Kansas History as Published in the Press

A brief history of the Evangelical and Reformed church of Ellinwood was printed in the Ellinwood Leader, June 11, 1953. The church was started in the fall of 1892 when the Reverend Kottich of Hudson, began to hold services. It was organized April 9, 1893, and the first church building was dedicated in December, 1893.

On June 13, 1953, the Hutchinson News-Herald printed a history of the First Baptist church of Lorraine. The church was organized in June, 1878, as the First German Baptist church. The first pastor was the Rev. David Zwink.

An article on the history of Mullinville newspapers appeared in the Mullinville News, June 18, 1953. The first paper was the Mullinville Mallet, started on April 9, 1886, with J. M. Diven as editor. John G. Connor founded the News—called the Tribune then—in 1904, the first issue appearing August 4, according to the article.


Don Smith's recent talk before the Kiwanis and Lions clubs of Dodge City on Dodge City in 1878 was published in the Dodge City Daily Globe, June 27, 1953. Smith said that in 1878 the town probably reached its zenith as the cowboy capital of the world.

An article by Molly Ferguson, describing the log-cabin museum in the Manhattan city park, appeared in the Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle, June 28, 1953. The Riley County Historical Association built the cabin in 1915 and has stocked it with more than 600 relics. Over 6,000 persons visited the cabin in 1952. Carl Pfuetze is the curator.

Kit Carson's experience fighting Indians at Pawnee Rock, as related by Paul I. Wellman, was printed in the Lincoln Sentinel-Republican, July 2, 1953. Carson, only 17 years of age, was with a party headed by Col. Ceran St. Vrain.

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Historical articles in the Marysville Advocate recently included a history of Life school, District 10, Marshall county, July 2, 1953; and a history of Bremen by Fred Prell, July 9. A plaque has been placed at the Bremen town well and dedicated July 5, 1953. It reads: "Henry Brenneke founded Bremen 1886. Donors of well: Fred J. Prell, Frank W. Maxwell, Joseph A. Sedlacek."

Indians at war and a flood on the Neosho river in the summer of 1836 were subjects of a brief article in the Emporia Times, July 2, 1953. A letter by Susie O. Higbee, Emporia, written in response to the article, was printed July 9. An article on past fourth of July celebrations in Emporia appeared in the "When Emporia Was Young" column of the Emporia Gazette, July 2. This column appears regularly in the Gazette.

A history of Achilles, Rawlins county, compiled by Lois Erickson, was published in the Atwood Citizen-Patriot and the McDonald Standard, July 2, 1953. The first post office in the Achilles area was established in 1880, and a schoolhouse was built in 1881. The town was surveyed in 1887.


An article on the great buffalo herd in the Barton and Pawnee county area in 1871, by Dan L. Thrapp, was published in the Great Bend Daily Tribune, July 3, 1953. The herd was estimated at more than 4,000,000. The Great Bend Herald-Press began a history of Great Bend and the surrounding area by Mrs. C. W. Hiatt, July 23, 1953. The last of the seven installments appeared August 16.

Articles of historical interest to Kansans published recently in the Kansas City (Mo.) Star included: "[Alexander Ramsey] Died Taming the West," July 5, 1953; "Kansas Has a Folk-Speech Matching the Picturesque Language of the Ozarks," by Nora B. Cunningham, July 8; "Ezra Meeker's Fight for Marking Oregon Trail Led Him to Kansas City," by Mildred Miles Main, July 31; and "Olathe
Became Wartime Ghost Town After Quantrill’s Raid 91 Years Ago,” by Stan Chapman, September 10. Articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times were: “The Pioneers of 1850 Met Stark Tragedy on the Carson Desert Route,” by Vaun Arnold, September 2; and “Cherokee Strip Run 60 Years Ago Is a Vivid Memory to Kansas Residents,” by Della Mavity McDonnell, September 16.

“The Early History of Macksville,” by Bill Nesbit, appeared in the Macksville Enterprise, July 9 and 16, 1953. The town was established in 1885.

Several articles of historical interest by L. F. Valentine, have been published in recent numbers of the Clay Center Dispatch and Times. Included in the Dispatch were: “Washouts, Misnames Mark Pete’s Creek,” July 25, 1953; “Rose Merom Cemetery Took Name From Bible,” August 11; and “Clay County Once Had Narrow Gauge Railroad,” September 5. “Riverview Section [of Clay Center] Had River View Until 1915,” appeared in the Times August 27.

An article entitled “Pioneer Stock,” by D. J. Nelson, San Diego, Cal., began to run serially in the Kansas Optimist, Jamestown, July 30, 1953. The author was born in a sod house in Mitchell county in 1875.

The story of Sumner, “dead” town near Atchison, by Arthur Howe, was published in the Atchison Daily Globe, August 2, 1953. Founded in 1856, the town survived until 1860 when a tornado damaged virtually every home.

An article discussing the fate of the infamous Bender family was published in the Coffeyville Daily Journal, August 2, 1953. That the Benders were tracked down and killed by a posse is maintained by C. A. Axton whose father was a member of the posse. A biographical sketch of Mrs. Artie Case who came to Coffeyville 71 years ago with her family, the Daniel B. Detres, by Oren “Bud” Wright, was printed in the Journal, August 23.

The story of Studley, a small community on the boundary of Graham and Sheridan counties, as told by Helen D. Francis, appeared in the Hays Daily News, August 2, 1953; in the Hill City Times, August 6; and in the Hoxie Sentinel, August 13. The first settler in the area was Abraham Pratt who homesteaded in the late 1870’s. The community was settled largely by middle-class Englishmen.
Some of the history of the Argonia area, compiled by Frank Beals, has appeared in recent issues of the Argonia Argosy. Included were articles on the tornado which damaged the town in 1888, August 27, 1953; and on the settlers from Kentucky in the early 1880’s, September 3.

Arkansas City’s first governmental body, which met in 1872, was the subject of Walter Hutchison’s column, “Folks Hereabouts,” in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, August 29, 1953.

The Kansas Teacher’s new historical columnist is Dr. Robert Taft of the University of Kansas, chairman of the Kansas Territorial Centennial Committee, and the immediate past president of the Kansas State Historical Society. In keeping with the times, the column this year is called “A Century of Kansas History,” and Dr. Taft’s first article is “The West of a Century Ago,” appearing in the September, 1953, issue.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Cherokee strip to settlers on September 16, 1893, the Caldwell Messenger, September 3, 1953, published a special 22-page edition containing articles on the race to get land in the strip and on the history of the Caldwell community.

A 100-page special edition of the Russell Daily News, September 8, 1953, marked the sixth anniversary of the daily newspaper and honored the Russell oil show, “Three Decades of Derricks.” The Russell Record, September 10, also observed the oil celebration with special articles on the oil industry and the history of the area. The News presented a cross section of the central Kansas oil industry, and both newspapers printed several articles by J. C. Ruppenthal on attempts to find water, coal, oil, stone, and other products in the county.

“Wings Over Wichita” is the title of a series of articles by Bliss Isely, beginning in the Wichita Magazine, September 17, 1953. Isely devoted his first story to the building of Wichita’s first three airports, Jones Field, selected and marked early in 1919, Stratford Field, later called Swallow Field; and early in 1926 the Wichita Airport.

The Kinsley Mercury published a 42-page 80th anniversary edition September 24, 1953. Kinsley was organized in 1873, and was first called Peters City. Robert McCanse is said to have been the first settler and F. H. Hall was the first mayor.