

Kansas historical quarterly

Section 34, Pages 991 - 1020

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



The Vegetarian and Octagon Settlement Companies

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THE American frontier has always been a fertile field for experiment in social reform. From the time the "otherwise-minded" enrolled under the standard of Roger Williams in Rhode Island until the disappearance of the frontier toward the close of the nineteenth century, the vacant lands to the westward gave new hopes to those who wished to found a new society. Cheap land was a great boon to those unemployed or not financially prosperous in the East, while those who were merely discontented could always try a "new deal" in the West. In a period of incubation of varicolored social theories the frontier served both as a safety-valve for the East and as a convenient laboratory to put theory into actual practice, qualities which a more established and crystallized society would have lacked.¹

Vegetarianism dates back as far as the ancient religion of Hindustan, and was advocated by Plato, Plutarch and other writers of classical times. In Great Britain George Cheyne (1671-1743) was one of the earliest pioneers of the movement, publishing his *Essay on Regimen* in 1740. In 1811 appeared J. F. Newton's *Return to Nature, or Defense of Vegetable Regimen*, and in 1847 the Vegetarian Society was founded at Manchester. Eduard Baltzer (1818-1887) was an early German pioneer, forming a vegetarian society at Nordhausen in 1868. Sylvester Graham (1794-1851), Charles Lane and Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888) were leaders of the early movement in the United States. In 1889 the Vegetarian Federal Union was formed, an international federation of vegetarian organizations.²

Vegetarianism in the United States was one of the many changes proposed in the reform movement of the thirties. Numerous co-operative communities sprang up, inspired largely by a hatred of industrialism, and a determination to return to more simple modes of life.³ In the movement for reform of the American diet, opposing its over-emphasis on meat and heavy foods, Sylvester Graham was a leader. In 1830 he was named general agent of the Pennsylvania Temperance Society. He studied human physiology, diet, and

1. Arthur Meier Schlesinger, in his *New Viewpoints in American History* (New York, 1926), p. 215, appropriately quotes Lowell's essay on Thoreau, "Every possible form of intellectual and physical dyspepsia brought forth its gospel." Even bran had its prophets, and hooks and eyes their champions as a substitute for buttons.

2. *Encyclopedia Americana*, v. 27 (New York, Chicago, 1923), p. 720.

3. *Dictionary of American Biography*, v. I (New York, 1925), p. 139.



regimen during a period of lecturing, and in 1830-1831 delivered lectures on these subjects in Philadelphia and New York, and later up and down the Atlantic coast. Graham advocated the use of bread at least twelve hours old, baked from whole wheat unbolted and coarsely ground. He also proposed hard mattresses, open bedroom windows, cold shower baths, vegetables, fresh fruits, rough cereals, pure drinking water, and cheerfulness at meals. Graham believed that all meats are less wholesome for humans than fruits, grain and vegetables, that all condiments except salt should be avoided, and that tea and coffee, as well as alcohol, deserve to be shunned. Emerson dubbed him the "poet of bran bread and pumpkins."⁴ Yet despite all opposition, Graham flour appeared everywhere, and Graham boarding houses and restaurants sprang up. A few years later, the famous transcendentalist and educational reformer, Amos Bronson Alcott, proposed a coöperative vegetarian colony. Alcott was a reformer par excellence, and was constantly in attendance at reform meetings—anti-slavery, vegetarian, and temperance. During the winter of 1843-1844 Alcott, with the coöperation of Henry Wright, Charles Lane and his son William, worked out a plan for Fruitlands, a coöperative vegetarian community. Lane invested his entire savings in a tract near the village of Harvard, Mass., and in June, 1844, the party moved to this location.⁵ Their organization was based on strictly vegetarian principles—no flesh, fish, fowl, eggs, milk, cheese or butter. The experiment was so radical that even the labor of horses was dispensed with, and only the "aspiring" vegetables (those growing above ground) were eaten. Unfortunately the crops were carelessly planted, and at harvest time the men left to attend reform meetings. Mrs. Alcott and daughters salvaged what was possible, but by winter the Lanes and Alcotts were the sole remaining members of the community and were on the verge of starvation. In January of the next year the experiment was abandoned.⁶ In the later movement in this country Henry S. Clubb (1827-19—?) was a leader. Clubb gave his philosophy a wide currency in his later years, as president of the Vegetarian Society of America (late 19th and early 20th centuries). He regarded vegetarianism as based upon Scriptural authority; the early

⁴ *Ibid.*, v. 7 (New York, 1931), pp. 479-80. Also the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, quoted in *The Vegetarian and Our Fellow Creatures*, September, 1902. *The Graham Journal of Health and Longevity* appeared in the late thirties (David Campbell, editor), and in 1839 Graham published his most ambitious work, *Lectures on the Science of Human Life* (2 vols., 1858). Horace Greeley was a follower of Graham.

⁵ Lane wrote *A Brief Practical Essay on the Vegetable Diet* (1847).

⁶ *Dictionary of American Biography*, v. 1, pp. 139-140. There is a very good account here of Alcott's many reform theories. Fruitlands never numbered over eleven individuals.



Christian church he believed to have been vegetarian, but considered it corrupted by Constantine.⁷ Clubb, in particular, favored suburban gardens and the colonization of vegetarians, as well as undenominational schools and colleges, "away from the contamination of flesh, alcohol, and social vices. . . ."⁸

The Vegetarian Kansas Emigration Company was projected by Henry S. Clubb in 1855, to establish a permanent home for vegetarians. It was hoped to bring together vegetarians of common interests and aims; otherwise they, "solitary and alone in their vegetarian practice, might sink into flesh-eating habits."⁹ The first meeting of the company was held in New York on May 16, 1855. The joint-stock principle was adopted, with the aim of thereby obtaining the advantages of civilization for the settlers, including agricultural implements and mills. Charles H. DeWolfe, of Philadelphia, gentleman, was made president. At the first meeting forty-seven signed an agreement to emigrate, and twenty-six more indicated that they would probably go, along with relatives and friends. Their individual capital varied, it was reported, from \$50 to \$10,000.¹⁰ Dr. John McLauren was sent to Kansas to make a favorable location for the colony, and appeared before the company in January, 1856, advocating an octagon settlement near Fort Scott, on the Neosho river. The organization of the company was then completed by the adoption of a constitution, the preamble of which provided:

"WHEREAS, The practice of vegetarian diet is best adapted to the development of the highest and noblest principles of human nature, and the use of the flesh of animals for food tends to the physical, moral, and intellectual injury of mankind, and it is desirable that those person who believe in the vegetarian principle should have every opportunity to live in accordance therewith, and should unite in the formation of a company for the permanent establishment, in some portion of this country, of a home where the slaughter of animals for food shall be prohibited, and where the principle of the vegetarian diet can be fairly and fully tested, so as to demonstrate its advantages, . . ."¹¹

7. *The Vegetarian Magazine*, November, 1897. Other leaders of the movement, near the turn of the century, include Dr. J. H. Kellogg, of Battle Creek, the elder La Follette, and Clarence Darrow of Chicago. The Seventh Day Adventists have espoused vegetarianism.

8. *Ibid.*, February, 1900, p. 12. Concerning colonization, see below.

