

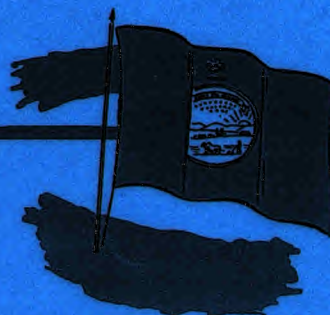
# THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS of JEFFERSON COUNTY KANSAS

1855

1955



**THE NAME OF KANSAS**  
originated from a Sioux Indian word meaning "swift wind" or "south wind."



**THE STATE FLAG**  
with the modified state seal in the center, was adopted in 1927.



**THE GREAT SEAL**  
of Kansas was approved by a joint resolution of the Legislature on May 25, 1861.

*Home on the Range*



**THE STATE SONG**  
is "Home on the Range." The words were written in a rude cabin near Smith Center by a pioneer physician, Dr. Brewster Higley.



**THE STATE FLOWER**  
the wild native sunflower, *Helianthus*, selected by the legislature in 1903.



**THE STATE BIRD**  
is the western meadow lark, the *Sturnella-Neglecta* (Audubon).



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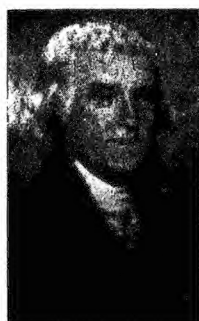
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The grassy quadrangle which geographers called Kansas. xxx Her undulating fields are the floors of ancient seas. These limestone ledges underlying the prairies and cropping from the foreheads of the hills are the cemeteries of the marine insect life of the primeval world. The inexhaustible humus is the mould of the decaying herbage of unnumbered centuries. It is only upon calcareous plains in temperate latitudes that agriculture is supreme, and the strong structure and the rich nourishment imparted essential to bulk, endurance, and speed in animals, to grace, beauty, and passion in women, and in man to stature, courage, health and longevity.

John James Ingalls

#30  
1978  
JEF

packet in back



Jefferson County was given the name of that farseeing President who profited by the misfortunes of the European monarch, Napoleon Bonaparte, in securing for America — for you and me — the tremendous golden treasure first known as Louisiana.

Louisiana, from the Missouri river westward, was reserved to the Indians, so reserved, be it said to the white man's shame, because the white man regarded it as near worthless. Imprinted on maps of mid-19th century appeared the phrase "Great American Desert," a region good only for the savage and the buffalo, uninhabitable for civilized man, even dangerous to traverse.

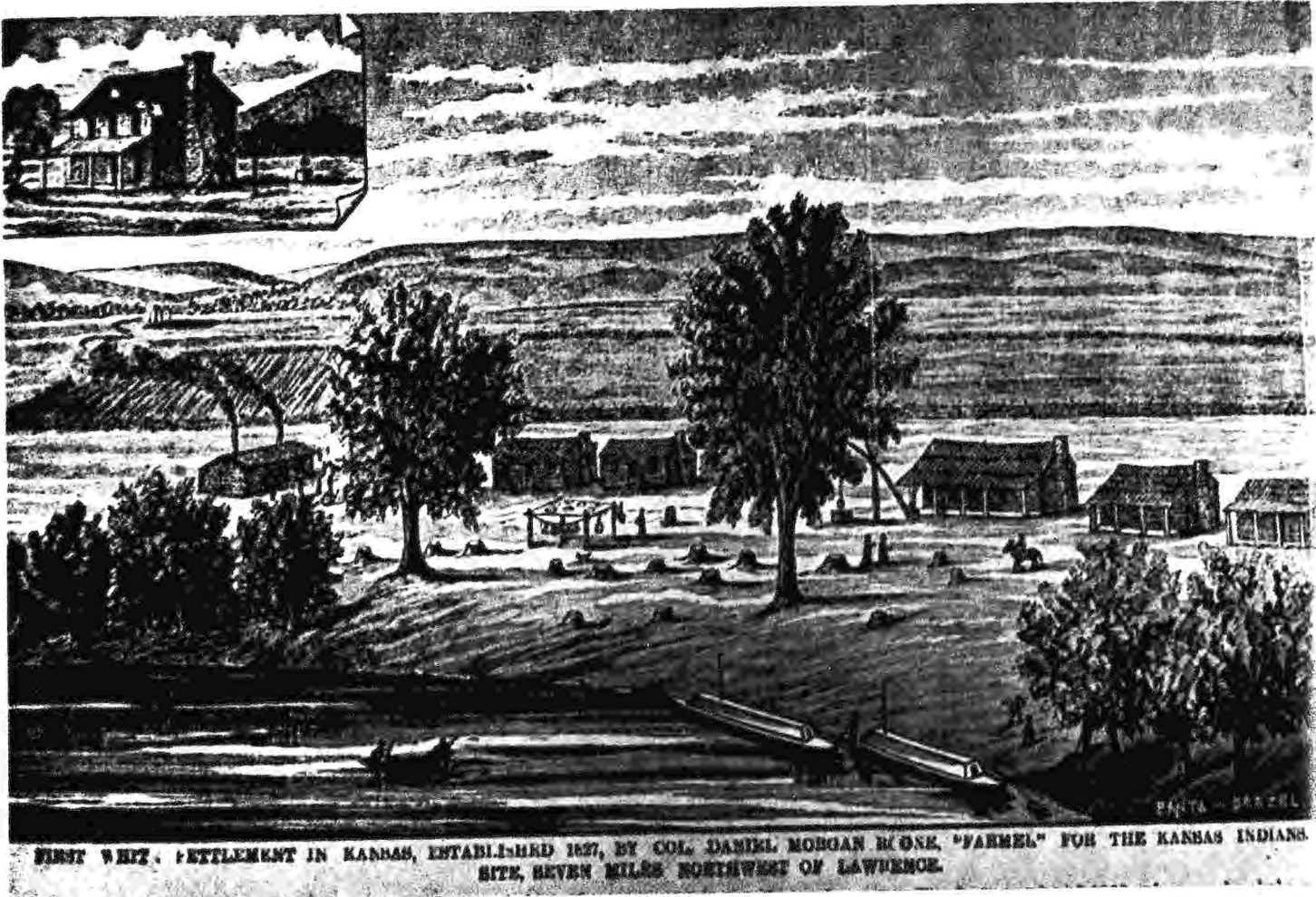
That Thomas Jefferson shared such a view may be gathered from his instructions to James Monroe, negotiator with Napoleon. Nevertheless, we who dwell in this vast region, worth untold millions, may thank President Jefferson who bought it all for less than four cents per acre.

The long wagon trains of gold seekers which headed westward prior to the Act of May 30, 1854, and even afterward, paid slight heed to the area that was to become Jefferson county; the few who paused to see were not long in perceiving its essential loveliness.

A. R. Greene, a white visitor of early days, penned this revealing summary paragraph in his detailed story: "I am loath to leave this picturesque period of the dawn of civilization along the banks of the Kansas. The stateliness of the majestic forests, untouched by the vandal hand of man; glimpses of green prairie and bending hills beyond, the home of the buffalo and the timid antelope, as the woods were the habitat of the deer, the bear and the beaver; at wide intervals small groups of cabins intermingled with the tepees of the Indians; a store, an elementary schoolhouse, and a rude cross surmounting a chapel of logs. Over all a Kansas sky, bright, restful, beautiful. The early trappers were fascinated by it and the immigrants passing through the country spoke of its beauty, and if surviving, wherever they may be, treasure the scene as a joy forever. In the superlative language of an early settler: Doubtless God might have made a prettier country but doubtless He never did!"

Jefferson County has never offered Quivera's easy gold; its true treasure has been wrested from its soil and the rocks below only by persevering labors, efforts of the type of men depicted in Ingall's "Grassy Quadrangle."

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From a drawing by Prof. Worrall which appeared in K. C. Journal, Sept. 1879. Worrall had conferred with John C. McCoy who had visited the Boone settlement in 1830, later had measured the ruins of the settlement in great detail to make his drawing authentic. The insert is the two-story home of Chief White Plume, whose story is recited in this booklet. In the larger picture the stone dwelling faintly appears below the inset and beside the winding stream which is Stone House Creek, near Williamstown, Jefferson County. In the foreground are keel boats tied to the bank, right center is a well-sweep, left-center is meat hanging to dry. — K.S.H.S.

## FIRST WHITE SETTLEMENT

The first white settlement in what is now Jefferson County, (as well as the State), was that of Daniel Morgan Boone, son of Daniel Boone of Kentucky. It was located near the present site of Williamstown, Kansas.

Daniel M., third son of the Kentucky pioneer, was born in 1770. At the age of 25 years, he left home to explore western parts of this country. It took him a month to travel from his home near Cincinnati to St. Louis, Mo. Remaining there some three months, he accompanied two French trappers as far west as the present site of Kansas City. Upon his return from this trip, he induced his father to move to Missouri, finally settling at a place called Boone Licks, where they engaged in the manufacture of salt.

On June 3, 1825, the U. S. Gov't made a treaty with the Kanza or Kaw Indians,

by which it agreed that the government would supply the Indians with 300 head of cattle, 300 head of hogs, 500 fowl, 3 yoke of oxen, 2 carts and farming tools. The Supt. of Indian affairs was directed to hire such people as necessary to teach the Indians the tools of the white man and their uses and farming practices. The treaty was signed at St. Louis by Gen. Clark for the U. S., and by such Kaw chiefs as White Plume (head Chief), Great Valor, Little White Bear, Real Eagle and Great Doctor. By this treaty, twenty-three half-breed Kaw children were given a square mile of land fronting on the north bank of the Kansas River, and running for length eastwardly from the Kaw reserve, (now the western boundary of Soldier Township, Shawnee County) to about four miles east of the Delaware River in Jefferson County. Sixteen of these grants lie along the southern boundary of Jefferson County.

The Kaws were, at this time, a miserable lot. According to Thos. Johnson, missionary to the Shawnees: "These Indians are the most wretched human beings that I ever saw. They live in dirt houses; but seldom wear clothes, though they generally have a buffalo skin or sometimes a blanket thrown over them loosely. .... They frequently suffer for something to eat, for they have always been accustomed to depend upon the chase for a living. Game has become scarce and they can no longer subsist in this way; and there is no doubt but many of them die every year for want of something to support nature. They go some 200 miles to get the buffalo; if there are not horses enough, which is frequently the case, their women have to walk and carry the children and as they return home they must carry the meat also. These people are very ignorant, but manifest a teachable disposition".

The 1825 treaty provided a blacksmith, farmer and agent for the tribe, who, in 1827, located on what they probably thought was the easternmost half-breed allotment, No. 23, but they were really situated just east of that line. By 1830, quite a little settlement had grown up here and in the neighborhood, consisting of officers, half-breeds and Indians. Among the last was the family of White Plume, head chief of the tribe. It was at this time and settlement that the first Kaw mission was established by Rev. Wm. Johnson. There were seven white children attending the mission school. These were the children of the agency officers.

On August 22, 1828, a son was born to Daniel M. and Sarah E. Boone. He was undoubtedly the first white child born not only in what is now Jefferson County but also in what is now the State of Kansas.

John C. McCoy in a letter to W. W. Cone, dated August 16, 1879, says: "I first entered the territory August 15, 1830. At a point on the north bank of the Kansas river, seven or eight miles above Lawrence, was situated the Kansas agency. I recollect the following persons and families living there at that date, viz.: Marston G. Clark, U. S. sub-Indian agent, no family; Daniel M. Boone, Indian farmer and family; Gabriel Phillibert, gov't blacksmith and family; Clement Lessert, interpreter and family, half-breeds; Joe Jim, Gonvil, and perhaps other half-breeds and families. ... You speak of the stone house or chimney, about two miles northwest of the Kansas agency. That was a stone building built by the government for White Plume, head chief of the Kanzas, in 1827 or 1828. There was also a large field fenced and broken in the prairie adjoining toward the east or southeast. We passed up by it in 1830, and found the gallant old chieftan sitting in state, rigged out in a profusion of feathers, paint, wampum, brass armlets, etc., at the door of a lodge he had erected a hundred yards or so to the northwest of his stone mansion, and in honor of our expected arrival, the Stars and Stripes were gracefully floating in the breeze on a tall pole over him. He was large, fine-looking, and inclined to corpulency, and received my father, Isaac McCoy, with the grace and dignity of a real live potentate and graciously signified his willingness to accept of any amount of bacon and other presents we might be disposed to tender him. In answer to an inquiry as to the reasons that induced him

to abandon his princely mansion, his laconic explanation was simply, 'too much fleas'. A hasty examination I made of the house justified the wisdom of his removal. It was not only alive with fleas, but the floors, doors and windows had disappeared, and even the casings had been pretty well used up for kindling wood."

Another writer, John T. Irving who had visited Kansas in 1833, gives this account of his interesting tour of the Kaw Agency: "We emerged from the woods, and I found myself again near the bank of the Kansas river. Before me was a large house, with a court-yard in front. I sprang with joy through the un-hung gate and ran to the door. It was open; I shouted; my voice echoed through the rooms; but there was no answer. I walked in; the doors of the inner chambers were swinging from their hinges, and long grass was growing through the crevices of the floor. While I stood gazing around an owl flitted by, and dashed out the unglazed window; again I shouted; but there was no answer; the place was desolate and deserted. I afterwards learned that this house had been built for the residence of the chief of the Kanza tribe, but that the ground upon which it was situated having been discovered to be within a tract granted to some other tribe, (Del-awares) the chief had deserted it, and it had been allowed to fall to ruin. My guide waited patiently until I finished my examination, and then we pressed forward .... We kept on until near daylight when we emerged from a thick forest and came suddenly upon a small hamlet. The barking of several dogs, which came flying out to meet us, convinced me that this time I was not mistaken. A light was shining through the crevices of a log cabin; I knocked at the door with a violence that might have

awakened one of the seven sleepers. 'Who dar - and vot de devil you want?' screamed a little cracked voice from within. It sounded like music to me. I stated my troubles. The door was opened; a head, garnished with a red nightcap, was thrust out, and, after a little parley, I was admitted into the bedroom of the man, his Indian squaw and a host of children. As, however, it was the only room in the house, it was also the kitchen. I had gone so long without food, that, notwithstanding



**WHITE PLUME, CHIEF OF THE KANZAS,** At age of 90 years in 1855.

He had been scalped and left for dead in a battle either with Pawnees or Cheyennes many years before.

A daughter of Chief White Plume became the great grandmother of Charles Curtis, famous as United States Senator and Vice-President of United States. — K.S.H.S.



**KEEL BOAT ON THE KAW RIVER — FUR TRADE EARLY 19th CENTURY**

This boat is being pulled by means of the setting pole and line

what I had eaten, the gnawings of hunger were excessive, and I had no sooner mentioned my wants than a fire was kindled, and in ten minutes a meal of hot cakes, venison, honey and coffee was placed before me, and disappeared with the rapidity of lightning. The squaw having seen me fairly started, returned to her couch. From the owner of the cabin I learned that I was now at the Kanza agency, and that he was the blacksmith of the place. About sunrise I was awakened from a sound sleep, upon bearskin, by a violent knocking at the door. It was my Indian guide. He threw out broad hints respecting the service he had rendered me and the presents he deserved. This I could not deny; but I had nothing to give. I soon found out, however, that his wants were moderate, and that a small present of powder would satisfy him; so I filled his horn, and he left the cabin apparently well pleased. In a short time I left the house, and met the Kanza agent, General Clark, a tall, thin, soldier-like man, arrayed in an Indian hunting shirt and an old foxskin cap. He received me cordially and I remained with him all day."

Mr. Cone in his article to the Topeka Weekly Capital on August 27, 1879, says: "Mr. Bayne (Thos. Bayne, early settler on Survey 23 and ancestor of T. B. Wilson, owner in 1955) showed us a pile of stone as all that was left of that well-known landmark for old settlers, the 'Stone Chimney'. It was located fifty yards north of the depot site at Williamstown. Mr. Bayne in a letter dated August 12, says: 'The stone chimney or stone house to which you refer stood on the southwest quarter of section 29, range 19, when I came here in 1854. It was then standing intact, except the roof and floors, which had been burnt. It was about 18 x 34 and two stories high. There was a well near it walled up with cut stone, and a very excellent job.' "

Another provision of the treaty with the Kanza nation was an annual allotment of \$3,500, either in cash or goods, to be delivered to the agency or some nearby point. To carry out this proviso, keel boats and pirogues, the first vessels to navigate the Kaw river, were used. In an article on early navigation of the Kaw written by A. R. Greene for the Kansas Historical Society, this early trading is described as follows: "The supplies for the Boone colony were brought up the Kansas in Keel-boats, mention of which is made in the reports of Boone to the Government. It is reasonable to believe that the Kansas was

recognized as an important artery of Commerce in those days of the keel-boats, with their square sails spread to the breeze and the shores resounding to the boatman's song".

In the year 1832, the main village of the Kanzas was moved to the main reservation in Shawnee County. The agency as set up remained where it was at Williamstown. In 1835, Boone opened up 300 acres at the new village and left the agency, returning to Missouri. This was the end of the Williamstown settlement.

Something should be said about Rev. Wm. Johnson and his work among these Indians. He was a person of medium height and good physique. He had great influence with the Kaw Indians. They regarded him with veneration. It was through his influence that the Kaws permitted their children to attend the manual-labor school. He spoke their language well and put forth considerable effort to get them to turn their attention to the pursuit of agriculture. They made promises to work their farms, but upon the death of this man in 1842, they drifted from their promises and withdrew their children from the school. Their principal reason for doing so was their fear of the Pawnees.

## THE DELAWARE INDIANS

The government, in 1829, signed a treaty with the Delaware nation which granted them all the land north of the Kaw river beginning at its confluence with the Missouri, running westerly approximately 40 miles to the eastern boundary of the Kanza nation, thence north approximately 30 miles to the Kickapoo reserve, thence easterly to the Missouri river just north of Leavenworth. The government reserved only the site of Ft. Leavenworth and a narrow strip known as "the outlet" between the boundaries of the Kanza and Kickapoo nations.

This was one of many other moves made by this group of Indians as civilization pushed farther and farther west across the nation. Thus through previous contacts and long association with white civilization, the Delaware tribe, unlike the Kaw, had become much more settled. John Dunbar, Presbyterian missionary to the Pawnees, made the following observations on a trip through their country in July 1835: "We walked down to the Delaware Mission ... Our route lay through the prairie country. On our arrival we introduced ourselves



BACK ROW, left to right — McDaniel, a Cherokee; Black Beaver; Henry Tiblow, interpreter, a Delaware; John G. Pratt; Charles Armstrong; John Young  
FRONT ROW, left to right — James Ketchum, Delaware; James Conner, Delaware; John Conner, head Chief of Delawares; Chas. Journeycake, Delaware; Isaac Journeycake, Delaware; John Sarcocie, Delaware. — K.S.H.S.

to the Methodist brother, missionary at this station. He had commenced his labors with the Delawares five or six months previous to our visit. He has a school of about twenty scholars. A church has been gathered among this people by the Methodist, and another, I think by the Baptist brethren. The Delawares have a good country ... many of them good log houses and corn fields. ... cattle and horses and many would seem to be in a fair way to improve, were it not for whiskey ... the deadliest enemy of Indian improvement. ... " Sam Allis, another visitor at this same time, said the nation numbered 1000 souls. By the coming of the first white settlers, many of the Delawares were settled in good homes and had given up the chase for the white man's method of living.

In 1843, the Delawares sold the eastern 36 sections to the Wyandottes, land that was to become Wyandotte county, Kansas. In 1854, the Delawares ceded their surplus lands to the U. S., retaining a strip approximately 10 miles wide (north to south) along the north bank of the Kaw (excluding the half-breed surveys). Their remaining holdings in Jefferson county were as follows: all south of a line running east and west through the present town of Oskaloosa and all east of a line running north and south one mile west of the Delaware river. In exchange for their surplus lands, the Delawares received a trust fund resulting from the sale of said lands by the government to settlers (sales held in 1856 and '57 — the northeast section of Jefferson county sold at auction in Leavenworth and the northwest and southwest section sold at Ozawkie). The U. S. guaranteed to protect the rights of the Indians on the remaining lands held by them and paid \$30,000.00 indemnity for timber that had been cut off their lands by the whites as well as \$9,500.00 for cattle and ponies stolen from them since the 1829 treaty. Indemnity was also paid for the mistake in the 1829 treaty which granted them the lands already given to the Kaw half-breeds.

John J. Ingalls, in a letter to his father dated Jan. 2, 1859, gives this version of the Delawares as a result of civilization: "Most of the land between the two cities (Leavenworth - Lawrence) is the property of the Delaware Indians, the remnant of which tribe now about 950 in number, still dwell here in rude huts and live a life of indolent degradation. Government gives them \$100.00

each per year — enough to keep them drunk all the time. Many of them were just returning from a New Year's spree as we passed along. They dress in many colors and ride small ponies of peculiar breed, which are highly valued for their good disposition and great endurance."

In 1860, a final treaty governing the lands held by the nation in Jefferson county was signed. The balance of Jefferson county went to the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western R. R. which was to build a road through the territory before acquiring title thereto. The Delawares each received grants of their own selection of 80 acres per member of the tribe, while chiefs and a few central figures received larger grants. Those of the Chiefs selecting land in Jefferson county were as follows: John Conner, head chief, 640 acres; Sarcxie, chief of the Turtle band, 320 acres; Rockatawa, chief of the Turkey band, 320 acres; Henry Tiblow, interpreter, 320 acres. Lands chosen by these named chiefs were situated in Jefferson county in and around the site of North Lawrence. (This land was later given to Douglas county by an act of Legislature).

The 1860 treaty was signed at Sarcxieville, on the reservation. Chiefs signing the treaty were as follows: John Conner, head chief; Neconhecon, chief of the Wolf band; Sarcxie, chief of the Turtle band; Rockatawa, chief of the Turkey band and James Conner delegate. Henry Tiblow was the government interpreter.

The picture shown in this book of a group of chiefs of the tribe was taken during the Civil War. At this time, these chiefs were first employed as guides and scouts, but all demanded the rank and pay of Captains. Some requests were granted. To avoid future trouble of this nature, however, the balance were drafted and served at lower ranks.

Many of these old chiefs sold their farms to the white man at the outset of the Civil War. By 1867, the last of the Delawares had moved from this area to the Indian Agency at Wichita and later took up residence in Indian territory among the Cherokees.

## EARLY NAVIGATION OF KAW

The Kaw river served man's earliest needs in this region as a highway for commerce. The first to use this great river were the Indians, trappers and French-Indian traders. Then with the coming of the white settlers, the steam boat made its bid as the principal means of transportation. For a period of twelve years (1854 -1866), the shores echoed to the bellowings of the captains and their mates, the steady pounding of gigantic steam engines and the eerie calls of ship whistles.

