

"The Winding Valley and the Craggy Hillside": A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

A history of the city of Rosedale, Kansas. Author Margaret Landis concludes her introduction with this hope: "May this effort . . . be a liaison between yesterday and tomorrow. As you read this history of Rosedale perhaps it will recall many pleasant memories and cause us to more deeply appreciate our 'Old Home Town.'" Funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission through the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board.

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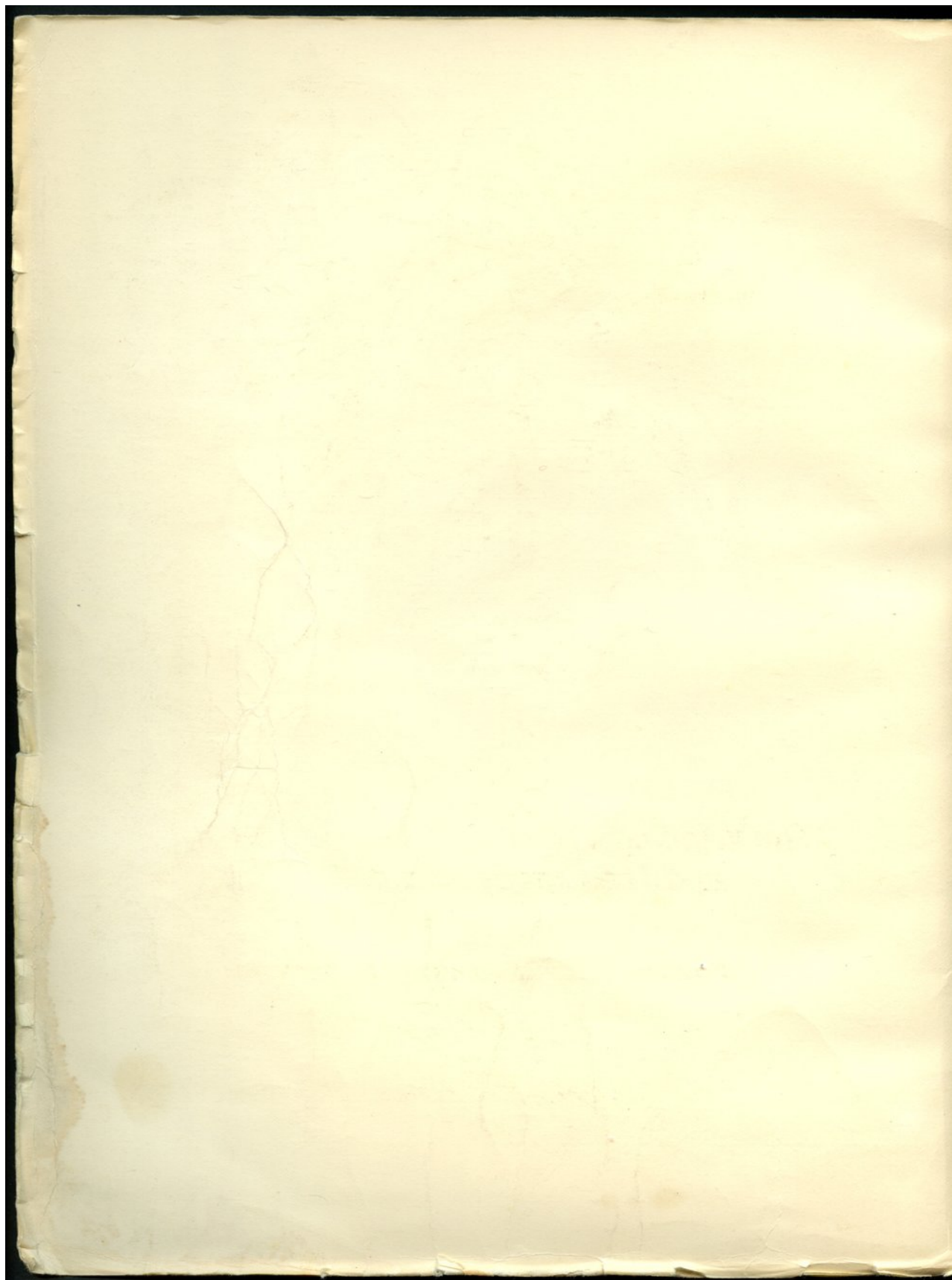
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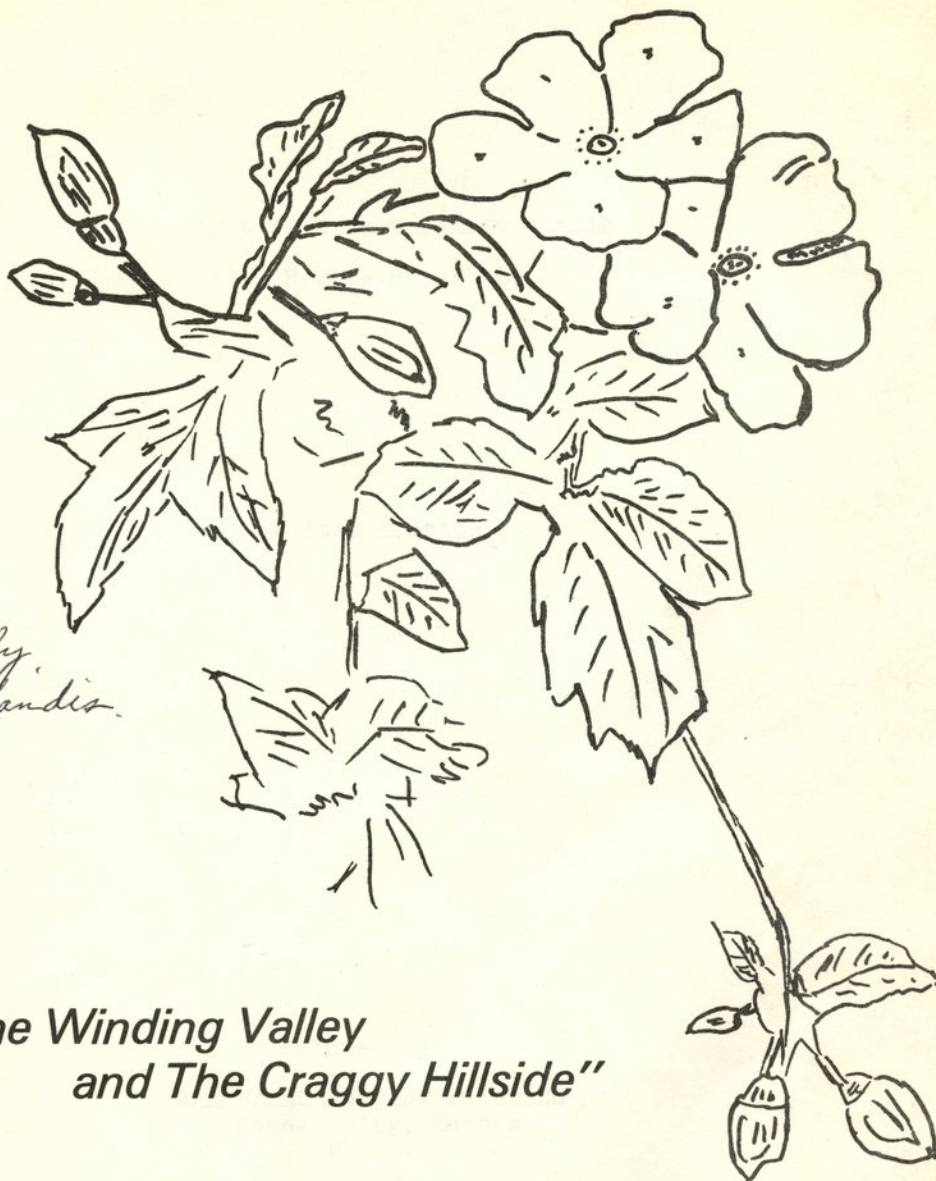
"The Winding Valley and The Craggy Hillside"

