight-seers from 20 states and a number of foreign countries visited the Mission. Many groups came from over the state, and particularly from the two Kansas Cities. Regular visits are made by groups of boy scouts, girl scouts, Sunday schools, community centers and school grades. On one day 700 pupils from the Paseo high school at Kansas City were shown through the buildings. In this connection, the following letter from the Country Club Community Center of Kansas City, Mo., addressed to Harry Hardy, the custodian, will be of interest:

"On behalf of the staff of the Country Club Community Center, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the fine spirit of cooperation which has been shown to us and our groups of boys and girls who have been visitors in your Mission.

"We know the results have been very satisfactory as the youngsters are more than enthusiastic. In fact, this phase of our summer program is one of the most popular and has the largest enrollment of all others.

"We realize that some groups have been quite large, but with the ingenuity of your guides, they have been handled very well. We want you to know that all of our groups were very well received by you and your staff, and we certainly appreciate this."

Minor repairs and improvements continue to be made on the buildings and grounds. A contract is being let for a new roof on the East building and the exterior woodwork on the three buildings will be painted early in the spring. The electric wiring in the East building has been largely replaced, to eliminate a fire hazard, and additional hose connections on the water system have been installed for the same purpose.

The Society is indebted to the state departments of the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of American Colonists, the Daughters of 1812, and to the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society for their continued cooperation at the Mission.

THE FIRST CAPITOL

Several years ago, when the cottage was erected for the caretaker at the First Capitol building, there was not enough money for installing electricity. Last winter the legislature appropriated money for this purpose, as well as for painting the cottage and outbuildings, and for repairing sidewalks and replacing trees and shrubs.

THE STAFF OF THE SOCIETY

The various accomplishments noted in this report are due to the Society's splendid staff of employees. I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to them. Special mention, perhaps, should be made of the heads of departments: Nyle H. Miller, assistant secretary and managing editor of the Quarterly; Helen M. McFarland, librarian; Edith Smelser, custodian of the museum; Mrs. Lela Barnes, treasurer; Edgar Langdorf, archivist and manager of the building; and Jennie S. Owen, annalist. Attention should also be called to the work of Harry A. Hardy and his wife Kate, custodians of the Old Shawnee Mission, and to that of John Scott, custodian of the First Capitol.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRKE MECHEM, Secretary.
At the conclusion of the reading of the secretary's report, Robert Taft moved that it be accepted. Motion was seconded by John S. Dawson and the report was accepted.

President Brock then called for the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Lela Barnes:

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Based on the audit of the state accountant for the period August 17, 1948, to August 24, 1949.

**MEMBERSHIP FEE FUND**

Balance, August 17, 1948:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. S. savings bonds, Series G</td>
<td>8,700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$12,755.56</strong></td>
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Receipts:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>Bond interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reimbursement for postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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**$14,394.91**

Disbursements

Balance, August 24, 1949:

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**$14,394.91**

**JONATHAN PECKER BEQUEST**

Balance, August 17, 1948:

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Receipts:

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<tr>
<td>Savings account interest</td>
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<td><strong>28.73</strong></td>
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**$1,142.81**

Disbursements:

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Balance, August 24, 1949:

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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>1,113.56</strong></td>
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</table>

**$1,142.81**
THE ANNUAL MEETING

JOHN BOOTH BEQUEST

Balance, August 17, 1948:
Cash ........................................ $58.48
U. S. treasury bonds ....................... 500.00
Total .......................................... $558.48

Receipts:
Bond interest ................................ $14.40
Savings account interest ................. .70
Total .......................................... 15.10

Total .......................................... $573.58

Disbursements:
Book ........................................... $22.66
Balance, August 24, 1949:
Cash ........................................... $50.92
U. S. treasury bonds ....................... 500.00
Total .......................................... 550.92

Total .......................................... $573.58

THOMAS H. BOWLUS DONATION

This donation is substantiated by a U. S. savings bond, Series G, in the amount of $1,000. The interest is credited to the membership fee fund.

