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THE HISTORY  
OF  
RICE COUNTY  
MUSCOTT

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# R·I·C·E COUNTY 1876

*A "History" of Rice County,  
Written By John M. Muscott  
and Published In  
The Rice County Gazette,  
Sterling, in 1876.*

Edited & Reprinted  
1976 — Max Moxley,  
Sterling, Kansas



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# THE HISTORY

OF

## RICE COUNTY.

BY JOHN M. MUSCOTT.

### CHAPTER I.

*Location—Boundaries—Detachment  
 of Strip—Organization—Officers,  
 County and Township.*

Rice county lies about equi-distant  
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(From the Rice County Gazette, March 30, 1876)

Edited and Reprinted  
 by  
 Max Moxley

Sterling, Kansas  
 1976

## PREFACE

What was going on in Rice County 100 years ago — in the Centennial Year of 1876?

Some of the answers are to be found in the following "History of Rice County" written in 1876 by an original settler by the name of John M. Muscott. The "history" was published serially in the Rice County Gazette, a Sterling newspaper that in 1891 was consolidated with The Sterling Bulletin by long-time Bulletin editor, J. E. Junkin. The original manuscript contained 21 chapters and appeared in The Gazette between March 30 and October 26, 1876, with the editor printing one or two chapters each week — or none at all, as the limits of space dictated.

It can in no way, at this date, be considered a "history" of Rice County for the reason that it covers only the first five years of the County's existence. Likewise, Sterling was only four years old at the time and Lyons did not exist when the early chapters were put in print. However, because its publication was almost contemporary with the beginnings of the county, it can be considered more or less authentic and accurate.

The Centennial Year of 1876 was an important one for Rice County. Citizens voted, on April 12 to abandon the original County Seat of Atlanta and to locate the County government at a new site termed "The Centre" — some two miles northeast of Atlanta. The vote was 457 to 336 in favor of "The Centre" over Peace. Then too, one week later, on April 18, the residents of Peace took action to change the name of that booming young town to "Sterling." Also the touchy matter of "The Strip," the contested south boundary of the county was more or less resolved in that year. In 1872 the State Legislature had removed from Rice County and included in Reno a five-township strip that included Hayes, Walnut, Medford, Salt Creek and Grant — Township 22, ranges 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. In 1876 a strong effort was made by D. J. Fair, Hon. Ansel Clark, legislator; J. H. Ricksecker and others, to have this land returned to Rice County. But the campaign failed and the matter settled for all time.

The author of this early history was a man of about 55 or 60 years of age, a native of New York who had passed the bar in 1840. He lived on a farm at Atlanta and solicited what legal business he could. The entire "history" can be viewed as a "puff" for Rice County, a real estate promotion piece that extolled at length the soil, climate, water resources and other attributes of the area. However, it is amusing to note that in the matter of lawyers, Muscott makes it plain that the county can in no way support additional ones. The same with physicians — the climate was so solubrious that no one became ill!

Anyway — Muscott's "history" is presented here in full, along with some related items of interest gleaned from The Gazette of that year and included in an Appendix. The reader must be forewarned that parts of the document are very dull — lists of township officers, population figures and agricultural reports. However, if the reader will suffer through these "begats" we feel he will find considerable of interest and historical value. The "begats" are included because even in these somewhat tedious lists, a Rice County person of today may find the name of an ancestor.

Probably nowhere is there as complete an account of the very early days of Rice County. We felt it should be preserved and made available to those interested in the beginnings of a county which Mr. Muscott was convinced fell little short of the Garden of Eden.

Max Moxley  
Editor, Sterling Bulletin 1945-1975.  
(Sterling, Kansas, July 4, 1976.)

Why it was written in the first place.  
[Rice County Gazette — 1876]

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## CHAPTER I

### Location — Boundaries — Detachment of Strip Organizations — Officers — County and Townships

Rice County lies about equi-distant between the northern and southern and eastern and western boundaries of the state. In latitude thirty-eight degrees north, in longitude twenty-one from Washington. It's altitude is 1650 feet above the sea. It is bounded north by Ellsworth County, east by McPherson, south by Reno, and west by Barton Counties. Created and boundaries defined by the state legislature in 1868, it was that same year attached to Ellsworth County for judicial purposes, and remained so attached until its organization in 1871. It has now an area of 720 square miles, contained 460,800 acres of land, being 24 miles in length from north to south, and thirty from east to west. As originally created by the state it embraced, in addition to its present limits, all the territory lying in Townships 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22, in Ranges 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 West, but in 1872 the legislature detached Township 22,\* — containing 115,200 acres — from this county and annexed it to Reno.

For this purpose of organizing Rice County Governor Harvey, in August, 1871, commissioned and appointed T. A. Davis, Daniel M. Bell and Evan C. Jones special County Commissioners, and Edward H. Dunham Special County Clerk, and in the commission designated Atlanta as the temporary county seat of the county.

Jones never acted as commissioner. The usual steps were taken to organize the county, and in pursuance of an order made by commissioners Davis and Bell at their first meeting August 26, 1871, three townships were organized in the county. Named respectively Atlanta, Spencer and Sterling, embracing the entire county, and those townships in a special election, directed by said order to be held in said townships on the 26th day of September, 1871, for the election of county officers and for the permanent location of the county seat.

On the day last named an election was held in the county seat by a vote of 64 in favor of Atlanta to 48 for Union City (then the headquarters of the Ohio colony and about three miles southeast of Atlanta in Atlanta Township.) was permanently located at Atlanta. At that election the following persons were elected to county office; William Lowrey of Atlanta Township, Moses Burch of Spencer Township, and S. H. Thompson of Sterling Township, county commissioners; W. T. Nicholas, county clerk; T. C. McGoffin, county treasurer; James W. Holmes, coroner; Levi Jay,

probate judge; James J. Spencer, Sheriff; G. W. Poole, register of deeds; H. Decker, county attorney; T. L. Jackson, county surveyor; William H. Van Horum, clerk of the district court. The above officers were elected to serve only until their successors, to be elected at the general election in November of that year, were elected and qualified. Thompson never qualified under this election.

At the general election held in the county November 7, 1871, the following persons were elected to county office: County commissioners, William Lowrey, Moses Burch, and J. M. Leidigh; county clerk, W. T. Nicholas; county treasurer, T. C. McGoffin; register of deeds, G. W. Poole; coroner, Henry Fones; county attorney, W. P. Brown; county surveyor, Evan C. Jones; superintendent of public instruction, Evan C. Jones; sheriff, James J. Spencer; representative, Rev. F. J. Griffith.

A county seal was adopted, device: a sheaf of wheat, plow and landscape, under a semi-circle of thirteen stars. The office of Commissioner Leidigh, having become vacant in March, 1872, S. H. Thompson was appointed in his place, and in June of that year W. P. Brown, having vacated the office of county attorney, T. J. Fulton was appointed in his place.

The first township elections in Atlanta, Spencer and Sterling townships were held April 2, 1872, and resulted as follows: Atlanta, Township trustee, E. W. Bruner; clerk, E. H. Durham; treasurer, C. W. Shumway; road overseers, Ferguson Chitty and Norman Reed. Constables, G. W. Poole and John Whipple. Sterling: trustee, W. H. Hunt; clerk, A. G. Landis; treasurer, Daniel Ashton; road overseer, R. V. Yates; constables, Weston Patton and E. M. Campbell; justices, Warren A. Atkinson and Edward S. Hadlock. Spencer: trustee, William V. F. Earl; clerk, S. P. Monroe; treasurer, J. C. McNames; Justice, F. C. Shaw; constables, D. M. Orr and Alfred Weaver; road overseers, W. C. Summers, J. B. Parks, William Campbell and Moses Burch. The entire machinery of county and township government was now in running order.

\*By "township 22" is here meant a strip of land in said ranges six miles wide and thirty miles long directly south of the present south boundaries of the county.



## CHAPTER II

**Name — First Settlements — First Frame House —  
Atlanta Town Company — Hotel — Court House —  
Post Office — Religious Services —  
First Murder**

This county was named in honor of General Samuel A. Rice who was killed in battle April 30, 1864, at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas.

The first settlement made in the county by white men was made in 1870 by Earl Joslin and J. Q. Adams of Massachusetts. They entered their land under the Homestead Act at Junction City Land Office September 5, 1870, and commenced building operations soon after that date. Mr. Joslin located where he now resides, a little north of the Little Cow Creek, having visited and selected his claim in June of that year. Mr. Adams located in the same township with Mr. Joslin, Atlanta (at the mouth of the stream). In the fall of that year Newell Wood and Norman Reed came with their families and located in that same township. Mr. Wood built the first frame dwelling house erected in the county after its settlement. In December of that year, George M. D. Golf and Robert McKinnis located homestead claims on the bank of the Little Cow in the same township but did not bring in their families until the next spring. In December, 1870, a town company was organized, called "The Atlanta Town Company" at Atlanta and laid out a town site and during the spring and summer of 1871 several buildings were erected on said site, among others the "Atlanta Hotel," which in 1872 was conveyed by that company to the county and ever since used by the latter as a court house and county offices.

The first post office in this county was established January 24, 1871, at Atlanta (the post office of which was first called "Brookdale") and Earl Joslin was the first postmaster appointed in the county for that place and still retains the office. In the spring of 1871 a colony from Ohio settled in the county, more of the early settlers hereafter.

The first hotel built in the county was the hotel above named, constructed in 1871. In that building, before it was finished, was preached May 14, 1871, by Rev. F. J. Griffith, a Methodist clergyman, the third religious sermon ever delivered in the county to white persons. Quite a large number of hearers were present from all portions of the county and the occasion was an impressive one. Within sight and hearing of this spot but a few years before the blood of white men and red men had mingled in

the bloody strife. And the war whoop of the savage had struck terror in the heart of his enemy. Now all was peaceful and serene, and up and down the beautiful valley and across the green prairie, came, this lovely Sabbath morn men, women and children, wending their way to "the House of God," meeting each other, many of them for the first time. Strangers in a strange land! As they thought how at that very hour in their old homes, loved ones with whom they had taken "sweet counsel together and walked unto the house of God in company," were meeting in his temple — their eyes moistened and their lips quivered. But the God of the stranger was there — that God who had watched over them and safely brought them to their new homes, and praise and thanksgiving ascended from every heart. And the speaker — catching the inspiration of the hour — as he looked into the upturned faces of his hearers, waxed eloquent, and who would not on such an occasion! I wonder what hymn they sung. Was it "Old Hundred," or "Coronation," or Miriam's song of triumph, "Sound the Loud Timbrel o'er Egypt's Dark Sea?"

The first murder in the county after its settlement occurred at Union City August 27, 1871, P. B. Shannon being shot by Edward Swanson and dying in a day or two of his wounds. Swanson fled to Ohio and was never arrested or punished for his crime. The details of his attempted arrest will be given in the history of Spencer Township. Shannon is said to have made the remark — a short time before this affray: "You must kill a man before you have a graveyard." Superstition may deem the utterance prophetic inasmuch as he was the first tenant in the Atlanta Cemetery.

The first death by disease, among the settlers was that of John Chitty, son of Ferguson Chitty, who died August 28, 1871, aged 18 years.

### CHAPTER III

**First School House — First Wagon Manufactured —  
First Store — First Marriage — First Birth —  
First Settlement at Peace — Indians.**

Ferguson Chitty was among the early settlers of the county, having settled here with his family in August, 1871. For some weeks after his arrival he was obliged to carry in stone jugs all his water for family use three miles and a half. In his school district, No. 36, on section 16, township 8, range 8, was built the first frame school house in the county. That school house building is now occupied by C. W. Shumway, of Atlanta, as a dwelling house.

The first two-horse wagon built in Rice County was made by Jacob Butz of Sterling Township, in February of 1874 for Henry Love, price \$95 — the same Love who was accidentally shot and killed by James Ward.

The building in Atlanta, now used as a store by Messrs. Holmes and Clark, was built by Commissioner D. M. Bell in May 1871. About the 29th of that month Mr. Bell and his partner, W. T. Nichols, opened a stock of hardware in that building. This is said to be the first stock of goods shipped into the county after the settlement.

The first marriage in the county (of which there is any record) is that of James A. Moore to Ada Cartwright, January 1, 1872, by Judge Levi Jay.

The first white child born in the county after the settlement was Charles Lee Campbell, son of William and Sarah E. Campbell, born June 10, 1871, on section 2, township 20, range 9, in Raymond, then Spencer Township. He died on the 25th day of June, 1872. Rev. H. J. Morris preached the funeral sermon of the county's first born.

Nelson Reed settled in Atlanta Township, on section 15, township 20, range 8, in 1870 and claims to have been the first settler who found the first cornerstone of a section in the county, erected by government surveyors, which stone was located in section 18, of said township. He also claims he constructed the third dugout dwelling house in the county and to have made the first trip among the settlers to Ellsworth for provisions.

Leonard Russell came in November, 1870, when he says, there were but four white men in the county.

William P. Edwards, of Sterling Township settled on section 18 in May, 1872, about three miles from Peace. At that time the territory of the present township had only seven families living in it, with no family living on the town site of Peace, and but one



building on the site, partly finished, a store building of A. G. Landis — Rev. J. B. Schlichter officiating as clerk therein. Mr. Edwards says, "We now have a schoolhouse on section 18 and two weeks more of school will make a six-months period this season with only one week's vacation, and this section has four families and 22 children living on it, and has furnished 17 scholars from it who have regular attendance at the last term. Can you find another section in your history that will beat it?" Yours must be the banner section of the county, Mr. Edwards.

Rev. Thomas A Watt of the Wesleyan Methodist Church was among the first settlers, if not the first actual settler, in the southern part of the county, though H. B. Ninde and a few others had previously entered claims at the land office. Mr. Watts and family came into Sterling Township in November, 1871, having brought with him from Newton his provisions and horse feed and located on section 20, township 21, range 8, west. He did not then know that there was a settler nearer than Hutchinson. On his journey from Newton to Rice County he was overtaken one evening by a furious north-wester, and so intense was the cold that evening that men were compelled to walk constantly to prevent freezing, and being destitute of fuel he was obliged to burn valuable lumber he had with him to save his family, who had stopped in a tent. There was no wagon track on this route west of Hutchinson and his only guides were the surveying stakes of the A.T. and S.F. Railroad. During the first winter his family lived in a tent. That winter Texas cattle were numerous and ranged on the country without herders and became very poor. The coyotes and gray wolves attacked and killed large numbers of cattle, and often, in the night the bellowing of the wounded cattle and the howling of the wolves, comingled, resembled the roar of a mighty cataract.

The Indians at this time were quite annoying in their importunities for food, but, though often saucy and insolent, did not resort to violence. On one occasion, in the absence of her husband, two stalwart Indians, came to the house and Mrs. Watt gave them their dinner and being dissatisfied because they could not carry away more of her scanty supply of high-priced provisions than she felt willing to spare, snatched a loaf of bread and attempted to leave with it. But Mrs. Watt interfered and took it from them. For the space of three months after her arrival, Mrs. Watt saw the face of but one white woman. Within five years Mr. Watt had seen the thriving village of Peace spring up on the spot where but four years ago it was a wild waste, and where nothing but Texas cattle, wolves, buffaloes and wild Indians ranged; and the Arkansas Valley became almost one continuous harvest field.

## CHAPTER IV

### Water Courses

The principal streams of water are the Arkansas River, Little River, Cow and Little Cow Creek, Plum Creek, Lost Creek, Owl, Jarvis and Sand Creek. Most of these streams flow southeast. The Little Arkansas rises in Ellsworth County and empties into the Arkansas at Wichita. The Little Cow rises in the north part of the county and empties into Cow Creek about seven miles north of Peace. Cow Creek rises in Barton County and empties into the Arkansas at Hutchinson; Plum Creek rises in Ellsworth County and empties into Cow Creek about twelve miles northwest of the town of Atlanta; Lost Creek rises in the north part of Rice and the south part of Ellsworth County and empties into Plum Creek in Farmer Township; Jarvis and Sand Creeks take their rise from springs in the eastern portion of the county, the former entering into Cow Creek about five miles southeast of Atlanta, in Washington Township; the latter emptying into the Little Arkansas in McPherson County. Owl and Jarvis Creeks are most dry during the year, except in the rainy season. Lost Creek, though a living stream of about ten miles in length, at intervals loses itself underground, disappearing at one place and reappearing at another.

### Surface of the County

The general surface of the county is undulating; almost the entire county north of the Arkansas gently descends toward that river, and it is safe to say that no county in the state surpasses this in the quantity of its tillable acres in proportion to its size. About 15 per cent of its lands are bottom lands on the above streams with an average width of bottom of two miles on the larger streams, and 85 per cent of upland, with one per cent of timber to 99 per cent of prairie. The county is well supplied with springs; and good well water is obtained at a depth of 25 feet. The average width of the timber belts, on the larger streams, is from one eighth to one fourth of a mile.

The varieties of timber are cottonwood, elm, boxelder, ash, hackberry, mulberry, and coffeebean.

