

Kansas historical quarterly

Section 305, Pages 9121 - 9150

The quarterly journal of the Kansas Historical Society from 1931-1977, the Kansas Historical Quarterly succeeded the Kansas Historical Collections, 1875-1928, (also available as unit 221606) and preceded Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains, 1978 - present.

Creator: Kansas State Historical Society

Date: 1931-1977

Callnumber: SP 906 K13q

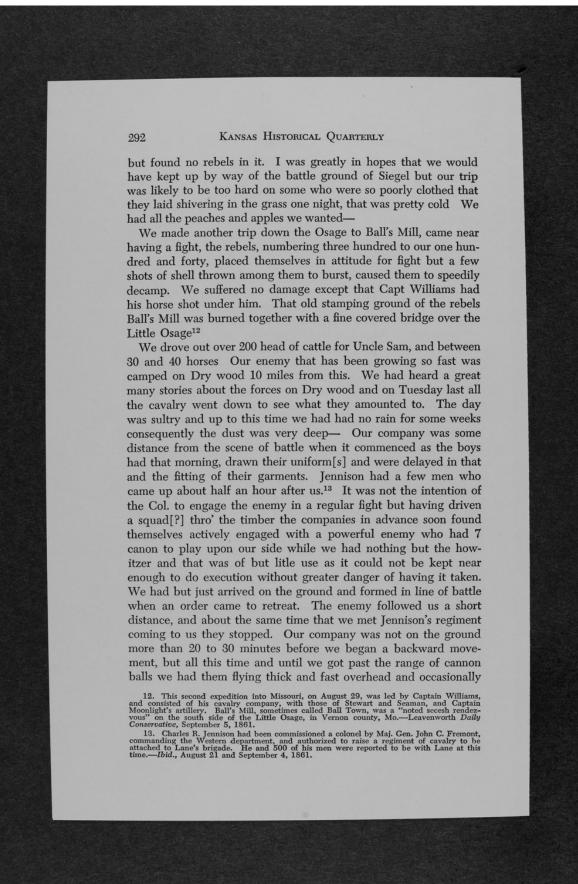
KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 221562