ELIZABETH READER BEQUEST

Balance, August 17, 1948:
Cash in membership fee fund ............. $441.19
U. S. savings bonds (shown in total bonds, membership fee fund) ............... 5,200.00
Total .......................................... $5,641.19

Receipts:
Interest ....................................... 130.00
Total .......................................... $5,771.19

Disbursements:

Balance, August 24, 1949:
Cash ........................................... $571.19
U. S. savings bonds, Series G ............ 5,200.00
Total .......................................... $5,771.19

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

This report covers only the membership fee fund and other custodial funds. It is not a statement of the appropriations made by the legislature for the maintenance of the Society. These disbursements are not made by the treasurer of the Society, but by the state auditor. For the year ending June 30, 1949, these appropriations were: Kansas State Historical Society, $59,611.00; Memorial building, $12,157.60; Old Shawnee Mission, $3,681.20; First Capitol of Kansas, $1,150.00.

On motion by Mrs. W. D. Philip, seconded by Frank A. Hobble, the report was accepted.
The report of the executive committee on the audit by the state accountant of the funds of the Society was called for and read by John S. Dawson:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 14, 1949.

To the Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society:

The executive committee being directed under the bylaws to check the accounts of the treasurer, states that the state accountant has audited the funds of the State Historical Society, the First Capitol of Kansas and the Old Shawnee Mission from August 17, 1948, to August 24, 1949, and that they are hereby approved.

John S. Dawson, Chairman.

On motion by John S. Dawson, seconded by Joseph C. Shaw, the report was accepted.

The report of the nominating committee for officers of the Society was read by John S. Dawson:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

October 14, 1949.

To the Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society:

Your committee on nominations submits the following report for officers of the Kansas State Historical Society:

For a one-year term: Charles M. Correll, Manhattan, president; Frank Haucke, Council Grove, first vice-president; Will T. Beck, Holton, second vice-president.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Dawson, Chairman.

The report was referred to the afternoon meeting of the board. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society convened at 2:00 p.m. The members were called to order by the president, R. F. Brock.

The address by Mr. Brock follows:

Address of the President

R. F. Brock

MEMBERS of the Society, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We welcome you today. Your interest and attendance are what keep us going and make this Historical Society one of the best in the United States. We appreciate your help. I want to
thank you and those who made it possible for me to serve as your president the past year. It's an honor that I am very proud of. I realize it's a bigger job than I deserved and I have done in my small way the best I could.

Mr. Mechem, I want to thank you and your staff personally for the many kindnesses you have shown me at all times. It has been a rare privilege to be associated with people like you folks. Let's give a hand to Mr. Mechem, his staff and the executive committee for the grand job they are doing.

I am not a public speaker. I feel humble trying to do a job like this and I'll have to tell you what my stenographer said when I dictated this paper. After I had finished, I asked her to dress it up and remove any ungrammatical terms. She replied that after I had finished reading it to you I would have them all back in there, anyway.

I was born in Kentucky and I tell the story that when I was 19 years of age they caught me and put shoes on me. I recall meeting a man at Hutchinson soon after I landed there, 39 years ago: he asked me what my name was in Kentucky and why did I have to leave.

I came through Topeka on July 27, 1910, on one of the hottest days I thought I had seen. Corn was burned up, no air conditioning in the car. But I stuck it out, arriving at Hutchinson with a $4.00 trunk, a cheap suit of clothes and a one-way ticket. I still have the $4.00 trunk and the old suit of clothes.

What little success I have had, I owe to Kansas. It has been good to me. My people, too, were pioneers. My ancestors came from Virginia to Kentucky before 1800, when it was a wilderness. Many of you had folks who were pioneers to Kansas during its troublesome times.

If you will pardon me, I would like for you to meet a Kansas girl who is boss in my family. Ladies and gentlemen, Mrs. Brock.

STORMS IN KANSAS

In November, 1867, a very bad snowstorm hit Hays, Kansas, the end of the railroad at that time. Hays being new, and the houses not anything more than boarded up, the snow went into them through the cracks. Passengers put up at the Perry House, then the main hotel, just built. It was not much better than a barn, so far as the snow was concerned. I do not have much more on this storm.
In April, 1873, quite a storm hit eastern Kansas, particularly at Belleville. A hurricane blew. Two families near Belleville were frozen to death, the house of one of the families being blown away. One woman was found with her baby in her arms, sitting on the ground leaning against a wagon wheel with her hair frozen by the sleet to the spokes of the wheel. The other bodies were lying on the ground encased in sleet.

