

Indians found in what is now Kansas and adjacent states were described by Edward E. Hale, in his book, "Kansas and Nebraska", published in Boston in 1854.



Early Beginnings

The discovery to the civilized world of the valley of the Missouri was made by Father Marquette. In writing to the Superior of Missions, in 1670, he spoke of this river, from the report he had of it from the Indians. "Six or seven days below the Ilois" (Illinois river) he says, "is another great river, on which are prodigious nations, who use wooden canoes: we cannot write more till next year, if God does us the grace to lead us there." Among these "prodigious nations" was the Kansas.

On Marquette's manuscript map, The Pekitanoui or Missouri is here laid down, at its entrance into the Mississippi, and for one hundred miles back. On the map, to the westward, are the names of several tribes. Of these the Pana and Paniassa are probably our Pawnees; the Ouemessourit are the Missouri, the Ouchage, the Osages; the Tontanta, our Tetons; the Moin-gouena are Moingonans, the Pewarea, the Peorias; while the names of the Kansa and Maha tribes are put down as upon our maps.

LaSalle's writer, Father Membre wrote in 1681 and 1682: "Six leagues lower down, found the Ozage (Missouri) river coming from the west. Father Douay, of this party, thus speaks of the Missouri:—"On the north-west, the famous river of the Massourites or Osages, at least as large as the river into which it empties."

M. Dutisne, a French officer, was sent from New Orleans, in 1719, by Bienville, the governor, into the territory west of the Mississippi. He visited the village of the Osage Indians, five miles from the Osage river, at eighty leagues above its mouth.

From the time he reached the Osage villages, Dutisne was exploring the territory of Kansas. A report of an invasion of its Indians by Spaniards, in the same year, probably belongs really to the year 1722: and Dutisne, therefore, may be regarded as the discoverer of Kansas to the civilized world.

There are in the territory of Kansas, a few small tribes, which have been removed thither by treaties with the United States government. These are the Wyandots, Kickapoos, Sacs and Foxes, Peorias and Kaskaskias; Ottawas, Chippewas; Weas and Piankshaws, Pottawatomies, Shawnees and Delawares. These are, in number, very insignificant. But they hold, by treaty, the right to some of the best lands in Kansas, and the officers of the U.S. government had endeavored, therefore, and with some success, for the last year to make treaties with them for the purchase of parts of their territory.

West of them (Weas and Piankshaws) are the Chippewas, thirty in number and the Ottawas, two hundred and forty-seven in number. The Chippewas hold eight thousand three hundred and twenty acres, and the Ottawas three thousand four hundred acres only. This is mostly prairie land.

On the Osage river is a reservation belonging to Sacs and Foxes removed from the Upper Mississippi.

The Chippewas are but five families, holding thirteen sections of land, and drawing a perpetual annuity of three hundred dollars.

The Ottawas are a farming people, honest, industrious and prosperous. They receive a per-

petual annuity of two thousand six hundred dollars. Their land is good, lying on the Osage river. These two little communities have a surplus of their crop for sale. The Ottawas are increasing in numbers. They are now two hundred and forty-seven, which is forty-two more than they were six years ago. The influence of Rev. Jotham Meeker, supported by the Baptist Union among them, seems to have been of enduring and real value.

The little community of Ottawas and that of

Chippewas, described above, under Mr. Meeker's truly Christian care, increased in numbers, a happy exception to the almost universal law of Indian annihilation.

The interesting mission of Mr. Meeker among the Ottawas is south of the river, near the state line. And in that neighborhood is Mr. Lykin's mission, the Baptist Mission and Labor School, supported by the American Indian Missionary Assoc. of Louisville.



In Franklin County, Kansas

Indians

The area that became Franklin county was part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Coronado claimed it for Spain, which ceded it to France. The French sold it to the United States. The part that later became Kansas was ceded to the Great and Little Osage Tribes from the Ohio Territory in 1808. These tribes ceded it back in 1825.

Several Indian tribes were given grants or reservations in Franklin county. It was due to their presence that this county was not settled as early as others in this part of the state. The earliest Franklin county settlers came to areas on the fringe of the Indian lands.

The Ottaways (Ottawas) came from Ohio in two groups, occupying lands granted by treaty in 1832. The first group received about 34,000 acres in what is now about the center of the county. Another group got about 40,000 acres adjoining the lands ceded to the first group. The Ottawas moved here in 1836 and 1837. Rev. Jotham Meeker, a Baptist missionary, and later John T. (Tauy) Jones exercised great influence over these Indians. The Ottawas were moved by treaty to Indian Territory in 1867.