9. Henry S. Clubb, in *Water-Cure Journal*, clipped in the *Lawrence Herald of Freedom*, April 28, 1855.

10. *Life Illustrated* of June 2, 1855. Quoted in *Herald of Freedom* of August 11. In September of that year it was reported that 4,000 shares had been sold. To encourage sales, the first payment was put as low as ten cents, and persons with no capital were advised they could pay for their shares with labor.

11. Frank W. Blackmar, *Kansas, A Cyclopaedia of State History* (two vols., Chicago, 1912), v. 2, p. 842.



By establishing a permanent home for vegetarians, it was believed that a program of concerted action could be followed, with a system of direct healing, as well as permitting the practice of the vegetarian principle. Members were required to be of good moral character, not slaveholders, and applications had to be approved by the board of directors.

The officials of the company immediately levied an assessment of ten per cent (50 cents a share), to provide a fund with which to erect a saw mill and gristmill, purchase a stock of provisions, seed grain, tents, utensils, etc. Each member was called on to pay \$10 to this fund of the company, the headquarters of which were at No. 308 Broadway, New York.¹² Clubb announced that persons who became members before the end of the month (January, 1856) would be called founders, and would participate in the drawing of lots.¹³ The New York *Tribune* announced that the company then consisted of about fifty families, with capital stock aggregating about \$75,000. The shareholders were one-third practical farmers, and two-thirds mechanics and professional men—not a very promising proportion for life on the frontier.¹⁴

The Vegetarian Kansas Emigration Company was the first to adopt the Octagon plan of settlement, a scheme also formulated by Henry S. Clubb.¹⁵ Membership in the company was limited to vegetarians, and as a result their settlements would be of a restricted nature. No doubt the promoters received applications from many would-be settlers in Kansas who did not agree with this limitation, but who were otherwise in sympathy with the objects of the founders—opposition to slavery,¹⁶ and advocacy of a moral life. Thus it would appear that by founding several settlements, vegetarian and nonvegetarian, the chance of success of the colonies and of financial returns to the promoters would be considerably improved.

Whatever their motives, Clubb and his colleagues decided to organize a second company as a complement to the vegetarian or-

12. *Ibid.*, p. 843.

13. *Life Illustrated*, clipped in *Herald of Freedom*, January 19, 1856.

14. *New York Daily Tribune*, January 21, 1856. A pertinent criticism leveled at Eastern emigrants, including those of the New England Emigrant Aid Company, was their lack of preparation for frontier life, in contrast to those from the Middle West.

15. See below for a description of this plan.

16. There was a large emigration to Kansas from the free states in 1856, despite the period of "troubles," although the movement was far greater in 1857. A number of the groups which came in the spring of 1856 were semimilitary in character, some even being hired to fight for the cause of the South, others the North, as occasion might arise. The writer has found no reason for believing that the two companies here discussed were in this category.



ganization, to be known as the Octagon Settlement Company.¹⁷ This company was to avoid the vegetarian limitation, but otherwise was to greatly resemble its sister company. The Octagon company opened its books for subscriptions in February, 1856, and by the end of the month had enough members to start one octagon village of four miles square. It was hoped to form a city equal in size to that of the Vegetarian company, on the Neosho, opposite its predecessor.¹⁸ The officers of the vegetarian organization were also to serve in the Octagon company, Charles H. DeWolfe being named president, Dr. John McLauren, treasurer and pioneer in Kansas, and Henry S. Clubb, secretary. An agent was named for Great Britain (Robert T. Clubb), and another for New York City.¹⁹ The constitution of the company declared the following objects:

"1. To form a union of persons of strict temperance principles, who, in the admission of members, shall have a guaranty that they will be associated with good society, and that their children will be educated under the most favorable circumstances, and trained under good example.

"2. To commence a settlement in Kansas territory, for the pursuit of agriculture and such mechanic arts as may be advantageously introduced.

"3. To promote the enactment of good and righteous laws in that territory, to uphold freedom, and to oppose slavery and oppression in every form."²⁰

The promoters planned for their model community a "hydropathic establishment, an agricultural college, a scientific institute, a museum of curiosities and mechanic arts, and common schools."²¹ The "hydropathic establishment," or water-cure project, occupied a prominent place in the plans of the founders, several of whom belonged to the medical profession. Water-cure societies were then being established in many places; one was organized at Lawrence in March, 1855. They emphasized a "return to nature," with the avoidance of drugs and patent medicines then so much advertised. The constitution of the Lawrence society provided in its preamble, "that hydropathy, including the hygienic agencies of water, air, light, food, temperature, exercise, sleep, clothing, and the passions in their various modifications, comprises a whole and ample *Materia*

17. The Vegetarian and Octagon Settlement Companies have a history so closely connected, that it is at times difficult to distinguish between them. There are other examples of parallel and interlocking companies in the territorial period; the American Settlement Company and the New York Kansas League is a case in point.

18. Document, *The Octagon Settlement Company, Kansas* (N. Y., 1856), p. 3.

19. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

20. Blackmar, *Kansas*, v. 2, p. 380.

21. Document, *The Octagon Settlement Company, Kansas*, p. 4. Each member agreed to abstain from intoxicating liquor. "Maine Law" men were prominent among the Eastern emigrants to Kansas territory.



Medica, capable of producing all the really remedial effects possible in all diseases . . . " 22

The octagon plan of settlement, adopted by both the Vegetarian and Octagon companies, was a unique feature of the projects. Each octagon-shaped settlement was to be of four square miles, or 2,560 acres. Upon this square a full-sized octagon was to be imposed, whose eight segments were each to be divided into two farms of 102 acres each. Each of the sixteen farms would front upon the central octagon of 208 acres, which was to be used for a common pasture or park, and to be held by the trustees for the equal benefit of the settlers. A communal life would be attained by placing each farm house facing the central octagon, at whose central point an octagon public building would be constructed, to serve as store, meeting-house, school, and church. Of the four miles originally taken up, the four corners still remaining outside the octagon settlement would be used for woodland or grassland. It was planned to make four of these octagon villages into a "city" of sixteen square miles, with a square of 584 acres in the center, to be devoted to an agricultural college and model farm.²³

The octagon plan of settlement aimed to give the western settler some of the advantages of the East, with the hope of avoiding the hated isolation of the frontier. Each settler would live in a village, enjoy the aid and protection of his comrades, and attain social and educational advantages not otherwise possible. The literature of the project stressed in particular the increase in property values which would result from this form of settlement. In the hope that the octagon village would become the center of a city, a detailed plan was worked out to subdivide the farms into lots; each was to be divided into eight squares, of twenty lots each, varying in size from the center.²⁴ Each purchaser of a share in the company would pay a dollar entrance fee, and an initial installment of ten cents upon the five-dollar share, and could take not less than twenty nor more than 240 shares.²⁵ He was entitled to as many city lots as he took shares. The company would pay \$1.25 an acre to the government for its land, and all that it received above this would be

22. Constitution of Lawrence Hydropathic Hygienic Society, *Herald of Freedom*, March 31, 1855. A water-cure building was to be constructed upon a conveniently situated hill in "Octagon City."

23. Document, *The Octagon Settlement Company, Kansas*, pp. 5, 6. The frontispiece has an elaborate illustration.

24. *Ibid.*, p. 6.