But a small portion of land in this county is entirely level; scarcely an 80 or even a 40 of land can be found where the surface does not roll sufficiently to discharge all surface water, not needed for irrigation; so that the farmer is never troubled here as in some of the western counties with surface water. The only exception is on some of the bottomland, in a wet season or immediately after a copious rain. These combined with a soil that rapidly absorbs water, make our natural roads the finest in the

world. You can drive a carriage or a loaded team over the county regardless of roads by selecting good natural crossings at the streams; and this, too, at any season of the year, even within a few hours after a drenching shower. We have no swamps here as in Michigan, Ohio or Indiana; no sloughs as in Illinois or Iowa; no bogs or half-filled ponds, as in Minnesota.

Much has been said of the monotony of prairie scenery by those who have spent their lives amid the mountains of the east. True it is not as diversified here as there with forests of heavy timber, rugged mountains, hills and valleys. The eye, at first, tires with the sameness of view, but soon becomes reconciled to the change. The young man who has cast his lot here and who has in the east seen his father grow grey and bent with age in clearing his heavy timbered land, and just ready for the grave before he has acquired a moderate competence, readily discovers the superiority of the west over the east in this respect. I make no doubt, that if the choice was given them today, whether they would prefer their lands covered with the primeval forests of the east or as they are now, nineteen-twentieths of the settlers would make the latter choice. And when spring comes, and all nature bursts into life, and the prairies put down their carpet of beautiful green, and when summer comes on, the ripened and ripening crops wave their green and yellow mantles in the gentle breeze that sweeps o'er their ocean-like surface — who says the prairie is monotonous? Other counties may equal ours, but none surpass it in beauty at this season of the year. Well might Rev. Robert Pierpont exclaim: "God doubtless may have made a lovelier country but it is certain that he never did it."

#### Climate and Winds

The winters are milder here than in the same latitude east of us, and the thermometer rarely sinks below zero. During mid-summer the heat at noonday sometimes ranges for several days from 80 to 100 degrees in the shade but the air is so dry and pure that one scarcely realizes the range of the mercury. While the nights are invariably cool and refreshing. Men work in the fields, on buildings and other exposed situations with safety and comparative comfort at a temperature that would be unendurable in the eastern states and yet there is no region in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains where there are more bright sunny days than we have here. A few facts will illustrate our climate.

Prof. Snow, of Lawrence, gives a table of the average mean temperatures of 20 states for five years from January 1st, 1865, to January 1st, 1870, namely Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska; and he gives us the mean temperatures of each of these states in the spring, summer, autumn, winter and the yearly mean. I have not space for the details of any state but



Kansas: He says the mean temperature of the above states was in degrees and tenths of degrees as follows:

	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Year
Others	46.3	70.9	50.8	25.4	48.3
Kansas	52.2	77.5	54.3	29.1	52.8

One secret of our comfort during the hot summer days is found in our winds. It is rarely entirely calm throughout any day in the year, a gentle breeze prevailing from the south during the warmest days or nights of summer.

Hence a close muggy atmosphere is unknown here. There are times in the winter when the wind is bitter and piercing as is the case in all prairie countries, but we have not timber to break the force of the winds. Our changes too, are often sudden, but the air is so dry and pure that we experience few discomforts therefrom. Compared with the damp climate of other countries, we have no malaria or miasma; and notwithstanding the vast decay of vegetable matter consequent upon the cultivation of the new soil all effluvia arising therefrom is swept away by the steady winds. On the whole, therefore "Kansas Winds" are one of our blessings and we would not part with them if we could.

From all this it follows that we have one of the healthiest countries in the world. The atmosphere is elastic and invigorating. Its effect on diseased and wornout systems is very remarkable, especially in pulmonary complaints of all kinds. Neuralgia, rheumatism, asthma, and bronchitis do not flourish in this climate.

## CHAPTER V

### Rainfall

Professor Snow says that, in the states above mentioned for the five years ending January 1, 1870, the average annual rainfall was 43 inches and that Kansas during that period exceeded those figures, her average annual rainfall being 44 inches. Can we reasonably expect that she will maintain this standard in the future? I think we can. The writer has for more than two years last past taken meteorological observations in this county for the Smithsonian Institute and the Signal Service including the rainfall, temperature, cloudiness of the sky, direction of force of winds and has entire faith in the substantial accuracy of the Professor's statements respecting the temperature and rainfall in Kansas. The limits of this history will not permit me to enter into details on this subject. I can mention a few facts only, among the multitude I might name, that satisfies my mind. First: there is a manifest increase in rainfall since the writer commenced his observations. Second: rainfall is becoming more frequent than formerly. Third: it is being more evenly distributed through the entire year than before. Fourth: the average cloudiness of the sky is increasing from year to year, a circumstance peculiarly favorable to moisture and rain. I conclude this branch of this subject with an extract from Professor Snow. Speaking of the rainfall in those five years he adds: "The total annual rainfall during the five years was greater than that of the following states: New Hampshire, Vermont, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. I have also calculated the amount of rain in each of the 20 states for each of the four seasons. The results show that while Kansas has less rain in the Winter months than any other state on the list except Nebraska, she has more rain in the remaining nine months than any of the other states except Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, and Kentucky. It also appears that for the seven months from the first of March to the first of October, when rain is needed for the germination and growth of crops, Kansas stands at the head of the list, having more rain than any of the other nineteen states with which the comparison is made."

### Soil

Without attempting a scientific analysis of the different soils which would be out of place in a work of this kind I shall speak only of their obvious qualities. Most of the soil in this county is a dark sandy loam varying in depth on the bottoms from two to ten feet and on the uplands from one and a half to three feet. And owing to its rolling surface its drainage is admirable. Unlike Illinois and some other western states, the ground does not

"heave" as much by the action of frost, and in this respect is well adapted for the production of winter wheat. Generally speaking the soil is similar to that of other western states. It is a moot question whether bottom lands or uplands in this county are the most valuable to the farmer, but it is certain that in the wet season the uplands are more productive. An excellent feature of the soil is its wonderful capacity to retain moisture during times of growth, owing to its clay subsoil which retains water for a long time. In portions of the county which have a larger admixture of sand than others, the soil is of a reddish or lighter hue and shallow in depth. I have spoken elsewhere of the large quantities of tillable acres in the county. I question whether a county of its size can be found in the state that can surpass this in the quantity of uniformly rich lands throughout the county. A striking proof of this truth is found in the fact that all in the various portions of the county seem contented with their locations; so much so that it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that every settler thinks he lives on the best quarter, of the best section, of the best township of land in the county.

### Productions

This county produces almost any and every crop that is grown in the northern and middle states, and many that are common to the southern states. Wheat, winter and spring, Indian corn, broom corn, sorghum, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, potatoes, Irish and sweet, cotton, tobacco, hemp, peanuts, flax, castor beans, all kinds of melons, and all sorts of garden products, yield abundantly. Especially may winter wheat, sorghum, broom corn, oats, barley, rye, sweet potatoes, and peanuts be placed in the list of staple productions of this county and of crops which can be relied upon year after year. Although Indian corn occasionally yields fairly it cannot as yet be ranked among the crops that invariably yield large returns. The apparent difficulty is not in the soil, but mostly in the climate. With moderately wet weather at the time of silking and filling, corn is as certain as sure a crop as any in the county. If as science assumes, the facts seem to prove, our annual rainfall is increasing and more evenly distributed throughout the year, corn may become as reliable a crop as winter wheat. Cotton of as fine a quality as any southern cotton has been produced in this county. In 1873 the writer raised on his farm near Atlanta cotton said by good judges to equal in quality the famous sea island cotton of South Carolina.

In fruit raising we are in our infancy but we have reason to believe — judging from the similarity of soil and climate with eastern Kansas which stands almost unrivaled in the excellence and variety of her fruit crop — that this county will not be one whit behind the most named counties in the state in this regard, when our cultivated soil shall have sufficient age and our farmers shall have learned by experience the varieties of fruit adapted to our soil and climate.



As before observed, we have spoken guardedly touching the productivity of Indian corn in this county, yet in justice to this crop, we ought to add if it produces as well in the future as in the past the farmer need not be discouraged. Facts are better than mere theories and the following facts speak for themselves. In 1865 the average yield of corn per acre in 15 of the most productive states of the Union was 37 and a third bushels, viz.; in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas. The average yield in Kansas that year was 41 bushels to the acre, and was equalled by Ohio and Wisconsin and excelled only by Vermont, Iowa in the above named states. In those states that year, winter wheat averaged 13 and eleven-fifteenths bushels to the acre, and Kansas 15, and the latter was excelled by only five of those states. The same year in those states rye averaged 15 and fourteen-fifteenths bushels to the acre, and Kansas 23, the latter exceeding every state in the list; oats also averaged that year in those states 33 and eight-fifteenths bushels to the acre and Kansas 34. Barley averaged that year in those states 24 and a fifth bushels to the acre and Kansas, the latter exceeding every state on the list. Potatoes averaged 117 bushels to the acre, in those states that year and Kansas 119. Compare once more the corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley and potatoes of those states in 1869 with Kansas. Corn averaged 30 bushels to the acre in those states and Kansas 48, the latter exceeding by 18 bushels the highest state on the list. Wheat averaged in those states 15 bushels to the acre and Kansas 18. Rye averaged 15 and a third bushels to the acre in those states, Kansas 25, the latter exceeding every other state. Oats averaged 33 and a half bushels per acre in those states and Kansas 42, the latter exceeding every other state. Barley averaged 23 and eleven-fifteenths bushels to the acre in those states and Kansas 30, exceeding every other state. Potatoes averaged in those states 116 bushels to the acre and Kansas 149.

## CHAPTER VI

### Population

The population of this county in 1870 was 5; March 1, 1874, it was 2,353; March 1, 1875, it was 4,226. The last official census enumerates only those living in the county March 1, 1875. In the fall of 1874, owing to the grasshoppers, many left the county and did not return in season for that enumeration. An effort was made to procure the number living in the county on the first day of January, 1876, for this history, but it failed. From the votes cast in the county April 12, 1876, and from careful estimates from other sources it is believed that the census for March 1, 1876, would show a present population of nearly 4,000. Of the population of March 1, 1875, there were white males 1,314; white females, 1,112; colored males, 11; colored females, 5; males of foreign birth, 126; females of foreign birth, 60; minor children, 1,309; over five years old and less than 21, 864; over fifty years of age, 96; over sixty years, 39; oldest inhabitant of Sterling Township, then, 85-years old.

### Nativity

Of the total population March 1, 1875, there were natives of Kansas 273, Illinois 423, Ohio 343, Indiana 251, Missouri 179, Iowa 159, New York 128, Pennsylvania 101, Kentucky 89, Michigan 67, Virginia 54, Germany 52, Wisconsin 33, England 33, Canada 30, Sweden 22, Vermont 19, France 17, Massachusetts 10, North Carolina 9, Prussia 9, Ireland 8, Scotland 8, Minnesota 8, Maine 7, California 7, West Virginia 7, Nebraska 6, Tennessee 6, Maryland 5, New Jersey 5, New Hampshire 4, Wales 3, Rhode Island 3, Texas 3, Colorado 2, Arkansas 2, Connecticut 2, South Carolina 2, Louisiana, Nova Scotia, Bavaria, District of Columbia, Utah, East Indies, and Switzerland, one each.

### Where From to Kansas?

From Illinois 644, Iowa 335, Missouri 309, Indiana 227, Ohio 194, Michigan 117, New York 76, Kentucky 69, Wisconsin 57, Pennsylvania 32, Virginia 26, Nebraska 16, Colorado 10, Vermont 8, Germany 8, Prussia 8, Arkansas 7, Canada 5, Minnesota 5, Tennessee 5, Oregon 4, Texas 4, Scotland 4, West Virginia 3, Nevada 2, Massachusetts 2, Maryland, District of Columbia, South Carolina, North Carolina, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Montana, one each.

The "Sucker" state — it seems from the above — has taken Rice county by storm. Once over one-sixth of the population in 1875, were natives of Illinois, and more than one fourth of the entire inhabitants of the county emigrated from that state directly to Kansas. Illinois had faith in Kansas. Of the population of the county March 1, 1875, there were in:

Atlanta Township . . . . . 508

Farmer .....	498
Sterling .....	436
Raymond .....	420
Union .....	287
Washington .....	277
Total .....	2,426

Population to square mile then 3.40. Number of dwellings in county March 1, 1875, 563; number of families in the county at that time 565.

### Occupations

March 1, 1875, there were 572 persons or 87.8 per cent engaged in agriculture. Twenty-four persons or 3.6 per cent in professional service; 15 persons or 2.33 per cent in trade and transportation; 40 persons or 6.1 per cent in manufacturing and mining.

### Diversity of Races, Eccentricities of Speech

Europe, Asia, Africa and America are represented in our population. Natives of 30 states of the Union are found among us and emigrants directed to Kansas from 26 of these states. Inter-mingled with those are Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen, Welchmen, Bavarians, Swiss, Swedes, and Prussians. Many accustomed to the homogeneous material of society in the old settlements of the East might readily infer that a community like the above composed of such different elements would not blend harmoniously together. But the objection is more apparent than real. The same love of gain — the ambition to better his condition which influences "the manifest destiny" American, impels also the foreigner. Their wants and necessities beget dependence upon and confidence in one another, especially in frontier life. Such a state of things naturally tends to make them kind, charitable, frank and hospitable, and where such elements abound the constant friction of society soon wears away the rough edges of dissimilar tastes and habits. A few years ago we were all foreigners. Now we are all Americans.

The eccentricities of speech in Western society are rich and amusing. In this respect the east and west contrast strongly with each other, especially in the common coin of talk among the masses. In the east, one who "bets" is regarded as a sort of gambler. In the west every Western man, woman and child who can talk — saint and sinner alike — "bets." "A fine horse or a mule you have stranger." "You bet I have." A Western man is never deprived of anything but he "gets shut" of it. He does not "estimate" nor "suppose" nor "judge" nor "think" nor "guess" nor "calculate" like the Eastern man, but he "allows" his neighbor will die or get well, or his corn will go fifty bushels to the acre, or he "reckons" Blaine or Morton will be the next president.

And if sickness has greatly reduced his daughter's strength he will tell you "she's powerful weak." Here they never take a "pail" and "milk" a cow, that gives twelve quarts or so. But they take a "bucket" and "pail the cow" and get "three gallons" of milk.



## *HISTORY OF RICE COUNTY.*

BY JOHN M. MUSCOTT.

### *CHAPTER VII.*

#### AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

This county has an area of 460,800 acres.

Taxable acres March 1, 1872, 54,680.

Assessed value of same, \$307,180.

“ “ of Personal property at that date, 46,940.

Assessed value of all property, then, 367,426.

March 1st, 1873,

Taxable acres, 172,327.

Ass'd val. of same. \$388,223.

“ “ Personal property 49,393.

“ “ all property 570,938.

March 1st, 1874,

Taxable acres, 180,299.

Acres under cultivation, 17,209.

Ass'd val. of same, \$428,404.

“ “ Personal property, 74,071.

“ “ all property, 615,059.

March 1st, 1875,

Taxable acres, 200,092.

(135,886 acres of which are owned by the A. T. & S. F.

R. R company.)

Acres under cultivation, 22,023.

Ass'd val. of Real estate, \$484,246.

“ “ Personal property, 56,354.

“ “ Railroad property, 80,632.

“ “ all property, 664,497.

## CHAPTER VII

### continued

#### Produce

Dairy products: Cheese made in 1875, 6 lbs.; Butter made in 1875, 25,453 lbs.

#### Farm Animals

Number of horses in 1870, 5; in 1875, 789; mules and asses in 1875, 126; milch cows, 660; other cattle, 1,338; sheep in 1870, 4; in 1875, 204; swine, 1870, 9; in 1875, 907; value of animals slaughtered in 1875, or sold for slaughter, \$3,332; dogs, number in county, 333; sheep killed by dogs, 3; horticulture, acres of nurseries 14½; orchards, 62; vineyards, 2. Apia culture: one stand of bees.

#### Fences

Since May 10, 1872, the "Herd Law" has been in force in this county, whereby horses, mules, oxen, beeves, cows, calves, and all other stock cattle and hogs and sheep, are forbidden to run at large. In 1875 there were of rail fence 25 rods; board, do., 610 rods; hedge, do., 7,430 rods; total rods of fence, 8,085.

Manufactures: Sterling Township, one steam flouring mill at Sterling.

Water Powers: Good, but none have been utilized.

Banks: Stouder and Son, located at Sterling.

#### Libraries

Of public and private libraries there were in 1875, 34; aggregating 2,114 volumes.

Miscellaneous: Poultry and eggs sold during the year 1875, \$383.30. Pounds of wool produced, 400.

#### Wages

Farm laborers per month, with board, \$16 to \$20; laborers in city or on public improvements, per day \$1.50; carpenters per day, \$1.75 to \$2; bricklayers and stonemasons, per day \$2; wagon makers per day, \$2; blacksmiths per day, \$2; shoemakers, per day \$5; harness makers, per day \$1.50 to \$2; printers, per day \$1.50; printers per 1,000 ems, 30c; clerks, per month \$40; tanners per day, \$2.50; house painters, \$2.

#### Unsold and Unentered Lands

On the 1st day of October, 1875, the Kansas Pacific Railway Company owned 51,228 acres of land in this county unsold, valued by the company at \$153,684; average price per acre as estimated by that company \$3. January 1, 1876, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R.R. Company owned 135,886 acres of land in the county unsold, valued by that company at \$645,458; average price per acre, as estimated by the company, \$4.75. Up to that date the latter company had sold of their lands in this county, 29,123 acres of land. None of their Rice County lands were sold

prior to January 1, 1871. Of government lands in this county, remaining vacant, February 26, 1876, there were 29,900 acres.