Item Identifier: 221562

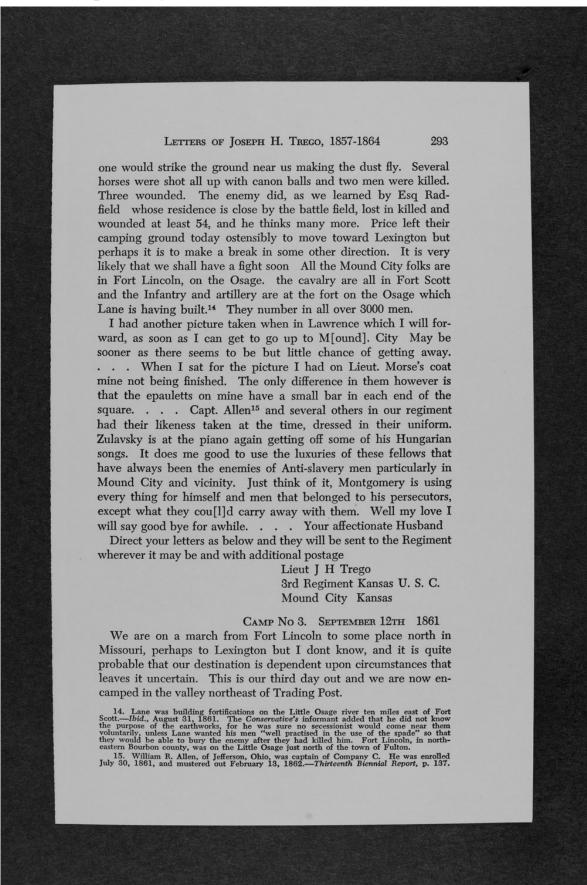
www.kansasmemory.org/item/221562

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

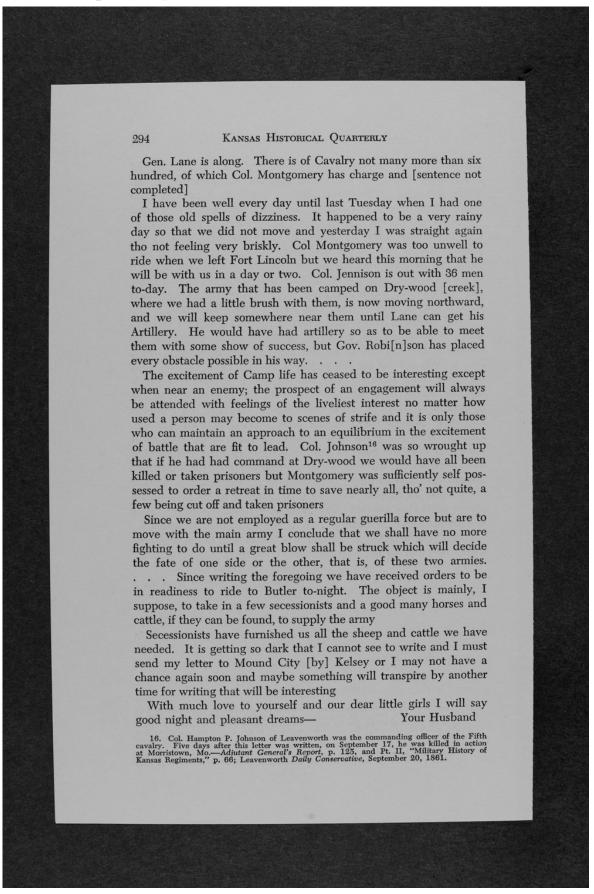




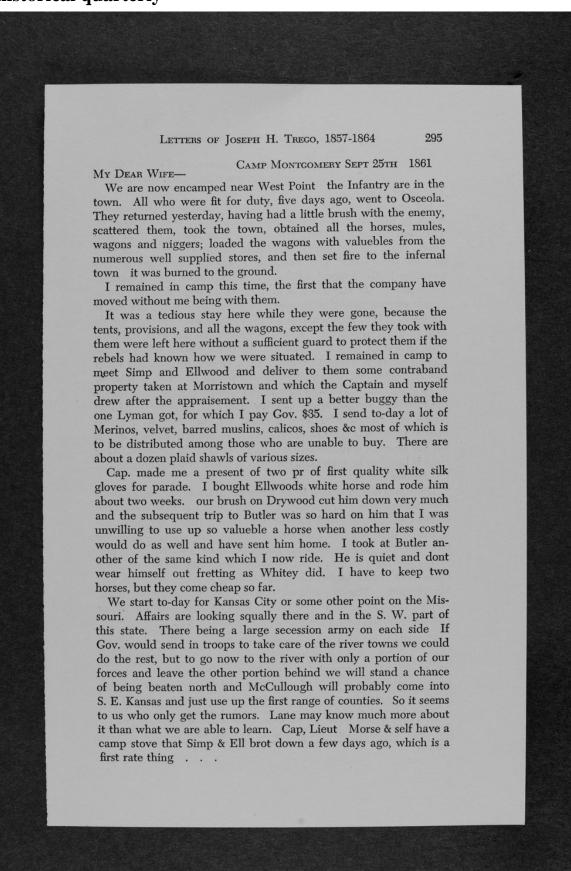




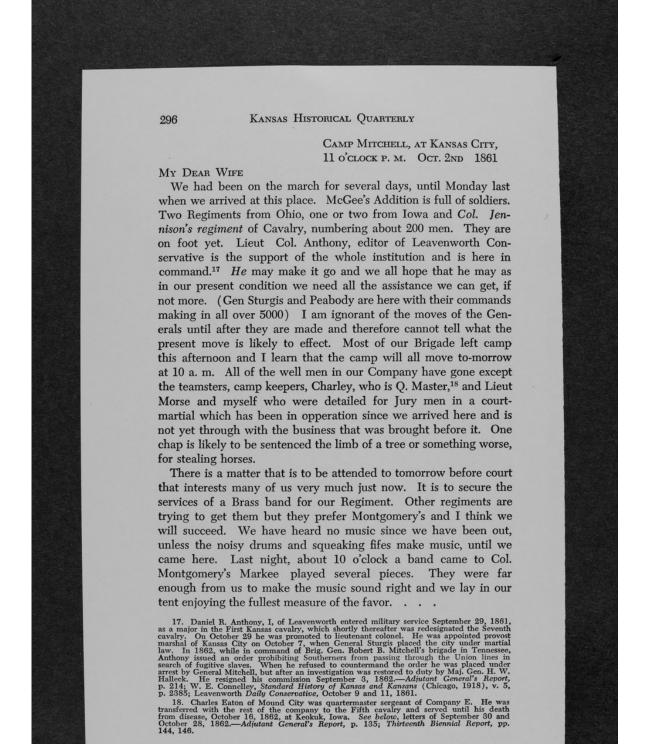




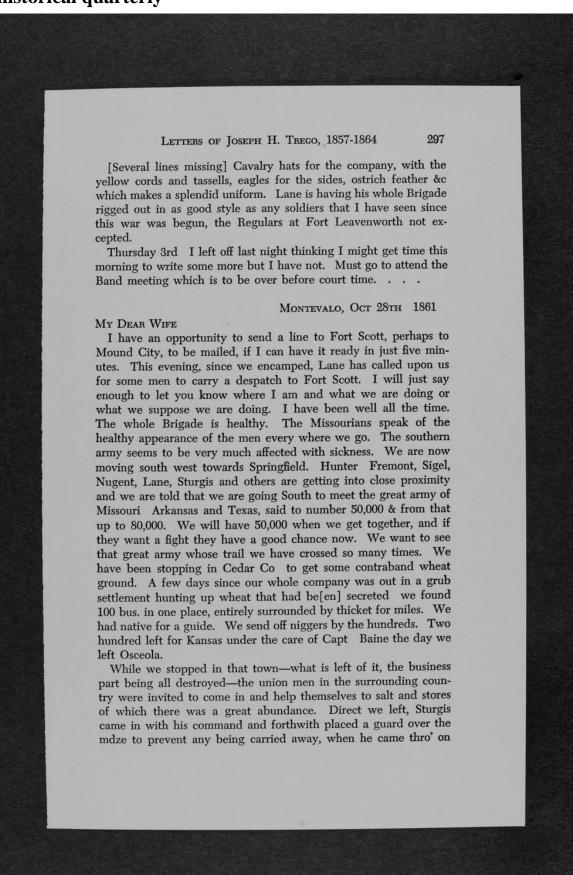




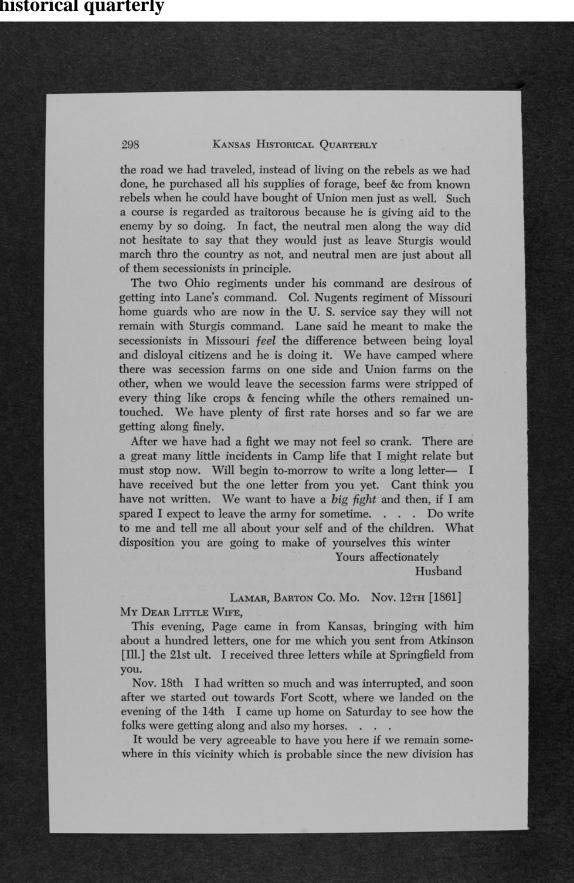




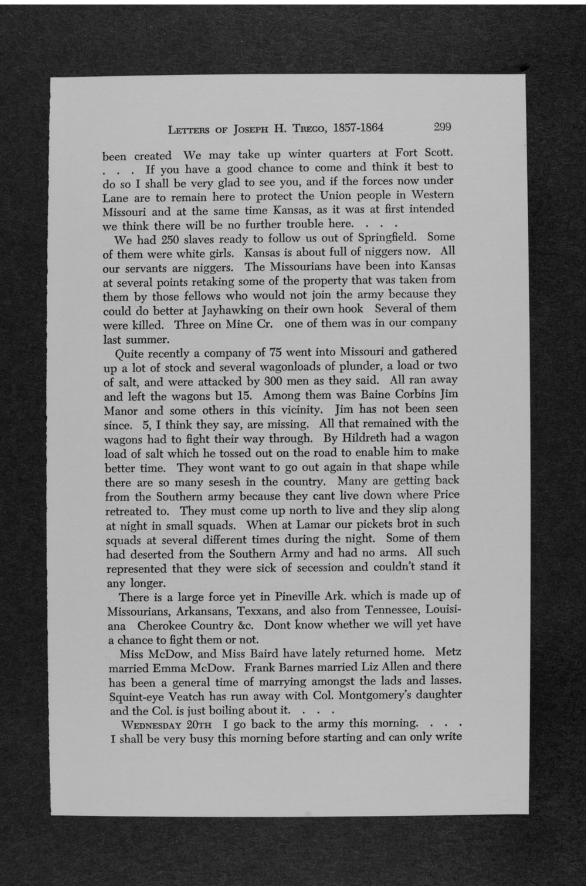




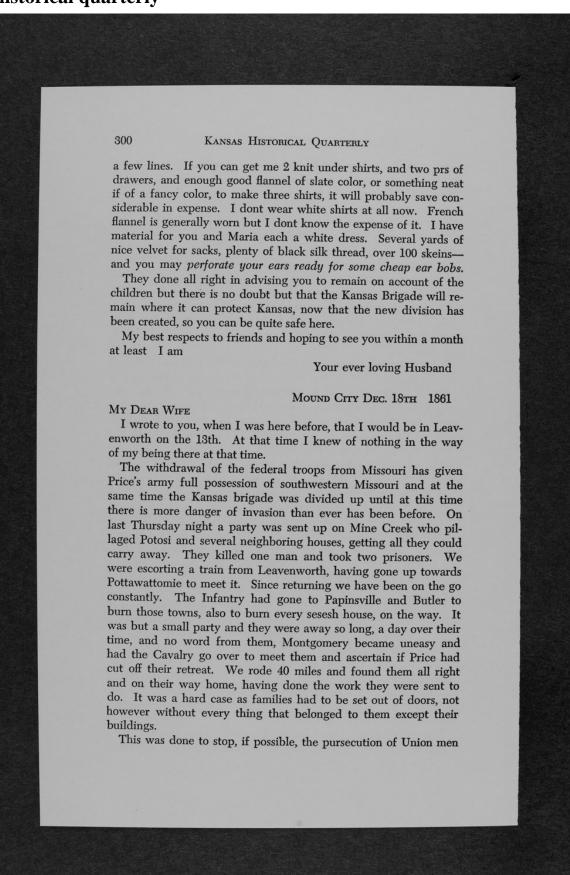




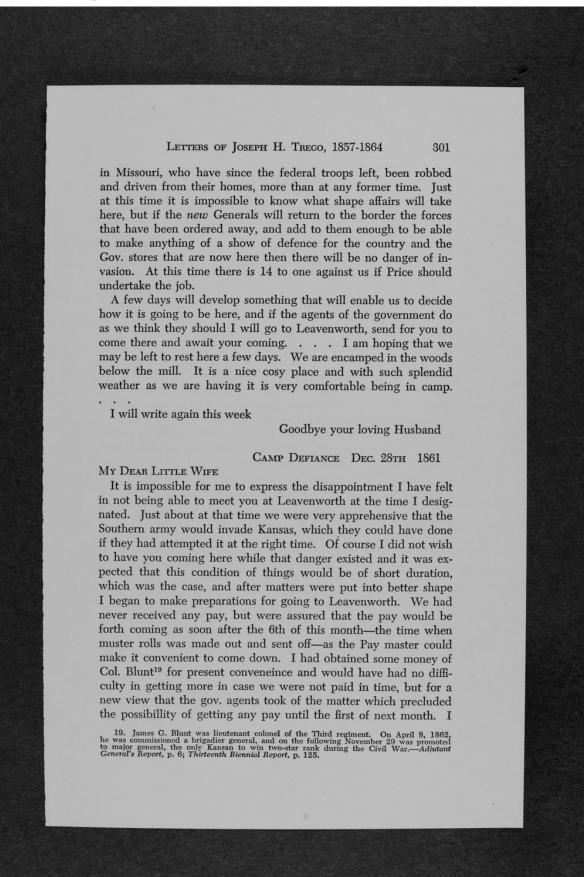




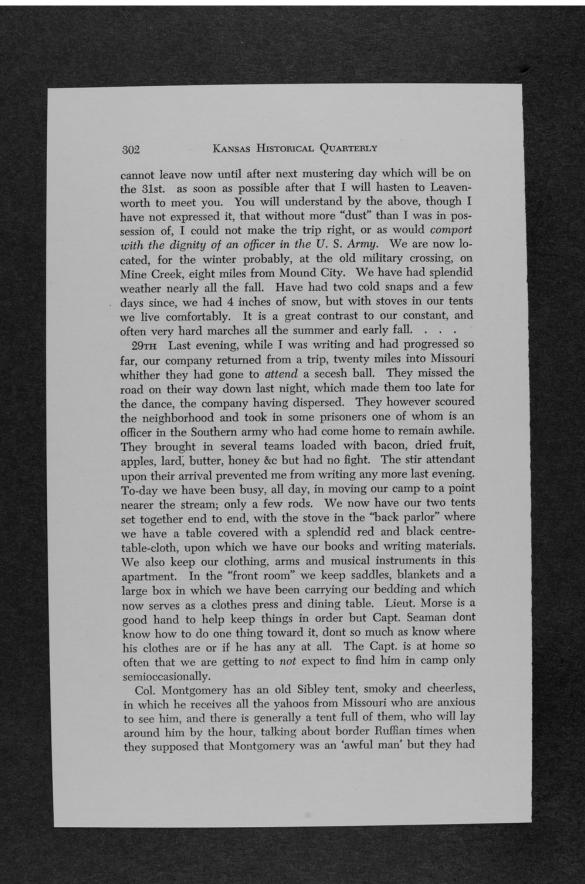




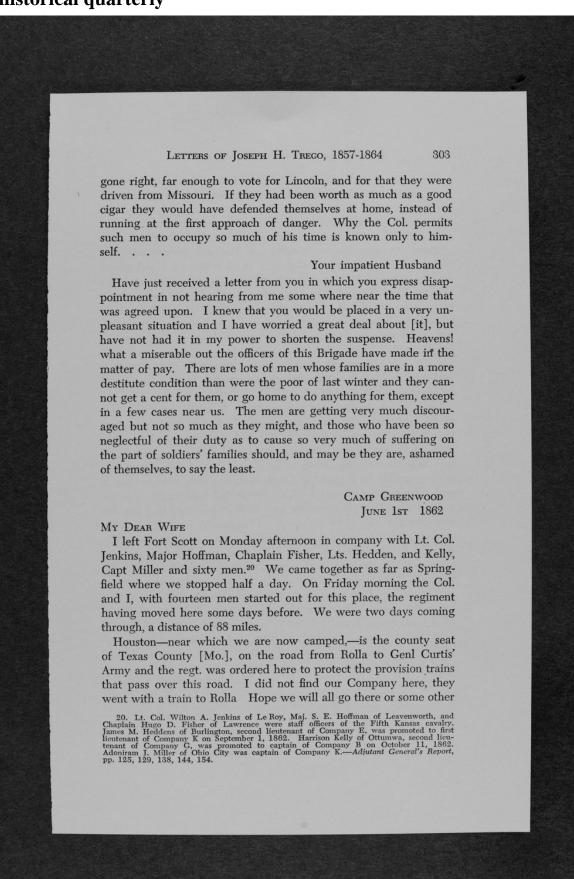




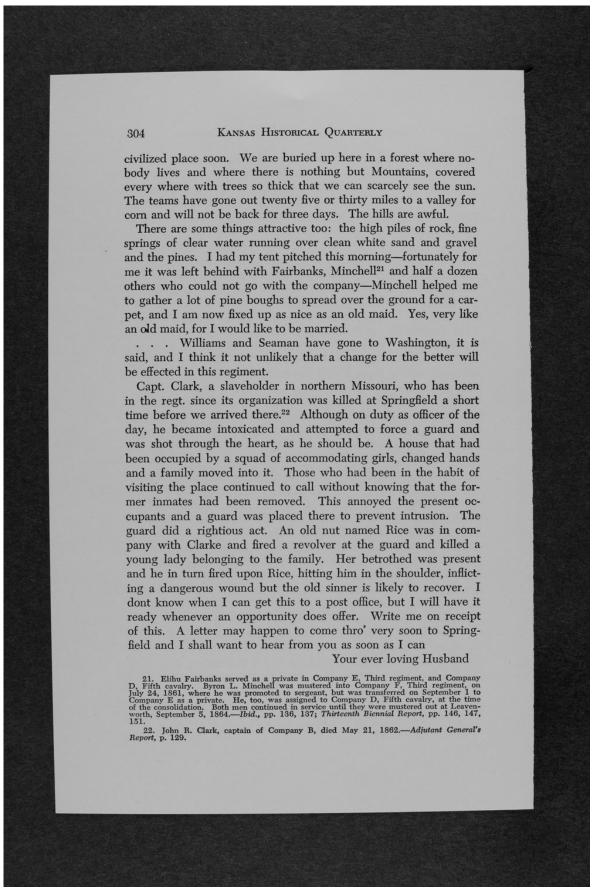




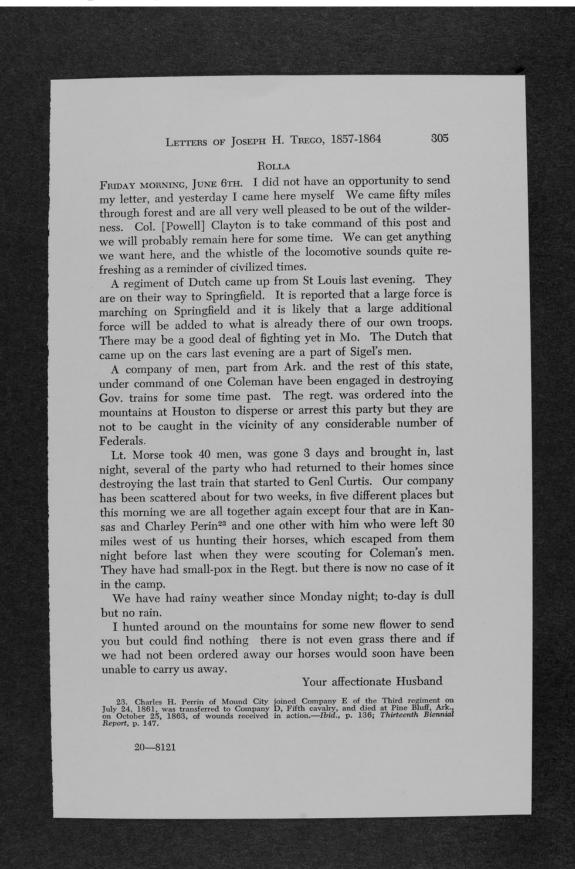














Kansas historical quarterly

KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 306 CAMP BEECH GROVE Aug. 6TH 1862. My DEAR WIFE I write you this time to send you some funds. I hope you will get it all right. I have been thinking for some days how I might send it with the most safety. Charley Varnum leaves to-day. He will carry a large amt. for the boys; quite as much as he can do with