

## Bypaths of Kansas History

AN INDIAN WEDDING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES NEAR WHITE CLOUD

From *The Nationalist*, Manhattan, June 8, 1883.

EDITOR NATIONALIST.

Imagine my surprise on receiving the last No. of your paper, to find myself in print. If that can be acceptable to your readers, perhaps some more incidents of life on an Indian reserve may be interesting—and recall to some of your readers the times when they were surrounded by Indians.

We have had much to interest us all for the last three weeks. First, a wedding, then payment, and now an Indian visit, with all its accompaniments. In case any of your readers wish to commit matrimony, I will tell them how we do it. The young man is about eighteen, his wife fourteen, both former scholars at the school. At a party at the house of her father, near daybreak, they quietly slipped out of the house, mounted a pony apiece and were away. They did not stop until they reached the reserve of the Sacs, where they remained for several days. Then Pa-a-tal-a-qua brought his bride to her father's, and the next night all their friends assembled with their presents. The men dressed him in all the finery to be had, and the women dressed her. They had a supper, and danced all night, and then he took her home to his father's.

Last week, the Agent was here for payment, and we saw all the Indians pass the school on their way to the Council-house. The Sacs had on all their finery. There is a large party of Winnebagoes down on a visit, who came down with them.

This week, the Sacs came down on a visit. They sent down a bundle of sticks. The Iowas received, and had a council and sent back word. On Tuesday, they began to come down with their tents and a big drum. They camped at the Council-house, and, on Wednesday, the new Trader came up and sent for a beef, which was killed and divided, and last night was the dance. (I was there as reporter.) The most fashionable costume was moccasins, leggins with fringes, some to the knee, others to the thigh, a breech cloth, loose shirt, trimmed with silver breast-plates, and bead garters, silver bracelets, armlets, head bands, bear claw collars, and all the beads they could carry, belts, and ribbons tied in their hair. One had a string of sleighbells down each leg and a long string from his back down to the ground. Horse tails fastened down the back was also quite the fashion.

On Sunday, they received the ponies (which were the object of their visit) and have gone home. All this, surrounded by whites, between two thriving towns, White Cloud and Rulo, by men who wear white men's dress and speak English. One would never imagine, to be in the boarding house with the children around us, with their bright faces and English speech and manners, that they were used to such a life, or that it had any attraction for them—and, indeed, some of them know but little of it—as many cannot speak Indian, although they can understand it. It is a little world by itself; every day full of something to occupy your attention, and the rest of the world goes on without even a ripple of interest, and you hardly know where the time goes.

Your, &c., L. J. WATTE.

Nohart, Neb., May 20th 1883.

## RELISHES WITH OR WITHOUT ONIONS

FROM the La Crosse *Chieftain*, February 12, 1904.

McCracken "onion socials" are very popular this winter. One of the girls takes a bite out of a raw onion. The boys pay ten cents apiece for guesses. Those who guess correctly get to kiss all the other girls, and those who guess incorrectly must kiss the girl who bit the onion.

---

## TROUBLE IN THE KANSAS STATEHOUSE IN 1907

FROM the McPherson *Freeman*, February 15, 1907.

## CAPITOL "JOINT."

MYRA M'HENRY MAKES A DISCOVERY IN THE STATEHOUSE.

---

## A CLEVER TRICK.

MEN WERE FOUND DRINKING IN A FOURTH FLOOR ROOM BY THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE, WHO SEIZED A BOTTLE AND A GLASS AND RAN.

---

TOPEKA, Feb. 9.—Mrs. Myra McHenry, a temperance worker who is spending a good deal of time around the statehouse, has discovered a thirst parlor on the fourth floor of the statehouse. One of the rooms set apart for the use of a committee is being used as a sort of clubroom for the members of the house and senate.

Mrs. McHenry discovered the trail to this place through one of the house employees who had patronized it only a few moments before he met Mrs. McHenry. His breath was strong, and Mrs. Myra spotted him from afar, and when she got within hailing distance began to upbraid him for drinking. The house employee was feeling quite fresh and after Mrs. McHenry had roasted him for some minutes, he offered to take her to the place where the liquor could be procured.

The two got into the elevator and went up to the room, No. 4, on the east side of the north wing. When they entered the room the men were drinking and there was liquor in bottles on a table and many glasses. No one seemed to be in charge, and thus far no one has been found who claimed the property. Mrs. McHenry did not stay long. She just grabbed a bottle of whisky and a glass and ran.

Some of the men caught her down the corridor, but she told them that if they tried to take the whisky away from her she would scream and they did not attempt it until Mrs. McHenry led them into the elevator. As the elevator was going down one of the men took hold of the bottle, but Mrs. McHenry made such a hard fight that the liquor was spilled over her dress, over the men and on the floor of the elevator. The men got the bottle, but not the glass, and then Mrs. McHenry was refused the right to make a speech in the statehouse corridors.