Kansas History as Published in the Press

Vine Creek, Ottawa county, settled in the 1870's by Irish Catholics, has now completely disappeared. A brief history of the village appeared in the Minneapolis Messenger, July 25, 1963.


Among the many articles in the Summer, 1963, number of the Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, Topeka, were: “The Governor’s Mansion, 1901-1962,” by Hermione van Laer Adams; an installment of George A. Root’s “Chronology of Shawnee County”; “I Remember College Hill School,” by Doris Engholm Gunning; “Memories of College Hill School,” by Robert E. Romig; “The Merriam Family,” by the late Maude M. Bishop; and biographical sketches of the late Thomas M. Lillard and Louis R. Smith. A group of articles on “Aristocratic Topeka Avenue and Its Environs,” comprised the December issue of the Bulletin. Included were biographical sketches of some of those who have lived in the area and articles on many of the buildings. As a memorial to the late Paul Adams, one of the founders and for years an officer of the society, an index of the Bulletins, December, 1946-December, 1962, prepared by Mrs. Leila Barnes under the direction of John Ripley, was published in November.

William C. Quantrill was the subject of a series of eight articles by Donald R. Hale, published in The Sentinel, Oak Grove, Mo., beginning July 29, 1963.

Mrs. R. A. Galbraith's history of Skiddy, printed in the White City Register in 1937, was reprinted in the Register, August 1, 1963, and in the Council Grove Republican, November 6. The Morris county town was established after the railroad was constructed through the area in 1869.

Presbyterian Life, Philadelphia, published in its August 1, 1963, issue an article by James W. Hoffman entitled "Kansas—Covered Wagons to Moon Rockets." The author touched upon early Kansas history, particularly Presbyterian contributions to it, and then, in contrast, described the progress of the state and the church to the present.

A series of articles on local history by Frances Vaughn began appearing in the Bonner Springs Chieftain, August 6, 1963. Mrs. Vaughn was the owner of the Chieftain for more than 50 years.

A biographical sketch of Lewis E. Willson, teacher and businessman, appeared in the Waterville Telegraph, August 8, 1963. The son of a publisher of the Telegraph, Willson taught in the Waterville area before leaving the state in 1905.

In observance of the 75th anniversary of St. Francis, a 16-page section of historical articles and pictures was included in the August 8, 1963, issue of the St. Francis Herald.

A series of articles by Barney Slawson, describing short tours starting at Topeka, appeared in the Topeka Capital-Journal in recent months. Notes on historic points along the routes are included in the articles. One, published August 11, 1963, covered a route to the west of Topeka—Burlingame, Alta Vista, Junction City, Wakefield, Manhattan, Wabaunsee, St. Marys—and another, published August 25, included Emporia, McPherson, Lindsborg, Salina, Abilene, and Junction City.

Newspapers publishing stories recalling the Quantrill raid on Lawrence, August 21, 1863, in observance of its centennial included: Lawrence Outlook and Jefferson County Mirror-Times, Perry, August 15, 1963; the Journal-World, Lawrence, August 17; Topeka Sunday Capital-Journal and Kansas City (Mo.) Star, August 18; and Wellsville Globe, August 22.
Many stories of incidents that occurred during the opening of the Cherokee Strip, September 16, 1893, were published in the Caldwell Messenger, August 29, 1963, and in subsequent issues. A description of the race for claims appeared in the issue of September 2.


Gustaf and Alma Carlson homesteaded near Garfield just in time to experience the blizzard of 1886. A history of the family by Sarah K. Carlson appeared in the Tiller and Toiler, Larned, August 29, 1963. A 50th Larned State Hospital anniversary edition of the Tiller and Toiler was published April 24, 1964, featuring articles and pictures relating to the past and present of the hospital.


Frederic Remington was the subject of a four-column article by Corah Mooney Bullock, published in the Butler County News, El Dorado, September 5, 1963. Remington, later to become famous as an artist, lived in Butler county for a time in 1883 and 1884. In the December 19 issue of the News was a brief history of Benton township, Butler county.

