The Annual Meeting

THE 80th annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society and board of directors was held in the rooms of the Society on October 18, 1955.

The meeting of the directors was called to order by President Francis D. Farrell at 10 A.M. First business was the reading of the annual report by the secretary:

SECRETARY’S REPORT, YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 18, 1955

At the conclusion of last year’s meeting the newly elected president, Dr. F. D. Farrell, appointed Will T. Beck and reappointed John S. Dawson and T. M. Lillard to the executive committee. The members holding over were Charles M. Correll and Frank Haucke.

During the past year four members of the Society’s board of directors died: Mrs. Carrie A. Hall, Leavenworth; Gus S. Norton, Kalvesta; Charles M. Harger, Abilene; and Prof. Robert Taft, Lawrence. Mrs. Hall became a member of the Society in 1914. Three years later she gave a collection of 945 books and other materials on Presidents Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt which she had been gathering since 1909, and at intervals during the next 30 years she made 24 additions to her gift. Technically the collection was on loan during Mrs. Hall’s lifetime, with the provision that upon her death it was to become the permanent property of the Society. Mr. Norton was an organizer and first president of the Finney County Historical Society which was established in 1948. Mr. Harger and Professor Taft were long-time members of the Society. Both served for many years on the board of directors and both were presidents of the Society, Mr. Harger in 1930-1931 and Professor Taft in 1952-1953. The death of these friends and benefactors is recorded with sincere regret.

APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

This year, for the first time, the Society is operating on a system of annual rather than biennial appropriations. In 1954 a constitutional amendment provided for “budget sessions” of the legislature in the even-numbered years, in addition to the regular sessions in the odd years, and the first such budget session will convene next January. For the Society—and all other state agencies—the annual preparation of budget requests will entail more work but it should also be advantageous in that requests can be made more frequently and more realistically, since it will not be necessary to anticipate requirements and costs so far in advance.

The 1955 session of the legislature, in addition to the usual appropriations for salaries and normal operating expenses, made several important special appropriations. Last year’s request for $44,000 for air conditioning was denied, but a grant of $6,600, added to a transfer of $6,147 from another fund, was sufficient to install 27½ tons of air conditioning equipment in the museum, including a circulating water tower, pumps, and the necessary plumbing and wiring. This will cool approximately half of the museum. The legislature also appropriated $6,000 for the purchase of 20 new display cases for the museum, a major step in the rebuilding and modernization program.
which is now in progress in that department. Other appropriations were made for painting, plumbing and elevator repairs, partial replacement of electric wiring, and insulation of steam lines.

For operation of the historical properties administered by the Society the following special appropriations were made: First Territorial Capitol, $1,500 for a new roof; Pike-Pawnee Village, $1,000 for repair and painting of the fence and flagpole, repairs to the monument, and for routine maintenance; Shawnee Methodist Mission, $3,500 for tuckpointing and waterproofing the West and North buildings, $1,500 for reinforcing the floor of the West building, and $700 for plastering, painting, and wallpapering. No special appropriations were received for the Kaw Mission at Council Grove.

The acceptance of a new property, five miles north of Iola, to be called the Funston Memorial State Park, was provided for by the legislature. It is officially to come under the Society’s management today. An appropriation of $2,600 has been allowed for the care of this property.

Budget requests for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, were filed with the state budget director last month. In addition to appropriations for salaries and operating expenses $25,000 has been asked for completion of the air conditioning, $10,000 to continue the replacement of electrical wiring, $26,000 for steel floors in the main stack area, $10,200 for replacement of exterior doors, $1,300 for purchase and installation of two outrigger flagpoles, and $5,000 for installing asphalt tile in the museum. At the Kaw Indian Mission, $7,375 has again been requested for conversion of the garage into living quarters for the caretaker, and for building a new frame garage, toolhouse and storage area. The caretaker’s cottage at the First Territorial Capitol needs painting, and for this work $600 has been asked. At Shawnee Mission $6,000 has been requested for a large brick addition to the garage, needed for a workshop and storage area, $3,500 for a chain-link fence, $3,000 for deepening the basement of the West building and laying a concrete floor, and $3,500 for painting and papering.

Special Projects

Several special projects which would be particularly appropriate for this centennial period were suggested in last year’s report. One was a booklet-length illustrated history of Kansas which should have wide appeal. Others, which would provide valuable reference tools, were the publication of a “List of Dead Towns” and a listing of state officials during the past 100 years.

Another major project already underway is a cumulative index to all the Society’s publications—the Collections, Quarterly, Biennial Reports, and special Publications. Although this work was interrupted for the preparation of an index to the first volume of the new Annals of Kansas, it is again in progress. Entries covering the first eight volumes of the Collections have been completed. An estimated 17,000 listings have been made for 3,027 pages of text, the index slips have been interfiled, and a master index to those first eight volumes, in card form, is now available. In style and coverage, this master index is similar to that in the Quarterly.