25. Actual practice varied from the original plan, a fact which must be borne in mind in considering the later history of the colonies. The technique of townsie promotion on the Western frontier was an art in itself, open to all possessed of a "gift of gab" and a native shrewdness. Capital was not an initial necessity, as it would follow as a matter of course.



used for provisions, construction of streets, public schools, mills, and stores. Profits from the mills would be divided among the shareholders. The company would also obtain implements and teams for every shareholder, and issue scrip for the use of its settlers.²⁶

In emigrating to the Kansas frontier, the Vegetarian and Octagon Settlement Companies acted very much in unison. Doctor Mc-Lauren, sent out by the Vegetarian company in the fall of 1855, had already reported a favorable location on the Neosho. He now also acted as treasurer and pioneer of the Octagon company with headquarters at "Octagon City, via Fort Scott." A definite plan of emigration was worked out, the octagon plan of settlement necessitating the arrival of settlers in groups of sixteen, or multiples thereof. Each group was to have a leader and a definite time and place of departure, and a membership properly distributed among the various professions. Both DeWolfe and Clubb were to serve as heads of companies.²⁷ The Vegetarian (or Octagon) company was given rather wide publicity during the early months of 1856. Late in March of that year a pioneer group, composed of members of both companies, proceeded up the Missouri river, with two more such parties to follow in April.²⁸

On the first of May (1856) Clubb reported at length upon the progress of the colony. The site selected was on the western bank of the Neosho river, west of Fort Scott, and six miles south of the present site of Humboldt. A tract of thirty-two square miles had been obtained (eight octagons), including bottom land, prairie and timber. A building was then being erected as a store and company headquarters. From this eight avenues were then being laid out, according to the octagon plan. The eight octagons were then being surveyed. According to Clubb, the emigrants numbered nearly a hundred persons, with twenty head of oxen, five or six horses, and a grist mill. Vegetarian blacksmiths, farmers, and carpenters were on the grounds.²⁹ After the town of "Neosho City" was laid out,

26. Document, *The Octagon Settlement Company, Kansas*, p. 6. The plan of the New England Emigrant Aid Company was somewhat similar. They also hoped to plant centers of Eastern culture in the wilderness and to profit by a rise in the value of their land holdings, particularly town lots.

27. *Ibid.*, p. 10. A detailed list of emigrants for the first company is given, classified according to profession.

28. *Daily Missouri Democrat*, March 26, 1856. Clipped in "Webb Scrap Books" (Thomas H. Webb, compiler), v. 10, p. 185. This collection contains a vast number of newspaper clippings from all over the country, concerning the first years of Territorial Kansas, and is now in the library of the Kansas State Historical Society.

29. Correspondence of Clubb, *Herald of Freedom*, May 3, 1856. Announcements of new towns were frequent in the territorial papers, and were often highly laudatory, as a means of advertisement. As a matter of fact, lack of capital prevented the settlement from being established on the grand plan proposed.



it appears to have enjoyed a transitory boom. Lots bought early in May at premiums amounting to \$40 were sold a few days later at premiums amounting to \$197.50. Emigrants were then arriving from all directions; a majority came during April, May, and June.³⁰

The project thus brilliantly begun ended in complete failure. It appears certain that in order to gain settlers the promoters made rash promises which could not be fulfilled. There was but one plow in the whole establishment, although the officials had promised implements and teams for every shareholder (*i. e.*, settler). Their promise to construct a saw- and grist-mill also did not materialize. One writer blames the promoters for "gross mismanagement," if not something worse.³¹ The location of the colony was beset by mosquitoes, and chills and fever attacked the settlers.³² The "inexhaustible" springs dried up, and the crops that were planted were raided by neighboring Indians.³³ Bitter disappointment and much suffering resulted. As winter neared, all who could leave did so. There was a heavy mortality among the children and older people. By the following spring (1857) hardly a trace of the settlement remained, although the stream along which the companies located is still known as Vegetarian creek.³⁴

Among the factors leading to the failure of the colony, the "high-pressure salesmanship" tactics of the promoters appears to rank first. Too many promises of paternalistic aid were made to the settlers. The size of the farms (only 102 acres) may have discouraged the emigrants,³⁵ but most disappointing of all was the failure to construct mills, and other promised features. The membership numbered many Easterners, who were not prepared for life on the frontier, a significant fact accounting for the abandonment of the colony. The charges, made by many of the settlers, of the dishonesty of the promoters cannot be entirely proved. It appears,

30. Neosho City correspondence of May 12, of the *Daily Missouri Republican*, May 23, 1856. The St. Louis papers carried much news of the Kansas border. The above appears to be a typical "boom" notice.

31. L. Wallace Duncan, *History of Neosho and Wilson Counties, Kansas* (Fort Scott, 1902), pp. 37-38. Clubb appears to have abandoned the Kansas experiment precipitately. Yet, after leaving Kansas, he became acknowledged as the leader of vegetarianism in America. He was quite young at the time of the Kansas venture.

32. Mrs. Miriam D. Colt, *Went to Kansas*, (Watertown, 1862), p. 88. June 26th entry: "Several members of our company have suddenly been taken with the chills and fever."

33. Duncan, *op. cit.*, p. 38. The colony was located near the boundary of the New York Indian Reserve and the Osage reservation. Nominally it was not open for settlement. As far as law and order went, this was somewhat of a "no man's land" at this time. The immediate locality was not surveyed until 1857 and 1858. Claim troubles were frequent, and "jay-hawking" flourished.

34. *Ibid.*, p. 38. Andreas, in his *History of Kansas* (Chicago, 1883), comments on page 668 that four settlers remained permanently—Charles Baland, Z. J. Wizner, and Watson and S. J. Stewart. The same author has a brief biography of Samuel J. Stewart on page 675. He served in the Free-State legislature of 1857, and took an active part in the Civil War.

35. Andreas remarks (p. 668) that the two Stewarts were so dissatisfied with the arrangements that they located claims elsewhere.



however, that money was collected for the purpose of properly starting the colony, which was not so used.³⁶ Those who resorted to Clubb for help were disappointed, as he had no money to refund.³⁷

The later history of vegetarianism was more successful from the standpoint of colonization. In 1890 Henry S. Clubb, then president of the Vegetarian Society of America, became the editor of *Food, Home, and Garden*, which in 1900 was united with the *Vegetarian Magazine*, published by the Vegetarian company at Chicago.³⁸ Clubb was then very active in promoting vegetarian colonies throughout the country and made personal tours to locate favorable sites. The *Vegetarian Magazine* and its successor, *The Vegetarian and Our Fellow Creatures*, published many accounts of such colonies during the first quarter of the twentieth century. In 1920 the place of publication of this magazine itself was moved to one of these colonies, in Idaho.³⁹

36. Blackmar, *Kansas*, v. 2, p. 842.

37. August 11th entry, *Colt, Went to Kansas*, p. 128: "My husband has been anxious to see Mr. Clubb at his present abiding place, up on Stone creek . . . to see if he would refund any of the money that he put into his hands. . . . Mr. Clubb had no money to refund, but let us have some cornstarch, farina, a few dates, and a little pearly barley. . . . It is rumored that H. S. Clubb has resorted to his present abode, that he may make his way quietly out of the territory. We can take advantage of no law to regain our money paid to him for the company."

