Kansas Historical Notes

The Butler County Historical Society is a beneficiary under the will of the late F. H. Cron to an estimated $200,000. The will directs that the money is to be used for building and maintaining a museum in the El Dorado area. R. A. Clymer, El Dorado, is president of the society.

Officers of the Shawnee County Historical Society for 1964 are: David M. Neiswanger, president; Herbert A. Binger, vice-president; Mrs. Benjamin Franklin, secretary; and Arthur H. Saville, treasurer. The executive committee includes: Binger, Mrs. Beryl Johnson, Mrs. Harry M. Ives, Mrs. Dwight T. Ream, P. A. Miller, Lester C. Walters, Mrs. Marion Beatty, Mrs. Irene S. Smith, Preston Hale, Henry B. Alberg, George W. Greenwood, and Mrs. Eugene L. Bowers. Greenwood was the retiring president.

The 1964 officers of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society of Johnson county are: Mrs. Eugene W. Wedd, president; Mrs. John Cochran, first vice-president; Mrs. John Blake, second vice-president; Mrs. Roy E. Boxmeyer, recording secretary; Joan Barkley, corresponding secretary; Mrs. James J. Cunningham, treasurer; Mrs. Tressa M. Keech, historian; Mrs. Clifton Shepard, curator; Mrs. Yolande M. Smith, member-in-waiting; Mrs. Albert Duckworth, chaplain; and Mrs. Harry Meyer, parliamentarian. Mrs. O. N. Eggleston was the retiring president.

Current officers of the Ottawa County Historical Society include: A. R. Miller, president; Omar Joyce, vice-president; Josephine Halberstadt, secretary; Essie Ballou, treasurer; and Zella Heald, reporter.

A railroad museum was opened in the Burlingame Santa Fe depot December 1, 1963. The relics displayed are from the collection of Charles Goebel, retired Santa Fe railroad employee.

George Dutton was elected to head the Cloud County Historical Society at a meeting in Concordia, December 4, 1963. Other officers elected included: G. B. Kappelman, vice-president; Waneta Philbrick, recording secretary; Mrs. G. T. Hendrickson, membership secretary; Austin Huscher, treasurer; and Bob Wilson and Mrs. George Palmer, directors. Dutton has been acting president since the death, during the year, of the president, E. W. Powell.
The Sumner County Historical Society at a meeting December 30, 1963, in Mulvane, elected the following officers: David G. Heeney, South Haven, president; James Robbins, Oxford, vice-president; Mrs. Harry Jenista, Caldwell, secretary; Mrs. Lela Wimp, Argonia, treasurer; Mrs. David Heeney, South Haven, historian; and Roy Frantz, Conway Springs; Elmer Holt, Wellington; Everett Howard, Mulvane; Harry Jenista, Caldwell; Melo Melichar, Caldwell; Mrs. Paul Sanders, Belle Plaine; Mrs. Freda Earles Deen, Argonia; Wallace Champeny, Oxford; and Elmer Blasdel, Belle Plaine, directors. Paul Sanders, Belle Plaine, was the retiring president.

William E. Carson is the new president of the Wyandotte County Historical Society, elected at a meeting January 9, 1964, in Kansas City. Ralph V. Clark was elected vice-president; Mrs. Donald H. Simmons, secretary; Mrs. Harry M. Trowbridge, treasurer; and Harry H. Richardson, historian. Henry W. Gauret and Orin L. Moats were named to the board of trustees. Harry Trowbridge was reappointed curator of the society’s museum. Gauret was the retiring president.

Officials of the Department of the Interior arrived at Fort Scott January 15, 1964, and made a three-day inspection of historic sites in the area. Members of the party included Herbert E. Kahler, chief of the division of history and archaeology; Merrill Mattes, regional chief of history at Omaha; and Lawrence F. Knowles, regional chief of proposed park studies. Sites visited, in addition to Fort Scott, included: Baxter Springs massacre, Battle of Mine creek, John Brown cabin and Old Stone church in Osawatomie, and the Marais des Cygnes massacre. Dr. Dudley Cornish addressed the group at a dinner meeting the evening of January 16, speaking on the history of the area.

