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Officer Howe had stopped a driver who was swerving his car on the road. Howe did not know that the driver, Oney Knight, was an escaped murderer from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Howe approached the car on foot. As he reached the car, Knight stepped out and shot the officer twice. Howe's partner, John Ingals, fired at the escaping fugitive but failed to stop him.¹¹¹

Frank Rohrbach
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 6, 1931
Type of Crime: Response to Investigate
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 36

Rohrbach received a citizen call at home to investigate two men who were observed with guns in their car. The deputy, in uniform, investigated and removed three guns from the car and one from a suspect. As he continued the search, the other suspect drew a weapon and fatally shot Rohrbach. It was nearly five years before the two suspects were apprehended.¹¹²

Merle Colver
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Detective
Date of Death: August 14, 1931
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot

Detective Colver was questioning two men, who were suspects in several gas station robberies, in their hotel room. While questioning them he began searching the room and was shot in the back by one of the suspects. The assailant was an escaped murderer from Oklahoma.¹¹³

Harry L. Bolin
City: Newton County: Harvey
Type of Officer: Assistant Chief of Police
Date of Injury: June 15, 1932
Date of Death: June 17, 1932
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 36

Chief Bolin was following a car suspected of transporting illegal alcohol. To avoid alerting the vehicle's driver, he was traveling without headlights. He struck a culvert bannister and was fatally injured in the accident.¹¹⁴

Ernest R. E. Gough
City: Leavenworth County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: July 28, 1932
Date of Death: July 29, 1932
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 40

Officer Gough and his partner, Joe Feidler, were on night patrol and stopped to routinely investigate two men who were crouched down and apparently hiding behind a tree. One of the men, later identified as James Robertson, fired, mortally wounding Gough. Robertson had been paroled from state prison four days earlier. A civilian was wounded in the ensuing exchange of gunfire between Officer Feidler and the suspects.¹¹⁵

Bailey Bell
City: Leavenworth County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: February 4, 1933
Type of Crime: Robbery, Car Theft
Type of Death: Gunshot

While on patrol with Officer Kenneth Hunt, Bell observed an occupied car that had been reported stolen. The officers approached with guns drawn and Bell ordered the occupant out. The door opened slightly and the suspect shot Bell with a sawed-off shotgun he had been holding in his lap. The killer ran, as did his partner who had been inside a store during the affair.

Bell had been an officer only since January 18 and was the second man on the Leavenworth force to be killed in six months.¹¹⁶

Charles M. Bruce
City: McPherson County: McPherson
Type of Officer: Night Police Chief
Date of Death: May 14, 1933
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 45

Investigating the possible burglary of a service station, Officer Bruce found a broken lock but no one was present. After informing the station owner, he returned to find men outside the station. As he approached the suspects, he was shot. Unknowingly Bruce had confronted the well-known Gene Johnson gang of bank robbers. Johnson was later cornered by officers from Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma and was killed in a fusillade of bullets.

The story made several of the pulp detective magazines of the day.¹¹⁷

111. *Lawrence Daily Journal World*, April 24, 25, 27, 1931.
112. Lawrence L. Henry, Timothy H. Johnson, Terry L. Owens, comp., *Wyandotte County Sheriff's Deputies Killed in the Line of Duty* (typescript and clippings, 1985).
113. Martens, *Wichita Police Department History*, 3.
114. *Evening Kansan Republican*, Newton, June 18, 1932.

115. *Leavenworth Times*, July 29, August 2, 1932; Leavenworth Police Department files.

116. *Leavenworth Times*, February 4, 5, 1933.

117. *McPherson Sentinel*, March 19, 1976; Lyal Littlefield, police judge and former partner of Bruce, interview with Robert Perkins, former McPherson chief of police, May 25, 1966, McPherson Police Department; McPherson Police Department files.



Benjamin J. Davidson
City: Topeka County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff/County Jailer
Date of Death: November 28, 1933
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt, Jail
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 56

Davidson, the county jailor and a deputy sheriff, was on night duty when four men led by Cecil Thornbrugh, escaped from their cell. The men beat the jailor with homemade blackjacks, and in the struggle, Davidson and Thornbrugh fell down the stairs. The escapee managed to acquire Davidson's revolver, and shot him once. Davidson continued his pursuit, and Thornbrugh fired two more times, hitting Davidson. The deputy continued to struggle with his assailant. Davidson finally ended up on top of Thornbrugh and died in that position, pinning Thornbrugh to the floor and preventing the escape.¹¹⁸

Wimberly W. Baker
City: Topeka County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent
Date of Death: April 17, 1937
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 27

Baker, a Kansas City bureau FBI agent assigned to eastern Kansas, was staking out a post office box belonging to Robert Suhay and Glen Applegate, suspected of robbery. When the two appeared to claim the contents of the box, Baker identified himself and

attempted to arrest the two men. They turned and fired, killing Baker in the lobby of the downtown Topeka post office.¹¹⁹

Charles Casey
City: Elk City County: Montgomery
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: August 28, 1937
Type of Crime: Murder
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 43

Undersheriff Casey was killed while attempting to arrest murder suspect Frank Foster near Elk City.¹²⁰

John T. Moyer
City: Baxter Springs County: Cherokee
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: April 24, 1939
Type of Crime: Institutional Escape
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 65

Chief of Police Moyer was shot and killed while attempting to apprehend one Charles Kinzie, an escapee from an insane asylum. The owner of the hotel where Moyer found Kinzie was also wounded and later died from his injuries.¹²¹

1940s

Clarence A. Sanger
City: Moran County: Allen
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: March 28, 1942
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 48

While on his rounds Marshal Sanger discovered two men attempting to break into a garage. Sanger, with pistol drawn, challenged them at the rear door. The suspects immediately fired at the marshal with a shotgun killing him almost instantly.¹²²

Olney E. Eaton
City: Salina County: Saline
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: May 24, 1942
Date of Death: May 31, 1942
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Accidentally Struck by Automobile
Age: 67

While on night duty, Officer Eaton was crossing a street after conferring with fellow officers. The driver of a car, following two other cars through the intersection,

119. *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 17, 1937; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Topeka office, files.

120. *Kansas City Times*, August 28, 1937.

121. *Baxter Springs Citizen and Herald*, April 24, 27, 1939.

122. *Iola Register*, March 28, 1942; City of Moran, reward resolution, April 6, 1942, city clerk, Moran, Kansas.

failed to see Eaton and the vehicle fatally struck the officer.¹²³

Edward Nugent

City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: August 2, 1943

Type of Crime: Suspected Rape

Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Nugent was on his way home when a young woman stopped him to report that a man had tried to force her into an alley. Nugent located the suspect, searched him, and took him into custody. While en route to the jail the suspect produced a revolver and shot Nugent. Nugent later died at the hospital.¹²⁴

Robert L. Freeman

City: Tonganoxie County: Leavenworth

Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff

Date of Injury: January 22, 1944

Date of Death: August 26, 1944

Type of Crime: Burglary

Type of Death: Gunshot Complications

Age: 48

Arthur Lathrop, just paroled from the state penitentiary in Lansing, stole a car in Leavenworth, wrecked it, and was picked up by passing motorist Ernest Elston. Lathrop forced Elston to drive him to Tonganoxie where he boarded a bus. Elston saw Deputy Freeman and informed him of the incident. Freeman ordered Lathrop from the bus, and as Lathrop exited, he shot Freeman. Paralyzed from the waist down, Deputy Freeman took his own life when told he could not survive the wound.¹²⁵

Maurice R. Plummer

City: Hays County: Ellis

Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol

Date of Death: December 16, 1944

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Automobile Accident

Age: 42

Trooper Plummer, the first Highway Patrol officer to die in the line of duty, was fatally injured in an automobile accident near Hays.¹²⁶

Michael F. Churchill

City: Osawatimie County: Miami

Type of Officer: Chief of Police

Date of Death: February 3, 1947

Type of Crime: Public Disturbance, Serving Warrant

Type of Death: Gunshot

Age: 48

Chief Churchill, with city engineer Harvey Earp, went to the home of George Miller to serve a warrant charging Miller with assaulting his wife following a night of quarreling and abuse. Mrs. Miller accompanied the two men. Finding the house locked and knowing Miller had a grandchild with him, Churchill chopped down the door, went through the house and to a shed in the alley. As he approached, he was shot with a shotgun. Earp and Mrs. Miller fled to safety. A posse of 250 apprehended the killer. He was convicted and hanged on May 6, 1950.¹²⁷

Ed Payne

City: Garnett County: Anderson

Type of Officer: Chief of Police

Date of Death: July 22, 1947

Type of Crime: Traffic

Type of Death: Gunshot

Age: 70

Chief of Police Payne stopped a speeder in Garnett. The suspect, Edward Smerchek, while seated in his car, shot and killed Payne. He fled but was located by the sheriff, the undersheriff, and the fire chief. As the three drove into Smerchek's yard, shots were fired and the undersheriff and fire chief were wounded.

Smerchek had just been released from the army on a medical discharge and was drunk at the time of the shootings.¹²⁸

Fred Shaumeyer

City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: February 12, 1948

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Accident

On February 12, 1948, Officer Shaumeyer was investigating a report of a car parked on the Frisco railroad tracks. Perhaps because of the ice and snow, Shaumeyer fell from the bridge and was killed.¹²⁹

Elmer F. Davis

City: Abilene County: Dickinson

Type of Officer: Sheriff

Date of Death: April 24, 1949

Type of Crime: Public Disturbance

Type of Death: Gunshot

Sheriff Elmer Davis, and his brother, Undersheriff Milton Davis, answered a disturbance call at the farm of Charles Rush. Rush, who was described as "having gone berserk," had shot and wounded three persons, including two who lived with him and a neighbor. The ensuing sequence of events is unclear, but both officers had

123. *Salina Journal*, June 1, 1942; Salina Police Department files.

124. *Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial*.

125. *Tonganoxie Mirror*, February 3, August 31, 1944.

126. Kansas Highway Patrol files.

127. *Osawatimie Graphic-News*, February 6, 1947; Louise Barry, "Legal Hangings in Kansas," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 18 (August 1950):299.

128. *Anderson Countian*, Garnett, July 22, 1947; Anderson County Historical Society files.

129. *Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial*.



fired their weapons and had been killed inside the Rush house. After shooting the sheriffs, Rush set fire to the house and died in the fire.¹³⁰

Milton L. Davis
City: Abilene County: Dickinson
Date of Death: April 24, 1949
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot

Undersheriff Milton Davis, and his brother, Sheriff Elmer Davis, answered a disturbance call at the farm of Charles Rush. Rush, who was described as "having gone berserk," had shot and wounded three persons, including two who lived with him and a neighbor. The events that followed are not clear, but both officers had fired their weapons and were found burned inside the remains of the house. After shooting the sheriffs, Rush had set fire to the house and died in the fire.¹³¹

Dave Break
City: Florence County: Marion
Type of Officer: City Marshal
Date of Death: October 9, 1949
Type of Crime: Routine Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 70

Marshal Break followed a known drunk, Fred Stanley, home as the suspect appeared to be driving while intoxicated. The marshal pulled into Stanley's drive, proceeded to his car, and found a pint of whiskey. Stanley then shot Break three times. A neighbor fired

at the assailant and the fire was returned. Stanley, when cornered in his house by the sheriff and a posse, killed himself.¹³²

1950s

Alfred F. Jacka
City: Great Bend County: Barton
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: November 28, 1950
Type of Crime: Vandalism
Type of Death: Accident, Electrocution
Age: 52

Undersheriff Jacka, who had recently been elected sheriff, was searching for two farmers reported overdue at their homes. Driving west of Great Bend he discovered the two men, electrocuted by electrical wires which had been shot down by vandals. As Jacka approached the bodies in the dark he brushed a wire and was also electrocuted.¹³³

Cleo Chrest
City: Manhattan County: Riley
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 27, 1951
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 36

Officer Chrest was riding in a patrol car with another officer driving. While evidently in response to a call elsewhere in Manhattan, with red lights and siren on, the police car crashed into a vehicle that had crossed the center line. Chrest was killed in the accident.¹³⁴

Willard N. Carver
City: Olathe County: Johnson
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: June 23, 1952
Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 31

Early on the morning of June 23, Sergeant Carver and Patrolman Floyd Gaunt were investigating an attempted auto theft. The officers located a car that resembled the stolen vehicle stalled in a ditch. Carver took cover in a hedgerow and awaited the suspect's return. When two men returned with a stolen pickup to pull the car from the ditch, the officers ordered them to surrender. A gun battle ensued. Carver fired three rounds before he was killed.

