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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Bypaths of Kansas History

THE WESTERN TIDE OF EMIGRATION

From the Kansas City (Mo.) *Enterprise*, May 9, 1857.

You can see the emigrant from every State east of the Mississippi, from Maine to Louisiana, and from the wild rice swamps of the frozen North to cultivated rice fields of the far South—their peculiar habits as distinctly marked as their geographical localities. The real Western man is there, self reliant and taciturn—he asks no questions, for he knows exactly what to do; he has no need of “Kansas Guides” or tickets to agents “who will tell him where to go, and where to settle”; he has been “through the mill,” keeps his own counsel and goes his own road. He knows exactly what prairie is worth, and what timber will suffice, and if there is a good “claim” to be found the Western man has it before the Eastern man gets through asking questions of the “man that he was recommended to.” Then you find the Southwestern man: he wants to know all about the winters, the grass, and the best portions for stock raising. The man from the Middle States, as they were once called, is on the look out for some point where he can raise wheat, put up a shop, and manufacture or run machinery. The man from the Eastern Slave States wants to know “how the law is,” or what “chance for a physician.” Over all these the Western man has the advantage, and secures the prize while others are inquiring where it is.

Side by side with this population pressing upon us from the East, are seen the men of the Far West, who come to Kansas City as their East. There is the Indian trader from the Rocky mountains, from the Yellowstone, the country beyond Laramie, and the pleasant valleys lying toward the Great Salt Lake—his almost Indian complexion and moccasins would deceive you into the belief that he was an aborigine. . . . He knows what life on the frontier is, and speaks as a prophet. [You will see him shake hands with the “mountaineer,” men who have made the vast country lying West of the Mississippi and stretching to the Pacific their home. . . . [The mountaineer] is the mail carrier of all that vast region and the minister plenipotentiary between all portions of that wild and secluded country.

[You next see the trader of the Southwest] . . . from Santa Fe and the Mexican States beyond. He makes his semi-annual visits with the regularity of the seasons themselves. . . . It is a curious mixture of races that [carries on this trade].

Intermingled with all classes are . . . the pure and untainted Indian. . . .

[When one reflects that] this tide is sweeping out through the valley of the Kansas, . . . some idea may be gained of the present and future commerce of this “city of the plains.” . . .

"SOCIETY" AS COVERED BY THE IRREPRESSIBLE SOL. MILLER

From the *White Cloud Kansas Chief*, November 4, 1858.

STARTLING NEWS—ELOPEMENT!—Friday is supposed to be an unlucky day. Such it has proven for White Cloud. On Friday last, this community was startled by the announcement that the pride of the town, the gem of the Missouri, the cynosure of admiring eyes, had been abducted—the accomplished and peerless Julia Ann Pryor had eloped!

The circumstances were these: During the past summer, a young man from the land of steady nutmegs and wooden habits, was engaged in working on the grade, in this place. His sturdy industry, civil deportment, and economical disposition, came under the notice of the gentle Julia Ann, and were a sure passport to her affections. And he, carrying beneath a rough exterior, a soul that could appreciate the beautiful, the virtuous, and the good, soon yielded his heart to the charmer. They met—he proposed, and was accepted. The grade at length was finished, and he was compelled to look elsewhere for employment. But how could he leave his Julia Ann? He could not—and he determined that he would not. And now they made a false step, which, with due consideration, their high sense of honor would have revolted against. They did not ask the consent of the maiden's parents. But he was poor, and perhaps had misgivings—he could not bear to think of the dreadful consequences of a refusal from the aristocratic father and mother. So they determined, in the language of the immortal poet, Anonymous, to

"Slide, like the tail of a greased hog from the paws of a fat Dutchman!"

On Friday morning they took their flight, amid the chilling rain and howling wind. The robbed parents soon learned of their loss, and were forthwith plunged into

"That grief which knows no comfort."

But rage soon sought company with grief, in the father's breast—rage, because he had been robbed of that which would have been given for the asking. The lion of his nature was aroused—that lion nature which had made his name feared among the hills of Monroe County, Ohio. Seizing his fists, he started in pursuit of the fugitives, and hunted in every spot where they could not be found, until he was compelled to give up in despair. He says that what works him up the worst, is the fact that the fellow came to him, the evening before, and asked for some hay to feed his cattle, but took his daughter without asking for her. . . .

In the meantime, the fugitives were wandering about town, seeking, not whom they might devour, but whom they might get to fasten them together. At length they entered Van Doren's store, where they ran afoul of Squire Briggs, whom they requested to unite them in the holy bonds of "ma-trim-ony." He consented, and the expectant bridegroom "shelled out" the lawful fee of \$1.50, which the squire took. He then meditated upon the subject. He had misgivings as to whether the would-be bride was of legal age; and he also considered that the time might soon come, when some indiscreet youth would steal one of his daughters, and he would think very unkindly of any justice who should marry them. These considerations (especially the former) he could not get over nor creep under, so he handed back the fee, regardless of the entreaties of the young couple, and refused to perform upon that particular occasion.



Here was a predicament. The fact is, the couple could not stand it much longer; and they feared, that if they remained in this suspense, soon "Disappointment, like a big green tobacco worm, would prey upon their damask cheeks," (*Shakespeare*), and they therefore contracted their "puckering strings," and continued their "pursuit of matrimony under difficulties." Thus they wandered out to Padonia, where they hunted up Squire Winslow, who, being a kindhearted man, could not bear to behold their misery, and quickly tied them into a knot. . . .

Thus endeth this happy and melancholy story—happy, because two loving hearts have found the Eden of bliss; melancholy, because a home has been made desolate, by the loss of its hope and joy, and an entire community has been left, in the language of still another illustrious poet, to

"Weep for the Peril lost,
Mourn for the bed-bug's doom!"

LEAVENWORTH'S FANCY DRESS BALL OF 1859

From *The Daily Times*, Leavenworth, March 4, 1859.

The Friday-Evening Coteries end to-night with a Fancy Dress-Ball. The series have been of an exceedingly agreeable nature. They have called out the beauty and grace of Leavenworth, and given to the Fridays of each week a particular charm. But to-night will eclipse them all—to-night Stockton's Hall will be crowded with an array which no language can paint: for the widest range and latitude in the matter of dress, will not only be allowed, but expected; and every conceivable style and costume may be anticipated. We may expect the amply-folding robe, with modest clasp, and zone on the bosom; the braided hair or veiled head; fashions alike of the wife of a Phocian, the mistress of an Alcibiades; or perhaps short skirts with hardened vest, and head buckled in gold or silver; or the iron bodice, stiff farthingale and spiral coiffure; or dresses more modern and modest—of Italian flower-girls, or French grisettes, or Circassian slaves, or the lassies of our own and our mother land. In fact, there's no end to the range; for,

"What thought, what various numbers, can express
The inconstant equipage of woman's dress."

In fact, we don't know but what our goodly ladies propose "making up" so as to render themselves *incog*. The lean will probably fashion themselves after the proportions of Reuben's Graces, none of which could possibly have weighed less than 200 lbs. avoirdupois. . . .

And as far as the gentlemen are concerned, what may we not expect? Highlanders, and knights, and kings and courtiers, and bandits, (of the genteel sort,) and warriors and buffoons and harlequins and minstrels, with togas, and plumes, and robes, and sashes, and gowns, and wigs, and swords, and daggers, and plumes, and feathers, and trunk hose, and scarlet coats,—*a la* Voltaire,—and bare throats,—*a la* Byron. . . .

Well—on with the dance! We will not regret when evening comes and the strange company meet, arrayed in all their plumes, to dance to the merrie music. We shall be on hand in the garb of an editor—a disguise which needs no inquisitive eye to pierce, and which generally brings to mind an idea of

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unappreciated merit and ungrateful Republics. And we shall watch those dainty extremities of which Herrick so daintily sings.—

"Her pretty feet,
Like smiles, did creep
A little out, and then,
As if they started at bo-peep,
Did soon draw in again."

. . . So—Ahoy! for the hall and the dance to-night! What matters mud or rain? Bright hearts, and dazzling robes, and lighted rooms, and stirring strains, will laugh the elements to scorn, and circle to-night with a halo of merriment and joy.

From the *Times* of March 7, 1859.