The series of news releases, taken from territorial newspapers and other papers of a century ago, is still being sent each month to the Kansas press. The releases continue to be well received and illustrate once again that Kansans are interested in their historical background whenever it is brought to their attention.
A special project, authorized by the 1955 legislature, is a survey of historic sites and buildings in Kansas. The intent of the act is that the survey shall continue until all important sites have been examined, for the secretary is required to “make a report and recommendations to the governor and to the 1957 regular session of the legislature, and to each regular session thereafter.” The project’s purpose is to determine what sites and structures are worthy of preservation and maintenance, to stimulate in communities and organizations an interest in their own local history, and to encourage them in their efforts to salvage and rebuild historic sites which otherwise will deteriorate and disappear. For this work an appropriation of $750 was made, to provide for necessary travel and for printing the report.

LIBRARY

On June 30 Helen M. McFarland retired after 43 years as a member of the Society’s library staff, the last 32 of which she served as head librarian. Through the years Miss McFarland has been a conscientious and devoted employee of the state. The present high standards of the library and the quality and availability of its materials are owing in part to her excellent guidance. Alberta Pantle, the senior cataloguer, is now serving as acting librarian.

The record number of researchers reported last year has been exceeded in the past 12 months, during which 3,937 patrons used the Society’s library collection. This continued interest in research may be due, in part, to the need for material for centennial celebrations of towns founded in 1855, but it also undoubtedly indicates a wider knowledge and greater appreciation of the research facilities of the Society and a growing interest in both state and local history. Of the total number of patrons, 1,455 worked on subjects of Kansas interest, 978 on general subjects, and 1,504 on genealogy. Numerous queries by telephone and letter were also answered through the year, and 169 packages were sent out from the loan file.

In the clipping department 2,769 single issues of miscellaneous newspapers were searched in addition to the seven daily newspapers which are regularly read, clipped, and mounted. Five anniversary editions of newspapers, as well as centennial issues from Atchison, Perry, Marysville, Manhattan, Junction City, Iola, and Holton were prepared for the clipping volumes to facilitate reference work on these communities. During the year 7,469 clippings were mounted, and 700 pages of two early clipping volumes were remounted.

The number of states represented in our collection of microfilm copies of the Federal census of 1850 was increased to 11 through the gift of the Tennessee census from the Kansas Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and the purchase of the Pennsylvania census, made possible by gifts for that purpose from the Kansas Society, Daughters of the American Colonists; the Margaret Dunning and John Pound chapters of the Daughters of the American Colonists; Kansas chapter, Daughters of 1812; and Mrs. H. B. Gilkeson, Wichita.

A number of family histories were donated by individuals. Lineage books, yearbooks, and typed records have been given by various patriotic societies in Kansas who have always been generous in contributing materials for the Society’s genealogical collection.

Interesting and useful collections of books and other materials for the Kansas section of the library include: 68 magazine articles by the late Charles
M. Harger, from his daughter, Mrs. R. I. Parker, Hinsdale, Ill.; 93 volumes of early Kansas items and state publications from the Morrill Free Public Library at Hiawatha; and 12 volumes of scrapbooks and one volume of addresses and letters relating to the candidacy and term of office of former Gov. Walter A. Huxman.

Two recent county histories are especially deserving of mention: volume 2 of the History of Finney County, Kansas, compiled by the Finney County Historical Society, and Ness Western County Kansas, by Mrs. Minnie Dubbs Millbrook. The unusual quality of the latter is attested by the fact that it was awarded a certificate of merit by the American Association for State and Local History at its annual meeting in Williamsburg, Va., September 26.

Centennial historical booklets were received during the year from Manhattan and Oskaloosa.

PICTURE COLLECTION

During the year 494 photographs, two sets of slides, and five reels of motion picture film have been added to the picture collection. The movie film came from Gov. Fred Hall, who used it for television programs during the 1954 gubernatorial campaign. The slides, given by the Citizens’ Commission on Assessment Equalization, were used to illustrate studies made in 1953 and 1954. Mrs. Hall, wife of the governor, gave 17 color photographs of the interior of the executive mansion. Several photographs used in the booklets published by the Topeka Centennial Commission and the Jefferson County Centennial Corporation were given and many other pictures were lent to the Society for copying.

Use of the collection by authors and publishers in search of pictures illustrative of Kansas and the West has increased during the year. Local business firms have consulted the collection for the preparation of anniversary displays, and one of the Topeka newspapers is currently publishing a pictorial feature using photographs from the Society’s files.

The search for pictures for use in the forthcoming volume of the Annals of Kansas has already brought forth promises of donations which will substantially enlarge the collection, and the completion of an excellently equipped darkroom permits the Society to make its own pictures, prints, and enlargements, with much improved service to the public.

