

**Scott County**, in the western part of the state, is the third county east from Colorado, the fourth south of Nebraska, and the fourth from the southern boundary of the state. It is bounded on the north by Logan and Gove counties; on the east by Lane; on the south by Finney, and on the west by Wichita. It was created in 1873 and named for Winfield Scott, a hero in both the War of 1812 and the Mexican war, and commander-in-chief of army at the beginning of the Civil war in 1861. The boundaries were described as follows: "Commencing at the intersection of the east line of range 31 west with the 3d standard parallel; thence south along range line to its intersection with the 4th standard parallel; thence west along the 4th standard parallel to where it is intersected by the east line of range 35 west; thence north along range line to its intersection with the 3d standard parallel; thence east to the place of beginning."

The organization of the county was effected in 1886. In May Charles S. Reed was appointed to take the census. The returns were made on June 29 and showed a population of 2,675, of whom 701 were householders. The valuation of property was \$364,063, of which amount \$109,030 was real estate. Gov. Martin issued the proclamation the same day whereby he organized the county, named Scott City as the county seat, and appointed the following officers: County clerk, Charles S. Reed; commissioners, Marion Cunningham, A. H. Kilpatrick and Eugene McDaniels. The first election was held on Aug. 10 and resulted as follows: County clerk, Charles S. Reed; probate judge, Thomas Poulson; treasurer, W. R. Hadley; sheriff, B. F. Daniels; register of deeds, J. B. Johnson; attorney, C. C. Hadley; district clerk, S. T. Burgess; superintendent of public instruction, Miss Lulu Boling; surveyor, W. E. Daugherty; coroner, J. F. Bond; commissioners, H. M. Cranor, C. Garrett and Eugene McDaniels. Scott City had no opposition for county seat.

The first settlers came into the county in 1874. The first white women were Mrs. M. E. DeGreer and her daughter, Mrs. Ida Eastman, both widows. In 1893 Scott was among the counties which suffered from



the fuel famine. The county commissioners visited Topeka to secure state aid, but were not successful. In 1884 the ruins of a pre-historic pueblo were discovered in Scott county about 12 miles north of Scott City. (See Archæology.)

The county was divided into Michigan, Beaver, Scott, Valley, Keystone, Isbel and Lake townships in 1886, and no new townships have been organized. The postoffices are Grigsby, Manning, Modoc, Pence, Scott and Taft. The Missouri Pacific railroad enters in the northeast and crosses southwest to Scott, thence directly west into Wichita county. A branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe from Great Bend enters in the east and crosses west to Scott where it terminates.

The general surface is an undulating prairie with a few sand hills. The principal stream is Ladder creek. It enters from the west, flows east about 9 miles, then north into Logan county, where it empties into the Smoky Hill river. White Woman creek enters in the southwest and flows east and northeast to the center, where it sinks beneath the surface in the midst of a large basin which is filled only in wet seasons. Magnesian limestone is in the north and southwest. Sandstone, gypsum and cement rock also exist in limited quantities.

Less than half of the land in the county is cultivated. The value of farm products in 1910 was \$607,766. Wheat brought \$106,043; corn, \$64,534; oats, \$44,949; barley, \$34,577; broom-corn, \$26,729; sorghum, \$158,928; milo maize, \$32,400; hay, \$27,379; animals sold for slaughter, \$24,836; poultry and eggs, \$16,327. The value of live stock on hand was \$768,013.

The population in 1890 was 1,262. During the next three or four years the population decreased somewhat on account of the hard times. In 1893 there were 300 families, only 75 of them having the means to live through the winter. In 1900 the population was 1,098; in 1910 it was 3,047. The assessed valuation of property in 1910 was \$5,913,442. The average wealth per capita being \$1,940.

**Scottsville**, one of the incorporated towns of Mitchell county, is located in Lulu township in the extreme northeastern corner of the county on the Missouri Pacific R. R., 10 miles from Beloit, the county seat. It has a bank, a weekly newspaper (the Advance), telegraph and express offices, and a money order postoffice with two rural routes. The town was platted in Oct., 1878, at the time the railroad was first extended to that point. The population in 1910 was 248.

**Scranton**, one of the important towns of Osage county, is located in Scranton township on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe R. R., 14 miles northwest of Lyndon, the county seat. It has a weekly newspaper (the Gazette), banking facilities, all lines of mercantile enterprise, good schools and churches. The chief occupations of the people are coal mining and agriculture. Coal, live stock, grain and produce are shipped. There are telegraph and express offices, and a money order postoffice with four rural routes. The population according to the census of 1910 was 770.

Scranton was started as a mining camp in 1871, when Alexander Thomas and O. H. Sheldon sank a shaft. The next year the Burlingame and Scranton Coal company was formed and until 1875 the interests of this company were the principal business of the town. The coal interests then began to be developed and several other shafts were sunk by companies and private individuals. Things went slowly until 1879 when there was a rush of capital to develop the coal industry, and in consequence the town grew very rapidly. By June, 1880, the population was 930 and the next year had reached 1,700. Scranton was incorporated as a city of the third class on Aug. 4, 1880. The first officers were: Mayor, J. M. Giddings; clerk and police judge, John R. Poe; treasurer, H. A. Sheldon; marshal, W. S. Challis; councilmen, Joseph Tomlinson, William Scott, James Ingram, Joseph Drake and Thomas Kelley.

The first birth and the first death was that of Madison Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Evans, who was born in Aug., 1872, and died in Dec., 1873. The first marriage was between Davis Williams and Mrs. Rebecca Stull in 1873. The first sermon was preached in the boarding house in 1872 by Rev. J. W. Stogdill. The school house was built in the same year and the first teacher was H. D. Porter.