THE FANCY DRESSED BALL.—Clothed in the same unassuming garb which is wont to envelop the outer man in our daily walk among men, we entered, on Friday evening last, the door leading to Stockton's Hall. We confess to have been somewhat exercised by the question whether or not we should assume a disguise. We passed in review before us all the possible and impossible characters in the range of attainability, from the ancient Grecian Sage to the modern Border Ruffian. . . . Finding it impossible to choose . . . we rejected all, and went, as before stated, in the undisguised yet dignified apparel of a knight of the quill.

By a slight talismanic invocation known only to the fortunate brotherhood, of the scissors and the pen, we caused the door of the hall to open at our approach, and entered.

We were impressed with the weight of the responsibility resting on us. We knew we were to report the occasion to the public. We were to sing this New Olympiad, *vice* the Nine Muses—absent on leave—most of whom were supposed to be on the floor.

Hardly had we mounted to the hall before the breath was nearly knocked out of our editorial, and therefore sacred person, by a hideous nondescript which appeared to be "neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring," but which called us by name, and wrapped us in its embrace. Extricating ourself by a powerful effort, we gazed about.

Very soon people and things began to assume some shape and form, and we were enabled to see all that anybody could see through the dust and by the dimly burning lamps. "Hands around!" and an infuriate fiend in horns seized a Spanish donna by one hand and a hypothetical Goddess of Liberty by the other and whirled them both away in a cloud of dust. . . .

"Night" in black and spangles, "Morning" in white and crescent, young women in hats, men in bonnets, Indians, squaws and papooses, young women in shorts, and young women in longs; old women, Mother Hubbard and dog. . . .

A supper came in good time, after which there was more whirling and dancing, and music, and dust. Masks were removed, disguises became more or less dilapidated, faces began to look weary, and at three o'clock, or thereabouts, the announcement was made that the coteries were at an end.

Some enthusiastic brigands, aided and abetted by a few flower girls, an Indian and The Devil, with others, concluded that they "wouldn't go home 'till morning," and kept up the, by this time, and considering the weariness of all parties, rather dubious amusement. We, thinking it was time for us at least,



to retire, having had our fill of fun, precipitantly retired, and thus was then, or thereabouts, ended the coteries, and the Fancy Dress Ball. On the whole, although we must confess it was absurd in many features, the ball was as much of a success as such affairs usually are, and all parties and persons seemed to enjoy themselves quite as fully as they or anybody expected.

Sic transit gloria coteri.

LINN AND RILEY COUNTIES STATE THEIR NEEDS

Copied in *The Daily Times*, Leavenworth, June 10, 1859.

The *Linn County Herald* says that they want in Linn County "one hundred School Marms, who will pledge themselves not to get married within three years."

We want one hundred in this county, between the ages of 18 and 21, who will pledge themselves to get married within one year, and who are willing to commence school on one scholar.—*The Kansas Express*, Manhattan.

WILD BEAR IN ATCHISON

From the *Atchison Union*, June 25, 1859.

On Sunday night last a huge bear made his appearance in our city. Whether he was driven in by the storm, or by a pack of dogs we are unable to say. He was attacked by some fifty dogs near the corner of 5th, on Commercial street, and finally succeeded in making his escape through the western part of the city. Probably bruin saw the elephant, and returned to the rural districts satisfied.

AS IT LOOKED TO AN INDIAN

From the *Marysville Enterprise*, November 10, 1866.

An exchange says that the other day while a big Indian was calmly surveying a "white squaw" with large hoops on, he exclaimed: "Ugh! heap wig-wam!"

AN "INDIAN PROMISER"

From the *Kansas Daily Tribune*, Lawrence, May 29, 1868.

ENTERPRISE.—Five Kaw Indians started from this city yesterday, with the avowed intention of walking to Washington City. The interpreter stated that President Johnson had promised, sometime since, to give one of the party a pony and some other presents, but having failed to redeem the promise they intended to learn the cause. He thought they could make the trip in sixteen days, and would be enabled to find the way by following the railroad and telegraph lines. They were making good railroad time down the Union Pacific road when last seen, and we may soon expect to hear of their arrival at the great impeachment center.

A MULE RACE AT FORT LEAVENWORTH

From the Leavenworth *Daily Conservative*, June 16, 1868.

We presume it is unnecessary to advise everybody to go to the slow mule race to-day. All who have seen one of those entertaining affairs will certainly go. There is more amusement in them than in all other kinds of turf sports combined. Upwards of twenty entries have already been made. The stock will all be ridden by officers of the army. The race commences at 4 o'clock p. m.

UNITED STATES OF COURSE,
Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

June Meeting,
Tuesday, June 16th, 1868—4 P. M.

MULE RACE.

Officers' Purse, \$50.

ONE MILE DASH—SLOW RACE.

1. General Custer enters Hyankedank, by Hifalutin, out of Snollygoster, second dam Buckjump, by Thunder, out of You Bet. Age, three score years and ten. Colors, ring-ed, streak-ed and strip-ed.
2. General McKeever enters Hard Tack, by Commissary, by Eaton, (eatin'), second dam Contractor, by Morgan, out of Missouri. Age, forty years. Colors, purple, tipped with orange.
3. Colonel Parsons enters Symmetry, (see me try,) by Considerably, out of Pocket, second dam Polly Tix, by Nasby, out of Office. Age, seventeen years. Colors, uncommonly blue.
4. Captain Yates enters William Tell, by Switzerland, by Apple Tree, second dam Gessler, by Hapsburg, out of Austria. Age, eighteen years. Colors, apple green.
5. Lieutenant Leary enters Trump, by Card, out of Contractor, second dam Leader, by Mule Teer, out of Wagon. Age, ten years. Colors, lemon.
6. Lieutenant Jackson enters Abyssinia, by Napier, out of Africa, dam Theodorus, by Solomon, out of Magdala. Age, thirty-nine years. Colors, scarlet, yellow spots.
7. Colonel Myers enters Pizzarro, by Peru, out of South America, second dam Cuzco, by Incas, out of Andes. Age, sixteen years. Colors, light brown.
8. Lieutenant Umbstaetter enters Skirmisher, by Picket, out of Camp, second dam Carbine, by Breech Loader, out of Magazine. Age, twenty-five years. Colors, dark blue, tipped with red.
9. Lieutenant Moylan enters Break Neck, by Runaway, out of Wouldn't Go, second dam Contusion, by Collision, out of Accident. Age, fifty-six. Colors, sky blue.



10. Captain Buntington enters Spavin, by Quartermaster, out of Government, second dam (not worth one.)

11. Lieutenant Howe enters Slow, by Tardy, out of Late, second dam Lazy, by Inactive. Age, three times six, four times seven, twenty-eight and eleven. Colors, queer.

12. Lieutenant Dunwoody enters Horatio, by Dexterity, by Taunt, second dam Estop. Age, fourteen years. Colors, tawny.

13. Captain Weir enters Revolutionist, by Hard Luck, out of Rib Smasher, second dam Blood Blister, by Can't Stand It, out of Let's Quit.

NOTE.—The money accruing from this race is to be devoted to the support of the widows and orphans made so thereby.

From the *Daily Conservative*, June 17, 1868.

THE RACES YESTERDAY—Whew! wasn't it warm, and didn't the people turn out in gorgeous array—some in coaches, some in buggies, some on horseback, and some in six-mule chariots. Everybody and his wife was there. On the road it was hot and dusty; in the track inclosure the immense elms spread their welcome arms, and the heated thousands cooled themselves on the green grass. All were on the tip-toe of expectation. Critical judges of ani-mules were examining the good points of their favorite mules, and betting their bottom twenty-five cents on No. 9, or the painted mule. No. 9 was a gothic structure, with an expressive (of pain) countenance, and was wearing his first coat of paint—white in spots. He was ridden with much dexterity, and was twelve minutes making his mile.

The ladies were out in full force, and enlivened the scene. The Fort Band discoursed some excellent music, and every arrangement was carried out promptly.

Eleven mules were entered for the race. Each mule was ridden one hundred yards by his owner, to the judges' stand, and numbered, with red paint, on the flank. The judges then had the riders change mules, so that no man rode his own animal.

