Kansas History as Published in the Press

Brief biographical sketches of Nelson Case and W. W. Graves appeared in an article by Wayne O’Connell in the Oswego Democrat, November 28, 1952. Case came to Oswego in 1869, became a community leader and practiced law for over 50 years. Graves was editor of the St. Paul Journal for more than 50 years. Both men made a hobby of local history.


The Tiller and Toiler, Larned, on December 11, 1952, published a 154-page supplement entitled Progress in Pawnee County, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the organization of the county. The magazine-size, plastic-bound, enameled-paper volume contains five sections of information on Larned and Pawnee county: historical, agricultural, business and industry, church-school-club, and the veterans’ section.

A history of the Daniel A. Bright family, by Mrs. Jessie Bright Grove, a daughter, was published in The Tiller and Toiler, Larned, December 19, 1952. Bright arrived in Pawnee county in April, 1872. The biography of this family and the history of Larned and Pawnee county are presented by Mrs. Grove as one story.


“The Shawnee Trail,” by Wayne Gard, the story of a cattle trail from Texas to Kansas usually overlooked by historians, was published in The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Austin, Tex., January, 1953. From 1850 until the Chisholm trail opened in 1867, the Shawnee trail was the chief route used by the Texas cattlemen to bring their herds north.

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Subjects of articles by James A. Clay in recent issues of the Douglass Tribune were: Christmas in Douglass in 1879, January 1, 1953, and early baseball activities in Douglass, March 12.

Included in Lillian K. Farrar’s column in the Axtell Standard recently was “a Doniphan County version” of the pony express by Mrs. Margaret Larzelere Rice, Troy, published January 8, 15, and 22, 1953.

The early history of Belleville, by Virginia Watson, was printed in the Belleville Telescope, January 8, 1953. The town was incorporated January 10, 1878, about eight years after the first resident arrived. The Telescope, March 5, published a brief history of Fort Lookout.

Historical articles of interest to Kansans appearing in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) Star included: “Abilene’s Heroes of Cowtown Days Give Place to Outstanding Sons of This Era,” by Vivian Aten Long, January 15, 1953; “Frances Willard Changed Ed Howe’s Mind When She Spoke for Temperance,” by Charles Arthur Hawley, February 26; “Tornado Hits With Mighty Blow but Usually You Get a Warning,” a review of Snowden D. Flora’s Tornadoes of the United States, by Paul V. Miner, March 15; “Indians of Kansas Along With Others Hope for Riches From Old Land Claims,” by H. E. Bruce, March 17; and “‘Big Charlie’ Crocker Learned to Be a Leader in His Trip Across Plains,” by John Edward Hicks, March 19. Among historical articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times were: “Adventurer and Pioneer, George Park Led in the Founding of Two Colleges [Kansas State and Park],” by W. F. Sanders, February 23, 1953; “Gold of Forty-Niners and Silver From Santa Fe Buried on the Kansas Plains,” by E. B. Dykes Beachy, March 9; and “Tauty Jones, Benefactor of Indians, Recalled in Claim Filed by Ottawas,” by Charles Arthur Hawley, March 31.

Relics in the museum of A. H. Shutte, Ellis, were described in an article in the Hays Daily News, January 18, 1953. Mr. Shutte came to Ellis county 72 years ago and has collected many objects illustrative of Kansas history.

Recent historical articles in the Dodge City Daily Globe included: “Inaugural Recalls Satin-Lined ‘Twenty-Million-Dollar’ Chapter in Dodge City History,” a brief story of the Dodge City Cowboy Band, by Hoover Cott, January 19, 1953; the history of the Dodge City Atheneum Club organized 50 years ago, January 31; and the
reminiscences of the late Mrs. Sallie DeArmond Sweet who came to western Kansas in 1885, March 5.

Publication by installments of John Luke Gehman’s autobiographical sketch began in the January 22, 1953, issue of The Modern Light, Columbus. Also the Light has continued regular publication of the historical column “Do You Remember When?”

