Kansas History as Published in the Press

Brown county history is the feature of a new magazine-type publication edited and published by Col. Henry J. Weltmer of Hiawatha under the title Hi-Wa Extracts. The first number, of 20 pages, was dated August, 1949.

A “History of Neosho County” by W. W. Graves has continued to appear regularly in the St. Paul Journal. Chapters in recent issues have been devoted to the towns of Kimball and Stark; Grant, Ladore, Lincoln, South Mound and Mission townships, and the Passionist Missionary Institute.


A story of the Lone Tree massacre was published in the Meade Globe-News, September 4, 8, 11, 1949, and the Plains Journal, September 8, 15. A six-man survey party, headed by Capt. O. F. Short, was attacked and massacred by Indians in present Meade county on August 24, 1874. The story was written years ago by Mrs. Mary Short Browne, a sister of Captain Short, and first appeared in the Plains Journal, August 31, 1907. A note on the first newspaper published in Meade county, the Pearlette Call, and a brief biographical sketch of the editor, Addison Bennett, were printed in the Globe-News and the Journal, September 15. The first issue of the Call appeared on April 15, 1879.

A special “Pioneer Days” edition was published by the Hill City Times, September 8, 1949. Among the articles were: a historical sketch of Bogue by Mrs. Belle Kenyon, the story of Nicodemus by Mrs. Ola Wilson, a medical history of Graham county, historical sketches of various Hill City churches, a list of present-day Graham county businesses, reminiscences of Judge E. L. McClure, several
historical items about Morland, pictures and names of some of the Graham county men and women who served in the World Wars, historical sketches of Graham county newspapers and schools, and several articles of historical nature reprinted from issues of the Hill City Reveille of the late 1880's.

"Salina's Founder Took Boss Advice," is the title of an article by Jeanne Kaufman in the Salina Journal, September 15, 1949. In 1857 William A. Phillips, who had been employed in Lawrence as a journalist by Horace Greeley, made a journey on foot to present Saline county and decided to settle in the area. The next year he returned with a party, located the townsite and began the erection of buildings. Later Phillips served in the Civil War, reaching the rank of colonel.

Early Kingman county history was reviewed by Mrs. Laura Kinsey in The Leader-Courier, Kingman, beginning September 15, 1949. Mrs. Kinsey came to Kansas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Frazier, in 1878 when she was 12 years old.


A historical sketch of the 101 Ranch, Chase county, by Mildred Mosier Burch, was printed in the Chase County Leader, Cottonwood Falls, September 20, 1949. The land was purchased by H. R. Hilton for a syndicate, known as the Western Land and Cattle Company, from the Santa Fe and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroads in the 1880’s. In 1893 the ranch was bought by another company, and in 1900 it was split up and sold.

The story of the Coleman Company, Inc., of Wichita, and its founder and president, W. C. Coleman, was told in “The Company That Should Have Gone Broke,” by Rufus Jarman, published in The Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, September 24, 1949. Starting in 1900 with a small factory to repair lamps, Coleman now has three factories and about 2,500 employees engaged in manufacturing lamps, lanterns, several types of cooking stoves and home-heating equipment. Mr. Coleman was born in New York and came to Kansas with his parents about 1871 when he was a year old.

The Wichita Eagle, September 25, 1949, published a 164-page “Kansas Industrial Progress” edition, the largest issue of the paper ever published. Besides numerous articles on Kansas industries, several historical pages from past numbers of the Eagle were reproduced, including the front page of April 12, 1872, the first issue of the Eagle. Another feature of the special edition was a full-page history of the Eagle by Dick Long. The paper was founded as a weekly in 1872 by Col. Marsh M. Murdock.
An editorial in the Garden City Daily Telegram, September 27, 1949, recited the early history of Pierceville. The town was founded in 1872 when the Barton brothers selected the site for ranch headquarters and it was chosen by the Santa Fe railroad surveyors as a townsite. The post office was established in 1873 with George B. Clossen as postmaster. In July, 1874, a band of Indians from Texas burned Pierceville to the ground. It was not rebuilt until 1878 when a store and a post office were constructed. On November 21-23 the Telegram printed a brief, three-installment biographical sketch of C. J. "Buffalo" Jones.

A two-column story of Poheta, Saline county, covering its school, post office, cemetery, Sunday school and church histories, was published in the Gypsum Advocate, September 29, 1949.

Biographical notes on Maj. Gen. Clarence L. Tinker, who lost his life in the Battle of Midway, by John Woolery, appeared in the autumn, 1949, issue of The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. One-eighth Osage Indian, General Tinker was born at Elgin, Kan., November 21, 1887. The large Tinker Air Force Base at Oklahoma City was named for him.

A booklet by Roy Farrell Greene on the early days of Arkansas City was briefly reviewed by Walter Hutchison in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, October 6, 1949. The first settlement at Arkansas City was made in April, 1870. The town was called Creswell and Walnut City before it was named Arkansas City. It was incorporated in 1872.

Some of the pioneer experiences of Dr. A. Moore and his family, related by Mrs. Frances Moore Felton, a daughter, were printed in the Atchison Daily Globe, October 9, 1949. Dr. Moore brought his family to Kansas prior to the Civil War, settling on a claim near present Huron. A brief history of the Atchison county courthouse by T. E. Garvey appeared in the Globe, November 6. The courthouse was constructed in 1896.

