The Annals of Kansas: 1886

INTRODUCTION BY KIRKE MEchem

The first Annals of Kansas was published in 1875 by Daniel W. Wilder. It was a volume of almost 700 pages of fine print, which began with the expedition of Coronado and ended with the year 1874. In 1886, Wilder issued a second edition; a reprint of the first with eleven years added.

These books were so popular and useful that in later years half a dozen attempts were made to continue them. A good deal of time and money went into several of these projects. But the day of the one-man compilation had long since passed; a fact that was recognized by the Legislature in 1945 when the first appropriation was made to the Kansas State Historical Society for the present work, to begin where Wilder left off.

The Annals committee was composed of Fred Brinkerhoff of Pittsburg, the late Cecil Howes of Topeka, Dr. James C. Malin of the University of Kansas, and Justice William A. Smith of the Kansas Supreme Court. Work began July 1, 1945, under the direction of the editor. Fortunately, it was possible to employ Miss Jennie Owen to take charge of the compilation. She has done a splendid job on a manuscript that in the first draft totaled about 1,500,000 words. Now, with her assistant, James Sallee, she is helping edit it for publication.

The principal sources were Kansas newspapers. It would be impossible to make such a thorough compilation in any other state because in no other state is there such a newspaper collection. Virtually every Kansas paper is on file at the Historical Society. Since the Annals is a day-by-day record of events, and necessarily brief, these papers will enhance its value by enabling users to refer directly to the original and detailed stories.

Not all these papers, of course, were read, but at one time or another they were nearly all consulted. Three papers were scanned

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(161)
regularly for every day of the forty years of the Annals: 1886 to 1925, inclusive. In this way, state-wide coverage was secured, as well as freedom from one-paper or one-party news slanting. Among these papers were the Topeka Daily Capital, the Wichita Eagle, the Kansas City (Mo.) Times, and the official state paper, whatever it was. The Kansas Farmer, official organ for farm organizations and a source of agricultural news, was also read. Items from over the state were verified in the local papers; a story from Hutchinson, for example, was checked in the Hutchinson papers.

There were many other sources. Hundreds of volumes in the Historical Society’s library were consulted, among them the official reports of all state departments, from which the summaries that appear at the end of each year were compiled. Newspaper stories dealing with the state’s business were checked against these reports. Other official reports included those of state-wide associations, such as the Kansas Bar Association, etc.

The most difficult problem was to determine what to include. At the beginning, three prominent Kansans, two lawyers and one professor of history, were asked to compile an annals for the same brief period, each from a different newspaper. There was agreement only on the outstanding (and obvious) events. History is made up of many occurrences that are not important themselves but in the aggregate are vital. For example, there are the meetings of organizations. People organize for countless reasons and nothing is more illustrative of times and conditions. Obviously, the most important should be mentioned. But which are important? The solution was to make brief listings in six-point type of the annual meetings of most of the state-wide associations. For researchers who need to know more, the listings will be a guide to the papers containing the complete stories. The six-point type will save space and enable the casual reader to skip these hundreds of items.

The goal of the editors was to make the Annals accurate, readable, comprehensive, concise and unprejudiced—an impossible achievement, no doubt. It might reasonably be asked, what is comprehensive? Manifestly, a forty-year record of Kansas, which will be a standard reference for perhaps a hundred more, if it is to be worth anything, cannot be written in a few thousand words. On the other hand, it must cost as little as possible. The year 1886, printed in this issue, runs to about 10,000 words. It has been cut from about 20,000 words; that is, in half. It could be reduced to 5,000 words by sacrificing a great deal that is valuable and most of the life and
color. The text, however, represents several editings, based on the experience of a good many years. Nothing essential has been left out. This sample is submitted in the belief that the completed work will give Kansans an accurate, thorough and long-needed history of the state.

THE ANNALS OF KANSAS: 1886

JANUARY 1.—A severe storm, one of a series known as the “Blizzard of ’86,” swept Kansas with rain, turning to ice and snow. It was accompanied by high winds and below-zero temperatures. Many settlers living in temporary houses, and cowboys and travelers, bewildered when landmarks and trails were obliterated, were frozen to death. Some estimates placed the number at nearly 100. Rabbits, prairie chickens, quail and antelope died. Railroad traffic and business were paralyzed. Hundreds of men worked with picks and shovels to clear tracks; it cost several hundred dollars a day to feed snowbound passengers. Food and fuel shortages were serious. Farmers burned corn to keep warm. Many of the great cattle companies were ruined. It was estimated that 80 per cent of the cattle in the storm’s path were killed; those that survived were “walking skeletons.”

—Twelve carloads of buffalo bones had been shipped from Cimarron since May, 1885. They sold for $10 a ton and were made into harness ornaments and cutlery handles.

—George W. Glick, Atchison, former Governor, took charge of the Topeka pension office which served Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Indian territory and New Mexico territory.

—Fort Scott had electricity and a street railway.

—Robert L. Downing played in Tally-Ho and A Tin Soldier at the Grand Opera House, Topeka.

—Food prices in Topeka newspapers included: butter, 20 cents a pound; eggs, 20 cents a dozen; New York full cream cheese, 15 cents a pound; prunes, 18 pounds for $1; sugar, 14 pounds for $1, and coffee, 8 pounds for $1.

—More than 500 pounds of rabbit were being shipped daily from Osborne.


—The Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Kansas, had 372 posts.

—The State Board of Education met at Topeka.

JAN. 2.—Two wagonloads of slaughtered antelope were shipped from Wallace county to Eastern markets.

—Vol. 1, No. 1, Wallace County Register, Wallace; S. L. Wilson, editor and owner; the first paper in Wallace county.

JAN. 3.—A gang at Wichita attacked Charley Sing and ordered him and other proprietors of a Chinese laundry to leave town. The Chinese were promised police protection.

—Judge David J. Brewer in the U. S. Circuit Court held that Henry Bradley, enjoined by the district court at Atchison from selling liquor, was not deprived of his rights as a citizen.

JAN. 4.—Adelaide Moore played in A School for Scandal and As You Like It at the Grand Opera House, Topeka.

JAN. 5.—In Meade county’s first election, Meade Center was chosen county seat. The following officers were elected: county commissioners, Hugh L. Mullen, John D. Wick and Christian Schmocker; county clerk, M. B. Reed;

—A cougar was shot near Sun City, Barber county.

—The Newton Milling and Elevator Co. was organized with a capital stock of $50,000. Bernard Warkentin was one of the directors.

—The State Board of Pharmacy met at Topeka.

JAN. 6.—A Chautauqua county farmer received a $50 premium for the best bale of upland cotton at the New Orleans Exposition. It was grown, ginned and shipped by Exodusers, Negroes who migrated to Kansas.

Vol. 1, No. 1, Frisco Pioneer, Euphrates Boucher, editor and publisher; the first newspaper in Morton county.

JAN. 7.—The Lindsborg News quoted broomcorn at $280 a ton.

—Kansas had a school population of 461,044.

—The Westmoreland Recorder published a 14-column history of Pottawatomie county.

JAN. 8.—Charles F. Scott bought the interest of E. E. Rohrer and became the sole owner of the Iola Register.

—The Kansas Democratic Editors and Publishers Assn. met at Topeka.

JAN. 10.—The Sedan Graphic published a political history of Chautauqua county.

JAN. 11.—The Kansas State Bar Assn. met at Topeka.

—The Kansas Equal Suffrage Assn. met at Topeka.

JAN. 13.—The Cheney Journal and the German-American Advocate, Hays, were printed on Manila paper because of the snow blockade.

