

HISTORIC



HAYS

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and "Wild Bill" made their town headquarters.**

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Hays, Kans.

HISTORIC HAYS

Dedicated to Hays Lions Club

By W. A. HILL
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December Nineteen Thirty-eight

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Preface

The writer came to Kansas in 1877 with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. B. Hill. In 1878 they homesteaded four miles north of the present town of Zurich.

The first year as the land was not broke there was nothing to do but roam the prairies and draws hunting for sharks teeth, fish back bones, shells, etc.

The sod plow, grasshopper plow, corn dropper and corn knife were the principal farm implements. The first year sod corn and sod sorghum was raised.

A tin can was driven full of nail holes, turned upside down and nailed to a board. Corn was grated on it and made into corn meal. A sorghum mill was put in.

A large spring was near the house. Three or four large buffalo trails led down to the water below the spring. They were as wide as a buffalo and seven feet deep where they went over the bank.

The sides of the slope was covered with pegs which had been driven in the ground to stretch buffalo hides. It was my mission to lariat the cows. I generally tied the rope to one of these pegs.

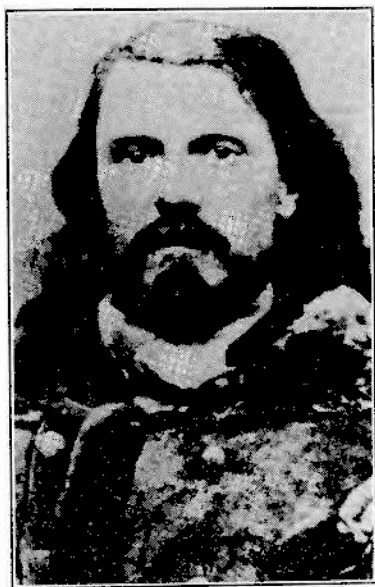
Father was elected register of deeds and we gave up the glamorous life on the homestead.

In 1882 or 1883 a group of soldiers from Fort Hays was obtained for a Fourth of July celebration at Stockton. They brought several field pieces and had a sham battle with the militia.

While working as a "devil" on the Western News at Stockton, we used to receive the Hays City Free Press. Harry Freeze, the editor, never washed his type. Dust and ink made a pretty mess. You could hardly read the paper. The boys used to call it the Free City Hay Press.

I have been engaged in the newspaper business for thirty-five years in Rooks and Graham counties.

Living in Hays the past five years.



Col. W. F. Cody
"Buffalo Bill"

Founder of Hays. From an old photograph

Rome, Predecessor of Hays

Founded in April, 1867, by Col. W. F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody.

“God uncovered the land
That He hid in the West,
As the sculptor uncovers the statue
When he has wrought his best”—

Will Cody loved the west. Always lived in it. It was to Rome, the predecessor of Hays, he took his bride, the talented Miss Lou Frederci of St. Louis. It was while he lived in Hays, he obtained his world wide fame of “Buffalo Bill.”

Like Daniel Boone, he did not understand the technicalities of law, so lost the half million he expected to make from starting Rome.

Cody was born in Scott county, Iowa, of hardy pioneer stock. His parents moved to Leavenworth when Kansas was in the midst of the great struggle whether it should come in to the Union as a slave state or free. Cody's father was asked to mount a platform and declare how he stood on the slave question. Said he favored Kansas coming in as a free state. Was immediately stabbed in the back by a slave state sympathizer. Three months later died from the wound, but not until he had gone east and brought out a colony of free state men.

Young Bill Cody, at twelve years of age, became head of the family. Supported his mother until the time of her death. Avenged his father, associated with the frontiersmen and teamed through the West.

When fifteen years of age, his skill was so well known, he was selected as a rider of the famous Pony Express. Made one of the longest continuous rides in its history—322 miles in less than 21 hours.

About this time Bill Cody and “Wild Bill” Hickock formed an undying friendship. As Cody was so young older men began “picking” on him. “Wild Bill” told them to “lay off.” They did so when they found Cody was “Wild Bill's” friend. No one cared to face Hickock's pistols.

Kansas was admitted to the Union January 29, 1861. The Civil War started. Cody served through the great war as scout and guide.

After the war Cody went to St. Louis to be married. For a short time ran a restaurant in Leavenworth. Made a trip to the mining fields of Colorado. Returned to Kansas. Scouted between Ft. Harker and Ft. Fletcher in 1866 and 1867. Lived at Ft. Fletcher in the spring of 1867.

At Ellsworth associated with William Rose, a railroad contractor. Knowing the territory, they decided to start a new town at the place where the Union Pacific survey crossed Big Creek. Rose had a "Squatters" right on the quarter section immediately west of Big Creek and north of the railroad survey. It is said they were on the grounds early in April, 1867.

We tried to find the records of the town in the court house at Hays. But there was none. They either burned in the early fire or did not exist. Next we wrote to Topeka but there were no records there. Then we wrote to Congressman Carlson to inquire at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. It replied: "The records of this office show that William Rose filed a Declaratory statement No. 5077 for the Northwest quarter section 33, Town 13 South, Range 18 West 6th P. M. May 22 and December 14, 1867. This Declaratory statement was not followed by any entry under public land laws in the name of William Rose and the land was turned over to the railway company."

Rose & Cody employed Union Pacific surveyors to survey the town. Cody said the Union Pacific officials told him they would put in a depot at Rome. They sold the corner lots at \$250.00. Others they gave away free to any who would build on them.

The late Senator Simon Motz in his write-up of Rome says: "Rome had a population of 500 a week after it started. Kept increasing in population each week thereafter."

A regiment of soldiers were encamped a half mile

west and a company of colored soldiers a short distance east.

Railroad construction agents in Kansas City made Rome a clearing house for laborers. In all it was a busy place.

Cody put up the first house. Rose & Cody built a two room stone drug store. Rose was postmaster. Cody was mayor and marshal. Soon there were about twenty-five buildings south of the creek. Also a multitude of tents and dugouts.

Lull Bros., from Salina, put in the first store in Rome, locating in the latter part of May, 1867.

The Perry House was built. Many notables stopped there.

The Butterfield Stage Line announced that it would put in a station at Rome. It was the longest continuous stage line in America. It ran north of the Smoky Hill river through Ft. Fletcher and the Philip ranch. Great was the rejoicing at Rome. Also, when it was announced that Ft. Fletcher, which had been changed to Ft. Hays, would move to one mile southeast of Rome.

For seven or eight months Rome "howled." It was the only town in Ellis county and the largest in western half of Kansas.

The flood waters did not hurt Rome but on June 5, 1867, destroyed some buildings at Ft. Fletcher. Also drowned several colored soldiers. The site of Ft. Fletcher is four and one-half miles south of Walker, west of the fine new bridge across Big Creek.

When the Kansas Pacific was ordered constructed from Ellsworth to Parkfort near Wakeeney, the Indians declared it should not be. They murdered six employees of the Kansas Pacific near Victoria. They are buried near the highway. Also killed two men at the Butterfield station four miles south of Rome. Also Park and his hired men at Parkfort. Several soldiers there were wounded. Many other tragedies were committed. The laborers and hunters all fled to Rome for protection. During this period Rome had its greatest population.

At the request of Lieutenant General Sherman, Governor Crawford July 1, 1867, called out a battalion of volunteer cavalry. In company with the regular troops they began a campaign against the Indians. The Indians were defeated. A treaty of peace was signed at Medicine Lodge, October 28, 1867.

Kirk Mechem, secretary of the State Historical Society, writes "That it would be a fine thing to recognize Buffalo Bill's part in the building of Hays." He sends us a copy of a petition originating in Rome.

It is now reprinted as originally spelled:

Rome, Kansas, Aug. 26, 1867

To his excellency Governor Crawford,
Topeka, Kansas.

Sir We the Sitizens of this place near Ft. Hayes must respectfully request the appointment of Mr. J. G. Duncan A Justice of the Peace of this Town as it is very important and your many friends will even Pray. It is signed by

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Dr. J. K. Lull, Jr. | Wm. Rose |
| B. B. Miller | E. Polly |
| J. M. Gray | J. F. Walker |
| Wm. DeSeltor | Ewd. Simpson |
| J. B. C. North | Mat Flynn |
| J. W. Uncapher | Jas. B. Adams |
| Geo. Garing | Asa E. Johnson |
| George Derrickson | Geo. W. Spencer |
| J. Humber | H. McHenry |
| Bartrell Ward | W. F. Cody |
| George Ward | W. E. Spinner |

Spencer and Miller were members of Co. A 2nd Kansas V. C.

The petition was turned down September 6th by the Governor, as "Rome was not attached to Russell county for judicial purposes."

Steps were immediately taken at Rome for the organization of Ellis county. It was not formed as a county until beginning of 1868. Wm. Rose, partner of Cody, was one of the first county commissioners.

Ellis county was named after Lieutenant George

Ellis who was killed at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas, during the Civil War.

About the first of July, 1867, the cholera plague came. Scores died. Many fled from the town. Probably it was in the same fix as Ellsworth which had one thousand population before the plague and only forty afterwards. History does not record.

When Cody got his contract for supplying the 1200 railroad laborers with buffalo meat he got rid of his army mule and purchased "Brigham" a horse trained to hunt buffaloes. Also bought a fine gun.

One day a stranger came to Rome. Was very much interested in the town. Cody thought he could sell him plenty of lots. Took him buffalo hunting and let him ride his horse "Brigham." Next day announced he was president of the U. P. Townsite Co. He liked the town. Said he would give Cody one-eighths interest in the site if they would turn it over to him. Cody was indignant. Told him what he thought and started out buffalo hunting. When he returned found the six mule teams of the Union Pacific hauling the houses over to Hays. Dr. Webb had called a meeting of the citizens. Told them the company would put in a depot at Hays but never in Rome. That the company was going to build their railway shops at Hays.

There was a bitter fight between the two towns. Some refused to move to Hays. The Union Pacific to head them off, raised the railway grade three and one-half feet through Rome. It shut them off from traffic with the fort. Some people remained in Rome until the following spring. Enemies called it the "Walled City." Railway grade on the south. The creek on the east, north and west.

Rome was the terminal of the Kansas Pacific for a short time.

After the population of Rome shifted to Hays he moved his family here. The only place he could get was the Gibson House. It was the former Perry House at Rome. It was moved here. M. J. R. Treat took charge

of it. It stood south of the railway east of the Larzalere Bakery.

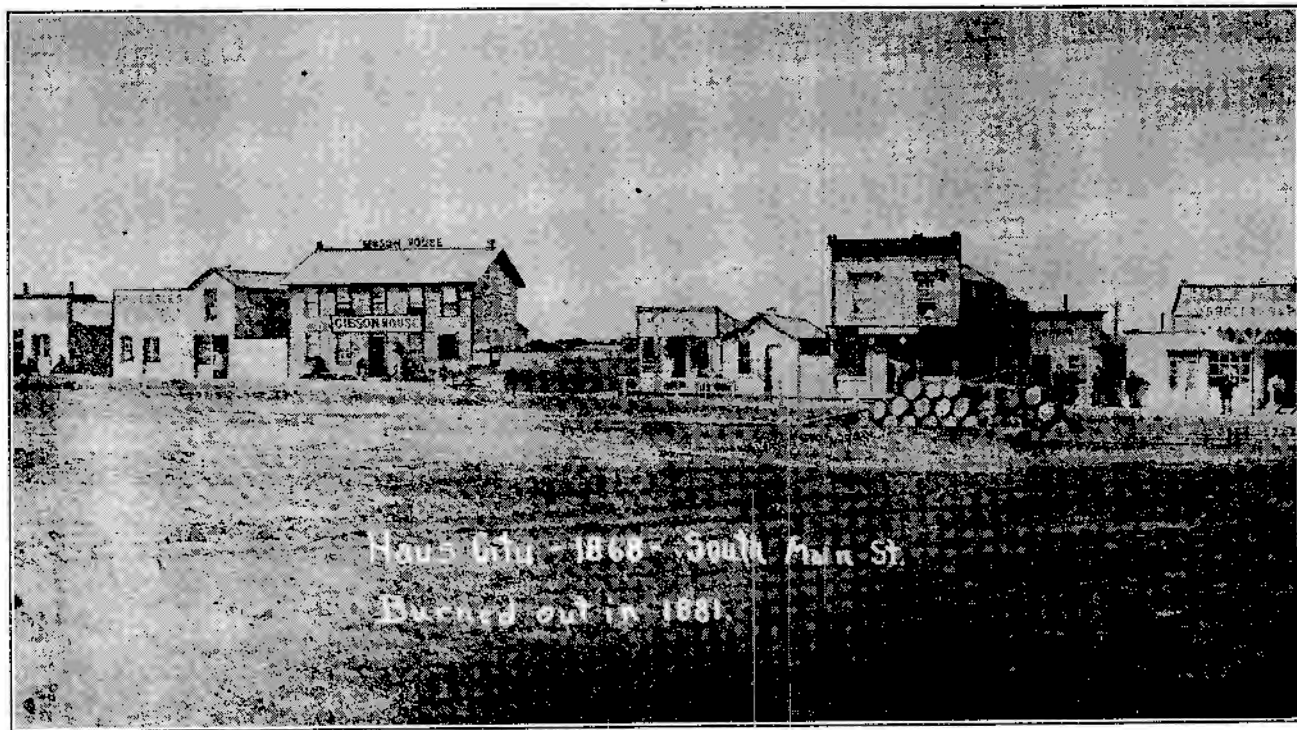
One day he came running upstairs saying that he "Had made a Million." His wife thought he was joking about his fiasco at Rome. Instead he told her he had signed a contract with the railway employers to furnish the employees with buffalo meat. His pay to be \$500.00 per month. He held the job eighteen months.