They were started from the score at the tap of the triangle. Some went in one direction, and some took to the brush. Only two or three kept the track, and on they went, cutting and slashing, each man urging the mule he was riding. Occasionally a rider was seen coming through the grass and taking the track. All pointed the same direction, at last, and after three anxious moments, Lieutenant Jackson hove in sight, and rounded into the home stretch away ahead, landing his mule (No. 5) at the judges' stand in four minutes. As they came stringing along, time was taken of each, and that mule's record passed down to posterity and Wilkes' Spirit. After fifteen long and anxious minutes, (the crowd all the time holding their breath,) Lieutenant Huntington reached the score, completely exhausted, the anxiety, labor, and length of time since his departure having turned his hair nearly gray. The band immediately struck up, "See, the Conquering Hero Comes."

The second race was a single dash of a quarter mile, four entries, and was won by Captain Weir's beautiful thoroughbred horse, in 23 seconds.

The crowd then started home, pleased with the half holiday and the entertainment given by the gentlemanly officers of Fort Leavenworth.



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DON'T TRY THIS ON YOUR BUTCHER

From the *Daily Kansas State Record*, Topeka, December 28, 1869.

An Indian in Montgomery county set fire to the prairie because one of the settlers would not give him some pork.

KEEPING IN TRIM

From the *Kansas Daily Commonwealth*, Topeka, February 8, 1870.

Wild Bill [Hickok] was up before Judge Holmes yesterday, and fined five dollars for striking straight out from the shoulder and consequently hitting a man.

WILD PLUMS IN 1874

From *The Sumner County Press*, Wellington, July 16, 1874.

Thousands of bushels of wild plums are ripening on the Arkansas, Ninnescah and Chikaskia rivers. These plums grow on dwarf trees, in some instances covering the entire shrub with a mass of pink and yellow fruit. So abundant are they that a small party can gather a wagon load in a few hours. They are nearly equal to the best cultivated varieties.

GRASSHOPPERS EAT THE SHADE; PRESBYTERIANS MOVE INDOORS

From the *Marion County Record*, Marion, August 8, 1874.

Owing to the destruction of the shade by grasshoppers, the 2d quarterly meeting of the Marion Centre charge will be held in the Presbyterian church in connection with a basket meeting, commencing Friday, Aug. 14. Ministerial aid from abroad. Both saint and sinner are cordially invited to attend. First service, Friday, at 11 A. M.

JNO. HARRIS.

YES, BUT WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?

From the *Jetmore Reveille*, September 9, 1885.

Dr. Eckert reports having seen a very novel sign posted on an abandoned dugout in the vicinity of Sunset City, a new town springing up and intended for the future county seat of the southwest corner county [Morton]. It was as follows:

"Two hundred feet to water,
Seventy-five miles to wood, and
Six inches to Hell;
God bless our home."



Kansas History as Published in the Press

The following Kansas historical subjects have been featured by Victor Murdock in his column regularly appearing in the *Wichita (Evening) Eagle*: "Change That Has Come in Seventy-Five Years in Chisholm Creek Here," April 8, 1944; "Evidence in Wichita Seventy-Five Years Ago It Was Then on Its Way," April 10; "Importance of the Events in the First Half of the Year 1870 in Imparting Vigor To the Growth of Wichita," April 11; "Speeding Up of Wichita the Last Six Months of Its Initial Year [1870]," April 12; "Frontier Belief Here About Mountain Snow and Spring River Rise . . . Not Been Born Out Through the Years . . .," May 2; "Early Military Figure [Lindsay Lunsford Lomax] Was Probably Visitor To the Site of Wichita," May 5; "Memory of T. E. Beck of Jefferson [Okla.] of the Flash Flood That Swept Down on the Home-Seeking Campers at Medicine Lodge in April, 1885," May 6; "Early Popularity Here of the Teas of Orient—Black, Oolong and Green," May 8; "Part That Coffee Had in the Pioneer Life in West's Development," May 9; "Decrease in Local Use of Some of the Words That Came From Spain," May 13; "Stamina of Lamp Shade as Interior Decoration Seen in Wichita's Life," May 15; "Countries Which Have Added To the Home Furnishings Here in the Course of Seventy-Four Years Cover the Entire Globe," May 16; "Railroad Signal Codes That Youth of Wichita Mastered With Ease," May 19; "Close Study Given by Boys of Wichita in the Early Days To the Duties of Conductors, Brakemen, Engineers, Firemen, Baggage Masters," May 20; "Change in the Attitude of the Public To the Offering of Ballads as Evidenced in the Experience of Wichita," May 23; "Tracing War Influence on Public Preferences in Choice of Breads," May 24; "Experience of Wichita With the Street Piano in Its Early History," May 25; "Part the Potato Played in Helping Supply Food For Prairie Pioneers," May 26; "Custom of Schoolboys in Abbreviating Names For Their Playmates," May 30, and "Synthesis of Quinine Brings Up Connection of Drug and Early Days," May 31.

Featured in the "Clark County Historical Society Notes" in *The Clark County Clipper*, of Ashland, in recent months were: "A Sketch on the Life of Captain Richard Grimes," June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1944; "St. Jacob's Well," by Ella Wallingford Mendenhall, July 13; "The Ancestors of Nathan J. Walden and Wife, Mary Jane Rous



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Walden," compiled by Effa M. Danner, July 20, August 3; poems of southwest Kansas, by Anna Ingram McCasland, and "Joseph Ellsworth Winter," July 27.

John M. Knipp's reminiscences of early Marysville were recorded in a two and one-half column article in the *Marshall County News*, Marysville, July 20, 1944. Mr. Knipp, now a resident of St. Louis, Mo., first saw Marysville in 1878.

Among the historical feature articles relating to Kansas printed in the Labor day edition of the *Kansas Labor Weekly* of Topeka, August 31, 1944, were "Throop Hotel a Monument To Its Builder," "Some Interesting Typographical History From the Scrapbook," "Bookbinders Union Fifty-Two Years Old," "Woman's Suffrage Amendment Ratified 25 Years Ago," "60 Years Ago Arthur Capper Came To Topeka Looking For a Job," "Many Publications Have Been Edited by Topeka Printers," "Kansas State Council of Carpenters," "Topeka Has Had a Carpenters Union For 58 Years," and "Selling Kansas To Kansans and To the Nation Aim of KIDC."

The Farmers' Alliance Subtreasury plan and European precedents were discussed by Dr. James C. Malin in an article in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, of September, 1944.

Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, heretofore issued annually, has been changed to a quarterly publication. Articles of general Kansas interest featured in the initial number (Vol. 47, No. 1—September, 1944) include: "The Crop Industries of Kansas," by L. E. Call; "A Checklist of Kansas Mammals, 1943," by Claude W. Hibbard, and "A Suggested Classification of Great Plains Dust Storms," by B. Ashton Keith. The new magazine is edited by Dr. Robert Taft and is published by the World Company at Lawrence.

An interview with M. Slater, of Axtell, who operates the only harness shop in Marshall county, was printed in the *Marshall County News*, of Marysville, September 7, 1944. Mr. Slater has been at the trade for 57 years and has been in Axtell since 1905.

The story of Company A, Third Kansas infantry, was told by Dean Trickett, ex-first sergeant, in the Coffeyville *Daily Journal*, September 22, 1944.



Kansas Historical Notes

Fred W. Brinkerhoff, president of the Kansas State Historical Society, was the featured speaker at a meeting of the Franklin County Historical Society in Forest park, Ottawa, September 1, 1944. New officers of the county society who were elected at the meeting include: Edmund Lister, president; B. M. Ottaway, vice-president; Mrs. J. R. Finley, recording secretary, and Miss Clara Kaiser, corresponding secretary and treasurer. Mrs. Dorothy Needham Belt of Lane was elected a director to succeed her father, Dana Needham, deceased. Other directors were reelected. J. E. Shinn was the retiring president.

The Clark County Historical Society is advocating the establishment of a community center at Ashland as a permanent memorial to the pioneers and the service men and women of Clark county. It would house a museum and recreation hall and would serve as a meeting place for civic and patriotic organizations. New officers elected at the society's annual meeting on December 9, 1944, are: Mrs. Ruth Clark Mull, president; Charles A. Wallingford, vice-president; Mrs. Melville Campbell Harper, recording secretary; Mrs. Villa Harvey Ihde, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. Lillie Skelton Nunemacher, corresponding secretary; Sidney Grimes, treasurer; Sherman G. Ihde, auditor; Mrs. Dorothy Berryman Shrewder, historian, and Mrs. Effie Smith, curator. Mrs. T. T. Smith was the retiring president.

