Kansas historical quarterly

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Kansas History as Published in the Press

Seneca's old Pony Express Hotel was established in 1858 by John E. Smith, according to an article by J. E. Markley in the Sabetha *Herald,* February 15, 1973. The story of the Thomas Markley family also is included in the article. Markley settled in the Seneca area in 1857.

The 108-year-old Mullins home, near Osawatomie, is the subject of an article by Carol Chitwood in the Osawatomie *Graphic-News,* February 22, 1973. William C. Quantrill, school teacher and later a Confederate guerrilla, boarded at the house for a while before it was completed. Now unused, the building is scheduled to be razed.

In 1872 Charles Albert Becker came to Kansas from Illinois to hunt buffalo. As a consequence, he homesteaded near Logan. A history of the Becker family appeared in the Logan *Republican,* February 22, 1973.

Charles Dafforn settled near Pretty Prairie in the early 1880's and began farming. A son, E. C., pioneered in telephone service and automobile sales in Zenda. An article by Dave Magruder on the Dafforn family enterprises appeared in the Kingman *Journal,* February 27, 1973.

Romulus Hanks, cousin of Abraham Lincoln and Elgin, Kan., postmaster and merchant, was the subject of a biographical sketch by Margo Boulanger in the Sedan *Times-Star,* February 28, 1973.

Helen Beezley and Beverly Craft are the authors of a history of the Kinsley Library published in the Kinsley *Mercury,* March 8, 1973. The library was started about 1904 in a millinery shop. It had several homes before completion of the present library building in 1954.

Recent articles in the Coffeyville *Daily Journal* include: "Old Condon Bank Is Historical Site," March 8, 1973; and a history and description of the Brown mansion recently purchased by the Coffeyville Historical Museum, April 10. The mansion, built at the turn of the century, will be maintained as a period house open to the public.

A "Gallery of History" edition was published by the Clay Center *Dispatch,* March 15, 1973. The 12-page issue, marking the centen-

nial of the *Dispatch*, included the front pages of several issues published on historic occasions.

Kittie Dale is the author of an article entitled "Colorful Old-Time Lawmen Kept Law in Ellis County," published in the Hays *Daily News*, March 18, 1973.

"Floods—Part of Winfield's History," an article by Maija Wilgers, appeared in the Winfield *Courier*, March 21, 1973. In the issue of April 2 the *Courier* began publication of a series on historic houses of Winfield which was compiled as a part of Winfield's centennial observance.

Histories of Kansas churches appearing in recent editions of the newspapers included: First Christian, Winfield, Winfield *Daily Courier*, March 21, 1973; First United Methodist, Hays, *Ellis County Star*, Hays, March 22; Moline Catholic, *Elk County Reporter*, Moline, April 19; and First United Methodist, Great Bend, Great Bend *Tribune*, April 27.

Beginning in the March 22, 1973, issue, the Marysville *Advocate* printed serially Clair V. Mann's book *From Kansas Dust*. The book deals with the Reser, Mann, and Shedden families who settled in the Reserville community of southern Marshall county in 1870. Mrs. George Ruetti edited the material for publication in the *Advocate*.

Sublette's history, year by year from the time of its incorporation in 1923, is featured in a 56-page, golden anniversary supplement published by the *Haskell County Monitor-Chief*, Sublette and Satanta, March 29, 1973. Other historical articles and pictures are also included.

Josiah Gregg, best known for his descriptions of the West in the early 1800's, was also involved in other activities as shown in an article by Joseph L. Kyner, M. D., "Doctor Josiah Gregg—Scientist of the Southwest, Portrayer of the Santa Fe Trail," published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Chicago, April 2, 1973.

Southwest Kansas history as recalled by 76-year-old Claude Pearce was printed in the Johnson *Pioneer*, April 5, 1973. Pearce's father homesteaded in Stanton county in 1886.

"Daltons Recalled in Coffeyville," is an article by David Dary in the Kansas City (Mo.) *Star*, April 8, 1973. On October 5, 1892, the Dalton gang attempted unsuccessfully to rob two banks in Coffeyville at the same time. The April 26 issue of the *Star* included an

article by Richard D. Ralls on the wagon train massacre of July 18, 1864, near present Great Bend.

A history of the old Brown Grand Opera House in Concordia by Dorothy Wood was published in the Wichita *Eagle and Beacon*, April 8, 1973. The opera house was built in 1906 by Col. Napoleon Bonaparte Brown.

Some of the history and a description of Fort Zarah, near present Great Bend, by Bob Fairbanks, appeared in the Great Bend *Tribune*, April 8, 1973. The fort was established in 1864 and dismantled in 1869.

A brief history of the Central City post office, Anderson county, appeared in the Garnett *Review*, April 9, 1973. The name was changed to Jerome in 1865 and back to Central City in 1870. The post office was discontinued in 1903.

"'Original Buffalo Bill' [William Mathewson] Dug Cow Creek Well," an article by Stuart Awbrey, was printed in the Hutchinson *News*, April 15, 1973. Additional information on Mathewson appeared in the Lyons *Daily News*, April 25.

Historical notes on the Farmers National Bank of Atwood appeared in the Atwood *Citizen-Patriot*, April 19, 1973. The bank was organized in 1914 with Dr. L. G. Graves as president and Frank Prochazka cashier.

Dighton's bank robbery, June 22, 1922, is reviewed by Ellen May Stanley, in the Garden City *Telegram*, April 21, 1973. An exciting chase following the robbery resulted in the death of one robber and the capture of the other two.

A history of Shady Grove school, Great Bend, was published in the Great Bend *Tribune*, April 22, 1973. The district was organized in April, 1873. Abel school, Pittsburg, is the subject of an article by Bob Dewhirst in the Pittsburg *Headlight-Sun*, April 30. The school opened in 1904 and closed in 1953.

While stationed at Humboldt, Kan., during the Civil War, Sgt. C. N. Mumford wrote to his wife in Wisconsin. These letters began appearing as a series in the Humboldt *Union*, April 26, 1973.

Featured in the April, 1973, issue of the Woodson County Historical Society's publication, *In the Beginning*, Yates Center, are the histories of the George A. and Curtis B. Harding families, the Joseph Gordon family, and the Frederick Schaede family. Other

articles were on the Yates Center Methodist church, and the communities of Burt and Silver City.

Robert G. Athearn is the author of "The Promised Land—A Black View," published in *The Record, 1973* (v. 34), publication of the Friends of the Library, Washington State University, Pullman, Wash. In 1879 thousands of destitute Negroes from the South came by steamboat up the Missouri river to Kansas, "the Promised Land."

The May, 1973, issue of *Shop Talk*, Fort Leavenworth, included an article entitled "The Leavenworth Classes of 1923," by Col. O. W. Martin, Jr. Fifty years ago the first Command and General Staff class and the last class of the Army School of the Line and the Command Staff School graduated. In addition to a look at the classes, the article tells what Fort Leavenworth was like in 1923.

Kansas Historical Notes

The current officers of the Humboldt Historical Society are: Charlie King, president; Gene Miller, vice-president; and Nelle Trueblood, secretary-treasurer. Other board members include: Martin Kaufman, John Ellison, Nat Armel, Tom Ravens, George Brinkman, Lloyd Schoonover, Pauline Flynn, Kathleen Hamm, and Madeline Works.

