

# HISTORY OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS,

FOR ONE DECADE—FROM 1871 TO 1881.

BY JUDGE R. W. P. MUSE.

The County of Harvey was organized by Act of the Kansas Legislature, on the 25th day of February, 1872, and comprised the territory now contained in the following townships: Burton, Holstead, Darlington, Lake, Lakin, Macon, Newton, Pleasant, Richland and Sedgewick, taken from Sedgewick county, and Atch, Emma and Garden townships, taken from McPherson county; subsequently by an act of the Legislature of Kansas, passed March 9th, 1873, what are now called the townships of Walton and Highland were taken from Marion county and annexed to Harvey county.

It was named in honor of James M. Harvey, who was Governor of the State of Kansas from 1859 to 1873, and was elected in 1874, U. S. Senator for an unexpired term, which terminated in 1875.

The history of Harvey county, however, began at a date much earlier than that of its organization, it having been settled prior to that event, some fifteen years before the first permanent settlers took up their abode in the county as early as 1859, while the territory comprising the county was substantially settled in all parts of the country before the organization was effected.

In giving a history of the early settlements, and especially in giving the names and the dates of the arrivals of the settlers, we have experienced great difficulty, as many of the early settlers, after naming themselves as to the exact date of their own arrival and that of their neighbors.

Hence, if after comparing the statements of many of the older settlers and finding so many discrepancies in their recollections of events, an error should occur in these first pages, it cannot be attributed to any fault of the writer, but having labored diligently to reconcile the conflicting statements and the exact truth.

In preparing this history we find that we have enough data to fill a large volume with inter-spersed details, but limited space renders it necessary an absolute necessity to confine our narrative to something as much as a plain statement of important facts and justice to the early and enterprising settlers who have converted a desert into a garden, will do.

The writer having been one of the early settlers of the county, and having visited the territory before many of the settlers had arrived, is fortunately able from his personal observations to correct many of the errors in the statements made, and believes that the details of this history may be relied upon as correct in the main.

For the purpose of abbreviation and arriving at facts in the order of their occurrence, we feel it necessary to give an account of our first visit into and through the territory now comprising Harvey county, and trust that our motives in so doing may not be misconstrued.

On the 25th day of August, 1870, we left the city of Topeka, in company with the Hon. D. L. Lakin, Commissioner of the Land department of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., and travelled westward via A. T. & S. F. R. R. to the city of Emporia, for the purpose of attending the annual fair of Cottonwood Falls, on the line of the road, to locate a site for the sale and exchange of the Railroad Company's agency for which had been tendered to us at any point west from Cottonwood, which we might select. We arrived at Emporia, took the train of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., on the evening of the same day, and on the 26th, obtained teams and provisions and in company with Easton, Samuel J. Crawford and Mr. Painter, a merchant of Emporia, started westward over the proposed line and provisions and in company with Easton, Samuel J. Crawford and Mr. Painter, a merchant of Emporia, started westward over the proposed line of the R. R., to view the country and proposed route as far west as Wichita and the great Arkansas river. On the night of the 26th, we stopped at Cottonwood Falls, with Mr. Doubtless, who kept a small hotel in that place. On the 27th we continued our journey through an almost uninhabited region, passing over the ground where Florence now stands, and encamped for the night at a ranch owned by Colle and Kelly, about four miles east of the present town of Peabody. On the 28th, we crossed over the Arkansas river, now occupied by the town of Peabody, and followed the course of the R. R. due west, over the prairie southward and ran to Wichita. It had however then been decided to turn or continue the road westward, along the south side of the great Arkansas river.

We stopped for dinner at a point on Sand Creek just south of where the residence of Dr. Atchison is now situated, and upon the present location of Newton. Here we were informed by Mr. Lakin that a station or town would be laid out on either Section 17 or 18, and taking the country we decided to locate at this point. After driving over both sections we expressed a preference for Section 19, at the town site, and subsequently tried to have the town laid off on this section. Here for the first time we struck the Chisholm, or great Texas cattle trail, (extending from Texas to Abilene, Kansas,) and followed it down on the west side of Sand creek as far as the mouth of the creek, where we found the first settler we had seen in the county, Dr. T. S. Floyd, who had located there.

During the day and after travelling over thirty miles, we had seen no human habitation or sign of civilization, nor any way, being through high prairie grass, often standing above the height of man's head, and in the shade of the mesquines and buffalo grass, which towered over us so much that they sought refuge in the shadows from the fire, which the Doctor had built for that purpose in front of his house. After remaining over night with Dr. Floyd, who gave us an account of the settlements already made in the territory, now Harvey county, we set out on the following morning and drove through Park city, then considered a dangerous rival of Wichita, and continued our journey as far as Wichita.

At Park city we found a store, kept by H. M. Lakin, now a citizen of Newton, and if our memory serves us right there were one or two houses in the immediate neighborhood.

Returning at night to the territory of Harvey county and returning to the conversation with Dr. Floyd, we found that there was quite a settlement in his immediate vicinity, and that a portion of Sedgewick city was already laid out.

We met several of those settlers, among whom was Wm. H. McGowen, who was about opening a grocery, and from whom we purchased some cigars and other groceries, which he informed us were the first goods sold in the city of Sedgewick. Dr. Floyd and others informed us that they had been there since the Fall of 1860, and that Charles Schneider settled at the mouth of Emma creek since the same date. That John N. Corgan had lived on Section 23 (the present site of Sedgewick city, and which he had sold to the Sedgewick Town Company,) for the same length of time; also John Wright on Section 33, and Samuel Decker in the same vicinity. Wm. H. Hart lived just south of Sedgewick city on the bank of the Little Arkansas river; W. L. Werhord had settled on Section 34 in 1869. He was afterwards killed by the Indians near Medicine Lodge.

We were also informed that there was a settlement on West Whitewater, in the present township of Richland, which was occupied by H. Neiman, who settled on his claim in June, 1859, and by Wm. Lawrence and Hubbard Wilcox, who made settlement in July, 1869. These men were the first settlers in Richland township, if not in Harvey county.

Two men named Kimball and Hanna settled on section 7 in Lake township as early as June, 1869, and were undoubtedly the first settlers in that township.

There was also a cattle ranch on section 20 in Macon township, at the mouth of the three Emma creeks, which was settled in the Summer of 1869, by George F. Perry, who had in his employ, if not in partnership, Wm. Cleveland, Mack Alexander and Seth Goodey; if Perry and his assistants can be considered residents they were the first settlers in Macon township.

There were also several families of French and Irish settlers on the Little Arkansas river in Garden township, and at the mouth of Taft creek in Alta Vista township, and in the latter case, the first permanent settlers were in the Fall of 1860 or Spring of 1870. We know that in the Fall of 1870 the claims of those in Garden township were purchased by Frank and Al. Munch, and those in Alta Vista by Palmer and Daniel Heath and others, who thereby became the first permanent settlers in these townships.

We will here state that on the 12th day of August, 1870, Rosa A. Schaefer, daughter of Charles Schneider and wife, was born in Sedgewick, and was the first child born in Harvey county of which we have any authentic record.

