Kansas Historical Notes

The 79th annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society will be held in the rooms of the Society in the Memorial building at Topeka on October 19, 1954.

The Hollenberg Ranch Pony Express Station, near Hanover, is now open for visitors daily, except Sundays. Ben Walters, Hanover, is caretaker and guide. This is the only unaltered pony express station still standing where it was built—in 1857—in Kansas.

A historical museum was formed at Coffeyville early this year for the purpose of preserving the history of Coffeyville and the surrounding community. Historic items, particularly those relating to the Dalton raid, Walter Johnson of baseball fame, and Wendell Willkie, are being assembled by a committee headed by J. B. Kloehr.

Restoration of the Smith county cabin of Dr. Brewster Higley who wrote "Home on the Range," has been a project of the Smith Center Rotary Club. Dedication ceremonies were held July 25, with Gov. Edward F. Arn giving the address.

All officers of the Augusta Historical Society were re-elected at the annual meeting on February 22, 1954. They are: Stella B. Haines, president; Mrs. J. E. Mahannah, vice-president; Florence Hudson, secretary; and Mrs. Henry Bornholdt, treasurer.

Fred Brinkerhoff was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, February 26, 1954. He reviewed events leading to the formation of Kansas territory and through the territorial period.

Officers elected by the Wichita Historical Museum Association at a meeting March 4, 1954, included: Owen McEwen, president; Eugene Coombs, first vice-president; Brace A. Helfrich, second vice-president; John Coultis, Jr., secretary; and Dr. Harold Scheer, treasurer. An article on the museum and the exhibits, by Joe Brewer, appeared in the Wichita Eagle, March 28, 1954. Mrs. Frank Slay is curator.

Dr. T. A. Kennedy was elected president of the Lawrence Historical Society at a meeting March 8, 1954. Other officers chosen were: Mary Clarke, vice-president; Ruth Dyche, secretary; and Riley Burcham, treasurer. Lathrop B. Read, Jr., was the retiring president.
The museum housing President Dwight D. Eisenhower's mementoes of war and peace was officially opened in Abilene, April 3, 1954, when Dr. Milton Eisenhower, representing the five Eisenhower brothers, cut the ribbon, climaxing the opening ceremonies. One wing of the building has been completed to date. A second wing is expected to be ready in the early autumn.

Dr. Allan Nevins' address, "Kansas and the Stream of American Destiny," high-lighted the Kansas Centennial History Conference at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, April 30 and May 1, 1954. The conference was sponsored jointly by the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields, the Kansas Library Association, the Kansas State Historical Society, and the centennial committee and four departments of the University of Kansas. Another feature of the program was a symposium on the collection and use of materials of local history, moderated by Fred Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg. Papers were given as follows: "Juniata, Gateway to Mid-Kansas," by James C. Carey, Kansas State College, Manhattan; "The Transportation Problem in Early Atchison," by the Rev. Peter Beckman, St. Benedict's College, Atchison; "Archeological Excavations in the Blue River Valley," by Linwood L. Hodgdon, Kansas State College, Manhattan; and "The Rump Legislature of 1893," Edwin J. Walbourn, El Dorado Junior College. Officers were elected by the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields as follows: John Rydjord, University of Wichita, president; William H. Seiler, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, vice-president; Walbourn, secretary-treasurer. Beckman and J. W. Vanderhoff, Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, were elected to the executive council.

A Pioneer Day celebration held at Rexford, May 2, 1954, was attended by 160 persons. Following the dinner an election of officers was held. Mrs. Chester Connelly was re-elected president; Mrs. Lawrence Claar, secretary; and Mrs. Bertha Wilson was chosen treasurer.

Home Demonstration meetings in Kansas during the week of May 3-7, 1954, heard special speakers in observance of the territorial centennial. Mrs. Ben Page of Kansas City spoke at meetings in Pittsburg, Arkansas City, Council Grove, Bonner Springs, and Topeka, on "One Hundred Years of Trouseaus." "Kansas' Last Indian Raid" was the subject of Edward M. Beougher's talks at La Crosse, Meade, Pratt, Newton, and Wichita. Beougher, an attorney, lives
at Grinnell. Speaking at Washington, Salina, Osborne, Syracuse, and Oberlin, was R. F. Brock, Goodland banker. Brock used subjects appropriate to the area in which he was speaking. Beougher's talk was summarized in The Harvey County News, Newton, May 6.

