Kansas History as Published in the Press

In commemoration of the founding of the city of Leon and its local newspaper, the Leon News published a 34-page diamond anniversary edition, September 22, 1955. Building of the town was begun by January, 1880, and on the 31st of that month the first issue of the Leon Indicator appeared. The News published a two-column article recalling many of the early settlers and residents of the Leon area, November 17.

A brief history of the Zion Evangelical and Reformed church in Kansas City was printed in the Kansas City Kansan, October 2, 1955. The congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary in October.

Life in the Dodge City area in the 1880's was described by Glen Ragsdale in the Dodge City Daily Globe, October 3, 1955. Ragsdale's father moved his family to Dodge City in 1882.

A history of St. John's Catholic church, Hanover, was published in the Hanover News, September 30, 1955. The 75th anniversary of the dedication of the church building was recently observed. On October 14 the News printed a history of the Zion Evangelical United Brethren church of Hanover, which was observing its 85th anniversary.

"An Early History of McDonald," by Alfaretta Courtright, was published on October 6, 1955, in the McDonald Standard and The Citizen-Patriot, Atwood. McDonald came into existence in the late 1880's on land donated by Rice McDonald.

St. Paul's Lutheran church, Haven, was the subject of a historical article in the Haven Journal, October 6, 1955. The church was organized in 1880 and the first building erected in 1890.

In 1870 the Rev. F. E. Sheldon organized the First Presbyterian church of Hiawatha with three members, according to a history of the church in the Brown County World, Hiawatha, October 7, 1955.

William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's life was reviewed in an article entitled "The Great . . . The One-and-Only Buffalo Bill," in the Davenport (Iowa) Morning Democrat, October 11, 1955.

A 58-page special edition was published by the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, October 25, 1955, in connection with Arkansas City’s annual “Arkalah” celebration. Historical articles included: “[Arapahoe] County Was Named for Indian Tribe,” “First City Settlers Came in ’69,” and “Postal Service Here Preceded the Santa Fe by Eleven Years.”

A history of the Esbon Evangelical United Brethren church appeared in the Esbon Times, October 27, 1955. The church was organized in 1875 by the Rev. Andrew Poulson as the Prairie Home United Brethren church. On November 24 the Times printed the reminiscences of Mrs. Phillip Moyer. Mrs. Moyer came to Jewell county, Kansas, from Illinois with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Flood, in 1872.

Burlington’s first religious service was conducted June 7, 1857, by the Rev. R. Mowry of the Methodist church, according to a history of the Burlington Methodist church by Mrs. A. N. Gray and Mrs. Frank Stickler, in the Burlington Republican, October 28, 1855. A history of the early days of Ottumwa by Mrs. Besse Mauck appeared in the Republican, November 17. The town was incorporated in 1855. On November 24 the Republican printed a brief story of the Indian battle which took place during the 1836 flood on the Neosho river.


Subjects of two church histories in the Coffeyville Daily Journal recently were the First Presbyterian church of Fredonia, October 30, 1955; and the Coffeyville Catholic church, December 4. The Fredonia church was organized October 25, 1880, with the Rev. Sidney Allen as the first pastor. Although Catholic activity in the Coffeyville area goes back to 1869, it was 1883 when the first building was occupied.

Historical articles appearing recently in the Hays Daily News included: a history of Victoria, by Ben Davidson, a member of the colony, November 6, 1955; “Sheriff [George] Bardsley Rides Again,” and John R. Clawson’s “The Parable of Victoria,” November 20; and “Buffalo Hunter’s Tales—Stranger Than Fiction; Mirror Vanishing Life on Western Prairies,” November 27.

Included in recent issues of the Clay Center newspapers were: “Oak Hill Pioneer [John Dulohery] Recalls Early Community History,” in the Dispatch, November 9, 1955, and the Times, No-
nember 17; "Mormon Church Once Located in Northeast Part of County," Dispatch, November 22; and a history of the Mizpah church, Times, November 24.

In observance of its 75th anniversary, a history of the Circleville Methodist church, by Mrs. Emma Glick, was printed in the Holton Recorder, November 10, 1955. The first church building was dedicated in 1890 by the Rev. L. A. Hibbard.

A biographical sketch of Kitty Cosgrove, Atchison, by John Buckley, was printed in the Atchison Daily Globe, November 15, 1955. Miss Cosgrove, now 90, has lived in Atchison since 1879. On November 27 the Globe published a sketch, by J. S. Brazelton, of John Simpson, who, at 94, is Doniphan county’s oldest native citizen.

The building of the Kansas Pacific railroad through Wallace county was the subject of an article by Ruth Jackson in the Western Times, Sharon Springs, November 17, 1955. Eagle Tail, now Sharon Springs, was reached December 22, 1869.

A biographical sketch of Grant G. Gillett, by Bruce Crary, was published in the Hope Dispatch, November 17, 1955. Gillett was a "cattle king" in Dickinson county in the 1880’s.

How Pittsburg got its name was related in an article in the Pittsburg Headlight, November 18, and the Pittsburg Sun, November 19, 1955. The town was first called New Pittsburg, after Pittsburg, Pa.

Graham county history was featured in a 36-page historical edition published by the Hill City Times, November 24, 1955. The historical material was edited by William F. Wilson, principal of Hill City High School. The first white settlers arrived in Graham county in the early 1870’s and the county was organized in 1880.

El Dorado’s library was the subject of a two-installment story by Corah Mooney Bullock in the Butler Free-Lance, El Dorado, November 24 and December 1, 1955. The library had its origin March 1, 1897, when a meeting was held to establish a reading center. Another important event was the gift of $10,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a library building, which was completed in 1912.

