

History of Greenwood County, Kansas

By Jean S. Reser

This is a condensed version of a projected history of Greenwood County, Kansas. It is not as detailed as it should be to be really interesting but the Herald has been more than kind to publish it as it is. I have endeavored not to do a rehash of existing articles on the subject, but have done a great deal of original research and have now exhausted the readily available sources of material. I would be most happy to hear from anyone who has anything to add to it.—Jean S. Reser.

PART ONE

There is no beginning to the history of Greenwood County, Kansas. Before written records our story has to be deduced from the flints, pottery, the bones—both human and animal—collected by amateur and professional archaeologists.

The first claim to what is now Kansas by other than natives would surely be that of Columbus, when in 1492 he claimed the West Indies and the continent west of them for King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. He was not alone in his claim for long, for in five years Cabot had claimed the continent for England. Coronado's trip in 1541 to somewhere in the borders of present day Kansas validated Spain's claim. In this connection it is interesting to note that while we suppose that Spaniards were the first white men to set foot on Kansas we may be mistaken. Coronado's muster roll shows that in his company were five Portuguese, two Italians, one German and one Scot!

In 1609 King James I—that red-headed Mary Queen of Scots was his mother—granted to the Virginia Company a strip of land four hundred miles wide from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This was only a paper claim, of course, but it took in about all of Kansas. And wouldn't the Old Dominion just love to claim us?

While the Spanish were fooling around doing nothing with their land but claiming it, the French got ideas. Father Marquette, ostensibly worried about the state of the souls of all the "Poor Los" explored down the Mississippi as far south as the mouth of the Arkansas River in 1673. Here he lost a lot of his zeal when his Indian guide assured him that to go on would almost certainly get his scalp the place of honor on the lodgepole of some downriver Indian Chieftain. He did us a real service at that; he put us on the map! It was the first time we had ever been that important to anybody! Not that he was ever in Kansas; he took the Indians' word for it. It was known by all early explorers that an unspoiled Indian had what we would call an uncanny knowledge of topography. The tribes being more or less on the move constantly many of the Indians had as clear an idea of the geography of the area as the white traders and trappers gained years later. The tribes shown on Marquette's map are Pawnee, Missouri, Osage, Teton, Peoria, Kansas and Maha (Omaha) Indians.

In 1712 Louis XIV took time from his furniture making to do a little government business. He granted to one Anthony Crozat the privilege of trading in the Louisiana Territory for ten years. This was the beginning of the remarkably successful French trade with the Indians. The French were much better at "winning friends and influencing people" among the Indians than either the Spanish or the English. The former wanted their labor and their

gold while the Englishman from his "tight little isle" was always land hungry. Lo had no stomach for that "displaced persons" act!

In 1719 a French explorer, Du Tissenet, came into Kansas in what is now Linn County. He went northwest to the Kaw River then west to the headwaters of the Smoky Hill. He visited Osages, Pawnees and Padouca Indians.

In the 1760's Pierre and August Chouteau were chartered to trade in the Louisiana Territory. Beginning, I believe, at St. Louis the Chouteaus established trading posts in the Mississippi basin for at least one hundred twenty-five years. The name is connected with the early history of St. Louis, Kansas City, Council Grove and several towns in Oklahoma.

