The Annual Meeting

THE 75th annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society and board of directors was held in the rooms of the Society on October 17, 1950.

The meeting of the directors was called to order by President Charles M. Correll at 10 A.M. First business was the reading of the annual report by the secretary.

SECRETARY’S REPORT, YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 17, 1950

At the conclusion of last year’s meeting, the newly elected president, Charles M. Correll, reappointed Robert C. Rankin and Milton R. McLean to the executive committee. Mr. Correll’s term also expired and in his stead he appointed Wilford Riegel of Emporia. The members holding over were John S. Dawson and T. M. Lillard.

BUDGET REQUESTS

Appropriation requests for the next biennium were filed with the state budget director in October. Among the increases and special appropriations asked for were the following:

An additional cataloger for the library, the first since 1921; $1,500 for new lights in the reading rooms; $2,000 for repairing and restoring oil paintings and other pictures; and $1,000 a year additional for the contingent fund.

Requested for the Memorial building were: another janitor; $1,000 for rewiring and installing modern equipment in the main switchboard; $8,000 for overhauling the heating system and insulating steam pipes; $4,000 for painting; $700 for repairs to the skylights and the roof; and $500 for repairing the west steps and repointing stone work.

An increase of $1,000 a year in the maintenance fund at the Old Shawnee Mission was requested. This is for repairs to the buildings, for painting and wallpapering, for grading and seeding the grounds and for five new large metal signs.

LIBRARY

During the year 3,179 persons did research in the library. Of these, 1,197 worked on Kansas subjects, 1,279 on genealogy and 703 on general subjects. Numerous inquiries were answered by letter and 108 packages on Kansas subjects were sent out from the loan file. A total of 6,197 newspaper clippings were mounted from papers covering April 1, 1949, through June 30, 1950. They came from the seven daily papers which are read for clipping, and from six special historical editions and 1,069 duplicate papers.

A number of gifts of Kansas books and genealogies were received from individuals. Typed and printed genealogical records were presented by the Kansas Society of Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Gifts from the Woman’s Kansas Day Club included books, manuscripts, museum pieces, and clippings, pamphlets and pictures on old churches. Microfilm copies of the following books were added to the library: History of

PICTURE COLLECTION

During the year 566 pictures were accessioned. Nearly 6,000 new cards were made for the picture catalog, covering illustrations and pictures of individuals from county atlases. New pictures of particular interest are: three original pen and ink sketches of the Old Shawnee Methodist Mission by Harry Penn; five original pencil sketches of territorial Kansas by H. W. Waugh, including scenes of Leavenworth and Lawrence; an oil portrait of David D. Leahy by the late Ed L. Davison of Wichita, given by Mrs. Davison. A scrapbook containing 86 photographs of carriages, some with the fringe on top, mail wagons, delivery wagons and early automobiles, was given by Mrs. Ralph W. James of Topeka. Many of the carriages were made to order by the Rehkof Brothers of Topeka. Three photographs of old Fort Wallace were given by Mr. Al Sears of Topeka.

ARCHIVES DIVISION

Work on the new archives stacks is now nearly complete. Pending their installation, no effort has been made to secure new accessions. However, the following were added during the year:

A collection of 318 volumes from the insurance department. Some of these will be destroyed, having no permanent value, and others are being microfilmed.

The statistical rolls of Kansas counties for 1943, amounting to 1,933 volumes, from Kansas State College.

A file of the state architect’s weekly “News Letter,” beginning in 1949. This is a valuable record of the state’s huge building program.

The minutes of the board of managers of the house of representatives in the impeachment of Judge Theodosius Botkin in 1891. It came from David H. Coons of Stockton, Cal., a son of the secretary of the board.

A collection of 170 rolls of negative microfilm, containing records of births, still births and deaths in Kansas from 1947 to the present. This film is held for safe-keeping for the board of health.

The Society’s project for microfilming archives has made good progress. During the year ending September 30, 90 volumes of election returns, 1861-1930, and 819 volumes of insurance department records, 1870-1947, were filmed. This work required about 340,000 pictures, or 339 hundred-foot rolls of film. In addition, all unbound statistical rolls of counties and cities owned by the Society have been prepared for filming, which will begin this fall.

MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION

During the year, 34 manuscript volumes and approximately 1,600 individual manuscripts were received.

The largest accession was the William Henry Harrison Kelley collection, given by Miss Gordon Kelley, a great-granddaughter, of Fort Smith, Ark. Harrison Kelley (1836-1897), of Coffey county, after serving in the Fifth Kansas cavalry, was made a brigadier-general of the state militia in 1865. From that year till 1891 he was prominent in Republican politics and held numerous elective and appointive positions. In 1891 he was defeated for re-election to con-
gress and became a Populist. Governor Lewelling appointed him a regent of
the Kansas State Agricultural College in 1893, and he was still serving at the
time of his death in 1897. The Kelley collection covers the years 1863-1897,
but the bulk of the letters date between 1889 and 1893.

A journal kept by 19-year-old Calvin H. Graham as he crossed the plains from
western Pennsylvania to California, 1853, was lent for copying by James
Irwin of Topeka.

Papers given by Mrs. H. M. Korns, of Salina, included some William A. Phil-
ips correspondence, and genealogical material on the Spilman family.

From William Mitchell, Yonkers, N. Y., the Society received the 1856-1857
minutes of the Prairie Guards—the militia organization of the Connecticut Kansas
colony which settled in Wabaunsee county in 1856. Also related to this colony
was a gift from the late Dr. J. T. Willard, Manhattan, of two Wabaunsee Town
Company record books (June 17-August 27, 1858; and February 11, 1859-
August 7, 1865). The town company succeeded the colony as an organization.

Through the Woman’s Kansas Day Club, F. I. Burt, Manhattan, gave the
1886 diary of Charles B. Lines who settled in Wabaunsee county in 1856, as
one of the original members of the Connecticut Kansas colony.

A 26-page documented account of the Jordan massacre was presented by
the author, Howard C. Raynesford, Ellis. Richard Jordan, his wife Mary,
his brother George, and Fred Nelson were murdered by Indians in Ness
county in the summer of 1872. The guilty Indians were traced to Indian
territory (Oklahoma) but were never brought to justice.

Three volumes of records (1859-1931), of the First Presbyterian Church,
Topeka, were lent for microfilming.

Papers relating to the Kaw Valley Basin Flood Control Association (1933-
1948), were given by A. Q. Miller, Salina.

Other donors were: Robert T. Aitchison, Wichita; Mrs. Grace Grant Baker,
St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. E. E. Beauchamp, Marysville; Mrs. J. W. Benton, Kansas
City, Mo.; F. I. Burt, Manhattan; Mrs. Omar Carlisle; Gov. Frank Carlson,
Topeka; Robert Cault, Topeka; Berlin B. Chapman, Stillwater, Okla.; Chester
County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.; Colonial Dames of America;
Mrs. Ada (Dodge) Ferguson, Ardmore, Okla.; Fortnightly Club, Topeka;
G. F. Gould, Topeka; Sumner L. Hamilton, Ellis; F. A. Hobble, Dodge City;
Frank Hodges, Olathe; Alva E. Home, Topeka; Louis O. Honig, Kansas City,
Mo.; Irene Horner, Topeka; Bruce Hurd, Topeka; Mrs. Frank C. Kelly,
Waterloo, Iowa; Eads W. Lehman, Idalia, Colo.; Emma Lyman, Olathe;
Myrtle McCamant, Tonkawa, Okla.; Maude McFadin, Wichita; Dr. Karl A.
Menninger, Topeka; Mrs. Will C. Menninger, Topeka; Mrs. Sidney Milbauer,
Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Frances E. Moore, Fort Worth, Tex.; Theo W. Morse,
Mound City; C. E. Nash, Peru; Native Sons & Daughters of Kansas; David
Neiswanger, Topeka; Sara A. Patterson, Lawrence; Paul Popenoa, Los Angeles,
Cal.; Mrs. H. A. Rowland, McPherson; J. C. Ruppenthal, Russell; St. Mary
College Library; Dr. Mary B. Waterman Sanford, Methuen, Mass.; Frederick
F. Seely, Medaville, Pa.; Horace J. Smith, Los Angeles, Cal.; Marjorie E.
Stauffer, Pasadena, Cal.; M. G. Stevenson, Ashland; Mrs. Eric Tebow, Man-
hattan; Carl Trace, Topeka; Dr. E. B. Trail, Berger, Mo.; Mrs. Alma Anthony
Weber, Dallas, Tex.; Mrs. Evelyn Whitney, Topeka; Woman’s Kansas Day
Club; Mrs. Jennie R. Wood, Cottonwood Falls; Brinton Webb Woodward, II,
THE ANNUAL MEETING

Topeka; Charles S. Wright, Woodland Park, Colo.; Otto J. Wullschleger, Frankfort.