Officers of the Chetopa Historical Society, formally organized on January 22, 1945, are: Roscoe Cellars, president; Wm. L. Barnhill, vice-president; Mrs. St. Elmo Porter, secretary, and George Lyon, treasurer.

The Kansas Catholic Historical Society is continuing to file the three Catholic diocesan newspapers and other church publications and anniversary booklets, according to the Rev. Angelus Lingens, of Atchison, secretary. He reports that numerous inquiries for Catholic historical information are being answered, and also that the Rev. Bernard Soule, O.S.B., is collecting the life history of every priest who attended St. Benedict's college.

Junction City newspapers have recently announced that the site of the Indian monument south of the city, a one-acre tract located in the west half of the northeast quarter of sec. 25, T. 12, R. 5, has been saved from tax foreclosure.



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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.

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

DR. JULIUS TERRASS WILLARD is historian of Kansas State College, Manhattan. He has been associated with the college as a student, instructor, professor, dean, acting president, vice-president and now historian, for sixty-six of its eighty-two years. He is author of a 568-page *History of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science*, published by the college in 1940.

DEAN TRICKETT, ex-first sergeant of Company A, is a native Kansan now employed on *The Oil and Gas Journal*, Tulsa, Okla.

Bluemont Central College, the Forerunner of Kansas State College

J. T. WILLARD

THE establishment of Bluemont Central College was accomplished through the efforts of men who came from many different places, and who united in the settlement and development of the locality at the junction of the Big Blue and the Kansas rivers.¹ As early as June, 1854, Col. George S. Park, of Parkville, Mo., located a claim as the site of a town to be called Polistra. This was on the north side of the Kansas river, below the mouth of Wildcat creek.² In the fall of the same year Samuel D. Houston of Illinois, Judge Saunders W. Johnston of Ohio, Judge J. M. Russell of Iowa, Dr. H. A. Wilcox of Rhode Island, and E. M. Thurston, a lawyer from Maine, associated themselves in the location of a townsite on the west side of the Blue river, between its mouth and Bluemont hill.³ These men were reputed to be college graduates and undoubtedly were well educated. They had named their projected town Canton.

Colonel Park had spent the winter in Texas, and March 26, 1855, Prof. I. T. Goodnow pitched his tent on Colonel Park's claim.⁴

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The late Miss Harriet Parkerson preserved for many years the diaries of Prof. I. T. Goodnow, letters to him, the official record of the Bluemont Central College Association, and other valuable material. She gave the record book to Kansas State College some years ago. Mrs. Mary C. Payne became much interested in local history, and had copies made of Professor Goodnow's diaries, and also had a series of letters of the Rev. Washington Marlatt to Mr. Goodnow copied. Professor Goodnow's diaries have been given to the Kansas State Historical Society, and one of the carbon copies of the transcript was given to the Riley County Historical Society, and has been used in preparing this paper. Some valuable points have been obtained from the letters of Mr. Marlatt to Doctor Goodnow.

Professor Goodnow made two scrapbooks which contain some articles concerning Bluemont Central College and Kansas State College. These scrapbooks were given to Kansas State College through the kind offices of Mrs. Payne, and the present author here testifies to the debt of gratitude which he and the public owe to Mrs. Payne because of her interest in bringing these various materials to light.

For copies of paragraphs referring to Bluemont Central College printed in the *Minutes* of the Kansas-Nebraska, and the Kansas conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the author is indebted to Miss Helen M. McFarland, librarian of the Kansas State Historical Society, and Mrs. Marcella Vincent, secretary to the president of Baker University.

Dr. Charles L. Marlatt of Washington, D. C., a son of the Rev. Washington Marlatt, assembled a considerable body of the writings of his father, and of materials concerning enterprises with which he was identified. Doctor Marlatt gave a copy of his compilation to Kansas State College, and in references made to it in this paper it is designated as the "Marlatt Collection."

Miss Harriet Parkerson had possession of the earliest minutes of the Manhattan Town Association, and kindly permitted this author to copy them. Mrs. Abbie Browning Whitney has possession of the earliest minutes of School District No. 7 of Riley county, and through her courtesy the author was permitted to copy them. Mrs. Ella Child Carroll, one of our oldest citizens, has assisted in giving information and confirmation of several points involved in this article.

The author gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to each of these and to other friends. Without the information which they supplied the preparation of this paper in its complete form would have been impossible.

2. "Records of the Manhattan Town Association," p. 62.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 62.

4. *Kansas Historical Collections*, v. IV, pp. 247, 248.



Professor Goodnow had left Boston March 6, one week in advance of a large party, in order to select a location for himself and those associated with him. He was highly pleased by the region adjacent to the confluence of the Kansas and the Blue rivers.⁵ Others of the party also arrived in time to vote at the election held March 30, 1855, at Juniata, a small settlement on the east side of the Blue river, and four or five miles from its mouth.⁶

Colonel Park returned early in April, and conferences among those in interest, including other settlers in the locality, were held. "The settlers of the Big Blue and the Kansas rivers met April 3, 1855, for consultation in reference to a townsite."⁷ Several meetings at short intervals were held. At the meeting April 18 it was voted "That Mr. Park be invited to address the Trustees in reference to an agricultural school. Mr. Park responded to the invitation."⁸ This is the earliest record related to the planning which led to the establishment of Bluemont Central College. Colonel Park had some individual ideas concerning education, believing that academic study should be accompanied by practical work in agriculture and other industries. Later he made these important features of Park College, Parkville, Mo.

Those having interests in the locality united to form "The Boston Association of Kansas Territory," and to locate on the site a town to be named Boston.⁹

The first of June, 1855, the Steamer Hartford arrived with "The Cincinnati and Kansas Land Company" on board. An agreement was made with the said Co. to locate here, instead of going above Fort Riley as they had originally designed. The terms of the contract will be found on record. The name agreed on after this last marriage was Manhattan; and we now make the report of the Trustees of the Manhattan Town Association.¹⁰

The details of the contract between the Boston Association and the Cincinnati Company are not involved in this article further than to state that the two organizations retained their identity, and had their separate interests and obligations, while having equal shares in the townsite. John Pipher and Andrew J. Mead were prominent members of the Cincinnati Company, and acted as its agents in effecting the consolidation.¹¹

5. *Ibid.*, p. 247.

6. *Ibid.*, p. 248.

7. "Minutes," Manhattan Town Association, p. 9.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

9. *Ibid.*, pp. 1, 63.

10. *Ibid.*, p. 63.

11. *Ibid.*, pp. 28-31.

In a lecture on the Manhattan Institute delivered about 1874, the Rev. Washington Marlatt recalled that during the winter of 1856-1857, he and Mr. Albert Griffin used to "meet at Mr. Miller's store, run by Mr. Pipher, and, while waiting for something to turn up, to talk up the interests of the town. My hobby was the establishment of a college. Mr. Griffin, while favoring the idea, thought the thing entirely impracticable at that time, but thought the founding of a debating club or literary association both feasible and a thing of practical utility."¹² The Manhattan Institute was chartered February 14, 1857, by the Kansas legislature,¹³ and Mr. Griffin was the first president, while Mr. Marlatt and others continued to "talk up" a college.

Contemporary written or printed material concerning the college project is almost nonexistent. The connection of Colonel Park has been noted. The next earliest item found was in Professor Goodnow's diary. He wrote: "Rode to Manhattan to meeting. Preaching by Br. J. Denison. . . . On my return . . . Br. D— came along with me. Talked over the subject of an Institution of Learning at Manhattan. . . ." ¹⁴ This entry also appears: ". . . Went to Mr. Houston's. . . . Quite a talk with Mr. H— about an M. E. College at Manhattan. He is favorable. . . ." ¹⁵

Professor Goodnow was a loyal supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the local trustees appointed him an agent to go to the East and solicit financial aid.¹⁶ At a trustees' meeting held at his home "The subject of a college was discussed, & favorable action had, conditional on the action of the Cincinnati Land Company."¹⁷

Professor Goodnow also wrote:

Went to Manhattan & consulted with the Town Companies respecting a Methodist College, near Manhattan. To forward this they have pledged 50 shares of Manhattan stock & 100 building lots. Joined Mr. Houston in buying out a claim that will furnish a good site for the C— & put it into the hands of Thomas Playford. A hard day's work, but I hope a profitable one.¹⁸

In close succession, Professor Goodnow talked with Mr. Houston, Mr. Marlatt and Doctor Still about the college project, and arrived at the conclusion that it would be necessary to obtain local subscrip-

12. "History of Manhattan Institute," a lecture by W. Marlatt.—Marlatt Collection.