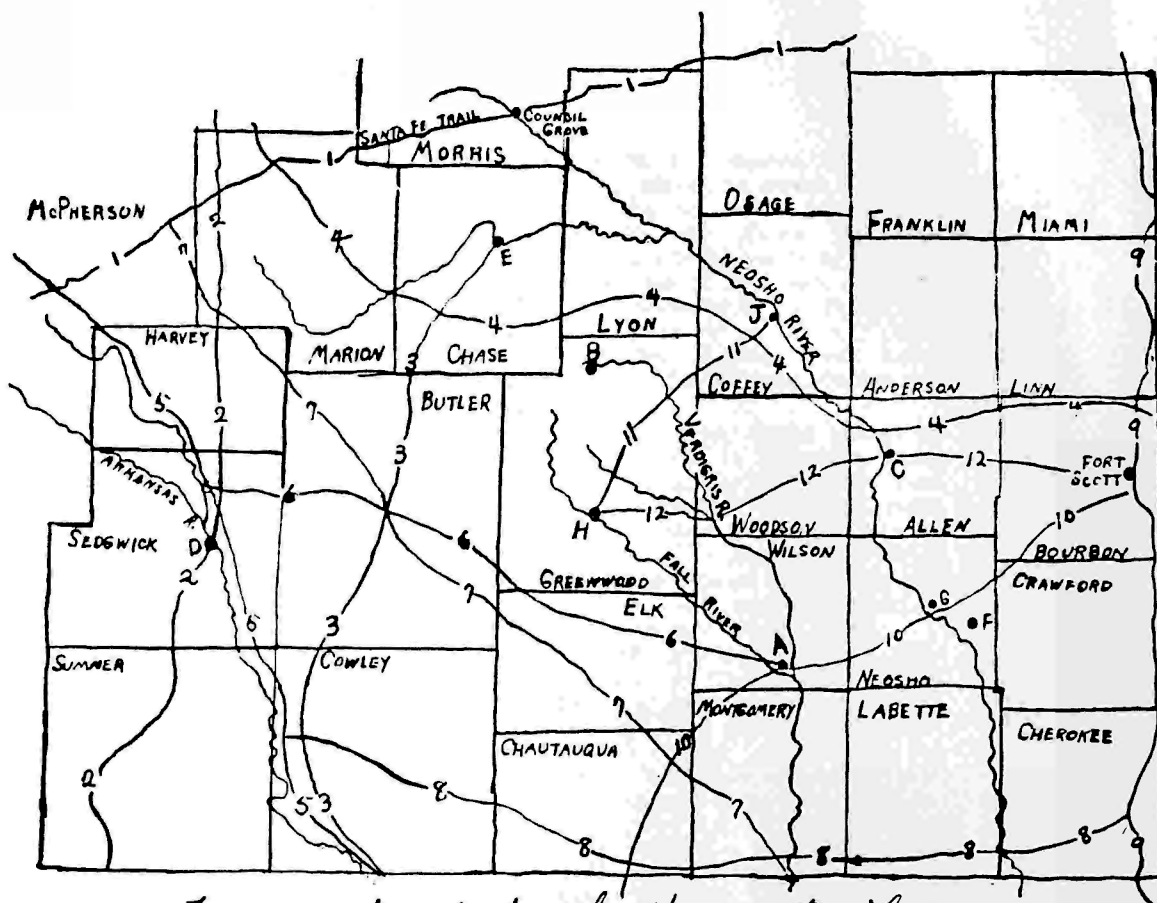
In 1763, however, the French government was through. It had lost its war with Great Britain and gave her its claim to the land east of the Mississippi. At the same time it ceded to Spain the area west of the same river.

Napoleon, with the peculiarly effective persuasive power he used with nations weaker than France, was able to get Spain to cede "Louisiana" back to France in 1800. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 made Kansas American territory for the first time. All of the state, that is, except for the southwest corner which became a part of Spanish Mexico. In 1836, when Texas won her independence and became the Republic of Texas, this part of Kansas was under the Lone Star flag. When Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845, the area along with more in Oklahoma and New Mexico became Indian country.

Thus Kansas has been under six flags; Spain, England, France, Mexico, United States, and the Republic of Texas. Greenwood County, however, has been under only five since only the southwestern corner of the state was under the Republic of Texas.

While Spain and France fiddled around about three hundred years with the land west of the Mississippi, not improving it one bit, before the ink was dry on the Louisiana Purchase we many Americans were out looking over what we had bought. Well, what do you suppose, it was the first time we had ever bought anything with our own money? Not that we had much money, either!

President Jefferson hiked Lewis and Clark right out to get some idea of what our three cents an acre had got. That expedition did not get to Kansas but the next one did. Zebulon Pike in 1806 just missed Greenwood County by a very few miles. His journal describing that part of his trip on the ridge between the Neosho and Verdigris rivers sounds as if it were describing Hilltop and its hills. He mentions seeing deer, then elk, cabrie, (cabrit, the French name for antelope, panther, then buffalo on farther west. Originally buffalo were found from east of the Allegheny mountains to the west slope of the Rockies. At this time their range in Kansas was about the western two-thirds



Tracing of map of early Kansas Trails

KEY TO MAP — (1) Santa Fe Trail, 1821; (2) Chisholm Trail to Abilene, 1866; (3) Texas Trail to Cottonwood Falls; (4) Pike's Route, 1806; (5) Fort Harker - Fort Sibley Military Road; (6) Osage Indian Trail to Arkansas River; (7) California Trail from Fayetteville, Arkansas, to Santa Fe Trail; (8) Great Osage or Black Dog Trail; (9) Ft. Leavenworth - Ft. Scott - Ft. Coffey Military Road; (10) Washington Irving's Route; (11) Trail to Burlington from Eureka; (12) Trail from Fort Scott to Eureka. (A) Osage Village; (B) Hugh Glenn's Trading Post (approximate site); (C) Humboldt; (D) Wichita; (E) Cottonwood Falls; (F) Osage Mission; (G) Canville Trading Post; (H) Eureka; (J) Burlington.

of the state. Pike went on to discover the mountain that keeps his name alive for us. One of his men named the Verdigris River for its green color.