The suspects, Charles Isgrigg and William Martin, known as the "pillowcase" burglars because they carried

130. *Abilene Reflector-Chronicle*, April 25, 1949; Dickinson County Commissioners' Log, 1949; Dickinson County Sheriff's Department files; Dickinson County Historical Society files and photographs.

131. Ibid.

132. *Florence Bulletin*, October 13, 1949.

133. *Great Bend Daily Tribune*, November 29, 1950; Barton County Sheriff's Department files.

134. *Manhattan Mercury*, February 1, 1951; Riley County Police Department files.

their stolen loot in pillowcases, were wanted for various crimes. Isgrigg was captured the day following Carver's slaying, and Martin, who made the FBI's ten most wanted list, was not captured for two months.

Carver was awarded the Medal of Valor by the National Police Officers Association.¹³⁵

Fred Bell
City: Salina County: Saline
Type of Officer: Sheriff
Date of Death: September 17, 1952
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance
Type of Death: Beating, Leading to Heart Attack
Age: 60

During a court hearing for a murder case, the defendant became unruly and combative. As the sheriff attempted to restrain him, they engaged in a scuffle. Bell was struck in the chest, suffered a heart attack, and died in the courtroom.¹³⁶

Henry N. Kenaga
City: Lansing County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Corrections Officer
Date of Death: June 20, 1954
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt, Penitentiary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 58

Corrections Officer Kenaga responded to a situation in which inmates at the state penitentiary, armed with guns and knives, had rushed the visitors' room and seized at least six hostages. The inmates were crossing the prison yard when they encountered Kenaga. When the officer attempted to prevent their escape, he was fatally shot. After a brief exchange of gunfire and a call for additional enforcement officers, the prisoners were surrounded and returned to their cells. They were charged with first degree murder.¹³⁷

Maurice A. Bedell
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 29, 1954
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 51

Bedell and his partner, Louis LeManske, were on patrol when they were flagged down by a robbery victim who pointed out a field where his assailants were hiding. The suspects were apprehended, but en route to the police department, one of the suspects obtained LeManske's revolver and in a struggle shot Deputy

Bedell. The shooting suspect was later shot and killed by sheriff's officers.¹³⁸

Clarence L. "Boots" Shields
City: Topeka County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: April 11, 1955
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 32

Officer "Boots" Shields, who was either responding to a tip or was continuing an investigation into a burglary ring, made a patrol stop at the Moose Lodge Club in North Topeka. He surprised burglars on the roof of the lodge and was mortally wounded by them. Shields managed to return their fire, wounding one of the suspects.

The investigation into Shields' killing and arrest of suspects led to the disbanding of a large burglary ring.¹³⁹

Wesley G. Walden
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: November 19, 1955
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 41

Walden, only nineteen days on the force, was riding with another officer at approximately 4:00 a.m. when they responded to an accident call. While en route their patrol vehicle struck the rear of a truck parked along the roadside near Muncie. The driver of the truck had stopped to aid another motorist and the rear of his truck was left protruding onto the roadway. Walden was killed in the accident and the other officer was severely injured.¹⁴⁰

Thomas W. Mendina
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: March 4, 1956
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 28

Mendina, on patrol, was called to assist another officer, William Scherzer, who was investigating two men who had stopped alongside highway K-32 west of Edwardsville. According to the deputy who was with Mendina, just as Mendina opened the car door to exit, he was fatally struck by a car. The driver of the vehicle was later convicted of "driving under the influence."¹⁴¹

135. *Kansas City Star*, June 23, August 11, 1952; *Olathe Tribune*, June 26, 1952; Johnson County Sheriff's Department files.

136. *Salina Journal*, September 17, 1952; Saline County Sheriff's Department files.

137. *Leavenworth Times*, June 21, 1954; Kansas State Department of Corrections files.

138. Henry Johnson, Owens, *Wyandotte County Sheriff's Deputies*.

139. *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 11, 16, 1955; Topeka Police Department files.

140. Henry Johnson, Owens, *Wyandotte County Sheriff's Deputies*.

141. *Ibid*.



Richard Coldren
City: Leavenworth County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: March 19, 1957
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 28

Coldren and Officer Charles Pierce, in separate cars, responded to bring in a suspect on a trespassing charge. The suspect fled and both officers gave chase. When they stopped the suspect's car, he exited and held a gun on Officer Pierce. Coldren attempted to apprehend the suspect, and in the struggle he was shot. Before he died Coldren returned the fire, hitting his assailant four times and killing him instantly.¹⁴²

Jimmie Jacobs
City: El Dorado County: Butler
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol
Date of Death: October 6, 1959
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 36

Trooper Jacobs was on an emergency blood plasma run when he was killed in an auto accident on a county road south of El Dorado.¹⁴³

1960s

Elmer M. Parmer
City: Leavenworth County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: August 28, 1960
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Accident, Electrocutation
Age: 27

142. *Leavenworth Times*, March 19, 20, 1957.

143. Kansas Highway Patrol files.

A speeding vehicle that Deputy Sheriff Parmer was chasing crashed with a motorcycle and struck a power pole. As Parmer and a passing driver were attempting to clear an electrical wire from the roadway, Parmer was electrocuted.¹⁴⁴

Robert C. Cowdin
City: Ottawa (died at Garnett)
County: Franklin (on duty in Anderson)
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: July 4, 1962
Type of Crime: Public Disturbance, Riot
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 41

Officer Cowdin of the Ottawa Police Department was on loan to the Garnett department, as were other officers from different locations, to lend assistance for traffic and crowd control during the annual Fourth of July sports car races at Garnett. While assisting to quell a riot at the race grounds, Cowdin died of a heart attack.¹⁴⁵

Alfred Claycamp
City: WaKeeney County: Trego
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: July 14, 1962
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 40

When Sheriff Chet McAtee of Trego County was informed by a farmer of a suspicious pair of hitchhikers, he asked Claycamp, who was a deputy sheriff as well as a WaKeeney city police officer, to accompany him to investigate. They located the hitchhiking couple, Harry Jack Bloomer and his companion, juvenile Shirley Kay Nixon, and wanting to question the couple, the officers offered to take them to WaKeeney. On the way, Bloomer drew a gun, shot and killed Claycamp, and seriously wounded Sheriff McAtee.

A posse, numbering nearly three hundred on horseback, in vehicles and airplanes, tracked the couple and captured them on July 17.¹⁴⁶

Forrest E. Richards
City: El Dorado County: Butler
Type of Officer: Undersheriff
Date of Death: September 23, 1962
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 54

Undersheriff Richards had returned to duty directing the Augusta office of the sheriff's department after recuperating from a heart attack suffered on April 18. On September 23, he stopped a driver for drunk driving.

144. *Tonganoxie Mirror*, September 1, 1960; Leavenworth County Sheriff's Department files.

145. Ottawa Department of Public Safety files, Ottawa, Kansas.

146. *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 16, October 25, 1962; *Western Kansas World*, WaKeeney, July 19, 1962; Trego County Sheriff's Department files; records, 25th District Court.

After placing the suspect under arrest, Richards left the man in order to move the driver's car from the road. As he did, the suspect fled. Richards fired a shot over the fleeing man's head, radioed for assistance, and began a foot chase. He ran about one hundred feet, collapsed, and died from a heart attack.¹⁴⁷

David A. Kenyon

City: Wichita County: Sedgwick

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: October 26, 1962

Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance

Type of Death: Gunshot

Officer Kenyon was attempting to settle a domestic disturbance. He escorted a woman from the scene when her husband obtained a weapon and fired, evidently at his wife, but hit and killed Kenyon.¹⁴⁸

Harry Hedrick

City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte

Type of Officer: Police Sergeant

Date of Death: August 5, 1963

Type of Crime: Response to Investigate

Type of Death: Gunshot

Age: 47

Sergeant Hedrick and his partner, Officer Bill Luna, were sent to investigate a report of shots being fired. Upon their arrival they observed a man rummaging through a trash can and another with a coat over his arm. When the police car stopped, the man with the coat approached, questioning the officers. The subject had a handgun under the coat and fired at Hedrick at point blank range, and then exchanged gunfire with Luna. The assailant was shot by another officer who had arrived to assist. Sergeant Hedrick was dead on arrival at the hospital.¹⁴⁹

Robert H. Vest

City: Winfield County: Cowley

Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff

Date of Death: January 17, 1964

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Automobile Accident

Age: 40

While on patrol near Arkansas City, Deputy Vest was killed in a one car accident.¹⁵⁰

John B. McMurray

City: Manhattan County: Riley

Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol

Date of Death: December 6, 1964

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Automobile Accident

Age: 27

Highway Patrol Trooper McMurray had completed a radar setup and was loading the equipment into the trunk of his car. The vehicle of an intoxicated driver left the roadway, struck a patrol car that was parked behind McMurray's car, and pinned the trooper between the vehicles. McMurray died in the hospital.¹⁵¹

Bernard C. Hill

City: El Dorado County: Butler

Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol

Date of Death: May 28, 1967

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Automobile Accident

Age: 51

Trooper Hill was killed west of El Dorado in a head-on collision with a car that was proceeding in the wrong direction.¹⁵²

Eldon K. Miller

City: Overland Park County: Johnson

Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol

Date of Death: January 19, 1968

Type of Crime: Robbery

Type of Death: Gunshot

Age: 48

Sergeant Miller, of the Kansas Highway Patrol, responded to a bank robbery call in Overland Park at the Metcalf Bank. Along with officers from several other law enforcement agencies, Miller was assisting in the apprehension of the suspect, Henry Floyd Brown, when he was shot and killed. Sergeant Miller was the first trooper to die by gunshot.¹⁵³

George R. Nettleingham

City: Hoisington County: Barton

Type of Officer: Chief of Police, Fire Chief

Date of Death: November 29, 1968

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Heart Attack

Age: 49

When a Hoisington cafe caught fire on Thanksgiving night, Chief of Police Nettleingham, who was also the fire chief, directed the fire fighting and general control efforts throughout the night. He succumbed to a heart attack immediately after the fire was extinguished.¹⁵⁴

Roger Lutcher

City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: December 28, 1969

Type of Crime: Response to Assist Officer

Type of Death: Gunshot

147. *El Dorado Times*, August 18, September 24, 1962; Butler County Sheriff's Department files.

148. *Wichita Eagle*, October 27, 1962; Martens, *Wichita Police Department History*, 4.

149. *Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial*.

150. Cowley County Sheriff's Department files.

151. Kansas Highway Patrol files; Riley County Police Department files.

152. Kansas Highway Patrol files.

153. *Ibid.*; *Topeka Daily Capital*, January 20, 1968.

154. *Great Bend Daily Tribune*, November 29, 1968; Hoisington Police Department files.



Officer Lutchter and his partner, Howard Berry, were on patrol when they observed another officer, Robert Mackey, pursuing a suspect. The officer chased the suspect into an alley and ordered him to surrender. He complied, but as Officers Lutchter and Berry approached him, he pulled a gun and opened fire, hitting and killing Lutchter. The suspect was shot and killed by the other officer. It was learned later that the killer was wanted by police for other crimes.¹⁵⁵

1970s

Gerald A. Foote
City: Olathe County: Johnson
Type of Officer: Sheriff Department Detective
Date of Death: April 3, 1971
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 32

With Olathe police officer Herbert Hogue, Detective Foote was on a routine investigation in his unmarked patrol car. The car collided with another vehicle. Foote died shortly after the accident. Officer Hogue recovered.¹⁵⁶

Kenneth M. Kennedy
City: Hutchinson County: Reno
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: September 15, 1972
Type of Crime: Bootlegging
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 23

Officer Kennedy was making an undercover purchase of alcoholic beverages at a location suspected to

be bootlegging and operating illegal gambling devices. After making the purchase, Officer Kennedy and fellow officer John Coldren identified themselves and attempted to make the arrest.

