Kansas Historical Notes

An Old Abilene Town Company has been formed to construct a replica of early Abilene. Work is well under way with a number of buildings completed. Henry B. Jameson is president of the organization. William A. Guilfoyle is first vice-president; Dorothy Bath, secretary; Charles Stapf, treasurer; and Charles Cruse, Holly Callahan, H. W. Keel, Dale Snider, and Dr. Tracy Conklin, honorary vice-presidents.

Officers of the Finney County Historical Society, elected April 14, 1959, are: C. H. Cleaver, president; A. M. Fleming, first vice-president; Damon Cobb, second vice-president; Claudine Lindner, secretary; and Mrs. Cecil Wristen, treasurer.

Hillsboro observed its 75th anniversary with a celebration June 7-10, 1959. Featured event of the program was a historical pageant entitled "Glimpses of Our Heritage."

"Pageant of the Prairie," was the feature of Coldwater's diamond jubilee celebration, August 29-September 2, 1959. Other events included a parade, union religious service, and chuck-wagon breakfast.

Re-elected as officers of the Chase County Historical Society at the society's annual meeting in Cottonwood Falls, September 5, 1959, were: Charles O. Gaines, president; Paul B. Wood, vice-president; George Dawson, treasurer; and Mrs. Ruth Conner, historian. Whitt Laughridge is the newly elected secretary. The executive committee consists of Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Ida Vinson, Mrs. Helen Austin, Beatrice Hays, Hugh K. Campbell, and R. Z. Blackburn.

L. W. Hubbell was re-elected president of the Hodgeman County Historical Society at a meeting September 10, 1959, in Jetmore. Bert Brumfield was elected vice-president; Nina Lupfer, secretary; and Mrs. Muriel Eichman, treasurer. Directors chosen were: Margaret Raser, Lula Jones, Lida Benge, and J. W. Lang.

On September 13, 1959, the Fort Wallace Memorial Association placed a marker at the site of the massacre of the John German family by Cheyenne Indians in September, 1874, near present Russell Springs. At a meeting in Wallace, November 5, members of the association discussed plans for increased activity in the preservation of western Kansas history, including a new museum to be located near Wallace. E. M. Beougher, Grimmell, is president of the association.

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Harold O. Taylor is the new president of the Crawford County Historical Society, elected at the society’s annual meeting, in Pittsburg, September 29, 1959. Other officers include: Robert O. Karr, vice-president; Mrs. Ethel Atkinson, secretary; and Mrs. J. W. Black, treasurer. T. E. Davis, Belle Proverse, Vivian Walker, and Mrs. Hugh Friel were named directors. Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg publisher, was the principal speaker.

Officers of the Lane County Historical Society, elected at a meeting in Dighton, October 12, 1959, are: Bill Pike, president; Mrs. Roy Hagans, vice-president; Mrs. Joe Hanna, secretary; Mrs. Dale Jewett, treasurer; and Roy Hagans, Mrs. J. E. Mowery, and Walter Herndon, members of the board. Herndon was the retiring president.

New directors of the Allen County Historical Society, elected at the annual meeting, October 13, 1959, in Iola, are: J. Glenn Dickerson, Mrs. Ruth Crowl, and Lillian Johnson. Directors re-elected were: Col. R. L. Thompson, Spencer Gard, Angelo Scott, Mary Ruth Carpenter, and Mary Hankins. Judge Gard is president of the society.

B. H. Oesterreich, Woodbine, was re-elected president, and Mrs. Viola Ehram, Enterprise, first vice-president, of the Dickinson County Historical Society at a meeting in the Lyona Methodist church, October 22, 1959. Elmer Sellin, Abilene, was named secretary.

Robert Hanson was elected president of the Cloud County Historical Society at the annual meeting, October 26, 1959, in Concordia. Ernest W. Powell was chosen vice-president; Mrs. Raymond A. Hanson, recording secretary; Mrs. Sid Knapp, membership secretary; Ernest F. Swanson, treasurer; and Dr. Leo Haughey, Robert B. Wilson, Leo Paulsen, George Palmer, and Mrs. Wilfred Trembley, directors. Martin Van De Mark was the retiring president.

The Thomas County Historical Society was organized at a meeting in Colby, November 12, 1959. Carl G. Eddy was elected president of the new society. Other officers are: W. D. Ferguson, vice-president; Jessie Dimmitt, secretary; Bertha Louis, treasurer; and Harry Eicher, Lulu Hutchinson, and Esther Sewell, directors. Ed Beougher, Grinnell, was the principal speaker.

Election of officers was held by the Ottawa County Historical Society in Minneapolis, November 14, 1959. Ray Halberstadt was
elected president; A. R. Miller, vice-president; Mrs. Ray Halberstadt, secretary; Mrs. Fred Jagger, treasurer; Mrs. Zella Heald, reporter; and Louis Ballou, Rolla Geisen, and Paul Wilkins, directors.

Abraham Lincoln’s Kansas tour of 1859 was re-enacted December 5, 1959, with Rolla Clymer, El Dorado publisher, playing the part of Lincoln. For further information on the 1959 tour and the text of Clymer’s talks, see pp. 438-443.

For significant accomplishment in the field of preservation, the Chase County Historical Society was presented a citation by the Jackson County (Missouri) Historical Society at the annual dinner of the Jackson county society in Kansas City, Mo., December 8, 1959. The award was presented to the Chase county society for its work in restoring the Chase county courthouse.

Recently elected officers of the Leavenworth County Historical Society are: James E. Fussell, president; Helen Yoakum, first vice-president; Hans Friemuth, second vice-president; Mrs. Gorman Hunt, secretary; and Col. Ralph B. Stewart, treasurer. Directors of the society are: D. R. Anthony, III, E. Bert Collard, Sr., Ella V. Carroll, Mrs. Carl Behrle, Mrs. Minnie Mae Maier, Julius Waldstein, and A. W. Johnson.

American Airlines has recently published a 47-page booklet entitled History Below the Jet Trails, for distribution to passengers traveling between St. Louis and Los Angeles. Written by the Rev. John Francis Bannon, S. J., the booklet tells of those who traveled the route in an earlier day—Indians, soldiers, pioneers, prospectors, traders—and something of the history of the land in the shadow of the jet planes.

A 44-page pamphlet presenting the story of the early life of Fort Hays and Hays City was published in May, 1959, by the Old Fort Hays Historical Association, Inc. Fort Hays, established October 11, 1865, was first called Fort Fletcher.

Travel Memories From America, by Carl Johan Nyvall, originally published in 1876, has been translated and edited by E. Gustav Johnson, and published in a 126-page volume by the Covenant Press, Chicago, in 1959. Nyvall, a Swedish evangelist, visited America in 1875-1876, spending part of the time with his former countrymen in Kansas.

*They Seek a Country* is the title of a 222-page work by David V. Wiebe, printed by the Mennonite Brethren Publishing House, Hillsboro, in 1959. It is the story of the Mennonite migrations and their pioneer settlements, especially those in Kansas.

*The Fighting Parson*, a 284-page biography of Col. John M. Chivington, by Reginald S. Craig, was published by the Westernlore Press, Los Angeles, in 1959. Chivington is best known for his part in the Sand Creek massacre against the Cheyenne Indians in 1864.

Dale L. Morgan edited, and Fred A. Rosenstock of the Old West Publishing Co., recently published *The Overland Diary of James A. Pritchard From Kentucky to California in 1849*. The 221-page volume also includes a biography of Pritchard by Hugh Pritchard Williamson.

*Great Train Robberies of the West*, a 310-page work by Eugene B. Block, was published by Coward-McCann, Inc., New York, in 1959.