

#### Kansas historical quarterly

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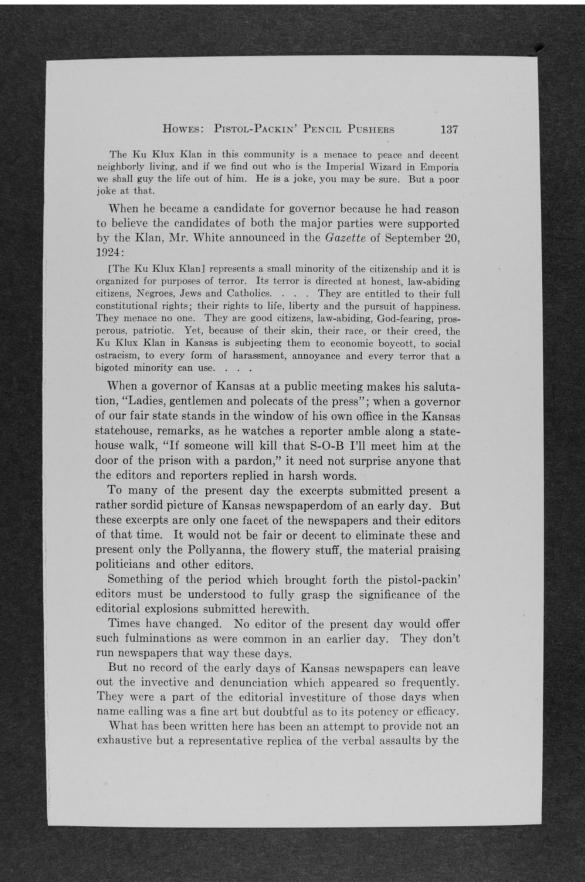
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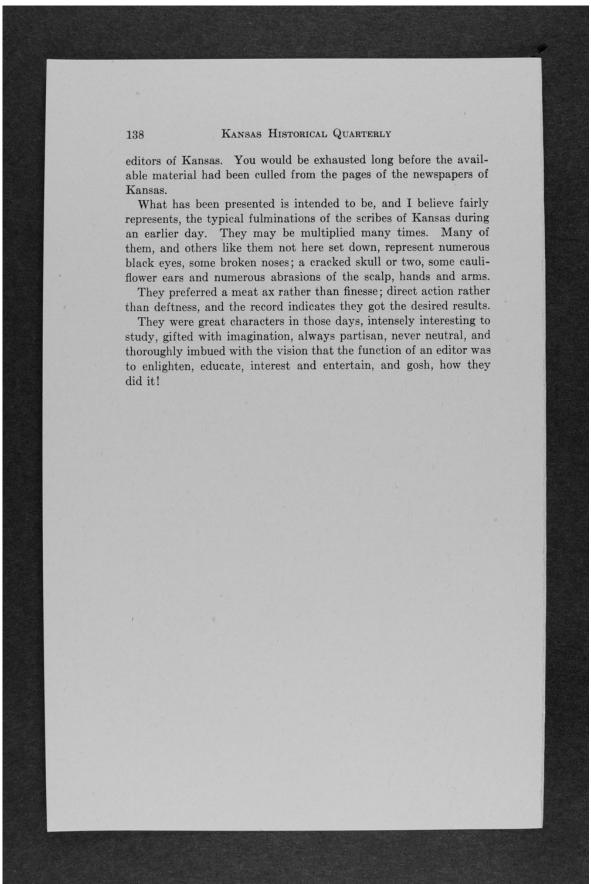
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# KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY











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#### Some Notes on the Eighth Kansas Infantry and the Battle of Chickamauga

Letters of Col. John A. Martin Edited by Martha B. Caldwell

#### I. INTRODUCTION

THE Eighth Kansas infantry, organized in 1861 to protect settlers from Indians along the western and southern borders and from Confederates along the eastern border, probably saw more service outside the state during the Civil War than any other Kansas regiment. Orders to enlist the regiment were received by Gov. Charles Robinson in July. Although the young state had already supplied six regiments, and a seventh was being recruited, it responded with alacrity and by September six companies had been raised. In October Maj. Henry W. Wessels, of the Sixth United States infantry, having been appointed colonel by Governor Robinson, assumed command and completed the organization. In February, 1862, Colonel Wessels was recalled to his regiment in the regular army and Lt. Col. John A. Martin¹ succeeded him. After a reorganization various elements of the regiment were stationed in Kansas and at Fort Kearny, Neb.

Late in May, 1862, orders were received to send troops to the aid of General Halleck at Corinth, Miss. On May 28, by order of Gen. James G. Blunt, five companies of the Eighth departed for that place by steamer. From that time until the close of the war this regiment served in the campaigns in Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi, traveled 10,750 miles, and participated in fifteen battles and eighteen skirmishes.

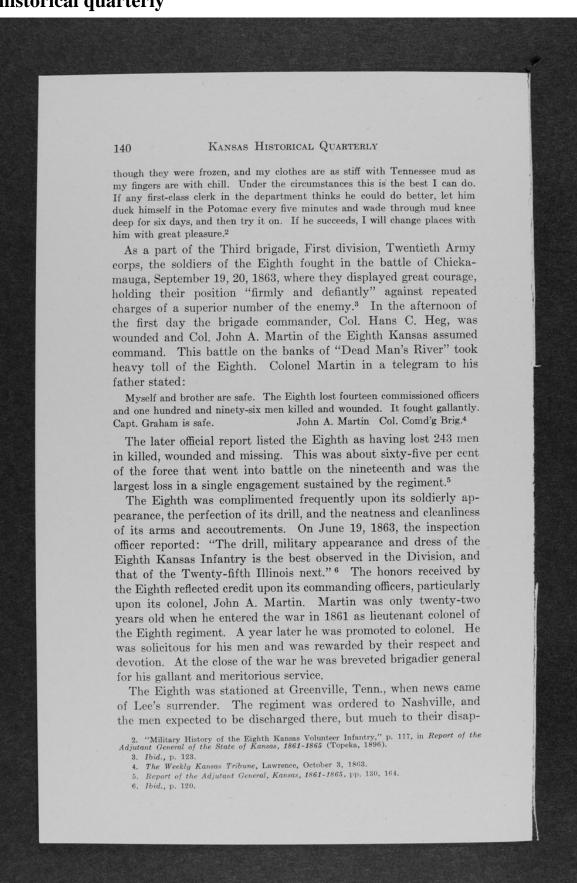
The soldiers of the Eighth, like those of other infantry regiments, suffered greatly from hunger and exposure. The following endorsement on a monthly muster roll by an officer of the regiment is amusing and yet portrays some of the hardships endured:

I make this roll lying flat on my belly on the ground, with a rubber blanket for a desk. If I was at Washington in a comfortable room, supplied with a hundred dollar desk, a gold pen, black, blue, red and purple inks, the latest and best patent rulers, and plenty of "red tape," I could make a more artistic copy. But I have been constantly soaked with rain for seven days and nights; there isn't a bone in my body that doesn't ache; my fingers are as numb as

 For a biographical sketch of John A. Martin see Kansas Historical Collections, v. VII, pp. 410, 411.

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pointment the Fourth corps, of which the Eighth was a part, was sent to Texas. On August 21 the brigade reached the Salado river five miles from San Antonio and on the 23rd the Eighth moved into the city, where it was placed on provost duty. The regiment remained there until November 29, when it was ordered to Fort Leavenworth. Here the men were finally mustered out on January 9, 1866.

