Kansas History as Published in the Press


The Columbus Advocate printed a history of the Spring River Academy, Cherokee county, February 11, 1955. The school was opened in 1880 and operated until 1912.

An article on the Grant Avenue Baptist church, Chanute, was published in the Chanute Tribune, February 11, 1955. The church was organized in May, 1869, as the First Swedish Baptist church of Neosho county. The Rev. Arvid Johnson was the first pastor.

The visit of Abraham Lincoln to Kansas in 1859 was the subject of articles by L. E. Valentine in the Clay Center Dispatch, February 12, 1955, and the Clay Center Times, February 17. The articles are centered around his father's diary in which the elder Valentine recorded his impressions of Lincoln and his speeches in Kansas.

Some of the early history of Rossville was printed in the Rossville Reporter, February 24, 1955. The site of the village was purchased from Anthony Navarre and his Indian wife in 1871 by the town promoters. In 1881 Rossville became a city of the third class.

Oswego's pioneer merchants and early history were the subjects of an article by Wayne A. O'Connell in the Oswego Independent, February 25, 1955, and in the Oswego Democrat, March 4.

The Coffeyville Daily Journal published its fourth annual progress edition February 27, 1955. The 144-page issue traced "the progress which has been made in Coffeyville and the trade territory which it serves . . . during the last year."

In 1870 Dr. J. W. Kerr and two other men, all of Ottawa, located the townsite of Longton, and later that year the first buildings were erected, according to a history of Longton in the Longton News-Reflector, March 10, 1955.

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E. D. Baugher, Kinsley, 100 years of age, has lived in Edwards county 77 years. A biographical sketch by Everett Brown was printed in the Great Bend Daily Tribune, March 13, 1955.

The Independence News published a 20-page “Historical-Progress” edition March 13, 1955, using the theme “Retail History Then and Retail Business Now.”

Hutchinson in 1889 was described by Albert Thomson in a column-length article in the Hutchinson News-Herald, March 14, 1955. On April 10 the News-Herald printed an article by Bill Bork entitled “Beautiful Rose Creek Influenced Kansas History.” Over the water from this Wallace county stream arose one of the first legal controversies concerning water rights in Kansas. Another article by Bork appeared in the News-Herald, April 24, “Ashland Hotel Decorated With Kansas Historic Pictures.” J. E. Godley’s hobby is collecting pictures illustrating Clark county’s history and agriculture and displaying them in his hotel lobby.


3, printed “Jordan Massacre One of Dark Spots in History of Early Ellis County,” and also published several of the articles listed above: the article on the Hays college, station, and park, April 7; the story on the first header, April 28; and the Antonio church history, May 26.

A 132-page Norton area progress edition was published by the Norton Daily Telegram, March 26, 1955. Included were articles on the development of the agricultural, mineral, business, cultural, and recreational phases of the community.

One of the series of local stories currently being published by the Council Grove Republican is a biographical sketch of the John Schmidt family, printed March 29, 1955. The Schmidts moved to Council Grove in 1864 from Junction City where they had settled after Schmidt was discharged from the army at Fort Riley in 1856.

Recent historical articles in the Herington Advertiser-Times included: a description of Herington 70 years ago, by Claudia Rose, March 31, 1955; conditions in Herington in 1888 were recalled by the city's first school head, F. D. Carman, May 5; “‘Millionaire Cowboy’ [Grant G. Gillett] of '90's Had Colorful Career” and “M. D. Herington [City's Founder] Believed in City’s Destiny, Built Well,” May 12.

On March 31, 1955, the Oskaloosa Independent began reprinting articles on the history of Jefferson county from its early issues, the Oskaloosa Times, and other early newspapers. The first was from the Independent's initial issue, July 11, 1860, and dealt with the history of Oskaloosa. The title of the series is “Early Days in Jefferson County.”

A history of the Amherst Evangelical church, Russell county, was published by the Russell Record, March 31, 1955.

The Columbus Advocate, April 2, 1955, printed a biographical sketch by Fayette Rowe of Harold Bell Wright, author of The Shepherd of the Hills and other well-known books, who was pastor of a small church in Pittsburg before he reached his fame as a writer.


Heinic Schmidt’s column, “It’s Worth Repeating,” long a regular feature in The High Plains Journal, Dodge City, included the following stories in recent months: “Pioneer Southwest Kansan, Cousin of


Several historical articles appeared in the April 14, 1955, issue of the Frankfort Index: “History of Major Frankfort Floods,” “Disasters That Have Tried the Old ‘Frankfort Spirit,’” “Frankfort’s Early Day Merchants,” and “Frankfort in 1880.”

An article on Kellogg, a Cowley county community, by Alice L. Mohler, was published in the Winfield Daily Courier, May 12, 1955. The town was started in 1884 by D. D. and Anna D. Kellogg.