Kansas Historical Notes

The 85th annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society will be held at Topeka on Tuesday, October 21, 1958.

Highland College, oldest institution of higher learning in Kansas, observed its centennial anniversary February 9, 1958. Chartered in 1858 as a Presbyterian college, the school is now a junior college receiving support from the Highland rural high school district. Principal founder of the school was the Rev. Samuel Irvin, missionary to the Sac and Fox Indians, 1837-1857, in the area of present Highland.

Eleven new directors were elected to the board of the Finney County Historical Society at its tenth annual meeting, February 11, 1958, at Garden City. Chosen for two-year terms were Edward E. Bill, John R. Burnside, H. C. Cleaver, A. M. Fleming, Abe Hubert, Clifford R. Hope, Jr., Mary Hope, Lester McCoy, Della Gobleman, Will Renick, and Cecil Wristen. Amy Gillespie was elected to fill a vacancy on the 22-member board.

County commissioners presided February 17, 1958, when the new Dickinson county historical room, in the basement of the courthouse, was opened officially. The room is open to the public daily from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., and until noon on Saturdays.

Thomas E. Davis was named president of the Crawford County Historical Society at a dinner meeting and election attended by 61 persons in Pittsburg, February 19, 1958. Belle Provorose was elected vice-president; Vivian Walker, secretary; and Oscar Anderson, treasurer. Hugh A. Friel, L. H. Eyestone, and Al Ligon were named to the board of directors. The program was conducted by Mrs. Edward V. Malle. At a spring meeting of the society, held in Pittsburg, April 23, Alan W. Farley, president of the Kansas State Historical Society, was the principal speaker. His subject was "Pioneers of Kansas." Mrs. Calvin Cooper spoke briefly about Samuel J. Crawford, third governor of the state of Kansas, for whom the county was named.

Dr. O. W. Mosher was re-elected president of the Lyon County Historical Society at the annual meeting of the society in Emporia, February 22, 1958. Other officers chosen included: Dr. Thomas P. Butcher, first vice-president; John G. Atherton, second vice-
president; Myrtle Buck, secretary; Warren Morris, treasurer; and Mrs. F. L. Gilson, Mabel Edwards, and Lucina Jones, historians. The following directors were named for the coming year: Wilford Riegle, John R. Williams, Ray McInnes, W. L. White, Conrad Vandervelde, Roger Triplett, T. H. McColm, James W. Putnam, Mrs. James McKinney, Mrs. Ora Rindom, Mrs. Arthur Childears, Ethel Mahaffey, Mary Williams, Catherine H. Jones, and Ida Franz.

Monthly meetings of the Ottawa County Historical Society in February, March, and April, 1958, in Minneapolis, were devoted to aspects of local history in the Delphos, Grover, and Bennington areas.

Charles A. Loucks was elected president of the recently organized Kearny County Historical Society at the first annual meeting March 1, 1958, in Lakin. Other officers chosen were: Foster Eskelund, Lenora B. Tate, and Mary G. Smith, vice-presidents; Edith T. Clements, secretary; Robert O. Coder, treasurer; Margaret O. Hurst, historian; and Vivian P. Thomas, curator. City and township representatives were also elected to the executive board. At a monthly meeting held March 31, Mrs. Clements resigned as secretary and Mrs. Virginia Hicks was elected to fill the position.

At a meeting in Scott City on March 21, 1958, the Scott County Historical Society was reorganized. Inactive since 1952, the group elected Dr. H. Preston Palmer as temporary president. Other officers are: S. W. Filson, vice-president; Mrs. C. W. Dickhut, secretary; and Matilda Freed, treasurer. The society’s plans include establishment of a public park at Squaw’s Den, rebuilding of the El Quartelejo pueblo, and erection of several historical markers.

“Kansas” was the program theme of the annual spring meeting of the Kansas Council for the Social Studies in Topeka, March 22, 1958. Speakers included Nyle Miller, secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society, and Dr. James C. Malin, professor of history at the University of Kansas.

George J. Benson, El Dorado, and Ralph Grier, Andover, were elected new members of the board of trustees of the Butler County Historical Society at a meeting March 30, 1958, in El Dorado. Old members re-elected for one-year terms were: Mrs. R. C. Loomis, Mrs. Corah M. Bullock, Mrs. Ralph Wiley, Clifford W. Stone, Clarence King, and Charles E. Heilmann. On April 12 Benson was elected president, succeeding F. H. Cron. Heilmann was chosen vice-president; Mrs. Loomis, secretary; and Stone, treasurer.

At an organizational meeting of the Decatur County Historical Society in Oberlin, April 11, 1958, the following officers were elected: Ward Claar, president; Milton Nitsch, first vice-president; E. W. Coldren, second vice-president; Chris G. Jorn, secretary; Wallace T. Wolfe, treasurer; and Ben Miller, Ira Laidig, Dr. A. J. Thomsen, Don Zimmerman, John Ward, Jay Paddock, and Fay Brock, directors. The society’s first project is the establishment of a museum, for which a building has already been purchased.

The regular semiannual meeting of the Lane County Historical Society was held April 14, 1958, at Dighton. Edward M. Beougher, widely-known Gove county historian, was the chief speaker.

J. V. Kelly was the principal speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Leavenworth County Historical Society at Leavenworth on April 17, 1958. Mr. Kelly recalled early events in the city from his own experiences and quizzed his audience on happenings of more than half a century ago.

The Lawrence Historical Society, reorganized last year, held a unique annual meeting April 23, 1958. Instead of a speaker, the
meeting was devoted to a showing of pictures and drawings relating to early-day Lawrence which were thrown on a screen by an opaque projector.

On May 18 and 19, 1958, the centennial anniversary of the Marais des Cygnes massacre was observed at ceremonies centering at Trading Post, Linn county. Events of the program included: religious services, a parade, music, an address by Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg, and a centennial ball. The massacre occurred May 19, 1858, at the eastern edge of the county. About 30 Missourians captured 11 Free-State men, subsequently killing five and wounding five before a firing squad.


_Pilgrim Heritage_, a 16-page pamphlet by Don D. Ballou, outlining the history of the First Pilgrim Congregational church of Kansas City, Kan., was issued in April, 1958, as part of the church's centennial observance.

The story of Steel Dust, famous Texas sprinter and sire, is told by Wayne Gard in _Fabulous Quarter Horse: Steel Dust_, a 64-page volume published in 1958 by Duell, Sloan and Pearce of New York.

Maj. George E. Omer's story "An Army Hospital: From Horses to Helicopters," published in the Winter, 1957, and Spring, 1958, issues of _The Kansas Historical Quarterly_, has been published in booklet form by the military forces under the same title.