"Fire and Windstorms Come to Harass Early Day Settlers in Graham County," is the title of an article in the Morland Monitor, November 24, 1955. Also on the 24th the Monitor printed a history
of St. Peter, Graham county community, and on December 1 published a historical sketch of Graham county.

Douglass and the Douglass Historical Society museum were featured in an article by Charles O. Cole in the Winfield Daily Courier, November 26, 1955. The town was laid out in 1869 by Joseph W. Douglass and incorporated in 1879. The Douglass Historical Society was organized in 1950 and the museum was started in 1951.

Between the Lines, Chicago, an employee magazine of several pipeline companies, published a 13-page article on history "Along the Santa Fe Trail," in its December, 1955, issue.

The Frankfort Index printed a history of the First Presbyterian church of Frankfort by Irene B. Pennington, December 1, 1955. A Sunday School was started in 1869 and the church was organized November 16, 1870. On December 29 the Index published a history of the Annunciation Catholic church of Frankfort, which was organized in 1879.

Roxbury, McPherson county, was the subject of an article in the McPherson Daily Republican, December 10, 1956. The town has existed for 83 years but has never organized a government.


"The History of North Topeka," prepared by the Charles Holman family, comprised the December, 1955, number of the Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, Topeka. Beginning with
Louis Papan's log house built following the 1844 flood, the story covers the early history, growth, industries, businesses, churches, schools, clubs and organizations. Included are sketches of some of the prominent citizens of North Topeka. The story is brought down to the flood of 1951, and tells of efforts to prevent future disasters.

William Frank Zornow's article "'Bluff Ben' Wade in Lawrence, Kansas: the Issue of Class Conflict," was published in The Ohio Historical Quarterly, Columbus, January, 1956. U. S. Sen. Benjamin F. Wade, of Ohio, made a speech at Lawrence, June 10, 1867, which Zornow speculates could have contributed to the decline of his political career and possibly cost him the presidency.

"The First Hundred Years of Science in Kansas," by the late Robert Taft, was published in the Winter, 1955, number of the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Lawrence. A three-page biographical sketch of Dr. Taft, by Donald J. Ameel, appeared in the same issue.

The First Presbyterian church of Leavenworth issued a 31-page commemorative pamphlet January 1, 1956, containing a history of the church. The Rev. C. D. Martin organized the congregation January 1, 1856.

A history of St. Mary's church, Herndon, was printed in The Citizen-Patriot, Atwood, January 5, 1956. The first mass was said for the settlers of the Herndon area in the spring of 1880. The first church building was a sod structure, built in 1883.

"Tranquil Ellsworth Has a Wild Past," an article by Bill Burke, was published in the Salina Journal, January 8, 1956. Burke pointed out that Ellsworth's "past" has been kept quiet instead of being played up as in the case of other cowtowns. The town was established in 1867. Another story by Burke was "Famed Buffalo Bill [Cody] Got His Start in Salina," printed in the Journal, February 5.


“Buffalo Bill [Cody] Helped Save City [Fort Scott] From Rebels,” by Kenneth Davenport, was published in the Fort Scott Tribune, January 14, 1956. Most of Davenport’s material was taken from a forthcoming book on “Buffalo Bill” by Don Russell. Cody was a member of the 7th Kansas regiment. Fayette Rowe’s article on the hanging of John R. Guthrie, noted previously, was published in the Tribune, January 30.


Cloud county was first named Shirley county after a notorious Leavenworth dance hall girl, according to Mrs. R. L. Brock’s article on the history of the county in the Clasco Sun, March 1, 1956. The county was organized in 1866.

Articles of historical interest in the Belleville Telescope in recent months include: a history of the Wayne Methodist church, March 1, 1956; and an account of the raising in 1806 of the U. S. flag by Lt. Zebulon Pike at a Pawnee Indian village in present Republic county, April 12.

Wayne A. O’Connell reviewed early Labette county history as found in the official records and documents of the county, in an article published in the Oswego Democrat, March 2, 1956. Labette county was organized in 1867.
Centralia was the third town to be started in Nemaha county, the founders arriving in 1857, according to Larry McGhee in an article printed in the Nemaha County Journal-Leader, Centralia, March 15, 1956. After the Civil War the town was attracted by the railroad and moved about a mile south to its present location.

The history of the Immanuel Lutheran church of Kansas City was sketched in an article in the Kansas City Kansan, March 21, 1956. In 1884 the Rev. E. M. Jehn organized the congregation, the first Lutheran church in the Kansas City area.

A history of the Evangelical United Brethren church of Hoisington was published in the Hoisington Dispatch, March 22, 1956. The church was organized by the Rev. I. K. Haskins in 1888 as a United Brethren church.

R. W. Akin's reminiscences of the pioneer experiences of his family were printed in the Cedar Vale Messenger, March 22, 29, 1956. Included are biographical sketches of members of the family. They came to Kansas from Illinois in 1873.


St. Joseph's Home, the Lewis E. Allen Memorial, El Dorado, was the subject of a historical sketch by Myra Lockwood Brown in the Butler Free-Lance, El Dorado, March 29, April 5, 1956. Dedicated July 4, 1942, and operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the orphanage has been a home for several hundred children. On May 6 Mrs. Brown addressed the Butler County Historical Society. Her talk was published serially in the Free-Lance beginning May 24. In her introduction Mrs. Brown said she would tell "some of what I have discovered that is not generally known—material that, for the most part, does not appear in any history of Butler county, or elsewhere."