Officers of the Allen County Historical Society at present are: Lillian Johnson, president; Bob Johnson, vice-president; Stanley Toland, secretary; Everett Harlan, treasurer. The society operates two museums in Iola, one in the old jail building and the other in the courthouse. Ralph Freeman is curator of both.

At the annual meeting of the Anderson County Historical Society, February 15, 1973, in Garnett, Guy Rogers was named president; Ona Mae Hunt, vice-president; and Elsie Brown, treasurer. Juanita Kellerman was reelected secretary. Sol Evans, Iola, spoke to the gathering on barbed wire and displayed 450 kinds of wire from his collection.

Meeting in Leavenworth, February 15, 1973, the Leavenworth County Historical Society named Mrs. William Dysinger president. Other officers elected included: James Schroeder, first vice-president; Mrs. Paul Johnson, second vice-president; Mrs. E. M. Stonebraker, secretary; and Joe Wilmot, treasurer. Irving Feezor was the retiring president. Don Starkey of the Kansas State Historical Society was the principal speaker at the meeting.

Over 50 persons, meeting in Everest, February 15, 1973, voted to organize the Everest Community Historical Society. Bob Ruth was made temporary chairman and Lenore Munsey temporary secretary of the group. A committee was appointed to handle incorporation of the society.

Les Garner, Kendall, was reelected president of the Hamilton County Historical Society at its annual meeting February 16, 1973, in Syracuse. Mrs. Ray Hatton was named vice-president; Mrs. Harold Bray, secretary; Fred Rogers, treasurer; and Mrs. W. E. LaRosh and John Conard, directors. Mike Etrick, Garden City, spoke to the group on the life of "Buffalo" Jones.

Meeting in Eureka, February 26, 1973, members of the newly formed Greenwood County Historical Society named the following

officers: Mrs. Richard Teichgraeber, president; Mrs. Dennis Dieker, vice-president; Mrs. W. R. Lindamood, secretary; Mrs. Ralph Reno, treasurer; and Paul Smith, Olga Souders, and Leo Brown, directors.

Linn Peterson, McPherson, was elected to his fourth term as president of the McPherson County Historical Society at a meeting March 3, 1973, in McPherson. Carrie Mugler and Raymond Flory were named vice-presidents; Maurine Lehmberg, secretary; Bob Bartels, treasurer; and S. M. Dell, Mel Tarum, and Chester Peterson, directors.

On March 9, 1973, a group meeting in the La Cygne Community building, voted to form the La Cygne Historical Society and nine directors were named. The directors met March 15 and elected the following temporary officers: Dan Ross, president; Paul Keith, vice-president; Mrs. Margaret Brown, secretary; Frederick Irwin, treasurer; Mrs. Ecla Mangold, historical secretary; and Paul Creager, publicity director. Other directors are: Mrs. Ray Smythe, Mrs. Dale Johnson, and Jack Lindsey.

Russell Alcorn was reelected president of the Cloud County Historical Society at the organization's annual meeting March 21, 1973. Other officers chosen were: Roger Wilson, vice-president; Mrs. Ethel L. Henthorne, secretary; Mrs. Kay Herbin, membership secretary; and Leslie Ward and Jeremie Herbin, directors.

Members of the Linn County Historical Society met March 23, 1973, in the Pleasanton city park for ground-breaking ceremonies for the society's new museum building. The museum board is composed of Mrs. Willard Fultz, chairman, Pleasanton; Mrs. Charles Lemon, Mound City; and Mrs. Willis Klopfenstein, Pleasanton. Dan L. Smith is president of the society.

Meeting in Gove, March 24, 1973, the Gove County Historical Society elected the following persons to the board of directors; Mrs. Maudie Hargitt, Mrs. Sanford Powers, and Albert B. Tuttle. At a meeting of the directors, Mrs. Powers was named president; Roderick Bentley, vice-president; Mrs. J. M. Tuttle, secretary; and Mrs. Jerry Bretton, treasurer.

Jay Cope, Mullinville, was returned to the presidency of the Kiowa County Historical Society at a meeting of the society's board of trustees in Greensburg, March 30, 1973. Other officers are: Everett Larkin, Haviland, and Wentzel Stewart, Greensburg, vice-presidents; Keith Beck, Greensburg, secretary; and Bill Caplinger,

Greensburg, treasurer. Action was taken at the meeting to consolidate the Kiowa County Museum, Inc., with the historical society.

The 47th annual meeting of the Kansas History Teachers Association was held April 6 and 7, 1973, in Salina and Abilene. Papers pertaining to Kansas history presented during the meeting included: "Painted Ladies and Other Things: The Social Observations of the Census Enumerators in the Nineteenth Century," by James L. Forsythe, Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays; "German-Russian Immigrants and Kansas Politics," David Haury, Bethel College, North Newton; and "A Reprieve for General Winfield Hancock: The Hancock-Custer Expedition of 1867," by Timothy A. Zwink, Fort Hays Kansas State College. Another feature of the program was a discussion on "Researchers and Resources: Dwight D. Eisenhower Library," with George Curtis and Judith Lavin, Eisenhower Library, Abilene, speaking. During the business session Thomas R. Walther, Kansas State College, Pittsburg, was elected president; Loren Pennington, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, vice-president; and Kathleen Xidis, Johnson County Community Junior College, Shawnee Mission, and Don Douglas, Wichita State University, members of the executive committee. Sister Jeanne McKenna, Marymount College, Salina, was the retiring president.

Dedication ceremonies were held in Logan April 8, 1973, for the new, block-square Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza. Among the facilities of the plaza are a museum and a library. Sen. Robert Dole, the featured speaker, was weathered in at the Kansas City airport and gave his address by telephone. The late Dane Hansen, a Logan businessman and philanthropist, left his fortune to be used in the Logan area.

The annual meeting of the Trego County Historical Society was held in WaKeeney, April 16, 1973. Elected to the board of directors of the society were: Francis Dorman, Mrs. Don Wigington, and Mrs. Keith Garrett. Featured at the meeting was a biographical sketch of Mr. and Mrs. George Baker, early Trego county settlers, given by Mrs. Walter Baker.

Officers of the Lanesfield School Historical Society, Johnson county, were elected at a meeting April 19, 1973. They include: Daniel Reed, president; Howard McIntire, vice-president; Oma Girsch, secretary-treasurer; and Roy Bruce, board member. Henry Knabe was the retiring president.

M. M. Etrick was reelected president of the Finney County Historical Society at a meeting of the board of directors at the museum in Garden City, April 24, 1973. Other officers chosen included: Nolan Howell, first vice-president; Mrs. John Oringderff, second vice-president; Frank Lightner, third vice-president; Mrs. Howard Smith, secretary; and Mrs. Donna Bradford, treasurer.

The Atchison County Historical Society opened a new museum at 1440 North Sixth St., Atchison, April 28, 1873. The society also operates a museum at 409 Atchison St., and has announced plans for an agricultural museum at Arrington. Father Roger Rumery is president of the society.

Leon Sherwood was reelected president of the Montgomery County Historical Society at the organization's annual meeting, April 29, 1973, in the museum at Independence. Other officers named were: Wanda Gibson, vice-president; Ruby Miller, secretary; Forrest Geckeler, treasurer; and Margaret Clement, Everett Slater, Violet Baker, and Margaret Thompson, board members. Louise Kaufman, curator of the Cherryvale museum, was the featured speaker at the meeting.