MICROFILM DIVISION

Two million photographs have been made by the microfilm division since its establishment in 1946. About half a million were made the past year: 339,380 of archives, 145,734 of newspapers, and 4,183 of manuscripts. Newspapers of average size are filmed one page at an exposure, but archives and manuscripts generally can be taken two pages at a time, hence the number of pages actually filmed for those departments greatly exceeds the number of exposures reported.

Miscellaneous newspapers microfilmed during the year include: Anthony Journal, January 7, 1881-December 28, 1882; Appeal to Reason, Girard, August 31, 1895-November 4, 1922; The Catholic Visitor, Olathe and Leavenworth, May, 1882-July 1, 1886; The Kansas Catholic, Leavenworth, July 8, 1886-September 17, 1891; Kansas City Catholic, September 24, 1891-May 12, 1898; Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 2, 1867-September 16, 1868.


W. A. Blair, publisher of the Oswego Independent, lent several early newspaper files of southeast Kansas for microfilming. They were collated with files belonging to the Society and the following microfilms were made: Chetopa Advance, January 20, 1869-December 30, 1880; Chetopa Herald, March 4, 1876-February 16, 1878; Chetopa Settler's Guide, April, 1879-May, 1880; Neosho Valley Eagle, Jacksonville, June 13, 1868; Labette Sentinel, September 8, 1870-March 2, 1871; Oswego Independent, June 22, 1872-December 30, 1876; Oswego Labette County Democrat, October 16, 1879-December 30, 1881; Oswego Daily Register, May 13, 1869; Oswego Register, July 8, 1870-November 27, 1874; Parsons Eclipse, April 9, 1874-December 26, 1878; Parsons Sun, June 17, 1871-December 29, 1877, and Western Enterprise, Parsons, September, 1872-January, 1873.

The Society's photostat collection of Missouri newspapers, dated 1819 to 1856, was also microfilmed. They were fading and becoming illegible. This collection of 53 bundles of photostats was condensed into 16 reels of microfilm.

Publishers of the following daily newspapers are donating microfilm copies of current issues: Angelo Scott, Iola Register; Dolph and W. C. Simons, Lawrence Daily Journal-World, and Dan Anthony, III, Leavenworth Times.

NEWSPAPER AND CENSUS DIVISIONS

Over five thousand certified copies of census records were issued during the year, an increase of more than 32 percent over the preceding year. September, 1950, with 552 records issued, was the biggest month since July, 1942, early
in World War II. This was partly due to the Korean war and the stepped-up war tempo. But most of the requests still come from those who need proof of age for social security or other retirement plans. During the year, 8,148 patrons called in person at the newspaper and census divisions. Five thousand six hundred and sixty-six single issues of newspapers, 5,136 bound volumes of newspapers, 626 microfilm reels and 8,983 census volumes were consulted in giving the service, which is without charge.

The 1950 annual List of Kansas Newspapers and Periodicals was distributed in August. This is the 55th issue since the Society’s organization. The 1950 List shows 697 newspapers and periodicals being received regularly for filing. These include 58 dailies, two triweekly, 12 semiweekly, 388 weekly, 18 fortnightly, 25 semimonthly, two once every three weeks, 129 monthly, three once every six weeks, 16 bimonthly, 28 quarterly, 17 occasional, two semiannual, and two annuals, coming from all the 105 counties. Of these 697 publications, 257 are listed as independent, 120 Republican and 17 as Democratic in politics; 87 are school or college, 38 religious, 20 fraternal, seven labor, nine industrial, 15 trade and 127 miscellaneous.

The Society’s collection of original Kansas newspapers, as of January 1, 1950, totaled 53,488 bound volumes, in addition to more than 10,000 bound volumes of out-of-state newspapers dated from 1767 to 1950. The Society’s collection of newspapers on microfilm now totals 2,664 reels.

Included among the donors of miscellaneous newspapers during the year, exclusive of the editors of Kansas, were: Miss Gordon Kelley, Fort Smith, Ark.; Stanley A. Shepard, New Brunswick, N. J.; F. O. Bica, Wellsville; W. G. Clugston and H. J. Freeborn, Topeka.

ANNALS OF KANSAS

The Annals, which the 1945 Legislature voted to bring up to date, has now been compiled to 1919. The past year’s work, covering the years 1913 to 1918 inclusive, deals with World War I, and the Hodges and Capper administrations. The period was marked by peace leagues, good roads movements, farm-bureau organization and development of the oil and gas industry. There were lean years which reduced wheat growers to seed loans and Russian-thistle enslave and fat years which enabled them to send shiploads of grain to starving Belgians. Tractors plowed up thousands of acres of grazing land for wheat.

The legislature appropriated a $300,000 emergency fund to fight livestock diseases and to compensate for losses. Other legislation provided for a highway commission, a welfare commission, a tuberculosis sanitarium and the child hygiene bureau.

In World War I, Kansas oversubscribed all quotas. Hoarding flour, failure to buy bonds or give to the Red Cross or thresh wheat properly brought out the yellow-paint squad. German courses were abolished from schools. “Hooverize” became the housewife’s slogan. Spanish influenza in 1918 raised the death rate to 15.2 per 1,000 population—the highest on record.

In the Kansas news, Woody Huckaday marked highways; W. D. Ross, movie censor, rejected The Birth of a Nation; Jess Willard whipped Jack Johnson; Dwight Eisenhower became a lieutenant colonel; the Martin Johnsons made a movie film in the South Sea Islands. Deaths recorded included Governors Craw-
ford and Humphrey, William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, General Fred Funston, Vinnie Ream Hoxie and Mary Vance Humphrey.

**Museum**

The attendance in the museum for the year was 46,088.

There were 50 accessions. Two dolls dressed in the costumes of Dauphine, ancient province of France, and six medals struck by the French government in recognition of Franco-American unity in World War II, were gifts to Kansas from the French Merci train.

An old violin which had belonged to Luther Hart Platt, a Congregational minister who came to Kansas in 1856, was given by his granddaughters, Lois and Ruth Platt. Platt was known as the “Fiddling Preacher.” In 1865 he taught violin and voice at Lincoln College, Topeka, now Washburn.

Charles S. Wright, of Woodland Park, Colo., gave a Frank Wesson rifle, made in 1859, which was used by William (Buffalo Bill) Mathewson for hunting buffalo.

A quart whisky bottle of pre-prohibition days in Kansas was donated by Pierce R. Hobble of Dodge City. It originally contained hand-made sour-mash whisky, distilled in Kentucky and bottled for Peter Berry & Son, of Leavenworth. It bears a revenue stamp of the 1890's.

