Kansas Historical Notes

Current officers of the Southwest Kansas Historical Society, with headquarters at Dodge City, are: Mrs. Ida Ellen Rath, president; R. Roy Taylor, vice-president; Mrs. C. R. Harner, secretary; and Fred Swart, treasurer. Plans have been made to change the name of the organization to the Ford County Historical Society.

Citizens of Scandia are constructing a replica of the old Colony House, the town's first house, erected in 1868, in observance of the state's centennial. Early day furnishings for the building are included in the project.

A log cabin built in 1859 near Princeton by Jacob Dietrich has been moved to the Ottawa city park. Donated by Mrs. Robert Gault, Richmond, a granddaughter of Dietrich, the old building will be reconditioned and used for a museum by the Franklin County Historical Society.

Mementos of the Osage (Black Dog) trail and related areas are on display in the Black Dog Trail Museum recently opened at the Parker grocery and service station in Chautauqua. The items were largely collected and arranged by the Joe Parker family.

A. W. Schlagle, Mankato, has donated a two-story brick building in the business district of Mankato to the Jewell County Historical Society. The gift was in memory of Mr. Schlagle's wife, the late Anna Colson Schlagle. The building will house the historical society's museum.

A re-enactment of the Pony Express mail service, between St. Joseph and Sacramento, was staged July 19-29, 1960, with about 1,000 riders participating. The run was planned and directed by the national Pony Express Centennial Association.

Valley Center observed its 75th anniversary with a celebration October 12-15, 1960. Events included a parade, a barbecue, and a historical pageant.

Organization of the Argonia and Western Sumner County Historical Society was started and temporary officers chosen at a meeting in Argonia, October 18, 1960. The society again met in Argonia, January 16, 1961, adopted a constitution and elected the following officers for 1961: Mrs. Esther Wulf, president; Orie Cleous, first vice-president; Leon Ammann, second vice-president; Mrs. Carl
Earles, third vice-president; Mrs. Grace Handy, recording secretary; Mrs. James Hart, treasurer; Verna Lee Coleman, publicity chairman; Etta Le Ford, co-ordinator; Mrs. Ira Harper, historian; Harley Pearce, photographer; and Kenneth Briggs, Carl Earles, and N. C. Muhlenbruch, directors.

Dr. George L. Anderson, chairman of the history department at the University of Kansas and president of the Kansas State Historical Society, addressed the newspapermen attending editors' day at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, November 5, 1961. Distorted concepts of history are too often recreated by centennial observers Dr. Anderson pointed out in speaking of the approaching Kansas centennial.

Mrs. L. H. Rumsey, Council Grove, was elected president of the Morris County Historical Society at its organizational meeting in Council Grove, November 14, 1960. Other officers chosen were: R. W. Hunter, White City, vice-president; Mrs. Lester Payne, White City, secretary; Mrs. Bob Oleen, Dwight, treasurer; and Mrs. L. E. Mahon, White City, public relations. Neosho Fredenburg, who served as chairman of the group before the election, announced that memberships totaled 951, plus 75 junior memberships.

Homer Cardwell was named president of the Republic County Historical Society at a meeting in Belleville, December 5, 1960. Other officers elected included: Mrs. Annona Blackburn, first vice-president; Mrs. Agnes Tolbert, second vice-president; Mrs. Madge Dickerhoof, third vice-president; and Mrs. Victor Berggren, secretary.

Purchase of the former Carnegie library building in El Dorado by the Butler County Historical Society was completed at ceremonies attending the signing of the contract December 20, 1960. The building will be used for museum purposes.

An organizational meeting of the Rawlins County Historical Society was held at Atwood, January 14, 1961. Officers elected were: Mrs. Irven Hayden, Jr., president; Mrs. Alfaretta Courtright, vice-president; Mrs. Robert Creighton, secretary; Mrs. Ivy Yoos, treasurer; and Anselm Sramek, historian.

Officers of the Arkansas City Historical Society, elected at a meeting January 17, 1961, are: Guy Ecroyd, president; Glenn Wheat, vice-president; Mrs. Kenneth Hill, secretary; and Mahlon Force, treasurer.
Wilford Riegle was elected president of the Lyon County Historical Society at its annual meeting January 26, 1961, in Emporia. John Atherton was elected first vice-president; Walter Butcher, second vice-president; Myrtle Buck, secretary; Earl Lord, treasurer; Lucina Jones, historian; and F. L. Gilson, Mabel Jones, Mrs. J. C. McKinney, W. W. Parker, Warren Morris, Mrs. Jay Sullivan, Mrs. Arthur Childears, Maude Jackson, Dr. Thomas Butcher, F. J. South, Edward H. Rees, Conrad Vandervelde, Ernest Fowler, Frank Lo- stutter, and Elmer Siedhoff, directors. Dr. O. W. Mosher was the retiring president, having held the office for 12 years. He continues as curator of the museum.

Early day education was the theme of the 54th annual meeting of the Woman's Kansas Day Club in Topeka, January 27, 1961. The president, Mrs. Marion Beatty, Topeka, presided at the meeting and luncheon. New officers elected at the business session include: Mrs. Claude R. Stutzman, Kansas City, president; Mrs. Frank A. Huffman, Topeka, first vice-president; Mrs. Roy S. Gibson, Chanute, second vice-president; Mrs. Paul Wedin, Wichita, recording secretary; Mrs. F. Sharon Foster, Ellsworth, treasurer; Mrs. Roscoe Mendenhall, Emporia, historian; Mrs. Russell Dary, Manhattan, auditor; and Mrs. Joe Henkle, Great Bend, registrar. District directors are: Mrs. Ray Schirkosky, Topeka; Mrs. Thomas H. Finigan, Kansas City; Mrs. Albert Siler, Cherryvale; Mrs. Harold Trusler, Emporia; Mrs. J. Arthur Nevins, Dodge City; and Mrs. John O'Leary, Luray. Historical data and objects relating to pioneer education, collected by the historian and district directors, were presented at the meeting and later given to the Kansas State Historical Society.

The annual dinner of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas was held in Topeka, January 28, 1961. The meeting was enlarged this year to provide the opening for Kansas' centennial festivities, and several notable out-of-state native Kansans were present as special guests. The Kansan-of-the-Year award was presented to Maurice Fager of Topeka. The Olive Ann Beech award in the pioneer factual story contest went to Joan Jewell of Lawrence. The Haucke oratorical contest was won by Marilyn Snell of St. John, a student at Fort Hays State College. Floyd R. Souders, Cheney, was elected president of the Native Sons, and Mrs. Chester Dunn, Oxford, of the Native Daughters. Other officers chosen by the Native Sons were: Emery E. Fager, Topeka, vice-president;
Marshall G. Gardiner, Leavenworth, secretary; and Glenn E. Cogswell, Topeka, treasurer. Other officers of the Native Daughters are: Lela Hough, Topeka, vice-president; May E. Oliver, Topeka, secretary; and Mrs. Glenn Henry, Oskaloosa, treasurer.

On February 22, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln spoke at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, and raised a new 34-star flag, symbol of Kansas' admission to the Union. This ceremony was re-enacted February 22, 1961, as a part of Kansas' centennial celebration. Alan Farley, Kansas City, was chairman of the project, with Rolla Clymer, El Dorado, in the Lincoln role.

Current officers of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society of northeast Johnson county, include: Mrs. Tom Davis, president; Mrs. George Cox, first vice-president; Mrs. O. N. Eggleson, second vice-president; Mrs. C. L. Curry, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ethyl M. Satterfield, recording secretary; Mrs. Sarah A. Lewis, treasurer; Mrs. G. W. McAbee, historian; and Mrs. Roy Boxmeyer, curator.

Decade of Decision is the title of a 57-page booklet published by the Kansas City Life Insurance Co. in 1960, describing persons and events in Kansas and Missouri history during the 1855-1865 period.

South Haven's early history as compiled by Ann Jacobs Failing and Maurice Robinson, was recently published by the Oxford Register in a 109-page booklet entitled Shoo Fly City. The town was founded in 1871 as Shoo Fly City.

The Rev. A. H. Jacobson has related his experiences as a minister in Kansas and neighboring states for almost 50 years, in a 115-page, paper-bound volume entitled The Adventures of a Prairie Preacher, published recently by the Covenant Press, Chicago.

Nebraska Place-Names by Lilian L. Fitzpatrick, including portions of J. T. Link's The Origin of the Place-Names of Nebraska, edited and with an introduction by C. Thomas Fairclough, has recently been republished in a 227-page, paper-bound volume by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

Indians, Infants and Infantry, by Merrill J. Mattes, the story of Andrew and Elizabeth Burt, is a 304-page volume published in 1960 by the Old West Publishing Co., Denver. After service in the Civil War, Andrew Burt served at such frontier forts as Bridger, C. F.
Smith, Laramie, Omaha, D. A. Russell, Bidwell, McDowell, Robinson, Washakie, and Missoula. Elizabeth followed her husband and shared the hardships and hazards. Also she recorded the story of their lives in a manuscript entitled “An Army Wife’s Forty Years in the Service,” which, with data from official records, forms the “documentary vertebrae” of the book.

*Free Grass to Fences*, the story of the Montana cattle industry from the beginning to the present, by Robert H. Fletcher and with illustrations by Charles M. Russell, was recently published for the Historical Society of Montana by the University Publishers, Inc., New York, in a 236-page volume.

A 214-page biography of Luke Short, the Dodge City gambler whose celebrated argument with city officials in 1883 brought on the Dodge City war and its resultant peace commission, was a recent publication of Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y., under the title, *Luke Short and His Era*. William R. Cox, the author, based his account almost entirely on contemporary documents and newspaper stories and for the first time this interesting Dodge City episode has reached the printed page in what may be considered its true light.

*The World of Willa Cather*, by Mildred R. Bennett, originally published in 1951, has been reissued in 1961 by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, in a 286-page, paper-bound volume.

*Kansas in Maps*, by Robert W. Baughman, a 104-page volume including more than 90 maps and 16 pages of color, was published by the Kansas State Historical Society through the Baughman Foundation in February, 1961. The book presents this space called Kansas in selected maps dating from 1674. Words, maps, and pictures, especially pictures, tell the Kansas story in another book also published in February. It is the 320-page *Kansas: A Pictorial History*, by Nyle H. Miller, Edgar Langsdorf, and Robert W. Richmond. This book was copublished by the Kansas Centennial Commission and the State Historical Society. Both volumes were printed by the McCormick-Armstrong Co., Wichita.