

Kansas historical quarterly

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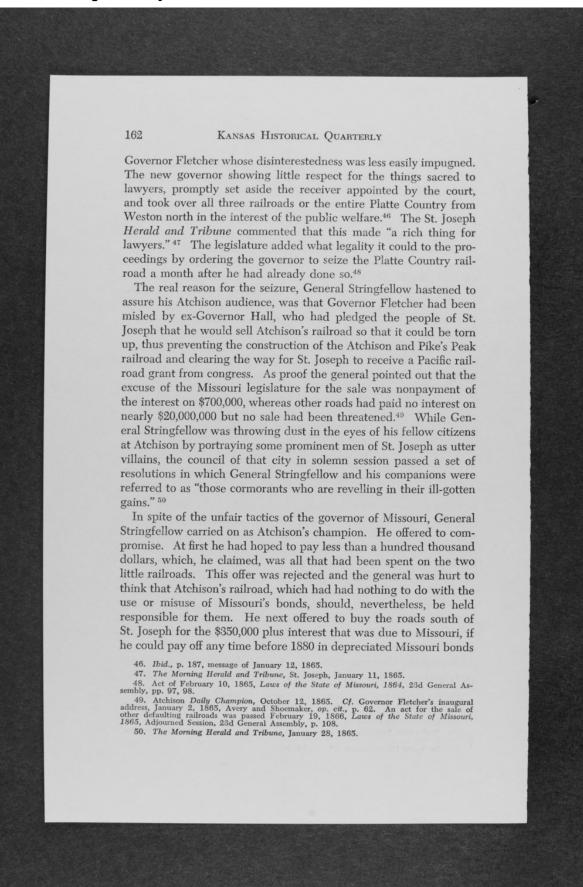
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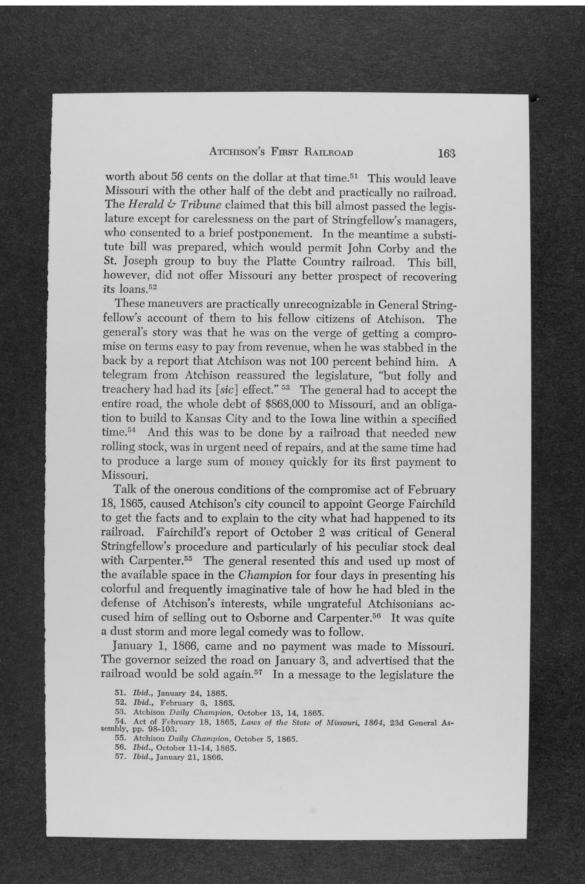
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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