A biographical sketch of Nellie Cross of Lewis, and some of her reminiscences, were included in an article by Don Kendall in the Hutchinson News, September 8, 1963. In 1877, when she was two years old, Mrs. Cross’ parents, Robert and Elizabeth Corner, homesteaded near Lewis.

Rolla Clymer’s dedicatory address at the unveiling of the historical marker at the Wellington service area of the Kansas turnpike, September 9, 1963, was printed in the Wellington Daily News, September 9. Jesse Chisholm, the trail that bears his name, and the town of Caldwell were among the subjects covered in the talk.

“Museum Notes,” Orville W. Mosher’s column in the Emporia Gazette, included the following articles in recent months: “Many

Seventy-six township, Sumner county, organized in 1876—hence its name—was the subject of a four-installment historical sketch in the Belle Plaine News, September 19, 1963, and succeeding issues.


Brief histories of the First Capitol of Kansas territory, on the present Fort Riley military reservation, were published in the Pratt Tribune, September 20, Salina Journal, September 22, and Scott City News-Chronicle, October 24, 1963. The same issue of the News-Chronicle also contained a history of Fort Scott, the military post.

An article, “Ferries Were Important Part of Early Day Transportation,” by Carl J. Whitson, was printed in the Winfield Courier, September 25, 1963. Records indicate that a number of licenses were issued by the county commissioners to those desiring to operate ferries on the Arkansas and Walnut rivers in Cowley county. A two-part history of the Winfield Public Library, by Carol Stecher, appeared in the Courier, May 13, 14, 1964. The library is observing its 50th anniversary this year.

On October 6, 1863, William C. Quantrill and his guerrillas surprised a contingent of Union soldiers under Gen. James G. Blunt near present Baxter Springs and killed 96 of them. A special edition of the Baxter Springs Citizen, October 7, 1963, recalled the story of the massacre. Also in observance of the anniversary, a luncheon was held in Baxter Springs, October 4, with Dr. Dudley Cornish as the speaker. Part of the talk was printed in the Pittsburg Sun, October 5.

Strawn, Coffey county village recently vacated because of the construction of the John Redmond reservoir, is the subject of an article in the Daily Republican, Burlington, October 8, 1963. The town was started in 1872. Biographical material on the Strawn fami-
ily, furnished by W. E. Strawn, is also included in the article. Enos Strawn was the first to settle at the town site.

A history of the Eskridge fire department was published in the Eskridge Independent, October 10, 1963. The department is currently observing its 50th anniversary.

Central College opened in McPherson in early 1914, having been moved from Orleans, Neb. A short history of the school was printed in the McPherson Daily Sentinel, October 16, 1963. On November 9 the Sentinel published a description and some of the history of Coronado Heights, near Lindsborg.


In 1873 the Emanuel Fishers and two other families arrived and settled in Norton county. A daughter, Mrs. Annie Fisher Johnson of Norton, reminisced about the early days in that area in the October 18, 1963, issue of the Norton Daily Telegram, and in the Lenora News, November 13.

Arkansas City 50 years ago was described by John Floyd in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, October 22, 1963.

Frank Draper's recollections of the early history of Cedarville, now Cedar, were printed in the Smith County Pioneer, Smith Center, October 31, 1963. The village was the first county seat of Smith county.


Ed Cornwell, 95 years of age, born and raised in Washington county, remembers when Indians, prairie fires, and grasshoppers came to plague the settlers. A sketch of his life and some of his reminiscences were published in the Washington County News, Washington, November 15, 1963.

Included in the Fall, 1963, number of Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Lawrence, was "The Kansas Academy of Science and the State Geological Survey of Kansas," by Walter H. Schoewe. The article traces the history of the survey, showing how the academy has been responsible for its organization and promotion.