

Kansas Historical Notes

The Franklin County Historical Society's museum in Ottawa was opened to the public and dedicated July 4, 1963. The museum building, erected in 1888, was the former Santa Fe depot and was recently donated to the society by the railroad.

All officers of the Douglass Historical Society were re-elected at the group's annual meeting July 4, 1963. They include: Mrs. Elmer Sherar, president; Walter Martin, first vice-president; W. A. Graves, second vice-president; and Mrs. Turia Bolington, secretary-treasurer.

A museum was opened by the Reno County Historical Society, July 6, 1963, in the J. P. Harsha house at 207 East A St. in Hutchinson. The house is the former home of an early mayor of Hutchinson. Mrs. V. W. Maupin is president of the society, which reports a membership of 400.

The annual meeting of the Harvey County Historical Society was held in Newton, July 23, 1963. New officers elected were: Menno E. Schmidt, president; Muriel Schaefer, first vice-president; Mrs. Edna Arnold, second vice-president; Lawrence Hauck, third vice-president; Mrs. Ella Royston, secretary; and Mrs. Helen Hobbs, treasurer. Elden Smurr was named program chairman, and William J. Sage membership chairman.

Ceremonies dedicating the Hollenberg Pony Express Station, Washington county, as a registered national historic landmark were held July 26, 1963, at the station. Ray H. Mattison, historian of the Omaha regional office of the National Park Service, was the principal speaker.

F. W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg, was chosen chairman of the Kansas Civil War Centennial Commission at an organizational meeting of the commission, August 16, 1963, in Topeka. Alan W. Farley, Kansas City, was elected vice-chairman, and Mrs. Frank Haucke, Council Grove, secretary-treasurer. Other members of the group are Robert E. Galvin, Fort Scott, and Charles C. Rankin, Lawrence.

Lawrence observed the 100th anniversary of the Quantrill raid on that city with a luncheon at the Hotel Eldridge, August 21, 1963, which was attended by more than 225 persons. The principal

speaker was Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., director of the National Civil War Centennial Commission, whose subject was "The Sack of Lawrence: What Price Glory?"

On August 22, 1963, with the emplacement of the first marker, near Munjor, Ellis county, a program for marking the Butterfield Overland Despatch trail was initiated. Howard C. Raynesford, Ellis, who has traced and mapped the trail, is supervising the project which will eventually place 175 markers along the route.

During late August, 1963, a Chicago man, Al Carter, traveled the length of the old Santa Fe trail, journeying by auto where possible, but on foot where the highways deviate from the trail. Carter makes a hobby of traveling the historic routes, having previously traversed the Oregon and other trails.

William D. Aeschbacher, a native of Kansas, was appointed director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library at Abilene, effective September 1, 1963. He replaced Robert R. Bolton, acting director, who then became associate director.

Paul Wood, Elmdale, was elected president of the Chase County Historical Society at the society's annual meeting, September 7, 1963, in Cottonwood Falls. Other officers elected were: William Selves, Sr., Cottonwood Falls, vice-president; Mrs. Mildred Speer, Cottonwood Falls, secretary; and George T. Dawson, Elmdale, treasurer. Selves was the retiring president.

Rolla Clymer, El Dorado publisher, was the principal speaker at the dedication, September 9, 1963, of a historical marker at the Wellington service area of the Kansas turnpike. Among the features of the area mentioned on the marker are the Chisholm trail, the openings of sections of Oklahoma for settlement in 1889 and 1893, agriculture and industry of the area, and the cities of Caldwell, Wellington, Winfield, and Wichita.

The Crawford County Historical Society named Lawrence M. Walker president at its annual meeting September 24, 1963, in Pittsburg. Other officers elected were: Robert O. Karr, vice-president; Mrs. Wadene Walker, recording secretary; Mrs. Bess Graves, corresponding secretary; and Flora Holroyd, treasurer. Mrs. A. N. Ligon, S. E. Smith, Dr. G. W. Weede, and Mrs. R. P. Emmitt were chosen directors. Mrs. Ligon was the retiring president. F. W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg publisher and chairman of the Kansas Civil

War Centennial Commission, addressed the group on Gen. James Blunt of Civil War fame.

Some 26 miles southwest of Scott City on the Max Hite farm is a sodhouse museum. Most of the antiques displayed in the museum are from the families of Mr. and Mrs. Hite. His father, Sylvester Hite, homesteaded the farm in 1887.

The adventures of John Young Nelson, as described to Harrington O'Reilly, were republished in 1963 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, in a 291-page volume entitled *Fifty Years on the Trail*. Nelson is described as a trader, huntsman, guide, Pony Express rider, showman, saloon proprietor, peace officer, and Sioux Indian brave. In the foreword, Donald E. Worcester states that the life of Nelson is the story of the Midwestern frontier from about 1840 to 1890.