A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas
By
Margaret Landis

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*Sincerely,
Margaret Landis.*

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A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas

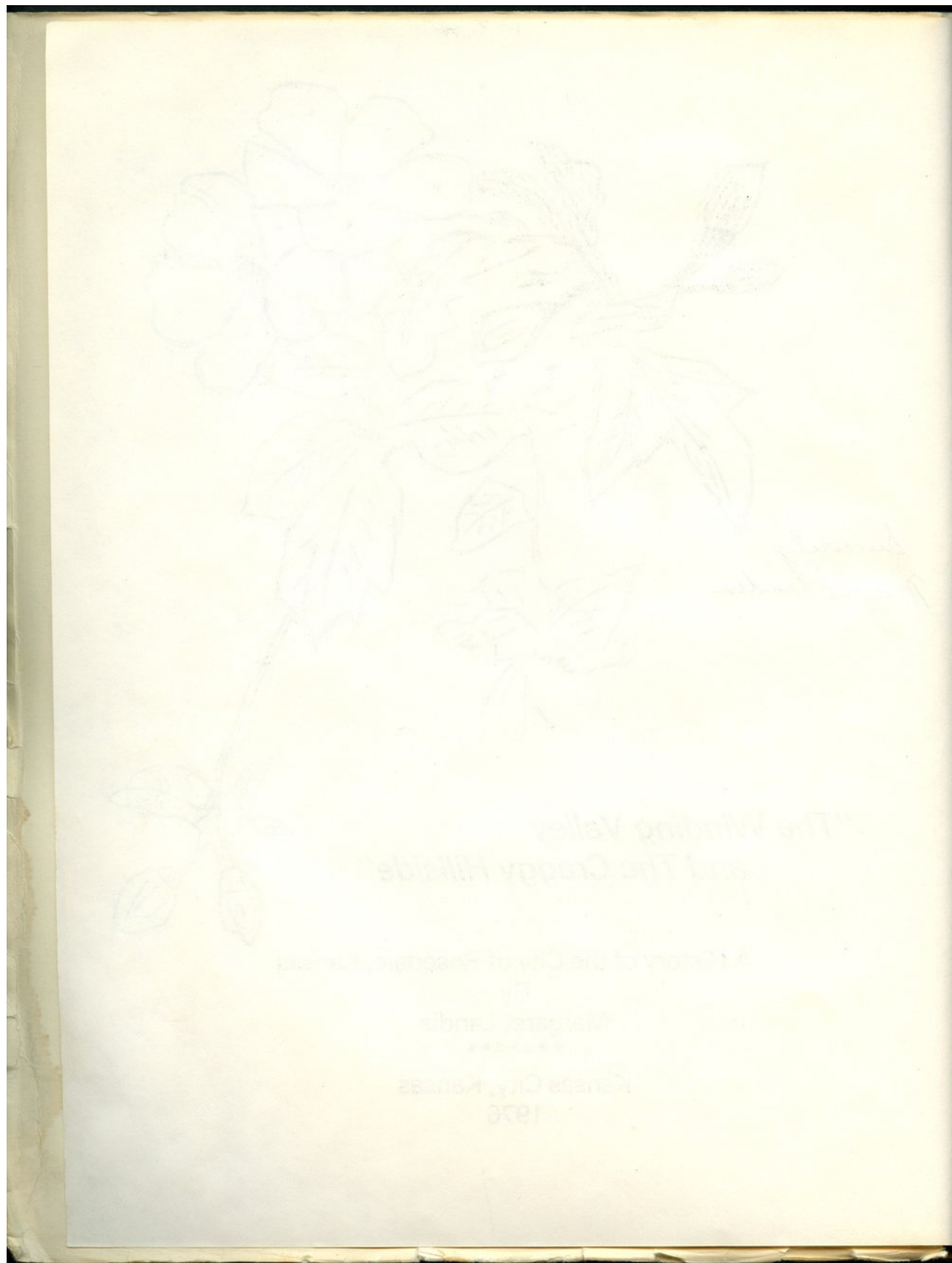
By

Margaret Landis

Kansas City, Kansas

1976

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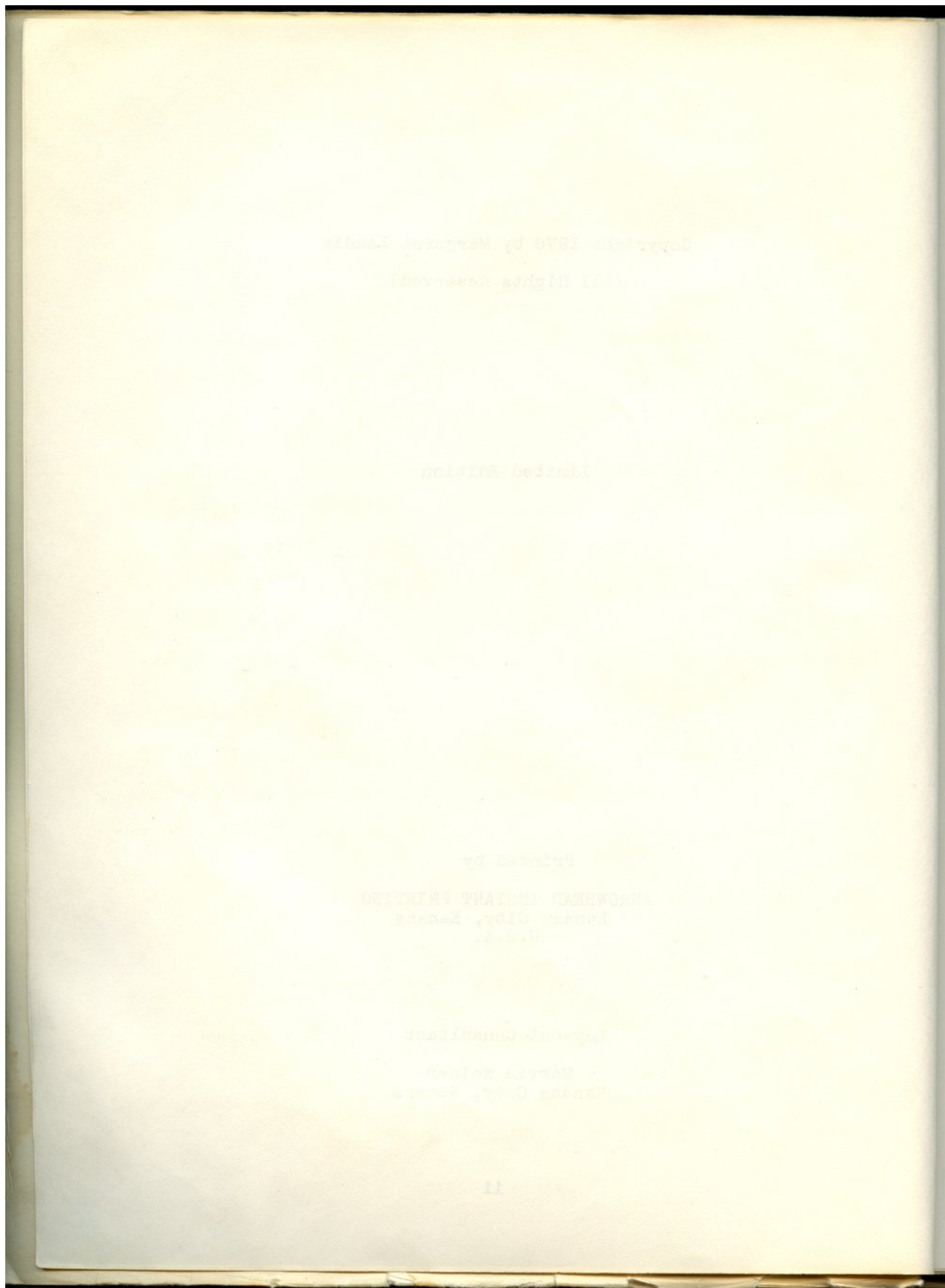
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FOREWORD

I am a "Native" Rosedalian. My grand-parents on my mother's side came to Rosedale with the (Kansas) Rolling Mill. This book on the City of Rosedale emanates from working on family history. My grand-father was involved in many activities in the early days of Rosedale.

My research led me to the realization that any work devoted wholly to a history of the City of Rosedale, Kansas had not been written or compiled. Included herewith are the basic elements of history. If privileged with time and opportunity, I would like to elaborate further on the City of Rosedale and, after annexation, the Rosedale District, Kansas City, Kansas.

In striving to preserve and perpetuate the history of Rosedale, I was ever mindful of the thought expressed by the late Col. John B. Smith in his dedicatory address of the Wellman Park in Rosedale, May 1958:

"The breezes now caressing our cheeks will waft these words of mine into silence and forgetfulness. But a few more years and the illustrious record of the City of Rosedale may become but hazy legend, seldom recalled and then be entirely forgotten."

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May this effort serve as an opportunity to keep alive this record and that it will be a liaison between yesterday and tomorrow.

