The Annual Meeting

The 78th annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society and board of directors was held in the rooms of the Society on October 20, 1953.

The meeting of the directors was called to order by President Robert Taft at 10 A.M. First business was the reading of the annual report by the secretary:

SECRETARY'S REPORT, YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 20, 1953

At the conclusion of last year’s meeting, the newly elected president, Robert Taft, reappointed John S. Dawson and T. M. Lillard to the executive committee. The members holding over were Charles M. Correll, Robert C. Rankin, and Wilford Riegel.

Five members of the Society’s board of directors died during the past year: Dr. Edward Bungardner, Lawrence; John Redmond, Burlington; W. E. Stanley, Wichita; W. F. Thompson, Topeka; and Miss Lorraine E. Wooster, Salina. Stanley served as president of the Society in 1943. All were longtime friends and members of the Society, and their passing is recorded with sincere regret.

Robert F. Beine, a member of the Society’s staff for nearly ten years, died July 4, 1953, after an illness of several weeks. He was employed in the newspaper and census divisions during his entire period of service, and was a capable and conscientious worker.

On September 12 your secretary accepted for the State Historical Society a plaque placed near Fairport, in northwest Russell county, to commemorate the discovery of oil in the Russell area. The monument is located at the site of the Carrie Oswald Well No. 1. Oil was discovered there in 1923 and the well is still producing.

THE TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL

Next year, 1954, marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of Kansas territory to white settlement. In order that Kansans might properly celebrate the occasion, Governor Arn appointed a Kansas Territorial Centennial Committee to make recommendations and to coordinate plans for state-wide observances. Dr. Robert Taft of Lawrence, president of the Historical Society, was named chairman of the committee, and Charles M. Correll of Manhattan, a former president and now a member of the Society’s executive committee, was named vice-chairman. Twenty-five other Kansans, including your secretary, were also appointed. Of these nearly half are members of the Historical Society.

The Society will, of course, cooperate to the utmost to make the centennial year a success. All members of the staff will assist with research upon request of local groups, and will aid the governor’s committee in any project it undertakes. The centennial committee’s operating fund of $10,000, appropriated by the 1953 Kansas legislature, is being administered through the Society as far as bookkeeping and other paper work are concerned. Other Society services will be offered as needed, and as time and other duties permit.

As a member of Governor Arn’s special commission on scenic, historic, and
recreational points of interest, your secretary has participated in its discussions, and particularly in planning for additional historical markers in Kansas. The State Highway Commission, which bore the cost of the wooden markers erected in 1940-1941, is continuing its co-operation by gradually replacing them with more durable and attractive metal markers. Revision of text, when necessary, is done by the Historical Society.

Because this program is one of replacement only, and no additional markers can be erected at this time, it became necessary to devise a simple and speedy way to mark more of the state's historic sites in time for visitors during the centennial year. It was decided to mark sites of general interest by means of directional signs, also furnished by the Highway Commission, with texts by the Historical Society. The markers name the site and indicate its direction and distance from the highway. Sites thus marked must be on all-weather roads, and at the sites there must be something for travelers to see. Several directional signs of this type are already in place, and the program is expected to continue until all major accessible historic sites are adequately marked.

**Appropriations**

For the biennium beginning July 1 the 1953 Kansas legislature granted annual increases of $500 each in the Society's contingent fund, the fund for maintenance of the Memorial building, and the fund for book purchases. An appropriation of $750 was received for roof repairs, and $650 was added to a grant by the previous legislature for modernization of the main electrical switchboard.

Budget requests of $26,000 for electrical repairs and $48,000 for replacement of the old glass stack floors with steel were denied. As mentioned in last year's report, the glass floors have deteriorated to the danger point and should be replaced before a serious accident occurs. The same is true of the electrical wiring in the building. These requests must therefore be submitted again when the next legislature meets. In addition, it probably will be necessary to ask a substantial sum for plumbing repairs, since water lines in many places are badly corroded and leaks and broken joints are becoming more and more frequent.

No new appropriation was asked for continuing the *Annals of Kansas*, since funds on hand will be sufficient to complete the editorial work on this project. However, an appropriation of $20,000 was received for publishing the first volume of a two-volume set.

By action of the newly created state finance council, salary increases for most of the staff amounting to about five per cent were granted.

At the Shawnee Mission in Kansas City, the contingent fund was increased $500 a year and funds were allocated for waterproofing and interior painting of the East building and construction of a sewer line.

A contingent fund of $1,500 a year was authorized for the Kaw Mission at Council Grove and a similar fund of $750 per year was approved for the First Capitol, Fort Riley, in addition to the regular civil service salaries of the custodians. An appropriation of $1,000 was also made for repairs and improvements to the First Capitol and the caretaker's cottage.