The Ottawas and other tribes in this county suffered severely in the great Marais des Cygnes flood of 1844.

The Piankeshaws, Weas and Peorias received land in the eastern part of the county, adjacent to the Ottawas, in 1832, and did not move until 1867.

The Sacs and Foxes held some land in the western part of the county until 1867.

The Shawnees held a strip of land along the northwest edge of the county until 1854.

The Chippewa and Munsee (Muncie) bands were granted lands in the southwest part of the county. In 1854 they occupied a small reservation (7 miles long and 2½ miles wide) lying immediately west of the Ottawa reservation. They came from Michigan. In 1859 by treaty the

Munsees or Christian Indians, then living in Leavenworth county, became confederated with the Chippewas. The Chippewa-Muncie group elected to remain on their lands in Franklin county instead of moving to Indian Territory and their property has been handed down to their heirs.

Moravian missionaries exerted a guiding influence over them. Among them were G. F. Oheler, who came with the Muncies; Rev. Joseph Romig and Rev. Levi Ricksecker. They helped the Indians to organize a school and church. Joseph Henry Kilbuck of the tribe went to Alaska as a missionary. Mrs. Kilbuck was a daughter of Joseph Romig. A son, Joe Kilbuck, moved to Hood River, Ore.

Two cemeteries remain as landmarks of these Indians. The Chippewa cemetery, 5 miles west of Ottawa, is on land once occupied by the daughter of the chief, Juliann Bittenbender. It was not a so-called "Christian cemetery." The Munsee cemetery, under care of the Moravian Society, is 2½ miles south and 5½ miles west of Ottawa.

FORT SCOTT CROSSING

Fort Scott Crossing was a marked government trail across the Ottawa reservation before the whites settled this area. Indians held all the land a hundred years ago and no one could cross the Marais des Cygnes except there. From Fort Leavenworth, people traveled to Ottawa across the reservation, at Fort Scott Crossing, then to Dutch Henry Crossing on the Pottawatomie and on to Fort Scott, Kansas. The trail split at the Tauy Jones home, northeast of Ottawa. One route was along Fort Scott Crossing in the east part of the Ottawa reservation which took people on to Fort Scott. The other route split off near what is now Hickory Street in Ottawa and went to the Osage Indian Nation.



REV. JOTHAM MEEKER

Jotham Meeker, a Baptist missionary and printer, lived among the Ottawa Indians from 1837 until his death, January 12, 1855, at the age of 51. His mission was a few miles east of Ottawa, near the site of the historic Indian cemetery where he was buried.

While he had little early education, he achieved fame as a translator of Indian languages. Using a new system of orthography, he taught the Indians to read and write and printed portions of the Gospels and hymns for them. He had brought a press from Ohio when he and his family were moved to Shawnee Mission in 1833. This old Seth Adams press, second hand when he bought it, was moved to his Ottawa station in 1849.

Born in Ohio in 1804, he was sent as a Baptist missionary to the Pottawatomies in the wilds of what is now southern Michigan in 1825. He was married in 1830 to a missionary who served in Michigan.

After coming to Ottawa, he returned to Shawnee Mission at least three times to supervise the printing of some of his works for the Indians. While he wrote and printed an estimated 51 books or pamphlets on this press, most of his works were for the Indians themselves and were not preserved. He started his studies of the Indian language while with the Pottawatomies in Michigan, and continued when he was transferred to a new station in Michigan with the Ojibways, or Chippewas. Their languages were similar, as was also that of the Ottawas, among whom he worked later.

He developed a new orthographic system, in which sounds were represented by written or printed characters. It was said that the Indians learned to read and write rapidly under this system. Besides translations of the gospels and hymns, he even printed "horse bills" and "trad-

er's licenses" for the Indians, and later compiled a so-called Ottawa First Book, which included laws and codes of the Indians, which he subsequently revised. The Baptist mission press was active for nearly 21 years at Shawnee and Ottawa.

