

Kansas Historical Notes

The Fort Scott Historical Society was reactivated under the title Fort Scott and Bourbon County Historical Society at a meeting on August 30, 1949. G. W. Marble, editor of the *Fort Scott Tribune*, was elected president of the society. Other officers named were: Bill Henry, vice-president; Mrs. J. R. Prichard, secretary, and Mrs. Goldie Cleland, treasurer. The board of directors includes the officers, the mayors of Bronson, Uniontown, Fulton, Mapleton and Redfield, and Orlando Cheney, Mrs. Glenn Maupin and Mrs. Emma Connolly. Among its activities, the society will maintain the historical museum.

Dr. Homer K. Ebright, on the faculty of Baker University, Baldwin, and a director of the Kansas State Historical Society, was the principal speaker at a dinner meeting of the Osawatomie Historical Society, at Osawatomie, June 13, 1949. Dr. Ebright's subject was "When the Great American Desert Blossomed." The history of the Old Stone Church of Osawatomie was given by Mrs. Pauline Gudger. The board of city commissioners has voted to convey this church to the society to hold as long as it shall be used as a place of public and historical interest. Alden O. Weber is the society's president.

W. W. Graves, editor of the *St. Paul Journal*, recently published volume 1 of his two-volume history of Neosho county. It is a 544-page book, printed in the author's own shop, and is devoted to early Neosho county history. The material to comprise volume 2 is now appearing serially in current issues of the *Journal*.

A 20-page pamphlet entitled, "History of Weather Records in Kansas," by S. D. Flora, former senior meteorologist for Kansas, was published in mimeographed form in June, 1949. According to Mr. Flora, weather records were first kept in Kansas in July, 1827, at the post hospital, Cantonment (now Fort) Leavenworth. The first civilian weather observers began keeping records in 1857 at Lawrence and Mapleton. Weather records have been kept at one time or another at 432 points in Kansas. There are now 240 stations distributed over the state.

Oil! Titan of the Southwest, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, is a new 467-page book by Carl Coke Rister. Chapter 3, "From Paola to Neodesha, Kansas," is devoted to the history of the early oil discoveries in eastern and southeastern Kansas. A company formed by G. W. Brown of Lawrence made one of the earliest attempts to find oil in that region. Drilling was started on the first well, near Paola, in June, 1860, but oil in paying quantities was not found.

The Lost Pathfinder—Zebulon Montgomery Pike, by W. Eugene Hollon, is the title of a 240-page book published recently by the University of Oklahoma. Pike, born in 1779 in New Jersey, is best known for his two Western expeditions in the period 1805-1807, on the second of which he discovered the mountain in present Colorado which bears his name. He was killed in action in 1813, during the War of 1812.

Addendum and Erratum, Volume XVII

The article, "Over Early Shawnee Trails With Olathe's Charley Hoge," mentioned on p. 202, line 22, was written by Frank Hodges.

Page 28, line 16, read "1855" instead of "1885."