13. *Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1857*, p. 121.

14. Goodnow diary, Sunday, February 8, 1857.

15. *Ibid.*, February 14, 1857.

16. *Ibid.*, March 24, 1857.

17. *Ibid.*, March 31, 1857.

18. *Ibid.*, April 1, 1857.

tions in its support. A group meeting at the home of the Rev. Joseph Denison "Nominated 13 Trustees for Bluemont Central College, to be presented to the Kansas & Nebraska Conference," which was to meet in Nebraska City, Neb.¹⁹

The brief entries by Professor Goodnow in his diary are materially supplemented by accounts written at different times by the Rev. Washington Marlatt. In a historical introduction to the minutes proper of the Bluemont Central College Association Mr. Marlatt wrote:

At a Quarterly Meeting Conference of the M. E. Church held in the vicinity of Manhattan, Riley Co., Kansas Territory, in the spring of 1857, Abram Still, P. E., J. Denison, P. C., and Washington Marlatt, Sec., a plan was inaugurated for the erection of a college at or near Manhattan to be under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kansas.

The following names were put in nomination as a board of trustees, viz. S. D. Houston, I. T. Goodnow, Joseph Denison, C. E. Blood, W. A. McCollom, Washington Marlatt, L. B. Dennis, C. H. Lovejoy, R. P. Duval, T. H. Webb, Newell Trafton, John Kimball, A. I. Davis, S. C. Pomeroy and G. S. Park.²⁰

Messrs. Goodnow, Denison, Marlatt and Lovejoy attended the conference held at Nebraska City, and met many of the preachers, and the committee on education. The committee approved their college plan, and Goodnow and Denison were appointed agents for Bluemont Central College. It developed that the bishop was opposed to having the itinerant preachers act as agents for colleges. Goodnow comments: "A damper on our College plans. . . . Our College trustees have concluded to go ahead in spite of the opposition of the Bishop to a conference agent. Br. J. Denison will take agency. The Lord help us to do our duty."²¹

The Rev. Washington Marlatt wrote as follows concerning this episode:

At a session of the Annual Conference convened at Nebraska City, April 16, 1857, the enterprise was strongly opposed by some of the special friends of Baker University, on the plea of its being gotten up as a *rival* institution. . . . It was considered rather providential that the Bishop, whose duty it is to be present at, and preside over the deliberations of the Conference, failed to get there till the fifth day of the session, when the business of the Conference relating to educational matters was already finished. Bishop Ames who had grown up in the wilds of Hoosierdom, where it took fifty years to accomplish what we did in Kansas in less than ten, thought we were going

19. *Ibid.*, April 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 1857.

20. "Minutes of Bluemont Central College Association," p. 10.

21. Goodnow diary, April 15, 17, 18, 20, 1857.

entirely *too fast* in these matters, and took occasion to criticize the action of the Conference severely. . . .²²

The action of the conference was recorded in the following minutes:

Your Committee [on Education] would further report: That

Whereas, the Manhattan Town Association have agreed to donate fifty shares of stock in Manhattan city, and the Cincinnati and Kansas Land Company have agreed to donate one hundred lots in said city for the establishment of an Institution of learning under the patronage of the M. E. Church to be called Bluemont Central College, on condition that the Kansas and Nebraska Annual Conference of the M. E. Church approve and adopt the same,

And, Whereas, A certain number of acres of land have been secured within a short distance of said town for the location of said College,

And, Whereas, The citizens of Manhattan and the surrounding country have manifested a deep interest in the enterprise by subscribing a creditable amount of funds for said enterprise, therefore,

Resolved, That this Conference accept their propositions, elect a Board of Trustees, and appoint two agents to assist in prosecuting the work.²³

Mr. Marlatt wrote:

The enterprise met with the approval of the Annual Conference which held its session at Nebraska City in April, 1857. Whereupon the initiatory steps of the Quarterly Conference were confirmed by the appointment of the persons put in nomination as trustees of Bluemont Central College Association with power and authority to organize under such Constitution and By-laws as they might see fit to adopt, for the purpose of enabling them to speed the enterprise and place it on a successful basis.²⁴

After approval by the conference the board of trustees of the Bluemont Central College Association met at the home of the Rev. Joseph Denison and organized by the election of "S. D. Houston, president, Joseph Denison, vice-president, C. E. Blood, treasurer, and Washington Marlatt, secretary. . . . Joseph Denison and I. T. Goodnow were appointed general agents with discretionary power to procure funds to erect a suitable college building, and in all proper ways to advance the enterprise." A committee was appointed to secure a suitable site for the building.²⁵

On June 9, 1857, the trustees of Bluemont Central College met at the college grounds and selected a site for the college building, consulted concerning its plan, and appointed Messrs. Marlatt, McColom and Trafton to be a committee to have its foundation accord-

22. "Kansas Reminiscences," by W. Marlatt, May 2, 1874.—Marlatt Collection.

23. *Minutes of the Kansas & Nebraska Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Held at Nebraska City, N. T., April 16th, 1857*, p. 14.

24. Introduction to "Minutes," Bluemont Central College Association, p. 10.

25. "Minutes," *ibid.*, April 27, 1857, p. 11.



ing to the contract. Messrs. Houston, Park, Pomeroy and Mead ". . . were appointed to devise ways and means to secure a grant of land from Congress to establish an agricultural department for Bluemont Central College."²⁶

From the conference Mr. Goodnow went on to the East in performance of his mission to collect funds for his church, and occasionally sought to create interest in the proposed college.²⁷ He reached home November 21, 1857, and on November 27, a meeting of the trustees of the college was held at his home. Plans were initiated to have a tract of land preëmpted as a site for the college.²⁸

Organization was effected previous to incorporation, and an agent was sent East to solicit funds for carrying out the college project. The idea did not elicit much support, and the agent did not collect enough to pay his expenses.²⁹ The Rev. Joseph Denison was allowed two shares of stock of the Manhattan Town Company, valued at \$100 each, credit for his own subscription of \$300, and \$50 in addition, for his services and expenses on his trip to the East to secure funds for the college building.³⁰

Messrs. Houston, Denison and Park were constituted a committee to memorialize the legislature of Kansas territory to use its influence to induce congress to grant land for the establishment of an agricultural department in Bluemont Central College.³¹

"Prof. I. T. Goodnow and Washington Marlatt were appointed a committee to have the legislative assembly grant a charter to this Association."³²

At a meeting of the trustees of Bluemont Central College it was "decided to go ahead with Bluemont Town Site & make improvements to hold it in proper form. Resolved to memorialize the Legislature & Congress to grant Lands for Endowment of the Agricultural post. Settled with agent, J. Denison, for \$400. besides expenses. Incidental conversation about agent another year."³³ Mr. Goodnow "with C. E. Blood, W. Marlatt & J. Denison, Surveyed a place for building 'Bluemont Central College.' 45 x 70 ft. 2 stories high with a basement to be of stone." A conversation was held with

26. Notations made by W. Marlatt but not put into the official record.—Marlatt Collection.

27. Goodnow diary, April 21, October 27, 31, 1857.

28. *Ibid.*, November 21, 27, 28, 30, 1857.

29. "Reminiscences of the 'Beginnings,'" address by W. Marlatt in *The Industrialist*, Manhattan, January 12, 1895, p. 71.

30. "Minutes," Bluemont Central College Association, December 21, 1857, p. 12.