As you read this history of Rosedale perhaps it will recall many pleasant memories and cause us to more deeply appreciate our "Old Home Town."

Margaret Landis.

-oOo-

"Memory can glean, but never renew.
- It brings us joy faint as is the
perfume of the flowers, faded and
dried, of the summer that is gone."

..... H.W.Beecher.

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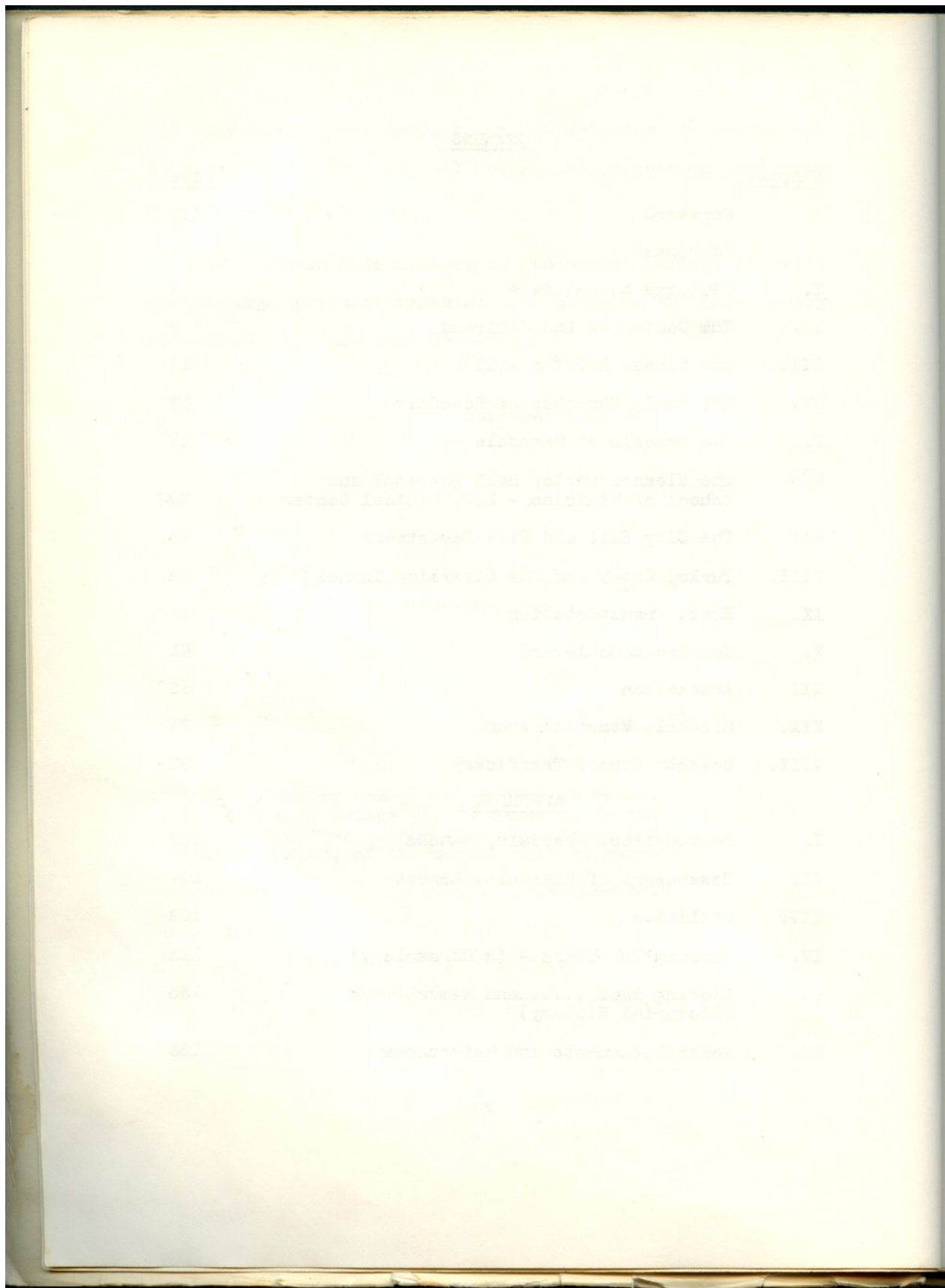
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Chapter I

PROLOGUE TO ROSEDALE

The title: "The Winding Valley and The Craggy Hillside" is descriptive of the physical geography of Rosedale.

Geographically, the position of Rosedale lies South of the Kaw River in Wyandotte County, Kansas and, if we choose to be technical, between the 94th and 95th Degree of West Longitude and about the 39th Degree of North Latitude.

"Kansas is a part of the great plain that slopes gradually from the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River. It's surface, cut by many Eastward-flowing streams, lies level in the West but in the East curves into countless hills and valleys." (1)

Geologists record that glaciers carved the area including the Missouri and Kansas Rivers and Turkey Creek. (Turkey Creek originates in Johnson County, Kansas.)

Physical features of Rosedale: Turkey Creek meandering thru the valley -- surrounded by hills and bluffs on either side. In the early days it was "A forest of trees and hazel-brush" amidst a profusion of Wild Roses. There were seven hills on the South side of the Turkey Creek Valley. The hills on the South side are marked with a "shelf" or "bench." On

(1) - A History of Kansas, Anna E. Arnold p.9

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the North side there was one continuous high bluff that started in the West end of Rosedale and continued to Toadlouse where Turkey Creek emptied into the Kansas River.

Other early formations in Rosedale were evidenced; including the presence of coal and natural gas. The Rosedale Coal and Mining Company struck a twenty-one inch vein of coal at 335 feet.

