Kansas Historical Notes

Bruce Helfrich was elected president of the Wichita Historical Museum Association at the annual meeting March 17, 1955. Other officers chosen were: Mrs. C. H. Armstrong, first vice-president; Owen C. McEwen, second vice-president; Charles K. Foote, secretary; and Dr. Harold Scheer, treasurer. Elected to the board of trustees were: Dr. G. G. Anderson, Mrs. Schuyler Jones, R. M. Long, Mrs. Frank Kline, Eva Minnich, Herman Quinius, Mrs. Effie Parrott and McEwen. A building at 3751 E. Douglas will soon house the museum, which has been located at the Forum.

At the annual meeting of the Augusta Historical Society March 29, 1955, the officers were re-elected for another year. They are: Stella B. Haines, president; Mrs. J. E. Mahannah, vice-president; Florence Hudson, secretary; and Mrs. H. H. Bornholdt, treasurer.

Officers re-elected by the Finney County Historical Society board of directors at a meeting in Garden City in April, 1955, were: Gus S. Norton, president; Kate Smith, first vice-president; C. L. Reeves, second vice-president; Josephine Cowgill, third vice-president; Ella Condra, secretary; Eva B. Sharer, treasurer; and Mabel Brown, custodian. The only new officer was Jean Kampschroeder, historian.

The Hollenberg Ranch Pony Express Station, a state historical museum near Hanover, will be open to the public from April 1 to November 1 this year. The station received an appropriation from the 1955 legislature for improvements.

L. D. Wooster, Hays, gave an illustrated talk at a meeting of the Lane County Historical Society in Dighton, April 11, 1955. The development of Kansas during the past 75 years was his subject. Mrs. Robert Jennison is president of the society.

Several historical markers have been erected and dedicated by the Manhattan centennial committee in recent months. On April 12, 1955, a marker in memory of H. A. W. Tabor, one of Riley county’s most colorful pioneers, was dedicated at Tabor Valley school. A historical marker commemorating the landing of settlers near Manhattan from the steamboat Hartford, June 1, 1855, was dedicated April 28 on Bluemont Hill. A third monument was dedicated May 8 at Wabaunsee, honoring the Beecher Bible and Rifle Colony.
a project of the Kansas District, Lutheran Layman's League. The league also formed the Kansas Lutheran Historical Society.

Holton's centennial celebration took place June 9-11, 1955. Featured events included a parade, the centennial pageant, "Ours to Remember," and the centennial dance.

The Minnesota Historical Society has established the Solon J. Buck Award, to be granted each year to the author of the best article published in *Minnesota History*, the society's quarterly magazine. The award carries with it a grant of $50 from a special fund provided by a friend of the society. The winner for 1954, Dr. Francis Paul Prucha of St. Marys, Kan., was selected by a committee of three, with Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota as chairman. Dr. Prucha was thus honored for his article on "Minnesota 100 Years Ago as Seen by Laurence Oliphant," which appeared in the Summer, 1954, issue of the quarterly. In the future, all authors whose contributions appear in *Minnesota History* become eligible for the award. Anyone writing in the field of Minnesota and Northwest history is invited to compete. In naming the award for Dr. Buck, the Minnesota society appropriately honors the scholar who founded its quarterly magazine in 1915 while he was superintendent of the society. Later he became archivist of the United States and was recently retired from a position as assistant librarian of the library of congress.

*Ness Western County Kansas*, by Mrs. Minnie Dubbs Millbrook, recently printed by the Millbrook Printing Co., Detroit, Mich., is a 319-page history of Ness county, beginning with the climate and soil, progressing to the plants and animals, to the Indians, and finally to the white settlers and their way of life as they built homes, brought the soil under cultivation, started industries, and established schools, churches, and government.

Charles E. Holman was elected president of the Shawnee County Historical Society at the annual meeting of the board of trustees in Topeka, May 4, 1955. Other officers named included: Roy A. Boast, vice-president; Mrs. Harold Cone, secretary; and Mrs. Frank Kambak, treasurer. Judge Beryl Johnson was elected a member of the board.

Herington's diamond jubilee anniversary was celebrated May 13-16, 1955. The town's history was reviewed in parades, window displays and the "prairiedrama," Herington's story in "pantomime, action and song."

The Kansas State Historical Society was the subject of a talk by its secretary, Nyle H. Miller, at a meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society in Pittsburg, May 17, 1955.

Allen county observed its centennial with celebrations: at Elsmore, with Savonburg joining in, May 14, 1955; Humboldt, May 26; Moran, May 27; and Iola, June 2. Beginning June 2 with a centennial ball, the six-day county-wide observance was held at Iola. Featured event was the centennial pageant "Prairie Cavalcade," presented four times.