The dedication of the Kaw Mission at Council Grove as a state museum took place May 12, 1954, with Sen. Andrew F. Schoeppel as the principal speaker. Erected in 1850 by the Methodist church as a mission and school, the building was purchased by the state in 1951 and is maintained as a historic site and museum by the Kansas State Historical Society.

Sen. Frank Carlson gave the principal address and Gov. Edward F. Arn presided at the initial sale and cancellation ceremonies of the commemorative stamp honoring the Kansas territorial centennial at Fort Leavenworth, May 31, 1954.

Two historical observances recently took place near Baldwin. On June 5, 1954, a re-enactment of the preaching of what is thought to be the first sermon to white settlers in Kansas was held. In early July, 1854, the Rev. William Goode, a Methodist, preached at Hickory Point, north of Baldwin. The Baldwin City Cemetery, where many of the area's pioneers are buried was the scene of a dedication June 6 of new stone gates. The speaker was Dr. H. K. Ebright whose address, recalling some of the pioneers and the history of the community, was printed in the Baldwin Ledger, June 10. The leader in the preservation of the historic cemetery was Dr. W. C. Markham.

The autobiography of the late Mrs. Lizzie Kunkel Robinson was recently published in a 32-page pamphlet called The Story of My Life. Settling in Kansas in 1885, Mrs. Robinson was active in local and state-wide women's affairs and politics.

A 32-page pamphlet entitled The Waconda Story—The First History of Waconda Spring, by Ava B. Gentleman, was recently printed by the Beloit Daily Call. Waconda Spring, a mineral pool in Mitchell county, was a sacred place to the Plains Indians and has become steeped in legend. Efforts are being made to have the spring designated a national monument.

A 19-page pamphlet compiled by Lola Hennessey was issued by Tecumseh at the time of its centennial celebration, May 8, 1954. Col. Thomas N. Stinson was one of the first settlers and the principal founder of Tecumseh. He moved to the area early in 1854, and in August of that year the townsite was located.

A 28-page illustrated pamphlet was published as part of Topeka’s centennial observance. Entitled *Topeka’s 100 Years of Inspired Leadership*, the pamphlet depicts Topeka’s growth and advancement by periods. The city had its beginning December 5, 1854, when the town company was organized with Cyrus K. Holliday as president.

Emporia published a 20-page, mimeographed, historical pamphlet in connection with the city’s celebration of the Kansas territorial centennial, May 28, 1954.

Leavenworth’s 100-year history is summarized in a well-illustrated, 55-page program booklet entitled *Centennial Leavenworth, 1854-1954*, published in connection with the city’s celebration, June 6-12, 1954. On June 13, 1854, 32 men met in Weston, Mo., and drew up the articles of incorporation for the town. The first election was held in 1855, Thomas Slocum being chosen the first mayor.

A feature of Atchison’s centennial celebration, June 20-26, 1954, was the distribution of a 64-page historical booklet, compiled and edited by Catherine and Bill Roe. In addition to the city’s history, the booklet includes stories on the schools, churches, businesses, and civic organizations of Atchison.

The story of the J. B. Brown family, Wilson county pioneers, has been told by Mrs. Winifred Jane Burtis, daughter of the family, in a 156-page mimeographed volume called “Growing Up With Kansas.” Mrs. Burtis was less than a year old when the Browns came to Kansas in 1869.

A picture of Kansas territory as torn by the struggle over the slavery issue is given by Alice Nichols in her newly published book, *Bleeding Kansas*. The narrative attempts to give the South its due, yet points out some of the excesses of both the North and the South.

Wayne Gard of Dallas, Tex., is the author of a new 296-page book, *The Chisholm Trail*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. For over a dozen years, beginning in 1867, the trail was an important part of the life of Kansas, Indian territory (now Oklahoma), and Texas.