Kansas History as Published in the Press


A series of articles dealing with the early history of Baxter Springs
has appeared regularly in the Baxter Springs Citizen, beginning July 20, 1950.


A brief history of Frankfort appeared in the Frankfort Index, July 27, 1950. In 1867 the Frankfort Town Company was formed and the townsite laid out, but the town was not organized as a third class city until July 24, 1875. R. S. Newell was the first mayor.

C. D. Smith’s series of historical articles in the Blue Rapids Times continued on August 3, 1950, with biographical sketches of John
McPherson, Albert E. Sweetland, Rufus S. Craft, Festus Cooley, Edwin M. Brice and James G. Strong, all prominent in the early and middle years of Blue Rapids history. The last article in the series appeared August 31.

Among numerous articles on Ellis county history appearing in the Hays papers in recent months was the continuation of Raymond L. Welty's series in the Hays Daily News: “Negro Troops Arrived at Old Ft. Hays 83 Years Ago,” August 6, 1950; “Moving of Post Was Exciting Event at Old Fort Hays,” August 13; “Indian Hostilities Kept Ft. Hays Troops Busy,” August 27; “Guards of Soldiers Went With Stagecoaches From Hays,” September 3; “Buffalo Bill Failed in Real Estate Business,” September 10; “Cholera Epidemic Hit Fort Hays and Rome in 1867,” October 1, and “4 of 5 Companies at Fort Hays in 1867 Were Negro,” October 8. The News printed a special edition November 12, the 21st anniversary of the publication of its first issue, in which several historical articles were reprinted from the first issue. The story of a shooting duel between Ellis county sheriff Alexander Ramsey and an outlaw, Jim Flory, in 1875, was printed in the News, September 24. A series of articles on the history of Victoria was begun in the weekly Ellis County News, Hays, September 21, 1950. Victoria was founded in the early 1870's by George Grant, a wealthy Englishman.

The building of the first church in Kiowa county was described in the Kiowa County Signal, Greensburg, August 10, 1950, from information supplied by John S. M. Howard of Englewood, Colo. The building was erected in the fall of 1879.

The dead town of Ravanna, Finney county, is the subject of a historical editorial in the Garden City Daily Telegram, August 12, 1950. Organized in the 1880's as Bulltown by John Bull, Ravanna engaged in a bitter fight with Eminence over which was to be the county seat of Garfield county. In 1898 Garfield became a part of Finney county, and both Ravanna and Eminence have ceased to exist. The Johnson Pioneer, August 17, also printed a brief history of Ravanna.

The Mt. Olive African Methodist church of Emporia reached the 80th anniversary of its founding August 13, 1950, and a brief history of the church was published in the Emporia Times, August 17. A short history of the Cottonwood Friends church, five miles west of Emporia, which recently celebrated its 90th anniversary, appeared in the Emporia Gazette, October 7.
A short history of Marshall, early Sedgwick county trading post, was published in the Cheney Sentinel, August 24, 1950. David Moore who started the Lone Tree ranch in 1872 was the first settler in the region, and Emmett Joslyn established the first store at Marshall. The town flourished for a few years, but the railroad missed it by two and one-half miles and the entire town moved to Cheney in 1883.


A review of the history of the Friends church, Riverton, by Mrs. Alfaretta Mitchel, appeared on August 31, 1950, in the column “Do You Remember When?” still being published regularly in The Modern Light, Columbus. Mrs. Mitchel’s article also was printed in the Columbus Daily Advocate, August 29, 1950.

An account of a mule-team trip from Illinois to Kansas in 1876, written by Alfred W. Lindley in 1931, was published in the autumn, 1950, issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society of Springfield. Alfred was the driver of the lead team when his mother’s family made the journey to Cloud county in the early fall of 1876.

An eight-page review of “The Work of James C. Malin as Historian and as Critic of Historians,” by Thomas H. Le Duc, professor of history at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, appeared in the September, 1950, issue of Nebraska History, published by the Nebraska State Historical Society at Lincoln. Mr. Le Duc has written so highly of Dr. Malin that we are reprinting (without consulting Dr. Malin) a few excerpts from the review:

“With the publication of the Essays on Historiography and The Grasslands of North America it became apparent that James C. Malin now and for almost thirty years a teacher of history at the University of Kansas, was thinking about history and historical writing in ways that are fresh and fundamental. It is clear that he is not only an incisive critic of several basic hypotheses long and well regarded among historians, but also a creative worker of prodigious industry, immense learning, and disciplined imagination.