The work of cleaning and repairing the birds in the Goss collection was completed last spring. Some of these birds are nearly 80 years old, and most are over 70. Col. N. S. Goss, who made the collection, came to Kansas in 1857. Starting as an amateur ornithologist, he became a national authority. In 1881 he donated his collection to the state. It consists of 1,523 birds (756 species), and when presented was valued at $100,000. A unique feature of the display is that every bird is mated. There are a number of rare birds, several of which are now extinct, such as the passenger pigeon.

In 1915 the collection was moved to the Memorial building and placed in charge of the Historical Society. The birds had become very dirty and till this year were displayed in the original old-fashioned cases. A modern case with fluorescent lighting was built along the north wall of the museum, according to plans furnished by Dr. E. Raymond Hall of the University of Kansas. The taxidermy was done by Frank Boddy, a disabled war veteran of Topeka, who was recommended by Doctor Hall. The birds were too fragile to remount, but they were cleaned, the bills and feet were repainted, new eyes were fitted where necessary, and the mounting blocks were refinished. The total expense was $4,000, twice the original estimate. Even so, four of the old cases had to be used. They were repaired and painted, however, and fitted with fluorescent lights. Mr. Boddy did an expert job, and this fine old collection is now in first class shape and well displayed.

**Subjects for Research**

Extended research on the following subjects was done during the year: *Biography:* Francis Huntington Snow; James H. Lane; Edward Hogue Funston; Edmund G. Ross. *General:* Railroad development and influence in the Gulf Southwest; Abram Burnett’s youngest granddaughter; the period of Charles F. Scott’s term in the United States congress; Nicodemus, the negro colony of Graham county, Kansas; Cities west of St. Louis, a study in history and geog-
raphy; territorial laws; Kansas City, Mexico and Orient railway; cattle pools in Barber county; history of Shawnee Baptist Missions; negro troops in Kansas during the Civil War; Indians; Billy the Kid; Indian raids in northwest Kansas, 1864-1878; Kansans in Oklahoma; the army of the Plains, Division of the Missouri, 1866-1876; the Smoky Hill trail in western Kansas, 1859-1869; sod houses and contemporary structures in western Kansas; the Santa Fe trail; land values (Pottawatomie reservation); history of Grant county; history of Lindsborg; public opinion of the cowboy; reforms of Walter Vrooman.

Accessions

October 1, 1949, to September 30, 1950

Library:
Books ........................................... 1,015
Pamphlets ...................................... 2,020
Magazines (bound volumes) .................. 225

Archives:
Separate manuscripts .......................... 1
Manuscript volumes ........................... 2,251
Manuscript maps ................................ None
339 reels of microfilm

Private Manuscripts:
Separate manuscripts .......................... 1,600
Volumes ......................................... 34
4 reels of microfilm.

Printed maps, atlases and charts ............ 320
Newspapers (bound volumes) .................. 708
Reels of microfilm ............................. 2,664
Pictures ......................................... 566
Museum objects .................................. 50

Total Accessions, September 30, 1950

Books, pamphlets, newspapers (bound and microfilm reels) and magazines .................. 444,369
Separate manuscripts (archives) .............. 1,632,611
Manuscript volumes (archives) ............... 55,224
Manuscript maps (archives) ................. 583
Microfilm reels (archives) .................... 361
Printed maps, atlases and charts ............ 11,418
Pictures ......................................... 24,503
Museum objects .................................. 33,471

The Quarterly

The 18th bound volume of The Kansas Historical Quarterly, which is now in its 19th year, is about ready for distribution. Among the features are three contributions by Dr. Robert Taft in his series, "The Pictorial Record of the Old West"; Albert R. Kitzhaber's article on the downfall of Senator Pomeroy; Homer E. Socolofsky's "The Scully Land System in Marion County"; and the "Memoirs of Watson Stewart," with an introduction by Donald W. Stewart, a grandson of Independence. Thanks are due to Dr. James C. Malin of the University of Kansas, associate editor of the Quarterly, who continues to take time from his busy schedule to read articles submitted for publication.
OLD SHAWNEE MISSION

During the past year the exterior woodwork of the four Mission buildings was repainted and a new roof was put on the East building. This roof was made of heavy cedar shingles, in keeping with the construction of the 100-year-old building, and cost $2,000.

In connection with the celebration last spring of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Kansas City, Mo., an open house was held at the Mission on June 4. Members of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society, dressed in costumes of the period, acted as hostesses and guides. About 500 visitors attended.

Among recent visitors at the Mission were Mrs. Ida Riley of Oklahoma and her sister, Mrs. Bertha Beatty of Kansas City, who trace their ancestry to Tecumseh, the famous Shawnee chief. Their father and mother had attended school at the Mission. Another visitor was Mrs. Betty Withrow of Chetopa who traces her ancestry to Charles Bluejacket, at one time a missionary and interpreter in the Mission. Bluejacket later became a chief of the Shawnee tribe.

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

During the past year the caretaker’s cottage was painted and minor repairs were made on the capitol building.

The legislature of 1949 appropriated money for bringing electricity to the caretaker’s house. However, when the authorities at Fort Riley were asked to make the installation, for which they had previously given an estimate, the cost was considerably more than the appropriation. The Union Pacific right-of-way runs through the grounds, and it was suggested that the company might help. T. M. Lillard, attorney for the railroad and a member of the executive committee of the Historical Society, was appealed to. Within a few weeks the installation was made without cost to the state. The Society is greatly indebted to Mr. Lillard and to the company. It will be remembered that in 1928 the Union Pacific restored the Capitol building at a cost of $25,000.

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 Langsdorf, 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 John Scott, custodian of the First Capitol.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRKE MECHEN, Secretary.

At the conclusion of the reading of the secretary’s report, President Correll called for the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Lela Barnes.
## TREASURER'S REPORT

Based on the audit of the state accountant for the period

### Membership Fee Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>August 25, 1949</th>
<th>August 21, 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, August 25, 1949:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>4,037.70</td>
<td>4,661.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. S. savings bonds, Series G</td>
<td>8,700.00</td>
<td>8,700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,737.70</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,361.33</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Receipts:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>828.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reimbursement for postage</td>
<td>727.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on bonds</td>
<td>242.50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,798.45</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disbursements</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, August 21, 1950:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,536.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,536.15</strong></td>
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</table>

### Jonathan Pecker Bequest

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>August 25, 1949</th>
<th>August 21, 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, August 25, 1949:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>163.56</td>
<td>144.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. S. treasury bonds</td>
<td>950.00</td>
<td>950.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,113.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,142.18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Receipts:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bond interest</td>
<td>27.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings account interest</td>
<td>1.35</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>28.62</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disbursements:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>48.15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Balance, August 21, 1950:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,142.18</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,142.18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ANNUAL MEETING

JOHN BOOTH BEQUEST

Balance, August 25, 1949:
Cash ........................................  $50.92
U. S. treasury bonds ..........................  500.00

$550.92

Receipts:
Bond interest ..................................  $14.40
Savings account interest ......................  .68

15.08

Disbursements:
Balance, August 21, 1950:
Cash ........................................  $66.00
U. S. treasury bonds ..........................  500.00

$566.00

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 25, 1949:
Cash in membership fee fund .................  $571.19
U. S. savings bonds (shown in total bonds,
   membership fee fund) ......................  5,200.00

$5,771.19

Receipts:
Interest .......................................  130.00

$5,901.19

Disbursements:
Five sketches of Kansas territorial scenes by H. W. Waugh ..........  $30.00

Balance, August 21, 1950:
Cash ........................................  $671.19
U. S. savings bonds, Series G ................  5,200.00

5,871.19

$5,901.19

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, 1950, these
appropriations were: Kansas State Historical Society, $143,385.40; Memorial building, $14,529.80; Old Shawnee Mission, $7,980.00; First Capitol of Kansas, $2,602.00.

On motion by T. M. Lillard, seconded by Mrs. W. D. Philip, the reports of the secretary and the treasurer were 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 13, 1950.

