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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
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The Ku Klux Klan in this community is a menace to peace and decent neighborly living, and if we find out who is the Imperial Wizard in Emporia we shall guy the life out of him. He is a joke, you may be sure. But a poor joke at that.

When he became a candidate for governor because he had reason to believe the candidates of both the major parties were supported by the Klan, Mr. White announced in the *Gazette* of September 20, 1924:

[The Ku Klux Klan] represents a small minority of the citizenship and it is organized for purposes of terror. Its terror is directed at honest, law-abiding citizens, Negroes, Jews and Catholics. . . . They are entitled to their full constitutional rights; their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They menace no one. They are good citizens, law-abiding, God-fearing, prosperous, patriotic. Yet, because of their skin, their race, or their creed, the Ku Klux Klan in Kansas is subjecting them to economic boycott, to social ostracism, to every form of harassment, annoyance and every terror that a bigoted minority can use. . . .

When a governor of Kansas at a public meeting makes his salutation, "Ladies, gentlemen and polecats of the press"; when a governor of our fair state stands in the window of his own office in the Kansas statehouse, remarks, as he watches a reporter amble along a statehouse walk, "If someone will kill that S-O-B I'll meet him at the door of the prison with a pardon," it need not surprise anyone that the editors and reporters replied in harsh words.

To many of the present day the excerpts submitted present a rather sordid picture of Kansas newspaperdom of an early day. But these excerpts are only one facet of the newspapers and their editors of that time. It would not be fair or decent to eliminate these and present only the Pollyanna, the flowery stuff, the material praising politicians and other editors.

Something of the period which brought forth the pistol-packin' editors must be understood to fully grasp the significance of the editorial explosions submitted herewith.

Times have changed. No editor of the present day would offer such fulminations as were common in an earlier day. They don't run newspapers that way these days.

But no record of the early days of Kansas newspapers can leave out the invective and denunciation which appeared so frequently. They were a part of the editorial investiture of those days when name calling was a fine art but doubtful as to its potency or efficacy.

What has been written here has been an attempt to provide not an exhaustive but a representative replica of the verbal assaults by the



editors of Kansas. You would be exhausted long before the available material had been culled from the pages of the newspapers of Kansas.

What has been presented is intended to be, and I believe fairly represents, the typical fulminations of the scribes of Kansas during an earlier day. They may be multiplied many times. Many of them, and others like them not here set down, represent numerous black eyes, some broken noses; a cracked skull or two, some cauliflower ears and numerous abrasions of the scalp, hands and arms.

They preferred a meat ax rather than finesse; direct action rather than deftness, and the record indicates they got the desired results.

They were great characters in those days, intensely interesting to study, gifted with imagination, always partisan, never neutral, and thoroughly imbued with the vision that the function of an editor was to enlighten, educate, interest and entertain, and gosh, how they did it!



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

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



though they were frozen, and my clothes are as stiff with Tennessee mud as my fingers are with chill. Under the circumstances this is the best I can do. If any first-class clerk in the department thinks he could do better, let him duck himself in the Potomac every five minutes and wade through mud knee deep for six days, and then try it on. If he succeeds, I will change places with him with great pleasure.²

As a part of the Third brigade, First division, Twentieth Army corps, the soldiers of the Eighth fought in the battle of Chickamauga, September 19, 20, 1863, where they displayed great courage, holding their position "firmly and defiantly" against repeated charges of a superior number of the enemy.³ In the afternoon of the first day the brigade commander, Col. Hans C. Heg, was wounded and Col. John A. Martin of the Eighth Kansas assumed command. This battle on the banks of "Dead Man's River" took heavy toll of the Eighth. Colonel Martin in a telegram to his father stated:

Myself and brother are safe. The Eighth lost fourteen commissioned officers and one hundred and ninety-six men killed and wounded. It fought gallantly. Capt. Graham is safe. John A. Martin Col. Comd'g Brig.⁴