At first the company refused to furnish wagons until he had killed the buffalo. He drove them to the camp and killed them near there. The employers kicked as it scared the horses. After that he had plenty of wagons when he needed them.

Cody was first called "Buffalo Bill" by the railway laborers. They used to sing:

"Buffalo Bill, Buffalo Bill,
Always aims and shoots to kill
Never misses and never will.
And the company pays his buffalo bill."

Ft. Wallace had a great hunter named Bill Comstock. They called him Buffalo Bill. In order to settle the dispute a contest was arranged to take place near Oakley. A special train came out from St. Louis bearing officials and prominent newspaper reporters. At Hays they stopped to get Cody's wife and little daughter. Also some of Cody's friends. Soon after arriving at the place where the contest was to be held a herd was found. Cody and Comstock began shooting. Comstock shot them as they ran. Had four killed before Cody began. As soon as he had them arranged to suit him Cody started. He had killed forty while Comstock had thirteen. After a brief rest they started again. Another herd was sighted Cody took the saddle and bridle off his horse, saying it knew how to hunt buffaloes as well as he. They divided the herd. Soon Cody had his all killed but one large bull which headed for the crowd. They all ran except Mrs. Cody and little girl. She was afraid but did not think Cody would let the animal harm her and his little child. The buffalo dropped when within a hundred feet of them.



Gibson House, South Main Street
Col. Cody lived here when he became "Buffalo Bill"

When the contest was over Cody had killed sixty-nine buffaloes to Comstock's forty-six. Comstock then renounced the title of "Buffalo Bill." Said it was Cody's. Cody's challenge went out to all other buffalo hunters but none accepted. The newspaper reporters sent out reports of the contest and Cody was soon known the world over as "Buffalo Bill."

No murders were ever committed in Rome. Doubtless Colonel Cody was a restraining influence. Cody was gone most of the time and society was so tough in Hays those days that Mrs. Cody and her little daughter Arta moved back to St. Louis.

The Union Pacific railway reached Hays, October 16, 1867.

The Union Pacific Townsite Company put in a townsite a mile square, one half mile east of Rome and named it Hays after the Fort.

Hays was established November 23, 1867. A tent or two stood on the townsite before this. The first paper established in Hays was the Railway Advance. It said that "Hays will be seven months old June 23, 1868, and has a business directory of 99 firms." Soon it had 1000 inhabitants

After his buffalo hunting contract was over, Cody went to General Custer and enlisted as a scout. After scouting at Ft. Larned awhile, he was sent to Ft. McPherson, Nebraska, where he became chief of scouts.

One day while scouting between Ft. Larned and Ft. Hays he found a bunch of Indians. He tied his mule and slipped over where he could count their force so he could report to the commanding general. The mule brayed. When he got back to it he had to shoot a couple of Indians before he got it back. When he reported in camp they offered him another mule but he said he objected to the brass band accompaniment. The same Indians were the ones who killed the six railroad laborers near Victoria. A troop of colored soldiers started after them with a cannon. Found them camped the other side of the Saline. After a few rounds of the cannon the

Indians divided into little groups and disappeared north. The troops brought back all the horses they had stolen.

Cody's last appearance in Hays was in September 1874, when he escorted General Sheridan from Ft. Dodge.

One of his greatest contributions to Hays was when he got I. M. Yost to locate here. Mrs. Yost was a cousin of Cody. When Col. Cody was in Philadelphia in 1876 attending the Centennial he sent for Mr. and Mrs. Yost to be with him. Told Mr. Yost about Rome as a fine place to put in a mill. Mr. Yost came out in 1877 to investigate. Next year moved here. Put in a mill dam on the town site and established a flouring mill. The dam was put in just back of C. L. Henderson's farm house. The soldiers furnished the logs for the dam, in order to get ice. Some of the logs are there yet and can be seen when the creek is low. The beavers and musk rats destroyed the dam. It was rebuilt. The mill burned and Mr. Yost put in a new mill in Hays. The old mill race is still there north of the creek. He also established a cement mill at Yocemento.

I. M. Yost visited Hays recently. He is ninety-one years old. Was thirteen years old when the Civil War began. He took us over the site of Rome and pointed out places of interest. His miller, Henry Nichols, lived in Cody's two-story house. It was about 14x18. When asked why it was so small and two stories, he said life was cheap in those days. An outlaw or Indian could put a gun through the window. They pulled the ladder up at night and lived upstairs, to better protect Mrs. Cody. When the picture "The Plainsman" was here it had Cody's house pictured as a one story cottage.

A sign has been put up near Cody's headquarters in Rome, bearing Cody's picture. It is the result of the activity of Bill Philip and the Hays Lions Club. Mr. Philip is also engaged in marking the old Butterfield trail.

Old timers say that Cody used to get outside his headquarters each morning after breakfast and shoot at a stone about two hundred yards west of his building. A stone was found in that position when the Highway

went through Front Street or Main Street of old Rome. Frank Walz, who owned the land, moved the stone over to the front of his farm house. He sold the farm to Mr. Henderson but finally bought back the stone several years ago. Recently he moved it to just east of his residence, one block west of the postoffice. Has set it in cement to better preserve it. One side of the stone is about shot off. The other sides are covered with initials. The Unrein boys have their names on it in 1899. One is on in 1874. Some called it the "Meridian" stone but the meridian runs through Victoria. Mr. Walz says it was not on the corner of the quarter. It was evidently erected by Cody when he was building his house and office building. It used to have a board on it showing the elevation. It is a fine thing this old relic of Rome exists. When Mr. Yost looked at the stone he remarked: "Thousands of fine horses were hitched to that stone."

When Rome was abandoned the Clarkson Bros.—Charlie, Matt and George, famous buffalo hunters, made it their headquarters. It is said they killed 22,000 buffaloes from here west. One year they rustled boards and wire. Put out a large garden with a fine lot of pumpkins. Were afraid of a buffalo stampede but hoped it would not come. One day heard a rumbling. Looking out saw the buffaloes coming. When a buffalo had a piece of wire or scantling entangled in its horns it would run faster. Soon things were leveled and not a pumpkin in sight.

Cody told Mr. Schulte that he was then 48 years of age. That a man ought to live until he gets to be 150 years of age. He does not know how to live until he's 75.

He related how he and a Mr. Baker were out hunting buffaloes. They stopped at the Ellis Hotel. The hotel manager was a little cranky to them so they just took over the hotel. After a little while Cody told Baker they had better turn it over the hotel keeper while their credit was good.

Fort Hays

It was a desolate place where the fort was established. No whites between here and the north pole. None for several hundred miles south. None east to Fort Riley. None west to Denver.

Although wild game was plentiful, including wild turkeys and prairie chicken, the Indians wanted none of that. Thought it would make them weak hearted. They wanted buffalo which would make them strong hearted. White men had no use for their false psychology. The Indian was communal. The white man was for individual rights. These disagreements brought on the battle. The two theories could not survive in the same country.

The first settlement of Ellis county was an Indian village a mile or so west of the present town of Hays.

The first white settlements were at the stations of the Butterfield Trail which followed along the north side of the Smoky.

Fort Fletcher was started October 11, 1865. It was fourteen miles southeast of the present town of Hays. November 17, 1866, its name was changed to Fort Hays, after General Hays who was killed a short time before in the Battle of the Wilderness.

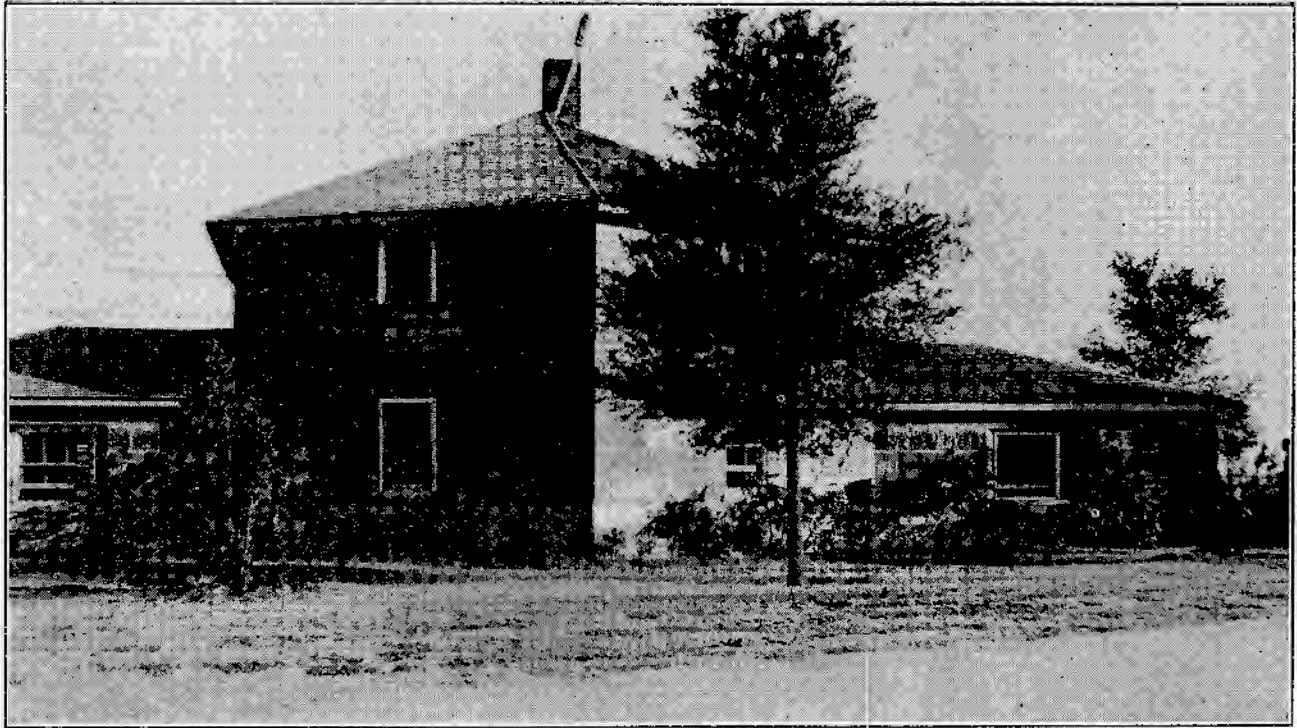
General Winfield Scott visited Fort Hays May 3, 1867, and in a report suggested that the post be changed to a point near where the Union Pacific survey would cross Big Creek.

About June 3, 1867, a flood came, drowning several colored soldiers. General Hancock ordered the fort changed. The flag was first hoisted on the new fort July 4, 1867.

7,000 acres were surveyed and laid out as a reservation.

The fort could not hold all the soldiers. There were cantonments at different parts of the reservation. One regiment of troops from here patrolled the Kansas Pacific.

The historic fort was the headquarters of the



The Old Block House as it Stands Today
Windows were put in after danger was over

Government for reducing the plains tribes and preparing the country for settlement. General Custer had his headquarters here from 1866 to 1871.

In 1867 he was sent northwest on a scouting expedition. Reaching a point near Fort Wallace he learned of the cholera outbreak at Fort Hays (Fort Fletcher) and turned east. He took an escort of 100 men and went to Fort Riley where his wife had gone. General Hancock having been defeated by the Indians, wanted someone to lay the blame on so he ordered General Custer relieved of command for one year.

General Hancock was transferred to the east. Lieutenant General Sherman was commander of the department of Missouri. He immediately appointed Brigadier General Sheridan to have charge of Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. His old friend General Custer was again called to service and put in charge of reprisals against the Indians who had killed hundreds of western and central Kansas settlers.

General Sheridan established headquarters at Fort Hays and remained here until danger from Indians was over. It was quite an honor for Fort Hays to be a brigadier-general headquarters.

General Sherman asked the Kansas governor to call for a regiment of volunteer cavalymen to assist General Sheridan and General Custer. The Nineteenth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry 1200 strong was mustered in at Topeka, October 20, 1868.

The Indians must have been watching them for General Custer with his six hundred troops surprised Black Kettle in his camp on the Washita at midnight November 27, 1868, killing Black Kettle and White Rock and about 103 Indians. 51 lodges were destroyed. 500 horses were captured.

December 24, 1868, the Indians made complete surrender. Twenty leading chiefs were arrested and held by General Sherman until the white women were released.

The Nineteenth Kansas Cavalry returned to Fort Hays where they received five months pay and were mustered out here April 18, 1869. Most of them spent their money at the saloons and dance halls.