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 25, 1949, to August 21, 1950, and that they are hereby approved.

John S. Dawson, Chairman.

On motion by John S. Dawson, seconded by Robert Taft, 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 13, 1950.

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: Frank Haucke, Council Grove, president; Will T. Beck, Holton, first vice-president; Robert Taft, Lawrence, second vice-president.

For a two-year term: Kirke Mechem, Topeka, secretary; Mrs. Lela Barnes, Topeka, treasurer.

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 P. M. The members were called to order by the president, Charles M. Correll.

The address by Mr. Correll follows:

Address of the President

CHARLES M. CORRELL

SOME ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE G. A. R.
IN KANSAS

The Grand Army of the Republic has passed into history. More than a quarter of a century has gone by since the last effective encampment of the department of Kansas was held. The books have been closed and the charters of the local posts have been turned in to repose in the archives of an organization which, for several decades, was identified with the public life of locality, state and nation. It is thrilling to study the records of the early meetings of the comrades who wore the little bronze buttons as they assembled in the annual encampments and carried on their business with the full-blooded vigor of active manhood; then it becomes pathetic to read in the records of the later proceedings of the difficulty the officers and speakers had as, with voices weakened with age, they struggled to make themselves heard by those whose ears were increasingly stopped by the passing of the years. In the last few encampments that were held, the business was done in the name of the old soldiers, but the work was actually carried on by the members of the auxiliary organizations, such as the Ladies of G. A. R., the Sons of Veterans and the Daughters of Union Veterans.

It was the boast of Kansas that this young state sent more soldiers into the Union armies during the Civil War than did any other state, in proportion to population. It is also true that, when the war was over, Kansas received an unusually large number of veterans as settlers and citizens. This fact is not surprising for Kansas had attracted nation-wide fame as the scene of the Border war, and of the activities of John Brown, so it was only natural that the young men, released from military service, should be attracted to the state where the prologue of the national tragedy had been enacted. To be sure, this attraction was not lessened by the opportunities offered by the new homestead law. The late William Allen White, in his presi-
dential address before this Society, alluded to this large number of Civil War soldiers who came to make up the G. A. R. in the state, and he said of them, "... they all joined the G. A. R. It dominated Kansas politics for 30 years; kept the state a rock-ribbed Republican plutocracy for thirty years after Appomattox. ..." 1 Insofar as Mr. White’s statement is correct, it alludes to a natural consequence of the situation. These young men, under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, served in the armies which saved the Union, and, now that the job was done, the great majority of them would inevitably adhere to the party of Lincoln.

However, Mr. White’s statement is more rhetorically correct than it is statistically, for he had in mind the total strength of the Union veterans in the state and not specifically the strength of the G. A. R., for this organization never recruited more than a small fraction of the potential members, and it tried to be strictly non-partisan. It was a comradeship to preserve common memories, to care for the widows and orphans of soldiers and to promote all that could advance the spirit of patriotism in the community. The officers and members were repeatedly being reminded that they must not let partisan politics affect their activities. Like all organizations, it desired to grow in numbers. The number of posts and their membership fluctuated from year to year, but in the early 1890’s, when the organization was at its peak, there were somewhat less than 500 posts with a membership of not much over 20,000, while it was estimated that the probable number of Union veterans within the borders of the state was some 100,000. Hence the department officers were constantly urging the officers of the local posts to carry on an active recruiting campaign.

During the decade of the 1890’s, when the Populist movement was at its height, one local post commander, in response to the official prompting to recruit new members, wrote the state headquarters that he “never had asked a damned Pop to join and he never would do so.” Of course he was properly reprimanded and again all were reminded of the non-partisan rules under which they worked. However, one may suspect that there was quite general agreement with the attitude of the anti-Populist commander on the part of the leaders of the G. A. R., although they didn’t dare express it so openly as he did. The state was solidly Republican, as White states, and the old soldier vote no doubt was largely responsible for it, but it is not tech-

1. The Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 8 (1930), February, p. 76.
nically correct to say that the G. A. R., as an organization, was responsible for it.

In spite of the large number of Civil War service men who were homesteading in Kansas, the G. A. R. did not come into full recognition in this state until the decade of the 1880's. One may assume that the homesteaders were too busy founding their homes, breaking up the tough sod, fighting Indians and grasshoppers, struggling with the unfriendly elements, and then trying to survive the depression years of the early 1870's, to give time and effort to the establishment and propagation of a social and patriotic organization. However, there was formed in Kansas as early as December, 1865, an order called the Veteran Brotherhood, and the following June a state encampment was held in Topeka. At about the same time the national G. A. R. was founded with the first post at Decatur, Ill., in April, 1866. The leaders of this group evidently invited other veterans' organizations that had sprung up in various states to meet in a national encampment in Indianapolis, November 20, 1866, and the Veteran Brotherhood of Kansas was represented by T. J. Anderson and possibly other members at this meeting. At a second encampment of the Veteran Brotherhood at Topeka in December, 1866, it was voted to transfer into the G. A. R., and the Topeka post of the Veteran Brotherhood became Lincoln Post No. 1 of the G. A. R. 2

Kansas was represented at the national encampment of 1867 and again in 1869 but was not in 1870 nor 1871. In this year it was reported that Kansas had had 36 posts in 1868 but had only nine in 1871 and was in arrears with national dues, so was dropped from the roster, but it was represented again in 1872 and reported that a reorganization was in progress. In 1873 the Kansas department was again in arrears, but got its dues paid by 1874 and, although officially present in 1876, the representative had to report that the number of posts in the department had fallen to a single one of 16 members at Independence. However, posts were being organized at Larned and at Leavenworth, so Kansas was carried as a provisional department in the national organization until 1880 when it gained regular status and remained an active department throughout the remaining years of its history.

The first encampment of the state department was held in Topeka in 1882 and regular meetings were held from that time on. In the records of this first encampment allusion was made to the growth of

2. Frank W. Blackmar, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History, . . . (Chicago, c1912), v. 1, pp. 772, 773.
the order from one post five years before to 36 active posts in 1882. Evidently recruiting went forward at a good rate during the next few years for, at the encampment held in 1884, it was stated that Kansas ranked fourth among the states of the Union in point of numbers in the G. A. R., being surpassed only by Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, and that there were then 298 posts in the state with 16,551 members. Nearly a decade later the number of posts was given as 477 and the membership at a little over 20,000. So, although the numbers on the rolls never included more than a quarter of the potential members, yet it was the actively organized portion of the veteran population, it had definite purposes to attain and, as was emphatically stated at one of the state encampments, “the Grand Army of the Republic is a power in this State, and . . . . can make its influence felt. . . .”

It was a constant objective in the minds of the Civil War veterans to inculcate the spirit of patriotism and, except for the subject of pensions, few themes were more frequently emphasized in the encampments of the organization. The department meeting in 1889 adopted a long resolution setting forth the desirability of keeping alive in the minds of future generations the devotion of those who had saved the Union, and calling upon the schools and state institutions of higher education to set aside memorial halls for reading rooms and historical museums. The next year the encampment urged all local posts to use their influence to get national flags displayed in all public school rooms. In 1891 a resolution was adopted calling on the national encampment to take all necessary steps to insure the teaching of patriotism in the schools, emphasizing in this connection that it was part of their mission to see that the correct history of the Civil War was taught. Throughout the decade of the 1890’s, the department commanders and the resolution and education committees were constantly calling on the members and the local posts to urge legislation requiring schools to own and display flags, and more than one commander called upon the congress of the United States to make available for use in the public schools a system of military instruction already in use in colleges.