31. *Ibid.*

32. *Ibid.*

33. Goodnow diary, December 21, 1857.

Mr. McCollom with reference to his deeding 40 acres for college purposes.³⁴

After conference and tentative work by Mr. Goodnow on a charter, the trustees of Bluemont Central College "decided on a charter & a memorial to the Legislature," and Mr. Goodnow "left home with W. Marlatt for Lawrence to get Bluemont Central College incorporated &c. . . ." ³⁵ The legislature met at Lawrence in 1858. Mr. Goodnow made the acquaintance of several members, and a charter for the college was drawn up which was offered to the legislature by A. J. Mead.³⁶

While action was maturing in the legislature Mr. Goodnow made a trip to Parkville, Mo., much of it on foot, to see Colonel Park on hotel and college business, returning to Lawrence February 6.³⁷ Mr. Marlatt had remained in Lawrence looking after legislation.³⁸

The charter for Bluemont Central College was passed by the legislature, and Acting Gov. J. W. Denver approved it February 9, 1858. Ten other organizations were incorporated by the same legislature for the establishment of institutions of higher learning. Of these only Baker University and Highland University survive, the latter as Highland Junior College.³⁹

The act incorporating Bluemont Central College Association is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas:

SECTION 1. That J. Denison, S. D. Houston, C. E. Blood, W. McCullom, J. [I.] T. Goodnow, Washington Marlatt, G. S. Park, S. C. Pomeroy, T. H. Webb, and their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate, under the name and style of the Blue Mont Central College Association, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall have a common seal, and may change and alter the same at pleasure, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in any court of law or equity, and shall have power to hold by gift, grant, devise, purchase or otherwise, any lands, tenements, hereditaments, moneys, rents, goods and chattels of whatever kind, that have been heretofore, or may hereafter be given, granted or devised to, or purchased by them, for the benefit of said association, and may sell and dispose of the same, or any part thereof, on lease or rent, or improve the same in such manner as they shall deem most conducive to the interests of said association.

34. *Ibid.*, December 25, 1857.

35. *Ibid.*, January 6, 12, 23, 26, 28, 29, 1858.

36. *Ibid.*, February 1, 1858.

37. *Ibid.*, February 4-6, 1858.

38. Marlatt address, *Industrialist*, January 12, 1895, p. 71.

39. *Private Laws of the Territory of Kansas, 1858*, pp. 71-91.

SEC. 2. The objects of the association are, and shall be, the promotion of education and science in Kansas Territory.

SEC. 3. It shall be lawful for this association to locate a college, to be called the Blue Mont Central College, at or near Manhattan city, Kansas Territory.

SEC. 4. That the said association shall have power and authority to establish, in addition to the literary department of arts and sciences, an agricultural department, with separate professors, to test soils, experiment in the raising of crops, the cultivation of trees, and upon a farm set apart for the purpose, so as to bring out, to the utmost practical result, the agricultural advantages of Kansas, especially the capabilities of its high prairie lands.

SEC. 5. This association shall have power to make all rules, by-laws and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. All property or funds, real, personal or mixed, that may be received, held or appropriated by or for said association, for the exclusive purposes of education, literary, scientific and agricultural, shall be forever exempt from taxation; *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be so construed, in such manner, as to allow said corporation to hold more than five thousand acres of land at one time.

This Act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

[Signed,]

G. W. DEITZLER,

Speaker of House of Representatives.

C. W. BABCOCK,

President of the Council.

Approved February 9, 1858.

J. W. DENVER,

*Acting Governor.*⁴⁰

Especial attention should be given to the persistence of the idea of making provision for agricultural education and experimentation.

During the earliest years Bluemont was written as two words, but these were soon united to the familiar form. Bluemont is a hill 215.75 feet in height above the Blue river.⁴¹ It presents a bold front toward the Kansas river valley at the northeast corner of the town-site of Manhattan. It was a well-known landmark for early travelers in that region. It was named by John C. Fremont who camped at its base when on one of his memorable expeditions across the plains.⁴²

The incorporators of Bluemont Central College were prominent men in the immediate locality or elsewhere. Joseph Denison was a Methodist minister in Boston at the time of his decision to emigrate to Kansas.⁴³ Isaac T. Goodnow was professor of natural

40. *Ibid.*, pp. 75, 76.

41. G. H. Failyer and William Ulrich, *The Nationalist*, Manhattan, April 16, 1875.

42. *Manhattan Nationalist*, July 17, 1874, quoting a correspondent of the Hollidaysburg (Pa.) *Standard*.

43. Harriet Parkerson in *Log Cabin Days* (Riley County Historical Society, 1929), p. 22.



science in East Greenwich Academy, East Greenwich, R. I., from 1848 to 1855, when he resigned to go to Kansas with the avowed purpose of helping to make it a free state.⁴⁴ Washington Marlatt was a graduate of Indiana Asbury University, now DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind. He came to Manhattan in 1856. He was an itinerant Methodist minister in Kansas for a considerable period.⁴⁵

C. E. Blood was a Congregational minister from Mason, N. H., who began service in Kansas as a home missionary by preaching in Juniata in November, 1854.⁴⁶ Mr. Blood organized the Congregational church in Manhattan. Wm. A. McCollom was also a Congregational minister, and from October, 1860, to April, 1863, served the Congregational church in Wabaunsee.⁴⁷ S. D. Houston, from Illinois, was one of the Canton group which, with others, formed the Manhattan Town Association. He was the only Free-State representative in the territorial legislature of 1855, and later filled important public positions.⁴⁸ Samuel C. Pomeroy was financial agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Company,⁴⁹ which promoted the settling of Free-State men in Kansas. He was very prominent in public affairs, and became one of the first two United States senators from Kansas. Thomas H. Webb was secretary of the New England Emigrant Aid Company.⁵⁰ In preceding paragraphs the character and importance of Col. Geo. S. Park have been indicated in a measure. A biography as prepared by the Rev. E. B. Sherwood was read at the funeral of Colonel Park. It presented briefly his colorful career.⁵¹

These brief notes indicate the caliber of the men who founded Bluemont Central College, and their bringing this enterprise to a successful issue is a tribute to their persistence, and to the character and the sincerity of those who contributed financially to the support of the undertaking. It should be noted, however, that while an imposing array of names appears, and was maintained, in the list of trustees, Messrs. Marlatt, Denison and Goodnow were the only ones who took financial risks beyond their individual subscriptions. Their

44. *Kansas and Kansans* (Chicago, 1918), by W. E. Connelley, p. 1853, and Dr. C. L. Marlatt.

45. *Kansas and Kansans*, p. 2445.

46. *Kansas Historical Collections*, v. XII, p. 427.

47. *Semi-Centennial, Wabaunsee Congregational Church* (June 27-28, 1907), p. 43.

48. *Kansas Historical Collections*, v. V, p. 198.

49. *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, v. XII, p. 126.

50. *Ibid.*, p. 128.

51. Unidentified clipping in "Goodnow Scrapbook No. I," pp. 35, 41, 42.

vision initiated the enterprise, their faith carried it on, and their labor brought the successful issue.⁵²

Shortly after the chartering of Bluemont Central College Association by the legislature, the trustees met and organized by electing S. D. Houston president, Joseph Denison vice-president, I. T. Goodnow treasurer, and Washington Marlatt, secretary. Members of the association whose names do not appear in the charter were constituted associate members.⁵³ The trustees voted to accept the lands and funds offered by the Bluemont Town Company, and Prof. I. T. Goodnow was appointed to receive them. Messrs. Blood, Denison and Goodnow were made a committee to wait upon A. J. Mead, and attempt to get more favorable terms for the donation of one hundred lots pledged conditionally by the Cincinnati and Kansas Land Company. Messrs. Wm. A. McCollom and I. T. Goodnow were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for the association.⁵⁴

The Kansas and Nebraska conference of the Methodist Episcopal church held its meeting for 1858 in Topeka, and the minutes recorded that:

The Trustees of Blue Mount Central College the past year have secured from the Legislature of Kansas a very liberal charter. They have also secured upward of two hundred acres of land within one mile of Manhattan City, with the prospect of adding thereto; making one of the most beautiful sites for a college to be found anywhere. They now have one hundred lots in the city of Manhattan, the present value of which would be at least five thousand dollars. They have on the subscription list about two thousand dollars, and contingent pledges to a large amount more. It is the purpose of the trustees to erect a substantial stone building, and to have the institution in operation at the earliest possible period. Your committee recommend the renewal of the appointment of the trustees of last year, with the additional name of Thomas Webb. The trustees respectfully petition the Conference to authorize the appointment of Isaac T. Goodnow, A. M., as agent for the institution for the ensuing year.⁵⁵

Soon after the annual conference the trustees of Bluemont Central College Association held a meeting at which "Prof. I. T. Goodnow presented a constitution which after various corrections and amendments was unanimously adopted."⁵⁶ The constitution is recorded in the minute book of the association.⁵⁷ The Rev. I. Kalloch was

52. Marlatt's "Reminiscences of the 'Beginnings,'" *The Industrialist*, January 12, 1895, p. 71.

53. "Minutes," Bluemont Central College Association, February 26, 1858, p. 13.

