Kansas History as Published in the Press

Publication of a 60-page Indian Peace Treaty special edition by The Barber County Index, Medicine Lodge, October 3, 1957, marked the approach of the seventh performance of the Indian Peace Treaty pageant and a three-day celebration at Medicine Lodge, October 11-13. Among the historical articles in the edition were: “Forrest City Tells Sad Story of Birth and Death of Many Towns,” “Battling Carrie’s [Nation] First Raid,” “Famous Men of Frontier Here for Treaty Meeting,” “Suspicious Indians, and Wary Whites Gathered Here to Complete Peace,” and “Work to Set Treaty Terms.”

Stories of pioneer life, by Orvoo Swartz, Oklahoma City, have been published in recent issues of the Bushton News, beginning August 22, 1957. Swartz was born on a Kansas homestead in 1878.

Late in 1907 the Everest Christian church was organized, according to a history of the church, compiled by Lena Holley, in the Everest Enterprise, October 3, 1957.

Biographical sketches of the 11 presidents of Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, began appearing in Orville Watson Mosher’s column, “Museum Notes,” in the Emporia Gazette, October 5, 1957. Lyman B. Kellogg was the school’s first president.

Items of Doniphan county history were printed in the Highland Vidette, October 10, 1957, and on October 31 the Vidette published historical notes on the Highland Presbyterian mission and Highland College.

A history of the pony express entitled “Rugged Riders Fathered Southwest Mail Service,” by Beatrice Levin, was published in the Wichita Eagle, October 13, 1957. The Eagle also printed “Kansans Revive Pre-Civil War History,” by Lynne Holt, the story of Fort Scott’s campaign to preserve buildings and relics of old Fort Scott, November 10; and “Adventure, Peril Marked Santa Fe Trail,” by Philip S. Edwards, January 19, 1958.

Heinic Schmidt’s column, “It’s Worth Repeating,” continues to appear regularly in the High Plains Journal, Dodge City. Included in recent months were: A biographical sketch of Richard L. Hall, Minneola pioneer, October 17, 1957; the story of the longhorns along the Dodge City-Ogallala trail, by Mrs. Cora Wood, October

Mrs. Ruth Jackson is the compiler of a Wallace county history which began appearing in The Western Times, Sharon Springs, October 24, 1957.

An 88-page “Abilene Has It” edition of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle was issued October 30, 1957. Several articles reviewed phases of Abilene history and one summarized the history of the community of Holland.

“Built in 1870’s, Monrovia School House Still Serves,” is the title of a short article by Charles Spencer in the Atchison Daily Globe, October 30, 1957, giving the history of the Atchison county school. On January 19, 1958, the Globe printed a history of Highland College, founded in 1858.


A history of the Cedar Vale Methodist church was published in the Cedar Vale Messenger, October 31, November 7, 14, and 21, 1957. The church had its beginning in 1871 as the Greenfield circuit.

The church history of the Mt. Pleasant community, Dickinson county, by Mrs. Frank Entriken, was printed in the Hope Dispatch, October 31, 1957. At least five congregations have been active in this area, first of which were the Fairview Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

Garnett’s First Christian church was organized in the autumn of 1857 by John Ramsey in the Cornelius Anderson home, a history of the church in the Garnett Review, November 4, 1957, reports. Sam McDaniel was the first pastor.

In observance of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Ottawa United Presbyterian church, the Ottawa Herald printed a brief history of the church November 7, 1957.
Horton’s First Baptist church was organized November 16, 1887, it is related in a history of the church printed in the Horton Headlight, November 14, 1957. The Rev. W. A. Biggart was the first pastor.

Articles of historical interest appearing in the Hutchinson News in recent months included: a description of the private museum established and maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Merle Young of Pretty Prairie, by Ted Blankenship, November 10, 1957; “Pretty Prairie Founded by Widow [Mary Newman Collingwood], Mother of Nine,” by Blankenship, November 24; the reminiscences of S. F. Miller, November 28; and “Early Day Disasters Plagued Ellsworth’s Survival,” by Ruby Base, December 15.

Emporia’s First Congregational church observed its centennial November 24, 1957, and histories of the church appeared in Emporia newspapers: the daily Gazette, November 18; Weekly Gazette, November 21; and Times, November 28. Other historical articles in the daily Gazette recently included: a history of the First Christian church of Emporia, September 28, 1957; the recollections of J. W. Bolton concerning Twin Mound school, October 18; a history of the Emporia First Presbyterian church, November 7; a series of articles based on reports made from Emporia during 1857-1858 by the Rev. Grosvenor C. Morse to the American Home Missionary Society, December 4, 5, 6; and the reminiscences of C. L. Soulé in regard to the opening of the Cherokee Strip, January 21, 1958.


“A Chapter of Rawlins County History,” by Alfaretta Courtright, was published in The Citizen-Patriot, Atwood, November 21, 1957. Many early families, businesses, and schools are mentioned.

Some of the early history of Neosho Falls, by Mrs. Belle Mefford, was published in the Iola Register, November 27, 1957. The first settlers arrived in the area in the spring of 1857.

A history of Arcadia, by C. W. Corporon, was published in two installments in the Fort Scott Weekly Tribune, November 28 and
December 5, 1957. Arcadia, first called Findlay (or Finley) City, had its beginning in the early 1860's.

Harold O. Taylor has written a story about the Marais des Cygnes massacre of May 19, 1858, which was published in the Pittsburg Headlight, Topeka State Journal, and Newton Kansan, November 30, 1957; and the Manhattan Mercury, December 1.

A history of the First Baptist church of Fredonia appeared in the Wilson County Citizen, Fredonia, December 5, 1957. The church was organized December 18, 1882, and the first minister was the Rev. A. E. Lewis.

Scott City's history was reviewed in a six-column article published in the News Chronicle, Scott City, December 12, 1957. Portions of the article are quoted from a brochure published in the middle 1880's to promote settlement in the Scott City area. Scott City was chartered in 1885.

Mrs. Hal Russell has recalled some of her experiences as an early-day school teacher in the Bird City area in a two-column article published in the Bird City Times, December 26, 1957.


Publication of Virginia Johnson's series, "Gardner—Where the Trails Divide," in the Gardner News, has continued in recent issues. Gardner's history also appeared in a 73-page booklet by Mrs. Johnson and under the same title, as a centennial publication.