The 75th anniversary of the migration of the Mennonites to the prairie states of America was observed in an all-day program at Bethel College, North Newton, October 12, 1949. Representatives from Mennonite communities in the Middle West and Canada attended. Among the speakers were: Rev. A. J. Dyck, Inman; C. C. Regier, formerly of State College, West Virginia; I. J. Dick, Moun-
tain Lake, Minn.; R. C. Bosworth, of the Canadian Pacific Rail-
way; Leo G. Yokum, Burlington railroad; R. G. Dobson, Rock Is-
land railroad; M. M. Killen, Santa Fe railroad; Dr. Erland Walt-
ner, Bethel College; David C. Wedel, Bethel College; Walter H.
Dyck, Elbing, and Dr. Ed. G. Kaufman, president of Bethel College.
The history of the Mennonite migration is reviewed in the October,
1949, issue of *Mennonite Life*, North Newton, by the editor, Cor-
nelius Krahm. Among the historical articles on the Mennonites in
Kansas were: “John H. Harms—Pioneer Mennonite Doctor,” by
E. M. Harms; “Hoffnungsauf in Kansas,” by A. J. Dyck; “Among
the Mennonites of Kansas in 1878,” by C. L. Bernays, and “Trans-
planting Alexanderwohl, 1874,” accompanied by maps, pictures and
a list of names. A commemorative, 115-page booklet, *From the
Steppes to the Prairies*, edited by Cornelius Krahm, was recently
published by the Mennonite Publication office in North Newton.
Among the featured articles were: “From the Steppes to the Prai-
rises,” by Cornelius Krahm; “The Mennonites in Kansas,” “The Men-
nonites at Home,” and “A Day With the Mennonites,” by Noble
L. Prentis; “Christian Krehbiel and the Coming of the Mennonites
to Kansas,” an autobiography translated and edited by Edward
Krehbiel; “The Life of Christian Krehbiel (1832-1909),” by H. P.
Krehbiel; “The Founding of Gnadenau,” by J. A. Wiebe, and “The
Mennonite Pioneer,” by Elmer F. Suderman.

“Oil Progress Week” was observed in Great Bend with an “Oil
Appreciation Festival,” October 19-21, 1949, and a 48-page special
dition of the Great Bend *Tribune*, October 18, featuring articles
on the history of the oil industry in Barton county. The first well
was drilled in 1886 but no oil was found until about 1922 and none
in paying quantities until 1930. Also on October 18, 1949, the
Russell *Daily News* featured the oil history of Russell county. Oil
was first discovered in that county near Fairport in 1923. Barton
is the largest oil producing county in Kansas and Russell is second.

Early recollections of Kalida and vicinity, Woodson county, by
R. W. Rhea were printed in the Yates Center *News*, October 27,
1949. Mr. Rhea came to Kalida, then Chellis, with his family 80
years ago. The townsite was purchased by H. T. Chellis in 1868
from a man by the name of Concannon who had homesteaded it.
The property passed to T. H. Davidson in 1870, and he renamed it
Kalida.
The reminiscences of Mrs. Ellen Burton, a member of Emporia’s first colored family, were published in the Emporia Gazette, November 3, 1949. Mrs. Burton, born in slavery, was a small girl when her father, Henry O’Dair, aided by a Colonel Proctor, brought the family to Emporia in 1863.

Several brief historical notes on the settlement of Harper and Harper county and some historical information from the Harper Sentinel for March 8, 1901, were printed in the Harper News, November 3, 1949. Settlers first arrived at the Harper townsite in the spring of 1877.

A history of the Israel Lupfer family as told by Arthur H. Lupfer, a son, to Lois Victor, was published in The Tiller and Toiler, Larned, November 3, 1949, and The Daily Tiller and Toiler, November 4. The Lupfers arrived in Larned from their home in Pennsylvania early in 1878 and purchased a quarter section of railroad land where they built their home.

The story of the founding of old Fort Hays—and Fort Fletcher, its predecessor—was reviewed by Dr. Raymond L. Welty, professor of history at Fort Hays State College, in the Hays Daily News, November 6, 20 and December 11, 1949.

Osborne’s Farmer-Journal on November 10, 1949, noted that it was starting its 76th year of publication. Late in 1874 Frank H. Barnhart bought the printing equipment of the Osborne Times, which had ceased publication, and founded the Osborne County Farmer. B. L. George is the present owner and publisher.

The Anthony Republican, November 10, 1949, printed a brief history of the First Baptist Church of Anthony by Gertrude Tuttle Wright. The church was organized June 27, 1880, and services were held in Bulger mill, in Union hall and in homes until the church building was dedicated on June 20, 1886.

Articles from the 25th anniversary edition of the Topeka Mail and Kansas Breeze, May 22, 1896, were featured in the Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, December, 1949. Among the Mail and Breeze articles were: “‘Plant Trees’ Said Greeley,” “Why Topeka Streets Are Wide,” “How He [W. L. Gordon] Got Logs” and “The ‘Smokers’ Club.” Other articles in the Bulletin were: “North Topeka Started as Eugene”; the eighth installment of W. W. Cone’s “Shawnee County Townships”; Part II of “The
First Congregational Church of Topeka, 1854-1869,” by Russell K. Hickman; “Which Are the Oldest Families?”; “Indianola,” by C. V. Cochran; “Reminiscences by the Son of a French Pioneer,” by Louis Charles Laurent, and a continuation of George A. Root’s “Chronology of Shawnee County.”

The history of a group of vegetarians and their attempt to plant a colony in present southeast Kansas, is told by Stewart H. Holbrook in “The Vegetarians of Octagon City,” published in the Woman’s Day, New York, December, 1949. In 1856 a party under the leadership of Henry S. Clubb set out from the East for Kansas. Clubb’s plan was to build an eight-sided settlement in Kansas from which vegetarianism would spread throughout the United States. However, when the prospective settlers reached the site of the settlement most of them became discouraged at finding only a log cabin and the wide, open prairie and returned to the East.