The primitive or first river craft was the cottonwood canoe or "dugout" made from a log 15 to 25 feet long and 3 to 4



LOOKING FROM RISING SUN IN JEFFERSON COUNTY TOWARD TERRITORIAL CAPITOL AT LECOMPTON. STEAMBOATING ON THE KAW — K.S.H.S.

feet in diameter. This boat possessed the requisites of strength, shallowness of draft, and durability. It was not only the primitive craft used by the French Voyageur, but had been built by the Indian from time immemorial.

Next on the Kaw was the pirogue, favored by the French in the fur trade. It was really a double canoe, built in the shape of a flat iron, with a sharp bow and square stern. Two canoes were secured together a short distance apart and decked over with planking, on which was placed the cargo, protected from the weather by a cover of skins. The boat was propelled upstream by oars or line and steered by an oarsman who stood in the stern. With a favorable wind, a sail was sometimes used and distances of 15 miles a day were obtainable.

The bateau was still another of the primitive craft employed by the fur traders. It was a clumsily constructed flat-bottomed boat and was especially used in transporting furs downstream. Usually 75 feet long and 10 to 12 feet wide, bow and stern were square with rake enough to allow headway. Going down stream the boat was allowed to float and was kept in the channel by a steersman. The oar, sail, pole, and line were the chief sources of power on the upstream move.

The keel-boat became the principal craft of this period before steam. It was built, as the name implies, on a keel extending from stern to stern. It was well built and well modeled with a sharp bow and stern. Such a boat had a carrying capacity of ten to forty tons, a draft of thirty inches and usually cost from \$2,000 to \$3,000. The cabin, amidship, extending four or five feet above the hull, was the place for storing the cargo of Indian merchandise. The principal means of motivation was the square sail and oars and when necessary, the setting poles and the tow-line. The length of the keel-boat varied from 40 to 75 ft.; the width, 8 to 18 ft.; the depth of hold, 3 to 6 ft. The keel-boat crew, in the fur-trade called a "brigade", sometimes consisted of as many as 100 men. Of this

number many were hunters or trappers and not regular boatmen.

This was the type of boat used in 1827 to supply the Kaw Agency at Williamstown, Kansas. Fred Chouteau established a trading post directly opposite this settlement and carried on a trade from there with the Indians until 1832, when he moved to Mission Creek mouth in Shawnee county. A brother of his had a trading post about ten miles above the mouth of the Kaw and assisted Fred in transporting supplies to the agency.

Next and last in navigation on the river, before the railroads had the Kaw declared unnavigable and bridged it so as to hinder further attempts, was the stately steamboat. During the 12 years from 1854 to 1866, at least thirty-five of these craft plied the waters of the Kaw. Many of the early settlers of Kansas territory and Jefferson county used this method of transportation from their homes in the east.

The first steamer to ascend the Kaw any distance was the "Excel" in the spring of 1854. She was a stern-wheeler and drew about two feet of water while carrying a cargo of 100 tons. She had remarkably strong engines, fed with wood procured along the banks by stopping to fell trees or steal rails from the Indian truck patches. It was found that the river was navigable and by 1860, twenty-five boats had been employed in the

trade. During the dry summer months, boating was a trying thing and often as not many went aground on bars in the shallows of the river. When this occurred, it was push and pull, back and go ahead, night and day, without cessation until safely over the bar. The jingling of the bells, the hissing of steam, together with the swearing of the mate, provided diversion to the passengers.

In 1859, Capt Beasley built a steamer expressly for the Kaw river, and called her the "Col. Gus Linn". With this boat, he attempted to control the shipping on the Kaw. Once, coming up river, the boat ran aground just above Rising Sun, a rival to Lecompton, and directly opposite that town on Jefferson county side. Capt. Jerome Kunkel, who lived in Rising Sun at the time and for a number of years thereafter, told the following story to A. R. Greene: "It was in July, and the river was getting low, but the 'Col. Gus Linn' used to start up with her guards dragging in the water and accomodate her draft to the condition of the channel by landing enough freight on the bank, every time she grounded, to get over the bar and on up to the next one. When the boat ran on the bar above Rising Sun, Capt. Beasley unloaded 1500 sacks of flour in the pawpaw patch on the bank, and, leaving a deckhand to guard it until the next trip, went on up river. Every alternate house in Rising



**KAW RIVER FERRY** — Ferries were in constant use on Delaware at Grasshopper Falls, Osawkee, Centerville and on the Kaw between Jefferson county and Douglas county points — K.S.H.S.

**State Bank of Oskaloosa**

Established 1887

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Perry



One of the Hazards of Travel Over the Plains

Sun was a saloon, and the inevitable happened. The deck-hand spent most of his time in the village, and the razor-backed hogs of the Delaware Indians took care of that flour. Kunkel said the pawpaw bushes looked as if they had been whitewashed."

The steamer "Alexander Majors" was the last steamboat added to the trade. An act passed and approved in the 1864 session of the legislature made the Kaw an unnavigable stream and permitted the building of dams and bridges, which soon followed. However, high water washed out the bridges in 1866 and the "Majors" steamed up to Lawrence several times.

With the passing of the steamboat, a period of Kansas history came to an end. Many believed the 1864 law one of the most costly pieces of legislation ever written into the Kansas statute books.

Ferry boating across the Kaw river

was an essential as well as lucrative enterprise. Throughout the early years of Jefferson county history, many such businesses were established, connecting this county with the rest of the state to the south. Beginning at a point 2 miles up river from Lawrence and moving up stream, we find the following ferries: Hugh Cameron's, established in 1857 two miles north of Lawrence; John Harris', established in 1860 five miles north of Lawrence near site of old Kaw agency; Douglas ferry, connecting the town of Douglas (opposite the mouth of Grasshopper river) to Jefferson county, established in 1855 and lasted until 1858 when Paris Ellison was granted a charter to operate at this point; Wm. Simon's, established in 1852 at place called "Bald Eagle" because of the number of bald eagles which nested in the tall sycamores on either side of the river at this point, (later this place was called Rising Sun) operated until 1857; Jer-

ome Kunkel's, established in 1857 at Rising Sun and remained in operation until 1876; Newman Ferry, connecting Newman and Big Springs, 1869; Stinson and Waysman's Tecumseh ferry, between Tecumseh and Jefferson county in 1854, located nine miles south of the Rock creek crossing of the military road.

Ely Moore, early resident of Lecompton, wrote the following in "The Story of Lecompton", about the earliest of the above listed ferries, "Bald Eagle": "The wagon boss pointed to a huge sycamore log some twenty feet long, five feet in diameter with an excavation in the center five feet in length, three feet wide and two feet deep, with a 4 x 6 inch scantling for a keel, remarking, 'Thar's the ferry and hyar's the ferryman.' As I looked my doubts about crossing on that log, he answered my looks by saying: 'Don't feel skeery, mister, for she's as dry as a Missourian's throat and as safe as the American flag.'"

## FREIGHTING

Shortly before the opening of our story of the Kaws and Delawares, freighting had begun from the vicinity of Kawsmouth to Santa Fe. For 25 years it developed until the ruts of the "old Santa Fe trail" deeply marked the prairie sod of Kansas.

That stimulus to trade had its branches and its competitors. A short freight run was from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley by way of the Military Road, and was made on regular schedules by local freighters or bull whackers as they were known. C. A. Buck early Oskaloosan, freighted from Leavenworth to Santa Fe, his outfit often accompanied by military escort. Also prominent in this activity was William Blevins, who freighted from Ft. Leavenworth to Fort Riley, (which he helped build), and to Camp Floyd, Utah. At Osawkee land sales, in 1857, he purchased a claim near the town of Oskaloosa, which had been laid out the previous year, and erected a good home, yet owned in 1955 by his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Slade.

John Funk, early Ozawkie figure, was another of these "bull whackers" of the Santa Fe trail.

chester on the northeast to Mt. Florence on the southwest, along the Grasshopper from its falls on the north to its mouth at the Kaw, along Rock Creek and Muddy Creek, and along the Kaw from Calhoun to North Lawrence.

Ingress to this area was by boats and steamers on the Missouri as far as Leavenworth or Atchison, thence by wagon or horseback; or by way of boat, steamer, or ferry on the Kaw to some point on its north bank.

Jefferson county was organized in territorial legislative session January 1855. Pro-slavery towns platted in that year included Jacksonville, Hickory Point, Hardtville, Fairfield, Jefferson City, Osawkee, Mt. Florence, Kaw City, Rising Sun. Excepting Osawkee these were short-lived, never had a chance after the Free-state movement became dominant.

Free-state settlers were for the most part a bit later in arriving as settlers because they came from more distant states, also because the shorter route up the Missouri was effectively blocked by pro-slavery sympathizers. Steamboats were "polled"; if a Free-stater was discovered he was invited to turn back. Thereafter the inflow of Free-staters was by way of Iowa and Nebraska.

Thus, Oskaloosa's first settler, Dr. Jas. Noble, was an Iowan. His cabin was

erected in 1855 four blocks southeast of later courthouse. Grasshopper Falls settlers (1854) were predominantly Free-state, the proslavery group being gradually eliminated. On the West side of the Grasshopper, across from Osawkee, a Free-state village Pleasant Hill thrived for awhile. Winchester, settled in 1854 but not laid out until 1857, had men of both parties.

These partisan differences continually appeared in official appointments, in elections, courts and elsewhere. Earliest elections were so fraudulent that neither party would participate with the other but would hold separate elections. Thus groundwork was laid for the open warfare of 1856.



**OAK GROVE — Wm. BLEVINS HOME**  
West edge of Oskaloosa (for story of Wm. Blevins see chapter on "Freighting Ind. Pub. Co.)

## KANSAS-NEBRASKA ACT

The Act of May 30, 1854 opened a new period in American history whose chapters have not yet been finished. The concept of "squatter sovereignty", eagerly seized by the early immigrants to Kansas Territory and stoutly maintained through six years of internecine struggle, came eventually face to face with the profounder principle of "Liberty In Union."

First-comers, in 1854, were chiefly from Missouri, because of Missouri's status. The early arrivals from Northern states — Free staters — were denounced as rebels, traitors, who must be crushed, driven back whence they came.

Jefferson county, close to Kansas border (its northeast corner being only 15 miles from Ft. Leavenworth) shared in the earliest tide of immigration. Its lands belonged to the Delawares and the Kansas, but squatters staked out claims along the Military Road from Win-



**TYPICAL OX TEAM AND WAGON**

A familiar character at Valley Falls in early 20th century. Outfit was used for dwelling quarters, for moving buildings other heavy work. — A.G.S.

<b>Phil's Grocery and Locker Plant</b>		
McLouth	Your Hy-Klas Food Store	Kansas
<b>Weaver's</b>		
901 Mass., Lawrence, Kansas		

<b>Pelletiers</b>	
Topeka	— Kansas
<b>Ed Marling Furniture Stores</b>	
Topeka	— Kansas

# "Pioneer Fifties"

## BEGINNINGS OF OSKALOOSA

Jesse Newell of Oskaloosa, Iowa, accompanied by Joseph Fitzsimmons, prospecting for a location in Kansas, called at the cabin of Dr. Jas. Noble in the fall of 1855. They returned with Newell's family in May 1856 (Fitzsimmons was yet a single man). The two men platted a town of forty acres, and named it after their Iowa home town. The original town consisted of fifteen blocks, that reserved for the courthouse square being Block No. 8. The rectangle was five blocks east-and-west, three blocks north-and-south. The line of Delaware Diminished Reserve ran approximately east-and-west at a distance of 240 yards south of the south edge of the new village. Later additions were Newell's on the south, Fitzsimmons' on the north and west, Keeler's on the south.

Newell began the erection of a steam powered saw mill; he bought out Dr. Noble, moved into his cabin. Fitzsimmons bought a building which had been erected by Isaac Newhouse and opened the first store at this place. (Its location, southwest lot of block 14, south end of the block from the Sinclair corner). Fitzsimmons became first postmaster. In 1864 he married the daughter of Mark Finnicum. She was one of the first school teachers of the town.

## FREE-STATE MOVEMENT GATHERS POWER

The sacking of Lawrence, May 21, 1856, set the entire nation afire. Organizations sprang up throughout the Northern states to support the Kansas Free-state cause. Great meetings were held in the nation's largest cities. Col. James H. Lane's two-hour speech at Chicago, May 31, was accounted one of the greatest orations since the days of Patrick Henry. "The flame spread to every town and hamlet from the Mississippi to the Atlantic coast". Lane raised his "Army of the North", striking dread into the hearts of every slavery sympathizer. One hundred days after that address, Jim Lane was in Kansas starting for Osawkee and Hickory Point in Jefferson county.

## BATTLE AT SLOUGH CREEK

The following article was written by Judge John W. Day early Jefferson county settler and associate editor of The Independent, 1860-'62:

In August, 1856, the Pro-slavery party began to rally its forces for a last and formidable raid into Kansas, so overwhelming in numbers as to be irresistible to the free-state settlers. Early in September armed bands of Border Ruffians had invaded the Territory at different points, and hosts of them were gathering on the border, with the avowed purpose of taking every "abolition" town and crushing out the free-state element. Incursions were made into the country, and depredations, outrages, rapine, arson and murders committed by reckless squads of the invaders. Leavenworth had been taken by them, and Emory and his men at once inaugurated a reign of terror there. Free-state men and their families were driven from their homes, insulted, outraged, and despoiled of their property. Many of them were driven on to boats to be carried down the Missouri River; others fled to Fort



**JESSE NEWELL (1812-1881)**

One of the founders of Oskaloosa, and Mrs. Newell. Participant in skirmish at Slough Creek. Dragged by Palmetto Guards (South Carolinians) and strung up to a tree Sept. 10, 1856.

Children: 1-Val, 2-John, 3-Lydia, 4-Robert, 5-Abraham, 6-Mitchel, 7-Daniel, 8-Mary, 9-Jesse, 10-Elmore.

VAL homesteaded 23-9-18. Made first wagon trail to Lawrence. Children: Jesse, Frank, John, Nellie, Lydia.

JESSE (born 1855, probably first white child born in Osawkee twp.). Children: Mattie, Hal, Ray.

HAL'S children: Adalee, Glenn, and Louise. There are several children of sixth generation.



**GEN. JAMES H. LANE**

Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society



**JOSEPH FITZSIMMONS (1823-1909)**

Younger founder of Oskaloosa. Opened first store, first postmaster. Buried, Olathe, Kansas.

**MARY FINNICUM FITZSIMMONS (1836-1897)**

In 1857 taught subscription school at Oskaloosa in building of native lumber which later became a part of Thos. Noble's store.

Married Jos. Fitzsimmons, 1864.

Leavenworth for refuge; others endeavored to hide in the woods and ravines; while others sought to reach their friends at Lawrence and elsewhere. Gen. Lane had collected a considerable force at Lawrence to repel the assaults of the invading foe, and to protect, as far as possible, the homes, families and property of the free-state settlers. Information of the outrages in and around Leavenworth had reached Lawrence; and a council was held, at which it was determined to make an effort to retake Leavenworth.

In pursuance of this determination, under direction of Gen. Lane, Capt. J. M. Harvey, as Col. in command, with his own company, and the two companies under Capt. John Wright and Capt. Simeon Hull, (of the latter of which the writer was a member), left Lawrence on the afternoon of Monday, Sept. 8, 1856, as the advance of volunteer force which was to move on Leavenworth.

The night of Sept. 9, a part of Col. Harvey's command took up its quarters in and about a two-story, double house, built of hewed logs, situated on elevated ground in the timber, probably two miles west and a half mile north of the present village of Springdale, in Leavenworth county.

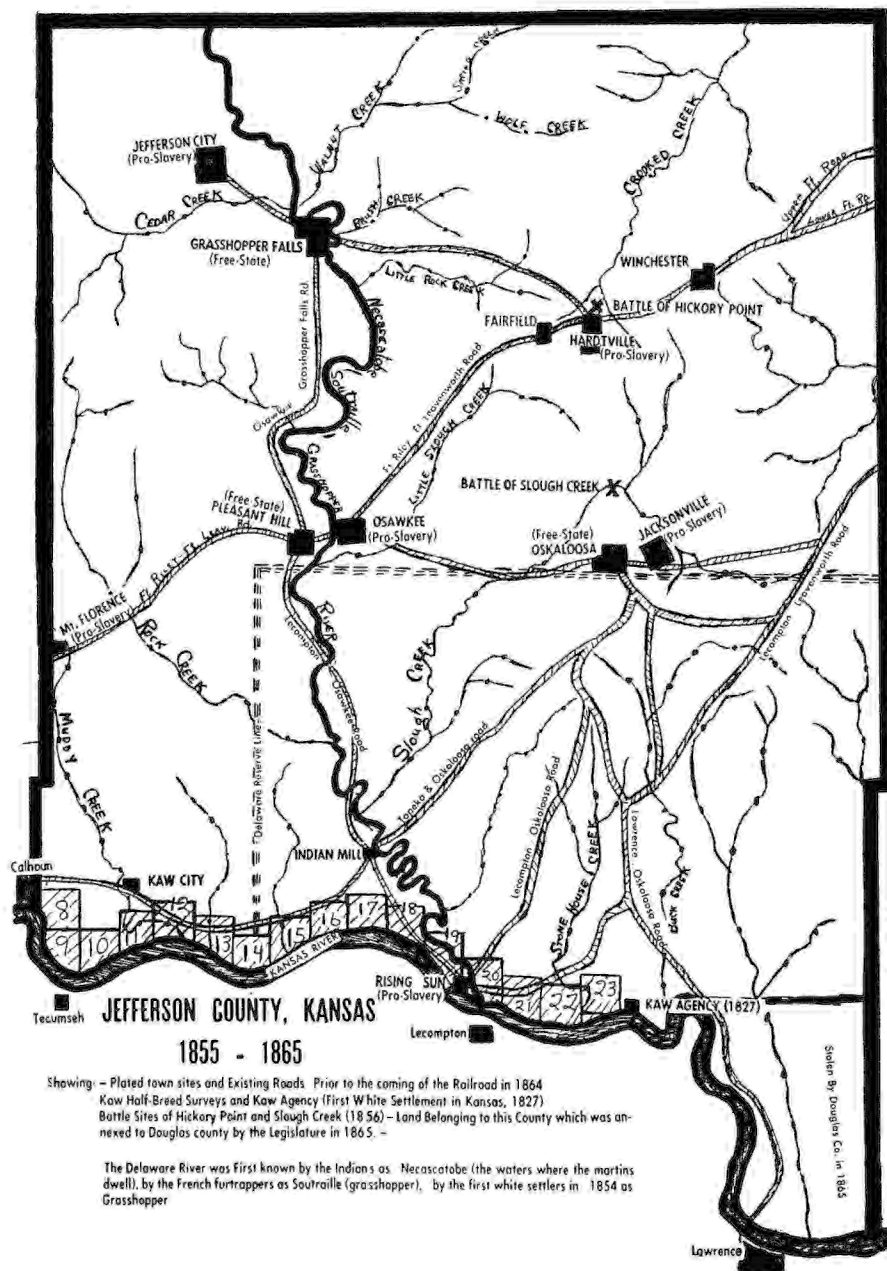
Early on the morning of Sept. 10, part of the force that had been elsewhere during the night, joined the party at these headquarters, where all remained most of the day. To this place Col. Henry Owens, then living near Oskaloosa, and afterwards a resident of Silver Lake, and Calvin Smith, now and for many years a citizen of Valley Falls — then Grasshopper Falls — were brought by some of the picket guards as 'prisoners of war', but having given a satisfactory account of themselves, they were permitted to proceed without further molestation.

During that day, information was received that Gov. J. W. Geary had arrived at Ft. Leavenworth the day before, and Col. Harvey was advised to fall back to Lawrence. Accordingly the command broke camp late in the afternoon and moved west several miles, and encamped for the night about six miles east of Oskaloosa.

About 11 o'clock that night after all



**FLAG TAKEN AT SLOUGH CREEK BATTLE** — Now rests in State Historical Society Museum, Topeka. white on red background. K.S.H.S.



had become quiet in camp, the command 'Halt! who comes there?' was heard from the picket guard stationed on the road to the west. The newcomer inquired if that was Col. Harvey's camp, and being answered in the affirmative, he asked to be taken to the Colonel — After an interview between the Colonel and the stranger, a bugle call roused the slumbering 'soldiers', and orders were given by the commander to be ready to march in thirty minutes.

The visitor proved to be Jesse Newell, of Oskaloosa, who will be remembered by many old settlers as a radical free-state man, and who was one of the founders of that town. He had brought information that there was a camp of South Carolinians at Skagg's farm at the crossing of Slough creek, two miles north of Oskaloosa, and urged Col. Harvey to surprise and take it. (Newell, according to Andreas history, had been dragged by a rope and hanged but cut down before life became extinct, by these same South Carolinians. The old timers told he used the grand sign of a Freemason and one of the group made them cut him down just in time to prevent his death.)

The camp of South Carolinians at Slough creek was surprised just before daylight on the morning of Sept. 11, 1856 and taken, together with horses, wagons, some provisions, and all the enemy's arms. As the free-state men were approaching, some of the enemy who were first aroused fired at them, which was promptly returned by a volley from the attacking party, and for a few minutes there was a lively rattle of musketry and revolvers. One ball passed through Col. Harvey's clothing, and one cut the flesh on one of his little fingers, which was all the damage done to the free-state men. Of the pro-slavery men, three were wounded, whose names were given in the next issue of the "Squatter Sovereign" as Wallace Jackson, R. D. White and R. B. Hodges — the latter being dangerously wounded in the neck. Years afterwards the writer learned

from Dr. W. Hosford, the attending physician, that this man remained at Skaggs' for some time in a critical condition, but as I now remember, he subsequently recovered.

According to the Border Ruffian account of this affair, only two of the pro-slavery men escaped, and they were officers, namely Capt. F. G. Palmer and Lt. A. G. Morral. The prisoners were paroled on their promise to leave the Territory, and not again take up arms against the free-state men; but most of the property taken from them was retained by the captors.

One of the trophies of this fight was the South Carolina flag that once fluttered violently in Atchison, and waved over the conquered Free State Hotel at Lawrence.

The flag is a crimson banner of cotton cloth in size four by six feet, having in the center, and shown on both sides, a single large white star; on one side the inscription "South Carolina," and on the other the words "Southern Rights". —

That flag is now kept in the archives of the Kansas State Historical Society.

That day Col. Harvey moved south to the Kansas River bottom, crossed Buck Creek near where the railroad bridge now spans that stream, and camped on the east bank for the night. The banks of this stream were so high and steep that the wagons were let down from one side and drawn up on the other by men with long, heavy ropes. They could not be taken over with horses attached.