38. *The Vegetarian Magazine*, January, 1900, p. 12. Reverend Clubb was then also pastor of the Bible Christian Church, Philadelphia. Besides promoting the vegetarian faith, the Vegetarian company also sold various vegetarian products at that time: peanut butter, Kunghy (a substitute for coffee), Vegetarian soap, Ko Nut (a butter made from coconut oil), Graham flour, etc. Compare the Kellogg and other trade products of to-day. Vegetarianism thus became highly capitalized.

39. Information from various numbers of *The Vegetarian Magazine* and its successors. Vegetarianism in America was always closely allied with prohibition. Clubb was the author in 1856 of *The Maine Liquor Law* (New York, 1856), a history of prohibition and its leading advocate, Neal Dow. Clubb also wrote a serial "History of Vegetarianism," 1907. A likeness of Clubb appears in the frontispiece of the *Vegetarian Magazine* for February, 1900. The John Crerar Library of Chicago has an incomplete file of the *Vegetarian Magazine* and its successors. The Kansas State Historical Society has documents and other information illustrative of the Kansas venture.



The John Brown Pikes

FRANK HEYWOOD HODDER

THE most interesting of the John Brown relics are the pikes that he intended to put in the hands of slaves. A pike consisted of a two-edged blade, ten inches long, made from steel; a guard five inches wide, made of malleable iron, attached by a ferrule, also of malleable iron, to a handle six feet in length, made of ash. They were obtained from Charles Blair, of Collinsville, Conn. When the United States Senate appointed a committee, known from its chairman, Sen. James M. Mason of Virginia, as the Mason Committee, to investigate the Harper's Ferry Invasion, Blair was summoned to Washington and in his testimony gave a full account of the making of the pikes.¹ There is some account of the pikes in the biographies of Brown by Sanborn² and Villard³ and additional data are contained in the letters of Blair to Brown in the archives of the Kansas State Historical Society.

About the first of March, 1857, Brown spoke in Collinsville on the subject of conditions in Kansas. The next morning he exhibited in a local drug store some weapons that he had taken from Pate's band at Black Jack. In showing a dirk he remarked that, if mounted on a long handle, it would make a capital weapon with which the settlers of Kansas could defend themselves against sudden attack. It was Blair's recollection, three years after the event, that Brown then turned to him, knowing he was a blacksmith, and asked what it would cost to make five hundred or a thousand of them, and that he replied that he would make five hundred for a dollar and a quarter apiece, and a thousand for a dollar apiece. Sanborn represents that the remark was made to H. N. Rust, with whom Brown was negotiating for the repair of some pistols sent from Kansas, and that Rust later took up the matter with Blair. Some color is given to Sanborn's version of the incident by the fact that two of Brown's later communications to Blair were made through Rust.

Brown returned to Collinsville March 11 and arranged with Blair to make a dozen sample pikes and send them to him at Springfield, Mass. March 20 Blair wrote Brown that he would send the samples on the following day. The ferrules, he wrote, were made of sheet

1. *Senate Report*, No. 278, 36th Cong., 1st sess., pp. 121-129. Serial No. 1040. Cited hereafter as *Mason Report*.

2. F. B. Sanborn, *The Life and Letters of John Brown* (Boston, 1885), pp. 375-378.

3. Oswald Garrison Villard, *John Brown, A Biography Fifty Years After* (Boston, 1910), pp. 283-285, 400-401.



iron and were not satisfactory, but that it would cost more to make them of malleable iron; that he would meet Brown in Hartford the following week and settle upon the price. In a postscript Blair added that if Brown wanted more, he could put the samples in with the rest; if not, he could pay twelve dollars for them. Brown endorsed the letter as answered March 23, probably writing that he would come to Collinsville.

March 30 the contract for the pikes was signed at Collinsville. Blair testified before the Mason Committee that it was drawn by Brown, but the copy in the archives of the Kansas State Historical Society is in Blair's handwriting.⁴ Brown may have made a rough draft from which Blair made a copy. The contract provided that Blair would furnish one thousand "spears" at one dollar apiece. The spears were to be like the samples, except that the ferrules were to be of malleable iron instead of sheet iron, and attached to the handles by screws instead of being riveted, so that they could be shipped separately. Brown paid \$50 down and was to pay \$500 within ten days and the remaining \$450 within thirty days thereafter. The spears were to be finished by the first of July.

Brown paid the \$50 down and a total of \$350 within ten days, but April 2 wrote Blair that he had been unable to make the further payments required by the contract. Blair replied on the 15th that he had not taken any further measures than to ascertain where he could get the handles, ferrules, etc., and if Brown did not find it convenient to raise the money for the thousand he would make five hundred at the same rate. In his testimony before the Mason Committee Blair thought that he had already bought the steel for the blades and begun working on them, but from his contemporary letter that appears not to have been the case. April 16 Brown sent word through Rust that he hoped to have the money soon, and April 25 he sent Rust \$200 for Blair with the message that "he need not hurry out but five hundred of the articles" until he should hear from him again.⁵ Blair acknowledged receipt of the \$200 on the 27th and said that he could "take along 500 of the articles" if desired, but that he had ordered the handles for the whole number, and that it was more convenient to get all the guards, ferrules and screws at one time but that if it were not convenient for Brown to remit the balance of the money before the first of July it would be just as well if he would allow a corresponding length of time in which to complete the contract.

4. Contract printed in Sanborn, p. 377.

5. Letters to Rust in Sanborn, p. 376.



May 7 Blair wrote Brown that he must wait three weeks for the ferrules and some four weeks before the handles would be seasoned sufficiently to set the ferrules; that if the ferrules were put on before the timber was properly seasoned they would be likely to work loose; that the blades would be forged, tempered and ground, so that it would take little time to finish them when the lumber was right, and that he thought that they would be ready by the first of July, but not as soon as first talked of. He added that he intended to go to Iowa for a few weeks, but that the business would be attended to in his absence by his son. He closed the letter to Brown by "wishing him success in his enterprise," the only time he made any comment in his letters upon the use to which the pikes were to be put. To both letters Brown replied May 14 from Canastota to the effect that Blair need not hurry the first five hundred until the handles were properly seasoned or the remainder until he should hear from him again.

Blair did not receive this letter until his return from Iowa. August 27 he wrote Brown that he had commenced the whole number of articles, that he had all the handles well seasoned, the ferrules, guards, etc., but that not having heard anything further from him, had let them rest. "I did not know," he wrote, "but that things would take such a turn in Kansas that they would not be needed." He added that he did not blame Brown, as he well knew that "when a man is depending on the public for money he is very likely to be disappointed," and that he need not give himself any uneasiness about the affair, for if I go no further with them, "I shall lose nothing, or but little."⁶ September 11, and again February 10 and March 11, 1858, Brown wrote explaining his inability to make the payments called for by the contract. February 10, Blair had written Brown that he could not go on with the spears unless assured of his money; that he would let Brown have them if he could get them finished elsewhere, but that he would prefer to go on with them if some responsible parties would guarantee payment within three or four months.