ARCHIVES DIVISION

Public records from the following state departments have been transferred during the year to the archives division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Board of</td>
<td>Statistical Rolls of Counties, 1948</td>
<td>1,637 vols.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>Fiscal Records: State Penitentiary</td>
<td>1881, 1882</td>
<td>1 vol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence: Board of Equalization</td>
<td>1893, 1894, 1896, 1897</td>
<td>3 vols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence and Papers:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surveyor General for Kansas and Nebraska</td>
<td>1827–1876</td>
<td>1 transfer case</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citizens' Commission on
Assessment Equalization

Agenda, Minutes, Rules, etc 1953, 1954 3 folders
Clippings and County Analysis Report Cards 1953, 1954 1 reel
Governor's Office Correspondence Files 1953, 1954 10 transfer cases
Extradition, Pardon and Parole Files;
Notaries Public, Justice of the Peace and Miscellaneous Appointments and
Resignations 1890–1955 36 transfer cases, 24 file drawers

Industrial Farm for Women 1921, 1928–1932 1 box

Annual reports were received from the Banking Department, the Board of Engineering Examiners, the Corporation Commission, the Labor Department, the State Printer, and the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955. In addition, annual reports for earlier years which had been missing from the division's files were received from the Auditor's Office, Fort Hays State College, Grain Inspection Department, Insurance Commissioner, Kansas State College, Labor Department, and State Office Building Commission.

Several large volumes of records of the Livestock Sanitary Commissioner, 1884–1994, were microfilmed and the originals destroyed during the past year. These volumes, which were difficult to store and handle because of their size, were reproduced on six reels of microfilm and include minutes of the commission, registers of letters received, and livestock inspection and shipment records.

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

The largest single gift received during the year was a collection of papers from the estate of John P. Usher, Secretary of the Interior under Lincoln, and later general solicitor for the Union Pacific railroad. The papers were given by Mrs. Lucy Usher Shelton of Pomona, a granddaughter, in the name of Mrs. Linton J. Usher, daughter-in-law of Usher. There are 666 letters and documents in the collection, nearly all of them pertaining to personal and family affairs.

Military records of the 11th regiment, Kansas cavalry, from the papers of Preston B. Plumb, were given by Mabel H. Edwards, Emporia. Plumb served as a lieutenant colonel of the regiment. The collection contains muster rolls, rosters, reports of casualties, special orders, and two items of particular interest: a book of plans of military posts and stations in the District of the Plains; and a table of distances between Fort Kearney, Nebraska territory, and Junction Station, Colorado territory.

Papers of William Elmer Blackburn were given by his son, W. A. Black-
burn, Herington. Blackburn was a widely-known Kansas editor associated with newspapers at Anthony and Herington. Of special interest in the collection is a group of letters concerning Dr. A. L. Shelton, who became a medical missionary to China after his boyhood on a Kansas farm, and who was killed by bandits on a Tibetan journey.

Positive photostats of the minutes of the Lawrence Common Council, September 22-October 23, 1854, were received from the University of Kansas library.

Minutes of the Ministerial Union of Topeka, 1884-1902, were given through William B. Culbertson.

A valuable addition to the Robert Simerwell papers was received from Bessie E. Moore, Wakarusa. The 123 manuscripts are mainly letters by members of the Simerwell family to each other, and fall within the period 1829-1867. There are references to the missionary work of Robert Simerwell and his wife, Fannie Goodridge Simerwell.

Two volumes of records kept by Dr. Milton Cain, McLouth, 1907-1922, were received from C. R. Van Druff, McLouth.

Mrs. Cecile P. McCann, Oklahoma City, and Dr. C. F. Swingle, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., grandchildren of Charles Frederic William Leonhardt, presented a collection of his papers. Leonhardt was in Kansas during the territorial troubles and the collection contains articles on the underground railroad and the Danites, a Free-State secret society.

Typewritten transcripts totaling 253 pages relating to Octave Chanute's activities in the building of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston railroad, 1871-1873, were received from Pearl I. Young of Pottsville, Pa. Included are copies of letters by J. M. Walker and Octave Chanute, and documents from the Department of the Interior records in the National Archives.

Two groups of Turnverein records were added to the collections. Four volumes of records of the Topeka Turnverein, 1904-1922, were presented by Norbert J. Klinge, Topeka, in the name of his father, Fred Klinge, for many years financial secretary of the organization. Twenty-eight volumes of minutes, accounts, membership lists, and correspondence, comprise a collection of Atchison Turnverein records, also received during the year.


Microfilm copies of the following have been acquired:

Diary of Alfred Stafford, 1864. Stafford was a member of Company A, 85th regiment, Indiana volunteers. The original was lent by Mrs. Terry Stafford.

Records of the First Presbyterian Church, Lyndon: constitution, charter, minutes of the session, 1870-1954. Originals lent by Mrs. Hallam Smith, Lyndon.

Papers of the Elder family of Ottawa. The letters are addressed mainly to
Aldamar Phipps Elder. Originals lent by Mrs. George Shader, Ottawa.