About 32,000 acres of the area of the county lie south of the Arkansas, the residue north of that river. In 1875 there remained in the county, of school lands unsold, 25,600 acres.

### **Railroads**

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad runs through the southwest portion of the county, from southeast to northwest, following the valley of the Arkansas. It has 21 miles of track and two stations in the county, Sterling and Raymond. One passenger and two freight trains run daily each way. First train of cars, after the line was opened, from Hutchinson to Larned, was run July 22, 1872. The road was completed to the state line in the summer and fall of that year, having fulfilled all the requirements necessary to procure their land grants, it was accepted by Gov. Harvey January 1, 1873. That grant gave the company 165,009 acres of public lands in this county.

In 1872 the railroad company, called, "The Salina, Atlanta and Raymond R.R. Company," was organized for the purpose of constructing a railroad from Salina in this state to Raymond in this county, via Atlanta.

This county voted and subscribed \$175,000 of stock to aid in its construction and issued bonds to that amount on conditions which the company never fulfilled. The bonds were afterwards surrendered and cancelled.

## CHAPTER VIII

The first agricultural society in the county was formed June 28, 1873, called "The Rice County Agricultural Society." At its organization the following officers were elected: Pres., Jno. M. Muscott of Atlanta; Vice-Pres., Wm. C. Summers of Spencer; Secretary, G. W. Voyls of Atlanta; Treasurer, T. C. McGoffin of Atlanta; Directors, S. B. Terry, M. J. Morse, Moses Burch, J. H. Ricksecker, T. H. Watt, and Alexander Clark. It had a membership that year of over 100. The Society held a fair on the 24th and 25th days of September, 1873, which all things considered was a decided success. The present officers of the Society — elected in 1875 — Pres., O. Y. Smith of Farmer; Vice-Pres., Thomas H. Wible of Union; Secretary, W. T. Nicholas of Atlanta; Treasurer, J. K. Miller of Washington.

### Newspapers

The first newspaper — a weekly — was established April 19, 1873, at Atlanta by Fraser and Shinn Bros. It was subsequently published at Peace by other parties where it was discontinued in 1875. In January 1876, The Rice County Gazette, a weekly newspaper, was established at Peace by E. Branson Cowgill, editor and proprietor, with fair prospects of success. It is neatly executed, chaste in style, varied and spicy in its matter, and just such a newspaper that every family in the county should subscribe and pay for. "The Valley Echo," published by Page and Clark, and "The Homesteader," published by Smith, Stubbs and Ricksecker, also printed at Peace, are both monthlies, well posted in the resources of the county, and valuable alike to buyers and sellers of land.

(Ed. Note — The Weekly Bulletin was founded in Lyons in 1877 by Charles D. Ulmer, moved to Sterling later that year, and the name changed in 1882 to "The Sterling Bulletin." The name of the Gazette was changed to "The Sterling Gazette" in 1880 and it was sold to Junkin and Steele in 1891, when it was combined with "The Sterling Bulletin," to become the "Bulletin and Gazette." The name was changed again in 1899, dropping the "Gazette" and becoming the Sterling Kansas Bulletin, the name under which it is now published.)

### School Statistics

Up to January 1, 1876, there were forty-one common school districts organized in the county. They are numbered consecutively in the order of their organization, though some districts have changed numbers by reason of the formation of new districts and the subdivision of old ones. Districts one to eleven, inclusive, were organized in 1872, by the first county Superintendent, E. C. Jones. The residue of the districts were formed by the present superintendent, R. D. Stephenson. District twelve was organized in 1873; districts fifteen to twenty-three, and districts



twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, thirty and thirty-six, in 1874; and district twenty-five in 1875. The dates of the organization of districts thirteen, fourteen, twenty-four, twenty-nine, thirty-one to thirty-five inclusive, and thirty-seven to forty-one inclusive are unknown.

In 1875 the number of school houses in the county was twenty. School houses built that year, eight. Estimated value of those school houses, furniture and apparatus, \$18,546. Amount paid teachers that year, \$1,732. Average salary per month of male teachers, \$32; female teachers, \$25.

Amount of school lands in the county unsold in 1875, 25,600 acres. Average price per acre of school lands sold that year, \$4.34.

School bonds in the amount of \$26,510 had been issued by districts No. one, two, three, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, thirteen and twenty-four, and are owned by the Permanent School Fund of the State, as follows: No. one has issued \$4,100; No. two, \$5,000; No. three, \$500; No. six, \$400; No. seven, \$1,700; No. eight, \$10,000; No. nine, \$2,000; No. ten, \$500; No. eleven, \$800; No. thirteen, \$1,200; No. twenty-four, \$310. The principal on the above bonds is outstanding and of the principal and interest thereon the following sums are due and unpaid, namely: District No. eight, \$2,762.80; on District No. nine, \$200.

Of the forty school districts in the county, ten of them, namely: Nos. two, five, nineteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty-one, thirty-three, thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven are in Atlanta Township; two of them, namely: one and seventeen are in Sterling Township; eight of them, namely: Nos. six, eight, nine, thirteen, eighteen, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, and forty are in Raymond Township; ten of them, namely: Nos. three, four, twelve, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-nine, thirty and thirty-four are in Farmer Township; three of them, namely: Nos. twenty-three, twenty-eight and thirty-two are in Union Township; two of them, namely: Nos. seven and fifteen are in Washington Township; No. ten is in Atlanta and Washington, No. sixteen in Atlanta and Union, No. twenty-four in Atlanta, Union and Washington; Nos. eleven and fourteen in Union and Washington.

March 1, 1875, there were 864 children of school age in the county. The first public common school exhibition in the county was held in the Atlanta school house, Christmas, December, 1873, under the direction of Mary J. Muscott, teacher of that school who taught the first school in that school house. It was well attended from all portions of the county and gave entire satisfaction to all. Members of the legal and medical fraternity and some of the county officers participated in the exercises.

## CHAPTER IX

County officers for the years 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875 and 1876:

1872: Representative, Wm. Lowrey of Atlanta; Sheriff, Joseph Taylor of Atlanta; Probate Judge, W. B. Connor of Atlanta; Clerk of the District Court, E. H. Watt of Sterling; Register of Deeds, J. Q. Manning of Atlanta; County Attorney, J. H. Ricksecker of Atlanta; Superintendent of Public Instruction, R. D. Stephenson of Spencer; County Commissioner, W. L. Smith of Sterling. Votes polled in the county for the fall election that year, 253.

1873: Representative, Rev. M. D. Morse of Atlanta; Sheriff, J. M. D. Howard of Atlanta; County Surveyor, E. C. Jones of Atlanta; Coronor, H. Fones of Atlanta; County Commissioners, Thomas H. Wible of Atlanta, Peter Gosch of Sterling, and O. Y. Smith of Spencer. Mr. Smith received the majority of the votes cast in the county for the office of commissioner, but Alexander Clark of Spencer, having received a majority of the votes cast in his commissioner district, contested Smith's election and the office was given to Clark. Total votes polled in the county, November, 1873, 343. In January, 1873, George D. M. Goff of Atlanta, was appointed county commissioner in place of Representative Elect Wm. Lowrey. County Clerk, W. T. Nicholas of Atlanta; County Treasurer, B. E. Lawrence of Atlanta; Register of Deeds, E. J. Arnold of Atlanta.

1874: Representative, S. M. Wirt of Washington; Probate Judge, G. W. Voys of Union; County Attorney, A. R. Clark of Atlanta; Clerk of the District Court, J. H. Stubbs of Sterling; Superintendent of Public Instruction, R. D. Stephenson of Farmer. Total vote polled in the county November, 1874, 318.

1875: Representative, A. R. Clark of Sterling; County Clerk, W. T. Nicholas of Atlanta; County Treasurer, V. E. Lawrence of Union; Sheriff, Henry Sherman of Atlanta; Register of Deeds, John W. White of Atlanta; County Surveyor, Kirk Himrod of Sterling; County Commissioners, W. C. Willard of Farmer, 1st Commissioner; William Lowrey of Atlanta, 2nd District; J. K. Miller of Washington, 3rd; Coronor, C. W. Hodge of Sterling. Total votes cast in the county November, 1875, 386.

In 1876: Jno. M. Muscot of Atlanta, was appointed county attorney January 1, 1876, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Ansel R. Clark, Representative elect. Coronor Hodge, having failed to qualify, Carlos Clobridge of Atlanta was appointed in his place by the Governor. Mr. C. did not qualify. With the above exceptions, the present county officers are the same as those elected in 1875. Mr. Nicholas has held the office he

now holds ever since his first election to that office, September 26, 1871, and is the only person ever elected county clerk in the county. Mr. Lowrey is now serving his second term as county commissioner, Mr. Lawrence his second as County Treasurer, and Mr. Stephenson also his second term as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

### **Post Offices**

There are fifteen post offices in the county, named and located as follows: Atlanta, established January 24, 1871, Earl Joslin, postmaster; Kansas Center, in Atlanta Township; Noble in the same Township; Peace in Sterling Township, established in 1872, S. P. C. Stubbs postmaster; Raymond, in Raymond Township, established in 1872. The first post office at Raymond was called "Violet Springs," and Wm. Houston was the first postmaster; "Wildwood," in Farmer Township, established in 1873; Allegan and Glen Sharrold, also in Farmer; New Cincinnati, in Raymond. The following post offices are in Union Township: Bargeston, Coopersburg, Fairpoint, and Stone Corral. Lodiana and Riverview are in Washington Township. I am unable to furnish the names of all the postmasters and the dates of the establishment of all the offices.

## CHAPTER X

### Religious Statistics

The first church organization was a Wesleyan Methodist Society organized at Peace, now Sterling City, April 21, 1872, Rev. H. T. Besse, pastor. The total membership of that body in the county at present is said to be 95. Rev. T. H. Watt is the minister in charge at Sterling. At its organization, the following members: J. W. McPherson, Matilda McPherson, Orange S. Young, Norman Wait, Harriett Besse, Henry T. Besse, and G. W. McPherson.

The first Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the Township of Spencer, now Raymond, at a point where the Santa Fe Trail crosses the Big Cow, and on the spot where "Buffalo Bill" had his ranch. It was formed June 1, 1872, by Rev. M. J. Morse. That body has a membership in the county of about 200.

A Presbyterian Church was first organized at Atlanta, in July, 1873, by Rev. R. M. Overstreet, with eight members. It has a present membership of 31. Rev. P. Reed of Ellinwood, has served as stated supply since its organization, preaching at Atlanta every alternate Sabbath.

The Congregational Church was organized at Peace in August, 1872, under J. B. Schlichter, as pastor, with a membership of 30. This Society erected the first house of worship in the county, having a fine edifice costing over \$2,000.

The Friends organized a Society, in Peace in 1875, and have a house of worship there — the second church edifice erected in the county. This Society numbers over 100 members in the county.

The Missionary Baptists have several organizations in the county; one of its ministers is Rev. Mr. Profit (sic) of Raymond. There are other religious sects in the county, including Universalists, Christians, United Brethren in Christ, but I am not aware of any church organization among any of them. It is quite possible that such is the facts, but to my regret I have been able to obtain only meager statistics of the religious societies of the county, and for most of these I am indebted to the kindness of J. B. Schlichter.

In 1875, the Baptists had one organized society and a membership in the county, as reported, of 40, and the Roman Catholics two organizations and 125 members.

Rev. F. J. Griffith preached the first sermon in the county in Spencer, now Farmer Township, on section 9, range 9, township 19, in a sod house on a claim now owned by David Cairns; and the second sermon in the county at the residence of Jeremiah C. McNames, in the same township. The third sermon preached in the county was also delivered by Mr. Griffith, as stated in a former chapter, in the hotel at Atlanta in May 1871. At the time of the delivery of these three sermons there was no other minister of the gospel in the county.



## CHAPTER XI

### Early History Resumed

Mr. Griffith came into the county March 14, 1871, and settled on Big Cow in Farmer Township. He plowed on his claim the 3rd of April that year and thinks at that time there was not a furrow turned in the county. About that time, Mr. Davis, the president of the Atlanta Town Company, marked out the townsite of Atlanta. Near that time, Union City, founded by Dr. Combs — president of the Ohio Colony — was laid out below and about two miles east of Atlanta. The latter place was short-lived, a portion of the colony united with "The Atlanta Town Company," and the Ohio Colony — as a colony — scattered. Mr. Griffith came with that Colony to this county and is responsible for the following buffalo story: Mr. Green, a stockman, had a dugout in that township, near the banks of Big Cow, just north of the old Santa Fe Trail. One day during his absence a buffalo got on the roof of the dugout and fell through it. What business the buffalo had there — whether Green found him there on his return home, and what he did to him or whether the buffalo escaped — on this point my informant remains mysteriously and provokingly silent! Quails and manna descended for the children of Israel, and so, did buffalo for the early settlers of Rice County.

Not far from that time occurred one of the many Indian scares that visit the frontier settlements. About 100 Pawnee Indians passed by the house of Mr. Griffith, who lived near Green's, and the latter reported the occurrence to the citizens of Atlanta, who immediately rallied with such arms and munitions of war as were at hand, and gallantly stood guard all night. It turned out these Indians were government scouts who were proceeding quietly on their way to Ft. Harker, whither they were returning to obtain pay for their services. They did not offer to molest citizens in any way. Many of these Indian scares were got up by stockmen with a view of keeping away the early settlers.

Leonard Loomis was an early settler. He and his wife, the former 74, and his wife 70 years old, emigrated from Illinois and settled on Big Cow in Spencer Township, December 23, 1870. Mr. Loomis was the step-father of Jeremiah McNames, D. D. McNames and George McNames, and his wife was their mother, and I suppose the mother of Orison and James C. McNames; though my informant, Jeremiah C. does not so state. Mr. Loomis was an old western pioneer, having been to California and Pikes Peak before settling in this county. He was a hale, resolute old man, and the day he was 75 years old shot and killed five buffaloes; pretty good evidence that at three-score and fifteen years "his eye was not dim nor his natural force abated." All the McNames above mentioned, including the family of D. D. and George McNames, came into the county at the same time, took claims, and commenced building dugout houses for their families

December 26, 1870. They were the first settlers in their part of the county, except David Cairns, who was living in a sod house in their vicinity, on section 9, range 9, township 19, and had been living in it since September of that year. My informant thinks that Cairns is the oldest settler in the county, but I am of the opinion that he is mistaken in this, and that there is pretty strong evidence that early in the spring of that year that several persons on the Little Arkansas had entered their claims at the land office and resided on them. More on this point hereafter.

The whole county was full of Indians but they did not molest the settlers. The McNames took an active part in the organization of the county, and the elections for Spencer Township, for the first two years or more, were held at the house of Jeremiah McNames. In 1871 religious meetings and Sunday School were held in the same place.

Mr. McNames said his school district, No. 3, built a sod house May 1, 1872, and he claims it was the first school house built in the county. In McNames contribution to the history, I had almost forgotten his dog story. It seems that Farmer Township is not less famous nowadays for the sagacity of its dogs than it was of old by the antics of the buffalo, and as "Jerry" is a better story teller than I am I give the anecdote in his own language: "We have a noted dog here belonging to Thomas Murphy. He has caught seven wildcats. He will not let a child be whipped when he is about nor will he allow you to whip a little dog, neither will he allow a big dog to whip a little dog (a good example for human bullies to follow). He will catch a Texas ox throw him down and in doing so he several times broke the Texas steers' necks. Thomas Murphy, Charles Sears and Robert McNames went out on the range to hunt buffalo, and not being very good hunters they took the dog with them; they got 35 and McMurphy said, 'Divl the one would they got but three if it hadn't been for the old dog!' But it pretty near used up the dog; he lost two of his tusks and when this was done they had to come home; but the dog can catch coons and jack rabbits yet and other varmints. Hurrah for Pat Murphy's old dog!"

"His dog's name is 'Prince' and dog as he is, he is one of our early settlers."

In the winter of 1870-71 Mr. McNames lost three horses on the buffalo range, one died and two were stolen, and when ten miles from home, that winter, and alone, he broke his leg. How he broke it and how he got home in his crippled condition, he does not vouchsafe to tell. Very likely "Prince" picked him up and toted him home.

#### Sunday School

The first Sunday school in the county was organized at Atlanta in Williston's and MaGoffin's Hall, June 23, 1872, by electing the following officers: Superintendent, Dr. Harry Fones; assistant superintendents, Mrs. Wm. Lowrey, Mrs. F. Chitty;

secretary, Mrs. M. Williston; assistant secretary, W. T. Nicholas. The Union Sunday school at the same place, is in a flourishing condition, having a large and regular attendance of scholars. There are two large and prosperous Sunday Schools in Sterling City, and all over the county in almost every neighborhood where the population will admit of it, those schools are rapidly being organized and well-sustained. Mention of them will be made of some of them hereafter, in the history of the townships.