During the Fall of 1870, the following persons together with many others whose names we have not been able to learn, settled in Sedgewick: Mrs. McClung, P. M. Morgan, N. A. Mathis, S. E. Cratcher, Wm. Flint and George Weeks. Harry Morgan, son of P. M. Morgan and Mary C. Morgan, was the first male child born in Sedgewick city, if not the first in the county. He was born February 12th, 1871.

## EARLY SETTLEMENTS CONTINUED.

The writer returned to Topeka via El Dorado, about the first of September, and did not again return to Harvey county until May 10th, 1871, at which date he came to the town site of Newton to remain. Before giving a description of the town site at that early day, it will be found more interesting to continue with the settlements made in the different townships, and then come back to the town site of Newton. Newton township was first settled in February, 1871, by A. W. Baker, who some years later sold his claim to Myra Hall, who now owns it; and in a few days thereafter, perhaps the latter part of February, Miles, Davis and Joshua Purcell moved upon their claims which they still occupy.

Darlington township was first settled by Edward Doty and Thomas Wynn, in July, 1871, C. L. Berry in August, 1870, and Edward Marks, O. B. Hilditch, Wm. Geary and Isaac Stockwell, who settled on section 4 in October, 1870, and drew lots for the choice of quarter sections. They are now followed by O. B. Gingers, James Allen and others, during the same Fall.

Richland township was, as before stated, first settled by Howard Neiman, in June, 1869, and by Wm. Lawrence and Hubbard Wilcox in July of the same year. These were the only settlers in the township until June, 1870, when A. G. Richardson came and purchased the claim of Lawrence and Wilcox, and settled upon them. On the 1st of July, 1870, Frank located his claim and settled upon it on the 1st of August, 1870, R. W. Davis September 3d, 1870. Joel and Jesse Parker, H. W. Bailey, B. F. Parks, Saml. Saylor, Thos. Ezra and Ross Smith and others, in October, 1870.

Highland township was settled as early as March and April, 1871. Among the first who took their claims in March we have the names of John Hengel, G. W. Patterson, John V. Sharp, Hammon Berry and Fred L. Livingston, followed in April, 1871, by W. H. Harney, J. C. W. E. and J. M. Johnson, R. J. Elvood, J. L. Caverly, W. Davis, and others.

The first settlements in Lake township were made in March, 1871, by James McMurray, James Patterson, John Gorgas and others.

In addition to the names of the early settlers of Lakin township, we have those of L. C. Wright, C. H. Leamons, C. A. Tracy and others, who came in March, 1871.

Bearcat township was settled by John W. Blades and others in April, 1871—Emma township in April, 1871, by Wm. Bean, Chas. Bean, Mrs. E. Dean, F. C. Minger, G. Webster and others.

Walton township was first settled by T. Kline and others in March, 1871.

Halstead township by John X. Corgan, who sold out his claim where Sedgewick city now stands and located at the mouth of the Black Kettle, near the present town of Halstead, in September, 1870. G. L. Cooper, L. Schoonover, Andrew Olson, Allen Miller, L. D. & A. Brewer, came in October, 1870. A. Brewer had the first frame house in the township, in December, 1870. Lena Schoonover, daughter of Jay and Louis Schoonover, was born June 16th, 1871, and was the first child born in Halstead township.

In Macon township in addition to the names already given, we are informed by Capt. Sam'l Akin, that he settled there on February 25th, 1871, and that Walter Scott, Leon Fay and W. M. Miner, came in March, 1871. During the same month Amos Prouty, George Hipp and others, filed on their claims in this township and located on them as many as eight families on the 23rd day of August, 1871, which event has been celebrated at the house of Mr. Prouty, by the neighbors, ever since.

The first settlers in Pleasant township were John Hartan, J. & P. Ray, L. Owen and D. E. Shelden, in January, 1871, and H. D. and C. Kettle, Dan, Denny, S. Chamberlain, S. and A. Powell and others, in February, 1871.

It will thus be seen that by Spring and early Summer of 1871, every township in what is now Harvey county, had more or less bona fide and permanent settlers. From this time on until January, 1872, the rush from all parts of the country, to secure a home and a piece of government land was continued until each piece of government land (of any value) in the county had some claim put upon it at the government and office.

It will be seen from this much that we have paid little or no attention to sowing, but rather to actual settling, as many of the filings were between or made for the purpose of speculation, by persons who never saw the land that was entered in their names, and who had no intention of complying with the spirit of the law, or of personal occupancy or living upon it. For this reason many of these law were watched and other filings placed upon them, and notices of contest given to test the question, which often terminated in strife and expensive litigation.

This uncertainty and strife did much to impede well meaning persons from settling in the county and improving the lands that they wanted, and drove them away, to other sections, west of this county, where there was no cause for contest, and where the claims of persons of good faith were safe.

When we first came to the county, large herds of buffalo were found in the western portion of it, especially in the immediate neighborhood of where Marion, Alma, and between the two Arkansas Rivers, in fact buffalo meat was the principal diet at every house and ranch in the county, and when young and in good order was preferable to the finest beef steaks to be had in the country. The last buffalo killed in the county was in 1874, in the Prairie neighborhood, in Marion township.

By October 1st, 1871, there were perhaps 500 inhabitants in Newton, as many more in the county, while probably as great a number of reckless "cowboys" roved over the county attending to large herds of wild Texas cattle disregarding the rights of the settlers, running over and trampling down their corn and other crops, causing amount in Newton, making day a terror and night as hideous as pandemonium let loose. This state of things continued for fully two years and did more to prevent improvements of a permanent nature in both town and country, than any thing else.

But during this time, Oct. 1st, 1871, the best citizens of the city and county, who came to make it their home, and desired law and order to take the place of the disorder and moral confusion, that under the domination of the cowboys and their attendant swarms of gamblers and thieves, reigned supreme; became impatient with each other and began to consult for their own protection and the public good, and resolved to organize themselves together, to establish a city and county government, and if possible, have their laws enforced and their rights respected.

The subject of the organization of a new county was quietly matured. About this time a Republican county convention was called to nominate a county ticket for Sedgewick county, and this being a part of that county, delegates were elected to the number of seven from Newton, to attend that convention.

The convention met at the appointed time in Wichita, and after being organized and doing the usual business of a county convention, voted to move the county seat and had temper, when all the Newton delegates, headed by the writer, withdrew from the convention, followed by the delegations from Blue, Kettle and Grant townships.

This vote resulted in the nomination of two tickets, and most of the regular ticket was defeated. This added to the feeling for a new county, and on the evening of December 1st, 1871, the first meeting to take steps for the organization of a new county was held at the office of Miss Speyer. There were present at that meeting, Capt. Joel T. Davis, R. M. Speyer, L. E. Steele, C. S. Boweau, James Sprague, J. C. Johnston, D. Ainsworth, the writer, and others.