John Watson’s “See Kansas” series in the Wichita Evening Eagle has continued to appear in recent months. Among the articles were: “Man-Made Cement ‘Garden of Eden [at Lucas],’ Startles Imagination With Life-Like Figure Displays,” January 22, 1953; “St. Fidelis, ‘Cathedral of the Plains [at Victoria],’ Stands as Monument to Enduring Faith of a Kansas People,” February 5; “Two Quaint Dutch Windmills in Kansas [Wamego and Smith Center] Monuments to Pioneer Industry,” February 12; “‘Home on the Range’ Stands Near Smith Center,” February 26; and “Geographic Center of United States Located Near Lebanon,” March 12.

On January 26, 1953, the first weekly installment of the diary of John S. Gilmore, Sr., was published in the Wilson County Citizen, Fredonia. The diary begins in July, 1867, when the writer was 19 years old and working in a newspaper office in Burlington. Gilmore established the Citizen in 1870.

The question of who was Marshall county’s first settler, A. G. Woodward or F. J. Marshall, was discussed in Marysville newspapers in recent months. George Hamburg’s talk before the Rotary club of Marysville on the subject was printed in the Marshall County News, Marysville, January 29, 1953. Letters were published in the Marysville Advocate, from W. E. Stewart, Vermillion, March 5, and from Otto J. Wullschleger, Frankfort, March 12.

Settlers began arriving in Jewell county in the early 1870’s, according to a history of the Jewell area written by Mrs. H. E. Hutchcraft in 1927 and published in the Jewell County Republican, Jewell, January 29, 1953. The town of Jewell was first Fort Jewell, the fortifications having been built by a home guard organization, with W. D. Street as captain, in 1870.

A brief article about the admission of Kansas into the Union, by Ruby Basye, appeared in the Pratt Daily Tribune, January 29, 1953.

A history of the events preceding the erection in 1901 of the old Lyon county courthouse, now being razed, was published in the
Emporia Gazette, February 4, 1953. It was prepared by the late Harry E. Peach, then county clerk, and was found in the cornerstone of the building.

The first of a series of articles on the history of Natoma, by the Rev. George Lee, appeared in the Natoma Independent, February 5, 1953. Natoma was established as a railroad town in 1888.

Two series of historical features have recently appeared in the Cunningham Clipper. One is "Cunningham's Family Album," consisting of pictures of early Cunningham and residents of the area. The other is entitled "Echoes of the Past." One of the articles in that group was on the tornado which struck Cunningham in May, 1898, appearing in the issues of February 13, 20, 27, and March 6, 1953. The story of the celebration in 1888 of the coming of the railroad to Cunningham was printed March 13.

Six eight-page sections made up the Kansas State College anniversary edition of the Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle, February 15, 1953. Established in 1863, Kansas State was the first land grant college in the United States.

A column-length article on the cholera epidemic in the Ellsworth area in 1867 was printed in the Junction City Union, February 17, 1953.

The Coffeyville Daily Journal published its second annual progress edition February 22, 1953. The largest edition ever published in Coffeyville, 140 pages, it was devoted to the history, building progress, schools, churches, agriculture, and sports of the community. Also included was a biography of Walter Perry Johnson, by many considered the greatest baseball pitcher, whose home was in Coffeyville.

On February 23 the Winfield Daily Courier published its 1953 achievement edition. This year, which marks the 80th anniversary of the incorporation of Winfield and the 80th year of the Courier, 148 pages of city and county history and progress were published.

The Beloit Daily Call, February 26, 1953, published a three-column history of Waconda, "dead" town of Mitchell county. Apparently established in 1871, Waconda was abandoned early in the 1880's.
A brief history of Doniphan, by T. E. Garvey, appeared in the Atehison Daily Globe, March 5, 1953. James F. Forman, who owned the townsit, is considered the father of the town. The town company was organized November 11, 1854.

On March 12, 1953, The Leader-Courier, Kingman, printed a short history of the Waterloo Presbyterian church, Kingman, county. The first meeting for organization of the church was on February 25, 1878, at the home of J. C. Endicott. It is believed to be the first church organized in Kingman county.