## CHAPTER XII

### Buffalo

Cuvier insists the term, "Buffalo," belongs to the eastern continent and is not applicable to the American animal; the former being more stag-shaped and smaller than the latter, and originally a native of India, and that the true name of the latter is "Bison." American writers, however, almost invariably speak of him as the "Buffalo." The valleys of the Arkansas and its tributaries, owing to situation and its mild climate, were formerly the greatest resort of the buffalo in America. At the time of the first settlement by whites in 1870, the whole county was full of them; roving in herds of countless thousands and cropping the grasses short everywhere. Many of the early settlers expressed fears that the buffalo were so numerous that they would consume or trample down the crops to such an extent that farming would be a failure; but, like the Indians, the buffalo receded as the whites advanced, until at the present time not a buffalo can be found in the county, and it is seldom that any can be found, even in small herds, within a hundred miles of the county. But they were a god-send to the early settlers, with whom meat and money were scarce; many a family never tasting for months any other meat other than buffalo, while the sale of their hides furnished for quite a period, the only cash that reached the settler's pockets.

The white man utilized every part of the buffalo, eating the meat, selling the hide, gathering and shipping to eastern markets thousands of tons of bones for fertilizing and other purposes. Nor was this all. The only fuel readily accessible to many families was the offal of the buffalo, literally covering the whole surface of the prairie, known to hunters as buffalo "chips," and which, when two or three years old, by the action of the wind and sun, becomes a very passable substitute for wood.

It seems to have been wisely ordered that the buffalo should tarry with us so long, as domestic cattle, hogs, money, etc., were scarce, and as these pressing wants became particularly relieved the tide of emigration poured in, they were needed no longer and rapidly disappeared. But while they remained in large numbers they were fearfully slaughtered by all the early settlers, many a one killing from 50 to 100 and some 100 to a thousand each. Even the women occasionally shot and killed one, as the buffalo frequently came within a few feet of their dwellings.

Mrs. Charles W. Boyer, in August, 1871, shot and killed one near her house in Spencer Township.

In the summer of 1871 the buffalo were so numerous that it was hardly safe for a man to travel alone and unarmed across the prairie.

Like the Indians too, the range of the buffalo is becoming



more and more circumscribed, and the time is not far distant when both of them, melting away under the influence of civilization, and pushed to the setting sun by the White Man will entirely disappear.

### The Santa Fe Trail

There is a vast amount of romance and mystery connected with the origin and history of the Santa Fe Trail. Gray-haired men now living, when young, have often heard of this famous pathway, and although from time to time, fragments of events occurring on or in the vicinity of this trail, have been given to the public, I am not aware that any publication exists that professes to give a connected or continuous history of this road, or by whom or when it was first laid out. If one could snatch from oblivion, and transfer to the historian's page its entire history — its deeds of darkness and of fame — its lights and shadows, the exploits of the daring hunter and of the treacherous savage, and assassin; it would equal if not surpass in thrilling interest the wildest, wierdest pages of Scott or Cooper.

(Ed. note: At first thought, it would appear that author Muscott was ill-informed; however, most of the fine material now available on the Santa Fe Trail was written after Muscott assembled his "history" in 1876.)

It extends from St. Louis, Mo., to Santa Fe, N.M., passing the Missouri River at Leavenworth and running thence in a southwesterly direction through the state of Kansas near Dodge City. It transverses Union, Atlanta and Raymond Townships in this county, passing westward out of the county just south of the Plum Buttes, which lie at or near the west line of the county.

It was known to frontiersmen more than fifty years ago, for as early as the year 1830 it was a great thoroughfare for the transportation of hides and furs from the mountains, and military stores and merchandise of every description westward.

The wealth that has been, first to last, shipped over this continental highway in the shape of robes and furs, munitions of war and general merchandise, can be counted by millions.

All along the route, in the early history of the road, were constructed at intervals, forts and stockades for defense against the Indians, the remains of some of them being still visible in this county. One of them, now called "Stone Corral," with loopholes for gunnery, is situated near the east line of the county and near the Little Arkansas River in Union Township.

Another fort, with barracks, blacksmith shop, well, rifle pits, etc., was built on the east of the Big Cow in what is now Raymond Township where the Santa Fe Trail crosses that stream. (Ed. Note — What is now Center Township was at that time in Raymond Township.) The site of the fort is on the southeast quarter of section 2, township 20, range 9 west, and is owned by John Cole. The well is in good condition, and around the site of

the old shop and the sutler's store, are found scraps of old iron, beads and other trinkets suitable for Indian traffic.

Quite a number of the rifle pits and a few soldier's graves are still plainly visible, as well as the location of the shop and the sutler's store.

At this place a regiment of regular troops was once stationed. But at what time and under whose command I am unable to state, but it must have been as late as 1832, or later, and in cholera times, as the colonel commanding frequently skirmished with the Indians, up and down Cow Creek, and one intensely hot day, while thus engaged, lost three of his men by cholera. It is said a trading post was kept directly west of the post on the same section on the west bank of the stream.

I think during the Mexican War Colonel Doniphan and his command must have traveled from Missouri over this trail on his expedition to join General Wool in Chihuahua, Mexico; and certain it is that Freemont, Kit Carson, Cody, Ben McCullough and other famous explorers before that war had been accustomed to journey over this route to and from the Pacific.

Emigrants to California and the Pacific Coast were, about this time, traveling over it in large numbers, and government troops were stationed at these posts, not only to protect the emigrants, but also the merchandise and property conveyed over the road.

Many of these trains were attacked by Indians and white desperadoes, who, though generally repulsed, sometimes inflicted terrible vengeance on those they overpowered. Report says that a train of emigrants was broken up near the Plum Buttes in '63 and I learned through William McGee, who lives on section 34, range 10, the south part of Farmer Township, about two miles from the Buttes, that the trail runs through his section, and since his settlement there in April, 1874, he found on that section broken and partly burned wagons, plows, barrels, tubs, boxes and earthenware; and for miles around lay scattered unworn boots and shoes, crisped by prairie fires and the scorching sun, with other articles — everything denoting the place to have been the scene of a general massacre, as a row of graves was visible for some years after near this spot. About this same time, just east of the Buttes, in a basin surrounded by sandhills, a small party of Mexicans were surprised and every one of them butchered.

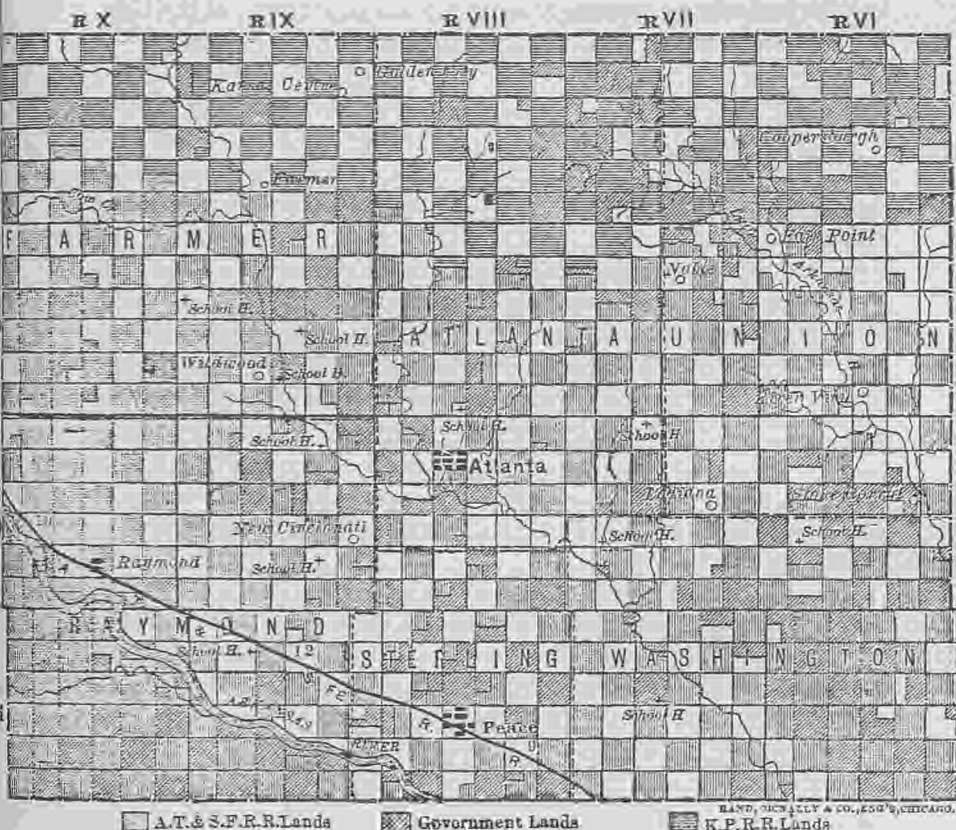
A soldier who belonged to a company of cavalry encamped near Jarvis Creek many years ago, informed Mr. Norman Reed that as they lay in camp early one morning, they heard the report of fire arms in the direction of Atlanta. Mounting their horses instantly, they rode in hot haste toward the firing, and as they rose over the brow of a sandhill, they saw just ahead of them in the Trail, an emigrant train, surrounded by several hundred Indians, and fighting desperately for their lives. The cavalry at

once charged upon the Indians who, at the first appearance of the troops broke and fled in the direction of the junction of the Little Cow with the Big Cow. The Indians were mounted, but the soldiers pursued them with such vigor that many were killed while crossing the Cow, and more while crossing the Arkansas at Raymond.

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[Fourth Annual Report, State Board of Agriculture]

MAP OF RICE COUNTY, KANSAS, 1875.



## CHAPTER XIII

### More of the "Trail."

Tradition says that thirty years ago a man by the name of Jarvis was murdered for his money near the creek in this county that bears his name. It is said the assassination was planned by three doctors who were returning eastward from the mountains in company with Jarvis, who traveled under an escort. One of the doctors was tried in St. Louis for murder, convicted and executed; and another, a report says, was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment for his participation in the crime. Jarvis was reported to have had a large amount of money in his possession at the time of his assassination which he had amassed as a trader among the Indians, but we were not informed whether his murderers obtained any portion of the money. Jarvis was buried near the scene of the murder on the creek.

### Marriage by Moonlight on the Trail

An engagement of a more peaceable character occurred on the Santa Fe Trail April 19, 1872, near Little Cow Creek in Atlanta Township.

Ex-county commissioner D. M. Bell, having reached the conclusion that it was not good for a man to be alone, and Miss Mary M. Hanks, being of the same opinion, with a company of mutual friends on horseback, assembled on the trail at 8 o'clock P.M. of that day. The telltale moon shown gloriously, and by its light, to their surprise they saw emerging from a thicket of sunflowers bordering the trail, Judge Levi Jay, evidently in search of probate business! The judge was instantly captured and compelled to perform the marriage ceremony between the parties, which was done while the parties and their friends were quietly seated on their horses.

### The Raymond Bond Scandal

Though appropriately belonging to the history of Raymond Township, yet as the transaction has become one of county and state interest, I prefer to state it in this connection. The story as condensed from the report of the attorney general to the governor, made in January of 1876, is this:

School District No. 8 in Rice County was organized on July 8, 1872, in what was then the Township of Spencer, now Raymond, with a territory 12 miles long, and six miles wide, embracing more than half the present Township, and the same day George W. Lower, director; E. B. Mather, clerk, and Alexander Clark, treasurer, were elected as members of the district board of said school district. August 24, 1872, H. L. Roach was appointed director, in place of Lower who had resigned. July 15, 1872, a petition purporting to be signed by 45 legal voters of the district was presented to the board, asking them to submit to the voters a



proposition for the district to issue bonds, not exceeding \$10,000, to build a school house in the district. Among the petitioners appear the names of S. N. Wood, Q. Foster, H. J. Tibbets, W. K. Houston, Alexander Clark, Thomas Collins and E. B. Mather, and a notice of that date was given of an election in said district, to be held July 30, 1872, to vote on said proposition. On the 5th day of August, 1872, George Lower, director; E. B. Mather, clerk, and Alexander Clark, treasurer of said district; in behalf of said district, entered into a written contract on that date with said Wood, whereby Wood agreed to erect a school house in the district on the townsite of Raymond, (in the manner and of the kind detailed in the contract) within two years from that time, for which the district was to pay him, Wood, \$10,000 in school district bonds; the bonds to be issued so soon as said Wood furnished security for the performance of the contract on his part.

On the 20th day of August, 1872, Roach, as director, (four days before he was appointed director in place of Lower) Mather as clerk and Clark as treasurer signed a paper of that date, certifying the number of children in the district between the ages of 5 and 21 to be 128; that the number of electors signing the aforesaid petition for calling the election bonds was 44; that the results of the canvass of votes cast at such election as declared by the school board was 46 for school house and bonds and against none; that there was no outstanding indebtedness or bonds in the district; that this district was six miles by 12, and contained 72 sections of land, including an incorporated city of the third class, with 300 inhabitants. The town included a section of land divided into about 3,000 lots, with an average value of \$10 each; that there was also subject to taxation 35 sections of bottom land, making 22,400 acres, worth on an average \$2.50 per acre, a grand total of \$96,000, besides a large number of buildings in town, and personal property that had come into the district since March 1, 1872; that the district was then fast settling up, and that the balance of the district would soon be preempted or homesteaded and upon the tax rolls, and that the lands in the district were, nearly all, first class bottom lands with over six miles of railroad in the district. Accompanying this certificate was the certificate of the county clerk of Rice County, dated August 26, 1872, certifying that Roach was director, Mather, clerk, and Clark, treasurer of the district at that date. The bonds of the district, 20 in number, were each for the sum of \$500, and purporting to be signed by Roach, Mather and Clark, and were issued August 26, 1872, and were purchased by the commissioners of the Permanent School Fund of the State October 16, 1872, of B. Haywood, for the sum of \$9,237, after the foregoing certificates were filed in the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Among the certificates filed in the Superintendent's office was one signed by T. J. Fulton, county attorney of Rice County, bearing date August 20, 1872, (six days before the bonds were issued) certifying that he

had carefully examined all the proceedings of the school district No. 8, in Rice County in reference to building a school house and issuing bonds for same. The petition, notice of election and canvass of votes, and in fact all the proceedings in said matter, and find them all legal and regular in every particular, and in compliance with law.

The county superintendent of Public Instruction for Rice County reports that on the first day of March, 1872, there was no real or personal property in that district subject to taxation, and on the first day of March, 1875, the total amount of taxable property therein was only \$2,960.96.

No school house has been built in that district by said Wood, nor any part of the interest or principal of said bonds been paid. The legislature of 1876 investigated this transaction through a committee, and Roach, Clark, Mather, S. N. Wood, and several other witnesses were summoned and gave testimony before the committee. Mather swore he never signed the bonds nor any of the coupons. Clark swore that Mather, in the presence of Wood, gave him, Clark, authority to sign his, Mather's, name to the bonds, and that he Clark, signed the name of Mather to the bonds and his own as treasurer. Wood also swore that Mather authorized Roach or Clark to sign his name to the bonds, and that he, Wood, received and sent the bonds to the Lawrence Savings Bank, knowing that Mather's name was signed by Clark by direction of Mather, and that he, Wood, supposed it was all right and square.

Lawyers of less legal acumen than Colonel Wood know that no school district officer can legally authorize another person to sign the officer's name to school bonds. Wood received October 18, 1872, the sum of \$8,750, as the proceeds of the sale of the bonds, and no part of that money has ever been paid into the treasury of said school district or ever refunded to the district by said Wood, or by anyone for him. The commissioners of the Permanent School Fund brought suit against the school district to compel payment of these bonds, but inasmuch as they were illegally issued and therefore not binding on the district, the commissioners were compelled to withdraw their action, and the state school fund, by this sharp and most infamous swindle, has been robbed of over \$10,000. After a scathing criticism on the conduct of the former county attorney of Rice County, Fulton, in connection with this swindle, the legislative committee concluded their report by recommending the Attorney General to commence suit against said Wood, and the banks through which these bonds passed, for recovery of the amount paid on these bonds, and interest. It is no part of the duty of the local historian to sit in judgment, and determine who are the guilty parties in this transaction, and I shall not attempt to do so. Indeed, it is unnecessary. Let not the lesson taught be forgotten.

### Atlanta Township

There are now six townships in the county, Atlanta, Farmer, Raymond, Sterling, Union and Washington. At the time the county was organized, August 26, 1871, but three townships were formed, namely, Atlanta, Sterling and Spencer.

When organized, Atlanta contained an area of 326 square miles, or 247,040 acres of land (nearly one-half the entire county). But since that time portions have been taken from it to form Union Township and additions to Washington and Sterling Townships, until now it contains 141 square miles of 90,240 acres, bounded north by Ellsworth County, east by Union Township, south by Washington and Sterling Townships and west by Farmer and Raymond townships.

Atlanta was named after Atlanta, Ga., to compliment some Georgians who had become members of the "Atlanta Town Company." At the first township election held in Atlanta, April 2, 1872, G. W. Bruner was elected township trustee; E. H. Dunham, clerk; C. W. Shumway, treasurer; Ferguson Chitty, and Norman Reed, road overseers; G. W. Poole and John Whipple, constables.