New directors of the Decatur County Historical Society, elected at the group's annual meeting, May 3, 1973, in Oberlin, are: Mrs. James Gaumer, Jennings; Jack Kump, Oberlin; and Mrs. Howard Kessinger, Oberlin. Charles Frickey is president of the society and Mrs. Lawrence Claar curator of the Last Indian Raid Museum operated by the organization.

Hays's Boot Hill, recently renovated by the Ellis County Historical Society, was dedicated May 5, 1973. The first burial in the cemetery was in October, 1867, and the last in 1874. Dedicatory remarks were by Standlee Dalton, president of the Ellis county society.

All officers of the Russell County Historical Society were reelected at the society's annual meeting May 22, 1973. The officers are: Dean C. Banker, president; Ralph A. Coffeen, vice-president; and Clifford Holland, Jr., secretary-treasurer.

In observance of its 80th anniversary, the history of the Pretty Prairie United Methodist church was published in a 71-page booklet in 1972. A Methodist Sunday School was started in Pretty Prairie in 1891 and a year later the church was founded under the leadership of the Rev. McCager Lakey.

A Pictorial History of Rosalia Township and Rosalia, Kansas, 1869-1935, by Harold J. Borger, is a 127-page book published in

1972. The first settlers arrived in the Butler county community in 1869.

Pretty Prairie U. S. A.—Facts and Hearsay is the title of Pretty Prairie's recently published 82-page centennial booklet by Alma L. Graber.

Rogers House Museum-Gallery, Ellsworth, recently published *The Great West,* a 24-page pamphlet comprised of 138 miniature reproductions of the art of Charles B. Rogers.

Julius Lundstrom is the author of a recently published 32-page pamphlet entitled *The Americanization of a Swedish Colony [Lindsborg] in Kansas.*

More than 400 pictures of families and farm and community activities in Pleasant Valley township, Saline county, are included in *Picture Trails Past to Present.* The recently published 66-page booklet was compiled by Harry Hughes and Helen Craig Dingler.

Wild Bill Hickok, the Law in Hays City, a 24-page pamphlet by the Rev. Blaine Burkey, was privately printed May 5, 1973, on the occasion of the dedication of the Boot Hill memorial park in Hays.

Glimpses of Grant County is a 62-page pamphlet comprised of paragraph-length historical essays by Mrs. Roy Bessire, published in 1973. The glimpses were originally written for use on Radio Station KULY, Ulysses.

From the Missouri to the Great Salt Lake: An Account of Overland Freighting, a 312-page work by William E. Lass, was published in 1972 as Nebraska State Historical Society *Publications,* v. 26. The book concentrates on freighting through the Platte valley during the period 1848-1869.

Tom McHugh is the author of *The Time of the Buffalo,* a 410-page work published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, in 1972. After years of study and observation of the buffalo, the author has written about that animal's character and life and its place in the culture of the Plains Indians.

In the author's words, "a side of western history that Americans might wish to forget," is portrayed in John Upton Terrell's *Land Grab—The Truth About "The Winning of the West,"* published in 1972 by the Dial Press, New York. The 277-page volume includes many episodes in Western history of which the author feels Americans cannot be proud.

Wilderness Bonanza—The Tri-State District of Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma by Arrell M. Gibson, a 362-page history of the mining region around Joplin, Mo., was published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, in 1972.

"Voices Against War—A Guide to the Schowalter Oral History Collection of World War I Conscientious Objection," a 190-page mimeographed volume compiled by Keith L. Sprunger, James C. Juhnke, and John D. Waltner, was issued in 1973 by Bethel College, North Newton. The collection is the result of 273 interviews mostly with Mennonite World War I draftees in regard to their experiences during the war.

In John Brown's own words and those of his contemporaries, and through the analyses of historians and political scientists, *Great Lives Observed—John Brown,* presents a portrait of Brown and the story of his famous Harper's Ferry raid. The 184-page volume, edited by Richard Warch and Jonathan F. Fanton, was published in 1973 by Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.

American Habitat—A Historical Perspective, a 372-page volume edited by Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz and William A. Koelsch, was published recently by the Free Press, New York. James C. Malin is the author of two chapters of the book, entitled "Ecology and History," and "The Grassland of North America: Its Occupance and the Challenge of Continuous Reappraisals."

Donald R. McCoy and Richard T. Ruetten are the authors of *Quest and Response—Minority Rights and the Truman Administration,* a new 427-page volume published by the University Press of Kansas.

A new 467-page, well-illustrated volume entitled *Farm Steam Shows USA & Canada,* by Dana Close Jennings, deals with the restoration of steam engines and other tractors and farm machinery, and describes the demonstrations and shows in Kansas and several other points in this country and Canada where the restored equipment is exhibited.

Twenty-four artists are represented in the 133 plates, 20 of them color, reproduced in *The American West—Painters From Catlin to Russell,* by Larry Curry. Other features of the 198-page volume published recently by the Viking Press, Inc., New York, in association with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, include a 19-page introduction and biographical material on the artists.

Eisenhower as Military Commander by E. K. G. Sixsmith, a review of General Eisenhower's background and an appraisal of his performance as supreme commander, is a 248-page work published by Stein and Day, New York, in 1973.

S. J. Sackett is the author of an 189-page study of E. W. Howe's literary contributions, entitled *E. W. Howe.* The volume, covering Howe's fiction, aphorisms, travel books, and autobiography, was recently published by Twayne Publishers, Inc., New York.

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Kansas historical quarterly

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NYLE H. MILLER, *Managing Editor* · JAMES C. MALIN, *Associate Editor* · FORREST R. BLACKBURN, *Assistant Editor*

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The Kansas Historical Quarterly is published by the Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. Tenth St., Topeka, Kan. 66612. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society; single issues, when available, may be purchased for $1.25 each. Membership dues are: annual, $5; supporting annual, $10; life, $50; patron annual, $100 or more. Membership applications and dues should be sent to Edgar Langsdorf, treasurer.

Correspondence concerning articles for the *Quarterly* should be addressed to the managing editor. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