In 1895 Kansas erected monuments and tablets on the battle fields of Chickamauga and Chattanooga to commemorate the service of the Kansas troops.7

The following letters, written by Colonel Martin to John J. Ingalls shortly after the battle of Chickamauga, throw additional light on the engagement. They were given to the Kansas State Historical Society by Ellsworth Ingalls of Atchison, son of John J. Ingalls.

II. THE LETTERS

Oct. 8th '63.

Messrs Ingalls & Horton:-

I send you accompanying a short letter, and in same mail two rebel papers of latest dates, and a copy of Cincinnati Commercial giving account of Battle of Chic[k]amauga.8 It is much the best account I have seen. In only one or two particulars is it an error, and the writer is evidently honest. Its account of Sheridan's feat in extricating himself from the enemy when our lines were cut in two is all an error.9 As our Division was cut off with Sheridan's, and as Sheridan had command of us until we again joined the main army

Kansas Historical Collections, v. VIII, pp. 271-275.

7. Kansas Historical Collections, v. VIII, pp. 271-275.

8. Presumably the same article referred to by Colonel Martin in his letter of October 18, as having been written by Capt. J. W. Miller. See pp. 142, 143.

9. The correspondent's mention of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan in his three-column story of the battle was as follows:

"Where was Sheridan? 'Captured,' you would have been told that night. But I did not believe it. I had seen too much of him and his fighting division to credit that story. At midnight Sunday night Sheridan doffed his hat to Thomas, and reported for duty with more men and more guns than he had carried into the fight originally!

"Even after he was cut off he repelled a desperate charge of the enemy, and one of his regiments—the 51st Illinois—captured the battle flag of the 24th Alabama and the major of the regiment who was carrying it, endeavoring to rally his men. The general is an ardent, practical student of roads, as I had occasion to know while riding with his staff one day, on a march of six miles. I must have gone double that distance before I found that the general was taking his daily lesson in geography. Gathering together his noble brigades, two of whom had lost their beloved leaders, he struck across the Missionary Ridge directly to the west, as the rebels had possession of the country to the north of him, including, for all he knew, every road. Reaching the top of the ridge, he caused the 'assembly' to be blown, and picked up all the stragglers from other divisions he could find. He had lost three pieces of artillery in the fight, but he came across a quantity that other divisions had abandoned, and took it in charge. In this way he saved a whole battery, given up for lost by Johnson. "With all that was left of his own division, and with a long line of stragglers and additional artillery, he struck the road on top of Missionary Ridge, which he traversed until he found it in possession of the enemy. Quietly breaking off again to the west, he adroitly passed the enemy's flank, rega





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at 4 p. m., (not 12 p. m. as the correspondent says) I know this. <sup>10</sup> I had command of our Division during most of this time, as Genl. Davis had been cut off from it by the rebels, and forced to the left. Truly,

Jno. A. Martin.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 18th, '63.

Dear Ingalls:-

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Yours of 4th inst. rec'd yesterday. It was the first letter I have received from you. I have rec'd all the *Champions* published since I left Atchison except one number, but have never rec'd any other papers from you. Our mails are very irregular, and we cannot, for the present, hope for any improvement. The nearest point reached by a R. R. is Stevenson [Ala.], 60 miles distant. The road between here and there is damnable, and much cut up now by the heavy trains passing over it. So I presume our amiable army mail contractors lighten their wagons whenever they desire, by throwing out mail.

I am glad to learn that the *Champion* is paying expenses. Hope it will continue to do so during the time you have charge of it. I do not remember telling father when the material (printing paper, &c.,) was to be paid for, although Judge [Albert H.] Horton & [Frank A.] Root made an invoice of stock on hand, and the Judge said he would pay father, as I requested. I gave father the invoice, price, &c., to collect. I presume he will not hurry you about it. If there is any stuff not used during your term it can be invoiced to me again, and I will pay you for it. Any, however, that you do not need, you need not consider in the account paid father.<sup>11</sup>

About the Battle [Chickamauga], I presume you have already

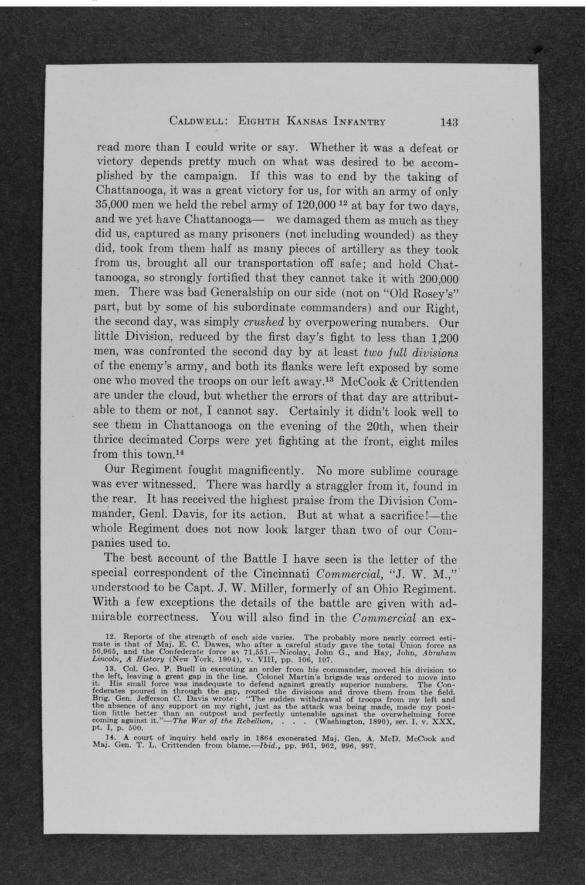
taken by General Davis' division in the Battle of Chickamauga, reported:

"J. W. M's' account of Sunday's operations on the right, is substantially correct, but what he says of Sheridan's division should include also the division of General Davis. These divisions gave way almost at the same instant. They were re-formed at the same place, and marched off nearly to Rossville in good order, under command of Major General Sheridan, the officer to whose able management the troops referred to are probably indebted for their extrication. Your correspondent also conveys a wrong impression when he says 'General Sheridan reported to General Thomas at midnight on Sunday.' Both Sheridan and Davis were in a position to communicate with General Thomas long before midnight on Sunday. At 4 p. M., in less than three hours after the right was cut off, and, according to some veracious correspondents, 'disgracefully routed,' Davis and Sheridan, with their divisions decimated by shot and shell, but almost intact so far as concerns stragglers, marched to within supporting distance of Thomas, and would again have breasted the storm of battle had they not been ordered back to Rossville."—Freedom's Champion, Atchison, November 26, 1863, reprinted from the Cincinnati Commercial. See, also, p. 144.

11. When John A. Mactin enlisted in the army in 1861, he left his paper, the Freedom's Labu Is

11. When John A. Martin enlisted in the army in 1861, he left his paper, the Freedom's Champion, in charge of George I. Stebbins. In September, 1863, he leased it to John J. Ingalls and Albert H. Horton. On January 1, 1865, Colonel Martin, having returned from the army, resumed the control of the paper.—Kansas Historical Collections, v. I-II, p. 172.







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tended account of the part taken by Genl. Davis' Division, which I wish you would copy. 15 It is a correct and truthful version.

We are in no danger here unless the rebels succeed in cutting off our communications and starving us out. But a great army ought to be massed here. We should be enabled to assume the offensive in a month, and drive the rebels from our front. The d-d silly expeditions the Government seems to be constantly getting up to occupy territory, should be denounced by the press of the country in the strongest terms. Annihilate the rebel army, and the territory will need no army of occupation-it will come back itself. Destroy Bragg's and Lee's armies and the war is practically ended—there will be nothing more but guerrilla warfare, which only cavalry can put down. Such nonsense as Sabine Pass Expeditions, 16 Blunt's Arkansas and Indian Country campaigns, &c., 17 certainly ought, by this time, to be exploded humbugs. In the name of reason what do we want with the Indian Country or Texas now, or why take men there, where they can accomplish no practical good, and let our forces in Tennessee and Virginia constantly confront armies superior to them in numbers.

