Kansas Historical Notes

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Chase County Historical Society in Cottonwood Falls, September 12, 1953: George M. Miller, president; Henry Rogler, vice-president; Clint Baldwin, secretary; George T. Dawson, treasurer; and W. P. Austin, chief historian. The executive committee is composed of Ida M. Vinson, Baldwin, T. R. Wells, Ida Schneider, and Minnie Norton.

Mrs. David M. Huber was elected president of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society September 28, 1953. Other officers are: Mrs. Arthur W. Wolf, first vice-president; Mrs Kenneth Carbaugh, second vice-president; Mrs. James D. Wood, recording secretary; Lucile Larson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lee J. Smith, treasurer; Mrs. Mahlon Delp, historian; Mrs. R. L. Trotter, curator; and Mrs. K. S. Browne, member-in-waiting. Mrs. Homer Bair was the retiring president.

Kinsley observed its 50th anniversary with a three-day celebration September 30-October 2, 1953. High light of the event was a historical pageant written and directed by Judge Lorin T. Peters, Ness City, with assistance from members of the Edwards County Historical Society. Articles on the history of the community appeared in the Kinsley Mercury September 24.

All officers of the Ness County Historical Society were re-elected at the October, 1953, meeting. They include: Mrs. Mabel Raffington, president; Ted Copeland, vice-president; Eva Ferrell, secretary; and Mrs. Ada Young, treasurer.

Officers chosen by the Crawford County Historical Society at a meeting in Pittsburg, October 2, 1953, include: Oscar Anderson, Farlington, president; Clark Paris, Pittsburg, vice-president; Mrs. Carl Stroud, Pittsburg, secretary; and Mrs. A. N. Ligon, Pittsburg, treasurer. Paul Wilbert, Mrs. Ralph Shideler, and C. P. Kelso were elected to the executive committee. L. E. Curfman was the retiring president. Mrs. O. P. Dellinger spoke on the early history of the county.

Through the efforts of the Ness County Historical Society a marker honoring Dr. George Washington Carver has been placed at the site of the Carver homestead near Beeler. Dedication services were held October 11, 1953, with Lt. Gov. Fred Hall as speaker.
Also on the program was Mrs. Martha Robinson, Kansas City, Mo., who represented Tuskegee Institute. The inscription on the monument reads:

Dedicated to the memory of George Washington Carver, 1864-1943, citizen, scientist, benefactor; who rose from slavery to fame and gave to our country an everlasting heritage. Ness county is proud to honor him and claim him as a pioneer. This stone marks the northeast corner of the homestead on which he filed in 1886. By friends and the Ness County Historical Society.


Almost 300 persons registered at the 25th anniversary meeting of the Dickinson County Historical Society at Hope, October 22, 1953. B. H. Oesterreich, Woodbine, was re-elected president of the society. Other officers are: Mrs. Viola Ehrsam, Enterprise, first vice-president; Mrs. Ed Rohrer, Elmo, second vice-president; and Elsie Koch, Hope, secretary.

Leslie Broadstreet, Marion, was named chairman of the Marion County Historical Museum Committee at a meeting of the committee October 26, 1953, in Marion. The committee was set up by the Marion Kiwanis club to plan for a county historical museum at Marion. Other officers are: Rosse B. Case, secretary; L. L. Hadsegg, treasurer; and Wharton Hoch, historian.

A talk by Dr. James C. Carey on the "dead" town of Juniata highlighted the annual meeting of the Riley County Historical Association in Manhattan, October 30, 1953. C. W. Correll was elected president. Other new officers are: Ward Griffling, vice-president; Clyde Rodkey, secretary; Sam Charlson, treasurer; Ed Amos, historian; and Carl Puetze, curator. The following directors were elected: Mrs. C. W. Emmons, Mrs. C. M. Slagg, and Mrs. F. A. Marlatt. Dr. C. W. McCampbell was the retiring president. A committee is preparing a special program for the 1954 annual meeting to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Riley county.

The Wyandotte County Historical Society heard Mrs. Harry Hanson claim the first post office in present Kansas, outside of military reservations, for Wyandotte county at a meeting of the society at the old Grinter House, November 3, 1953. According to Mrs. Hanson, records at the National Archives establish that the first Kansas post office was at Grinter's ferry landing, then known
as the Delaware station. Some of the history of Grinter House, Grinter's ferry, and the Wyandotte County Historical Society was given in May J. McGuire's column, "Just Lookin' Around," in the Kansas City Kansan, November 1 and 19, 1953. The society was organized in 1889. On November 22 a tour was made to John Brown's statue at old Western University and to the site of the town of Quindaro. Historical facts about these places appeared in the Kansan, November 23.

The annual meeting of the Comanche County Historical Society was held in Coldwater, November 5, 1953. Principal speaker was Jay Botts, Coldwater, who gave reminiscences of his early days in the county. Other speakers were Judge Karl Miller and Heinnie Schmidt, Dodge City, and Mrs. Benjamin Weaver, Mullinville. Officers elected for the coming year include: Mrs. Nell Riner, Protection, president; Warren Morton, Coldwater, vice-president; Mrs. Ben Zane, Protection, secretary; and F. H. Moberly, Wilmore, treasurer. Morton was the retiring president.

After several months of painting, repairing, and restoration, the Fort Leavenworth Museum was reopened on November 11, 1953. Established in 1938, the museum includes in its collections almost 50 historic vehicles.

L. W. Hubbell was elected president of the Hodgeman County Historical Society at the annual business meeting, November 13, 1953, in Jetmore. Other officers are Mrs. O. W. Lynam, vice-president; E. W. Harlan, secretary; and Mrs. C. W. Teed, treasurer. Directors elected were: Mrs. Margaret Raser, Mrs. Lynam, and F. E. Ochs.