—The Kansas State Board of Agriculture met at Topeka.

—The Kansas Real Estate Agents Assn. met at Topeka. Members voted to ask the Legislature for $25,000 to advertise Kansas.

JAN. 14.—Indians suffering from the cold annoyed Wichita citizens by begging admission to their homes.

—Governor Martin was appealed to in the Pratt county-seat war. Residents of Pratt and Saratoga were armed. Pratt charged that Saratoga had stuffed the ballot box in the election of October 1, 1885. Although Saratoga received more votes, county commissioners had decided in favor of Pratt, declaring a fraud. The county seat had been moved at night and by force from Iuka to Pratt. Suit was pending in the Supreme Court.


JAN. 17.—Eugene F. Ware stated he became a poet through writing rhymes advertising the harness business.

JAN. 18.—The Attorney General moved to oust the Leavenworth county attorney for failure to enforce the prohibitory law. He listed over 130 names of county saloonkeepers.

—The Western Baseball League was organized at St. Joseph, Mo., with seven teams including Topeka and Leavenworth.

JAN. 19.—A special session of the Legislature was convened to make a new apportionment for senators and representatives. Governor Martin asked for a law providing for arbitration of disputes between employers and employees. He also called attention to the hog-cholera epidemic which had resulted in losses estimated at $2,000,000.

—The Kansas State Historical Society met at Topeka.
JAN. 21.—Bishop Thomas Vail protested when the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church at Leavenworth held "requiem" mass for a suicide.

JAN. 22.—Judge Brewer of the U. S. Circuit Court, in the case of John and E. Walruff, Lawrence, held that the state could prohibit brewers from manufacturing but must pay for property destroyed.

The U. S. House of Representatives voted to give Mary A. Bickerdyke a pension for services to the Union army during the Civil War. "Mother" Bickerdyke, who lived in Kansas at intervals until her death, served as nurse and cook, and established army laundries and supervised hospitals. Later she settled several hundred veterans and their families in Kansas and secured aid for them when Indians, grasshoppers and drought depleted their resources.

JAN. 23.—Travelers halted by storms published Vol. I, No. 1, of the B-B-Blizzard at Kinsley: "Published once in a lifetime by a stock company composed of the passengers on snowbound trains at this point."

JAN. 25.—The Kansas Assn. of Architects was organized at Topeka. J. G. Haskell, Topeka, was elected president; H. M. Hadley, Topeka, secretary.

JAN. 26.—David R. Atchison, U. S. Senator from Missouri and "president for a day," died in Clinton county, Missouri. The city and county of Atchison were named for him.

JAN. 28.—Two members of a Saratoga raiding party were wounded when Pratt was attacked during the county-seat fight. The courthouse at Iuka was burned.


—Hamilton county was organized with Kendall as temporary county seat. J. H. Leeman, Dennis Foley and Lawrence W. Hardy were named county commissioners; Thomas Ford, county clerk.

JAN. 30.—Corn was being burned in hundreds of stoves.

—Governor Martin directed the Adjutant General to investigate the Pratt county-seat conflict.

—Vol. I, No. 1, Our Messenger, official organ of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, was published at Topeka; Olive P. Bray, editor.

FEBRUARY 4.—The Supreme Court held that the law attaching Clark and Meade counties to Comanche county was unconstitutional, affirming the opinion of the Attorney General.

—The Kansas State Eclectic Medical Assn. in extra session at Topeka resolved "that the State Board of Health shall not have power to enforce compulsory vaccination, nor to make any rule or regulation governing the practice of medicine."

FEB. 6.—Timothy hay sold for $5.50 a ton; prairie hay at $5. All farm products were correspondingly low.

—Eight antelope were captured near Leoti.

FEB. 7.—Pratt county offices and records were returned to Iuka from Pratt in accordance with a writ of mandamus issued by the Supreme Court.
—The Knights of Labor asked Lawrence dealers to stop sales of the Kansas City Journal. The boycott, a result of the discharge of union printers several years before, reduced the Journal’s circulation at Lawrence nearly 25 per cent.

Feb. 8.—W. F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody presented his “sensational” play, The Prairie Waltz, at the Grand Opera House, Topeka. He was assisted by Buck Taylor, Western scout, and a band of Indians.

Feb. 11.—The State Board of Charities met at Topeka.


Feb. 16.—The Royal Arch Masons and the Royal and Select Masters of Kansas met at Topeka.

Feb. 17.—The Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas met at Topeka.

Feb. 19.—A joint committee on state affairs, reporting on expenditures on the east wing of the Capitol, charged favoritism, incompetence, extravagance, and workmanship, and recommended the discharge of the State Architect and members of the Statehouse commission.


—Vol. I, No. 1, Kiowa County Signal, Greensburg; Will E. Bolton, editor; Milo M. Lee, publisher.

Feb. 20.—The Legislature adjourned. Acts passed included: Authorization for court districts to set up boards of arbitration in disputes between management and labor; permission to counties and cities to encourage development of natural resources by subscribing to stock of companies organized for such purposes; provision for the disposition of surplus taxes in the hands of county treasurers; suppression of obscene literature; prevention of hunting on Sunday; protection of birds; declaration of May 30 as a legal holiday; provision for the consolidation of cities; creation of the 22nd, 23rd and 24th judicial districts; provision for the organization of militia; authorization for county high schools; regulation of certain joint stock and mutual insurance companies; provision for a department of pharmacy at the University of Kansas, and the re-creation of Morton and Seward counties.

Feb. 21.—G. J. Coleman, Mound Valley, arrested on a charge of cruelty for dehorning cattle, was discharged by the court.

Feb. 23.—The State Reformatory Commission met at Topeka.

—G. A. R., Department of Kansas, met at Wichita.

—The Women’s Relief Corps and the Sons of Veterans met at Wichita.

—The Ancient Order of United Workmen met at Topeka.

Feb. 25.—Governor Martin appointed R. C. Bassett, Seneca, judge of the 22nd judicial district, created by the 1886 Legislature. It included Doniphan, Brown and Nemaha counties. C. W. Ellis, Medicine Lodge, was named judge of the 24th district, comprising Barber, Comanche, Clark, Meade, and unorganized Kiowa, counties. Stephen J. Osborn, Wa Keeny, was named judge of the 23rd district, which included Rush, Ness, Ellis and Trego counties and the unorganized counties of Gove, St. John, Wallace, Lane, Scott, Wichita and Greeley.

Feb. 27.—Osage City voted $22,000 in bonds to aid the Council Grove, Osage City and Ottawa railroad, a branch of the Missouri Pacific.

March 2.—The first steel rails of the Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota railroad, a branch of the Missouri Pacific, were laid near Fort Scott.

—Delegates of the Knights of Labor organized a state assembly at Topeka.
Mar. 3.—At Garden City the land office was “packed with new settlers.”
—Nathaniel Stickney Goss, ornithologist, returned from Central America with 43 new species of birds. His collection was valued at $100,000.
—Fourteen women held county offices in Kansas. They were Emily S. Rice of Harper, county clerk; Jennie Patterson of Davis, Ada E. Clift of Trego, and Mrs. A. M. Junken of Dickinson, registers of deeds; Gertie Skee of Barber, Maggie Kilmer of Chautauqua, Sallie Hulsell of Cherokee, Mary Williams of Coffey, Mattie Worcester of Graham, Georgianna Daniels of Greenwood, Mrs. A. C. Baker of Labette, Annie E. Dixon of Lyon, Gertrude E. Stevens of Sheridan, and Lizzie J. Stephenson of Woodson, superintendents of public instruction.