The life history of the Meekers, including his wife, his mother and three children, is pieced together from his Journal, a day-by-day account, which he started in Michigan in 1832 and continued until his death. It tells of the vicissitudes of life among the primitive, though peacefully-inclined Ottawas. The family endured severe hardships, including illness. Meeker was stricken several times, but all survived. He taught the Indians to farm, as well as reading and writing, and he ministered to their spiritual needs. He was licensed to preach while at Shawnee. His Journal notes instances of the "backsliding" of some of the Indians who indulged in liquor, engaged in fighting and often followed after the practices of native "conjurers." While many of the Indians tired of his teachings, he never gave up. The Journal hints at the loyalty of his faithful, patient wife. She survived her husband by several years.

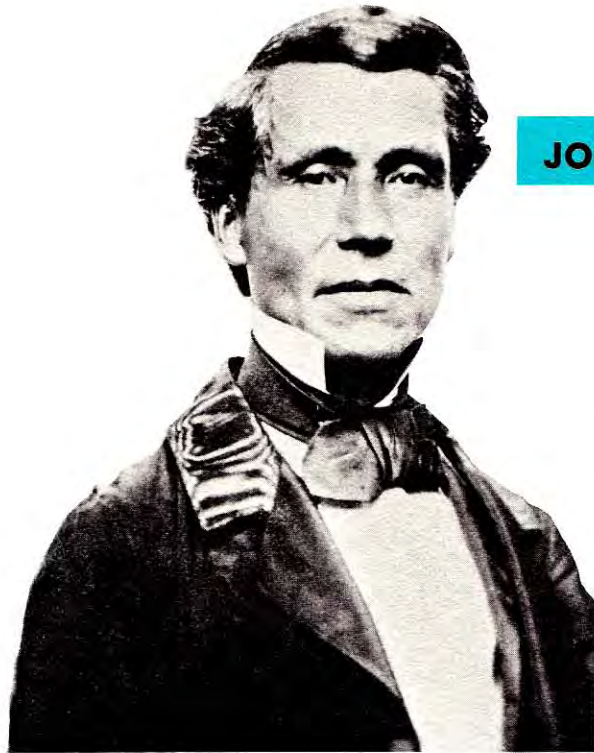
Of particular interest for those who have followed the many floods of the Marais des Cygnes over the years, the Journal relates the ravages of a great flood in 1844, which forced Indians and the few whites to take refuge in the "hills" with their livestock. All crops were washed away. Few buildings withstood the raging waters. The home of the Meekers and his office near the river were not wholly destroyed, but so badly damaged that a new site for his mission station was selected two miles north of the original location. This was northeast of Ottawa in the area where the Ottawa Indian cemetery is today. The Journal also refers to searing drought of later years.

This Journal and other Meeker papers were given to the Kansas State Historical Society in 1892 by his youngest daughter, Mrs. W. T. Keith of Oakland, Calif. (In preparing this article, we drew on extracts from the Meeker Journal and other information in a book by McMurtrie and Allen entitled "Jotham Meeker, Pioneer Printer in Kansas," published in 1930.)

Another daughter in Brown county gave the Society other Meeker writings.

A warm tribute was paid to Jotham Meeker in an obituary printed in 1855 shortly after his death, in the Missionary Magazine of the Baptist Missionary Union, under which he worked. It notes that he worked for the spiritual welfare of the Indians, promoting industry and temperance among them, and that he won their confidence in him as a father. "Another Mr. Meeker they never will see," the tribute concludes.

Providentially, there was a worthy successor to Meeker—one who carried on his work as spiritual adviser and leader. He was Taury Jones.



JOHN TECUMSEH (TAUY) JONES

John Tecumseh (Tauy) Jones is known as the founder of Ottawa University and was one of the founders of Ottawa. Born in 1800, in Canada, he was of mixed parentage, his father being English and his mother Indian. At 16 he was sent to Isaac McCoy, Baptist missionary in Michigan, to begin his education, and his education was completed in Madison University, New Jersey.

He came to Kansas in 1838 as an interpreter for the Pottawatomie Indians when this tribe was transferred to a reservation in eastern Kansas from northern states after a treaty in 1831. He became a leader among the Pottawatomes in the Lane area, running herds of cattle on the prairie for beef to feed them in return for their annual stipend from the government. In 1840, he married Rachel Littleman, a Stockbridge Indian, who died in 1844. In 1845, he married Jane Kelly, a missionary from New England. She survived him and lived in Ottawa in later years.

In 1848, he took over the trading post and store which a Mr. Roby had established five years before northeast of Ottawa on what was later named Tauy creek. Here he built a large 2-story frame and log house and opened a hotel which became the principal stopping place between Ft. Leavenworth and Ft. Scott.

