Kansas History as Published in the Press

With the issue of March 14, 1957, the Alma Signal-Enterprise began publishing a history of Wabaunsee county. The series is generously illustrated with pictures of people, buildings, and other things connected with the county's early history. Organization of the county was in 1859.


“Trolley Through the Countryside,” the story of the Strang Line, the interurban which operated for many years between Olathe and Kansas City, by Allison Chandler, was published in The Johnson County Democrat, Olathe, May 2-August 22, 1957.

On May 16, 1957, the Atchison Daily Globe printed a history of the Atchison First Christian church by the Rev. Harold Roberts. The church was organized in December, 1869. A short history of
Muscotah under the title “Muscotah Given Name by Indian Trader,” appeared in the Globe, June 9.

“Some of the History of Old Irving” appeared in the May 16, 1957, issue of the Blue Rapids Times. The town, named for Washington Irving, was established in 1860.

Historical material from Through the Years, Greeley’s centennial booklet, by Mrs. Cecil Moore and Joy Fox, was published in the Osawatomie Graphic-News, May 16, 1957.


The Hartford Times published a 24-page centennial edition May 17, 1957. Hartford’s history started early in 1857 when Harvey D. Rice, A. K. Hawkes, and others chose the townsit. The following year the town was laid out and in 1859 building began.


Americus’ early history was the subject of a three-column article in the Emporia Gazette, May 28, 1957. The town’s beginning dates from the autumn of 1857 when a town company was formed and the townsit located and surveyed. Settlers had been in the area as early as 1855.

The “Haymeadow Massacre,” an incident in the Stevens county county-seat fight, was reviewed in the Hutchinson News, May 29, 1957. On June 16 the News printed an article by Ruby Basye giving some Dodge City history and describing the Boot Hill and Beeson museums at Dodge City.
Muscotah’s history was the subject of an article in the Horton Headlight, May 30, 1957. On July 18 the Headlight printed a history of Hiawatha. An article on Brown county’s first school, the Presbyterian Kickapoo Indian Mission, established in 1856, appeared August 5.

In the early 1880’s P. B. Lewis established the Randolph Echo, the town’s first newspaper, according to a history of newspapers and printing in Randolph published in the Blue Valley News, Randolph, May 30, 1957. The News which was discontinued with this issue, was a casualty to the Tuttle Creek dam now under construction.

Stories by C. H. Tade about the early days in the Collier Flats area, Comanche county, appeared in the Protection Post, May 31, June 21, 28, and July 19, 1957.

James C. Malin, associate editor of The Kansas Historical Quarterly, is author of an article entitled “On the Nature of Local History,” in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, Madison, Summer, 1957. Dr. Malin concludes “Local history . . . is vital to sound history at any level. . . . The best way to raise the public estimate of it is to produce good local history and to give it the tangible support it deserves by publishing, buying, and reading it. . . .

Minutes of Nebraska Presbytery, 1849-1851, and Presbytery of Highland, 1857-1858, Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., were printed in the Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Lancaster, Pa., June, 1957. The minutes show that Nebraska Presbytery was organized December 1, 1849, and discontinued in 1851. Highland was established May 21, 1857, within Kansas territory.

Emporia’s centennial has been the occasion for the publication of historical articles and editions by the town’s newspapers. The June 6, 1957, issue of the Emporia Gazette included two pages of The Kanzas News, June 6, 1857, the first issue of Emporia’s first newspaper. Also in the Gazette, June 6, were an article on the News and its publisher, Preston B. Plumb, and a history of Emporia’s First Methodist church, which has reached its 100th year. Other Gazette articles included: a biographical sketch of Mrs. Lilly Forman, a Kansas pioneer, June 16; “Welsh Have Left Impact on County,” June 27; and “As Resident of Area for 99 Years, She [Mrs. Rufin Fowler] Recalls Most of Town’s Historic Events,” June 29. On June 13 the Emporia Times published a history of Emporia High School, which had its beginning in 1876 with 13 students. A special edition, featuring Emporia history, was published June 27 by the Times.
A brief history of the Chisholm trail, by Will Brown, was published in the Cedar Vale Messenger, June 6, 1957. Included are directions to portions of the trail that are still visible. On June 20 the Messenger printed a story by Brown on the sod house.

Included in the Winfield Courier, June 8, 1957, was a history of the First Christian church of Winfield. The church was organized in 1872 and A. F. Womack was the first pastor.

Will Hixon's life and reminiscences are the subjects of an article by Faith McConnell in the Independence Reporter, June 9, 1957. Hixon has lived near present Altoona since 1867 when he was six years of age.


St. Paul's Lutheran church, Valley Falls, was established in June, 1857, it is reported in a history of the church in the Valley Falls Vindicator, June 19, 1957. The Rev. J. B. McAfee organized the congregation and erected the first building.