—Barber county organized an immigration bureau.

Mar. 4.—The South Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at Parsons.

Mar. 5.—The Supreme Court returned the Pratt county seat to Iuka from Pratt, pending settlement in the district court.

—Immigrants were pouring into Anderson county, among them a group of Dunkards bound for Westphalia.

—The Garden City Sentinel advocated dividing Kansas at the 200-mile line and forming a new state of the western half, with Garden City as the capital.

—Governor Martin issued a proclamation consolidating Wyandotte, Armourdale and Kansas City into a city of the first class, called Kansas City. Officials elected were: T. F. Hamann, mayor; John J. Moffitt, clerk; Frank S. Merstetter, treasurer; W. S. Carroll, attorney; J. H. Lasley, engineer; John Wren, street commissioner; J. K. Paul, fire marshal; John Sheehan, marshal; M. J. Manning, police judge; Charles Bohl, W. T. Brown, William Clay, Edward Daniels, Thomas Fleming, Charles Haines, Samuel McConnell, James Phillips, Cornelius Butler and J. C. Martin, councilmen.

—Kenneth and Hoxie, Sheridan county, were consolidated.

Mar. 8.—About 250 Missouri Pacific shop employees at Atchison struck in protest against the Gould system.

Mar. 9.—The Independent Order of Odd Fellows grand encampment met at Leavenworth.

—The Order of the Eastern Star met at Newton.

Mar. 10.—A colony of 40 families from Berlin, Ontario, arrived at Garden City.

—Leverett W. Spring, author of Kansas, The Prelude to the War for the Union, resigned from the University of Kansas. The Topeka Daily Capital commented, “The loss of the professor would be more generally mourned if he had not attempted to write a history of Kansas.”

Mar. 11.—A graveyard ghost in McPherson county turned out to be a man copying names from tombstones. It was said that the names were going to be used on a petition for an election to move the county seat to Galva.

—Ferdinand Fuller, member of the first party sent to Kansas by the Emigrant Aid Co. of Massachusetts, died at his home in Lawrence. He designed the first University of Kansas building.

—Fort Scott protested when the Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota railroad imported cheap Italian labor.

—The Southwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at McPherson.
MAR. 12.—John Maloy wrote a history of Morris county for the Council Grove Cosmos.

MAR. 13.—Dodge City saloons were closed on complaint of William B. "Bat" Masterson, peace officer.

—The Attorney General interpreted the act of the Legislature pertaining to school lands as prohibiting their sale until three years after the organization of the county in which the land lay.

MAR. 14.—Italians brought to Yates Center to work on the Verdigris and Independence railroad were withdrawn when citizens protested.

MAR. 16.—A Leavenworth census fraud was exposed. To boom real estate and secure larger legislative representation, 7,268 names had been added to the correct return of 22,000.

—The Christian Church convention met at Wichita.

MAR. 18.—The Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at Holton.

—The Kansas Evangelical Assn. met at Willow Springs.

MAR. 19.—Governor Martin and Frank H. Betton, Labor Commissioner, conferred in Kansas City, Mo., with the governor and labor commissioner of Missouri, regarding the Missouri Pacific strike. Their proposal for settlement was accepted by the workers.

—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad contracted to build 28 miles of road from Elvira, Chase county, via Bazaar and Matfield Green, to El Dorado.


MAR. 20.—Paola was lighted by gas from a 310-foot well.

—The U. S. District Court at Atchison granted an injunction to the Missouri Pacific, restraining strikers from obstructing traffic.

MAR. 22.—Electric lights were turned on at Abilene. "Time will tell," remarked the Reflector, "whether it will be to the interest of the city to use the same to any extent."

MAR. 23.—Kiowa county was organized with Greensburg as temporary county seat. H. H. Patten, Jacob Dawson and C. P. Fullington were appointed county commissioners; M. A. Nelson, county clerk.

—Vice President Hoxie of the Missouri Pacific modified the proposals of Governors Marmaduke and Martin for settlement of the strike. The Knights of Labor considered the conditions unacceptable, and the strike continued with several displays of violence.

MAR. 25.—The Northwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at Kirwin.

MAR. 26.—Wana, Cheyenne county, ten months old, had 30 business houses and 55 residences.

MAR. 30.—Thirty Missouri Pacific engines were disabled by strikers at Atchison.

APRIL 1.—Cheyenne county was organized with Bird City as temporary county seat. J. M. Ketcham, W. W. McKay and J. F. Murray were appointed county commissioners; B. W. Knott, county clerk.

—Strikers at Parsons captured deputies, wrecked engines and disabled machines in the Missouri Pacific shops. The Adjutant General was authorized to call out the National Guard.
—Hamilton county held its first election; Syracuse was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: L. C. Swink, W. D. H. Shockey and L. W. Hardy, commissioners; Thomas Ford, clerk; Alvin Campbell, treasurer; C. H. Frybarger, probate judge; John Stanfield, register of deeds; Shade J. Denson, sheriff; John N. Sloan, coroner; William O. MacKinley, attorney; George W. Earp, clerk of the district court; John Robertson, surveyor; G. F. Rinehart, superintendent of public instruction. Kendall, a rival town, charged fraud and appealed to the Supreme Court. The court threw out the vote of Syracuse township and ordered county officers to return to Kendall until the general election in November.

—Hunting antelope with greyhounds was a popular sport in Cheyenne county.

—Vol. I, No. 1, Hector Echo, C. C. Thompson, editor; the first newspaper in Greeley county.

—Vol. I, No. 1, Western Odd Fellow, Osborne, a monthly; Topliff and Richey, publishers.

Apr. 2.—The Rev. Philip Krohn, pastor of the Abilene Methodist Episcopal Church, confessed to scandal charges which led to his suspension. He was a member of the State Board of Charities and a former member of the Kansas State Agricultural College Board of Regents.

Apr. 3.—A regiment of the Kansas National Guard was sent to Parsons during the railroad strike. At Atchison, trains were running on schedule and 58 men were at work in the shops. Only those who assisted in destruction were refused employment. Mayor S. H. Kelsey of Atchison said the city would pay for all damage to Missouri Pacific property within city limits.

—Fifty west-bound prairie schooners were passing through Oberlin daily.

—Greenwood county had over a thousand persons of foreign birth, including 219 English and Welsh, 192 Danes, 150 Germans, 125 Irish and 62 Scotch.

Apr. 5.—The State Board of Agriculture crop report showed that the wheat acreage was 16 per cent less than in 1885 because of light yield and low price. Forty per cent of the wheat sown had been killed by cold and the Hessian fly.

Apr. 6.—An anti-dude club was formed at Newton. Fines to be levied included $5 for carrying a cane during business hours, $10 for wearing kid gloves or a plug hat, and $20 for parting the hair in the middle.

Apr. 9.—Paola voted $20,000 for building the Kansas City and Southwestern railroad.

—Wichita employed 527 persons in factories. Products included stairs, sashes, blinds, doors, flour, brick, cigars, crackers, clothing, saddles, harnesses, shoes, fence, carriages, millinery, pumps, plows, bedsprings, iron, marble and stone.

—Thousands of trees were being planted on timber claims in Kearney county.

—The Santa Fe reduced railroad rates to California to $12 first class, $7 second class.

—George C. Ropes, Topeka, was appointed Statehouse architect and J. P. Parnham, Lawrence, superintendent of construction.

—Vol. I, No. 1, Gove County Gazette, Gove City; Ralph L. Crisswell, editor and proprietor.