The formation of the "Iola Ledge Rock", which, generally speaking, would surface at Iola, Kansas. This is the type of rock that was crushed by the F.H.Jennings and Son Crusher and Quarry Company, The American Rock Crusher Company and later by the J.A.Tobin Company at 36th and Rainbow Boulevard. (This is the present location of the Simeon B. Bell Recreation Center.)

On Rainbow Boulevard about 37th Street was The Godfrey and Stimson Brick Plant. The clay in this vicinity was suitable for the manufacture of brick. The Brick Plant was later operated by the United Clay Products Corporation. The daily output was 20,000 bricks. (This land is now a parking lot for the K.U.Medical Center.)

The artesian well, near Burns Park, was the result of drilling to locate a vein of coal in the vicinity. The water possessed medicinal qualities. The Geyser Mineral Springs and Bath House, South Rosedale Avenue at Turkey Creek, later operated as The Rosedale Mineral Baths. Various Soda Waters were compounded from the Lithia Spring near the Geyser Mineral Springs.

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Many changes have been made in the physical appearance of Rosedale...The Rosedale-University Urban Renewal Program, The Turkey Creek Expressway and Highway I-35. Yet there are remnants of land-marks that are reminders that Rosedale is truly "Old As The Hills."

In the Northeastern part of what we know as the State of Kansas lived the Kanza or the Kaw Indians on the North side of the Kansas River and on the South side were the Osages. For nearly 300 years they hunted, trapped, fished and farmed on land that included Wyandotte County.

During the term of President James Monroe, in 1825, by treaties, the Kanza and the Osage Tribes ceded their land to the Government, retaining only a small part of the territory. The Kanza or the Kaws moved to the Northern Boundary and the Osages to the Southern Boundary.

In the campaign to remove Eastern Indian Tribes, the Shawnee Indians settled on the South side of the Kansas River and adjacent to the State of Missouri. Their reservation was approximately 25 miles wide by 125 miles long on the South side of the Kansas River. Containing approximately 1,600,000 Acres.

The Shawnees lived in Kansas for about 40 years. They built houses, fenced their property, farmed and conducted their tribal affairs.

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After the Kansas-Nebraska Bill was passed in 1854 and the Territory was opened for settlement, a new treaty was made with the Shawnee Indians. Many of the Shawnees took their land but some did not.

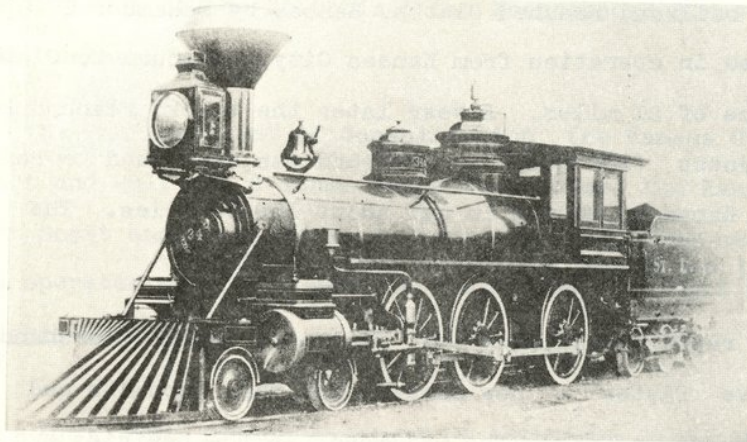
The Indians were moved South to Indian Territory - now the State of Oklahoma. In 1868, the Shawnee Tribe of Kansas became incorporated into the Cherokee Nation in the Indian Territory.

Many Indian names appear on our Real Estate Abstracts.

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Chapter II

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD



The Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad used this type of locomotive prior to the turn of the century. It is a Wood-burner and has a "Wash-tub" stack.

At the close of the Civil War (or The War Between the States), the Kansas and Neosho Valley Railroad was incorporated in the State of Kansas, March 1865. Kersey Coates, of Kansas City, was President of the railroad.

The K. & N.W. was also known as the "Border Tier Line." The railroad went thru ROSEDALE to Olathe then South to Baxter Springs, Kansas along the border tier counties of Kansas.

There were a few scattered residents in the Turkey Creek Valley in 1865. The Railroad was the first industry to come to this quiet, peaceful place.

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October 1868, the corporate name of the railroad was changed to the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad.

The railroad reached Olathe, Kansas by December 1868 and was placed in operation from Kansas City, Missouri to Olathe, a distance of 21 miles. A year later the tracks reached Fort Scott, Kansas (100 miles). The road was continued to Baxter Springs, Kansas, making in all about 159.92 miles. The entire road was placed in operation May 2, 1870.

The rapid development of railroads meant merchandise would move faster - new markets for farm products and new towns sprang-up along the railroad as the prairies and the plains were colonized. The Townsite of Rosedale was platted and then recorded in Wyandotte County, Kansas, May 16, 1872 by James G. Brown and Abraham Grandstaff.

George H. Nettleton was appointed Receiver for the Missouri River, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad, March 1878. By the purchasers, at foreclosure sale, The Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad was incorporated, March 1879 - to maintain and operate the road.

The following excerpt about the railways was given in the April 21, 1888 issue of The Rosedale Record, then official newspaper of Rosedale, Kansas:

"Rosedale and vicinity possess many advantages for manufactories and homes while, from our being on the Fort Scott Railroad, Connection can be made with railroads for the Atlantic or Pacific oceans, for the Great Lakes or the Gulf and City of Mexico."

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There were railroads or railroad lines not located in the Rosedale area but were associated with events leading up to the entrance of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad to Rosedale, Kansas.

By an Agreement of Consolidation the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf and 6 other companies formed the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Springfield Railroad Company. The new company was operated under the name of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad.