Because of Jones' sympathy for and assistance to Free Staters, Missouri border ruffians set fire to the house and store in the middle of the night, Aug. 29, 1856, and plundered the property. Jones escaped into the woods and Mrs.

Jones was spared. Ten years later the United States government appropriated \$6,700 to be paid to Jones for his loss.

Later at a cost of \$20,000, Jones erected a 14-room stone house which still stands. Built in a T-shape, facing west, it was made of cut and faced sandstone brought by ox team from Ft. Scott quarries. Joists were fitted and pegged, a staircase was made of walnut and the main living room fireplace of marble.

He became a friend of Jotham Meeker, who was a missionary to the Ottawa Indians. Meeker recognized him as a good leader and, after Meeker's death, he filled the gap in carrying out the missionary work among the Ottawas. Mrs. Jones was a fine seamstress and homemaker and her efforts laid the groundwork for educating the Indians. Tauy Jones was adopted by the Ottawa Indians and made a leader so that it was possible for him to represent them.

Some historians have written that Jones was a shrewd trader. In 1839 he was suspended from the Baptist church but later was reinstated.

Leading to the foundation of Ottawa University was his suggestion as a representative of the Ottawas that a white and Indian school be established in Ottawa. The suggestion was made at the first Kansas Baptist state convention in Atchison in 1860. Tauy Jones was an active leader in the new educational effort until his death in 1873. He is buried in the Indian cemetery northeast of Ottawa, where Jotham Meeker and other early day Indians are buried.



Tauy Jones 14-room stone house which still stands.



Early Settlements

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin county is one of the 33 original Kansas counties created by the first Territorial Legislature of 1855. This county was named for Benjamin Franklin, a great American. The county's boundaries included an area 24 miles square, adjoining Douglas on the south.

This county is rich in Indian lore, which dates back centuries before Kansas became a territory. The area was included in a treaty ceding land to the Great and Little Osage Indians in 1808, and ceded back to the federal government in 1825. After 1825 and prior to 1867 treaties with various Indian tribes set off parts of what was later to become Franklin county for their use.

Under a treaty ratified in 1832, about 76,000 acres in the center of present Franklin, including the site of what is now Ottawa, was ceded to the Ottawa Indians, who were moved here from Ohio. Here the Ottawas remained under tribal relations until 1862. On June 1, that year, a government treaty was made with the Ottawas giving every member of the tribe citizenship in 1867. Each head of a family received 160 acres and his dependents 80 acres each. Special allotments were given members of the tribal council and to two daughters of Rev. and Mrs. Jotham Meeker. The residue of the land was sold to white settlers.

Rev. Meeker and his wife, who had moved to the Ottawa reservation in 1837 from Shawnee Mission, established the Mission east of present Ottawa city. The Meekers greatly endeared themselves to the Ottawas, a peace loving people. He taught them to read and write and the rudiments of farming. When he came to Kansas he brought an old Seth Thomas printing press, and on this he printed books, including portions of the gospels, and hymns. John Tecumseh (Tauy) Jones, part Indian, part white, who had been sent to the Pottawatomies in this area as an interpreter, and Meeker became acquainted, and Jones succeeded Meeker after his death as minister and leader of the Ottawas. The Indians wanted to give land to endow a school, and Jones encouraged the idea and out of this grew Ottawa University. The Indians, under an article of the treaty of 1862, donated 20,000 acres which was placed in trust for educational purposes. The trust was to be administered by seven trustees, four Ottawa Indians

and three whites. Later 5,000 acres were sold.

Under a treaty signed Feb. 23, 1867, the Ottawa Indians were moved to Indian Territory. White settlers bought some of the Indian allotments and portions of the 5,000 acres sold by the college trustees.

Other Indian tribes in Franklin county included Sacs and Foxes, Chippewas and Muncies in the west, Weas, Piankeshaws and Peorias in the east portion, and some Shawnees in the northwest corner of the county.

Since such a large portion of the land was occupied by Indians, the titles to whose reservations were not extinguished until 1862, 1864 and 1867, settlement of Franklin county was not as early as that of adjoining counties.

Early settlers occupied land on the north, east and south edges of the county outside Indian lands. Reuben Hackett was said to be the first white settler in this county. He located near the west line of what is now Hayes township on June 7, 1854, on the west branch of Ottawa (Tauy) creek. Several others came soon after. The first settlers in Appanoose township were Missourians, who came in 1856. Soon after this J. H. Whetstone planned a colony in the western part of the county. (See article on Pomona.) Land now included in Harrison township, near the center of the county, was thrown open to settlement in 1856. The first settler was Enoch Pyle in the fall of 1856. Others came a little later.