The later official report listed the Eighth as having lost 243 men in killed, wounded and missing. This was about sixty-five per cent of the force that went into battle on the nineteenth and was the largest loss in a single engagement sustained by the regiment.⁵

The Eighth was complimented frequently upon its soldierly appearance, the perfection of its drill, and the neatness and cleanliness of its arms and accoutrements. On June 19, 1863, the inspection officer reported: "The drill, military appearance and dress of the Eighth Kansas Infantry is the best observed in the Division, and that of the Twenty-fifth Illinois next."⁶ The honors received by the Eighth reflected credit upon its commanding officers, particularly upon its colonel, John A. Martin. Martin was only twenty-two years old when he entered the war in 1861 as lieutenant colonel of the Eighth regiment. A year later he was promoted to colonel. He was solicitous for his men and was rewarded by their respect and devotion. At the close of the war he was breveted brigadier general for his gallant and meritorious service.

The Eighth was stationed at Greenville, Tenn., when news came of Lee's surrender. The regiment was ordered to Nashville, and the men expected to be discharged there, but much to their disap-

2. "Military History of the Eighth Kansas Volunteer Infantry," p. 117, in *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, 1861-1865* (Topeka, 1896).

3. *Ibid.*, p. 123.

4. *The Weekly Kansas Tribune*, Lawrence, October 3, 1863.

5. *Report of the Adjutant General, Kansas, 1861-1865*, pp. 130, 164.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 120.



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

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, regaining the road and turning east through Rossville, and, without halting for a moment, he reinforced Thomas by midnight, as I have already indicated."—"The Battle of Chickamauga," by a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, copied in the *Daily Missouri Democrat*, St. Louis, September 30, 1863.



at 4 p. m., (not 12 p. m. as the correspondent says) I *know* this.¹⁰ 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:—

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.¹¹

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

10. An article in the Cincinnati *Commercial* by Major Schneider and others on the part 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. 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. 1-11, p. 172.



read more than I could write or say. Whether it was a defeat or victory depends pretty much on what was desired to be accomplished by the campaign. If this was to end by the taking of Chattanooga, it was a great victory for us, for with an army of only 35,000 men we held the rebel army of 120,000¹² at bay for two days, and we yet have Chattanooga— we damaged them as much as they did us, captured as many prisoners (not including wounded) as they did, took from them half as many pieces of artillery as they took from us, brought all our transportation off safe; and hold Chattanooga, so strongly fortified that they cannot take it with 200,000 men. There was bad Generalship on our side (not on "Old Rosey's" part, but by some of his subordinate commanders) and our Right, the second day, was simply *crushed* by overpowering numbers. Our little Division, reduced by the first day's fight to less than 1,200 men, was confronted the second day by at least *two full divisions* of the enemy's army, and both its flanks were left exposed by some one who moved the troops on our left away.¹³ McCook & Crittenden are under the cloud, but whether the errors of that day are attributable to them or not, I cannot say. Certainly it didn't look well to see them in Chattanooga on the evening of the 20th, when their thrice decimated Corps were yet fighting at the front, eight miles from this town.¹⁴

Our Regiment fought magnificently. No more sublime courage was ever witnessed. There was hardly a straggler from it, found in the rear. It has received the highest praise from the Division Commander, Genl. Davis, for its action. But at what a sacrifice!—the whole Regiment does not now look larger than two of our Companies used to.

The best account of the Battle I have seen is the letter of the special correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, "J. W. M.," understood to be Capt. J. W. Miller, formerly of an Ohio Regiment. With a few exceptions the details of the battle are given with admirable correctness. You will also find in the *Commercial* an ex-

12. Reports of the strength of each side varies. The probably more nearly correct estimate is that of Maj. E. C. Dawes, who after a careful study gave the total Union force as 56,965, and the Confederate force as 71,551.—Nicolay, John G., and Hay, John, *Abraham Lincoln, A History* (New York, 1904), v. VIII, pp. 106, 107.