1901, "The Frisco acquired by long-term lease the lines of the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railway Company, extending from Kansas City to Memphis and Birmingham." (1)

Herewith, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Co., enters the story of Rosedale, Kansas thru the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railway Company.

September 1928, the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Memphis Railroad was sold to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company.

1954, a modernization and improvement program brought a new office building and 5 new shops to Rosedale.

(1) "Frisco Folks" - Bain

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THE MISSOURI - KANSAS & TEXAS RAILROAD

The Union Pacific, Southern Branch Railway became the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company in February 1870.

1887, the Katy entered Rosedale via a Track Agreement. This trackage rights agreement is still in effect. The Katy uses the Frisco tracks between Paola and Kansas City.

1905, Dr. Simeon B. Bell sold Glen Park and other property to the Katy Railroad for their yards. This tract contained about 40 acres and sold for \$3,000.00 per acre.

The M.K.T. has its yard office at State Line and Southwest Boulevard. A "Piggy-Back" yard is at this location also.

Other railroads that came thru Rosedale on track agreements:

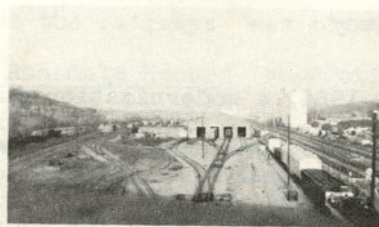
The Kansas City, Lawrence and Southern R.R.

The Leavenworth, Lawrence and Fort Gibson R.R.

The Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston R.R.



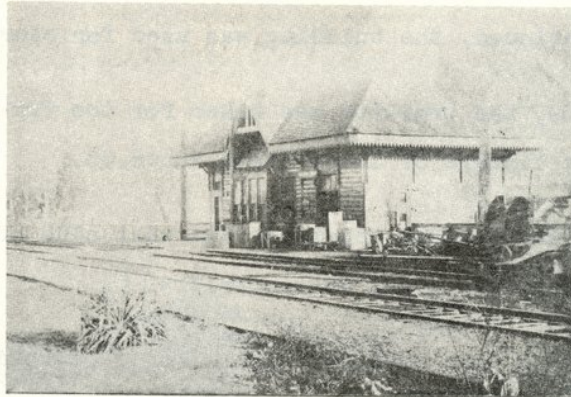
Frisco Office Building



View - Frisco Yards

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THE ROSEDALE DEPOT



Located: Holmes Street - $\frac{1}{2}$ Block South
of Kansas City Avenue -(later Southwest
Boulevard.)

Major B.S.Henning, Superintendent of the Missouri River,
Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad named the train stop "ROSEDALE."

The Rosedale Post Office was established Aug. 17, 1872.
It was described as "a new town - just building with about
50 inhabitants. The population to be supplied by the Rose-
dale Office was 150." The Post Office was near the Depot and
the railroad carried mail six times per week each way.

When a person at Kansas City, Missouri wanted their lug-
gage or trunk delivered to Rosedale, they would put it on the
train to be delivered to the Rosedale Depot for the pass-
enger fare or 15¢.

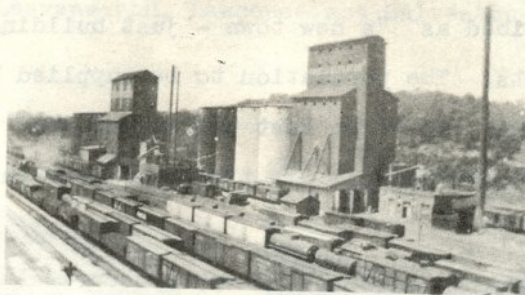
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The Depot was used as a Passenger and Freight Depot until 1952. When Passenger and Freight service at the depot were discontinued, the building was used for storage.

In 1959, the property was taken for the Turkey Creek Expressway, a linkage of Inter-State Route 35.

There was another depot on the west side of Mill Street, on the south side of the Frisco tracks.

There was also another station or railroad building on Lincoln Street and the Frisco tracks. My earliest recollection of this property was the Frisco had this for living quarters for their Section Foreman. In later years, the Milton Oil Company occupied this building and it was destroyed by fire.

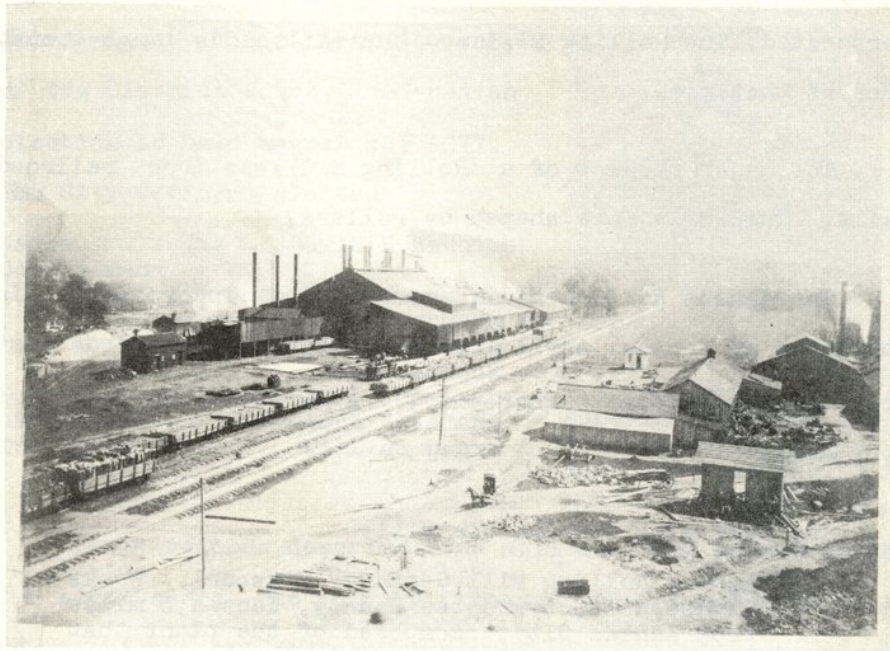


The Frisco Elevators - "The Memphis" and "The Frisco." The Unit named "Memphis" because it was dismantled in Memphis, Tennessee and reassembled here. Both elevators were destroyed by fire in 1935.