Nothing more was done about the pikes for nearly fifteen months. June 3, 1859, Brown unexpectedly appeared in Collinsville and wanted the pikes finished. Blair protested that he regarded the contract as forfeited, that he was busy with other things and could not bother with them, and that as Kansas matters were settled they would now be of no use. Brown replied that they might be of some use, if they were finished up, that he could dispose of them in some

6. Printed in Sanborn, p. 378.



way, but, as they were, they were good for nothing. Blair finally agreed that if Brown would pay the balance due he would get someone to finish the "goods." The next morning Brown paid \$150, \$50 in bills and a check of Gerrit Smith's for \$100, and three days later sent a draft from Troy for the remaining \$300. Blair secured a man by the name of Hart to finish the pikes. The last of August he received letters from Chambersburg, Pa., signed "I. Smith & Sons,"⁷ instructing him to send the "freight" to them at that place in care of Oakes & Cauffman. At that time the railroads did no freight business themselves, but that business was done by forwarding companies owning private freight cars. Oakes & Cauffman was a forwarding company. The blades, guards and ferrules were packed in boxes and the handles were tied in bundles of twenty or twenty-five and marked "fork handles." Blair testified that 954 were sent, presumably in addition to the twelve samples originally made. He also testified that he did not know where Chambersburg was, but supposed that it was on the way to the West. A letter dated at Chambersburg, September 15, also signed "I. Smith & Sons," acknowledged their receipt. From Chambersburg they were transported in wagons to the Kennedy farm. Some of the pikes were taken to Harper's Ferry October 16, the night of the raid. The next morning all the material remaining at the farm was taken by Cook, Tidd and Owen Brown to a country school house three miles from Harper's Ferry on the Maryland side. When this was seized 483 pikes and 175 broken handles for pikes were found.⁸ The remaining pikes are supposed to have been distributed to slaves.

There is no means of ascertaining how many of the pikes have been preserved, but probably a considerable number are still in existence. There is one in the National Museum in Washington. There are two in the museum of the Kansas State Historical Society, one with the original handle and the other without a handle. They were purchased in 1881 from J. Shaw Gallaher, of Charles Town, West Va., for \$15 apiece, and were the first relics bought by the Society. There is one in the historical collections of the University of Kansas. It originally belonged to John S. Cunningham, a pay director in the navy.⁹ By him it was given in 1885 to George Alfred Townsend,

7. Printed "J. Smith & Sons" in the Mason Report. The "J" should be "I." Brown had assumed the name Isaac Smith.

8. Mason Report, pp. 51, 54-59. James Redpath, *The Public Life of Capt. John Brown* (Boston, 1860), p. 269. Redpath gives the number of broken handles as 150, but the inventory in the Mason Report gives 175.

9. John S. Cunningham was made purser in the navy in 1857, pay director in 1871, retired in 1883, and died in 1894. He wrote Townsend in 1885 that he witnessed the execution of John Brown, but the records of the Navy Department do not show that he was present in an official capacity.



a noted journalist of that day. At Townsend's death in 1914 his effects were sent to Boston for sale at auction, and this pike was among the articles purchased by Charles L. Cooney, a local antiquarian dealer, by whom it was presented to the University of Kansas in 1923. For the original handle a shorter one of oak had been substituted.

A relic is of very little value unless it has some significance. The pikes are important because the order for them is the first indication of Brown's intention to abandon the Kansas field and to revert to his earlier plan of starting a slave insurrection in the South. The civil war in Kansas in the summer of 1856 resulted in the victory of the Free State men and amply proved their ability to defend themselves. Governor Geary arrived in Kansas in the fall of 1856, suppressed the roving bands upon both sides, and established peace in the territory. Brown went east in January of 1857 ostensibly to raise funds for the defense of Kansas but really with other plans in mind. He planned to bring his band together in the fall of 1857 at Tabor, in southwestern Iowa, where he had stored two hundred Sharps rifles intended for Kansas, and he engaged an English adventurer by the name of Forbes to give the men military instruction. Toward the end of February, 1858, he communicated his plans to Gerrit Smith and F. B. Sanborn at Gerrit Smith's home in Peterboro, N. Y., possibly omitting mention of Harper's Ferry as the intended point of attack, and received from them their hearty approval.¹⁰ Soon afterward Brown and Forbes quarreled. Forbes went east and betrayed Brown's plans to Seward, Henry Wilson, Horace Greeley and others. May 24, Brown's backers—Gerrit Smith, Howe, Parker, Stearns, Higginson and Sanborn—met in Boston, decided that the execution of the attack must be postponed in view of Forbes' disclosures and sent Brown to Kansas to divert suspicion. It is scarcely possible that Brown, in spite of his professions, ever intended to send the pikes to Kansas. They were not suited to the kind of warfare waged in the territory, and pitchforks would have afforded equally good protection to the lonely women on the farms. On the other hand, they exactly suited his plan for a slave insurrection. They could be had in large quantities for little money, they required neither ammunition nor special skill in their use and would be effective in hand-to-hand combat. In view of their special importance in the development of Brown's plans, it is perhaps worth while to have told their story in detail.

10. Ralph Volney Harlow, "Gerrit Smith and the John Brown Raid," in *The American Historical Review* for October, 1932, v. 38, pp. 39-42.



Kansas History as Published in the State Press

The diary of William Robinson, union soldier and an Ottawa county pioneer, is being published serially in the *Tescott News*, starting with its issue of June 9, 1932. The diary is the property of a son, John Robinson, of Tescott.

Some of the interesting subjects discussed by W. F. McGinnis, Sr., in *The Butler County News*, El Dorado, during the past few months were: "Horse Thieves and How They Worked in the Sixties," March 3 and 10, 1933; "Some of Butler County's Old Time Officers," March 17; "How We Got Our Freight Before We Had a Railroad," April 7; "How We Got Our First Railroad," April 14; "A Real Buffalo Hunt in Kansas in 1871," April 21; "Opening of the Cherokee Strip, America's Greatest Horse Race," August 18; "This is the Forty-fourth Anniversary of Butler County's First and Last Kidnaping," September 8 to 29.

"Potter Memories," a column written by an early resident, is appearing from time to time in the *Potter Kansan*. The series started with the issue of May 18, 1933.

"The History of Solomon," by Harriet Woolley, ran serially in the *Solomon Tribune* from May 25 through the issue of June 15, 1933. The town company was platted in 1866 by Henry Whitley, John Williamson and Luther Hall.

The history of the Prairie Vale Missionary Union was briefly sketched in *The Western Star*, Coldwater, May 26, 1933.

A biographical sketch of the late Roy L. Bone, southern Kansas cowboy who became a banker, was published in the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, June 11, 1933.

Buffalo hunts in the 1870's were described recently by James Smith, a southern Kansas pioneer, for a Chandler (Okla.) newspaper. The story was condensed and reprinted in the *Howard Courant*, June 15, 1933.

A list of the pioneer settlers buried in Crown Hill cemetery, near Coldwater, was compiled for *The Western Star*, Coldwater, and was published in its issue of June 16, 1933.



St. Paul Lutheran Church of Clay Center celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of its present church edifice, June 25, 1933. Histories of the organization were published in the Clay Center *Economist*, June 21, 1933, and the Clay Center *Times*, June 22.