Some of Spring Hill's history is told in articles by Mrs. Nina Dalzell and Margaret Ann Westhoff in the Spring Hill New Era, June
20, 27, 1957. Also on the 27th the *New Era* printed a biographical sketch of Frank R. Morrison who settled near Spring Hill in 1864.

Biographical material on John Larrick and some of his reminiscences of Kansas in the 1870's and 1880's appeared in the Concordia *Blade-Empire*, June 21, 1957. Larrick, now 87, grew up near Logan.

*The Sherman County Herald*, Goodland, published special editions June 27 and July 4, 1957, in observance of Goodland’s 70th anniversary. The Goodland *Daily News* also honored the occasion by publishing a number of historical articles, including: “Accounts of County Seat Battle Between Eustis, Goodland Vary,” June 30, 1957; and “Papers Preceding Daily News Have Long History in Sherman Co.,” July 1.

On September 11, 1874, four daughters of the John German family were taken captive and the parents, two other daughters, and a son were slain near present Russell Springs by Cheyenne Indians. The story of this incident is told in the Oakley *Graphic*, June 27, 1957, and the *Gove County Republican Gazette*, Gove, July 4. Mrs. Sophia German Feldman, one of the captives, has told of the experience in *The Westerner’s Brand Book*, New York, 1957. A monument marking the graves of those who lost their lives was dedicated July 4 in the Fort Wallace cemetery.

Cleardale’s history, prepared by Mrs. D. G. Heeney, was published in the South Haven *New Era*, June 27 and July 4, 1957. The Cleardale post office was opened in 1872 and discontinued in 1887.

On July 4, 1957, a history of the Altamont Baptist church appeared in the Altamont *Journal*, the Edna *Sun*, and the *Times-Journal*, Mound Valley. The congregation was organized in 1882. C. T. Daniel was the first pastor.

“Early Ellsworth County History” is the title of a series which began appearing in the Ellsworth *Reporter*, July 11, 1957. The county was organized in 1867. On August 8 and 15 the *Reporter* published part of the diary of the late Ira E. Lloyd relating to life in Ellsworth in 1873.

St. Paul’s Lutheran church at Fairview was organized in July, 1882, it is reported in an article on the history of the church in the *Fairview Enterprise*, June 11, 18, 1957, and the *Daily World*, July 12. The Rev. C. H. Becker was the first pastor.

Biographical information on Daniel Stine, one of Augusta’s earliest pioneers, by Stella B. Haines and Mrs. Hazel Robinson, a granddaughter of Stine, appeared in the Augusta *Daily Gazette*, July 17 and August 7, 1957.

Beginning July 18, 1957, a history of Madison by Lura Pettyjohn and Christine Jardinier, has appeared in the Madison *News*.

A five-column history of Blue Mound, written by L. R. Simpson and read at the Blue Mound July 4 celebration, was published in the Mound City *Republic*, July 18, 1957. While there was a Blue Mound post office as early as 1854, building of the town did not begin until 1882.

Bartley Yost’s reminiscences of the early days in the Downs area appeared in the Downs *News & Times*, July 25, 1957.

A 28-page centennial supplement was published by the Eudora *News*, July 25, 1957. In 1856 a group of Germans organized an association at Chicago for the purpose of making a settlement in the West. The site of present Eudora was chosen and the first group arrived to settle in April, 1857. A history of the Eudora Methodist church, compiled by Mrs. Ray Long, Mrs. Phoebe Westheffer, and Mrs. Bonnie Davis, was printed in the *News*, August 8.

Pittsburg’s First Baptist church was founded August 3, 1872, as the Eden church, according to a history of the institution in the Pittsburg *Headlight*, July 31, 1957. It was the first chartered religious body in Pittsburg.


The first in a series of articles on the history of Robinson, by Mrs. Myrta Martindale, was printed in the Robinson *Index*, August 1, 1957.
Biographical material on Mrs. Lena Greene, Arkansas City, and her brother, the late Maj. Gordon William ["Pawnee Bill"] Lille, appeared in an article by Dorothy Shirley published in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, August 5, 1957.

Wallace county history, including a story on Fort Wallace, was featured in the 44-page growth-and-progress edition published by The Western Times, Sharon Springs, August 8, 1957. The edition commemorated the arrival of railroad surveyors in the area in 1867, which marked the beginning of the development of the county.

A 22-page St. Benedict’s centennial section was published by the Atchison Daily Globe, August 11, 1957. Among the historical articles were: “The Saddle Padre—a Father to Five States,” “Ministry to ‘Bleeding Kansas’ Begun in 1857,” and “Monks of 1857—Steamboat to Doniphan.”

Early history of Kansas and Norton county, compiled by Mrs. Amy Lathrop, appeared in the Norton Daily Telegram, August 21, 1957. The county was organized in 1872.