Kansas History as Published in the Press


Elizabeth Barnes’ column, “Historic Johnson County,” has continued to appear regularly in the Johnson County Herald, Overland Park. Among subjects covered during the past year were: “Corinth Community—the Church,” March 5, 1959; “Corinth Community—the Cemetery,” March 12; baseball in the Kansas City area, March 19, 26; “Santa Fe Trade Based in N. E. Johnson County,” April 2, 16, 23, 30, May 7; “Corinth Community School,” May 14; biographical sketch of Thomas C. Porter family, July 2; and “Story of Oxford and New Santa Fe [Mo.],” August 6, 13, 20.

Dr. B. E. Ebel, Redlands, Calif., a native of Hillsboro, is author of a series of articles on the history of Hillsboro, beginning in the Hillsboro Star-Journal, March 5, 1959. Founded in 1879 by John G. Hill, the town was first called Hill City.

Histories of the Greeley Evangelical United Brethren church were published in the Garnett Review, March 9, and Anderson Countian, April 2, 1959. Organization of the church was completed in June, 1859, and a building erected the following year.


McPherson county’s first courthouse, built around 1870, was the subject of an article in the Lindsborg News-Record, March 30,
1959. On June 15 the News-Record printed a history of the Holmberg-Johnson Blacksmith and Wagon Shop of Lindsborg. The shop was built in 1874.

“The Pony Express, Heroic Effort—Tragic End,” by Raymond W. Settle, appeared in the April, 1959, issue of the Utah Historical Quarterly, Salt Lake City.

In observance of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the present building of the Council Grove Methodist church, the Council Grove Republican published a brief history of the church, April 1, 1959. The congregation’s history goes back to 1855 when the Methodist Church, South, organized a church in Council Grove.

On April 1, 1959, the El Dorado Times, published a page-length sketch of the Rogler family of Chase county. The article was written by Austin Showman and first published in the Weekly Star Farmer, Kansas City, Mo., August 10, 1955. Charles W. Rogler settled on a tract of land near present Matfield Green in 1859. The tract, now several thousand acres, is presently owned and operated by Henry and Wayne Rogler, son and grandson of Charles. The Times, May 30, printed a letter written by Mrs. Pearl B. Harsh, giving a sketch of her father, Henry Brandley, who came to Kansas with Charles Rogler, and likewise, was a Chase county pioneer.

Among articles of a historical nature in the Colby Press-Tribune in recent months were: a Thomas county history, by Ernest Snell, April 16, 20, 1959; history of Colby and the Cooper Hotel, Colby, May 21; and an article on the Colby Christian church, August 3.

Histories of the First Baptist church of Oswego appeared in the Oswego Democrat, April 24 and May 1, 1959. The church was organized April 28, 1869.

Mary Liz Montgomery’s column, “Incidentally . . . ,” in the Junction City Weekly Union, April 30, 1959, included a history of the Lyon creek community south of Junction City. The first settlers in the area arrived in 1856. The Lyona Methodist church was organized April 10, 1859. A sketch of the church appeared in the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, April 16.

“Cowboys Had Own Paper,” by Mary Einsel, a history of The Kansas Cowboy, Dodge City, was printed in the Hutchinson News, May 3, 1959. Don Kendall reviewed central Kansas history and noted towns celebrating anniversaries in an article published in the News, May 31.

Included in the May 13, 1959, issue of the Concordia Blade-Empire was a three-page history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia. The Sisters arrived in Concordia and established a school in 1884.

One hundred years ago, through the efforts of Lt. J. E. B. Stuart of Fort Riley, the Episcopal Church of the Covenant in Junction City was built, according to a history of the church by Kent Stuart in the Pittsburg Sun, May 21, and the Junction City Weekly Union, May 27, 1959.

The Southwest Daily Times, Liberal, published a history of the city's library in the issue of May 23, 1959. The library was started in 1903 with the establishment of a reading room. The present building, commenced in 1953, was recently completed with the addition of two new wings.

