

**Kansas Daily Tribune**

April 6, 1867

John Speer, Editor

### **Our Visit to Ottawa**

On Saturday night at eleven o'clock, we found a subpoena, demanding our presence at the court in Ottawa on Monday at nine a.m.

With a good team and a handsome buggy (such as Joel Thomas always furnishes us,) a trip to Ottawa is a grand pleasure—so delightful in the scenery of farms, and gently rolling prairies and valleys with good places to make farms—but on this occasion the mud was terrible, and we had only visions ahead of almost impassable mud-holes, and problems of how we should miss them, or the spirited horses struggle through them without tearing loose from our vehicle or breaking the carriage itself.

We found the town crowded so that scarcely a spot of hotel room could be found to stand or sit down in. However, Mr. Jenness, of the Union House, did his best for our accommodation, and all our wants were satisfied as well as possible. Crowded as his house was, he was prompt to every call, and seemed to anticipate the wants of his guests. It is a pity that such a man should not have a suitable hotel for all the wants of his increasing custom.

Major Elder, hearing our presence in the town with Mrs. Speer, kindly invited us to his house, where we spent a couple of days with the Major and his estimable family as pleasantly as heart could desire. The Major is one of the "institutions" of Kansas, an old settler who has been thorough all the trying times of our early history—always true to principle, he has made a good record, both as a legislator and a citizen. We are glad to see such men prosper in their worldly affairs, and to find him with one of the pleasantest houses—almost a palace of a dwelling for Kansas—affords a satisfaction even to those less fortunate. We shall ever remember his kindness and that of his family.

Ottawa is progressing. There is no town in the State with its opportunities and time anything like its equal. Its fine white houses brighten the prairies with their beauty, as you approach it, for miles around. The town has some of the best stone buildings to be found in the State. A hotel is going up almost equal to the Eldridge House, and the walls have been constructed to the third story. The sun broke through the clouds a few hours, and Mr. Zimmerman, its enterprising proprietor, immediately had men climbing the ladders with hods, and bricks being laid. The abutments of the bridge across the Marais des Cygnes river were commenced. It is to

be a wire suspension bridge, and will cost about thirty thousand dollars. The county has built a jail at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars. A fine school house and good schools are a most essential part of the institutions of Ottawa. But the college, on the heights a little south of the town, is the ornament of the city—we believe there is an ordinance making it a penal offense to call the town a city—nevertheless, it has many of the city peculiarities, without their disadvantages—an intelligent population, without the degraded classes of cities—good schools, churches, Masonic, Odd Fellows, and Good Templars, and all the charitable institutions.

The Home Journal is a power in its place, and is doing a “heap” of service for the embryo city. The very fact of such a newspaper itself attracts the enlightened emigrant, and may be the secret of much of the advanced prosperity of the place. John Kitts, a soldier, and a former typo in this office, leads the typographical department, while Elder Hutchinson, with his graphic pen, “does” the editorials.

Now that Franklin county lands have nearly all passed into the hands of settlers or citizens, we may expect this most fertile of counties to take its proper position in the State in wealth, resources, and political and social importance, and be among the very best in Southern Kansas. Success to Ottawa, and her enterprising inhabitants.