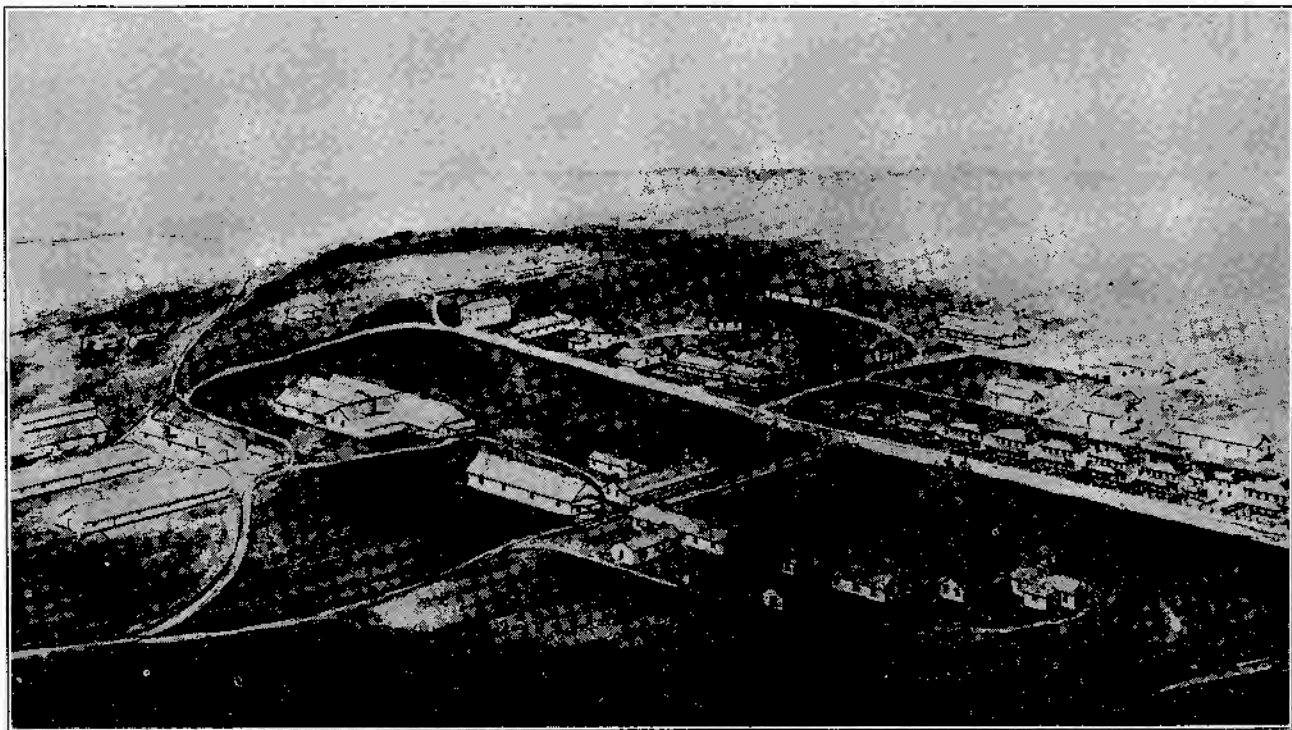
Indian trouble again broke out May 21, 1868, on the upper Saline, Solomon and White Rock Creek. General Custer went with three companies of his troops to punish the Indians. Governor Harvey ordered a batallion of state militia to help him.

As Indian trouble diminished the troops were gradually withdrawn until only three companies were left. The fort was abandoned April 17, 1889. It was the last fort to be deserted in the western half of Kansas.

Fort Hays became one of the most important posts in the United States. Among its commanders were Sheridan, Custer, Corbin, Hancock, Miles, Hazen, Forsyth, Lawton, and Wheaton.

Of the fort itself the adjutant generals department reports the following commanders:

- 1867—Col. Geo. A. Custer, Seventh cavalry.
- 1867—Capt. Henry C. Corbin, Thirty-eighth infantry.
- 1868—Maj. John E. Yard, Tenth cavalry.
- 1869—Lieut. Col. A. D. Nelson, Fifth infantry.
- 1869—Col. Nelson A. Miles, Fifth infantry.
- 1869-70—Lieut. Col. Geo. Gibson, Fifth infantry.
- 1871—Capt. Samuel Ovenshire, Fifth infantry.
- 1871—Col. Wm. B. Hazen, Sixth infantry.
- 1872—Col. Samuel D. Sturgis, Seventh cavalry.
- 1872-73—Col. DeL. Floyd Jones, Third infantry.
- 1874—Maj. Charles E. Compton, Sixth cavalry.
- 1874—Col. James Oakes, Sixth cavalry.
- 1877—Capt. D. M. Vance, Sixteenth infantry.
- 1875—Lieut. Col. E. A. Carr, Fifth cavalry.
- 1876—Lieut. Richard Vance, Nineteenth infantry.
- 1878—Lieut. Col. R. I. Dodge, Twenty-third infantry.
- 1880—Col. R. S. Mackenzie, Fourth cavalry.
- 1881—Lieut. Col. Z. R. Bliss, Nineteenth infantry.
- 1882—Lieut. Col. N. A. M. Dudley, Ninth cavalry.



Old Fort Hays
Reproduced from Government Files

1883-84—Col. C. R. Lawton, Twentieth infantry.
1885—Lieut. Col. J. J. Coppinger, Eighteenth infantry.
1887-88—Col. J. E. Yard, Eighteenth infantry.
1889—Maj. G. K. Brady, Eighteenth infantry.

From 1871 to 1873 General Custer was stationed with the Seventh cavalry in Kentucky. In the spring of 1873 he was ordered by General Sheridan to go to the Dakota territory to operate against the Sioux, who under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse had formed a federation of Dakota and Montana tribes. The Federal forces were divided into three parts. They were to attack the next day. Custer was sent ahead with 600 men to discover the Indians. He found their camp and decided to attack at once. He did not know the number of Indians. There were 5000 of them and all were armed. He divided his force into three parts and charged the center with his command. It was surrounded and not a one escaped.

The Hays City Star was the first to print the story of the massacre of General Custer and his heroic band of 261 soldiers. It was printed on July 6, 1876. An old friend from Hays was the telegrapher at Wallace, Kansas. The message was relayed to Editor Downing as soon as it came. He had already started to print his paper. He put it up in type. It was not printed in the Leavenworth papers until the next morning. As soon as the paper appeared officers rushed over from the fort. They could not believe the message until they telegraphed Leavenworth and found it was true.

The last raid was when a band of Cheyenne Indians murdered people up on the Sappa creek in Decatur county. They were turned over to the civil authorities for punishment. It was in 1878.

“Garry-owen” was the fighting song of the gallant Seventh Cavalry.

The Texas cattle trade started to Abilene in 1867. In 1872 and 1873 switched to Ellsworth. Then to Wichita and Newton. In 1875 to Dodge City.

Forsyth and Arickaree

General Sheridan authorized General Forsyth to recruit a company of fifty frontiersmen. He came to Fort Hays and finished recruiting his men here. Also getting equipment and supplies. He started northwest where there were reports of Indians. Just across the Kansas line he finally found traces of them. The trace disappeared. They held a consultation and decided the Indians had seen them following and scattered to meet at some other place. They finally found a trail of thousands of Indians. They camped just across the line in Colorado on Arickaree Creek, expecting to be attacked by the Indians. The Indians left a way open and expected them to flee so they could kill them. Instead General Forsyth ordered them to an island on the creek. They speedily dug in the sand to protect themselves. The Indians had recently whipped a command of fifty-six men and had their rifles. They formed for charge in military array. Fifteen hundred women and children gathered on a neighboring hill to see the warriors charge under the leadership of Roman Nose. The troopers had one load in their guns and six more in the magazines. At the end of the sixth volley the Indians were demoralized and a series of wails went up from the women and children. Roman Nose and the medicine man were killed. Another leader took charge and attacked but retreated in short order. Scouts were sent out different directions the first night. The men were out of food and General Forsyth wounded. The doctor who went from Hays was killed. After a week or more the troops came and they were set free.

The last buffalo killed in this vicinity was in about 1876.

The Indians were afraid of the railroad and the telegraph lines. They would run their ponies for some distance so they could cross under a bridge.

The Ft. Hays Guard House

Which still stands is a silent reminder of the days when the Indians were untamed and resisted the civilization of the white man.

Could those walls tell in Indian language the stories of many Indians held therein, what a tale they would unfold.

The Indians would not tolerate white men in this territory, especially homesteaders. In 1867 and 1868 hundreds of white men, women and children were massacred. The Indian braves would come to the forts professing friendship, be issued rations, and then go out and murder settlers. General Custer was assigned to bring these truce breakers to judgment.

General Sheridan made his headquarters at Fort Hays. General Sherman advised the Kansas governor to call for a regiment of volunteers to assist the regular troops. General Sheridan sent an immense train of supplies to Camp Supply down in Oklahoma.

Black Kettle and a party of his braves had visited Fort Hays and smoked the pipe of peace, sworn friendship and obtained supplies from Colonel Yard. They left Hays and camped north of Russell on the Saline the first night. The next night on Speelman creek. As soon as they reached settlements they began murdering whites. Then they went to the vicinity of Spirit Springs, starting the next day to murder settlers in the Solomon valley east. They captured several white women and left for their winter quarters on the Washita in Oklahoma, thinking they were safe from harm. But they reckoned wrong.

General Sheridan sent General Custer after them. The Kansas governor resigned his job and headed the new volunteer regiment. Governor Crawford was a western Kansas frontiersman.

Before waiting for the Kansas regiment General Custer with his force surrounded Black Kettle's camp. When the band started playing "Gary-owen" the troops

closed in. Black Kettle was killed and nearly all his warriors. A few escaped. All the tents and camp equipment was burned. Five hundred horses were captured. A hundred squaws and Indian children were brought back to Hays and placed in the stockade.

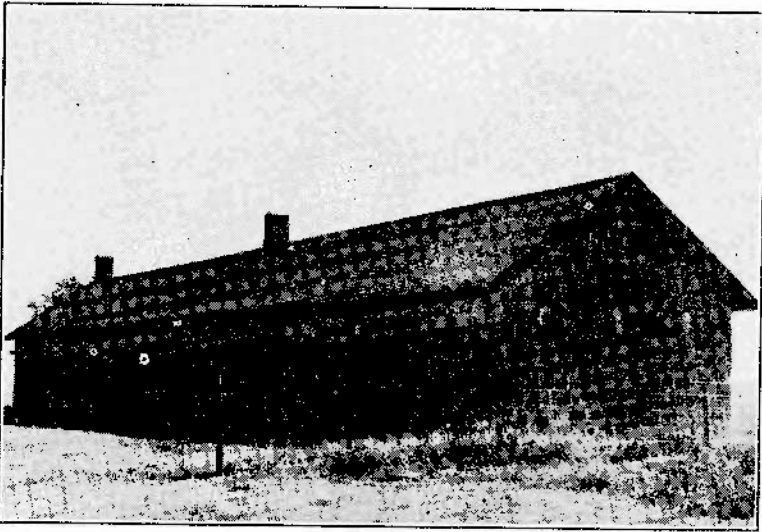
As soon as the Kansas troops joined him General Custer proceeded against the thousands of Indian warriors. He parleyed with the Indians. Could not attack as he wished to rescue Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. White, white women from the Solomon, whom the Indians had captured on their raid. They wanted a ransom before delivering them. When Custer saw they were planning to escape he captured three of the leading Cheyenne chiefs. Their names were Fat Bear, Dull Knife, and Big Head. They were put in the Fort Hays guard house, to be held until the white women were released.

The women were returned to Fort Hays and sent to their homes near Minneapolis. The guards went to release the chiefs from their irons. They did not understand English and thought they were being taken out to be murdered. Fat Bear plunged a knife into Sergeant Hogan's back. In the melee Fat Bear and Big Head were killed. Dull Knife was wounded but recovered and was sent with others back to their tribes in Oklahoma.

Walt Chrysler House

Just after you cross the main street in Ellis you go past the house where Chrysler was raised. It is on the south side of Highway 40. It is a two story yellow house. Not far away is the house where he moved when married.

When the Indians killed all the soldiers and the attendants at Fort Lookout, Hill P. Wilson, one of the founders of Hays City, hid in the grass and was not discovered.



The Old Guard House

Has held many an Indian chief put there by Gen. Sheridan and Gen. Custer. Also prisoners put there by Government Detective "Buffalo Bill" and U. S. Marshall "Wild Bill."

Ft. Hays-Ft. Dodge Trail

About 165,000 Indians and 30,000,000 buffaloes lived in the Buffalo country.

Through the heart of this country was built the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Trail.

Fort Hays was the capitol of the Buffalo country from 1867 to 1872. Indeed to 1874, as "Buffalo Bill" Cody escorted General Sheridan on a buffalo hunt from Fort Dodge to Fort Hays in 1874.

The marks of the old trail are still visible and can be traced nearly all the way from Hays to Dodge City. It ran just west of the fort, across the Smoky Hill, Big Timber, Walnut, about six miles east of Jetmore and on to Dodge City.

Large warehouses were built along the sidings at Hays. New Mexican products came to Hays in wagons, and an immense quantity of goods taken back. The warehouses were filled with wool and other shipping from New Mexico, and with goods for trade with that country.

Lumber that built Fort Dodge and Dodge City, Camp Supply, and other forts and towns were hauled from Hays.

The government had thousands of mules and 1000 mulewhackers who made their headquarters here. 500 government and Mexican teamsters would be in Hays at times.

General Phil Sheridan using Hays as a base traveled this historic highway with his long train of mules and wagons. Thirty-five trains, of thirty wagons each, eight mules to the team, comprised one procession which followed the Fort to Fort road.

In a well written article the Dodge City Journal says: "There is a highway of romance and adventure that winds through Dodge City and to those who knew the glamour of life on the western frontier the old road still embodies colorful qualities of the early days, though the ruts of creaking covered wagons, and the marks from the heavy feet of oxen have long since been erased

by the vehicles of civilization.”

This road is called the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Trail and connected the two historic forts in the frontier days. Fort Hays was established in 1860 and Fort Dodge in 1864 and the road formed a connecting link.

There never was a dull day on the old trail in the early times and the procession of people traveling its dusty, rough old windings form a vivid pagentry, alluring a picturesque colorfulness.

Indian tribes, fierce in their hideous war paint, arrayed in the gaudy trappings of warfare, moved over this trail on the quest of human life. Cheyenne, Kiowa, Arapahoe, Commanche and Sioux tribes beat their way across the wilderness on the old road and the track of the wagon wheel disappeared under the feet of Indian ponies and the tread of moccasined feet. Famous Indian chiefs, Little Robe, Black Kettle, Santana, Dull Knife and Little Raven, led their blood-mad warriors along the white man's road.