Judge Spencer C. Ackerman was named president of the Pawnee County Historical Society at its annual meeting January 18, 1964, in Larned. Mrs. A. McNamara was chosen first vice-president; Hal Evans, second vice-president; Charles Eckert, third vice-president; Mrs. C. E. Grove, secretary; and Mrs. Leslie Wallace, treasurer. Directors are: Mrs. H. C. Campbell, H. L. Reed, Elmer Newacheck, Tom Sloan, Lester Bauer, and Ralph Arnold. Mrs. Campbell was the retiring president.

All officers of the Argonia and Western Sumner County Historical Society were re-elected at a meeting January 20, 1964, in Argonia. They are: Orie Cleous, president; Mrs. Paul Phillips, vice-pres-
dent; Mrs. Grace Handy, secretary; Mrs. Margaret Rust, correspond-
ing secretary; Mrs. James Hart, treasurer; and Kenneth Briggs, board member.

Officers elected by the Riley County Historical Society at its annual meeting January 21, 1964, in Manhattan, included: James C. Carey, president; Otto Haller, vice-president; Mrs. Ward Griffing, recording secretary; Mrs. Max Wolf, membership secretary; Sam Charlson, treasurer; and Mrs. C. B. Knox, Mrs. R. R. Bennett, and Homer E. Socolofsky, members of the executive committee.

New officers elected at the annual meeting of the Mitchell County Historical Society in Beloit, January 26, 1964, were: Clara Bollman, executive vice-president; Mrs. Florence Richards, vice-president for the Scottsville community; and Mrs. Grace Francis, vice-president for the Simpson community. Mrs. Henrietta Boyd is president of the society. The principal speaker at the meeting was Harold Dwyer, author and newspaperman of Hastings, Neb., formerly of Mitchell county.

A project of the Thomas County Historical Society was completed with the dedication of the new Pioneer Memorial Library at Colby, January 26, 1964. Under the leadership of its president, W. D. Ferguson, the society raised the funds for construction of the building. Principal speakers at the dedication ceremony were Mrs. Olive Garvey, who was a member of Colby’s first library board, and Joseph W. Snell of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Mrs. Mary H. Koger, Topeka, was presented the “Kansan of the Year” award at the annual banquet of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas in Topeka, January 28, 1964. Dr. Karl Menninger spoke to the group, pointing out some of the areas in which Kansas has achieved “firsts.” Officers chosen by the Native Sons at the business meeting were: Glenn D. Cogswell, Topeka, president; Sen. Glee Smith, Larned, vice-president; Doral Hawks, Topeka, secretary; and Ed Rolfs, Junction City, treasurer. New officers elected by the Native Daughters were: Mrs. J. E. Byer, Sabetha, president; Mrs. B. J. Lempenau, Topeka, vice-president; Mrs. Dane Bales, Logan, secretary; and Mrs. Claire Lendahl, Topeka, treasurer. Marshall G. Gardiner, Leavenworth, and Mrs. Everett Steerman, Emporia, were the outgoing presidents.

Kansas artists were the theme of the annual meeting of the Woman’s Kansas Day Club in Topeka, January 29, 1964. Material
gathered by district historians on this subject during the year was presented to the Kansas State Historical Society by the historian, Mrs. Thomas H. Finigan of Kansas City. New officers elected at the business session were: Mrs. Paul Wedin, Wichita, president; Mrs. F. Sharon Foster, Ellsworth, first vice-president; Mrs. Roscoe Mendenhall, Emporia, second vice-president; Mrs. Russell Dary, Manhattan, secretary; Mrs. Finigan, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Henkle, Great Bend, historian; Mrs. Ray Schirkovsky, Topeka, auditor; and Mrs. M. A. Moopman, Wichita, registrar. District directors are: Mrs. E. H. Isern, Ellinwood; Mrs. Steadman Ball, Atchison; Mrs. Glenn Henry, Oskaloosa; Mrs. R. K. Maybell, Marion; and Mrs. Zoe Siler, Cherryvale. Mrs. Roy S. Gibson, Chanute, was the retiring president.