In 1820 Stephen Long led a scientific expedition also financed by the government. They went west by way of Manhattan and came back by way of what is now Wichita. Long's chief claim to fame was the discovery of a peak he named after himself, Long's Peak. Also his party scaled Mr. Pike's mountain after he himself had reported it inaccessible. Mr. Long didn't climb his own peak, though; he left that feat for one-armed Major Powell later.

It seemed everybody, but everybody, was avoiding Greenwood County! Fremont made five trips across Kansas all to the north of us. Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War in 1854 sent George B. McClellan on an expedition to map and explore a route for a transcontinental railway. He went by way of Fort Riley, Lindsborg and Wichita. Washington Irving, the American author, together with an English traveler, Charles Latrobe, visited Oklahoma in 1832 but they got no nearer us than Fort Scott, on the Leavenworth Trail. With their party was George Catlin, an early day artist who made many fine pictures of the Plains Indians before they had much contact with the white man.

Civilization was getting a bit closer. As early as 1804 the Santa Fe Trail was used by a white trader who took his trade goods to Santa Fe. Trade restrictions by the Spanish were so drastic at that time that the risks and the long journey made trading unprofitable. Later these restrictions were eased and trade began in earnest in 1821. The nearest points of the Santa Fe Trail would be in Lyon and Morris counties.

The whole route was surveyed in 1825, likely the first surveying done in what is now Kansas. The Santa Fe railway follows this trail; before that it was the white man's longest trade trail; before that it was a series of Indian trails; and the Indians had only followed the buffalo and other wild animal trails because of the milder grade. What if the distance was greater; who was in a hurry?

Now for the surprise! Josiah Gregg in his "Commerce of Prairies", published in 1844, a history of the Santa Fe trade, says that there was a trading post on the headwaters of the Verdigris River in 1821. He couldn't have been mistaken about the name because Pike's party had named the river in 1806. The headwaters of the Verdigris lie wholly within Greenwood County! So the trading post could have been as far up as the old Kenbro neighborhood, which is adjoining the Chase County line. Or it may have been farther down the stream toward Madison, where it looks more like a river. The trader was Hugh Glenn, of Cincinnati, Ohio. In the late summer of 1821, hearing of the fabulous trade with Santa Fe, he left his little trading post and got a Spanish license to trap the headwaters of the Rio Grande River. Made money, too! His companion, Jacob Fowler, left a journal of their experiences that is a classic in adventure stories.

There must have been occasional traders and trappers in our county for years before the settlers came. Between 1837 and 1844 the Chouteaus, Canville, Pappin, and John Matthews established trading posts on the Neosho River in what is now Neosho County.

What did they trade? Not the Brooklyn-made Indian blankets we

see in trading posts today, I'm sure. An Indian would want, among other things, flour, hoggie meat (salt pork), bac (tobacco), wabusca (who knows what that is), duck cloth, calico, beads, thread, needles, whiskey, tin whistles, tambourines, and all sorts of bright trinkets. The tin whistles and tambourines were important equipment, along with their rattling gourds, for all their dances.

In payment for these supplies the Indians might trade in beaver, otter, elk, deer and buffalo skins. Beavers were known to exist, although not in great quantity, along with Neosho, Verdigris, and Cottonwood Rivers wherever there was a stand of cottonwood trees large enough for them to subsist on and build their dams. There were too, that dream of every woman, mink; so it is possible that many an Indian buck traded his squaw's blue mink cape for whiskey!

A trail called the California Trail missed Greenwood County by a very short distance. It joined Fayetteville, Arkansas with the Santa Fe Trail, crossing Chautauqua and Elk, then almost touching the extreme southwest corner of Greenwood. It went on through Butler, Harvey, Marion and joined the Santa Fe Trail in McPherson County. From this trail, too surely a few white men might have hunted in Greenwood County.

An Osage Indian trail from their village at the junction of Fall and Verdigris Rivers crossed the southwest corner of our county. It continued through Butler County north of present day El Dorado and continued to a point a few miles northwest of Wichita on the Arkansas River. No doubt this trail was used by early traders, trappers, missionaries, and just plain adventurers.

To be continued next week)

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PART TWO

Careful study of the records show no established missions in our county. Near us was the Catholic mission in Neosho County. The Presbyterians established two Indian missions on the Neosho River but these were both abandoned in 1837. Other missions were at Council Grove — on the Santa Fe Trail — and a Baptist mission in Franklin County near where Ottawa is today.