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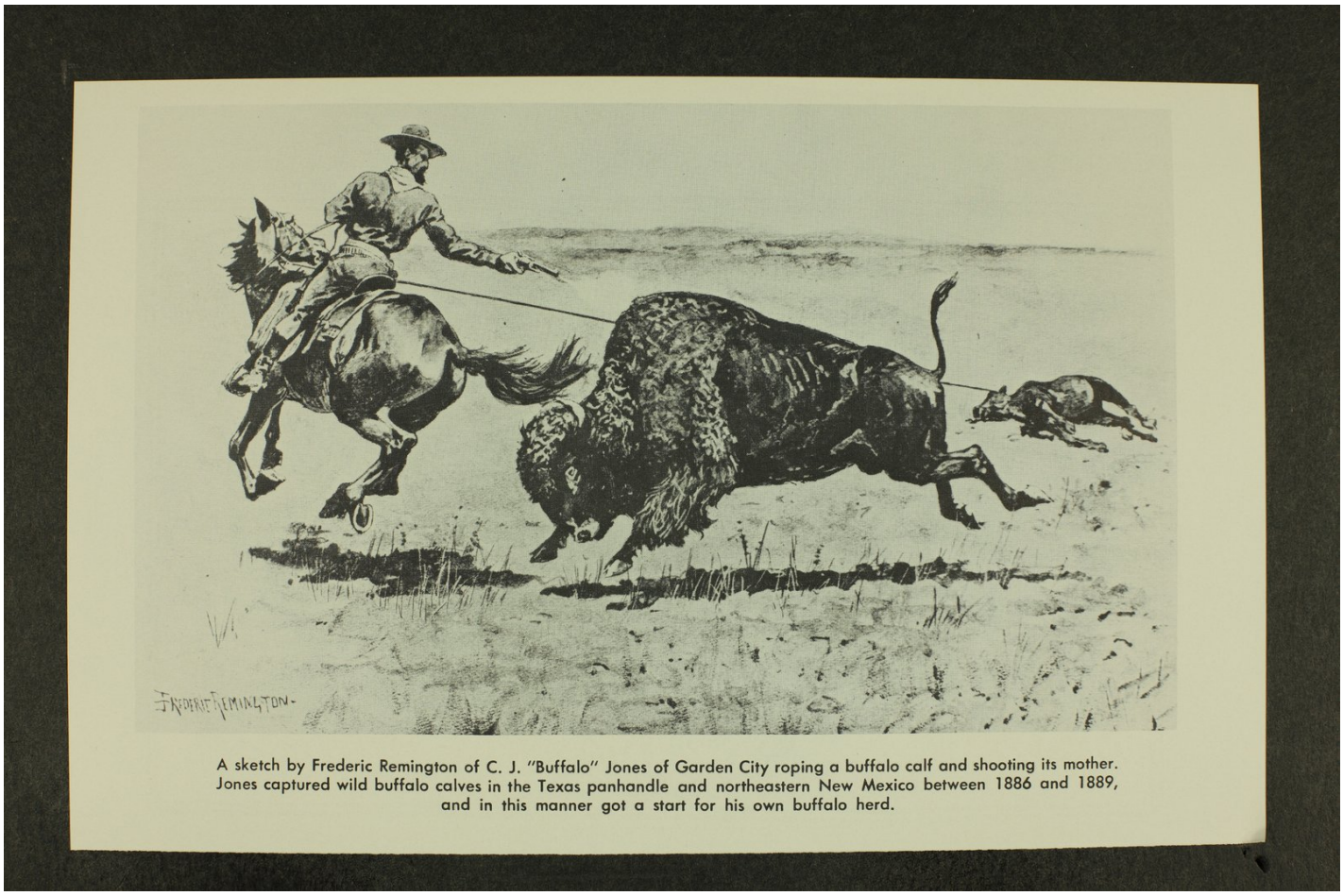
THE COVER

"Buffalo Hunt," by Charles Russell, from the original oil painting at Woolaroc Museum, Bartlesville, Okla. (For an article on the buffalo *see* pp. 305-344.)

Kansas historical quarterly

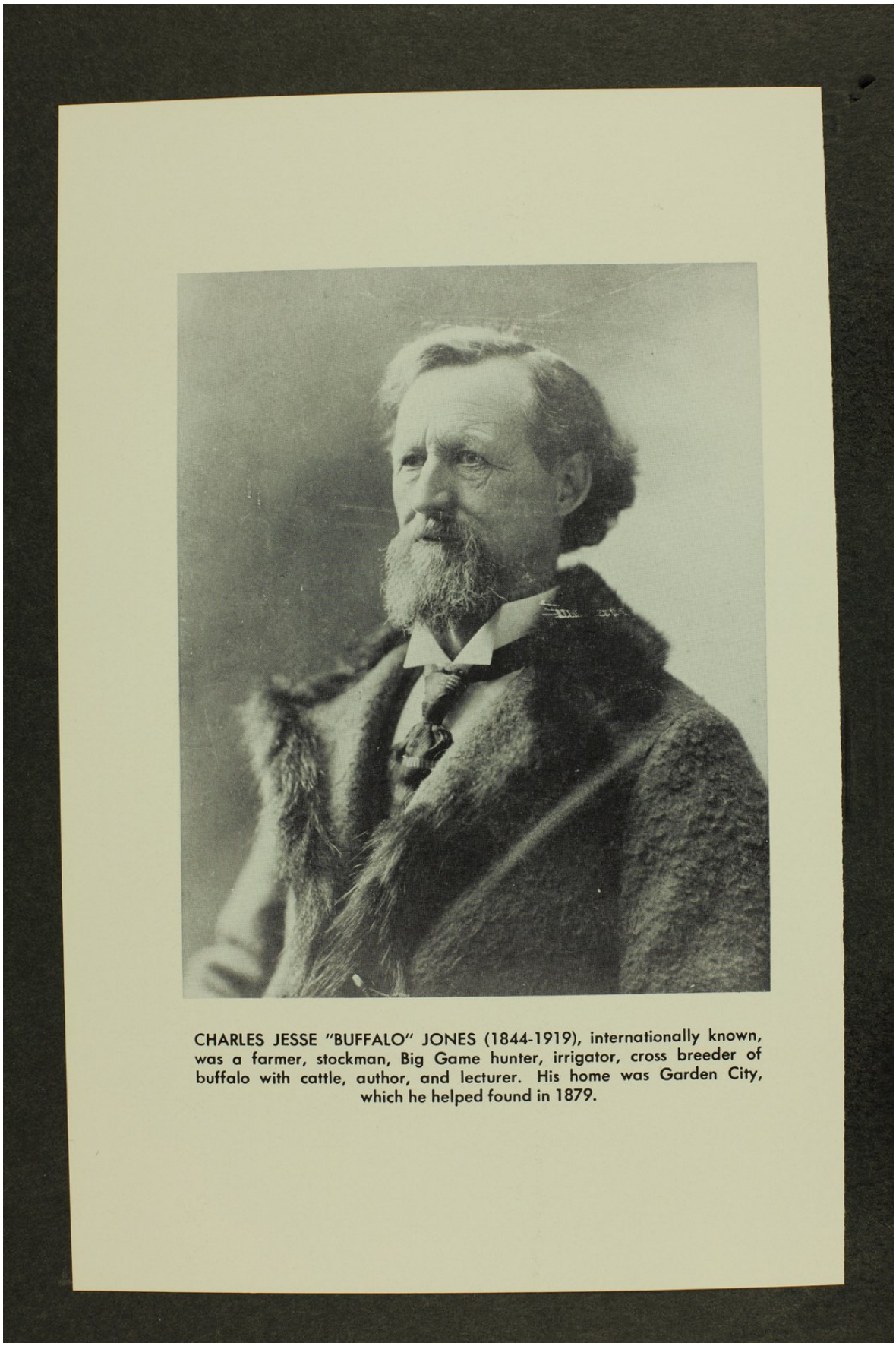
The earliest-known illustration of an American buffalo as sketched in Francisco Lopez de Gomara's *Historia General de las Indias*, 1552-1553.



A sketch by Frederic Remington of C. J. "Buffalo" Jones of Garden City roping a buffalo calf and shooting its mother. Jones captured wild buffalo calves in the Texas panhandle and northeastern New Mexico between 1886 and 1889, and in this manner got a start for his own buffalo herd.

Kansas historical quarterly

Domesticated buffalo driven by C. J. "Buffalo" Jones at Garden City. While Kansas' famed buffalo trio, William "Buffalo Bill" Mathewson, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and C. J. "Buffalo" Jones all achieved their nicknames by their slaughter of the animal, it was Jones who finally realized the situation in time to help save from extinction America's favorite animal of history.



CHARLES JESSE "BUFFALO" JONES (1844-1919), internationally known, was a farmer, stockman, Big Game hunter, irrigator, cross breeder of buffalo with cattle, author, and lecturer. His home was Garden City, which he helped found in 1879.