John Mickey was chosen president of the Rawlins County Historical Society at the annual meeting of the society January 30, 1964, in Atwood. Lucille Obert was named vice-president; Darlene Gatlin, secretary; Ed Keirns, treasurer; and Ann Fleckenstein and Alta Morton, directors. Mrs. Ruth Hayden was the retiring president.

Officers elected by the Wilson County Historical Society at its annual meeting January 30, 1964, in Fredonia, were: Mrs. J. D. Long, president; Mrs. Austin Cook, vice-president; Mrs. Ben Isenburg, secretary; Mrs. Alice Knickerbocker, treasurer; and Paul Stephens, Don Walters, Mrs. Carl Kuntz, Glen Beal, Orlin Blinn, and Owen Elder, directors. Mrs. Giles Creager was appointed historian.

Francis Wilson was re-elected president of the Ellsworth County Historical Society at the annual meeting of the society February 13, 1964, in Ellsworth. Mrs. Paul Peters, Jr., was elected vice-president; Mrs. Paul Aylward, secretary; A. H. Barofsky, treasurer, and George Jelinek, director. Accomplishments of the year included the opening of a museum, the purchase of a building for the display of pioneer farming equipment, and the acquisition of the old Mulberry Evangelical United Brethren church which is to be preserved as a memorial to pioneer families.

The Black Jack Historical Society was formed at a meeting in the Black Jack church, near Baldwin, February 16, 1964. The organization hopes to restore and preserve the church building which is located near the site of the Battle of Black Jack fought in 1856. Temporary officers elected were: Dayton Van Tries, chairman; Mrs. Phyllis O'Neil, secretary; and Mrs. Naomi Avey, treasurer.
Officers of the Ford County Historical Society, elected February 17, 1964, include: Mrs. Lola Harper, president; George Hendricks, vice-president; R. Roy Taylor, secretary; Fred Swart, treasurer; and James A. Williams, Jay Andrews, Mrs. Ida Ellen Rath, Mrs. Ruth Gonder, and Robert Eagan, directors. Mrs. Rath was the retiring president.

James A. Cassler was re-elected president of the McPherson County Historical Society at its annual meeting March 7, 1964, in McPherson. Other officers named were: Dr. Leon Lungstrom, first vice-president; Mrs. John Kubin, second vice-president; Mrs. George R. Lehmborg, secretary; Robert Bartels, treasurer; and Leland Akers, Oliver Ash, Mrs. Charles Lindgren, Chester Peterson, Nick Neufeldt, and John P. Krehbiel, directors.

Charles Clough was re-elected president of the Coffeyville Historical Museum, Inc., at a meeting of the members March 9, 1964. Other officers chosen were: Jack Brooks, vice-president; R. M. Seaton, secretary; and C. Robert Belt, treasurer. Re-elected as directors were: Clough, Brooks, Seaton, Henry Journot, Floyd Rinkenbaugh, J. B. Kloebr, Dale Misch, Lawrence Smith, and Roy Swanson. The organization operates the Dalton Defenders Memorial Museum in Coffeyville. Clough reported that approximately 25,000 persons visited the museum during the past year.

Washburn University, Topeka, was the site of the 38th annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Teachers of History and Social Science, March 20 and 21, 1964. Papers presented on Kansas subjects included: “County Bond and Townsite Policies of J. F. Joy,” by Peter Beckman, O. S. B., St. Benedict’s College, Atchison; “John J. Ingalls, Geographic Determinism and Kansas,” by Burton J. Williams, Baker University, Baldwin; and “Theodore Roosevelt’s Osawatomie Speech, 1910,” by Robert LaForte, University of Kansas, Lawrence. Eugene R. Craine, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, was elected president at the business meeting. C. Robert Haywood, Southwestern College, Winfield, was named vice-president; and Robert W. Richmond, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, was re-elected secretary-treasurer for a three-year term. New members of the executive council are Columban Clinic, O. S. B., St. Benedict’s College, and Thayer Carmichael, Pratt Junior College.