In 1903 the education committee reported failure to get a bill through the legislature to require the flag salute in the schools of the state because the River Brethren had protested that such a law would inculcate idolatry, while another proposed piece of legisla-

tion to appropriate money with which to furnish schools a manual of patriotism failed because "a foreign born member who couldn’t speak English" had moved that "te pill pe turn down." The committee complained of lack of support from the local posts. In spite of the seeming apathy of the members of the organization, the committees persisted in their efforts to secure favorable legislation and in 1907 the legislative committee, under the chairmanship of Cyrus Leland, was able to report success in getting the legislature to pass an act requiring school boards to secure flags and facilities for displaying them in the schools, and also requiring the state superintendent to prepare a patriotic manual to be printed by the state printer and distributed to the public school authorities. Just prior to the announcement of this achievement, the office of patriotic instructor seems to have been created in the national organization, state departments and local posts, and in 1906 the department patriotic instructor reported that over 100 flags had been placed in the public schools, but the report failed to indicate where the funds had come from with which to purchase these flags.

In keeping with its interest in patriotism, is the attitude of the organization towards holidays related to Civil War men and incidents. In 1885 the department encampment expressed its appreciation of the act of the legislature making Memorial Day, May 30, a legal holiday, and there is no doubt that the organization and its members had been active in lobbying for that legislation, as they were later for enactment of the law making Lincoln’s birthday a legal holiday. That they were jealous of the proper observance of such days is evidenced, for example, by the strong protest voiced by the G. A. R. in 1919 against the proposed plan for President Taft to speak in Kansas City on Memorial Day on the subject of the League of Nations. It is to be assumed that the protest was animated, not by hostility towards Wilson’s league, but only by the determination to keep that day sacred to the theme of the Civil War and the sacrifices of the heroes who had fought in the struggle to save the Union. Similar sentiment, evidently, explains the persistent opposition of the G. A. R. to the adoption of a state flag, as they reiterated their slogan, “One Country, One Flag, One Language.” It seemed inappropriate, if not unpatriotic, to these boys in blue for any symbol to be raised that might seem to divide allegiance, or to detract from the glory of the Stars and Stripes, and it was not till after the

G. A. R. had ceased to be a force in public affairs that a state flag was adopted.

It is of rather special interest to note that the G. A. R. went on record as officially approving and endorsing the G. A. R. Memorial College at Oberlin, Kan. This was a college incorporated in 1891 for the especial purpose of giving free college education to the children of soldiers and sailors of the Civil War, and it is said to have been the only college in the country set up for that purpose. The boys and girls who attended were required to wear uniforms furnished by the school at cost and they had to bear the cost of their board and rooms, but they were charged no tuition. The college had but a short existence but while it lived it had the blessing of the old soldier organization.

In this same decade of the 1890's, the department encampment passed a resolution calling upon the state and national governments to appropriate money for the building of a Union Soldiers’ Memorial Hall of United States History, to be erected on the campus of the University of Kansas. This structure was to be dedicated to the realization of the G. A. R. purpose that the correct history of the Civil War be taught. In view of this constant and commendable emphasis on what they considered good patriotism, it is a bit surprising that the encampment of 1884 indefinitely postponed action on a proposed resolution commending Sen. John J. Ingalls for “his masterly defense of the martyred hero of freedom and patron saint of Kansas, John Brown.” One wonders if the negative action was prompted by a doubt as to the saintliness of John Brown or by a doubt as to the propriety of an endorsement of a prominent politician.6

Another evidence of the interest the G. A. R. had in the proper inculcation of patriotism in the rising generation is seen in the concern the department commanders were constantly manifesting in the character of the textbooks in United States history that were in use in the schools. As early as the meeting of 1891 this concern was indicated by the resolution which was passed calling on the national encampment to take steps to insure the proper presentation of the account of the Civil War—its significance, its battles, its heroes—to the youth in the schools of the land. At the state encampment of 1894, the department commander in his address strongly criticized the school histories in use as being written to sell in all parts of the country—the South as well as the North—and so failing to teach

the proper love and reverence for the soldiers who had saved the country. He stated that he had appointed a committee to see about rewriting the histories or having a good one written. Later in this same meeting this committee gave its report, going into some detail in its criticism of the history books in use, and it closed its report with three recommendations, namely, (1) That the department commander appoint a committee of three G. A. R. men to watch with vigilance the character of books used in the public schools of the state and the character of the teachers employed at public expense. (2) That the regents and professors at the state university, the state agricultural college and the state normal school be requested to raise the American flag over their college buildings every school day, and the department commander be authorized to appoint three comrades annually residing at Lawrence, Manhattan and Emporia, to report at each encampment whether the school authorities had respected this request. (3) Each post commander was to have this report read at a post meeting soon after the encampment proceedings were published.\(^7\)

In 1895 the comrades were still worried about this matter as is indicated by a resolution which was passed authorizing the commander to appoint a committee to work out a plan to get a proper history text published for use in Kansas schools. Such a committee was appointed and at the meeting the following year it gave a long report. It told how three comrades had been given time before the state teachers' association meeting to point out errors in the history book then in use and to tell the teachers how to teach patriotism. One of these speakers was quoted as telling the teachers that if he were writing a history textbook he would give, not a few lines, but 50 pages to the story of the Kansas struggle.\(^8\) Evidently he wasn't worried about the size of the book the children would have to read if all the topics were treated in similar ratio.

Three years later the subject was again attacked in the commander's address when he condemned the book then in use because it gave too little space to the battles and leaders of the Civil War and failed to instill the spirit of patriotism. Another committee was appointed to make a study of the state-adopted text, which was Taylor's Model History of the United States, Kansas edition, and at the encampment of 1900 this committee gave a long report which

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pointed out the inadequacies of the book. Among other shortcomings, it was pointed out that the book devoted only 17 pages to the account of the Civil War while it gave 19 to the story of Cleveland's administration, and, furthermore, it wrongly gave credit to the Cleveland administration for some legislation favorable to the veterans which had actually been passed at an earlier date. This supposed partiality of the author for the Cleveland program made an especially good point of attack, for Cleveland's economy in the matter of pensions had made him unpopular with the members of the G. A. R., just as the program of the earlier commissioner of pensions, Corporal Tanner, with his "God pity the surplus" slogan had made him a favorite with the recipients of pensions. Still the question of textbooks wasn't settled and in 1901 another committee was appointed to investigate school history books, and in 1902 this committee reported that the new textbook commission, appointed by Governor Stanley, had replaced Taylor's history text by one written by Davidson, who was superintendent of schools in Topeka, and the committee highly praised Davidson's book and gave credit to the G. A. R. for getting the change made.

This story of the turmoil over textbooks serves to remind us that each generation has its problems of unpatriotic and subversive influences and each generation produces its censors to correct such influences. In the decade of the 1890's, the terms "socialist" and "anarchist" were rather indiscriminately pinned onto the advocates of political and economic reform, even as the terms "red" and "Communist" are today, and the G. A. R. was one of the organizations that made it its business to see to it that no un-American ideas poisoned the minds of the youth.

Naturally the G. A. R. was active locally and in a state-wide way to get statues and other monuments erected as memorials to men and events of the Civil War, and many such monuments stand on courthouse squares and in city parks as evidence that the organization was effective in this line of endeavor. At the first state encampment in 1882 action was taken urging the quartermaster general of the U. S. army to have erected at the national cemeteries at Ft. Scott and Ft. Leavenworth suitable rostrums for use on memorial occasions. By this time there must have been some agitation for the establishing of a national soldiers' home west of the Mississippi, for, in 1883, a committee was appointed to see what could be done and at the next encampment the committee reported that it had circularized the posts in the states of the Midwest and had secured over
20,000 signatures to a petition asking congress to establish such a home in Kansas. Later the record shows that the department had advanced nearly $500 to cover the expenses “incurred in securing the passage of the appropriation for the soldiers’ home and its subsequent location in Kansas” and that the legislature had in due time refunded the amount to the department.

