



The oldest residence still standing in Manhattan. The main stone section was built about 1857-1858 by David A. Butterfield who later was to operate the famed Butterfield Overland Dispatch stage lines. *Manhattan Mercury Photo, 1955.*

Manhattan's Oldest House Was Built by David A. Butterfield

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A SEARCH of several years has revealed the fact that the oldest residence in Manhattan is the stone house at 307 Osage St., shown in the accompanying photograph. It is still in good condition and occupied. Two frame rooms have been added since the original structure was built. It is now owned by A. W. Torluemke.

The exact age of the house is not certain. The original owner, David A. Butterfield, bought the site from the Manhattan Town Association on July 18, 1857, for \$50. On July 8, 1858, he mortgaged it to John Mails for \$400, with interest at 20 percent. The mortgage includes this statement: "Lot 150, Ward 2 . . . meaning and intending the lot on which David A. Butterfield now lives." The house therefore was built between July 18, 1857, and July 8, 1858.

Several publications dealing with early Manhattan state that William Goodnow built the first and David A. Butterfield the second stone house in Manhattan. The Goodnow house was torn down some years ago. Earlier frame houses have passed out of existence.

David A. Butterfield was born at Jay, Maine, 1834, and came to Kansas in 1856. He was elected sheriff of Riley county in 1857. The records of the New England Emigrant Aid Company contain references to Butterfield's operation of its mill at Manhattan in 1857 and 1858. By the middle of 1858, however, he may have been in the process of transferring his work and residence to Junction City, for a letter from a correspondent of that city published in the *Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, on June 26, 1858, reported: "Mr. D. A. Butterfield of Manhattan, has purchased a steam saw mill, has it now in town, and is being put up as rapidly as possible. In connection with the saw mill, he will have a grist, shingle and lath mill."

Butterfield moved to Denver in 1862 and returned to Kansas, at Atchison, in 1864. He organized that year Butterfield's Overland Dispatch, a famous freighting concern which operated between Atchison and Denver. It failed in 1866 and Butterfield moved to Mississippi. Later he located in Hot Springs, Ark., where he established a horse-drawn street car line. He was killed there on March 28, 1875, in a quarrel with an employee.

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