Respects to all friends, Yours truly, Jno. A. Martin.

> Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 6th, 1863.

Dear Ingalls:-

I send enclosed an article from the Cincinnati Commercial respecting the part taken by our Division at the Battle of Chickamauga, which I wish you would publish.18 It is correct in every particular, and was written mainly by Maj. Schneider, assisted by other officers of the Division, who furnished the facts that could not have come under his personal observation.

All well here, and the aspect of affairs unchanged. We are still on half rations, but hope to do better soon. I send you a small ex-

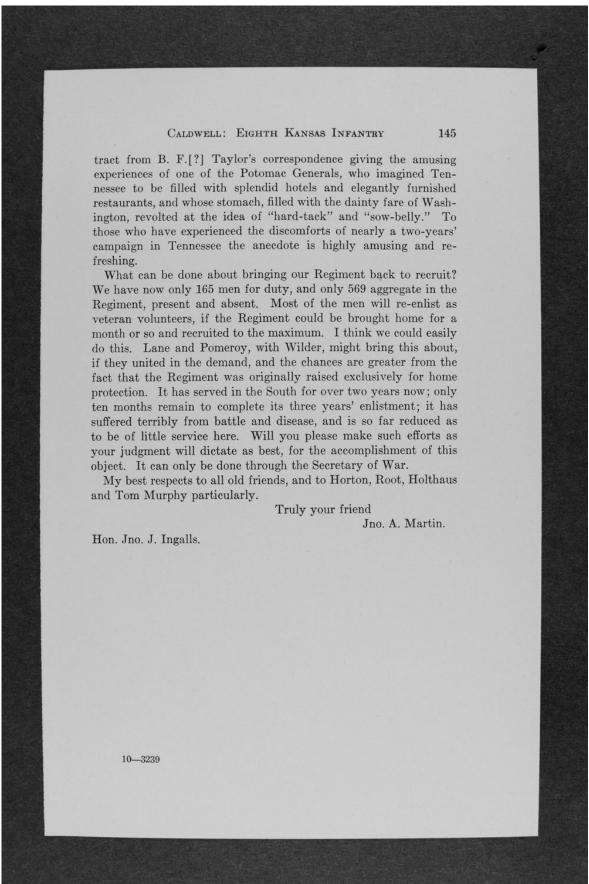
<sup>15.</sup> This probably referred to the same article that Martin enclosed in his letter to Ingalls on November 6.

Ingalls on November 6.

16. The critical situation in Mexico induced the Federal government to raise the U. S. flag in Texas. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks was ordered to conduct an expedition into that region. He set out in September, 1863, to invade the country by way of the Sabine Pass. This expedition failed and in November he occupied the mouth of the Rio Grande and from there took the region along the coast.—Nicolay & Hay, Abraham Lincoln, A History, v. VIII, pp. 286, 287.

<sup>17.</sup> See "General Blunt's Account of His Civil War Experiences," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. I, pp. 211-265.
18. The article was published in the Freedom's Champion, Atchison, November 26, 1863. See Footnote 10.









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#### Bypaths of Kansas History

WHEN THE CRY OF "WOLF" SOUNDED IN LAWRENCE

From the Kansas Free State, Lawrence, April 7, 1855.

FIRST APRIL FOOL IN LAWRENCE.—The richest thing that ever came off in the way of an April Fool took place here on last Sabbath evening. Mr. Atwood and Mr. Boyer, of the Free State office, and Mr. Garrett, of the Tribune, concluded that the unnecessary fears of some of the citizens, and especially those of Mr. Brown [editor of the Herald of Freedom], should not pass off entirely unfounded, and after getting together, determined to "waive the question" as to the propriety of continuing religious services in such perilous times, and "proceed immediately to develope" the military propensities of the people of Lawrence. Accordingly, they proceeded, about 3 o'clock, P. M., down the road toward Westport, about a mile, and wrote the following letter, purporting to come from Mr. Mendenhall, of the Friends' Mission, and gave a messenger a dollar to carry it, in great haste, to Mr.

Friends' Mission, 4th mo., 1st day, 1855.

FRIEND BROWN-A large party of Missourians, camping at Mill Creek last night, got hold of the second edition of thy Herald, read it in camp, and immediately resolved to return to Lawrence, throw thy press into the river, and hang thee and other prominent Free State men. The plan is then to repair to Hickory Point, and hang Kibbee, and perhaps Goodin and others. I do not know their number, but as they have sent runners to inform other delegations coming in from different parts of the Territory, it must be large-not less than six or seven hundred.

The messenger who carries this will repair to Hickory Point and inform the people in that neighborhood.

In great haste, Thy friend, R. MENDENHALL.

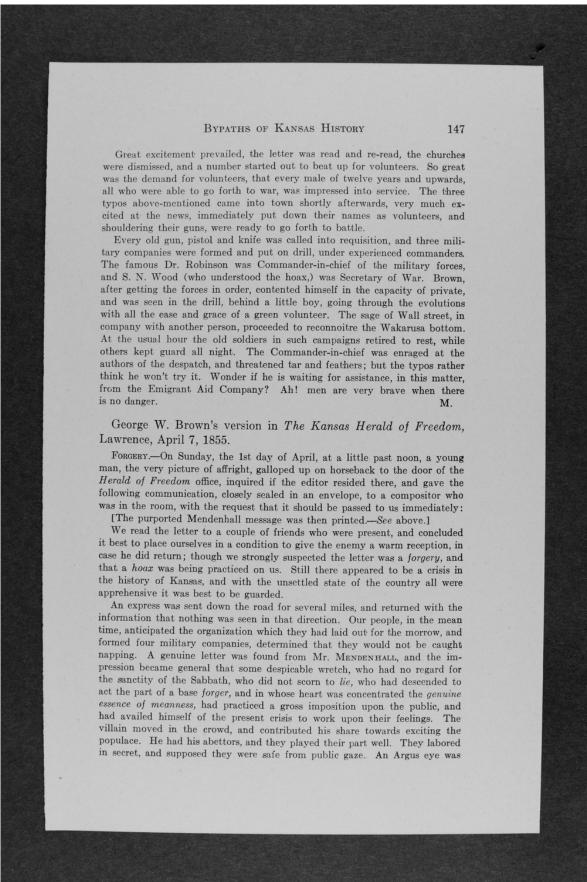
G. W. Brown, Lawrence.

Mr. Brown read the letter, and, highly excited, rushed into a neighbor's house to give the news, and was soon seen with a bell in one hand, and a small spy-glass in the other, ringing and looking out for Missourians. After the people had gathered, he commenced haranguing them to rally to the defense of himself, his office, and the town generally.

He perceived a species of "nice diplomacy" on the part of the Missouriansthat two had called at his office late on Saturday night, and bought two papers, and by some means got hold of the second edition of the Herald-and that they would have about time to get to Mill creek-that the messenger was greatly excited, and started off immediately to Hickory Point; and noticed a number of little things that he had said about Missourians that were "rather imprudent," and concluded that there was no doubt that the report from the enemy was all true. He then exhorted all to stand around him and preserve his life.

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upon them, and when a few more links to complete the chain of evidence shall be furnished, we pledge ourself to strip the lion's skin from the villainous deceivers, and expose them to the scoffs and sneers of an insulted and outraged populace.—In the meantime they may jeer us as much as they please, but they shall stand before the community with Forger written on their brow, and baseness visible in every lineament.