For the sake of convenient reference, I here give the names of the township offices elected each year, unto the present time:

In 1873 the following officers were elected, viz.: Township trustee, C. W. Shumway; clerk, E. J. Arnold; treasurer, John Hanna; Justice of the Peace, Clay Hodgson and E. C. Jones; constables, John McKinnis and G. W. Cole; road overseer, W. H. Rife. Votes polled at the township election that year, 73.

In 1874, township trustee, C. W. Shumway; clerk, E. J. Arnold; treasurer, John Hanna; constables, John McKinnis and John Riley; road overseers, J. C. Morse, G. W. Monroe and James McKinney, were elected. Votes polled at this election 53.

In 1875 the time of holding township elections was changed from April to November of that year. No township election was held in April of this year, and in November of this year, the following officers were elected: township trustee, William Smith; treasurer, John Hanna; justices, Earl Joslin and Samuel Bethers; road overseers, Samuel McFarland, G. W. Monroe and Aaron Bob; constable, H. M. Williston.

The county seat was first temporarily located in this county by Governor Harvey in 1872, and permanently located in the same place by the electors of the county in September, 1872, and relocated by the electors in 1876 at a point called Lyons.

Lyons is 145 miles — in an air-line — from Topeka in a southwesterly direction from the latter place. In this township occurred the first murder of the county, August 26, 1871, as already stated, and the first death by disease among the settlers, August 28, 1871, of John Chitty, son of Ferguson Chitty. Here in December, 1870, was organized the "Atlanta Town Company"

who laid out a town site, and among other buildings erected by the Company on that site was the "Atlanta Hotel," which was in 1872 conveyed by that company to the county, and used by the latter as a court house and for county offices until May, 1876. In January, 1871, was established the first post office in the township and county, and Earl Joslin was the first postmaster appointed. Newell Wood built, in the fall of 1870, the first frame dwelling house in the township and county, and C. W. Shumway now occupies as his dwelling house, a structure which was also the first frame school house built in Atlanta, and in the county, and built on section 16, township 19, range 8 west.

The "Atlanta Hotel" was the first hotel built on the town site and in the county.

### Population

On the first day of March, 1875, the whole number of inhabitants in this township, as returned by the assessor, was as follows: Total, 508; white males, 276; white females, 224; colored males, 6; colored females, 5; males of foreign birth, 17; females of foreign birth, 8; minor children, 278; children over 5 years of age and less than 21, 183; oldest inhabitant, 77 years old; persons over 50 years of age, 20; persons over 60 years of age, 6.

It must be borne in mind that this census (that of March 1, 1875) was taken when the township, in common with the rest of the county, had been depopulated by the grasshopper raid of the preceding year. The estimated population of Atlanta March 1, 1876, must have been about 750. March 1, 1875, there were in Atlanta 126 dwellings, 124 families.

### Nativity of the Population

Of the aforesaid 508 persons, 62 were natives of Kansas; 24 of New York, 3 of Wisconsin, 26 of Pennsylvania, 37 of Iowa, 104 of Illinois, 29 of Indiana, 19 of Virginia, 2 of Massachusetts, 3 of Maryland, 1 of Maine, 16 of Michigan, 24 of Missouri, 1 of Canada, 5 of France, 6 of England, 3 of Ireland, 1 of Louisiana, 4 of Nebraska, 4 of Sweden, 1 of New Jersey, 1 of New Hampshire, 1 of Nova Scotia, 5 of Germany, 1 of Colorado, 3 of North Carolina, 1 of Tennessee, 1 of Arkansas, 1 of Scotland, 4 of Vermont, 11 of Kentucky.

### Where From to Kansas?

From Wisconsin 4, Illinois 167, Iowa 68, Missouri 55, Colorado 5, Virginia 3, New York 11, Michigan 18, Nebraska 6, Pennsylvania 3, Indiana 5, Ohio 66, Maryland 1, Oregon 1, Vermont 4, Kentucky 9.

There were reported that year no board nor stone fences, but 25 rods of rail fence, and 6,100 rods of Osage Orange planted.

### Number of Acres Sown in Fall of 1874

Winter Wheat .....	589
Rye .....	261



### Acres Sown or Planted in 1875

Spring wheat 369, corn 1,461, barley 116, oats 400, buckwheat  $\frac{1}{2}$ , potatoes, Irish  $36\frac{1}{4}$ , potatoes, sweet, 2; sorghum  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , millet and Hungarian  $19\frac{1}{2}$ .

Two and a quarter acres of Timothy meadow under fence,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  acres of clover meadow under fence.

Pounds of butter made in families, 5,955.

Number of horses 134, mules and asses 24, milch cows 96, number of other cattle 144, swine 161, animals slaughtered and c. 124, dogs 4, sheep killed by dogs 3, acres of orchard 27, acres of vineyards 2, stands of bees 1.

Persons supported, in whole or in part, at public expense 5. Private libraries 5, number of volumes 264.

## CHAPTER XIV

### Farmer Township

This township was organized March 16, 1874, out of territory then called Spencer. It lies in a square form in the northwest part of the county, being 12 miles square, and contains 92,160 acres. Bounded north by Ellsworth County, east by Atlanta, south by Raymond and west by Barton County, Spencer Township was named after James J. Spencer, first sheriff of Rice County. Spencer was a man, who, armed with a requisition from Governor Harvey, went to Ohio to arrest Edward Swanson, the murderer of E. B. Shannon. It is currently reported and believed Spencer went to a social party in Ohio that Swanson was attending and never arrested or even attempted to arrest Swanson for his crime, and subsequently had the assurance (sic) to ask this county to pay a large sum of money for his services and expenses in hunting up Swanson. Spencer never returned to this county, and the county honored itself by refusing to honor his claim, and this township, by changing its name from Spencer to "Farmer."

At the first township election in Spencer, April 2, 1872, William V. F. Earl was elected township trustee; Leonard Loomis, clerk; P. J. Griffith, treasurer; R. D. McDonald, road overseer; James McNames and Robert Stephenson, constables.

April 1, 1873, H. L. Green was elected trustee; R. D. Stephenson, clerk; O. Y. Smith, treasurer; W. V. S. Earl and C. W. Boyer, justices; road overseer, Orrison McNames; constables, J. B. McNames and William Hopkins. Votes polled at this election, 45.

The first township election held in Farmer was in April, 1874; officers elected: H. L. Green, trustee; clerk, S. P. Monroe; treasurer, J. C. McNames; justice, F. C. Shaw; constables, J. M. Orr and Alfred Weaver; road overseers, W. C. Summers, J. B. Parks, William Campbell and Moses Burch. Votes polled at this election, 36.

In November, 1875, Peter Ellis was elected trustee; R. D. Stephenson, clerk; W. C. Summers, treasurer; John R. Kennedy and A. T. Sherwood, justices; Alfred Waver and John Tomlins, constables; road overseers, David Wells, W. V. Enfield, F. Evans, Andrew Greenlease, and C. Peterson.

David Cairns was among the first — if not the first — settlers of this township. He settled here in 1870. He and a Miss McNames were the first couple married here. The first death in the township was that of George McNames, and the first child born was that of a cattle herder — Green. J. C. McNames brought into the township the first pigs, and F. C. Shaw butchered the first hog. The wife of Leonard Loomis made the first soap, and Loomis himself, the day he was 75 years of age, killed

five buffaloes with seven shots. W. C. Summers built the first board house, dug and walled the first well, made the first fence, threshed the first wheat and oats, marketed the first oats, cabbage, pie plant, and in 1873, raised the first currents and gooseberries. Mr. Ball sold the first cow — price \$50.

Wildwood post office was opened in March, 1873, and was the first in the township. Wildwood school house was built in October, 1873, the first in the township, and Rev. Mr. Watt preached the first sermon in it, and F. J. Griffith the first sermon in the township. The first child baptised was Thomas Sherwood, and the first Sunday School was organized in 1873 at the home of A. T. Sherwood. The first graveyard was opened on the farm of J. T. McNames. In April, 1871, Isaac Schoonover built his dwelling house on Plum Creek, hauling his lumber from Salina — 60 miles. O. Y. Smith built his house in November, 1872, bringing with him from Peoria, Ill., the brick for his chimney, and built the first chimney on a farm house in the county.

#### **Population, Productions, etc.**

On the first day of March, 1875, the whole number of inhabitants in this township, as returned by the assessor, was as follows: Total, 493; white males, 273; white females, 220; colored males, 2; colored females, 3; males of foreign birth, 27; females of foreign birth, 89; minor children, 268; children over 5 years of age and less than 21, 127; oldest inhabitant as of March 1, 1875, 76 years old; persons over 50 years of age, 15, persons over 60 years of age, 9. The present population must exceed 700. At the above date there were in Farmer 115 dwelling houses and 117 families.

#### **Nativity of the Population**

Of the above 493 persons, 36 are natives of Kansas, 73 of Ohio, 58 of Indiana, 42 of Missouri, 21 of Michigan, 114 of Illinois, 30 of Iowa, 15 of Kentucky, 4 of Virginia, 18 of New York, 7 of Minnesota, 3 of Vermont, 16 of Pennsylvania, 11 of Wisconsin, 1 of California, 2 of Tennessee, 2 of New Jersey, 3 of North Carolina, 1 of South Carolina, 1 of Colorado, 2 of Ireland, 20 of Germany, 3 of Scotland, 5 of Canada, 3 of England, 2 of Sweden.

#### **Where from to Kansas?**

From Missouri 83, Indiana 48, Iowa 59, Michigan 25, Texas 1, Ohio 28, Wisconsin 20, Pennsylvania 8, Germany 3, Illinois 160, Tennessee 3, Nebraska 5, Kentucky 6, District of Columbia 1, South Carolina 1, Colorado 4.

#### **Occupations, March 1, 1875**

Farmers 120, ministers of the Gospel 5, machinists 1, teachers 1, mail agents 1, persons attending school within the year 4. (?)

Acres of land under fence March 1, 1875, 4. Cultivated land then not under fence, 25,810 acres. Cash value of farms \$72,550. Cash value of farming implements and machinery at that time, \$2,013.

Acres sown in fall of 1874:

Winter Wheat	782½
Rye	202

Acres of other grain planted or sown in 1875:

Spring wheat	635½
Corn	1881
Barley	47
Oats	413
Potatoes, Irish	31
Potatoes, sweet	½
Sorghum	4
Castor beans	3

Pounds of Butter made in families, 5,497.

Number of horses 180, mules and asses 30, milch cows 113, other cattle 128, swine 114, value of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter \$803. Number of dogs 92, acres of orchard 1½, volumes of books in public libraries 183, volumes of books in private libraries 1,137.

In richness of soil, beauty of surface and in its water courses, this township is not surpassed by any in the county. It is capable of supporting a population of 4,000 or 5,000.



## CHAPTER XV

### Raymond Township

Was organized March 16, 1874; (at the same time with Farmer) and named in honor of Emmus Raymond, one of the directors of the A.T. and S.F. R.R. Co. It is bounded on north by Farmer, east by Atlanta and Sterling townships, south by Reno County and west by Barton County, and contains 138 square miles, or 88,320 acres of land. The Arkansas River runs diagonally from northwest to southeast through the southwestern part of the township.

The first township election was held in April, 1874, and the following officers elected: Township Trustee, H. J. Tibbetts; Clerk, Charles Bell; Treasurer, J. M. Proffitt; Justice, C. D. Stevens; Constables, John Petrie and A. M. Peachim; Road Overseer, John Cole. Votes polled at this election, 29.

At the fall township election, in November, 1875, J. W. Bicknell was elected Trustee; H. Leith, Clerk; Justices, A. J. Foote and C. G. Cleland; Treasurer, J. M. L. Gore; Constables, W. W. Boyer and S. Wilcox; Road Overseer, J. M. Proffitt.

#### Population, Productions, etc.

On the first day of March, 1875, the whole number of inhabitants in this township, as returned by the assessor, was as follows: Total, 420; white males, 222; white females, 233; males of foreign birth, 16; females of foreign birth, 1; minor children, 236; children over five and less than 21 years of age, 160; oldest inhabitant, 77 years old; persons over 50 years of age, 13; persons over 60 years of age, 5; number of dwellings, 82; number of families, 81.

#### Nativity of the Population

Of the aforesaid 420 persons, 42 were natives of Kansas, 1 of Germany, 49 of Indiana, 52 of Ohio, 56 of Illinois, 17 of Pennsylvania, 36 of Iowa, 18 of Missouri, 21 of Kentucky, 15 of Canada, 7 of West Virginia, 2 of France, 15 of Michigan, 30 of New York, 8 of England, 1 of Connecticut, 3 of Virginia, 15 of Tennessee, 2 of Ireland, 4 of Scotland, 3 of Vermont, 1 of North Carolina, 1 of Texas, 3 of Massachusetts, 9 of Prussia, 1 of Wales, 1 of New Jersey.

#### Where From to Kansas

From Ohio, 30; Illinois, 60; Indiana, 36; Iowa, 104; Michigan, 33; New York, 23; Nebraska, 1; Prussia, 8; Tennessee, 5; Texas, 2; Wisconsin, 1; Colorado, 1; Connecticut, 1.

Value of real estate March 1, 1875, \$82,500. Value of personal property at this date, \$16,621.

#### Occupations

Farmers at that date, 65; ministers of the gospel, 3; carpenters, 7; masons, 1; blacksmiths, 3; teachers, 1; broom

makers, 1; railroad conductors, 1; saddlers, 1; lawyers, 1; merchants, 2.

Acres of land under cultivation but not fenced, 3,895. Cash value of farming implements and machinery, \$4,392. Acres sown in fall of 1874:

Winter wheat . . . . . 724

Rye . . . . . 213

Acres of other grain grown or planted in 1875:

Spring Wheat . . . . . 489

Corn . . . . . 1,903

Barley . . . . . 84

Oats . . . . . 427

Buckwheat . . . . . 4

Potatoes, Irish . . . . . 30

Potatoes, sweet . . . . .  $\frac{1}{4}$

Sorghum, acres in 1875 . . . . 15

Flax . . . . .  $4\frac{1}{2}$

Millet and Hungarian . . . .  $6\frac{1}{4}$

Pounds of Butter

Made in families . . . . . 6,096

Horses . . . . . 131

Mules and Asses . . . . . 29

Milch Cows . . . . . 119

Other Cattle . . . . . 298

Swine . . . . . 247

Value of animals slaughtered, \$642. Number of dogs 61. Acres of nurseries 10, acres of orchards  $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

#### **Early Settlers, First Birth, Death, etc.**

The first white child born in this township was Charles, son of William and Sarah Campbell, and the first white child born in the county as before stated. It (sic) was born in what was then Spencer Township.

C. W. Boyer claims to have been the first white settler in the town. The first frame dwelling house was built by Sam Locrone, and the first log house by William Houston, and the first marriage was supposed to have been that of William Simmons, railroad conductor, to Sarah Bruner, by Judge Levi Jay.

Alexander Clark thinks the first death in the township was that of the mother of Mrs. David Orr and of Mrs. F. C. Shaw (then in Spencer) but Dr. Bohrer, in his items of township history furnished me, mentions the first death to be that of Henry McClure, and the first marriage that of Mr. Hope to Miss Rathburn, and the first white child born in the town to be the child of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Darling, which was born on section 2, township 20, range 9 west.

As to the above conflicting statements I will not attempt to decide which is correct, further than this, that the quite uniform testimony of the neighbors is that Charles Campbell was the first born. As he was born June 10, 1871, on above section 2, it is easy

to settle the point by obtaining the birthday of the Darling child. The first twin children born were those of E. A. Richardson, February 25, 1874, and on May 13, following, in the same neighborhood, twin children were born to Mrs. Reuben Waite.

In November, 1874, Tiffin Watts shot and killed his father, as he alleges in self-defense. He was arrested and examined for the killing, and discharged, but it is the current belief of the neighbors and citizens, borne out by the undisputed evidence on the examination, that the killing was unnecessary and unjustifiable, and that the act was at least manslaughter if not murder.

The deceased was a physician and surgeon of more than ordinary ability, and served during the war of the rebellion as principal surgeon in the Fifth Illinois Cavalry. His remains were interred on Dr. Bohrer's homestead, section 10, range 9.

Mr. Daniel Coffman, in an interesting communication to me touching this town, claims that the first frame house built in Raymond (does he mean the Township of Raymond or the city?) was built by J. E. Bixby, in the spring of 1872, out of lumber hauled by him from Newton, as no railroad was then built to Peace. (Ed. Note — the railroad reached Raymond in June, 1872.)

The next houses were built by J. W. Smith and John Murphy the same summer. He says there were several Indian "scares" during the summer of 1872, and that on one occasion Smith and Hartshorn were on the range hunting buffalo, and while they were absent the neighbors took their lanterns at night, went out on the prairie to skin some buffaloes that had been killed in the daytime. A timid man by the name of Hand, living on the same section with Smith and Hartshorn, seeing the lights concluded the Indians were there, alarmed Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hartshorn, who, taking their children with them, fled in the night to a neighbors house and lost their way. Coming to a hedge that had been planted to corn, they stayed there all night, fighting mosquitoes, and in constant dread of the Indians. They had a small dog with them, and fearing the noise might attract the indians to their hiding place, Mrs. Smith held the dog with one hand, and in the other hand a buffalo bone, ready to kill him at the first bark. Thus the women passed the silent watches of the night, resolving and re-resolving they would not stay in Kansas another day!