The plan adopted was to form a new county, to consist of sixteen Congressional townships, ten from Sedgewick county, three from McPherson county and three from Marion county, with Newton for the county seat. From this day the subject was pushed forward until as before stated,

## THE NEW COUNTY OF HARVEY

was organized by Act of Legislature February 2nd, 1872. Thereupon Hon. James M. Harvey, then the Governor of the State of Kansas, appointed the following named persons county officers of Harvey county, to serve until their successors were duly elected and qualified, to wit: H. W. Bailey, County Clerk; G. D. Munger, County Treasurer; A. Markwell, Probate Judge; K. H. Brown, Register of Deeds; W. B. Chamberlin, Sheriff; C. C. Farley, Coroner; C. S. Bowman, County Attorney; J. B. Thompson, Clerk of District Court; W. B. Brown, County Surveyor; J. B. Webster, County Superintendent; and A. C. Rice, County Auditor; Anna Trouty and J. R. Skinner, County Commissioners. He so designated Newton as the County Seat.

On the 20th day of May, 1872, an election was held in the county to fix the county seat permanently by vote of the people, and also for the election of county officers. At this election all the officers appointed by Gov. Harvey were elected except John R. Skinner, County Commissioner, whose place was filled by the election of B. Thompson, of Halstead township. Newton was made the county seat.

The Board of County Commissioners held a regular meeting on the 24th day of May, 1872, to canvass the vote for county officers and on county seat, from the minutes of which we give a copy of the entry made in reference to the county seat election.

## HISTORY OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS.

MAY 24, 1872.

The County Commissioners met—present were A. G. Richardson, Amos Prouty and John K. Skinner. The Board proceeded to canvass the vote of May 23d, 1872, for county officers and county seat. The poll books of Sedgwick township showing upon their face an excessive number of names, equal to more than double the amount of inhabitants in the township at the taking of the census about the 1st of April, A. D., 1870, and the poll books of Newton township showing a large and excessive vote. It was voted by the Board in casting out the poll books of Newton township, believing at the time that the vote was fair and honest, remonstrated, but he is now constrained to say that the decision of the Board was just, he having subsequently learned that one hundred names and ballots to correspond had been added to the poll books and placed in the ballot box. The census of Sedgwick township taken and filed just before the election, showed that the vote did not exceed one hundred and twenty-five, and that there were no inhabitants in the township, yet the poll books showed that at the election over seven hundred votes had been cast and counted under the name of law. It was reported after the election that hundreds of the names upon the Sedgwick poll books were copied from the Cincinnati Directory, and a colored horseback who was playing his vacation there on election day, is reported to have said that they compelled him to vote fourteen times, and then drove him out of town because he refused to cast the fifteenth ballot.

That these frauds upon the elective franchise were perpetrated there can be no doubt, and while the public history requires their mention, yet it is true that the names of the voters in both townships were ignorant of the frauds, and that they were concocted and perpetrated by a few designing persons.

At any rate beyond a little strife in court, no harm resulted, and Newton was declared the county seat of Harvey county.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS.

In June, 1871, The Wichita & South Western R. R. Co. was organized, and the following Officers and Directors: J. K. Neal, President; Wm. Griffith, Treasurer; H. C. Sims, Secretary; S. H. Kohn, T. M. Steele, S. C. Johnson, G. H. Smith, George Schleiter, C. F. Gilbert, T. J. Peters, F. J. Fulton and the writer of this sketch, as Directors.

On the 15th day of August, 1871, an election was held in Sedgwick county to vote county bonds to the amount of \$200,000, in aid of the W. S. W. R. R.

The contest was close and exciting. Park city being a bitter opponent of the road. The total vote cast was 1,266, and the result of the election was 330. Newton county, which had voted for the bonds, gave 175 majority for the bonds. The contractor for building the road was let at once, and the work was soon begun and pushed rapidly to completion, being completed as far as Wichita in a few months. It has always proved a paying investment, and has contributed much to make Newton the leading city of the great Arkansas valley.

The great wind and rain storm which destroyed Elkhorn in Butler county, occurred on the evening of June 16th, 1871. The wind blew from the north and for some thirty minutes assumed the severity of a hurricane, and did much damage in parts of Harvey county. It was the severest storm we have ever seen.

On the 30th of October, 1871, a very severe and cold storm of hail, sleet and snow, passed over Harvey county, the wind blowing a gale from the north. During this storm hundreds of cattle in all parts of the country perished from the sudden and excessive cold weather. On the 4th of July, 1871, our national day, was first observed and celebrated at Richardson's grove on the West White Water. There were just seventy persons present. It was again celebrated at the same place, in 1872, after the county was organized, and also at the residence of Eliza Compton, in Eliza Evans' house.

The first market day in Harvey county was on the 17th day of July, 1871, and the railroad lands of the A. T. & S. F. Company were then put upon the market for sale as far west as the 6th principal meridian, and were rapidly sold to enterprising settlers who could not get government lands.

Sometime in July, 1871, Rev. Ovistrian, a Presbyterian Minister, preached the first sermon ever delivered in Newton. His services were held in the unfinished building of Mr. Levy, near Mr. Lehman's Hardware Store, afterwards occupied by A. Roy's Barber and Confectionery Store.

Shortly afterward (in September, 1871), the first Sunday School was started in Newton, in the old DeMoines schoolhouse, organized by Judge Marwell, the Rev. Mr. Vining, and the writer. The room furnished by Mrs. Sperry, while the management of the school devolved upon Judge Marwell. It was kept up until churches were organized, and then transferred to them, where it has been fostered and kept up ever since.

### COUNTY OFFICES AND STATISTICS.

The first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held April 10th, 1872. The Board was presided over by C. S. Bowman, at that time a Notary Public, and A. G. Richardson chosen Chairman. Among other business transacted by the Board, was the separating of the county into townships and giving them names. Some time before, the Board had voted to divide it into four townships, corresponding in size and boundary with the Congressional townships of which it is composed. The winter was present and much interested in this work, which resulted in naming the townships as follows, and for reasons before stated:

Newton township was named from the City of Newton, the county seat, and that derived its name from Newton, Mass., one of the suburbs of Boston, where many of the stockholders of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. resided. Dartington was named in honor of its early settlers, who came from Dartington, the county seat of La Fayette Co., Tenn. After the name of the neighboring (Sedgwick) Lake was given, D. L. Lehman, State Land Commissioner of A. T. & S. F. R. R. Lake was so called because of the beautiful lakes it contains; Burton was changed from Valley in honor of the town of Burton, which was named in honor of J. T. Burton, Vice President of A. T. & S. F. R. R. Halstead was named after the city of Halstead, which was named by Capt. Schlesinger in honor of his friend, Major Halstead, Editor of the *Commercial Commercial*. Emma was named after the three creeds of the same name, which were so called because a beautiful young lady of that name who accompanied a party of emigrants died and was buried upon the banks of one of these streams; New was named in honor of the discovery of the West by the Rev. Mr. Newell. Weston was named after Marion County, Ills.; Walton in honor of one of the stockholders of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. Garden, Highland, Richland and Pleasant derived their names from the quality of their soil and the lay of the land.