LATER.—Just as we were going to press we received the Kansas Free State, from which we quote the following article—

[The first paragraph of the Kansas Free State story was reprinted.]

Then follows a copy of the letter given above, and the assertion that we appeared in the streets with a bell in one hand and a small spy-glass in the other, and that we rang up a crowd and harangued them to rally in defense of ourself, our office, and the town generally. A greater number of falsehoods was never embraced in a more limited space.—The editor has our thanks for connecting the Free State and Tribune offices with this base outrage. It has saved us some labor which we should have expended in getting the proof. If our citizens are disposed to swallow the insult which these villainous men have practiced upon this community let them do so. If forgery and falsehood are to be tolerated, and even made a subject of mirth by the press, in whose hands, to a great extent, are the morals of a community, then it is time that vice should be respected instead of Virtue, and the most brazen and heartless of wretches be held up as examples of imitation.

A year later the Missourians did sack and burn part of Lawrence and the type and presses of the *Herald of Freedom* and the *Kansas Free State* were thrown into the river.

#### ANTECEDENT OF THE KAW VALLEY POTATO?

From the Kansas Free State, Lawrence, April 14, 1855.

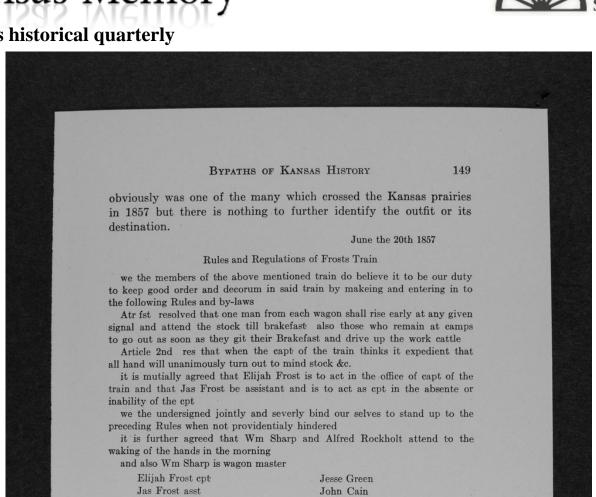
Strawberry and Wild Potato.—These plants are indigenous here, and are found in great abundance on the bottom lands, especially on those of the Kansas.—In some localities the strawberry is springing up very thickly, and are said to grow very luxuriantly. The potato appears to be a small variety of the Yam. In the loose, rich bottoms the soil is full of them. They are very small and quite inferior for cooking. Probably cultivation might improve them so as to make them valuable. The experiment is at least worth a trial. A root resembling the artichoke is also found in many places.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS OF A WAGON TRAIN

The following is a copy of one of several pages—torn from an old record book—which have come into the possession of the Kansas State Historical Society. Possibly the document here reproduced was in the hand of Enoch Painter who was a settler along the South fork of the Nemaha river (in northeastern Kansas) in 1855. The train



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Wm Sharp, wagonmas Alfred Rockholt w. m. Loyd Rockholt Enoch Painter Thos. Arnold D. D. Moughlin Tim Moody E B Harris Jacob Green

H. M. Rockholt N A Guill E. Froyway Loyd Rockholt [II?] Levi McKosksie Rheuben Rockholt J. W. Rockholt Leonard Metz Clinton Donald

#### HUMOR OF EMIGRANTS

From The Kansas News, Emporia, July 9, 1859.

Notwithstanding the thousands of wagons daily returning from the West, and the thousands of persons who are heart sick, weary and foot sore, a slight tinge of humor is frequently manifested by various devices on the wagon covers.

For instance:

We saw, the other day, a weatherbeaten wagon, on which, however, the following letters stood out in bold relief:

Our curiosity was excited. The cabalistic initials were too much for our comprehension, and we were fain compelled to inquire their meaning.

The teamster responded, in a voice husky with emotion and indignation:





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"What does thes 'ere letters mean, eh? Them letters, sir, expresses my sentiments, and means Pike's Peak be damned."

We would have lectured this indignant emigrant on the sinfulness of depravity, but, on a survey of his exterior, came to the conclusion that it would be piety thrown away to no purpose, and let him pass.

Such devices as "D—d Humbug"—"Sold"—"Tuck in"—"Gold for sale by the bushel," &c., &c., are numerous and quaint.

We noticed on one wagon a huge Peak, pictured in yellow paint, on the top of which sat an individual represented as saying: "Here's the place where gilding is done." An immense crowd was scampering in the reverse direction.

One emigrant told us that Pike's Peak would be the greatest Ossuary the world had ever seen; and another, that the gold fever would break every Life Insurance Company in the country.—Leavenworth *Times*.

Echoes of the Republican Convention in Chicago in 1860 When Seward and Lincoln Were the Leading Candidates and Kansas Supported Seward

From Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1917), by Gilbert A. Tracy, p. 141. [Note: According to Albert Beverage's Abraham Lincoln, v. III, p. 308, Mark Delahay was married to a "fifth cousin of Lincoln's mother."]

Springfield, Ills. April 14, 1860.

M[ark]. W. Delahay,

My Dear Sir: Reaching home last night I find your letter of the 7th. You know I was in New England. Some of the acquaintances I made while there, write me since the elections that the close votes in Conn. and the quasi defeat in R. I. are a drawback upon the prospects of Gov. Seward; and Trumbull writes Dubois to the same effect. Do not mention this as coming from me. Both those states are safe enough for us in the fall. I see by the dispatches that since you wrote, Kansas has appointed Delegates and instructed them for Seward. Don't stir them up to anger, but come along to the convention, and I will do as I said about expenses.

Yours as ever, A. Lincoln.

From Ewing Collection, MSS. division, Kansas State Historical Society.

Leavenworth, Kansas, May 6, 1860.

Dear Sir.

You will probably have observed that the Kansas delegation to Chicago were instructed by the Convention by which they were selected to cast their votes (if they should have any) for Mr. Seward—and that Mr. Wilder, who is for Mr. Seward from choice, was chosen as the delegate from Leavenworth, over Col Delahay who was understood to be strongly in favor of your nomi-



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nation. I have desired that you should know how both those things happened—and as I can not be at Chicago, where I had expected to talk the matters over with you or with some of your personal friends, I shall take the liberty explaining them to you directly by letter.

Here as nearly everywhere in the North, Mr. Seward has more ardent, zealous & earnest admirers than any other candidate—and they are in the radical wing of the party which has possession of nearly all the presses, and controls all the minor conventions and less important movements of the party. As it was by no means certain that the Kansas delegates would be accorded seats in the National Convention, or the right to vote, the great majority of the party took no interest in the movement—and the meetings called to appoint delegates to the Territorial Convention were scarcely attended at all except by the managers. In that convention no interest was taken in any subjects except in selecting the delegates—three of whom are first for Mr. Seward from choice, but all of whom regard you as a highly acceptable and available candidate. The Convention selected men who had done good service for the party and received no honor or reward—and who well merited the compliment of an appointment—none of whom were selected with reference to their preferences among the gentlemen named for the Chicago nomination—

In the apportionment Leavenworth was accorded but one delegate—Wilder, who has done a great deal of hard work for the party here, had announced himself as a candidate for the place more than a year ago—and the place had been accorded to him without dissent, until the time for selecting delegates to the Territorial Convention was near at hand. Col Delahay then, feeling assured that the great majority of the Republicans of Leavenworth favored your nomination, became a candidate in opposition to Wilder— The Colonel was on all hands regarded as one of our best men and as representing truly the preferences of the majority of our republicans—but he had just had one of the best offices of our poor Territory— Wilder had worked as hard, had held no office, and had all along been accorded this place—and as he had a big start, and the most money, the Colonel could not make the race against him.