54. *Ibid.*

55. *Minutes of the Kansas and Nebraska Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church Held at Topeka, Kansas Territory, April 15-19, 1858*, p. 9.

56. "Minutes," Bluemont Central College Association, May 19, 1858, p. 14.

57. *Ibid.*, p. 6.



"authorized to collect funds for the erection of a college building," and Messrs. Blood, Marlatt and Denison were made a committee to survey anew the townsite of Bluemont and purchase additions to it.⁵⁸

The site chosen for Bluemont Central College was part of a projected town called Bluemont and was about three miles from the village of Manhattan. There were no business houses there, and pioneer residences scattered on surrounding farms afforded the only opportunities for rooms or board for students who might be attracted from more distant localities. The trustees of Bluemont Central College Association in order to alleviate this condition voted "that Rev. Washington Marlatt be a committee to donate lots in the town of Bluemont to such persons as will within a reasonable length of time put up suitable buildings on the same," and he was instructed to have the townsite resurveyed in part by having certain parallels run.⁵⁹

S. D. Houston resigned the presidency of the board of trustees of Bluemont Central College Association, and I. T. Goodnow was appointed to succeed him, and, apparently, he retained the treasurer-ship. Mr. Goodnow was also constituted the "regular and lawful agent with power of attorney invested with full authority to dispose of all property belonging to the Bluemont Central College Association, together with one-third of the lots in the town of Bluemont, Riley County, Kansas Territory, to raise the necessary funds for the erection of a college building in said town."⁶⁰

Professor Goodnow made a trip to the East in 1858, and as agent of Bluemont Central College Association called upon many of his acquaintances, and others to whom he had introductions. He seems to have had a remarkable faculty for persuasion, and his diary records his successes and failures. He returned to Manhattan, and at a meeting of the trustees of the association he reported that he had sold \$3,300 worth of lots, and that \$3,000 worth of real estate had been donated to the college. His expenses had been about \$150. He was made permanent agent for the college, and allowed a salary of \$800 up to April 1, 1859, and \$1,000 a year for ensuing years.⁶¹

During the winter of 1858-1859, Mr. Goodnow attended to the digging of a well on the site selected for the college building. This was finished January 31, and pronounced "a noble" well.⁶² Although

58. *Ibid.*, p. 14.

59. *Ibid.*, May 31, 1858, p. 15.

60. *Ibid.*

61. *Ibid.*, October 20, 1858, p. 17, and Goodnow diary, October 20, 1858.

62. Goodnow diary, November 30, 1858, to January 31, 1859.



described with such initial enthusiasm, the well failed and was deepened, and even then did not meet the needs of stone masons and plasterers who erected the building later.⁶³

On February 15, 1859, the trustees of the association voted "that we proceed to erect a college building during the present [year] at a cost of not less than six thousand dollars." It was also voted "that Professor I. T. Goodnow be added to, and be made chairman of, the building committee." Joseph Denison and Washington Marlatt were the other members.⁶⁴

The conference records for 1859 contain this information concerning the enterprise:

The Trustees of Bluemont Central College have regularly laid out the two hundred and twenty acres of land in their possession into a town, calling it "Bluemont."

They have let out the contract for the erection of a substantial stone building, sixty by forty-four feet, three stories high, to be surmounted with a cupola, all to be executed in good style, and to be ready for occupancy, in part, by the first of December, 1859, when they expect to open a school of a grade to meet the demands of the times and the place. Said college building will cost, when completed, not less than ten thousand dollars.

They have, aside from the lands above named, reliable subscriptions to the amount of two thousand dollars, one hundred lots in the city of Manhattan, the present value of which is not less than six thousand dollars, and notes bearing interest, payable on demand, to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars.

Your committee would respectfully recommend the appointment of J. J. Davis, Dr. J. W. Robison, John Pip[h]ler, George S. Park and Rev. John Paulson as Trustees of said College, for the space of three years, from the first of April, A. D. 1859.

They would furthermore beg leave to offer the following resolution for your adoption:

Resolved, That as a Conference we highly approve the efforts of the Trustees of Bluemont Central College, to erect a noble College edifice the present year, and most cordially approve the continuation of Prof. I. T. Goodnow as agent, to carry out their plans for its erection.⁶⁵

It was further stated:

The Trustees of Bluemont Central College, through their Agents the past year, have secured from the Legislature of Kansas a very liberal Charter. They have also secured one hundred acres of land within a mile of Manhattan City, with the prospect of adding thereto. They have one hundred lots in the City of Manhattan, now worth five thousand dollars, and subscriptions amounting to about two thousand dollars, besides contingent pledges to a large amount. They purpose erecting a substantial stone building, and to

63. *Ibid.*, April 28, 1859, and letter of W. Marlatt to I. T. Goodnow, April 20, 1860.

64. "Minutes," Bluemont Central College Association, May 31, 1858, p. 16, and February 15, 1859, p. 18.

65. *Minutes of the Fourth Session of the Kansas and Nebraska Annual Conference, of the Methodist E. Church, Held at Omaha, Nebraska, April 14-18, 1859*, p. 15.

have the Institution in operation at the earliest possible period. The Trustees respectfully petition the Conference to appoint Isaac T. Goodnow, A. M., Agent for the Institution for the present year.⁶⁶

Professor Goodnow spent much time on the college project during the spring months. He surveyed the site, collaborated with J. H. Brous in drawing plans for the building, arranged with neighboring citizens to furnish timber for structural use, interviewed builders and mechanics, and prepared specifications for the carpenters.⁶⁷ On April 29 he started to the East to continue solicitation of funds for the building. On the way he stopped at Leavenworth and bought lumber for the building from L. R. Griffin. Mr. H. P. Johnson went security for him. He contracted with Captain Beasley for transportation of \$1,064.70 worth of lumber to Manhattan by the steamer *Gus Linn*. He also bought hardware to the amount of \$82.95.⁶⁸ The steamer embarked May 8, and reached Manhattan, May 15. The freight charges were \$80.⁶⁹

The cornerstone of the college building was laid May 10, 1859. No local account of the proceedings was published, but T. C. Wells, in a letter to his father, wrote May 14, 1859:

They had speeches &c at the laying of the corner stone of the "Blue Mont Central College" last Tuesday afternoon, the first ceremony of the kind that has occurred in Kansas. About three hundred people were present and some very good speeches were made. Quite a number of documents were placed in the cavity of the stone. The college building will be 40[44] ft. x 60 ft. on the ground and three stories high, all stone—underpinning corners, and window and door caps to be hewn, the rest rough work. It will be in full view from our house, half a mile distant.⁷⁰

The Kansas Express, later named *Manhattan Express*, began publication soon after, probably May 21, 1859,⁷¹ but would not publish an account of the ceremony, alleging that it was no longer news. There was probably delay in getting in a report.⁷²

The contract for stone work on the college building was given to Clarke W. Lewis, for carpenter work, to Jasher H. Brous, and for plastering, and perhaps painting, to (H. or William?) Bloss. Many others worked on the building. J. C. Christensen wrote that his father, Niels Christensen, acted as cook for the gang, and told him

66. *Ibid.*, p. 17.

67. Goodnow diary, March 2, 8, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, April 5, 9, 11, 12, 23, 26, 28, 1859.

68. *Ibid.*, May 3-7, 1859.

