Kansas Historical Notes

The 81st 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 16, 1956.

Mrs. Walter Umbach is the new president of the Ford Historical Society. Other officers are: Mrs. E. H. Patterson, vice-president; Mrs. Addie Plattner, secretary; Mrs. Lyman Emrie, historian; and Mrs. W. P. Warner, custodian. Mrs. Guy Wooten was the retiring president.

Officers of the Kansas Lutheran Historical Society for 1956 are: Vernon Bryant, Great Bend, president; Gilbert Bluhm, Bremen, vice-president; Vernon Nuss, Great Bend, secretary; Elmer Rodehorst, Wichita, treasurer; the Rev. H. William Lieske, Salina, pastoral adviser; Prof. Everette Meier, Winfield, archivist. The society has begun publication of a newsletter, "Historically Speaking," the first issue appearing May 21, 1956.

Nyle H. Miller, secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society, February 28, 1956.

The 30th annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields was held at the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia March 9, 10, 1956. William H. Seiler of the host school served as president of the association the past year, and Dudley T. Cornish, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, was elected as the new president. Papers given at the meeting included: "Wheat, Geology, and 'Professor' W. Foster," by James C. Malin, University of Kansas, Lawrence; and "The Capper Farm Press," by Homer E. Socolofsky, Kansas State College, Manhattan. The luncheon speaker was James C. Carey of Kansas State College, who described his recent sabbatical year in Mexico, and the Saturday afternoon session concerned a discussion of textbook selection in the social sciences in Kansas secondary schools. This discussion was led by G. L. Cleland of the Kansas State Department of Public Instruction. The program also included: "William E. Gladstone's Concept of the Social State," by Alvin H. Proctor, Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg; "Benjamin Franklin: Pennsylvania Politician and Colonial Agent," by John J. Zimmerman, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia; and "The French Court and the Issue
of War and Peace in 1792—a Study in the Politics of the French Revolution,” by Walter J. Brunhumer, University of Wichita. Presiding at the Friday evening session was William E. Berger of the College of Emporia, and John D. Bright of Washburn University, Topeka, was chairman of the Saturday morning session.

Ralph Harrison was re-elected president of the Bourbon County Historical Society at its annual meeting in Fort Scott, March 20, 1956. Other officers chosen were: Harold Calhoun, vice-president; and Mrs. J. R. Prichard, secretary-treasurer. A revision of the society’s constitution and bylaws was approved.

Dr. Allen Crafton, University of Kansas, addressed the Wichita Historical Museum Association at its annual dinner meeting, March 23, 1956, on “How Culture Came to Kansas.” Owen McEwen is the new president of the association.

Officers elected at an April, 1956, meeting of the Finney County Historical Society in Garden City include: R. G. Brown, president; Clifford R. Hope, Jr., first vice-president; John R. Burnside, second vice-president; Josephine Cowgill, third vice-president; Ella Condra, secretary; Eva Sharer, treasurer; Jean Kampschroeder, historian; Mabel Brown, custodian of relics; P. A. Burtis, business manager; and Mrs. Frank Crase, board member.

Dr. O. W. Mosher, Emporia, president of the Lyon County Historical Society, was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Chase County Historical Society, in Cottonwood Falls, April 7, 1956. Andrew Drummond, Jr., is president of the Chase county society.

The Edwards County Historical Society held its annual meeting in Kinsley, April 17, 1956. The following officers were elected: Mrs. E. G. Peterson, president; Lavina Trotter, first vice-president; Harry Offerle, second vice-president; Mrs. Leonard Miller, third vice-president; Mrs. Elsie Jenkins, secretary; Mrs. Joe Vang, treasurer; Mrs. Jessie Winchester, custodian; Mrs. Lloyd Britton, assistant custodian; Mrs. Myrtle H. Richardson, historian; and Mrs. Britton, assistant historian.

The Saline County Historical Museum has a new home. In May, 1956, it was moved to a newly remodeled building in Oakland Park, Salina. During the past year an average of 613 persons per month visited the museum when it was open. G. S. Ripley, Sr., is museum curator.

On May 5, 1956, a three-day tour up the Chisholm trail by an Oklahoma Historical Society caravan was climaxcd at Caldwell.
The visitors were welcomed with a program and barbecue in a field near town. Among the speakers were: Cecil Chisholm, Arkansas City, a distant cousin of the man for whom the trail was named; Elmer Fraker of the Oklahoma Historical Society; and Nyle Miller of the Kansas State Historical Society. A feature of the celebration was the opening of the Border Queen Museum in Caldwell.

One hundred and fifty-seven persons signed the register at the annual northwest Kansas Pioneer Day at Rexford, May 6, 1956. At the business meeting all officers were retained for another year. They are: Mrs. Leslie Dible, president; Mrs. Glen Schrock, vice-president; Mrs. Guy Geisenhener, secretary; and Mrs. Perry Pointer, treasurer.

News from the Butler County Historical Society includes: a meeting of the society at El Dorado, May 6, 1956, which was addressed by Myra Lockwood Brown; a donation of $5,000 by the society’s president, Frank H. Cron, toward the purchase of a building for a museum; and the purchase of the residence at 320 West Central Ave., El Dorado, for use as a museum.

The Pioneer Museum Association of Northwest Kansas was recently formed at Hoxie for the purpose of building a historical museum. Bob Mahanna was elected president at a meeting of the association, May 25, 1956. Other officers are: Mrs. Harriet Shatzell, vice-president; Mrs. Eleanor Martin, secretary; H. W. Deane, treasurer; Kathleen Martin, recording secretary; and D. L. Steinshouer, fund raising chairman.

A history of the Garden City Municipal Band was recently published in a six-page pamphlet entitled Seventy-five Years of Music. The band led the 1879 Fourth of July parade in Garden City as its initial appearance.

Clifford P. Westermeier has compiled and edited a 414-page book, Trailing the Cowboy—His Life and Lore as Told by Frontier Journalists, published by Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, in 1955. From newspapers, periodicals, books, letters, and diaries, the author has chosen contemporary observations in an effort to “fill the gaps” in cowboy lore and throw new light on certain phases of the cowboy, his characteristics, and his life.”

The American West, by Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg, published in 1955 by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, “is the pictorial record of as many aspects of the West in the nineteenth
century as its authors could come by." Some of the more colorful events of Kansas history are mentioned and illustrated in a 29-page section called "The Border States."

The "use of the land mortgage" in the Middle West during the late 1800's is the theme of Allan G. Bogue's new book, Money at Interest—the Farm Mortgage on the Middle Border, published by Cornell University Press of New York.

How did the Mennonite migration of the 1870's to the Prairie states come into being, and what gave it such magnitude, are the questions treated in Exiled by the Czar—Cornelius Jansen and the Great Mennonite Migration, 1874, by Gustav E. Reimer and G. R. Gaeddert, published in 1956 by the Mennonite Publication Office, Newton.

Herbert C. Jones' The Trail to Progress is a 138-page history of Easton, published early in 1956 in Clay Center. Easton, in Leavenworth county, was established in 1855.