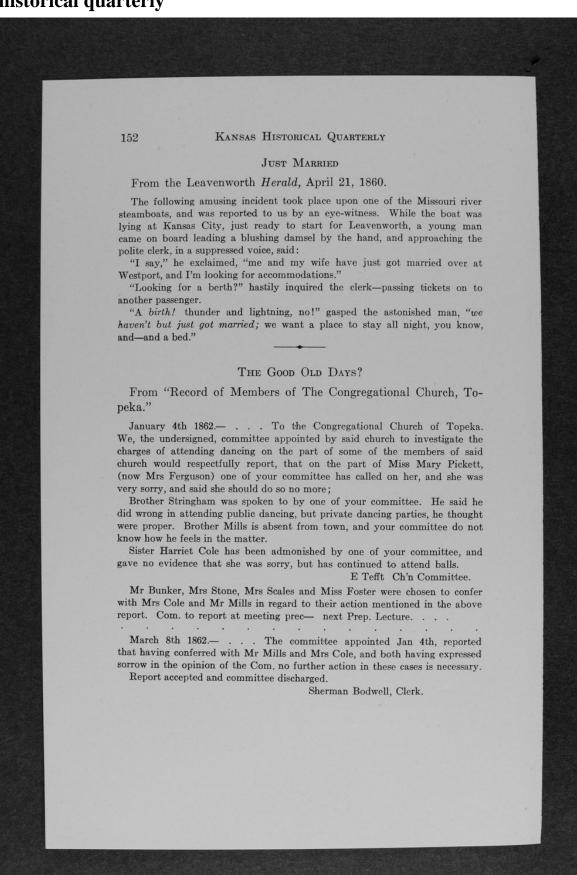
Our delegation at Chicago will, in perseverance of instructions, if given a vote, cast it for Mr. Seward. Three of them will adhere to him pretty tenaciously. Mr. Seward & Chase dropped, I think you would be the next choice of every man in the delegation—

Yours very truly Thomas Ewing Jr.

Hon Abraham Lincoln Springfield Ills.

In the three ballots necessary to nominate Lincoln Kansas regularly cast its six votes for Seward. And like the Kansas delegates to the Democratic convention in Chicago in 1944 who failed to note the trend for Truman for vice president in time to assist with his nomination, Kansas Republicans joined the Lincoln parade too late to do much good except to have their final votes recast with the winner.









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IT WAS THE WIGWAM THAT WAS LOST

From The Smoky Hill and Republican Union, Junction City, September 3, 1864.

A "big injun" having strayed from the camp, found himself lost on trying to return to it. After looking about, he drew himself up and exclaimed, "Injun lost!" but recovering himself, and feeling unwilling to acknowledge such shortsightedness, "No, Injun no lost-wigwam lost-(striking his breast), Injun here!"

ARTEMUS WARD, HUMORIST, BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE LEAVEN-WORTH TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

From the Leavenworth Daily Conservative, May 14, 1865.

The Typographical Union of this city recently elected Artemus Ward [born Charles Farrar Brownel an honorary member of the association, and in response to a letter notifying him of the fact, the corresponding secretary received the following:

Toledo, Ohio, "On the Wing," May 5, 1865.

To the Typographical Union, of Leavenworth:

Dear Sir: I have only time, between trains, to very gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your letter, officially notifying me of my election as an Honorary Member of your Typographical Association.

It is the first time I was ever elected to anything. I once ran for County Clerk in this State, but an ignorant and ruffianly people defeated me by some three thousand five hundred scattering votes. The civil war soon followed. Events since that there time are matters of history. I need not speak of them.

I judge that my election was unanimous. If any person voted against me, please hang him higher than Haman, who, by the way, was a "rat" printer.

Printing offices that employ only Union printers always get along harmoniously, whereas offices which employ girls are always in hot water. There is no unity, no harmony among the employees.

It was once remarked by Daniel Webster Wilder, that we knew not what a day might bring forth, adding that we lived in a republican government; and no one could deny that that massive mind was right.

This, however, has nothing to do with my election to your Union-which I quite seriously regard as a marked compliment, and for which, believe me, I am profoundly grateful. I remember with pride and pleasure, my visit to your beautiful and onward city, and I sometime hope to again visit you, and grasp most heartily the hands of my true friends, the printers.

> Ever most truly yours, Artemus Ward.

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#### PERSONAL!

From the Leavenworth Evening Bulletin, May 30, 1865.

A fellow living near the Trading Post, who invariably signs his name Seneca Curney, M.D., we believe to be a common liar, and a creature too mean to be contemptible. We never saw the man, and God forbid that we should ever be contaminated by proximity to his carcass.--Mound City

This seems rather "personal."

#### Mr. "Lo!"

From the Marysville Enterprise, July 14, 1866.

Big Injun Warm.—We saw a lovely-looking, raw-boned, greasy Otoe Injun walking around the suburbs of our town the other day in a delectable and cool style of dress. He had on his head a cast-off old hat, as full of holes as a pepper-box, through which a lot of innocent little "varmints," commonly called lice, were playing a lively game of "bo peep," while his feet were decked in a pair of buffalo moccasins. The rest of his apparel consisted of a twine string around his waist, while over his head he held an umbrella with which he protected his brown shoulders from the hot rays of the sun. With large drops of perspiration oozing from his ginger colored features, he approached us with a broad smile that looked like the opening of a valise, and said sweetly, "Me Big Injun; very warm!" We thought, "let her warm."

#### AN INDIAN CHIEF SERVES AN ULTIMATUM ON THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT FORT DODGE

From The Weekly Free Press, Atchison, March 16, 1867.

A correspondent under date of Feb. 28th, on Arkansas river, writes as follows:

"A party of three hunters, engaged in strychnining wolves on the Cimarron river, were on the 17th, inst., attacked by Indians and lost all their stock, two mules and four horses. The band, numbering 20 Kiowas, first attempted to get their provisions, but were driven off, then succeeded in stampeding the entire stock. One of the men has just come in, walking ninety miles in thirtysix hours without fire or water, to get help to save their wagon and peltry.

"The names of the hunters are C. C. Baker, P. F. Goodfellow; the other man's name I could not learn. The Indians are very insolent. One of the Kiowa chiefs went to Fort Dodge the other day and ordered the commanding officer to leave the Fort; if he did not in a month, he would scalp the garrison. E. E. SMITHE." "Yours,

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#### NOT RATIONED, ANYWAY

From The Kansas Daily Commonwealth, Topeka, December 18, 1872.

Oxen are getting quite common. They look like the same ones that used to work for Russell, Majors & Waddell, and as if they had not had a square meal since the old freighting days.—Lawrence Journal.

Yes; when the restaurant keepers used to serve up those old oxen to their customers and attempt to pass off the whip lash marks on the sirloins as the effects of broiling. It was pretty "thin" for oldtimers, but Eastern chaps used to get away with it without a murmur, for choice buffalo steak.

#### BIG GAME HUNTING NEAR OXFORD

From The Sumner County Press, Wellington, March 19, 1874.

The Oxford Enterprise says: "Frank Simington, a lad of fourteen years of age, living two miles below town, chased a large buck until it took refuge in the river. He kept it in the river until it became stiffened with cold, and then waded in and cut its throat with a butcher knife. A rather hazardous undertaking for a boy of his age, as a full grown deer is more than a match for an able-bodied man."

#### NOT "IRISH JOHN RILEY!"

From The Commonwealth, Topeka, August 4, 1875.