Apr. 12.—The Supreme Court ordered a public canvass of the Hamilton county-seat election of April 1 at Kendall.
APR. 14.—A tornado struck Nemaha, Pottawatomie and Wilson counties, causing much property damage.

—The Rock Island took over all stock and franchises of the Omaha, Abilene and Wichita railroad.

APR. 15.—The Wichita Academy was renamed Lewis Academy in honor of Hiram W. Lewis, who gave $25,000 for a permanent endowment fund.

APR. 16.—Two steel barges were completed at Arkansas City for navigation on the Arkansas river. They were towed by the steamboat, Kansas Miller.

—The Hamilton county-seat election was declared illegal. The court ordered offices kept at Kendall.

APR. 18.—El Dorado celebrated installation of its waterworks. Special trains brought visitors from Newton, Fort Scott and Wichita.

APR. 20.—Mrs. Mary Ellen Lease lectured at Wichita on “Equal Suffrage and Its Influence on Temperance.”

—The U. S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Edmund G. Ross, former U. S. Senator from Kansas, as governor of New Mexico.

APR. 21.—The Santa Fe bought the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe of Texas, a system with about 800 miles of track.

APR. 23.—Two hundred zinc workers at Pittsburg struck for higher wages. The top salary for furnace men was $2.25 a day.

APR. 24.—A freight train was wrecked by strikers at Wyandotte. The engineer and fireman were killed.

—William Scully of London, England, now owned more than 70,000 acres of land in Kansas, largely in Marion, Dickinson, Butler and Marshall counties.

APR. 27.—Clay county voted a $100,000 bond issue to build a Rock Island extension through the county, the first proposition submitted by the road in Kansas.

—Ford county voted a $144,000 bond issue for construction of a railroad from Dodge City to Red Cloud, Neb., by the Chicago, Nebraska, Kansas and Southwestern.

APR. 30.—Frank Wilkeson, Salina journalist, was the author of “Cattle-Raising on the Plains,” published in Harper’s Magazine.

—Governor Martin wrote on “The Progress of Kansas” and Sen. John J. Ingalls on “National Aid to Common Schools” in the North American Review.

MAY 1.—Work began on a $40,000 building for Bethany College, Lindsborg.

MAY 4.—The Missouri Pacific strike ended in accordance with an agreement reached at St. Louis by the congressional investigating committee and the Knights of Labor executive board.

—The Kansas State Sunday School Assn. met at Junction City.

—The Kansas State Dental Assn. met at Topeka.

MAY 6.—Fredonia held a calico ball that netted $45 toward the purchase of a town clock.

—Thousands of plover were slaughtered in Butler county. One hunter killed 2,000 in one day. Plover sold for 60 cents a dozen in Towanda and $2.50 a dozen in New York.

—The Kansas State Homeopathic Medical Assn. met at Topeka.

—The Social Science Club of Kansas and Western Missouri met at Ottawa.
MAY 11.—Greensburg was chosen permanent county seat at Kiowa county's first election. Officers elected were: J. L. Hadley, J. W. Gibson and B. F. Gumm, commissioners; J. N. Crawford, clerk; H. H. Patten, treasurer; W. N. Hankins, probate judge; Frank L. Cruickshank, register of deeds; O. J. Greenleaf, sheriff; A. L. Bennett, coroner; J. W. Davis, attorney; J. K. Stephenson, clerk of the district court; O. L. Stockwell, surveyor; W. W. Payne, superintendent of public instruction.

—The Kansas State Eclectic Medical Assn. met at Wichita.
—The Knights Templar grand commandery met at Kansas City.

—Vol. I, No. 1, Western Cyclone, Nicodemus; a Negro newspaper; Arthur G. Tallman, editor. Nicodemus was named for an ex-slave and located by Exodusters 12 miles northeast of Hill City, Graham county. Population was 333, of which 261 were Negroes.

MAY 14.—The Attorney General ruled that the Police Gazette could not be sold in Kansas.
—Hamilton county, population 4,000, had ten newspapers.

MAY 15.—The Rock Island purchased the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska railroad.
—An anti-claim-jumping society was organized in Trego and Graham counties.
—Montezuma was founded in Gray county.
—Cheyenne county held its first election; Bird City was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: John F. Murray, John Elliott and John G. Long, commissioners; B. W. Knott, clerk; Charles I. Kerndt, treasurer; D. W. Cave, probate judge; H. E. Kingsley, register of deeds; George W. Reynolds, sheriff; James A. Scott, coroner; Joseph Crow, Jr., attorney; Edwin M. Phillips, clerk of the district court; J. A. Hoffman, surveyor; Etta Linn, superintendent of public instruction.

—The directors of the Kansas State Reading Circle met at Topeka.

MAY 17.—Water was turned into the Eureka irrigating canal for the first time. It was intended to provide a controlled water supply to farmers in Ford county. The project was conceived in 1882 by George and J. W. Gilbert, and work began in 1884. The president of the company was A. T. Soule, the “Hop Bitters” millionaire of Rochester, N. Y.

MAY 18.—The Kansas State Medical Society met at Atchison.
—The Knights of Pythias grand lodge met at Salina.
MAY 19.—The Seventh Day Adventists met at Topeka.

MAY 22.—Great Bend had 300 buildings under construction.
—The Kansas State Music Assn. met at Topeka.

MAY 26.—N. S. Goss published a revised catalog of his Birds of Kansas.

MAY 28.—Strawberries sold at four cents a quart in Parsons.
—The military cemeteries at Forts Dodge and Larned were abandoned.

MAY 29.—A directors meeting at Chanute voted to consolidate the following railroads with the Chicago, Kansas and Western: Walnut Valley and Colorado; Pawnee Valley and Denver; Independence and Southwestern; Emporia and El Dorado Short Line; Colony, Neosho Falls and Western.

MAY 30.—Over 6,000 attended the dedication of the National cemetery at Leavenworth.
MAY 31.—The Fort Dodge military reservation of more than 12,000 acres was settled by near-by residents. Every quarter section was taken within 24 hours. The government had abandoned the fort several years before.

JUNE 1.—The Grand Opera House, Topeka, was sold to L. M. Crawford, Topeka, who owned opera houses in Topeka, Atchison, Wichita, and the Kansas-New Mexico circuit.

JUNE 3.—Lane county was organized with Dighton as temporary county seat. Joshua Wheatcroft, J. J. Schaffer and G. H. Steeley were appointed commissioners.

JUNE 5.—Vol. 1, No. 1, Caldwell Weekly Times, D. D. Leahy, editor and publisher.

JUNE 6.—Patrick Fleming, one-time county attorney of Rawlins county, was hanged by a mob for the murder of five homesteaders.

—The Ancient Order of Hibernians met at Leavenworth.

JUNE 8.—The State Sheriffs’ Assn. met at Topeka.

JUNE 9.—The Kansas State Pharmaceutical Assn. met at Emporia.

JUNE 10.—Completion of the Missouri Pacific to Salina was celebrated by 1,500 persons.

—Electric lights were in general use at Clay Center, which claimed to be the first city in the Republican valley to use electricity.

—The Smoky Hill Editorial Assn. met at Wa Keeney.

—The State Board of Health met at Topeka.

—Vol. 1, No. 1, Sherman County Dark Horse, Eustis; J. H. Tait, editor; Tait and Frank T. Pearce, proprietors.

JUNE 11.—The report of the commission appraising the Salt Springs lands in Saline, Lincoln, Mitchell, Cloud and Republic counties fixed valuations at from 50 cents to $50 an acre, totaling about $75,000. When sold, the money was to go to the State Normal School, Emporia.