In the early winter, 1885, and into 1886, came what is known as the blizzard of 1886, a real storm over a large area. It hit Kansas hard and the loss of life and stock was terrible. B. T. Cutler, formerly of McCracken, lived in Lane county at that time. He told me that his father sent him to the barn to feed the mules after the storm abated and he found the mules surrounded by snow in the stables, still on their feet, frozen stiff. Their cattle were also frozen; none of the stock escaped. Thousands of head of livestock froze in western Kansas, and many in central Kansas, and it was just as bad or worse in Colorado. Many people froze, some in their beds. At Dodge City it was 25 below in some houses. Dugouts were the safest shelters, if properly built.

A man by name of Arning, who lived about 25 miles south of Garden City, got lost in this storm and spent all night wandering around. The next day he found a sod shanty where he stopped a few hours, but as its roof was mostly gone, he soon moved on. He walked three days and two nights in all and finally found himself 50 miles southwest of Garden City, or 25 miles southwest of his home. He had walked around in circles and cross circles, with nothing to eat. He says he had to keep moving, to keep from freezing, for about 90 hours. His feet were frozen; otherwise he was in fairly good health. Not many men would have lived to tell the story. With his courage, he kept going. Most of us would have got excited and given up the struggle. The Ivanhoe Times of January 16, 1886, tells the story. Ivanhoe is one of the “lost towns” south of Garden City.

A Mr. Carter, formerly Union Pacific land agent at Sharon Springs, told me that 300 cattle died in the creek where Sharon Springs got its water, from the spring, before they had a water works. He says when the thaw came they had beef tea for a while, but had to remove the cattle, since it was their only watering place near the town. Others told me the same story.

John Conrad, a friend, told me he homesteaded northwest of Fowler, on Crooked creek, in 1879. The 1886 storm hit him and
his neighbors. He and his hired man took their throw ropes and made a line from the house to the corral. Then they took turns going out and rubbing the snow and ice from the noses of the cattle so that they would not smother. Most of storm losses are from smothering, as you know, rather than freezing. Stock well fed can stand a lot of cold but none can take the smothering. Full grown cattle smothered and froze in snow banks along the railroad. Many cattle drifted south as far as Oklahoma, from northern Kansas.

Several cattlemen lost from two thousand to five thousand head in western Kansas and eastern Colorado. Large cattle companies lost as much as from one hundred thousand to one million dollars. It broke many cattlemen, as well as cattle loan companies. I read of one man who lost 200 thousand head in Colorado, east of the divide. He owed a St. Louis cattle company for them. The company would not stake him again, but in later years he made it back and paid them, then bought the company and was head of it for several years.

A family froze to death in a wagon on their way to their homestead near Oberlin. A man who froze in Wallace was found by making a circle with a rope tied to a building. Total deaths in Kansas from freezing during the storm of 1886 has been variously estimated from 30 to 100 persons. Cattle by the tens of thousands were killed in the two weeks of zero weather.

The 1911-1912 storm. I remember this storm myself. Pete Robidoux lost about 1,000 cattle in this storm, as well as Tom Madigan, who lost about the same number. Both have sons and daughters still living in that country. Frank Madigan, a son, married a daughter of Robidoux, the pioneer merchant and cattleman.

Your speaker stood near the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks in Reno county in 1912 watching a snow plow hit a cut filled with snow. When I saw the snow fly I started to run and almost got covered up, about 100 feet from the track, or far enough away.

The Bowman and Hopper ranch, Ness county, hauled feed from Ness City, three miles, with four horses on a sled, to keep the cattle from starving. It took four horses to pull what one horse ordinarily would. They had 1,500 cattle and kept hauling all day and part of the night for several days. The livestock ate up the feed faster than it could be hauled. Mail was delayed from 10 to 23 days in several places. I had no mail for 14 days and you can guess that a bank had something to do when it all came in at once. This
1911-1912 storm covered most of Kansas. Many farmers and ranchers bought and baled straw to ship to western Kansas from Reno county. I helped them locate it.

I heard that several Kansas people lost their lives in this storm. Several thousand cattle drifted from Wallace county to the Arkansas river, as well as from other northwest counties, so my cattle partner tells me. He lost some and had to round them up on the river.

The 1918 storm was bad in western Kansas, the extreme western counties losing many cattle. Madigan and Robidoux of Wallace county again lost the most, about 800 each. A joke out there is that when anyone asked Pete Robidoux how many cattle he lost, he would say, “Not as bad as Tom Madigan.” These two old timers could write a book of their experiences and were grand old characters.