As the officers scuffled with suspect Elmo Anderson, a Mrs. Jobe came from the kitchen with a gun and shot Coldren and Kennedy. Before he was shot, Kennedy shouted a warning at Coldren who turned, thus causing the shot to miss a vital mark. Kennedy shot Mrs. Jobe before he died.

Coldren survived his wound. Mrs. Jobe was convicted of second degree murder.¹⁵⁷

Larry G. Beery
City: Kingman County: Kingman
Type of Officer: Police Captain
Date of Death: April 15, 1973
Type of Crime: Burglary
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 29

While making a routine building check at a drug clinic, Captain Beery, in plain clothes, was evidently ambushed by an unknown assailant or assailants. He was taken a short distance to an alley, forced to kneel, and was shot in the head with his own weapon. The night patrol had been initiated because of a large number of burglaries in the area.¹⁵⁸

James D. Thornton
City: Topeka County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol
Date of Death: October 2, 1973
Type of Crime: Routine Investigation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 52

Trooper Thornton stopped to investigate a hitchhiker on I-70 east of Topeka, unaware that the man was wanted in New York for murder. The hitchhiker shot and killed Thornton and was himself shot and killed by other officers after he refused to surrender.¹⁵⁹

Elmer L. Nonnast
City: Newton County: Harvey
Type of Officer: Game Warden
Date of Death: May 8, 1974
Type of Crime: Illegal Fishing
Type of Death: Heart Attack
Age: 37

Warden Nonnast and another game warden were patrolling the Arkansas River investigating reported illegal snagging and hand fishing. They arrested one person, and as they were leaving, they observed another group of fishermen illegally hand fishing. One member

157. *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 16, 1972; report, September 16, 1972, Hutchinson Police Department; Hutchinson Police Department files.

158. *Kingman Journal*, April 17, 1973; Kingman Police Department files.

159. Kansas Highway Patrol files.

155. *Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial*.

156. *Olathe Daily News*, April 5, 1971; Johnson County Sheriff's Department files.

of the group fled and Nonnast pursued on foot. Upon returning to the remaining violators he became engaged in a violent argument. When the officers left the scene, Nonnast suffered a heart attack and he later died at a hospital.¹⁶⁰

Roy V. Johnson
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Sheriff's Detective
Date of Death: October 31, 1974
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 43

In an attempt to escape, a county prisoner seized a police officer's gun. During the ensuing scuffle, the officer was shot and the prisoner continued his escape. Detective Johnson and another officer responded to the shooting and attempted to rescue the wounded officer and capture the prisoner. In the attempt, both Johnson and the other officer were shot. Another officer responding was also shot by the prisoner. Detective Johnson was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Detective Johnson was awarded the department's Medal of Honor.¹⁶¹

Marcus W. Hood
City: Topeka County: Shawnee
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: November 1, 1974
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Air Accident
Age: 40

Officer Hood was killed while on patrol in his police helicopter. The drive shaft broke, causing the helicopter to crash. Hood purposely chose to maneuver his craft to avoid hitting an automobile loaded with passengers.¹⁶²

Jerry R. Ivey
City: Salina County: Saline
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: June 13, 1975
Type of Crime: Robbery
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 27

Officer Ivey stopped a vehicle answering the description of a car used moments earlier in a robbery at a Dillon's grocery store. The suspect jumped from the car, sprayed the officer with mace, and both men drew their weapons. Ivey fired six rounds and the suspect fired twelve. As Ivey attempted to reach his shotgun in the patrol car, the suspect shot him in the back. Following a chase and additional gunfire the suspect was captured by several police officers.¹⁶³

160. Kansas Fish and Game Department files, Law Enforcement Division, Pratt, Kansas.

161. *Wichita Eagle*, October 31, November 1, 1974; Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department files.

162. Topeka Police Department files.

163. *Salina Journal*, June 14, 1975; Salina Police Department files.

Carl A. Simons
City: Leoti County: Wichita
Type of Officer: Chief of Police
Date of Death: May 25, 1976
Type of Crime: Parole Violation
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 42

North of Leoti, Chief Carl Simons stopped a car driven by Richard McCowan, who was in violation of parole. A general request for McCowan's arrest had been circulated, and Simons stopped McCowan on that charge. McCowan, who had his children with him in the car, was handcuffed by Officer Simons and was taken to the officer's car, but McCowan returned to his car to check on his children.

At his car, McCowan retrieved his gun (probably given to him by one of his children) and walked back to the police car. While still handcuffed, McCowan engaged in a struggle with Simons, and Simons was shot and killed.

When Simons did not report in from duty, his wife went to look for him and found him.

McCowan was captured in Eads, Colorado, three hours after the incident.¹⁶⁴

Paul J. Weber
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Parole Officer
Date of Death: October 19, 1976
Type of Crime: Parole Violation
Type of Death: Stabbing
Age: 26

Parole Officer Weber went to the home of a parolee at the mother's request to have her son move out. As Weber followed the parolee into the kitchen, the man seized a butcher knife and stabbed Officer Weber to death. The parolee was convicted of assault on a law enforcement officer and first degree murder.¹⁶⁵

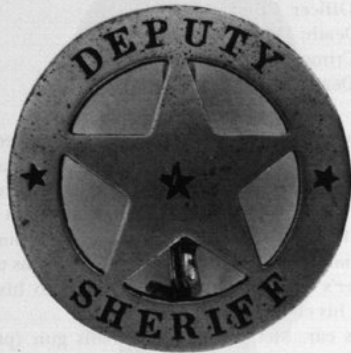
Archie K. Jacobs
City: Elkhart County: Morton
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: November 26, 1976
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 22

On patrol in a zero visibility blizzard, Jacobs' car and another vehicle collided at a rural intersection. Jacobs had been on the force for two years and was only twenty-two years old when he died.¹⁶⁶

164. *Hutchinson News*, May 26, 1976; *Garden City Telegram*, May 26, 1976; *Salina Journal*, January 6, 1977; Wichita County Sheriff's Department files. *The Kansas Peace Officer* (June 1976) and *Leoti Standard* (clippings) and death certificate, scrapbook, Carlissa Simons Bishop.

165. *Topeka State Journal*, October 20, 1976; Kansas State Department of Corrections files.

166. *Southwest Daily Times*, Liberal, November 27, 1976; Morton County Sheriff's Department files.



David L. VanMeter
City: Minneapolis County: Ottawa
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: August 11, 1977
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 27

Officer VanMeter was probably on his way to check the city-county airport when his car careened off the highway in a heavy rain. He was killed instantly in the accident. VanMeter was the first officer in Ottawa County to die in the line of duty.¹⁶⁷

Conroy G. O'Brien
City: Matfield Green County: Chase
Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol
Date of Death: May 24, 1978
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 26

Trooper O'Brien of the Highway Patrol had stopped a car, occupied by three people, for speeding near Matfield Green. He was killed by gunshot during the stop.¹⁶⁸

Michael Haen
City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Reserve Police Officer
Date of Death: July 28, 1978
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Gunshot

Reserve Officer Haen was sent to assist with traffic control at an accident scene. During the investigation a

167. Newspaper clippings, August 11, 1977, scrapbook, city clerk, Minneapolis, Kansas.

168. *Topeka State Journal*, May 24, 1978; Kansas Highway Patrol files.

police officer attempted to make an arrest. A disturbance began, shots were exchanged between the officer and the suspect, and Haen was hit. He died at the hospital a short time later.¹⁶⁹

Donald R. Martin
City: Lansing County: Leavenworth
Type of Officer: Corrections Officer
Date of Injury: August 14, 1978
Date of Death: August 19, 1978
Type of Crime: Escape Attempt, Penitentiary
Type of Death: Beating
Age: 42

Corrections Officer Martin had been assigned to the state penitentiary hospital unit. He was attacked and fatally beaten by an inmate who was holding a female hostage during an escape attempt. Martin resided in Leavenworth.¹⁷⁰

Stephen L. Hopper
City: El Dorado County: Butler
Type of Officer: Sheriff's Patrol Sergeant
Date of Death: May 19, 1979
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Automobile Accident
Age: 26

Sergeant Hopper, a former Andover chief of police, was responding to a civil disturbance call. En route, he was killed in an automobile accident.¹⁷¹

John T. Morgan
City: Goessel County: Marion
Type of Officer: Reserve Deputy Sheriff
Date of Death: May 22, 1979
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 47

Reserve Deputy Sheriff Morgan answered a family disturbance call in the town of Goessel. His son was with him at the time. As Morgan exited his car he was shot with a rifle and killed. As a result of the civil disturbance, the assailant also killed his ex-wife and wounded her boyfriend.¹⁷²

1980s

Paul Garofalo
City: Wichita County: Sedgwick
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: November 8, 1980
Type of Crime: Routine Stop
Type of Death: Gunshot

169. *Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial*.

170. *Topeka State Journal*, August 13, 15, 1978; Kansas State Department of Corrections files.

171. Butler County Sheriff's Department files and compilations from the *Augusta Daily Gazette*, *El Dorado Times*, and *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*.

172. *Marion County Record*, Marion, May 30, 1979; Marion County Sheriff's Department files.

Officer Garofalo was on patrol when he stopped to question two women on the street. As he stopped his car, a man emerged and approached his car on the driver's side. The man fired a shotgun through the car window and killed the officer instantly.¹⁷³

Ferdinand F. Pribbenow

City: El Dorado County: Butler

Type of Officer: Kansas Highway Patrol

Date of Death: July 7, 1981

Type of Crime: Traffic

Type of Death: Gunshot

Age: 46

Trooper Pribbenow was shot and fatally wounded after a traffic stop on the Kansas Turnpike north of El Dorado.¹⁷⁴

Robert D. Hurd

City: Lansing County: Leavenworth

Type of Officer: Corrections Officer

Date of Death: October 11, 1981

Type of Crime: None

Type of Death: Stabbing

Age: 41

Corrections Officer Hurd was stabbed to death by an inmate at the state penitentiary. The inmate was angered by a disciplinary report that Hurd was about to file. Officer Hurd lived in Olathe.¹⁷⁵

Danny Laffey

City: Wichita County: Sedgwick

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: January 5, 1982

Type of Crime: Public Disturbance

Type of Death: Accident

Officer Laffey was investigating a disturbance call at the Zanzibar Club. He had stopped a suspect vehicle in the street and was in the process of removing the occupants when a passing vehicle, traveling at a high rate of speed and having defective brakes, jumped the curb and struck Officer Laffey.¹⁷⁶

Alvin T. Wolf, Jr.

City: El Dorado County: Butler

Type of Officer: Sheriff's Patrol Sergeant

Date of Death: April 19, 1982

Type of Crime: Traffic, Hit-and-Run Pursuit

Type of Death: Rammed by semi-trailor truck

Age: 29

A semi-truck driver, involved in several hit-and-run accidents, was being pursued through Sedgwick County. As he approached the Butler County line he encountered a roadblock that had been set up by the Butler

County Sheriff's Department. The driver of the truck ran the roadblock and Deputy Wolf gave chase. Wolf passed the truck hoping to get in front and slow the truck down. The offending vehicle rammed the deputy's car several times, finally locking bumpers. The truck and patrol car left the road and rammed a house, killing Wolf instantly.¹⁷⁷

Donald R. Harbour

City: Ogden County: Riley

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: August 9, 1982

Type of Crime: Routine Investigation and Response

Type of Death: Gunshot

Age: 49

Officer Harbour, assigned to patrol duty in Ogden, responded to a routine call about suspicious activity at a pawnshop. Reportedly one man was attempting to sell a rifle as two others remained in a car outside. As Harbour ordered the two to step out of the car, they attempted to drive away. Harbour shot the tires out, and one suspect fired back, hitting Harbour.