John Riley sends his "card" to the Paola Spirit. It reads thus: "Sir-In your report of the commissariat business in the last week's issue of the Spirit, I see that one J. Riley has received two bushels of potatoes. Now, whether this is John, James, Joe or Jerry Riley, I know not, but this I do know, that it is not Irish. John Riley, of Scott's valley. When he becomes a pauper he will go to the poor house, where all paupers ought to go, but he will not go there while there is the butt end of a cow's tail left."

#### A "HOTFOOT" HIGHER UP

From the Dodge City Times, September 29, 1877.

Judge R. W. Evans held court last Saturday evening. The case was one of great interest, and about two hundred people were present. It was Mr. Brown of Garfield vs. somebody-Mr. Brown could not find out exactly who. But these are the particulars: While Mr. Brown was inoffensively taking a drink at Beatty & Kelly's some one ingeniously set fire to the lower extremities of his coat from behind. Mr. Brown exhibited great presence of mind by shedding his coat as soon as he felt the flames. Suit was brought to find out the guilty party and punish him. Owing to the great crowd the case was tried in Mayor Kelley's hall. But no decision was reached, owing to the fact that eggs were

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too freely used to suit His Honor, the Judge. The Judge took his seat with his usual gravity, and was beginning to investigate the case, when an egg struck him somewhere near the back of the head, and as eggs usually do when they strike, it scattered considerably. The Judge immediately adjourned court and proceeded to hunt soap and water. Mr. Brown says he has no faith in Dodge City courts, and will appeal his case to the Governor.

#### A DAY IN DODGE

From the Ford County Globe, Dodge City, September 9, 1879.

It was casually observed several times by several old timers last Friday that Dodge City was redeeming herself. By this remark they intended to convey the idea that we were extricating ourselves from that stupid lethargy which had fallen upon us of late, and were giving vent to our uncurbed hilarity-"getting to the booze joint," as it were, in good shape, and "making a ranikaboo play for ourselves." We speak in the plural number because a large portion of our community were "to the joint" and we cannot mention the pranks of each without overlooking some and causing them to feel slighted. The signal for the tournament to begin was given by a slender young man of handsome external appearance who regaled his friends with a pail of water. The water racket was kept up until it merged into the slop racket, then the potatoe and cucumber racket, and finally the rotten egg racket, with all its magnificent odors. This was continued until the faces, eyes, noses, mouths and shirt bosoms of several of the boys were comfortably filled with the juicy substance of the choicest rotten eggs, compelling them to retire from the field, which they did in a very warlike manner. As the evening shades began to appear the skirmishers were soon actively engaged, and at a little before the usual hour slugging commenced all along the line. One or two "gun plays" were made, but by reason of a lack of execution, were not effective. We cannot indulge our readers with a lengthy description of the scenes of this glorious occasion. It is described by many eyewitnesses as being equal to the famous "Mystery of Gil-Gal," where the inspired poet says:

"They piled the 'stiffs' outside the door, I reckon there was a cord or more, And that winter, as a rule, The girls went alone to spelling-school."

Upon the sidewalks ran streams of the blood of brave men, and the dead and wounded wrestled with each other like butchered whales on harponning day. The "finest work" and neatest polishes were said to have been executed by Mr. Wyatt Earp, who has been our efficient assistant marshal for the past year.

The finest specimen of a polished head and ornamented eyes was bestowed upon "Crazy Horse." It is said that his head presented the appearance of a clothes basket, and his eyes, like ripe apples, could have been knocked off with a stick. He was last seen walking up the railroad track, on his way to Las Vegas. It was not until towards morning that the smoke cleared away, the din of battle subsided and the bibulous city found a little repose. And such is life in the far, far west.

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#### Kansas History as Published in the Press

Kansas historical articles in the Kansas City (Mo.) Times in recent months include: "Action in Port of Kansas City Marks Coast Guard's 153d Anniversary Today," August 4, 1943; "Kansas Remembers Dave Leahy's Feats in Lost Art of the Newspaper Hoax," by Paul I. Wellman, October 11; "Monument Recalls Pioneer Scouts Who Once Lived in Old Westport," by J. P. G., November 17; "Death Valley Pioneers From Illinois Were First To Use Name 'Jayhawker,'" by Paul I. Wellman, November 27, and "Humboldt, Kas., Is Accustomed to Lt. Col. J. B. Crawford in News," December 14.

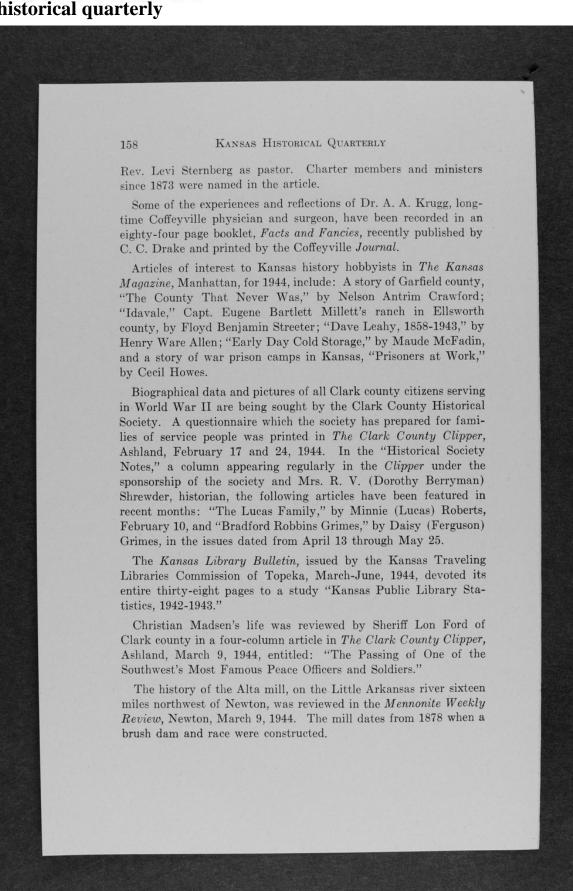
The history of the Lorraine Union School of Ellsworth county, as told by the late H. L. Steinberg, was published in the Ellsworth *Messenger*, September 9, 1943. The first term of the consolidated school opened in 1898 in a new four-room school building.

Articles of historical interest to Kansans in recent issues of the Kansas City (Mo.) Star were: "The Olathe Naval Air Base Is a Year Old," October 3, 1943; "Food Is Too Rich [At War Prison Camps in Kansas]," by Cecil Howes, October 20; "Flying Is Supreme Interest Of a WASP [Mrs. June Ellington Gorrill of Centerville] From Kansas Farm," by Malvina Stephenson, and "K. State's New 'Prexy' [Milton Stover] Eisenhower Sees Big Job Ahead For His Grads After War," by E. B. Garnett, November 7; "Fairfax Rounds Out Its Development As Center of a Great Naval Command," November 20; "'Perfect Team' of Generals [Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney and Kansas-born Maj. Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead] Commands Yank Fliers in Southwest Pacific," by Edward R. Schauffler, November 21; "A File of Faded Clippings Recalls the Aristocrat [Col. Ike Busby] of Tramp Printers," November 24; "A Mortgaged Kansas Farm Made Two Chapters in Oil History [the Carrie Oswald Well, First in the Fairport Field]," by Leota Motz, December 5; "Three Brigadier Generals [Frank N. Roberts of Oskaloosa, T. B. Wilson of Williamstown, and Julius Holmes of Lawrence] Add to the Kaw River's Fame," December 12, and "Making Bombs and Building Ships, Harry Darby Takes Up the Fight He Saw Left Unfinished in 1918," by Paul I. Wellman, December 26.