Mr. William Magee, who lives on the Santa Fe Trail between Farmer and Raymond, of the past and present, says, I often view the deep cuts where the vast trains passed to and from the extreme portions of our county, and try to imagine the files of wagons, men, horses, mules and cattle, as they moved their slow length along this trail; or the coach with its four or six horses, as they daily flew by, carrying the great Southwestern U.S. Mail; and anon the Indian hordes, as from some sheltered spot they watched their prey, and with the speed of the wind, pounced upon their unsuspecting victims. How strange the thought that only twelve years ago this county, known as the 'Great American

Desert,' was traversed by immense traveling trains and the scene of many an Indian butchery. Even as late as 1872 it was overrun by the savages and was the ancient home of the buffalo. Now, settlers' cottages are seen, surrounded by the fields of waving grain — the school house takes the place of the hunters 'ranche;' civilization that of barbarism; the waste places are occupied and the desert blossoms like the rose!"

In a former chapter I have described the old fort in this township near Mr. Cole's, the trading post of the U.S. government and the skirmishing with the Indians up and down Cow Creek, to which I refer the reader.

The A.T. and S. R.R. passes through the township, having a station at Raymond.

Raymond was incorporated as a city in July, 1872, with Alexander Clark as its first mayor. During the construction of the railroad it was a place of great activity, numbering several hundred inhabitants. As the railroad pushed westward it lost its prestige, but in time it will become a central point for exports and imports for the western portion of the county and south of the Arkansas River.

J. C. Stewart, of this township, sowed, September 24, 1874, a little over nine acres with Red May Wheat. The soil was upland prairie, black loam and the two preceeding crops were corn. June 28, 1875, he harvested 308 bushels from this field — over 30 bushels to the acre. Noting more than the average yield for that year, it shows the capacity of Rice County soil for production under favorable circumstances.



## CHAPTER XVI

### Washington Township

Was organized April 14, 1874, from portions of Atlanta and Sterling Townships, and is bounded north by Atlanta and Union, east by the county line, south by Sterling, and west by Sterling and Atlanta. It contains 180 square miles, or 115,200 acres of land.

The north part of this township is undulating in surface, portions of it rather rough and uneven, but the soil is good and especially adapted to wheat growing and sheep raising. Sand creek — a living stream of water — runs almost the entire length of the township, from west to east, and empties into the Little Arkansas. South of Sand Creek there is a range of sandhills, of little value for cultivation, save here and there a fertile valley, but there are living springs of water skirting these hills which make the lands valuable for grazing. These hills extend northwest and southeast and are about nine miles long and four wide, and abound with the wild plum.

South and west of these hills the Cow Creek valley — the Garden of Rice county — with its deep, rich, alluvial soil, capable of producing every kind of product that grows in southwest Kansas abundantly.

In the extreme southwest part of this township there is some sand, but not enough to materially injure the soil. Fall wheat is a principal staple of this township. In 1875 this crop averaged about 20 bushels to the acre, some fields yielding about 40 bushels to the acre; barley about 25 to 30, oats 25, corn 30, rye 20. Potatoes also yielded well.

### Population

On the first day of March, 1875, the whole number of inhabitants of this township, as returned by the assessor, was as follows: Total 277. White males, 150; white females, 127; males of foreign birth, 16; females of foreign birth, 11; minor children, 143; children over five years old and less than 20, 190; oldest inhabitant, 68 years of age; persons over 50 years, 9; over 60 years, 4; number of dwelling houses then, 67; number of families then, 70.

### Nativity of the Population

Of the above 277 persons, 33 were natives of Kansas; 22 of Kentucky, 25 of Missouri, of Pennsylvania 18, of Ohio 50, Illinois 27, Iowa 10, Bavaria 1, England 9, New Jersey 1, Virginia 13, Germany 19, New York 7, Canada 1, Indiana 9, District of Columbia 1, Wisconsin 9, Wales 2, France 1, Utah 1, Vermont 2, Connecticut 1, Sweden 4, Maine 2, Massachusetts 1, Tennessee 1, Michigan 2.

### Where from to Kansas

From Kentucky 25, Missouri 36, Pennsylvania 7, Ohio 45, Illinois 64, Iowa 14, Virginia 9, West Virginia 3, Germany 5, New York 2, Indiana 5, Arkansas 7, Michigan 4, Wisconsin 18.

Personal property March 1, 1875, \$16,539.

### Occupations, etc.

Farmers 94, mechanics 1, printers 1, physicians 1; acres of land under cultivation, March 1, 1875, 9,749. Acres sown in fall of 1874: fall wheat 263½, rye 176½; acres of other grain sown or planted in 1875: spring wheat 194, corn 877, barley 44½, oats 225, buckwheat 2, Irish potatoes 16½, sweet potatoes 1, sorghum 15½, millet and Hungarian 12½, pounds of butter made in families in 1875, 2,628. Number of horses 87, mules and asses 20, milch cows 83, other cattle 157, swine 139. Value of animals slaughtered \$266.40. Number of dogs 43.

Commissioner J. K. Miller to whom I am solely indebted for the historical items from Washington, says that John Van Trump was the first settler in what is now Washington Township, and built the first frame dwelling house in the Township. The first house in the township was built of sod. Mr. Miller claims that the first public highway in the county was laid out in this township, then Sterling, "beginning on the east line of the county at the southeast corner of section 24, township 21, range 6 west, thence west til it came to the A.T. and S.F. R.R., thence on the north side of said railroad to the then town of Peace."

The first marriage in this part of the county was that of Emma Combs, of this county, to James Cheesman of Ohio, in April, 1872. First child born in same vicinity was the son of George Watson, born in April, 1871, and said to have been named Rice. A lime kiln is in course of construction in the same region. This township, like other townships in the county, is rapidly filling up with new settlers. Between March 1, 1875, and March 5 of this year, Mr. M. informs us 64 new settlers have made their homes in Washington.

The A.T. and S.F. R.R. runs through this township, and its products find easy shipment at Nickerson station, on that road.

### Township Elections

The first township election held in this township was April 28, 1874. Officers elected that year: Trustee, John Imbler; clerk, N. L. D. Smith; treasurer, Norman Reed; Justices, P. R. Brown and J. K. Miller; Constables, P. Kinder and S. C. Brady; road overseers, C. M. Case and David England (?).

In November, 1875, the following officers were elected: Trustee, J. P. Gibbons; clerk, A. J. Dorman; treasurer, Norman Reed; justices, William Thewlis and H. Richart; constables, J. D. Wirt and J. B. Lewis; road overseers, James Allen, Jacob Johnson and James Kinder.

## CHAPTER XVII

### Union Township

The latest born of the townships was organized September 7, 1874, from the northeast part of Atlanta and lies in the northeast part of the county. It is in a square form, being nine miles in length from east to west, and 15 miles from north to south, containing 135 square miles, or 86,400 acres of land. It is bounded north by Ellsworth County, east by McPherson County, south by Washington and west by Atlanta Township.

The Little Arkansas River runs through this township in a southeasterly direction. Valuable stone quarries are found along the banks of and quite a distance from this stream, on both sides.

Portions of the surface of this township are somewhat uneven, but it is nevertheless a good grain-growing region and admirably adapted to grazing and stock raising.

#### Populations, Nativity, Productions, Elections, etc.

On the first day of March, 1875, the whole number of inhabitants of this township, as returned by the assessor, was as follows: Total, 287; white males, 61; white females, 105; males of foreign birth, 11; minor children, 147; children over 5 and under 21, 87; oldest inhabitant March 1, 1875, 74 years old; number of inhabitants over 50 years of age, 9; over 60 years of age, 8; number of houses then, 78; number of families, 78.

#### Nativity

Of the aforesaid 287 persons, 31 were natives of Kansas, 16 of New York, 21 of Ohio, 13 of Michigan, 31 of Iowa, 1 of Tennessee, 7 of Wisconsin, 51 of Illinois, 21 of Indiana, 16 of Missouri, 12 of Sweden, 8 of Virginia, 15 of Kentucky, 3 of Massachusetts, 3 of Germany, 6 of England, 1 of Texas, 1 of Vermont, 6 of Pennsylvania, 6 of California, 1 of South Carolina, 1 of Switzerland, 1 of Ireland, 1 of East India, 1 of Arkansas, 1 of Belgium.

#### Where from to Kansas?

From New York 4, Ohio 2, Michigan 20, Iowa 52, Wisconsin 12, Illinois 54, Indiana 19, Missouri 26, Virginia 8, Kentucky 10, Massachusetts 2, Texas 1, Oregon 3, Montana 1, Minnesota 4.

#### Occupations

Farmers 88, herders 2, blacksmiths 1. Value of farming implements and machinery March 1, 1875, \$2,212. Wages paid that year, including board \$3,534.

#### Fences

Rods of board fence 320, ditto of hedge fence 1,170.

#### Acres Sown in Fall of 1874:

Winter wheat 471, rye 140.

#### Acres of other grains sown or planted in 1875:

Spring wheat 185, corn 1,143, barley 25, oats 358, potatoes

Irish 33, potatoes sweet  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sorghum 9, flax 28, millet and Hungarian 13, value of poultry and eggs sold in 1875, \$27; pounds of butter made in families, 515; number of horses 121, mules and asses 10, milch cows 132, other cattle 469, sheep 2, swine 56, dogs 40.

In March, 1874, James Ward was tried in the district court of this county, Atlanta, for the murder of Henry Love in this township, a short time before and acquitted. Ward and Love were alone at the time of the killing, shantying on the banks of the Little Arkansas, and Ward claimed that his gun was accidentally discharged while he had it in his hands, having taken it out for the purpose of shooting some bird or another animal near their lodging. Love was asleep at the time the gun was thus discharged and was killed instantly. This was the first and only murder trial that has taken place in this county.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### Sterling Township

was organized August 26, 1871, at the same time with Atlanta and Spencer Townships. As originally laid out it contained 270 square miles, or 172,800 acres of land. But after its organization the entire township was detached from this county and annexed to Reno County, and its limits were further circumscribed in the formation of Farmer and Washington Townships, so that it now contains but 90 square miles or 57,600 acres of land. Bounded north by Washington, Raymond and Atlanta Townships, east by the county line, south by Reno County, and west by Raymond.

First township election was held April 2, 1872, and the following officers were elected: Trustee, W. H. Hunt; clerk, A. G. Landis; treasurer, Daniel Ashton; road overseer, R. V. Yates; constables, Weston Patton and E. M. Campbell; justices, W. A. Atkins and Edwin S. Hadlock.

Township officers for 1873: Trustee, W. H. Hunt; clerk, Samuel McClure; treasurer, Daniel Ashton; justices, W. C. Atkins and E. S. Hadlock; constables, Thomas Kinder and H. H. Harris; road overseer, W. P. Edwards. Votes polled at this election 75.

Township officers for 1874: Trustee, W. P. Edwards; clerk, V. W. Hoops; treasurer, P. O. Ford; constables, W. B. Hadlock and C. Rakestraw; justice, J. H. Stubbs; road overseer, W. H. Hunt.

Township officers for 1875: Trustee, W. L. Smith; clerk, J. W. Stanton; treasurer, P. O. Ford; justices, W. B. Seaward and P. Himrod; constables, W. B. Hadlock and C. Rakestraw.

### Population

On the first day of March, 1875, the whole number of inhabitants in this township, as returned by the assessor, was as follows: Total, 439; white males, 233; white females, 203; colored males, 3; males of foreign birth, 29; females of foreign birth, 21; minor children, 228.

### Nativity of the Population

Of the above 439 persons, 33 were natives of Kansas, 60 of Ireland, 3 of Scotland, 4 of Germany, 7 of Illinois, 54 of Ohio, 31 of England, 33 of New York, 85 of Indiana, 2 of North Carolina, 6 of Vermont, 3 of New Hampshire, 15 of Iowa, 7 of Virginia, 13 of Missouri, 3 of Rhode Island, 8 of Kentucky, 18 of Pennsylvania, 1 of Minnesota, 9 of Michigan, 3 of Maryland, 4 of Maine, 3 of Wisconsin, 1 of Tennessee, 2 of Massachusetts, 8 of Canada, 2 of Nebraska, 9 of France.

Number of families March 1, 1875, 96. Number of dwellings 97.

### Where From to Kansas?

From Scotland 4, Illinois 139, Ohio 23, New York 36, Indiana 103, North Carolina 1, Iowa 38, Missouri 52, Pennsylvania 13, Vermont 4, Michigan 17, Kentucky 2, Wisconsin 2, Canada 5, Virginia 2, Minnesota 1, Nebraska 4.

Number of inhabitants over 50 years of age March 1, 1875, 30; over sixty, 10; the oldest inhabitant was Benjamin Jones, who at that time was the oldest person living in the county.

### Occupations

March 1, 1875, farmers 70, carpenters 8, physicians 1, harness maker 1, lawyers 2, merchants 5, shoemaker 1, innkeeper 2, postmaster 1, boarding houses 2, blacksmiths 3, livery 1, jobbers 2, printers 1, ministers 2, cabinet makers 1, jeweler 1, barber 1, land agent 1, lumber 1, railroad agent 1, seamstress 1, machinist 1, butcher 1, painter 1, druggist 2, teacher 1, tanner 1.

Persons attending school ending the year March 1, 1875, 94; persons between 10 and 15 years who cannot read, 1; persons between the age of 10 and 15 years who cannot write, 3; persons over 21 years of age who cannot write, 1.

Acres of land under fence, 36; acres of land not under fence, 11,533.

Cash value of occupied farms \$47,783, cash value of farming implements and machinery \$3,054, amount of wages paid ending March 1, 1875, including board, \$5,708.

Number of rods of board fence, 290; hedge fence, 160; acres sown in fall of 1874: winter wheat 603, rye 567.

Of other grains sown or planted in 1875: spring wheat 467, corn 1,654, barley 32, buckwheat  $\frac{1}{2}$ , potatoes, Irish  $30\frac{1}{2}$ , sweet  $1\frac{1}{4}$ , sorghum  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , castor beans 7, flax  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , broom corn 34, millet and Hungarian 15.

Three acres of Timothy meadow fenced in 1874, 1 of clover meadow and 10 of prairie, 25 acres of garden produce marketed in 1874.

Value of eggs and poultry sold during the year ending March 1, 1875, \$328. Pounds of butter made that year in families 4,764; number of horses, 136; mules and asses, 13; milch cows, 117; other cattle, 162; number of swine, 190; number of animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter, 1,497; number of dogs, 51; acres of nurseries,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; acres of orchard, 18; number of persons supported that year at public expense in whole or in part, 12; expense of such support, \$3,562.

During that year there were four church organizations in the township: Congregational with a membership of 15 and a church edifice valued at \$2,500, Methodist Episcopal with a membership of 18, Wesleyan Methodist with a membership of 12, Friends with a membership of 60 and an unfinished church edifice then valued at \$2,000.

Number of school houses that year, 5; average value of each school house \$1,000.

## CHAPTER XIX (Continued)

This township was named in honor of Sterling Rosan, one of its early settlers. The A.T. and S.F. R.R. passes through this township and has a station at Sterling, formerly Peace, at which more than seven-tenths of the imports and exports of the county are received. It is one of the more thriving towns on the line of that R.R. and is now the only incorporated place in the county, having been incorporated the present year, 1876, under the name of the "City of Sterling."

It is 236 miles southwest of Atchison and was "located by a prominent Friend and by two ministers, one a Methodist and the other a Congregationalist.

The community which settled this town and vicinity is composed of energetic, thrifty people; industrious, intelligent, moral and honest, people who have come here to make homes for themselves and their children."

The Friends are quite numerous in this township, and mostly engaged in agriculture and are among the most thrifty and prosperous people in the county.

The soil is mostly a sandy loam, but notwithstanding its sandy features it produces bountifully every kind of production common to the Arkansas Valley.

The Arkansas River runs through the south part of this township.

Almost every class and calling is represented in the city: merchants, mechanics, ministers of the Gospel abound and there are doctors enough to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to, and lawyers enough to keep the peace.

Among the early settlers of Sterling are B. F. and P. E. Hinshaw, who with their families, came from Indiana and located about four and a half miles northwest of Peace, in the spring of 1872. They hauled the lumber for their houses with an ox team from Newton, 50 miles, and spent their first night after their arrival in the town with Wilson McPherson, who had already located in the vicinity. For quite a period after their location, the Hinshaws were obliged to carry their water for family use two miles in buckets, and experienced many severe hardships and privations incident to the early settlement of Rice County.

W. P. Edwards, under letter of March 10, 1876, informs me that then there are 62 families living on the townsite of Peace and 57 families in the township outside the townsite and that there are 12 business houses, one merchant mill, that of Landis and Hollinger flouring mill, two blacksmith shops, 1 wagon shop, two church edifices, and five school houses in town.

In the Rice County Gazette of April 20, 1876, will be found a very full, minute and in the main accurate description of the then town of Peace. (Ed. Note — The article referred to here is included in the Appendix of this volume.)

## CHAPTER XX

### Grasshoppers

The history of Rice County without some mention of the irrepressible grasshopper, would be very much like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out, so indelibly has its ravages become interwoven in the memories of our inhabitants.

