Kansas Historical Notes

Mike Getto was elected president of the Douglas County Historical Society at a recent meeting in Lawrence. Other officers chosen included: Glenn Kappelman and Lathrop Read, Jr., vice-presidents; Opal Jayne Kennedy, secretary; Howard Wiseman, treasurer; and Mrs. Ethel High, James W. Paddock, Mrs. George Anderson, Mrs. Charles Stough, Jr., Frank Walters, and Dayton Van Tries, members of the board of directors. Paul Wilson was the retiring president.

One of the goals of the Leavenworth County Historical Society, a museum, is near realization. Ella V. Carroll has donated a large, brick residence to the society for that purpose. In the Carroll family since 1889, the original house is said to have been built in territorial days. Major enlargements were made in the 1860’s and 1880’s.

Helen Riepl was named president of the Gray County Historical Society at the society’s annual meeting, April 7, 1964, in Cimarron. Edna Fauley was elected vice-president; Grace Truax, secretary; Eva Jacques, treasurer; Helen Rennie, director; and Mary Feeley, program chairman. Mrs. Rennie was the retiring president. The guest speaker at the meeting was Jay S. Andrews, author of the recently published History of Bloom, Kansas.

Arthur M. Fleming was re-elected president of the Finney County Historical Society at a meeting in Garden City, April 14, 1964. Other officers elected were: Arthur Stone, first vice-president; Amy Gillespie, second vice-president; D. D. Richardson, third vice-president; Claudine Lindner, secretary; Mrs. Cecil Wristen, treasurer; and E. E. Bill, historian. The society has been busy moving into its new museum since its completion in April.

Thomas County Historical Society officers, elected April 15, 1964, are: Carl Eddy, president; Mrs. Cline Curtiss, vice-president; Nina Beaver, secretary; Bertha Louis, treasurer; and Mrs. Leta Secrest, membership chairman. W. D. Ferguson, the retiring president, died on June 8.

Officers of the Stevens County Gas and Historical Museum, elected April 20, 1964, at a meeting in Hugoton, include: Bob Walker, president; Glen McQueen, vice-president; Mrs. Kate Morgan, secretary; and Add Hathaway, treasurer. Walker, Hathaway,
Everette Parsley, Howard Gracey, Bud Sutton, and Russell Smith were elected to the board of trustees. Bob Schroeder was the retiring president.

Officers re-elected by the Edwards County Historical Society at a meeting in Kinsley, April 21, 1964, included: Mrs. E. G. Peterson, president; Charles Anderson, first vice-president; Cecil Matthews, second vice-president; Elsie Jenkins, secretary; Alfreda Miller, treasurer; Mary Vang, custodian of relics; and Myrtle Richardson, historian. The only new officer is L. E. Brown, third vice-president.

Ira Laidig is the new president of the Decatur County Historical Society, chosen at a meeting of the board of directors April 29, 1964. Other officers, all re-elected, are: Anna Petracek and Jay Paddock, vice-presidents; Ralph Brown, secretary; Mrs. Fred Ploussard, treasurer; and Ted Addleman and Floyd Lotker, directors. Keith Nicodemus was the retiring president.

Merle V. Walker, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, gave the dedicatory address at ceremonies, May 17, 1964, opening the Post Rock Museum at La Crosse. The museum shows the use of limestone as a building material in Kansas, especially as fence posts in a large area of western Kansas. The Rush County Historical Society has been responsible for the development of the museum.

About 325 persons turned out for the third tour of historic points sponsored by the Wilson County Historical Society, held June 7, 1964. Coyville, observing its centennial, was the central point of the excursion.

An 11-page mimeographed pamphlet entitled “The Land of Quivira,” by George Jelinek, is the latest in the series of historical articles being published by the Ellsworth County Historical Society.

*Let's Tell the Truth About Lincoln*, a four-page leaflet by E. A. Thomas of Topeka, a director of the State Historical Society, has been published in an effort to refute some of the false legends and myths about the Lincoln family.

*Life Is a Local Story: a Collection of Talks Concerning Local History, Historic Sites, and History Museums* is the title of a 90-page booklet edited by Clement M. Silvestro, and published in 1964 by the American Association for State and Local History.

Jeff C. Dykes is the author of a 30-page book entitled *High Spots in Western Illustrating*, published in 1964. He has listed and discussed “distinctly above average” illustrated books about the area west of the Mississippi river.
After Harper’s Ferry; John Brown’s Widow—Her Family and the Saratoga Years is the title of a 30-page pamphlet published in 1964 by the Saratoga Historical Foundation, Saratoga, Cal.

Elk City history, old timers’ reminiscences, and accounts of Montgomery county towns, post offices, and Indian villages were included in a recently published 40-page pamphlet, by Raydene James Benfield, entitled Elk City, Kansas, Then and Now.

They Called Him Wild Bill—The Life and Adventures of James Butler Hickok, a 278-page biography of Hickok by Joseph G. Rosa of Ruislip, Middlesex, England, was published in 1964 by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Kansas’ experiences with whisky, prohibition, and Carry Nation are touched upon in Gerald Carson’s new 280-page book The Social History of Bourbon, published by Dodd, Mead and Co., New York.