Friday morning, Sept. 12, 1856, after breakfast, we set out for Lawrence, where, on our arrival, we marched down Massachusetts street with that flag trailing in the dust.

In obedience to orders received from Gen. Lane, Col. Harvey, on Saturday, with part of the men who had been with him on the expedition from which he had returned the previous day, and some fresh recruits, started from Lawrence to engage a strongly fortified force under Capt. Robertson, at Hickory Point."



**SKAGGS CABIN ON SLOUGH CREEK — 2 Miles North of Oskaloosa**

Figured in engagement with South Carolinians Sept. 11, 1856. Shown is a later resident, Uncle "Sash" Cooper. — A.G.S.

**Roy Baker**

**Valley Falls, Kansas**

**Phone 21**

## BATTLE OF HICKORY POINT

As told by A. G. Patrick, newspaper man and a participant in the battle:

The "battle", if such it may be called, took place on the 14th day of Sept., 1856. Gov. Geary arrived in the Territory three or four days prior to the engagement. On Friday, the 12th, a messenger reached Lawrence with dispatches from Geary containing his proclamation ordering all armed bodies to disperse, including the Territorial militia, and guaranteeing protection for all. He declared in most emphatic terms that so long as he was Governor of Kansas, he would see that none were molested in their peaceful legitimate pursuits.

General Lane was in Lawrence at the time but did not show himself at the meeting. I think sometime that night he left for Topeka, determining to go out of the Territory. He took with him 30 or 40 men, intending to leave by what was called the "Lane Road", via Holton. He was persuaded by a number of free-state men from the vicinity of Osawkee, who considered themselves ill-treated by their pro-slavery neighbors, to visit their locality before his final departure.

Having arrived at Osawkee the parties under Lane commenced the work of retaliation. Dyer's store was entered and robbed, other "irregularities" committed. Being satisfied with their morning's work, the command, together with some new recruits, proceeded towards Hickory Point, where were gathered nearly a hundred men, mostly farmers residing in the immediate vicinity banded together for mutual protection. But connected with them was a company of South Carolinians, about thirty in number, who (on Sept. 8) had robbed the store of Crosby Bros. of everything they could take away on horses and set fire to the building, consuming it and its remaining contents, and on Sept. 11 had participated in the skirmish at Slough Creek.

Gen. Lane, with about ninety men, appeared at Hickory Point on Saturday,

Sept. 13, where he found the pro-slavery men posted in three cabins. As the latter showed no inclination to engage in field encounter, Lane sent a characteristic dispatch to Lawrence for reinforcements and artillery, stating he had "a hundred pro-slavery scoundrels corraled without food or water, and must have a six-pounder to smoke them out." The instructions were to proceed by way of Topeka, to which place the General retired that evening.

We, who went to his assistance, supposing Lane to be yet at the Point holding the enemy imprisoned until our arrival, concluded to take a more direct course across the Delaware reserve and save 25 miles. Before ten o'clock that night, 125 men had crossed the ferry at Lawrence with a six-pounder ("Sacramento") and other necessary implements of war. The force under command of Col. Harvey consisted of forty horsemen under Capt. Wright of Stranger creek, 80 or 90 infantry conveyed in wagons. The cannon was under control of Capt. Bickerton. About fifty of the in-

fantry belonged to the celebrated "Stubbs" company of Lawrence, armed with Sharpe's rifles.

With considerable difficulty, we got through the heavy timber on the north side, where there was little more than an Indian trail; crossed Buck Creek a mile from its mouth, having to unhitch the horses, pull wagons over by hand. To get the cannon across, we used 50 or 60 men with ropes to surmount the impediments of mud and steep banks.

Arrived at the Point between 10 and 11 o'clock (Sunday morning). Our cavalry divided in order to surround the buildings (three in number). Our wagons approached to within 300 yards; our boys were soon out, ready for any emergency. No message passed between opposing parties until the boom of Capt. Bickerton's cannon. Flags were flying on the buildings, the blacksmith shop on the west having a black flag, bidding defiance. 200 yards due south of this shop Capt. Bickerton took his position, supported by 20 men armed with U. S. muskets. "Stubbs" company was to the east



**GENERAL JAMES H. LANE, "The Grim Chieftan", AT HICKORY POINT**

Photo of a painting by Sam J. Reeder one of the participants of the First Day of Battle, September 13, 1856. Painting hangs in the hall of the museum at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Valley Implement Company  
Weishaar Brothers, Nortonville  
Oskaloosa Hardware and Implement Co., Inc.

in a small ravine skirted with a little timber.

"Sacramento" sent a six-pounder through the log cabin carrying a message of death to one Newhall, or whose untimely end we were all afterwards indicted and tried for murder. This shot was the only one (of about twenty) that resulted in any damaging effect, as those inside would lay flat upon seeing the flash of the cannon. The pro-slavery men kept up a constant firing at us, the bullets generally whizzing past over our heads.

A new plan was then hit upon; an old wagon was procured, loaded with hay and backed up to the blacksmith shop with a view to setting the hay afire and smoking out those inside. But instead, the men inside knocked out the chinking between the lower logs of the cabin and gave the exposed legs of our boys a

sprinkling of buckshot, which made them dance to the tune of "Jim Crow" with variations. In this predicament, one of the number set fire to the hay and all scampered away under cover of the smoke.

The cannon was shifted into line with all three buildings, but about this time, a white flag was seen to issue from one of the cabins. A number of dispatches passed back and forth. Presently a shout went up with the announcement that the fight was over and a compromise effected for surrender of the pro-slavery men. Actually the arrangement was that further hostilities should cease and the day's work be called "even".

In less time than it takes to tell it, the two sides were mingling like brothers. The pro-slavery boys brought out three or four demijohns of Bourbon and the affair ended happily for the moment.

There was one amusing incident I

must not fail to relate. One of our cavalrymen went to the nearby ravine to get a drink. He found no water, only a loblolly of mud. In one of the holes he noticed something moving which he thought a turtle or other "varmint". He gave the thing a poke, up jumped a frightened man. When brought up to headquarters, the fellow was the most comical looking, mud from head to foot, shaking with fright like a leaf in an autumn wind.

That night we brought up at Newell's mill, later site of Oskaloosa. The mill was only in the process of erection. Having endured a sleepless night and a hot sun all day, a majority of the boys laid themselves down on the grass among the logs around the boiler for a good sleep; others got under the wagon for protection. About 25 of us refused to stay in camp, went 200 or 300 yards below the mill, took quarters in the hazel-brush, picketing horses yet farther down. None of this party was taken prisoner but myself. Capt. Harvey did not remain in camp but became the guest of Jesse Newell for the night, a quarter mile east.

I went to the main camp with a view to roasting an ear of corn. The wounded boys were suffering considerably. No one wanted to take them to Lawrence, so I volunteered. A covered spring wagon was secured. We placed in it the four wounded men. A Dr. Cutler acted as driver, Porterfield and I took it afoot. After proceeding a mile we came in sight of a body of U. S. troops. Fearing we might be meeting the Kickapoo Rangers, who had but recently threatened me should I ever fall into their hands would hang me to the first tree, I skedaddled for the tall grass! When I heard the demand to "surrender in the name of the U. S.", I arose from hiding and delivered myself up. They demanded to know who we were. Porterfield let the cat out of the bag, said we had been "banging away" at pro-slavery men and were taking wounded to Lawrence! Our ambulance was allowed to go on, while Porterfield and I were ordered to pilot the troops to our main camp. We were taken to Lecompton, where Judge Cato held us for murder in the first degree!



**BATTLE OF HICKORY POINT, Sept. 14, 1856 — 2nd Day**

From a sketch by William Breyman, a participant, who is shown in foreground with team and caisson. Col. Harvey Mounted, in foreground above him, mounted, is Capt. Bickerton. Lieut. Pratt with ramrod near cannon — "Old Sacramento." — K.S.H.S.

**Bowersock Mills & Power Co.**  
546 Mass. St.    Wheat Storage    Lawrence, Kansas

**Topeka Supply & Boiler Co., Inc.**  
2nd and Jefferson    Topeka, Kansas

**H. D. Lee Work Clothing**  
Guaranteed Best

**Newlin Machinery Corp., Kansas City**  
Allis Chalmers Road Machinery

## LAND SALES — 1856 — '57

The act organizing Kansas into a Territory passed Congress on May 30, 1854. What is now Jefferson county was then Indian land, not open for settlement, a portion to be sold to the highest bidder, according to 1854 treaty, for the benefit of the tribe, the other held as a "diminished reservation".

The first sale was held at Leavenworth, beginning Nov. 17, 1856. Lands auctioned which lay in Jefferson county included all Northeast of Oskaloosa on a line due North and a line due East from the present town. Included were all 121 blocks of the platted town of Jacksonville (1 mile east of present Oskaloosa) and all 94 blocks of Hardtville (Hickory Point).

No event of such interest or importance to actual settlers had ever before transpired. Political differences were forgotten in the over shadowing issue of how to secure titles to their lands. All settlers in this county at this time (1857) were in violation of the 1854 treaty. Settlers had taken up claims hoping that the pre-emption laws would suffice and squatters rights be recognized. However, the government said these would not be counted and the sales were to be made to the highest bidder for gold or silver in hand. If not paid within 24 hours after the sale, the land would be resold until cash was received. Patents were given later to all purchasers.

The other half of the county lands (including Oskaloosa, Grasshopper Falls and Osawkee) were sold at Osawkee.

The spring and summer of 1857 brought a very large immigration to the county, on account of the Osawkee land sales, which began in July and ended in August. There was hardly a quarter section of land not occupied. Prior to the sales immigrants seemed to be loaded down with money but the reaction soon faded, for there was nothing but poverty and empty pockets. Three fourths of those who held claims sold to speculators at the time of the sales, and then left the country. The cabins that were dotted around all over the prairies were sold to those who intended to settle, or



**CATARACT HOUSE, Grasshopper - Valley Falls - Erected in 1857**

In the boom preceding land sales at Osawkee, it was designed to attract permanent settlers to the Falls. It had 30 sleeping rooms, two dining rooms, kitchens. — A.G.S.



**FIRST CABIN AT OSAWKEE** — used at Land Sales in 1857 as land office. Later the home of O. C. Dewey and family, pictured here. The Older lady in the chair is Mrs. Corman wife of the proprietor of the Osawkee Hotel in 1857. Picture taken about 70 years ago. — Courtesy Dewey family.

Compliments of  
A Friend

Kansas Power & Light Co.

left to stand to be consumed afterwards by prairie fires.

The land sales gave impetus to the settling of the county, and early in the spring of 1857, the immigrants began to pour in. Osawkee and Grasshopper Falls were the two places of greatest attraction. Thousands of men flocked to Osawkee, most of them intent upon speculation. A company was formed under the name of Knight, McCauslin and Co. and they bought the greater portion of the townsite, and dozens of claims in the immediate vicinity. A very large hotel was erected at a cost of thousands of dollars. This gave confidence to the speculations in town lots, and houses went up without number. In anticipation of the event, it was hoped to make Osawkee one of the leading cities in the Territory. Until the sales improvement was great. At that time, hundreds of cabins were standing, and temporary residents came by the thousands. Every building was crowded and the outskirts of the town were surrounded by the camps of land buyers, speculators and gamblers. Many men came loaded with gold, and every conceivable gambling device was kept running night and day. Money was continually changing hands, and everything was lively. Town lots sold for a fabulously high price. At least one half of the squatters contracted to sell to speculators.

At Grasshopper Falls the rush was not quite so great, but still speculation was rampant and lands priced high. The Falls was almost destitute of hotel accommodations, and in order to compete with Osawkee, determined to have one to satisfy the demand. A meeting of the town company, and everybody else interested, was called and the McCarger Bros. showed a willingness to embark in the enterprise, provided a sufficient inducement be offered in the shape of a bonus. A subscription paper was set afloat, and in a short time 24 lots were subscribed, besides a suitable location for the building, which was at once accepted, the ground soon broken, and the carpenters set to work upon the kitchen part; the main building to be erected later. It was christened the "Cataract House". The boys about the Falls felt proud of this public enterprise and dedicated it with a grand ball. Tickets were

issued and invitations sent far and near. The supper was doubtless the most elaborate ever sat down to in Jefferson county. The cakes alone cost over \$100 and were brought in from Leavenworth. About 75 couples were present, but room enough for only six set of cotillions.

There were originally laid off in the Grasshopper Falls town site 320 acres. This was previous to any government survey, and the town was recognized afterwards by the U. S. Surveyors, making the necessary fractions around the town site, but at the Osawkee sales the commissioners refused to recognize the town site, and sold the land by quarter sections, the result of which was the town company proper only received a total of 80 acres.

Lands were offered for sale a township at a time, the entire sale requiring several weeks. Persons attending these sales tell the mode of conducting them. Daniel Woodson, the Government receiver, would drive out in a buckboard from Ft. Leavenworth, accompanied by military guard. Successful bidders were required to deposit their money immediately, throwing it on a full-size chamois skin which, at days end, would be rolled up and taken to the fort for safe-keeping.

## COUNTY SEAT QUESTION

In 1855, when Jefferson County was organized, Osawkee was designated as the county seat. In October, 1858, the county seat was moved to Oskaloosa. Following is an account of the events transpiring with the move, elections for determination of location and final settling of the question.



**PEPPARD'S SAW AND GRIST MILL**

At Oskaloosa — Steam powered

The territorial legislature of 1857-'58 passed a bill giving the citizens of Jefferson county the right to vote on the location of the county seat at the next general election. The provisions of the



**PIAZZEK MILL — Valley Falls**

Joe Piazzek, native of Poland, arrived at Grasshopper Falls April, 1855, was employed by Frazier, Cody and Riddle in construction of a mill. He stayed, became owner of the mill and a wealthy man.



**OZAWKIE MILL — BUILT IN 1865**

Built by Wm. Dial and J. M. Funk  
Mrs. Puderbaugh

### Max Engle Engineering & Construction

Oskaloosa, Kansas

Jas. F. Swoyer and Swoyer      Jas. F. Swoyer, Jr.  
Swoyer, Sr.      Attorneys — Abstracters

### Rash Department Store

Oskaloosa, Kansas      Phone 13

### The State Bank of Meriden

Member F.D.I.C.      Meriden, Kansas

bill gave the place receiving the highest number of votes to be declared the county seat. The law was framed in the interest of Grasshopper Falls, under the impression she would cast a greater number of votes than any other point, and over confidence lost the vote to Oskaloosa.

Oskaloosa - 177; Grasshopper Falls - 173; Osawkee - 94; Hickory Point - 50; Fairfield - 12.

The legislature in 1859 opened the question anew and a bill introduced by A. G. Patrick was passed, calling for a majority vote over all points competing, and in the event of no selection, a second election should be held one month following, confining the election to the two highest in the first election. There were five points in competition in the first of these elections: Oskaloosa - 294; Grasshopper Falls - 271; Osawkee - 103; Defiance - 8; Hickory Point - 170.

The second election was held, as provided, one month after the above and the voting confined to Oskaloosa and Grasshopper Falls. Results: Oskaloosa over Grasshopper Falls by 43 votes.

The legislature again opened the county seat question in 1863-'64, to be handled much in the same manner as those of 1859. At the first election three points were offered to the voters.

Results: - Oskaloosa - 402; Grasshopper Falls - 269; Osawkee - 198.

Since no town received a majority, a second election followed in November of 1864 confining the vote to Oskaloosa and Grasshopper Falls. Results: - Oskaloosa - 579; Grasshopper Falls - 335.

This majority settled the matter once and for all and in 1867 contracts were let and the courthouse built.

Upon removal to Oskaloosa in 1858, the county attorney, a fellow by the name of Ghee, refused to follow the records. Walter N. Allen was appointed in his stead.

A tale has persisted through the years that the county records were removed from Osawkee between dusk and day light. Here is the way the old tale was told in an historical edition of Ozawkie high school paper a few years ago, the item secured by student reporters:

"Walter N. Allen and Rube Meyers were responsible for the stealing of the records from the little log cabin which stood on the public square in Osawkee and was being used as the courthouse. One night Rube Meyers came to Osawkee, loaded the records in his government wagon, drawn by four yoke of oxen, and drove back to Oskaloosa."

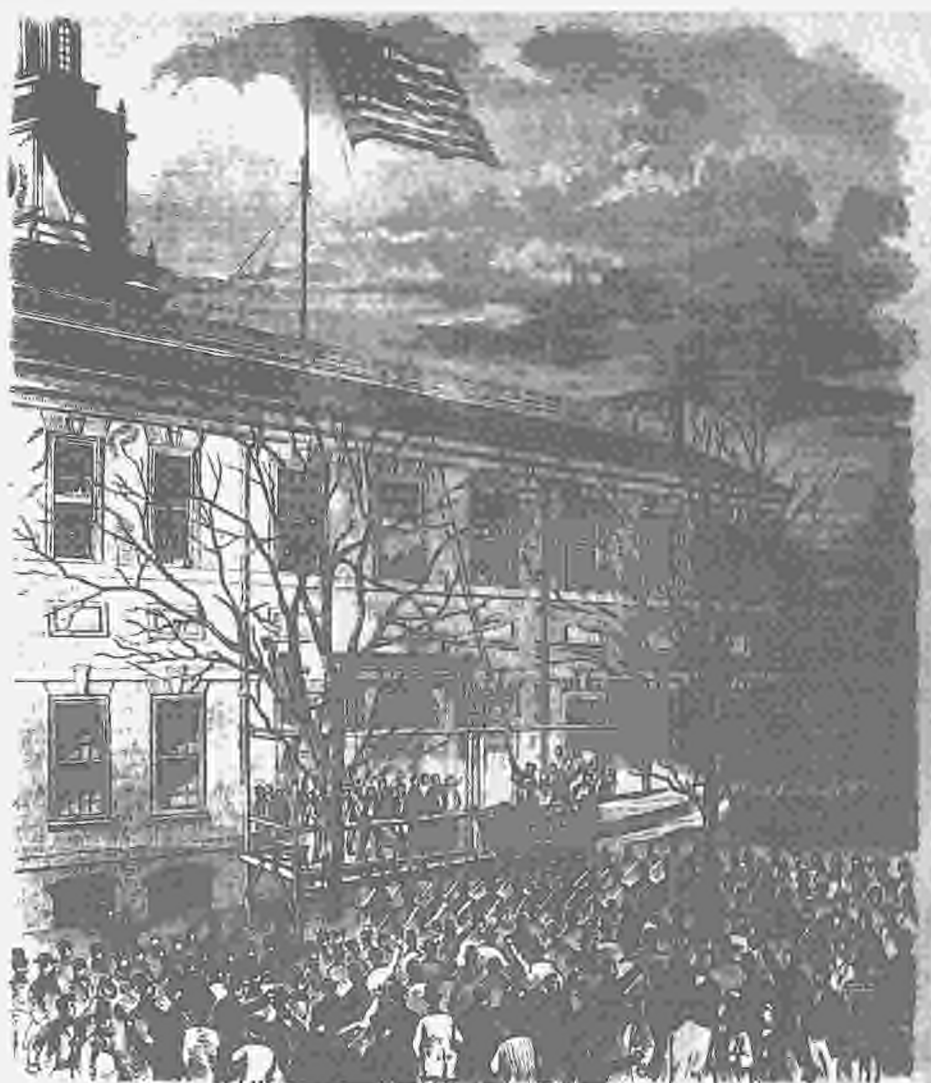
## WYANDOTTE CONSTITUTION

C. B. McClellan of Oskaloosa was Jefferson county's delegate to the Wyandotte constitutional convention which met July 5, 1859, and sat 24 days, modeling a state constitution similar to that of Ohio. On October 4th, the people of Kansas Territory adopted this constitution by a vote of 10,421 to 5,530. But Kansas was not yet a state. Lincoln was nominated for President by the Republican party in 1860 and elected in November. Southern states saw in that election the handwriting on the wall for slavery unless they could save it by seceding from the United States and forming a union of their own. As these states withdrew, their United States senators resigned.

It was the resignation of Jefferson Davis on January 21, 1861, that gave

Kansas its chance. Senator Seward of New York perceived that the free-state sympathizers for Kansas were in the majority. The Senate voted. President Buchanan signed the Kansas Bill on January 29, 1861, and Kansas became a state. In the following month on Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln stopped at Philadelphia, enroute to Washington for his inauguration. There, in front of Independence Hall, he raised the first flag carrying the 34th star which represented the new state.

At Lawrence, where the news was carried by horse from the telegraph office at Leavenworth, a great celebration was put on spontaneously and "Old Sacramento" — the cannon which figured in the battle of Hickory Point — was again brought into use for Freedom's cause, now victorious. Sacramento was fired again and again through that night.



**AMERICAN FLAG WITH 34 STARS, FIRST RAISED ON INDEPENDENCE HALL** in Philadelphia, Penn. by Abraham Lincoln, Feb. 22, 1861. From Harpers weekly March 1861.— Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society.

## *"Tragic Prelude"*



The artist John Steuart Curry, born and reared near Hickory Point, had his youthful imagination fired by man's wrestle with Nature in her sterner moods of this Kansas region.

When he came to maturity, Curry acquired a profound understanding of men's struggles with other men in the processes of history. On the walls of Kansas State capitol, the artist has compressed into a single mural the story of the era of "bleeding Kansas". John Brown, self-appointed martyr, is not a hero but as a figure of heroic size, grasping in one hand Holy Writ, in the other that emblem often called a Beecher Bible, one sees the violent emotions that marked, in Kansas, the tragic prelude to Civil War.

## THE CIVIL WAR

Jefferson County ranked third among Kansas counties in volunteer enlistments for the Civil War and in addition raised eleven companies of militia — two at Grasshopper Falls, two at Oskaloosa, two at Osawkee, three from the Kaw bottom area.

The Jefferson Rifles, organized in April 1861, S. S. Cooper Captain, merged at Leavenworth with Capt. Clayton Powell's company, and in May both were inducted into the First Kansas Regiment Volunteer Infantry. This regiment saw heavy action at Wilson's Creek (near Springfield, Mo.) and later was used for scout and picket duty.

Gen. James H. Lane recruited the Eleventh Kansas, which saw action in Arkansas, later in the war against Price on the east and against Indians on the west. The threatened Price raid threw a scare into all eastern Kansas. All able-bodied men were at the front, so teenage boys, armed with shot guns, guarded the home front from behind trees and fences.

S. S. Cooper was colonel of the Fourth regiment, Kansas State Militia, which included eleven companies from Jefferson county.

## INDIAN WARS

Before the end of the civil war Indian troubles grew worse; some Jefferson countians were sent with others to the Great Plains. There is space in this paragraph to mention only one engagement, the infamous massacre near Red Buttes, Dakota Territory (Later Casper, Wyo.) July 1865. Hundreds of Indians attacked a small detail of the 11th Kansas Cavalry, slew 22 of 25 cavalymen, including eight from Rising Sun and other Jefferson county towns. Of the three who escaped and lived to tell the tale, two were from this community, Byron Swain and Corporal James W. Shrader.

