Kansas Historical Notes

A charter-member meeting of the newly formed Mitchell County Historical Society was held July 28, 1960, in Beloit. It was announced that 82 persons had become charter members. Nyle H. Miller, secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society, spoke to the gathering. Alan Houghton is president of the Mitchell county society.

Chase county’s historical museum in Cottonwood Falls, a gift of Frank and George Roniger, was formally opened to the public August 20, 1960. The display consists largely of the Roniger brothers’ Indian relics, and the historical collections of George Miser and the Chase County Historical Society. Miser is the museum curator.

All officers of the Chase County Historical Society were re-elected at the annual meeting of the society in Cottonwood Falls, September 10, 1960. They are: Charles Gaines, president; Paul Wood, vice-president; Whitt Laughridge, secretary; George T. Dawson, treasurer; and Mrs. Ruth Conner, librarian. The group heard Stanley Sohl, director of the Kansas State Historical Society museum, discuss procedures in starting a museum.

U. S. cavalry and Cheyenne Indians (both portrayed by local citizens) met again on the battlefield at Squaw’s Den near Scott City, when the last major Indian battle in Kansas was re-enacted September 11, 1960. The original battle was fought September 27, 1878.

The first meeting of the Reno County Historical Society was held in Hutchinson, September 22, 1960. Mrs. Vern Maupin was elected president; Don Wyman, vice-president; and Kenneth Collins, secretary-treasurer. I. N. “Jibo” Hewitt, special representative of the Kansas Centennial Commission, was the principal speaker.

Luncheon speaker at the conference of teachers of history at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, September 23 and 24, 1960, was Nyle H. Miller, secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society, whose subject was “When Kansas Became a State.” Other parts of the program relating to Kansas history included a discussion session led by Drs. George L. Anderson and James C. Malin of the University of Kansas, on Kansas history, and a discussion of the Kansas centennial in the classroom by Miller, Edgar Langsdorf, and Robert Richmond of the Kansas State Historical Society.
Officers elected for the coming year at the annual homecoming at Glenloch, Anderson county, September 25, 1960, were: Mrs. Effie Pierce, president; Frank Bennett, vice-president; and Mrs. Libby Dockstader, secretary-treasurer.

Harold O. Taylor was re-elected president of the Crawford County Historical Society at the society's annual meeting, September 29, 1960, in Pittsburg. Robert O. Karr, vice-president, and Mrs. J. W. Black, treasurer, were also re-elected. Mrs. A. N. Ligon was named secretary, and Dr. Garfield W. Weede, Dr. Elizabeth Cochran, and Dr. Theodore Sperry were chosen directors for three-year terms. Henry E. Carey addressed the group on "The Crawford County Story."

The Norton County Historical Society was organized at Norton, October 3, 1960. Raymond D. Bower was elected president and Mrs. Melvin O'Toole secretary.

At a meeting, October 8, 1960, at Minneapolis, the Ottawa County Historical Society elected the following officers: Paul Wilkins, president; Fred Miller, vice-president; Mrs. Ray Halberstadt, secretary; Mrs. Ethel Jagger, treasurer; Mrs. Zella Heald, reporter; and Louis Ballou, Ray Halberstadt, and Mrs. Thomas Swart, directors. After the business session members present inspected Ralph Fuller's collection of antique engines and farm machinery at his home near Minneapolis.

A. R. Bentley, Dighton, was elected president of the Lane County Historical Society at a meeting in Dighton, October 10, 1960. Other officers chosen include: Mrs. John Hagaman, vice-president; Mrs. Joe Hanna, secretary; Mrs. Dale Jewett, treasurer; and Robert Jennison, Mrs. H. S. Edmundson, and R. J. Tillotson, directors. Bill Pike was the retiring president. It was reported that 886 persons visited the society's sod house during the summer.

Mrs. Ray Livingston, Abilene, second vice-president, and Mrs. Walter Wilkins, Chapman, treasurer, were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Dickinson County Historical Society at the Ebenezer Baptist church near Navarre, October 13, 1960. The program featured histories of the Ebenezer community. B. H. Oesterreich, Woodbine, is president of the society.

Featured event of Valley Center's recent diamond jubilee anniversary celebration was the historical pageant presented October 13 and 14, 1960. The Valley Center Index printed a four-page special
souvenir edition, featuring historical articles and pictures, October 13.

Officers elected at the annual meeting of the Comanche County Historical Society in Coldwater, October 15, 1960, were: D. Jay Overocker, president; Ward H. Butcher, vice-president; Mrs. Cliff Sibbitt, secretary; and F. H. Moberley, treasurer. Mrs. Donald Booth was the retiring president.

Miltonvale history was the subject of a Cloud County Historical Society program in Concordia, October 18, 1960. At the business session George Dutton was elected vice-president, and George Caldwell a director. Robert Hanson is president of the society.

The fourth annual meeting of the Missouri Valley Conference of Collegiate Teachers of History will be held March 24, 25, 1961, at Omaha under the auspices of the Department of History of the University of Omaha. Prof. Bell I. Wiley of Emory University will be the featured speaker of the opening session commemorating the centennial of the Civil War. The Saturday session will give especial attention to the subject of local history.

Included in a 70-page booklet by Fannie Palmer, entitled Miltonvale, published in 1959, are histories of the town, its schools, churches, business institutions, and biographies and reminiscences of many of its residents and former residents.

Freedom Has a Happy Ring is the title of a 71-page booklet, edited by Mrs. Anna Manley Galt, and compiled and published by Irma Doster in 1960, containing excerpts from winning essays in contests on our constitutional freedoms. The publication was dedicated to Miss Doster’s father, Frank Doster, a former chief justice of the Kansas supreme court.

Eugene F. Ware’s The Indian War of 1864, published in 1911, has been reprinted by St. Martin’s Press, New York, in 1960. An introduction and notes by Clyde C. Walton are included in the new 483-page volume. Ware was an officer in the Seventh Iowa cavalry which in 1864 was engaged in fighting the Indians in Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Colorado, and Wyoming. The book is Ware’s account of the campaign.

F. W. Giles’ Thirty Years in Topeka, 1854-1884, originally published in 1886, has been reprinted by Stauffer Publications, Topeka, in 1960, with illustrations, maps, and a foreword by Zula Bennington Greene added.
James H. Kyner's *End of Track*, first published in 1937, was reprinted in 1960 in a 280-page paper-bound volume by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. The book is a history of railroad building in the Nebraska-Idaho-Colorado-Wyoming area, based on Kyner's memoirs as a railroad construction contractor.


*Many a Voyage*, a 309-page historical novel based on the life of Fannie Ross, wife of Edmund G. Ross, by Loula Grace Erdman, was recently published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

Paul W. Gates is the author of a 460-page recently published work entitled *The Farmer's Age: Agriculture, 1815-1860*. Of special interest to Jayhawkers is Gates' discussion of the relation of public land policies to the settlement and development of new agricultural areas which included Kansas. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, were the publishers.