safety, travelling as he will have to do on the deck of a boat. I have finally concluded to send by Q. Master [James] Davis to Leavenworth where he will drop it in the office. If you get this take good care of it as it may be all that I shall be able to supply you with and you may need it before you will find anyone to take my place if I should be so unfortunate as to get killed. If I should be made a prisoner with the money about me it would then all be lost; for these reasons I have concluded to risk sending it. Now dont think that the probabilities of my being killed or taken prisoner are so great that you will begin at once to look up another partner. It is not likely that I shall ever be placed in so dangerous a position as the one from which we escaped on our way down. Brother Fisher's letter did the thing up most splendidly when he represented Lts Morse and Harrington²⁴ as pursueing the rebels after they were put to flight as though they had nothing to do with starting them, when in fact, they did all that was done in the whole transaction. Again, when he had the old Q. M. Doct Davis, Morse and myself cooking supper while the train was crossing the river. Lt. Morse was where the fighting was done. If this comes to you all right you will find enclosed six one hundred dollar bills, or U. S. treasury notes, one of fifty dols and two of twenty dollars, making in all \$690.00. We are paid now to June 30th It is costing me more to live this summer than it did last. We are boarding now at \$3.00 per week; cheaper than keeping our own table. The weather is so excessively hot every body is prostrated in strength and the number of sick is daily increasing. There are very few bad cases however. It is not likely that we will do much before cool weather. Horses are improving very much in appearance on green corn, but they cannot endure any fatigue. If we could only get out of this dutch arrangement we 24. Stephen R. Harrington of Burlington served as regimental adjutant until he was romoted to captain and given command of Company K on July 1, 1862. He was promoted o major October 29, 1864, and mustered out of service January 10, 1865.—Adjutant Genal's Report, pp. 125, 154.