The man inside the shop was arrested, while another was arrested after he had abducted a woman and wrecked his car. The third was killed in a car crash as he attempted to run a roadblock.¹⁷⁸

Douglas E. Bunch

City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte

Type of Officer: Police Officer

Date of Death: March 29, 1983

Type of Crime: Burglary

Type of Death: Heart Attack

Age: 38

While assisting with a burglary call, Bunch took part in a foot pursuit. Following the incident, Bunch, thirty-eight years old, stopped for a lunch break, was stricken with a heart attack, and died.¹⁷⁹

James L. Reynolds

City: Kansas City County: Wyandotte

Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff

Date of Death: August 4, 1984

Type of Crime: Traffic

Type of Death: Accident

Age: 41

Reynolds, a member of the motorcycle division, was assisting in the pursuit of a fleeing traffic offender. He lost control of his cycle and in the accident he received massive internal injuries. Normally a fulltime booking officer, Reynolds had voluntarily worked with officers on the motorcycle unit.¹⁸⁰

173. *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*, August 28, 1981; Martens, *Wichita Police Department History*, 4.

174. *Kansas Highway Patrol files*.

175. *University Daily Kansan*, Lawrence, October 12, 1981; *Beloit Daily Call*, October 16, 1981; *Kansas City Kansan*, October 12, 1981.

176. Martens, *Wichita Police Department History*, 4.

177. Butler County Sheriff's Department files and compilations from *Augusta Daily Gazette*, *El Dorado Times*, and *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*.

178. Riley County Police Department files; *Manhattan Mercury*, August 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 1982.

179. *Kansas City Kansan*, March 29, 1983; *Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department Memorial*.

180. Henry, Johnson, Owens, *Wyandotte County Sheriff's Deputies*.



Deanna Hummel Rose
City: Overland Park County: Johnson
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Injury: January 24, 1985
Date of Death: January 26, 1985
Type of Crime: Traffic
Type of Death: Intentionally Struck by Automobile
Age: 26

Officer Rose, the first woman officer to be killed in the line of duty in Kansas and the only city officer to be killed in Overland Park, had stopped a vehicle and was attempting to arrest the driver on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. She was fatally injured when the suspect driver knocked her to the ground and then intentionally struck her with the vehicle. She died two days later from the injuries. Prior to working for the Overland Park Police Department, she had graduated from Wichita State University in Criminal Justice, and

had been a member of the San Diego, California, County Sheriff's office.¹⁸¹

Maureen Gentry Murphy
City: Bonner Springs County: Wyandotte
Type of Officer: Police Officer
Date of Death: January 31, 1986
Type of Crime: None
Type of Death: Gunshot
Age: 28

The second, and only other, woman police officer killed in the line of duty in Kansas is Officer Murphy. At work in her patrol car filling out reports, she was killed by a sniper who shot through the window of the car with a high-powered rifle. The suspect apprehended for the murder hanged himself in his cell.

Officer Murphy's husband is a Kansas City, Kansas, police detective.¹⁸²

Donald Pittenger
City: Wamego County: Pottawatomie
Type of Officer: Deputy Sheriff
Date of Injury: April 24, 1986
Date of Death: April 27, 1986
Type of Crime: Civil Disturbance
Type of Death: Stroke
Age: 55

Deputy Pittenger was dispatched to a residence northeast of St. George to investigate a domestic disturbance between two males and a female. Shots had been fired. With assistance of Wamego and St. George police officers, Pittenger separated the individuals and secured two weapons. While taking a statement, Deputy Pittenger complained of feeling ill, went to his car, and collapsed. He died as a result of a stroke three days later.¹⁸³ KH

181. Overland Park Police Department files; Johnson County Historical Society files.

182. *Bonner Springs-Edwardsville Chieftain*, February 6, 13, 20, 1986; *Kansas City Kansan*, February 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 1986.

183. *Topeka Capital Journal*, April 28, 1986; Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Department files.

Book Reviews

Native American Folklore in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals

edited by William M. Clements

xxiv + 271 pages, notes.
Athens: Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, 1986, \$21.95.

THIS VOLUME ON THE HISTORY of Native American folklore studies does several things exceedingly well. Its primary purpose is to document the diversity of nineteenth-century approaches to American Indian folklore. Beyond this, the author also provides good background information on the scholars whose articles are reprinted and on the schools of thought and institutional contexts that they represent.

Broad coverage of the various approaches to folklore is provided through twenty-one articles drawn from nineteenth-century periodicals. Each was chosen because it made a particular theoretical point or exemplified very well a certain approach or question. The main schools represented include unilineal cultural evolution, diffusionism, and historical particularism. Specific problems or questions in folklore that are included are the historicity of oral traditions, the perplexing problem of Old World parallels to New World myths, and the contexts or functions of oral traditions.

The authors include the major names in late nineteenth-century American anthropology: Franz Boas, Adolf Bandelier, George Bird Grinnell, and Alice Fletcher to name just some. Also present are some of the early forerunners of anthropology, including the likes of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, Daniel Brinton, and E. G. Squier. Interesting pieces by less well known scholars are also included.

What makes the book of real value are the introductions that Clements provides to each chapter. He gives a brief summary of the life of each author, with references to biographies when these are available. He also summarizes the theoretical school or problem that the article was chosen to exemplify and provides sources for further reading. These introductions, brief as they are, provide an excellent starting point for students interested in the history of folklore studies.

Consider, for instance, his introduction to Adolf Bandelier's article. Bandelier traces the origin of the idea that the Aztec emperor, Montezuma, had some sort of connection with the American Southwest. (A modern version of the myth is that Montezuma's treasure is buried somewhere in New Mexico.) Bandelier notes that the Mexican government manipulated the folk tradition for political reasons during the Mexican-American war. Clements, in his introduction, connects this with Richard Dorson's concept of "fakefolklore" and provides

references to the political manipulation of folklore in the United States, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union. As a result, Bandelier's essay is placed in a context far more extensive than just nineteenth-century anthropology.

One final benefit of the book is that the personalities of the various authors are often clearly expressed. I do not know whether Clements chose essays with this in mind, but the contrast between the arrogant and arms-length approach of Andrew Lang and the easy closeness of Alice Fletcher with her Omaha informants is vivid. Franz Boas also stands out, as he always does, from his contemporaries. In his article, he distinguishes with consummate ease between the kinds of similarities in oral traditions that can and cannot be used to demonstrate connections between tribes; many of the other authors represented in the volume, whether they were trying to demonstrate historical connections or evolutionary parallels, simply could not make that sort of distinction.

The prospective reader need be warned about only one aspect of this book. The title is a bit misleading. There is far more interpretation of the history of American Indian folklore here than there is folklore itself. The title really should be *Native American Folklore Studies in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals*.

Reviewed by Donald J. Blakeslee, associate professor of anthropology, Wichita State University.

Prairie: Images of Ground and Sky

Photographs by Terry Evans. Essays by Wes Jackson and Gregory Bateson.

72 pages, photographs, listing of prairie plants.
Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1986, \$19.95.

"LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN" is a spiritual that photographer Terry Evans has written not with words and musical notes but with photographs both in full color and in black and white. Evans' lovely hymn to prairie is encased in a superbly printed volume. The layout, the choice of type, the quality of the paper, and the photographic printing are all a tribute to designer Edward King and the publisher. Even the endpapers are stunning.

Evans' "look down" shots are mostly closeups of vegetation. They have a sensitivity and clarity that bring to mind the work of the great Ansel Adams. The full-page, full-color "Leadplant, Konza Prairie, July 1979" is a masterpiece. The photographer's fascination with all the plants of the prairie



is evident not only in her careful labeling of her lush photographs of grasses and flowering plants but also in her spare remarks on the holiness of the prairie.

In shots taken from the air Evans has added another dimension to the "look down" part of her song. Here she gives a long view of the prairie that rivals in beauty her horticultural closeups.

The "look up" parts of Evans' book are not so successful. In an honest effort to avoid both the trite and the sensational Evans has only hinted at the drama of prairie skies. No great cirrus mare's tails or cumulus thunderheads roar across these plains.

Evans is not long on composition. She never comes close to the deliberate use of tension that photographers like Jaschi Klein use, but a six-picture section on prairie fire presents enough drama for this slim book.

Evans' definition of "prairie" is austere; she aims her camera only at "pure" prairie. Little prairies abound all over the states where she works, wherever the land is too rough or too rocky to farm, but Evans has eschewed these "canyon prairies."

Her long shots and her plants make this a book to treasure. Surprises like the shots of the bison and the ultra-closeup of bison fur, of the grasshopper and the milk snake give this book a rich variety. Two long view snow scenes—one with a skiff of the snow, the other of heavy snow cover—contrast with the personal portraits of the grasses.

But the crowning glory of the book is the final photograph, "Prairie roots and big bluestem and other grasses, Konza Prairie, October 1979." Here Evans has dared to use the sidelighting that is missing in some of the plant portraits to show the prairie with its 15 percent of biomass above ground and the remaining 85 percent below.

Well chosen quotations enhance Evans' technical prowess. A foreword by Gregory Bateson and an introductory essay by Wes Jackson supplement the artist's comments in this beautiful tribute to a special ecological wonder, the prairie.

Reviewed by Anne Lehmann Gould, a newspaper technician, music and drama critic for the Dodge City Daily Globe. The first humanities major at the University of Kansas, she is also a hiker in "canyon prairies."

Along the Santa Fe Trail

essay by Marc Simmons, photographs by Joan Myers

xxi + 184 pages, photographs, map, bibliography.
Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1986, cloth \$39.95,
paper \$19.95.

IT IS EASIER TO SAY what *Along the Santa Fe Trail* is not than to describe exactly what it is. The book is not a comprehensive history of the trail, although historian Marc Simmons' essay could certainly qualify as a sound historical overview. Nor is this volume a guidebook, although both the essay and Joan

Myers' photographs proceed geographically westward from Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. *Along the Santa Fe Trail* is, instead, a successful assemblage of words and photographs, present and past.

Simmons' short (seventy-nine page) narrative is intended to introduce and supplement Myers' fifty-five photographs, but it is far more than a mere commentary. Buttressed by his years of research, Simmons provides a description and history of each significant place along the trail and both of its branches, the Cimarron Cutoff and the Mountain Route.

The Santa Fe Trail is much more than a string of place names and historical sites, however. Simmons combines his own experiences along the trail with those of William Becknell, the first American to exploit the profitable Santa Fe trade; Josiah Gregg, the sickly young man who wrote *Commerce of the Prairies*, the first and most famous trail description; Susan (Shelby) Magoffin, a sheltered young bride whose diary vividly described both the hardship and elation of her journey west; and Marian (Sloan) Russell who spent her early life traveling the trail with her itinerant mother and soldier husband. So well does Simmons weave the strands of this historical tapestry that we share the flavor of the trail with these and others who have traveled before us.

Through his prose Simmons enjoys the luxury of being able to juxtapose historical and contemporary people and places into one narrative. Joan Myers as the photographer has no such luxury. The historic sites along the Santa Fe Trail must now coexist with contemporary "improvements," and her camera cannot disregard modern alterations to historic places. Nonetheless, her sharp, well composed, and perfectly reproduced photographs convey in black and white the beauty and the hardship of the trail. In many of the plates the lack of color accentuates the starkness of the landscape and reminds us of the miles and miles of heat, cold, rain, snow, thirst, and boredom that early travelers were forced to endure. In others, however, the shades of gray form a comforting patina diminishing the extremes of distance and weather and bringing to mind Susan Magoffin's words: "As bad as it all is, I enjoy it still. I look upon it as one of the varieties of life" (p. 44).