At the election held Nov. 5th, 1872, Gen. U. S. Grant received 563 votes and Horace Greeley 187 votes. Dr. Ensign was elected Representative; D. W. Bunker, County Clerk; G. D. Munger, County Treasurer; A. Markwell, Probate Judge; J. W. S. Egan, County Clerk; Dr. S. Stoeck, Coroner; C. S. Evans, County Attorney; J. B. Cunningham, Clerk of Dist. Court; L. H. Hamlin, Surveyor; F. L. Faatz, County Superintendent; B. C. Arnold, A. G. Richardson and T. S. Floyd, County Commissioners. On Jan. 13th, 1873, B. C. Arnold was elected Chairman of the Board. The proposition to annex Walton and Highland townships was started by John C. Johnston circulating a petition, which was signed by three-fourths of the voters in the two townships, asking to be annexed to Harvey county. The petition was presented to the Legislature by H. A. Ensign and a Committee from Newton, consisting of J. T. Davis, H. C. Ashbaugh, L. P. Steele, G. D. Munger, R. M. Sperry, J. H. Dickey and others assisted in getting the bill passed, which occurred on the 5th day of March, 1873. At the election held Nov. 5th, 1873, the following officers were elected: A. G. Richardson, Representative; Dr.

I. N. Stour, Coroner. The Board of County Commissioners refused to canvass the votes cast in the election, and so the election was set aside; J. W. S. Egan, Sheriff of District; George Hagedorn, Sheriff; John Hollister and T. C. Oldham, County Commissioners. At the same election, bonds to the amount of \$3,000 were voted for the purpose of purchasing a Poor Farm and building an Infirmary. \$2,000 of these bonds were issued and so applied, and Harvey county now has a good home for her poor, at much less expense than they could be cared for by the townships.

The Board of Commissioners, at a meeting, held Feb. 17th, 1873, adopted the Bond Law, and ordered it to be in force after March 2nd, 1873. Bonds were issued for the purpose of purchasing a Poor Farm and Infirmary, which cost for the infirmary, while he was setting his hedge and building his fence, and the result has been that Harvey county, to-day, has more, and better fences than any other county of the same area in the State. At a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, Feb. 2d, 1874, Amos Prouty was appointed County Commissioner; vice A. G. Richardson, absent Representative. Daniel Ansonworth was appointed Clerk of the District Court; vice J. B. Cunningham, removed from office.

October 3d, 1874, by decision of the Supreme Court, the new Board of County Commissioners assumed control of the county affairs. This Board consisted of Amos Prouty, John Elmer and T. R. Oldham and organized by election Amos Prouty, Chairman.

At the November election, 1874, the following officers were elected: J. E. Duncan, Representative; H. L. Langton, Probate Judge; C. C. Nichols, County Attorney; James Blake, Clerk of District Court; and F. L. Faatz, County Superintendent. September 6th, 1875, H. W. Bunker was appointed County Clerk, vice D. W. Bunker, resigned. At election, held November 2d, 1875, J. E. Bunker was elected Representative; H. W. Bunker, County Clerk; C. G. Gilbert, Commissioner of Schools; J. C. Dawson, Surveyor; T. R. Oldham, John Hollister and Joseph Clegg, County Commissioners; Alex. Reed was appointed Probate Judge; vice H. L. Langton removed out of county; John Hollister was elected chairman of the Board of Commissioners, January 10th, 1876. At the election held Nov. 7th, 1876, Gen. R. Hayes received for President 1,266 votes, and Gen. S. R. Curtis 351 votes; S. R. Peters was elected Judge of 1st Dist.; T. B. Mowdy, Senator; W. M. Congdon, Representative; Alex. Reed, Probate Judge; John Reid, County Attorney; James Blake, Clerk of District Court; H. C. McHardy, Co. Supervisor; Oct. 2d, 1877, C. C. Nichols was appointed Register of Deeds, vice J. W. S. Egan, and removed.

At the election held Nov. 7th, 1877, the following officers were elected: H. W. Bunker, Co. Clerk; A. G. Gilbert, Co. Treasurer; John Peterburgh, Auditor of Deeds; H. H. McAlans, Sheriff; G. Boyd, Coroner; A. W. Knapp, Co. Surveyor; A. H. McLean, Geo. W. Seaton and J. R. Rogers, Co. Commissioners. At a meeting held January 16th, 1878, J. R. Rogers was elected chairman of Board of Commissioners. August 10th, 1878, E. L. Parris was appointed Clerk of Dist. Court, vice James Blake removed out of county.

At the election held Nov. 5th, 1878, W. M. Congdon was elected Representative; Alex. Reed, Probate Judge; John Reid, Co. Attorney; E. L. Parris, Clerk of District Court; H. C. McHardy, Co. Supervisor; and F. L. Faatz, Co. Treasurer.

At the election held Nov. 5th, 1878, the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$6,000 for the purpose of building a jail, was submitted to the people, and carried by a vote of 977 for and 772 against, nearly all the opposition to the bonds being from the western portion of the county. The following officers were elected: S. R. Peters, Judge of 2d District; J. C. Dawson, Co. Clerk; H. W. Bunker, Co. Treasurer; H. Mathias, Register of Deeds; H. H. McAlans, Sheriff; H. A. Eason, Coroner; Wm. McCormick, Co. Surveyor; S. T. Dimmett, Co. Superintendent; and D. W. Woodward, Co. Commissioner. The vote on the Prohibition amendment stood, for, 1,140, against, 558.

— Nov. 5th, 1881, J. C. John was elected County Clerk; H. W. Bunker, Co. Treasurer; H. Mathias, Register of Deeds; John Wafer, Sheriff; H. A. Eason, Coroner; James Dawson, Co. Surveyor, and A. G. Richardson, Co. Commissioner.

The above sketch of Harvey county is as complete as it could well be made from the imperfect records in the clerk's office. These of the early administration being very imperfect and unsatisfactory, and in fact the elapsing between the organization of the county and the Fall of 1875 may be classed as TIME DARK PERIOD in the history of Harvey county.

Soon after the Act creating the county was passed, Dr. Gustav Boyd was appointed to take a census of the county, preparatory to its organization. We have examined the files and records of the office of the county clerk and can find no record of the report of said census, nor any record of the proceedings of the County Commissioners in reference to it, and as Dr. Boyd does not remember the exact number of people then in Harvey county, we can only state that we believe the population to have been about 2,500, or just about enough to comply with the laws of county organization.

It is due to the interest of impartial history that from this time until Nov. 5th, 1875, when Capt. H. W. Bunker was made County Clerk, nearly all important papers, which should have been filed in that office, are missing; and even the minutes of the meetings of the County Commissioners have been imperfectly kept or entirely omitted; so that we can bring no official data to establish statements in regard to important events which occurred during this period.

Between these periods of time the main line of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. had been completed beyond the western line of the State to Gredosa, Colorado, and the branch built from Newton to Wichita. When this was done many business houses in Newton, that had depended upon the cattle trade, were closed, or sold out at very low figures, in many cases for less than half cost price) and their occupants followed the cowboys and the gadding and saloon element to the new shipping points, Wichita and Dodge City.