Kansas historical quarterly

LETTERS OF JOSEPH H. TRECO, 1857-1864

307

would all "rejoice exceeding much" Our company would rejoice still more if we could be reinstated in the old 3rd Regt.

Charley Varnum has started I dont know when Q. M Davis will leave but I will have this ready. . . .

Good bye love and dont forget. Will send the check by bearer of this, C Varnum

Your Husband

P. S. . . Our Regt has been changed and may be again so direct 5th Kansas, Genl Curtis Army

Aug. 7th The Q. M. was not willing to carry the money and I have bot a check which you can keep with more safety than the money itself. Let me know at once when you get it.

J. H. T.

HELENA SEPT. 7TH 1862

My DEAR WIFE

We are having a very little rain this afternoon, the first we have had for about six weeks. I dont feel in good frame of mind at all. I am sick. Lt. M[orse] is sick, lots of the men are yet sick, the regiment is badly managed. Major Walker²⁵ improves backward as he goes up, showing that he is much better as a Captain than acting the part of a Col. as he has been trying to do since Lt. Col. Jenkins went home to see his family. We have always been in bad odor in this army. The Missouri Repub hates all Kansas troops and the bulk of this army read and admire the Repub Walker is likely to increase this distaste at Head Quarters. We are not now surprised that Robi[n]son should send Walker here. He was our only hope for the salvation of the Regiment. That hope is gone and we are gloomy. I cant make up my mind to leave the boys and yet I believe that to remain in this regiment and in this army so much dissatisfied, and the debilitating effects of this climate operating upon me I shall never get well. .

I dont regard the news we get of our army in Virginia retreating, as alarming. The rebels will likely take Washington yet. It will probably have to come to that before the men in power and the

25. Samuel Walker of Lawrence had been an active Free-State partisan since 1855, when he settled in Douglas county. In that year a local militia company called the Bloomington Guards was organized, with Walker as first sergeant. In 1856 he was elected colonel of the Fourth Kansas cavalry, participating in the siege of Lawrence and the capture of Fort Titus, and in the same year was a member of the house of representatives under the Topeka constitution. In June, 1861, he was mustered as captain of Company F, First Kansas Volunteer infantry, and received his promotion to major, Fifth Kansas cavalry, on May 24, 1862. On October 29, 1864, he was again promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, and was mustered out with that regiment on December 6, 1865. He was brevetted brigadier general of volunteers in the campaign against the Sioux Indians in 1866. —Ibid., pp. 41, 125, 534; W. E. Connelley, op. cit., v. 3, p. 1223.





KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

308

pro-slavery men in the north who put them there, will understand and be willing that the war on our part must be carried on as the south is carrying on their war, and if we get whipped that we will all have to bid goodbye to freedom. The south understand that if they can effectually destroy the government they can rule us afterwards. There is no better evidence, perhaps, of the weakness of our government than the great number of northern journals that are faulting the President, and the constant changes that are being made in the Military commands or departments. England and France too seem to be very successful in their efforts to keep up the war to the end that the country may be ruined.

It is now too dark for me to write more this evening. I cannot see to write by candle light so will defer the matter until the 8th.

It is cloudy this morning and not near so sultry as it has been for some days past. Lt. Morse went this morning to see if he can get a leave of absence for a few weeks, to enable him to regain his health. When we were on our way down here he had a serious fall, horse and all, in giving chase to one of the parties of guerillas we met near Salem, the effects of which, he has felt ever since and for a month past he has been growing much worse, not able to be up but very little during the day. . . .

I shall not now see home again before frost has destroyed everything, perhaps not before another Spring opens them out again, because much fighting must necessarily be done this coming winter and we are likely to be called upon to do our full share. The probabilities are that we will have to leave this point soon or be surrounded in which case we will have to fight our way out if we can.

The gun boats have ben canonading heavy between 12 and 1 o'clock today; dont know what it was for. . . . Day before yesterday one gun boat and four transports went down, on their way to Vicksburg. the transports had on board four thousand five hundred rebel prisoners from Camp Douglass Ill.

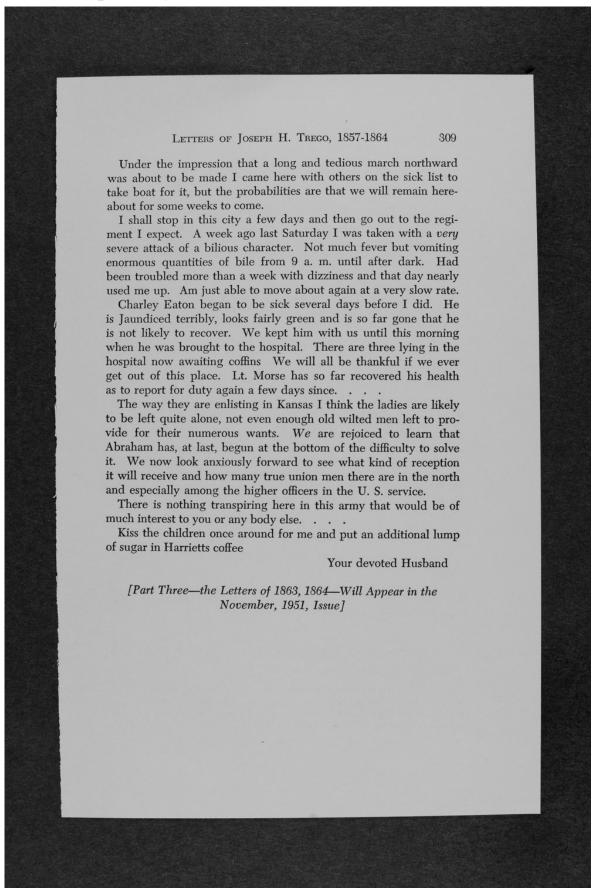
With much love to you and children I am your H