The 1931 storm hit northwest Kansas mighty hard, particularly in east Wallace county. About 40 cattle died in the city of Wallace, after drifting there, and were buried in the old railroad turntable hole and covered up. Several Wallace county ranchers lost a few head in this storm, as did ranchers in other counties of the west.

The storm of 1948-1949 hit most of the country west of the Mississippi, particularly Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, the Dakotas, and western Kansas. The total reported loss was 33 million dollars in the United States. Kansas had some loss—in parts, small; in others, large. This storm hit November 18. My county, Sherman, had a sheep loss of about 2,000 head, with a cattle loss of less than 50 head. Wallace county, where I ranch, had a cattle loss of over 700 head. These were mostly calves, just weaned, or shipped in with some shipping fever among them.

Thomas county’s loss was great both in sheep and cattle. Wichita county, and in fact most western counties, had from a small loss to a great one. Harrison Brothers of Wallace county lost 80 head out of 250 cattle. Their father, with about the same number, lost only three head under about the same conditions. Harrison Brothers started home from Sharon Springs after the storm started and got tied up in a snowbank within one mile of home. They stayed in their car 36 hours, with no heat after the gas ran out. They walked the mile in a north wind and were almost exhausted after making it. You know, people mostly get excited, and that is bad in a storm. Included in their loss were 12 big steers, averaging
1,200 lbs., which smothered. They were among 37 trapped in an old shed, with the snow drifted all around them.

Sheep milled around and piled up as high as four layers deep and smothered. We saw them plowed out with a road grader several days after the storm. A few were still alive, but most of them died later. Trains on the Rock Island were tied up for two days in my area at Edson, Brewster and Ruleton. On the Union Pacific, trains were tied up at Weskan and Sharon Springs for two days or more. It's a funny feeling to be tied up in a snowbank, even on a train. I was in a snowbank on a Ft. Worth and Denver train, south of Texline, Tex., from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., one day in the early 1920's. I loaned my overcoat to a small child and nearly froze myself. I also got lost in a large pasture once during dust storm days and had to follow the fence to find my way out. These storms are no snap, I assure you.

**Dust Storms, 1935 to 1937.** Unless you have lived in western Kansas, you do not know too much about dust storms. They were caused by continued dry weather. Since we had little or no rain, the old mother earth got so dry that the grass died. With nothing left but a bare earth, and the wind constantly whipping it up, the sky at times got so thick with dust that it was impossible to see anything. At such times you had to sleep with a wet towel over your face.

In less time than you would think, it would blacken the street lights so that you could not see across the street. One afternoon my wife and I were leaving Syracuse when we saw a black cloud of dirt rolling up south of town. Before we could get two miles, it blacked out, and no night was ever darker. Even the car lights could not be seen, nor the cap on the car radiator. Mrs. Brock said we had better not stop in the road, as some one would run into us. I replied, "No use to move and be in a ditch; no one could find their way to run into us anyway."

At last Mother Nature gave us a new grass, called pepper weed, and the stock thrived on it. I dug down and it looked to me like the buffalo grass roots were dead. I did not dig deep enough. They grow down as much as five to seven feet. When plentiful rains came later, to our surprise, the dead grass all came back.

There have been terrible times in storms, dust storms and blizzards, with their losses in human lives and livestock, yet I have never heard a man say he was quitting business on account of them. Kansas people do not give up easily, and are to my way of thinking the finest people in the world.
Following the address of the president, Kirke Mechem, secretary of the Society, read a paper on "Home on the Range," the state song. This paper was published in *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* for November, 1949.

The report of the committee on nominations was called for:

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS**

*October 14, 1949.*

To the *Kansas State Historical Society*:

Your committee on nominations submits the following report and recommendations for directors of the Society for the term of three years ending October, 1952:

Barr, Frank, Wichita.
Berryman, Jerome C., Ashland.
Bingham, Mrs. Lalla M.,
Council Grove.
Brock, R. F., Goodland.
Bumgardner, Edward, Lawrence.
Correll, Charles M., Manhattan.
Davis, W. W., Lawrence.
Denious, Jess C., Dodge City.
Fay, Mrs. Mamie Axline, Pratt.
Frizell, E. E., Larned.
Godsey, Mrs. Flora R., Emporia.
Hall, Mrs. Carrie A., Leavenworth.
Hall, Standish, Wichita.
Hegler, Ben F., Wichita.
Jones, Horace, Lyons.
Lillard, T. M., Topeka.
Lindsey, H. K., Wichita.

