Kansas Historical Notes

All officers of the Northeast Kansas Historical Society were re-elected at a recent meeting at the C. C. Webb home in Highland. They are: Mrs. C. C. Webb, president; Fenn Ward, vice-president; Mrs. Fenn Ward, secretary; and C. C. Webb, finance director. The society operates the Sac and Fox Indian mission which was visited by over 2,400 persons during the past year.

The annual meeting of the Augusta Historical Society was held January 12, 1953, with the president, Stella B. Haines, presiding. Other officers of the society are: Mrs. J. E. Mahannah, vice-president; Florence Hudson, secretary; and Mrs. Henry Bornholdt, treasurer. The secretary reported that 800 visitors had registered during the past year at the museum maintained by the society.

Maurice E. Fager, Topeka, and Mrs. David McCreath, Lawrence, were elected presidents of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas at the organization's 35th annual meeting in Topeka, January 28, 1953. Other officers elected by the Native Sons were: Rolla A. Clymer, El Dorado, vice-president; G. Clay Baker, Topeka, secretary; and John W. Brookens, Westmoreland, treasurer. The Native Daughters named Mrs. Ethel Godin, Wamego, vice-president; Mrs. Ivan Dayton Jones, Lyons, secretary; and Mrs. James B. McKay, El Dorado, treasurer. W. S. Rupe, Ames, Iowa, publisher, was the principal speaker at the evening meeting. The Capper award for the winner of the collegiate speech contest went to F. L. Baird, Newton, and was presented by Henry S. Blake. Retiring presidents were: C. W. Porterfield, Holton, and Mrs. Ray Pierson, Burlington.

The 46th annual meeting of the Woman's Kansas Day Club was held in Topeka, January 29, 1953, with the president, Mrs. W. M. Ehram, Wichita, presiding. At the business session Mrs. Douglas McCrum, Fort Scott, was elected president. Other officers elected include: Mrs. Earl C. Moses, Great Bend, first vice-president; Mrs. E. Claude Smith, Topeka, second vice-president; Mrs. J. L. Jenson, Colby, recording secretary; Mrs. Jessie Clyde Fisher, Wichita, treasurer; Mrs. C. W. Spencer, Sedan, historian; Mrs. J. U. Massey, Pittsburg, auditor; and Mrs. F. J. Rost, Topeka, registrar. Directors elected were: Mrs. George Rathbun, Manhattan, first district; Mrs. Clyde Swender, Blue Mound, second district; Mrs. William Groundwater, Longton, third district; Mrs. Paul H. Wedin, Wichita, fourth
district; Mrs. Will Townsley, Jr., Great Bend, fifth district; and Dr. Mary Glasson, Phillipsburg, sixth district. This year’s theme was “Early Day Transportation in Kansas.” Interesting reports, given by the district directors and historians, were presented to the Kansas State Historical Society. Pictures, museum articles, and books were also given.

Dr. Elizabeth Cochran, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, told of her recent trip through Europe at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, February 5, 1953. Another feature of the meeting was a quiz on the history of Crawford county and Kansas. Prof. L. E. Curfman is president of the society.

Guy Norris, long-time resident of Garden City, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Finney County Historical Society, February 10, 1953, in Garden City. Directors chosen at the business session were: Gus Norton, J. E. Greathouse, William Fant, Albert Drussel, Mrs. Charles Brown, Mrs. Kate Smith, Mrs. Ella Coudra, Chet Reeve, Mrs. Louis Kampschroeder, Frederick Finnup, Guy Norris, and Mrs. C. C. Wristen. Norton is president of the society.

Gov. Edward F. Arn’s advisory committee for the observance of Kansas’ territorial centennial in 1954, noted in the February, 1953, Quarterly, reported their recommendations to the governor on February 18, 1953. The plans were approved by Governor Arn, an appropriation of $10,000 was granted and all the members of the committee were reappointed to the Kansas Territorial Centennial committee and instructed to put the plans into operation. Additional members on this committee are: Mrs. Orvill Burtis, Manhattan; Everett E. Erhart, Stafford; Mrs. Frank Haucke, Florence; Bliss Isley, Wichita; Tom Lillard, Topeka; Father Cuthbert McDonald, Atchison; Larry Miller, Topeka; Mrs. H. N. Moses, Salina; Dolph Simons, Lawrence; Fred Stein, Atchison; the Rev. Milton Vogel, Topeka; Vivian Woody, Douglass; C. O. Wright, Topeka; L. D. Wooster, Hays; Ted L. Sexton, Leavenworth, and Don McNeal, Council Grove. Dr. Robert Taft, Lawrence, is committee chairman.