## THE JAYHAWKERS

(From an account by A. G. Patrick)

Jayhawk is a Kansas bird, trained to swoop down in the stillness of the night, wont to steal Negroes from Missouri. He

began his major depredations after the beginning of the civil war. A jayhawker was supposed to have some little virtue in the beginning, and did effective work in crippling rebels in Missouri, but they soon degenerated into common thieves and robbed all indiscriminately. Jefferson county was at one time full of jayhawkers.

The settlement on the Kaw bottoms was a good field for the jayhawkers, timber and brush in abundance, where they could hide themselves as well as their horses. The principal settlement was at Rising Sun, which served as a trading point for miles up and down the river. It was in this locality that the notorious Bill Blake met his death.

Another place of rendezvous was Oskaloosa and in that village and its vicinity, numerous outrages were committed, with no possibility of checking or punishing them. The citizens soon learned that any attempts to oppose their reckless deeds only resulted in loss of their own property, so the greater number kept quiet. After a time, an organization was effected to rid the community of these outlaws. They were hunted, attacked and on several occasions, a number of the robbers were killed. The Oskaloosa Independent so boldly challenged the jayhawkers that the editor's life was put in jeopardy and guards were stationed about the printing office at night.

The sacking of Lawrence, and the terrible massacre by Quantrell in August 1863, gave a new impulse for vengeance by the "jay hawkers" of Kansas. The temptation was irresistible, and Jim Lane induced the scalawag "bird" to plume itself for every thing that was in sight, and had it not been for the U. S. troops interfering, Lane's teachings and pleadings would have made Missouri and Kansas a "burning hell." Because they were not suffered to wipe out Missouri, Lane's crazy followers fell back into every nook and corner of Kansas, and the unappeased appetite for a rebel's hide, fell upon the poor democrats, and the "jay-hawkers" literally skinned them for all that was out. A democrat was not suffered to own a horse or a gun, and when either could be found, the owners were instantly deprived, and made to suffer all manner

of indignities, without a show of redress, for the authorities and courts were too much engrossed to listen to complaints. In fact, the "jay-hawkers" had the people of Jefferson county by the throats, and the citizens never took courage to stop them in their deviltry until after the death of Bill Blake by the hands of Joe Caruthers down in Kaw bottom. From that moment the tide was turned, and while Lemcool, a companion, had gone to Osawkie for a wagon to haul his dead comrade home, the incensed multitude in and around the mouth of Grasshopper, shot Phillips, another of Blake's companions, and threw his body into the Kaw river. Hod Gibbs was sheriff at the time, and while there as an officer of the law, Lemcool put in his appearance with a wagon when he too was killed! Phillips was dragged from the river, and his body thrown into the wagon with that of Blake and Lemcool.

The infuriated populace ordered the sheriff to take the dead subjects to Osawkie for burial! This was the last of the "jay-hawkers" in Jefferson Co. Democrats and everybody else breathed a little easier. Matters had been brought to a crisis, and three desperate men sent to their long homes.



A. G. PATRICK to whom the publishers of this booklet are indebted for several stories selected from files of his newspaper. — IndePubCo

Parker Mortuary  
N. Topeka Kansas

Bleil's Clover Farm Store  
Oskaloosa, Groceries-Meats-Feed Kansas

Mercier Chevrolet Company  
Valley Falls Chevrolet - Oldsmobile Kansas

Leavenworth - Jefferson Electric Coop., Inc.  
McLouth Kansas

## FROM WAGON RUTS TO PAVEMENTS

Does the reader want to go to Pikes Peak? Just put a Kansas map in your car's glove compartment and strike out west on one of the paved highways available. You won't need even to pack a lunch nor a blanket. But, Jefferson countians of a hundred years ago had an entirely different problem. Look at this editorial in the Oskaloosa Independent of Oct. 10, 1860:

"One day last week a part of the company composing the Smoky Hill Expedition, consisting of 9 wagons, 5 or 6 extra horses and 12 or 15 men, passed through this place on the return from Denver City to Leavenworth.

They report very favorably of the route up the Kansas river and Smoky Hill Fork, as being the shortest and best road to the gold regions on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mts. Distance by measurement is a hundred miles shorter from Leavenworth to Denver than by the Platte river road, the ground more level and smoother. There is no sand except at the crossings of streams. There is plenty of water the whole distance, and a sufficiency of wood, with little exception, and in the few places where wood is scarce, there are buffalo chips in abundance. Grass is much more abundant and luxuriant than by the northern route. Buffalo are near the white settlements about Salina in great numbers and they are generally very fat.

This road will pass Stranger Creek at the bridge at Russell's mill, and pass through Oskaloosa and Osawkee, thence following the old Military road to Ft. Riley. The citizens of this locality and those at Osawkee and along the route should turn out now and do some more work on the road. Within two miles of Oskaloosa, there are two crooks in the road which need to be straightened and worked some. When this is done, we may soon expect to see a daily express line established on this route which will

bring renewed life and vigor to our already lively village."

This theme of "Roads" continued to hold a leading place in editorials of the early and the later days in Jefferson county. The coming of railroads for the long distances reduced the local needs for wagon roads within the county. Improvement of these under the old township system was exceedingly slow. The custom was to allow a citizen to pay the annual poll tax by doing a day's work on the road nearest his farm. The "machinery" for this work generally consisted of a "slip", a "pick", a hand shovel and sometimes a "drag". The man who invented the splitlog drag had something to brag about.

The township system yet prevails in some Kansas counties, but of course there are power tools. Jefferson county took over the maintenance of all roads of the county in 1932 after an authorizing vote at a general election. The county could and did purchase heavier tools and roads were improved according to a systematic standard. The county now maintains 885 miles of road.

The coming of rural free mail delivery about the turn of the century compelled attention to many miles of road more than had been done before.

The next step was road surfacing. The first concrete surface in this county was a road up the Kaw valley on the north side of the river. The first north-and-south road across Jefferson county was that now known as U. S. 59. It was surfaced with black topping about the year 1920.

In 1955, we have K-16 nearly paralleling the old K. C. N. W. railroad, K-4 nearly paralleling the Santa Fe railroad, K-92 nearly paralleling the old L. T. & S.W. railroad. K-192 paralleling the old K. C. Central. The State maintains 120 miles of improved roads in this county.

Consolidation of rural schools and annexations of most of these to town schools with the furnishing of bus transportation gave a great impetus to improvement of all roads leading from farm to school. Of the 2280 farm units in Jefferson county, 2279 of them have at least one all-weather outlet to town or school or market.



**THOMPSONVILLE MILL**

Built on the site of an earlier mill which was known as the Indian mill, on the Delaware river. Erected in 1865 by C. L. Thompson.



**ADAM TODD**

Oskaloosa Settler of 1865, who became head of a considerable family. It was at the close of the Civil War that his master, of Platte county, Missouri, gave Uncle Adam and his wife America and their children a wagon and team and set them on their way to the "Promised Land." For Adam was an early arrival of that inflow from former slave states known as the Exodusters. He was a respected and loved member of the Oskaloosa community for many years.

**Luxra Company**  
Atchison, Kansas

**Alice Hat Shop**  
120 North 7th Atchison, Kansas

**The Lockwood Company Inc.**  
Atchison 121-25 North 5th Kansas

**Fred Stein Laboratories Manufacturers**  
Steinlite Electric Grain Tester Atchison, Kansas

## PEPPARD'S SAILING WAGON

This device, so expressive of man's determination to out-run the ox cart, the prairie schooner, even the horse, attracted a lot of attention in this county at the time and ever since.

When Peppard first began to build the wagon the wise men of Oskaloosa all laughed at him for wasting his time on such a craft, just as other wise men of Noah's time scoffed at the good patriarch. Mr. Peppard's advisors declared that if he attempted to navigate the craft he would certainly be killed, and the people generally looked the wagon over, shook their heads and called it "Peppard's folly." But Mr. Peppard kept on sawing wood and turning it into wheels and running gear and boards.

Undaunted, Peppard at last set out for the Colorado gold fields. Here is his story, as recorded in the archives of the Kansas Historical Society:

"Our best time was two miles in four minutes. We could not run faster than that rate as the boxing would have heated. One day we went fifty miles in three hours, and in going so, passed 625 teams.

There were, you know, a great many people en route for the gold fields in those days. This was an unusually good race. If we went ninety miles a day it was considered a good day's travel. Many amusing incidents happened and we had no little fun joking the teamsters as we flew by them.

On the fifth day out we had some sport with a band of Indians. It was about noon and we were traveling along probably at about ten or twelve miles an hour. The wind was blowing about 25 miles an hour but having been well shaken up by a rough stretch of the prairie, I had put on the brake and reefed my sail, so that we were journeying leisurely. A cloud of dust attracted our attention in the southeast and we decided to stop and wait. We thought it was a band of Indians who were drunk and would do us harm if we allowed them to overtake us. The Indians were not hostile, but when they were under the influence of "firewater", they were usu-

ally ugly. When we had finished our meal and smoked a pipeful apiece, the band of Indians had approached to within a mile of where we had stopped.

Strange to say they had not yet seen us. I cannot account for this unless it was because we were in a depression of the prairie and were not noticed. When we came out of the low place, and I soared the sail, we could plainly see each Indian rise in his saddle with a start of surprise. As quick as a flash, each mustang was put into a gallop and the band of what we thought were drunken Indians was bearing down upon us. The Indians were upon us, but fortunately, through suspicion or superstition, they had slackened their speed and were within one hundred yards of

us, advancing cautiously. This allowed me to give sail to the wind slowly and thus not wreck the wagon. A fresh look of surprise upon the faces of the red men greeted our eyes as the wagon began to move and gradually increased its speed. If they had been curious at the appearance of the vehicle, they were now astonished at seeing it move. Just as they put their horses into a canter I released the brake and gave the full sail to the wind. Quick as a flash the little craft shot into the road and we were off at a pace of about thirty miles an hour. A wild whoop came from the throat of each Indian and as I saw them lean over their mustangs and lash the beasts into a dead run I realized the race was on.

They were not drunk, so the race, in-



NEWMAN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP, VALLEY FALLS, 1864—1929

In 1863 he worked at blacksmithing in Leavenworth where teams and wagons were outfitted and oxen shod for freighting to the West. 67 Years a Blacksmith. — A.G.S.

Winter Chevrolet  
Lawrence, Kansas

Mountain's Hardware  
Oskaloosa, Kansas

Best Wishes For a Successful Celebration  
Capper Publications, Inc.

Stoner's Variety Store  
Oskaloosa, Kansas

stead of being for plunder, resolved itself into one of rivalry. The wagon fairly leaped from the ground, under the pressure upon it. I have seen excited jockeys, at the race track, urge their steeds on to victory, but never before did I see such earnestness and such horsemanship displayed, as did those red men as they leaned over their ponies and came tearing after us. The swiftest of them all was a brave who rode a little gray mare. She clearly outclassed the others and as she gradually drew away from them the race resolved itself into one with her alone. The other braves drew rein and rent the air with an unearthly yell to cheer their companion on. For about a mile we had a race that was exciting. The Indian leaned far over the mare and patted her neck. Again and again he called her name and urged her to catch the "white man".

The mare was fleet but the race was ours. The wind had risen higher and I was obliged to reef the sail to keep from being carried into the air. We were tearing over the cleanly swept road at a fearful pace. At last I saw that the mare was weakening and in order not to distance the brave I applied the brake to slacken our speed. The Indian seeing this, suddenly drew in the mare and exclaimed: 'Ugh! Red man ride horse. White man fly like bird.'

That Indian's spontaneous remark was prophetic, as forty years more of white men's efforts were to demonstrate. But Peppard's efforts were very shortly brought to an abrupt end, when the sailing wagon was hit by a violent whirlwind which wrecked the craft beyond repair.

## COUNTY LINES ALTERED

In the winter of 1864 a move to annex the southeastern tip of Jefferson county to Douglas county was begun. Petitions were circulated by persons from Lawrence and signed by many Jefferson county residents, favoring the annexation. However, nothing was done

at that time, at least not openly, to present such a bill to the State Legislature.

At the beginning of the legislative session of 1864 - '65, such a bill was introduced and passed, much to the consternation of the Jefferson county citizens. Those in this county who had previously signed the petitions for the move were now, (according to the Independent of that time) against it, 3 to 1.

News of the bill brought forth blistering editorials by the Independent's editor. Headlines of some of these read, "Outrage - Deception", "Fraud Consummated", and "Protest". Editorial content was not flowery but full of fire and thunder. To quote from them; "Money and persevering efforts in a wicked cause have succeeded in robbing us of a portion of our territory. No scheme of the kind was ever more unjust; no similar attempt more flagrantly outrageous; and the rights of parties interested never more ruthlessly trampled upon by unprincipled tyranny. Without justice or the shadow of right; without any but the robber's plea; against the expressed wishes of nine-tenths of the people on the cut-off, this vile measure has been pushed through the legislature by means of corruption and bribery. No unprejudiced member voted for the bill on the merits of the measure. Misrepresentation, bribery and promises of place or help, did the work, which was conceived in villainy and consummated in fraud and corruption."

Douglas county's reasons for wanting this portion of Jefferson were listed as follows; Lawrence had built some roads in this area, Lawrence built a bridge over the Kaw, and lastly, that portion of the county is convenient to Douglas. The last of these led the Oskaloosa editor to assert, "Indeed! If this plea is worth anything, it is worth all the State, and Kansas may as well be annexed to Douglas at once as by piecemeal; .... If the river, God's own line of division, is not a stay to their greed, what other line can present a barrier to their rapacity?"

The bill passed the houses of the legislature in February 1865 and our southern boundary was reshaped. Protests were made but fell on deaf ears.



**DR. LORENZO NORTHRUP (1819-1906)**

Pioneer physician and surgeon; moving spirit of Grasshopper -- Valley Falls more than 50 years. He built a schoolhouse and hired a teacher to teach his own and neighbors' children; later served on town school board; helped build the first large stone schoolhouse in the town.

In 1858 Dr. Northrup began building the Octagon House, which was to become nationally known. Forty rooms, all finished in black walnut, no room square, were erected for his family use, later turned into a hotel, destroyed by fire in 1906. —A.G.S.



**L. M. Waggoner Lumber Co.**  
Building Materials of all kinds — Oskaloosa, Kansas

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COMPLIMENTS  
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COMPLIMENTS  
**Dr. and Mrs. R. G Henry**

## THE COURTHOUSE

The County Commissioners, on June 8, 1867, gave Graham & Swain a contract to build Jefferson county a courthouse 50 x 70 feet, two stories high, for the sum of \$22,875. Its brick was fired in a kiln located only a few hundred yards west of the site. Its Junction City white limestone was hauled by ox teams and wagons from the nearest rail station on the Kansas Pacific R. R. The job was completed in the summer of 1868. With minor exceptions, the construction has proven sound. This building in 1955 is the oldest courthouse yet in use in Kansas.

Features of special interest were the semi-circular stairways, a novelty of carpentry, and the cupola with an observation cat-walk, famous in those days for sight-seers. The elevation of the cupola was about 1200 feet above sea level. On the southern horizon North College of the University of Kansas was visible.

For fifteen years, the courthouse was the county seat's social center. Its court room was the scene of impassioned oratory, of history-making political conventions. Its ground floor corridor was the setting for socials, public dinners and like festivities.

For many years, the courthouse has been inadequate to house all of the county offices, some of which have been "farmed out" in other locations of the town. The courthouse "annex" was established in the middle of the block on the west side of the square in 1943. The second story of this annex building was formerly the Critchfield Opera House which for three decades, beginning in the mid-eighties, divided with the courthouse the public and semi-public activities of the community.

The courthouse park has always been the center of attraction at the county seat. Trees were planted in 1864 but owing to the fact all kinds of livestock ran loose most of the trees were killed, so that in March 1866 there was a second planting. There was a third planting in April 1869. W. D. Monroe and Jas. W. Shrader were commissioned to bring the maples from Springdale. It was believed by that generation that these trees would offer complete shade for this (1955) centennial celebration. However, the drouth of the early 1930's and severe wind storms caused their removal and in their place elms now stand.

The park was fenced in 1866 with a five-board fence. The fence had a gate

middle south and a stile, middle north side. Plank footwalks ran from each gate of the park to the opposite side of the street. They were of bridge timber, three planks, with approaches of planks laid on an angle. Both fence and stile required repairing at intervals to keep out the town hogs and herds. A stone retaining wall was built in 1881. The park was enclosed in the eighties outside the retaining wall by hitchracks of log chain held up by railroad ties. Wells dug at each corner of the park had windmills for power, drinking troughs for horses. Big deep cisterns at the east gate and at the west gate caught rain-water from the courthouse roof. These cisterns were used for years in case of fires around the square.

In the northeast corner of the park stood the county jail, built in the late seventies. It was replaced in 1935 by the handsome jail now in use on the east side of the square. (An earlier jail of log construction was located on the northeast quarter of Blk 9 in the original town.)

Through 89 years the courthouse park has been a community and county gathering place for all manner of outdoor affairs. Consistently recurrent since its

beginning in 1901 has been the Old Settlers Annual Reunions which bring thousands of residents and visitors together each August for two or three days.



**WALTER N. ALLEN**

County Clerk, 1868, who went to jail rather than sign railroad bonds he believed illegal. K.S.H.S.



**BOARD FENCE AROUND THE COURTHOUSE PARK — 1870's**

First fence was built in 1866, repaired in 1872. Advertisements of Ayers Ague Cure were visible on upper boards of the repair portion.

Ind. Pub. Co.

# 1855 - JEFFERSON COUNTY CENTENNIAL - 1955

## Celebration at Oskaloosa, Kansas

August 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1955

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### *Program of Events*

#### Sunday, August 14

- 8 P.M. Sunday Evenin' Gatherin'  
In Charge of Rev. A. P. Gutierrez  
For Everybody in the County. Massed  
Choir, directed by George Weldon.  
Address: Fred W. Brinkerhoff, Editor  
Sun and Headlight, Pittsburg, past pres.  
Kansas State Historical Society
- 

#### Wednesday, August 17

- 1 P.M. Centennial Parade. Prizes for best units.  
In Charge of Homer Trapp  
Assemble at athletic field, 12:30 P.M.
- 3 P.M. Address: Senator Frank Carlson  
Court House Park Platform  
H. D. Wyatt, M. C.
- 7:45 P.M. Awarding of Prizes to Parade  
Winners.
- 8 P.M. Opening Performance Jefferson County  
Centurama, by the John B. Rogers Pro-  
ducing Company, Fostoria, Ohio.
- 

#### Thursday, August 18

- 1 P.M. Children's Games and Contests  
In Charge of Walter Campbell
- 2 P.M. Public Style Revue by the 23 4-H Clubs  
of Jefferson County. In charge of Harold  
Gottsch, club agent. (A pre-item of the  
County 4-H Fair, August 22, and 23 at  
Valley Falls.)
- 7:45 P.M. Children's Contest Winners  
In Charge of Walter Campbell
- 8 P.M. Second Performance of Pageant.

#### Friday, August 19

- 1 P.M. Children's Games and Contests  
In Charge of Walter Campbell
- 2 P.M. Platform Talent Show in Court House  
Park by present and former Jefferson  
Countians - Juanita Barnes, Ch'n.  
Jas. Cheney, M. C.  
A Variety Show selected from various  
communities.
- 3:30 P.M. Welcome to Veterans of Company B  
of World War I in their two-day reunion,  
Court House Park.
- 7:45 P.M. Introduction of Company B at the  
Pageant Grounds, Homer Trapp
- 8 P.M. The Pageant Continued.
- 

#### Saturday, August 20

- 1 P.M. Children's Games and Contests  
In Charge of Walter Campbell
- 2 P.M. Historical Style Revue, 100 Years, By  
the 31 Home Demonstration Units of the  
County, directed by Ruth Wells and  
Committee, Mrs. Percy Egner, Mrs. Leon  
Cover, Mrs. Elmer Becker.
- 4 P.M. Old Old Settlers Hour. Remarks, Prizes,  
Eric C. Steeper, M. C., in park.
- 7:45 P.M. Beards judged, shaved, athletic field.
- 8:00 P.M. Final Performance of Pageant

# JEFFERSON COUNTY CENTURAMA

A Pageant of the Past By John B. Rogers Producing Co.

Robert Carson, Pageant Master

Oskaloosa, Kansas

August 17-18-19-20, 1955

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### PROLOGUE

The blare of trumpets heralds the arrival of her superior majesty, Miss Jefferson County, ruler of the Centennial Celebration.

### EPISODE I — "The old-timer"

Good evenin', friends and neighbors. This is just an old-timer biddin' you welcome in the spirit of old-fashioned hospitality.

### EPISODE II — "Jefferson County Story"

An epic of the tidal wave of freedom-loving men and women sweeping onto a new world. Rich with natural resources beyond the dreams of ages.

### EPISODE III — "Land of the Red Man"

Moving silently in the background of our history are the shadows of the first sons of this new land — the Indians.

### EPISODE IV — "First White Child"

The first white child born not only in what was later to become the county of Jefferson, but also the first white child born in the territory of Kansas was Napoleon Boone.

### EPISODE V — "A New People in a New Land"

The earliest travelers from the territory had carried home such glowing reports of the wonderful country, calling it "The Garden of the West," that new settlers began to flock to the newly opened territory eager to acquire homes and open the new frontier.

### EPISODE VI — "Remember the Sabbath"

Let us return to one of the first log cabin churches built by our pioneer forefathers. It is an early spring morning.

### EPISODE VII — "Readin', 'Ritin, and 'Rithemetic"

We turn back the pages of time and look in on a typical school scene of a century gone by.

### EPISODE VIII — "Land Sales at Ozawkie"

During the years of 1856-57, there was a heavy rush of immigration to the county, and in July of 1857, a government land sale was held at Ozawkie.

### EPISODE IX — "New County Seat"

County Records are moved from Ozawkie to Oskaloosa by dark.

### EPISODE X — "Tragic Prelude"

One of America's most famous paintings, perhaps, is John Stuart Curry's renowned "Tragic Prelude" depicting in its full scope, the tragic horror and hardship of the Kansas border pre-civil war days.

### EPISODE XI — "Volume in Black"

Like a thunderbolt from the blue, the nation became divided.

### EPISODE XII — "The Petticoat Government"

An event that brought the city of Oskaloosa into the limelight of the English-speaking world.

### EPISODE XIII — "Bikes, Bustles, and Mustaches"

As the century moved from the 19th to the 20th, changes were taking place through-out the nation. Yes! the gayest of all years were the "Gay 90's."