HELEANA ARK. SEPT. 30TH 62

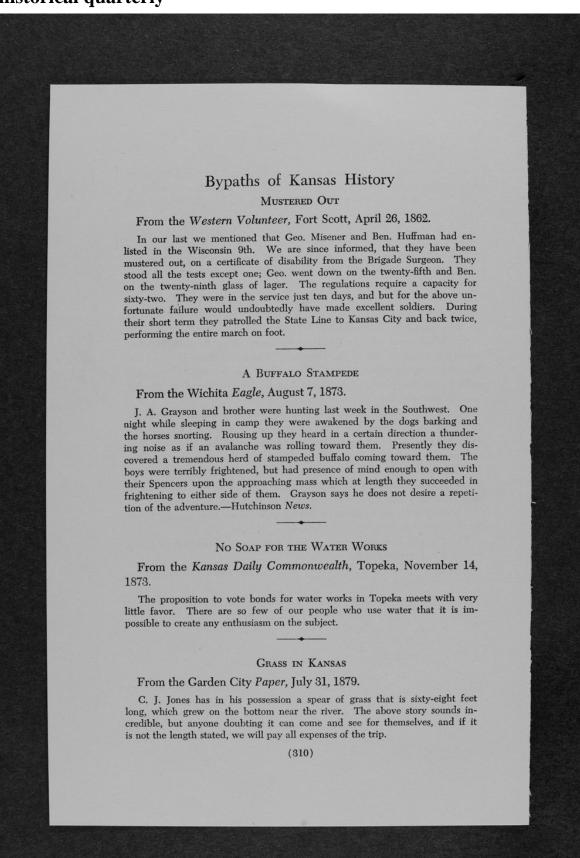
My DEAR WIFE

To-day our regiment left the river bank and moved eight miles into the country. It was expected that the move would be much farther, the common talk and the preparations together would seem to indicate an extensive move.

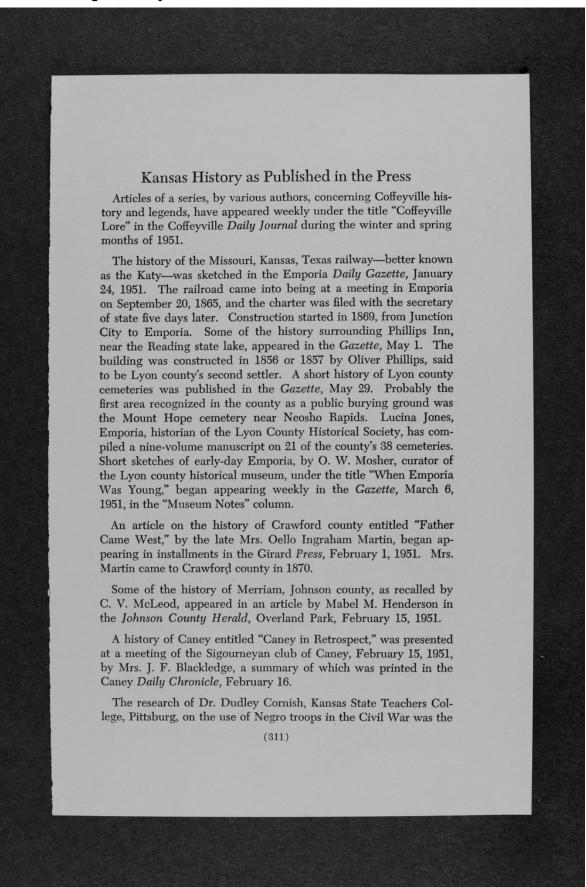




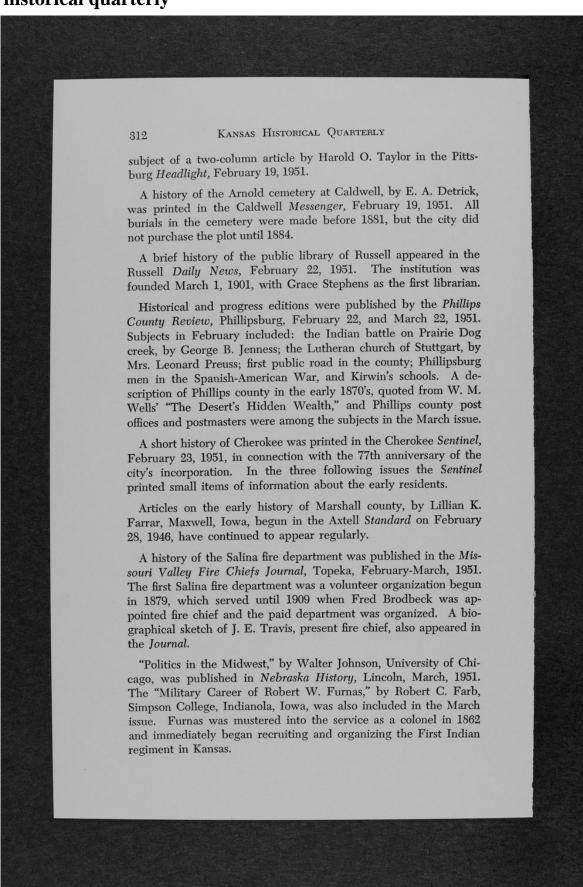














Kansas historical quarterly



KANSAS HISTORY IN THE PRESS

313

Among articles in the Bulletin of the Shawnee County Historical Society, Topeka, March, 1951, were: Pt. IV of Russell K. Hickman's "The First Congregational Church of Topeka"; "Reminiscences of Mrs. E. F. Ritchie"; "Topeka in 1877," including a drawing of a bird's-eye view; "Felitz' Island [in the Kaw river]"; "The Generous Ichabod [Washburn]," by John Daniel Bright; the 11th and last installment of W. W. Cone's Shawnee county history; "Topeka Fetes Royalty," the visit of Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, to Topeka, by William Frank Zornow, and an installment of George A. Root's "Chronology of Shawnee County."

"Kansas Weather-1950," by R. A. Garrett, was published in the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, Lawrence, March, 1951. Robert Taft's editorial, which was reprinted in pamphlet form, concerned Asa Gray's ascent of Gray's Peak in 1872.