**Library**

During the year 3,217 persons did research in the library. This was about 250 more than the previous year. Of these, 1,259 worked on Kansas subjects, 1,212 on genealogy, and 846 on general subjects. Many inquiries were answered
by letter, and 144 packages on Kansas subjects were sent out from the loan file. A total of 5,331 clippings were mounted, and 1,504 pages from early clipping volumes were remounted. Seven daily newspapers were read and clipped regularly, and 2,200 other single issues of newspapers were read.

Gifts were received from the Children of American Colonists, Daughters of American Colonists, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Woman's Kansas Day Club, and the Topeka Public Library. A valuable collection of pictures, clippings, pamphlets, and letters relating to the activities of A. K. Longren, Topeka pioneer airplane builder, was given by E. J. Longren of Topeka. Several volumes of scrapbooks of Charles B. Driscoll were received from Bernard D. Blood of New York City, and from the Wichita Public Library. The Dolly Curtis Gann estate, through Mrs. Webster Knight, II, of Providence, R. I., gave 13 volumes of scrapbooks on Charles Curtis and his family. Emory Lindquist, now of Wichita, gave several books and pamphlets pertaining to Lindsborg and Bethany College. A file of Peterson's Magazine was given by Mrs. Henry Blake of Topeka. Several Kansas books and genealogies were also given by individuals.

Microfilm copies of the following are now available in the library: The Smasher's Mail, Topeka, March-December, 1901, a newspaper edited by Carry A. Nation; Crevecoeur, Ferdinand F., "Old Settlers' Tales—Historical and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlement and Settlers of Northeastern Pottawatomie and Southwestern Nemaha Counties, Kansas, From Earliest Settlement to the Year 1877," and Emporia chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, "Tombstone Inscriptions of Lyon County, Vol. 2."

PICTURE COLLECTION

During the year 578 pictures were added to the picture collection. Among those received were an oil painting of Charles Curtis from the Dolly Curtis Gann estate; a painting of Col. Andrew S. Rowan, who carried the message to Garcia, from the Woman's Kansas Day Club; a collection of 87 picture post cards, largely scenes of Anthony, Kan., from Mrs. Neal D. Jordan; a collection of pictures of Lindsborg and Bethany College from Emory Lindquist, and copies of 45 pictures of early Sheridan county scenes, the originals lent by Jesse Pratt of Studley.

ARCHIVES DIVISION

The following public records were transferred during the year to the archives division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Board of...</td>
<td>Statistical Rolls of Counties</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>1,545 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistical Rolls of Cities</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>1,565 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence: School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indemnity Lands</td>
<td>1878–1889</td>
<td>1 vol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence: Surveyor General for Kansas and Nebraska</td>
<td>1855, 1856</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1868, 1869</td>
<td>2 pkgs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE ANNUAL MEETING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Railroad Assessments (Counties)</td>
<td>1869, 1870</td>
<td>1 vol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Director and Accountant</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1897-1899</td>
<td>1 vol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Marshal</td>
<td>Correspondence Files</td>
<td>1926-1945</td>
<td>1 box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor’s Office</td>
<td>Correspondence Files</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>7 transfer cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Department</td>
<td>* Annual Statements</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>53 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Admission Statements</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>1 vol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penitentiary</td>
<td>Ledger Book</td>
<td>1878-1883</td>
<td>1 vol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling Libraries Commission</td>
<td>Correspondence: Library Rehabilitation Committee, 1951, 1952</td>
<td>1 box</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual reports were received from the State Bank Commissioner, the Corporation Commission, the State Printer, and the Labor Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953. Copies of the Eisenhower “Inaugural Prayer” and of House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 were received from the legislature.

When Johnson county officials moved into a new courthouse last winter, the Society co-operated with them by removing many of the important older records for screening and inventorying. Ninety-five bound volumes and several boxes containing records of the probate court, district court, county clerk, county treasurer, and register of deeds were brought to Topeka. Present plans call for microfilming the bulk of these county archives and disposing of much of the original material.

The Topeka office of the United States Weather Bureau transferred 97 volumes of daily weather maps and forecasts, dating from 1900 to 1948.

All state records received by the Society during the year have been screened and arranged in the archives stacks.

In addition to work done on recent records, some progress has been made in organizing the tremendous backlog of material that has accumulated in past years. The letters and papers of the Board of Railroad Commissioners, 1880-1905, have been arranged chronologically, labeled and are ready for use. Correspondence and reports of the Labor Department, 1919-1942, are also arranged and labeled. Work is progressing on the files of the Insurance Department, which date from 1865 to the 1920’s.

The U. S. census for 1860, Kansas territory, and the state census for 1875 have been rebound. As a precautionary measure, the 1860 census was microfilmed before it was sent to the bindery, although the original volumes are still in regular use. The 1875 census was filmed two years ago.

* Microfilmed and originals destroyed.
MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

During the year 17 transfer cases of uncounted manuscripts, approximately 450 other individual manuscripts, 48 manuscript volumes and 11 microfilmed items were added to the manuscript collections.