### EPISODE XIV — "First World War"

In 1917 the United States took up the torch for democracy and Jefferson County, with the rest of the nation, shouldered her share of the burden of sacrifice.

### EPISODE XV — "The Roaring Twenties"

The most famous memory of the twenties was -- The Charleston, and Charleston it was!- All over the nation.

### EPISODE XVI — "The Second World War"

The historic flag raising on Iwo Jima.

### EPISODE XVII — "Atomic Age"

Is this the beginning or the end?

### EPISODE XVIII — "WHEEL OF PROGRESS"

Before you a great wheel of progress is taking form with Jefferson County as its hub. With each spoke carved from one of her past achievements we see our country serving the nations of the world -- flanked by the young manhood and womanhood of our county, proudly carrying the torch of youth into the future.

# THE PAGEANT CAST

Names generally appear in first scene in which they appear; same persons may appear in later scenes.

## Narrators:

Miss Kathleen Henshaw, Rev. Ira Nicklin, Mrs. Virginia Reichart, Mr. Richard A. Swallow

## Trumpeters:

Sonya Anderson, Jane McPherson, Marian Streater, Susan Snook

## Cadets:

Patricia McClenny, Sandra McClenny, Jo Del Dunbar, Marjorie Elkington, Ida Mae Coleman, Mary Kay Patrick, Nancy McPherson, Karen Kree, Peggy Strole, Alice Williams

## Miss Columbia:

Eva Jean McNish

## States to Columbia:

Eloise Johnson, Nina Lee Snook, Sandra Hanson, Meredith Snook, Nancy Shufflebarger, Shirley Rogers, Marie Hiebsch, Mary Cox, Jackie Mize

## Sailorettes:

Nancy Means, Janet Easum, Karen Keeling, Jane Hannah, Delores Edmonds, Donna Dunbar, Kay Peppard, Patty Gardiner, Sonja Hampton, Emily Robbins, Patty Edmonds, Jackie Herbert, Ann Stoner, Annette Hiebsch

## Nation's Queens:

Donna Gottsch, Clara Schrader, Kathel Snook, Pat Tubach, Fern Taylor, Charlotte DeYoung

## Color Guards:

Gene Gunselman, Raymond Jeffery, David Brown, Joe Metzger

## Old Timer:

Ralph Davis

## INDIAN SCENE

### Indian Chiefs:

Larry Carlyle, Carl Cox

### Indian Braves:

John Lindsay, Billy Killinger, Victor Langdon, Mike Kern, Jerry Terry, Larry Weaver, Ernest Grace, Leroy Kimberlin, Richard Decker, Curtis Patrick, Rex Rogers, Jerry Robertson, Jerry Shufflebarger, Harold Streater, Jimmy Robertson, Earl Barnes, Arthur Voelker, Russell Voelker

### Indian Squaws:

Mrs. Herbert Scoville, Mrs. Ben Weinberg, Mrs. Lloyd Rogers, Mrs. George Brown, Mrs. W. H. Patrick, Mrs. Alvin Biery, Mrs. Robert Spielman, Mrs. Jean McAdam

### Indian Children:

Jane Hoskinson, Shirley McAdam, Leah Kay Werst, Karen Carson, Jewell Rankin, Jane DeYoung, Dennis Reiling, James Reynolds, Pat Kern, Walter Means, Jimmy DeYoung

### Indian Dancers:

Eva Jean McNish, Hiram Stockwell

### First White Settlement:

### The Daniel Boones and little son:

The Merle Pottorfs and son, Chester Duane

---

## PIONEER SCENES

### Pioneer Men:

James Keeling, Dan Luster, Les Waggoner, Robert Turner, James Wheeler

### Pioneer Women:

Mrs. Inez Brown, Mrs. Vera Sieben, Mrs. Barbara Capesius, Mrs. Musie Ragland

## Minister:

Ray Lobb

## Adult Square Dancers:

Mr. and Mrs. Lum Hassett, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Oroke, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Dessinger, Mart Jeffers and Louise Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Tosh, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Garren, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Alexander

## Children Square Dancers:

Nancy Killinger, Max Mountain, Kathy Koons, Larry Easum, Pamela Weckman, Eddie Tosh, Diane Finley, Billie Frisbie

Sue Means, Warren Means, Mary Kay Patrick, George Sloop, Nancy McPherson, Tommy Lobb, Jerri Tosh, David Loveling

Kathy Kavanaugh, Gary Heller, Donna DeLong, Bruce Lutz, Brenda Farmer, Jeffery Hurst, Deidre Ford, Mike Reich

Linda Farmer, Phil Farmer, Beth Hibbs, Quentin Hurst, Linda Newman, Bobby Brosa, Nancy Cline, Giles Kavanaugh

## School Scene:

### Teacher:

Mrs. Kate King

## Children:

Marian Streater, Jessie May Campbell, Marcia Kern, Andrea Stroud, Jane McPherson, Sonya Anderson, Ronnie Edmonds, Steven Williams, Ronnie Rankin, Henry Reynolds, Alvis Means, J. D. Faris

## Bad Boy:

Max Dick

## OLD FASHIONED SCENES

### Old-Fashioned Women:

Mrs. Harry Brown, Mrs. L. T. Edmonds, Mrs. Anna May Hill, Mrs. Etta Pearson, Mrs. Edna Denning, Mrs. W. M. Farris, Mrs. Karl Hockenbarger, Mrs. Henry Streator, Mrs. Glen Rogers

### Old-Fashioned Men:

Mr. L. T. Edmonds, Mr. Asa Judy, Mr. Walter Campbell, Mr. Ed Sewell, Mr. Robert Taylor, Mr. Henry Streator, Mr. Glen Rogers

### Mr. Manypenny, Auctioneer:

James S. Swoyer

### John Brown Scene:

Karl Hockenbarger, Gene Gunselman, Joe Metzger, Ray Lobb, Bill Grindol, Max Mountain, Paul Hensleigh, David Brown

### Civil War Soldiers:

Harry Hampton, Jr., Leonard Bliel, Jack Langdon, Jimmy Sharkey, Harold Reid, Bob Robbins, Bobby Brown, Hiram Stockwell

### Abraham Lincoln:

W. H. Patrick

### Petticoat Government:

Mrs. R. G. Henry, Mrs. Harry Hampton, Mrs. Asa Judy, Mrs. Elmer Stoner, Mrs. Homer Trapp, Mrs. Jack Vorhees

### Removal of Documents to Oskaloosa:

Charles Hannah, John Speilman, Joe Metzger

## GAY NINETIES SCENE

### Women:

Mrs. George Allen, Mrs. Ed Frye, Mrs. Merrill Stebbins, Mrs. Lloyd Copeland, Mrs. Owen Lindsay, Mrs. Lum Hassett, Mrs. Paul Alexander, Mrs. Glen Tosh, Mrs. Una Shoemaker

### Men:

Mr. George Allen, Mr. Bill Grindol, Mr. Ed Frye, Mr. Loyd Copeland, Mr. Lum Hassett, Mr. Merrill Stebbins, Mr. Glen Tosh

### Mayor:

Homer Trapp

### Cop:

Owen Lindsay

### Medicine Man:

Paul Alexander

### Photographer:

Mike Tryon

### Children:

Marcia Kern, Aline Malone, Janice Malone, Andrea Stroud, Jessie May Campbell, Bruce Rhodes, Jimmy De-Young, Ronnie Edmonds, J. D. Faris, Max Dick

### Carrie Nations' Raid:

Grace Bell, Bessie Good, Marie Allen, Dorcas Welch, Myrtle Plummer, Nora Elswick, James Plummer, Bob Trude, Ben Grindol, Charles Steinmetz, Joe Quinlan, Lois Hart, Joyce Reusch

### Baseball Team:

James Stockwell, Harlan Walker, Victor Langdon

### Bathing Beauties:

Marjorie Swoyer, Nancy Peppard, Balla Hicks, Marie Hiebsch, Verna Mae Hundley, Jackie Vorhees

### Charleston Dancers:

Eva Jean McNish, Nancy Means, Joy Rath, Hiram Stockwell, Clifford Dick, Harry Hampton, Jr.

### Bride and Groom:

Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Moran

### Can Can Girls:

Beverly Heller, Rosiland Simpson, Marilyn Simpson, Judy Needham, Kay Dial, Vera Lee McGinnis, Deanna Frommer

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### World War I

#### Nurse:

Mrs. William Frisbie

### Iwo Jima Flag-Raising:

Gene Gunselman, Raymond Jeffery, David Brown, Joe Metzger

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## Centennial Corporation Organization

**ADMINISTRATIVE** — Chairman, William C. Leech, Special Events, Harvey Rash; Parade, Homer Trapp; Vice-Ch'n., John Roberts, Secretary, Elmer Roth, Historical Windows, Mrs. Ralph Bentley; Fireworks, Treasurer, Red Reynolds, Kenneth Lewton; Special Days, Mary Weinberg, Harold Gottsch, Juanita Barnes, Ruth I. Wells.

**FINANCE** — Wm. H. Patrick, Underwriting, Verne Hundley, Novelties, Walter Bleil, Beard Contest, Lions Club, Mel Herbert, Pres.; Official Hats, George Killinger, Company B Reunion, Floyd (Jack) Clark, Roy A. Mott, Mission, Kansas.

**HISTORICAL BOOKLETS** — Research, Production and Printing, John Roberts, John P. Hoskinson; Pictures, Advertising and Sales, Oskaloosa Civic Group, Mrs. William C. Leech, president, Pageant Tickets, Roscoe Miller; Queen Contest, Mrs. Roscoe Miller, Mrs. H. L. Streator

**PAGEANT** — Scenario, Kathleen Henshaw; Material to John B. Rogers Producing Co., John Roberts; Casting, Mrs. Adair Edmonds; Costumes, Rebekah Lodge, Etta Pearson, pres.; Properties, Mr. and Mrs. Kempton, Marie Macari; Pageant Music, George Weldon, Valley Falls, Hospitality, Fred M. Thompson, Nincehelser sisters; Traffic, Joe Sloop; Transportation, Harry Hampton; Street Carnival, Elmer Stoner, H. L. Hampton.

# "Promising Seventies"

## RAILROAD FEVER

Prior to the Delaware Indian Treaty of 1860, little had been done in planning a route for rails through Jefferson county. As early as 1857, some of the citizens of this county, mainly from around Grasshopper Falls, had been interested by James H. Lane in securing rail connections but the rails had no hub in Kansas Territory from which to grow. After the treaty, the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Rail Road Co. received all the diminished reserve. The Indians held only small tracts of 80 acres each with a few larger tracts granted to the chiefs. The company was to build a road through the reserve before getting title to the lands.

Some agitation was begun locally, in 1861, to have Leavenworth picked as the center of commerce, with rails running from that point out over the state. It was at this time the company began serving notices to the white settlers, warning them that the land was property of the railroad and that the settlers would be prosecuted for settling thereon illegally and also for removing timber.

The L. P. and W. became the Union Pacific Eastern Division, in 1863, with Gen. John C. Fremont as its president. Almost immediately this company sold to the Kansas Pacific and troubles began for the settlers on the railroad land. Some of the people had purchased their claims in whole, some in part, from the former company, accepting company stock in lieu of deeds. Some had taken claims with the understanding that they would be allowed to work out the price on the grade. Many refused to keep up their payments, fearing they would lose all they had invested. They held out for warranty deeds to the land, which could not be supplied by the company until the latter had acquired patents from the government. Thus trouble arose in the southern half of the county between the railroads and the people. In 1865, Sam Denman, agent for the company, ordered all settlers declining to pay more on their claims to leave the land. The settlers refused to leave. Mr. Denman, with the aid of troops from Ft. Leavenworth, arrested some of these rebellious settlers and destroyed several homes. Protests by the settlers to the military command-

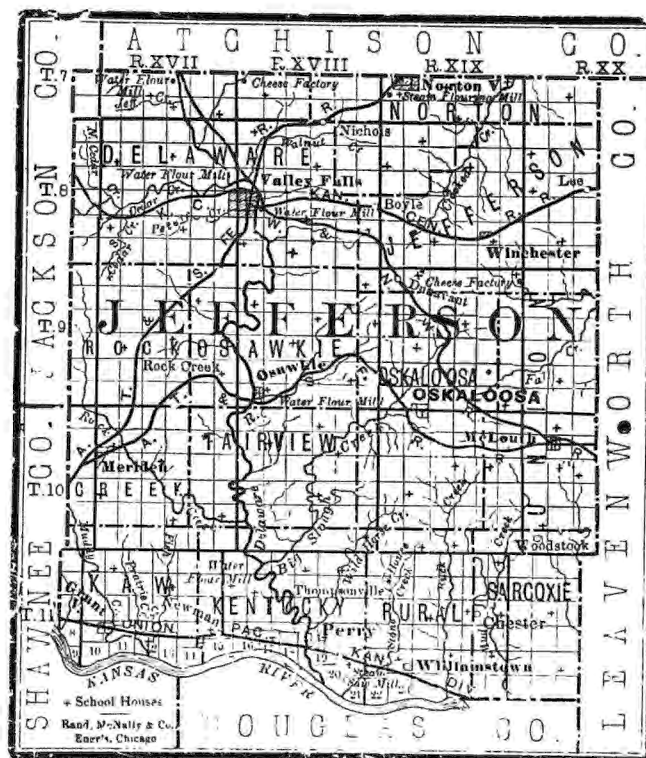
er at the fort, Gen. Mitchell, accomplished nothing. He had received orders from both the departments of Missouri and of Kansas, based on a U. S. order issued in 1862, to remove all trespassers from the railroad lands. By mid-year, however, Gen. Mitchell decided to go to Washington to find out from the Secretary of the Interior just who did own the disputed area. There he learned that the government had not recognized the claims of the rail company and the company therefore had no way of forcing payment for lands to which they could not give title. Mr. Denman was replaced by a Mr. Barthalow who professed an eagerness to get along with the settlers.

By the end of 1865, the Kansas Pacific, known as the Union Pacific Eastern Division, had built a road across the southern end of the county. The railroad claims to the land were perfected and order was again restored in the county until July 1866 when the rail company disregarded some of the claims made by settlers near Williamstown and sold this land to a milling company. The mill company men proceeded to destroy some

of the homes of these settlers. The settlers in turn drove nails into the saw logs rendering them unfit for use by the mill. On July 4, both parties armed themselves with guns and prepared to do battle. No casualties occurred altho several persons were wounded. This fight settled nothing. The disputed ownership case reached the U. S. Courts and was carried on for several years.

Railroad fever was by this time rising rapidly throughout the state. It was during these troubled times that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe first made a move to cross Jefferson county. In September, 1865, bond elections for building of this road were held and un-animously defeated everywhere except in Grasshopper Falls township. The fever did not die here, but was only driven into hiding until 1867.

Cyrus K. Holliday, president of the Santa Fe R.R., in June 1867, paid a visit to Oskaloosa and other interested parts of Jefferson county. Agitation again broke out, not only for the A. T. & S.F., but the Atchison, Oskaloosa and Lawrence R. R. as well. A second bond elec-



MAP OF COUNTY AFTER COMING OF K.C. W. & N.W., 1887.

Note the location of mills, cheese factories etc.

tion was held. This election was declared fraudulent only after bitter dispute lasting until 1870. When the election was over, the bonds had carried. Those anti-bond men in Jefferson county claimed a fraud had been carried out in Grasshopper Falls township where the majority of favorable votes had been counted. These men went before the canvassing board just as the canvass was being concluded and demanded the poll books of the county. When they were returned, the Grasshopper Falls book was found missing. It was returned some time later. Terry Critchfield was the county clerk in office at the election, in 1867, but by the time the county commissioners had decided to issue the bonds, Walter N. Allen, an anti-bond man, had been elected county clerk. Allen was installed, in 1868, and championed the cause of the defeated men. Two commissioners, John Coffey and Wm. Gragg, ordered the issuing of the bonds; John C. W. Davis, the third commissioner, refused to sign this order. Allen, convinced that the election had been illegal, also refused to issue the bonds. A suit was brought to compel him to do so, but still he refused, volunteering to go to jail instead. Thus he did, though he was released a short time later. He held out so strongly that in October, 1869, he was removed from office and L. A. Myers was appointed to fill out his term. The commissioners again issued an order for stock subscription and it was complied with.

By 1870, the anti-bond group had gained a majority on the board of county commissioners and Walter N. Allen was awarded \$1,200.00 with which to defend himself and the county against the payment of the bonds. A perpetual injunction was issued, May 1870, against the bond payment. For several months, the case was before the courts. The bonds were finally declared void and the election illegal.

In 1871, township elections were held on bonds for the Atchison, Oskaloosa and Lawrence R. R. These were defeated in all townships except Oskaloosa. Thus ended the A. O. & L. During this year, township elections were also held for the Grasshopper Valley R. R., to run down the Grasshopper river. All townships bordering the river voted this one

down. Then on July 11, 1871, Grasshopper Falls and Rock Creek townships voted in favor of bonds for the A. T. & S.F. to pass through their lands. The bonds carried and the road was built in 1872.

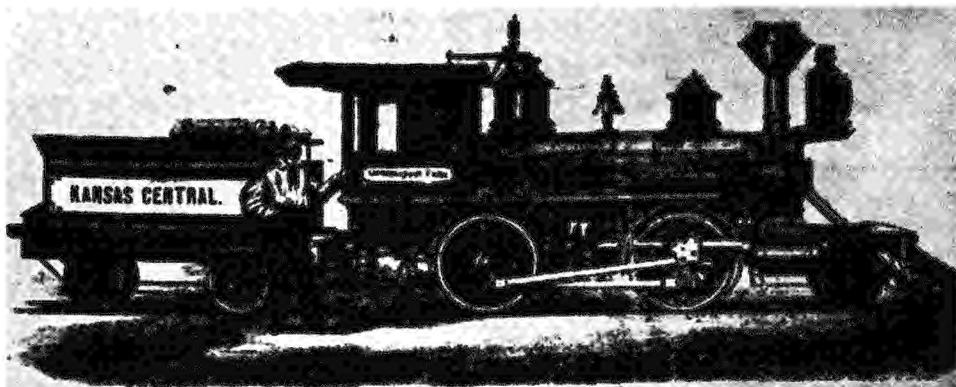
On September 28, 1871, a proposition was presented by the Kansas Central (a narrow gauge road) to Jefferson and Grasshopper Falls townships for \$65,000 in bonds. These also carried, the road was built and trains were running over these tracks in 1872. This event was highlighted by a 4th of July excursion from Leavenworth to Grasshopper Falls in which 700 passengers on two trains paid the Falls people a social call.

Again the fever became dormant until 1881 when the townships of Union, Oskaloosa, Osawkie and Rock Creek voted bonds to build the Leavenworth, Oskaloosa and Topeka railroad. In the fall of this year, the rails had reached Oskaloosa and on west toward Osawkie, but

it was not completed until 1882 after its purchase by the Santa Fe. The first trains ran through to Topeka on October 21, 1882, using the A.T. & S.F. tracks from Meriden.

For the following two years, the fever again subsided. Then in October, 1884, the Wyandotte, Nebraska and Northwestern was chartered, with plans proposing a road from Wyandotte (Kansas City) through Oskaloosa and Holton to Beatrice, Neb. A year later a new charter was formed for the same plans but under the name Kansas City, Wyandotte and Northwestern Railway Co.

As the new year of 1856 was ushered in, new life was given to a road from Atchison thru Oskaloosa to Lawrence and south. The Santa Fe Co. was behind this move to connect with the Kansas Southern R. R. south of Lawrence. In February, bond elections were held for



**The "Grasshopper Falls" was one of the standard narrow gauge locomotives used by the Kansas Central.**



**WINCHESTER RAILROAD DEPOT — KANSAS CENTRAL**

Photo from J. W. Byrn

COMPLIMENTS  
**Jefferson County Farm Bureau**

**Simon Service — Phone 200 — Oskaloosa**  
Pontiac — G.M.C. — Sales & Service

**Oskaloosa Independent**  
"Six Months Older than the State of Kansas"

**Fred M. Thompson — Insurance**  
Oskaloosa, Kansas

the K.C. W. & N.W. Results were favorable and soon thereafter work was begun on the grade.

The peak of the railroad fever was reached in the year 1887. The Kansas City & Northwestern was completed through Jefferson county in October, passing thru McLouth on August 2nd and reaching Oskaloosa the 23rd. From Oskaloosa the route was to Hickory Point, thence to Valley Falls. Arrival at the Falls was on October 8th. With the completion of this road, Jefferson county now had four railroads within her borders and never gained another from this time on. Agitation for more roads increased rapidly, so much so that the Independent editor was led to make the following statement in his paper on April 2, 1887: "If projects proposed continue to completion, Oskaloosa will be the hub of traffic in Jefferson county. We now have rail connections between McLouth, Ozawkie and Meriden and the county seat; Valley Falls and Oskaloosa will be connected by the K.C. & N. W.; The Mo. Kans. & Neb. R.R. will connect us with Williamstown and Nortonville; St. Joe & S.W. will bring connections from Winchester, Thompsonville and Grantville."

Several other railroads were proposed during 1887 which did not materialize. There was the Atchison and Topeka for the Rock Island, via Winchester and Oskaloosa — proposed but nothing ever came of it. The Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska R. R. was to run from Paola to Lawrence, Oskaloosa and Hiawatha — chartered and that was all. The Chicago, Kansas and Arkansas R.R. was planned from St. Joseph south through Nortonville, Oskaloosa and Thompsonville, to branch at that point and proceed both to Topeka and to Lawrence respectively. This company was chartered, capital plentiful and dirt to fly soon. Elections held in Nortonville and Oskaloosa townships supported the bonds and Rural township defeated the issue. Arrangements were made to build track but in 1891, the railroad was sold at a mortgage foreclosure and the townships were left holding the worthless stock. The Kansas City, Lawrence and Nebraska R. R. was to run through Perry, Thompsonville and Meriden. It was chartered, surveys run ("no paper

road") and bond elections held, with results split. In October, 1888, it was asserted that the project was not dead, the road would be built. But it collapsed in the 1890's.

In 1887, the railroad holdings in Jefferson county were listed as follows: A. T. & S.F. — \$253,451.86; U.P. — \$160,637.66; L. T. & S.W. — \$188,119.29; Kansas Central — \$95,072.95; and K.C. & N.W. — \$200,000.00. The Northwestern, last to come, was the first to go — in 1919. The L. & T. died in 1929 and the Kansas Central in 1935.

With the coming of the railroads to

this county, several new townsites were platted. Along the Kansas Pacific in 1864-'65 the towns of Williamstown, Perry, Centerville, Medina, Newman and Grantville came into being. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe brought the establishing of Nortonville, Rock Creek and Meriden. McLouth was added by the coming of the Leavenworth, Topeka and Southwestern. A station site was selected at Hickory Point (Hardtville) which lay between that place and the platted town of Fairfield. Here a new town was platted and called Dunavant.