THE KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Volume XXXIX *Autumn, 1973* Number 3

The Buffalo in Kansas

DAVID DARY

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

Perhaps no undomesticated animal in the history of any nation has ever played a more important role than did the American buffalo on the Plains of Western United States.

In Kansas, where countless wild buffalo once roamed, the animal's influence was perhaps greater than anywhere else in North America during the 19th century. As a social factor the buffalo's influence on Indian and white man alike was tremendous. As an economic factor, the buffalo's role was extraordinary. And in Kansas, even in the realm of natural history, no wild Plains animal surpassed the buffalo.

Yet no complete scientific study of the animal was made during those days when the wild buffalo roamed the Plains in vast numbers. Few formally educated men ventured westward then. Most of those who did were interested only in hunting the buffalo for sport.

The slaughter of thousands upon thousands of these beasts was inevitable. The herds of buffalo roaming the Western Plains and prairies provided food, clothing, and other necessities for the Plains Indians. So long as there were buffalo, the Indians maintained their strength, courage, and freedom. Without their buffalo, the Plains Indians were conquered and the land taken by ranchers and settlers.

Even if there had been no Indian on the land, the buffalo would still have been in the way of the white men. Buffalo ate the free grass that the ranchers wanted for their cattle, and the shaggy animals roamed land which the settlers wanted to till. Obviously, the buffalo had to be cleared from the land, and they were.

However, if it had not been for a few *thinking* North Americans late in the 19th century and early in this century, the buffalo long ago would have gone the way of the passenger pigeon. But because a handful of men, located in several areas of the American West, captured some wild buffalo and raised them during the 1880's and 1890's,

DAVID A. DARY, a native of Manhattan with degrees from Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, is an assistant professor of journalism in the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas and assistant director of university relations and development.

Dary is the author of a 450-page study of the buffalo entitled *The Buffalo Book*, to be published this winter by Swallow Press, Chicago.

the buffalo was saved. Today they continue to be cared for by this same creature who paradoxically had nearly brought the animals to extermination.

What follows is a brief history of the American buffalo in Kansas.

THE FIRST BUFFALO

JUST when the first buffalo[1] arrived in what is today Kansas is unknown. It was long before man first appeared in North America, sometime between two and eight hundred thousand years ago, in the Illinoian glacial age, the third major glaciation of the four Pleistocene ice advances.

From Asia, the center of mammal development, these shaggy animals had crossed over to North America on the land mass that geologists tell us once connected Asia to what is today Alaska.

The first buffalo were stout animals compared to the buffalo roaming the Western Plains of North America in the 1800's. They had large curved horns which came out from the skull at right angles to the midline. Because of the excessive horn size some scientists believe the first buffalo were "solitary" in their habits and did not live in large herds. Apparently nature gave the animals their large horns as a means of self-protection.[2]

The remains of one of these large buffalo were found on the ranch of James O'Connel, about 25 miles southeast of Coldwater, in September, 1925. The horn cores stretched more than six feet from tip to tip. Dr. Handel T. Martin, a paleontologist at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, examined the remains and identified them as being of the classification *Bison latifrons*.[3]

For thousands of years the first buffalo spread slowly southward and eastward across North America. They ranged as far west as California, as far east as Florida, and perhaps as far south as Honduras and Nicaragua in Central America. But slowly the ice-age climate in which these animals lived began to change. About 120,000 years ago, toward the end of the last interglacial (Sangamon) period, the climate became warmer and the first buffalo died out. In their place appeared two new forms. One of these,

1. The American buffalo is not, of course, a buffalo. The animal is a bison, related to the European wisent. Many scientists insist that the word "buffalo" should be used to describe the African buffalo or the water buffalo of Asia and not the bison. But for more than 150 years the American bison has been called the buffalo. Herein, the words buffalo and bison are used interchangeably.

2. Letter to author from Dr. David Webb, Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, dated October 10, 1967.

3. Handel T. Martin, "On the Occurrence of Bison Latifrons in Comanche County, Kansas," *University of Kansas Science Bulletin*, v. 17, No. 7 (September, 1927), pp. 397-400.

Bison antiquus, may have originated from the earlier buffalo. It is a little smaller than the first. Fossil remains of this animal have been found in the tar pits of the Rancho la Brea in California, in Texas, Mexico, and elsewhere. But like the earlier buffalo this form also died out, becoming extinct during the last glaciation (Wisconsin) period, about nine to eleven thousand years ago. This form was associated with early man in North America.

However, the other new form, *Bison occidentalis*, more nearly resembled our present buffalo. It prospered. Unlike the earlier forms it had horns that angled backward from the midline of the skull like those of today's animal. Fossil remains of this form were first discovered in the early 1800's by Sir John Richardson at Fort Yukon, Alaska. Since then other fossils of this form have been found, including a complete skeleton near Russell Springs in Logan county.[4]

From this species—*Bison occidentalis*—two races of buffalo developed. The mountain or wood buffalo (*Bison athabascae*) and the Plains buffalo (*Bison bison*). These are the modern day buffalo. Kansas was a home of the Plains buffalo.

THE INDIAN AND THE BUFFALO

To the Indian who much later followed the buffalo to live in what is today Kansas, the shaggy creature was an important commodity. For centuries before the first white man arrived the buffalo had provided the red man not only food but also shelter, clothing, and other necessities. And the buffalo dominated all phases of the Indian's life. The very character of the various Plains tribes was moulded by the extent of the animal's influence upon each tribe.

For many Indian tribes in Kansas, the influence was great. The Indians' thinking, their philosophy, their religion, their very way of life were dominated by the buffalo. And during the late summer and fall the animal usually transformed some tribes into nomads as they hunted the buffalo.[5]

At about the time the white man first began to penetrate the Plains and prairies, there were at least 23 Plains Indian tribes dependent, some more than others, upon the buffalo. Many of these tribes originally came from a woodland environment, but

4. Oliver P. Hay, *The Extinct Bisons of North America With Descriptions of One New Species, Bison Requis* (Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1913), pp. 169-173.
5. Henry W. Henshaw, *Handbook of American Indians* (Washington, D. C., 1919), v. 2, p. 282.

only a few maintained their old arts of fishing, trapping, and planting crops. The Pawnee, Kansa, and the Osage raised some crops and at times were not as dependent upon the buffalo as were other tribes. But when crops failed, they were forced to rely almost entirely on the buffalo for survival.[6]

Some Plains Indian tribes had believed that the buffalo came from underground. Many Indians in this area thought there was a huge cave somewhere on the Staked Plains of northwest Texas which was the buffalo's home. It was from there, they believed, that each spring some benevolent spirit sent huge numbers of buffalo out onto the Plains for the Indians.