A bronze plaque has been placed on the California camp site where the 20th Kansas regiment of Volunteer infantry stayed when en route to Manila in 1898. The project was sponsored by the California Historical Society but the plaque was provided by members of the regiment now living in California. Unveiling ceremonies
were held February 27, 1953, with Col. Clay Anderson, Burlingame, Cal., in charge of arrangements.

Ralph B. Harrison was named president of the Bourbon County Historical Society at a meeting in Fort Scott, March 3, 1953. Other officers elected were: Mrs. J. R. Prichard, vice-president; Mrs. G. D. Cleland, secretary; and D. V. Swartz, treasurer. Mrs. Effie Peete, custodian, reported that more than 6,000 people had visited the museum during 1952.

Owen McEwen was elected president of the Wichita Historical Museum Association at the annual meeting March 19, 1953. Other officers chosen were: Eugene Coombs, first vice-president; Carl Bitting, second vice-president; John Coults, secretary; and C. K. Foote, treasurer. Elected to the board of directors of the association were: Coombs, Bitting, R. T. Aitchison, Mrs. C. H. Armstrong, Omrah Aley, John P. Davidson, Mrs. W. C. Coleman, Bertha V. Gardner, and M. C. Naftzer. Allen W. Hinkel was the featured speaker at the meeting. Hugh D. Lester was the retiring president.

Alden O. Weber was re-elected president of the Osawatomie Historical Society at a meeting March 27, 1953. Other officers re-elected were: Pauline Gudger, vice-president; and Ruby McIntosh, secretary-treasurer. The society is working on the restoration of the Old Stone church in Osawatomie, which dates back to 1859, and was first served by the Rev. Samuel L. Adair, John Brown's brother-in-law.

A historical marker commemorating the arrival of the Mennonite pioneers in the vicinity of Great Bend in 1874 has been erected one mile east of Dundee on Highway 50N. An exact model of the original church building is on top of the marker. An inscription on the bronze plate dedicates the marker to the memory of the Mennonite forefathers who migrated from Karlshaldal, Russia.

The journal and diaries of George C. Sibley and others, pertaining to the surveying and marking of a road from the Missouri frontier to New Mexico, 1825-1827, have been edited by Kate L. Gregg and recently published in a 280-page volume by the University of New Mexico Press under the title The Road to Santa Fe.

On Freedom's Altar is the title of a 195-page book by Hazel Catherine Wolf on the Abolition movement of pre-Civil War days, published recently by the University of Wisconsin Press.
Dr. Robert Taft's series, "The Pictorial Record of the Old West," which began appearing in the Quarterly in 1946, has been revised and recently published in a 400-page volume entitled *Artists and Illustrators of the Old West: 1850-1900* (New York, 1953). "In this book there have been retold the actual experiences of a number of artists and illustrators, most of whom personally witnessed some part of the marvelous transformation of the region beyond the Mississippi. . . ." A 72-page picture section includes examples from the work of many of the artists. Dr. Taft is a member of the faculty of Kansas University and president of the Kansas State Historical Society.

*Broadax and Bayonet*, the story of the part played by the United States army in the development of the Northwest, 1815 to 1860, a 263-page book by Francis Paul Prucha, was recently published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. This volume deals with the army's non-military role on the frontier, such as law enforcement, the building of roads and forts, its contributions in the fields of science and social development, and the economic effect of its presence.

The reminiscences of Oliver Nelson, freighter and cowboy in Kansas, the Indian territory, and Texas, 1878 to 1893, have been edited by Dr. Angie Debo and recently published in a 343-page volume entitled *The Cowman's Southwest* (Glendale, Cal., 1953).

*Tornadoes of the United States* (University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1953), by Snowden D. Flora, is a 194-page book designed to provide information on the frequency, damage, causes, and methods of forecasting tornadoes, and ways of saving human lives when the storms strike. The author was head of the United States Weather Bureau at Topeka from 1917 to 1949.