Kansas History as Published in the Press


"Discovery of Lead Interesting Chapter in [Cherokee] County's History," an article originally published in the "See Kansas" series of the Wichita *Eagle*, was printed in the Columbus *Daily Advocate*, January 31, 1956. Also in the *Advocate* was a list of former officials of Cherokee county, May 7; and "C. A. Sanders Tells of Experiences as Early-Day Teacher," by Fayette Rowe, May 19.

Early in 1956 a series of three articles by Lovernia Little Morris were published in the Emporia *Gazette*: "Healthful Climate and Slavery Issue Brought Settlers to Fremont District [Lyon County]," February 2; "Indian Scares and Rebel Raids Kept Settlers Alert During the Civil War," February 7; and "Big Stone House Built in 1875 Still Recalled as a Place of Enchantment," February 10. Other historical articles published recently by the *Gazette* included: "Steamboat Once Cruised Along Cottonwood River," April 10; "Razing of Old Landmark [Campbell House] in Plymouth Recalls Life of Lyon County Pioneers," by Mrs. S. H. Bennett, July 10; and "High Drama in Story of the Sac and Fox Tribes of Early Day Lyon County," July 14.

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After 87 years of use, the New Malden school, Atchison county, has been discontinued. Its history was printed in the Horton Headlight, April 2, 1956. Mrs. J. K. Trueblood was the first teacher.

Early Burlington history was recalled by Artis E. Lineback, LeRoy, in articles appearing in the Daily Republican, Burlington, April 2, 3, 1956. On April 10 the Republican published a biographical sketch of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Dickinson by their son, J. E. Dickinson. An article by Fayette Rowe on the history of the Neosho river appeared in the Republican, May 23. This article also appeared in the Wichita Eagle Magazine, May 6.

Organized April 12, 1885, the First Baptist church of Conway Springs recently observed its 71st anniversary. A history of the church appeared in the Conway Springs Star, April 26, 1956. The Rev. J. M. Wood was the first pastor.

Noting the 75th anniversary of the Methodist church of Galesburg, the Chanute Tribune, April 24, 1956, printed a brief history. The building was erected in 1881 but religious work had been in progress for several years before that. On June 5 the Tribune published Fayette Rowe’s “‘Trail of Tears’ by Cherokee Indians,” the story of the move of the Cherokees from Georgia to present Kansas in the late 1830’s.

Fifty pages of historical articles on early Caldwell and Sumner county comprised the Border Queen and Chisholm trail edition of the Caldwell Messenger, April 30, 1956. This special issue was published in connection with the Chisholm trail tour to Caldwell and the opening of the Border Queen Museum there.

On May 3, 1956, the Modern Light, Columbus, published a review of the selection of county seats in Cherokee county. Pleasant View was the first, the honor then passed to Baxter Springs, and finally to Columbus. The Modern Light’s historical column, “Do You Remember When,” still appears regularly.

Wamego’s 90th anniversary was noted by the publication of a brief history of the town in the Wamego Reporter, May 3, 1956.

Briggs school, near Junction City, had its beginning on April 1, 1877, with the formation of the district, according to a history of the school published by the Junction City Union, May 10, 1956.

Beginning May 11, 1956, a series on the history of the Hartford Collegiate Institute appeared in the Hartford Times. First action
toward establishment of the institute took place December 11, 1861, with the meeting of the Neosho Valley Educational Association of the M. E. Church. The Methodists planned a preparatory school for students who wished to enter college.

Near Hillsboro still stands a mud house built in 1877 by Peter P. Loewen, who had arrived a year earlier from Russia and joined the Mennonite colony. An article by Ruth Meyer in the Hillsboro Star-Journal, May 17, 1956, tells the story of the old house which was occupied until 1955.

The Garnett Review, May 28, 1956, published a history of St. John’s Catholic parish in northeast Anderson county. The first building was started in 1881 and dedicated in 1882. A school and rectory were added in 1887.

An account of the Battle of Black Jack, June 20, 1856, appeared in the Wellsville Globe, May 31, 1956. Black Jack, near present Wellsville, was the scene of an encounter between John Brown and his followers and a group under Capt. Henry Clay Pate. The skirmish is famous as the first pitched battle between the Proslavery and the Free-State forces.