Col. Richard I. Dodge, writing in the early 1880's, reported,

> One Indian has gravely and solemnly assured me that he has been at these caverns, and with his own eyes saw the buffalo coming out in countless throngs. Others have told me that their fathers or uncles, or some other of the old men have been there. In 1879 Stone Calf assured me that he knew exactly where these caves were, though he had never seen them, that the Good God had provided this means for the constant supply of food for the Indian, and that however recklessly the white men might slaughter, they never could exterminate them. When last I saw him, the old man was beginning to waver in this belief, and feared that the Bad God had shut up the openings and that his people must starve.[7]

It is very doubtful that any other animal in the world has ever matched the buffalo in providing so many commodities of prime importance to any one people. The number of nonfood uses of the buffalo has been placed as high as 87.[8] However, Red Cloud, a former Sioux chief, once told a white man that he knew of only 22 uses of the animal by his tribe: "His meat sustained life; it was cut in strips and dried, it was chopped up and packed in skins, its tallow and grease were preserved—all for winter use; its bones afforded material for implements and weapons; its skull was preserved as great medicine; its hide furnished blankets, garments, boats, ropes, and a warm and portable house; its hoofs produced glue, its sinews were used for bowstrings and made a most excellent substitute for twine." [9]

Indians on foot had been able buffalo hunters long before the Spanish introduced horses into the Plains area. Probably the first method the red men used to kill buffalo was the "surround." The

6. William E. Connelley, *A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans* (New York, 1918), v. 1, p. 286.
7. Richard I. Dodge, *Our Wild Indians* (Hartford, 1884), pp. 286, 287.
8. John Ewers, *Horse in Blackfoot Culture* (Washington, D. C., 1955), pp. 150-151.
9. Warren K. Moorehead, "The Passing of Red Cloud," *Kansas Historical Collections*, v. 10 (1907-1908), p. 298.

Indians would form a cordon around a herd, circling on foot only as many buffalo as they felt they could handle. Then running in circles around the terrified animals, yelling loudly, they would slowly close the circle, making it smaller and smaller. At an appropriate time they would let go with their lances and arrows. As the first buffalo fell near the outside of the circle, it acted as a roadblock for the animals still in the ring. Soon many such roadblocks trapped the remaining live buffalo. Unwilling to pass, the animals inside eventually met their fate.[10]

One Indian surround was mentioned by John Dunbar, a Presbyterian missionary in early day Kansas, who went to live with the Pawnees in 1835. In November he joined the Indians on a buffalo hunt along the Platte river in what is today southern Nebraska and reported that about 300 animals were killed in the surround.[11] Colonel Dodge recorded that a white hunter saw some Indians kill the same number of buffalo in another surround many years later. "The whole affair occupied less than ten minutes after the signal was given, and . . . not a single buffalo escaped," he said.[12] In 1872 Charles J. "Buffalo" Jones claimed he saw one of the last surrounds conducted by the Pawnee Indians. He reported that out of a herd of about 2,000, "only forty-one" buffalo were killed.[13]

Another buffalo hunting method used by Indians was called "impounding." It was more difficult than the "surround," and most authorities seem to think that therefore it probably developed after the "surround." Impounding was used more widely in partly wooded, rolling and rocky country than on the Plains of Kansas. Where wood or rock was available, Indians would build a strong corral, drive buffalo inside, and kill them.[14]

Still another method used was the buffalo jump or "piskun," as it was often called. Indians would find a cliff, then locate a herd of buffalo and stampede the animals over the precipice. Tribesmen waiting below would finish off any buffalo that might survive the fall. Because of the terrain, however, this method of killing buffalo was rarely used in Kansas.

Just when and how the Indians came to use the horse is un-

10. Frank Gilbert Roe, *The North American Buffalo* (Toronto, 1951), pp. 631-636.
11. "Journal of John Dunbar," *Kansas Historical Collections,* v. 14 (1915-1918), pp. 603-604.
12. Richard I. Dodge, *The Plains of the Great West* (New York, 1877), p. 355.
13. Henry Inman, comp., *Buffalo Jones' Forty Years of Adventure* (Topeka, 1899), pp. 97-102.
14. Roe, *The North American Buffalo,* pp. 636-642.

known.[15] Most authorities have discarded the belief that they first obtained the animals from wild herds formed from lost or abandoned Spanish horses. Rather, it appears that the Indians of the Plains first obtained them in trade at Spanish settlements in New Mexico and Texas. In time, horses changed hands between tribes and eventually Indians from Texas through Kansas and into southern Canada had them.

The horse gave the Plains Indian mobility. No longer was a whole village needed to hunt buffalo. A few skillful men on horseback could kill many animals and provide more than enough meat.

When no buffalo could be found near camp, Indians usually turned to magic but often the rites were held even when buffalo were plentiful. Each Plains tribe had its own ceremony which was performed for some benevolent spirit who was thought capable of producing more buffalo. Such a ceremony was usually directed by a medicine man, and included mimicry of the desired event. Often the medicine man made it appear that he had indeed caused the buffalo to return, but what appeared to be magic was in truth a natural occurrence. The medicine man was a student of nature.

Guns did not readily displace the bows, arrows, and spears which had been used for centuries. Muskets were difficult to load on horseback; they could not be fired as fast as arrows, and at close range were no more accurate. Not until the repeating rifle was obtained by the Indians did they begin to discard their traditional weapons.

If America had never been discovered by caucasians and if the Indian had had no horses, buffalo might still be roaming the Plains and prairies of Kansas. Before the advent of horses the Plains Indians were not excessively wasteful with the buffalo, the number killed was only a small percentage of the total. Frank Gilbert Roe, a Canadian buffalo historian, concluded after many years of study that "there is not a fragment of evidence that I have been able to discover to suggest that the Indians would ever have exterminated the buffalo herds." [16]

15. In June, 1971, a team of scientists headed by Dr. Waldo Wedel, senior archeologist from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., found the tooth of a horse while digging at the site of an old Indian village near Lyons, Kan. That tooth, estimated by Dr. Wedel to be from around the middle 1600's, about 100 years after Coronado, is an *indication* that horses were used by Indians of the early Plains culture. Until the Kansas discovery many authorities thought that Indians on the Southern Plains did not obtain the horse until the 18th century. In a letter to the author, dated September, 1971, Dr. Wedel noted: "The tooth we recovered is not proof, in my judgment, that the Indians who lived on the site actually used the horse. The piece in question bore several cuts and may have served as an ornament or talisman of some sort, quite possibly received in trade or otherwise from contemporary people who had horses."

16. Letter to the author from Frank Gilbert Roe, Cadboro Bay, Victoria, British Columbia, dated July 15, 1968.

SPANISH FIND BUFFALO

The Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez is said to be the first caucasian to see buffalo. The animal he saw in 1521 was kept in a menagerie by Montezuma near where Mexico City stands today.

Alvar Muñez Cabeza de Vaca is reported to be the second Spanish explorer to see buffalo. About 1530 he was shipwrecked on the Gulf coast, probably not far from where Houston, Tex., stands today. As he wandered westward across present Texas, de Vaca became the first white man to see buffalo in the wild. At least three times he witnessed vast herds of the shaggy animals grazing peacefully on the rich grasslands. He ate buffalo steak several times and compared them to Spanish cattle.

After de Vaca it was 10 years before the Spaniards again had contact with the buffalo. Then, about 1540, Coronado's expedition saw buffalo somewhere on the Southern Plains, probably in the area which is now the Texas panhandle. Pedro de Castañeda, the expedition's historian, recorded that the first time they saw buffalo their horses "took to flight." The animals were horrible to look at and were described as having a "broad and short face, eyes two palms from each other," and their eyes projected sideways from their head, making it possible for them to "see a pursuer." He compared a buffalo's beard to that of a goat and said the buffalo's beard was so long that it "drags the ground when they lower the head." The horns, Castañeda observed, were very short and thick and sometimes could scarcely be seen through their hair.[17]

During the 16th century other Spaniards criss-crossing the American Southwest, including portions of modern Kansas, encountered buffalo. The animals frequently were killed for food and sometimes the Spaniards would take the robe. By the beginning of the 17th century the Spanish knew more about the "cibola," as they called the buffalo, than anyone else except the Indians.