George A. Linn, Mrs. B. T. Frost and Mrs. Sarah E. Dooty Strange, three pioneer Kansans, reminisced in the Neodesha *Register* recently. Mr. Linn was interviewed for the June 22, 1933, issue; Mrs. Frost wrote for the June 29 issue, and Mrs. Strange for the issue of August 3.

An excursion to Leavenworth by a narrow gauge railroad was briefly described by Mrs. Ella Fulton in the Winchester *Star*, June 30, 1933. A short history of Winchester was also included in this issue.

"A Few Reminiscences," a column conducted by H. V. Butcher, ran serially in *The Western Star*, Coldwater, during July and August, 1933.

"Strange Were the Happenings in Kansas When Polygamy Was the Fad," was the title of a story depicting the life of an old Indian chief Al-le-ga-wa-ho, which appeared in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Journal-Post*, July 2, 1933.

"Historic Sites, Scenery, Found Throughout State," by Hugh Amick, was the title of an article published in the "Vacation Number" of the Wichita *Sunday Eagle*, July 2, 1933.

Early-day Lawrence printers were named in a letter from W. J. Flintom, of San Diego, Cal., which was printed in the Lawrence *Daily Journal-World*, July 4, 1933. Mr. Flintom came to Kansas from Vermont in 1869.

A history of the site of the Scott county state park, which was given in an address to a recent bar association meeting in Scott City, by R. D. Armstrong, Scott City attorney, was published in the Dodge City *Daily Globe*, July 10, 1933.

Two letters recalling the visit of President R. B. Hayes to Neosho Falls in 1879 were printed in the Neosho Falls *Post*, July 13, 1933. Frank S. Denney and E. B. Moore were the contributors.

Former pastors and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Clay Center contributed special historical articles to the Clay Center *Times*, July 13, 1933, recalling their connections with the



church. The occasion was the dedication of a new church building, July 16. The Presbyterians first organized in Clay Center April 1, 1871.

The sixty-first anniversary of the *Wichita Eagle* was observed July 16, 1933, with the issuance of a special illustrated historical edition.

Early Irish settlers near Solomon were discussed in an article printed in the *Salina Journal*, July 18, 1933. The story was based on historical sketches of a similar nature appearing in the *Salina Rustler*, April 13, 1895.

A jubilee commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the organization of the Mission Covenant Church of Stotler was held July 16, 1933. A brief history of the church was published in *The Journal-Free Press*, Osage City, July 19, and in the *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 20.

Numerous fossil discoveries have been announced from northern and western Kansas in recent years. An area of about seventy square feet, containing over sixty tracks of four different species of prehistoric animals, was recently found on the George Hrabik farm near Sylvan Grove, according to the *Sylvan Grove News*, July 20, 1933. A Mr. Brandhorst and Dr. H. H. Lane, of Kansas University, are collaborating on the interpretation and description of these tracks.

A brief sketch of the John W. Harding family, as prepared by Mabel Harding, of San Diego, Calif., was printed in *The Western Star*, Coldwater, July 21, 1933. Miss Harding also contributed a column of reminiscences to the *Star* in the August 18 issue.

A column entitled "Territorial Days in Oskaloosa," by Francis Henry Roberts, started in the *Oskaloosa Independent*, July 27, 1933. Mr. Roberts' recollections in a former column, "Early Days in Oskaloosa," dated from the summer of 1862.

J. A. Comstock, early-day hotel clerk in Dodge City, wrote of his experiences in that frontier town in the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, July 28 and 29, 1933. Mr. Comstock, now of New York, came to Dodge City in 1881.

An address, "A Half Century of Kansas Journalism," by Gomer T. Davies, editor of the *Concordia Kansan*, was delivered at a meeting of the Kansas Editorial Association in Topeka, June 10,



1933, and was published in the *Topeka Pink Rag* in its issues of July 28 and August 4.

A brief biography of Col. S. S. Prouty, early Kansas newspaperman, was sketched in the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, August 1, 1933.

Some reminiscences of A. Canning, Kansas pioneer, were printed in the *Salina Journal*, August 2, 1933. Mr. Canning's family came to Kansas in 1859 and settled near Council Grove.

The killing of the last buffalo in Mitchell county was discussed by Alonzo Pruitt in the *Glen Elder Sentinel*, August 3, 1933.

"Who's Who in Lucas," a series of articles relating the history of the town's business concerns, is being published serially in the *Lucas Independent*, commencing with the issue of August 9, 1933.

The Cloud county Indian raid in 1868, in which Sarah White was kidnaped, was recalled by Victor Murdock in the *Wichita (evening) Eagle*, August 14, 1933. Mr. Murdock interviewed William Elvin White, a brother of the kidnaped girl, for the story.

Clifton High School's history was published in the *Clifton News* in its issues of August 17, 24, and 31, 1933. The first school building was erected prior to 1868, with George D. Seabury as the first teacher.

"Minutes Disclose that 'Good Old Days' in the Schools Were Anything But That," was the title of a brief presentation of the problems of School District No. 4, of which Concordia is a large part, in the 1870's. The article was printed in the *Concordia Blade-Empire*, August 23, 1933.

The final installment of T. P. Tucker's "Early Day Church History of Greeley County," was published in the *Greeley County Republican Tribune*, August 24, 1933. Other installments were announced in the August issue of the *Quarterly*.

"Looking Backward—a History of Cuba From Old Newspaper Files," compiled by Mr. and Mrs. L. Carpenter, appears from time to time in the *Cuba Tribune*. The series started with the issue of August 24, 1933.

The Anthony-Atwood battles were a spectacular part of Leavenworth county's early days, the *Tonganoxie Mirror* reported in its issue of August 24, 1933. An account of the Douglass-Anthony suit, in which John H. Atwood and D. R. Anthony, bitter political op-



ponents, were in the unique position of lawyer and client, was reprinted from the *Kansas City Star* of December 8, 1915.

"Frontier Surveying During an Indian War," by E. C. Rice, was the title of an article published in the *Wichita Sunday Eagle*, August 27, 1933. Mr. Rice accompanied J. B. Wilcox, of Muscotah, in the survey of some thirty townships on the Kansas-Colorado line.

Pioneers of Cherokee county having sixty years or more of residence in that county were named in the *Columbus Daily Advocate*, August 30, 1933. Mrs. Sallie Crane compiled the list.

"A Tribute to the Pioneer Mothers of Central Kansas," by Will Goodman, of Glendale, Calif., was published in *The County Capital*, St. John, August 31, 1933.

Mulvane's first train was described in a three-column illustrated story appearing in the old settlers' edition of the *Mulvane News*, August 31, 1933. The railroad line connected Wichita and Winfield, and the official opening excursion train went through Mulvane September 29, 1879.

"Early History of Mt. Ayr Friends Church," 1872-1933, by C. E. Williams, was published in the *Osborne County Farmer*, Osborne, August 31, 1933.

Special historical editions of the Olathe newspapers were issued August 31, 1933, announcing the program for the thirty-sixth annual reunion of Johnson county old settlers, held in Olathe, September 2. Biographies of Harry King, Sr., Mrs. Louisa Keys, Mrs. Blanche Jefferson, W. H. Harrison, and William Crandall; a history of De Soto; and accounts of early explorers, the grasshopper invasion, the organization of the county, Harmony school, and the Shawnee mission, were contained in the August 31 issue of *The Johnson County Democrat*. The following week both *The Democrat* and the Olathe *Mirror* printed notes on the meeting and lists of the old settlers who registered.