Two manuscripts by Col. J. M. Chivington: "The Prospective" and a record of the First regiment of Colorado volunteers. The originals are held by the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

MICROFILM DIVISION

In the past 12 months the microfilm division has made more than 300,000 photographs, bringing its total in nine years of operation to approximately 3,800,000. This year, newspapers accounted for 270,000 exposures, archives for 26,000, and library and manuscript materials for the remainder.

The most extensive single project was the filming of the Great Bend Daily Tribune, December 7, 1908-December 31, 1951, which consisted of more than 100,000 pages. In addition, the following Great Bend newspapers were microfilmed: Inland Tribune, August 12, 1876-April 28, 1887; Weekly Tribune (a continuation of the Inland Tribune), April 29, 1887-April 9, 1915; Item, August 4, 1900-August 22, 1908; Rustler, March 1, 1904-August 22, 1908; Item-Rustler, August 23-December 5, 1908; Register, May 11, 1876-July 30, 1908; Evening News, February 6, 1890-April 30, 1897; Morning News, January 30-September 28, 1910; Barton County Democrat (weekly), November 11, 1866-February 12, 1915; and the Barton County Democrat (daily), February 15, 1915-November 30, 1918.

Filming of the Chanute Daily Tribune was completed for the period June 22, 1892-November 1, 1915, and is continuing. Nearly 45,000 pages have been photographed as of September 30. Other large runs were the Topeka Commonwealth, May 1, 1869-October 31, 1888, and the Humboldt Union, July 13, 1867-December 30, 1854. Also microfilmed during the year were: Atchison Squatter Sovereign, February 3, 1855-December 5, 1857; Lane County Journal, Dighton, February 11, 1897-June 9, 1911; Dighton Weekly Journal, February 18, 1886-March 10, 1892; Herald of Freedom, Lawrence, October 21, 1854-December 17, 1859; Solomon Valley Pioneer, Lindsey, September 17, 1870-March 29, 1873; Lyndon Leader, August 25, 1881-January 11, 1893; Lyndon Sentinel, July 9, 1870-June 22, 1871; and Wichita Tribune, March 15-November 16, 1871.

Archival materials microfilmed were the Kansas state census of 1905, volumes 1-75, and records of the Livestock Sanitary Commission, 1884-1934. Many small items were filmed for the manuscript division and the library, including 11 volumes of the William Clark papers, copies of which are frequently requested.

NEWSPAPER AND CENSUS DIVISIONS

During the year, 5,712 persons visited the newspaper and census divisions, an increase of about 200 over last year. They made use of 5,550 single issues, 5,162 bound volumes, and 1,524 microfilm reels of newspapers. The number of census volumes searched jumped to 31,573 from about 23,000 the previous year.

Certified copies of census records are issued by the Society to the public without charge. The certificates provide proof of age and place of birth for delayed birth certificates, social security, railroad retirement, and other purposes. The number issued this year reached an all-time high of 15,107, nearly
50 percent more than during the preceding 12 months. Principal cause of the upswing is the inclusion of farmers in the social security program.

The Society regularly receives nearly all Kansas newspapers for filing. They include 55 dailies, one triweekly, 10 semiweekly, and 293 regular weekly. Included in the files as of January 1, 1955, were 56,651 bound volumes of original Kansas newspapers. In addition the collection includes over 12,000 volumes of out-of-state newspapers dating from 1767 to 1955. The Society acquired 420 reels of newspapers on microfilm this year, bringing the film collection to 5,247 reels.

Microfilm copies of current issues of their newspapers are being contributed regularly by the following publishers: Oscar Stauffer and Rex Woods, Arkansas City Daily Traveler; E. W. Johnson, Chanute Tribune; George W. Marble, Fort Scott Tribune; Angelo Scott, Iola Register; W. A. Bailey, Kansas City Kansas; Dolph Simons, Lawrence Daily Journal-World; Daniel R. Anthony, III, Leavenworth Times; and Henry Blake and Leland Schenck, Topeka Daily Capital.

Among the older newspapers received by the Society was the Solomon Valley Pioneer, Lindsey, October 18, 1870-March 22, 1873, donated by Mrs. E. E. Lindsey of Minneapolis. Theodore H. Scheffer, Puyallup, Wash., was instrumental in obtaining these valuable newspapers for the Society. Mr. Scheffer also obtained the issue of September 17, 1870 (Vol. 1, No. 2), for the Society to microfilm.

Other donors of miscellaneous older newspapers include: Fenn Ward, Highland; George J. Jelinek, Ellsworth; Warren F. Chaney, Gov. Fred Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stookey, and the City Library, Topeka.

MUSEUM

Stanley D. Sohl, formerly of Lincoln, Neb., joined the staff on November 1, 1954, as museum director. For four years he had been museum artist for the Nebraska State Historical Society, and was largely responsible for the preparation of displays in that society's new building in Lincoln. Many improvements have been made in the Kansas museum since Mr. Sohl took charge, and an ambitious program is underway.

