Kansas Historical Notes

Officers of the recently organized Grant County Historical Society are: Mrs. Roy Bessire, president; Mrs. J. B. Spires, vice-president; Bernice Kepley, secretary; Jim Hickok, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Maxwell, Russell Bechtelheimer, and Joe Chilen, directors.

Current officers of the Finney County Historical Society include: Art Stone, president; Claudine Lindner, secretary; Charles Drew, treasurer; and Mrs. J. O. Carter, director.

All officers of the Chase County Historical Society were reelected at the society’s annual meeting September 4, 1965, in Cottonwood Falls. They are: Paul Wood, president; William Selves, vice-president; Mrs. Wayne Keller, secretary; George Dawson, treasurer; and Mrs. Paul Wood, chief historian.

The Butterfield Trail Historical Museum at Russell Springs was dedicated September 5, 1965. E. M. Beougher, Grinnell, was the principal speaker at the ceremonies. The museum is a project of the Butterfield Trail Historical Association and the city of Russell Springs. Officers of the association are: Barbara Bishop, Winona, president; Clyde Blackburn, Leoti, vice-president; Mrs. Earl Artley, Russell Springs, secretary; Leonard Koons, Winona, treasurer; and Earl Artley, Clarence Mastin, Marjorie Wright of Russell Springs, Dave Grusing of Colby, and Leigh DeLay of Oakley, directors.

Arthur Thomas was reelected president and Mrs. Winnie Crain secretary of the Labette County Old Settlers Association at its annual reunion, September 6, 1965, in Oswego. Principal speaker was Mrs. Eugene Teter, whose subject was the history of Chetopa and southern Labette county.

Black Jack Historical Society officers were reelected at the business session of a picnic dinner at the Black Jack roadside park in Douglas county, September 12, 1965. Dayton Van Tries, Wellsville, is the president; Mrs. Anna Miller, Topeka, vice-president; Mrs. Phyllis O’Neil, Wellsville, secretary; and Mrs. Naomi Revey, Wellsville, treasurer. Mrs. E. E. Turner was the principal speaker at the meeting.

W. H. Matthews was named president of the Crawford County Historical Society at a meeting in Pittsburg, September 15, 1965. Other officers elected were: Clarence Pate, vice-president; Mrs. W. H. Matthews, secretary; Mrs. Lois Dose, corresponding secre-
tary; Mrs. Goldie Kelly, treasurer; and Ethel Pate, Flora Holroyd, and Mrs. O. F. Grubbs, directors.

Guy Snedaker was reelected president of the Franklin County Historical Society at the group's annual meeting September 19, 1965, in Ottawa. Other officers named included Bill Bennett, vice-president, and Mrs. Henry Parker, secretary. Directors elected in addition to the officers were: Gard Jones, Mrs. W. G. Ransom, and Mrs. C. W. Hegberg.

The centennial of the Butlerfield Overland Despatch's first stage coach trip across the Plains was observed September 23, 1965, by the dedication of a Chalk Bluff's stage station marker near present Gove. Gov. William H. Avery was the dedicatory speaker, and E. M. Beougher, Grinnell, master of ceremonies at the program which was attended by over 1,000 persons.

The Clark County Historical Society Pioneer Mixer was held September 25, 1965, in Ashland with 88 persons in attendance. Ray L. Crosby, outgoing president of the society, presided at the gathering. The new president is Mrs. Gertie Hughs.

Dedication ceremonies were held September 26, 1965, for a roadside park and historical marker at Scott spring, south of Westmoreland on K-99. The spot was a watering place on the Oregon-California trail. Gov. William H. Avery was the speaker.

Officers of the board of trustees of the Chisholm Trail Museum, Wellington, are: Dr. Ward Cole, president; Mrs. A. C. Hatcher, secretary; and John Walter Garland, treasurer. Opening and dedication ceremonies for the museum were held August 21, 1965.

Homer Cardwell was reelected president of the Republic County Historical Society at the group's annual meeting, October 1, 1965, in Belleville. Other officers chosen included: Mrs. Madge Dickershoof, first vice-president; Mrs. V. A. Berggren, second vice-president; Howard Anderson, third vice-president; Mrs. Maude Rieke, secretary; Mrs. Matthew Baxa, treasurer; and Mrs. Anona Blackburn, historian.

Directors of the Allen County Historical Society reelected at the annual meeting of the society, October 5, 1965, at Friends Hope Lutheran church, rural Savonburg, were: Mrs. Stanley Toland, Mary Hankins, Dwight Howard, and Spencer A. Gard of Iola; Nat Armel, Lillian Johnson, and R. H. Johnson of Humboldt; Floyd Clark of Elsmore; and Dave Munson of Moran. Walter Bowers, Yates Center, gave an illustrated talk during the program on historic trails of southeast Kansas.
All officers of the Scott County Historical Society were reelected at the annual meeting of the society, October 7, 1965, in Scott City. They are: Mrs. Hildred Armantrout, president; Mrs. Henry Parkinson, first vice-president; Mrs. F. W. Young, second vice-president; Mrs. C. W. Dickhut, secretary; Mrs. Irene Zane, corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. R. Deragowski, treasurer; and Matilda Freed, historian. Howard Raynesford, Ellis, spoke to the group on his project of marking the Smoky Hill trail.