In 1850 the eastern third of Kansas was all Indian reservations, nineteen in all. The only land not included in these reservations were the few areas the government held about the military installations. Even the titles to the land on which the missions had been established were not entirely clear. Something had to be done to free the land for settlement when the Kansas-Nebraska Act was imminent. It had to be done carefully and almost undercover to keep the land speculators from grabbing large areas and bilking the settlers.

Quietly, in the months preceding the passage of the territorial act in 1854 treaties were made with many of the tribes, ceding the land to the government.

Almost all of Greenwood County was New York Indian reservation. The tribes were Senecas, Onondagas, Cayugas (is this why K. U. adopted the old Yale song, "Far above Cayugas waters"?), Tuscaroras, Oneidas, St. Regis, Stockbridges, Munsees, and Brothertowns. They had 1,874,000 acres of land from the Missouri line about the width of Bourbon County to the west edge of Greenwood County. Only 32 Indians of these tribes ever availed themselves of the opportunity to claim 320 acres of this land per Indian settler. The tribes would not leave Wisconsin, where the government had placed them on their giving up their lands in New York. From the records I have searched I can find no treaty releasing this land. That there was some sort of understanding is certain for settlers were arriving by the hundreds and thousands in 1856 and 1857. With characteristic bureaucratic dis-

patch it was not until 1860 that President Buchanan opened the last New York land for settlement.

Melissa Moore, Morgan Moore's grandmother, in her "Story of a Kansas Pioneer" describes the rumor-filled two or three years of waiting to get coveted claims on the Neosho River in 1860. She notes that the pre-emption price was \$1.25 per acre.

The government surveyors did not get to the southern part of Kansas until 1859. There was plenty of land so if the surveyors found a settler overlapping his neighbor they all just moved over, a little farther down the creek. Almost all the early claims were along the streams: the settler had to have wood for fuel, water, and the creek bottoms were the best soil.

The first pre-emption entry made in Kansas was by Julius G. Newman of Atchison. The record in the Washington, D. C. archives are as follows: in the abstracts from Leecompton, the first land office in the state: "No. 1, Julius G. Newman, SW¼ Sec. 25, Tp. 5S., R. 20 E., April 21, 1857.

In spite of the fact that the surveyors were held up by border strife the settlers kept coming in. They staked their claims as best they could and got at the business of making a living. How they surveyed a quarter section of land and came within a hundred acres of it on a "do-it-yourself" basis will always be a mystery.

R. L. Barrier, in a speech to the Old Settlers' meeting on September 14, 1893, says the first settlement in the county was made in what is now Lane township in the spring of 1856. John McKeag, W. T. Gow, Allen Thompson, John McDaniel, and his brother, and five other settled on the Verdigris River. In his "History of Greenwood County" E. Tucker hints that coming from Mississippi they came for the purpose of helping to make Kansas a slave state. James Hawkins and Mark Hatley arrived in Lane township on April 21, 1857; and on May 6 came James and W. F. Osborn, Isaac Sharp, David Smyth and others.

In the fall of 1856 Enoch Reeves



Official Seal of Kansas Territory
The motto means "Born by the will of the people."
From an original drawing by Prof. Robert H. Kingman, Topeka, Kansas

settled near the mouth of the little Walnut. In the spring of 1857, Robert David Clark and his family came from Leavenworth to settle in what is now Pleasant Grove township. After serving in the 12th Kansas Infantry Volunteers during the Civil War, Clark was murdered. There are two versions of the story: one that Wash Petty — the murderer — suspected Clark of being the person who desecrated the grave of Mrs. Petty; the other that Petty tried to jump Clark's claim. This was not the very first murder although this was in 1866. In a spiteful neighborhood row in southeastern Greenwood County, two brothers by the name of Bledsoe were arrested for horsethieving. Some one shot the pair and their captors were convicted of the murder. This happened in April, 1865.

Until 1862, Madison and Shell Rock townships were in old Madison County. Some of the earliest settlers there were Ben Vanhorn, Aaron Parent, John Oilman, Andrew Wright, George Cooperridge or Cooperrider, Alex Long, Randall Brown, Harvey Norton, George Humphrey, William Goodwell, John Mark, R. E. Wolcott, Patrick Vanhorn, Charles Jackson, and others.

In the summer of 1856 there was a violent raid on a settlement on the upper Neosho and there we find the names C. B. Humphrey and William Goodwell. It is just possible that after losing all their goods to the robber gang the came down on the Verdigris to settle.

Names of settlers in Madison township were Wesley Pearsons, William Martindale, Austin and Fred Horton, E. G. Duke, E. R. Holderman, Myrock Huntley, Anderson Hill, D. Vining, all arriving in the spring of 1857. Later in the year came the Pritchards, Blakeleys, and the Hensleys.

