

## Bypaths of Kansas History

### MARRIAGE AND BIRTH NOTICES IN EARLY-DAY NEWSPAPERS

From the *Southern Kansas Herald*, Osawatomie, April 24, 1858.

OFF FOR KANSAS.—Last evening, one of our loveliest girls left our city in the 9:40 train, on her way for the far-off Kansas. Although all alone, her brave heart faltered not, nor did the bright roses on her cheek turn pale; and if the tears dimmed her dark eyes, it was not from fear but the thoughts of leaving her many warm friends. But that strongest of all earthly ties formed in childhood and strengthened by five years of unchanging affection cheered her on. Strong in faith and love, and high in hope, she left her own good region to meet the trials of a home within the new, and we hope, prosperous territory. Success and happiness, and all God's choicest blessings attend thee, my stout hearted and darling Mary Luther, when you meet your Merrit, may he love you as I do, and you need have no fears for the future; and well we know he does love you far better, and for this I will bless him; and pray for him.

A TRUE FRIEND TO MARY.

We publish the above *by request*; so we are not responsible for making public "Mary's" adventure in search of a husband! But we may be indulged in saying that if all the girls should manifest such pluck and equal devotedness, fewer old maids would disfigure the census tables. A thousand blessings on you, Mary!—Rochester (N. Y.) *Union & Advertiser*.

The brave hearted young lady alluded to in the above article, arrived safely in Osawatomie on the evening of the 2d inst., and ere the lapse of two hours was united with "the silken tie that binds two willing hearts" to the beau ideal of her dreams, and for whom she left home, friends, and all the fond endearments that cluster around youthful associations. We can assure "Mary's true friend," that her happiness has been exalted, and her strong-hearted devotion of love and fidelity will ever be cherished by the object of her love, who is one [of] our most respectable and worthy young men. A life of happiness and prosperity is in store for them, and long may they live to enjoy it.

From *The Sumner County Press*, Wellington, January 8, 1874.

The following unique marriage ceremony was pronounced by a Cottonwood Falls 'Squire, who was taken unawares by an anxious couple presenting themselves, but who proved himself equal to the emergency. We give it upon the authority of the *Chase County Leader*, and if it is not strictly true, then may the Lord have mercy on Morgan's soul:

"Therefore, by virtue of the authority invested in me by the laws of the State of Kansas, and the rules and regulations governing the land office at Salina, I hereby pronounce you man and wife. Whoever I have joined in wedlock let no man part asunder. I charge you to be true to each other. True love is as scarce in Kansas as honest men in our legislature. Be always true and loving to each other, take a homestead or a piece of railroad land with a spring on it, (my

partner, Bill Smith, knows where there is a good piece,) and you will be comparatively happy. Happiness in this world consists of a man and wife loving each other and playing checkers. It is a pity there is so much deception; but if your hearts beat in unison, and laborers receive two dollars a day, you can consider yourselves in luck. Amen.

From *ibid.*, July 30, 1874.

A couple came from Ohio, arriving in Leavenworth a few days since, and were married about noon. At 8 o'clock in the evening a bouncing boy weighing ten and a half pounds, was born to the blooming bride of less than ten hours. This is only another evidence of the fertility of Kansas, and a proof that the drought is not so general and fatal in its effects as some of our eastern friends suppose.

From the *Dodge City Times*, June 15, 1878.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Overley, June 11, 1878, a daughter.

It is unnecessary to state that the old gentleman, who is bordering on 60, is very proud of this masterly streak of luck.

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#### AN AGE-OLD QUESTION

From the *Solomon Valley Pioneer*, Lindsey, February 15, 1873.

They are discussing in the Solomon Literary Society the question whether "there is more pleasure in married or single life." We are on the affirmative, and deem those on the negative decidedly green.

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#### EXCITING DRAMA AT SENECA

From the *Seneca Weekly Courier*, March 13, 1874.

Seventeen pair of corset clasps were swept out the next morning after the last drama. It would be well to leave the whole thing at home next Tuesday night.

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#### WESTWARD WITH A HAND CART

From the *El Dorado Press*, June 26, 1879.

Last week a family of emigrants passed through town pulling a hand cart, in which was placed their portable earthly effects. They were all the way from North Carolina and were bound for Sun City, Barbour county.

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#### TRANSPORTATION AT NORTON IN 1880

From the *Norton County People*, Norton, August 5, 1880.

A load of hay was brought to town on Monday, on a wagon drawn by four cows.