The Ellsworth Messenger of October 7, 1943, devoted a half-page to a review of the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Ellsworth. The church was organized January 19, 1873, with the

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Charles L. Rose, editor of the Almena Plaindealer for nearly twenty-five years, sketched the paper's history in its issue of March 16, 1944. Dr. W. Taylor founded the paper on February 2, 1888.

Titles and dates of publication of several historical articles prepared by H. Martin Glenn for his Ellinwood Leader are: "Captain John R. Ellinwood a Forgotten Man in Town Which Bears His Name," March 16, 1944; "First Issue of Ellinwood's First Newspaper Is Lost [Ellinwood Express of April 6, 1878]," March 23; "Ellinwood Incorporated Sixty-Six Years Ago," April 13, and "Early Day [Barton County] Editors Held Bitter Debates," April 20.

Fort Scott's newspaper history was briefly reviewed in the Fort Scott Tribune, April 21, 1944.

"[Gen. George Miller] Sternberg and the Fort Harker Cholera Epidemic of 1867," was the title of an article by Dr. Jerome M. Schneck of Topeka in the May, 1944, issue of The Journal of the Kansas Medical Society, Topeka. Sternberg was physician at the fort during the epidemic.

The history of the airplane industry in Wichita was briefly reviewed by Charles E. Jones in Downtown Wichita, May 6, 1944.

Sixty years of Olathe history were recalled by The Johnson County Democrat, Olathe, May 11, 1944, in an article entitled: "Sale of [Sam J.] Kelly Building Brings Memories of Early Days."

A list of cemeteries and burial plots of Ellsworth county, as compiled by Mrs. Gertrude Kunkle and the Smoky Hill chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Ellsworth, was printed in the Ellsworth Reporter, May 25, 1944. The chapter sent a copy of the list and records copied from tombstones to the Kansas State Historical Society.

Kinsley's Congregational-Christian Church held special ceremonies May 21, 1944, celebrating the seventieth anniversary of its founding. The history of the church was reviewed in detail in a four-column article in the Kinsley Mercury, May 25.

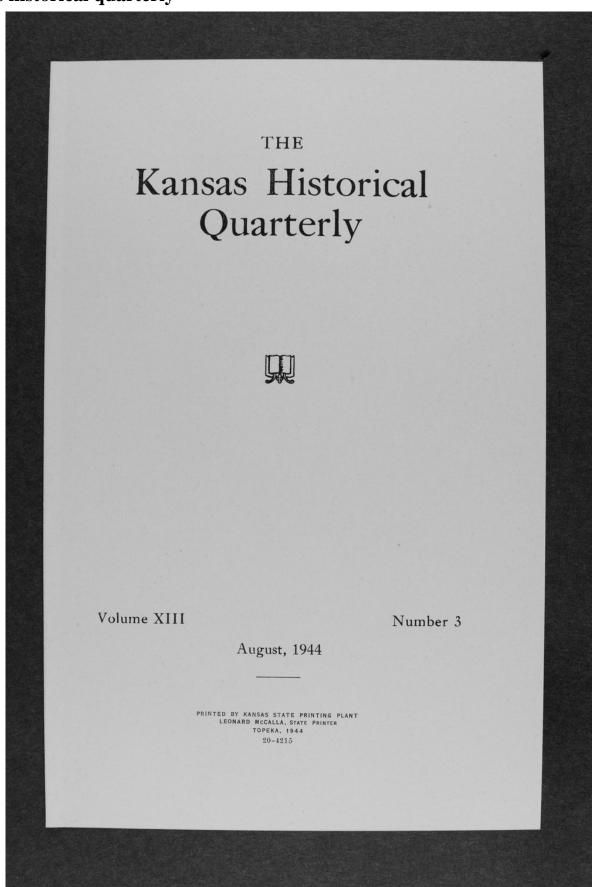
A history of the Grinnell Methodist Church, by J. E. Broah, was printed in the Grinnell Recorder-Leader, June 1, 1944. The first Sunday School in the community was established in 1888.



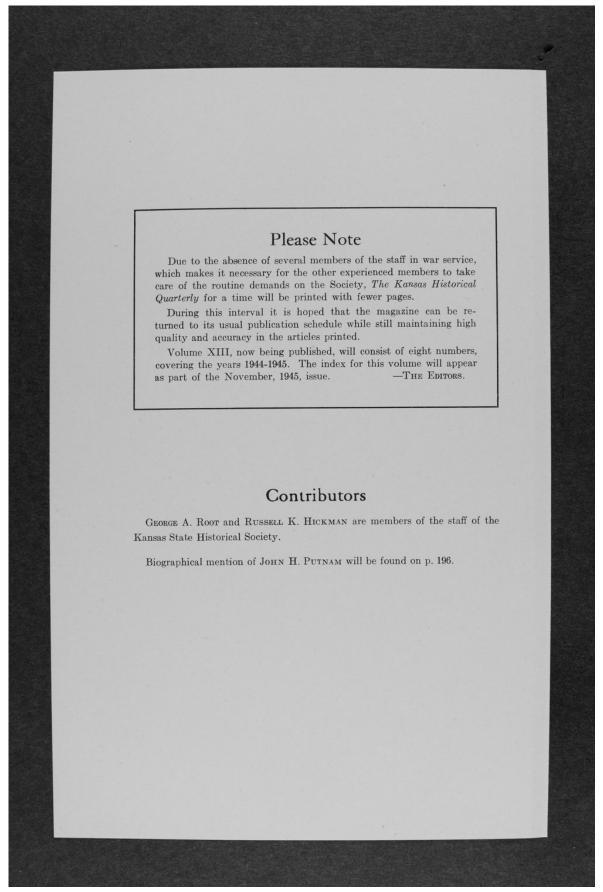
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#### Kansas Historical Notes The Kansas History Teachers Association and the Kansas Council for the Social Studies held a joint meeting in rooms of the Kansas State Historical Society and Topeka High School April 15, 1944. Featured speakers and their subjects at the morning session in the Memorial building—Prof. A. Bower Sageser, Kansas State College of Manhattan, presiding-were: Prof. John D. Bright, of Washburn University, "Changing Emphases in the Teaching of History"; Miss Elizabeth Cochran, of the Pittsburg State Teachers College, "Handmaidens of History," and Prof. C. M. Correll, of Kansas State College, "Prospects for Permanent Peace." Miss Ruth E. Litchen of the University of Kansas, Lawrence, presided at the afternoon session. Prof. Hilden Gibson, of the University of Kansas, spoke on "The Social Studies and the Postwar World," and Mrs. Elizabeth Ott, Topeka Elementary Schools, Miss Esther Anderson, Junior High School, Kansas City, and Miss Julia Emery, Wichita High School East, spoke on "Beginning a Postwar Program." New officers of the Kansas History Teachers Association are: J. D. Bright, president; Rob Roy MacGregor, Southwestern College of Winfield, vice-president; Miss Della Warden, Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, secretary-treasurer. The executive board includes the above officers and Professor Sageser, Miss Cochran, Prof. James C. Malin of the University of Kansas, and Miss Jessica Smith of Wichita High School North. New officers of the Kansas Council for the Social Studies are: Miss Ruth E. Litchen, president; Grace Karr, of Winfield High School, vice-president; Miss Robena Pringle, of Topeka High School, secretary-treasurer, and J. C. Mordy, of Manhattan High School, on the board of directors. No meeting was held in 1943. This was the seventeenth annual meeting of the Kansas History Teachers Association. Complete skeletons of the saber-tooth tiger and giant sloth are among the outstanding exhibits in the museum of McPherson College, McPherson, located on the fourth floor of Harnly hall. Dr. R. E. Mohler is curator. (160)