**TWO TRAINS IN TOWN, McLOUTH, KANSAS, 1897.**

Coming of the L. T. & S. W. R.R., brought about the founding of McLouth.



**THE JEFFERSON HOUSE, OSKALOOSA — South side public square**

(Destroyed by fire in 1900) Proprietor S. S. Cooper on the right. Billy Kirkham and his "hack that made all the trains." — Nincehelser's

COMPLIMENTS  
**William C. Leech**

COMPLIMENTS  
**James S. Lester**

COMPLIMENTS  
**Keeling Brothers — Oskaloosa, Kansas**

**Hampton's**  
Furniture Store and Funeral Home, Oskaloosa

## CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

American Protestantism expressed itself early in county history by erecting churches in every town and hamlet, and in rural places as well. Roman Catholicism was more sparsely distributed but with several establishments of permanent strength. Denominations generally were characteristic of northern states, reflecting the free-state leanings of our permanent settlers. There was early circuit-riding; one church at Oskaloosa in 1858 was part of a circuit extending from North Lawrence to (later) Nortonville, virtually the entire eastern half of the county. Rural meeting houses, like rural schools, have gradually disappeared with the improvement of means for getting to town.

The desire for education of children and youth was strong in the character of permanent Jefferson county settlers. Private subscription schools sprang up even before towns were laid out. A. J. Greene taught a school at Jacksonville in the winter of 1855-56.

The first school on the Oskaloosa townsite was held in the spring of 1857, taught by Miss Mary Finnicum in a building in the east part of the town. The first school at Valley Falls was provided by Dr. Lorenzo Northrup and taught by Miss Libbie Pennock. Subscription schools were usually operated in three-months terms.

The first public school district formed in the county was the Rothschild district, formed upon a petition to J. H. Bennett, county superintendent, in February, 1859. It became known as District No. 1, Center district, its building  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of later Boyle. A small log cabin was secured and a three-months term begun; Esther A. Webb, teacher, salary \$10 per month, 17 pupils. She received the first teacher's certificate ever granted in the county. During that same year, J. H. Bennett organized nine districts.

In 1860, the number of schools in-

creased to 18. By the close of 1869, there were 72 districts organized. Elementary District No. 100, Dunavant, was organized in 1896. This number, the last, included eight town schools.

Earliest town schools generally were of frame construction but soon after the Civil War, two-story buildings — some of stone or brick — were erected.

Early efforts at higher education were made in two communities. At Winchest-er in 1874, a stock company was formed which built an academy building and operated a school for a short time. But it proved a financial burden too great for the community.

At Oskaloosa, the township voted bonds in 1865 to erect a schoolhouse; this had a varied career until 1878 when it was leased to the Methodist Episcopal Church South. By that denomination, Marvin College was founded and a school of secondary and college level was operated. An advertisement in the Independent during July of 1878 announced an opening term of 20 weeks on August 19th at Marvin College (male and female) for primary, preparatory and collegiate departments. Tuition of \$12.50 would enroll a primary pupil for teaching of the three R's, grammar and geography. The preparatory course at \$17.50 would cover advanced instruction in arithmetic, gram-

mar, geography, orthography, plus elocution, United States history, Greek and Latin.

The collegiate years — freshman through senior — would require \$25 in tuition with instrumental music \$20 additional. Subjects listed were as follows: freshman — algebra, geometry, Caesar, Xenophon, Cicero, Herodotus, natural philosophy, composition, declamation; sophomore — trigonometry and surveying, Virgil, Horace, Homer, Demosthenes, French grammar, astronomy, botany, physiology, surveying navigation, analytical geometry, mythology; junior — advanced languages (Greek, Latin, French), calculus, chemistry, logic, rhetoric, mechanics; senior — mathematical astronomy, Latin and Greek prose composition, mental and moral philosophy, geology, psychology; and for the last term of the year, reviews and written examinations on the whole course!

In February 1879, a second term opened with 21 pupils and in May, competitive exercises "came off" at the courthouse with close competition for prizes in best declamation (encyclopedia), literature (silver napkin ring), recitations (silver card receiver), music (silver butter dish) and deportment (gold pen cases).

Marvin College finally failed financially and was turned back to the township.



LOOKING NORTH ACROSS THE COURTHOUSE PARK IN 1870's

On the horizon, center, is the two story public school of district 29, erected 1867. On far left the Frontier House,

**The First National Bank of Nortonville**  
Member F.D.I.C. Nortonville, Kansas

**The State Bank of Ozawkie**  
Member F.D.I.C. Ozawkie, Kansas

**Leonard Bros. Transport Co. — Topeka, Ks.**  
Serving Jefferson Co. 26 years - Harold & Doyle

**Scott Motors — Chevrolet**  
Phone 5-2341 Topeka, Kansas

## A TYPICAL PIONEER VILLAGE

A kaleidoscopic view of a Jefferson county village as it appeared three quarters of a century ago.

Amid prairies unbroken by the plow, unfenced prairies wandering past far horizons; prairie grass so green in springtime, multi-hued in autumn and bronzed like an Indian's face; prairie fires set by vengeful Indians or careless settlers; goodly timber hugging the flowing streams and cloistering the occasional springs; small crop fields; rail fences, stone fences; plum thickets; smoke rising from farm cabin chimneys.

Edge of the Delaware reserve where lazy, dirty tribesmen fished, hunted deer, fetched catch or kill to town, begged, thieved, quarreled, drank, rode their ponies to the 'end of the trail'.

Endless wagon trails peopled with prairie schooners, immigrants, ox teams, horseback riders, mail coaches, land agents, army scouts, adventurers westward bound, disillusioned wanderers eastward bound.

A village of a few hundred homes — humble homes, log houses (free timber), frame houses (steam or water saw mills), a brick house (local firing kiln); wide board floors, bare floors, rag rugs (carpet weavers), straw under carpets; straw ticks, feather beds, deep feather beds; fireplaces (free firewood), tallow candles, tallow dips, candle molds; deep water wells, stone-walled water wells, well sweeps, stone-walled cisterns, rain barrels and mosquitoes.

Uncurbed streets, ill-kept streets, dusty streets, muddy streets, deep mud, rutted mud; board walks, flagstone walks, brick walks, grassy paths; no street lights.

Fenced yards, four-board fences (keep out the hogs, the roving, rooting hogs), six-board fences (keep out the cattle — the roaming town herd coming from pasture), tight-board fences (keep out the peepers), picket fences; swinging gates (moved into the parlor in winter season), chicken yards, duck puddles, hog pens, horse barns, manure piles, flies, cow lots, berry patches.

Streetside free pasturage, tethered animals, loose animals, the "pound", ownerless dogs, mad dog scares, lost children, searching parties.

Two or four hotels, three lawyers' offices, conveyancer's office, doctors' offices, surveyor's office, print shop, wagon shop, paint shop, blacksmith shop, dram shop.

Frame store buildings with board walks in front, walks wagonbox high with hogs wallowing beneath, deep awnings over the store fronts sheltering kegs and cracker boxes, loafers, tobacco juice, whittlings, dirty stories, deep

philosophies, "Down with secessionists! Up with the grand old party", whiskey, drinks, lies, fist fights, poker games.

Stores that crammed stoves and jewelry, tooth picks and plows, boots and buggy whips, dress prints and tallow candles, coffee and queensware, Ayers' cure, Ayers' cathartic pills, Ayers' cherry pectoral, soap and segars, pickles and sad irons, lamp chimneys and milady's bonnets.



**C. B. McCLELLAN**, seated in front of store, south side square, Oskaloosa. Walks were wagonbox height for convenience. Beneath, them, it was convenient for the roaming hogs! — Courtesy Addie Gilbert



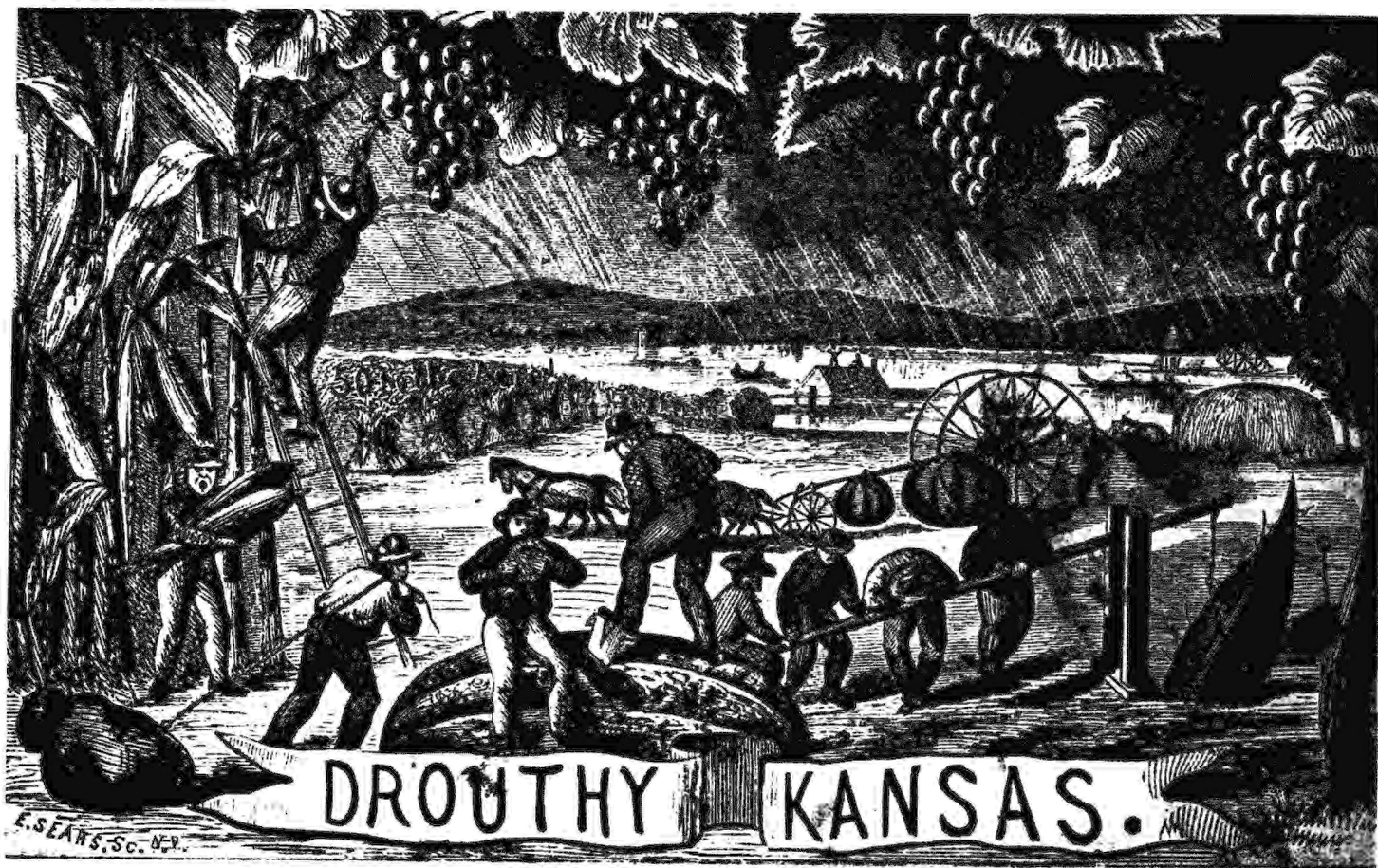
**THESE BUILDINGS STOOD AT WHAT IS NOW (1955) THE SINCLAIR CORNER**, facing west, in Oskaloosa. Back of them may be seen the first office of the Oskaloosa Independent. —Photo Courtesy H. L. Johnson

**Bell's — Your music supplier for 70 years**  
925 Mass., Phone Viking 3-2644, Lawrence, Kansas

**Owens Flower Shop**  
Lawrence, Kansas

**Perfection Spring and Equipment Co.**  
2500 McGee Trafficway Kansas City 8, Mo.

**Odell's Instrumental Service**  
925 Mass. Lawrence, Kansas



## National Centennial 1876

Report from Philadelphia to The Independent, Sept. 30, 1876:

It does a Kansas man proud to stand and hear the remarks of visitors as they enter the exhibition hall. An Eastern lady declared the Kansas exhibit is arranged with the best taste and skill of any exhibit on the grounds. There is the immense Liberty Bell made of Kansas grasses etc., which hangs from the center of the hall. Just beneath this is the large representation of the capitol dome built entirely of Kansas apples, with tall jars of grain and seed for the pillars.

The show of fruit from other states in the pomological hall pales into insignificance beside the well displayed collection from Kansas, which is one of the finest here.

The cornstalks, placed against a pillar of the roof, one lot above another, reaching to the ceiling, proved a bad "sell" on two honest old farmers. One of them gasped with astonishment and ejaculated, "For Gods sake, John, look at that corn, why! it's 35 feet tall. Heavens, what a country Kansas must be!" One lady thought the Kansas apples must be made of wax, because they were so large, so perfect, and so shiny; she wanted to bite one to learn if it was natural.

Samples of remarks overheard by this reporter:

"I don't believe that is a carrot; who ever heard of a carrot five feet long!" "Here's some of that corn they gather in Kansas from horseback or from ladders." "Just think of it! Only a few years ago that State was a wilderness. Why do those people send to the East for aid? I never saw such products."

February 4 of 1876 was the date of the grand "Centennial Reception," the "biggest social affair ever held in the place," the court room being filled completely, the proceeds \$160. Music was furnished by the band and a choir directed by Mr. D. M. Smith. Supper tables occupied the entire length of the hall below and were served from the offices at either side. Costumes were elegant, gorgeous, etc. Some of the characters represented were: Geo. Washington by Dr. G. W. Hogeboom, Mrs. Washington by Mrs. W. A. Coy, Alexander Hamilton by Henry Taylor, Mrs. Hamilton by Mrs. Leavell, Thomas Jefferson by S. S. Cooper, John Adams by Henry Keeler, Mrs. Adams by Mrs. C. B. McClellan, Morris by B. P. Stanley, Mrs. Morris by Mrs. J. B. Johnson, Hancock by J. B. Johnson, Franklin by Amos McLouth, Livingston by C. B. McClellan, Mrs. Livingston by Mrs. Keeler, General Greene by F. H. Roberts, Gen.

### Lambert Lumber Co.

The Friendly Building Stores  
Yards at Oskaloosa and Winchester in Jefferson county

### The Tholen Bros. Supply Co.

Plumbing - Heating - Electrical Supplies  
304-312 Shawnee St., Leavenworth, Kansas

Knox by Marshall Gephart, Mrs. Winthrop by Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Bingham by Mrs. Critchfield. Under supervision of C. B. McClellan the stage was elegantly decorated. Tableaux were "Drafting the Declaration," "Washington's Cabinet," "Trial of Major Andre" and others.

At the "Yankee kitchen" mush and milk, pumpkin pies, etc., were sold.

## NATURE'S STERNER MOODS

Jefferson county shares with the rest of Kansas the most salubrious climate in America — enough sunshine and warmth and rainfall to assure a great variety of agricultural crops, enough freezing to reduce overgrowth of weeds and insects, enough temperate spring and fall for enjoyment.

But Nature sometimes swats us with varied freaks and accidents to keep us alert. The greatest danger in this county is drouths, which have been an affliction a year or more out of every decade. The drouth of 1860 sent many many pioneers back to eastern states; drouths of the thirties, which lasted for several years, put some of our farmers out of business; drouths of the early fifties dangerously lowered water tables and are still bringing distress to some parts of this county. Yet we smile at the drouths and try again next year.

The opposite extreme is represented in major floods. Greatest flood ever on the Kaw was doubtless that of 1844—before the years of white settlement. Floods on the Kaw and Delaware in 1903; on the Delaware in 1908 and on the Kaw and Delaware in 1951 were the most destructive. The Delaware has been flooded many other times.

Tornadoes have been recorded in newspapers of the county almost every year from earliest days, with considerable destruction of farm property, though not one town of the county has been squarely in their paths. The most destructive of tornadoes to strike this county was near Williamstown on June

23, 1893, beginning a mile east of Perry running east about 5 miles, barely missing Williamstown, passing through the cemetery of that place, about a mile north. Ten persons were killed and seven badly injured. Thirty farm homes destroyed, fields swept clean of crops and trees. The dead were all buried in the little graveyard at Williamstown. In a tornado of 1912, this dramatic circumstance was observed: a rural church at Plum Grove was removed, both roof and walls. There remained a portion of flooring with the large Bible on the pulpit. The tornado of May 1, 1930, was observed forming in late afternoon a few miles north and west of Oskaloosa, and its course was under observation as it crossed the north-south highway, at that time No. 73W, and ranged northeastward, causing much destruction south of Winchester. There was no loss of human life but property damage was extensive. This tornado was memorialized by John Steuart Curry in one of his most famous canvases.

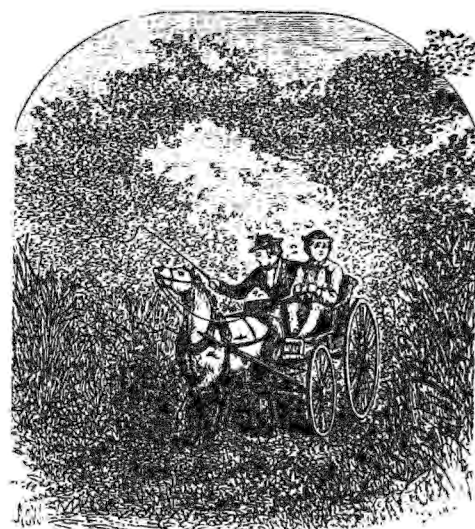
Grasshoppers have afflicted this county several times, the best-advertised invasion being that of 1874. Here is a condensation of the Oskaloosa Independent's description: (Aug. 15, 1874): "THE HOPPERS. They come, they come! They hop, they hop! They eat, they eat!

They came in crowds, in swarms, in



**TORNADO OF MAY 1, 1930**

Crossing the Highway five miles north of Oskaloosa. John Steuart Curry took his facts for his "Tornado" from this same storm, which passed near his boyhood home. — courtesy A. E. Dennis.



AMONG THE GRASSHOPPERS.

squads. They came flying and walking and hopping and crawling. Some came alone, others brought all their relations, including their mothers-in-law and wife's sisters. All came HUNGRY!

What do they leave? Nothing, nothing at all. The main army passed at noon. They were so numerous as to cause a rushing and a roaring like a mighty wind. In some places, they formed clouds resembling volumes of smoke, thick as swarming bees and as far-reaching as the eye's extent, darkening the sky. One Oskaloosa gentleman later telling about them said, there were 'bushels of 'em in the fence corners'.

The hoppers came into the houses, looked into the cupboards, got a square meal wherever they could find one. One lady drove the hoppers from her premises, only to have her neighbor drive them back. One man made a V-shaped corral, drove the hoppers into a hole, and when it was nearly full, covered the insects with dirt.

The hoppers occasionally held up the narrow gauge train. When the engineer's supply of sand was exhausted, the passengers had to get out and help brush the hoppers from the rails. A farmer offered 10c per quart for a thousand quarts, to use hoppers for fattening hogs!

Some crops were harvested in places that fall but not many, and the projected county fair was abandoned.

### Compliments of the Jefferson County Medical Society

C. J. Bliss  
John Griffin

Robert R. Snook  
F. W. Huston  
Delos M. Stevens

Willard A. Madison  
James C. Pike

# "Expansive Eighties"

## PROSPECTING FOR COAL

Items gleaned from early Jefferson county newspapers indicate that the belief was common that our county's surface was well underlaid with coal. It was not until after railroads came that serious mining undertakings were made. There was need of fuel for locomotives.

At Meriden in 1889 there was a discovery of coal, which is thus told in *The Independent* of January 26 that year:

"Some months ago, A. Crone had a hole bored on the west side of his farm, (which lies 3½ miles northwest of Meriden) and while a strata of coal was found at a short distance from the surface, water came in so rapidly that another spot, a few rods east and at a lower point, was chosen in which to prospect. Here water submerged them at a depth of 13 feet. Going still further east, and about a quarter of a mile from the first point named, they again prospected, and this time struck nineteen inches of clear coal, just 48 feet from the top of the ground to top of coal. Immediately above the strata lies six inches of white slate; above that three feet of blue limestone, and above that nine feet of other stone. It took months of hard work to open a shaft 6 x 12 through this 12 feet of rock, but Mr. Crone now has the shaft properly curbed and rigged with a double set of cages, hoisting apparatus, wire cable, dump cars, etc., having expended \$1,500 thus far on the works.

The people of Meriden were much excited over the discovery, well they might be, if the coal proved to underlay the town and near vicinity. One company was formed and others talked of.

The company is styled the Meriden Coal and Mining Co., and consists of W. E. Rice, pres.; E. A. Wagner, sec'y; A. Mosier, Thos. A. Brunk, J. C. and J. W. Gerber. A charter will be taken out, we were informed, and the capital stock. As soon as enough leases of land contiguous to the railroads are secured, a diamond drill will be set at work and the secrets of the earth revealed."

In the *Independent* issue of September 14, 1889 the following: "The Meriden Coal Co. is raising 600 bushels daily, and finding a ready sale."

At Valley Falls, prospecting was being done. The *Independent* of February 9, 1889 tells the following of this opera-

tion. "Through the courtesy of Mr. Mel. Legler of the township board, we were shown the workings of the diamond drill at the coal-hole, which at the time of our visit was down to a depth of 735 feet and working in soap-stone. The core is an inch and five-sixteenths in diameter. An Atchison firm is doing the drilling, and is under contract to go 2,000 feet or stop at any time — at the option of the township board. .. At something over 400 feet from the surface a flow of salt water was struck, and the stream has been flowing ever since — an artesian flow. If a twelve foot section of pipe is put on, the water forces itself to the top. One gallon of water makes a pound of salt. ... A record of the formations passed through by the drill is being kept and compared with that of the Leavenworth mines and though no definite conclusion can yet be arrived at, it is hoped, in the light of the discoveries at Tonganoxie, that the black diamonds may be struck in less than 1,000 feet." ... Saturday, March 16, 1889— "It was reported that the prospectors at Valley Falls had struck a three-foot vein of coal, at a depth of 810 feet. A sample has been forwarded to the state geologist and it will soon be known whether or not our neighbors have "struck it rich" or not. If they strike coal there it will save the expenses of a prospect hole at Oskaloosa.

A bill was presented to and passed by the Legislature early in the year 1889 allowing townships to vote bonds for the prospecting of coal. It was under this act that the Valley Falls test was being conducted.