Many of the famous men who traveled the road that led to Fort Dodge included President Hays, General Sherman, General Hancock, General Sheridan, Colonel Dodge, General Custer and others.

Noted scouts, among them, Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok, Colonel Lewis, Ados Chapman, and Kit Carson.

Ex-President W. A. Lewis, of Ft. Hays Kansas State College, dug up history of early Hays. The Lewis Field stadium is named after him.

The contour of Custer Island has not changed. Frank Motz says the water always ran around when the floods came. The only change was when the government put in the dam.

Get this booklet in the hands of a tourist friend.

Boot Hill

The original Boot Hill of Kansas was located eight blocks north of the present post office in Hays.

It was five or six blocks north of the old saloons on North Main Street, which faced the depot. The depot of historic days is part of the present freight depot which used to stand just south of the Butler Furniture Store.

In early days it was the law of the gun. The one quicker on the trigger won the argument.

Wild Bill was typical of this period. He was employed by the business men as special marshal to rid the town of outlaws. Those who didn't flee the town helped populate Boot Hill.

When a man showed a disposition to fight there were plenty to accommodate. Strangers coming to town with appearance of money disappeared in the dives. Next morning there was a new grave in Boot Hill.

Jim Curry was probably the worst man in Hays. He killed several colored men and threw them in a dry well, then killed a young man. The public arose against him and he fled.

It was 1873 before law began to prevail. A cemetery was organized. A man was employed to move the bodies to the new cemetery. He moved forty-seven. It was supposed this was all.

When Fort street was graded in the north part of town several bodies were found there. On grading Eighteenth street the contractor was about through when the horses stepped in a hole. He ordered them to plow again. No result. The next round eight bodies were found. In 1937 three more on excavating for a house. Chief of Police Alex Weltz says since he has been connected with city affairs he has helped transfer twenty-four or twenty-five bodies. Geo. King, secretary of the local cemetery association says he believes eighty or more bodies were buried in Boot Hill.

Two women were buried there. The rest were men. They were buried in the clothes in which they

died. As people wore boots in those days it was called "Boot Hill."

If they didn't fit in the dry goods boxes in which they were buried, they were shoved in and made to fit.

Dodge City makes much of her Boot Hill. It was not started until September, 1872, when the Santa Fe arrived there. The Hays Boot Hill was almost forgotten by that time. Law was in Hays while the gun still ruled at Dodge City.

The last occupants of Hays Boot Hill were two men who were killed in a gun argument on the depot platform. After the first man was killed his friend heard of it. He rushed over and killed the one who had slain his chum. Although they were killed the night before, both bodies lay on the platform until nearly train time at 10 o'clock when they were taken into the depot.

A Surprised Tenderfoot

From his book entitled "Prairie Trails and Cow Towns," Dr. Floyd D. Streeter of the Fort Hays Kansas State College has the following Hays incident. (Printed by permission.)

"Hays was the point from which the west and the southwest obtained supplies until the Santa Fe railroad was completed to Dodge City. Long trains of heavily loaded wagons were a common sight. Among these were the outfits owned by Otero & Sellar, prominent freighters, who had a large warehouse along the railroad. Bull whackers were often on the streets. One day a party of scientists from the east came to Hays. One member of the party stood gazing with open mouth at some object across the street. A bull whacker noticed him and seized this opportunity to walk up and crack his lash within six inches of his spine. The latter jumped into the air, and certain that he had been shot, came on the run to his friends to have the ball extracted."

The Butterfield Trail

In the summer of 1865, D. A. Butterfield of Denver, conceived the idea of building a stage line from Atchison to Denver. It was seventy-five miles shorter than the route through Nebraska. He had steamboats bring freight up from St. Louis to Atchison. Bought 150 large Santa Fe wagons each hauled by six oxen and fifty large mule wagons each hauled by six mules. He advertised it as the Butterfield Express Line and they could get express through to Denver, 595 miles, in eight days. Later he put on a nice line of stages. But he had not reckoned with the Indians. They destroyed so much property that he had to sell in eighteen months.

Ben Holladay, a successful Denver man, took over the route. He had trouble with the Indians and finally sold to the Wells Fargo Company which had the Nebraska line.

In 1867 the Indians caused them to lose several hundred thousand dollars of property. They burned a dozen or so stations, destroyed hundreds of horses, coaches, harness, furniture, etc. Things in the wagons the Indians did not need they destroyed. The company had some fine coaches which came through Hays.

The Lookout station southwest of Hays was destroyed. The Big Creek station seven miles southeast of Hays was raided and fifty-two horses stolen.

In the later fifties the Leavenworth & Pike Peak company tried the route but had to quit as the Indians were so bad.

When the Kansas Pacific was completed to Denver August 15, 1870, business was transferred to it.

Butterfield laid out a number of towns in Ellis county along the route. The largest was at Big Creek crossing on the Philip ranch.

The first towns laid out in Ellis county were along the Butterfield Trail. Another was at Fort Fletcher. None of them progressed very far because of the Indians.

Garry-owen

Let Bacchus' sons be not dismayed,
But join with me, each jovial blade;
Come boose and sing, and lend your aid,
To help me with the chorus.

CHORUS

Instead of Spa we'll drink down ale,
And pay the rec'ning on the nail;
No man for debt shall go to jail
From Garry-owen in glory.

We'll break windows, we'll break doors,
The watch knock down by threes and fours;
Then let the doctors work their cures,
And tinker up our bruises.

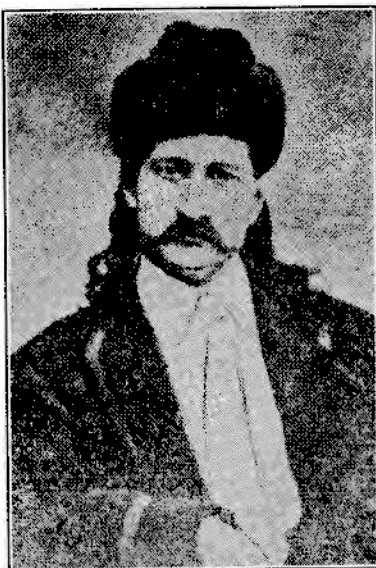
CHORUS

We'll beat the bailiffs out of fun,
We'll make the mayor and sheriffs run;
We are the boys no man dares dun,
If he regards a whole skin.

CHORUS

Our hearts so stout have got us fame,
For soon 'tis known from whence we came;
Where'er we go they dread the name
Of Garry-owen in glory.

CHORUS



"Wild Bill"
James Butler Hickok

Early Marshal of Hays

“Wild Bill” Hickok

“No Sunday west of Junction City,
No Law west of Hays City,
No God west of Carson City.”

This was “Wild Bill’s” statement and creed.

James Butler Hickok was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, May 27, 1837. His father owned a station of the underground railway. Young Hickok accompanied the drivers and doubtless was under fire by the slave-owners.

At the age of sixteen he resented the remarks of a driver. During the fight both fell into a creek. Young Hickok thought he had killed the other so he fled to Kansas and lived in the vicinity of Monticello. He enlisted with General Lane and served through his campaigns.

The Pony Express formed, he was engaged as a stock tender at Rock Creek station in southern Nebraska. Immediately had opposition by David McCandless, who owned the land. As the company was slow on remitting a rental, McCandless and two of his associates came to take possession. Hickok realized it would be illegal for them to do it. McCandless tried to shoot him, but was too slow and was killed. The two associates came running to help. Hickok shot one as he came in the front door and the other as he came in the back door. The other four members of the bunch fled. The company and the law sustained Hickok.

After the Pony Express quit he began superintending wagon trains to Missouri points. At Independence, Mo., had a saloon keeper friend. The man had taken part in a quarrel of some teamsters. When Hickok arrived he was besieged by a mob of men in an adjoining building. Some argued for killing him, others to protect him. Hickok drew two pistols and ordered them to disperse. “If you don’t there will be more dead men than the town can bury.” Knowing his reputation all got out. Next day the citizens held a celebration. A lady in the crowd yelled: “Good for you Wild Bill.” The name stuck.

When he arrived at Sedalia the news had preceeded and he was everywhere addressed as Wild Bill.

When the war started he enlisted as a scout. Later he and "Buffalo Bill" Cody served as spies. He was in all the battles in the Missouri campaign.

After the war he began traveling up and down the Kansas Pacific as a scout. In 1868 he was in the service of the government at Fort Hays.

The following item appeared in the Topeka Leader: "W. F. Cody, government detective and William Haycock 'Wild Bill,' deputy U. S. marshal, brought eleven prisoners and lodged them in our calaboose on Monday last—a band of robbers who had their headquarters on the Solomon, charged with stealing government property and for desertion."

In June, 1869, he was secured by Senator Wilson and a party of nearly 100, to take them to the southwest and past battlefields. They were so well pleased that when they returned they gave him a banquet at Hays.

Immediately Ellis county appointed him principal peace officer. In November, 1869, he was defeated and his partner, Peter Lanahan, elected. In the spring of 1872 Sheriff Lanahan tried to stop a row in Kelly's saloon and was killed.

It is said Wild Bill killed five men while in Hays.

Mrs. A. D. Gilkerson, whose husband ran an apothecary shop where the Riggs Tire and Auto Shop now is, says she saw a man go in the saloon at the location where the Master Cleaners are, gunning for Wild Bill. He fired two shots and missed. Wild Bill fired one shot killing him. The body lay out on the sidewalk until morning when it was taken to Boot Hill.

The trains used to stop at Hays five to ten minutes longer than usual so the passengers would get an opportunity to see Wild Bill. Sometimes he would display his shooting ability, setting a nickel or a quarter up on his saddle and knocking it off at a distance.

August 25, 1869, a special news item in the K. C. Journal of Commerce, said: "Last night Bill Hickok.

better known as Wild Bill, acting sheriff of Ellis county. while attempting to preserve peace among a party of intoxicated roughs or "wolves" shot a man named Bill Melvin through the neck and lungs. Melvin is still living but the doctors say with no hopes of recovery. He attempted to shoot several citizens and was determined to quarrel with everyone whom he met, using his revolver freely, but fortunately wounding no one."

One night Simon Motz, who later became state senator, forgot the key to his store and pried open a window. Before he got out a board descended and he was knocked senseless. Hickok never did get over it as Motz was a friend of his. In fact one of the business men who had employed him as marshal. Mr. Motz was father of Frank Motz, editor of the Hays Daily News.

It is said the two best shots in existence were Wild Bill of Hays, and Wesley Hardin of Texas. After Bill left Hays they met in an Ellsworth saloon, played a game of cards and parted friends. The eyes of the whole population were on them.

The soldiers recognized no authority except that of their officers. They brought a bunch of soldiers over to clean out Wild Bill. One, a husky fellow, was to dare Wild Bill to lay down his guns and fight. Wild Bill whipped him in short order. The others intervened. Wild Bill was given his pistols. The account of the event is rather mixed. Some say he killed two soldiers. Others that he killed one and wounded the other. Tom Custer had General Custer send a bunch of soldiers over to arrest Wild Bill. He would have to fight the entire command so friends advised him to leave. He was shot in the shoulder as we understand, but ran and jumped on his horse back of Tommy Drum's saloon and went north to North Fork of Big Creek, following it down to Big Creek where his wounds were cared for. Some say he went to Russel and boarded the train. Others to Ellsworth. Evidently his friends here looked after him. He was in Hays until about New Year's day 1870.

Wild Bill must have hidden out as nothing much

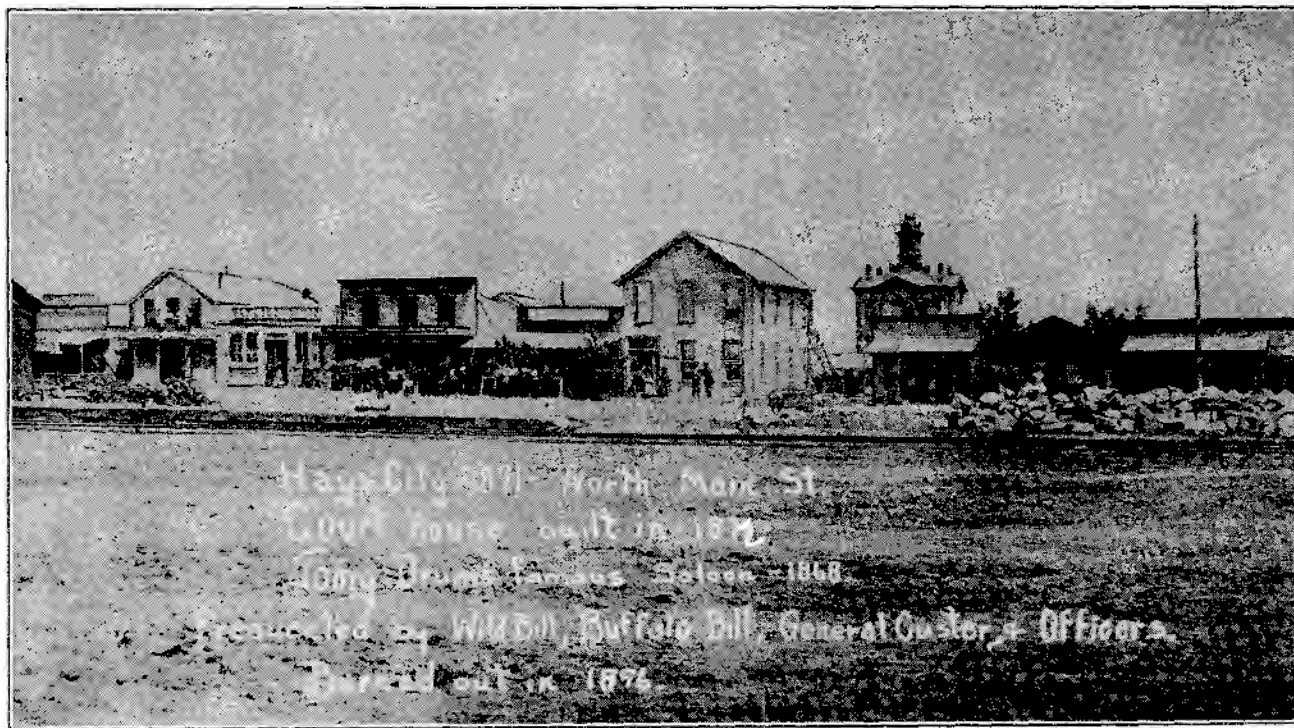
was known of him for about a year.