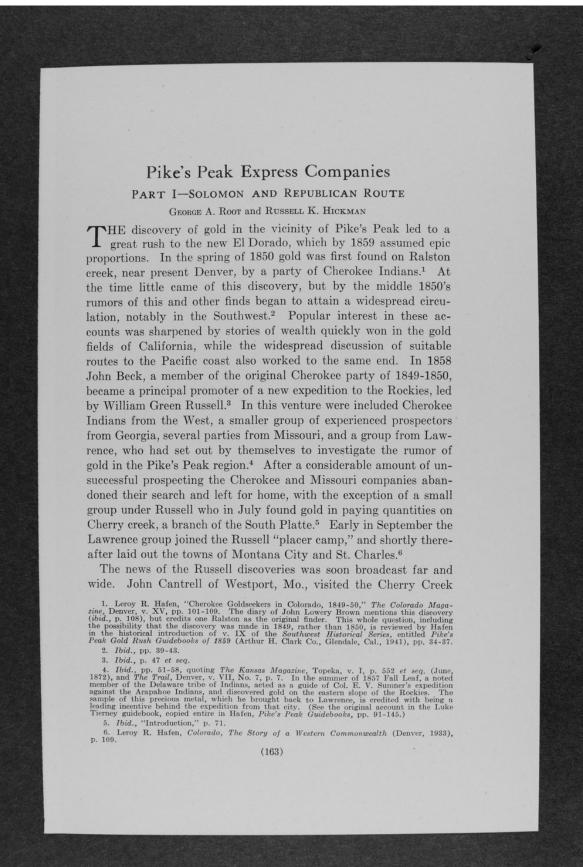












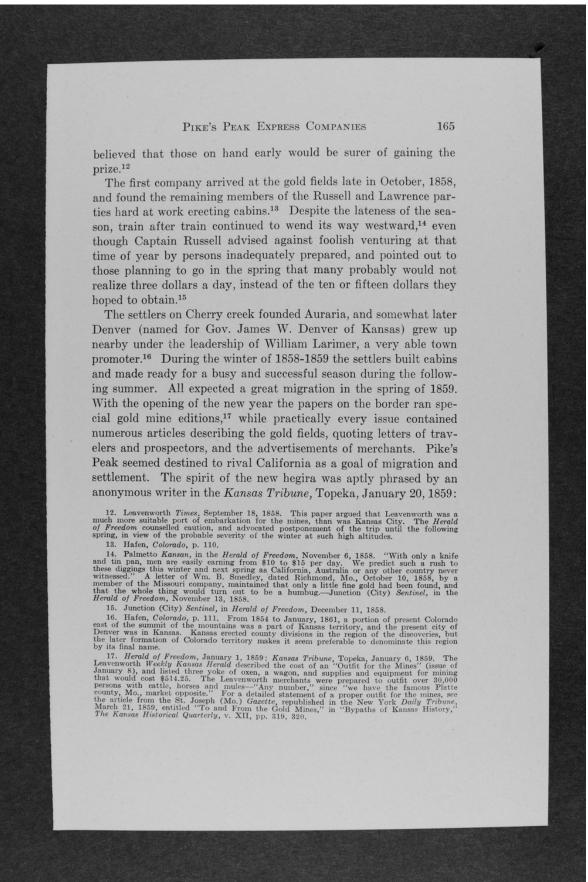


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8. E. V. King returned to Leavenworth with samples of gold he obtained at the diggings worth \$21 per ounce (Leavenworth Ledger, clipped in Herald of Freedom, September 18, 1858). Robert B. Willis, express messenger between Kansas City and Topeka, gave a most encouraging report of the Lawrence party, alleging that the miners could make from eight to ten dollars a day, with pans and rough washers (Kansas City Journal of Commerce, September 11, clipped in the Herald of Freedom, September 18, 1858). The Journal printed a review of the discovery in a detailed article some weeks later. 9. Kansas Daily Ledger of Leavenworth, clipped in the Herald of Freedom, September 25, 1858. "Gentlemen of character and standing, whom we know, have been there and have exhibited to our citizens specimens of the gold. . . All agree (except a few old fogies in our own midst), that we have a new El Dorado within our grasp. . . Lieut. [G. K.] Warren of the U. S. Topographical Engineers in his report speaks in the most flattering terms. . ." 10. Some of the reports were greatly exaggerated as to the amount of gold actually found, but these accounts usually bore the outward stamp of truth. Prior to the discovery of the Gregory lode in May, 1859, the "float gold" was usually meager in amount. 11. Wyandotte Gazette, September 18, in Herald of Freedom, October 9, 1858.





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A CALL TO THE MINES By FLOY

Hurra for Pike's Peak! Hurra for Pike's Peak! A rich El Dorado has lately been found, Far, far to the Westward, and near Cherry Creek; Where gold in abundance is scattered around. Ah! hurra for Pike's Peak!

Hurra for Pike's Peak! Hurra for Pike's Peak! There's gold in the Mount'n, there's gold in the vale, There's plenty for all who are willing to seek-Believe me; believe me—'tis no idle tale. Come, hurra for Pike's Peak! 18

With the prospect of a huge migration to the West, the "jumping off" places on the border began to vie with one another for a share of the business. Kansas City, Leavenworth, Atchison, Westport and St. Joseph each argued its superiority as the best place to outfit emigrants, and each maintained that it was the terminal of the best route across the plains. 19 In this rivalry for the overland trade Kansas City and Leavenworth were pronounced leaders, both being favorably situated with reference to travel up the Missouri river, while Kansas City was especially well located as a gateway to the Southwest via the Santa Fe trail. Fort Leavenworth had long been the chief military depot for supplies bound for the West and the eastern terminus of the Fort Leavenworth military road (also known as the California trail or the Salt Lake road). As a very convenient entrepot of settlers to Kansas, and of emigrants to California and Salt Lake, the town of Leavenworth grew rapidly during the 1850's and the freighting business increased by leaps and bounds.<sup>20</sup> In 1855

18. Compare the following salute from the initial number of the Rocky Mountain News, Cherry Creek, K. T., April 23, 1859:

"Hurrah for the land where the moor and the mountain Are sparkling with treasures no language hath told, Where the wave of the river and the spray of the fountain Are bright with the glitter of genuine gold."

19. Samuel C. Pomeroy of Atchison wrote to Thaddeus Hyatt of New York, January 17, 1859 (MSS. division, Kansas State Historical Society), inquiring as to whether Hyatt still owned the steamer Lightfoot, a small vessel built for the Kansas river trade. Pomeroy befinished, giving through connections with St. Louis, which would carry the bulk of the traffic from that gateway to St. Joseph and Atchison. The Hockaday and Co. stage line to Cherry Creek would make it possible to sell through tickets from the Atlantic coast to the mines. (The Lightfoot, which made regular trips up the Kansas river in 1857, did not return to that locality in 1859, the Silver Lake, Col. Gus Linn, Colona, and Star of the West serving in its stead.—Albert R. Greene, "The Kansas River—Its Navigation," in Kansas Historical Collections, v. IX, pp. 339, 343-350.)

20. George A. Root, "Pt. Leavenworth Military Road," supplement to the Horton Head-light, October 29, 1936. Alexander Caldwell, an early-day freighter of Leavenworth, wrote (Kansas Historical Collections, v. III, pp. 451-458): "The amount of supplies required annually for the military alone amounted to from thirty-five to fifty million pounds." This required 10,000 wagons, 12,000 men, and 120,000 head of stock, representing an investment of over \$5,000,000. "These prairie schooners, if placed end to end in one continuous line in the ordinary way of freighting, would have formed a column more than 1,000 miles long."