Kansas History as Published in the Press

Histories of the Philomathia and Stony Hill schools of Dickinson county, by William H. Riekeman, were printed in the Reflector-Chronicle, Abilene, November 2, 1960.

The early histories of Hutchinson churches, by C. L. "Bill" Colee, were printed in the Hutchinson News, November 5, 1960. On December 11 the News printed a brief history of Humbogen, near Ellis, by Kittie Dale.

Articles of historical interest in the Hays Daily News recently included: a biographical sketch of Dr. Harold J. Chapman, Sr., former Speed physician, by Bernice Brown, November 13, 1960; a story on the Peter A. Nelson home, long a landmark near Ogallah, January 22, 1961; and a story of pioneer days in Hays, by the late Mrs. Bird Moore, January 29.


Gordon S. Hohn was the author of "Union Soldiers Once Cut Curls From Local Southern Editor's Head," published in the Marysville Advocate, November 24, 1960, and "No Murder Conviction in 75-Year History of District Court Here," in the Advocate, January 19, 1961.

Reports of historical papers given at meetings of the Ottawa County Historical Society and appearing recently in local newspapers included: early Minneapolis history, by Mrs. Nellie Davis Cawley, Delphos Republican and Minneapolis Messenger, November 24, 1960; Indian raids in Ottawa county, by Mrs. Bernice Rice, Delphos Republican, January 5, 1961; a history of Lamar, by Mrs. Ellis Bishop, Delphos Republican, January 26.

Orville W. Mosher's column, "Museum Notes," in the Emporia Gazette, included the following features in recent months: excerpts from the diary of Emma Clover Stevenson, November 29, 1960; Christmas in the early days of Lyon county, December 6; and the reminiscences of May Giger and William Edmunds concerning early day life in northern Lyon county, January 17, 1961.


An article on the first houses and some of the older houses still standing in Lawrence, by Mrs. Ivan D. Rowe, was published in the Lawrence Daily Journal-World, December 8, 1960.

Lily B. Rozar is the author of a history of Howard which appeared in the Independence Reporter, December 11, 1960, and the Longton News, January 5, 1961. The town was established in 1870 as Howard City.

An article by Ben Lindas in the Great Bend Daily Tribune, December 11, 1960, included a history of Pawnee Rock and a biographical sketch of John Lindas, one of the town’s founders.

With the issue of December 15, 1960, the Sterling Bulletin began publishing letters written by Emily Isabelle Combes, describing life in Rice county in 1871.

Kansas newspapers have entered into the spirit of the state’s centennial observance, publishing numerous special editions, including many pages of historical and informative illustrated articles on Kansas, its cities and towns, its industries and businesses, its schools and churches. Among these centennial editions are: Galena Sentinel-Times, December 15, 1960; Kansas Farmer, Topeka, January 21, 1961; Newton Kansan, January 28; Topeka Capital-Journal, January 28; Kansas City Kansan, January 29; Coffeyville Daily Journal, February 26; Winfield Daily Courier, February 27; Southwest Daily Times, Liberal, March 18; University Daily Kansan, Lawrence, April 17; Belleville Telescope, April 20; Suburban, Merriam, April
26 and May 3; White City Register, April 27; News, Olathe, May 5; Great Bend Daily Tribune, May 7; Caldwell Messenger, May 8; Pittsburg Headlight, May 13; Pittsburg Sun, May 14; El Dorado Times, May 26; Russell Daily News, June 3; Russell Record, June 5; Chanute Tribune, June 7; Junction City Union, June 7; Junction City Republic, June 8; Logan Republican, June 8; Western Kansas World, WaKeeney, June 8; Wichita Sunday Eagle & Beacon, June 11; and Journal-World, Lawrence, June 12.

The Blue Rapids Times, December 22, 1960, printed a history and description of the Blue valley by Irene Rudisill.

On December 29, 1960, January 5, 12, 19, 1961, the Solomon Valley Tribune, Solomon, printed a history of the Solomon schools by Mrs. Irene Jones.

George Washington Earp’s recent death at 96 years of age served to recall some of the early history of Ulysses which was printed in the Ulysses News, December 29, 1960. Earp was one of the town’s founders.

Historical articles appearing recently in the Southwest Daily Times, Liberal, included: the story of the Windsor Hotel of Springfield, Seward county ghost town, by Harry E. Chrisman, December 30, 1960; an article on the Lone Tree Indian massacre of 1874 in present Meade county, by Mrs. Mary Short Browne, February 1, 2, 4, 1961; and some biographical facts on the surveyors who were slain in the Lone Tree massacre, by Mrs. J. N. Haver, February 6.

The Howard Courant-Citizen, January 5, 1961, printed a history of the Howard public schools by Nancy Barger. The first term was taught in 1873 by W. S. Kent.

Historical notes on Downs and Downs newspapers, by Darrel Miller, were printed in the Downs News, January 12, 1961. The town was founded in 1879 and the first newspaper began the following year.

Harper and Harper county history, by Mrs. Carrie Pitts Omeara, was published in the Harper Advocate, January 19, 1961. Mrs. Omeara’s father was an early Harper county homesteader.

Greenleaf was surveyed in 1877 and incorporated in 1879 according to a history of the town printed in the Greenleaf Sentinel, January 19, 1961.
Early Winona and Logan county history, by Carolyn Mountford, was published in the Winona Leader, January 19, 1961.

Brief historical articles have been appearing regularly in the Winfield Daily Courier in recent months under the title “Winfield City History.”


The January 26, 1961, issue of the Pittsburg Headlight included a review of Herbert W. Hallman’s history of banking in Crawford county, presented at a recent meeting of the Crawford County Historical Society.

Humboldt’s history was reviewed by Nat Armel in the Humboldt Union, January 26, 1961. The town was established in 1857.

Some of the newspaper accounts at the time of Kansas’ admittance to the Union in 1861 were reprinted in the Leavenworth Times, January 29, 1961.


“The Story of Julia Rockwell,” a five and one-half page article by Julia Marshall Rockwell and Mary Angela Melville, was published in the Junction City Weekly Union, February 16, 1961. Mrs. Rockwell, born in Philadelphia in 1850, came to Ogden in 1866 to live with an uncle, David Scott, sutler at Fort Riley. After her marriage in 1870 she lived in Junction City until 1906. Besides Mrs. Rockwell’s biography the article contains Fort Riley, Junction City, and Kansas history. Mrs. Mary McFarland Axtell’s story of the early days in Junction City, written by Pearl Mallon Nicholas, appeared in the daily Union, January 14, and the weekly Union, January 19, 1961. Mrs. Axtell’s father, Edmund S. McFarland, came to Fort Riley in 1856. On July 2, 1855, the first Kansas territorial legislature met at Pawnee, now on the Fort Riley reservation. The story of this brief session and of the First Capitol building was published in the daily Union, February 17.