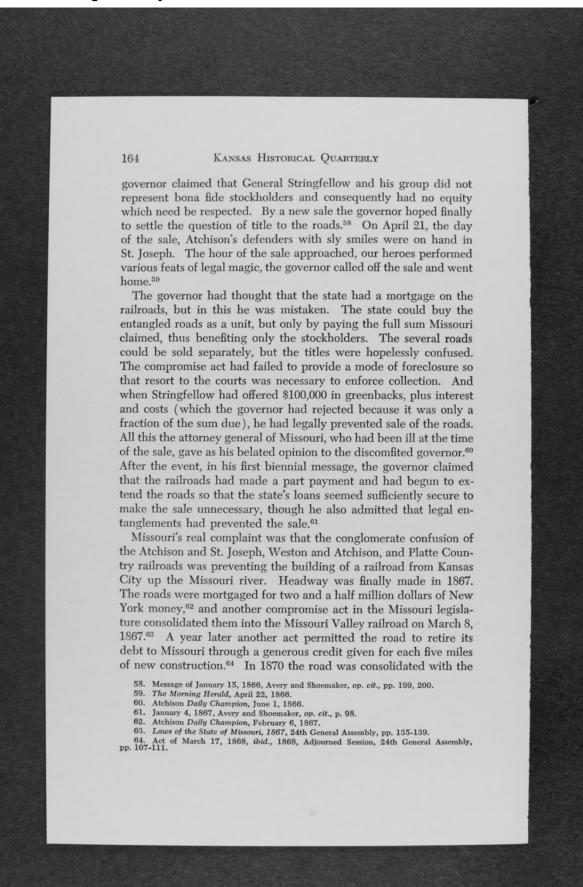




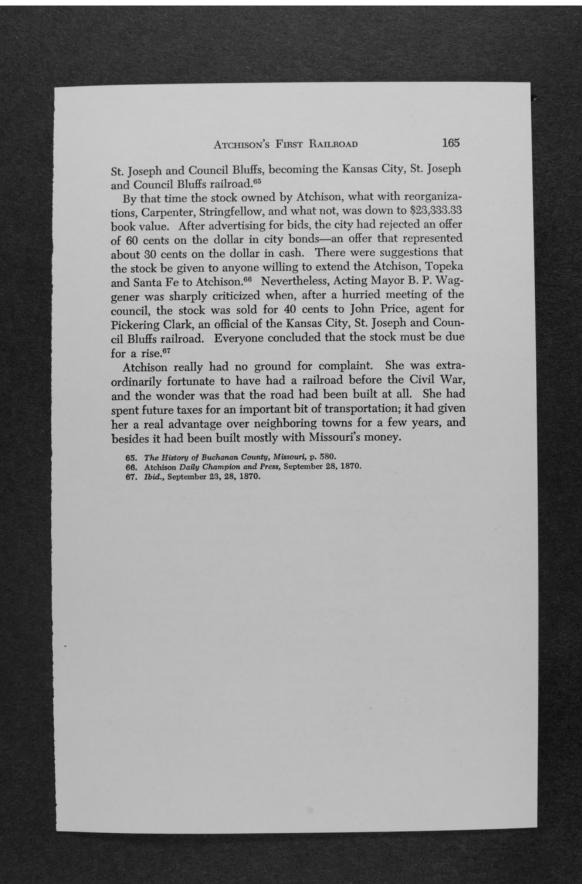




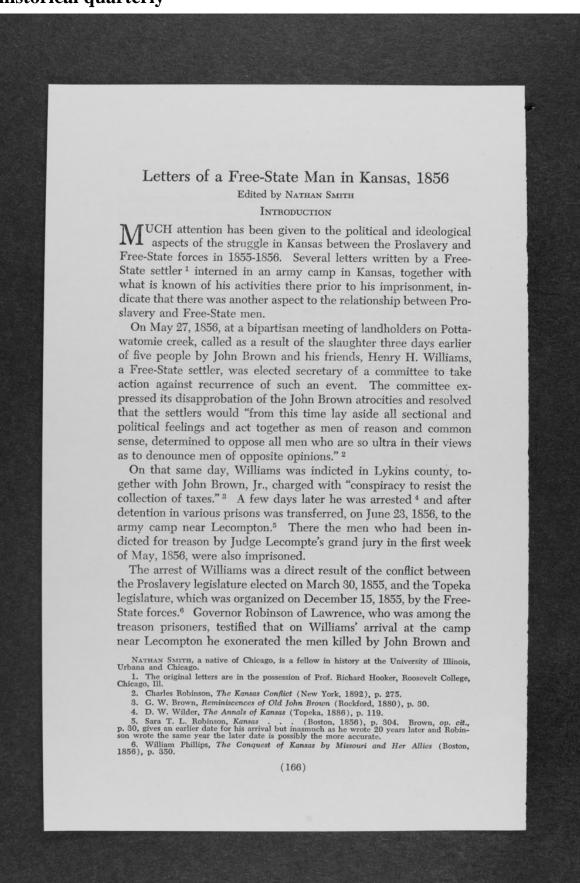




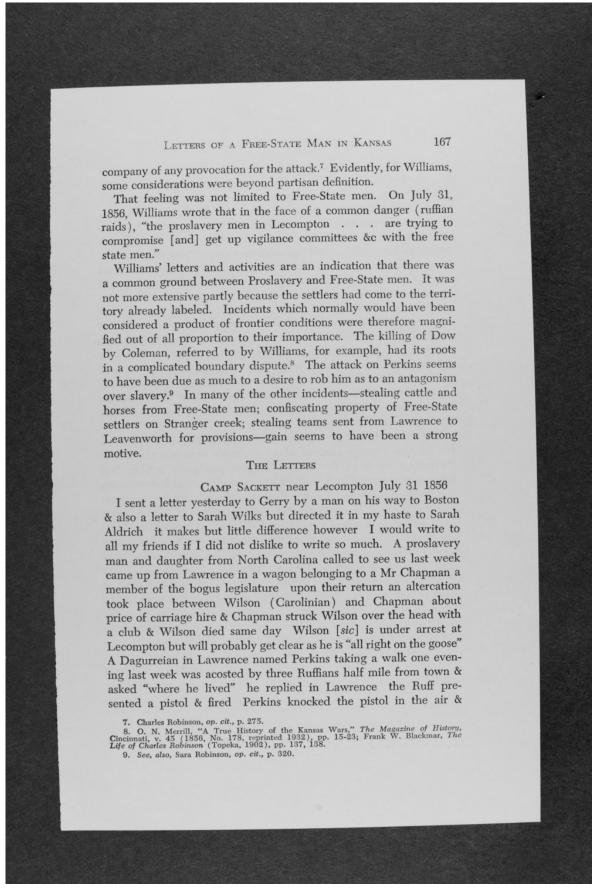




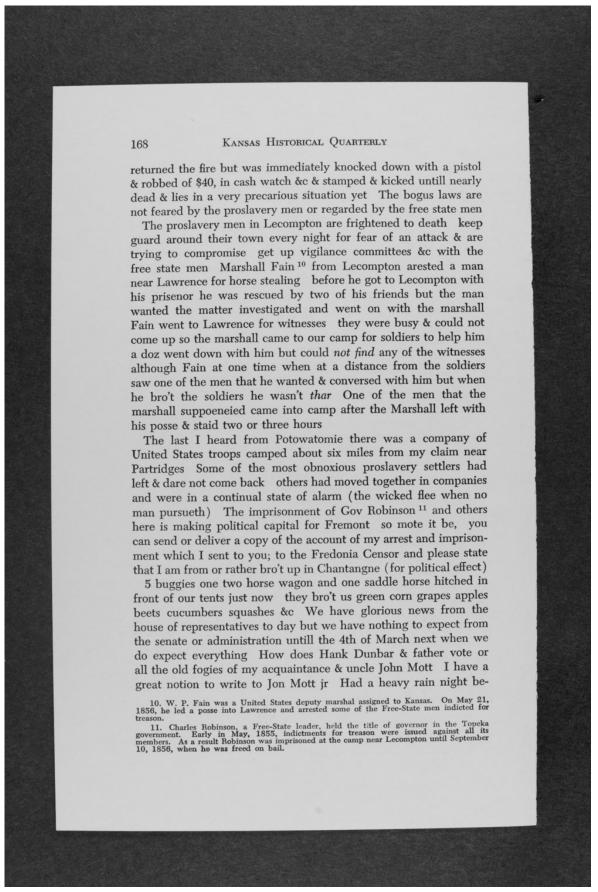




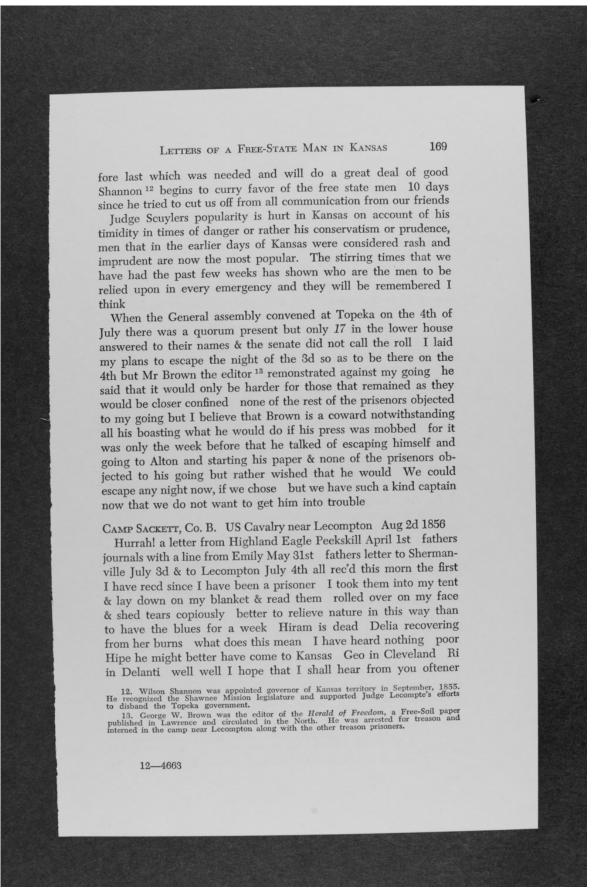




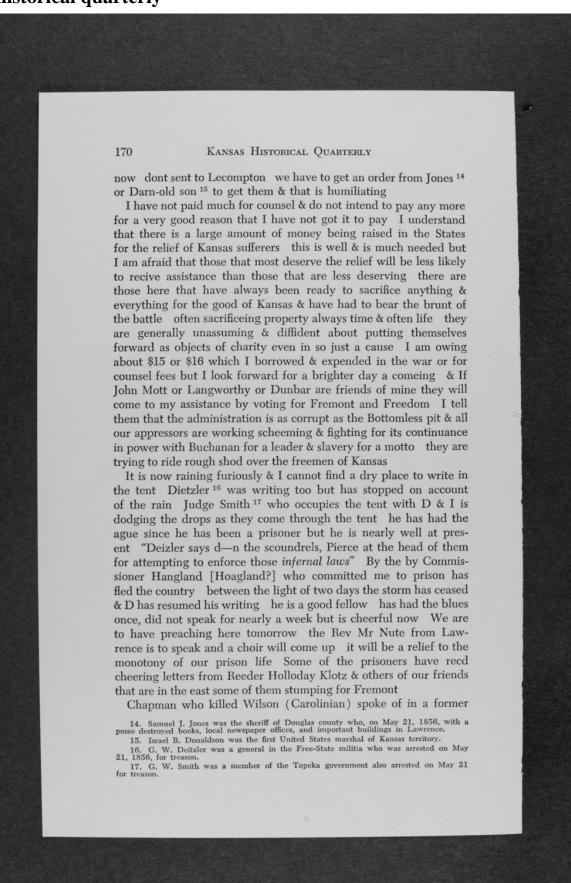




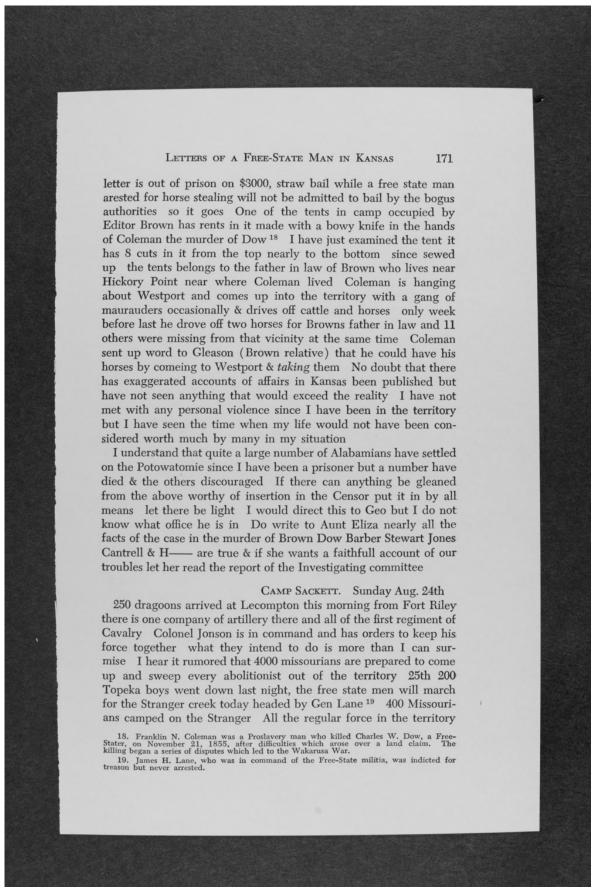
















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is here now 500 or 600 under the command of Col Cook ²⁰ what they are all concentrating here for I can't conceive The mob on the Stranger has drove all the free state settlers off and confiscated

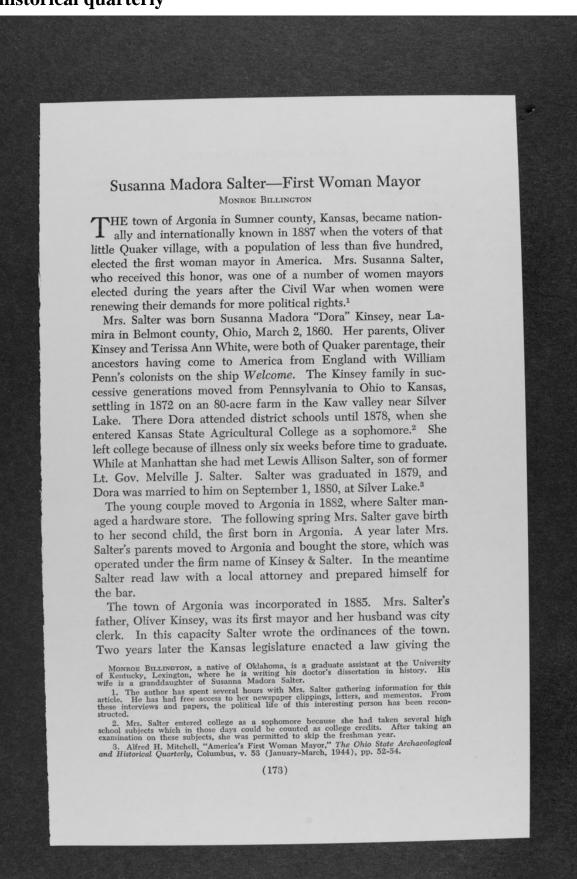
26th Mirable Dictu I've got a letter at last fathers and sisters of Aug 16th arrived last eve it seems that the Border Ruffians are not to blame for my not receiving any before why the dickens dont you write more I want you to keep the Censors that you say have published my letters and when I get out please foreward them or you can send them right along now to Lawrence because if I am not here when they arrive I can get them Letters papers and visits of a few friends is all we have to relieve the tedium of our confinement now the usual restrictions of Military prisoners is put upon us now we can't stir without a guard at our heels & the free state men are so busily engaged with the affairs of the territory that we have but few visitors Havn't heard from the telegraph operator yet

I see that Pierce has called an extra session of Congress but I don't believe that Pierce or the Senate will do anything for Kansas the most that I can hope for is that the House will "stand up to the rack fodder or no fodder" Amos Lawrence 21 had donated \$50 to each of the prisoners and Simpson of Lawrence 22 advanced me \$20 this morning for him 27th I understand that the Missourians will not be disturbed for the present on the Stranger though it is impossible for me to tell what will or may take place any hour the free state forces continue under arms for the present 28th 6 teams that went from Lawrence to Leavenworth for provisions were taken by the borderers yesterday in Leavenworth and one of the teamsters shot