JUNE 13.—Street car service was begun at Garden City. The first ride was free. Cars were designed for 15 persons but could hold 50 when all “hanging on” room was used.

JUNE 15.—C. C. Olney fenced 3,000 acres in Ottawa county with barbed wire.

—The first state Negro militia, the Garfield Rifles, was organized at Leavenworth.

—The United Presbyterian Church convention met at Topeka.

JUNE 17.—Seward county was organized with Springfield as temporary county seat. Walter I. Harwood, E. M. Campbell and Edward A. Watson were named commissioners; J. M. Wilson, clerk.

—The Kansas State Veterinary Assn. met at Topeka.

JUNE 18.—Paola had a free city library of 3,000 books.

—Cimarron drug stores were taxed $700 each annually for selling whisky.

—Seven thousand acres of land adjoining Paola were leased for oil and gas prospecting.

—Reminiscences of Early Days, a pamphlet by Scott Cummins, was published at Canema, Barber county.

—Vol. 1, No. 1, Cherryvale Republican, S. L. Smith, editor; L. A. Sheward, publisher.

JUNE 19.—Directors of the fair association met at Topeka and adopted the name, Kansas Fair Assn.

JUNE 28.—N. S. Goss, ornithologist, discovered that the snowy plover is a Kansas bird. He secured three specimens in Comanche county.
—A branch office of the Louisiana state lottery was located at Topeka.


JULY 1.—Fifteen thousand persons attended the interstate Sunday School assembly at Ottawa. Dr. Lyman Abbott of New York spoke.

JULY 4.—A colony of Swedes settled in Clay county.

JULY 5.—Gen. John A. Logan spoke at the Methodist Episcopal Assembly at Lawrence to an estimated crowd of 40,000.
—A Moonlight Boy, a novel by Edgar Watson Howe, Atchison, was published.

JULY 7.—The Republican state convention at Topeka nominated the following state ticket: John A. Martin, Atchison, Governor; A. P. Riddle, Girard, Lieutenant Governor; E. B. Allen, Wichita, Secretary of State; Timothy J. McCarthy, Larned, Auditor; J. W. Hamilton, Wellington, Treasurer; S. B. Bradford, Carbondale, Attorney General; J. H. Lawhead, Fort Scott, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
—The Kansas and Missouri Press Assn. met at Topeka.

JULY 9.—The American Coursing Club was organized at Topeka.

JULY 14.—The Prohibition party state convention at Emporia nominated the following state ticket: C. H. Branscombe, Douglas county, Governor; D. W. Houston, Anderson county, Lieutenant Governor; W. B. Klaine, Ford county, Secretary of State; C. H. Langston, Douglas county, Auditor; William Crosby, Jefferson county, Treasurer; W. S. Waite, Lincoln county, Attorney General; Mrs. C. N. Cuthbert, Sumner county, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
—The State Board of Pharmacy met at Topeka.

JULY 15.—Lane county held its first election; Watson was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: C. H. Steeley, John L. Schaffer and C. E. Houston, commissioners; T. J. Smith, clerk; W. H. Lee, treasurer; V. H. Grinstead, probate judge; Maurice Roche, register of deeds; D. G. McClellan, sheriff; P. B. Dick, coroner; T. J. Womack, attorney; E. C. French, clerk of the district court; P. W. Hey, surveyor; Grace Hoover, superintendent of public instruction.

JULY 16.—Hundreds of women and children were engaged in the silk-cocoon industry. The majority of them were Russian Mennonites in Marion, Harvey, Sedgwick and Reno counties. Miss Mary M. Davidson, Junction City, wrote a manual for beginners in silk culture.

JULY 20.—A suit was filed in the Supreme Court to compel the return of Rush county offices and records to Walnut City from La Crosse.
—Rep. Edmund N. Morrill, Hiawatha, demanded that the Secretary of the Interior detain Chaco, the Apache murderer of the McComas family in 1883, until evidence could be furnished to warrant his conviction. Mrs. McComas was a sister of Eugene Ware, Kansas poet.

JULY 22.—Jacob Stotler sold his interest in the Wellington Press to A. L. Runyon, veteran newspaperman and father of Damon Runyon.

JULY 25.—The Denver, Memphis and Atlantic railroad reached Norwich.

JULY 26.—Mr. Desmond, U. S. A., a novel with scenes and incidents laid at Fort Leavenworth, by John Coulter, formerly of the Leavenworth Times, was published by McClurg's, Chicago.
JULY 27.—Kansas departments of the G. A. R. and the W. R. C., accompanied by the Modoc and Flambeau clubs, left Topeka in 14 railroad coaches to attend the national G. A. R. encampment at San Francisco.

—Willie Sell, 16, was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering his family at Osage Mission (St. Paul), in March.

—Clay Center was building $15,000 and $75,000 hotels, a $25,000 opera house, and eight $8,000 brick houses.

JULY 28.—The Wichita Piscatorial Society left in a special car, decorated with tall corn, to spend a month in the Minnesota lake region.

JULY 29.—The Sheridan county seat was moved from Kenneth to Ioxie, ending all residence at Kenneth.

—Work began on the Rock Island bridge across the Kansas river at Topeka.

JULY 30.—The steamer Kansas Miller, made a trip from Arkansas City to Fort Smith, Ark., with a cargo of 100,000 pounds of Kansas flour.

AUGUST 3.—Stevens county was organized with Hugoton as temporary county seat. John Robertson, H. O. Wheeler and J. B. Chamberlain were named commissioners; J. W. Calvert, clerk.

—A thousand men were working on the Rock Island between Topeka and St. Joseph, Mo. Graders were at work on the Santa Fe extension from Arkansas City to Galveston. The Missouri Pacific was laying track from El Dorado to McPherson.

AUG. 4.—The Democratic state convention at Leavenworth nominated the following state ticket: Thomas Moonlight, Leavenworth, Governor; S. G. Issett, Chanute, Lieutenant Governor; W. F. Petillon, Dodge City, Secretary of State; W. D. Kelly, Leavenworth, Auditor; L. P. Birchfield, Jewell county, Treasurer; A. S. Devenney, Johnson county, Attorney General; W. J. A. Montgomery, Clay Center, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

—The Negro Knights Templar met at Topeka.

AUG. 5.—Seward county held its first election; Fargo Springs was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: E. M. Campbell, P. W. Kimball and Charles Mayo, commissioners; Oliver Leisure, clerk; A. T. Ragland, treasurer; L. A. Etzold, probate judge; George W. Ferner, register of deeds; G. W. Nelley, sheriff; Dr. C. M. Carpenter, coroner; C. J. Traxler, attorney; W. E. McClure, clerk of the district court; A. L. Stickel, surveyor; Charles Edwards, superintendent of public instruction.

AUG. 7.—The Topeka Daily Capital listed 44 fairs to be held in the state during the year.

AUG. 10.—Scott county held its first election; Scott City was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: H. M. Cranor, C. Garrett and Eugene McDaniel, commissioners; Charles S. Reed, clerk; W. R. Hadley, treasurer; Thomas Poulson, probate judge; C. C. Hadley, attorney; B. F. Griffith, register of deeds; B. F. Daniels, sheriff; Dr. J. F. Bond, coroner; S. T. Burgess, clerk of the district court; William E. Daugherty, surveyor; Miss Lulu Boling, superintendent of public instruction.

AUG. 14.—Vol. 1, No. 1, Little Sand-Pounder, Abilene. It was “devoted to the science of pounding sand in a rat hole.”

