

Big Blue Union, other Civil war-era papers now online

A Civil War-era newspaper from Marysville is among several Kansas newspapers of that time period to be online at the Library of Congress' Chronicling America Web site.

The newspaper is the Marysville Big Blue Union, and issues available are from March 1862 to May 1866.

The Web site is chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.

The Kansas Historical Society said the newspapers were digitized with funding received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the National Digital Newspaper Program.

This is the first of 12 batches that will become available by June 2011, the historical society said. Besides the Big Blue Union, this batch of 6,829 pages includes the Oskaloosa Independent, issues from July 1860 to December 1865; White Cloud Kansas Chief, issues from September 1860 to July 1872; Weekly Kansas Chief, published in Troy, issues from July 1872 to May 1883; and Smoky Hill and Republican Union, published in Junction City, issues from September 1861 to November 1864.

"These particular newspapers were chosen because of their coverage of state and national events leading up to Kansas' statehood and ultimately, the Civil War," a news release from the Kansas Historical Society said. "Kansas will commemorate its 150th anniversary of statehood Jan. 29, 2011."

The next group of Kansas newspapers is expected to be uploaded to the Chronicling America Web site in September. In all, the historical society will digitize 100,000 pages of Kansas newspapers during this project. Although the historical society is new to the National Digital Newspaper Program, it already has a portion of its collections online at kansasmemory.org. Kansas Memory is the largest online collection of photographs and documents from Kansas history.

The Kansas Historical Society is a state agency that operates the Kansas Museum of History, State Archives & Library, Kansas Capitol Tour Center and 16 state historic sites, including Hollenberg Ranch Pony Express site at Hanover.

Information is available at kshs.org.