DISCOVERY FROM THE EAST

Probably the first white American to see buffalo in present Kansas was Zebulon Pike. In 1806, shortly before Lewis and Clark had completed their journey to the Pacific and back, Pike took an expedition across the Southern Plains. In the rolling country along the Cimarron river near the present Kansas-Oklahoma

17. W. W. H. Davis, *The Spanish Conquest of New Mexico* (Doylestown, Pa., 1869), pp. 67, 206-207.

border, Pike saw many buffalo and reported, "I do not think it an exaggeration to say there were 3,000 in one view." [18]

Nearby, a detail of Pike's men under the command of Lt. James B. Wilkinson also encountered buffalo while exploring the Arkansas river. The young officer saw so many buffalo that he wondered whether he was seeing things. "I do solemnly assert," he later reported, "that, if I saw one, I saw more than 9,000 buffaloes during the day's march." [19]

Another early 19th century traveler, Edwin James, secretary and historian to Maj. Stephen F. Long's Plains expedition of 1819-1820, saw a large herd of buffalo near the Big Bend of the Arkansas river in August, 1820, but when the wind carried the scent of the white men to the buffalo, the animals broke into a "bounding run." [20]

As immigrants and traders pushed westward over the Kansas Plains up to the 1870's, nearly every wagon train saw buffalo; often the animals were killed for food or sport.

One traveler, Thomas J. Farnham, crossing Kansas on the Santa Fe trail in 1839, spent three days moving through what apparently was one large herd of buffalo. Later Farnham recalled,

"It appeared oftentimes extremely dangerous even for the immense cavalcade of the Santa Fe traders to attempt to break its way through them. We traveled at the rate of fifteen miles a day. The length of sight on either side of the trail, 15 miles; on both sides, 30 miles:—$15 \times 3 = 45 \times 30 = 1{,}350$ square miles of country, so thickly covered with these noble animals, that when viewed from a height, it scarcely afforded a sight of a square league of its surface." [21]

Thirteen years later, in 1852, countless buffalo could still be found in what is today south central Kansas. In June, 1852, an army officer reported, "As we approached Little Cow Creek, the entire surface of prairie plain and slope appeared black with countless numbers of buffalo." And the following day the officer wrote, "We soon came in sight of thousands of buffalo spread over the prairies to the left and right of the road. After reaching the *Plum buttes* . . . (9 miles from Big Cow Creek,) several herds of buffalo frightened and driven by our men, who were

18. Elliott Coues, ed., *The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike* (New York, 1895), v. 2, p. 438.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 548.
20. Edwin James's, "Account of S. H. Long's Expedition," in Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., *Early Western Travels*, v. 16 (Cleveland, 1905), p. 228.
21. Thomas J. Farnham's "Travels in the Great Western Prairies . . .," in Thwaites' *Early Western Travels*, v. 28 (Cleveland, 1906), p. 96.

hunting, galloped across the road, giving us fine opportunities to observe their appearance and all their peculiar motions." [22]

That same summer of 1852, William Carr Lane, traveling in a Santa Fe-bound mail stage, camped for dinner beside Big Cow creek. In his diary Lane wrote, "Since our last halt, we have never been out of sight of buffaloes, and I dare say there are 10,000 of them now in sight." [23]

THE TERRITORIAL YEARS

On May 30, 1854, Kansas territory came into being and at that time there were still millions of buffalo roaming the western two thirds of the new territory which stretched from the Missouri river westward to the Rocky mountains in what is today Colorado.

For over three decades wagon trains had traversed the area which now comprised the new territory and many of the trains returning up the Santa Fe trail eastward carried buffalo robes. At Westport, later Kansas City, buffalo robes were a major item of commerce. From there most were shipped east to be used as bedding or for lap robes in carriages.

Although trade in buffalo robes was already established when Kansas territory was formed, getting large numbers of good robes was not an easy task. The buffalo only carried a good coat between November and March, the months when nature gave the animal thick hair to protect it from the bitter cold of winter. And then only buffalo cows provided suitable robes during those months. The bulls had robes, but each male three years of age or older did not have a full robe and the hair on its hind quarters was not any longer than that of a horse. The cow's hair, however, was uniformly the same thickness over the whole body. Thus the cow's robe was best.

In the early years most buffalo robes were obtained from the Indians but they were slow in preparing them. Few white men wanted the messy job of scraping and tanning the hides. Thus prices for buffalo robes during the middle 1850's were good because the market was not flooded with them.

The weekly review of the Kansas City, Mo., market ending June 14, 1856, reported that buffalo robes were selling for from $3.00 to $3.50 each; however, the review added, "The season has pretty well passed for the sale of these articles." [24]

22. New York *Daily Tribune*, December 25, 1852.
23. Historical Society of New Mexico, *Publications* No. 20, p. 34, and *New Mexico Historical Review*, v. 3 (April, 1928), p. 187.
24. Kansas City (Mo.) *Enterprise*, June 14, 1856.

Early Kansas newspapers contain a vast storehouse of bits and pieces of information concerning the buffalo in Kansas. Nearly all of the buffalo news came from travelers or letters sent east from the buffalo range. In March, 1857, as an example, one Kansas City, Mo., newspaper reported Samuel Machett, an Indian trader who had just arrived from the mountains as saying, "The buffalo were very plentiful, and immense numbers were killed by the Indians." [25]

The Kansas City, Mo., *Western Journal of Commerce* reviewed the buffalo robe business in its "Annual Review of Trade, Commerce and Business of Kansas City for the year ending December 31st, 1857." It read:

> This department of our trade for the year just closed, has been unusually good. The buffalo were abundant in their season, and were scattered over an immense scope of country, and were to be found very near to the settlements, and the various Indian tribes south of the Platte, as far as the Cimmaron [*sic*] and Arkansas rivers.
>
> All the Indian hunts were very successful, and we see this portion of our business running up to over fifty thousand robes. Furs were not more abundant than for years past, if as much so. Hides, in consequence of the large number of buffalo taken, and the immense number of cattle driven to California, Salt Lake, and the Forts on the Platte, do not show any great increase over former years, although our figures are greatly in advance of what would naturally be supposed to be the business of a city, commencing the year with only 2,000 inhabitants.[26]

In early July, 1858, *The Western Journal of Commerce* reported that a

> Maj. Linn, an old subscriber to the *Journal*, arrived today with his train from the Cherokee Nation, with his annual complement of robes, hides, furs, and pelts. As an indication of the trade in these articles, we notice one item alone of over 2,000-Buffalo robes, while a portion of his train was laden with skins and furs, with a large invoice of Indian handled deer skins.[27]

By the late 1850's settlers' buffalo hunts were commonplace in Kansas territory. One pioneer, Peter Bryant, who came from Illinois to settle near Holton, wrote his brother in August, 1859, "Buffaloes can be found 100 miles west of here on the Republican Fork." Bryant added that he had talked with a Pawnee Indian who had watched one party of white hunters kill 300 buffalo, but had seen no Pawnees killing the animals. Bryant said the

25. *Ibid.*, March 14, 1857.
26. *Western Journal of Commerce*, Kansas City, Mo., January 9, 1858.
27. *Ibid.*, July 10, 1858.