Albert M. Cole of Holton, representative in congress from the first district, 1945-1953, gave to the Society its largest manuscript accession of the year. The collection consists of letters and papers from his Washington office, contained in 17 transfer cases.

Several papers of Charles Curtis and his sister, Dolly Gann, were acquired from the Dolly Gann estate. Included in the correspondence were letters from William Allen White and other prominent Kansans.

Edward M. Beougher of Grinnell obtained from the National Archives and donated to the Society photostatic copies of telegrams sent from Fort Wallace, 1871-1880. These telegrams are valuable for the information they contain about Indian raids in Kansas.

Mrs. Burns H. Uhrich of Independence, a daughter of D. W. Wilder, presented 50 personal letters of her father, 1863-1884. She also donated five of his diaries, covering the years 1848-1850 and 1853.

Twenty-six diaries of Charles A. Thresher, a pioneer of the Berryton vicinity who faithfully recorded weather conditions and local happenings for the years 1871-1891 and 1893-1897, were given by Mrs. John McNair of Jetmore.

Other donors were: Mrs. J. K. Beachy, Kansas City, Mo.; L. J. Blythe, White City; Sam C. Charlson and Richard D. Rogers, Manhattan; Dickinson County Historical Society; Mrs. J. A. Downum, Topeka; Mrs. Frank Gibbs, Topeka; John Ise, Lawrence; Earl McBride, Lakeland, Fla.; Mrs. K. M. Martin, Hoyt; Karl A. Menninger, Topeka; Clyde W. Miller, Mahaska; Ward D. Nance, Independence; Mrs. Carl Pratt, Arkansas City; Robert W. Richardson, Topeka; Roy T. Rubin, Hope; J. C. Ruppenthal, Russell; Harold M. Slater, Topeka; Clare A. Sproul, Colorado Springs, Colo.; E. E. Terry, Olathe; Mrs. Bess Tidyman, Broughton; William J. Wertz, Topeka; Woman's Kansas Day Club; and Harry L. Woods, Fulton.

A microfilm copy of the diary kept by J. E. B. Stuart as a cavalry lieutenant at Fort Riley in 1860 was obtained from the University of Virginia. Photostatic copies of correspondence and agreements relating to the construction of agency buildings and dwelling houses for the Kaw and Sac and Fox Indians, 1880-1882, were purchased from the National Archives.

Among the manuscripts microfilmed by the Society were the papers of D. C. Grinnell, lent by Clarence A. Grinnell of Americas; the overland diary of E. A. Spooner, 1849, 1850, lent by Mrs. R. M. Smith, Kansas City, Mo.; the history of the Union Church Edifice Society of Comanche county, 1879, lent by Mrs. Benjamin O. Weaver of Mullinville; Franklin county district court, Case File No. 1760, Fannie Kelly vs. Sarah L. Larimer, 1869-1877, lent by Miss Christina Woke, clerk of district court, Ottawa; the diaries of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Dimond, 1865, 1870-1873, lent by Conie Poole, Kansas City, Mo.; and records of Lincoln and Washburn college, 1865-1870, lent by Ira H. Smith through Paul Adams, Topeka. Other manuscripts were lent for filming by Dr. H. L. Kirkpatrick, Topeka; Charles Holman, II, Topeka; M. Joseph Burke, Medicine Bow, Wyo.; and H. H. Ard, Portland, Tenn.
THE ANNUAL MEETING

Microfilm Division

Since its establishment in 1946 the microfilm division has made nearly 3,200,000 photographs. Approximately 360,000 were taken during the past year: newspapers, 337,284, and archives, books, manuscripts, 22,574.

The largest single project of the year was the filming of the Kansas City Kansas, April 3, 1916-March 31, 1953, a total of 252 hundred-foot rolls of film containing 177,059 exposures. The Arkansas City Traveler was completed for the period June 1, 1898-October 29, 1929, and the Topeka State Journal was continued from January 1, 1931, to December 31, 1940.

William Jewell College of Liberty, Mo., lent for microfilming its file of the Liberty (Mo.) Weekly Tribune, April 4, 1848-April 8, 1853. This file is believed to be the only one in existence which is complete for the early years of the paper, and it is a valuable record of events across the line immediately prior to the establishment of Kansas territory.

Through the courtesy of Norb Garrett and John W. Breyfogle, Jr., of the Olathe Mirror, files of the Mirror, May 16, 1861-December 23, 1875, and the Olathe Weekly Herald, October 9, 1891-December 29, 1893, were borrowed and microfilmed. Rolla Glymer of El Dorado lent files of the Walnut Valley Times, March 4, 1870-February 20, 1874.

Other newspapers filmed during the year were: Fort Scott Tribune, January 2, 1951-December 31, 1952; Garden City Irrigator, weekly and daily, 1882-1887; Harvey County News, Newton, August 18, 1876-December 27, 1877; Allen County Courant, Iola, January 11-August 1, 1868; Neosho Valley Register, Iola, August 5-1888-June 2, 1869; Dodge City Globe Republican, January 4, 1900-December 25, 1902; and Coffeyville Daily Journal, March 1-May 18, 1880.

