Kansas History as Published in the Press

Several early Stafford businesses were discussed in the August 19, 1965, Stafford Courier. On September 23 the Courier printed a biographical sketch of Mrs. Eliza Jane Scott, who came to Kansas in 1869. Methods of travel in 1915 was the subject of a story in the September 30 issue.

Histories of Kansas churches appearing in the newspapers in recent months included; St. John's United, Alida, Junction City Weekly Union, August 19, 1965; Westmoreland Methodist, Westmoreland Recorder, August 26; Fact Evangelical United Brethren, Clay Center Dispatch, September 1, and Clay Center Times, September 9; Newbern Brethren in Christ, Dickinson county, Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, September 19; Spring Ridge Bethel Presbyterian, near Osawatomie, Osawatomie Graphic-News, October 7; First Baptist, Leavenworth, Leavenworth Times, October 8; Sacred Heart Catholic, Greenleaf, Greenleaf Sentinel, October 21; Delphos Methodist, Delphos Republican, October 28; Cimarron Nazarene, Cimarron Jacksonian, November 4; First Baptist, Kansas City, Kansas City Kansan, November 19; and Lone Star Presbyterian, Rawlins county, Atwood Citizen-Patriot, November 25.


Articles on the history of the Franklin county fair, by Zeke Wigglesworth and Suellen McKinley, were published in the Ottawa Herald, August 23, 1965. Fairs have been held annually beginning in 1866, except for two or three years.

Jim Davis' column, “For Your Information,” in the Parson Sun, August 25, 1965, included recollections of early Parsons by the town's first postmaster, the late W. K. Hays.

Among histories of Kansas schools published in the newspapers recently were: Logan county schools, by Frances Hall Caswell, Oakley Graphic, August 26, 1965; Rock Creek, south of Ottawa, by Lois Smith, Ottawa Herald, September 1; and Hickory Grove, Mission, Johnson County Herald, Overland Park, November 15, and Olathe Daily News, November 23.

Ninety-eight-year-old Mrs. Katie Chalk’s reminiscences, written by Mrs. Moneca Schoeneck, were published in the Kansas Chief, Troy, August 26, 1965. Mrs. Chalk’s parents settled on a claim at Spivey, Kingman county, in 1885. She now lives with a daughter near Troy.

McPherson county's first settlement, Empire, was founded in 1872 and in 1879 moved to Galva, according to a brief history by Tom Lovewell in the McPherson Daily Sentinel, August 28, 1965.
Historical articles in recent issues of the Pittsburg Sun included: a biographical sketch of 90-year-old L. E. Compton, by John K. Hay, September 1, 1965; "Weir Incorporated 90 Years Ago This Week," by Hazel Sellers, September 8; some of the history of McCune, by John M. Davis, September 24; and a biographical sketch of George Lauttife, Pittsburg merchant for 58 years, by Harold O. Taylor, November 14.

On September 8, 1861, a group of Missouri guerrillas sacked the stores and homes of Humboldt, and a month later, October 14, another group burned a large part of the town. The story of these episodes is told by Nat Armel in the September 2, 1965, issue of the Humboldt Union.

James Slaven homesteaded near Cawker City in 1870, and two years later married Emily Williams. A history of the homestead and family by Marjorie (Vint) Porter, was printed in the Cawker City Ledger, September 9, 1965. Another pioneer who came to the Cawker City area in 1870 was Mrs. Martha Fletcher. Her reminiscences appeared in the Ledger, October 21.

The Delphos Republican, September 9, 1965, printed a brief history of the State Bank of Delphos. The bank was opened in 1880 by George N. Billings and F. M. Sexton.

Beginning with the issue of September 14, 1965, the "Annals of Abilene," by Stewart Verckler, has been appearing in the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle. The series started with the history of Abilene in 1894.

Biographical sketches by Dee Searls were published in the Pratt Daily Tribune as follows: Mrs. Mary Allmon, September 16, and J. B. Leach, October 8, 1965. Mrs. Allmon, 96, came to Kansas in 1877. Leach recently retired after 56 years of railroad service.

"Northeast Johnson County, 1828-1855," compiled by Dorothy Schaefer, was published in The Scout, Prairie Village and Shawnee Mission, September 23, 1965. During this period present Johnson county was inhabited principally by Shawnee Indians and the missionaries living among them. The same issue of the Scout included a history of the Mission State Bank now observing its 50th anniversary.


Fort Harker, built in 1864 near present Ellsworth, was the subject of a history by Francis Wilson, in the Ellsworth Reporter, September 30, 1965. The fort’s guardhouse was opened as a museum by the Ellsworth County Historical Society, October 3.

“Warpaths on the Southern Plains: The Battles of the Saline River and Prairie Dog Creek,” by Lonnie J. White, was the lead article in the October, 1965, number of the Journal of the West, Los Angeles.

A biographical sketch of 100-year-old Mrs. Lillie May Copeland of Waterville, appeared in the Waterville Telegraph, October 7, 1965. Mrs. Copeland and her husband came to Kansas in 1890. The Telegraph printed a history of Waterville’s Riverside Cemetery in the October 28 issue.

Excerpts from the diary of Albert Tucker for the year 1866, together with notes on Tucker and his activities, were printed in an article by Jos. W. Allen in the Neodesha Daily Sun, October 26, 1965. Tucker and a partner, E. K. Parris, built and operated a trading post on the Osage Indian reserve in southeast Kansas in 1866 and 1867.

Historical notes on the 20th Kansas infantry, especially the Miami county units, appeared in the Miami Republican, Paola, October 28, 1965. The 20th won its greatest fame during the Philippine insurrection.

In 1882 a Jewish immigrant colony was established in the Cimarron area of Kansas. Assisting in starting the project—called Beer-sheba Colony—was Charles K. Davis of Cincinnati. Parts of Davis’ diary and other notes on the colony appear in the magazine, American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, November, 1965.

Wayne O’Connell’s recent talk on Labette county and Oswego history before the Oswego Rotarians was published in the Oswego Democrat, November 5, 1965.
An article in the Iola Register, November 8, 1965, reviewed the life of Gen. Fred Funston whose boyhood home is located near Iola. An open house was held at the home November 7, in observance of the 100th anniversary of Funston's birth, November 9.

Great Bend's tornado of November 10, 1915, was the subject of an article in the Hutchinson News, November 14, 1965. Eleven deaths, many injuries, and the destruction of numerous buildings resulted from the storm.

Shawnee county courthouses and the activities which centered around them furnished the subject matter for the 1965 number of the Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, Topeka, issued in December. The first Shawnee county courthouse was completed in Tecumseh in 1856, the present one, in Topeka, in 1965.

The 1966 issue of the Kansas Magazine, Manhattan, included a story by William E. Koch on A. M. Graham, who traveled through Kansas in 1852 to the California gold fields and later, in 1871, settled in Kansas. Portions of Graham's diary of 1852 constitute a large share of the article. In another article, Richard Morrison discusses the life and work of Kansas artist John Steuart Curry.