When Abilene was organized as a third class city, he was employed as a city marshal April 15, 1871, for a salary of \$150 a month and percentage of fines. He was discharged as marshal December 13, 1871. Then he joined up with Buffalo Bill on a theatrical trip through the east. The work did not please him. Buffalo Bill engaged him with the understanding he would not kill any more people. Hickok laughingly replied he would not. Up to the time he went to Abilene he had killed forty-nine white men besides the large number of Indians and men he had killed in the civil war.

About the time Will Bill disappeared from Hays, the water pumper at Victoria said a man appeared out of the brush. Said he was Wild Bill. Asked if there were any soldiers around. Then disappeared. H. C. Reynesford says he does not know whether that was the time he disappeared from Hays. Says he had several brushes with the soldiers. When they picked out the shot from Wild Bill they tried to get him to lay down his knife, but he would not.

The name of the man at whose house Wild Bill was treated and healed was Mr. Ewald. He had a large ranch three miles west of Schoenchen and north of the Smoky Hill river. Wild Bill knew him. Ewald was a chum of Buffalo Bill. He liked Cody better than Hickok as he said Will Bill was quarrelsome at times. Cody was always the same. Ewald lost his life in the blizzard of 1886, while he was driving his cattle back from the vicinity of Castle Rock.

Mr. Ewald's account of the tragedy as related to William Schulte of Ellis was that some of the soldiers from the fort were trying to run a rough house in the saloons. Wild Bill stopped them and put them in jail. The commandent at the fort send word to have them released. Bill refused. The commandent then sent fifteen soldiers over to have him arrested. A fight ensued. He said Wild Bill killed several soldiers and dispersed the rest. They injured him badly. He told



North Main Street in Hays, 1872
Now North Tenth Street

the people if he remained here he would have to fight the entire Seventh Cavalry.

Apache Bill was sent from Hays to guide the 19th Kansas Cavalry to Camp Supply. In the summer of 1869 he was put in jail in Topeka. Wild Bill came along and got him out.

Mr. Schulte has a Colt's pistol which used to be used by Wild Bill. He got it from a lady at Abilene, who said Hickok used to come and borrow it at times.

Wild Bill was kind of heart and a great friend of children. He never killed anyone except in performance of his duty or to protect his life or the life of friends.

Following General Custer's death he came west again. While at Deadwood, South Dakota, he was shot in the back by James McCall, who was evidently in the employ of grafters.

Wild Bill died August 2, 1876. Was buried at 3 p. m. August 3. He was then 39 years of age.

The roughs were in control at Deadwood. McCall was acquitted.

Some army officers who wished that justice be done had him arrested again. While drunk in a Wyoming town he boasted that the story he had told to a Dakota jury about Wild Bill shooting a brother of his was false. He was tried again, convicted and hung.

Read "Following the Guidon," by Mrs. Elizabeth Custer.

Nearly 200,000 persons visited the Fort Hays Historical Park the past year.

Mrs. J. H. Middlekauff had a banquet served her during Hays' Seventieth celebration. She has been an honored resident of Hays all these years. Her favorite chair is one that used to be used in Tommy Drum's saloon.

"Following the Guidon," by Mrs. Custer, is a story of one years life of Hays.

Tommy Drum

It is said was the only saloon keeper in Hays who did not drink. Whenever a man showed evidence of having too much liquor he would tell him he could get no more in his place.

Tommy Drum came to Hays in 1867. His saloon became one of the most popular in the United States. General Sheridan, General Custer, Buffalo Bill and Wild Bill made their headquarters there.

They tell some great stories regarding Drum. One time someone killed and dumped two men in the well in front of his place of business. Parties had to use grab hooks to pull them out. Tommy was running around and around the well exclaiming: "By the boot, By the boot, By the boot." What the term meant no one knew. It was about as sensible as swearing.

He must have been about 75 years old when he left Hays.

The account of his death appeared in Hays papers. It is said Judge Reeder visited him in St. Louis shortly before his death.

Drum became quite wealthy as a result of his fourteen years of saloon business. He was a Catholic and it is said he entered an old peoples home in St. Louis. He gave his money to one of the orders of the church.

The first church services held in Hays were held in his saloon in 1873. He found out that Rev. Leonard Bell, a Methodist minister, was here visiting his son, L. G. Bell, so he sent for him to hold a service. The bar was covered with cloth. The minister had a large and attentive audience. Drum superintended the taking of the offering and it was liberal.

When the prohibition law was passed in 1881 and the law found to be legal, he would not sell another drop. He sold out all his holdings.

Here are a couple of items from the Hays paper in 1880 regarding Drum:

"Tom Drum goes east soon on a pleasure trip. He

deserves a rest from business.

"Uncle Tommy Drum, in the goodness of his heart, offered to treat the scamp who stole his money, following his examination. The man who would knowingly and willfully injure Uncle Tom would steal the coppers off a dead nigger's eyes."

Entry from Ellis county commissioners proceedings in 1876: "Tommy Drum's personal property was increased from \$1400.00 to \$5500.00."

In early days when people offered to treat, you had to accept or get shot. Tommy would pour out a glass of selzer for himself and charge it a liquor price.

W. L. (Grant) Billings an old settler of Rooks county, came here, first purchasing lots in Rome. Afterwards moved to near Cody, Wyoming, and purchased a ranch. One day Col. Cody, who had a ranch nearby, stopped at his place during a storm and asked to stay all night. Billings recognized him and said "You're the fellow that sold me the lots in Rome. I never got a cent out of them." Cody laughed and said "Well you got all I did." After their informal greeting the two spent a pleasant evening. Billings always remembered entertaining Col. Cody as his guest for the night.

Hays was capitol of the Indian country as well as the buffalo country. As civilization spread west of the Missouri river and east from the Pacific ocean past Denver, it met in this section on completion of the Union Pacific railway. The nation's leading generals made Hays their headquarters to reduce the savage tribes.

As the eyes of the nation are on Hays so they are on Cody, Wyoming, and the Cody road to the Yellowstone National Park. Also on the Buffalo Bill Museum on the road and the Buffalo Bill Memorial statue on the road. A road eighty miles long of scenic charm, pointed out by Col. Cody to the late Theodore Roosevelt.

An International Episode

(Written by Tom McNeal in his book "When Kansas is Young" printed by permission.)

During the year 1871 or '72 a Scotchman named George Grant, born near Aberdeen came to Kansas and made a deal with the Union Pacific, then known as the Kansas Pacific, railroad by which he acquired title to a large amount of railroad land in Ellis county, variously estimated at from 100,000 to 500,000 acres. Just how much land he did get is uncertain but it was a large tract and bought on most favorable terms so far as Grant was concerned, who was evidently possessed of a great deal of Scotch thrift and canniness in driving a bargain. The railroad company had received a vast grant of land from the government and the managers were anxious to have the country settled as soon as possible so as to make business for the road. George Grant bought the land at the rate of fifty cents per acre and did not have to pay the cash down for that. His agreement was to bring out a large colony of high grade Englishmen with money, who would settle on the land and stock it with blooded cattle, horses and sheep.

The bargain having been closed, the enterprising advertising agent of the railroad proclaimed to the world that a vast tract of land had been sold to a British nobleman, Sir George Grant, knighted by the queen, a man of almost boundless wealth, who had decided to establish on the fertile prairies of Kansas an estate like those of the landed gentry of "Merry England."

As a matter of fact, the Scotchman had never been dowered with a title in the old world. He was a silk merchant who had been reasonably prosperous in trade and who saw a speculation in the Kansas land. The title, however, was a good advertisement. Kansas had no genuine titled noblemen among her citizenship, and while the early Kansas man paid little deference to titles, he rather liked to say that an English lord was so enamored that he left his ancestral halls to settle out in western

Kansas. The title also helped about getting the English squires, who dote on titles, interested, and so it came about that Sir George managed to create quite an interest among those British sires who were looking for locations for their sons. Also, it may be said that the Scotchman managed to do very well in the real estate business, selling the land, for which he had promised to pay the railroad company fifty cents per acre, to the Englishmen for as high as \$15 per acre in some cases. He also built him an English villa, which was, in turn, press agented, and named the town he organized Victoria, in honor of the British queen.

In order to satisfy the religious proclivities of the colonists, he built a church which was duly dedicated by Bishop Vail of blessed memory. He also brought considerable blooded stock and several thousand sheep to graze on the succulent grasses. For a time the plan worked with remarkable success. At one time there were two thousand Britishers in Sir George's colony, according to the estimates of the truthful reporters. Maybe there were not so many, but there was a respectable number. Most of them were a failure as pioneers, so far as developing the country was concerned, but they had really a delightful time, hunting wolves and jackrabbits, riding to the chase dressed in typical English fashion, with their high topped boots and ridiculous little caps, and at evening gatherings in the saloon run by Tommy Drum, where they "stayed themselves with flagons," imbibed large quantities of "Scotch and soda" and with large volume of sound if not with melody, sang English songs. One of the favorites of these was a poetical description of a shipwreck, each stanza ending with the sad refrain "The ship went down with the fair young bride a thousand miles from shore."

It was while in a lachrymose state of mind, the result of frequent irrigation, that one of the young English "remittance" men became so wrought up over the tragedy which happened to the "fair young bride" that he hurled a bottle through the large pier glass, which was Tommy

Drum's delight and pride and which, when Fort Hays was an important military post, had often reflected the images of General Sherman, Sheridan, Custer and Phil Kearney, as they lined up in front of the bar and took their "regulars" of whiskey straight, or perhaps with a dash of lemon to modify the roughness of the drink. The breaking of the glass caused Drum to run about in circles shouting "By the bolt! "By the bolt!" which was his nearest approach to profanity. Nobody knew just what the expression meant, but it served to relieve Tommy's supercharged feelings when ordinary language did not fill the bill and for that matter it was more harmless and fully as sensible as any form of profanity.

It was at the thirst parlor of Tommy Drum, where occurred the international episode about which this story is written.

It was in the evening of the glorious Fourth of July and a number of British scions and Americans had gathered and indulged in numerous potations, until they reached the state where they were ready for argument, tears, or battles, when one of the Americans happened to remember that was the natal day of our republic. Filled with highballs and patriotism, he proposed that they sing "The Star Spangled Banner."

The subjects of the queen objected. They didn't deem it fitting for Englishmen to sing the national air of this "blarsted republic." The only national air they would sing, they declared, was "God Save the Queen." For a time the Americans argued the matter in a bibulous sort of way, but the argument soon became heated. It was considered an international question and as the Britishers continued obdurate the Americans felt that it was up to them to uphold the honor of the country.

So the ruckus commenced and was fast and furious. The British put up a game fight and left their marks on the countenances of their foes, but they were badly outnumbered. Now and then a well-directed blow from an American fist or chair or heavy bottle wielded with vigor put a subject of the queen out of the fight and

then the battle became more one sided than before. A good deal of the saloon furniture was broken up and nearly every countenance, both British and American, bore marks of the conflict before it was ended by the American forces throwing the last of the Englishmen into the cellar.

The victors were standing guard over the stairway leading down to the basement when the late Judge Jim Reeder appeared upon the scene and asked what all the row was about.

The leader of the Americans, who was carrying a beautiful black eye and a somewhat damaged nose as souvenirs of the conflict, stated the case. "Thesh here Britishers," he said thickly, 'fuse ti shing 'Star Cpangled Banner,' an' thish is the glorish Fourt July—insis' on shingin' that dam British song 'God Shave th' Queen'—wouldn't stan' for it. Been a hell of a fight, but can't no Britisher inshult Star-Spangled Banner.' "

Judge Reeder asked for a chance to talk with the imprisoned Englishmen, but found them standing firmly, though battered, by their national anthem.

"Gentlemen," he said, "there should be peace between the mother country and ours. I have a proposition to make. Let the Americans sing the 'Star Spangled Banner' and the Englishmen join in. After that we will permit the Englishmen to sing 'God Save the Queen.' Giving you loyal Americans the right to sing first is an acknowledgement on their part that our glorious republic takes the precedence and then as a matter of courtesy they can be permitted to sing their national air."

At first the Americans were not disposed to yield. They insisted that they had whipped the blamed British and, as the leader of the Americans expressed it, "To the vic'or b'longs th' spoils." On the other hand, the British though temporarily overpowered were still game unwilling to yield anything to their foes.

After much argument Judge Reeder induced both sides to agree to his suggestion. The badly battered

Englishmen were permitted to come up out of the cellar. A drink was taken by all and the Americans were told to go on with their singing.

The leader started out bravely in a somewhat ragged voice: "O shay c'n you shee, by zhee dawn's er'y light." Here his recollection failed him and a comrade whose lip had been cut open by the festivities suggested disgustedly that "any fool ought to know better'n to shing 'Star-Spangled Banner' to the tune of 'John Brown's Body Lies a Mouldering in zhe Grave.' "

"Maybe," said the leader with bibulous gravity and indignation, "if you know so much 'bout shingin' you c'n shing this yourself."