## CANNING FACTORY - SHORT LIVED

Canning factories for tomatoes, other products, were promotion schemes of the late '80's and early '90's. This particular canning factory was located in Oskaloosa. Built by public subscription of funds and land. Donated to the builder and operator.

Ind. Pub. Co.

## PETTICOAT GOVERNMENT

The election of a woman mayor and five councilwomen by the city of Oskaloosa in April of 1888 was news both in the United States and in foreign countries. Eastern newspapers made considerable note of it. It was also written up in British and continental newspapers. Congratulatory messages came from far away New Zealand.

Local citizens who were more or less ashamed of the shortcomings of previous administrations thought up the idea of a woman-governing body. Election result: 3 to 1 for the ladies. They were Mrs. Mary D. Lowman, mayor, 49; councilwomen: Mrs. Hannah Morse, 45; Mrs. Emma Hamilton, 39; Mrs. Sadie Balsley, 36; Mrs. Mittie Golden, 31; Mrs. Carrie Johnson, 23.

State and national press had to have their fun: "First business was to snow under a motion to limit debate to five minutes on any motion." ... "An Oskaloosa man is offering a premium for six live mice."

Here are some of the reforms accomplished by the women governing body: A Sunday closing act. A curfew law. Anti-expectorating on sidewalk. New sidewalks ordered to be installed. (Town's richest citizen demurred, so the council ordered his walk laid and charged his taxes. The women withstood two lawsuits successfully.) The council purchased a street grader. Streets were widened, straightened, cleaned. Gasoline street lights replaced old coal oil lamps. A pound was built to keep up stray livestock. Moral suasion and shame was used to accomplish better keeping up of cows, pigs, and chickens. Prohibition law was enforced for first time since its passage in 1880.

All but two of the group stood for reelection and easily won out. A local Farmers Alliance worked up this tune in compliment of the Oskaloosa council:

"We have a lady council and a lady mayor, too—  
We are pleased with our officials and we trust 'tis so with you.  
We think they all are handsome and know they are true blue  
As they go marching on!"

## "Gay Nineties"

The nineties were not always gay nor was gaiety of former generations limited by any means to that decade. But under this heading it seems appropriate to list a number of the diversions of Jefferson county people before the advent of the automobile and the scores of mechanical gadgets which have transformed society in the past fifty years.

Tournaments for croquet, tennis, kite flying, horseshoe pitching, marbles, top spinning, baseball.

Ice skating on river or creek, sleigh rides, "cutters" and bob sleds.

Spelling bees, singing schools, party dances.

Railway excursions — to Osawkie or Thompsonville, the Soldiers Home at Leavenworth or the State Capitol at Topeka.

Camp meetings, chautauquas: Garfield Park, Bismark Grove, Ottawa.

Livery rigs, stylish rigs, lively teams, narrow-seated buggies (lower prices for youth), teams for the road on business trips, the barouche, carriages with the fringe on top, spring wagons for the family-to-church.

The circus, the medicine show, the peddler, the umbrella man, the scissors grinder, the tramp.

The bicycle craze: big-wheeler bicycles, "safeties", bicycles built for two, drop-frames. Divided skirts and bloomers for women cyclists and snug-fitting jackets with leg of mutton sleeves.

The Glorious Fourths: anvils, cannon crackers, colorful and long parades, soul satisfying speeches with impassioned oratory, spectacular fireworks.

Lecture courses, music recitals and amateur theatricals in the Opera House.

The crowd at the depot to watch the train come in.



**BELLES OF THE GAY NINETIES**



**EXCURSION BOAT ON DELAWARE NEAR VALLEY FALLS**



**THE FIRST ALL-PETTICOAT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA —**  
Left to right: Carrie Johnson, Hannah Morse, Sadie Balsley, Mary Lowman, mayor; Mittie Golden, Emma Hamilton. — H.L.J.

Elaborate festivities at Christmas and Easter. It was in this decade that the Christian Endeavor and the Epworth League provided an organizational outlet for youth which was most productive in the fields of religion and recreation.

The old street lamp lighter, the one-horse grocery delivery wagon, the neighborly milk man.

At the grocery: breakfast food from the oats barrel, sugar from the barrel, crackers by the pound from a big box. Also gingersnaps, bird seed, bologna, candles and coal oil, pickles from the barrel, lamp chimneys and sticky fly paper.

At the market: sawdust on the floor, quarters of beef hanging from the hook, liver free, sidemeat, country butter, river or creek ice in the cooler.

### "Tale of a Top Buggy"

Here is the tale of a swain and his fair lady and a borrowed buggy.

Not many youths could own a buggy; usually they rented a buggy and spanking livery team from Bill Nincehelser (at Oskaloosa).

It is told that one youth ventured to ask Oskaloosa's richest banker for the loan of his top buggy. Said Critchfield: "It's in the barn, go and get it, hitch up and take your gal a ride."

At the barn, the youth was puzzled. The buggy top was higher than the

opening of the shed. He didn't know how to let that top down. So he removed the wheels, one at a time of course, drew the buggy outside on its chassis, replaced the wheels, went on his ride.

He lost his gal, (who was Miss Chandler). She later married Wm. Blevins, a

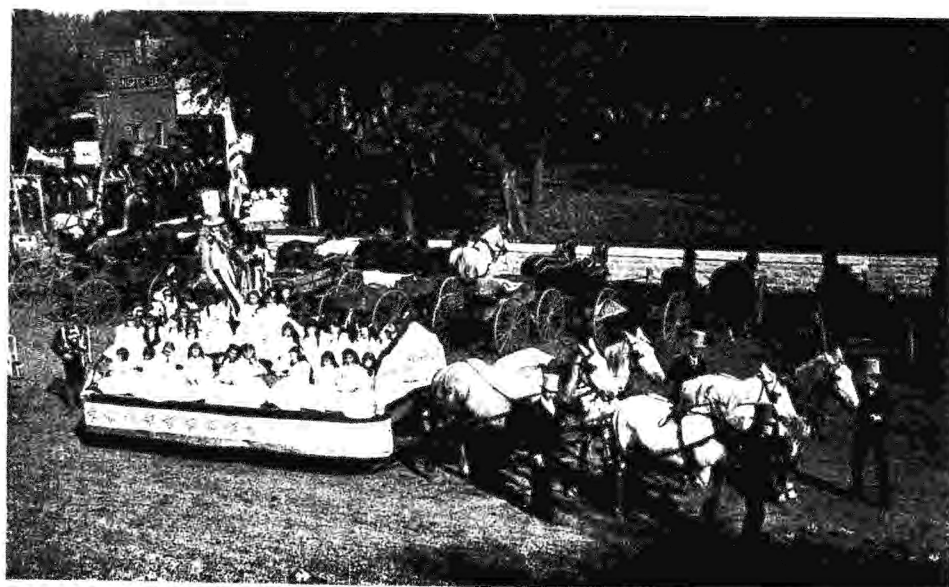
pioneer citizen of Oskaloosa vicinity since the Osawkee land sales.

One of the Blevins' daughters is Mrs. Elizabeth Slade, who was thirty years a school teacher in Oskaloosa schools, one of the brightest women of any generation, who now resides in Atchison.



**TYPICAL LIVERY SERVICE OF THE NINETIES**

Photo owned by Nincehelser Sisters, Oskaloosa.



**PATRIOTIC PARADE 1896 — McKinley Campaign**

Upper right, stone jail in court house park. Extreme left, public curbed well. Note Hitching Racks. — Nincehelser's



**SURREY WITH THE FRINGE IN TOP**

In the Nineties — Ind. Pub. Co

#### Dens-Oil Lubricant Co.

1207 Grand Ave.

Kansas City, Mo.

#### Allen Press

1041 N H.,

Historical Book Presswork

Lawrence

#### Etchrite Engraving Company

Lawrence,

Historical Book Engravings

Kansas

#### Derby Grain, Inc.

Tom L. Smart

Lawrence

Paul L. Smart

# "New Century - New Modes"

When did the 20th century begin? January 1, 1900? January 1, 1901? It is astonishing now how much discussion that simple question produced at the time.

So far as Jefferson countians then alive were concerned, the new century began with the coming of telephones, electric lights, manufactured ice and the automobile, all of which arrived in this rural community about the same time. Soon came moving pictures in village theatres. Rural free mail delivery was a boon to farm living. Radio and surfaced roads arrived here with the 20's. Airplanes in the 40's and television in the 50's, now air-conditioning — what's ahead for the 60's is for our bright youth to think up and bring about by the same qualities of intelligence and application that have made this generation one of remarkable achievement.

The high school as a popular institution began to reach Jefferson just about the turn of the century. Its first curricula were college preparatory. Organized athletics began in high schools of this county near the close of the first decade; at that time, too, there was normal training for prospective teachers, and accompanying certificate laws; in second decade came manual training; third decade brought vocational agriculture and home economics. During the period of World War I, the legislature provided for Rural High Schools. First one in Jefferson was at Meriden, district 93 JT, joint with Shawnee and Jackson counties, in 1918. There are nine now in the county.

After World War II, came a law providing consolidation of rural with town elementary schools. Rising costs of operation of smaller units was hastening this movement; in 1951 a mandatory feature was added to the law; state aid was legislated under such rules as would gradually eliminate the one-teacher schools. Thus, in this county where 81 rural districts were operating, there were, the past year, only 24.

State aid for high schools was authorized by the 1955 legislature.

## THE LATER WARS

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The war of 1898 drew from this county volunteers for Frederick Funston's famous fighting 20th Kansas Infantry; for the 21st, 22d, 23d Kansas Volunteer regiments, several U. S. units, and for the Philippine constabulary. Jefferson county Negro troops of the 23d served under Col. Teddy Roosevelt.

### BORDER & WORLD WAR I

There was organized in this county, April, 1916 an independent military company with headquarters at Oskaloosa — an armory on the North side of the Square, a rifle range, forty tents, wool dress uniforms, fatigue equipment. It became Company B, 2nd Kansas Vol. Inf., and was called into service on the Mexican border, going by way of Ft. Riley, 21st of June.

In summer of 1917 Co. B became part of the 3rd Kansas Infantry: in September with numerous changes of personnel from the preceding year it set out for Camp Doniphan, Okla., enroute ultimately to France, where it took part in many of the heavy engagements against the Germans.

The day that Company B left Oskaloosa was a great day in the memory of many persons yet alive in 1955. Soon after noon that day thousands of people from over the county assembled to see the boys off. The procession to the L. & T. depot was headed by Valley Falls and Winchester bands and by a color guard of Civil War veterans.

The centennial celebration this August, 1955, is graced by the presence of a considerable number of veterans of old "Company B" who are here enjoying their first reunion, 36 years after their

discharge from the army. Special recognition is being accorded them both at the courthouse park and from the pag-eant stage.

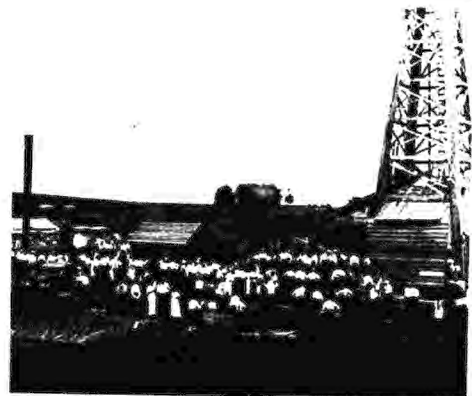
### WORLD WAR II AND KOREA

World War II and the Korean conflict of 1950, with its drafting machinery set up in 1942 and continued even until now, after cessation of that war, has taken hundreds of Jefferson county boys into one or another of the branches of military service of the nation until it has become a part of the normal expectation of young manhood. At same time there is a growing hope, world-wide, that the scourge of war has indeed been check-mated by the invention of atomic instruments too dreadful for civilized use.

### SEARCH FOR OIL AND GAS

Geology of Jefferson county had pointed to the possibility of oil or gas beneath its surface, long before any serious efforts and expenditure of capital were made to find the liquid gold.

One of the earliest tests to attract wide notice was a test on W. T. Edmonds farm, W½, NW 24-9-19E, which went to the "Mississippi lime", in 1921



**SPUDDING IN — OIL TEST IN 1921**

W. T. Edmonds farm near Winchester

J. W. Byrn

J. C. Haigwood

Crushed Stone Products

Tonganoxie, Kansas

Eighteen years later, leading oil geologists of the University of Kansas found an anticline a few miles north of McLouth, suggested a good place to make a test to D. W. McLaughlin of Iowa, who secured title in fee simple to an acreage in order to drill just where he wanted. November 1, 1939, he brought in the first gas-producing well in the McLouth field.

This discovery led to thorough exploration of the area, with a total of about 220 wells, some oil, some gas. Production proved disappointing, however. In December, 1944, the Cities Service Gas Company began taking leases looking to the establishment of an underground storage field, which it badly needed in this area, proximate to Kansas City. After delays incident to war time, this storage field was completed at a cost of three and a half million dollars.

Considerable capital has been expended in tests of other localities of Jefferson county without success.

## Story of Agriculture

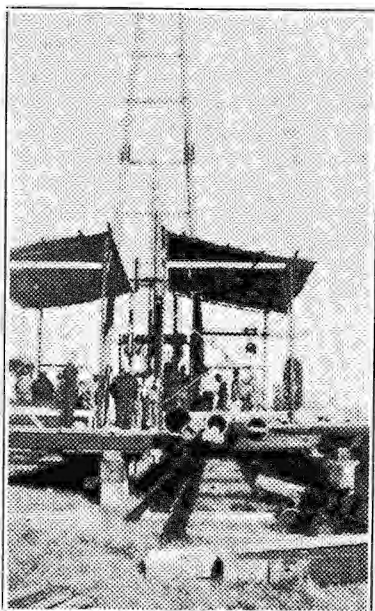
"The plow has come unheralded; no trumpets sound the charge; no bands with inspiring music cheer the plowman on his weary but hopeful march; no banners wave aloft to mark the lines of battle; but the battle is on; the plow, though silently, is surely moving to victory, with a wilderness to conquer." — Wm. D. Street, a Kansas pioneer of the 1860's.

Kansas began with agriculture, Jefferson county has stayed with it as its prime and almost sole industry. Nature was very beneficent to the early farmer of this region. With moderate labor our soil produced corn, wheat, oats, rye and other grains; bluegrass, clover, alfalfa and other varieties of hay. For half a century or more, there flourished large orchards of apples, pears, peaches and small fruits.

Some 15 to 20% of its area was well

timbered. Timber was an essential in the development of a civilization; the man with the best timber on his homestead was the man of wealth. Saw mills did a flourishing business. While first construction was of logs, sawed timber was very soon available for homes and business places. Farm fences were of split rails or of the native stone.

Corn-into-hogs was the staple procedure for years on Jefferson county farms, where today it is grass-into-cattle or into milk. In the middle twenties, when it was becoming yearly more evident that fertility was slipping, the Agricultural Extension service began to take systematic concern with the farmer's problems. Came then the county agricultural agent, whose services were mediated largely through the organized Farm Bureau. Some of the services rendered: soil tests, application of lime,



**DISCOVERY GAS WELL**

McLaughlin No. 1, McLouth, November 1939.

Ind. Pub. Co.



**VICTORY OF THE PLOW**

Agriculture started with oxen and "sod-busters." Above: A typical rail fence, a good fence of native stone. — Inde. Pub. Co.

**Ed F. Mangelsdorf & Bro., Inc.**  
Atchison, Wholesale Field Seeds Kansas

**Easton State Bank**  
Easton, Kansas

**The Leavenworth Times**  
Closely Tied to Jefferson County — Since 1857

**Shawnee Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.**  
821 Kansas Ave. Topeka, Kansas

increased use of legumes, eradication of TB in cattle. The county appropriation in 1925 was \$1800. Next year the first terracing-drainage project was laid out. Then wide testing of seed corn, a lime-legume project, and cow testing.

By 1930, tractor farming was getting into stride and 100 acres were terraced. Poultry work was outstanding in a year of drouth. County appropriation was \$3,265. AAA programs, corn-hog allotments and others came in 1934. The year 1935 brought trench silos; 1936, worst crop failure in county history. This was in the midst of a nation-wide economic depression which ruined tens of thousands of farmers. Hundreds of Jefferson county farm mortgages were foreclosed.

Due to aging of trees, the winter freeze of 1941, increase of diseases and uncertain markets, fruit-growing in this county was by 1950 nearly a thing of the past.

Post-war years have seen these developments: Grade A dairying, pure-bred livestock association, artificial breeding of dairy stock, laboratory soil testing. In 1951 the Extension service was divorced from the Farm Bureau and made more easily available to all farmers. It now has 1750 cooperators on a regular mailing list.

## SOIL CONSERVATION

Jefferson county was organized as a soil conservation district in 1947 and with the assistance of federal Extension, a full-time engineering and advisory staff employed.

In eight years of operation, this department has elaborated 572 farm plans providing for the improvement of 114,621 acres. 96 miles of terrace have been constructed as a part of the execution of these plans, 162 farm ponds built, 4000 acres of pasture improved by seeding. Contour farming and approved rotations have been applied to 40,000 acres. Many other items of approved practices have been installed. Conservation practices are slowly but surely improving both the appearance and the productivity of Jefferson county farms.

## FEDERAL AGENCIES

Most of the Agricultural Extension

agencies are buttressed by federal funds. In addition, the federal Government has agencies under its immediate direction for the regulation of crops and marketing and for personal assistance of farm people requiring one form or another of assistance.

The total impact of these agencies—educational, advisory and regulatory—has in this rural county of Jefferson accomplished a very great deal in putting our agricultural practices on a sound twentieth century basis.

## HOME DEMONSTRATION

Begun in 1928 as a feature of the Farm Bureau, women's work developed but slowly during the decade of drouth and depression, then suffered a further setback during the war. In 1946, under stimulus of an Agent, the units increased to ten, the membership to 200, and the program was broadened. Under a full-time Agent the units increased to 25 with 400 members.

In 1952, the Jefferson county Agricultural Extension Council was formed by law to be the sponsoring agency. The coming of rural electrification and a series of good crop years has been a wonderful stimulus to organized undertakings of farm women.

Leader instruction has been pursued in these units, among others, clothing making, health and sanitation, home management, foods and nutrition, home furnishing, communicable diseases, accidents of the home, school lunch.

During the war years of 1941-'42, the clubs made cotton mattresses—476 of

them, using 12,000 pounds of cotton, 2,400 yards of ticking. Public meetings were educative in matters of proper nutrition on the home front.

Post-war subjects have included landscaping, mental health; undertakings in collaboration with Red Cross, TB Ass'n, and Cancer Ass'n have been helpful, also projects to improve schools community buildings, etc.

## 4-H MOVEMENT

4-H work was begun in Jefferson county in 1924 with one calf club and one poultry club. By 1927, there were eight clubs with 117 members, each with an adult volunteer leader. By 1941, there were 16 clubs, 240 members and a county council was organized. In 1944 was held the first all 4-H county fair. In 1954, a 4-H Agent was added to the Extension full-time staff. In 1955 there are 23 clubs, 455 members.

In 1950, by vote at a general election, the county commissioners were authorized to make a levy for construction of county 4-H fair buildings. These were erected near Valley Falls. They afford buildings for display of agricultural products, home making products, arts and crafts, and sheds for showing of livestock and poultry. Blue-ribbon exhibits at the annual county fair are carried to the state fairs and to the St. Joseph interstate fair.

Jefferson has become one of the outstanding counties of the state in quality of work accomplished and monetary value of products marketed. Our 4-H members have received recognition be-



JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H FAIR COUNCIL (1955) and 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

The Hall Lithographing Co.  
623 Kansas Ave. Topeka, Kansas

The Reuter Organ Co.  
Lawrenc, Kansas

Martin Tractor Company, Inc.  
3200 Topeka Ave. Topeka, Kansas

F. S. Edwards Tobacco Co., Inc.  
Kansas City, "The House of Service" Topeka

yond the county in terms of scholarships, rail trips and cash prizes.

The 4-H movement has re-created for the rising generation a lively interest in rural living and in scientific farming as a means of livelihood. Moreover, the 4-H movement provides for our rural youth a type of education which conserves those elements of character upon which the Kansas brand of Americanism was built.

## RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Rural electrification has doubtless done more to revolutionize farm living in Jefferson county than any other improvement of modern times. An organization meeting of farmers held in August of 1940 launched the Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Cooperative. The first loan requested from federal funds was designed to build 261 miles of electric distribution lines. The war of 1941-'45 delayed construction, but by the end of 1946, the Co-op had furnished power to 2329 consumers and average patron consumption had increased from 20 kwh per month to 251 kwh. During this same period, private power companies have also enjoyed a marked increase of rural patronage along their service lines.

The farm people have responded to this challenge in a big way, thoroughly modernizing their homes and multiplying their use of convenient appliances.

About 90% of Jefferson county farms are now electrified.

## BOY SCOUTS

Jefferson county scouting units are located at Nortonville, Valley Falls, Oskaloosa, and Perry, with Cub Packs at Oskaloosa and Valley Falls. A total of 113 boys are officially registered in these six units, along with 49 adult registered leaders. Organization work is under way on new units for Winchester, Ozawkie and Meriden.

Camp Jayhawk, near Ozawkie, serves the boys of ten and one-half counties for a summer camping experience. These counties of the Council are — Nemaha, Marshall, Pottawatomie, Jackson, Jefferson, Shawnee, Wabaunsee,

Osage, Lyon, Coffey and the northern portion of Greenwood.

The 207 acres of land for the Camp was purchased in 1945 and the first Scouts camped in the new facility that summer. A 23-acre lake was developed and has become the popular spot on the reservation for swimming, canoeing, boating, water safety work and excellent fishing. During the winter of 1954-'55, a new and completely modern dining lodge was constructed and future plans call for the building of a new Health Lodge, three program area shelters and additional camping sites to accommodate the large number of boys and leaders using the Camp. The summer of 1953 saw 631 Scouts and leaders in Camp. This number increased to 751 in 1954 and this summer, 1955, over 1100 Scouts and their leaders will use the Camp. Over 1600 Cub Scouts and their Dads will use the Camp for the popular Cub-Dad-Lad Week-end.

Week-end camps are conducted on a year-round basis at Camp Jayhawk. Scouts and their leaders enjoy programs of Handicraft, Indian Lore, Nature Study, Water activities, Archery, Conservation practices, a Rifle Range, Hiking and just plain good old American fellowship on a camp site dedicated to friendship and brotherhood under the banner of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



**CAMP JAYHAWK — LAKE**

Scouting camp near Ozawkie, Kansas

# Townships

## OZAWKIE TOWNSHIP

Oldest settled township in the county, made where the old military road crossed the Grasshopper river. Original county seat (territorial). Settled mainly by pro-slavery men, who laid out the town of Osawkee on the east side of the river. Free-state men laid out Pleasant Hill on the west side of the river, which never boasted more than 4 buildings. Ozawkie — Prior to the land sales Osawkee boasted of a large hotel, several stores and other buildings. In early '80's it had a large flour and grist mill, a hotel, a livery stable, blacksmith and wagon shop, and schoolhouse. — First church was by the Brethren, in 1862.