The pest, about the time of the first settlement of the county, had visited us on one or two occasions and departed without inflicting any serious damage. But the crowning incursion came in 1874. The details of the suffering of our people at this period and consequence of this terrible visitation have so freely and vividly been portrayed through the press of the United States as to render any extended repetition of them unnecessary at this time.

Briefly then, suffice it to say that for five days preceeding the appearance of the grasshoppers in that year, unusually hot winds from the southwest prevailed strongly until July 25, the mercury stood at 106 degrees in the shade at 2 p.m. and 116 in the sun. The next day, Sunday, the winds suddenly shifted into the northeast and at about 2 p.m. the grasshopper storm burst upon us, and the "hoppers" increased in numbers until Tuesday when the climax was reached. On Wednesday the wind shifted to the south and remained there until August 1, Saturday, when it returned to the northeast — the hoppers apparently remaining the same in numbers. On Sunday, August 2, a fresh installment came from the northeast, and continued with us until Friday, the 7th of August, when the most of them took their departure — the wind blowing all that day from the northeast.

For the first two or three days after their appearance, the whole heavens were darkened with their presence and the earth with their bodies. They covered every tree and plant and every green thing, the prairie and water courses, flew like hail in the faces of men, dashed themselves against every object, animate and inanimate — as they rushed through the air or near the earth and struck an opposing object, the rattle of their contact resembled the sound of a hail storm on the roof, or the clashing of sabers in their scabbards of a squadron of cavalry at full gallop.

Like the frogs and the locusts in Pharoah's time, they were everywhere. They "came into the houses and into the bedchambers, and upon the beds, and upon the people and into the ovens and into the kneading troughs. They covered the face of the whole earth so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land and every fruit of the tree; and there remained not any green thing in the trees, nor in the herbs of the field, through all the land."

When this scourge had fairly settled down upon us the stoutest hearts quailed before it and doom was depicted on every countenance. The plow was left standing midway in the furrow,



and for a while all farm labor was virtually suspended. But why attempt to describe the indescribable! The most gifted pen and the most eloquent tongue were inadequate for the task, for language is too poor to paint the scene of desolation wrought by the grasshoppers of 1874.

But the "silver lining," soon rose above the dark cloud. Early in September of that year copious rains refreshed the parched earth, and thus prepared the way for the most bountiful crops the ensuing year that Kansas ever produced. Relief to the stricken people poured in from abroad and never was aid more timely or necessary, or ever more gratefully received by any people than it was by the citizens of this county, that fall and the ensuing winter. For our people knew and felt that their destitution was not the result of slothfulness nor extravagance on their part, and that no human foresight could have averted this calamity.

Joyfully and without any humiliation on their part they received the bounty of others. The scourge of 1874 was not wholly unmingled with blessings, nor without some useful lessons. Men's hearts grew larger, beat with quicker sympathy for each other — the county over — in the presence of this wide desolation, and I believe at this hour we are more charitable to each other — have more faith in one another, realize as we never did before, how much more blessed it is to give than to receive, as the direct fruits of our common sufferings.

Grasshoppers reappeared in immense numbers June 10, 1875, about noon of that day, coming from the southwest with the wind, and again covered the earth much like their visit of the year before. At their reappearance I think our people were really more gloomy and despondent, if possible, than they were the year before. When the "hoppers" left in 1874, men had predicted that they would not visit us again for 17 years, and here they were again! Gloom settled down in the minds of all — the plow was again left standing in mid-furrow, and farming operations were again practically suspended until all should know the worst. Neighbor met neighbor, and each, fearing the other fathom his real thoughts, joked and laughed over the "irrepressible grasshopper," but the smiles were too ghastly and the jokes too execrable to deceive anyone — it is too much like music and dancing at a funeral!

But in just 48 hours from that time the scene was changed. By midday of June 12 the beaming countenances, the sparkling eye, the elastic footstep and the ringing, merry voice told its own story. It needed no eye turned skyward to assure one that the grasshoppers had commenced their flight northeast. By nightfall the great body of them had left the county, inflicting no serious injury of magnitude to the crop.

The visitation of the grasshopper does not seem materially to have checked the tide of immigration to this county, nor its

permanent prosperity, as shown by the fact that since the raid of 1874 we have nearly doubled in population, and added to our taxable property nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

## CHAPTER XXI

### The Bar of Rice County

The recent settlement of Rice County has not made it an inviting field to the profession. Most of the lawyers here at present do not rely upon legal business for their livelihood, land agencies and other occupations furnishing them more lucrative business. Many of them cultivate their own farms. (Ed. Note — Muscott, himself is an attorney and seemed called upon to limit any further competition.)

There are seven lawyers now living in the county, vis: Ansel R. Clark, J. H. Ricksecker, G. W. Voyles, W. Fuller, James H. Smith, W. B. Conner, J. M. Muscott. In addition to these W. F. Wallace, A. McFarland, Mr. Fierse, S. N. Wood, I. L. Fulton, W. P. Brown and Thomas Haun were once residents of this county and have removed therefrom, making fifteen lawyers who have resided in the county since its organization.

Of the foregoing number only Messrs. Clark, Smith, Voyles, Fuller and Muscott are practicing their profession. Judge Conner, ex-probate judge, having retired to his farm, and Mr. Ricksecker being engaged in land agencies and in the hotel business. Hon. Ansel R. Clark, our present representative in the legislature from this county, and ex-county attorney of this county; A. McFarland and Judge Conner, emigrated to this state from Illinois; G. W. Voyles, now probate judge of the county and R. F. Whitelaw came from Missouri to this state; Mr. Muscott from New York and Mr. Ricksecker, our ex-county attorney, from Ohio.

I have been unable to obtain the ages, places of nativity and dates of admission to the bar of our Rice County lawyers. Mr. Muscott was admitted to practice in 1840. Mr. Fuller is a new-comer from the eastern part of the state. Mr. Smith came from Indiana to Kansas.

### Corrections

In the first chapter of this history I stated that the first settlement made in this county by white men was made by Earl Joslyn and J. Q. Adams, and that they entered the land under the Homestead Act September 5, 1870. Mr. J. D. Pardue of Union Township, in a letter to me of date of April 16, 1876, informs me that on the 28th day of February, 1870, C. S. Lindell, John A. Carlson and Andrew John Johnson filed and homesteaded claims as follows: (having staked out and selected their claims in February, 1870.) Mr. Lindell on southeast quarter of section 3, town 20, range 6; Mr. Carlson on northeast quarter of same section, Mr. Johnson on the northwest quarter of same section. Also that April 4, 1870, August Johnson, John Erick Johnson and J. P. Johnson located claims as follows: August Johnson on the southeast quarter of section 24, town 20, range 6; John Erick Johnson on the northeast quarter of section 25, same range and township; John P. Johnson on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 24

in the same range and township; and on the 18th day of April, 1870, O. W. Peterson on the northeast quarter of section 14 of the same range and township.

He further states that himself, R. M. Hutchinson and A. J. Howard, (firm of Hutchinson and Company) stopped on the Little Arkansas river August 20, 1870, with 4,000 head of cattle, that he and Howard had been citizens of this county ever since, although they did not locate their claims until January, 1871.

If Mr. Pardue's version be the correct one, then unquestionably Mr. Lindell and his neighbors above named and not Mr. Joslyn and Adams were the first settlers in the county.

Mr. J. H. Cruzen states that before any building in Peace was entirely enclosed, a Sunday school was organized and preaching had begun in the house of H. P. Ninde, on March 1, 1872, with Rev. J. B. Schlichter as superintendent. (Ed. Note: House located at south edge of Sterling Lake.)

The present population of the county March 1, 1876, is 3,152, namely:

Farmer .....	720
Sterling .....	653
Atlanta .....	613
Washington .....	415
Raymond .....	383
Union .....	368

In Chapter 14 it is erroneously stated that Davis Cairns and Miss McNames were the first couple married in Spencer, now Farmer Township. W. T. Nicholas, county clerk, and Amelia, daughter of Rev. F. J. Griffith, were the first parties married there.

Other errors in statistics no doubt have been discovered in this history, but are unavoidable to a certain extent in a work of this kind. I have taken unusual pains to avoid them and when brought to my notice have corrected them.

Very much to my regret in some localities I have obtained only meager items from local contributors, and in some places none. This will account for the bareness of incidents in certain portions of the county and ampler details in other portions.

Many thanks are due to the following gentlemen for their contributions of items for the History: Rev. J. B. Schlichter, and Rev. T. H. Watt, P. E. Hinshaw, and W. P. Edwards of Sterling; Dr. Bohrer, Alexander Clark and D. Coffman of Raymond; W. P. Summers, W. Magee, Rev. F. J. Griffith, O. Y. Smith, A. T. Sherwood and J. McNames of Farmers; Norman Reed and Commissioner J. K. Miller of Washington; A. Cady and J. E. Pardue of Union; Earl Joslyn, W. T. Nicholas, G. M. D. Goff, L. N. Kentner and ex-sheriff Howard of Atlanta, with others too numerous to mention.

The End!



## Appendix

*Whatever else he may have possessed in the way of journalistic qualifications, E. Branson Cowgill most certainly had a sense of humor. The following is a surprisingly candid account of a weekend spent in Wichita — a country editor in the wicked city. Hungover when he got home, he still had not sobered up when he wrote about his trip — or so it would seem. Such was the West in 1876.*

### OUR TRIP TO WICHITA!

Having business at the government land office at Wichita last week, we prepared for the trip about thusly:

A dime's worth of crackers and cheese, two paper collars, an extra pair of socks and a pint flask of smelling salts. The salts were good, so was the cheese, but the socks spoiled for want of ice.

Well after we got to Newton it rained. It was wet, soaked us through, had to use a preventative. The preventative was good, used it twice; started for Wichita and was happy.

Found the U.S. Land Office after a while. The Honorable body was in session, Hon. H. L. Taylor presiding; C. A. Walker, Esq., and David Emmert, Esq., right and left bowers. We put up a wad of money; they showed full hands and we left.

Wandered out on the streets. Struck part of the Larned land office also wandering. His name is A. H. Ainsworth, one of the whitest boys, by the way, that lies unburied. Said he was dry. We wet him, got dry again; we wet him again. Then we all took a walk around town.

Talked with the Grangers about their crops. They said they were good; the prospect never was better for an abundant harvest. We rejoiced with them for a while, and walked again.

Found a man who was looking for a calf. Said he had long ears and a red nose. We dodged around the corner. He sung out to us that his hair was black. We stopped, felt of our hair and found that our locks were auburn, and we were happy.

Well we got tired of walking and went to bed. We slept with part of the Larned land office for a while on that memorable night; we say memorable for want of a longer word. We went to bed at 2 a.m. and got up at 3 o'clock. We had to get up. The train had arrived that was to take us away; well, we got up, sat on the edge of the bed and measured the width of the room with our arms, it was of no use. Our arms weren't long enough, we rubbed our auburn locks with both hands and said "Judas Priest," got up and struck a match, stuck it in the water pitcher. It wouldn't light.

The Land Office suggested at this critical moment that we try the lamp, we tried it and struck oil.

Well we got aboard the train after many little surprises, such as stepping through broken sidewalks, running against clothes lines and stumbling over dead soldiers.

We arrived at Newton, on our way home, about half-past four in the morning, and was surprised to find so little life there. Newton is not a very enterprising place now, the people do not get up much before 5 o'clock; we wandered around the streets, and wondered how people could lie in bed so late.

When a stranger arrives in this town the trains are all abandoned for two days to give him an opportunity to get acquainted with the people and spend what little money he has left after going to Wichita.

A special train was running that time and we spent only one day there on our return trip to Sterling. We arrived home, sound and happy. With what feelings of joy we beheld our pleasant little City. Tears of delight coursed down our noble brow. Our friends shook our hand and remarked that we looked wet. Why shouldn't we? It rained all the time we were gone. Our friends in Newton and Wichita will please accept our heartfelt thanks for numerous favors received while on our crusade.

####

*From the Gazette of May 18, 1876:*

### **The Editor Visits Lyons**

This new town is located at the exact geographical center of Rice County on a piece of rolling prairie. It is one of the most modest of Western towns in its pretensions. Whatever its future growth may be, it is certainly surrounded by one of the best farming regions of the west.

At the time of our visit last Saturday, there were four buildings on the townsite, two of which are used as dwelling houses, one for county offices, and one for a blacksmith shop. There was also a large cellar over which it is proposed to place Mr. John's hotel building when it is removed from Atlanta.

It is reported that the Stouders intend establishing a branch store in Lyon. (Ed. Note — Note absence of 's' on Lyons. The land was owned by Truman J. Lyon.)

But the chief attractions of the place consist of the beautiful surroundings, and the magnificent crop prospects. The gently rolling prairie stretches away in every direction, as far as the eye can reach, and is varied by the skirting of timber along the several branches of Cow Creek. On three sides of the town is this skirting seen, and on all sides the deep green of the wheat fields,

and the neat and tasty farm houses are sprinkled in among the otherwise endless prairies.

Whether or not Lyon (sic) ever becomes much of a town, the surrounding country is certain to become wealthy and important.

*Ed. Note — The above account of the Sterling editor's visit to the very young city of Lyons, then only a few months old, is in contrast to the following listing of the businesses, professional men and tradesmen then operating in Sterling which at that time had been functioning as a town for a total of four years. As is understandable, mercantile activity at that time centered at Sterling which was the county's principal station on the main line of the A.T. and S.F. RR. Atlanta, the original county seat, had just been abandoned in favor of the new county capital at Lyons and in time that city grew, as the importance of the county offices developed. In the April 20 edition of the Gazette [1876], scarcely a month prior to the change of the town's name from Peace to Sterling, the editor gave this detailed resume of the Sterling businesses:*

### — — — PEACE

Peace is a young town situated about the middle of the best agricultural portion of the upper Arkansas Valley, in the county of Rice, and is 236 miles southwest from Atchison. The place was located by a prominent Friend, and by two ministers, one a Methodist, the other a Congregationalist. The community which settled the town in this vicinity is composed of energetic, thrifty people; people who are industrious, intelligent, moral and honest; people who have come here to make homes for themselves and their children.

A more thriving town cannot be found in Kansas than Peace now is. She has from the first had as liberal a trade as she had facilities for. But her business firms have been increased recently by the addition of important new houses with heavy capital and large experience. Not only so but the old ones, who have shared the hardships of the frontier and endured the adversities of the pioneer settlement, have largely increased their stocks to meet the rapidly increasing demand upon them.

But where does this trade come from? On the 12th of this month Rice County polled within four of 800 votes, and it is estimated that there are 100 other citizens now in the county who will be voters as soon as the constitutional six months required to give them the franchise shall have expired. Peace has a large trade from Reno County, the line of which is only three miles distant. The excellent bridge across the Arkansas, erected on permanent iron piles, insures to this place the continuance of the business of the thrifty farmers of the northern and western portions of Reno County.

The population of Peace is a little over 400, of whom all but about twenty persons are of American birth. There is not a pauper in the town. There are in all 75 dwelling houses in Peace, and in

no frontier town are the people so uniformly well provided with comfortable homes. While there are no extravagant edifices, there is no squallor. The total value of dwelling houses is \$37,500.

The first firm to do business in Peace was that of

### **LANDIS AND HOLLINGER**

who erected a small building on the prairie and told the few inquirers who chanced to pass this way that they were going to open a little store. Since that time their business has continued to increase. They have enlarged their building from time to time, have added department after department, until they now have a complete stock of general merchandise. This firm has experienced all the adversities which visited the Arkansas Valley since its first settlement, and it is but just to say that under the severest trials they have been ready to extend the assistance of credit to many who without must have suffered for want.

### **THE KEYSTONE MILLS**

are owned and operated by Landis and Hollinger, having a complete four-run outfit with all the appliances of modern invention they are prepared to do first class work. (Present site of Farmers Coop "east" station.) Since last October they have ground, in round numbers, 40,000 bushels of wheat. Their surplus is shipped west and sold in our new and rapidly developing market. Up to this time they have sold 345,000 pounds of flour and other mill products.

### **JAKE RINNER**

presides over the destinies of the tin shop which forms a part of Landis and Hollinger's establishment. Mr. Rinner is a good mechanic, and we believe he would be prompt were he not continually over-run with work.

Noteworthy among the businessmen of Peace is

### **HENRY SHERMAN**

who for nearly four years did business in Atlanta, but following the inevitable tide of business he removed this past winter to Peace and commenced business with a stock of \$2,250 and is selling on an average of about \$65 worth of groceries and produce, etc., stoves and sewing machines a day.

### **T. C. MAGOFFIN**

is another of Atlanta's old merchants who has found not rest but business in Peace. Mr. M. was the owner of two large buildings,



one in Atlanta, the other in Raymond. He has removed both of these to Peace, and constructed therefrom "Magoffin's Block," which has 40 feet front and is 50 feet deep and 25 feet high, and, with the lots which it stands, is valued at \$7,000.

Mr. M. has stocked the two store rooms on the first floor, the one with drugs, medicines and stationery, the other with dry goods, boots and shoes, clothing, hats, queensware, etc.

The drug store of

### ENGLISH BROS.

is one of the institutions of the town. Their business for March amounted to \$651, against \$240 for the same month last year.

### THE VALLEY LIVERY STABLE

of Samuel Jacobs, is being rapidly improved, both in stock and equipment, to meet the increasing demands of the place. The stable, stock and equipment is now worth about \$4,000 and the business amounts to \$15 to \$30 a day.