The other American tried to but fell down on the second line. A number of others tried it but all failed either because they didn't know the words or the tune and most of them knew neither one.

They finally gave it up and Judge Reeder said: "Well, gentlemen, you had a fair chance to uphold the honor of our country in song and failed. It is no more than fair that the Englishmen have their chance. Proceed gentlemen, to sing your national air, 'God save the Queen.' "

The leader of the defeated party smiled as well as his battered lips would permit and started in on the British anthem. He started, that was all. At the end of the line his memory completely failed him and besides that he was off the tune. Other loyal subjects of the Queen had no better success and finally gave it up.

Satisfied at last, the late antagonists lined up to the bar, imbibed a drink by the way of reconciliation, chipped in to pay for the furniture destroyed, and parted with mutual assurance that they had spent a most enjoyable evening.

Sir George Grant died in 1878, at the premature age of fifty-six, and was buried close by the church he had built. Hot winds and crop failures discouraged the colonists and they faded away. Their places were taken by a colony of subjects of the late Czar of Russia who

have lived and prospered and grown rich where the followers of Sir George failed. Near the little church by which lies the body of Sir George Grant, has been erected one of the largest and most magnificent churches west of the Missouri river, paid for out of the earnings of these erstwhile Russian peasants who came to this country, poor in purse, but endowed with the industry, patience, and endurance necessary to make successful pioneers.

Mr. Schulte has a dumbbell which was made by A. J. Bellport, a government blacksmith, for Gen. Custer. Mr. Schulte's picture is printed on page 476, Vol. 16, Kansas Historical Reports.

A Frenchman had a store at the place where old Ft. Fletcher was before the fort was established.

Hays has two newspapers, the Hays Daily News, which is the only newspaper in a city the size of Hays in the United States furnishing complete reports of the day service of the Associated Press; and the Ellis County (Weekly) News an 8-column, 8-page paper covering the county, legal and general news of interest.

With an unlimited supply of natural gas and the third largest producing oil area in the state, Hays offers numerous advantages to small industries and bids them welcome with assurance of every degree of cooperation.

Hays has a \$75,000.00 swimming pool which was well patronized during the summer months.

A new \$185,000.00 high school addition is being built.

The civic center, so to speak, of all Hays activities is the Hays Chamber of Commerce.

Threshing Machine Canyon

You go to the road just west of Ogallah. South twelve miles, past the Swedish church. Then turn west over an angling road for half a mile. Driving near the cliffs, you can walk down a ravine to the creek bed.

North of the bluff several hundred yards you can see the old Butterfield Trail, where thousands of wagons and coaches traveled.

The Butterfield Trail had a station there. A number of soldiers were stationed there to protect the trail. The oldline in the fifties might have had a station near the cliff. At any rate it was a favorite stopping place for travelers on the trail. The dry creek must have had water in an early day.

One day an old fashioned threshing machine traveled across the plains. Some say there were three. The Indians came over the cliff, killing the men, stealing the horses and destroying the machines. Later some of the gears were presented to the Ft. Hays State College.

We found a number of names recorded on the bluffs: C.H.B. Boston, 1859. J. G. Carnahan, Pa. 1859. Then June 16, 1859. W. W. Spencer, 1859, Mo. An expert might restore part of the lettering of the towns they were from.

The Indians wiped out the trail which was again started by Butterfield in 1865. You find the names of A. P. Williams, Co. D. U. S. M. E. 110, Nov. 13, 1865. M. Metcalf, 3 Miss. Calv. 1865. Then a Masonic emblem with W. S. Simon, N. J., with an eagle underneath. J. B. Hodges, 1865. Other names are there in 1870 and later dates.

Some say threshing machines were not invented at that time, but this must have been a predecessor of the modern threshing machine. It is labeled part of an "Old Sweep Threshing Machine" in the Fort Hays Kansas State College Museum. It is said the machine was being transported to the Brigham Young Mormon colony in Utah in 1865.

Pleasure Boat Shipwrecked

A wealthy English family named Smithies bought a ranch about four miles down the creek. They lavishly entertained the soldiers and friends. Built a large dam across the creek. Purchased a sixteen foot steamer, which they ran back and forth. Some time they ran up near the fort. One time they were taking some persons to a Hays dance when it was shipwrecked. The dam washed out. Later the boat was dug up. Its engine was used to run a printing press in Hays City.

Mrs. Cody tells in "My Adventures Into the Far West":

"I was now headed for the unknown west and my husband tried to explain.

" 'This world isn't big enough for everybody that's in it,' he said to me. (Remember this was in 1866). 'Every day you can see the wagon trains starting across the desert. They're building the railroad through Kansas. I know the West, Lou, every foot of it; and I've got to do my part. It isn't a very pretty place now, but there'll be towns some day almost as big as St. Louis and I've got to make the road clear for them. I'm working for tomorrow, Lou.' Later he turned his pockets inside out. 'Broke,' he said quietly. 'I—going to get a job.'

"The next day I said good-bye to my husband, and he started for the end of the Kansas Pacific which was being built towards Denver. Long days intervened, and at last came a letter from him saying he had obtained a job as scout. In this and later letters he told of guiding General Custer from Ft. Hays to Ft. Larned—the Tenth Regiment in a terrific Indian fight near Ft. Hays."

Mrs. Custer in her book "Tenting On the Plains," tells of the flood at Ft. Fletcher (Ft. Hays) and where six soldiers were drowned.

The Lone Grave

Southwest of Hays about two miles is the grave of Elizabeth Polly, wife of a hospital steward of old Fort Hays.

When the cholera plague came in 1867 she helped to care for the soldiers. Was herself stricken.

She and her husband used to ride horseback to the top of the hill. It is a beautiful place. At that day you could see a panorama of Fort Hays, of Big Creek valley and of the cavalry posts east and south of the Fort. The Fort Larned Trail winding away in the distance, the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge trail passing nearby. She said when she died she wanted to be buried there. The soldiers tried to dig on top of the bill but it was solid rock. They came down a few yards and dug there. It is across from the reservation land a few yards on the Madden land.

A wooden monument used to stand at the head of the grave but it has about rotted away. On it was the inscription: "Elizabeth Polly, wife of Ephraim Polly, Liberty, Missouri."

It was reported that the lady was a nurse but no lady nurses were employed at that time, says Mrs. Ida Kohl, whose husband was a hospital steward at Fort Leavenworth and Fort Hays.

The late Frank Stout says he was eight years old when his parents moved here in 1878. One day the liveryman came to him and asked if he would drive a gentleman to places around town. He agreed. On one of the trips he asked to be taken to Elizabeth Polly's grave. He admired the scenery and was pleased with the way the grave was cared for. Said he would report to the people back there. When he was gone an old resident, Douglas Brown, told young Stout he had known the man all the time but was afraid to mention his name or to recognize him for fear of reprisals. The stranger he had taken around was the noted outlaw—Jesse James.



Early Day Warehouse
In Hays



First Court House of Ellis County
Being erected in 1872

Wonderful Sights of Old Ft. Hays

Mrs. Josephine Middlekauff, who came to Hays September 21, 1867 when a girl of five years of age, says:

"One of the things of never ceasing interest to us youngsters was the arrival of the Otero & Sellars bull trains from Mexico. There were eight or ten yoke of oxen, with wide spreading horns, to each big canvass covered wagon, with two trail wagons hitched on behind, driven by Mexicans with fanciful clothes, blue hued kerchiefs and wide sombreros. The train was often a mile long and it would come up over the brow of the low hill south of the fort, raising a cloud of dust, the oxen lowing, the Mexicans cracking their whips and swearing in Spanish. We would run to meet it and trot along beside it until it rounded up and went into camp near the fort. The wagons were loaded mostly with wool."

"Another great event was the arrival and departure of the overland stages drawn by the most beautiful horses in the world. We always gathered to watch the Concord coach swing out for Denver and to wonder if the passengers would reach their destination or be scalped by the Indians."

We had many an Indian scare and were in constant fear of them. In 1868 had the greatest scare of all, when Black Kettle and his band made a raid in this vicinity."

Two Irishmen were playing cards in the back of a saloon when one killed the other. Judge Joyce who distributed justice on the frontier, summoned the Irishman before him. There were no witnesses to the affair. The Irishman was asked whether he was guilty or not. "Guilty" he answered. "Shut your darned mouth," the judge shouted. "You are discharged for lack of evidence."

Entry in Ellis county commissioners proceedings in 1876: "The varments were so bad it wasn't healthy for a man to sleep in jail, for that reason the prisoner was dismissed."

Calamity Jane

Martha Canary was born in Princeton, Missouri, about 1850. Her parents moved to Montana in search of gold. Her mother died. Then her father with the six children started back to Missouri. At Salt Lake City he died leaving Martha the five younger children to take care of.

She worked at dishwashing at Ft. Bridger.

The children became old enough to look after themselves and she donned men's clothing.

For six years she drove a six mule team freight from Westport Landing across the plains.

She was an expert with the blacksnake. Also on profanity.

No man could use a fist quicker than she in this two fisted country.

While in Hays she claimed to be a daughter of Allegheny Dick, a gambler and freighter. She then wore woman's clothing and was known as the "Prairie Queen."

After the Kansas Pacific railway was finished in 1869 she enlisted as a government scout. She rescued Captain Egan from the Indians. He remarked "Well Jane you are a good one to have around in times of calamity." Hereafter she was known as "Calamity Jane." This she preferred to "Prairie Queen."

She was in Deadwood, South Dakota, when Wild Bill was killed. She started out unarmed to find the murderer. Finding him in a butcher shop she seized a cleaver and captured him.

As she got older she began to drink and became a general nuisance. When she died the cowboys buried her in Mount Morian cemetery at Deadwood beside the grave of Wild Bill. The inscription over her grave is:

Mrs. Mary C. Burke
Calamity Jane
Died Aug. 1, 1903. Aged 53 years

Facts About Hays

Kansas Frontier Historical Park, adjoining the city on the south, is one of the finest playgrounds and picnic places in the State of Kansas. It pays to come a long ways just to spend a few hours in the park.

One of the outstanding reasons why Hays is a desirable place to live is the religious atmosphere created by its seven different denominations that have places of worship in the city. Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Episcopalian, and Nazarene.

It has a live Boy Scout and Girl Scout organization. They have a scout house.

As a medical center for Northwest Kansas Hays has two fine hospitals, St. Anthony's alone furnishing 100 beds. The Hays Protestant Hospital aids a half score of surgeons and physicians in maintaining the health of Northwest Kansas.

The Hays Public Library contains over 10,000 volumes covering information on nearly every subject. It is located just across from the Lamer Hotel.

Hays has a fine variety of retail establishments making it a veritable paradise for shoppers.

Hays offers a wider range in educational work than most any other city of Kansas. A child may start in one of the two kindergartens and end up with a master's degree in the Ft. Hays State College. Hays has five distinct and separate school systems: Fort Hays Kansas State College, St. Joseph's College and Military Academy, the City Public Schools, Girls Catholic High School and the Catholic Parochial School.

The sports followers find no lack of entertainment or dull moments in Hays. Three well coached and excellent performing football, basketball and track teams keep the fans in a rooting fever at all times. During the summer months baseball, which is well established here, gives the fans plenty of thrills.

As a midway point between the Rocky mountains and the Missouri river, Hays is a busy tourist city, well

provided to care for the travelers needs. It is an excellent place to stop over because of its accommodations and historic points of interest. The Lamer Hotel with 100 rooms is the finest hostelry between Topeka and Denver, on the Union Pacific railway and No. 40 highway.

Plans are being made for a band shell and a baseball park.

The state has taken over Custer Island and beautified it. The students of Fort Hays College have built a monument where General Custer's tent stood.

Hays has a population of nearly 7,000. It is under the city manager form of government and city commission. Hays is easily and conveniently reached by a fine system of roads leading into it, as can be ascertained from road maps and guides; and it is also on the main line of the United Pacific railroad.

Besides the Lamer, there are two other good hotels in Hays,—the Brunswick and the Mulroy, both good, clean places. Fine cabin camps are also available.

As a trade center, this city with its excellent retail establishments, long ago established dominance over an area greater in extent than that of any other Kansas town or city. As a medical center, it is outstanding in 26 counties of Northwestern Kansas.

Entertainment is provided by a Fox Strand theatre, and the Star theatre; besides which the various schools furnish a high class of educational activities through their many educational organizations such as orchestras, glee clubs, bands, and dramatic societies; also excellent lecture courses are maintained by both St. Joseph's College and the Fort Hays Kansas State College. The music department of the Fort Hays State College gives an annual music festival, usually during the fore part of the month of May, which is one of the premier musical events of the state of Kansas.

In connection with one of its two hospitals is a crippled children's clinic, under a state board of control, and where hundreds of crippled Kansas boys and girls receive treatment annually.

Ft. Hays Experiment Station

Just outside Hays is the largest experiment station in the world. In connection with the State Agricultural College and United States Department of Agriculture, it carries on various projects for the betterment of agriculture, such as soil erosion, water conservation, dry land farming, small grain and feed crops, livestock feeding, nursery stocks and various others.

Many new varieties of farm seed have been developed there. It has distributed pure seed to nearly every county in the state and for the nation and foreign countries.

Trees and shrubs adapted to this section are grown and sold at near cost to the people of this section of the state.

When bindweed became a nuisance to this country they have developed a system by which it can be controlled and eradicated.

If one follows their advise he will plow early for wheat, keep the soil free from weeds and till the soil so it will not blow. More people should become acquainted with their methods.

The Ft. Hays Station maintains a large herd of cattle and a purebred herd of swine. Their experiments are valuable and available to all stock raisers.