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Chapter III

THE KANSAS ROLLING MILL



"THE LARGEST MANUFACTURING CONCERN IN KANSAS" - 1875 to 1883

The Kansas Rolling Mill was established in Rosedale in 1875. "Rosedale Grew Up Around The Rolling Mill." Located in the old City of Rosedale about a block north of Kansas City Avenue on Klondike Street, adjacent to the railroad.

In the picture, the Kansas Rolling Mill with the Cooper Shop at the rear of the main building. On the right hand side is the Rosedale Coal and Mining Company.

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The Railroad is that of the Missouri River, Fort Scott and Gulf at the time the Rolling Mill came to Rosedale. In 1879, the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railroad was incorporated. The Rolling Mill was the railroad's largest customer at that time.

The major product of a Rolling Mill was iron railroad rails. The rails were shaped by rollers.

The Kansas Rolling Mill Company was incorporated in the State of Kansas, April 14, 1875. Corporate records list: President, A.B.Stone; Secretary, Ira Harris; Vice-President, W.H.Harris.

The following details the Mill:

"Kansas Rolling Mill Company, Missouri. Works at Rosedale, Wyandotte County, Kansas, 3 miles from Kansas City; composed of the plant that was formerly at Decatur, Illinois, having been removed and rebuilt in 1875; it was first erected in 1870; has 11 heating furnaces, 2 hammers, 6 spike machines, and 3 trains of rolls (one 9, one 18 and one 20-inch), and a set of "universal" rolls attached to the 20-inch train; product, iron rails, fish plates, bolts, nuts, spikes, merch. bar iron, wrought drawheads, head chairs, etc.; annual capacity 35,000 net tons " (1)

About 100 families came to Rosedale with The Rolling Mill. After the Mill was located, Rosedale became a "boom" town.

- (1) Directory to the Iron and Steel Works of the United States Embracing the Blast Furnaces, Rolling Mills, Steel Works, Forges and Bloomeries in Every State and Territory. American Iron and Steel Association - 1882. pp. 149-150

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By 1877, having the necessary population of 600, Rosedale was authorized to become a City of the Third-Class. Judge Hiram Stevens, of the District Court, ordered an election be held August 28, 1877.

The City Officers elected:

Mayor David S. Mathias
Councilmen:

(John Hutchinson, Sr.
(Henry Juergens
(William Bowen
(John Haddock
(Benjamin Bousman
City Clerk . . . Edward Blanford
Treasurer . . . William Danks



D.S. Mathias
Superintendent of the
Rolling Mill - first
Mayor of Rosedale.

Early records describe the Mill as being an attraction for sight-seers. The roaring furnaces, the clanging noise of the machinery and flying sparks presented a colorful show.

1883, The Kansas Rolling Mill closed due to a depressed economy and financial difficulties due primarily by the railroads changing from iron rails to steel rails.

The Wyandotte District Court ordered the property of the Kansas Rolling Mill be sold at a Sheriff's Sale to the highest bidder. Mr. James Parmalee, of Cleveland, Ohio, bid the property in at \$100,000. (December 6, 1883).

The property stood idle for some time then was occupied by the Kansas City Wire and Iron Works, A.G. Sutherland,

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Foundry and Machine Shops, Rosedale, Kansas. The old buildings have been torn down. Since 1922, The Trusswall Stone Company has been in business at the location of the old Rolling Mill property.

The closing of the Rolling Mill was a big loss to Rosedale. Many families moved away leaving Rosedale a struggling little City. In the late 1880's, a business boom that started in Kansas City, Missouri spread to Rosedale. New industries and new families moved to Rosedale, bringing better times.

While the Rolling Mill was in operation in Rosedale for about 8 years, probably the only remainder of the Rolling Mill is to be found recorded in Real Estate Abstracts as:

Rolling Mill Lands
Rolling Mill Resurvey
Rolling Mill 2nd Addition to Rosedale
Rolling Mill 3rd Addition to Rosedale

-oOo-

THE ROSEDALE COAL and MINING COMPANY

-oOo-

The big iron works used 12 cars of coal a day to keep their 11 furnaces going. A local company was organized for the purpose of mining and furnishing coal for the Mill. The Rosedale Coal and Mining Company struck a 21-inch vein of coal at a depth of 335 feet. They expected to find a thicker vein by sinking another shaft 75 to 100 feet deeper. This vein of coal has since been identified with the one at Leavenworth and considered being of a higher quality than the

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Fort Scott or Rich Hill Coal Fields. The dirt removed from the shafts was used to fill-in the streets."

The Mill was on the South side of the Railroad tracks and the Coal Mine was on the North side. In order to get the coal from the mine to the mill, it was necessary to cross the railroad tracks. If the railroad had permitted this, it would have meant a loss of revenue. The Mining Company even tried to convey the coal by an over-head chute, but the railroad stopped this also.

The mine was sealed at a safe depth and closed. This is now a part of the Frisco Railroad Yards.

-oOo-

THE THOR IRON WORKS

-oOo-

The Thor Iron Works - also known as "KANSAS IRON FENCE COMPANY" started in business in 1878. It was located North of the Rolling Mill and across the tracks.