Attendance for the year in the museum was 36,097. There were 110 acquisitions comprising 743 objects—more than double the number received last year and triple the number donated in 1953. The increased number of gifts is largely the result of the museum’s expansion program and the excellent response of the Society’s members and friends to requests for materials which have been made in our bimonthly newsletter, the Mirror.

During the past 12 months the museum has made more substantial progress than in any similar period in its history. One of the most extensive projects has been the construction of period rooms. Seven rooms and a special display area have been planned for the west gallery. Of these, a bedroom of the 1860’s and a sod house of the 1880’s have been completed, while two more rooms—a parlor of the 1920’s and a farm kitchen of the 1890’s—are under construction. These rooms are designed to show the changing interiors of Kansas homes from the time the state was settled.

While the west gallery will illustrate the domestic aspects of Kansas life, six more period installations devoted to other activities are planned for the east
gallery. These will include a general store and post office, blacksmith and harness shop, printing shop, doctor’s office, and a dentist’s office.

Plans have also been made for improving and modernizing the main gallery. Twenty new museum cases designed for three-dimensional displays will be delivered next month. The Society’s budget for next year includes a request for 20 more cases, which, if allowed, should be sufficient to complete the work now planned in the main gallery.

New cases have been installed at the Kaw Mission in Council Grove and the First Territorial Capitol at Fort Riley. Displays for these cases were constructed by the museum staff this year. Those at the Kaw Mission are devoted to Kaw Indian history, the Santa Fe trail, Council Grove, and the mission itself. At the First Capitol the exhibits trace Kansas history from the Louisiana Purchase through the troubled political events of Gov. Andrew H. Reeder’s administration.

Storage and working facilities in the museum have been greatly improved. Mothproof, cedar-lined cabinets have been built for storage of the costume, flag, and quilt collections. The workroom has been equipped with tools needed for the construction of displays and period rooms. A photographic darkroom has been built and furnished with everything necessary for the printing and enlarging of pictures from 35-millimeter size up to 4 x 5 foot photomurals.

Three television programs were presented during the summer months by the museum staff in cooperation with Gene McKinney of WIBW-TV. Subjects featured were Carry Nation, the sod house, and John Brown.

Accessions have been widely varied in character this year. Many large collections were received, most of them consisting of furniture and household items for the period rooms. Some of the most important were those given by Prof. and Mrs. Robert Kingman of Topeka (56 pieces), Helen D. Little and Eva L. Graham of La Crosse (27 pieces), Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Lommason of Topeka (23 pieces), the Hattie Mack estate of Wilsey (43 pieces), Mrs. C. H. Reser of Hamilton (31 pieces), and Mrs. Alberta Thompson of Wichita (73 pieces).

George P. Hart gave the museum many fine items of equipment and merchandise from his general store at Overbrook, including a pot-bellied stove, a machine for attaching shoe buttons, cheese and tobacco cutters, and assorted dry goods and boxes. These will be used in the reproduction of a general store which is planned in the east gallery for early next year.

Mrs. F. E. Richmond of Stockton donated office equipment of her late husband, who practiced medicine in northcentral Kansas for more than half a century. These items will be the nucleus of the doctor’s office planned for the museum.

Mrs. Fred Hall has assisted the museum’s period room projects with gifts of a complete walnut mantel and a mosaic glass table lamp from the executive mansion.

The costume collection has been expanded by donations from Mrs. Margery Wheeler Bubb of Topeka and Mrs. Linton J. Usher of Pomona. Perhaps the most important item is a silk gown worn by Mrs. J. P. Usher at President Lincoln’s second inaugural ball when her husband was Secretary of the Interior. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stookey of Topeka gave a collection of Civil War items which belonged to George P. Washburn, and Horace J. Wilkie of Silver Lake

Last year Mrs. George W. Burpee and Mrs. Frank Smithies of Bronxville, N.Y., lent for use during the territorial centennial a collection of items which had belonged to their grandfather, Cyrus K. Holliday. They have recently given the collection permanently to the Society.

The city of Meriden, through its mayor, Eugene Crowley, donated a hand-drawn, two-wheel fire engine more than 50 years old. Another interesting accession is a scale model of a coal mine made by the late Anthony Paulich of Pleasanton. The model is operated electrically, and as soon as it can be put in working condition it will be motivated by push button to illustrate the complete mining process.