While this while the affairs of the county had been carelessly and haphazardly conducted. It was openly charged that a "Tweed Ring" had been formed, with head-quarters in some of the county offices. It was also charged, and generally believed, that large amounts of money had been wrongfully exacted in the shape of warrants, and paid out without sanction of law. It was further reported that the County Commissioners, or at least a majority of them, had met and cancelled and destroyed some Ten Thousand Dollars of this nefarious wipage, and that no sufficient record of the amount thus issued and destroyed had been kept. Executive and Legislative delegations had been sent to Washington to protest against the conduct of the commissioners, if found charged, to punish the guilty parties, but as the trials had been too long and in many instances, most recent, whatever made of important transactions, it was found uphill business to commence proceedings against the suspected officials, and the matter was finally dropped.

While this state of affairs existed, however, confidence in business affairs was wanting, and all classes suffered more or less. The county was left in debt to a considerable amount, and county warrants were issued until the election of new officers.

Subsequently Capt. Duncan, who was elected Representative, had an act passed to create a new Board of County Commissioners to find the door, and begin anew. Therupon confidence was restored, warrants went up to

par (where they have been ever since), and no county has had more prudent or frugal managers since.

Presses have upon the heels of suspected corruption, a work scourge than even the Tweed Ring befall the people of Harvey County and the State of Kansas, we abhore to.

### THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE.

On the 15th day of August, 1874, they made their first appearance in the county, coming in clouds thick and so numerous as to obscure the sun and darkness in three weeks every stalk of corn and every vestige of vegetation, which was green enough for them to eat. This was the second visitation of this pestiferous insect, and we pray God that it may be the last; the first was in 1860. All persons engaged in business became disheartened and dispirited, and what is still worse, many well-meaning persons lost all faith in the climate, and even in the soil of the state. All business was practically suspended, and man and suffering brought to the doors of many of our worthy settlers, in all parts of the country. Many were compelled to leave their families to seek work elsewhere. In some instances whole families, while men who left the country and returned to the East, heart-sick over their losses and poverty.

This was the gloomiest period in the history of the county, and it is to be hoped that such days of darkness and distress may never meet our people again.

But in the midst of their sorrow and despair, Western Kansas had a worthy and valiant friend, in the person of A. E. Touzalin, then Land Commissioner of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. and one of the brightest and best business men it has ever been our good fortune to meet. He at once set about furnishing the farmers free, or at least freight free, and by judicious and well timed efforts, succeeded in bringing the railroad into the interior of the country, that not only was confidence speedily restored, but the Railroad Company was benefited hundreds of thousands of dollars, by the sale of their lands, and the increased traffic along their line.

We regret to state that a parsimonious spirit manifested by the Eastern Managers of the road, caused them to protest against the expense of advertising, and Mr. Touzalin tendered his resignation and would have no more to do with the department, although requested to do so, and name his own successor.

We are informed, that from a like cause, these "penny wise and pound foolish" Eastern Managers of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. Company, had sold the key to the fastnesses of the Rock Mountains. This we say with no desire to censure the management of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. Company, for we believe many of them to be thorough business men, who, if they were on the ground and could know all the circumstances would, perhaps, adopt an altogether different policy.

Such was the result of Mr. Touzalin's management, that in 1875 (just after the Sioux invasion) the population of Harvey County had increased to more than 3,000, or double the number in 1872.

Before closing this chapter we wish to note briefly the great value to the county by the influx of

### MENNONITE IMMIGRANTS.

to all portions of it.

This immigration commenced in the Fall of 1872, and has continued to flow in ever since, until at the present time, that worthy class of our adopted fellow-men numbers more than a thousand.

To induce this immigration, Committees from various States and Countries went out to examine the lands of Kansas, and especially those in Harvey County and along the line of the A. T. & S. F. R. R.

We well remember that in the Fall of 1872, while Agent for the Company at Newton, we were called upon by a Committee consisting of H. Warkentin, Jacob Leissner, Rev. Chas. Kreibiel, David Ruff, Henry Foster and Mr. D. Lehman, who represented a large number of people belonging to that church, who resided near Somerville, Ills. We showed them the Railroad lands in various parts of the county, especially those in Garden, Alta, Burton, Madison, Edina and Lakin in Harvey County.

They were all well pleased with the country, and made a favorable report to their people. Other Committees from Russia, France and other countries followed, and all concluded in forming, for the best interests of their people, wherever found. We made every effort to please them, and the Railroad Company, in consideration of the large purchase they made, gave them a discount upon the price of the land, and special rates upon horses for their horses when they came. This was wise and resulted in the sale of many thousand acres of land in this vicinity, which has been rapidly and substantially improved by them, and the wealth of the county greatly enhanced thereby.

It has been generally supposed that the men of Lowe & Sperry made some gain from the sale of these lands, but such is not the case. The Railroad Company claimed that the land was sold at inflated price, they could not pay full rates, and as they have never been able to agree as to the amount which should be given, that firm has never received one cent for the land it did, although justly entitled to fair compensation.

### HARVEY COUNTY—LOCATION, LAY OF LAND, SOIL, RAINFALL, &c.

By glancing at the Map of Kansas, it will be seen that Harvey County is situated on the eastern line of that central belt of counties in the State, about one-third of the distance from the Indian Territory to the Pacific Ocean, and about one-half the distance from the mouth of the Neosho River, living only about thirty miles to the south-easterly direction from the geographical center of the State. It is about one-hundred and ten miles in an air-line from Topeka, and one-hundred and thirty-five miles by the A. T. & S. F. R. R., which enters the county near its north-east corner, two miles west of Peabody, Kansas, and runs through its entire length, in a south-westerly direction, a distance of some thirty-five miles. The county contains fifteen full Congressional townships, and is thirty miles from east to west, and eighteen from north to south, there being but three smaller townships in the county.

It is conceded and established by Agricultural experts that the territory comprising the counties of Ottawa, Chase, Dickinson, Saline, McPherson, Marion, Harvey, Sedgewick, Butler, Sumner, Cowley, Elk and Chapman, and in that belt of land, sixty miles wide and extending from the Nebraska line to the Indian Territory, is the garden of the State, and that from the richness of the soil, and its adaptability to farming and stock raising, is destined soon to become the most populous portion of the State, and it is no exaggeration to say that Harvey County, being the centre of population of this belt, will, at no distant day, be also the centre of population of the State, as well as the centre of the country.

### SOIL AND LAY OF LAND.

The surface soil of all the land in Harvey County, and in all that belt of country, which we have spoken of, is thin, light-colored loam, with a rich black subsoil.

It varies in depth upon the uplands from two to ten feet, and upon the bottom from three to thirty feet. It is well impregnated with gypsum and lime, the best fertilizer for land known, is very light and loose upon cultivation, and never cakes or becomes hard, after once being well plowed, and retains moisture and resists drought longer and better than any land we have ever seen. The entire county slopes gently to the south-east, and has therefore a free natural drainage.