Their products included: bridges, iron fences, gratings, agriculture implements and other foundry-cast implements.

Later Thor Iron Works was consolidated with the Rolling Mill.

ORGANIZATIONS INFLUENCED BY THE ROLLING MILL

Rosedale Rolling Mill Beneficial Society - 1878. The Beneficial Society was organized as a "sickness and benefit"

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society and as stated in the preamble of their Constitution: to take care of "the infirmities of life and the many accidents which happen to the employees of iron works, from time to time;"

The Society was supported by its members; "Each member shall pay one dollar entry fee and fifty cents a month" Any member who was "unable to follow his employment thru sickness or misfortune, shall receive six (6) dollars for thirteen weeks and three (3) dollars for six (6) months."

The Iron City Lodge No. 48 - Ancient Order United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) of Rosedale, was instituted under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, June 5, 1880.

Its membership was comprised of employees of the Rolling Mill and other business and professional men.

Pioneer Lodge No. 1 of the State of Kansas - Rosedale, Wyandotte County, Kansas was a subordinate Lodge of The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers of the United States.

The Lodge was organized August 13, 1881 by men employed by the Kansas Rolling Mill.

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Chapter IV

THE EARLY CHURCHES OF ROSEDALE

The presence of the Rolling Mill in Rosedale led to the organization of churches, schools and other cultural institutions.

It is interesting both from a religious and historical view-point that the early churches, thru the years, have "carried on" and are still "going and growing" organizations.

The first Mass offered up in Rosedale was some time previous to 1876. The service was held in a log house owned by Richard Fitzgerald. The Mass was celebrated by Father Anton Kuhls, then pastor of St. Mary's Church.

1876, Rosedale became a Mission and was attached as such to Shawnee.

This frame Church of Holy Name was built in 1880 At Kansas City Avenue at Shawnee Street.



The present stone church of Romanesque architecture was dedicated June 1912.

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

Southwest Boulevard and Iowa Street.

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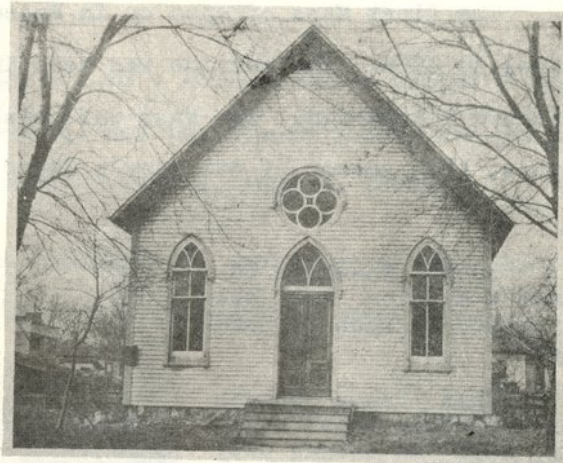
THE UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Union Sunday School was an active organization in the early days of Rosedale having an attendance of 275. Many Rolling Mill families attended the Sunday School. D.S. Mathias was superintendent of the Sunday School. Capt. Ira Harris was superintendent of the Bible Class.

The Sunday School was noted for its musical talent with the Choral Society and orchestra of eight pieces.

THE HENNING AVENUE
METHODIST CHURCH
was organized 1879. Many of the members were Rolling Mill people.

The Church located at 14 North Henning Avenue was dedicated in 1880.



The Henning Avenue Church was the forerunner of THE ROSEDALE METHODIST CHURCH.

The Church on Southwest Boulevard was dedicated 1908.

After annexation, the churches that had the word "First" in their title became "Rosedale." (Now: Rosedale-United Methodist Church.)



First Methodist Episcopal Church, Rosedale, Kansas.

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THE PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH built their first building in 1882. Services had previously been held in the homes and in the School House.

A new unit was built in 1900. They have added to the church on its original location:
1013 Seminary Street.

THE ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH was started as a Baptist Mission in 1887 by students from William Jewell College.

The frame church was used from 1896 to 1916.

Original location was Shawnee and Summitt Streets.



The present building - of dark red brick and an architectural type styled "Pseudo Gothic" was dedicated in 1916.

Rosedale Baptist Church
Southwest Boulevard at
Cherokee Street.

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THE WALNUT STREET
METHODIST CHURCH --
(South) -- was organized 1894 was located at Walnut and Florence Streets. It merged with The Rosedale Methodist Church in 1943.

The pulpit and pews used in the Walnut St. Church were from the Old Shawnee Methodist Mission. They have been restored to the Mission in Johnson County, Kansas.



There have been other churches and denominations in Rosedale but these were the early ones.

CHURCHES IN 1922 (1) WHEN ROSEDALE WAS ANNEXED TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

BAPTIST

First 901 Southwest boul.
First Row nw cor McDowell
Mt. Carmel 906 W.39th
Olivet 45th and Westport
Primitive 529 Tangent
Pleasant Valley
1012 College (Bluff)

CONGREGATIONAL

First 4326 Lloyd av.

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Reorganized Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter Day Saints
2310 W.40th

METHODIST

First Southwest boul sw
cor Florence
German 4300 Cambridge
Second AME 106 Shawnee
St. Paul AME Zion
4000 Adams

METHODIST EPISCOPAL (SOUTH)

Walnut Street Florence ne
cor Walnut

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Holy Name Shawnee av and
Southwest boul.

OTHER

American Rescue Workers
Mission 746 Southwest boul.

Church of the Nazarene
2515 Orchard

Plymouth Community Church
E Park and College av

Rosedale Christian Church
1172 Southwest boul.

United Brethren Church
4716 Quapaw

(1) Gate City Directory - 1922