Kansas Historical Notes

Dr. Robert Taft, Lawrence, president of the Kansas State Historical Society, is chairman of an advisory committee appointed by Gov. Edward F. Arn to plan for the state's observance of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the territory of Kansas on May 30, 1854. Prof. Charles M. Correll of Kansas State College, Manhattan, is vice-chairman. Others named to the committee are: Dr. George Anderson, and Robert Vosper, University of Kansas; Kenneth Davis, Manhattan novelist; Jerome Cushman, Salina librarian; Nyle H. Miller, secretary of the Kansas Historical Society; Rolla Clymer, El Dorado editor; J. M. Feller, Leavenworth; Maurice Fager, director of the Kansas Industrial Development Commission; and Harry Woods, Kansas State Chamber of Commerce. Other centennial committees have also been set up by the University of Kansas; by the city of Lawrence, which will observe its centennial in the summer of 1954; and by Topeka, for the purpose of preparing a history of the city, founded on December 5, 1854.

Historic Wichita, Inc., recently announced that the restoration of four key buildings in the “Cow Town” project was in progress. The idea of the project is to build a typical cow town. Buildings now being constructed and restored are the first Wichita jail, parsonage, church, and the Munger house, the first in Wichita. Other buildings are to be added later. Richard M. “Dick” Long is president of Historic Wichita, Inc., and L. W. Roberts is chairman of the building committee.

George Miller, Cottonwood Falls, was re-elected president of the Chase County Historical Society at the annual meeting September 6, 1952, in Cottonwood Falls. Other officers chosen include: Henry Rogler, Matfield Green, vice-president; C. A. Baldwin, Cottonwood Falls, secretary; and Mrs. George Dawson, Elmdale, treasurer. Members of the executive committee are: Mrs. Ida M. Vinson, chairman, C. A. Baldwin, Minnie Norton, T. R. Wells, and Ida Schneider. W. P. Austin was later designated chief historian.

The 20th anniversary of the founding of the Kiowa County Historical Society was celebrated October 2, 1952, by a Pioneer party in Greensburg, attended by 245 persons. Officers chosen for the coming year were: W. A. Sluder, president; Herbert Parkin, first vice-president; Mrs. Emma Meyer, second vice-president; Mrs. Benjamin Weaver, secretary; and Mrs. L. V. Keller, treasurer.
Prof. L. E. Curfman, Pittsburg, was elected president of the Crawford County Historical Society at a meeting in Pittsburg, October 22, 1952. Other officers named were: Oscar Anderson, Farlington, vice-president; Mrs. Mae Stroud, secretary; and William Walker, treasurer. L. H. Dunton, Arcadia; Ralph Shideler, Girard; and Mrs. C. M. Cooper, Pittsburg, were elected to the board of directors. Dr. Theodore Sperry and Dr. Gladys Galligar of Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, gave an illustrated talk on their trip to the Belgian Congo. Dr. Ernest Mahan, Pittsburg, was the retiring president.

Dr. C. W. McCampbell was re-elected president of the Riley County Historical Association at the annual dinner meeting in Manhattan, October 24, 1952. Other officers chosen were: Lee King, vice-president; Mrs. C. W. Emmons, secretary; Joe Haines, treasurer; Ed Amos, historian; and Carl Pfuetze, curator. New directors are: Mrs. Cora Parker, Mrs. Max Wolf, and C. M. Correll. Directors holding over are: Albert Horlings, Bruce Wilson, Mrs. F. A. Marlatt, Richard Rogers, Dr. F. A. Filinger, and Mrs. Eva Knox. Dr. H. E. Socolofsky, featured speaker at the meeting, gave the history of early railroads in Riley county.

The Dickinson County Historical Society held its annual meeting in the New Basel church, October 28, 1952. Talks on the history of the New Basel community were features of the program. Mrs. Ed Rohrer, Elmo, was elected second vice-president, and Mrs. Walter Wilkins, Chapman, treasurer. Other officers remain in office for another year. B. H. Oesterrech, Woodbine, is president.

Pawnee county pioneers of the 1870’s were the honored guests of the Pawnee County Historical Society at the annual pioneer reunion in Larned October 30, 1952. This year’s reunion celebrated the 80th anniversary of the founding of the county.

The annual meeting and pioneer mixer of the Clark County Historical Society was held in Ashland, November 1, 1952. Among the speakers were Judge Karl Miller and Heinie Schmidt of Dodge City. New officers elected included: Paul F. Randall, president; Mrs. Virgil Broadie, vice-president; Mrs. Sidney Dorsey, first honorary vice-president; and Mrs. Chas. McCasland, second honorary vice-president. Other officers of the society are: Mrs. J. C. Harper, recording secretary; Mrs. W. R. Nunemacher, assistant recording secretary; Rhea Gross, corresponding secretary; William T. Moore,
treasurer; Mrs. H. B. Gabbert, curator; Mrs. R. V. Shrewder, historian; and M. C. Stevenson, auditor.

The annual old settlers’ reunion sponsored by the Stevens County Historical Society, held November 2, 1952, in the old Stevens county courthouse in Hugoton, was attended by nearly 200 early residents of the county.

Bill Adams of Pratt was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Comanche County Historical Society in Coldwater, November 5, 1952. Brief talks were also made by Judge Karl Miller and Heinie Schmidt of Dodge City. W. P. Morton was re-elected president of the society for the coming year. Other officers elected were: H. B. Cloud, vice-president; Stella York, secretary; and F. H. Moberly, treasurer.

O. W. Mosher was re-elected president of the Lyon County Historical Society at the annual meeting in Emporia, December 4, 1952. Other officers elected included: A. H. Thomas, first vice-president; Claude Arnett, second vice-president; Mrs. C. A. Moore, secretary; Warren Morris, treasurer; Lucina Jones, Mrs. F. L. Gilson, Mabel Edwards, and Charles Caldwell, historians.

L. B. Read, Jr., was elected president of the Lawrence Historical Society at the fall meeting, December 19, 1952. Other officers named were: M. S. Winter, Sr., vice-president; Byron Beery, secretary, and Corlett Cotton, treasurer. Directors elected to serve until December, 1953, were: Mrs. Ivan Rowe, Prof. H. H. Lane, Irma Spangler, Dr. T. A. Kennedy, and Mayor Chris Kraft. Directors elected to serve until December, 1954, were: Mrs. T. D. Prentice, Keith Lawton, Mrs. L. H. Menger, M. N. Penny, and Ida Lyons. Penny was the retiring president.

Officers of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society for 1953 are: Mrs. Homer Bair, president; Mrs. David Huber, first vice-president; Lucile Larson, second vice-president; Mrs. Martin Ziegler, recording secretary; Mrs. Lee J. Smith, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Edith M. Mills, treasurer; Mrs. Harry Meyer, historian; Mrs. Arthur W. Wolf, curator; and Mrs. Carl Harder, member-in-waiting. Mrs. James Glenn Bell was the retiring president.

A 422-page work by W. Turrentine Jackson entitled Wagon Roads West was recently published by the University of California Press. It is a study of federal road surveys and construction in the trans-Mississippi West, including Kansas, from 1846 to 1869.