Newspaper and Census Divisions

During the year 11,474 certified copies of census records were issued, a slight decrease from the postwar record of the preceding year. Most of the demand for certifications comes from persons seeking proof of age and place of birth for delayed birth certificates, social security and other retirement programs. Many of the requests are made by mail, and copies of the records are furnished by the Society without charge.

During the year 5,036 patrons visited the newspaper and census divisions, a substantial increase over the preceding year. They made use of 10,065 single issues and 5,399 bound volumes of newspapers, 1,588 microfilm reels, and 18,453 census volumes.

Nearly all Kansas newspapers are received regularly for filing. They include 57 dailies, one triweekly, 13 semiweeklies, and 310 regular weeklies. The Society's files of original Kansas newspapers totaled 55,430 bound volumes as of January 1, 1953, in addition to over 10,000 volumes of out-of-state newspapers, dated from 1767 to 1953. The Society's collection of newspapers on microfilm now totals 4,221 reels, an increase of 602 reels for the year.

Publishers regularly contributing microfilm copies of current issues include: Oscar Stauffer and Rex Woods, the Arkansas City Daily Traveler; Angelo Scott, Iola Register; Dolph Simons, Lawrence Daily Journal-World; Dan Anthony, III, Leavenworth Times; Henry Blake, Milton Tabor, and Leland Schenck, Topeka Daily Capital.

Among the older newspapers received this year were the following from Vernon Barrow, Highland: Vol. 1, No. 2, of the Kansas Tribune, Lawrence,

Donors of miscellaneous newspapers during the year included Mrs. Sam Keating and Annie B. Sweet, Topeka; Mrs. Hale Houts, Kansas City, Mo.; Spirituelle Club, Kingsdon; J. C. Ruppenthal, Russell; Mrs. A. E. Ferguson, Puenti, Cal.; Mrs. Chas. R. Bell, Wellington; and Mrs. J. L. Simpson, Selma.

MUSEUM

Attendance in the museum for the year was 38,328. There were 35 acquisitions.

The Dolly Gann estate donated several items belonging to the late Charles Curtis, including a silver tray inscribed with the autographs of his associates in the United States senate, two gavels, a vice-presidential flag, and a portrait which is now hanging in the main lobby.

Two presses and other early-printing equipment were received from C. A. Grinell and son, Harold, of Americus, who used the articles for many years in the publication of their newspaper, the Americus Greeting.

Other objects of interest include a cane belonging to Abram Burnett, famous Pottawatomie Indian for whom Burnett’s Mound was named, given by Lee Burnett and Miss Tawana Burnett, Shawnee, Okla., and Mrs. Kathryn Tully, Stillwater, Okla.; a split-bottom chair used on the “underground railway” in Kansas, donated by Raymond T. Schaffer of Atchison through Will T. Beck, Holton; a Wells Fargo Express chest from the estate of Charles Elwell; and a set of doll dishes of the 1870’s belonging to the late Mrs. H. A. Perry, Topeka, given by her daughters, Mrs. Eldon Sloan, Topeka, Miss Frances Perry, New York, and Mrs. Arthur Peine, Manhattan.

A portrait of Catherine H. Smith, wife of the Free-State governor-elect of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution, was cleaned and relined by James Roth, an expert associated with the William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art in Kansas City, Mo. This painting has been described by one authority as “the most charming early American portrait” he has ever seen. The artist is unknown. The State Historical Society received the painting in 1926 from Mrs. Wilder Metcalf.

Following the death in 1932 of Edith Smelser, for many years curator of the museum, Charles E. Holman, II, was employed as director. Mr. Holman, a Kansan, has a master’s degree from Stanford University. He has had museum experience at Stanford and with the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City. Mrs. Joan B. Foth also has joined the staff as assistant director. She is a graduate of Barnard college, Columbia University, and has recently been employed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Work is progressing on rearrangement of displays to increase their educational value, and new labels are being made for many of the exhibits.

ANNALS OF KANSAS

Twenty-five years of the new Annals of Kansas, which will eventually cover the period 1886 to 1925, inclusive, are ready for final reading before the manuscript goes to the printer. An appropriation to cover publication costs for one
volume, probably to include the years 1886 to 1910, was made by the 1953
legislature, but an additional appropriation will be necessary for publication of
the second volume. The legislature stipulated that except for a few complimentary
copies to state officials all volumes shall be sold. In this way it is
expected that the publishing costs will be returned to the state. It is hoped, however, that members of the Kansas State Historical Society may buy copies at a reduction.

During the year an estimated 925,000 words have been read and revised,
and much additional copy has been rechecked and made ready for final editing.
In addition to the Annals staff, consisting of Kirke Mechem, editor, Miss Jennie
Owen, chief annalist, and James Sallee, assistant annalist, three other members of
the Society’s staff have read the manuscript. It is expected that the book
will be released for sale during the 1954 centennial year.