The campaign carried on by the G. A. R. was evidently effective for in 1884 congress passed a bill appropriating $250,000 for the erection of a soldiers’ home west of the Mississippi and on July 2 of that year President Arthur signed the bill. The location of the home was a matter for further campaigning and bidding from various cities, but Leavenworth gave 640 acres of land and $50,000 and this, plus the fact that George T. Anthony, of that city, appeared before the national board of managers, was sufficient to swing the matter and the home was located there. The success of this program was a cause of great rejoicing on the part of the organization, as is indicated in the address of the commander at the encampment of 1885 when he said “What stronger proof can there be of the usefulness of the G. A. R. than the good we have accomplished in this direction.”

Probably the supreme achievement of the Kansas department of the G.A.R. in the matter of memorial buildings, was its success, after years of striving, in securing the erection of the Memorial building in Topeka, where the archives of the organization are kept, and in which the State Historical Society is housed. The erection and dedication of this building were high lights in the lives of the old soldiers and their organization, and this was practically the last notable accomplishment of the state department of the G. A. R. It appears that the first foreshadowing of this hall is in the action of the encampment of 1889 asking the executive council of the state government to set aside a part of the capitol building as a memorial hall where G. A. R. meetings could be held and where post flags and relics could be stored, and a memorial hall committee was appointed at this meeting. Some time before 1897 this request had been favorably acted on, for in this year the minutes of the encampment refer to the act of the legislature by which two rooms in the capitol had been set aside as a G. A. R. museum under the custody of men named by the department officers, and the first report of the superintendent of the museum was given at this 1897 encampment. This arrangement didn’t prove entirely satisfactory, evidently, for there is later

9. The Kansas Knight and Soldier, Topeka, July 1, 1887, p. 16.
complaint that the capitol authorities had compelled the organization to move to other rooms in the state house, so agitation continued for better accommodations.

At last, in 1909, a department committee reported that the state legislature had appropriated $200,000 for the building of a memorial hall and had created a building commission on which the secretary of the State Historical Society and the commander of the state department of the G. A. R. should serve. The resolutions adopted at this same 1909 meeting refer to the state appropriation and also state that over $200,000 of funds received from the general government still remain in the treasury, but give no explanation of the source of this money nor its possible use. However in December, 1908, a circular had been sent out from the department headquarters explaining that $97,000 had been received in the state treasury from the federal government, being interest due on money spent by Kansas in raising and equipping troops for the Civil War, but also in part, evidently in payment of individual claims, for it is stated that proof of claims for this money had been chiefly supplied by the State Historical Society. It was believed that some $200,000 would finally be received and hope was expressed that this money, plus state appropriations, would be used in the building of the Memorial hall.11

The next year the department member of the Memorial hall committee reported that he had secured, in the plans for the hall, a G. A. R. room to seat 1,500, a room for a museum and rooms for the auxiliary organizations. In the discussion that followed the report, the question of the materials to be used in the construction of the hall was debated, and also it was strongly emphasized that the G. A. R. museum must be kept separate from that of the Historical Society. It turned out that the money at hand wasn’t sufficient for building the hall as planned, but the legislature of 1911 made additional appropriations, and the contract for the erection of the building was let on March 30, 1911. It was arranged that the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone was to be on September 27, with the President of the United States officiating, but all the exercises to be under the control of the G. A. R.

At the encampment of 1911 an explanation was made as to the source of the funds from the general government which were going into the building of the hall. The government at Washington had paid to the state of Kansas for expenses and personal losses in connection with the Civil War, the sum of $1,268,503. Of this, $337,054

had been paid to certain individual claimants, and the state’s share of $895,892 had been allocated by the state to the building of Memorial hall.

By 1914 the hall had been completed and the dedication ceremonies were observed on May 26, 27 and 28, at the time of the department encampment. A communication in the press that spring seemed to give the impression that the Kansas Academy of Science would direct the exercises at the dedication. This brought forth from the headquarters of the G. A. R. a vigorous letter declaring that the members of the academy, as well as all other citizens, would be welcome at the exercises, but stating in no uncertain terms that the exercises of the day would be under the control of the G. A. R. and of no one else. The original act of the legislature, which provided for the building of the hall, contained a section which reserved the use of the second floor of the building for the G. A. R. and its auxiliary organizations, but by 1918 the G. A. R. officers were protesting against the use of the second floor by other organizations to the exclusion of their order and contrary to law. The legislative session of 1919 passed an act transferring the custody of the hall from the Memorial hall building committee to the state executive council, but through the efforts of Senator Kanavel, the lone Civil War veteran in the senate, the original provision giving the second floor to the Civil War organizations was retained. And so it is today that the assembly room, the museum, and the offices on the second floor of the hall are memorials to, and contain the records of the Grand Army of the Republic and related organizations admitted to its use before the G. A. R. became defunct.

The limitations of time prevent the telling of many other interesting and constructive achievements accomplished by the organization of the men who, as boys, had fought the battles of the war between the states. Much could be said of the leaders, many of whom served their communities, the state and the nation in public office. The organization was largely responsible for inducing the federal government to turn over to the state the land of old Fort Dodge for the purpose of building on it the state soldiers’ home which, down through the years, was indeed a home for many a worthy and needy old comrade in his helpless years. The orphans’ home at Atchison was another benevolent institution for which the G. A. R. was largely responsible, and it shared with its auxiliary, the Ladies of the G. A. R., in the establishment and direction of the Mother Bickerdyke Home

at Ellsworth. The G. A. R. was no doubt what would be called today a pressure group and it certainly applied the pressure for obtaining pensions and other favors to veterans, but it carried on its propaganda frankly, proudly, and in the open for it always insisted that the nation owed to the men who had saved it from destruction a debt that could never be paid with pensions, homes and such benevolence.

The motto of the order—Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty—guided it in caring for the comrades, their widows and orphans, in ministering to any who suffered from epidemics and other disaster, and in keeping alive in the thought of the people the ideal of devotion to country and flag. Their charity came to extend to those outside their order and even to their former enemies, for Kansas posts sent carloads of corn and other gifts to aid in financing the building of homes for Confederate veterans. Yes, the Grand Army of the Republic has passed into history, but the history of its ideals and achievements should not be forgotten.

Following the address of the president, Kirke Mechem, secretary, read a paper giving a sketch of the Society’s history:

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AFTER SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

Every spring hundreds of Kansas school children visit the Memorial building in Topeka. The first thing they see in the lobby is a long case where the original state constitution is displayed. They receive a folder which tells how the document was written. From it they learn that there were three earlier attempts to write a constitution and that all failed because of the bitter fight over slavery in the territory.

Curiously, this was also true of the organization that has charge of the constitution—the Kansas State Historical Society and Department of Archives, to give it its full name.

In 1855 the Pro-Slavery Legislature chartered the Historical and Philosophical Society of Kansas Territory, which lasted only as long as its sponsors. Four years later the Scientific and Historical Society was incorporated. By 1863 it had brought together in Lawrence a collection of 244 books and the files of 14 newspapers. In that year many of its collections were destroyed in the Quantrill raid. Then in 1867 a State Historical Society was projected. But it, too, soon died.

The Kansas Editors and Publishers Association organized the society that finally took root. This was at Manhattan in April, 1875. Today, though 33 states are older than Kansas and many outrank it
in wealth and population, only two or three have historical societies as large.

Perhaps the most important act of the editors was to promise to give back files of their papers and to donate all future issues. For 75 years this promise has been kept, with the result that the collection is now the largest in the United States outside the Library of Congress.

Nothing of course can compare with a newspaper as a source of history. Each file is a continued story of its community. Combined, these Kansas papers record the births and deaths, the successes and failures, the joys and sorrows of the people of the state for nearly a hundred years. No other state has ever attempted such a collection and no other commonwealth, therefore, ever possessed such a minute record of its existence. Consider what historians would give for a file of an Athens Post at the time of Sophocles or a London News in Shakespeare’s day!