The images are of sites, landmarks, buildings, and people intimately related to the trail. In a surprising number of instances, the photographed feature remains much as it was at the time the trail was in use. In other cases, particularly at the eastern end, the site bears little resemblance to its original appearance. Where this is true, the captions help explain the significance of the site. The only photograph that seems out of place is that of Durham, Kansas, which was included in lieu of the Cottonwood River crossing. The plate's caption, with its quotation from Susan Magoffin's diary, seems inappropriate; this reviewer would have preferred an image of the crossing instead of the Durham Cafe.

It is obvious that a great deal of preparation went into this book, in terms of both coordination between the essay and the photographs and in the reproductions of the plates. The essay and the images each could have stood alone and been a satisfying description of the Santa Fe Trail. Together, they are an engaging merger of words and images evoking the

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beauty, danger, history, and drama of this route of commerce between Missouri and Santa Fe.

Reviewed by Robert Knecht, assistant curator of manuscripts, Kansas State Historical Society.

Hunting and Trading on the Great Plains, 1859-1875

by James R. Mead, edited by Schuyler Jones, introduction by Ignace Mead Jones

xx + 276 pages, photographs, illustrations, bibliography, index, notes.
Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986, \$22.95.

HUNTING AND TRADING ON THE GREAT PLAINS, 1859-1875 contains the memoirs and other writings of Wichita founder James R. Mead, as edited by his grandson, Schuyler Jones. Mead's daughter, Ignace Mead Jones, provides the introduction to this reminiscence of her father's life to the time of his death in 1910, drawing heavily on diaries, letters, and ledgers which are in her possession.

The information in this memoir, apparently written in the 1890s, will be familiar to those who have studied the history of areas in Kansas frequented by Mead. Craig Miner, professor of history at Wichita State University, used Mead's memoirs in researching *Wichita, The Early Years, 1865-1880*. More recently, Robert Douglas Mead, a grandson of James R. Mead, based his novel, *Heartland* (Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1986) on Mead's life. It is obvious that Robert Douglas Mead was thoroughly familiar with his grandfather's then unpublished memoir. Schuyler Jones incorporated into Mead's memoir material from some of Mead's previously published writings, including recollections and articles contained in the *Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society*.

James R. Mead was born in New England in 1836 and raised on a farm near Davenport, Iowa, overlooking the Mississippi River. As a boy, James hunted, studied nature, and roamed the open countryside of that frontier area. After an early education at home and a brief attendance at Iowa College in Davenport, Mead was determined to "see the buffalo and other noble game in their native wilds." The Colorado gold rush of 1858 also provided an important incentive for Mead's journey to the West.

Mead's memoir focuses on his life and adventures in Kansas from 1859 to 1875 with a concluding chapter containing his reflections, thirty years later, of what had happened to him during that period. He describes his trip from Iowa to Fort Leavenworth and Lawrence in 1859. Later in 1859, he organized his first hunting party which encountered buffalo south of the big bend of the Smoky Hill River in central Kansas. Mead observed that: "It was the most beautiful scene I ever beheld: an abundance of game on every side, quietly feeding or reposing in the sunshine, and at home as the Great Creator placed them before the advent of that merciless exterminator, so-called civilized man."

From 1859 to 1863, Mead hunted buffalo along the Solomon, Saline, and Smoky Hill rivers and traded with the Indian tribes in the region. His base was his ranch, located northwest of present-day Salina. He freighted the hides and furs overland to Fort Leavenworth and returned with trade goods. In 1863, he moved his operations to Towanda, Kansas, on the White River. There he established a trading post and post office in his home. The following year he built a trading post between the Little and Big Arkansas rivers, and, in 1866, he established a post on the Chisholm Trail in Indian Territory.

Mead makes a number of interesting observations about life as a hunter and trader, including his association with characters like Jesse Chisholm and his trading activities in Indian Territory. In 1870, he sold his Towanda ranch and moved to Wichita where he transferred his energies from hunting and trading to city building. The memoir does not treat Mead's subsequent entrepreneurial activities such as his role with the other founders of Wichita in encouraging immigration, establishing banks, promoting railroads, and engaging in other civic enterprises to enhance both their wealth and prestige and that of the city. Mead was president of the Wichita and South Western Railroad and vice-president of the First National Bank. He also continued operating his trading post and post office in Indian Territory.

Mead's bank failed in 1876, and in 1879-80 he ventured to Colorado where he engaged in gold mining. But he returned to Wichita in the early 1880s and devoted his time to managing farms, a cattle business, and Wichita property. In his latter years, Mead travelled and pursued his interests in geology, ethnology, archeology, and history. He died on March 31, 1910, at the age of seventy-four.

The value in Mead's memoirs lies in his descriptions of early Kansas, particularly of the natural environment. His reflections on what happened to the pristine environment he had encountered when he first traversed various regions in central Kansas and his role in affecting that environment are revealing. Those observations and his activities pose an interesting paradox. Scattered throughout the reminiscence are comments about the beauty and magnificence of the unspoiled environment of Kansas before the advent of the farmer and the plowing up of the prairies. After first observing the valley where the great and little Arkansas Rivers intersect, Mead states that "So long as earth endures man will labor with hand and brain, but with all his labor, wealth and art, he can never restore the beauty and life of that valley as I saw it on that bright June day of 1863." Yet, Mead was himself instrumental in the destruction of this "pristine beauty, unmarred by civilization" as he describes it on the last page of the memoir. At one point Mead comments that "Man is the most destructive and cruel of all the creatures upon the earth." Then he proceeds to describe how he stalked a small herd of buffalo, shot one and proceeded to fire on the herd "till the last one was dead." Except for the concluding chapter, Mead seems to have no doubts about the superiority of white civilization, and when he questions the mythical "beauties and blessing of civilization," he fails to acknowledge his role as a harbinger



of a complex modern culture. In the conclusion, Mead reflects on the "good old times of entire personal freedom which I once enjoyed on the plains," without acknowledging the price of his personal freedom and its cost to the natural environment he so poignantly describes.

Reviewed by Ramon S. Powers, principal analyst with the Kansas Legislative Research Department and author of a recent article in Kansas History.

Martha Maxwell: Rocky Mountain Naturalist

by Maxine Benson

xix + 335 pages, photographs, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index.

Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986, \$23.95.

MARTHA MAXWELL: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURALIST, by Maxine Benson, is a biography of one of the middling actors of history, a not quite famous, yet not quite ordinary, woman. Maxwell (1831-1881) was a career woman with a complex marriage and a restless ambition. In writing the biography, Benson had access to hundreds of Maxwell's letters, as well as photographs, reminiscences, newspaper clippings, and letters of other members of her family.

Maxwell, whose career as a naturalist reached its height in the mid-1870s, was untrained but resourceful. She worked with the Smithsonian Institution in the classification of Colorado wildlife species. She shot or trapped many of her exhibit animals, which ranged from grizzly bears to finches. She skinned, reformed, stuffed, and mounted hundreds of animals and birds. In addition, she designed and built exhibitions, placing the animals in appropriate settings. Her work was so extensive that one of the species she discovered and classified was named after her.

The fame she acquired during her exhibit at the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 was a result of the range and variety of her exhibit and the settings in which she placed her animals, as well as of her gender; throngs of visitors streamed to see the complex habitat grouping, fronted by a placard which said simply, "Woman's Work."

The biography also places Maxwell in a complex and mobile nineteenth-century American culture. Maxwell's family moved with amazing regularity, and after her marriage in 1854 she (sometimes with her husband and daughter and sometimes alone) moved from Wisconsin to Colorado to New Jersey, back to Colorado, to Pennsylvania and finally to Rockaway Beach on Long Island.

Maxwell's household arrangements were unorthodox and her relationships tangled. Her mother, widowed after Maxwell's birth, married her husband's cousin and continued to have children, one of whom became Maxwell's best friend and supporter. Maxwell married a widower with six children and subsequently had a daughter. The variety of friendships, quarrels, economic interdependencies, changes of house-

holds, and responsibilities in these extended families are well documented and fascinating in themselves.

Maxwell came from a family of strong-minded women. She insisted that her husband neither drink nor smoke for a year before her child was born, and in later years, for reasons the biography does not make clear, she refused to live with him. Great tensions existed between her and her daughter, who was too traditional for the independent naturalist.

Maxwell was not terribly successful in her career; she never made enough money to support her family. She died, alone, trying to maintain her exhibit at Rockaway Beach. To the end, however, she continued with a fierce strength, intelligence, ambition, and independence.

Benson's biography is thoroughly researched, and she has made good use of the recent historical analyses of nineteenth-century women. The book is somewhat slow in starting, and the cast of characters sometimes confuses. Additionally, the reader might have been enticed more readily through the early pages if a more thorough analysis had been presented of how, aside from Maxwell's personal achievements, the biography adds to our knowledge.

These quibbles aside, however, Maxine Benson's *Martha Maxwell* is a valuable addition to the complex web of histories we are assembling about frontier women.

Reviewed by June O. Underwood, an associate professor of English at Emporia State University and author of articles dealing with women and the introduction of culture to the West.

The Southern Pacific, 1901-1985

by Don L. Hofsommer

xv + 373 pages, illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index.
College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1986, \$44.50.

"THE UNITED STATES is bounded on the east, west and south by the Southern Pacific and on the north by Canada." It is no wonder that the *Saturday Evening Post* reported this misconception held by an unidentified Arizona schoolboy. Didn't the Southern Pacific's own lines and joint car routes stretch eastward from California, Oregon, and Arizona to Chicago, New Orleans, and St. Louis? And didn't its fleet operations traverse the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico to New York, Baltimore, and Norfolk?

In order to retain this illusion, it was indeed fortunate that in 1981, senior officials of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company commissioned a two-volume corporate history. Volume II, the subject of this review, while emphasizing surface transportation, is not exclusively devoted to railroading. The SP's other multifaceted activities are mentioned, including steamships, pipelines, communication satellites, real estate, and insurance.

Don L. Hofsommer, a faculty member at Texas Tech University, was chosen to prepare Volume II, covering the twen-



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tieth century. These were the years of the company's greatest expansion, both in size and service. Professor Hofsommer is no stranger to researching and writing on American transportation, particularly railroading. He has several monographs to his credit, as either author or editor, as well as a score of articles published in scholarly journals and popular publications.

"Espee" Chairman Benjamin F. Biaggini charged Hofsommer only with preparing a fair assessment of the company's history and assured him of complete access to the corporate archives, as well as some financial support. Biaggini reserved the right to review the manuscript and to append, if necessary, contrary footnotes should there be conflicting interpretations. Top management apparently was satisfied with the results, for there are no rejoinders in the published version. Hofsommer sifted through mountains of corporate documents and still found time to interview dozens of present and former company officials and members of the rank and file.

As a backdrop to the twentieth-century years of strategies and operational growth of one of America's greatest railroads, the author is somewhat stingy in discussing the company's formative years. Only six pages are devoted to its genesis, the contributions of the "Big Four," Crocker, Huntington, Hopkins, and Stanford. The preamble is an inadequate introduction to crusty, old E. H. Harriman's 1901 pronouncement, "We have bought not only a railroad, but an empire." The book concludes with formation of the Santa Fe Southern Pacific Corporation. Beset by falling revenues and, in order to remain competitive with other mega-railroads, the two long-time adversaries agreed in 1983 to merge their non-railroad activities. However, in 1986, the year of the book's publication, the Interstate Commerce Commission ruled that further merger plans would be anti-competitive. If the ICC's adverse directive stands, the holding company, in all likelihood, will be forced to sell one of the lines—the logical candidate being the Southern Pacific.

Another topic receives too little attention by the author's failure to acknowledge in any detail the clash between the railroad and the progressive movement in California. To assert that Gov. Hiram Johnson was hardly known as a friend of the Southern Pacific is a rather cavalier dismissal of the friction between the railroad company and Governor Johnson who led the progressive faction during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Hofsommer also plays down Frank Norris' novel, *The Octopus*. Although the novel has a nineteenth-century setting, it depicts a struggle between the wheat growers

and the railroad trust, and few Californians would miss the implications as its being yet another attack on the Southern Pacific.

