Kansas History as Published in the Press

Sharon Springs and Wallace county history were featured in a 40-page historical edition of the *Western Times*, Sharon Springs, dated "1976." Wallace county was created and organized in 1868 but the organization did not take, and in 1889 it was reorganized.

Silas S. Soule, one of the rescuers of Dr. John Doy who had been jailed in St. Joseph, Mo., in 1859 for helping slaves escape, is the subject of an article by Stan Hoig in the Winter, 1976, issue of *Montana, the Magazine of Western History*, Helena. A few months after the Doy rescue, Soule took part in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue John Brown who was awaiting execution in Virginia. Included in the Summer, 1976, number of *Montana* was "'Buffalo' Jones and the Bison Herd in Yellowstone: Another Look," by Paul Schullery. Jones, a Kansan, was a controversial figure as game warden of Yellowstone National Park, 1902-1905.

The Winter, 1976, issue of *The Indian Historian*, San Francisco, published William E. Unran's article entitled "Removal, Death, and Legal Reincarnation of the Kaw People." The article includes much of the history of the Kaw tribe and leads up to a recent federal court decision regarding tribal governance and the resolving of intra-tribal disputes.

Two courthouses in Garnett have served Anderson county. The first was built in 1868; the present one in 1902. A history of these buildings by Gilma Rogers was printed in the Garnett *Review*, January 5, 1976.

Crime and justice in Hays in the 1870's and 1880's as recorded in old documents at the city hall in Hays, are described in an article by Jane Lee published January 25, 1976, in the Hays *Daily News*. The author concluded that while punishments may change, crimes in Hays have not.

Elizabeth May Dickinson's incomplete diary for 1859-1866 was published in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Star*, January 29, 1976, and concluded in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Times*, January 30. An introduction and an epilogue by Joseph A. Lastelic accompany the diary. Miss Dickinson, her mother, brother, and three sisters settled at Quindaro in 1859. She remained in Kansas until her death in 1931.

A list of clerks of the district court of Sumner county and other history of the county appeared in an article published in the Welling-
ton Daily News, January 30, 1976. W. A. Thompson who served in 1871 and 1872 was the first clerk.


“All Gone,” an article by Bob Curtright in the Wichita Beacon, February 11, 1976, describes and gives some of the history of several showy Wichita homes that have now been razed. An article by Forrest Hintz in the Wichita Eagle, February 18, reviews a Civil War POW’s account of life in a Confederate prison. On May 6 the Eagle printed a history of Magnolia ranch, Cowley county, by Kathleen Kelly. An Englishman, Col. Arthur Green, had the ranch buildings, including a 23-room house, constructed in 1883. On June 20 the Eagle-Beacon published “100 Years Since Little Bighorn,” by Stephen E. Ambrose, and “Residents [of Wichita] Recall Black History,” by Dorothy Belden. The June 23 number of the Beacon included an article by Kathleen Kelly on the Chester I. Long home in Wichita.

Heritage, a historical magazine appearing as a supplement to several Wyandotte and Leavenworth county newspapers, featured a history of the Kansas State Penitentiary by Cathy Gripka in its mid-February, 1976, issue; “Origin of Street Names in Kansas City, Kansas,” by J. R. Russell, mid-April; and “Buffalo Bill Grew Up in Leavenworth,” by Cathy Gripka, mid-May.

Kansas school histories printed in recent issues of the newspapers included: Fall Leaf, Leavenworth county, as recalled by Mrs. Veva McCabria Hicks, Eudora Enterprise, February 18, 1976; Rock School, Cowley county, Winfield Daily Courier, March 24; and Victory School, near Gypsum, Gypsum Advocate, June 3.

Eudora’s newspaper history was published in the Eudora Enterprise, March 3, 1976, the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Enterprise. The Eudora News, believed to be the earliest Eudora newspaper, started May 20, 1886. An article on windmills, formerly
a familiar sight in Kansas, was published in the Enterprise, March 10.

In 1846 18-year-old Susan Shelby Magoffin traveled the Santa Fe trail. She recorded her experiences of the journey in a diary, portions of which were printed in the Lyons Daily News, March 17, 1976.

Histories of Kansas churches appearing recently in the newspapers included: Sacred Heart Catholic, Salina, Salina Journal, March 21, 1976; Cheyenne United Methodist, Osborne county, Natoma-Luray Independent, April 15, and Russell Daily News, April 20; Beattie United Methodist, Marysville Advocate, April 22; Marion Hill Lutheran, near White City, Herington Advertiser-Times, May 27; St. Joseph’s Catholic, Ellinwood, Great Bend Tribune, May 28; Buck’s Grove United Methodist, west of Holton, Holton Recorder, May 31; St. Mary’s Catholic, Purcell, Everest World, June 17; United Presbyterian, Viola, Conway Springs Star, June 22; Trinity Lutheran, Hanover, Hanover News, June 25; and First United Methodist, Fort Scott, Fort Scott Tribune, July 15.

Two articles pertaining to Kansas history were included in the Spring, 1976, issue of Papers in History, published by the History Club of Kansas State College of Pittsburg: “Cato: First Settlement in Crawford County,” by Michael G. Christensen, and “Louis Janeski: A Polish Immigrant and His Family in Southeast Kansas,” by Al C. Letner.

“From Coaches to Copters,” by Lynn Pickett, is a brief article on the history of Fort Riley printed in the Manhattan Mercury, April 18, 1976. Beginning July 4 and continuing through the month, the Mercury reprinted in installments Kenneth S. Davis’s Kansas: A Bicentennial History which is being published in October, 1976, by W. W. Norton and Co.