Compilation of the Annals was begun in 1945, when the legislature made the first
appropriation for the work. The original Annals committee was composed
of Fred Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg; the late Cecil Howes, Topeka; Dr. James C.
Malin, University of Kansas; and Justice William A. Smith of the Kansas Supreme Court. Miss Owen has been chief annalist since the beginning of the
project.

Subjects for Research

Extended research during the year included the following persons and subjects: James G. Blunt; Chester I. Long; E. H. Madison; Jotham Meeker; Samuel
Reader; Oregon trail; Bent’s Fort; Dalton gang; the Delaware, Ottawa, and
Pawnee Indians; Kaw Indian agency; Kansas and Osage Indian villages; Pottawatomie Indian lands in Anderson county; problems of early Indian migration and
missions; the first Baptist mission in Kansas; the First Congregational church
in Topeka; histories of Fort Riley, Enterprise, Randolph community, Hillsboro,
and Gnadenau; histories of Atchison, Ness, and Pratt counties, Leavenworth
and its school system, Ottawa University, Gummison county, Colorado, and the
Connecticut Kansas colony; economic history of south central Kansas; Kansas in 1868; interpretations of Kansas territorial history by Kansas writers; ranching
in Kansas; football in Kansas; the Kansas Pacific railroad; the Democratic party
in Kansas; anti-horse thief associations; Waconda Springs.

Accessions

October 1, 1952, to September 30, 1953

Library:

Books .................................................. 991
Pamphlets ............................................. 1,388
Magazines (bound volumes) ......................... 216

Archives:

Separate manuscripts ................................ 21,500
Manuscript volumes ................................ 3,272
Manuscript maps .................................. None
Reels of microfilm ................................ 22

Private manuscripts:

Separate manuscripts .................................. 450
Volumes .................................................. 48
Reels of microfilm .................................. 11
Printed maps, atlases and charts .................. 405
Newspapers (bound volumes) ........................................... 664
Reels of microfilm ...................................................... 718
Pictures ................................................................... 578
Museum objects ........................................................... 35

TOTAL ACCESSIONS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1953

Books, pamphlets, newspapers (bound and microfilm reels), and magazines ......................... 455,713
Separate manuscripts (archives) .................................................................. 1,815,311
Manuscript volumes (archives) ........................................................................ 64,025
Manuscript maps (archives) ............................................................................ 583
Microfilm reels (archives) .............................................................................. 762
Printed maps, atlases, and charts ................................................................. 10,111
Pictures ................................................................... 26,541
Museum objects ........................................................... 83,372

THE QUARTERLY

The 20th bound volume of The Kansas Historical Quarterly, which is now in its 22d year, will be ready for distribution early in 1954. It will consist of the eight numbers of the Quarterly appearing in 1952 and 1953.

Insufficient printing appropriations made it necessary during the past biennium to reduce the number of pages in the Quarterly and to include eight numbers in a volume instead of the usual four. It was hoped that the 1953 legislature would remedy this situation, and an adequate amount was requested when the printing budget was made up. However, not only was the desired increase denied, but the fund was cut even further. It will therefore again be necessary to bind eight numbers in a single volume, and quite possibly the magazine will have fewer pages than at present.


In observance of the centennial the Quarterly will continue in 1954 to feature articles which relate to the territorial history of Kansas.

Thanks are due, as usual, to Dr. James C. Malin, associate editor of the Quarterly, for his unselfish contribution of time, effort, and knowledge in reading and evaluating articles submitted for publication.

OLD SHAWNEE MISSION

Visitors to Shawnee Mission during the year registered from 18 states, the District of Columbia, and Alaska. Included in the list was Roy F. Bluejacket, Independence, a great-grandson of Charles Bluejacket, who was a missionary at the Mission and later became a chief of the Shawnees. Two art classes made several trips to the Mission grounds.
The Annual Meeting

The interior of the East building has been repainted and needed repairs have been made. The exterior is now being waterproofed and the brickwork tuck-pointed. When this work is completed the building should be in good condition structurally.

Through the co-operation of the State Highway Commission, two directional signs have been placed at the intersection of Mission street and U. S. Highways 50 and 69, so that visitors no longer will have difficulty in finding the Mission.

The Society is indebted to the state departments of the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of American Colonists, the Daughters of 1812 and to the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society for their continued co-operation at the Mission.

The Kaw Mission

Although the Kaw Mission at Council Grove was not officially opened as a museum until September, 1952, the register listed 1,320 visitors during the past year. Many were school children from Morris and the surrounding counties, but 30 states were represented in the total.

There are now more than 40 permanent exhibits in the museum, including 12 items partly relating to the Santa Fe trail on loan from the Museum of New Mexico, at Santa Fe, obtained through the assistance of Mrs. Frank Haucke. Another contributor has been Mrs. Lalla M. Brigham of Council Grove who has generously given of her historical collections.