On May 29, 1955, the Ft. Wallace Pioneer Memorial Museum at Wallace was opened to the public by the Ft. Wallace Memorial Association. Officers of the association are: E. M. Beougher, Grinnell, president; Bill E. Pancake, Sharon Springs, vice-president; John Lock, Wallace, secretary; Frank Madigan, Wallace, treasurer. Directors are: R. F. Brock, Goodland; Harold Fleckenstein, Oakley; Warren Pates, Sharon Springs; John Lucas, Wallace; Bill Ward, Sharon Springs; and the officers listed above.

The sod house at Colby was opened to visitors June 1 for the 1955 season. Since it was first opened to the public in June, 1954, over 10,000 persons have inspected it.

Ness county celebrated its 75th anniversary with a three-day reunion June 1-3, 1955, at Ness City. Oldest old settler present was 91-year-old O. L. Lennon, of Ness City, who has lived in western Kansas 77 years.

The Rev. F. W. Lange, a Lutheran missionary, preached the first Lutheran sermon on Kansas soil, August 17, 1861, in the log-cabin home of Christian F. Wetzel and his family near Junction City. On June 5, 1955, the cabin was dedicated as a Lutheran memorial by the Rev. W. H. Meyer of Topeka. The restoration of the cabin was
Mrs. E. G. Peterson was re-elected president of the Edwards County Historical Society at its annual meeting in Kinsley, April 19, 1955. Other officers elected were: Lavina Trotter, first vice-president; Harry Offerle, second vice-president; Mrs. Leonard Miller, third vice-president; H. J. Daut, secretary; Mrs. Joe Vang, treasurer; Mrs. Myrtle Richardson, historian; Mrs. Lloyd Britton, assistant historian; Beulah Moletor, custodian; and A. G. Phillips, assistant custodian.

The Northwest Kansas Historical Society was organized at a meeting in Colby, April 21, 1955. Officers elected included: Mrs. J. B. Kuska, president; Mrs. G. W. Beery, vice-president; and J. B. Kuska, secretary-treasurer. The possibility of establishing a museum was discussed.

George Green, Oklahoma City attorney and son of a pioneer Manhattan family, was the principal speaker at a centennial dinner in Manhattan, April 27, 1955, sponsored by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and the Riley County Historical Society. A brief history of the historical society by C. M. Correll was published in the Manhattan Mercury, April 27. The society was organized May 28, 1914. Present officers are: Mrs. C. M. Slagg, president; John Holmstrom, vice-president; William Koch, secretary; Sam Charlson, treasurer; E. M. Amos, historian; and Carl Pfuetze, curator.

Activities of the Wyandotte County Historical Society the past several weeks include voting to incorporate, at a meeting, April 28, 1955, and conducting a tour of historic places in the county, June 5. The society decided to incorporate as a step toward opening a museum. A recent speaker was Alan W. Farley who presented a paper on "The Delaware Indians of Kansas."

A business meeting of the executive committee, the township directors, and other committees of the Clark County Historical Society was held in Ashland, April 30, 1955. Among the projects planned were the making of picture slides of historic places and objects in the county and the rebuilding of the "living water marker," a pile of stone with the top stone pointing to a well. The marker was originally built by the Indians.

Junction City observed its centennial with a three-day celebration May 1-3, 1955. Highlights were a parade and the centennial pageant, "Ten Nights in a Barroom." Other features included a horse show, baseball game, square dance, and motion pictures.

The Years on Mount Oread, by Dr. Robert Taft, published in 1955 by the University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, is a 228-page revision and extension of Taft’s Across the Years on Mount Oread, published in 1941.

A 331-page volume entitled The Great American Heritage, by Bela Kornitzer, was published by Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, New York, in 1955. It is the story of the five Eisenhower brothers. The author states that “this family is an example of the greatness of the American heritage.”

Published in May, 1955, by the League of Kansas Municipalities was the sixth edition of Kansas Government—A Short Course, a 139-page booklet. This text on state and local government is revised after each regular legislative session.

Ralph Richards’ history of early Fort Scott, printed in the Fort Scott Tribune serially, beginning in May, 1954, has been published in a 76-page pamphlet entitled Headquarters House and the Forts of Fort Scott. Headquarters House, completed in 1843, now houses the Fort Scott Historical Museum.

A 16-page pamphlet by H. William Lieske entitled Log Cabin Memorial—A Lutheran Historical Building was issued by the Kansas Lutheran Historical Society in June, 1955. It is the story of the log cabin where the Lutheran church, Missouri Synod, had its beginning in Kansas, and of other early Lutheran endeavors in the state.