The first settlement in Centropolis township was on Eight Mile creek, in 1854, near the site of the present town of Centropolis. This was on land opened to settlement by treaty of 1854 with the Shawnee Indians. These settlers camped on Eight Mile creek on the evening of June 26. Next morning they voted on whether Kansas should be a free or slave state, all of the 15 in the group except two voting for a free state. The two were Joab M. Bernard and Timothy Keizer. Bernard opened a store which was the postoffice and the town of St. Bernard was started by him, but Bernard was obnoxious because of his pro-slavery views and in a raid by Free State men, St. Bernard was destroyed. He left. The first settlement in Franklin township, in the northeast corner of the county, was on Walnut creek in 1856.

Settlement of the southern part of the county

was delayed for several years because of the purchase of land by speculators who held it at high prices. The first settler of what is now Ohio township was Thomas Ivy, who located on upper Middle creek in 1855. Other families soon came. In 1857 the lands came on the market and a large immigration set in, mainly from Ohio.

In 1837 the Pottawatomie Indians were moved to an area on a creek in the southeast part of the county, which is known by their name. In 1847-48 they were moved to Pottawatomie county, and in a few years this part of Franklin county was thrown open to settlement. The first settlers were two brothers, Henry and William Sherman, Germans. Henry was afterward called "Dutch" Henry, and the crossing of Pottawatomie creek near his place became known as "Dutch Henry's Crossing." In a few years there came settlers whose names have become historic, including John Blunt, sr., father of Gen. Blunt, Judge James Hanway and two sons and Barton Needham.

Greenwood township was organized in 1865. It originally was part of Ohio township. The first settlement was made in 1863 after the Sac and Fox Indians agency was moved that year to Quenemo, in Osage county. An unsuccessful effort was made to start a town called Greenwood.

The Territorial legislature provided for appointment of county officials to serve until elections in 1857. The hamlet of St. Bernard, just east of Centropolis, was designated as temporary county seat. After St. Bernard had been destroyed, the first recorded meeting of the county commissioners was held March 15, 1858, at Minneola, adjoining the site of St. Bernard on the west. That year the commissioners divided the county into six townships: Centropolis, Chipewewa, Ohio, Ottawa, Peoria and Pottawatomie.

At the first election under the Wyandotte constitution movement, April 16, 1859, Franklin county voted 91 for a constitution and one against. On June 7, Judge James Hanway was elected delegate to the Wyandotte convention, receiving 217 votes to 116 for Joab Touy. On Oct. 4 Franklin county voted 301 for the Wyandotte constitution to 111 against. At an election Nov. 8, for delegate to Congress, Marcus J. Parrot, Republican, received 265 votes to 172 for Saunders W. Johnson, Democrat. At the same election P. P. Elder was elected to the Territorial Council, receiving 283 votes to 201 for Isaiah Pile, and Henry Shively was elected to the House of Representatives receiving 221 votes to 216 for John F. Javens. On Nov. 6 Judge Hanway was elected to the House of Representatives by 244 votes to 190 for all others.

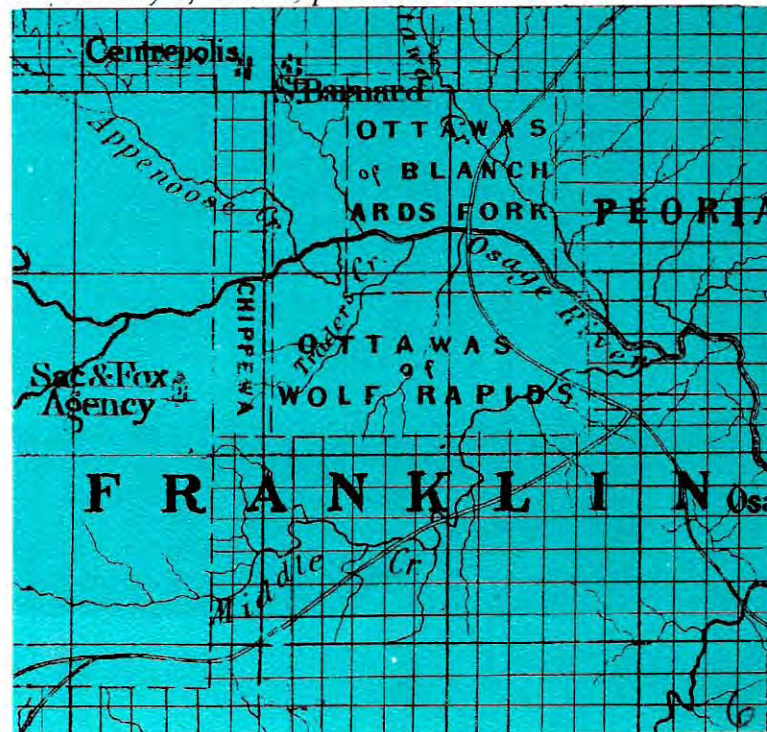
History records several lively contests for the county seat before it was finally located in Ottawa in 1864. As was noted previously, after St. Bernard became extinct the county seat was transferred to Minneola. An election March 26, 1860, to relocate it, gave Ohio City 243 votes,

