Kansas History as Published in the Press

Paul E. Wilson, who ten years ago argued the now famous case of Brown vs. Board of Education before the United States supreme court, has written a historical review of the case entitled “Brown v. Board of Education Revisited,” which appeared in the University of Kansas Law Review, Lawrence, May, 1964. This Kansas case was one of several of similar nature simultaneously before the court, resulting in the decision that the doctrine of “separate but equal” educational facilities for the Negro was invalid.

A. R. Mumaw’s recollections of army life in eastern Kansas during the Civil War were published in the Garnett Review, May 11, 1964. Mumaw left his home at Greeley and joined the 11th Kansas Infantry in August, 1862.

Claude H. Nichols is the author of a series of articles beginning in the Baxter Springs Citizen, May 14, 1964, under the title “Baxter Springs, First Cow Town in Kansas.” Baxter Springs was a cowtown as early as 1858, according to Nichols, and in 1872, at its peak, was said to have had a population of nearly 10,000.

Included in the June, 1964, number of the Kansas Ornithological Bulletin, Lawrence, was an article, “The Goss Ornithological Collection—a Centennial,” by Donald W. Janes. Most of the collection, started 100 years ago by Nathaniel S. Goss, is now in the Kansas State Historical Society museum.

A history of Nickerson, first published in 1909, was reprinted in the Nickerson Argosy, June 4, 1964. The town, organized in 1878, was named after a Santa Fe railroad official.


In its June 12, 1964, issue, the Lyons Daily News discussed the “Buffalo Bills”—Cody and Mathewson—in an article entitled “Both ‘Bills’ Here, But Mathewson Was First.”
District judges who have served in Lyon county were briefly discussed in a three-part series by Orville W. Mosher in the Emporia Gazette, June 16, 17, 19, 1964. On September 3 the Gazette printed a history of Plymouth school, west of Emporia, by Mrs. B. C. Stiner.

On June 17, 1964, a history of Fairhope Grange, in the Gridley area, appeared in the Burlington Daily Republican, and on June 18 in the Gridley Light. A history of Errett Grange, also of Gridley, was printed in the Light, June 25. Both organizations were started in 1914.

Some of the postal history of Holyrood and Ellsworth county was related in an article by Orvoe Swartz in the Bushton News, June 25, 1964. John Corrigan was Holyrood’s first postmaster, beginning his tenure June 24, 1874.

A biographical sketch of Mrs. Bertha G. Williams, Scott county pioneer, by Cheryl Walker, was published in the Garden City Telegram, June 27, 1964. J. O. Carter was the author of an article in the Telegram, July 6, entitled “Early-Day Electrical Systems Here Also Had Their Failures.”

Mrs. Ethyle Ballard is the author of a brief history of Haviland which appeared in the Haviland Journal, July 2, 1964. Settlement in the Haviland area began in 1884 when a predominantly Quaker group arrived from Indiana.

Historical notes on the Southern Kansas Academy, Eureka, appeared in the Eureka Herald, July 2, 1964. The academy was in operation from 1885 to 1914. On September 24 the Herald printed a history of the Eureka Carnegie Library, established in 1901.

Henry H. Raymond was a buffalo hunter and blacksmith in Dodge City from 1872 to 1875. A few years later he wrote an account of his Dodge City experiences. This story, copyrighted by his estate, was published in the Valley Center Index, July 23, 1964.

El Quartelejo, Scott county Indian pueblo ruins recently designated a national registered historic landmark, was the subject of an article by Bill Boyer in the Scott City News Chronicle, July 23, 1964. In the 17th century, Indians from the southwest, to avoid Spanish persecution, migrated to present Scott county where they built the pueblo and farmed the adjacent area.

Articles by Nelson Ober in recent issues of the Beloit Call included a story on the Foster house two miles south of Jewell, August
1, 1964; and a review of the Jewell county-seat fight between Jewell City, now Jewell, and Jewell Center, now Mankato, August 15.


The Chase Index, August 13, 1964, printed a brief history of Chase, by LeRoy Kirsch. The town was surveyed in 1881 and incorporated in 1902.

Centenary Hall, Baker University, Baldwin, was the subject of an article in the Baldwin Ledger, August 20, 1964. The hall, erected in 1882-1885, was recently razed.


Marshall, Sedgwick county town, predecessor of Cheney, was the subject of a historical article in the Cheney Sentinel, September 24, 1964. The village was established in the early 1870's.


A four-column history of Howard and Elk county was published in the Howard Courant-Citizen, October 1, 1964. Howard was established in 1870, the same year the county was organized.

Vernon, a Woodson county village, was started in 1885, according to a series of historical articles beginning in the Yates Center News, October 1, 1964.

Jacob Dietrich and his family, Franklin county pioneers, were discussed briefly in the October 3, 1964, issue of the Ottawa Herald. A log cabin built by Dietrich in 1859 is now a museum in Ottawa.

"Investigation or Probity?—Investigations Into the Affairs of the Kiowa-Comanche Indian Agency, 1867," by William E. Unrau, was published in the Autumn, 1964, number of The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.

Tales of early days in western Kansas and pioneer reminiscences appeared in the October, December, 1964, issues of the Gove County Republican Gazette, Gove. These stories, with two pages of pictures, were also published in a special 24-page supplement in the Grinnell Record-Leader and the Gove County Advocate, Gove, December 17, and the Grainfield Cap Sheaf, December 18.