Nearly all the experiments are tabulated and a record kept of the thirty years or more of operation. You will find they are correct. They are always ready to assist you.

L. C. Aicher is superintendent. A. F. Swanson has charge of cereal crops and diseases, A. L. Hallsted of dry land agriculture, Leon Wenger of forage crops and diseases, F. P. Eshbaugh of forrest nursery, F. L. Timmons of noxious weeds investigations, F. G. Ackerman of soil conservation.

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The Kansas Pacific reached Abilene in March, 1867, Ellsworth in July, 1867, Hays in October 1867.

Matt Clarkson's Memoirs

Matt Clarkson was one of the most famous of buffalo hunters. After the buffalo were gone he settled on a ranch on the Saline. He lived until the early 30's. He lost his land in later years, got pretty hard up. W. D. Philip, of the Philip ranch, took him in and kept him for three or four months. He started to write an account of his life, but never got it completed. We print part of his reminiscences. Most of it in his own hand-writing. The rest was rewritten by Mr. Philip.

In the spring of 1867 M. F. Clarkson and George Clarkson came from the state of New York to Kansas. They landed at Hays City. There were twenty-one saloons and three dance halls, one little grocery store and one clothing store. I tell you there was some hot times. We did not think anything of having one or two dead men nearly every morning. We had no law. The six-shooter was the law. Fort Hays was headquarters for shipping goods to Colorado, Arizona and to New Mexico. There were scores of freight trains, ox trains and mule trains. You bet there was some hot times there. We thought something strange was going to happen if we didn't have a dead man for breakfast. We had a burying ground that was called "Boot Hill" grave yard. They were not buried very deep and I believe that the coyotes dug out most of them.

When my brother George and I came to Hays in the spring of 1867 we went to work for the government driving teams hauling to Fort Dodge and Camp Supply, about 200 miles. We worked about two months. One day Charlie came in. He had been down on the Cimarron catching wolves. He had good success and had a good load of wolf hides. They were pretty high then.

Then Charlie put a filing on the quarter that was the first town. When it was surveyed the railroad saw it was government land, so they built the depot a mile east in order to get it on railroad land. Then they called that Hays City.

We made Rome our headquarters for three years and better. There were three stone buildings and one log house left, so we made smoke houses of them.

Then we chopped wood on Big Creek in the summer of 1867 and sold it to the government. We got \$10 a cord for elm wood and \$15 for ash and made a good stake. We also would take two days in the week and kill enough buffaloes to supply Hays and the Fort in meat.

We chopped wood until September and then went hunting and curing meat. When it got cold so that the meat wouldn't spoil, we shipped it to Kansas City. We would keep all the big buffaloes to dry. We dried several carloads and shipped them to Chicago, Buffalo and New York. Also to Kansas City. A few of the buffaloes had good hides. We saved them and had the Indians to tan them on the halves.

We saved every tongue so as we would know how many we killed. That is the way we knew. In all we killed twenty-two thousand.

We had three four-mule teams and two two-mule teams so we could kill six to seven at a time. We would hang meat up in a tree. I have seen it just dry up. We cut the meat thin and would hang it on the bushes and let it dry. That is what we called jerked meat. It is pretty good to carry for a lunch. That is the way the Indians keep their meat and that is all they have to live on besides fresh meat.

We hunted on foot. In low country we could get a stand on them, from ten to forty in a place. Charlie and I killed fifty-four in one place. It didn't take only five minutes to cut the hams off and the tongue. We left the rest. We could load a wagon in thirty minutes. As soon as we got two loads we would send them to Hays so they could get them salted. George tended to the smoke houses most of the time. We killed several thousand on the Saline and also on the Smoky Hill river.

In 1868 we hunted buffalo and dried the meat and supplied Hays with meat. Also the Fort in the winter. We shipped meat green to Kansas City but saved all the

big ones to dry. We killed lots of antelopes. We made a camp on the south side of the Smoky on Spring Creek. We got three loads. They went to Grinnell station. George, Charley and I stayed to kill another load, but that night a band of Indians came up and camped about a quarter of a mile beow us. We didn't know anything about Indians being near us. We went out hunting. When we came back we had no camp. The Indians had taken everything, incuding one mule, tent, blankets and grub. We drove all night in order to catch the morning train. Charley came down to Hays and got a new supply. The Indians got about \$400.00 worth of stuff. They stayed out of our sight or I would have got some of them. We never did get the mule. We got a new supply and went back again. Didn't see the Indians. Then we went south. The event made lots of the hunters quite nervous for some time.

In the summer of 1872 we freighted for the government to Dodge City and Camp Supply, 200 miles southwest from Hays City. Also to Ft. Larned.

When the hay got big enough to cut we took a contract to put up seventy-five tons at twelve dollars per ton. Charley came out to camp and told me the buffalo were awful thick up on the Smoky Hill. He thought I ought to take two teams and two men and go right away. He and George would finish the hay contract. I went that night and got our supplies put up. Next day we started up the Smoky Hill river. We found the buffaloes very thick south of the Grinnell station. We made a camp on the Smoky and I went to killing just for the hides. It was the 22nd of September and was too warm to save any meat. When Charley came up I had killed 1900 buffaloes and hauled the hides to Grinnell station. Ben Richards kept the station. They had several soldiers to guard the station. I got \$3.50 apiece for the hides. They brought \$4550.00

Then I went up to Ft. Wallace. As the teams hadn't come in yet I walked out to our camp. It was on White Womans creek. I wouldn't have known where it was

but Charley and I had located a camping place first. It was quite an undertaking to start out there afoot and no roads. It was about 55 miles, but I found camp about nine o'clock that night. I could see the camp fire ten or twelve miles before I got there. You bet I was tired and hungry. We killed 1900 buffalo in the three weeks and hauled them to Wallace. We only sawed the hams off the big ones and the hindquarters off nice fat cows to ship to Kansas City and Topeka.

Mr. Aimes, George Hart and Mr. Duez and two others from Russell came to our camp on White Woman creek. They had squirrel rifles and couldn't kill buffaloes. We hired them to haul. The buffaloes were going north. We went north about thirty miles and made camp for about forty days. We killed 2400 buffaloes and a number of antelopes. Then we went northwest over on the Republican. We camped at the Big Spring and hauled to Kit Carson. Camped there about thirty days and killed about 800 buffaloes.

Then we moved northwest and made camp on the Arickaree. It was a good camp as Indians were camped on the Platte river and kept the buffalo drove back south. They killed horseback and we hunted on foot. We stayed there about three weeks. The main herd went southeast. We followed them and made our camp on the north fork of the Solomon, north of Grinnell station. We hunted twenty-one days and killed 400 buffaloes. Then we moved to the Sappy where we killed 300 head. We then moved to south of the Solomon. It was the nicest winter I ever saw up to the tenth of Mays when there was a terrible blizzard. It killed lots of buffaloes and wild horses. I faced that storm for thirty-five miles to camp and found the boys all in bed. The buffalo chips which they were burning were all wet but you bet they were tickled when I came as I had twenty railroad ties. They built a fire in the tent and got supper. The storm lasted for three days.

In 1872 Matt and George went east, one to Illinois and one to New York. George had very long hair and

everyone admired it very much. When they got back they went buffalo hunting (in the winter of '73). George could not take care of his hair so when they came on to Hays in the spring of 1873 they went to Nigger White's barber shop to get shaved. George asked how much it would cost to have his hair combed, the barber said \$10.00. So George said go ahead. It took the barber a week at odd times to finish the job.

Matt said the Clarkson Brothers never took but very little liquor because he said if your head was fuddled with whiskey you could not act quick enough.

Matt and George were hunting buffalo south of Wakeeney on the Walnut and ran into a lot of hostile Indians, so they turned back and found a lot more buffalo. Matt was out alone and shot a big old bull and was expecting him to fall over but instead of falling he turned and tried to kill him. Matt got up and was running as fast as he could to another dead buffalo so he would have some protection when he heard a rifle crack and said to himself "My God do I have to fight a buffalo and Indians both," but on looking around he saw the buffalo fall with his back broken. Then he saw his brother George off at a distance. George saw the fix Matt was in and took a long shot at the buffalo killing him.

We had a camp north of Wallace and Matt came to Wallace for supplies. He hired a man to work for us whom he was told by friends was a horsethief but he hired him anyway. When he got back Charles and George had gone on a hunt. One morning very early he heard the mess box squeak. That woke him and he grabbed his gun and told the fellow not to move or he would kill him and let the coyotes pick his bones. The fellow saw he was licked so he at once unbuckled his belt with two guns and two knives and let them drop to the ground. Matt then ordered him into the tent and made him lie down on the bunk. Matt sat close by until morning with a gun on him. The next morning he cooked breakfast and fed the thief, then told him to start. The fellow said, "My God you aren't going to start me out this way."

Then Matt said, "You bet I am. You intended to leave me here alone." The thief had Matt's horse saddled and was at the mess box getting some grub in a sack intending to ride the saddle horse and head the mules to sell them to some of his friends.

The Clarkson boys were north of Wallace and found a wild horse with his front leg tangled in his mane which touched the ground. He had not been tangled long because he was still fat. He was a very beautiful black stallion. Weighed about 1000 pounds. They took him to Wallace and sold him to Pete Roubedioux for \$240.00.

Wild Bill got into some trouble with soldiers in a saloon and drew two six shooters and started firing and backing towards the door. When he got outside two more soldiers began shooting at him so he kept the fellows in front covered with his left hand and threw his right hand over his right shoulder and shot backward and killed a soldier. He realized what he had done and thought he had better leave. His horse was tied behind the saloon and he jumped on him and started north. In thirty minutes a bunch of soldiers started in pursuit. When Wild Bill got to North Fork he started down the creek and the soldiers thought he had started north. Bill went down the North Fork to Big Creek and on to a wood choppers camp. There he had his wounds bound up and stayed in camp about a week and the next that was heard of Wild Bill he was marshal at Abilene.

Matt says lots of times a fellow would come out of a saloon drunk and shouting in the air, exclaiming "I am a wolf hear me howl tonight." But he says he only howled a few times.

The first that was heard of Alex Ramsey and his deputy, Jim or Tim, they were chopping wood on the Walnut and Big Timber. Alex Ramsey was one of the first marshals of Hays and among the first sheriffs. He took his wood chopper as his deputy.

The Clarksons wore very long hair. I asked him the reason. He said that eight or ten young fellows expected to become Indian scouts but when they found

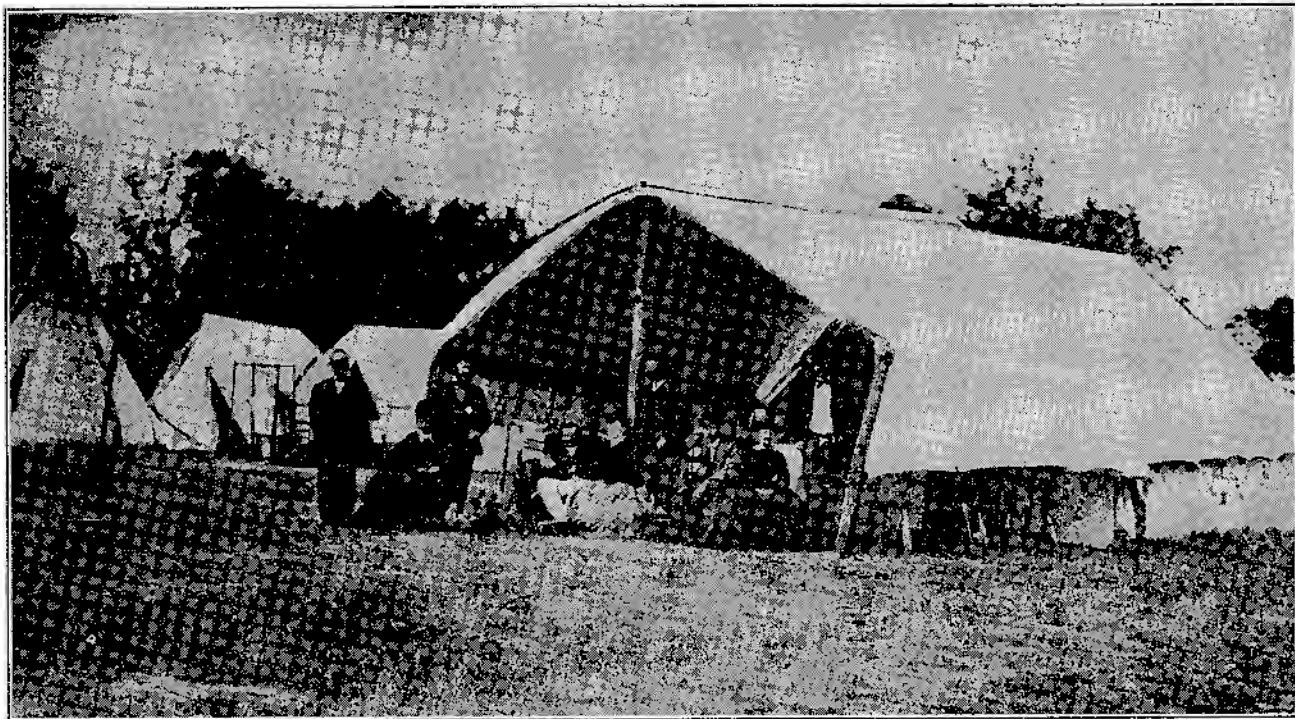
that their chief of scouts was to be "Buffalo Bill" only two of them became scouts.

The Clarkson Brothers used buffalo rifles that cost from \$100.00 to \$156.00 apiece. Charlie and Matt used \$156.00 guns with telescope sights on them. George said he did not use that kind because Charlie and Matt always had black eyes from the big sight butting them in the eyes when those great big guns would kick back.