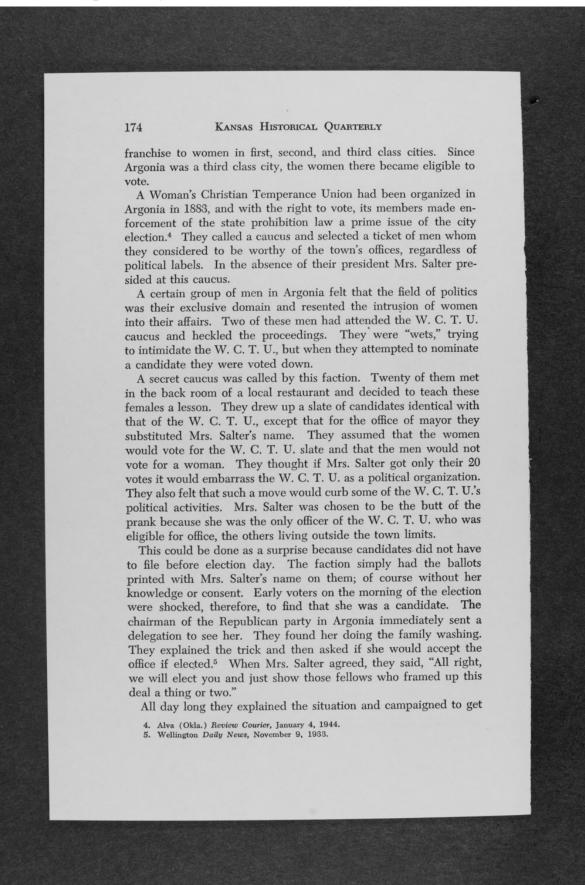
Three companies of dragoon just gone towards Lawrence I expect that it is to arest Lane a committee just waited on Col Cook to see if he would send a force to Leavenworth to recover the teams says that he has no authority to act unless called upon by the civil authorities I got letters from Westchester and papers but nothing from home or Clev

Brev. Col. Phillip St. George Cooke commanded the federal troops at Fort Riley.
 Amos A. Lawrence of Boston was a strong supporter and treasurer of the New England Emigrant Aid Company.
 S. N. Simpson was one of the delegates to the Free-State territorial convention held in Lawrence on June 25, 1855.