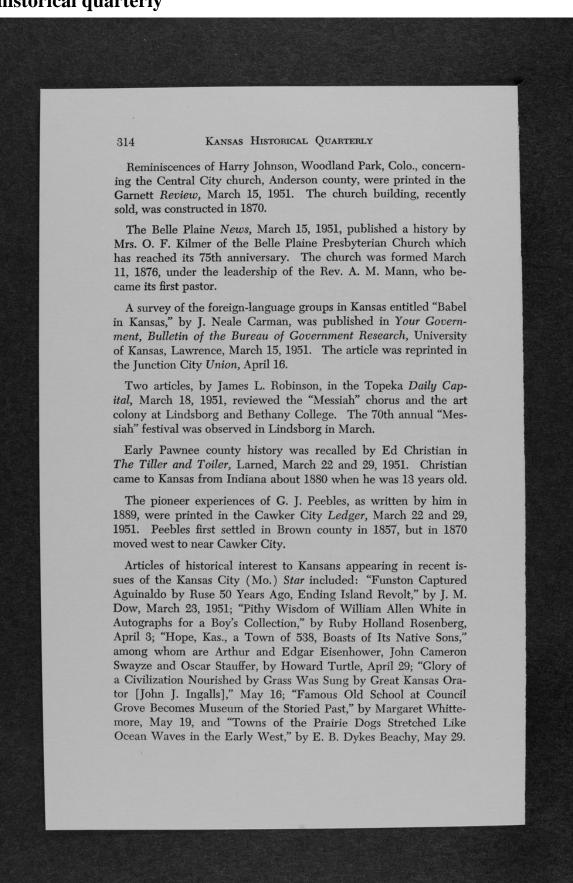
The Sedan Times-Star, March 1, 1951, printed an article on the M. V. Floyd family, who came to Kansas in 1870. In 1872 the family settled in Howard (now Chautauqua) county where they built a log cabin which, until it was torn down recently, was one of the oldest and best known landmarks of the county.

Among recent articles of a historical nature in the Hays Daily News were: "Catherine Parishioners Carry Original Colony Cross Today," some of the religious history of the Russian colony of Catharinenstadt, March 4, 1951, and "Names of Signers of Petition for College at Hays Uncovered," April 22.

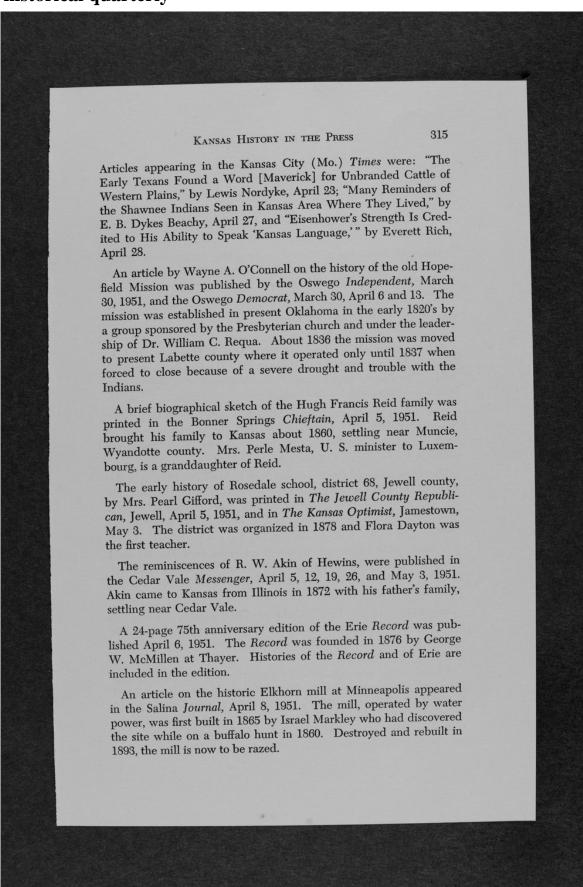
A history of the Russell county 4-H program, now 24 years old, by Gale Mullen, county 4-H agent, was published in the Russell Record, March 5 and 8, 1951. On April 9 the Record printed a historical sketch of Russell county. The Russell Daily News, May 23, published a special 60-page edition, and the Record, May 24, one of 34 pages, in celebration of Russell's 80th anniversary. Included in the editions were histories of Russell county and city, other towns in Russell county, and industries and institutions of the county. Russell was founded in May, 1871, by a group from Wisconsin, and incorporated the following year.

The Cowley county militia of 1874 and the James and Dalton gangs were the subjects of Walter Hutchison's column, "Folks Hereabouts," in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler, March 12 and April 6, 1951, respectively.