Mrs. Raymond Tillotson was reelected president of the Lane County Historical Society at the society’s annual meeting, October 11, 1965, in Dighton. Mrs. Joe Hanna was chosen vice-president; Mrs. Ted Wancura, secretary; and Mrs. H. H. York, treasurer. Howard Raynesford, Ellis, addressed the meeting on marking the Smoky Hill trail.

At a meeting of the Harvey County Historical Society, October 14, 1965, in Newton, the board of directors announced the following new officers: Elden Smurr, president; Lawrence Hauck, first vice-president; John F. Schmidt, second vice-president; Edna Arnold, third vice-president; Mabel McMullen, secretary; Mrs. Ben Royston, assistant secretary; Mrs. Paul Kliwer, corresponding secretary; Elizabeth Crain, treasurer; Mildred Pike, historian; Cecil Hornbaker, coordinator; and Menno Schmidt, finance secretary.

The Kiowa County Old Settlers reunion, sponsored by the Kiowa County Historical Society, held in Greensburg, October 14, 1965, was attended by about 175 persons.

Lanesfield schoolhouse, near Gardner, has been converted to a museum and was opened to the public October 24, 1965. Santa Fe trail history is featured in the displays.

Current officers of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society, installed October 25, 1965, are: Mrs. Roy Boxmeyer, president; Mrs. Hugh Thompson, first vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Lieberman, second vice-president; Mrs. Forrest Langdon, recording secretary; Mrs. Stuart Mitchelson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Marian Heard, treasurer; Margaret Hopkins, historian; Mrs. Ed Bradshaw, curator; and Mrs. John Barkley, member-in-waiting.

R. M. Raney was elected president of the Douglas County Historical Society at the organization’s annual meeting, October 26, 1965, in Lawrence. Other officers are: George Anderson, first vice-president; Lathrop B. Read, Jr., second vice-president; Opal Jayne Kennedy, secretary; Howard Wiseman, treasurer; and Frank Walters, Charles D. Stough, Mrs. Blanche Holloway Phillips, Mr.
and Mrs. Ralph L. Colman, James Paddock, and Mrs. Lena Kennedy Huddleston, directors. Mike H. Getto was the retiring president. Gov. William H. Avery was the principal speaker at the event.

B. H. Oesterreich, Woodbine, was reelected president of the Dickinson County Historical Society at the group's annual meeting, October 28, 1965, at the New Basil Church of Christ. Other Officers chosen included: Harold Scanlan, Abilene, first vice-president; and Mrs. Ellen Peterson, Enterprise, secretary. Holdover officers are: Lester Green, Abilene, second vice-president; Mrs. Walter Wilkins, Chapman, treasurer; and Marian Seeley, Abilene, historian. The history of the New Basil community was featured on the program.

The Comanche County Historical Society, at a meeting October 30, 1965, in Coldwater, elected the following officers: Marvin Plank, president; Stella York, vice-president; Mrs. Laura Lohrding, secretary; and F. H. Moberley, treasurer. J. Rufus Gray, Pratt, spoke to the gathering on tall tales of Kansas.

Officers of the Sumner County Historical Society for 1966 are: Harry Jenista, Caldwell, president; Everly Harsh, Argonia, vice-president; Roy C. Frantz, Conway Springs, secretary; and Everett Howard, Mulvane, treasurer. Raymond Cline, Conway Springs, was the retiring president.

One of the participants in the controversial battle of Sand Creek on November 29, 1864, was Morse H. Coffin. His narrative of the episode, edited by Alan W. Farley, has recently been published by W. M. Morrison, Waco, Tex., in a 40-page book entitled The Battle of Sand Creek.


Clifford L. Lord is the editor of a new 241-page volume, Keepers of the Past, published by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. The development of historical societies, museums, and archives in the United States is traced through biographical sketches of 18 of the leading figures in these fields. The point of beginning was the founding in 1791 of the Massachusetts Historical Society, principally by Jeremy Belknap.
Oklahoma Place Names is the title of a 233-page volume by George H. Shirk, recently published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. About 3,500 names are listed in the work, with origin of the name, location of the place, and other information.

Richard C. Overton is the author of a new 663-page work entitled Burlington Route—A History of the Burlington Lines, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. The Burlington had its beginning in 1848, when plans were made at Aurora, Ill., for a railroad. The following year, the charter was signed, and it came into existence as the Aurora Branch Railroad.

The first volume of an “Impact of the Civil War” series, edited by Allan Nevins, is Agriculture and the Civil War, by Paul W. Gates, published in 1965 by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. The 396-page book evaluates and compares the agricultural potential of the North and the South, and deals with the problems and achievements of the farmers in those areas.

General Henry Atkinson—A Western Military Career, a 243-page volume by Roger L. Nichols, was published recently by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. General Atkinson spent about 25 years, beginning in 1819, in command of troops on the frontier.

A 619-page work entitled History of Wyoming, by T. A. Larson, was published by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, in 1965. Wyoming became a state in 1890.

Over a period of 14 years, the late Victor Murdock wrote a series of articles in his Wichita Eagle under the title “It May Chance of Wheat.” In 1965 the series was published in a 162-page book by the Lowell Press, Kansas City, Mo., under the same title. The role of wheat in the growth of civilization is the theme of the articles.


In 1843 John James Audubon and four companions journeyed up the Missouri river to Fort Union for the purpose of studying and sketching birds, animals, and plant life. Twenty letters which he wrote to his family during this trip, compiled and edited by John Francis McDermott, have been published in a 131-page volume entitled Audubon in the West, by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.