AUG. 16.—Vol. 1, No. 1, Clay Center Evening Times, D. A. Valentine, editor.

AUG. 18.—The Attorney General ruled that “any woman over 21 years of age is a qualified voter at a school meeting.”
—Shawnee county led all others with a school population of 14,505 and an apportionment of $7,397.55. Leavenworth was second and Sedgwick third.

Aug. 19.—The State Board of Railroad Commissioners reduced freight rates on wheat and corn five to ten percent.

Aug. 20.—The Supreme Court ordered a canvass of the Seward county election returns. All votes cast in the “Owl building” at Fargo Springs were ordered thrown out. The ballots cast at the “wagon box” were to be accepted.

Aug. 22.—Amos A. Lawrence died at Nahant, Mass. He was treasurer of the New England Emigrant Aid Co. and gave nearly $12,000 toward founding a Free-State college in Kansas. The sum eventually went to the University of Kansas. The city of Lawrence was named for him.

Aug. 25.—Samuel N. Wood was kidnapped at Woodsdale, Stevens county. Hugoton had been declared temporary county seat. Citizens of Woodsdale wanted to postpone the election, holding that the county did not have sufficient population to qualify for organization. Wood, the leader of the Woodsdale faction, was seized by Hugoton partisans and taken on a “hunting trip” to the Texas Panhandle.

—Street cars began running at Council Grove.
—The Anti-Monopoly state convention opened at Topeka.

Aug. 31.—The Supreme Court issued a writ of habeas corpus ordering the abductors of Sam Wood to produce his body in court.
—Reno county voted to issue $200,000 in bonds to the Rock Island and $125,000 to the Fort Smith, Kansas and Nebraska railroad.
—The Geuda Springs, Caldwell and Western railroad was completed to Caldwell.

September 1.—Vol. I, No. 1, Broom Corn Reporter, Fort Scott; Solomon Schneid, manager.

Sept. 2.—Gove county was organized with Gove City as temporary county seat. Jerome B. McClellan, William Stokes and Lyman Raymond were appointed commissioners; D. A. Borah, clerk.
—The Missouri-Kansas bridge across the Missouri river at Leavenworth burned.
—The African Methodist Episcopal Church conference met at Topeka.

Sept. 3.—The Parsons and Pacific railroad grade was completed to Mound Valley.
—The Denver, Memphis and Atlantic railroad was completed to Coffeyville.
—Sam Wood, who was kidnapped at Woodsdale, August 25, was rescued by friends.

Sept. 4.—Vol. I, No. 1, Geuda Springs Crank. It was established for “the elevation of public morals and horsetheives.”

Sept. 6.—The Western National Interstate Fair Assn. met at Lawrence.

Sept. 8.—A sugar-cane factory began operation at Fort Scott.

Sept. 9.—The Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota railroad began work on its depot at Topeka, laid the first rail in Shawnee county, and had 25 miles graded and ready for track.

—Stevens county held its first election; Hugoton was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: J. E. Hunt, J. B. Chamberlain and W. L. Clark, commissioners; J. W. Calvert, clerk; C. W. Kirby, treasurer; William Guinn, probate judge; H. F. Nichols, register of deeds; A. P. Ridenour, sheriff; W. J. D.
Holderman, coroner; J. L. Pancost, attorney; W. E. Allen, clerk of the district court; G. B. Teams, surveyor; J. P. Cummings, superintendent of public instruction.

—The Emporia Normal school board of regents reported that all but 20 acres of the Salt Springs land had been sold for $78,882, which was $3,362 more than the appraised value.


—The Universalist Church conference met at Seneca.

SEPT. 13.—The enlarged edition of Daniel Webster Wilder’s Annals of Kansas was issued. It contained 1,196 pages, the largest book ever printed in the state. The price was $5 a copy.

SEPT. 14.—The Southern Kansas Academy at Eureka was dedicated and opened for classes.

—Electric lights were turned on at Junction City for the first time.

—Judge Brewer in the U. S. Circuit Court ruled that the Santa Fe had authority to build through other states and to acquire the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroad of Texas.

SEPT. 15.—The first passenger train over the Missouri Pacific extension traveled from Wichita to Hutchinson.

—Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, opened.

SEPT. 18.—A Fort Scott oil well yielded six barrels a day with an estimated value of $8 to $10 daily.

SEPT. 20.—Fifteen members of the Topeka Bicycle Club left on a two-day cycling trip to Junction City for the state meeting of the League of American Wheelmen.

—Sherman county was organized with Eustis as temporary county seat. L. J. Gandy, O. D. Dickey and Rufus Edwards were named commissioners; J. H. Tait, clerk.

—E. C. Walker, Jr., editor of Lucifer, the Light Bearer, and Lillian Harman, daughter of his partner, were arrested at Valley Falls on a charge of unlawful cohabitation. On the preceding day they had contracted a free-love marriage, the ceremony being performed by Moses Harman.

SEPT. 21.—The Kansas National Guard went into camp at Fort Riley.

SEPT. 23.—A new town on the Rock Island in Brown county was named Horton in honor of Albert H. Horton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

—The Coolidge Border Ruffian reported high winds in Hamilton county: “Two quarter sections of land were blown into this office. Anyone having lost their claims during this blow can have same by removing the property and paying for this advertisement.”

SEPT. 27.—An estimated 20,000 persons attended P. T. Barnum’s circus at Topeka. The Greatest Show on Earth was also scheduled for Junction City and Emporia.

SEPT. 28.—Thirty Years in Topeka, by F. W. Giles, was published.

—The Women’s Christian Temperance Union met at Cherryvale.

SEPT. 29.—Central Kansas College opened at Great Bend.

SEPT. 30.—Track-laying began on the El Dorado and Walnut Valley railroad.

—The state assembly of the North American Knights of Labor was organized at Topeka.
—Governor Martin issued a proclamation against importation of cattle from Illinois, Ohio and Canada because of pleuro-pneumonia.

October 1.—Laredo street cars began running.

Oct. 4.—A woman’s suffrage convention at Leavenworth was the first of 11 to be held in the state. Others were at Abilene, Lincoln, Florence, Hutchinson, Wichita, Anthony, Winfield, Independence, Fort Scott and Lawrence.

Oct. 5.—The Independent Order of Good Templars met at Topeka.

The Improved Order of Red Men met at Emporia.

Oct. 6.—The G. A. R. state reunion began at Emporia.

Oct. 7.—The Presbyterian Synod of Kansas met at Emporia.

Oct. 9.—The Chicago, Kansas and Western railroad filed an amended charter to build and operate 52 lines in Kansas with an estimated 7,274 miles of track. Capital stock was $154,000,000, said to be the largest of any railroad company in the country.

Oct. 10.—A colony of 50 persons settled near Coolidge in Hamilton county.

Wild turkeys were plentiful in Ford and Clark counties.

Oct. 12.—The Southwestern Kansas Exposition was formally opened at Garden City by Governor Martin.

Nearly 5,000 men and 3,000 teams were working on the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Rock Island railroad.

The I. O. O. F. grand lodge met at Topeka.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod met at Waterville.

Oct. 14.—Independence was lighted with electricity.

E. C. Walker and Lillian Harman, defendants in the “free love case,” were found guilty and sentenced to 75 and 45 days in jail. They appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Kansas Society of Friends met at Lawrence.

Oct. 17.—Topeka’s steam brickyard, with a capacity of 50,000 bricks daily, was in operation.

Oct. 18.—The Topeka pension agency was said to be the fourth largest in the nation, with 26,000 names on the rolls.