The Clarkson boys were moving their buffalo camp up the Arickaree. George Clarkson and one of their men who was never known to be anything but "Kentuck" were quite aways behind. They saw some Indians a long mile away. "Kentuck" said "here is where I get me an Indian." George ojected but "Kentuck" insisted and took a shot at the middle of the three front ones. All at once they saw the Indian throw up his arms and fall off the pony. They did not want to see what all happened but ran down over the hill, mounted their horses and rode like he—l for the wagons. George said that was such a long shot that the Indians did not hear the report so didn't know where it came from. "Kentuck" was bitten by a skunk and crawled into a little room under the railway water tank at Russell and died of hydrophobia.

In the Hays Daily News, January 8, 1931, Mat Clarkson, the late hunter said:

"You ask about Poker Alice and Calamity Jane," said Mr. Clarkson, buffalo hunter of other days and a Kansas pioneer. "Well, they weren't as quick to pull their gun as a lot of other women of which there were plenty here at that time. There were lots worse women around the saloons and dance halls in Hays than Jane and Alice. Some rough customer would be getting too familiar with a woman and she'd yank out a pistol and say, "You blankety-blank son-of-a-seacock, gettahell outahere or I'll shoot out your gizzard," and next thing a half-dozen shots would bust every light in the place. Things happened mighty fast then but the fellow who minded his own business wasn't molested. It was only those looking for trouble who got into it."



General Custer's Headquarters
On Custer Island

Custer Island

Every stranger coming to Hays should drive three miles through the Fort Hays Historical Park to Custer Island.

It was in the main park near town where the Nineteenth Volunteer Cavalry of twelve hundred men were mustered out in March, 1869. In the bend of the creek north of the rental property of the Experiment Station was where the cavalry used to stay. General Custer had his headquarters on Custer Island. The Seventh Cavalry was here for two years.

There has been some dispute as to his camp. But Mrs. Mary J. Middlekauff, who lived here at the time says it was on Custer Island where she used to see General Custer.

Wm. Schulte's father, A. H. Schulte, who died a few years ago, was a friend of Col. Cody's. He said Gen. Custer's headquarters were on the present Custer's Island.

The Fifth Cavalry camped a season or two in the bend of the creek. Doubtless other troops camped there. The Fort was a six company post and did not have room for all the troops until the Indians were subdued. Some of the troops camped south of the fort.

Brigadier-General George A. Custer was born in Ohio. Graduated from West Point in 1861. Had a brilliant record during the Civil War serving at Gettysburg and as a division commander with Sheridan's cavalry. As the United States sympathized with Juraz in wresting the throne from Maxmilian, he offered to take charge of the Mexican cavalry. The U. S. refused to let him go. At the close of the war he served on the Mexican border a short time and was sent to General Hancock at Ft. Fletcher (Ft. Hays) in 1867 to fight against the Indians. In 1871 his regiment was sent to Kentucky. In 1873 he served in the Black Hills and in the Yellowstone Park region against the Indians until his death in 1876. He was temperate, never smoked or uttered a profane word.

"Following the Guidon," written by Mrs. Custer, tells of Custer's conquering the plains tribes, and of her life at Custer Island. One could spend a week there and at the next bend where a cavalry camp must have stood.

Superintendent Aicher of the Experiment Station, says the only place where they found accoutrements for cavalry was just west of the where the scales now are, north of the rental property on the Experiment Station. You go by it going to Custer Island.

Another encampment of soldiers was near where the silos now are. Just where General Sheridan camped is not known. In one of his letters to headquarters he said: "At headquarters near Ft. Hays."

St. Joseph's College and Military Academy

St. Joseph's College and Military Academy was founded by the Most Rev. Francis J. Tief, D. D., Bishop of Concordia. The building was begun in 1926 and was ready for occupancy in the Fall of 1931. The purpose of establishing St. Joseph's was to provide educational opportunities for boys in the Middle West who would like to avail themselves of Religious and Military training. This year's enrollment for senior high school and junior college was 251.

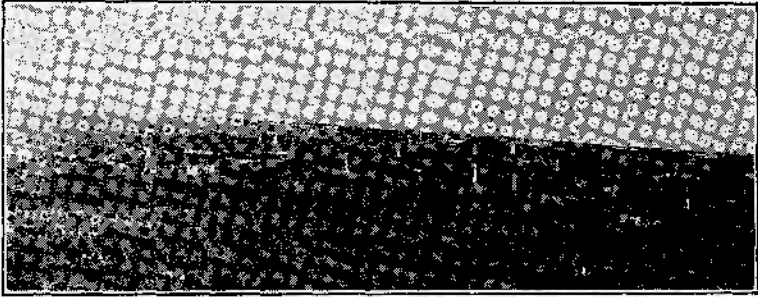
It is the leading military school of Kansas and it carries out the traditions of old Fort Hays.

The military department is maintained by the U. S. army. Supervised by Major John G. Cook, F. A., assisted by Sgt. Benjamin F. Clark.

The crack platoon is made up of cadets excelling in drill and military deportment. The organization is often in demand over the state for civic, educational and religious ceremonies.

Very Reverend Alfred Carney, O. M. Cap., is the president.

Our Lady of The Lourdes Shrine, newly built by the St. Joseph's Sodality on the Campus front is a work of art.



Bemis Oil Field of Ellis County
View taken from Hadley Ranch



Old Meridian Stone
"Col. Cody used to shoot every morning at a stone 200 yards west
of his office in Rome"

Oil Fields of Ellis County

Ellis county contains more than twenty-seven pools, the largest of which is the Bemis pool, third largest in the state of daily rated potential; its 374 producing oil wells have a combined capacity (potential) of 370,927 barrels per day from the prolific Arbuckle lime at a depth of 3,700 feet. That was last spring's figures. The Hadley field has been opened which greatly increased the yield. One single tract of 320 producing acres on the east side of the Bemis pool has 26 wells completed with a potential of 64,905 barrels.

Hays is becoming quite an oil center. Owing to the thousands of new wells which can be opened up in the trade vicinity of Hays it should greatly increase.

What old settler could envision the forrests of derricks in the rocky wastes of the Saline. Or could he get out of the maze of derricks?

The oil wells start about eleven miles north of Hays and continue fifteen miles north and east. Also three miles west of Victoria and north.

St. Fidelis Church

It would be hard to leave Ellis county without seeing St. Fidelis church at Victoria, ten miles east of Hays. The building cost nearly a quarter million dollars. It is one of the largest in Kansas and finely finished in the interior. The church has a membership of nearly three thousand. It is open during the daytime.

Pete Roubedioux, of Western Kansas fame, used to be a pumper of the railroad well west of Ellis. Shortly after he left the Indians massacred the man who succeeded him and destroyed the tank and pump. Roubedioux was the man who ran a saloon and store at Wallace. Used to dump all the money in a keg. Would then ship the gold east.

The Big Clock

In 1880 an Englishman named Battell purchased a 5,600 acre ranch west and southwest of Victoria. It ran south past the Philip ranch. On it he had built a large three story house with sixteen rooms and fifty-six doors.

A large barn of English fashion was constructed with large large timbers. In the belfry the largest clock in western Kansas was placed. It was made by the Seth Thomas Clock Company September 27, 1880. When a movement was on foot to move the clock to the historic park at Hays, an inquiry was sent to the factory to discover its original cost. The factory replied it cost \$4837.00 to have it installed.

The ranch was stocked with Black Aberdeen cattle. Mr. Battell owned places in nearly every country in the world. His estate sold it during the world war when land was the highest.

Mr. Bernard Lang purchased the original homeplace. He tore down the original house and barn. He built a special house for the clock just west of his house.

The clock is an excellent time keeper and regulates the time around Victoria. It is about a quarter mile north of the highway and a mile or so this side of Victoria. The clock can be heard to strike two miles away.

While in Cheyenne, Wyoming, as a car repairer, Col. Cody visited Mr. Schulte. Took him to his ranch at North Platte, Nebraska. Also to a banquet in Denver, February, 1897.

General Sheridan in looking this country over in 1866, wrote: "The plains can never be cultivated, never be filled with inhabitants capable of self-government and defense, but at best can become one vast pasture ground." He said forts and garrisons of soldiers would always be necessary to maintain order.

Ellis Woman Taken Captive

In 1872 George Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Jordon and another young man working for them left Ellis to go to Dodge City. When they were about half way they were attacked by Indians. Both Jordon and his helper were massacred and their equipment destroyed. Mrs. Jordon was taken captive. Was never found. As soon as the massacre was discovered a bunch of scouts were sent from Ft. Hays to recover the bodies. Mrs. Jordon's mother, Martha Smith, used to live in a house where the Wiesner house at Ellis now stands. In later year her brother, who came back to attend a funeral piloted a party of friends to where the bodies lay, when killed.

The Six Graves

In the highway as you go to Victoria you pass a little cemetery with a monument erected by the Union Pacific railway. On it is this inscription:

"This stone marks the burial place of six track laborers who were in the employ of the Union Pacific railroad, Eastern Division, and while on duty about one mile west of here were massacred by a band of Cheyenne Indians, October, 1867. Erected by the Union Pacific Railroad Company."

Where blue-coated soldiers once drilled to fight the Indians, golfers now enjoy the green-coated turf of the old parade ground.

Howard C. Reynesford, of Ellis, Kans., was employed by the Kansas State Historical Society, to make a survey of the Butterfield Trail through Kansas. He has plats of all the stations or towns along the line, with their names. He had a surveyor along with him and traversed every foot of the line.

Ft. Hays Kansas State College

Has a regular attendance of over 1000, besides hundreds of students enrolled in the summer school and in the extension courses.

It is the only state college in the western half of Kansas.

It has a winning football team and one of the finest stadiums in the west. It is modeled after the Louisiana system and has room for the boy students under one of the wings.

Sheridan Coliseum is one the largest auditoriums in the state. It has been filled by Madame Schumann-Heinck, Madame Matenhour, Madame Ponselle and other national entertainers.

Forsyth Library is one of the best. On the first floor is a free museum. Open Sundays. It has historical documents, preserved animals and birds. Also Prof. Sternberg's wonderful fossil collection.

Custer Hall is south of Big Creek and home of the girls. Cody Commons is the eating place.

When the government finally abandoned Ft. Hays April 7, 1889, a movement started to give the 7,600 acre reservation to the state. At first for a soldier's home. This was rejected. The legislature of 1895 passed a resolution urging Congress to give the land to the state for a public park, and experiment station and a branch of the State Normal School. In March, 1900, an act was passed ceding the land to the state. In February, 1901, the legislature accepted the grant. Owing to the delay over claims of squatters, the school was not started until 1902.

The Library contains nearly 50,000 volumes. It is in charge of Floyd Streeter and an able corps of assistants.

C. E. Rarick is president of the college.

Among the buildings are Sheridan Coliseum, Picken Hall, Science Hall, Forsyth Library, Custer Hall, Cody Commons, Industrial Hall, and Woman's Building.

F. H. K. S. C. Museum

The Museum of the college has neat display of historic articles. Instead of their fast getting away as they are doing, they should be presented to and preserved by the college. The museum is being rearranged and additional shelving provided.

It has a large number of historical articles, Prof. Sternberg's collection, birds of Kansas and the United States, stuffed buffaloes, etc.

Mary Jester Allen, who has charge of the Buffalo Bill Museum at Cody, Wyoming, writes: "I remember so well hearing my uncle, Col. Cody, tell many times of his Rome. That idea was dear to his heart and he learned his lesson so well that future towns were first tied up to railroads." She asks for pictures of Rome. "Anything to tell the story of Rome, to be put in the museum at Cody. And also of Hays,—after all Buffalo Bill became a national international figure there and we should make much of the facts and romance of that time. Couldn't we all work together and have a fine display here at Buffalo Bill Museum telling the entire story and I could talk to visitors and send them around to Hays to see for themselves."

If you have a correction or additional information please notify the author, to use in a subsequent edition.

Wednesday, October 20, 1937, Hays celebrated its Seventieth Anniversary. A historical parade was held. A picnic lunch followed in Hays Frontier Historical Park. The store windows were full of historical relics. It is expected another will be held five years from above date.

"Wild Bill" against the Seventh cavalry. There is a perfect team. Both were unconquerable.

Sponsors

Ed Burge Cafe, 1106 Main
J. B. Basgall Grocery, Ph. 25
The Classic Store, 800 Main
The Credit Bureau, 1101½ Main
The A. L. Duckwall Stores, 1103 Main
Farmers Co-Operative Association
Felten's Transfer and Truck Lines, 135 W. 6th
Fox Strand Theatre, 1102 Main
First National Bank, Oldest Bank in Ellis County
Grass Bros., Grocers, 235 W. 10th
Hays Building & Loan Association, 1012 Main
Hays Coca Cola Bottling Company
Havener's Men's and Boys' Wear, 114 W. 11th
Hays Oil Co., L. J. Jacobs, Prop.
Hays Creamery and Ice Co., 310 E. 11th
Jenson & Ward, Attorneys, Ph. 40
Larzalere Bakery, 124 W. 9th
Master Cleaners, 135 W. 8th
R. S. Markwell Book Store, 1010 Main
The Ostrum Abstract Co., 107 E. 11th
Rindom's Greenhouse, 105 E. 14th
Rafferty Motor Co., 129 E. 11th
J. R. Schmidt Motor Co., Cor. 7th and Main
Shannon Truck Station, East 8th
Tholen Jewelry Company, 804 Main
Twenter Motor Co., on Highway 40
Thomas Modern Camp and Service Station, No. 1 highway
Frank Walz, 233 W. 8th
Winters Hardware, 810 Main

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