The soil is very porous, and everywhere permeable with gypsum, for which reason we have never known the naked root of wheat, oats or rye to judge or become hard, after once being well plowed, and retains moisture and resists drought longer and better than any land we have ever seen. The entire county slopes gently to the south-east, and has therefore a free natural drainage.

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## HISTORY OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS.

As many may doubt the depth of the soil in Harvey County, as above stated, we will relate a circumstance to justify our statement. Mr. Lawrence Becker, a well-known and highly-respected citizen of Newton, informs us that in digging a well on his farm, on Section 17, in Darlington Township, in 1876, at a depth of more than thirty-five feet he took out quite a number of buffalo bones and teeth, which he still has in his possession. Of course, when the animal died, it was upon the surface, and the soil above has been formed by the washing down and gathering together of matter and the decay of vegetation. It is evident that the soil in Darlington Township will average over ten feet in depth, and the fact that in many locations shells and other evidence of water animals are found beneath the soil, tends to prove that, at one time, this section lay on the bottom of an inland sea, as no other hypothesis can their presence be accounted for.

### THE LAY OF THE LAND.

Could scarcely be bettered, about one-half of the land in the county being upland and the remainder nearly equally divided between first and second bottom.

As it all lies a gentle slope to the south-east (the direction all its streams flow), there is little or no swamp-land in the county, and nearly every foot is suitable and susceptible of easy cultivation.

### LATITUDE AND CLIMATE.

Harvey County in its entire extent is over fifteen hundred feet above the sea-level, and is cut through its center from east to west by the 38th parallel of North Latitude; and has a climate very similar to Central Kentucky, Southern Virginia and Delaware, and is well called the centre of extremes, or the dividing line between the oppressive heat of the southern summer, and extreme cold of the northern winter.

From the nature of the soil and climate, it will be seen that products of both north and south, raised in this latitude, can be successfully grown and gathered here. Indeed, we have seen Irish potatoes, a product of the north, and the tender cotton-plant of the south, both planted and growing in the same field, and each yielding fair returns.

All the grain, vegetables, fruits, and trees of the same latitude, north or south, are equally good here, and those of the same latitude, north who live in and enjoy it. Lang and Thruitt, Bateson, Call, Fever of a Malady, Asthma, and the thousand and one diseases which emanate and reappear in damp climates are scarcely ever known here, and invalids who come hither, if not too far gone, quickly regain health and strength.

The climate of Central and South-western Kansas can be classed as commanded for the life, energy, health and good spirits it bestows upon all who live in and enjoy it. Lang and Thruitt, Bateson, Call, Fever of a Malady, Asthma, and the thousand and one diseases which emanate and reappear in damp climates are scarcely ever known here, and invalids who come hither, if not too far gone, quickly regain health and strength.

Our winters are short, and occasionally marked by very sudden changes and severe cold weather, yet they are always dry and the air pure and invigorating. Our Spring and Autumn months are noted for their pleasantness, while our Summers, though hot, are always relieved by the constant breezes which sweep the cool and comfortable, and the heat of the day less oppressive. It is the lightness, dryness, and purity of our atmosphere here, which gives us our good health, appetite, and spirits, and our constant visits that purify the atmosphere, and permit no natural taint to find a lodgment here.

### RAINFALL AND WATER COURSES.

A glance at the Map discloses the fact that Harvey is one of the best watered counties in the State of Kansas. The Great Arkansas river flows through the south-west corner, while the Little Arkansas enters the county in the north-west corner, and flows south-east, through the townships of Alta, Garden, Halstead, Lakin and Sedgewick. In addition to these streams, the various portions of the county are watered by Turkey, Black, Eagle, Kasaw, Six, Jet, the Three Rivers, and Goodeyee Creek, all tributaries of the Little Arkansas, and by Dove, Wildcat, Gwynon, and the two branches of the White Water, numerous smaller streams, and about abundance of water for stock and other purposes throughout the entire year, thus rendering the county one of the best in the State for stock raising. Between the two rivers, in Burton, Lake, Lakin, Halstead, Alta and Sedgewick townships, are several beautiful lakes, which afford abundance of pure water, while the bottom lands, which never give out, an abundance of good water can be found, at a depth of from six to fifteen feet, while upon the uplands, good well water in innumerable quantities is found at from twenty to forty feet.

It is frequently asserted that Kansas is a dry State, and as rainfall so irregular and light as to render unsafe any apparatus for general farming. This is not true. The official reports of the U. S. Signal Service and Weather Bureau show that the average depth of the rainfall in Kansas is as great, and in many instances greater than that of the more eastern states, until we pass west of the tenth Meridian of West Longitude. We know not, from personal observation, that most of the rainfall occurs during the Spring and early Summer, when it is most needed to develop the grain sown and planted, and to sustain vegetation.

We have also, noticed that it is the hot south-west winds which damage the crops, and not want of rain, and this cause is being largely removed by the growing of hedges, orchards, groves, and patches of timber, which tend to break up and cool the heated currents of air, and by sealing the surface moisture, to equalize the local rainfall.

### THE PUBLIC PRESS.

By the Federal Census of 1870, Harvey county had a population of 11,454. To supply them with reading matter for Kansas are proverbially the best writers of the present, and widely-known papers are published in the county, namely: The Sectional Kansas, the Newton Republican, and the Golden Gate, published at Newton; The Halstead Independent, and the Monitor, published at Halstead, and the Monitor, published in Burton, all of which are Republican in politics, except Z. H. Heinrich, who edited the organ of the Methodist Church, enforces policies, and the Journal Monitor, which is neutral.

The first paper published in the county was the Suncock Gazette, which was issued in Sedgewick City Jan. 12th, 1874, by P. T. Weeks, and after a few numbers had been issued, was purchased by Dr. T. S. Floyd, who continued its publication, and it reached its 3d number, when he sold his press and material to W. H. Lovett, and discontinued its publication.

The Sectional Kansas, the first number of which was issued August 2nd, 1872, was the first newspaper published in Harvey county after its organization, and was edited by C. C. Bradbury, who still continues its publication.

The first number of Harvey County News (now the Newton Republican) was issued by Capt. J. E. Danner and Capt. A. M. Moore, August 11th, 1873.

On the 1st of June, 1876, Z. H. Heinrich's first appearance at Halstead, the Golden Gate, with C. L. Wood as publisher and editor, was not issued on the 13th day of August, 1879, and was the successor of the Newton Bee, a well Democratic paper, which was published by Stevens and Taylor.

The first paper published in Burton, the Telephone, was started by F. White, who had purchased the press and material of the Telephone, on the day of — 1871.

Prior to the establishing of the Independent at Halstead, one or two other papers had been started at that place, which died after a few issues.

Each of the papers now published in the county has a fair subscription and advertising patronage, and two or three of them have a name than local reputation, and a large circulation, both at home and abroad.