All in all, Professor Hofsommer has skillfully managed to condense eight decades of transportation history into 314 pages. He devotes special attention to the depression years, two world wars and the acquisition of subsidiary lines. Even more importantly, he focuses on the SP's senior managers by addressing the hows and whys of their decisions and the resulting effect. Generally, by following either a decade or concentrating on a manager's tenure, the author is successful in outlining the high-level decisions necessary for the company's diversification beyond a transportation enterprise. Hofsommer admits it is not a definitive study, but is, "a 'snapshot' view of the Southern Pacific experience in this century."

Over two hundred black-and-white and full-color illustrations plus two dozen maps compliment the fascinating text in chronicling the twentieth-century history of the Southern Pacific Company. The author is complimented on his choice of photographs and the captions provide a sufficient explanation; however, it is unfortunate so few are credited to their source of origin.

It is a handsomely designed, oversize volume retailing for \$44.50, a price too steep for the average reader to purchase. But despite the high tariff, it is an excellent addition to a rail buff's collection or for anyone interested in reading about one of America's pioneer railroads. Hofsommer writes in a clear readable style with sufficient detail, which should have appeal to students of American economic history.

As a member of the naval establishment, this reviewer crossed the bay from the ferry building to the Oakland Mole, boarding the "City of San Francisco" for a forty-hour trip to Kansas. To a youthful mid-westerner accustomed to seeing seas of grain, there is nothing more beautiful than the Sierra-Nevada Mountains and Donner Lake when viewed from a crack streamliner's dome car window. Other Southern Pacific experiences remembered, but not with the same fondness, were long days and nights in a chair car on the Southern Pacific-Rock Island jointly operated "Golden State," bouncing rides on the "red car" line from Los Angeles to Long Beach, and the always jam-packed San Jose to San Francisco commuter trains.

Reviewed by Eugene D. Decker, state archivist for the Kansas State Historical Society.

Book Notes

Immigrants on the Hill: Italian-Americans in St. Louis, 1882-1982. By Gary Ross Mormino. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986. 288 pages. Cloth, \$21.95.)

This is a history of St. Louis' Italian-American community, "The Hill." In 1973 the author began to record the oral histories of Hill residents, and these interviews, including those of well-known figures such as Joe Garagiola, are the basis for this study. The author also explored the roots of the community's residents by visiting the area of Italy, known as Lombardy, which provided a major portion of the Hill's population.

Local Schools: Exploring Their History. By Ronald E. Butchart. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1987. 124 pages. Paper, \$10.75 to AASLH members, \$11.95 to nonmembers.)

This is the first of AASLH's "Nearby History" series. Intended as a guide in directing readers to ask questions about their own community, this book focuses on how schools and educational experiences can reflect community social and cultural makeup and change. Thirty-nine photos and an index are included.

On Doing Local History. By Carol Kammen. (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1987. 180 pages. Paper, \$11.95 to AASLH members, \$13.50 to nonmembers.)

This book provides local historians with new ways to look at their work, the sources they use, and the subjects they investigate. While the book looks at how one place is different from another, it reminds those interested in researching and

writing local history that the larger world, as well as nearby communities, have an influence in shaping local history.

A Choice of Weapons. By Gordon Parks. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1986. 274 pages. Paper, \$8.95.)

First published in 1966, this autobiography covers Parks' difficult years from 1928, when he left Kansas, to 1944. Moving to St. Paul, Parks fought to educate himself, took on a variety of jobs, and moved on to Chicago and New York. Parks taught himself photography, and became in time a most distinguished photojournalist.

American Daughter. By Era Bell Thompson. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1986. 296 pages. Paper, \$9.95.)

The author, now semi-retired, was an editor for *Ebony* magazine from 1951 to 1964 and later an international editor for Johnson Publishing. Her autobiography, first published in 1946, relates her growing up experiences in North Dakota where there was no large black community for support and where she busted bronchos with her brothers and made friends with Norwegian and German neighbors.

America, One Land, One People. Edited and introduced by Robert C. Baron. (Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum, Inc., 1987. vi + 281 pages. Cloth, \$20.00.)

This book contains twelve writings, each dealing with the expansion and development of America. Written by historians known for their work in and interpretations of American history, the writings include those of Charles and Mary Beard, Frederick Jackson Turner, and Francis Parkman. Notes and brief biographies on each author are included.

Editorial Policies

Kansas History carries scholarly articles, edited documents, and other materials that contribute to an understanding of the history and prehistory of Kansas and the Central Plains. Manuscripts dealing with political, social, intellectual, cultural, economic, and institutional history are welcomed, along with biographical and historiographical interpretations and studies of archeology and the built environment. Articles emphasizing visual documentation such as photographs or paintings are also appropriate, as are material culture studies. Originality, quality of research, significance, and presentation are among the factors that determine the suitability for publishing in

the journal. Generally, genealogical studies are not accepted, although exceptionally well done reminiscences or other autobiographical writings will be considered.

The Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing, which includes a plaque and an honorarium of one hundred dollars, is given for the best article published each year.

Kansas History follows the *Chicago Manual of Style*, published by the University of Chicago Press (13th ed., rev., 1982), and a style sheet is available on request. Manuscripts and other editorial queries should be addressed to the editor, *Kansas History*, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION.

\$250 REWARD!

STATE OF KANSAS,

Executive Department, Topeka, Jan. 12, 1883.

WHEREAS, Charles Cobb stands charged with the murder of Daniel Wiesen, in Jefferson County, Kansas, on or about the 6th day of January, 1883, and is now at large and a fugitive from justice:

Now, Therefore, I, G. W. GLICK, Governor, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, do hereby offer a reward of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS for the arrest and conviction of the said Charles Cobb, of the crime above stated.

[L.S.]

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at Topeka, the day and year first above written.

C. W. CLICK.

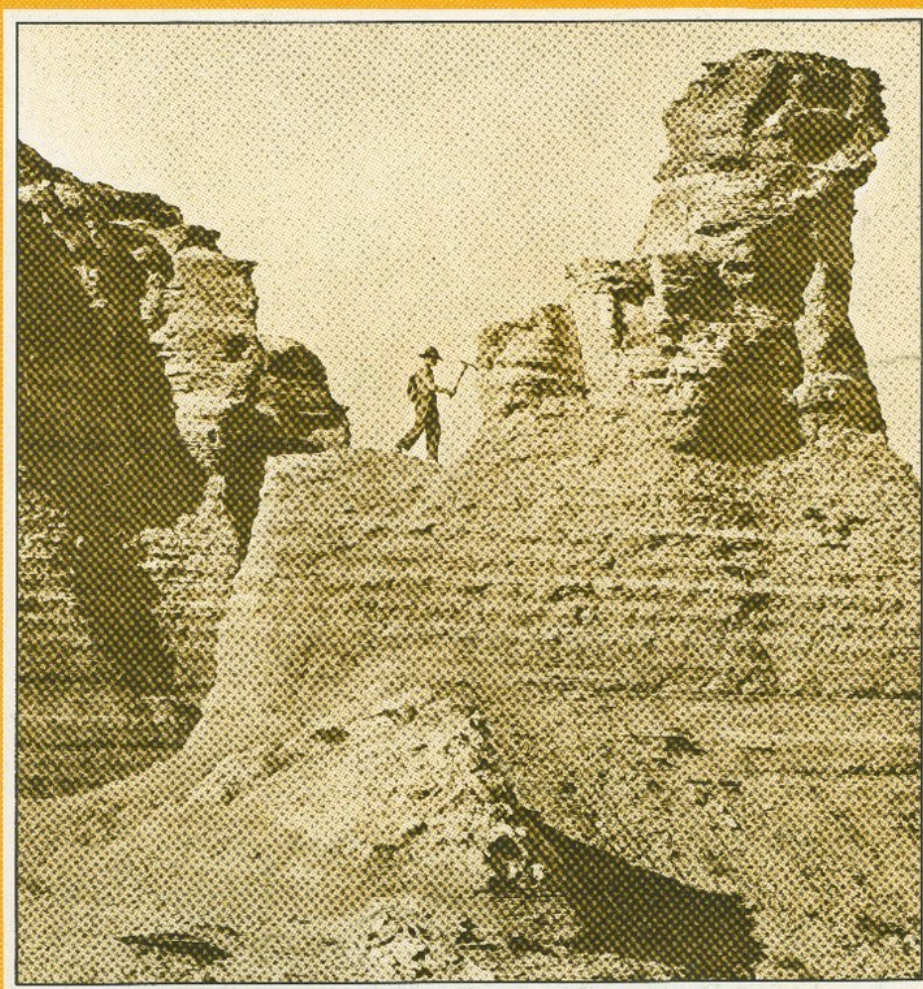
By the Governor:

JAMES SMITH,

Secretary of State.

KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal
of the
Central Plains
Volume 10, Number 3
Autumn 1987



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THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1875 by the newspaper editors and publishers of the state, and four years later it became the official trustee for the state's historical collections. Since then, the Society has operated both as a non-profit membership organization and as a specially recognized society supported by appropriations from the state of Kansas.

The purposes of the Society are the advancement of knowledge about and the preservation of resources related to the history and prehistory of Kansas and the American West, accomplished through educational and cultural programs, the provision of research services, and the protection of historic properties. The Society is governed by a ninety-nine-member board of directors, elected by the membership, and is administered by an executive director and an assistant executive director.

The new Kansas Museum of History features exhibits and educational programs based on the Society's rich artifact collections. It is located near the historic Pottawatomie Baptist Mission west of Topeka, adjacent to Interstate 70. All other Society departments remain at the Center for Historical Research, Memorial Building, across the street from the State Capitol in Topeka.

All persons interested in Kansas history and prehistory are cordially invited to join the Society. Those who would like to provide additional support for the Society's work may want to consider contributions in the form of gifts or bequests. A representative of the Society will be glad to consult with anyone wishing to make such a gift or establish a bequest or an endowment. Address the Executive Director, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1291.

Cover: During the late 1860s, paleontological finds in western Kansas began to attract both amateur and professional scientists. That attraction continued into the twentieth century and encouraged Kansas' universities and colleges to offer training in all sciences. Shown on the front cover is a member of a Sternberg paleontological field party in Logan County shortly after the turn of the century, and featured on the back cover is an 1895 field camp of a University of Kansas paleontological expedition at Lightning Creek, Wyoming, led by Samuel W. Williston. An extant photograph label, difficult to read, indicates that the group probably includes James P. Sams, university regent; J. W. Beebe; Ralph C. Gowell; Barnum Brown, later a paleontologist for the American Museum of Natural History, New York; Elmer S. Riggs, later a paleontologist

for the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; and Hugo Kahl, University of Kansas entomologist.

The two articles in this issue of *Kansas History* provide a continuing theme of scientific exploration and discovery in Kansas. "Thof's Dragon and the Letters of Capt. Theophilus H. Turner, M. D., U. S. Army," describes Capt. Turner's paleontological find near Fort Wallace and presents a compelling account of fort life during the Indian wars of the late 1860s. The second article, "Science in Kansas: The Early Years, 1804-1875," focuses on the formative years of scientific exploration, curriculum, and organizations in Kansas. Together, these articles remind us of Kansas' contributions to the expansion of scientific knowledge in the nineteenth century.

KANSAS HISTORY

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Thof's Dragon and the Letters of Capt. Theophilus H. Turner, M.D., U.S. Army

edited by Kenneth J. Almy

A FASCINATING STORY OF ARMY LIFE in the 1860s is revealed in recently discovered letters of a young medical officer from his post in Kansas to his family in New Jersey. He wrote of endless days of military routine, interrupted by critical periods of Indian attacks with resulting casualties; epidemic disease; and the severe weather of the Plains. He also wrote of how in his attempt at recreation he made a most significant paleontological find, which adds to the uniqueness of his letters. Although the letters tell their own story, a bit of background on this young medical officer, Theophilus Hunt Turner, is of importance.