The papers received by the society are listed each year in a booklet. The 1950 list shows 697 newspapers and periodicals. Of these, 58 are daily and 383 are weekly, coming from all 105 counties. The total number of Kansas bound volumes is now 53,488. In addition there are over 10,000 bound volumes of out-of-state newspapers dated from 1767 to 1950.

The Society’s first library was donated by its first president, Chief Justice Samuel A. Kingman. It consisted of a bookcase in the office of the state auditor. Today the library has few equals in the fields of Western and Indian history, and genealogy. The section dealing with Kansas is the largest in the country, with about 300,000 separate card entries relating to Kansas subjects alone.

An attempt is made to get a copy of every book, pamphlet and magazine article written about Kansas or by a Kansan. In addition, several leading Kansas dailies are read, and the stories with historical value are clipped and catalogued. In this way the current history of the state is kept up-to-date.

The Chinese have a saying that one picture is worth 10,000 words. In the library 24,000 pictures are catalogued, mostly of Kansas subjects. They range from tintypes less than an inch in size to a life-size painting showing Governor Reeder escaping from the territory disguised as a woodchopper. Also, there are 12,000 maps, atlases and charts, tracing three centuries of development in the Kansas region.

The most popular department, especially with children of school age, is the museum. It is the largest of the state historical museums
and contains 35,000 objects illustrating the history of Kansas and the West.
These objects range in size from Mexican dressed fleas to a Concord stage coach, and in time from a Coronado sword of 1541, found on the plains of Kansas, down to the present year. Boys with a Hopalong Cassidy complex flock about the old Western rifles, revolvers, powder flasks, cartridge belts and saddles. None of the relics attracts more attention than an airplane made and flown in Topeka in 1912.

The Society is the official archives department of the state. Archives, strictly speaking, are business records. Schools, for example, have archives in the form of minutes of school boards, records of classes, etc. When a state officer, such as the superintendent of public instruction, wants to dispose of records he notifies the records board. The archives department examines the papers and determines which have permanent value. They are then moved to the Memorial building and organized for use. The others, usually the larger part, are destroyed.

Kansas was the first state in the middle west to pass an archives law. This was in 1905. Not until recent years, however, did the law prohibit departments from destroying records without permission. Since then, more records have been transferred to the Society than in any preceding twenty years. The state’s total archives run to over 2,000,000 documents.

In the archives may be found the correspondence of every Kansas governor since 1854. All the original census reports since the first enumeration of 1855 are preserved. Of great value are the charter books from the secretary of state’s office which contain a record of all Kansas corporations.

Another department, similar to archives, consists of private letters, diaries and the like. They were written by early-day missionaries, farmers, politicians, housewives, etc., and include records of organizations and commercial firms. Examples are 35 bound volumes of the letters of Isaac McCoy, one of the first missionaries and surveyors in Kansas; the journal of Jotham Meeker, Kansas’ first printer; and the official correspondence of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. Nearly every noted Kansan, and hundreds of others, are represented in this collection of 300,000 pieces.

Since all papers break down with age, especially wood-pulp newspapers, a chief problem is to preserve their content. The best method is to photograph them on microfilm, since it also saves space.
The Kansas Society was one of the first to experiment in this field. The microfilm department has now taken 2,000,000 pictures of old newspapers and archives. In addition, it has bought from the National Archives, and elsewhere, microfilm records pertaining to Kansas which total around 350,000 pictures. Three projectors are available for use of these films.

The Society of course is more than a collector. It has published 17 books known as the Kansas Historical Collections, 18 bound volumes of The Kansas Historical Quarterly, as well as numerous smaller publications. It is now compiling an “Annals of Kansas,” a continuation of Wilder’s Annals. This work, when published, will be a day-by-day history of the state from 1885 to 1925.

As trustee for the state, the Society has charge of several historic sites. The most important are the old Shawnee Mission, which was established in 1830 near present Kansas City as an Indian mission and school, and the First Capitol building on the Fort Riley reservation. Custodians at both places care for the properties and show them to the public.

Like other state departments, the Society operates on money received from the legislature. For the most part, this support has been generous. But sometimes there are questions. A few years ago a member of an appropriations committee, visiting the building for the first time, asked, “What the hell good is a historical society?” It turned out that he was a cattleman, and when he was shown a complete collection of brand books, with his father’s brand in one of the volumes, he began to look about him with a more open mind.

Actually, the Society serves the public in three ways. The first is in a sense patriotic; it stimulates the pride people have in their past and encourages their natural desire to honor their ancestors. These are legitimate sentiments, and are a trait of all strong civilizations. Likewise, the Society helps teach some of the lessons of history: what can be learned from the struggles and errors of the past.

On another level, the Society is merely an entertainer. People like curiosities, and the older the better. They like to identify the objects their parents or grandparents used. They enjoy seeing the crude utensils of the Indians, the prairie-breaking plows of the pioneers, the rope beds, the hand-written arithmetics. They are entertained by old maps and pictures. They are amused by early-day newspaper advertisements of bustles, mustache cups and bed warmers, and are touched to see steak offered at ten cents a pound and stockings at 15 cents a pair.
For many, there is entertainment in genealogical research. Scores of persons spend hours in the library checking family histories. And of course there are other hobbyists who want to know about stamps, coins, old china, Indian relics, costumes and countless other subjects.

But there is a dollar-and-cents value in historical records that is little appreciated by the general public. A great deal of the advertising Kansas receives is based on the Society's collections. Newspapermen use them constantly, as a source for features, for illustrations, for checking information. This is also true of writers for national magazines and authors of books.

No historian of course can write about the state, or for that matter about the Great Plains region, without reference to the Society's records. Allan Nevins, who has twice won the Pulitzer prize, has visited the Society a number of times. Not long ago, J. Frank Dobie, a leading authority on Southwestern history, wrote that Kansas has the best state-maintained society he has ever worked in. "Go to Kansas," he told his own state, "to learn how a historical society representing Texas might be dignified."

Nearly 300 persons a month come to the Society for help in getting birth certificates, and requests are received by mail from all parts of the country. These certificates are needed for claims for old age assistance, social security, railroad retirement, pensions, passports, proof of citizenship, etc. In giving this service last year it was necessary to search 8,983 census volumes and hundreds of bound newspaper volumes and microfilm reels.

Recently the title to a valuable Kansas property hinged on the validity of a notary's commission. It was claimed that the commission had expired before the notary had witnessed a transfer many years before. By reference to the Society's records it was proved that the commission had been renewed and that the transfer was legal. Frequently, in similar instances, official signatures can be verified by comparing them with known true signatures in the archives.

Even out-of-state business concerns occasionally make use of the Society. Several months ago one of the country's largest chain stores was sued by the federal government. As part of the defense of the suit, the corporation hired a staff of researchers to check their advertisements through hundreds of Kansas newspapers.

One of the state's most beautiful buildings was erected without cost, thanks to the archives. This is the Memorial building, which
probably could not be replaced today for $1,500,000. During the
Civil War, on promise of repayment by the federal government, Kan-
sas spent $600,000 of its own money. Then for the next 50 years it
tried to collect. In 1908 reimbursement was at last approved. Those
who handled the matter stated that "without the records kept by the
historical society, and nowhere else to be found, the state couldn't
have collected a dollar."

There was, therefore, a touch of poetic justice in the decision that
made the Memorial building the permanent home of the Society.
The building is now 35 years old, yet even today few other societies
are so well equipped. Certainly much of the Society's progress has
been due to this capacity for expansion.