The earliest settlers of Eureka township arrived in July and August 1857. They were Josiah Kinaman, Archibald Johnston, Peter Ricker, Adam Glaze, John Baker, Wayne Sumner, William Kinna-

man, H. L. Ashmore, E. Tucker, Levi Prather and others.

In the spring of 1859 the D. Johnson and Knute Holverson families left Wisconsin by steamer and landed at Westport, Missouri. They proceeded to the Upper Fall river area by ox team. Other Norwegian families were Ladd, Erickson, Christianson, Oleson, and others.

In 1857 Peter Nisbet settled on Willow Creek in Janesville township. Other early settlers were A. J. Barrett, F. C. Lamb, Noah Platt, William Ott, who came in 1857, A. W. Scott, G. W. Thrall, for whom Thrall postoffice was named, James Sailing, Captain S. P. Smith and others.

Other early settlers of the county were W. S. Reece, for whom Reece is named; G. S. Sallyards, who gave his name to the town that oil made; Moses Neal, for whom Neal was named; S. Burkett, whose name was used for Burkett oil camp; Gilbert Bitler, S. F. Wicker, E. T. Wickersham, J. M. Todd, James Steele, J. L. Rose, and Carlos Benoit Bernard, Sr. for whom Bernard Creek was named.

It was Carlos Benoit Bernard, Sr. who was the cause of a bad Indian scare at Eureka. The story is told by his grandson, George Bernard, of Hamilton. In 1862 C. B. Bernard was hunting buffalo with a companion whose name is now lost. They were in the hills somewhere between Matfield Green and Ruweda, the latter in Greenwood County. Bernard rode over a hill out of sight of his companion and spotted a cow, a calf and a bull. He shot the cow then called to his companion for help in skinning the animal. The mate was too far away to hear, so Bernard tied his horse to a rock and set to work at skinning. The horse, in grazing, slipped the rein from off the rock and wandered away. Meanwhile his pard came within view of the riderless horse. Without even a look-see over the hill he caught the horse, tore out for Eureka to report that Bernard had been shot by Indians who were likely on their way to raid the settlement. Such a to-do! Poor Bernard, finding his horse gone started out to walk some thirty-five or forty miles home with a quarter of buffalo and the hide, too. It all got so heavy that he had to abandon all of the quarter except enough to eat on the trek home. That night he wrapped up in the hide to sleep. The usual norther came up but he was warm in his robe. Next day he arrived home to find his horse and all the hallabaloos. Everybody fell on his neck—everybody but Pard, that is. Pard got the cold shoulder for all the fright and terror he had caused by his irresponsible behavior, and it wasn't long before he left town never to be heard from again. That's why no one can remember his name!

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PART THREE

In the period of settlement many towns were started from scratch. The earliest one still existent today is surely Eureka. It was organized and platted in August, 1857. One day in August Peter D. Ridenour and Frank Hunt were traveling horseback southwest of Burlington looking the country over. On the South Verdigris (now Fall River) they met four men traveling with a wagon and camping outfit. Two of these men, M. L. Ashmore and Edwin Tucker, were looking for a suitable place to start a town. Edwin Tucker found a spring and all cried "Eureka" for they knew this would be the best place for a town. Eureka seemed to be the best name for it, too. A town company was formed, a plat made and here was a town! J. V. Randolph did the surveying but since he had no point to start from the plat he made had to be abandoned when the government surveys were completed in 1868. The town company was reorganized at that time. Ridenour never did claim his lots in the first company nor did Hunt build the house he had planned. Ridenour's name appears in the Ridenour-Baker Wholesale Grocery Company, which operated in Kansas for many years.

There were dozens of towns not so fortunate. There are at least forty-six and perhaps more. Some were never more than a map-maker's dream; a few actually served as postoffices, trading posts, stage stations or even just voting precincts and then were

gone.

Verdigris Falls is unknown to anyone living in the area where it stood, yet it was important enough to recruit a full company of men during the Civil War. It was four miles north of Virgil in Section 19, Twp. 23 S., Rr. 13 E.

Greenwood City was promoted by John P. Mitchell and lay in Sec. 27 and 28, Twp. 25 S., R. 13 E. It really flourished for awhile—had a brewery, a distillery, and five saloons. For a hell-roaring town full of dance halls, too, it was a pretty safe place to live in. No one was never known to be killed there. There was plenty of shooting and several were wounded but none critically. Mitchell himself was the most shot at man in the county" according to one historian. It had a population of 900 at least, and boasted several stores, one trading post but no one mentions the number of schools and churches. Here the federal government gave out Indian supplies. The Osage village was only about thirty-five miles away, at the junction of the Verdigris and Fall rivers, and there were other Indian tribes about. In spite of the high-pressure methods of publicizing its advantages, the town failed to get a railroad and folded when the property titles were found to be too bad to cure. Today a few foundations, the brewery cave, and maybe a few trail holes are all that remain. It had existed for only about five years from 1870 to 1875.