13. Col. Geo. P. Buell in executing an order from his commander, moved his division to the left, leaving a great gap in the line. Colonel Martin's brigade was ordered to move into it. His small force was inadequate to defend against greatly superior numbers. The Confederates poured in through the gap, routed the divisions and drove them from the field. Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis wrote: "The sudden withdrawal of troops from my left and the absence of any support on my right, just as the attack was being made, made my position little better than an outpost and perfectly untenable against the overwhelming force coming against it."—*The War of the Rebellion*, . . . (Washington, 1890), ser. I, v. XXX, pt. I, p. 500.

14. A court of inquiry held early in 1864 exonerated Maj. Gen. A. McD. McCook and Maj. Gen. T. L. Crittenden from blame.—*Ibid.*, pp. 961, 962, 996, 997.



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-

15. This probably referred to the same article that Martin enclosed in his letter to 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.

17. 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.

tract from B. F.[?] Taylor's correspondence giving the amusing experiences of one of the Potomac Generals, who imagined Tennessee to be filled with splendid hotels and elegantly furnished restaurants, and whose stomach, filled with the dainty fare of Washington, revolted at the idea of "hard-tack" and "sow-belly." To those who have experienced the discomforts of nearly a two-years' campaign in Tennessee the anecdote is highly amusing and refreshing.

What can be done about bringing our Regiment back to recruit? We have now only 165 men for duty, and only 569 aggregate in the Regiment, present and absent. Most of the men will re-enlist as veteran volunteers, if the Regiment could be brought home for a month or so and recruited to the maximum. I think we could easily do this. Lane and Pomeroy, with Wilder, might bring this about, if they united in the demand, and the chances are greater from the fact that the Regiment was originally raised exclusively for home protection. It has served in the South for over two years now; only ten months remain to complete its three years' enlistment; it has suffered terribly from battle and disease, and is so far reduced as to be of little service here. Will you please make such efforts as your judgment will dictate as best, for the accomplishment of this object. It can only be done through the Secretary of War.

My best respects to all old friends, and to Horton, Root, Holthaus and Tom Murphy particularly.

Truly your friend

Jno. A. Martin.

Hon. Jno. J. Ingalls.

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. Brown:

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 Missourians—that 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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Great excitement prevailed, the letter was read and re-read, the churches were dismissed, and a number started out to beat up for volunteers. So great was the demand for volunteers, that every male of twelve years and upwards, all who were able to go forth to war, was impressed into service. The three typos above-mentioned came into town shortly afterwards, very much excited at the news, immediately put down their names as volunteers, and shouldering their guns, were ready to go forth to battle.

Every old gun, pistol and knife was called into requisition, and three military companies were formed and put on drill, under experienced commanders. The famous Dr. Robinson was Commander-in-chief of the military forces, and S. N. Wood (who understood the hoax,) was Secretary of War. Brown, after getting the forces in order, contented himself in the capacity of private, and was seen in the drill, behind a little boy, going through the evolutions with all the ease and grace of a green volunteer. The sage of Wall street, in company with another person, proceeded to reconnoitre the Wakarusa bottom. At the usual hour the old soldiers in such campaigns retired to rest, while others kept guard all night. The Commander-in-chief was enraged at the authors of the despatch, and threatened tar and feathers; but the typos rather think he won't try it. Wonder if he is waiting for assistance, in this matter, from the Emigrant Aid Company? Ah! men are very brave when there is no danger.

M.

George W. Brown's version in *The Kansas Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, April 7, 1855.

FORGERY.—On Sunday, the 1st day of April, at a little past noon, a young man, the very picture of affright, galloped up on horseback to the door of the *Herald of Freedom* office, inquired if the editor resided there, and gave the following communication, closely sealed in an envelope, to a compositor who was in the room, with the request that it should be passed to us immediately:

[The purported Mendenhall message was then printed.—See above.]