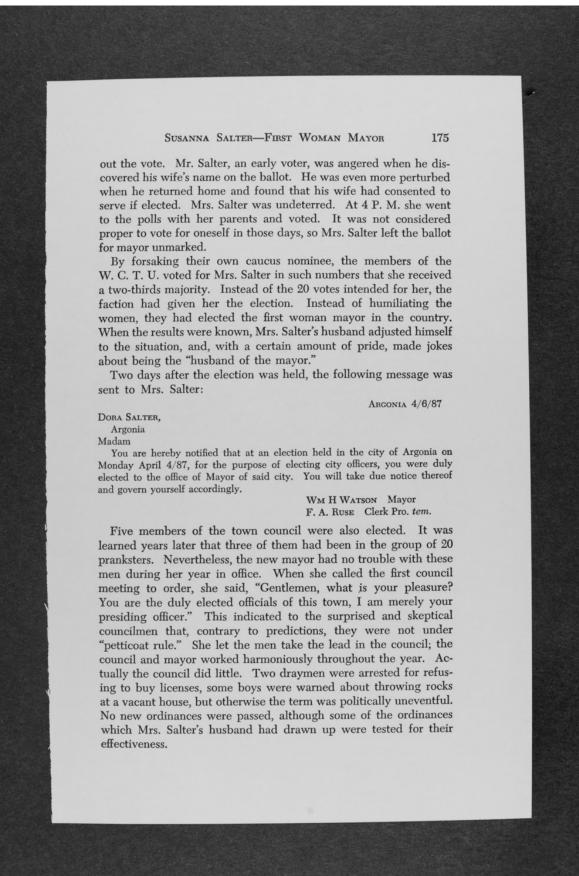




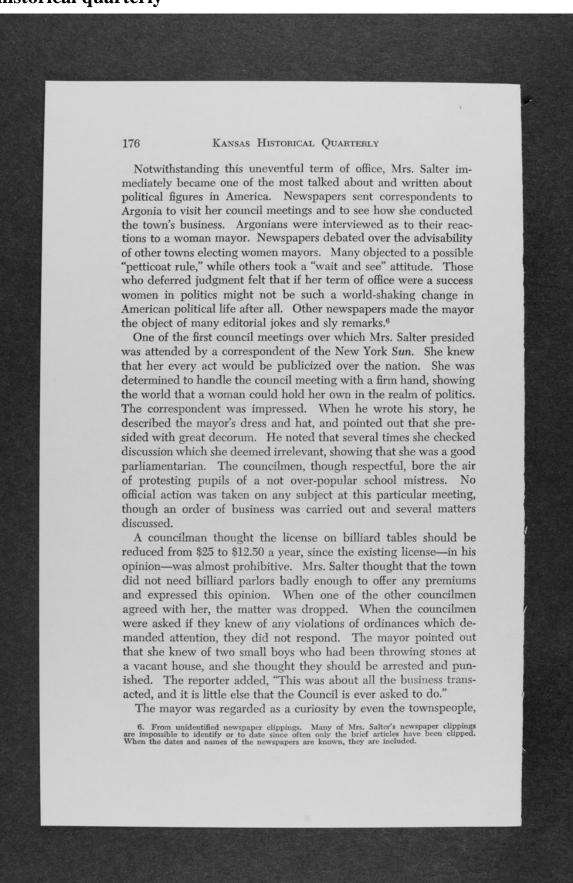




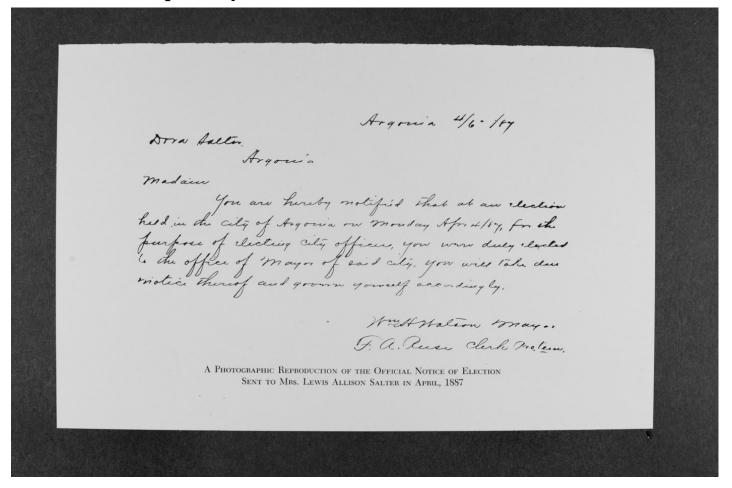








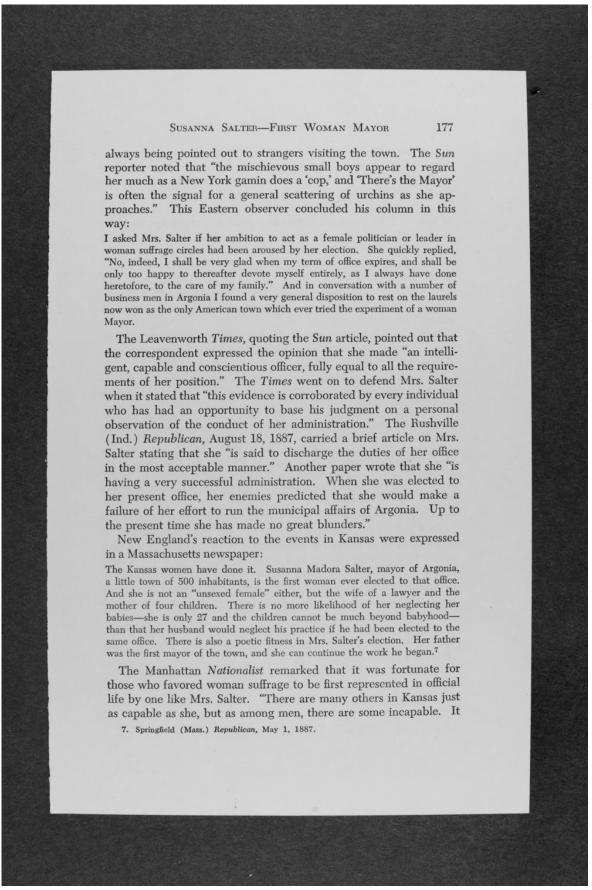




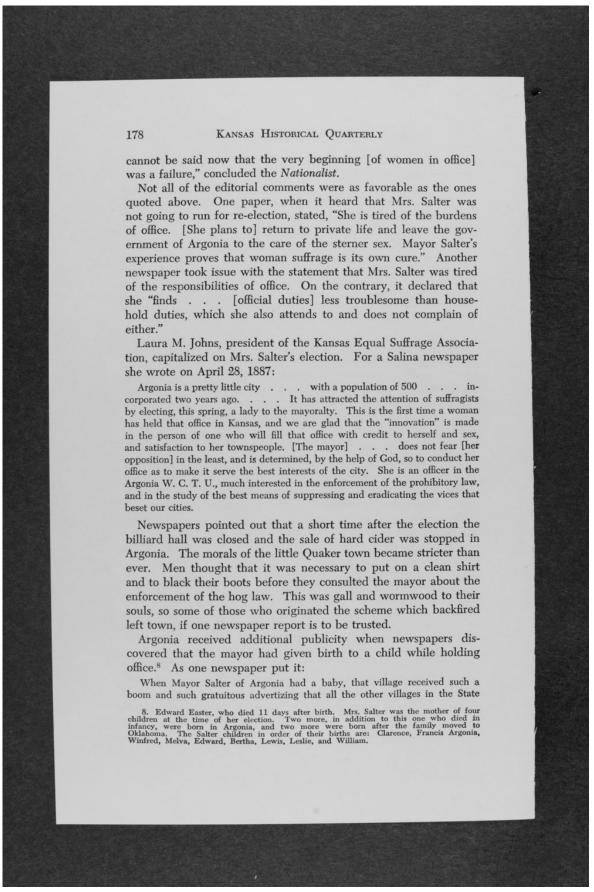




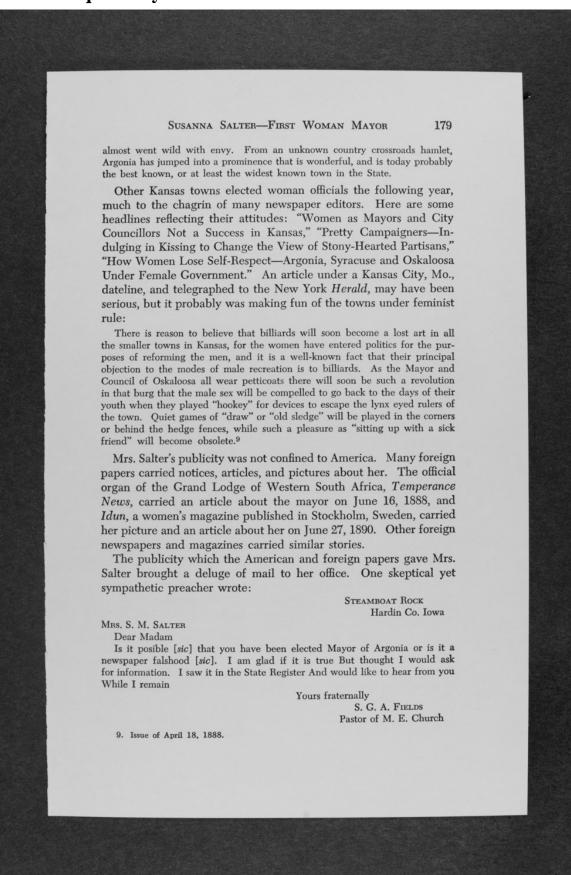




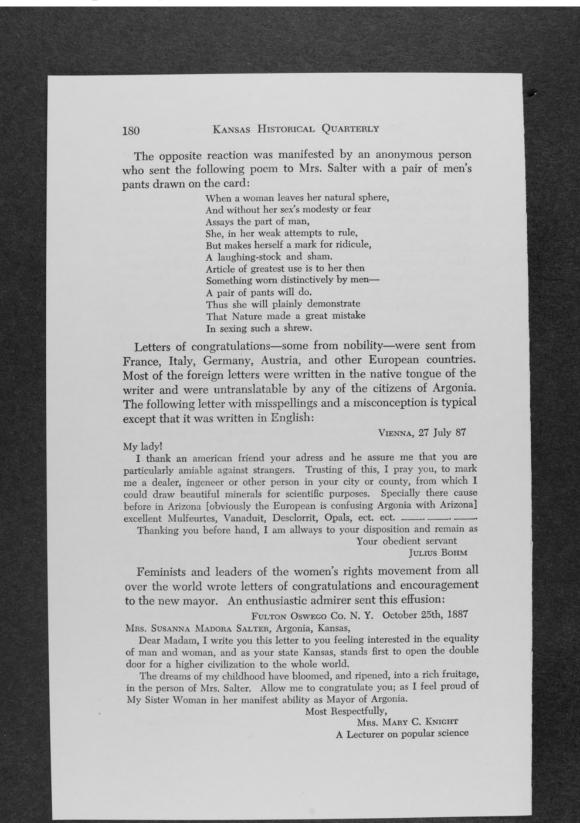
















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SUSANNA SALTER—FIRST WOMAN MAYOR

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Perhaps the most famous person writing a letter to the new mayor was Frances E. Willard, the vigorous advocate of woman's rights and outstanding national leader of the W. C. T. U. The following letter Mrs. Salter cherishes as one of her prized possessions:

EVANSTON, ILL. Aug. 18, 1887

HON. MRS. S. SALTER,

Mayor of Argonia Kansas,

Dear Friend,

I am sending you some of our documents and publications and I wish you would write me (on your official heading) a note that I can read to audiences, showing the good of woman's ballot as a temperance weapon and the advantage of women in office.

With best wishes to the "Best Mayor," I am

Yours sincerely, FRANCES E. WILLARD

Mrs. Salter, of course, had no money allotted to her for official stationery. In fact, her salary for the year was only one dollar. She spent many times her salary in just answering part of her "fan mail" while she was in office.

Equal suffrage was no small or inconsequential movement, but one in which its advocates worked militantly and tirelessly. Except for financial limits, their enthusiasm knew no bounds. The following letter from the president of the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association shows the enthusiasm of the suffrage movement in America at the time Mrs. Salter was elected mayor:

