Kansas Historical Notes

Current officers of the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Related Fields are: Prof. Homer E. Socolofsky, Kansas State College, Manhattan, president; Father Peter Beckman, St. Benedict's College, Atchison, vice-president; and Prof. Jack W. Vanderhoof, Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, secretary-treasurer. Prof. Eugene R. Craine, Fort Hays Kansas State College, is a new member of the executive council. The 1957 meeting of the association was held at Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, March 15 and 16. Prof. Dudley T. Cornish of the Pittsburg school was the retiring president. The 1958 gathering will be in Manhattan.

Wathena celebrated its centennial August 16 and 17, 1957, with parades, Indian dances, street dances, an address by Gov. George Docking, and other events.

The Allen county community of Geneva observed its 100th anniversary August 18, 1957, with a basket dinner and a program which included talks on the town's history.

Butler county's "Pioneer Days" celebration in El Dorado, August 22-25, 1957, sponsored by the Butler County Historical Society, was climaxed with a basket dinner and an address entitled "In Praise of the Pioneer," by R. A. Clymer, on the last day. Martha Hoard was recently announced winner of the Butler county society's annual essay contest, and was awarded a prize of $100 by ex-Sen. Frank H. Cron.

All officers of the Ford Historical Society were re-elected at a meeting of the society in September, 1957. They include: Mrs. Walter Umbach, president; Mrs. Harold Patterson, vice-president; Mrs. I. L. Plattner, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Kathleen Emrie, historian; and Mrs. W. P. Warner, custodian.

Olathe observed her 100th birthday with a week-long celebration, September 1-7, 1957. Included in the program were parades, a historical pageant entitled "Arrows to Atoms," and an old settlers' homecoming.

Labette county old settlers gathered in Oswego for their annual reunion September 2, 1957. A discussion of plans for a county museum was included in the program. Fred McColey, Oswego,
was elected president of the old settlers; Ivan Sullivan, Parsons, vice-president; and Mrs. Winnie Crain, Oswego, secretary and treasurer. O. L. Crain, Parsons, was the retiring president.

Paul B. Wood, Elmdale, was re-elected president of the Chase County Historical Society at its annual meeting, September 7, 1957, in Cottonwood Falls. Other officers chosen include: Henry Rogler, Matfield Green, vice-president; Clint Baldwin, Cottonwood Falls, secretary; George T. Dawson, Elmdale, treasurer; and Mrs. Ruth Conner, Cottonwood Falls, chief historian. The society is now preparing the third volume of its Chase county history.

Junction City businessmen, the First infantry division, former cavalry officers, and others have joined in the re-establishment of the Fort Riley Military Museum which was officially opened September 27, 1957. It is located in the building which served as post headquarters from 1890 through World War II. One room is set aside for history of the Junction City area. The Fort Riley Historical Society will have charge of the museum. Maj. Gen. David H. Buchanan, First division commander, is honorary president and Lee Rich, Junction City, is president.

Humboldt's week-long centennial celebration was climaxed September 28, 1957, by a parade and a street dance. Other features of the observance included a local talent show, football game, and Humboldt High School class reunions.

Mrs. W. G. Anderson, president of the Cowley County Historical Society, has announced that the society's museum, on the campus of Southwestern College in Winfield, will be open every Friday from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Additional appointments to the Kansas centennial commission made by Gov. George Docking include: the Rev. John R. Barber, Columbus; Sid Calbert, Newton; Howard Carey, Hutchinson; W. Luke Chapin, Medicine Lodge; Franklin Gordon, Medicine Lodge; Mike Gordon, Wichita; Mrs. Ruby Harris, Wichita; the Rev. I. H. Henderson, Kansas City; I. N. “Jiboo” Hewitt, Medicine Lodge; Col. Pat L. Keenan, Seward; August Lauterbach, Colby; Dr. James McCain, Manhattan; Mrs. Thomas Martin, Highland; Novma Mering, Great Bend; L. F. Meyers, Dodge City; Dr. Franklin Murphy, Lawrence; Mrs. E. E. Peiser, Mission; F. J. Rost, Topeka; Leon N. Roulier, Colby; John Sticher, Topeka; Elton Wilson, Mound City; and Dr. L. D. Wooster, Hays. Members of the commission
previously appointed were listed in “Kansas Historical Notes,” in the Summer, 1957, issue of the Quarterly.

Circular 351, August, 1957, published by the Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State College, Manhattan, printed a 36-page article by F. D. Farrell, entitled “Kansas Rural Institutions: XIII. County Fair.” It is a study of the Coffey county fair, one of the oldest in Kansas, first held October 9, 1860.

A mimeographed pamphlet entitled “History of the Argonia Friends Meeting,” has been issued in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Argonia church.

Following the Civil War, Phillip and Elmira Simmons settled on high ground in Douglas county between the Kansas and Wakarusa rivers, which became known as The Hill or Simmons Point. A granddaughter, Zoe Dentler, is author of a 144-page history of the area and the Simmons family, entitled The Hill or Simmons Point, published by Greenwich Book Publishers, New York in 1957.

William S. Prettyman, Arkansas City photographer, made some 10,000 pictures of Indians, early settlers, land seekers, and other subjects on the frontier from 1880 to 1909. More than 100 of these have been selected by Robert E. Cunningham and included in his 174-page book, Indian Territory, published recently by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Ben Thompson—Man With a Gun, by the late Floyd B. Streeter, of Hays, was recently published by Frederick Fell, Inc., New York. The 217-page volume is a biography of Thompson, about whom it is stated in the introduction, “probably no man, before or since, crowded more excitement into forty-three years of life. . . .”

Our Heritage—150 Years of Progress is the title of a 126-page history of the First Christian church of Lawrence, by Clarence E. Birch, published by the church in 1957. The general development of the Christian church is traced from its establishment in 1807, but the Lawrence congregation, formed in 1884, is the main theme of the work.

A 260-page history of Enterprise entitled A Kansan’s Enterprise, by Ellen Welander Peterson, was recently published by the Enterprise Baptist church.