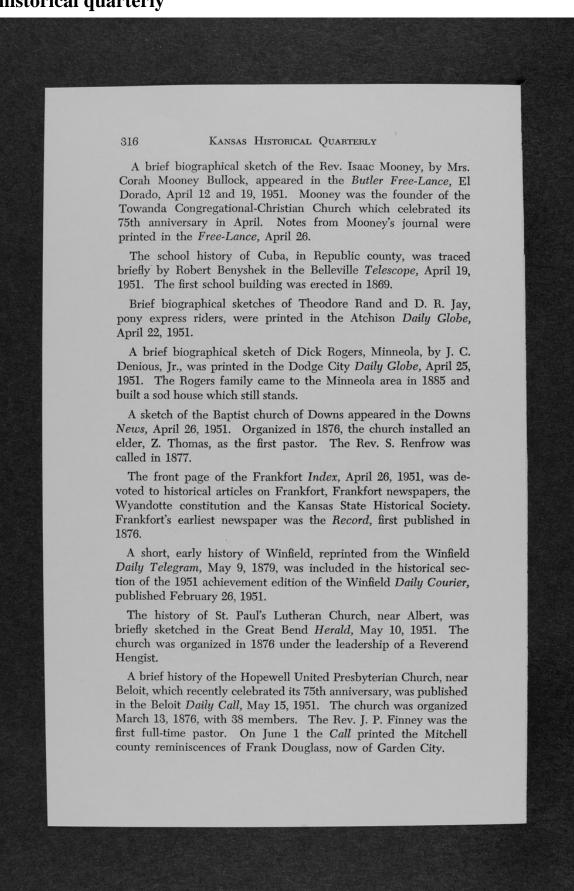




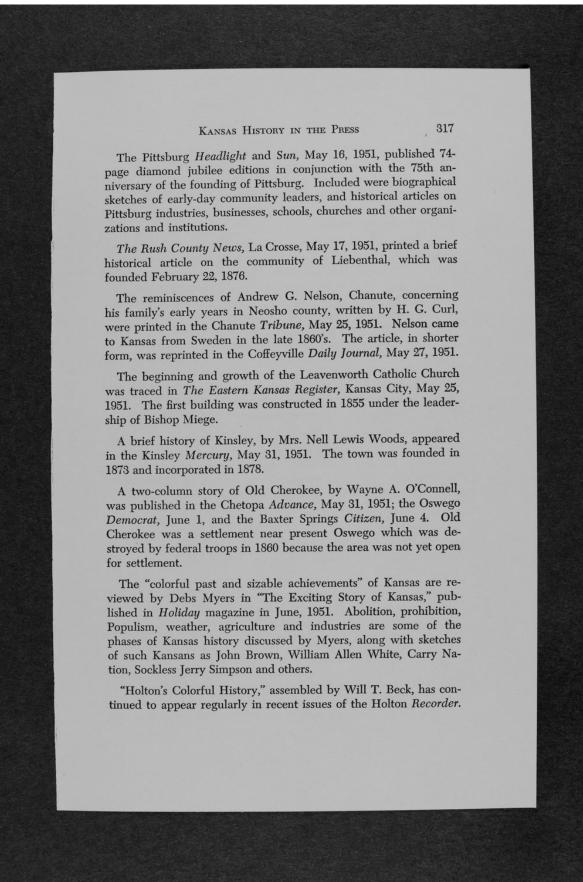




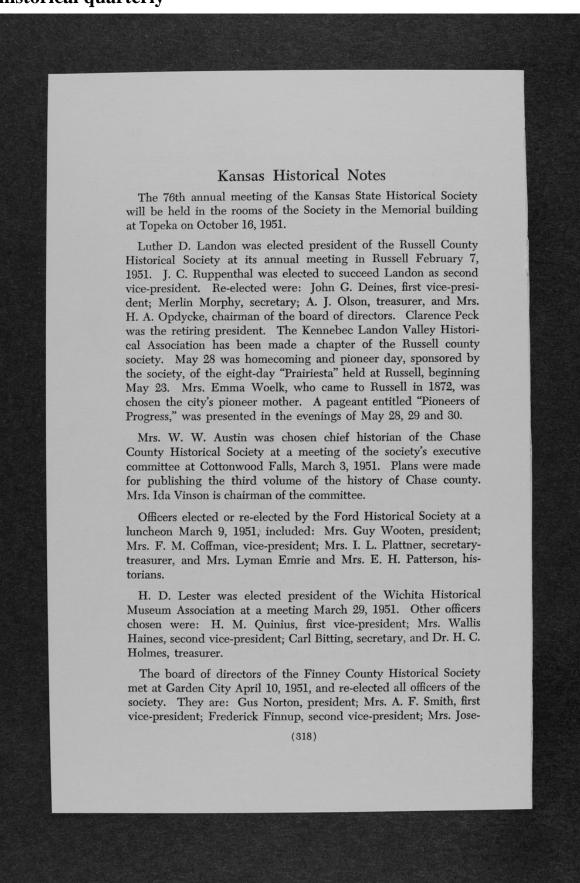




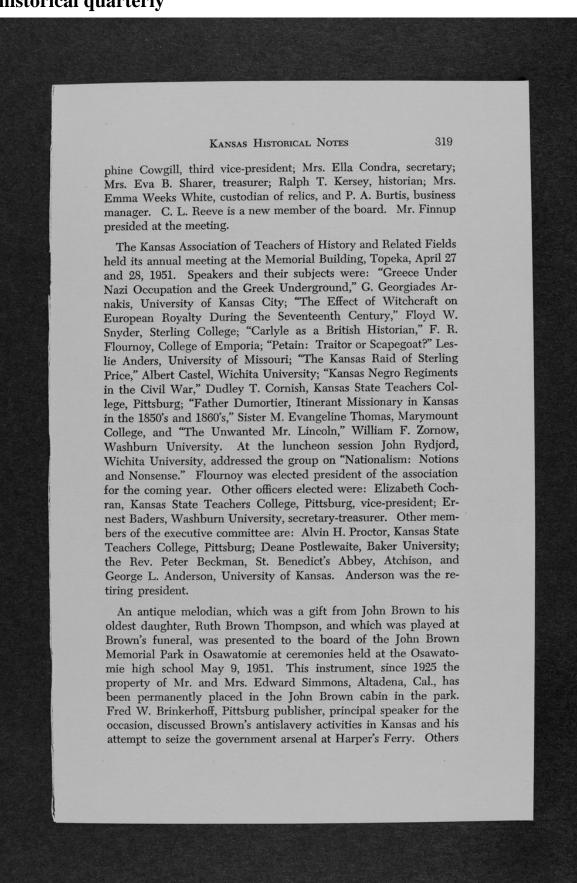




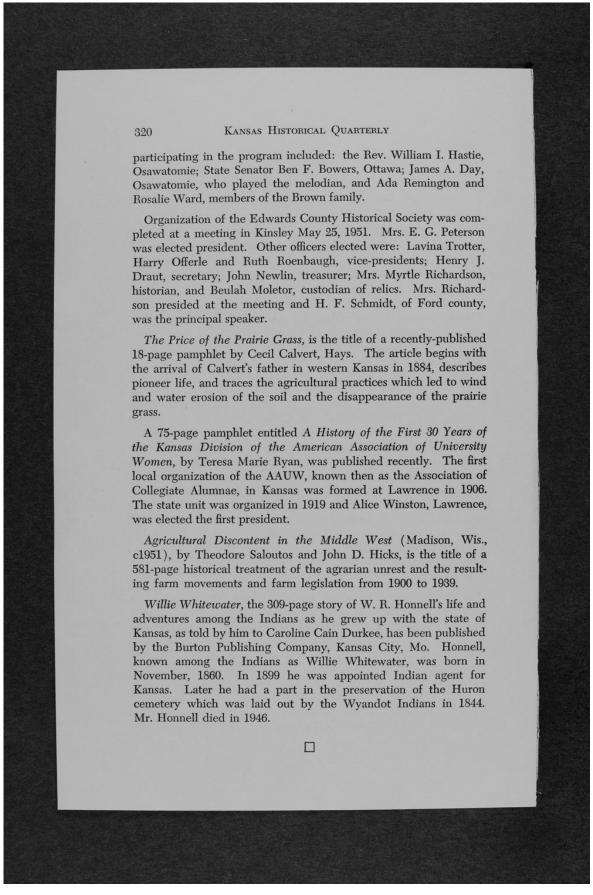












KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