The building is in such excellent condition structurally that a paragraph from a story in the Topeka State Journal of July 22 seems particularly appropriate: "The state, under authority of legislative act in 1951, paid $23,500 for the old mission, and if you think the state got stuck with a bunch of beatup rocks, perish the thought. It's more than 100 years old but it'll be standing when some of today's construction is being bulldozed into the junkyard."

Much also has been accomplished in landscaping and rebuilding the lawn, which was damaged by the 1951 floods. Without doubt, when this property can be better marked and advertised it will soon take its place as one of the state's finest show places.

In the early 1860's a large number of stone houses were built by the federal government for the Kaw Indians in the Council Grove area. Several are still standing. The Council Grove Rotary Club, with the consent of the Society, has undertaken to reconstruct one of these buildings on the Mission grounds. The stone is being obtained from some of the original Indian houses near Council Grove. This ambitious project is now well advanced, and when completed will be an authentic and interesting outdoor addition to the museum exhibits.

The First Capitol

There were 3,169 visitors at the First Capitol during the past year. Interest in the building as a historic site is slowly increasing, after a slump during the war years.

Repairs to the roof of the Capitol have been completed, but the contractor warned that an entire new roof is needed before the sheathing rots away. The interior of the caretaker's cottage has been painted, and other minor improvements to the property have been made.
THE STAFF OF THE SOCIETY

As in the past, credit for many of the accomplishments mentioned in this report must be given to the Society's loyal and co-operative staff. Their work is responsible for such comments as this from a satisfied patron: "A very high type of service is being rendered by your office and I want to express my appreciation for your kind and thoughtful helpfulness. The people of Kansas can be proud of their Historical Society and of the service it is giving." Although it is impossible here to name every individual on the staff, the work of each is nevertheless sincerely appreciated.

Recognition is also due the custodians of the historic sites under the Society's management whose devotion to their work, seven days a week, is especially commendable.

Respectfully submitted,

NYLE H. MILLER, Secretary.

At the conclusion of the reading of the secretary's report, John S. Dawson moved that it be accepted. Motion was seconded by Mrs. W. D. Philip and the report was accepted.

President Taft then called for the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Lela Barnes:

TREASURER'S REPORT

Based on the audit of the state accountant for the period August 1, 1952, to September 11, 1953.

MEMBERHIP FEE FUND

Balance, August 1, 1952:
Cash .................................................. $5,583.73
U. S. savings bonds, Series G ...................... 8,700.00

$14,283.73

Receipts:
Memberships .......................................... $792.00
Reimbursement for postage ........................ 837.25
Interest on bonds .................................... 307.50

$1,936.75

$16,220.48

Disbursements ........................................ $1,618.53
Balance, September 11, 1953:
Cash .................................................. $5,901.95
U. S. savings bonds, Series G ...................... 8,700.00

14,601.95

$16,220.48
THE ANNUAL MEETING

JONATHAN PECKER BEQUEST

Balance, August 1, 1952:
- Cash: $62.36
- U.S. treasury bonds: 950.00

$1,012.36

Receipts:
- Bond interest: $27.33
- Savings account interest: 2.29

29.62

Disbursements:
- Books: $7.50

Balance, September 11, 1953:
- Cash: $1,041.98
- U.S. treasury bonds: 950.00

$1,041.98

JOHN BOOTH BEQUEST

Balance, August 1, 1952:
- Cash: $96.19
- U.S. treasury bond: 500.00

$598.19

Receipts:
- Bond interest: $14.38
- Savings account interest: 1.15

15.53

Balance, September 11, 1953:
- Cash: $611.72
- U.S. treasury bond: 500.00

$611.72

THOMAS H. BOWLUS DONATION

This donation is substantiated by a U.S. savings bond, Series G, in the amount of $1,000. The interest is credited to the membership fee fund.

ELIZABETH READER BEQUEST

Balance, August 1, 1952:
- Cash (deposited in membership fee fund): $763.69
- U.S. savings bonds (shown in total bonds, membership fee fund): 5,200.00

$5,963.69
Receipts:
Interest (deposited in membership fee fund) ......... 195.00

Balance, September 11, 1953:
Cash ........................................... $958.69
U. S. savings bonds, Series G ....................... 5,200.00

$6,158.69

**State Appropriations**

This report covers only the membership fee fund and other custodial funds. It is not a statement of the appropriations made by the legislature for the maintenance of the Society. These disbursements were not made through the treasurer of the Society but through the state auditor. For the year ending June 30, 1953, these appropriations were: Kansas State Historical Society, $104,570.00; Memorial Building, $16,390.00; Old Shawnee Mission, $6,724.00; Kaw Mission, $2,500.00; First Capitol of Kansas, $2,362.00.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mrs. LeLa Barnes, Treasurer.**

On motion by Wilford Riegel, seconded by John S. Dawson, the report of the treasurer was accepted.