Other donors during the year were the H.C. Abbey family, Fulton; Adjutant General's Office, Topeka; George Anderson, Topeka; James Anderson, Kansas City, Mo.; Edward F. Arn, Wichita; William G. Barber, Topeka; Mrs. E. S. Bertram, Council Grove; Nannie Bingham, Sabetha; Perry Betz, Glen Elder; Forrest Blackburn, Topeka; W. A. Blackburn, Herington; Mrs. W. F. Bolan, Topeka; William J. Carpenter estate, Lawrence; Elsie M. Chapman, Topeka; Mrs. Jay Close, Topeka; Mrs. Arthur Coil, Burlingame; Lee Cornell, Wichita; Walter Dengle, Topeka; Wayne Replogle, Lawrence; Mrs. E. S. Elcock, Topeka; Dr. E. W. Eustace, Lebanon; Mr. and Mrs. B. Felible, Stockton; Mrs. Lucille Gardner, Lawrence; Byron Gourley, Topeka; Mrs. J. L. Grubbaugh, Council Grove; Ray Hacker, Topeka; Mrs. Emma Harris, Topeka; Mrs. Frank Hauke, Council Grove; L. E. Hockett, McPherson; George Jelneck, Ellsworth; Mrs. Lillian Johnson, Topeka; Paul B. Johnstone, Peabody; the city of Leavenworth; Kenneth R. Lewis, Topeka; Mrs. Vernon McArthur, Hutchinson; Elizabeth McClenahan, Topeka; Helen McFarland, Topeka; Mrs. S. A. McLain, Kansas City; John Martin, South Hutchinson; Mrs. Edgar May, Topeka; Dr. Karl Menninger, Topeka; Eleanor Wheeler Meyer, Amarillo, Tex.; Laura Middaugh, Bonner Springs; Mrs. C. W. Middleton, Wichita; Mrs. Nelson Morgan, Hutchinson; Moser-Chubb Hardware Co., Topeka; Mrs. George Olson, Topeka; L. A. Ormsby, Emporia; Jennie S. Owen, Topeka; Fred E. Piper, Florence; Fort Library, Beloit; Charles P. Remaley, Topeka; Mrs. I. F. Rudisill, Lansing; Schwanke Hardware Co., Overbrook; Mrs. Leonidas Shriver, Lyndon; Stanley D. Sohl, Topeka; the grandchildren of Mahlon Stubbs, Kansas City; Annie B. Sweet, Topeka; Mr. and Mrs. Luther Tillotson, Topeka; Neil Toedman, Topeka; Mrs. Duane McQueen Ward, Peabody; Mrs. Louise Ward, Concordia; Mrs. Margaret Warlen, Topeka; Arthur L. Webb, Topeka; Mrs. Matthew Weightman, Topeka; Mrs. W. J. Wesley, Minneapolis; Floyd Willard, Topeka; Mrs. Hart Workman, Topeka; Mrs. Lucretia Yohe, Lincoln.

Subjects for Research

Subjects for extended research during the year included: Mark W. Delahay and his political association with Abraham Lincoln; early period of Southern Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian history; Supreme Court segregation case, May, 1954; history of Miltonvale; Kansas history, 1861-1865; LeCompton Constitution; Kansas tall tales; C. J. Jones, citizen adventurer; growth and development of commercial radio in Kansas; Arthur Capper; Tin Cup, Colo.; Octave Chanute and the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston railroad; the Society of Friends in Kansas; Capper farm publications; buffalo hunting; economic history of
southern central Kansas; underground railroad in Kansas; Robert Simerwell and
the Pottawatomie Baptist Mission; early cattle industry in western Kansas;
Wacanda Springs; Kansas Council of Defense; Kansas fiction; John Brown; and
various topics for chapters of the state history now being written by Kansas
historians under the editorship of Dr. John D. Bright of Washburn University.

Accessions

October 1, 1954, to September 30, 1955

Library:

Books .................................................. 1,194
Pamphlets ............................................. 1,635
Magazines (bound volumes) ....................... 111
Reels of microfilm ................................... 39

Archives:

Manuscripts (cubic feet) .......................... 157
Manuscript volumes ................................. 5,649
Manuscript maps ................................... 7
Reels of microfilm ................................... 7

Private Manuscripts:

Separate manuscripts .............................. 2,314
Volumes ............................................... 56
Reels of microfilm ................................... 4

Printed maps, atlases, and charts ............. 189

Newspapers:

Bound volumes ....................................... 592
Reels of microfilm ................................... 420

Pictures ............................................... 492
Museum objects ...................................... 743

Total Accessions, September 30, 1955

Books, pamphlets, newspapers, and magazines (bound and microfilm
reels) .................................................. 463,881
Archive manuscripts (cubic feet)................ 13,044
Manuscript volumes (archives) .................... 79,937
Manuscript maps (archives) ....................... 590
Microfilm reels (archives) ......................... 814
Printed maps, atlases, and charts ............. 10,471
Pictures ............................................... 27,383
Museum objects ...................................... 34,615

Publications

The Quarterly.—Volume 21 of The Kansas Historical Quarterly, consisting
of the 1954 and 1955 numbers, will be available after the first of the year.
It was hoped that sufficient funds would be provided by the 1955 legislature
to restore the magazine to its former number of pages, but the printing appro-
priation only permitted it to continue in 1955 at its present reduced size.