SALINA KAN. 7/23 1887

DEAR MRS. SALTER

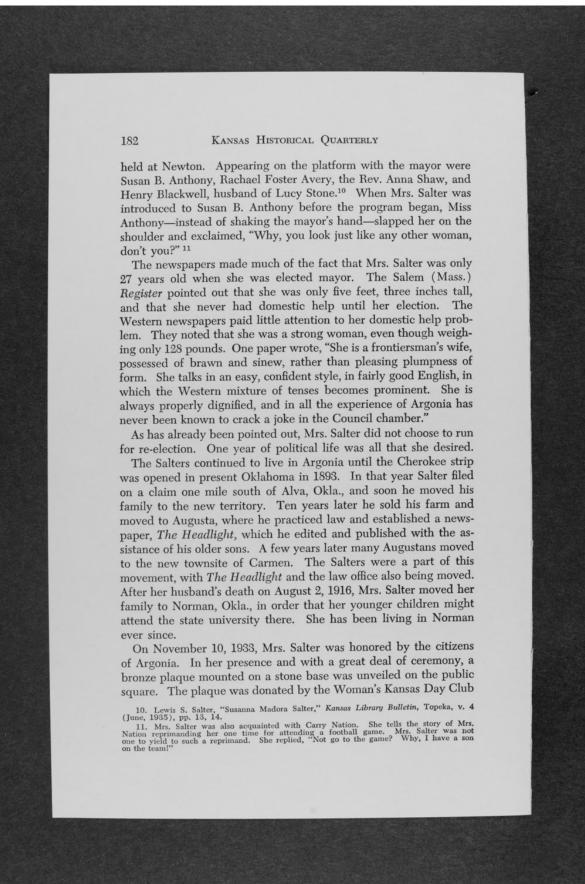
. . How big is Argonia? If I were to bring speakers there, do you think collections could be taken sufficient to pay expenses? I would like to see an Equal Suffrage organization in Argonia. We are going into work for an amendment to our State Constitution, and we must be organized. To raise money to pay the expenses of organizing where the suffragists are not strong enough to do it all, we are taking part in the Boston Bazaar and it is suggested that you send as many of your Photos as you can afford to that Bazaar. We think they will sell readily and net us quite a handsome little sum. And if your lady photographer is a good suffragist (and I hope she is) she ought to "go halvers" with you, as the boys say, and that would be yours and hers—a joint contribution. What do you think . . .? Why, my dear, you don't know what a prominent figure you are in history, and I just hope you are getting along as well as you can wish to.

I am coming down there to speak as soon as I can arrange my awful load of other business. . . .

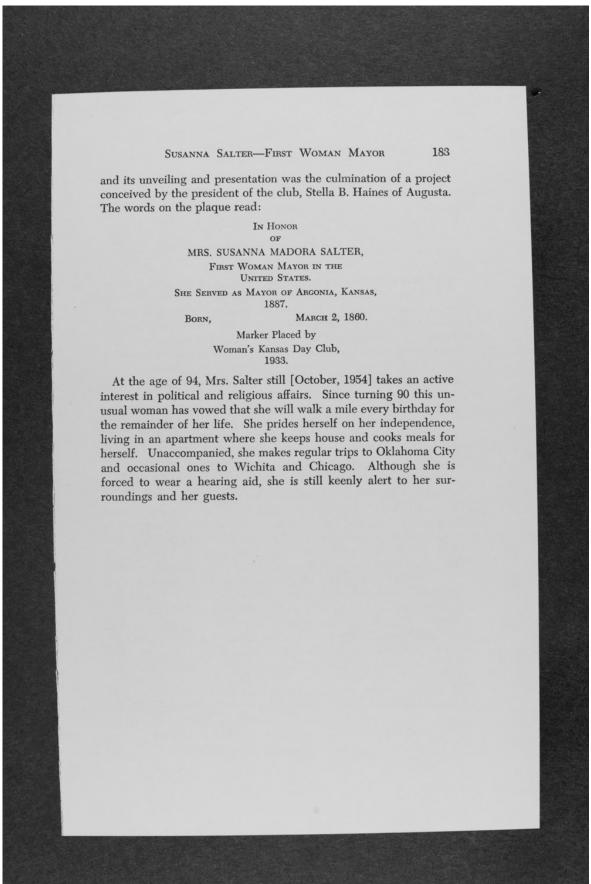
Yours very cordially LAURA M JOHNS.

In the fall of 1887 Mrs. Johns invited Mrs. Salter to speak at the Kansas Women's Equal Suffrage Association's convention to be











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Notes on the Writing of General Histories of Kansas

JAMES C. MALIN

PART ONE: THE SETTING OF THE STAGE

INTRODUCTION: DEFINITIONS

WHEN one refers to a history of Kansas, or of any other subject, the term "a history" suggests to most people a historical work in the form of a book. But for such purposes, as well as for the present article, a definition of the two terms, "book" and "general history" is necessary, and some consideration must be given to their relations to each other. Many books were written about Kansas that do not qualify, properly, as histories, even though their titles offered them to the public as histories, and they contained historical material. In order to qualify as a general history of Kansas, the primary purpose of the work must be a history of the territory and of the state as a whole, or of some substantial period of time. In that sense the history of a particular aspect or institution would not qualify as a general history of Kansas. The question may be raised also whether a history must necessarily be in book form. The answer is no.

The last question suggests other problems of definition. What is a book? What determines whether or not a publication is a book? The number of pages, or the binding, or both? Books may be bound in boards or in paper, according to the custom of the country, or as a matter of cost or convenience. The United States post office defines a book as any publication "containing 24 pages or more, at least 22 of which are printed and consisting wholly of reading matter . . . and containing no advertising matter other than incidental announcements of books." Obviously, any definition is arbitrary, but the important thing is that it must have meaning that enables people to understand each other. For present purposes, a book is any publication "containing 24 pages or more, at least 22 of which are printed . . ." regardless of the binding.

BOOKS ABOUT KANSAS, 1854-1860

A large number of early books about Kansas, as distinct from histories of Kansas, were published during the territorial period, and are necessary to any study of the beginnings of the writing of the history of Kansas. Without any pretense of absolute completeness,

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