The report of the executive committee on the audit by the state accountant of the funds of the Society was called for and read by John S. Dawson:

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

October 16, 1953.

*To the Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society:*

The executive committee being directed under the bylaws to check the accounts of the treasurer, states that the state accountant has audited the funds of the State Historical Society, the Old Shawnee Mission, the First Capitol of Kansas, and the Kaw Mission, from August 1, 1952, to September 11, 1953, and that they are hereby approved.

**John S. Dawson, Chairman,**

**Robert C. Rankin,**

**Wilford Riegel,**

**T. M. Lillard,**

**C. M. Corbell,**

**Robert Taft.**

On motion by John S. Dawson, seconded by James Malone, the report was accepted.

The report of the nominating committee for officers of the Society was read by John S. Dawson:
THE ANNUAL MEETING

NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

October 16, 1953.

To the Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society:

Your committee on nominations submits the following report for offices of the Kansas State Historical Society:

For a one-year term: Angelo Scott, Iola, president; F. D. Farrell, Manhattan, first vice-president; Willford Riegel, Emporia, second vice-president.

For a two-year term: Nyle H. Miller, Topeka, secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Dawson, Chairman,
James C. Malin,
T. M. Lillard,
Robert C. Rankin,
R. Taft,
C. M. Correll,
Frank Haucke.

The report was referred to the afternoon meeting of the board.

A report on the William I. Mitchell bequest to the Historical Society was made by the secretary. This bequest, as set forth in Mr. Mitchell's will, reads as follows:

To the Kansas State Historical Society of Topeka, Kans., I give and bequeath a thirty (30) acre tract of hill pasture located in the S. E. corner of the S. E. quarter of Section 28, Range 10, Township 10 in Wabaunsee county, Kansas, to be held by it or the state of Kansas as a public park.

This property comprises an outstanding hill now known, and always to be known, as Mount Mitchell, in memory of my father, Captain William Mitchell, who was a pioneer settler.

The purpose of this gift is to provide a suitable and permanent location for an historical marker to be placed upon the summit of said hill in memory of the Connecticut Colony, better known as the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony, that settled in this locality in April, 1856.

I further give and bequeath to the said Historical Society the sum of Two hundred dollars ($200.00) to be used toward the cost of such a marker.

The above gifts are made with the express stipulation that if they are not formally accepted by the said Society within one year from the date this will is probated, and said Society obligates itself to erect such a marker within five (5) years, both of these gifts will be forfeited and they will revert to my estate.

After a general discussion during which the secretary told of his recent examination of the site, James Malone moved that the gift be accepted. Clyde K. Rodkey seconded the motion, and the board voted to accept the bequest. The secretary was instructed to look into the best approach to the site from the highway.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society was called to order at 2 P. M. President Robert Taft delivered his address: *Stephen A. Douglas: “I Passed the Kansas-Nebraska Bill,”* which is printed in its entirety in this issue of *The Kansas Historical Quarterly.*

Following his address, President Taft outlined the program so far developed by the Governor’s committee which he heads, for the celebration of the Kansas Territorial Centennial in 1954. Plans include the sending of an exhibit car to all parts of the state, the car to be furnished by the Santa Fe railroad with other railroads cooperating. Exhibits are being designed to offer a glimpse of life in the territory, supplemented with maps, newspapers, documents, etc. Mr. Perce Harvey spoke briefly on a brochure being considered for printing and distribution as a centennial memento.

The report of the committee on nominations was called for:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS

*To the Kansas State Historical Society:*

October 16, 1953.

Your committee on nominations submits the following report and recommendations for directors of the Society for the term of three years ending in October, 1956:

Aitchison, R. T., Wichita.
Anderson, George L., Lawrence.
Anthony, D. R., Leavenworth.
Baugh, Charles A., Ellis.
Beck, Will T., Holton.
Blake, Henry S., Topeka.
Chambers, Lloyd, Clearwater.
Chandler, C. J., Wichita.
Clymer, Rolla, El Dorado.
Cochran, Elizabeth, Pittsburg.
Cotton, Corlett J., Lawrence.
Dawson, John S., Topeka.
Ewuer, Elmer E., Goodland.
Farley, Alan W., Kansas City.
Knapp, Dallas W., Coffeyville.
Lilestone, W. F., Wichita.
Lose, Harry F., Topeka.
Malin, James C., Lawrence.
Mayhew, Mrs. Patricia Solander,
Topeka.
Miller, Karl, Dodge City.
Montgomery, W. H., Salina.
Moore, Russell, Wichita.
Motz, Frank, Hays.
Raynesford, H. C., Ellis.
Reed, Clyde M., Jr., Parsons.
Rodkey, Clyde K., Manhattan.
Shaw, Joseph C., Topeka.
Somers, John G., Newton.
Stewart, Donald, Independence.
Thomas, E. A., Topeka.
von der Heiden, Mrs. W. H., Newton.
Walker, Mrs. Ida M., Norton.