### EDUCATION.

The educational facilities of the county have kept full pace with its increase of population, which from 1860 to 1870, increased to 14,000, and by the Federal Census of 1880 to 11,454, a ratio of nearly 6,000 in five years, or more than double. Of these people, 4,143 had come from Illinois, 203 from Indiana, 627 from Iowa, 160 from Michigan, 357 from Wisconsin, 436 from Ohio, 148 from Pennsylvania, 391 from South Europe, while the remainder were from the Eastern and Southern States, and North Europe. With the population, these factors of which are from the best and most enlightened portions of the country, it is not strange that especial attention should be given to education, and that from a single school building in 1872, the county now, in 1881, boasts of forty-eight school districts, with more than seventy school houses, many of which are among the finest in the state, and in some of which excellent graded schools are taught, giving to the pupil, not only the advantages of thorough elementary education, but also fitting him for the State University, or giving him a home education in the higher schools.

The school population of the county is 10,000, and the value of school property about \$60,000. The average length of school varies 6 months, and teachers wages, for males, \$35, and for females \$30 per month, which is gradually increasing with the growth of the community. In addition to the public schools, many excellent private schools are maintained by the Methodists, in their churches and other buildings, in which both German and English are taught, thus preparing their children for the English schools. These people are noted for their real interest in education, their young and their schools are adopting the best methods in vogue in the United States and Europe. Considering that Harvey is one of the smallest counties in the state, it will be seen that her educational facilities are unsurpassed. Offering such inducements to settlers, it is safe to say that Harvey county will, in the near future, be the most densely populated county in the State of Kansas.

### NEWTON.

No history of Harvey county, however brief, would be in anywise complete without a sketch, at least, of the early settlement of, and the scenes enacted in Newton, which we will now do as briefly as possible.

There are incidents which must be mentioned, and such force and effect, that to omit them would be like a condensation of Franklin and Hamlet. Newton was from the first, the County Seat of Harvey county, and from the day it was staked out until the termination of the cattle trade, and east of the "Cowboy" element, was the centre of attraction, and the topic of conversation, in the entire State of Kansas, and, in fact, throughout the whole country.

It is an old saying that a bad beginning ensures a good ending, and if this be true, then will the infamous character which the town justly earned, in its early days, throw shadow an after-career of unmitigated greatness and prosperity.

The first passenger train crossed the new bridge over the Colorado and entered Florence May 8th, 1871. This was then the terminus of the railroad. The winter was on that train, en route for Newton, for the purpose of there erecting an office to be ready to put the railroad lands open the market, as soon as the railroad reached that point, and was accepted by the governor.

Remaining at Florence, on the ninth, and making arrangements, to have a carload of lumber brought to Newton, in teams as soon as it arrived, and in view of the fact that the Agents of The Kansas and South-Western Stage Co., and Wells Fargo Express Co., and made an agreement to act as their Agent at Newton, we left the following day, en route to the Newton depot, accompanied by Esq. McCormick, of Lawrence.

We arrived at the town site on the afternoon of May 10th, 1871, and passed over to the banks of Sand creek, where several railroad officials had camped for the night, before their way west to Billings. We secured that night with the late Capt. John Sebastian, who was living in a tent on the west bank of Sand creek, near the end of the present Broadway bridge.

In the morning, we were informed by Capt. Sebastian, in plain English, and without much tamely or circumspection, that he had to hand all his provisions, by wagon, from Emporia, through the mail, and could not give us any breakfast, and that if we had any dinner and wanted to eat, it would be well if we looked out for it in other quarters. Taking him at his word, and thinking him for our night's lodging, we bounded into the saddle and rode over upon the main site, where the scene which our eyes were mathematically set upon to a stranger man. The grass was high and green all around us, and not little else to be seen. Having located our horses in the tall grass, on what is now the N. E. corner of Main and 7th Streets, and now occupied by the Bergmann Hotel, we rode across the grass, to whom we saw a man leaning against a new frame building, which was in process of erection. The man proved to be Peter Lakin, and the new structure his "Pony Store," the first building laid on the town site.

We told him of our fastness intentions, and our experience with Capt. Sebastian, and were informed that it was a bad place to get anything to eat, and that a decent place to stay could not be found, but that, if we could do to better, he could give us crackers and cheese, to keep us from starving. We traveled on through the grass, and passed one or two tents that were standing near where the Vickery block is, and finally stopped at a frame building just up the same building that is now occupied by J. W. Wilson's (Grocery). It was then occupied by Capt. Lakin, and the new structure his "Pony Store," the first building laid on the town site.

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Just south of this building, one or two more small frame structures were going up, one of which was built by H. Lovett, and is now used as the wash house of the Hardesty House. There were some other foundations laid, and piles of lumber seen on the ground, but, except a small frame structure, occupied by Isaac Strode, and Capt. John W. Lovett as a blacksmith shop, these were all the buildings then standing on the town site.

We are informed that the shop of Strode & Lovett, was moved up from Darlington township about the last of March, 1872, and it was the first frame structure in Newton.

From the best information we can obtain, Dr. Gaston Floyd, H. W. Hubbard, and C. L. Chapman came and settled upon the town site, on the 10th of April, 1872. W. A. Reed came April 17th, in charge of lumber for S. J. Bentley; Peter Lakin, John Sebastian, Jr., J. L. Barker, and Benj. C. Arnold came April 21st. Louis Foy, a partner of Arnold, was on the ground, living in a wagon, waiting for lumber to build a house for Foy & Arnold. Others may have arrived during this time, but so far, we have forgotten their names. On the 2nd of April, Mr. Lakin's lumber arrived in charge of his carpenters, O. D. Edgett and A. Baker. His house was already framed, and was consequently put up in a few days. Capt. J. T. Davis, L. E. Steele, and J. Anderson came April 23rd, with their lumber, and at once put up their houses. S. J. Bentley, arrived about the 1st of May, and commenced building. He first put up his shop and stable, and then the Newcom House, the first hotel in Newton, and now occupied by J. Hart's Drug store. The winter arrived May 10th, R. M. Speer, Davis, and William Mayall, and Mr. Bennett, of the firm of Lehman & Bennett, on the gate. On the 15th, James Mills and W. F. Stoen arrived, in charge of lumber, for Misses & Speer, and at once began to build their barn and office. From this time on, persons arrived daily, until by June 1st, there were nearly 100 people living on the town site.

In mentioning the incidents occurring upon our arrival, we neglected to state that we had letters of introduction to S. J. Bentley, which we presented to him, shortly after we had landed. We found him, with his family, occupying a small shed roofed building, on the east side of his stable, which he used as a chamber, the foundation of his new hotel was then being laid.

We failed to have an interview with Capt. Sebastian, as he had, and was struck by his countenance, which was "far too anxious to that old rooster, he would run away his own brother at midnight."

We obtained of Mr. Lovett, for many months, eating first in his shed mated building, afterward in his house, when it was completed.

