Kansas Historical Notes

"Kansans always make a name for themselves wherever they go," said Mrs. Dolly Curtis Gann, featured speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Shawnee County Historical Society in Topeka, December 13, 1949. A resolution was adopted at the meeting paying tribute to the late George Root, and Sen. Arthur Capper spoke briefly in tribute to J. C. Mohler who retired recently as secretary of the board of agriculture. Slides showing various views and tracing the history of Topeka were shown. Directors elected for three-year terms were: Milton Tabor, Robert Stone, Paul Sweet, Robert Billard, Otis S. Allen, William A. Biby, Frank Gibbs, Frank Ripley, J. C. Mohler and Mrs. Alf Landon. Ethel A. Chapman was elected to fill the unexpired term of George Root. H. B. Fink, president of the society, presided.

The Doniphan County Historical Society was organized at a meeting in Troy, December 30, 1949. C. C. Cahalan was elected president, Mrs. Margaret L. Rice, secretary, and a constitution was adopted. At a meeting January 3, 1950, A. O. Delaney, Jr., was elected vice-president, and Dr. A. E. Lozner, treasurer. A board of directors, composed of one or two persons from each township and each town of the county, was also chosen.

The Russell County Old Settlers’ Association was revived and organized into the Russell County Historical Society at a meeting in Russell, January 11, 1950. Clarence Peck was re-elected for his 18th year as president. Other officers elected were: John G. Deines and Luther D. Landon, vice-presidents; Merlin Morphy, secretary, and A. J. Olson, treasurer. New directors are: Mrs. H. A. Opdycke, Dora H. Morrison and William H. Ochs.

The great drouth of 1860 in Kansas was discussed by F. W. Brinkerhoff at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, January 26, 1950. Dr. H. M. Grandle, Pittsburg, was re-elected president, and Ralph Shideler, Girard, was re-elected vice-president. Other officers chosen were: Mrs. J. W. Nixon, Pittsburg, secretary; Mrs. Mae Stroud, Pittsburg, corresponding secretary, and Eleanor Danner, treasurer. Mrs. C. M. Cooper, Edgar Richards, Mrs. M. F. Sears and Frank Clayton were named directors.
“The Darker Side of Pioneer Life,” was the subject of a talk by Dr. John Ise, of the University of Kansas, at a dinner meeting of the Riley County Historical Association in Manhattan, January 27, 1950. Dr. George A. Filinger, president of the association, presided at the meeting.

All officers of the Osawatomie Historical Society were re-elected at the annual meeting February 2, 1950. They are: Alden O. Weber, president; Mrs. Pauline Gudger, vice-president, and Mrs. Ruby M. McIntosh, secretary-treasurer.

The annual meeting of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas was held in Topeka, January 27, 1950. The principal speaker at the dinner meeting was W. M. Ostenberg, superintendent of schools at Coffeyville. Kathryn Johnson, Kansas Wesleyan College student, was given the Arthur Capper award in the college and university students’ speech contest. Gladys E. Mc Ardle, Lebanon, was named sweepstakes winner for the best adult factual story about pioneer Kansas, and Herb Lee, Bonner Springs, was the sweepstakes winner of the high school essay contest. Guy Josserand, Dodge City, was elected president of the Native Sons. Other officers elected by the Native Sons were: Edwin R. Jones, Topeka, vice-president; C. W. Porterfield, Holton, secretary; and Maurice Fager, Topeka, treasurer. Officers elected by the Native Daughters were: Mrs. P. A. Pettit, Paola, president; Mrs. Thomas H. Norton, Topeka, vice-president; Mrs. Ray S. Pierson, Burlington, secretary, and Mrs. David McCreeath, Lawrence, treasurer. William Ljungdahl, Menlo and Topeka, and Mrs. Ella Ruehmann, Wamego, were the retiring presidents.

F. W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg publisher, was the speaker at a meeting of the Wichita Historical Museum Association, February 9, 1950. Brinkerhoff recounted the career and downfall of Samuel C. Pomeroy, U. S. senator from Kansas from 1861 to 1873. Dr. G. G. Anderson, president of the association, presided at the meeting.

Dan Hopkins, Garden City attorney, was the speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Finney County Historical Society, February 14, 1950. It was announced that the society hopes to publish the first volume of the Finney County history this year. Directors elected for two-year terms were: Harry G. Carl, Garfield township; John Wampler, Terry township; Clay Weldon, Pierceville township, and Mrs. P. A. Burtis, Mrs. Josephine Cowgill, A. J. Kefman, Mrs.
Eva B. Sharer, Helen M. Stowell and Mrs. Emma White, Garden City.

The Beeson Museum, Dodge City, is to have new and larger quarters in the near future. The museum, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Merritt L. Beeson and daughter, Irene, grew out of the private collection of the Beesons' and was opened to the public in 1932.

*Records and Maps of the Old Santa Fe Trail*, a 104-page book by Kenyon Riddle, was published recently in Raton, N. M. Mr. Riddle has been gathering information on the Santa Fe trail for several years and has endeavored to locate it accurately in relation to present-day towns and highways.