Respectfully submitted,

*John S. Dawson, Chairman.*
The Annual Meeting

On motion by Dr. Joseph C. Shaw, seconded by Mrs. W. D. Philip, the report of the committee was accepted and members of the board were declared elected for the term ending in October, 1956.

Reports of local and county historical societies were called for. Mrs. Homer Bair reported for the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society; and Mrs. F. L. Gilson for the Lyon county society.

There being no further business, the annual meeting of the Society adjourned. Refreshments were served to members and visitors in the Society’s office.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The afternoon meeting of the board of directors was called to order by President Taft. He asked for a rereading of the report of the nominating committee for officers of the Society. The report was read by John S. Dawson, chairman, who moved that it be accepted. Motion was seconded by Charles M. Correll and the following were elected:

For a one-year term: Angelo Scott, Iola, president; F. D. Farrell, Manhattan, first vice-president; Wilford Riegel, Emporia, second vice-president.

For a two-year term: Nyle H. Miller, Topeka, secretary.

President Scott spoke briefly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

DIRECTORS OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AS OF OCTOBER, 1953

Directors for the Year Ending October, 1954

Bailey, Roy F., Salina.
Beezley, George F., Girard.
Bowers, Thomas H., Iola.
Brinkhoff, Fred W., Pittsburg.
Campbell, Mrs. Spurgeon B., Kansas City.
Cron, F. H., El Dorado.
Ebigright, Homer K., Baldwin.
Farrell, F. D., Manhattan.
Gray, John M., Kirwin.
Hamilton, R. L., Beloit.
Harger, Charles M., Abilene.
Harvey, Mrs. A. M., Topeka.
Haucke, Frank, Council Grove.
Hodges, Frank, Olathe.
Lingenthaler, Angelus, Atchison.
MacArthur, Mrs. Vernon E., Hutchinson.

McFarland, Helen M., Topeka.
Malone, James, Topeka.
Mecham, Kirke, Lindsborg.
Mueller, Harrie S., Wichita.
Murphy, Franklin D., Lawrence.
Philip, Mrs. W. D., Hays.
Rankin, Robert C., Lawrence.
Rogler, Wayne, Matfield Green.
Ruppenthal, J. C., Russell.
Sayers, Wm. L., Hill City.
Simons, Dolph, Lawrence.
Skinner, Alton H., Kansas City.
Stone, Robert, Topeka.
Taft, Robert, Lawrence.
Templar, George, Arkansas City.
Woodring, Harry H., Topeka.

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DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1955

Barr, Frank, Wichita.
Berryman, Jerome C., Ashland.
Brigham, Mrs. J. Lalla M., Pratt.
Breck, R. F., Goodland.
Charlson, Sam C., Manhattan.
Correll, Charles M., Manhattan.
Davis, W. W., Lawrence.
Denious, Jess C., Dodge City.
Godsey, Mrs. Flora R., Emporia.
Hall, Mrs. Carrie A., Leavenworth.
Hall, Standish, Wichita.
Hegler, Ben F., Wichita.
Jones, Horace, Lyons.
Lillard, T. M., Topeka.
Lindquist, Emory K., Wichita.
Maranville, Lea, Ness City.
Means, Hugh, Lawrence.
Norton, Gus S., Kalvesta.
Owen, Arthur K., Topeka.
Patrick, Mrs. Mae C., Satanta.
Payne, Mrs. L. F., Manhattan.
Richards, Walter M., Emporia.
Rigle, Wilford, Emporia.
Rupp, Mrs. Jane C., Lincolnville.
Scott, Angelo, Iola.
Sloan, R. E., Topeka.
Smelser, Mary M., Lawrence.
Stewart, Mrs. James G., Topeka.
Taylor, James E., Sharon Springs.
Van De Mark, M. V. B., Concordia.
Wark, George H., Caney.
Williams, Charles A., Bentley.

DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1956

Aitchison, R. T., Wichita.
Anderson, George L., Lawrence.
Anthony, D. R., Leavenworth.
Baughner, Charles A., Ellis.
Beck, Will T., Holton.
Blake, Henry S., Topeka.
Chambers, Lloyd, Clearwater.
Chandler, C. J., Wichita.
Clymer, Rilla, El Dorado.
Cochran, Elizabeth, Pittsburg.
Cotton, Corlett J., Lawrence.
Dawson, John S., Topeka.
Ewuer, Elmer E., Goodland.
Farley, Alan W., Kansas City.
Knapp, Dallas W., Coffeyville.
Lilleyton, W. F., Wichita.
Lose, Harry F., Topeka.
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Somers, John G., Newton.
Stewart, Donald, Independence.
Thomas, E. A., Topeka.
von der Heiden, Mrs. W. H., Newton.
Walker, Mrs. Ida M., Norton.