Folklore from many areas of the country has been compiled by Richard M. Dorson and published in a 574-page volume entitled Buying the Wind, by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago, in 1964.

Horace Greeley’s An Overland Journey From New York to San Francisco in the Summer of 1859, originally published in 1860, has been republished in a 326-page volume by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, in 1964. Charles T. Duncan is the editor and author of notes and the introduction.

Echoes and Etchings of Early Ellis, by Kittie Dale, a 224-page history of the town, its people, businesses, schools, and churches was published in 1964 by the Big Mountain Press, Denver.

James C. Malin is the author of a new work, A Concern About Humanity: Notes on Reform, 1872-1912, at the National and Kansas Levels of Thought. The 229-page lithographed volume was published by the author at Lawrence in 1964.

Volume one of 100 Years in Kansas Education, a 212-page book by C. O. Wright, was published by the Kansas State Teachers Association, Topeka, in 1963. It is described by the author as “something a chronological treatment not only of the professional organization of teachers, but of the development of the Kansas school system.”

Midian, Kansas—The History of an Oil Boom Town is the title of a new 238-page, paper-bound volume by William Allen Green.
Established in 1917 near El Dorado by the oil companies, Midian had nearly disappeared by the 1940’s.

“Indiana Countians and ‘Bleeding Kansas,’” is one of the chapters in the new 155-page, paper-bound volume entitled Impact of the Slavery Issue on Indiana County, by Clarence D. Stephenson. The author points out that Indiana county, Pennsylvania, citizens were vitally concerned with the struggle in Kansas prior to the Civil War, some of them even participating in it.

Robert Edgar Riegel’s The Story of the Western Railroads, published in 1926, was reprinted in 1964 in a 345-page, paper-bound volume by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. The book reviews the history of the Western railroads from 1852 to the struggle among E. H. Harriman, J. J. Hill, George Gould, and others in the early 1900’s to gain control of the railroads.

In 1886, as a child of six, Catherine Ward, now Mrs. Mervyn Allen, made a trip into the Indian territory with an uncle. Later her father made the “run” when the Cherokee strip was opened and the family settled in Oklahoma. These experiences are related in a new 244-page book by Mrs. Allen and edited by Harry E. Christman entitled Chariot of the Sun, published by Sage Books, Denver.

War Chief Joseph is the title of a 368-page biography by Helen Addison Howard and Dan L. McGrath, originally published in 1941, reprinted in 1964 by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. Joseph was the famed chief of the Nez Perce Indians, 1871 to 1904.

A collection of essays by Avery Craven, dealing with the causes of the Civil War, was recently published by the University of Chicago Press in a 233-page volume entitled An Historian and the Civil War.

Frontier Community: Kansas City to 1870, a 235-page history of Kansas City, Mo., by A. Theodore Brown, was recently published by the University of Missouri Press, Columbia. A second volume, bringing the city’s history to the present, is being prepared.

A history of the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth, by Jack Cope, No. 72485, has been printed in a 92-page volume entitled 1300 Metropolitan Avenue by the penitentiary print shop. A military prison was established at Fort Leavenworth in 1874. In 1895 it was transferred to the Department of Justice and became the U. S. penitentiary.

The Missouri river, as a highway, as a boundary, and as an outpost, was the subject of Stanley Vestal’s work, The Missouri, recently
republished by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, in a 368-page, paper-bound volume.

Elmer Verner McCollum's autobiography was published in a 253-page book, *From Kansas Farm Boy to Scientist*, by the University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, in 1964. McCollum, born in 1879 on a farm near Fort Scott, is probably best known as the discoverer of vitamins A and D.

*Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West,* by Dale L. Morgan, originally published in 1953, has been reprinted in 1964 in a 458-page, paper-bound volume by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

Volume 1 of the *History of Kearny County, Kansas,* was published in 1964 by the Kearny County Historical Society. The 457-page book includes stories and pictures of many of the early residents of the county, histories of the towns, businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations, and other information of a historical nature.

A 520-page *History of Republic County, 1868-1964,* compiled by Mrs. Edgar Blackburn and Mrs. Homer Cardwell, was recently issued by the Republic County Historical Society. The volume includes town and township histories and many aspects of the county's history.

*Early Ford County,* by Ida Ellen Rath, is a new 267-page volume published by the Mennonite Press, North Newton. Ford county was organized in 1873 although some boundary changes were made later.

In 1953 field notes made by William Clark during the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803-1806 were discovered in an attic. These have been edited and annotated by Ernest Staples Osgood and published in a 335-page book entitled *The Field Notes of Captain William Clark, 1803-1805,* by the Yale University Press, New Haven, in 1964.

*The Sack of Lawrence: What Price Glory?* is the title of a 20-page pamphlet by Dr. James J. Robertson, Jr., executive director of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission, recently published in co-operation with the Kansas Civil War Centennial Commission. Dr. Robertson presented this material in a talk at a luncheon in Lawrence, August 21, 1963, in observance of the centennial of Quantrill's Lawrence raid. The pamphlet also includes remarks by Charles S. Gleed, made at a similar meeting 50 years previously.