Several names of early towns

were changed. Madison Center is now Madison; Fullerton, Hamilton; Lamont's Hill, Lamont; Gould, Severy; Charleston, Fall River; and Tailholt, Quincy.

Who ever hears of Philadelphia today? Yet it came within four votes of being our county seat. Took two elections to get a majority but Eureka finally made it! The elections were held in 1866 and the final vote was 116 to 112. Philadelphia was in Section 6, Twp. 25 S., R. 12 E. Today it is a plowed field.

Janesville, NE Corner SW ¼ SW ¼ Sec. 6, Twp. 24 S., R. 12 E., was a stage station at the ford of Willow Creek on the Burlington trail as early as 1860. It was on the farm of Capt. S. P. Smith. Incidentally he was one of the few veterans of the Mexican War to settle in Greenwood County. The stage station is now a corner on the farm which is now owned by Mrs. Ora Beauchat of Hamilton.

Janesville was the first county seat of Greenwood County. It was so designated by the state legislature of 1861. It was named as a temporary county seat but it had that honor for nearly five years. In March 1862 M. E. Stratton, Janesville Township, F. Osburn, Lane Township and R. N. Gasaway, Janesville Township, who were the appointed county commissioners met to organize the county. They met at Janesville. Their temporary clerk was B. F. Vanhorn from what is now Shell Rock Township. They named the county Greenwood after the Indian agent for the Sac and Fox Indians. The next item considered was the division of the county into townships. Five were outlined and named: Madison, Lane, Pleasant Grove, Janesville and Eureka. The boundaries of these were not the same as today for the county then extended six miles into what is now Woodson County. Osage Indian lands came within five miles south of Eureka. In the late 1860's when the Osages ceded their lands to the government the boundaries were changed.

(To be continued next week)



Josiah and Mrs. Kinnaman arrived in Eureka July 4, 1857 from Iowa.



Josiah Kinnaman cabin stood where the Donaldson Laundry is today.

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PART IV

To Janesville belongs the honor of the first large Fourth of July celebration. The affair was reported in the "Emporia News" of July 20, 1861. Judge Keyes was the principal speaker but no doubt several others "plucked the eagle", too, as was and still is the custom. The settlers were celebrating their statehood and most of these were free-staters so they were especially happy. At the same time Madison Center, which was at that time in Madison County, celebrated with formal exercises and two orations and a dance. The violinists—sure they weren't fiddlers, Mr. "News" reporter?—were E. J. Duke and Thomas D. Kelley.

While the rest of the county was feeding its soul on Fourth of July oratory, Eureka settlers were busy on a project of more practical nature. There had been some feeling on the slavery question and too, Indians were always breathing down their necks. So they built a fort! It must have been a very crude affair from the descriptions of several historians but it would, in time of need, be a stronghold against Indians and the Confederate Army. The fort was named for Col. James Montgomery, that controversial figure of the Kansas "Border War". He was a grand-nephew of General Richard Montgomery who fell at Quebec in the Revolution. They were both from a long line of Scottish border warriors. Someone in Eureka surely admired him a great deal to name this fort for him. One suspects it was the early historian who speaks glowingly of James Montgomery's efforts to make Kansas a free state.

A thorough search for state and some national archives fails to find a single mention of the fort as a state or army project. Not one man in the first company is listed on the muster roll of any regiment recorded in the archives of the Adjutant General of Kansas. There is no county or city record of it at all. It must have been built wholly by volunteer labor. Several historians describe it as being of logs, chinked with good old Greenwood County gumbo. The shingles were of the "shake" variety. These were long stove-like pieces of wood thicker than the cedar shingle of today. The floor was of puncheon, logs split and smoothed then layed split side up as closely as possible to make a smooth floor. The only "boughten" materials used were a few window sashes, hardware for a door, and a few nails. Many wooden pegs were used.

Shake shingles, even if they were made of walnut as some

settlers made them, were never very satisfactory. All native lumber must be nailed before it dries if it is going to be nailed at all. These shakes would warp and dry out in the hot summer sun until they would turn neither water nor snow. The floor, too, was not so good. Many small wildlings including rattlesnakes, made their homes there.

The fort was surrounded by breastworks of logs piled high and mounded over with dirt. A stockade was built of straight poles driven vertically into the ground, very close together.