Theophilus, the third of nine children (six boys, three girls) was born July 1, 1841, to George and Dorinda Turner. The father, George Denison Turner, was a descendant of early settlers in New England and Pennsylvania, and he was a man of means, providing a living for his family as a merchant and a landowner. A family obituary referred to George Turner as "in his day one of the most prominent businessmen in that section" of Warren County, New Jersey. Theophilus' mother,

Dorinda, was a member of the prominent Hunt family, large landholders in Sussex County, New Jersey.¹

Turner's primary education was received at the local school in his hometown of Hope, New Jersey. As he grew older, his Hunt relatives, some of whom were in the professions, possibly influenced Theophilus' father to send him to the Chester Institute, Chester, New Jersey, for his secondary education. There Turner came under the capable tutelage of William S. Rankin, a master teacher known for his successful preparation of a number of doctors, lawyers, and clergymen. Probably Rankin directed him toward the medical profession. Certainly it was through Rankin's inspiring instruction that Theophilus developed his powers of observation of people and nature, which remained with him throughout his life and was much in evidence during his posting at Fort Wallace, Kansas.

On completion of his studies at Chester Institute, Turner matriculated at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Here the young medical student experienced the traditional training of the period. A great deal of this training consisted of observation in such clinics as those supervised by Dr. Samuel D. Gross who was made famous in Thomas Eakins' celebrated painting *The Gross Clinic*; Eakins attended Jefferson in the early 1860s and was possibly a classmate of Turner. Lecture and clinic notes in Turner's hand bear witness to the presence of Theophilus in the Gross clinics. A formal notification of his completed course informed Turner that he would graduate on March 4, 1863, receiving the degree of doctor of medicine.

Kenneth J. Almy was born in San Francisco and is a third generation "native son" as his grandfather was born there in 1845. Mr. Almy received a B.A. degree from Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1943. After two years as an officer in the U.S. Navy's Amphibious Assault Forces, in Europe, he began a career in life insurance sales and sales management. Now retired, he and his wife Marjorie (nee Turner) reside in Philadelphia. They have four children and seven grandchildren. It was for them that he started this research into the family's history.

The letters presented in this article are in the author's private collection. However, it is planned that the Dr. Edw. D. Cope letters and those by Dr. Turner which pertain to his paleontological discovery will be placed in the manuscript/archives of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The author wishes to thank three grandnieces of Theophilus H. Turner for their interest and permission to bring his story to light: Marjorie Turner Almy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Sarah Turner Gonda, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and Joanne Turner Henderson, Warren, Maine. Also thanked for their assistance at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia are Hollister Knowlton, administrative assistant, education department, and Carol M. Spawn, librarian, manuscript/archives.

1. E. Glenn Denison, Josephine Middleton Peck, Donald Jacobus, comp., *Denison Genealogy* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1982), 48, 92, 182, 471. This source lists Turner's forebears as Capt. George Denison (1618-1694) of Connecticut and prominent in Colonial affairs, and Col. Nathan Denison (1740-1809) of Wyoming (Pa.) Massacre fame. The Rev. Joseph Denison (1815-1900), familiar in Kansas history as president of the Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University, Manhattan) and later president of Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas, was also a descendant of the above-mentioned Capt. George Denison and therefore related to Captain Turner.



Theophilus Turner (standing, left) poses with his brothers, Edwin (sitting), and Daniel. It was to Daniel that most of Turner's letters were addressed.

At the time of the young doctor's graduation, the nation was in the throes of the Civil War. Copies of his military service "Returns," obtained from the National Archives Trust Fund Board, Washington, D.C., show that Theophilus started his military career during May of 1863 as "assistant attending surgeon by contract" at Fort Delaware, located on Pea Patch Island on the Delaware River just a short distance from Newcastle, Delaware. The island at the time of the Civil War was a federal prison. Turner remained at this post until August 1864 when he left to join the Army of West Virginia at Harrisonburg, Virginia, with General Crook commanding.

Turner was assigned to the artillery brigade as assistant surgeon, U.S. Volunteers. His medical duties took him to Camp Russell, Virginia; Cedar Creek, Virginia; Maryland Heights, Maryland; and Cumberland, Maryland. He remained at the latter post until October 1865 when he was mustered out of the volunteer army with the rank of first lieutenant and brevet captain.

On return to civilian life, he went home to Hope, New Jersey. Sometime during the remaining days of his military service, or perhaps in the months after discharge, and unbeknownst to any of his family, he applied for a commission in the regular army. Evidence of this minor duplicity is revealed in a March 11, 1866, letter from Fort Dodge, Kansas, in which he asked his brother: "What do our blood relatives say of my entrance into the Army? Has Uncle Thof said anything about my lying to him at Newton [New Jersey]? I surely didn't think I was lying to him." There is no doubt he came under considerable family pressure to start a practice locally. Instead he went west with the army and to the Indian troubles.

Although his main contribution at Fort Wallace was medical—and those contributions are very favorably mentioned in the fort's reports—perhaps his signal contribution was to the scientific community, specifically paleontology. Among the letters in this article are those written by Edward D. Cope, curator of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, to Theophilus Turner. Dr. Cope's letters which began on December 3, 1867, pertained to a fossil skeleton which Theophilus discovered in a ravine near an old Indian camp while he was on a hunting trip. This was an exciting find of a prehistoric reptile, which Dr. Cope identified and named *Elasmosaurus platyrus*; *Elasmosaurus* was the most elongate of the sea saurians yet discovered until that time.²

Interestingly, the Academy of Natural Sciences had not been aware of the existence of Dr. Cope's letters to Turner, and their discovery coincided with the Academy's 1986 "Discovering Dinosaurs" exhibit, where a mounting of "Dr. Turner's dragon" (Dr. Cope's epithet) occupies a prominent place. Prior to the official opening of the exhibit, the actual fossil bones, all forty feet of them, of Turner's discovery were displayed at the Academy.

All that is known to the present generation of the Turner family about Theophilus has come from the letters in this article. His education, medical and military experience, and paleontological interests were not part of any family lore, oral or written. All of the letters, both written and received by Theophilus, were found stored in shoeboxes, unread possibly since 1926 when they were removed from the Hope homestead. It is most probable, however, that they had not been read since the death in 1879 of Theophilus' brother Daniel who saved what appears to be all of Theophilus' letters. One box was found in 1982 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in the attic of the home of the widow of George Denison

2. *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, 14 (1871): 47.

Turner, a nephew of Theophilus. A reading of these letters revealed a full year's gap in the correspondence. After much canvassing of family and relatives, another box came to light in a barn in Warren, Maine, where it had been stored by Frank Martin Turner, another nephew. The missing correspondence had been found.

By combining the information revealed in the letters with the sparse knowledge the present Turners had of the Hope, New Jersey, family, a picture could be formed of this young man who found his future in the army as a doctor, in the West, in Kansas. He was reared in the security of a strict but warm and loving family. Presbyterian in religious upbringing, Theophilus showed in his letters a bit of Puritanism in his attitude toward life and living. Ethically and morally he seemed to be a straight arrow: a teetotaler and somewhat of a celibate, who wrote to his brother, "As I am necessarily virtuous...." Yet, in another letter, after a visit to Denver City, he wrote: "I had been banished to the pararies [*sic*] so long that I was satisfied with a three day visit and since my return have persued [*sic*] the 'even tenor of my ways' with unaccustomed satisfaction...." He was tainted with the prejudices of the day. He was interested in national politics. He was an avid reader of scientific literature. In rare moments away from duty he puttered about the prairie uncovering minerals and geodes, some useful in his practice. He loved guns. He loved horses. He loved to hunt buffalo, but deplored the senseless slaughter of the beast.

Every effort has been made to faithfully present Theophilus' letters—language, spelling, phrasing, and punctuation. No attempt has been made to modernize. Where necessary, editorial additions have been made for clarity. Since almost every letter written by Theophilus began with a portion on letters, newspapers, and general mail received and sent, those portions have generally been deleted to eliminate repetitious material. The letters, both those received and written by Turner, are presented here in chronological order to maintain the story line of Theophilus Hunt Turner's life in Kansas.

Fort Dodge Kansas
(Via Kansas City)
March 4th 1866
Dear Brother³

Yours of January 25th was received two mails ago—it is upon the arrival of old letters that I realize more than any other time my real distance from home—I was glad

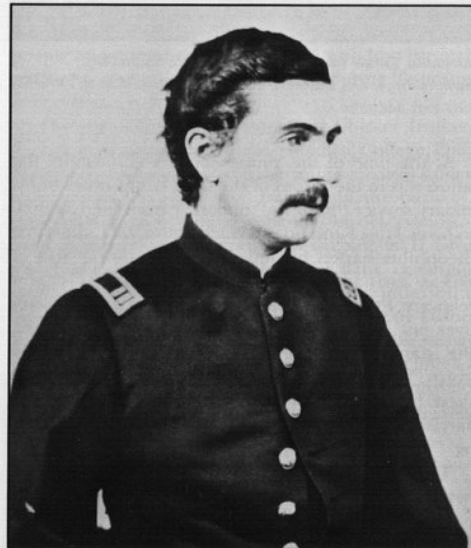
3. Almost all letters were addressed to Turner's brother Daniel who was responsible for saving all of the letters reprinted here. Those letters not addressed to Daniel are so noted. Daniel, a student at the time the letters were written, became a successful lawyer in Jersey City,

to hear you were about returning to your studies and hope as you are now in good spirits and pursuing your studies with pleasure. You will continue to do so—You need not give up the future yet—Though your education will not be of itself to you a fortune. It will certainly if well applied be to you a most advantageous [*sic*] assistance—I would give a good deal for a college education. For my part. I am not well settled as you know—I am not sure of my appointment⁴—I am afraid to try private practice and too indolent to work for success if that were sure of bringing it. Your news from home of course, are much later than mine. My latest is one from Ed⁵ dated Feb. 9th—He is at home and seemingly in bad spirits—I

New Jersey, but for some reason he abandoned his practice in 1879, went to Tiblow, Kansas, and in September 1879 died of injuries suffered "when he was thrown from a horse while visiting the ranch of a college chum." For references to Daniel Turner, see *Wyandotte Gazette*, Kansas City, September 12, 1879; *1893 Record Book of the Class of 1868* (Princeton University, n.d.); *1902 Record Book of the Class of 1868* (Princeton University, n.d.).

4. On or about the time Captain Turner was mustered out of the army, he had applied for a commission in the regular army. The slow moving bureaucracy caused him great frustration.

5. Edwin Turner (March 2, 1839-May 29, 1881) was Turner's oldest brother. See *Denison Genealogy*, 471.



In a letter dated August 13, 1868, Capt. Theophilus H. Turner enclosed this photograph of himself to his mother. The ravages of his bout with erysipelas (mentioned in an earlier letter) are still evident.

wish he were settled. Ed is a good fellow under any circumstances and always a kind and affect[ionate] brother—If I can get myself settled I hope I may be of some assistance to him—I am leading a life here which would kill you—We are on a plain with no habitations nearer than sixty miles on the east and a hundred and ten miles on the west surrounded by hostile indians buffaloes wolves etc—I have written several long laborious letters home concerning my trip from Leavenworth out here—It was a long ride by stage through the cold—The distance was nearly four hundred. The society of stage drivers and the fare on the road, had it not been interestly [*sic*] novel would have been exceedingly interestingly irksome—The game is plenty here and hunting consequently fine—I have shot buffaloes wolves geese and ducks since I arrived—I have been sincerely disgusted for the whole of this week. There has been a treaty held with the indians about twenty-five miles from here and I had the promise of attending but just my luck after not having had a sick man for several weeks all at once I found three bad cases on my hands at one time—It must have been an exceedingly interesting affair from what has been reported by those who have been there. I hope the treaty that was made may prove lasting for it proves irksome to be kept in camp through fear of wandering indians. I wrote Margaret⁶ yesterday the first I have written her since I came to this place—I was much pleased with your account of her baby. I saw Em Buck's baby at Leavenworth—She too was crazy on the subject—We have here a mail but once a week—it is now nearly a month as I have said since I heard from home. Through two copies of the Register⁷ I consider myself pretty well posted as to domestic news.

