Kansas History as Published in the Press

Histories of Humboldt churches recently made their appearance in the Humboldt Union as follows: Assembly of God church, by the Rev. R. F. McMininny, August 8, 1957; St. Joseph’s Catholic church and Poplar Grove Baptist church, August 22; Humboldt Christian church, September 5; St. Peter’s Lutheran church, September 12; Humboldt Pilgrim Holiness church, September 19; and the First Presbyterian church and the former Humboldt Evangelical United Brethren church, September 26. A history of the Humboldt community, by Dick Buzbee, was published in the Chanute Tribune, September 20.

In observance of Wathena’s 100th anniversary, the Wathena Times published its August 15, 1957, issue and a 28-page historical number dated August 16 and 17, under the title Wathena Centennial.

A history of Sheridan county, compiled by Mrs. Pearl Toothaker, was published in the Hoxie Sentinel, August 15 and 29, 1957. The county was created in 1873 and organized in 1880.

“Linn County Marks 100 Years,” by Jack Fairfield, a four-page history of Linn county, was published in the Fort Scott Tribune’s Linn county fair edition, August 16, 1957.

Herman F. W. Oesterreich’s family and descendants are sketched in an article which appeared in the Junction City Republic, August 22, 1957. Oesterreich came to Kansas in 1857 and settled in Dickinson county.

On August 22, 1957, the Butler County News, El Dorado, began publication of a series of stories on the history of Butler county written by Joy Wigginton for her school pupils. The El Dorado Times, September 2, printed a historical article entitled “Spring Near Towanda Served as Indian Campsite Many Years Ago.”


The story of the Mudge ranch, Hodgeman county, was told in a copyrighted article by Margaret Evans Caldwell, in the Jetmore Republican, August 22, 29, and September 5, 1957. Henry S. Mudge, wealthy Bostonian, came to Kansas in 1878. He acquired

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over 40 quarter sections of land which he operated as a ranch until he experienced a financial collapse in 1885 and 1886.


Abraham “Bullet Hole” Ellis was shot in the forehead by William C. Quantrell and lived, it is stated in a biographical sketch of Ellis by Lily B. Rozar, published in the Independence Reporter, August 25, 1957.

Olathe’s 100th anniversary was the occasion for special editions of the city’s newspapers, featuring the history of the community. The Olathe Mirror published a 52-page centennial edition August 29, 1957, and the Johnson County Democrat’s edition, also 52 pages, appeared September 12.

Letters of William Hamilton, missionary to the Iowa, Sac, and Fox Indians from 1837 to 1853, were published in the Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society, Lancaster, Pa., September, 1957. The letters were written in 1846, several of them from the Iowa and Sac mission located near present Highland. The introduction was by Charles A. Anderson.


Jules Bourquin’s talk before the Horton Kiwanis club August 26, 1957, on the early trails in the Horton area and the traffic they carried, was printed in the Horton Headlight, September 5, 1957.
Directions for following the old Chisholm trail, and some of its history, are included in an article by Will Brown, published in the Ellsworth Reporter, September 5, 1957.

Early schools in Ottawa were recalled in a brief article in the Ottawa Herald, September 7, 1957. The first school began in January, 1865, with Mary Ward as teacher. The first school building was completed in 1866.

Recent issues of the Wichita Eagle have included the following historical articles: “Bullets and Ballots Settled [Pratt] County Seat War,” by Jim Watts, September 8, 1957; a history of the Seltzer Methodist church, Sedgwick county, September 14; and Eva Wintermute’s reminiscences of the Cherokee strip run, by Jessy Mae Coker, and “Beecher Island Monument Is Kansas, Colorado Tribute to Frontiersmen,” by Lily B. Rozar, September 15.

Calloch cemetery is all that remains of the settlement of Talley Springs, it is pointed out in an article by R. H. Seaton, in the Coffeyville Daily Journal, September 12, 1957. Talley Springs was started about 1870 but soon died when the railroad by-passed it.

“Fascinating Fort Hays State Museum Mirrors Pioneer Times, Ancient Life,” is the title of an article in the Junction City Union, September 19, 1957, describing the Fort Hays Kansas State College museum.

Historical material on the Mt. Tabor community, near Douglass, assembled by Glen E. Kiser from writings of Elisha M. Payne and Mrs. Zella Lamb-Wolff, appeared in the Douglass Tribune, September 19, 1957. Settlement of the area began in the late 1860’s.

A history of the Brewster schools, by Leola Molesworth, was published in the Sherman County Herald, Goodland, September 19, 1957. The school district was formed in September, 1888. Early Brewster history, contributed by Mrs. C. A. Horney, appeared in the Herald, September 26. The town was established in 1887 as Hastings.

Elizabeth Barnes’ historical column, “Historic Johnson County,” has continued to appear regularly in the Johnson County Herald, Overland Park. The September 19, 1957, column was a history of Gardner, which had just celebrated its centennial.

R. A. Clymer’s address, “In Praise of the Pioneer,” given at Butler county’s “Pioneer Days” celebration August 25, 1957, was printed in the Whitewater Independent, September 26, 1957.
Travel on the Santa Fe trail and some of the pioneers who settled in the vicinity of Marion are the subjects of a four-column article written in 1950 by Jenny Corby and published in the Marion Record-Review, September 26, 1957.

Harold O. Taylor is author of a four-column history of Weir entitled “Weir Should Have Been in Land of Texas,” which appeared in the Pittsburg Headlight, September 28, and the Pittsburg Sun, September 29, 1957. Early Weir residents loudly insisted that their town was second to none.

Burlington’s centennial was observed by the publication of a 20-page special edition by The Daily Republican, September 30, 1957. The edition was largely devoted to Burlington history and sketches of local citizens and businesses.

The October, 1957, issue of the Ford Times, Dearborn, Mich., included an article entitled “Olathe—Mother of the Huddle,” by Grace Bilger. In addition to reviewing the history of the community, the author claimed for Olathe the origin of the football huddle. The Kansas School for the Deaf started using the huddle to keep opponents from reading their sign language.

Agricultural History, Champaign, Ill., published “The Development of the Capper Farm Press,” by Homer E. Socolofsky, in its October, 1957, issue. Arthur Capper entered the farm publications field with the purchase of the Missouri Valley Farmer in 1900.