The commanders of the first company were Captain Leander Bemis, who lived about six miles northeast of Eureka on Bachelor Creek; and Lieutenant H. G. Branson who lived on Fall River. Edwin Walters, who was an early teacher in Eureka, says that the company had a swivel (small cannon) that chambered a ball weighing three or four pounds. No amount of searching reveals what happened to it, but a pretty accurate guess can be made.

Royal Wolcott, in his "History of Shell Rock Township" says that guns were issued by the government to the settlers even before the threat of the Civil War. He mentions that the home of Randall Brown in Shell Rock Township was used as an arsenal for dispensing these guns. Says too, that the guns were never returned to the government and he used the barrel of his for making a stem for a post auger! Swords into ploughshares?

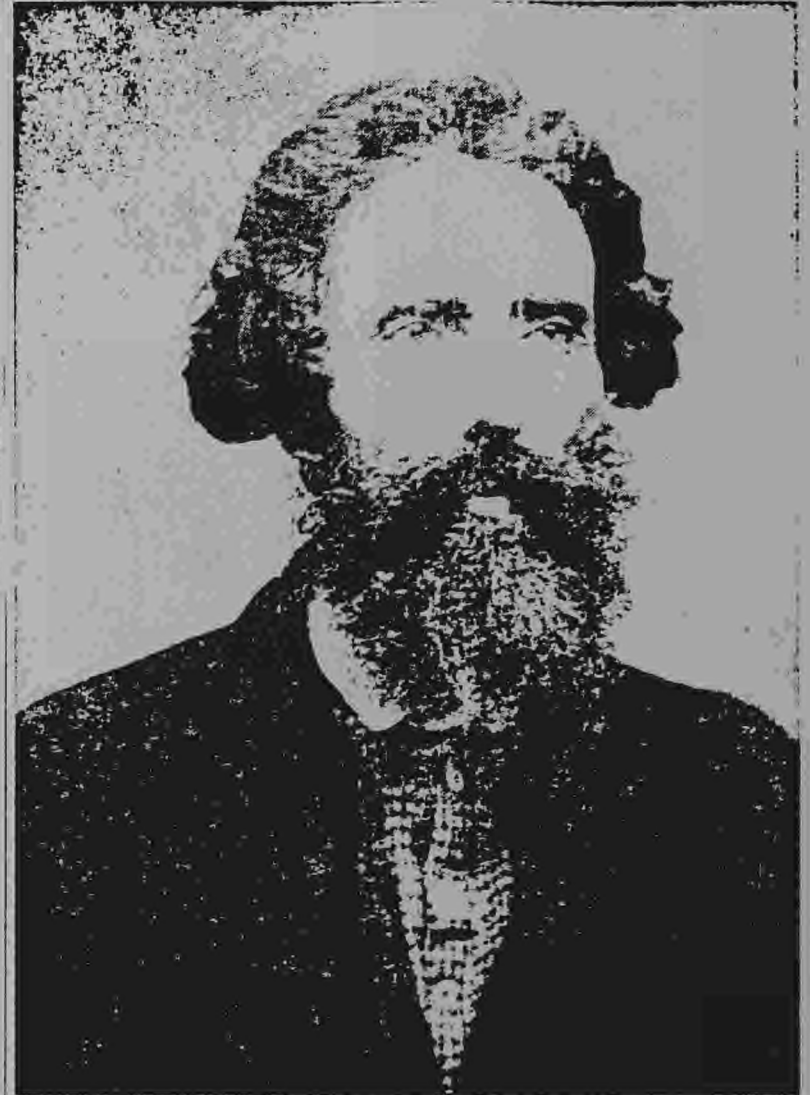
From Wolcott's statement we would suppose that this first company at Fort Montgomery was armed with guns from the government.

As to the fate of the swivel, E. Tucker, in his 1876 history of the county, says that in the last year of the Civil War a detachment of Fifteenth Kansas Cavalry Volunteers occupied the fort. They were presumably on Indian duty. Likely the cannon was returned to the government after it was no longer needed.

In 1863 there was a great Quaintrell scare. Lawrence had been raided in August and the settlers—the military, too, for that matter—were fearful that he would make his way to Eureka. He was known to be working southwest. Headquarters at Leroy was issuing alerts and orders like mad to intercept him. Copies of those orders in the archives of the Adjutant General speak their urgency. Two companies were hastily recruited in the county. They served only a few weeks. One was formed at Verdigris Falls, today listed as a ghost town. Its muster roll copied from the archives



Wayne Sumner served in the State Militia. He was recruited at Fort Montgomery in 1863.