The scenes which followed the completion of the railroad beggar description. All the white, innocent herds of Texas cattle had been passing over the rail road, through the town site, en route to the west, but upon the completion of the rail road, Newton became the shipping point, and herds were held along the water courses throughout the country. About the 1st of June, in anticipation of the arrival of the cattle trade, the feeder cow-horn, 2000 head, men, and moughs of every description began to flock in, and soon there were 2000 head of cattle, and also for drooping the insatiable demand whetted. Thus, as soon as completed, were occupied by roughs, who found it profitable to sell whiskey and run a dance-house, night and day. The houses had, for their lodgers and boarders, prostitutes of the lowest type, and the rivalry among them, for custom, was, for months, kept up with vigor and animation.

All night the halls were filled with cow-boys, gamblers and roughs, who, in company with the "solo boys," treated the mazes of the giddy girls' waltz, and developed a sense of vanity and pride in furbish strength.

In hunting, shooting, cards, carding, and chess, cow-boys, gamblers and pick-pockets all were heard of, and pick-pockets loaded down with denizens or "bull-dogs," and big Indians, who would stand their ground, and if their boulders were suspended high over rovers, and other instruments of death, nothing even a spear-like a "strolling animal."

The first passenger train reached Newton on the 17th of July, 1874, and it then became the great shipping point for the Texas cattle trade.

This brought a large number of schemers and herdless into the county, and Newton became their headquarters. To accommodate this trade, a large number of stores of all kinds, (dry goods, groceries, hats and caps, clothing and vanity) were built, and stocked to cut the trade, and draw its custom. In connection with these stores were saloons and gambling dens, dancing and houses, patronized by the cow-boys and their men, rough element, and to which no man of man was a rarity. Many of these saloons were the handsomest buildings in town, and bore such emblems as "The Mexican," "The Side-track," "Alamo," "Hell's Head," "Legal Tender," "Tempter," "Do Drop In," "Gold Room," &c. All had special apartments and galleries for gambling, and many had special inducements to attract, such as singing, dancing and instrumental music, which was kept up nearly all night.

They were mainly浪人 (wanderers), persons from a distance, who had come to Newton, "to see the elephant," and "take in the city by gaslight," were among their customers.

At one time, several prominent gentlemen, among whom were T. L. Peter, General Manager, and M. L. Sargent, Freight Agent of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., looked upon the scenes being enacted in the "Gold Room" on a Sunday evening, in September or October, of 1874. The building was crowded, and singing whistles and guitars were going on at the bar and around the small tables in front, singing and prancing from a platform in the rear end of the building, while in another room were harlots playing their roulette, or peering through the curtains of the scenes in front.

After the religious services were over, the reverend gentleman who had conducted them gave a five dollar bill, and induced a rascally social glass, and promised to call again. Mr. Peter subsequently told the writer that it beat anything he ever saw before.

Hearing the reports of several priests, Mr. Sargent thought it unsafe to step over night, at any of the public houses in the city, and sought shelter in the depot, where he heard a hurricane of tege and voices, behind which he crossed the night bar, imagined his scruples and horror, upon finding in the morning, that the king, whom he had brought in close proximity to the scow, contained gunpowder.

During this period, and as a natural consequence, there were seven persons killed and wounded, but as a rule, these metrals were confined to the rough element, and all were committed during the cow-boy reign, from June, 1874, to January 1st, 1875.

It has been constantly repeated, and generally believed, that forty-four persons were committed, during this period, in the City of Newton, but this is not true. It was had enough, God knows, without exaggeration, and in order to correct these reports, we give below a correct list of the killed individuals, as far as can be ascertained. There were but twelve in all, as far as anything we ever learned.

June 10th, 1872. Sodger shot and killed Webb, in front of Geiger's saloon, both were "cow-boys." A few days later Johnson killed Fenn in the Barlow Wilson. His pistol was accidentally discharged, the bullet passing through a partition and killing Irvin, who was lying upon a bench, while a game of gambling was going on in the room. Irvin was a man of no known character or business, said he came from Baltimore, and was probably a vagabond. About the 1st of August, a young man, named Lee, some 20 years of age, was shot and killed in one of the dance-houses in Hyde Park, accidentally, it is claimed.

What is known is the "general massacre," took place in the house of Perry Tamm, on the night of August 1st, 1874, when Jim Anderson, a cow-boy, entered the hall with a number of his associates, and killed McLeskey, who in time before he died, shot and severely wounded Anderson.

Standing near the door, at the front of the affray commenced, was a friend of McLeskey, a boy named Riley, some 18 years of age, quiet and innocuous in deport, and evidently dying from consumption, upon seeing McLeskey shoot, he picked up the door, shot and killed Riley, and a man named Garrett, and another, killing Capt. Martin and a man named Garret outright, and wounding Riley and two others, whose names we have forgotten. The wounded all recovered, but Anderson, the man who commenced the fight, was crippled for life.

Subsequently, Joseph Lowe (called Rowdy Joe) shot and killed Jim Sweet and Harry Lovett shot and killed Dan Hicks, a desperado.

On the 1st of November, 1874, Edwards shot and killed Captain King, who was then City Marshal. Nov. 3d, 1872, M. Fitzpatrick shot and killed George Hilliard, a Justice of the Peace in Newton, and Mr. Johnson, the City Marshal, in attempting to arrest him, shot and killed Fitzpatrick on the street.

February 22d, 1872, Jim Slavy, a bad character, and Asper of a dangerous horse, was shot to death by unknown parties.

What became of the wounded desperado, Jim Anderson, has long been a mystery to most of the citizens of Newton, which we will now endeavor to explain. The wounded men, Hickey, Garrett, Anderson, and the man shot through the heart, remained in a room, in the rear end of the provision store of Mr. Hoff (a blacksmith), which stood on one of the lots now occupied by F. White.

The excitement was intense, and the City Marshal, Tom Carson, and his associates, all heavily armed with shot-guns and revolvers, were patrolling the streets, day and night, with warrants for the arrest of Anderson and his associates, whom they intended to arrest as soon as they were able to be removed. Perhaps the fact that the room where the wounded Texans lay, was guarded by a well armed party of their friends, who, it was well known, were "spilling for a fight," caused the Marshal and his associates to defer making the arrest.

The father of Anderson, a gray-haired and amiable old gentleman, who was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him, was then in Newton.

His two sons, Jim and Richmond, were wild and reckless, and had given much trouble in Texas, where it is said they had killed one or two negroes, and that Richmond (who was also in the Newton riot) had killed a white man, Edward Brown, with a shotgun, and sorrow at the conduct of his sons, the old gentleman came to see, and visited our council and assistance.

We sent him to see Dr. Boyd, and ascertained that the Doctor said he could not, if much care was used. The passenger train, at that time, arrived at Newton in the evening, and went east about a quarter of a clock in the morning. We made an arrangement with the conductor, to have a car left upon the track, below where the peasant coal cars were, with door open, and that Anderson should be placed therein, as early as 2 or 3 o'clock, and locked in the close of the car, there to remain until on his way to Kansas City, and thus avoid detection, for the Marshal was in the habit of going through the train each morning, before it left.

In the meantime, a litter had been made, and calling in one, A. Baker and Geo. Yocom, with some friends of Col. Anderson, we went to the back door of Hoff's store, about a o'clock in the morning, and removed Anderson,