Oct. 19.—Gove county held its first election; Gove City was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: Lyman Raymond, John W. Campbell and James Hamilton, commissioners; D. A. Borah, clerk; F. F. Wright, treasurer; J. H. Jones, probate judge; L. F. Jones, register of deeds; J. W. Hopkins, sheriff; W. H. Crater, coroner; P. J. Cavanaugh, attorney; William Murphy, clerk of the district court; F. B. Cope, surveyor; G. G. Lehmer, superintendent of public instruction.

Oct. 21.—Republicans praised Charles Curtis as the most successful county attorney in the state. The Topeka Daily Capital said “the people of Shawnee county are proud of their faithful son. He did his duty despite the jeers and threats of the whisky element.”

Partisans of Kendall swore out warrants for the arrest of members of the Hamilton county election board. They were arraigned at Kendall and denied bail. A writ of habeas corpus was secured and the men were escorted home by the sheriff and citizens.

The General Association of Congregational Ministers and Churches of Kansas met at Topeka.
Oct. 23.—Holbrook Hall, gift of Miss Mary Holbrook of Holbrook, Mass., and Boswell Hall, gift of Charles Boswell of West Hartford, Conn., were dedicated at Washburn College.

Oct. 24.—The Sixth Kansas cavalry held a reunion at Pleasanton.

Oct. 26.—The American Woman’s Suffrage Assn. met at Topeka. Delegates included Julia Ward Howe, Lucy Stone and Susan B. Anthony.

Oct. 27.—The Kansas Anti-Horse Thief Assn. met at Parsons.

November 1.—The Adjutant General authorized a Negro National Guard company at Topeka.

—St. Aloysius’ Catholic Church was dedicated at Wichita. It cost $75,000.

—The Kansas Central Elevator Co. purchased the “largest cornsheller in the world,” invented by Kansas men.

Nov. 2.—Garden City organized a Law and Order League to aid in enforcing the prohibitory law.

—A settlement of broomcorn growers from Illinois was established near Garden City.

—The peanut crop in Kearney county averaged 30 bushels per acre.

—The general election was held. For governor, John A. Martin, Republican, defeated Thomas Moonlight by about 34,000 votes. Other state officers elected were: A. P. Riddle, Girard, Lieutenant Governor; E. B. Allen, Wichita, Secretary of State; Timothy J. McCarthy, Launced, Auditor; J. W. Hamilton, Wellington, Treasurer; S. B. Bradford, Carbondale, Attorney General; J. H. Lawhead, Fort Scott, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Nov. 3.—Vol. I, No. 1, Ford County Republican, Dodge City; Rush E. Deardoff and M. W. Sutton, editors and publishers.

Nov. 4.—The Young Men’s Christian Assn. of Kansas met at Ottawa.

Nov. 5.—Fifty-six prisoners in the state penitentiary were under death sentence.

—Marley K. Kittleman, Harper, defeated Charles K. Gibson in a foot race at Wichita that attracted sportsmen from New York, San Francisco and other cities. Betting was said to involve more than $100,000. Kittleman’s time for the 125 yards was 14.25 seconds.

—The Young Women’s Christian Assn. of Kansas held its first meeting at Ottawa in connection with the Y. M. C. A. meeting. Miss Anna S. Campbell, Fort Scott, was elected president; Miss May L. Parker, Topeka, secretary.

Nov. 6.—The Sterling syrup works closed for the season after making over 40,000 gallons.

—Hamilton county commissioners threw out the votes of an entire precinct because of fraud and ordered the records moved to Syracuse. An armed mob at Kendall threatened to shoot anyone attempting to remove them.

Nov. 8.—Sam Purple was hanged by a mob near Jetmore for the murder of his wife and two children.

—Sherman county held its first election; Eustis was chosen county seat. Officers elected were: C. E. Bennett, John Bray and E. L. Lyons, commissioners; G. W. Benson, clerk; J. E. Rule, treasurer; Lewis E. Tobias, probate judge; E. W. Penny, register of deeds; R. G. Albright, sheriff; A. E. Tice, coroner; W. K. Brown, attorney; A. E. Keller, clerk of the district court; F. S. Palmer, superintendent of public instruction.

Nov. 9.—The Supreme Court ordered Hamilton county commissioners to canvass the vote in Coombs precinct, thrown out three days before.
Nov. 16.—Snow Hall, K. U.'s new natural history building, was dedicated.
—Dodge City voted a $140,000 bond issue for the Denver, Memphis and
Atlantic railroad extension to Kingman.
—Chase county voted an $80,000 bond issue for the Chicago, Kansas and
Western railroad.

Nov. 17.—Governor Martin designated Richfield as temporary county seat
of Morton county and named Frank Robinson, D. D. Sayer and James McClain
as county commissioners; E. F. Henderson, clerk.
—The Missouri Valley Unitarian Church conference met at Topeka.
—The Kansas Academy of Science met at Emporia.

Nov. 19.—Gas was found at Beloit at a depth of 145 feet.

Nov. 25.—A 22-inch coal vein was struck near Admire City, a new town
on the Missouri Pacific.

Nov. 26.—The Rock Island had 1,000 men and 300 teams working near
Hutchinson.

Nov. 27.—Nearly nine-tenths of the counties voted railroad bonds during
the year. One state officer commented: "The tendency of some of the new
counties to rush headlong into debt is alarming. It will bankrupt them. Some-
ting must be done by the Legislature to prevent this reckless voting of bonds."

Nov. 29.—The first engine and caboose on the Kansas, Pacific and Western
railroad reached Pratt.

—There were 1,667 post offices in Kansas. Seventy-five had been discon-
tinued during the year and 180 established. Names changed included: Bangor,
Coffey county, to Gridley; Barnard, Linn, to Boicourt; Bismarck, Wabaunsee,
to Halifax; Blue Mound, Linn, to Bluemound; Brandley, Seward, to Richfield,
Morton; Bridge, Saline, to Chico; Churchill, Ottawa, to Tescott; Colorado, Lin-
coln, to Beverly; Cowland, Hodgeman, to Ravanna; Dallas, Norton, to Oron-
oque; Debolt, Labette, to Stover; Deerton, Labette, to Valedu; Fawn Creek,
Montgomery, to Fawn; Fort Harker, Ellsworth, to Kanopolis; Grand View,
Morris, to Delavan; Guilford, Wilson, to Benedict; Gypsum Creek, Saline, to
Digby; Harwoodville, Seward, to Fargo Springs; Hatfield, Sedgwick, to Mays;
Holden, Butler, to Bраницer; Howe, Rush, to Lippard; Kenneth, Sheridan, to
Hoxie; Lucas, Pawnee, to Marshall; Maud, Kingman, to Calista; Memphis,
Bourbon, to Garland; Mid-Lothian, Harper, to Freeport; Nanning, Mitchell, to
Excelsior; Newcastle, Cherokee, to Stippville; Ozark, Anderson, to Kincaid;
Pliny, Saline, to Gypsum; Reno Centre, Reno, to Partridge; Rooks Centre,
Rooks, to Woodson; Salt Creek, Reno, to Abbyville; Satanta, Comanche, to
Comanche; Shilo, Ness, to Harold; Ship, Comanche, to Ship; State Line, Chey-
enne, to Rogers; Tiflow, Wyandotte, to Bonner Springs; Tolle, Butler, to Win-
gate; Ulysses, Clark, to Lexington; Waseca, Johnson, to Holliday; Zamora,
Hamilton, to Kendall.