We read the letter to a couple of friends who were present, and concluded it best to place ourselves in a condition to give the enemy a warm reception, in case he did return; though we strongly suspected the letter was a *forgery*, and that a *hoax* was being practiced on us. Still there appeared to be a crisis in the history of Kansas, and with the unsettled state of the country all were apprehensive it was best to be guarded.

An express was sent down the road for several miles, and returned with the information that nothing was seen in that direction. Our people, in the mean time, anticipated the organization which they had laid out for the morrow, and formed four military companies, determined that they would not be caught napping. A genuine letter was found from Mr. MENDENHALL, and the impression became general that some despicable wretch, who had no regard for the sanctity of the Sabbath, who did not scorn to *lie*, who had descended to act the part of a base *forger*, and in whose heart was concentrated the *genuine essence of meanness*, had practiced a gross imposition upon the public, and had availed himself of the present crisis to work upon their feelings. The villain moved in the crowd, and contributed his share towards exciting the populace. He had his abettors, and they played their part well. They labored in secret, and supposed they were safe from public gaze. An Argus eye was



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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obviously was one of the many which crossed the Kansas prairies in 1857 but there is nothing to further identify the outfit or its destination.

June the 20th 1857

Rules and Regulations of Frosts Train

we the members of the above mentioned train do believe it to be our duty to keep good order and decorum in said train by makeing and entering in to the following Rules and by-laws

Atr fst resolved that one man from each wagon shall rise early at any given signal and attend the stock till brakefast also those who remain at camps to go out as soon as they git their Brakefast and drive up the work cattle

Article 2nd res that when the capt of the train thinks it expedient that all hand will unanimously turn out to mind stock &c.

it is mutially agreed that Elijah Frost is to act in the office of capt of the train and that Jas Frost be assistant and is to act as cpt in the absente or inability of the cpt

we the undersigned jointly and severly bind our selves to stand up to the preceding Rules when not providentially hindered

it is further agreed that Wm Sharp and Alfred Rockholt attend to the waking of the hands in the morning

and also Wm Sharp is wagon master

Elijah Frost cpt

Jas Frost asst

Wm Sharp, wagonmas

Alfred Rockholt w. m.

Loyd Rockholt

Enoch Painter

Thos. Arnold

D. D. Moughlin

Tim Moody

E B Harris

Jacob Green

Jesse Green

John Cain

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:

P. P. B. D.

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:

"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.

JUST MARRIED

From the Leavenworth *Herald*, April 21, 1860.

The following amusing incident took place upon one of the Missouri river steamboats, and was reported to us by an eye-witness. While the boat was lying at Kansas City, just ready to start for Leavenworth, a young man came on board leading a blushing damsel by the hand, and approaching the polite clerk, in a suppressed voice, said:

"I say," he exclaimed, "me and my wife have just got married over at Westport, and I'm looking for accommodations."

"Looking for a berth?" hastily inquired the clerk—passing tickets on to another passenger.

"A birth! thunder and lightning, no!" gasped the astonished man, "*we haven't but just got married*; we want a place to stay all night, you know, and—and a bed."

THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

From "Record of Members of The Congregational Church, Topeka."

January 4th 1862.— . . . To the Congregational Church of Topeka. We, the undersigned, committee appointed by said church to investigate the charges of attending dancing on the part of some of the members of said church would respectfully report, that on the part of Miss Mary Pickett, (now Mrs Ferguson) one of your committee has called on her, and she was very sorry, and said she should do so no more;

Brother Stringham was spoken to by one of your committee. He said he did wrong in attending public dancing, but private dancing parties, he thought were proper. Brother Mills is absent from town, and your committee do not know how he feels in the matter.

Sister Harriet Cole has been admonished by one of your committee, and gave no evidence that she was sorry, but has continued to attend balls.

E Tefft Ch'n Committee.