One of the most interesting articles—to our members—which appeared
during the year was concerned with the establishment of historical societies
in Kansas, including the founding of this Society in 1875. The story was
a part of Dr. James C. Malin’s series, “Notes on the Writing of General
Histories of Kansas,” which began in the Autumn, 1954, number. Another article of particular interest which appeared in the Summer, 1955, issue was “Marriage Notices From Kansas Territorial Newspapers, 1854-1861,” compiled by Alberta Pantle. “Letters of the Rev. and Mrs. Olof Olsson, 1869-1873, Pioneer Founders of Lindsborg,” edited by Dr. Emory Lindquist, and a bibliography of Kansas town and county histories, atlases and directories, compiled by Lorene Anderson and Alan W. Farley, will be featured in the Autumn number.

Annuals of Kansas.—Work has continued through the year on the second volume of the Annuals of Kansas, volume I of which was formally presented at last year’s meeting. Part of the copy is already in the hands of the printer and the search for pictures to illustrate the text is underway. Indexing of the first volume is complete, and the second volume will be started as soon as page proofs are available.

The Mirror.—Last January the first number of the Society’s bimonthly newsletter, the Mirror, was published. It is designed to be an informal report to the membership on work in progress, plans for the future, interesting accessions received by the various departments, and special activities and events in which the Society participates. Members and friends are also afforded an opportunity to help in building a better and stronger Society by contributing materials which are needed and which are mentioned from time to time in the columns of the Mirror. Comments and suggestions for making it more useful and interesting are always welcome.

OLD SHAWNEE MISSION

During the year visitors representing 29 states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Spain, Denmark, Canada, Scotland, Germany and England called at Old Shawnee Mission located in the Kansas City suburbs. Most sections of Kansas and Missouri were well represented, and there was an unusually large number of school and scout groups, most of them from rapidly-growing Johnson county.

The annual pilgrimage of the Kansas department, Daughters of the American Revolution, was held at the Mission on Constitution Day, September 17. Approximately 115 members from over the state attended the meeting and picnic. Distinguished guests included Mrs. William Shores Harris, Centreville, Va., a descendant of the Rev. Thomas Johnson, founder and first superintendent of Shawnee Mission; Mrs. J. N. Clifton, Amarillo, Tex., granddaughter of the Rev. William Johnson, brother of Thomas; Mrs. Elda Shaffer, Stillwater, Okla., a granddaughter of Shawnee Chief Charles Bluejacket; Mrs. Tissener Meeks, a Shoshone Indian; and Marie Parks Langums, Los Angeles, Cal., a Shawnee-Cherokee princess.

The Society is indebted to the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society, and the state departments of the Colonial Dames, Daughters of American Colonists, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Daughters of 1812 for their continued assistance at the Mission.

THE KAW MISSION

All states except five—Delaware, North Dakota, Utah, Nevada, and South Carolina—were represented among visitors to the Kaw Mission at Council Grove during the year. Of the out-of-state visitors, more came from Missouri
than from any other state, and California ranked second. Six foreign countries were represented—Canada, England, Australia, Germany, Sweden, and Pakistan—as well as two United States territories, Alaska and Hawaii. Total visitors registered was 4,650.

Five new museum cases were purchased and the new displays installed by the Society’s museum staff have attracted much favorable attention. The exhibits deal with the Kaw Indians, the Mission itself, the town of Council Grove, and the Santa Fe trail.

Donors during the year included Mrs. E. S. Bertram, James Brown, Louise Brown, Ethel Dent, Mrs. Late Edwards, Mrs. J. L. Grubauch, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Haucke, Mrs. John Jacobs, Mrs. Clyde Johnson, John Nordeen, the Revere heirs, Mrs. Ila Stewart, Charles Wendt, and Larry White.

The First Capitol

The new displays mentioned in last year’s report for the First Territorial Capitol on the Fort Riley reservation are now practically completed. Five displays have already been installed and the sixth and last is being assembled. Subjects treated are the Louisiana Purchase, which included most of present Kansas; the Kaw Indians; Andrew H. Reeder, first governor of Kansas territory; the first legislature, which met at the old townsite of Pawnee on the reservation July 2-6, 1855; the town itself; and territorial politics.

A four-page leaflet entitled “The First Capitol of Kansas” was printed during the summer for distribution to visitors. It relates the history of the building, describes the meeting of the legislature, and reviews the story of the restoration and the means by which the property came into possession of the state.

There were 4,579 visitors at the Capitol during the year, a decrease of about 300 from last year’s registration. The opening of a new U. S. 40 highway which runs due west from Topeka to Junction City, by-passing Fort Riley, undoubtedly was the reason for the smaller number of visitors.

The Funston Home

Five miles north of Iola, on U. S. highway 59-169, is a small frame farmhouse, the home of Edward H. Funston, congressman from the second district from 1884 to 1894, and the boyhood home of a son, Frederick, who became famous in the military annals of the United States. Fred Funston served as colonel of the 20th Kansas in the Spanish-American war and was the captor of Aguinaldo in the Philippine Insurrection which followed. The Funston family has given to the state the tract of land on which the house stands, and the Historical Society will operate it as a museum. This afternoon Mr. Frank F. Eckdall of Emporia, a nephew of General Funston, will speak briefly on the general and his career, and will formally present the Funston property to the state.