“Malin’s individual works have been reviewed in the learned journals and their originality recognized not only by historians but by
specialists in other fields. . . . His is a common-sense, practical approach to history. . . .

"He challenges the fundamental implication of the Turner hypothesis. Turner announced in 1893 that the frontier was gone and the supply of usable land exhausted. By asserting that the availability of free land had conditioned, indeed determined, the development of American institutions up to that point, he implied that America had reached the catastrophic end of the first chapter of her history. Nonsense, says Malin. The critical element is not land entry but land use. What really matters is intelligent adaptation to environment. The frontier is not closed as long as we are moving towards that goal. Turner’s frontier is gone. The shabby, exploitative, wasteful west of the 1820’s is happily lost. The scrubby cattle are replaced by the more efficient Herefords; the paltry corn is supplanted by new hybrids; the primitive tillage is succeeded by new techniques. Out of experiment and innovation has come enrichment. . . .

"One wonders how long it will be until James C. Malin is as fully appreciated by the historians as by the scientists and economists."


A three-installment biographical sketch of the late Ed Dean of Morton county, by Willard Mayberry, was published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, September 1, 8 and 15, 1950. Dean came to southwest Kansas in 1884 at the age of 15.

A short history of St. John’s Lutheran church, near White City, was published in the Council Grove Republican, September 4, 1950. The 75th anniversary of the church was celebrated September 3. A school centennial edition of the Republican was published September 29, 1950. Council Grove’s education history began in January, 1850, with a school for Kaw Indians.

Stories on the attempt by the Dalton gang to rob the Coffeyville banks on October 5, 1892, were published in the Coffeyville Daily Journal, September 12 and October 5, 1950. The Journal is leading
a movement to establish a museum for Coffeyville, of which the mementos of the Dalton raid would be the nucleus.

A history of the Abilene Public Library, by Mrs. Lucy Burkholder, the librarian, was published in the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, September 19, 1950. The library had its beginning December 20, 1900, when the ladies' literary clubs of Abilene formed a library association. The library formally opened on January 1, 1908, with Lida Romig as librarian. The present library building was dedicated on October 1, 1908.

Dan Hillman's reminiscences of the early days around Beloit were printed in the Beloit Call, September 28, 1950. Hillman came to Beloit in 1873 at the age of six. Beloit's history begins about 1866 when Aaron A. Bell was the first settler on what was to become the townsite.

Reminiscences of the settling of Gnadenau were printed in the Hillsboro Journal, September 28, October 5 and 19, 1950. The settlers arrived from the Crimea, Russia, in the summer of 1874, the location having been selected by Jacob A. Wiebe and Franz R. Janzen. "History of the First Mennonite Church of Lehigh, Kansas, 1900-1950," by Mrs. Frank H. Klassen, appeared in the Journal, October 19.

"Kansas Wheat Farmer," is the title of an article in the Harvester World, publication of the International Harvester Co. at Chicago, October, 1950. Ronald Bricker, Wallace county, is used as an example of the younger Kansas wheat farmers and what they have done since the dust bowl years.

An article entitled "The Tale of Two Cities," Victoria and Herzog, by the Rev. Fr. Blaise Fusco, was published in the Victoria Visitor, October 12, 1950. The first British colonists arrived at Victoria in 1873 after George Grant had received a grant of nearly 100,000 acres from the railroad. In 1876 German colonists arrived and settled near Victoria, naming their settlement Herzog. The communities united in 1913 under the name of Victoria.

Frontier days near Fort Scott, as recalled by Henry Gross, were described by Frank Reeds in the Fort Scott Tribune, October 18, 1950. In 1855 Gross' father and mother homesteaded about ten miles north of Fort Scott.

Included among brief historical articles which appeared in recent issues of The News Chronicle, Scott City, were: "Coxey's Invasion
Was Big Event,” October 26, 1950; “El Quarte-lejo,” site of Picurie Indian pueblo, November 2; “Last Indian Battle in Kansas Was Fought Just South of the Present State Park [Scott county],” November 9, and “The Trail of Vengeance’ Ended Near the Smoky Hill River,” a Pawnee Indian legend, November 16.

A series of brief articles under the title of “Holton’s Colorful History,” was begun in the Holton Recorder, October 26, 1950. Material for the articles is being assembled by W. T. Beck.


The Quantrill raid on Olathe, September, 1862, was described by Mabel M. Henderson in the Johnson County Herald, Overland Park, November 2, 1950. The early days around Lenexa were recalled by Ed Legler, and written by Miss Henderson, in the Herald, November 9.