Mr Bunker, Mrs Stone, Mrs Scales and Miss Foster were chosen to confer with Mrs Cole and Mr Mills in regard to their action mentioned in the above report. Com. to report at meeting prec— next Prep. Lecture. . . .

March 8th 1862.— . . . The committee appointed Jan 4th, reported that having conferred with Mr Mills and Mrs Cole, and both having expressed sorrow in the opinion of the Com, no further action in these cases is necessary.

Report accepted and committee discharged.

Sherman Bodwell, Clerk.

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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 Browne] 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.



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 *Sentinel*.

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 "varmint," 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 thirty-six 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.

"Yours, E. E. SMITH."



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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



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 harpooning 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.



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. Schaffler, 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

Rev. Levi Sternberg as pastor. Charter members and ministers since 1873 were named in the article.

Some of the experiences and reflections of Dr. A. A. Krugg, long-time Coffeyville physician and surgeon, have been recorded in an eighty-four page booklet, *Facts and Fancies*, recently published by C. C. Drake and printed by the Coffeyville *Journal*.

Articles of interest to Kansas history hobbyists in *The Kansas Magazine*, Manhattan, for 1944, include: A story of Garfield county, "The County That Never Was," by Nelson Antrim Crawford; "Idavale," Capt. Eugene Bartlett Millett's ranch in Ellsworth county, by Floyd Benjamin Streeter; "Dave Leahy, 1858-1943," by Henry Ware Allen; "Early Day Cold Storage," by Maude McFadin, and a story of war prison camps in Kansas, "Prisoners at Work," by Cecil Howes.

Biographical data and pictures of all Clark county citizens serving in World War II are being sought by the Clark County Historical Society. A questionnaire which the society has prepared for families of service people was printed in *The Clark County Clipper*, Ashland, February 17 and 24, 1944. In the "Historical Society Notes," a column appearing regularly in the *Clipper* under the sponsorship of the society and Mrs. R. V. (Dorothy Berryman) Shrewder, historian, the following articles have been featured in recent months: "The Lucas Family," by Minnie (Lucas) Roberts, February 10, and "Bradford Robbins Grimes," by Daisy (Ferguson) Grimes, in the issues dated from April 13 through May 25.

The *Kansas Library Bulletin*, issued by the Kansas Traveling Libraries Commission of Topeka, March-June, 1944, devoted its entire thirty-eight pages to a study "Kansas Public Library Statistics, 1942-1943."

Christian Madsen's life was reviewed by Sheriff Lon Ford of Clark county in a four-column article in *The Clark County Clipper*, Ashland, March 9, 1944, entitled: "The Passing of One of the Southwest's Most Famous Peace Officers and Soldiers."

The history of the Alta mill, on the Little Arkansas river sixteen miles northwest of Newton, was reviewed in the *Mennonite Weekly Review*, Newton, March 9, 1944. The mill dates from 1878 when a brush dam and race were constructed.



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.

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.

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Please Note

Due to the absence of several members of the staff in war service, which makes it necessary for the other experienced members to take care of the routine demands on the Society, *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* for a time will be printed with fewer pages.

During this interval it is hoped that the magazine can be returned to its usual publication schedule while still maintaining high quality and accuracy in the articles printed.

Volume XIII, now being published, will consist of eight numbers, covering the years 1944-1945. The index for this volume will appear as part of the November, 1945, issue.

—THE EDITORS.

Contributors

GEORGE A. ROOT and RUSSELL K. HICKMAN are members of the staff of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Biographical mention of JOHN H. PUTNAM will be found on p. 196.