Means, Hugh, Lawrence.
Owen, Arthur K., Topeka.
Owen, Mrs. E. M., Lawrence.
Patrick, Mrs. Mae C., Satanta.
Payne, Mrs. L. F., Manhattan.
Reed, Clyde M., Parsons.
Riegle, Wilford, Emporia.
Rupp, Mrs. Jane C., Lincolnville.
Schultz, Floyd B., Clay Center.
Scott, Angelo, Iola.
Sloan, E. R., Topeka.
Smelser, Mary M., Lawrence.
Stewart, Mrs. James G., Topeka.
Van De Mark, M. V. B., Concordia.
Wark, George H., Caney.
Wooster, Lorraine E., Salina.

Respectfully submitted.

John S. Dawson, Chairman.

Upon motion by John S. Dawson, seconded by James C. Malin, the report of the committee was accepted unanimously and the members of the board were declared elected for the term ending in October, 1952.

Reports of county and local societies were called for and were given as follows: the Rev. Angelus Lingenfelser and the Rev. Peter Beckman for the *Kansas Catholic Historical Society*; Mrs. Frank D. Belinder for the *Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society*; and Robert Stone for the *Shawnee County Historical Society*. Albert T. Reid of New York, artist and famous cartoonist, recalled briefly his residence in Kansas, and Col. Eugene P. H. Gempel spoke on the marking of old trails in the state. S. D. Flora, former head of the *U. S. Weather Bureau* at Topeka, commented briefly on President Brock's paper on storms in *Kansas*.

There being no further business, the annual meeting of the Society adjourned.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The afternoon meeting of the board of directors was called to order by President Brock. He asked for a rereading of the report of the nominating committee for officers of the Society. The report was read by John S. Dawson, chairman, who moved that it be accepted. Motion was seconded by Robert Stone and the following were unanimously elected.

For a one-year term: Charles M. Correll, Manhattan, president; Frank Haucke, Council Grove, first vice-president; Will T. Beck, Holton, second vice-president.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

DIRECTORS OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AS OF OCTOBER, 1949

DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1950

Aitchison, R. T., Wichita.
Anderson, George L., Lawrence.
Anthony, D. R., Leavenworth.
Baughner, Charles A., Ellis.
Beck, Will T., Holton.
Capper, Arthur, Topeka.
Carson, F. L., Wichita.
Chambers, Lloyd, Wichita.
Cotton, Corlett J., Lawrence.
Dawson, John S., Hill City.
Ewuer, Elmer E., Goodland.
Hobble, Frank A., Dodge City.
Hogin, John C., Belleville.
Howes, Cecil C., Topeka.
Hunt, Charles L., Concordia.
Knapp, Dallas W., Coffeyville.
Lilsteon, W. F., Wichita.
McLean, Milton R., Topeka.
Malin, James C., Lawrence.
Mayehew, Mrs. Patricia Solander, Topeka.
Miller, Karl, Dodge City.
Moore, Russell, Wichita.
Raynesford, H. C., Ellis.
Redmond, John, Burlington.
Rodkey, Clyde K., Manhattan.
Russell, W. J., Topeka.
Shaw, Joseph C., Topeka.
Somers, John G., Newton.
Stewart, Donald, Independence.
Thomas, E. A., Topeka.
Thompson, W. F., Topeka.
Van Tuyl, Mrs. Effie H., Leavenworth.
Walker, Mrs. Ida M., Norton.

DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1951

Bailey, Roy F., Salina.
Beenzley, George F., Girard.
Bowlus, Thomas H., Iola.
Brinkerhoff, Fred W., Pittsburg.
Broinwe, Charles H., Horton.
Campbell, Mrs. Spurgeon B., Kansas City.
Cron, F. H., El Dorado.
Ebright, Homer K., Baldwin.
Embrex, Mrs. Mary, Topeka.
Gray, John M., Kirwin.
Hamilton, R. L., Beloit.
Harger, Charles M., Abilene.
Harvey, Mrs. A. M., Topeka.
Hauke, Frank, Council Grove.
Hodges, Frank, Olathe.
Lingenfelser, Angelus, Atchison.