"Crossings and Fords—Blue Bridge Forerunners," an article by Byron E. Guise, portraying the evolution in river crossing at Marysville, was published in the *Marshall County News*, September 1, 1933. Marysville's first bridge was completed in 1864.

Reminiscences of early-day Kansas, by J. L. Garrett, were published in the *Bunkerhill Advertiser*, September 7, 1933.

"Early Wallace County, General Custer, and the Seventh Cavalry," from the reminiscences of Lewis C. Gandy, was continued in



The Western Times, Sharon Springs, September 7 and 21, 1933. Other installments were mentioned in the August issue of the *Quarterly*.

A story entitled "Cattle Money," by McKinley W. Kreigh, former overland stage mail carrier, of Syracuse, was published in the *Syracuse Journal*, September 8, 1933. The article was reprinted from the October *Blue Book Magazine*.

"Sockless" Jerry Simpson's visits to Dodge City in the 1890's were recalled by Heinie Schmidt in a feature article printed in the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, September 13, 1933.

Old settler editions of the *Marion Review* and *Record* appeared recently, announcing the annual old settlers' picnic for Marion. The *Review* of September 13, 1933, published articles entitled: "How Ed Miller Died"; "History of the Florence Catholic Church," by Mrs. E. H. Robison; "The Last Cheyenne Raid," by A. E. Case; "Some Early Day History," by Mrs. Will Rupp, and "Reminiscences," by R. C. Coble. The *Record*, on September 14, continued with "Jacob Linn Brought First Load of Pine Lumber to Marion Centre," by Mrs. L. E. Riggs; "Recounting Early Pioneers of the Oursler Neighborhood," by Mrs. Chas. Locklin; "There Were Plenty of Thrills for This Pioneer Marion Family," by Mrs. Frank Knode; "A Handshake That Was Friendly," by Al Nienstedt, and "There Was an Early Day Postoffice at Oursler Station," by Mrs. N. J. Oursler.

A history of the Anthony Methodist Episcopal Church, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary September 17, 1933, was published in the *Anthony Republican*, September 14. The first M. E. church edifice built on the site of the present building was dedicated on December 23, 1882, by Elder Cline.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chepstow celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its organization, September 17, 1933. A history of the church was printed in the *Barnes Chief*, September 14.

The Leavenworth *Chronicle* issued its annual "Fort Leavenworth Edition," September 14, 1933. Notes on the founding of the fort and the perils encountered by the early freighters, the founding of the General Service School by Gen. W. T. Sherman in 1881, and a roster of officers now attending the school, were features.

A log cabin which belonged to Henry McKenzie, who came to Kansas in 1854, was believed by the late Gen. W. H. Sears to be the oldest now in existence in Douglas county. A brief history of the



cabin was published in the Lawrence *Daily Journal-World*, September 14, 1933.

"Battle of Beecher Island Is Thrilling Story of Indian War," was a Goodland *Daily News* headline for a feature article printed in its issue of September 15, 1933. The story appeared on the anniversary of its fight, which is annually commemorated with appropriate ceremonies by the Beecher Island Memorial Association, on the battleground, now a Colorado state park.

The history of Atlanta, Rice county, was briefly reviewed in the Hutchinson *Herald*, September 15, 1933. The site of this one-time seat of Rice county is now a cornfield, the *Herald* reports.

"Dodge's First Dentist Was a Pistoleer," a two-column biography of Dr. John H. Holliday, was printed in the Dodge City *Daily Globe*, September 15, 1933. The story, which was written by Dr. Frank A. Dunn, was a reprint from *Oral Hygiene*.

The lynching of Frank Jones in Wellington, September 14, 1884, was recalled in the reminiscences of E. B. Roser appearing in the Wellington *Daily News*, September 16, 1933.

The fortieth anniversary of the opening of the Cherokee outlet led several Kansas pioneers to reminisce in their local newspapers on their adventures in 1893. W. H. Nelson, Asa Dean and Joe Harper were among those interviewed by the Arkansas City *Daily Traveler* in its issue of September 16, 1933. The Caldwell *Daily Messenger* of the same date devoted a column story to the run. An illustrated feature story, "Fighting For a Claim in the Old Cherokee Strip," by F. M. Gillett, was published in the Wichita *Sunday Eagle*, September 17, and notes on the run by Victor Murdock appeared in the Wichita (evening) *Eagle*, September 18.

Burlingame was named in honor of Anson Burlingame, an American, who was the first Chinese minister to the United States, the Topeka *Daily Capital* recalled in its issue of September 17, 1933. Burlingame was formerly known as Council City.

Cooking recipes used by Sara Robinson, wife of Charles Robinson, Kansas' first governor, were discussed by Sue Carmody Jones in an article printed in the Kansas City *Star*, September 20, 1933.

An account of the founding of Fowler, contained in a letter from Perry J. Wilden, of San Diego, Cal., was published in the Fowler *News*, September 21, 1933.



Mrs. Grace Bedell Billings, the woman who as a girl asked Abraham Lincoln to wear whiskers, now lives at Delphos, the *Hays Daily News* reported in its issue of September 21, 1933. Mrs. Kathryn O'Loughlin McCarthy, who related the story to the *News*, has copies of the letters written by Mrs. Billings and Lincoln.

A history of the Bethlehem Lutheran church and school, of Sylvan Grove, was published in the *Sylvan Grove News*, September 21, 1933. The first religious service was held February 9, 1879.

Five Kansas officials were impeached during the first seventy years of statehood, according to an Associated Press dispatch written by Calvin Manon and released to its member newspapers September 22, 1933.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, of Atchison, celebrated its sixty-fifth birthday anniversary, September 24, 1933. A history of the organization was published in the *Atchison Daily Globe*, September 22.

"How Two Eminent Kansans Were Elected to U. S. Senate," by the late Gen. W. H. Sears, of Lawrence, was the title of an article printed in the *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 24, 1933, concerning the elections of John J. Ingalls and William A. Harris.

"Random Recollections of Other Days," by D. D. Leahy, published in the *Wichita Sunday Eagle*, September 24, 1933, related incidents in the lives of the late A. C. Jordan, former sergeant at arms of the House of Representatives, and Mrs. Jerry Simpson.

A twenty-page special illustrated historical edition of the *Coffeyville Daily Journal* was issued September 25, 1933, announcing the pioneer celebration to be held in Coffeyville, September 27. A detailed account of the history of the city from the organization of the town company by Col. John A. Coffey and others in August, 1869, to the present day; a brief history of Montgomery county, and biographies of Daniel Wells, Capt. D. S. Elliott, Harry Lang, Billie Breit, Jules Gillet, Chas. T. Carpenter, Hazzard W. Sear, Sr., and Owen T. Romig, Montgomery county pioneers, were features of the edition.

Early Wilson county history was reviewed by Judge J. T. Cooper before the Neodesha Rotary club, September 26, 1933. A summary of the speech, together with a letter written by Gov. Samuel J.



Crawford in 1902 concerning Wilson county events, were published in the *Neodesha Register*, September 28.