The "pioneer mixer" and annual meeting of the Clark County Historical Society was held in Ashland, November 14, 1953. Speakers included Heinnie Schmidt and Judge Karl Miller of Dodge City. At the business session Paul Randall was re-elected president of the society. Other officers elected include: Mrs. Virgil Brodie, vice-president; Mrs. Sidney Dorsey, first honorary vice-president; Mrs. Chas. McCasland, second honorary vice-president; Mrs. J. C. Harper, recording secretary; Mrs. W. R. Nunemacher, assistant recording secretary; Rhea Gross, corresponding secretary; Wm. T. Moore, treasurer; Mrs. R. V. Shrewder, historian; Mrs. H. B. Gabbert, curator; and Myron G. Stevenson, auditor.

O. W. Mosher was re-elected president of the Lyon County Historical Society at the annual meeting in Emporia, December 8, 1953.
Other officers are: H. P. Trusler, first vice-president; Catherine Jones, second vice-president; Mrs. C. A. Moore, secretary; and Warren Morris, treasurer. Mosher also acts as curator of the society's museum. Notes on exhibits in the museum and short historical articles appear frequently in the Emporia Gazette's "Museum Notes" column.

The 36th annual meeting of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas was held in Topeka, January 28, 1954. Rolla Clymer, El Dorado, and Mrs. Ethel Godin, Wamego, were elected presidents, succeeding Maurice E. Fager, Topeka, and Mrs. David McCreath, Lawrence. The Native Sons elected other officers as follows: Clay Baker, Topeka, vice-president; John Brookens, Westmoreland, secretary; and Jim Reed, Topeka, treasurer. Other new officers of the Native Daughters are: Mrs. Ivan Dayton Jones, Lyons, vice-president; Mrs. James B. McKay, El Dorado, secretary; and Mrs. George Marshall, Basehor, treasurer. Tom Collins, Kansas City, was the principal speaker at the dinner meeting. Howard Hill, Jr., Kansas State College student, was winner of the collegiate speech contest and received the Capper award from Henry S. Blake.

"Life One Hundred Years Ago in Kansas," was the theme carried out in story, song, talks, poetry, pageantry, and decorations at the 47th annual meeting of the Woman's Kansas Day Club in Topeka, January 29, 1954. Mrs. Douglas I. McCrum, Fort Scott, president, gave a tribute, "The Glory of Kansas," and presided at the meeting. Mrs. Earl C. Moses, Great Bend, was elected president at the business session. Other officers elected include: Mrs. Steadman Ball, Atchison, first vice-president; Mrs. James L. Jenson, Colby, second vice-president; Mrs. Emerson Hazlett, Topeka, recording secretary; Mrs. W. O. Wolfe, Lawrence, treasurer; Mrs. C. W. Spencer, Sedan, historian; Mrs. Paul Wedin, Wichita, auditor; and Mrs. Lolota Troup, Kansas City, registrar. District directors elected were: Mrs. Irwin Vincent, Topeka, first district; Mrs. John Morse, Mound City, second district; Mrs. Edna Peterson, Chanute, third district; Mrs. Jesse C. Fisher, Wichita, fourth district; Mrs. Lee Kemper, Garden City, fifth district; and Mrs. Karl Baumgartner, Goodland, sixth district. Reports given by district directors and historians, pictures, museum articles, pamphlets, and books were presented to the Kansas State Historical Society. Of particular interest was an ornamented jungle knife which Mrs. Osa Johnson sent to her father at Chanute 25 years ago from near Borneo. It was given by Mrs. Johnson's mother, Mrs. Belle Leighty of Chanute.
The conversion of the original Fort Hays guardhouse into a museum, and the collection of historical articles for it are under way. Charles V. Reed is chairman of a Hays Chamber of Commerce committee which is doing the work. A collection is to be given by Mrs. Jennie Philip of Hays. Plans are to dedicate and open the museum May 1, 1954.

A Kansas room has been set up in the Abilene public library. It was suggested by the gift of a cherrywood overmantel, brought to Kansas in 1874 for the home of T. C. Henry who became known as the "Wheat King" of Kansas.

*Our Golden Heritage* is the title of a 294-page, recently published history of the P. E. O. in Kansas. The first chapter in Kansas was formed at Meade in 1888; the state chapter was organized in 1903.

The journals kept by Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and other members of their party on their expedition up the Missouri river and to the Pacific Northwest in 1804-1806, were edited by Bernard DeVoto and published in 1953 in a 504-page volume entitled *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*.

*Westward the Briton*, by Robert G. Athearn, is a recently published study of British travelers in the American West following the Civil War and their reactions to Western life, as revealed in the reports on their journeys.

A biography of Jedediah Strong Smith, early Western explorer, hunter and trapper, by Dale L. Morgan, appeared in a 458-page volume entitled *Jedediah Smith*, published in 1953. The book also contains letters by Smith relating to his explorations and personal letters by him and his family. From 1822 until his death at the hands of the Comanches in 1831 he roamed from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean.

On the basis of research begun nearly 40 years ago, Dr. James C. Malin, University of Kansas, has re-examined the historical problems of 1852-1854 relating to the opening of Nebraska and Kansas territories, including the role of Stephen A. Douglas. His new analysis and new material were litho printed in a 455-page book, *The Nebraska Question, 1852-1854*, which appeared late in 1953.

A study of governmental Indian and land policies relative to the distribution and settlement of public lands in Kansas, by Dr. Paul Wallace Gates of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., was recently published in a 311-page volume entitled *Fifty Million Acres: Conflicts Over Kansas Land Policy, 1854-1890*. 