The Staff of the Society

Each year, at the close of this report, it has been customary to make special mention of the excellent work of the Society’s staff. This year is no exception. The Society has three basic functions: to collect, preserve, and make available to the public the materials of history. Service to the Society’s patrons is now, as it has always been, one of the triple cornerstones of our success as
an institution. My personal thanks are due to all members of the staff who have made this policy effective.

Last month the census division received a letter with this word of thanks: “I wish to compliment you again on the tremendously fine service you are rendering and for the immeasurable help you have given my husband and me.” Another letter received last summer from a well-known writer spoke appreciatively of “the fine co-operation and assistance I had last week from you and all the members of your library staff. . . . Of all the libraries in which I’ve worked in the West and Southwest, I’ve found none in which the staff members are more alert and more helpful than in yours.”

Although it is impossible here to name every individual on the staff, the work of each is deeply appreciated. I should like to mention particularly Ed Langsdorf, assistant secretary, and the heads of the departments: Mrs. Lela Barnes of the manuscript division, who is also treasurer of the Society; Helen McFarland who retired as librarian July 1, and Alberta Pantle, acting librarian; Robert W. Richmond, archivist; Forrest R. Blackburn of the newspaper division; Stanley D. Sohl, museum director; and Jennie S. Owen, annalist.

Recognition is also due the custodians of the historic sites administered by the Society: Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Hardy at Shawnee Mission, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Jones at Kaw Mission, and John Scott at the First Capitol.

Respectfully submitted,

NYLE H. MILLER, Secretary.

At the conclusion of the reading of the secretary’s report, James Malone moved that it be approved. Motion was seconded by Karl Miller and the report was accepted.

President Farrell then called for the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Lela Barnes:

TREASURER’S REPORT

Based on the post-audit by the state division of auditing and accounting for the period August 1, 1954, to August 4, 1955.

Membership Fee Fund

Balance, August 1, 1954:
Cash (including $1,023.69 of the Elizabeth Reader bequest) ........................................... $5,867.69
U. S. bonds, Series G ........................................... 3,500.00

$9,367.69

Receipts:
Membership fees ........................................... $1,509.00
Gifts and donations ........................................... 56.00
Bond interest ........................................... 242.50

1,807.50

$11,175.19
### The Annual Meeting

**Disbursements:**

Balance, August 4, 1955:
- Cash (including $1,153.69 of the Elizabeth Reader bequest) $6,396.36
- U. S. bonds, Series G 3,500.00

**Total:** 9,896.36

**Total:** $11,175.19

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### Jonathan Pecker Bequest

Balance, August 1, 1954:
- Cash $64.91
- U. S. treasury bonds 950.00

**Total:** $1,014.91

**Receipts:**
- Bond interest $27.31
- Savings account interest 2.31

**Total:** 29.62

**Balance:** $1,044.53

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**Disbursements, books:**

Balance, August 4, 1955:
- Cash $68.02
- U. S. treasury bonds 950.00

**Total:** 1,018.02

**Total:** $1,044.53

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### John Booth Bequest

Balance, August 1, 1954:
- Cash $127.34
- U. S. treasury bonds 500.00

**Total:** $627.34

**Receipts:**
- Bond interest $14.40
- Savings account interest 1.16

**Total:** 15.56

**Total:** $642.90

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Balance, August 4, 1955:

Cash ................................................. $142.90
U. S. treasury bonds .............................. 500.00

$642.90

THOMAS H. BOWLUS DONATION

This donation is substantiated by a U. S. bond, Series G, in the amount of $1,000. The interest is credited to the membership fee fund.

ELIZABETH READER BEQUEST

Balance, August 1, 1954:

Cash (deposited in membership fee fund) ........ $1,023.69
U. S. bonds, Series G ............................ 5,200.00

$6,223.69

Receipts:

Interest (deposited in membership fee fund) .... 130.00

$6,353.69

Balance, August 4, 1955:

Cash (deposited in membership fee fund) ........ $1,153.69
U. S. bonds, Series G ............................ 5,200.00

$6,353.69

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

This report covers only the membership fee fund and other custodial funds. Appropriations made by the legislature for the maintenance of the Society are disbursed through the state department of administration. For the year ending June 30, 1955, these appropriations were: Kansas State Historical Society, $145,488; Memorial Building, $4,500; Old Shawnee Mission, $7,680; Kaw Mission, $4,296; First Capitol of Kansas, $3,342.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. LEILA BARNES, Treasurer.

On motion by Lea Maranville, seconded by Will T. Beck, the report of the treasurer was accepted.

President Farrell next called for the report of the executive committee on the post-audit of the Society’s funds by the state division of auditing and accounting. The report was read by Charles M. Correll: