Bypaths of Kansas History

AN OUTLANDER VIEWS KANSAS CITY

From the La Cygne Weekly Journal, June 18, 1870.

Kansas City is a great institution. It is as full of holes as an ordinary colander—vacant lots are used for public cisterns; they make good ones too, and "no expense out" to the city. The streets are all up hill or down, and its citizens all have patent brakes attached in order to navigate them successfully. Strangers, unaccustomed to the ways of the city, are often "found dead" in the streets, having got under such momentum in their peregrinations that they have the breath of life crushed out of them by contact with some of the sharp corners and abrupt street terminations. Preachers always "stick to their text," clay is so abundant. Lots are always sold with the specification "in a straight line across," else the unwary would be taken in by measuring "down and up," making double the number of "feet front." Surveyors in order to "take a level" have to grade down. It is all hollows and hills, bluffs and bottoms. What a splendid place it would have been to make a strategic display of earthworks during the late war. Bastions and redoubts could have been formed at very little expense. Indeed, we are half inclined to believe that its inhabitants are in ignorance of the close of the war yet, they are so busily engaged in "throwing up earthworks."

—It is bound to be a "big thing"—indeed, it is that now, but it will be bigger as it gets older; and if it is ever finished it will be beautiful, we suppose—although its beauty now is very much like that of a man who has had the small-pox—but it has fine dwellings, and finer business blocks and "more coming," and energetic and shrewd business men.

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IT WAS THE LAW IN CHETOPA IN 1880

The State Historical Society recently received a manuscript volume of ordinances for the city of Chetopa, 1879-1881. The book was lent for microfilming by Mrs. Maxine L. Kinton, Mansfield, Ohio, whose grandfather, A. R. Bell, was city clerk of Chetopa for 34 years. Among the "thou shall nots" were these:

No. 8, Sec. 3. For throwing any stone, brick, club or other missile in or across any street or alley of this city; or in any public place, or at any house or building; [punishable] by fine, not less than three, nor more than ten dollars. . . .

No. 8, Sec. 6. For leaving any horse, mule or other beast of burden in the streets without being hitched to some substantial place of fastening; [punishable] by fine, not more than five dollars; and for any fast or reckless driving or racing [punishable] by fine, not exceeding twenty-five dollars. . . .

No. 8, Sec. 8. For setting on foot, promoting or engaging in, as umpire, judge or witness, any premeditated fight between persons, trained animals or trained fowls; [punishable] by fine, not exceeding one hundred dollars, nor less than
twenty-five dollars; or by imprisonment, not exceeding three months; or both, with costs; with judgment of imprisonment until the fine and costs be paid or satisfied. . . .

No. 17, Sec. 1. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any horses, cattle, sheep, goats or swine to allow or permit the same to run at large, within the corporate limits of the city of Chetopa.

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**ADVICE TO CHURCH GOERS OF 1880**

From *The Daily Republican*, Parsons, December 13, 1880.

There is room enough in the Parsons churches for all the people who desire to attend, but not room enough for their *dogs*. It seems absolutely ridiculous that any one should go to church with a filthy *cur* following. It may be congenial to the taste of those who allow dogs to follow them, to allow them to associate themselves with them during divine worship, but it is exceedingly offensive to the average church goer. Go to church but leave your dogs at home.

A CHURCH GOER.

"Church goer" is right. The lovers of dogs when they go into the presence of their Divine Master should leave their *curs* at home, as a church is no place for these brutes; and it is hoped that hereafter they will be kept at home. We take this occasion to suggest to the person who has charge of the M. E. church that it would add more to the Godliness of the place of worship, if the cobwebbs (which are thicker than sinners) were swept from the walls. It looks bad, as one expects to see everything in order in the House of the Lord. Dogs, cob webbs and other filth should never be allowed to cross the threshold of the house of worship, and we hope that the duster and broom may be vigorously applied to the woodwork and walls of the largest and best church we have in our city. Besides the dogs there is another class of nuisances to church congregations. It is a class of people who make a practice of leaving church during divine service, and on leaving it seems they try to see how much noise they can make to disturb the minister and the worship of the congregation. Such people as well as the dogs should remain at home, for they never can remain long enough in one place for the Lord to gather them into his fold.

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**AN EASTERN VIEW OF THE FOUNDING OF A WESTERN TOWN**

From the Dodge City Times, July 16, 1885.

The founding of a western town is a very simple matter when one understands it. A New Yorker, who was in Kansas when a town was founded, says that two men drove out on the prairie, and stuck some stakes, and took a drink of whisky and called the town "Pawnee City." Then they organized a city government and granted themselves charters for a street railway and gas company, established a couple of banks, donated a couple of lots towards building a court house, and rushed the following through the common council:

"Resolved, That eastern capitalists have their attention called to Pawnee City as a place offering superior advantages for manufacturing."

Only twenty-two minutes were consumed in the whole business and half a pint of cheap whisky constituted the sum total of expenses.—*Wall Street News.*
WHY THE 1890's WERE GAY?

Some "gems" from The Side Splitter, a hand-written newspaper from Ellsworth county. This issue, dated March 21, 1891, was written by Sam Livingston. It was brought recently to the State Historical Society for copying by George Jelinek of Ellsworth.

We would like to say something on woman's rights in this issue, but time and space forbid, although we would ad, that the woman has a right to do as they please, thats if their men will let em.

We herd our clerk and deel counting over how many grass widows there were around this neighborhood and vicinity, it was ether three or five but we can only think of three, two on the west branch of pig creek, and one at the head waters of goos creek.

there are no use crying over spilt milk for it may be three parts water.

minnie, said John Gilkison, will you be mine, no said minnie I dont want to belong to any man, but you can belong to me if you wish.

Jake Kline says to Myrtle, are you sure that I am the first and only man who ever kissed you, of course I am sure, you do not doubt my word do you? Of course I do not doubt you my darling. I love you too madly, too devotedly for that. But why, oh why did you reach for the lines the very instant I ventured to put my arm around you, if you had never been there before.

I cannot give you a definite answer to night, Mr. Cline, said Minnie softly; you must give me a month to think it over. Very well was Ben's reply, and in the mean time I can think it over myself.

Had enough?

DO-IT-YOURSELF RAINMAKING?

From the Daily Drovers Telegram, Kansas City, May 26, 1893.

BOMBARDED THE SKIES.

JUPITER PLUVIUS BLUFFED INTO DROPING HIS GIPSACK.

WICHITA, KAN., May 26.—By preconcerted arrangement between the mayors of the cities of Wellington, Winfield, Arkansas City, South Haven, Caldwell, Hutchinson and Newton, a simultaneous bombardment of the heavens was commenced about noon yesterday, and whether as a result or not, all the country between and for some miles beyond the radius marked by these towns was deluged with the heaviest rain that has fallen for eight months.

Enormous cannons and every explosive within reach were brought into requisition and hundreds of men and boys with rifles and guns cannonaded the skies for a couple of hours, until about 2 o'clock the clouds opened their reservoirs and drenched the earth.

The rain continued for about four hours. Yesterday's bombardment was suggested by Mayor Savage, of Wellington, who tried it successfully on a small scale last week. Crop prospects in the eight counties over which the rain fell have been wonderfully improved.