Kansas Historical Notes

The old school at Council Grove, erected in 1850 by the federal government for the education of the Kaw or Kansas Indians, is the most recent historic site acquired by the state. Sen. W. H. White introduced a bill in the 1951 Kansas legislature which provided for the purchase of the building and one-half block of ground. The Kansas State Historical Society will manage the building as a museum and as a memorial to the Indians for whom the state was named.

Frank Haucke, president of the State Historical Society, presided, and Kirke Mechem, secretary, was the featured speaker at a dinner meeting held in Council Grove on April 19 at which plans for the new museum were discussed.

Trustees elected for three-year terms at the annual meeting of the Shawnee County Historical Society at Topeka, December 12, 1950, were: Paul Adams, Paul A. Lovewell, Mrs. Henry S. Blake, Dwight Ream, Dr. J. D. Bright, Marco Morrow, Fred Derby, Mildred Quail, Frank Durein and Earl Ives. J. Clyde Fink was named to fill a trusteeship vacancy. Euphemia Page gave a paper on the history of Topeka, and Dr. Bryan S. Stoffer spoke on the future of Washburn Municipal University. At a meeting of the trustees on January 23, 1951, Tom Lillard was elected president of the society. Other officers chosen were: Paul Lovewell, vice-president; Paul Adams, secretary, and Paul Sweet, treasurer.

The house in Medicine Lodge where Carry Nation lived during her saloon-smashing days was formally opened to the public as a memorial and a museum on January 1, 1951. Built in 1882, it was recently purchased by D. S. Grigsby, Medicine Lodge, for the local W. C. T. U. Among Mrs. Nation's possessions now on display at the house, is the hatchet used in her first antisaloon crusades.

The role played by Kansas Negroes in the Civil War was discussed by Dr. Dudley Cornish, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, January 26, 1951. According to Dr. Cornish, two all-Negro Kansas regiments took part in the fighting. Ralph Shideler, Girard, president of the society, presided at the meeting.
Kingsley W. Given of Kansas State College was the principal speaker at the Kansas Day dinner of the Riley County Historical Association held January 26, 1951. The life of Col. George S. Park, one of the founders of Bluemont Central College, forerunner of Kansas State College, was the subject of Mr. Given's talk. An article by Jim Swetnam on Frank I. Burt, manager of the association's museum for the past ten years, was published in the Manhattan *Tribune-News*, January 18, 1951.

Dr. Gerald O. McCulloh, Northwestern University, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas at Topeka, January 28, 1951. Albert Kaine, Wamego, won the high school essay contest; Lee Banks, Kansas Wesleyan University student, was the winner of the speech contest, and the factual story contest was won by Mrs. Benjamin O. Weaver of Mullinsville. Edwin R. Jones, Topeka, became the new president of the Native Sons, and Mrs. Thomas H. Norton, Topeka, of the Native Daughters. Other officers of the Native Sons are: C. W. Porterfield, Holton, vice-president; Maurice Fager, Topeka, secretary, and Rolla Clymer, El Dorado, treasurer. Other officers of the Native Daughters are: Mrs. Ray S. Pierson, Burlington, vice-president; Mrs. David McCrea, secretary, and Mrs. Ethel Godin, Topeka, treasurer. Mrs. Frank W. Boyd, Mankato, was re-elected contest chairman. Retiring presidents were Guy D. Josserand, Dodge City, and Mrs. P. A. Pettit, Paola.

The Woman's Kansas Day Club held its 44th annual meeting January 29, 1951, with Mrs. Eric Tebow of Manhattan, president, presiding. Mrs. Ira Burkholder, Topeka, was elected president of the club at the morning session. Other officers elected were: Mrs. McDill Boyd, Phillipsburg, first vice-president; Mrs. Tillie Karns-Newman, Coffeyville, second vice-president; Mrs. Herb Barr, Leoti, recording secretary; Mrs. Walter Stadel, Topeka, treasurer; Mrs. Earl Moses, Great Bend, historian; Mrs. Douglas I. McCrum, Fort Scott, auditor, and Mrs. W. M. Ehram, Wichita, registrar. Directors were chosen as follows: Mrs. George Reinhard, Atchison, first district; Mrs. R. A. Dumaine, Spring Hill, second district; Mrs. Howard Killion, Independence, third district; Mrs. W. A. Smiley, Junction City, fourth district; Mrs. Phyllis Obie, Hutchinson, fifth district, and Mrs. C. E. Toothaker, Hoxie, sixth district. "The Human Tapestry of Kansas," a study of the many nationalities which have contributed to the state's history, was the theme of the
meeting. District directors and historians made historical reports in keeping with the “tapestry” theme. One of the most interesting reports was presented by Mrs. Anna Laura Bitts Fritts, Williamsburg, who gave personal recollections of Silkville, early French colony in Franklin county. These reports, a number of museum articles, some 150 pictures, manuscripts and printed material were presented to the Kansas State Historical Society.

Eleven directors of the Finney County Historical Society were re-elected for two-year terms at the society’s third annual banquet, February 18, 1951. They were: Gus Norton, East Garfield township; J. E. Greathouse, Pleasant Valley township; William Fant, Garden City township; Albert Drussell, Ivanhoe township; Mrs. Charles Brown, Sherlock township, and Mrs. Kate Hatcher Smith, Mrs. Ella Condra, Mrs. R. E. Stotts, Mrs. Jean N. Kampschroeder, Frederick Finnap and William E. Hutchison, Garden City. Logan N. Green, Garden City attorney, was the principal speaker. Mrs. Kate Hatcher Smith, vice-president of the society, presided at the meeting.

The Fort Harker museum at Kanopolis has been opened to the public on Sunday afternoons and holidays by the American Legion Post No. 329 of Kanopolis. The museum is housed in the old guardhouse.

*Interesting Facts and Places in Kansas* is the title of a recently published 112-page “fact calendar” by Viola Coyle Bettis. Besides a calendar with space for notes each day of 1951, the pamphlet contains brief historical notes and present-day information on Kansas.

*History of Grant County, Kansas,* is the title of a new 278-page book by R. R. Wilson and Ethel M. Sears. The book, attractively printed and illustrated, covers many phases and periods of Grant county history.

The first volume of *History of Finney County, Kansas,* consisting of 262 pages of printed matter and pictures, was recently published by the Finney County Historical Society. Included in the volume were: The history of the historical society, history of Finney county, portraits of founders and early citizens, history of Garden City, biographical sketches, military organizations and churches. Ralph T. Kersey, society historian, was largely responsible for the preparation of the material.