PRESIDENTS OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
1875-1951

1875-1876 *SAMUEL AUSTIN KINGMAN, Topeka.
1877 *GEORGE ADDISON CRAWFORD, Fort Scott.
1878 *JOHN ALEXANDER MARTIN, Atchison.
1879-1880 *CHARLES ROBINSON, Lawrence.
1881-1882 *TIMOTHY DWIGHT THACHER, Lawrence.
1883-1884 *FLOYD FERRY BAKER, Topeka.
1885-1886 *DANIEL READ ANTHONY, I, Leavenworth.
1887 *DANIEL WEBSTER WILDER, Hiawatha.
1888 *EDWARD RUSSELL, Lawrence.
1889 *WILLIAM ADDISON PHILLIPS, Salina.
1890 *CYRUS KURTZ HOLLIDAY, Topeka.
1891 *JAMES STANLEY EMERY, Lawrence.
1892 *THOMAS A. OSBORN, Topeka.
1893 *PERCIVAL G. LOWE, Leavenworth.
1894 *VINCENT J. LANE, Kansas City.
1895 *SOLON O. THACHER, Lawrence.
1896 *EDMUND N. MORRILL, Hiawatha.
1897 *HARRISON KELLEY, Burlington.
1898 *JOHN SPEER, Garden City.
1899 *EUGENE FITCH WARE, Kansas City.
1900 *JOHN GIDEON HASKELL, Lawrence.
1901 *JOHN FRANCIS, Colony.
1902 *WILLIAM H. SMITH, Marysville.
1903 *WILLIAM B. STONE, Galena.
1904 *JOHN MARTIN, Topeka.
1905 *ROBERT M. WRIGHT, Dodge City.
1906 *HORACE LADD MOORE, Lawrence.
1907 *JAMES R. MEAD, Wichita.
1908 *GEORGE W. VEALE, Topeka.
1909 *GEORGE W. GLICK, Atchison.
1910 *ALBE B. WHITING, Topeka.
1911 *EDWIN C. MANNING, Winfield.
1912 *William Elsey Connelley, Topeka.
1913 *David E. Ballard, Washington.
1914–1915 *John N. Harrison, Ottawa.
1916 *Charles Frederick Scott, Iola.
1917 *Charles Sumner Gleed, Topeka.
1918 *George Pierson Morehouse, Topeka.
1919 *Wilder S. Metcalf, Lawrence.
1920 *Thos. A. McNeal, Topeka.
1921 *F. Dumont Smith, Hutchinson.
1922 *Sam F. Woolard, Wichita.
1925 *Theodore Gardner, Lawrence.
1926 *Jerome W. Berryman, Ashland.
1927 *Samuel E. Cobb, Topeka.
1928 *Charles L. Kagey, Beloit.
1929 *William L. Huggins, Emporia.
1930 W. C. Simons, Lawrence.
1931 Charles M. Hargis, Abilene.
1932 John S. Dawson, Hill City.
1933 *Thomas Amory Lee, Topeka.
1934 H. K. Lindsay, Wichita.
1935 *Thomas F. Dornan, Topeka.
1935 *Frank Heywood Hodder, Lawrence.
1936 *E. E. Kelley, Garden City.
1937 *Edwin A. Austin, Topeka.
1938 *William Allen White, Emporia.
1939 Robert C. Rankin, Lawrence.
1940 Thomas M. Lillard, Topeka.
1941 James C. Malin, Lawrence.
1942 Chas. H. Browne, Horton.
1943 W. E. Stanley, Wichita.
1944 Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg.
1945 *Ralph R. Price, Manhattan.
1946 Jess C. Denious, Dodge City.
1948 Robert T. Aitchison, Wichita.
1949 R. F. Brock, Goodland.
1950 Charles M. Correll, Manhattan.
1951 Frank Haucke, Council Grove.

SECRETARIES OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
1875–1951

1875–1876 *Floyd Perry Baker, Topeka.
1876–1899 *Franklin George Adams, Topeka.
1914–1930 *William Elsey Connelley, Topeka.
1930 *Fred B. Bonebrake, Topeka.
1930– Kirke Mechem, Wichita.

*Deceased.
The report of the committee on nominations was called for:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS

October 13, 1950.

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, 1953:

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.
Eeuwer, Elmer E., Goodland.
Farley, Alan W., Kansas City.
Hobble, Frank A., Dodge City.
Hogen, John C., Belleville.
Hunt, Charles L., Concordia.
Knapp, Dallas W., Coffeyville.
Lilleston, W. F., Wichita.

McLean, Milton R., Topeka.
Malin, James C., Lawrence.
Mayhew, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. DAWSON, Chairman.

On motion by John S. Dawson, seconded by Frank A. Hobble, the report of the committee was accepted unanimously and the members of the board were declared elected for the term ending in October, 1953.

Reports of county and local societies were called for and were given by Mrs. John L. Barkley for the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society, and by Wilford Riegel for the Lyon County Historical Society.

There being no further business, the annual meeting of the Society adjourned.

To mark the Society’s 75th anniversary, refreshments were served in the secretary’s office at the close of the meeting. Mrs. Charles M. Correll cut a three-tiered birthday cake; and Mrs. Kirke Mechem served punch from the silver punch bowl of the battleship Kansas service.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The afternoon meeting of the board of directors was called to order by President Correll. 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 Standish Hall and the following were unanimously elected:

For a one-year term: Frank Haucke, Council Grove, president; Will T. Beck, Holton, first vice-president; Robert Taft, Lawrence, second vice-president.

For a two-year term: Kirke Mechem, Topeka, secretary; Mrs. Lela Barnes, Topeka, treasurer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

DIRECTORS OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AS OF OCTOBER, 1950

Directors for the Year Ending October, 1951

Bailey, Roy F., Salina.
Beezley, George F., Girard.
Bowlus, Thomas H., Iola.
Brinkerhoff, Fred W., Pittsburg.
Browne, Charles H., Horton.
Campbell, Mrs. Spurgeon B., Kansas City.
Cron, F. H., El Dorado.
Ebright, Homer K., Baldwin.
Gray, John M., Kirwin.
Hamilton, R. L., Beloit.
Harger, Charles M., Abilene.
Harvey, Mrs. A. M., Topeka.
Haucke, Frank, Council Grove.
Hodges, Frank, Olathe.
Lingenfelser, Angelus, Atchison.
McArthur, Mrs. Vernon E., Hutchinson.
McFarland, Helen M., Topeka.
Malone, James, Topeka.
Mechem, Kirke, Topeka.
Mueller, Harrie S., Wichita.
Philip, Mrs. W. D., Hays.
Rankin, Robert C., Lawrence.
Ruppenthal, J. C., Russell.
Sayers, Wm. L., Hill City.
Simons, W. C., Lawrence.
Skinner, Alton H., Kansas City.
Stanley, W. E., Wichita.
Stone, Robert, Topeka.
Taft, Robert, Lawrence.
Templar, George, Arkansas City.
Trembly, W. B., Kansas City.
Woodring, Harry H., Topeka.

Directors for the Year Ending October, 1952

Barr, Frank, Wichita.
Berryman, Jerome C., Ashland.
Brigham, 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.
Godsey, Mrs. Flora R., Emporia.
Hall, Mrs. Carrie A., Leavenworth.
Hall, Standish, Wichita.
Hegler, Ben F., Wichita.
Jones, Horace, Lyons.
Lillard, T. M., Topeka.
Lindley, H. K., Wichita.
Means, Hugh, Lawrence.
Norton, Gus S., Kalvesta.
Owen, Arthur K., Topeka.
Owen, Mrs. E. M., Lawrence.
Patrick, Mrs. Mae C., Satanta.
Payne, Mrs. L. F., Manhattan.
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 DeMark, M. V. B., Concordia.
Wark, George H., Caney.
Williams, Charles A., Bentley.
Wooster, Lorraine E., Salina.
THE ANNUAL MEETING

DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1953

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Malin, James C., Lawrence.
Mayhew, Mrs. Patricia Solander, Topeka.
Miller, Karl, Dodge City.
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Raynesford, H. C., Ellis.
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