Indian was most concerned about the white men killing "his" buffalo.[28]

Few white men were concerned about the killing of buffalo. The animal was plentiful in the early 1860's and hunting trips deep into western Kansas were common. In June, 1860, a Council Grove newspaper reprinted an item from a Junction City newspaper:

> We were favored, on Wednesday last with a call from Gen'l Pomeroy, of Atchison, who was on his way to the buffalo country, sixty miles west of us, accompanied by his lady and a friend from New York city. We believe the trip is intended purposely to get a view of these "prairie monarchs," and if possible to lessen their number by an application of pure lead.[29]

Of all the sportsmen who hunted buffalo in Kansas during its territorial years, perhaps the most famous was Sir George Gore of Ireland. He had his first taste of buffalo hunting on the prairies west of Fort Leavenworth, but he did not confine his killing to Kansas territory. Gore outfitted his expedition in St. Louis in the spring of 1854, then headed west. By the time his party returned to St. Louis nearly three years later, Gore had spent more than $500,000 and traveled at least 6,000 miles with 40 servants, nearly 50 hunting dogs, numerous wagons and horses, and a number of companions, including scientists, and mountain men.

Accounts of Gore's expedition tell of its killing 105 bears, 1,600 elk and deer, and more than 2,000 buffalo. Gore hired mountain man Jim Bridger to guide the expedition up the North Platte river and eventually to the mouth of the Tongue river in eastern Montana. There Gore and his party camped the winter of 1855 and 1856 and killed so many buffalo that the Indians complained to their agent. The federal government ordered Gore to stop hunting buffalo in that area. This probably was the first and only time that the U. S. government moved to stop the wholesale slaughter of the buffalo while large numbers of the animals still roamed the Plains and prairies.[30]

More typical of the buffalo hunts of the late 1850's and very early 1860's is one in which five men from Wyandotte, K. T., now Kansas City, Kan., participated. The five—John P. Alden, T. J. Darling, I. D. Heath, John Blachly, and Alanson Reeve—set out

28. Letters of Peter Bryant, Jackson county pioneer, in the manuscript section, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

29. *The Kansas Press*, Council Grove, June 11, 1860.

30. "Narrative of Sir George Gore's Expedition, 1854-1856," *Contributions*, Historical Society of Montana, Helena, v. 1 (1876), p. 148. *See, also*, William Clark Kennerly, *Persimmon Hill: A Narrative of the Far West* (Norman, 1948), pp. 147-148.

from Wyandotte in late September, 1860, taking with them two ox teams, each with two yoke of oxen, a pair of ponies with a light wagon, a small rat terrier and a big dog. They had

a tent, three Sharps and one muzzle-loading rifle, two shot guns for small game, three Colt's revolvers, Navy size, plus five lbs. powder, ten lbs. shot, twenty-five lbs. lead, five sacks flour, two sides bacon, one bushel onions, one bushel potatoes, seven bushels corn meal, four cwt. salt, fifty lbs. sugar, ten lbs. coffee, five gallons sorghum, one gallon common molasses, table salt, pepper, ginger, pipes and tobacco for three smokers, &c., &c., &c.

The men traveled west to the bottom lands of the Solomon, Saline, and Smoky Hill rivers. From the start they kept a log of their trip. The first week of buffalo hunting was recorded as follows:

Friday, 12th, drove on up Solomon, and camped on Hard-crossing creek (fitly named). There the buffalo carcasses were very numerous, showing that there had been great slaughter among them a few weeks previous. A good many Irish and German settlers in this neighborhood. Shot at more buffalo.

Saturday, 13th, drove on across Sand creek, a beautiful soft water stream, and camped on Solomon. Shot at more buffalo, but brought none down yet.

Sunday, 14th, forded Solomon and camped on Salt creek. Saw a few wild turkeys. The timber consists of cottonwood, burr oak, white oak, black walnut and elm.

Monday, 15th, killed three buffalo, and brought two, nicely dressed into camp before sundown. Lost the other from not being able to dress it soon enough. Buffalo must be dressed immediately after being killed, or the meat will spoil. Two of these were killed each with a single ball, while the third was so tenacious of life that he refused to give up till he had nearly a pound of lead under his skin.

Tuesday, 16th, spent the day cutting up beef, and commencing the process of "jerking." Cut up the hind quarters in thin slices, across the grain, which are then dipped in hot brine, or allowed to lie in cold brine all night, and afterwards the meat is spread upon small strips of wood or upon wire, and dried by smoke, sun and wind.

Wednesday, Oct. 17, Darling, Blachly and Reeve went out and brought in one buffalo, nicely dressed. Some one remained in camp all the time.

Thursday, 18th, killed a fat young buffalo, and "jerked" the whole.

Friday, 19th, killed one buffalo.

When the five buffalo hunters returned to Wyandotte on November 22, 1860, they brought 5,000 pounds "of as fine buffalo meat as ever tickled the palate of a hungry man." The hunt was considered a success.[31]

Just how many buffalo were killed during Kansas' territorial days is unknown, but newspaper accounts leave little doubt that the slaughter was considerable. Not everyone was able to kill buffalo,

31. *The Commercial Gazette,* Wyandotte, December 1, 1860.

however. One unsuccessful hunting expedition consisted of 12 men and boys from Alma in 1860. With five ox-drawn wagons the group traveled 20 miles a day until they found buffalo near present McPherson. There were many buffalo in the vicinity but not being experienced at hunting the animal, the group was able to kill only calves and old bulls whose meat was too tough to eat. The party finally settled on buying buffalo meat at 50 cents a carcass from some professional hunters they met.[32]

Occasionally buffalo would wander east into settlements. When they did, they were almost always killed on sight. Edward Secrest remembered such an incident. He settled in the Fancy creek area north of present Manhattan in the late 1850's. One warm June day in 1857 he was working in the fields not far from his cabin when a neighbor brought the news: buffalo had been seen moving east off the prairie and down into the valley where Secrest and other settlers lived.

Secrest quit work and headed for home to get his rifle. But as he approached his small cabin, there stood a huge buffalo bull rubbing his shaggy shoulder against a corner of the building. The bull was standing there "as calmly and unconcerned as if he owned the whole shebang in fee simple," recalled Secrest.

Secrest could do nothing but wait and watch. After a while, the buffalo, having satisfied his itches, took off along Fancy creek and went farther south into the valley. Secrest ran into his cabin for his rifle, but by the time he got back outside the buffalo was out of range. Later he learned that a neighbor had killed the animal. Though Secrest saw no other buffalo that day, he learned that other settlers in the area had killed several. The animals were skinned and butchered and the meat divided. Secrest got a share. As he recalled, the people in the Fancy creek area lived in clover the summer, fall and winter following.

> Their larders were replenished as never before. . . . We jerked it Indian fashion, and hung it up well cured, in long rows and festoons on the joists in the back part of the cabin and when our Mill Creek Hoosier boys would come up occasionally in their lumber wagons on a visit during the winter days, as the Old Boreas howled and drove the snow like sifted flour under the clapboarded roof, we sat around a roaring fire. . . . As we tired of telling Hoosier yarns, one after another would get up and cut down a chunk of buffalo bull beef, return to the fire and cut slice after slice of the juicy steak and talk of the halcyon days a coming when Kansas would be a Free State. . . .[33]

32. Alma *Signal*, August 27, 1892.
33. *Log Cabin Days* (Manhattan, 1929), pp. 55-56.