Early history of the military post of Fort Scott was briefly sketched in the Fort Scott Tribune, May 30, 1959. A section devoted to the history of the Fort Scott area was published in the Tribune, September 4. Of particular interest were articles and pictures of the Fort Blair blockhouse, built in 1862-1863, which has been restored and was rededicated September 7.

A history of the Grandview Methodist church, near Arkansas City, was printed in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, June 3, 1959. The original church building was dedicated June 13, 1909.

A history of Earlton, Neosho county, by Emma Barnes Frazier, was printed in the Thayer News and the St. Paul Journal, June 4, 1959.

On June 6, 1959, the Clay Center Dispatch began publication of the diary of Thomas J. Ingham in series form. The diary describes Ingham's journey from Pennsylvania to Clay county in 1859.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Zion church of Junction City was organized June 9, 1884, according to a history of the church,
now called the Zion United Church of Christ, in the Junction City Weekly Union, June 11, 1959.

On June 11, 1959, the Mullinville News began publication of a series of articles on the history of Mullinville by Mrs. Marilla Alford Blau. The town was started in 1884 by Alfred A. Mullin.


“A Half Century at Hicks Chapel Church,” a history of the Hicks Chapel Methodist church, Cowley county, by Mrs. Dwight Mosier, was published in three parts in the Cedar Vale Messenger, June 18, 25, and July 2, 1959.

The Hanover News, June 19, 1959, printed a history of the Horseshoe Farmers Band of near Hanover. The band was organized in 1909 with 15 members.

The Iola Register, June 25, 1959, printed a history of the Carlyle Presbyterian church in observance of the church’s 100th anniversary. A Sunday School was started in 1858 and on June 27, 1859, the church was organized.

In 1859 the Burns German Methodist church, now known as the Ebenezer church, southwest of Burns, was organized. A three-column history of the church was published in the Burns News, July 3, 1959.

The Topeka Capital-Journal, July 5, 1959, printed an article by Lucille T. Kohler on Mrs. L. D. Whittemore, who “has been called the mother of art at Washburn and in Topeka.” Mrs. Whittemore’s presentation of “Living Pictures,” representing the works of the masters with living persons, in 1913 and 1915, was a feature of the article.

“Early Days in Bucklin . . .,” a series by Mrs. F. A. Gresham, began appearing in the Bucklin Banner, July 9, 1959. Bucklin’s beginning was in 1887 when all the buildings from Colcord and Corbitt were moved to a location on the railroad.

The Attica Independent published a 32-page souvenir edition July 9, 1959, in observance of Attica’s 75th anniversary. The town’s history and anniversary celebration were featured.

“Pioneer Days in Scott County, Kansas” is the title of a history by Mrs. E. W. Vaughn, published serially in the News Chronicle,
Scott City, beginning July 9, 1959. Mrs. Vaughn's parents, the N. H. Baileys, homesteaded in Scott county in 1885.

A 24-page jubilee edition was published by The Clark County Clipper, Ashland, August 6, 1959, in observance of the 75th anniversaries of Ashland and the Clipper.

August 12, 1959, marked the 50th anniversary of the St. Stanislaus parish at Ingalls. A history of the parish appeared in the Jacksonian, Cimarron, August 6, 1959. As early as the 1880's priests occasionally visited the area. Mass was offered in the homes until completion of the building in 1909.


On the occasion of the completion of its 96th year, the Enterprise-Chronicle, Burlingame, September 3, 1959, printed a review of the years since its beginning. The newspaper was founded by Marshall M. Murdock as the Osage County Chronicle.


On September 3, 1959, the Junction City Union published an article by Mrs. Wilber M. Brucker, which included a historical sketch of Fort Riley.

Caney's early history as recalled by Ollie Smith, its senior native citizen, was printed in the Caney Chronicle, September 24, 1959. The town celebrated its 90th anniversary in 1959.

Clearwater was incorporated in 1884 but the history of the area goes back to the 1860's, according to a column-length history of the town in the Clearwater News, October 1, 1959.

Some of the early history of Fort Larned was reviewed in the Tiller and Toiler, Larned, October 22, 1959. The fort was established 100 years ago by Maj. Henry W. Wessells.