Kansas Historical Notes

Eight historic sites in Kansas were recently inspected by Merrill J. Mattes, of Omaha, regional historian, National Park Service, as possible locations for national monuments or parks. Mattes’ visit resulted from the introduction of bills in congress by Sen. Frank Carlson proposing that national monuments or parks be located in Kansas. Ten sites are under consideration.

Jefferson county’s centennial anniversary was celebrated at Oska-loosa, August 14-20, 1955. Features of the program included talks by Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg, and Sen. Frank Carlson; four performances of the Jefferson county “Centurama,” a pageant; and the publication by the Oska-loosa Independent, of a 50-page illustrated historical booklet entitled The First Hundred Years of Jefferson County Kansas.

A conference on the nature and writing of history was held at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, August 14-25, 1955. The lecturers and discussion leaders included: Robert E. Brown, Michigan State University, Ann Arbor; Thomas LeDuc, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; James C. Malin, University of Kansas, Lawrence; David Lowenthal, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; William A. Williams, University of Oregon, Eugene; Allan Bogue, State University of Iowa, Iowa City; Larry Gara, Eureka College, Eureka, Ill.; and Forrest McDonald, American History Research Center, Madison, Wis. George L. Anderson, University of Kansas, was conference director.

Atwood observed its 75th anniversary with a celebration August 17-21, 1955. The program included a barbecue, the 4-H and FFA fair, sports events, dances, a parade, and a rodeo.

A reorganization meeting of the Doniphan County Historical Society was held in Troy, August 19, 1955. Officers elected were: Tom Van Bebber, president; C. C. Calman, vice-president; and Margaret Larzelere Rice, secretary-treasurer. Plans were made to observe Troy’s centennial with celebrations in the autumn of 1955 and the spring of 1956.

Officers elected by the Chase County Historical Society at its 21st annual meeting in Cottonwood Falls, September 10, 1955, were: Andrew H. Drummond, president; Henry Rogler, vice-president; Clint A. Baldwin, secretary; George T. Dawson, treasurer;

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Mrs. Helen Austin, historian; and Mrs. Ruth Conner, assistant historian. The executive committee includes: Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Ida M. Vinson, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Paul B. Wood, Ida Schneider, and Beatrice Hays.

Biography of the First Baptist Church, El Dorado, Kansas is the title of a recently published 148-page book by Corah Mooney Bullock. The church was organized in April, 1871, under the guidance of Elder T. D. Grow.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First Methodist church of Manhattan, a 64-page history of the church was published in June, 1955. Members of the historical committee, which prepared the pamphlet, were E. M. Amos, Louis H. Limper, and Sam C. Charlson.

Our First 100 Years is the title of a new 44-page booklet on the history of the First Congregational church of Topeka, compiled by Mrs. Charles A. Galt. Nine persons meeting in a cabin organized the church October 14, 1855.

James C. Malin is the author of a new 436-page volume entitled The Contriving Brain and the Skillful Hand, lithoprinted by Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich. In his preface Dr. Malin says: “In a sense . . . this book rounds out the main outlines, but does not complete the body of thought about history and philosophy of history that has been developed over a long period of time.” It has been designed as background material for the forthcoming second volume of the author’s Grassland Historical Studies.

Kansas’ border troubles before and during the Civil War are included in a new 454-page history by Jay Monaghan entitled Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865 (Little, Brown and Company, Boston and Toronto, 1955).

The story of the Great Plains during the period of its settlement is told in picture and narrative by Martin F. Schmitt and Dee Brown in The Settlers’ West (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1955). Three hundred pictures are included in the 258-page volume.

A 320-page biography of William F. Cody entitled Buffalo Bill: King of the Old West, by Elizabeth Jane Leonard and Julia Cody Goodman, and edited by James Williams Hoffman, was published recently by Library Publishers of New York. Mrs. Goodman, a sister of Cody, prepared the manuscript before her death in 1928.
Columbia University is preparing for publication a new and complete edition of the papers of Alexander Hamilton. The editors wish to locate any letters to or from Hamilton and any other Hamilton documents that are in private hands. If any one possesses such documents, the editors will greatly appreciate any information on their whereabouts and availability.

*The Story of Chaplain Kapaun* (Emporia: Didde Publishers, c1954), by Father Arthur Tonne is the biography of Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, Kansas priest, who died in 1951, a prisoner of war in a Chinese Communist hospital in Korea. Father Kapaun was born and raised near Pilsen in Marion county.

A 256-page biography of A. Q. Miller, Sr., *Jayhawk Editor*, compiled and edited by James D. Callahan, was recently published by the Sterling Press, Los Angeles. Miller, who now lives at Salina, has been publisher of the Belleville *Telescope* since 1904.

A new history of the Pony Express by Lee Jensen is entitled *The Pony Express* (New York: Crosset & Dunlap, c1955). The 154-page volume is highly illustrated with drawings and historical pictures.

*Strike the Tents—the Story of the Chautauqua*, a 204-page book by Charles F. Horner, was recently issued by Dorrance and Company of Philadelphia. The first Chautauqua was founded on the shore of Lake Chautauqua, New York, in 1874, by Bishop John H. Vincent and Lewis Miller. The Chautauqua's great popularity began about 1907, reached its peak in the early 1920's, but declined rapidly in the late 1920's.