Pike's Peak Express Companies

PART I—SOLOMON AND REPUBLICAN ROUTE

GEORGE A. ROOT and RUSSELL K. HICKMAN

THE discovery of gold in the vicinity of Pike's Peak led to a great rush to the new El Dorado, which by 1859 assumed epic proportions. In the spring of 1850 gold was first found on Ralston creek, near present Denver, by a party of Cherokee Indians.¹ At the time little came of this discovery, but by the middle 1850's rumors of this and other finds began to attain a widespread circulation, notably in the Southwest.² Popular interest in these accounts was sharpened by stories of wealth quickly won in the gold fields of California, while the widespread discussion of suitable routes to the Pacific coast also worked to the same end. In 1858 John Beck, a member of the original Cherokee party of 1849-1850, became a principal promoter of a new expedition to the Rockies, led by William Green Russell.³ In this venture were included Cherokee Indians from the West, a smaller group of experienced prospectors from Georgia, several parties from Missouri, and a group from Lawrence, who had set out by themselves to investigate the rumor of gold in the Pike's Peak region.⁴ After a considerable amount of unsuccessful prospecting the Cherokee and Missouri companies abandoned their search and left for home, with the exception of a small group under Russell who in July found gold in paying quantities on Cherry creek, a branch of the South Platte.⁵ Early in September the Lawrence group joined the Russell "placer camp," and shortly thereafter laid out the towns of Montana City and St. Charles.⁶

The news of the Russell discoveries was soon broadcast far and wide. John Cantrell of Westport, Mo., visited the Cherry Creek

1. Leroy R. Hafen, "Cherokee Goldseekers in Colorado, 1849-50," *The Colorado Magazine*, Denver, v. XV, pp. 101-109. The diary of John Lowery Brown mentions this discovery (*ibid.*, p. 108), but credits one Ralston as the original finder. This whole question, including the possibility that the discovery was made in 1849, rather than 1850, is reviewed by Hafen in the historical introduction of v. IX of the *Southwest Historical Series*, entitled *Pike's Peak Gold Rush Guidebooks of 1859* (Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, Cal., 1941), pp. 34-37.

2. *Ibid.*, pp. 39-43.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 47 *et seq.*

4. *Ibid.*, pp. 51-58, quoting *The Kansas Magazine*, Topeka, v. I, p. 552 *et seq.* (June, 1872), and *The Trail*, Denver, v. VII, No. 7, p. 7. In the summer of 1857 Fall Leaf, a noted member of the Delaware tribe of Indians, acted as a guide of Col. E. V. Sumner's expedition against the Arapahoe Indians, and discovered gold on the eastern slope of the Rockies. The sample of this precious metal, which he brought back to Lawrence, is credited with being a leading incentive behind the expedition from that city. (See the original account in the Luke Tierney guidebook, copied entire in Hafen, *Pike's Peak Guidebooks*, pp. 91-145.)

5. *Ibid.*, "Introduction," p. 71.

6. Leroy R. Hafen, *Colorado, The Story of a Western Commonwealth* (Denver, 1933), p. 109.



diggings and brought back a bag of the ore to Kansas City. He reported that seven of his party "had made over \$1,000 in ten days," and that at the places visited by Russell's party "the dirt would yield from seventeen to twenty cents to each pan; and he thinks that if properly worked, one man can make from \$20 to \$25 per day. The mines will average with those of California, in which Mr. Cantrell is experienced, having spent several years in them."⁷ This account had a wide circulation in Kansas and Missouri. Other parties returned to Lawrence and Leavenworth with stories that spread like wild-fire, and soon a Pike's Peak gold fever gripped the border country.⁸ A Leavenworth paper reported:

The gold fever has risen in our city to the highest degree of temperature, and in less than thirty days from this date, there will not be less than two hundred persons leave this city for the diggings. Old fogies may attempt to throw cold water on the progressive spirit of Young America, but it will do no good, the boys will go and there's an end on't. . . . We have as much confidence in this "gold news" as we have that we are living. . . .⁹

In the fall of 1858 numerous reports of the discovery of gold seemed to fully substantiate the view that a new El Dorado had really been found.¹⁰ The St. Louis (Mo.) *Republican* conceded the truth of the reports, and believed that "thousands of adventurers from the western states" would soon leave for the West, and by the following spring "the rush will be immense from all parts of the Union."¹¹ The fall migration was well under way before the original party of prospectors had all arrived at their homes for the winter (after leaving a few on the ground to guard their discoveries). The Leavenworth *Times* remarked: "Not a day passes but what a company may be seen starting from our city for Pike's Peak," and

7. Kansas City (Mo.) *Journal of Commerce*, clipped in the *Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, September 4, 1858. The *Herald* added that Cantrell brought with him three ounces of gold, which he himself dug.