In 1876 Jacob J. Regier arrived in this country from South Russia, settling in the vicinity of Moundridge. A history of the Regier family by William Juhnke was printed in the Moundridge Journal, April 22, 1976.

Colby’s Cooper Hotel was the subject of a historical article by Ray Hansen in the Prairie Drummer, Colby, April 28, 1976. Originally named the O’Pelt Hotel after its builder, the hotel was completed in 1886.

Vance Ehmke is the author of a story on Dighton’s old opera house printed in the Garden City Telegram, April 28, 1976. The
building still stands and part of it has been used for other purposes but the doors of the opera house closed 30 years ago. The 

Telegram, May 21, published an article by Kathi Loper entitled “Old Fort William: A Life-Long Dream.” Old Fort William is Bill Smith’s newly established museum in Garden City which contains items Smith has collected over the past 50 years, from automobiles on down.

Articles on the history of the churches, businesses, and schools of Pittsburg and other Crawford county towns were included in a 158-page Pittsburg centennial edition of the Morning Sun, Pittsburg, published May 20, 1976.

“Fossil Hunting on the Plains of Western Kansas” is the theme of the bicentennial edition of the Fort Wallace Bugle, June, 1976. Among those mentioned who have searched for remains of these early creatures were: Othniel C. Marsh, Edward Drinker Cope, Samuel Williston, and Charles H. and George H. Sternberg.

Charles Goebel’s railroad museum in the Santa Fe depot in Burlingame was described in an article in the Burlingame Enterprise-Chronicle, June 10, 1976. The museum was established in 1963. Built in 1869, the depot is the oldest on the Santa Fe line.


Elsie Gordanier’s reminiscences of Otego in earlier days appeared in the Jewell County Record, Mankato, June 17, 1976. Businesses, churches, and some of the citizens of Otego are recalled in the article.

A history of the Bourbon county community of Xenia by Clifford Abbey, was published in the Marmaton Valley Sun, Moran, June 23, 1976. The town was founded by John and Martha VanSickle in 1857.

Fredrick Beeler is the subject of a biographical sketch published in the Jewell Republican, June 24, 1976. A native of Iowa, Beeler homesteaded in Jewell county in 1870 about 16 miles southwest of Mankato.

Kanopolis is the subject of an article in the Ellsworth Reporter, June 24, 1976. The town, whose name means Kansas metropolis, is on the site of Fort Harker which was abandoned as a military installation in 1872.

“One Hundred Fifty Years—From Trail to Sail” is a 32-page history prepared by the Osage County Historical Society which appeared as a supplement to the Journal-Free Press, Osage City, June 30, 1976, and the Lyndon News-Herald, Overbrook Citizen, and the Enterprise-Chronicle, Burlingame, July 1.

Shortly before the famous Scopes trial in July, 1925, a biology professor at Southwestern College, Winfield, Dr. William Goldsmith, wrote a book thought by some to teach evolution. A trial at a meeting of the Southwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church resulted in Goldsmith’s favor. The story is told in an article by Ina Turner Gray, entitled “Monkey Trial—Kansas Style,” published in Methodist History, Lake Junaluska, N. C., July, 1976.

John Cook is the author of an article in the Emporia Gazette, July 1, 1976, concerning an incident in which Col. Luther Severy, a defeated candidate for mayor of Emporia in 1898, took exception to William Allen White’s editorial remarks about him and broke his cane over the editor’s head.

Some of Augusta’s early history was printed in the Augusta Daily Gazette, July 1, 1976. Daniel Stine who arrived in 1865 was Augusta’s first permanent settler. The city was incorporated in 1871 by C. N. James, Thomas Baker, W. A. Shannon, G. Brown, and J. R. Nixon.

Brown county has had four courthouses during its history. The first was built in 1858 and the one currently in use was erected in 1926. A brief history of the structures appeared in the Hiawatha Daily World, July 1, 1976.
The Sherman county-seat fight between Goodland and Eustis in 1887 as recalled by participants John Cullins and George Bradley, both now deceased, was printed in the Goodland Daily News, July 1, 1976.

The July 3, 1976, issue of the Ottawa Herald included biographical sketches of the following senior residents of Ottawa and Franklin county and their reminiscences of early days in the area: Cora Barnett, Linnie Tyler, Dollie Belt, Wayne Gilliland, F. H. Parks, and Cassie Coe.

“Legislators Were Rough Bunch,” an article by Wayne Lee in the Hutchinson News, July 4, 1976, reviews the first 10 years of legislative history in Kansas, beginning with the 1855 Proslavery legislature and its difficulties with Gov. A. H. Reeder.

An illustrated article on the Battle of Mine Creek was featured in the Fort Scott Tribune, July 15, 1976. The battle, which took place October 25, 1864, just south of present Pleasanton, resulted in a victory for the Union forces over Gen. Sterling Price’s Confederate army. Other articles in the same issue of the Tribune included “Early Settlers in Mound City,” and “Mantey Once Prosperous,” by Clara F. Mathews.

Articles on the Volga Germans in Ellis and Rush counties were featured in the Heritage of Kansas, Emporia, v. 9, nos. 2-3, published in 1976. A history of the group is given in an article by S. J. Sackett entitled “The History of the Volga Germans in Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas.”

“Abilene, Kansas—the Fastest Town in the West (With Either Hand),” an article by Wayne Gard on Abilene as a cowtown, 1867-1871, was published in the Fall, 1976, issue of Old West, Austin, Tex.