The First Decade, 1949-1959 is the title of a recently published 30-page pamphlet on the history of the Stormont-Vail School of
Nursing, Topeka. Included is a brief history of Christ's and Stormont Hospitals, which merged in 1949 to form Stormont-Vail Hospital.

Harry E. Hanson has compiled some of the historical background of the Grinter place in Muncie, Wyandotte county, and published it in a 48-page booklet entitled *A Historical Outline of Grinter Place From 1825 to 1878*. The house, built in 1857 by Moses Grinter and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, has been made into a museum.

“You'll Like Burlington” is the theme of an 18-page pamphlet, describing the business, education, religious, and recreational institutions of Burlington and Coffey county, recently issued by the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

The Ellsworth County Historical Society is publishing stories of the area and some of its families. The mimeographed, stapled booklets are sold at its museum for 25 cents, and titles to date include: “The Atwood Brothers in Kansas,” by George H. Atwood; “The Faris Family,” by Elmer H. Bradley; “A Tale of a Cowboy as Told by Fred Curry”; “Butterfield Overland Despatch,” and “Fencing: Facts and Fancies,” by George Jelinek.

Edward Bonney's story *The Banditti of the Prairies* was republished in 1963 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. Philip D. Jordan is author of the introduction. In 1844 Bonney came to the Mormon stronghold of Nauvoo, Ill., and a year later moved to Montrose, Iowa. While not a law-enforcement official, he worked in that field for money and notoriety.


A study of American newspapers from 1689 to the present, by John Tebbel, was published in a 286-page book entitled *The Compact History of the American Newspaper* by Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York. The Emporia *Gazette*, Atchison *Globe*, and Kansas City (Mo.) *Star* were among the newspapers of this area included in the study.

Resulting from a state-wide survey of historic sites in Missouri initiated in 1957, is a 195-page *Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue*, edited by Dorothy J. Caldwell, and published in 1963 by the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia.
A revised and enlarged edition of Kenyon Riddle’s *Records and Maps of the Old Santa Fe Trail*, edited by John Riddle and Nancy Riddle Madden, and printed by the Southeastern Printing Co., Stuart, Fla., was issued in 1963. Information found among the author’s papers after his death has been added in the new edition.

*War Eagle—A Life of General Eugene A. Carr*, a 324-page biography by James T. King, was recently published by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. Carr’s military career began with the Indian wars of the 1850’s, continued through the Civil War and the Indian wars that followed, and ended with his retirement in 1893.

Some 80 stories of frontier life have been selected and retold by Everett Dick in *Tales of the Frontier—From Lewis and Clark to the Last Roundup*, a 390-page volume published in 1963 by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

Troopers of the 11th Kansas cavalry engaged in a fight with the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians at the Platte Bridge Station, near present Casper, Wyo., July 25 and 26, 1865. The detailed story of this battle is told by J. W. Vaughn in *The Battle of Platte Bridge*, a 132-page volume published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, in 1963.

*Overland in 1846—Diaries and Letters of the California-Oregon Trail*, a two-volume work totaling 825 pages, edited by Dale Morgan, was published by the Talisman Press, Georgetown, Cal., in 1963. The first volume is comprised primarily of diaries and a few letters written by overland travelers of 1846. Letters and newspaper accounts of the migration make up the second volume.

*Outlaws on Horseback*, a 320-page history of the organized bands of bank and train robbers who terrorized the prairie towns of Missouri, Kansas, Indian territory, and Oklahoma for half a century, by Harry Sinclair Drago, was published by Dodd, Mead and Co., New York, in 1964. Outlaws included in the study range from William C. Quantrill, during the Civil War, down to Henry Starr, last of the horseback bandits, who was killed in 1921.