I have been intending to send Father a few wolf skins out of which to make a robe but the state of my finances will not at present admit of any uncalled for expenditures—we are living here very economically and if I retain my present position and obtain the appointment—I will be able to save a little "funds." I do not expect if all "goes well" I will get east in less than three or four years—I anticipate a warm greeting when I do have the pleasure of visiting home again.

If this reaches you write me soon.

As ever,

Your affect broth Thof

Fort Dodge, Kansas

March 11th 1866

Dear Brothers

Your note accompanying Havens' letter was received the 3rd inst. . . . Havens congratulated me extravagantly on my success before the Army board—considering it an honor and saying he would like to have had such a position himself. Had not his affairs been as they were at home—I do no[t] think he will remain long at Deckertown⁸ engaged in the hard work of the profession. He does not seem to appreciate his excellent position in civil life. If he leaves there it will be some time before he is again so well situated pecuniarily. What do our blood relatives say of my entrance into the Army? Has Uncle Thof⁹ said anything about my lying to him at Newton [New Jersey]? I surely did not think I was lying to him—I have just written to Havens a long letter full of glowing accounts of the charming life I am leading and I can assure you I wrote nothing I did not feel: for I am certainly now well pleased with the present and hope the future may be a continuance of it. A man can not suffer physically or morally in this atmosphere—I am now an entire teetotaler as far as strong drink is concerned. As I am necessarily virtuous I am consequently happy. We get up here a bill of fare that rivals a first class restaurant in New York or Philadelphia. For Breakfast this morning we had for to us a very ordinary breakfast by the way, milk toast—broiled buffalo veal, stewed potatoes, and fried eggs. For dinner a roast wild goose, potatoes, turnips and condiments, with soup to commence and strawberry pie for desert—for supper a nicely broiled wild duck afforded a bountiful repast. So you see as much of your sympathy as you bestow upon me way out here is wasted. As yet I have heard nothing of my appointment though I am anxious to do so. I am keeping a brisk correspondence with Silliman and from his last letter I am led to expect him out here after a while. I would rejoice to see him. Tell Father that Dr. Arrott¹⁰ is still at Fort Delaware and on an increased salary. We are expecting some more troops at this post.

8. One of the letters among Turner's correspondence was signed by "Jona. Havens." The text of the letter, not reprinted in this article, suggests that Havens may have been a non-military doctor friend in practice at a place named Deckertown. In his letter Havens referred to a new railroad and a place named Goshen. This would place Deckertown in Wandage Township, Sussex County, New Jersey, on the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad.

9. Theophilus Hunt (1825-1894) was the brother of Captain Turner's mother.

10. In a letter written by H. R. Silliman to Captain Turner, Silliman wrote of a visit to Fort Delaware and of seeing "Miss Arrott and the Dr." The *Official Army Register for August, 1868* (Washington, D.C.: Adjutant General Office, 1868), 111, lists Silliman, H. R., Brevet Major, Assistant Surgeon, from Pennsylvania.

6. Margaret Ann Turner (January 5, 1838-September 4, 1908) was Turner's oldest sister. See *Denison Geology*, 471.

7. The *Register* was the official newspaper for the county of Sussex, New Jersey.

Let them come the more the merrier. I begin to wonder how many of my long letters have reached home. I shall write you more in the morning giving you some of my wants.

Love to all

Goodnight

As ever

T. H. Turner

Fort Dodge Kansas

March 12th 1866

Brother

I believe I have said in the other sheet about all I have to say—In fact I do not feel much like gassing at present—I have written Fletcher¹¹ a pretty good long letter which will give him some trouble to read—I am doing a heap of corresponding—mail day is a big thing at this place—so it would with you if you only got it once a week. How is politics with you? How do you stand on the question? I am ashamed of that steamish speech the President [made] to a copperhead crowd in front of the white house. It was an undignified occurrence to say the least of it—but I wish I could have the disposal of the extreme radicals—the freedman's bureau was not the thing to make an issue with the President on.... I want you to send me by express a pair of boots. Do them up in strong paper and secure them well. We will try the luck on it. Those I got in N.J. [New Jersey] will soon play out. I don't want them very heavy but I want them serviceable.

As ever

Your affect Brother

T. H. Turner

Fort Dodge Kansas

March 22nd 1866

Dear Brother

.... I can assure I was glad to hear from you and hope you have already answered the letter I wrote you in February—I am very fearful, Daniel, from the way in which you speak of the devotional exercises at Nassau Hall¹² on that Washington birthday, that your morals are becoming corrupted. That you fail to appreciate your excellent opportunities for attaining moral excellency. If such should prove to be the case I will advise your removal to this not inhospitable locality where the absence of everything, tending to remind you of your

maker or his purpose with you will bring you to a realizing sense of your lost condition. Temptation too is here far removed—vile seducers are not within distance and opportunities for practicing early acquired vices do not exist. I have not seen whiskey women or cards in a seeming age—But to come down to sense and decency the world does move here as elsewhere, as I observe today that I have been at this post just two months—two months too they have been, pleasantly and I hope not unprofitably spent—You ask me if I hunt. Indeed, do I, but little else except study and exercise on horseback and I congratulate myself on becoming quite a good shot as well as a horseman of no mean pretension—After I get my commission I am going to purchase myself a good horse, by a good horse I mean a first rate one.

You ask me how we shoot buffalo and if we shoot them as the indian does. The indians generally shoot them with bows and arrows—they can send an arrow with such force as to drive it completely through a buffalo and so accurate to strike a man at over two hundred yards—the way in which we shoot them is from horseback with colt army revolvers. We run the horse up to within a few feet of the animal and shoot them on the run. We just kill them for fun and make no use of them whatever. Leave them to enrich the already rich pararie [sic]—It is curious that white men are wanting either the art or the patience, I know not which, to dress buffalo skins—All of them that find their way into the markets are sold by the indians—We shoot geese, ducks, larks &c all we want of them—I agree with you that you could enjoy life for a while on the plains but you are now in a better business—I am thrown so much among men of so much better information than I possess that I sincerely regret the want of a collegiate course—I have no doubt of your future with good habits and morals well fixed.

Elks antelopes buffalo wolves are in abundance—they have been driven down by a lot of indians who are at present in camp about six miles north of us—when they travel they so scatter themselves as to drive everything before them for many miles. They have come down this time to receive the annual presents which the government gives them to be good indians and not kill white folks. Everybody in the plains are expecting to have troubles with the indians this summer but I do not put much faith in it. If they want a little fight I guess we can accommodate them to their satisfaction.

I am feeling very well today and will close this scribble where it is, promising to write you more and better next time. Write me soon.

As Ever

Your Affct Broth

Thof

11. Fletcher Turner (1852-1920) was Turner's younger brother. See *Denison Genealogy*, 471.

12. At the time, Nassau Hall was the main building of the College of New Jersey in Princeton, New Jersey; the college became Princeton University.



The *Elamosaurus platyurus* (at top), discovered by Turner, was mounted for the Academy of Natural Sciences' "Discovering Dinosaurs" exhibit.

Fort Dodge, Kansas

April 1st 1866

Dear Brother¹³

.... Weather here has been beautiful for several days, excepting the winds which are said to prevail all through the months of April and March. Trains are beginning to pass through here in great numbers. On an average of two a day. But freighting over the plains is said to be a losing business this year. The far west being said to be full of goods with little money among the settlers. During the past week we have had three independent excitements. The indians paid us a visit. The Pay Master came and went and the eclipse of the moon night before last afforded us sensations for at least twenty-four hours.

At the time the indians were with us, three of them slept in our quarters with us. It was very funny to see how they did things. There was nothing that so mystified them as the photographs. It was especially surprising to see their astonishment when shown a picture of any one present. I think a photograph establishment among them would be a paying institution. I derived however little good from the Pay Master as I do not have the privilege of being paid by them as my appointment has not yet come to hand. The two months allowed by the Surgeon General has passed and nearly two more with it. I am not discouraged yet however.¹⁴ The eclipse I suppose of course you saw. It was a grand sight on the plains. The prairie was set afire last night on the other

side of the river opposite to us. It was the most beautiful sight I have seen in this locality. A continued sheet of flames for about two miles.

I suppose by this time you have forwarded the boots of which I wrote you. If you have not already sent them, bear in mind that I do not want a heavy pair. This is so dry and warm here—that light ones are best. I expect a large mail this week and perhaps will have some news for you in my next. At least I hope so. I am as usual in the best of health. Write me yourself once a week.

Love to all

As ever

Your Affec. Broth

T. H. Turner

Fort Dodge, Kansas

Sunday April 12th 1866

Dear Brother

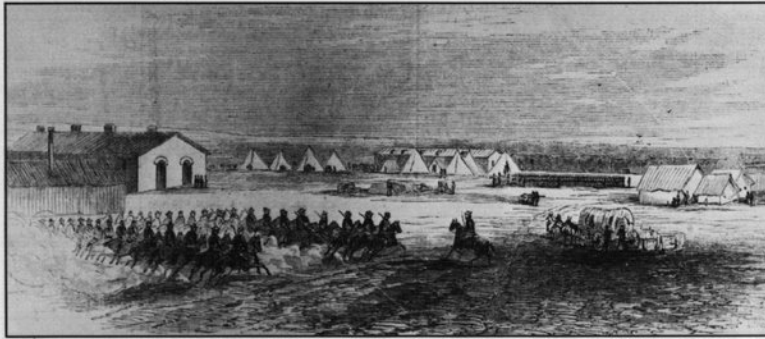
.... I received a letter from Edwin by the same mail with his weekly instalment [*sic*] of newspapers—I have the New York Weekly Times coming to me regularly now and I can assure you that I am well pleased with it. Once out here and you could realize the interest one takes in the affairs at home, in which he has no voice and therefore the more favorably situated for finding fault with everybody and everything in general. I was very much obliged to you for the President's speech [another reference to speech on Freedman's Bureau]. I had read extracts of it before—I consider it an unfortunate effort on his part although I find no fault with his veto of the "freedman's bureau bill" particularly. Politics at home must be decidedly interesting—I wonder how Caleb

13. This letter was addressed to Turner's brother Edwin.

14. A reference again to the delay in receiving his commission.

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Kansas History



This 1867 Harper's sketch conveys the flurry of activity at Fort Wallace during the Indian unrest. The sketch also indicates that while tents served as shelter for some, more permanent buildings, like the officers' quarters pictured below, were at the post.



Swayze¹⁵ stands, whether the New York Tribune has preserved its influence with him or has his postmastership carried the day. I can hardly give him any credit for his position in either case. You seem to be getting along very well with your studies etc; you must be enjoying yourself quite as well as any of us. Things with me are getting at times monotonous though I have a supply of reading matter on hand. During the past week I have been reading a history of the Reformation in Germany and I have been much interested in it—though I wound up the week by reading a novel the title of which was "On Guard"; fair thing in the way of a production.

15. Caleb Swayze was a member of an old Hope, New Jersey, family. Once a partner in the firm of Swayze and Turner, General Merchants, Swayze worked with Turner's great-uncle, Jonah Turner, who was a junior partner in the firm.

Things on the plains are quite lively owing to the number of trains on the road to New Mexico. They are now all going in to the East after goods. In the course of a few weeks they will be returning and I expect considering things will be unusually lively. I have not received my appointment yet though I am anxious to do so—I am also looking for my pay from Washington and sadly I am in need of it. I owe board and wash bill for nearly two months and put on this letter my last postage stamp—with twenty cents in my pocket—I am living from hand to mouth. Once again with any money and I will not get out so short; but this is owing to the unpredictability of getting hold of about seven hundred dollars which is owing me by the government—write soon to
Your affect Broth
T. H. T.