Gove county history was reviewed at an old settlers' meeting held in Grainfield, September 20, 1933. The early history of Buffalo Park and the organization of the Smoky Hill Cattle Pool were discussed in a write-up of the meeting printed in the *Gove City Republican-Gazette*, September 28.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the present Jetmore United Presbyterian Church was observed September 24, 1933. The *Jetmore Republican* of September 28 published a three-column history of the church.

Spring Branch District School's history was sketched by Mrs. Bessie Buchele in the *Cedar Vale Messenger*, September 29, 1933. The first school house was built in 1876.

The reminiscences of Mrs. John Durfee, a member of the Syracuse, N. Y., colony which settled in Kansas in March, 1873, were published recently in the *Syracuse (N. Y.) Times* and were republished in the *Syracuse (Kan.) Journal*, September 29, 1933.

"Southern Negroes Once Sought 'Mecca' in Kansas," an illustrated feature article on the colored settlements in Graham county, was printed in the *Wichita Beacon*, October 1, 1933.

A brief history of the Christian Church in Kansas was sketched in the *Arkansas City Daily Traveler*, October 2, 1933. Mt. Pleasant church in Atchison county was the first Christian church in the present boundaries of the state. It was organized in 1855.

The First Baptist church of Atchison celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary, October 4 to 8, 1933. A three-column history of the church from April 24, 1858, the date of the first sermon preached by a Baptist minister in Atchison, to the present day, was published in the *Atchison Daily Globe*, October 3, 1933.

A history of the Topeka branch of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, from its organization in 1883 until the present time, was printed and distributed at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the organization held in Topeka, October 5 to 8, 1933. Mrs. George W. Isham, of Evanston, Ill., was the author.



Kansas Historical Notes

Kansas newspaper personalities, past and present, have been a weekly broadcast feature of radio station KSAC, Manhattan, for several months. Dr. C. E. Rogers, professor and head of the department of journalism of Kansas State College, prepared and delivered the series.

At a meeting of the McPherson County Historical Society, July 10, 1933, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: J. A. Spillman, of Roxbury, president; Alfred Bergin, Lindsborg, first vice president; Warren Knaus, McPherson, second vice president; Edna Nyquist, McPherson, secretary and treasurer; P. P. Wedel, C. E. Lindell, J. J. Yoder, Carl Lindholm, Emil O. Deere and Mrs. F. J. Ehman, members of the board of directors.

White Rock community historical articles, written by Ella Morlan Warren and published in the Belleville *Telescope* during the past year, were recently collected and republished as a 45-page booklet entitled *White Rock Sketches*.

At an old settlers' picnic conducted by the Kiowa County Historical Society August 18, 1933, the following officers were elected for the coming year: J. A. Sherer, president, Mullinville; W. A. Woodard, first vice president, Haviland; W. L. Fleener, Sr., second vice president, Greensburg; B. Frank McQuey, third vice president, Belvidere; Mrs. Benjamin O. Weaver, secretary, Mullinville, and Mrs. Charles T. Johnson, treasurer, Greensburg.

The memorial monument and tablet honoring Frederick Brown, who was killed August 30, 1856, in the battle of Osawatomie, were unveiled at the place of his death August 30, 1933. The tablet was a bequest of Mrs. Charles S. Adair.

A monument dedicated to pioneer women was unveiled at the Mt. Hope cemetery, Ellis, September 10, 1933. The memorial was a gift of the Pioneer Woman's Association of Ellis.

The nineteenth annual reunion of the surviving members of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Kansas Volunteer cavalry was held in Topeka September 13, 1933. Officers of the organization are: Frank M. Stahl, Burlingame, president; F. C. Munson, Savannah, Mo., first vice president; H. L. Burgess, Olathe, second vice president, and Mrs. Ella D. Shaul, Topeka, secretary-treasurer.

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KANSAS HISTORICAL NOTES

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Dedication services were held at the Vermillion river crossing near Barrett, September 24, 1933, for an Oregon-trail marker erected by the Arthur Barrett chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. R. M. Montgomery, Marysville, made the dedicatory address.

Plans for enlarging and improving the Pike-Pawnee Indian village site into a national park were presented to representatives of the federal government at ceremonies held in the park September 29, 1933. Speakers of state and national note participated in the varied program commemorating the lowering of the Spanish flag and the raising of the United States flag by Lieut. Zebulon Montgomery Pike in 1806.

A Sherman County Historical Association was organized recently with the election of Jesse L. Teeters as president, and Dillman W. Blackburn, as secretary-treasurer.

Numerous community picnics and old settlers' reunions have been held in various parts of the state in recent months. Newspapers in some of these localities issued special historical editions in conjunction with these meetings which warranted mention elsewhere in these notes. Limited space, however, does not permit separate entries for the majority; a list of communities sponsoring meetings, and the dates, are appended for reference: Hazelton, June 2; Wichita, June 3; Kinsley, June 8, 9; Manhattan, July 1; Green, July 27-29; Baldwin, August 3; Arcadia, August 3-5; Dighton, August 5; Topeka, August 5, September 11; Halstead, August 9, 10; Lebanon, August 10-12; Jewell City, August 11, 12; Bunkerhill, August 14-16; Leoti, August 15; Haskell-Finney counties, August 16, 17; Clyde, August 17; Deerfield, August 17; Nickerson, August 17, 18; Brookwood Park, Decatur county, August 18; Belvidere, August 18; Mantey, August 19; Ottawa, August 20; Geuda Springs, August 20; McPherson, August 23; Dispatch, August 23; Bucklin, August 25; Sparks, August 25, 26; Oskaloosa, August 25, 26; Wabunsee, August 27; Holton, August 30; Benedict, August 30, 31; White Rock, August 31; Mulvane, August 31; Meade, August 31; Howard, August 31; Columbus, September 1; Macksville, September 1; Ford, September 1; Olathe, September 2; Uniontown, September 2; Drury, September 4; Hanover, September 6, 7; Ashland, September 7; Cherokee, September 7-9; Marion, September 14; Lawrence, September 14; Enterprise, September 14; Stockton, Sep-



tember 14; Pratt, September 14; Oakley, September 15; Ohio township, Saline county, September 17; Grainfield, September 20; Cherryvale, September 21; Fontana, September 21; Cimarron, September 23; Fall River, September 23; Norway, September 24; Dodge City, September 27; Smith Center, September 27; Coffeyville, September 27; Potwin, September 28; Sedan, October 7, and Weir, October 7.

Errata to Volume II

Page 18, line 19, read "In 1888."

Page 22, line 19, Cantonment Leavenworth was established in 1827.

Page 30, line 24, read "Col. E. W. Wyncoop."

Page 52, fifth line from bottom of the page, read "Charles Coulter."

Page 107, paragraph 2: Mr. Whitelaw Saunders of Lawrence, who viewed the hotel registers through the courtesy of Mr. Ames, reports that none of the signatures noted in this paragraph were authentic.

Page 110, line 2, read "March, 1933."

Page 182, lines 1 and 2, read "Richard Read."

Page 219, line numbered 123, read "April 17, 1932."

Page 252, line 22: The Wyandotte National Ferry was in operation as early as November, 1843.—See testimony of Charles B. Garrett before Judge Samuel D. Lecompte of the First U. S. District Court, Leocompton, in 1857, MS. in Archives division, Kansas State Historical Society.



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