—The Attorney General ruled that Wallace county was still organized under
the law of 1868 although in the "grasshopper year" of 1874 the entire popula-
tion left the county and the records were lost. Wallace was attached to Ellis
county for judicial purposes in 1875. Resettlement was rapid in 1886, and a
full set of officers was elected.

Nov. 30.—Dickinson county voted a $276,000 bond issue to the Chicago,
Kansas and Western, the Santa Fe, and the Chicago, St. Joseph and Fort Worth
railroads.
DECEMBER 1.—Dr. A. A. Holcombe, State Veterinarian, reported widespread fatality among cattle from cornstalk disease.
—The Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Kansas, met at Topeka.

Dec. 2.—A 45-inch coal vein was discovered at Cato, Bourbon county.
—Wellington now had street cars, a waterworks, gas and electricity.

Dec. 3.—Chautauqua county grew 100 bales of cotton in 1886.
—The Great Bend Tribune remarked that the number of railroads under construction to every little town in western Kansas “is only equalled by the number of street railways, waterworks, electric lights, colleges and children to fill them. A town of 150 inhabitants that hasn’t at least four trunk lines and all these other advantages is considered too unimportant to put on the maps.”

Dec. 6.—The first train over the Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota railroad arrived at Topeka.

Dec. 7.—A 40-inch vein of coal was discovered at Clyde.
—The Kansas State Horticultural Society met at Emporia.

Dec. 8.—The first state sanitary convention met at Wichita under the auspices of the State Board of Health.
—The State Board of Trustees of Charitable Institutions met at Topeka. The biennial report recommended a ward for insane convicts in prison. Under existing laws the insane were sent from prison to asylums.

Dec. 9.—The Leavenworth city council refused to install electric lights.

Dec. 10.—Beloit had completed a 100-bedroom hotel at a cost of $25,000.
—Samuel J. Crawford, state claim agent at Washington, D. C., reported that over 275,000 acres, valued at $1,351,000, had been patented to the state in lieu of lands in Indian reservations. Crawford recommended that railroad land grants be adjusted by federal agencies. He pointed out that railroads frequently violated terms of the grants by failing to build over the specified routes.

Dec. 14.—The Kansas State Grange met at Olathe.
—The Kansas Shorthorn Breeders Assn. met at Topeka.

Dec. 16.—A 42-inch vein of coal was located in Clay county.
—The Kansas State Veterinary Assn. met at Topeka and reorganized as the Kansas State Veterinary Medical Assn.

Dec. 20.—The Cedar Vale Star was taking stovewood, coal, vegetables, apples and chickens on subscriptions.
—Kansas still had 2,000,000 acres of government land, enough for 12,000 families, according to the State Board of Agriculture.

Dec. 22.—The Supreme Court ordered Governor Martin to organize Wichita county and locate the county seat at Leoti.

Dec. 23.—The Topeka, Salina and Western and the Kansas and Colorado railroads consolidated as part of the Missouri Pacific.

Dec. 24.—Governor Martin proclaimed Leoti the temporary county seat of Wichita county. R. F. Jenness, S. W. McCall and J. F. Brainard were named commissioners; Lilburn Moore, clerk.
—The 20th district court declared the Pratt county seat election of October, 1885, illegal, allowing the county seat to remain at Iuka.

Dec. 26.—Gen. John A. Logan, for whom Logan county was named, died at Washington, D. C.

Dec. 28.—The Kansas State Teachers Assn. met at Topeka.
—The Kansas Academy of Language and Literature met at Topeka.
Agriculture: The late summer drought caused the worst crop year since 1874. Total acreage as computed by the State Board of Agriculture was 52,372,160, including 2,093,760 acres of unorganized land. Farm acreage totaled 25,607,413 acres, and farm values were $431,405,347. A summary of crop statistics for 1886:

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<th>Bushels</th>
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* Pounds.
† Tons.

Livestock

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<td>8,364,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk cows</td>
<td>627,481</td>
<td>15,687,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cattle</td>
<td>1,480,632</td>
<td>40,898,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>664,761</td>
<td>1,329,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine</td>
<td>1,965,869</td>
<td>11,795,214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment of Property: The following valuations were given: city lots, $467,239.80; farm lands, $142,657,158.35; personal property, $55,491,972.18.

Banks: Seventy-five banks were included in the tabulation published by the Secretary of State, as compared with 84 in 1885. Resources totaled $7,715,134.

Charitable Institutions: The State Insane Asylum, Topeka, had 505 patients and 107 employees; the State Insane Asylum, Osawatomie, had 400 patients and 87 employees; the State Asylum for Idiotic and Imbecile Youth, Lawrence, had 30 pupils; the Institution for the Education of the Blind, Wyandotte, had an average attendance of 67; the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, Ottawa, had 202 students; the State Reform School, Topeka, had 95 boys, and buildings to provide for 200 were under construction.

Charters: Banks, building and loan, trust companies, 241; boards of trade, fairs, merchant and civic assns., 49; cemetery and funeral assns., 57; churches and affiliated organizations, 285; coal and mining industries, 88; creameries and dairy organizations, 5; gas, light, water and power companies, 47; grain, milling and elevator companies, 16; hotels, 17; insurance companies, 15; livestock and poultry, produce companies, 15; lodges, clubs, guilds and benevolent societies, 66; printing and publishing companies, 15; railroads, 124; real estate, town and immigration companies, 295; schools and colleges, 8; stage lines and freight companies, 6; street railways, 37; telegraph and telephone companies, 20; miscellaneous, 122. Total number of charters for the year, 1,408.

Education: There were 7,520 organized school districts in 91 counties with 6,791 schoolhouses and 9,387 teachers. Of 497,785 children of school age, 365,239 were actually enrolled. School terms averaged six months.

The University of Kansas for the year 1886-1887 had a faculty of 27 and a student body of 489, including 14 graduate students. Kansas State Agricultural College had an enrollment of 428 and a faculty of 18. The State Normal School, Emporia, had an enrollment of 724 and 13 instructors. All three schools reported an urgent need for books.

Finances: The State Treasurer's fifth biennial report showed total receipts of $4,792,655.26 since July 1, 1884, as against disbursements of $4,962,894.17. The balance in the treasury at the end of the fiscal year was $584,273.16.
INDUSTRY: Assessors' rolls for March 1, 1886, listed 795 mechanical and manufacturing firms in the state, employing 11,320 persons at total wages of $5,158,612. Capital invested amounted to $16,569,724. Cost of raw materials purchased was $31,651,913, and the value of finished products was $48,471,406.

INSURANCE: Fire insurance written by 88 companies authorized to do business in the state totaled $120,046,025. Life insurance sold by 21 authorized companies amounted to $8,259,449.

POPULATION: The biennial report of the State Board of Agriculture gave the population as 1,406,738, an increase of 138,208 over the preceding year. The largest city in the state was Leavenworth with 29,150; Topeka, 25,005; Kansas City, 21,229, and Wichita, 20,139.

RAILROADS: Sixty-four railroads operated 4,517 miles of main track in Kansas. Total earnings were $62,766,858.90 for the year ending June 30, 1886. Freight totaled 18,260,073 tons, an increase of 795,278.07 tons over 1885. During the first ten months of 1886, 950 miles of new track were laid, more than in any other state. The aggregate value of all railroad equipment as fixed by the State Board of Railroad Assessors was $32,494,-956.68.

WEATHER: The mean temperature for 1886 was 52.96 degrees. The highest temperature recorded was 105 on August 16, and the lowest was —18 on January 9. Rainfall over the state averaged 24.24 inches, 11.02 inches below the annual average. The drought during July, August and September was the first serious one since 1874.