69. Letter of W. Marlatt to I. T. Goodnow, May 16, 1859.

70. Wells, T. C., "Letters of a Kansas Pioneer," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, v. V, p. 399.

71. Gaeddert, G. R., "First Newspapers in Kansas Counties," in *ibid.*, v. X, p. 27.

72. Letter of W. Marlatt to I. T. Goodnow, August 6, 1859.

that the preachers of the neighborhood used to help out. Of these, only the Rev. W. Marlatt worked on Saturday; the others had to prepare their sermons for the next day, but he could preach without preparation.⁷³

During the absence of Professor Goodnow, immediate responsibility for superintendence of the building operations fell upon Messrs. Marlatt and Denison. Mr. Marlatt wrote frequent letters to Mr. Goodnow. In one of these he stated that it took all of the time of himself or Denison to attend to the undertaking.⁷⁴ Mr. Denison was away a good deal on his ministerial duties, so the brunt of the oversight of the construction and the supply of materials was met by Mr. Marlatt. It was a wearisome task. The greatest cause of worry was the lack of cash to meet the bills for labor and materials. In spite of difficulties, fair progress was made, and by August 10 the masons were working on the walls of the third story.⁷⁵

With numerous other duties, also, Mr. Marlatt at one time felt so "heartily tired," that but for "the idea of shirking responsibilities" he would gladly have abandoned all and retired to private life.⁷⁶ Yet within a month he wrote:

We wish if possible to have two rooms at least lathed and plastered this fall so as to have a school this winter. It must be done if at all possible. . . . We can have one of a mixed character. . . . I have no great confidence in myself as an "educator," but if duty requires I am willing to try it on a while at least. . . .⁷⁷

Later, Mr. Marlatt wrote to Mr. Goodnow:

. . . I can make arrangements to live in the College the coming winter if need be. I gave my opinion in reference to a school, and the paper in my last. Let us have a school by all means. Paper is inefficient. Sold out to Whiskey, Mead, Snow and Co. Let it go.

With reference to the college building, he estimated the financial needs until the next spring at \$1,000, and stated that "after so long a time we have near about all things in readiness to raise the roof." The paper referred to was *The Kansas Express*, published by C. F. De Vivaldi.⁷⁸

73. Letter of J. C. Christensen to J. T. Willard, February 17, 1938.

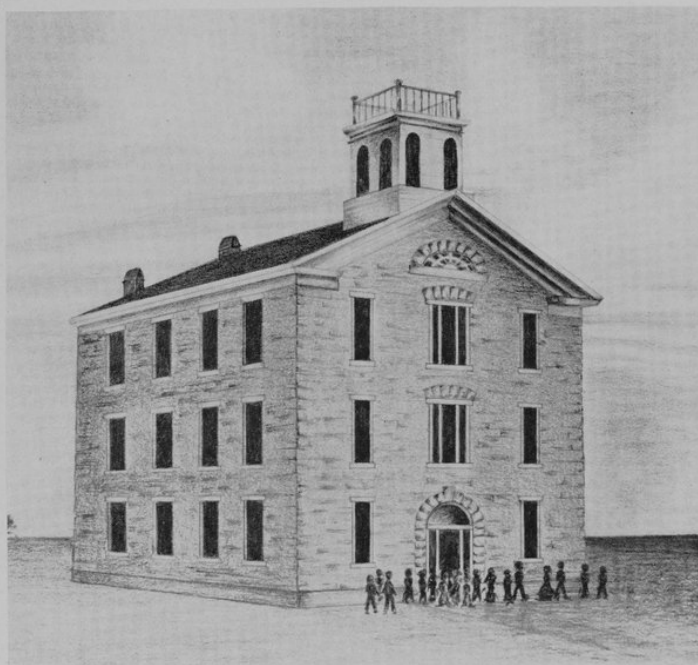
74. Letter of W. Marlatt to I. T. Goodnow, August 6, 1859.

75. *Ibid.*, August 10, 1859.

76. *Ibid.*, August 6, 1859.

77. *Ibid.*, September 1, 1859.

78. *Ibid.*, September 29, 1859.



BLUEMONT CENTRAL COLLEGE

The building was erected in 1859 by the Bluemont Central College Association. When it was given to the state in 1863 first classes for Kansas State College were held here. It was razed in 1883. The cut is from a drawing made from a lithograph accompanying a map of Manhattan published in 1867. The sketch is imperfect, as it does not show the name Bluemont College, which was cut in the stone arch over the window in the gable. [This and succeeding cuts courtesy of Dr. J. T. Willard.]

At this stage of construction the Manhattan paper published the following paragraph:

THE MANHATTAN COLLEGE.—This splendid, large three-story stone edifice is fast approaching its completion. The mason's work was finished some time since, and the carpenters are now employing all their skill and energy to have the building ready for schooling by the first of December. We cannot find words strong enough to eulogise the spirit of enterprise, and the devotion to the noble causes of Christianity and learning, which have characterized the whole conduct of the eminent men who exerted themselves with such an untired constancy in behalf of the complete success of the Manhattan College. This institution is to be under the supervision of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and will eventually be made one of their best colleges in the West. Projects of building grand seminaries, universities and colleges are quite common in the numerous cities of Kansas; but so far as we are informed, we believe that ours of Manhattan is the only one which has been effectually built.⁷⁹

At a meeting of the Bluemont Central College Association action was taken stated as follows:

On motion of Rev. Joseph Denison; Resolved that the time is fully come to open a school in the college.

On motion voted that there be but two departments, viz: Primary and Preparatory.

On motion voted that a committee of five be appointed to carry out the above resolution. Marlatt, Goodnow, Blood, Denison and McCollom were made said committee.

Prof. I. T. Goodnow being called upon gave a satisfactory report on the financial concerns of the college.⁸⁰

The management of the school seems to have been entirely in the hands of the committee provided. There is no mention of employment of teachers by the trustees at this meeting, but the *Express* had already published a paragraph stating that the trustees had decided that the college "should be opened for the reception of students during the first week of January, and that, for the present, the Rev. Washington Marlatt should be entrusted with the instruction of the first pupils. . . ." The editor continued with a recommendation of "this new and beautiful institution of learning and morality."⁸¹ Mr. Goodnow spent considerable time during the first week of 1860 securing students for the school, and preparing a room in the college building. The school opened January 9, 1860, with an enrollment of 29 pupils.⁸²

79. *Manhattan Express*, October 1, 1859.

80. "Minutes," Bluemont Central College Association, December 28, 1859, p. 19.

81. *Manhattan Express*, December 24, 1859.

82. Goodnow diary, January 4, 6-9, 1860.

This advertisement was carried in the *Manhattan Express*, and similar advertisements appeared for the second, third and fourth terms:

BLUE MONT COLLEGE.

By order of the Board of Trustees, this school will open January 9th, 1860, under the charge of Rev. Washington Marlatt, A. M., assisted by Miss Julia A. Bailey, an experienced and successful teacher.

Tuition per term of 11 weeks as follows:

Common English branches	\$3
Higher English branches, as Philosophy, Physiology, Algebra, etc.	4
Languages	5

Tuition in Advance.

Necessary textbooks in the hands of the Treasurer at low rates.

The Trustees design furnishing facilities for a continuous and ample course of Academical and Collegiate study.

Farther information can be obtained by addressing the President or Secretary.

I. T. GOODNOW, *Pres. & Treas.*

W. MARLATT, *Sec'y.*⁸³

While on his Eastern trip, Professor Goodnow engaged Miss Julia A. Bailey of Gales Ferry, Conn., to go to Kansas to teach in the school.⁸⁴ Miss Bailey "had been liberally educated according to New England standards, and the strength of her character was on a plane with her varied accomplishments."⁸⁵ She was an experienced and successful teacher.

During the winter of 1859-1860 Prof. I. T. Goodnow showed his interest in the school by visiting classes and exhibiting the magic lantern, and by doing many things to promote completion of the building, including tending mason in the finishing of the well.⁸⁶

A sermon was preached in the college on January 22, 1860, by the Rev. Joseph Denison, P. E.,⁸⁷ and religious exercises were held in the building practically every Sunday following, and frequently at other times.

After consulting with Messrs. Denison and Marlatt concerning the presidency of Bluemont Central College, Mr. Goodnow wrote to

^{83.} *Express*, January 7, 1860 *et seq.*, April 7 *et seq.*, September 22 *et seq.*, December 22 *et seq.*

^{84.} Goodnow diary, October 6, 1859.

^{85.} *Kansas and Kansans*, v. V, p. 2445.

^{86.} Goodnow diary, January 18, 20, 26, 30, February 1, 3, 4-15, 20, 23, 26, 27, March 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 1860.

^{87.} *Ibid.*, January 22, 1860, and later dates.