COLONEL JAMES MONTGOMERY
Tenth Kansas Infantry

of the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas:

OFFICERS

Capt. W. W. Brazle, First Lieut. Oscar Coy, Second Lieut. J. A. Estep, Third Lieut. Thos. R. Carlisle, Ensign A. Venard, First Sgt. C. A. Mullinix, Second Sgt. G. J. Cavan, Third Sgt. Jno. Steele, Fourth Sgt. Wm. Browne, First Corp. Smith Wilhite, Second Corp. Sam'l Conibest, Third Corp. W. H. Craig, Fourth Corp. Francis Lucie.

PRIVATE

William Babb, A. J. Baker, Albert Redigrew, Joseph Bentley, J. H. Barrows, McM. Craig, Jesse Carter, Samuel Clin, William Dane, R. W. Dougherty, Sampson Gallemore, Jno. Hancock, Wm. Hancock, A. J. Hagom, Sam'l Hase, Dan'l Hase, J. H. Jones, Seth Kellogg, Jno. Larue, Geo. Larue, Thos. Larue, Wm. Moss, Wash. Noggle, Gifford Norris, Isaac Osborn, N. S. Pigg, D. S. Patton, Peter Ross, James Ross, Enoch Reeves, Thos. Sylvester, Martin Slaughterback, James Steele, P. P. Steele, Poke or Coke Steele, Franklin Shannon, Wm. Webright, Anderson Walker, Henry Yost.

These men likely drilled with the guns issued from Randall Brown's house. The company was ordered into active service by Maj. Gen. J. B. Scott at Leroy on October 7, 1863. They were active only five days and was mustered out November 13, 1863.

The company recruited at Eureka was ordered into active service by the same officer on October 12 and was on duty only five days. They too, were mustered out November 13, 1863. The muster roll as copied from the archives in the office of the Adjutant General:

OFFICERS

Captain Anderson Williams, First Lieut. H. J. Cantrell, Second Lieut. T. J. Jones, Third Lieut. Martin Tolles, First Sgt. Allison Neet, Second Sgt. A. J. R. Williams, Third Sgt. Charles Hecock, Fourth Sgt. G. B. Parks, First Cor. John R. Ashmore, Second Corp. William Hallett, Third Corp. John Mosley, Fourth Corp. Thomas Hallett.

PRIVATE

George Ashmore, George D. Bartlett, Leander Bemis, C. B.

Banard (Bernard?), Arthur Bemis, George W. Cape, Amund Erickson, William Fiscus, B. Y. Isley, Wayne Sumner, Henry Smethers, Edwin Tucker, James Wherry, James Woosley, Daniel Johnson, Ranson Johnson, H. S. Jones, Modica (Mordca?) Johnson, Joseph W. Jones, William McMurkry, Calvin Moore, Adam Glaze, Levi N. Prather, James A. Stuart, R. R. Turner, Edward Wood, C. L. Worley.

The Eureka company surely trained at old Fort Montgomery. The fort was called "old" before it was five years old! Imagine the fun they had with the swivel! Bet that's the only time it was ever used!

C. H. Duby, in his "History of the Sixties", says that a small company of the Nineteenth Kansas was stationed at the old Fort in the winter of 1868 or the spring of 1869. The Nineteenth was led by Governor Crawford, who resigned his office to lead them, and helped General Phil Sheridan in the Indian battles of 1868 and 1869.

Old Fort Montgomery had many more uses than just military ones. In 1861 the school building burned. It had been the first building erected at Eureka, and Edwin Tucker was the first teacher. No place was available but the old fort and that's where Miss Annie Clutter took her flock. Imagine the joy of teaching in a room equipped with a cannon. No discipline problems there! But, on the other hand, as an up-to-date mother of an up-to-dater offspring

said to me, "You'd be lucky today if the kids didn't use it on YOU!"

On July 4, 1868 S. G. Mead started the Eureka Herald in old Fort Montgomery. Eureka had 13 houses and 40 residents at the time! Nearly every issue has some complaint about the building. One time the rattlesnakes under the puncheon floor scared the wits out of the copy girl; another time snow fell through the shakes roof until everything was covered with several inches of snow—no paper. In the July 10 issue Mead mentions the high sunflowers growing on the ramparts of old Fort Montgomery. Mentions, too, that the Mormons are credited with bringing the sunflower to Kansas. Many historians say they came from New Mexico on the Santa Fe Trail.

In the Winter of 1868 Mr. Mead found that the logs in the breastworks around the fort made very good and easy to get fuel so he dug them out. At one time he says that "if the bullets ever whistled through Fort Montgomery as the winds did last week we wonder where a soldier would have found a safe place." The February 19 issue says that Mr. Mead has found a building and when he moves from the old fort it will be torn down. If, as Duby says, a detachment of the Nineteenth Cavalry camped there it must have been the last time it was used. But, considering the sense of security it must have given the settlers it had surely served a good purpose.