### J. E. DAVIS

is one of our live men. With a stock worth \$1,500 his sales amount to \$35 per day.

The bakery owned by

### W. H. LAPE

and his grocery in connection therewith is doing a good business.

Among our manufacturers is

### F. LAWHEAD

who has been making harness in Peace since 1873. He turns out, each year, \$1,000 worth of first class work.

Prominent among the business firms of Peace is that of

### PAGE AND CLARK,

land agents. W. H. Page came here in 1875 and opened an office. It is scarcely correct to say that he transacted any business at the start. But he advertised and waited, and business came. In October, 1875, Hon. A. R. Clark went into partnership with Mr. Page, and now they report having sold and located 20,000 acres of land. They have carried several important contest suits through the U.S. land offices, and they spare no pains to keep themselves thoroughly informed, and are prepared to render valuable service.

es to those who have any kind of land business to transact. They have built a pleasant and roomy office on Broadway; keep a full supply of newspapers from all parts, and often their office presents the appearance of a reading room. Page and Clark are doing a full share in advertising their town and surrounding country. Aside from their other advertisements they publish monthly a live and wide-awake real estate paper called the "Valley Echo," in which they advertise the property left with them for sale. An examination of their lists shows that the advantages they offer to those having property to sell are fully appreciated by not only citizens of Rice County, but those of various parts of this land and other states. Their list comprises about \$60,000 worth of property. They expend in advertising about \$1,000 per year.

### **P. HIMROD,**

apothecary, combines in himself the requisites for his business, care and accuracy. He has been at the trade in this place for nearly two years, and carries a stock worth \$1,000.

### **J. S. CHAPIN**

is conducting one of the most successful lumber businesses in the Valley. By close attention to business, by selling strictly for cash, and by careful and judicious buying Mr. Chapin is able to serve the best interests of his customers and at the same time to do a profitable business. Quick sales for cash, with small profits win in his case.

### **LAWYERS AND DOCTORS**

find Peace a poor place for their business. If one attorney had all the fees paid for legal services in Rice County, he would not be able to fair sumptuously every day. Aside from the obstetrical practice, which is large in this community, there is not a living for a physician. The profession is, however, well represented in Dr. Lamb, who is a very cautious and safe man and whose business is increasing with the increase in population; and by Dr. Hodge and Dr. Herriman, who have recently located in Peace.

### **THE UNDERTAKER'S**

business is limited; nevertheless, when people do die, Fox and Fulton are prepared to furnish all that is necessary to decent burial. They have a \$2,000 stock of furniture and their sales for March amounted to \$800.

### **THE BLACKSMITH BUSINESS**

is represented by Rogers Bros. who have a complete shop fur-

nished with two forges and all the tools necessary to do the various kinds of work pertaining to a blacksmith and wagon shop. Their patronage is equal to their facilities and enlargement seems to be a necessity of the situation. Mr. Mahoney also carries on a shop in Peace and the sound of his hammer is continuously heard during working hours.

### **THE CARPENTERS AND BUILDERS**

of Peace are kept constantly employed, and the new houses which are continually appearing show that they are not making all their clatter in vain. Any of the following will take contracts: Benedict and Hadlock, Ford and Leary, P. E. Hinshaw, John F. Morris, J. H. Stubbs and R. R. Truesdell.

### **EDWARDS BROS. AND FAIR**

constitute one of the old firms of Peace. They handle all kinds of building material and deal extensively in securities, particularly county script, which they are more anxious to buy than to sell. Their business last year amounted to \$55,000. They expect 25 cars of lumber this week, which shows that their business is not only retaining its proportions, but it is on the increase.

### **SMITH AND STUBBS,**

land agents, constitute the oldest firm now engaged in the real estate business in Peace. Succeeding the old pioneer agent, Mr. Ninde, the firm has located 1,000 homesteaders, and pre-emptors, etc., upon 100,000 acres of land in Rice, Reno and Stafford Counties, and sold railroad land to the amount of 50,000 acres. They have advertised their business at an expense of \$1,000 and are now the publishers of the "Homesteader," a real estate journal filled with reliable information for all who wish to find an eligible location in the west.

The most prominent of the new firms is that of

### **J. STOUDER AND SONS,**

dealers in general merchandise and farm machinery, who carry a stock of \$10,000 to \$12,000 and employ five men. Their sales for March 15 to April 15 inclusive were \$5,363.11. Purchases for same time \$8,466.85.

### **THE RICE COUNTY BANK**

is also managed by the Stouders. From a note addressed to the editor of The Gazette, it appears that this is as distinctive a feature of their business and as separate and apart from their other

business as though operated by another firm. Though yet in its infancy, this bank shows a very fair record, as will be seen with the following figures. It has bought since March 15, when it virtually commenced business, \$16,277.41 of eastern exchange, and has sold during the same time, eastern exchange to the amount of \$8,079.86. Total deposits received for the same time \$10,099.17.

Not the least important among the toilers in Peace is

### M. MCDONOUGH

who commenced painting signs, houses and carriages in September of 1875, since which time he has done \$2,000 worth of work. No better evidence is needed of his artistic taste and ability to execute than the sign just completed on Rick's Cottage. It consists of large, apparently hanging letters which one would constantly expect to fall, were they not secured by illusory straps. The shadows which the letters appear to cast upon the building heighten the effect.

### MISS BURWELL'S

millinery establishment is said by those who know, to contain many attractions. We are not supposed to understand these things and therefore can speak only from hearsay. Her last year's business amounted to \$1,000.

### THE CHURCHES OF PEACE

form a more prominent part of the town than is usual on the frontier. A Congregational Church is a neat edifice 28 x 36 and is well finished and furnished. Several congregations worship alternately here, and the house is usually well filled.

The Friends meeting house is a substantial structure, 30 x 36 feet. It is not entirely finished but is so far completed that it is used as a place of worship by this and other denominations. The friendly unity of the churches here leads them to zealous cooperation. Two flourishing Sabbath schools are maintained. Other churches are to be built in the near future, and there are even now a necessity to meet the demands for church privileges.

(Ed. Note — The Congregational Church, the first church built in the county, was located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Fifth Street and East Monroe. The Friends Church stood near the corner of Seventh and West Jefferson.)

### OF HER SCHOOL HOUSE

Peace ought to be ashamed. It is an uncomfortable, uncomely structure, and it is behind everything else in the town. A good grade school is imperatively demanded and should another build-

ing not be provided the board will be compelled to either resort to renting or to allow the youth of the community to grow into maturity without the educational advantages which it is the duty of the district to provide for them. To crowd 50 or 60 pupils of all ages into one room under one teacher is perhaps not a waste of time and money, but surely poor economy.

### WITH HOTELS

Peace is well supplied. The Broadway Hotel and the Sherman House are up to the average of hotels in country places and can accommodate large numbers of guests. The Valley Home is the new hotel which is just opened south of the railroad. Everything about the house has a neat and tidy appearance, and the proprietor spares no pains to make his guests comfortable.

### THE GREEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE

is one of the older institutions of the place, having opened in 1872, and is deservedly popular. It has just been refitted and greatly enlarged and is now a handsome three-story edifice with pleasant accommodations for 30 to 40 guests and entertains daily an average of 25 guests.

### RICK'S COTTAGE

standing opposite the Green Mountain House (where Masonic Temple now stands) is another first-class hotel. It was built in 1875 and the proprietor was thought to be mad for building so extensively, yet the demands upon The Cottage have been so great that a large addition has become necessary. It is now capable of accommodating 50 guests, of which it has a daily average of 35. J. H. Ricksecker, proprietor of this hotel, is a live and energetic land agent, who always has on hand "a bargain" and gets the money for it. He is also joint agent with Smith and Stubbs for the sale of railroad land.

### OUR POST OFFICE

receives mail over five different routes and makes up and distributes over 500 letters daily. 15,000 per month or 140,000 yearly — makes up and distributes for 26 different post offices. 1,500 pounds of third-class matter, such as papers, seeds, etc. are handled monthly, or nine tons during the last year. Over a thousand letters have been registered and sent from this office, and about 4,000 received and delivered during the last twelve months.

Since July 5, 1875, the date of commencement, there have been 618 money orders issued, for which nearly \$11,000 has been received. The amount paid out for money orders drawn on this



office is over \$6,300, leaving over \$4,000 surplus.

The increase of mail matter has necessitated the employment of a clerk. There is probably no more conscientious postmaster in Kansas than Mr. Stubbs. His care to secure accuracy in strict compliance with the law is in marked contrast to the slipshod way of most frontier offices.

### **J. L. BURWELL,**

dealer in groceries and provisions, is doing a snug business. He keeps a good quality of goods, sells for cash and is a pleasant fellow.

The firms who deal in

### **AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS**

are Burwell and Read, Landis Hollinger's, Stouder and Son and Albert Evans. From these you can buy anything from a hairpin to a threshing machine.

Peace has two —

### **SHOEMAKER SHOPS,**

both of which turn out first class work. E. S. Hadlock has been engaged in this industry from the earliest times, which means for the last two or three years. He has recently been obliged to add another hand to his force. Ira J. Hinshaw, who came to Peace last fall, devotes special attention to the fine boot trade and can fit any boot.

### **J. PETRIE, CARRIAGE AND WAGONMAKER**

is a neat workman, who needs no better recommendation than an examination of his work. His new work is very tasty, and his repairs are substantial and always satisfactory.

### **OUR MUSIC TEACHERS,**

Mrs. Dr. Lamb and Miss Maggie Burckhalter, are ladies of fine tastes and thorough culture in the art of music. The latter has a class of ten, who are making very satisfactory advancement.

### **THE CLOCK AND JEWELRY STORE**

of J. M. Stanton is furnishing time to everybody. Clocks sell well in Peace and a good stock of them is kept constantly on hand.

### **OUR INSURANCE AGENTS**

are of course willing to assume all the risks of loss from fire, and

their generous disposition in this respect is meeting with increased appreciation. E. S. Hadlock represents the Kansas Fire Insurance Company and Fred E. Pratt represents several of the old reliables of the east.

### THE BARBER BUSINESS

is done in Peace by two knights, Mr. Miller and Mr. Fulton, either of whom can sling a razor and do the agreeable in their line. Since the opening of their new shop there has been a decided improvement in the appearance of men's faces.

### PLASTERING AND MASON WORK

is done by Richie and Weaver and Henry L. Jones.

The tailoring for Peace is done by —

### A. H. IZZARD,

who, judging by the specimens we have seen of his work, is fully competent to do anything in the line of fitting, cutting and making up.

### PURE MILK,

without watering or skimming, is supplied morning and evening at 5c a quart by G. W. McPherson.

### BENEVOLENT AND LITERARY SOCIETIES

are represented by a newly organized lodge of the Independent of Odd Fellows, an active lodge of Good Templars, and a lodge of Free Masons, which is just completing steps for organization. There is also the Sterling Temperance League, which labors openly to promote its cause. The Sterling Literary Society has adjourned its sessions until the return of long evenings of fall. The Amateur Dramatic Club is perfecting its organization, and Peace expects to be feasting upon their entertainments ere long.

We will close this review with a

### FEW FIGURES

taken from the books of the depot agent. Freight received and shipped, are represented by the following table:

	Fr. Received	Shipped
January	483,535 lbs.	638,150 lbs.
February	1,181,460 lbs.	178,430 lbs.
March	1,126,147 lbs.	308,480 lbs.

It can be seen from the above that Peace is doing a large business. It is also true that she does all the business she is prepared for. In no town are transactions made more uniformly on just and generous principles than in Peace. Her reputation is becoming more extensive every day and her trade is drawn from a wider range.

####

## WATER POWER

*An interesting sidelight and one of the most unusual proposals in this eventful year of 1876 in the booming county of Rice, was the project to provide waterpower at the south edge of Sterling by diverting Arkansas River water through a canal to be dug from the river to Pioneer Creek and thence into Silver Lake. The following item, under the heading of "Water-power," appeared in the issue of October 19, 1876: [Pioneer Creek is presumed to be the upper reaches of Bull Creek.]*

— — —

A preliminary survey of the Pioneer Creek and Arkansas River waterpower was made on last Friday by Kirk Himrod, civil engineer. The canal, about 2½ miles in length will be required to convey the water from the Arkansas River through Pioneer Creek to the basin of Silver Lake. This canal will have to be about four feet deep where it leaves the Arkansas, and after proceeding a short distance, requires it to be made only of such depth as to convey the water.

This canal will deliver an almost unlimited supply of water into the upper end of the basin of Silver Lake at a point which is ten or more feet higher than the outlet of this lake. This outlet is comparatively narrow and its banks and those of the lake are about eight feet high. By throwing a dam eight feet high across this outlet, and perhaps raising a low levy on the south side, the water brought in from the river will be confined in the lake and made available with an eight-foot head. The lake will be enlarged by this and made to cover 50 or 60 acres. It may, however, be very much reduced in size by low levies.

The supply of water which may be drawn from the river is practically unlimited. Adequate power for manufacturing purposes may therefore be had.

There are several circumstances which render this one of the most desirable sites for water power on the Arkansas River: first, the canal can be made with very little expense. Second, the pond, or more properly the Lake, will be large, giving a steadiness of power. Third, the site for the mill is just on the edge of town and near the depot. Fourth, it is located centrally in one of the best grain-producing sections of the state.

(Ed. Note — For some reason, not known at this distance in time, the canal was never dug.)

*This first-hand report on Custer's last stand is found in the issue of July 13, 1876.*

## THE CUSTER MASSACRE

Salt Lake City, Utah. July 6 — Advices from Bosler, Mont., July 3, at 7 p.m. state that Mr. Taylor, bearer of dispatches from the Little Horn (sic) to Fort Ellis, arrived this evening and reports that a battle was fought on the 25th ult., thirty or forty miles below the Little Horn.

Custer attacked an Indian village, containing from 2,500 to 4,000 warriors, on one side and Col. Reno was to attack it on the other. Three companies were placed on a hill as a reserve. Custer and fifteen officers and every man of five companies were killed. Reno retreated under the protection of the reserve. The whole number killed was 315. General Gibbon joined Reno and the Indians left.

The battleground looked like a slaughter pen, as it really was, being in a narrow ravine. The dead were much mutilated. The situation looks serious. General Terry arrived at General Gibbon's camp on a steamboat and crossed his command over and accompanied it to Custer, who knew it was coming, before the fight occurred.

Lieut. Crittendon was among the killed. The special correspondent of the Helena, Mont., Herald, writing from Stillwater, Mont., July 2, says: Custer found a camp of about 2,000 lodges on the Little Horn and immediately attacked it. Custer took five companies and charged the thickest portion of the camp. Nothing is known of the operations of this detachment, only as traced by the dead.

Major Reno commanded the other seven companies and attacked the lower portion of the camp. The Indians poured in a murderous fire from all directions, besides the greater portion fought on horseback.

Custer, his two brothers, nephew and brother-in-law were all killed, and not one of his command escaped. Two hundred and seven men buried in one place, and the killed are estimated at 300 with only 31 wounded.

The Indians surrounded Reno's command and held them one day in the hills, cut off from water, until Gibbon's command came in sight. They broke camp in the night and left. The Seventh fought like tigers and were overcome by mere brute force. The Indians loss cannot be estimated, as they bore off and sacked most of their dead.

The remnant of the Seventh Cavalry and Gibbon's command are returning to the mouth of the Little Horn, where a steamboat lies. The Indians got all the arms of the killed soldiers. There

were 17 commissioned officers killed.

The whole Custer family died at the head of their column. The exact loss cannot be known, as both adjutants and sergeant majors were killed. The Indian camp was from three to four miles long, and was 20 miles up the Little Horn from its mouth.

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From an "extra" edition of the Rice County Gazette, April 13, 1876.

## PEACE, KANSAS.

### Election Returns

—OF THE ELECTION—

HELD APRIL 12th, 1876, FOR

Relocating the County Seat

—OF—

## RICE COUNTY.

#### ATLANTA TOWNSHIP.

	For.	For.
	PEACE.	THE CENTRE.
Atlanta Precinct.....	9.....	99.
Victoria .....	2.....	49.

#### FARMER TOWNSHIP.

McName's Precinct ..	1.....	89.
Browns " .....	0.....	67.

#### RAYMOND TOWNSHIP.

Raymond Precinct ..	10.....	22.
Centre " .....	24.....	00.
Santa Fe " .....	8.....	30.

#### STERLING TOWNSHIP.

Peace Precinct.....	184.....	4.
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#### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

Simms Precinct ..	60.....	00.
Libby " .....	25.....	5.

#### UNION TOWNSHIP.

River View Precinct ..	4.....	59.
Fairpoint " .....	5.....	39.

Total.....	333	457
Majority for the Centre ..	121	

Mr. C. M. Ke Rice County He from Colorado. He intends mak county again.

"It's an ill wi good," and the erations of the Company profer of her general fri zen, W. F. Wall.

The M. E. Son day evening at pleasant affair, who was not a meeting, was a every body enfe pany.

Stenders sell balance of Ric cause they sell sell low.

Page & Charl dition of every in Rice county.

Lager figs, 1 nts, so, at

The County met on a ... returns of the the 12th inst.