## DELAWARE TOWNSHIP

One of the three original townships formed by the county court in January 1856 and originally named Grasshopper Township. The First white settler was Henry Zen. Grasshopper (Valley) Falls was the first permanent settlement. James Frazier, Robert Riddle, H. B. Jolley and A. J. Whitney, first settlers arriving in December 1854 staked out their claims on Christmas day and formed a town company. Within two months two cabins were erected near the later Piazzek mill. In March '55, arrived Stephen H. Dunn, blacksmith, and his family. His wife, tho the second white woman in the town, was the first to remain. In 1855, a saw and grist mill began operations. In the spring '55, the town of Grasshopper Falls was laid out, first building was a frame structure of lumber hauled from Weston, Mo., erected in the middle of a street intersection. In spring of '56, Wm. & R. H. Crosby built a frame store. This was burned by the "Regulators" on Sept. 8, rebuilt in the spring of '57. There was contention between squatters of Grasshopper Falls and those of Jefferson City, a town laid out a short distance west, these differences were settled largely at the land sales in Osawkee, July '57. The original name, Grasshopper Falls was changed by an act of legislature to Sautrelle

### Beverage Sales Co.

Topeka — Kansas

### Collard Chevrolet Company

Leavenworth "Your Dealer for 33 Years" Kansas

### Kendall State Bank

Valley Falls, — Our Sixty-third Year — Kansas

### Sears, Roebuck and Company

Phone 4-3461 Topeka, Kansas

Falls, but the citizens failed to recognize the new name and continued to call it by the original until another act of legislature in 1875 changed it to Valley Falls. A two-story stone schoolhouse was erected in 1866, on a block of ground originally intended to be the courthouse site. The first church was erected by the Lutherans in 1857.

## OSKALOOSA TOWNSHIP

Was a part of Slough Creek Township, another of the original 3 organized by the county court in 1856. First settler was Dr. James Noble, early in 1855. Among the earliest settlers who remained with some degree of permanence were James and Thos. H. Noble, Terry Trapp, N. B. and J. H. C. Hopewell, J. H. Rickman, E. and J. Faubion, H. O. Finch, John Jeffries, Wm. Meredith, Geo. and Conrad Schuster.

A pro-slavery town was platted in 1855, called Jacksonville. The project failed to "take". A subscription school, however, was operated in the winter of 1855-'56, taught by A. J. Greene. In 1859, the township could boast of more than

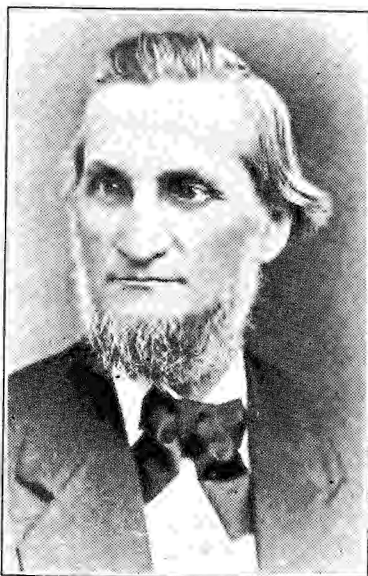
200 voters. During the summer of 1855, Jesse Newell and Joseph Fitzsimmons came to Kansas seeking new homes. The neighborhood of Dr. Jas. Noble's cabin appealed to them. They returned to Iowa, disposed of their holdings there and returned to Kansas in July 1856, settling on the present townsite of Oskaloosa and thereon platted a town. They named it after their home town in Iowa, Oskaloosa. By the end of 1858 the population numbered several hundred. But this population was mainly temporary, many moved their buildings to nearby farms. In October '58, the county seat was located at Oskaloosa. Isaac Fairholm and family came from Ohio, in 1859. He built a frame building on Jefferson street for a wagon-making shop. In the summer of 1860, came John Wesley Roberts, with printing equipment shipped from Cincinnati down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to Leavenworth, thence to Oskaloosa by wagon. Fairholm leased his wagon shop to Roberts, his son-in-law, for a printshop. There on July 11,

1860, came from the Franklin hand-press the first issue of The Oskaloosa Independent. Residents awaited the paper with great eagerness. The Independent has been operated ever since by the Roberts family. Public school district No. 29 was formed in 1859, by J. H. Ben-



**COOKING BEANS IN THE PARK**

This was long a custom of GAR celebrations. — A.G.S.



**JOHN WESLEY ROBERTS**

Founder of the Oskaloosa Independent "Six months older than the State of Kansas", this newspaper has remained longest in the same family; in 1955 owned by grandson of the founder.

Ind. Pub. Co.



**CONDENSERY — VALLEY FALLS LARGEST INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT**

**Superior School Supply Co.**  
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"Gas For Home and Industry"

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Since 1887 Deposits Insured to \$10,000. F.D.I.C.

nett, County Supt.; a school building was erected in 1860 with three departments. It was located east side of the Square. The Methodist Episcopal society, in existence from the year 1857, and incorporated in 1859, erected a small church building in 1860, dedicated it October 25.

## KENTUCKY TOWNSHIP

Originally composed of all the south half of the county, was formed in May 1856. First settler was John Scaggs, in 1854, a slave-owner. First voting place

was at Rising Sun in 1856. Early settlements were on the Kaw half-breed lands. Col. Montgomery, Indian agent, ordered the settlers to leave and burned several homes. Montgomery was disposed of and the settlers returned to build anew. Taxes they paid prior to 1862 were refunded. Settlers on the lands of the Delawares were refunded taxes paid prior to 1868. The first church in the township was organized in 1857 at Rising Sun by the Methodist Episcopal South. Rising Sun was the first town to be laid out. Platted in 1857, on the north bank of the Kaw opposite Le-

compton, by Joseph Haddox, later associated with Jerome Kunkle, Louis Lutt, J. Menzer. Lutt and Menzer operated the first store. Kunkle operated the ferry. Village was trading center until the coming of Kansas Pacific railroad. Perry was platted by the railroad company in 1865, and became the principal community of the Kaw Valley in Jefferson county. It was called Perryville by the first settlers, in honor of John D. Perry, president of the railroad. Before the town was platted G. B. Carson and Bro. had opened a store. Jos. Terrell was the first to build a residence and be-



**COUNTY'S MOST WIDELY KNOWN INSTITUTION — "HAMMTOWN". (Above, On the Road, — Below, In Camp)**

Originated in 1941 by N. R. Hamm, of Perry, by the assemblage of ten combines, together with sleeper, diner, smoker, kitchen and store, this mobile industrial city (population 27) has made the wheat harvest belt, Texas to North Dakota, for fifteen consecutive years. A constituency has been built through service that demands Hammtown's yearly return, be the harvest lush or thin. For ten years Hammtown has been in charge, on the road and in the field, of Mason Brunton.

**N. R. Hamm Contractor, Inc.  
Perry, Kansas**

**Quarry, Phone 5330, Perry — Contractor, Phone 86, Perry — Hammtown Phone 33, Perry**

came the first postmaster. Perry hotel was erected in 1866. First school was a subscription school taught by Mr. and Mrs. G. D. King in a two story school-house erected by a joint stock company assisted by Freemasons, in 1867. The first church in Perry was by the Presbyterian society in 1869. Centerville about mid-way between Perry and Medina, was laid out in 1865. John Collins built a large two-story business house, the only one ever erected there, it was later moved to Perry. Medina, two miles west of Perry on the west side of the Delaware river, was platted by Lutt, Kunkle and Menzer in 1865. Most of the buildings from Rising Sun were moved to this new site. A newspaper, The New Era, was established in 1867 by Rev. S. Weaver, who moved it to Valley Falls in 1871. Thompsonville, 3 miles N.W. of Perry. On site of the Mormon settlement of 1851. Thompson's mill, erected in 1865, was on the site of the old Indian mill of 1854. Newman, 2 mi. west of Medina, established in 1867. A. A. Heston was the first postmaster.

## KAW TOWNSHIP

Originally a part of Kentucky township. It was organized in 1858. Settlers of 1854 were Jefferson Riddle, J. T. Wilson, K. Kukendall and R. P. Beeler. First religious services were held in 1856. A town company was formed in 1857 and a townsite of 320 acres was laid off and named Kaw City. A postoffice was established, in 1858, on the east side of Big Muddy Creek. When the Kansas Pacific came through the township in 1865 a station was built on the farm of D. W. Kleinhans and called Kaw station. The Kaw City postoffice was moved to the new location, Mr. Kleinhans laid off a town around it, this was the original town of Grantville.

## SARCOXIE TOWNSHIP

The area now comprising Rural and Sarcoxie townships was set off from Kentucky township in 1862 and named Sarcoxie after the Delaware chief of that name, who lived on the Kaw bank near the later North Lawrence, then a part of Jefferson county. First settle-



DELAWARE IN FLOOD AT PERRY — 1951

The people of Perry were taken out in boats, given temporary housing in neighboring communities. — Photo courtesy Topeka Daily Capital.



GRANTVILLE STORE

Typical country store of early days yet to be seen in thousands of places, small and larger. — Courtesy of Mrs. Burroughs.

The Victory Sand and Stone Company  
Kansas' Finest Sand Plant

Foot of Waite St.

P.O. Box 281

Topeka, Kansas

ments were in 1859, by W. C. Ross, J. Stewart, W. A. Williams, E. Canovan, J. W. Byram, R. G. Elliott and H. W. Williams. J. W. Byram was the first man to buy land from the railroad company. There was much controversy between settlers and the railroad company, as recited elsewhere in this booklet. First postoffice was at Chester.

## RURAL TOWNSHIP

Township separated from Sarcoxie and formed into a township. It has the one village of Williamstown, established with the coming of the Kansas Pacific railroad. It is one of the earliest settled sections of the county. Williamstown is laid out on the site of the earlier home of Chief White Plume, mentioned elsewhere in this booklet.

## NORTON TOWNSHIP

Formed in 1880, from portions of Jefferson and Delaware townships. Nortonville was platted in 1873 and lies partly in Atchison county. John Taggart, was the first settler. He brought a small stock of merchandise intending to open a store. Before a building could be built he was appointed postmaster, opened the office in his tent. The Santa Fe built a station in September 1873, Taggart was named agent. Nortonville became a

shipping point for grain. The community wanted a school but lacked enough voters to legally organize. Organization was effected in the fall, 1873, bonds voted and a schoolhouse erected. First dwelling in Nortonville dates from the summer of 1873. In 1874, about 15 buildings were erected. First churches were the Methodist and United Presbyterian both organized in 1873.

## FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP

Township was separated from Ozawie in 1871. Its area is 35 square miles. It has no postoffice and no village but maintains a good community life through farmers organizations.

## ROCK CREEK TOWNSHIP

In January 1855 a party composed of Aaron Cook, Geo. Cook, A. Pearsall, and Jas. Dempsey of Black Hawk, county Iowa, crossed the Grasshopper at Osawkee, followed it westward to Rock creek, thence up the creek one mile and staked their claims. First business house was at Mt. Florence, on the military road, 1½ miles south west of Meriden. This place once had a postoffice and half a dozen homes. Meriden—platted in



**THE FRONTIER HOUSE, Two blocks north of the court house, Oskaloosa**

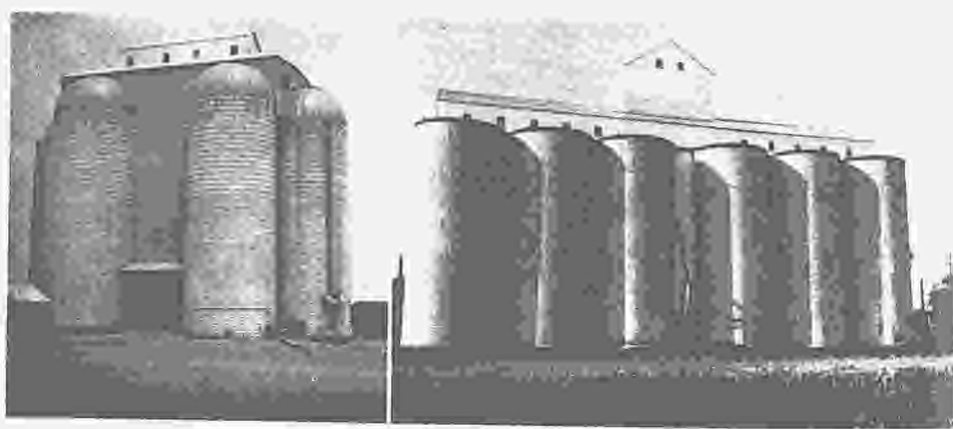
Its stone portion was built about 1858, owned by Mark S. Finnicum. In 1864 it passed to Wm. A. Coy, registered of deeds and later all round merchant. In 1867 opened as a hotel by S. S. Cole. In 1869 owned by J. F. Bliss, probate judge-elect from Valley Falls. Bliss operated it as a boarding house 15 or 20 years.

Coy dug a deep well, walled it with native limestone. The late Geo. Briner recalled seeing long lines of ox teams lined up waiting their turn at this watering place, also Van Ambergh's "Mammoth Menagerie" wild animals lined up there for a drink, the ford at Slough Creek being dry. — IndePubCo



**OSKALOOSA PUBLIC SCHOOL  
1881—1907**

Ind. Pub. Co.



**CORPSTEIN ELEVATOR (Left) NORTONVILLE, KANSAS, Cap. 125,000bu.  
CORPSTEIN ELEVATORS, PERRY, KANSAS — Cap. 200,000 bu. (right)**

### Borden's

Distributors of fine ice cream in Jefferson county

### E. D. Gilkerson and Sons

Gilk's Hi-Hat Potato Chips & Gilk's Topper Corn Chips

C. A. Smith & Son, Implements, Inc., Topeka, Kansas

Amos H. Leech Abstract Co., Est. 1905, Oskaloosa, Ks.

Walgreen's, 8th & Kans. Ave., Topeka, Kansas

Murphy's Butcher Supply, 605 N. Kans. Topeka, Kans.

October 1872. First building the A.T. & S.F. station house. First dwelling in November 1872 by Dr. A. Dawson. A blacksmith shop moved in from Mt. Florence that year. First store by Wm. and Perry Riggs in 1873. Several hot elections were required before bonds of \$20,000 were voted to the railroad to erect a depot. Methodist church organized in '73. The United Brethren society was formed before the town existed and built a church in 1880. Two-story school was built in 1882. Rock Creek — another village in this township came in the late '80's.

## UNION TOWNSHIP

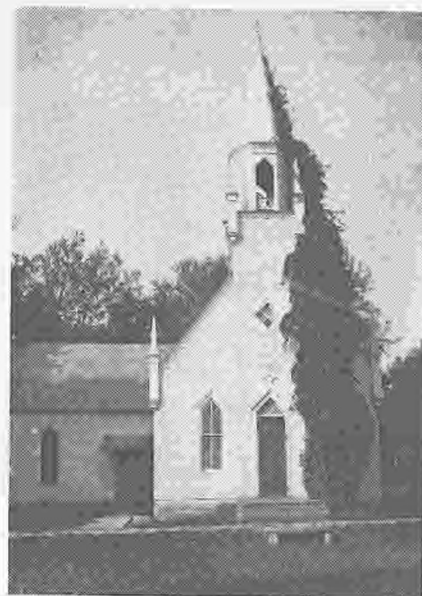
Organized in 1869 from a portion of Oskaloosa township, this part of the county was early settled. Andrew Rice and wife, known later as "Aunt Rhoda", came in March 1855. Others of that year were Isaac Fowler, W. C. Fowler, S. S. Dark, J. F. Willits, Dr. R. W. Hosford. The Rices came from Missouri with a prospector who dumped their possessions (a cow and a calf, a few articles of furniture, a little clothing) and drove on his way. For four months they lived out of doors. Mr. Rice began splitting logs for a dwelling which he was able to finish only after other settlers came along to help him. For ten years Aunt Rhoda cooked at a fireplace. She bought her first stove at a sale in 1865. During the frequent raids by border ruffians in the earliest years, Andrew Rice would hide himself away from the house to escape rough treatment, while Rhoda let the marauders plunder the slender

stores of food. Sometimes she had left only potatoes and roasting ears, no meat or cornmeal. A postoffice was established in 1855, called Middletown, William Butler the postmaster. The office was in a log cabin. Also in a log cabin was the first store, opened in 1856 by Hugh Cameron. First school was taught in fall of '56 in a building erected entirely by local contributed labor. Other early postoffices were Grove City and Woodstock. McLouth came into being with the railroad, the Leavenworth, Topeka and Southwestern, in 1881. It was platted in part on land owned by Mr. Amos McLouth. The area having been well settled for a quarter of a century, McLouth early became a good trading center. With the coming of the Kansas City & Northwestern railroad in 1887, the town's business was largely increased. The two railroad depots were close to the center of the town.

## JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

In June 1854, Charles Hardt started a trading ranch at Hickory Point on the Fort to Fort military road. About the same time Simeon and Isaac Hull, B. Brinton, Dick Chandler, Jeff. Fortner, J. B. Ross, John Hart and Chas. Hedrick staked claims and located within what was to become Jefferson township. In 1855 about 100 families settled here. W. M. Gardiner, who stayed, selected a claim where Winchester now is located, his home on Walnut Creek. First post-office was at Hickory Point, with Chas. Hardt as postmaster. First school district

organized in Jefferson county was also in the later Jefferson township, Rothschild district, Feb. 21, 1859. First religious society in the township was the Methodist, organized in 1857 at Fairfield. Winchester was laid out in 1857, named for the Virginia city, home of Alvin Best, oldest man in the settlement. In that same year William Reboe built a small frame store building, opened a dry goods and grocery business. Winchester school district was formed in 1859, first taught by Samuel Betts. In 1860, a building was erected on what is now the site of District 107.



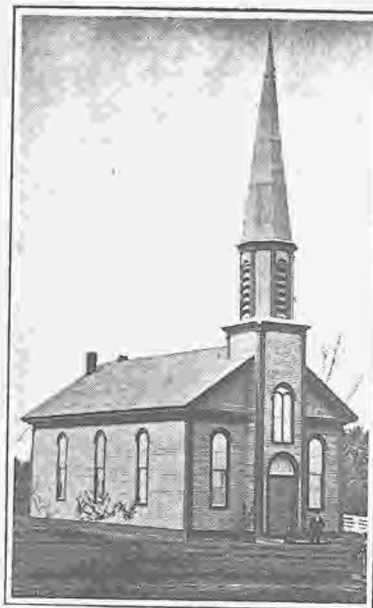
**OSKALOOSA METHODIST CHURCH**

About the turn of the century



**FIRST HOME OF OSKALOOSA INDEPENDENT**

Decorated for a Fourth of July occasion



**OSKALOOSA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

About 1872

# Jefferson County Memorial Hospital

This project, launched in 1949, and nearing completion in the summer of 1955, is of wide interest to the county. Located at the northwest corner of the townsite of Winchester, this hospital is entirely modern both in architecture and internal arrangement. It is of brick and concrete, one story high, with overall dimensions 115x130 feet, 10,000 sq. ft. of floor space. It will provide 25 beds and has capacity for reasonable enlargement. Its initial cost of around \$135,000 has been paid or pledged, all secured by private donation.

Reception room of the hospital will memorialize John Steuart Curry, the famous artist (1897—1946) who lies buried in a church cemetery only a few rods east of the hospital. The memorial room is a gift of Curry's mother Margaret (Mrs. Smith) Curry, now a resident of Phoenix, Ariz.

The hospital enterprise is a tribute to the untiring labors of scores of volunteer workers, chiefly of the larger Winchester community, but including many from other sections of the county.



**JEFFERSON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER**

Nearing completion in 1955. Will have memorials to John Steuart Curry and others. 25 beds, cost \$135,000. — Inde. Pub. Co.

## John Steuart Curry

John Steuart Curry (1897-1946) is doubtless Jefferson county's most famous native son, and one of the most astute interpreters of its land, its people, its place in history; he bequeathed those interpretations to generations yet unborn, in forms of imperishable beauty and of robust strength.

Born on a farm six miles north of Oskaloosa of Scotch Covenantor parentage, his upbringing was typical of farm life in Jefferson County. "I was raised", he said, "on hard work and the shorter catechism. We were up at four o'clock the year around, feeding the cattle, planting and plowing corn, cutting hay and wheat; in school months, doing half a day's work before we rode to town horseback to our lessons. But we didn't mind, it was the only life we knew and I had a strong constitution."

Curry's parents, college bred, gave him all encouragement within their means to develop his budding talent, provided the boy kept that ambition tied to the realities and necessities of the day's tasks.

That inner urge of the young artist absorbed his dreams and much of his energies from a very early age. His first teacher, Jennie Mitchell at the Hickory point school, gave John's impulses full recognition. At the age of 12 years he was getting formal drawing lessons at Oskaloosa from Mrs. Alice Worswick, who had studied in Paris.

High school, at Winchester, proved somewhat of a bore to young Curry.

After trials at Kansas City and Chicago Art Institutes, and a year in college, Curry essayed the field of an illustrator. Here he was beginning to attain considerable success when he realized the field was too restrictive for his more creative bent.

By 1928, Curry had become sure of his techniques and had applied them to such realistic subjects as tell the world what eastern Kansas as a dwelling place is like and of what character its people.

His ventures in other fields of American life and his growing mastery of their interpretation only confirm Curry's thesis that art is latent in every natural and human situation, needing but the sincere and skilled artist to bring it forth. Thus, if he could utter today a hope implicit in his works it doubtless would be that the oncoming generations of Jefferson county youth might continue to find in their environment and within themselves the inspirations to high achievement.

The compilers of this booklet are happy to end their task with the observation that John Steuart Curry of Kansas has written large on canvas and mural in days of Kansas' fulfillment what John James Ingalls of Kansas penned in letters of silver in the days of Kansas' promise.

# *Acknowledgments*

The compilers wish to express their thanks

## TO THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For use of many photos from their collections, for numerous chapters from their accumulated volumes, and many personal courtesies by the secretary, Mr. Nyle H. Miller, and members of his staff.

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For the loan of photos and other material.

## TO THE LADIES OF THE CIVIC GROUP

For diligent effort to secure pictures for this volume.

## TO ALICE GARDINER SENNRICH

For the loan of photos out of her professional collection.

## TO THE MANY INDIVIDUALS

Who offered contributions or responded to compilers' requests for paragraphs or chapters.

## TO THE TOPEKA DAILY CAPITAL

For photo of 1951 flood.

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John P. Hoskinson, writers and compilers of this publication.

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