A column entitled “A Look in the Past—Wellington Historical Sketches,” has been published in the Wellington Monitor-Press in recent months. A few of the subjects were: “Settlement of Wellington,” June 6, 1956; “Wellington’s First Business Firms,” June 8; “Flouring Mill Was Wellington’s First Industry in 1877,” June 25; and “Many New Settlers Arrive in 1876,” June 27.

A biographical sketch of Mrs. Ella Hodges appeared in the Western Star, Coldwater, June 8, 1956. Her father, Alfred North, brought his family from Indiana to Kansas in 1884 when Ella was 11 years of age. Their first Kansas home was in Attica.

On June 14, 1956, the St. Francis Herald began publishing a historical series called “Early-Day Events in Shaping an Empire,” by Simon E. Matson. The first installment dealt with the discovery of gold at Pike’s Peak and transportation to that area.
Some of the old buildings in McCune, the old Monmouth mill, and the McCune band of 1856 were the subjects of historical articles in the June 15, 1956, number of the McCune Herald. This issue was largely devoted to McCune’s history.

The El Dorado Times published a 24-page “get-acquainted” edition June 19, 1956. Included were brief histories of El Dorado clubs, schools, churches, and other organizations.

“Lure of Land Ownership Brought Throngs of Easterners Out to Marshall County to Have Homes,” an article on the settlement of Kansas, and particularly Marshall county, appeared in the Marysville Advocate, June 21, 1956. Also in recent issues were two articles by Gordon S. Hohn: “Broadway Hotel Location [in Marysville] Was Once Occupied by Matthias Bendel’s Hall,” June 28; and “Fourth of July Years Ago Was Time for Old Settlers’ Picnics,” July 5.

John Watson reviewed the history of the Kansas town with two names, Derby–El Paso, in the Wichita Beacon, June 24, 1956. Officially named El Paso when incorporated in 1903, the Sedgwick county community is more commonly known as Derby.

A history of the Colby Christian church was published in the Colby Free Press-Tribune, June 28, 1956. The church was organized in June, 1856, by a group of 11 persons.

“Early Day Fort Leavenworth, Missouri,” by Clinton W. Kanaga, Sr., was the feature article in the July, 1956, issue of The Trail Guide, Kansas City, Mo., magazine of the Kansas City Posse of The Westerners. This military post was established in May, 1827, by Col. Henry Leavenworth, and in November was named Cantonment Leavenworth.

“Abilene Once Was Wildest Cowtown in U. S.,” by Bill Burke, was published in the Salina Journal, July 1, 1956. Burke says that in 1870 and 1871 Abilene attained this distinction, and was the first of several famous Kansas cowtowns.

August 16; and “Early Day Cattlemen Promoted the National Trail,” August 23.

Claffin’s 55th anniversary was observed by the Claffin Clarion, July 12, 1956, with the publication of a 40-page anniversary edition. Settlement of the town began about 1887 but it was not incorporated until 1901.

Hoxie’s 70th anniversary was observed with the publication of a town history in the Hoxie Sentinel, July 19, 1956. Compiled by City Clerk Ervin Morgan, the history gives 1886 as the date of the founding and organization of Hoxie.


Indian “deviltry” in 1878 is described in a letter written by O. E. Heath, Ellis, to W. L. Saunders, Meriden, October 6, 1878, and published in the Emporia Times, July 26, 1956, with an introduction by Marie Dunn.

“Leonardville . . . 75 Years Ago,” by Delia Marcellus, began appearing serially in the Monitor-Regent, Leonardville, August 2, 1956. Although there were settlers in the area in the 1860’s, the town was not started until 1881 when a railroad station called Leonard was built on the site.

C. P. Townsley printed the first issue of the Inland Tribune at Great Bend, August 12, 1876, according to a history of the town’s early newspapers in the Great Bend Tribune, August 6, 1956. However, the first newspaper to serve the community was the Arkansas Valley which made its appearance in 1872. A review of Great Bend’s newspaper history for the period between the two World Wars was published by the Tribune, August 9.

Lead article in the August, 1956, issue of American Heritage, New York, was “The Needless Conflict,” by Allan Nevins. The author presents the theory that “Had the United States Possessed three farsighted, imaginative, and resolute presidents instead of Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan, the [Civil] war might have been postponed until time and economic forces killed its roots.” Also in the August issue was an article by Wayne Gard entitled “How They Killed the Buffalo,” a review of how the enormous herds were almost depleted “in a little more than a decade.”