Ashland's Citizens State Bank, started in 1906, was the subject of a historical article in the Clark County Clipper, Ashland, October 15, 1964.
Histories of Kansas churches appearing in the newspapers in recent months included: Andover Lutheran, near Windom, McPherson Daily Sentinel, October 15, 1964, and the McPherson County News, McPherson, October 22; Swede Creek Evangelical United Brethren, near Leonardville, Riley Countian, Leonardville, October 15; Zion Lutheran, Tipton, Beloit Call Gazette and Downs News, October 29, and Cawker City Ledger, November 5; Prairie View Methodist, near Burlington, Daily Republican, Burlington, November 4; Peace Lutheran, Albert, Daily Tiller and Toiler, Larned; and Rush County News, La Crosse, November 5; Rose Hill Methodist, Douglass Tribune, November 5; Esbon Evangelical United Brethren, Lebanon Times, November 5; Castleton Union, Hutchinson News, November 14, Pretty Prairie Times, November 26; and Arlington Enterprise, November 27; Osborne Presbyterian, Osborne County Farmer, Osborne, November 19; Phillipsburg Presbyterian, Phillipsburg Review, November 26; Zion Lutheran, Hanover, Hanover News, November 27; Phillipsburg Methodist, Phillipsburg Review, December 3; Denton Methodist, Atchison Daily Globe, December 6; and Troy Methodist, Atchison Daily Globe, December 13.

Mrs. Allie Bricker's life was sketched by Dorothy Shirley in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, October 23, 1964. The 90-year-old Arkansas City resident came to Kansas in 1877.

Historical articles in the Lawrence Journal-World recently included a historical sketch of Lawrence and other Douglas county communities, October 24, 1964; "Old Woodward, Templin Home [in Lawrence] Still Being Used," by Mary Jule Stough, November 17; and a story on the activities of University of Kansas students during Christmas holidays in the "good old days," by Elfriede Fischer Rowe, December 19.

Among the historical articles in recent issues of the Hays Daily News were: "Rifts Trouble Negro Community of Nicodemus," October 28, 1964; a history of the Hopewell school, Buckeye district, north of Hays, November 1; and the reminiscences of 91-year-old Mrs. Elizabeth Furbeck of Ellis, by Kittie Dale, November 14.

A history of the Topeka Trade School building and site, by John Petterson, was printed in the Topeka State Journal, October 29, 1964. The property was deeded to the city by Cyrus K. Holliday in 1868 and became the site of the Harrison Street School, and more recently the trade school.
Some of the experiences of early settlers with the Indians, presented at meetings of the Ottawa County Historical Society, have been summarized in the newspapers, including the Minneapolis Messenger, October 29 and November 26, 1964, and the Delphos Republican, November 26.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of Pratt, the Pratt Daily Tribune, October 31, 1964, printed a special 42-page supplement, featuring historical pictures and articles on the Pratt area.

Prairie fires, an Indian scare, and the blizzard of 1886 are among the pioneer experiences of Mrs. Ovie Pedigoe Tanner of Kiowa county. Her reminiscences were printed in the Kiowa County Signal, Greensburg, November 11, 1964.

Mrs. Nellie Odor Whiteside’s recollections of pioneer life in Butler county were published in the Butler County News, El Dorado, November 12, 1964. With the exception of one year, Mrs. Whiteside, 90, of Potwin, has lived all her life in Butler county.

“Geographical Center of U. S. Apparently Was at Fort Riley,” an article discussing “geographical center” markers at Fort Riley, was published in the Junction City Union, November 13, 1964.

In its November 19 and 26, 1964, issues the Oakley Graphic, in observance of Mrs. Belle Cain Misner’s 100th birthday, printed biographical sketches and recollections of her by friends. Now living in Colby, Mrs. Misner homesteaded in Thomas county in 1885.

One of Herington’s early post offices, a corner cupboard, now on display in the present post office, was the subject of an article by Lester Green in the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, November 25, 1964. It was built by Herington’s first postmaster, Alexis D. Blanchett.

“Edmar Ranch: Legend of Norwich Lives on,” by Kent Britt, the story of the 4,000-acre ranch and 28-room home of Edward Davis, a wealthy Englishman, appeared in the Hutchinson News, November 26, 1964. Davis and his wife occupied the mansion from about 1898 until Mrs. Davis’ mysterious death ten years later. Another article by Britt, entitled “Victoria: a Dreamworld That Failed,” published in the News, December 6, concerned another wealthy Englishman, George Grant.

Horton’s Rock Island railroad shops, closed in the early 1940’s, were the subject of a historical article in the Horton Headlight, November 26, 1964. Established in 1886, the shops had employed as many as 1,000 men.
L. Berger Copeman is the author of a two-part history of the Battle of Platte River Bridge published in the Salina *Journal*, November 29 and December 6, 1964. This engagement was fought July 25 and 26, 1865, near present Casper, Wyo., between the 11th Kansas cavalry and the Plains Indians.


Some of the history of the Osage Indian tribe, as given before the Neodesha Rotary Club by Charles Callahan, was printed in the Neodesha *Daily Sun*, December 9, 1964, and the Neodesha *Register*, December 10.

In December, 1914, a group of Wakefield women organized a library club and began work toward the establishment of a town library. The story of their efforts and a history of the Wakefield library was published in the Clay Center *Dispatch*, December 16, 1964.