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.

believed that those on hand early would be surer of gaining the prize.¹²

The first company arrived at the gold fields late in October, 1858, and found the remaining members of the Russell and Lawrence parties hard at work erecting cabins.¹³ Despite the lateness of the season, train after train continued to wend its way westward,¹⁴ even though Captain Russell advised against foolish venturing at that time of year by persons inadequately prepared, and pointed out to those planning to go in the spring that many probably would not realize three dollars a day, instead of the ten or fifteen dollars they hoped to obtain.¹⁵

The settlers on Cherry creek founded Auraria, and somewhat later Denver (named for Gov. James W. Denver of Kansas) grew up nearby under the leadership of William Larimer, a very able town promoter.¹⁶ During the winter of 1858-1859 the settlers built cabins and made ready for a busy and successful season during the following summer. All expected a great migration in the spring of 1859. With the opening of the new year the papers on the border ran special gold mine editions,¹⁷ while practically every issue contained numerous articles describing the gold fields, quoting letters of travelers and prospectors, and the advertisements of merchants. Pike's Peak seemed destined to rival California as a goal of migration and settlement. The spirit of the new hegira was aptly phrased by an anonymous writer in the *Kansas Tribune*, Topeka, January 20, 1859:

12. Leavenworth *Times*, September 18, 1858. This paper argued that Leavenworth was a much more suitable port of embarkation for the mines, than was Kansas City. The *Herald of Freedom* counselled caution, and advocated postponement of the trip until the following spring, in view of the probable severity of the winter at such high altitudes.

13. Hafen, *Colorado*, p. 110.

14. Palmetto *Kansan*, in the *Herald of Freedom*, November 6, 1858. "With only a knife and tin pan, men are easily earning from \$10 to \$15 per day. We predict such a rush to these diggings this winter and next spring as California, Australia or any other country never witnessed." A letter of Wm. B. Smedley, dated Richmond, Mo., October 10, 1858, by a member of the Missouri company, maintained that only a little fine gold had been found, and that the whole thing would turn out to be a humbug.—Junction (City) *Sentinel*, in the *Herald of Freedom*, November 13, 1858.

15. Junction (City) *Sentinel*, in *Herald of Freedom*, December 11, 1858.

16. Hafen, *Colorado*, p. 111. From 1854 to January, 1861, a portion of present Colorado east of the summit of the mountains was a part of Kansas territory, and the present city of Denver was in Kansas. Kansas erected county divisions in the region of the discoveries, but the later formation of Colorado territory makes it seem preferable to denominate this region by its final name.

17. *Herald of Freedom*, January 1, 1859; *Kansas Tribune*, Topeka, January 6, 1859. The Leavenworth *Weekly Kansas Herald* described the cost of an "Outfit for the Mines" (issue of January 8), and listed three yoke of oxen, a wagon, and supplies and equipment for mining that would cost \$514.25. The Leavenworth merchants were prepared to outfit over 30,000 persons with cattle, horses and mules—"Any number," since "we have the famous Platte county, Mo., market opposite." For a detailed statement of a proper outfit for the mines, see the article from the St. Joseph (Mo.) *Gazette*, republished in the *New York Daily Tribune*, March 21, 1859, entitled "To and From the Gold Mines," in "Bypaths of Kansas History," *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*, v. XII, pp. 319, 320.

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.²⁰ 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 believed that the Hannibal and St. Joseph and the North Missouri railroads would soon be finished, 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, "Ft. Leavenworth Military Road," supplement to the *Horton Headlight*, 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."