Peoria 206, and Minneola 182. There being no majority for any one of the three, an election was held April 16, 1860, in which Peoria got 342 votes and Ohio City 320. Then ensued a legal battle between Minneola and Peoria, Minneola enjoining removal of the records. Peoria won in one court, but Minneola appealed to another court and gained the decision. Then Peoria carried the case to the supreme court of the Territory. While the case was pending, the Territorial Legislature passed an act resubmitting the matter to the people. This was on Jan. 21, 1861, three days after the Territory was admitted to the union as a State. The resubmitting of the question so complicated matters that Peoria consulted counsel, which was of the opinion that the Legislature had no right to pass any law after the Territory became a State, and advised an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The high court decided that as the Legislature had not been notified of the admission of the State to the union, its act was legal. The case was resubmitted to the people of the county who decided in favor of Minneola. The next election on the question was held March 25, 1861. At this election Ohio City received 243 votes; Peoria 127; Centropolis 98; Mount Vernon, a hamlet in eastern Franklin county, 26, and Minneola 1. There was no majority this time and still another election was held April 15 in which Ohio City got 363 votes and Peoria 37. Ohio City therefore became the county seat and so remained until another election, on petition, was held August 1, 1864, which decided in favor of Ottawa. At this election Ottawa received 261 votes, Peoria 40, Ohio City 36 and Centropolis 1.

H. F. Sheldon, an early day county official, wrote an interesting article for the Ottawa Re-

Franklin County taken from a sectional map of the territory of Kansas, published in 1857.



public on Jan. 31, 1905, recalling the county seat squabble. He wrote that the war started after selection of a locating committee comprised of C. L. Robbins, A. Wiley and Charles Clark. These men, he wrote, were all directly or indirectly interested in Minneola, and they only went through the formality of visiting other towns. Minneola was handicapped because of its location only two miles from the north line of the county. Mr. Sheldon regarded Ohio City as the strongest candidate because of its more central location. It had a population of about 150. Speaking of the intensity of the fight, he noted, "When we were sorely pressed for votes we did a little missionary work on the Chipewa reservation." On August 15, 1864, Mr. Sheldon, county clerk and register of deeds, moved the county records to Ottawa. On that date, he wrote, Ottawa "consisted of 15 or 20 small dwellings, one store kept by an Ottawa Indian, and a large barn used for a hotel."

The courthouse square was purchased by the county commissioners on March 17, 1865, at a cost of \$1,120. A tax levy was authorized that year to build a county jail, which was completed in 1867. That jail remained in use until the present jail was built in 1906. It cost \$13,043. County offices were located in private buildings. In 1891 a tax levy was authorized by the Legislature to build a courthouse and \$50,000 was raised for this purpose. The new courthouse was occupied at the opening of the fall term of court in 1893.

The year 1874 was one of great economic distress by reason of "tight" money, drouth, grasshoppers and chinch bugs. Crops were wiped out. There had been drouth before but this combination of disasters was the most severe to date. The county commissioners estimated that about 2,500 persons were destitute. Similar conditions prevailed throughout the state and a state central relief committee had been set up. A request was sent from here to that committee for feed, clothing and seed for the needy. Friends and relatives sent help from the east. Many of the settlers pulled stakes and returned to the states whence they came.

As a result of the poverty and general prostration of business, there was an unprecedentedly large delinquent tax list in 1875, and the county commissioners made no tax levy for payment of interest on railroad bonds. The Legislature passed an act under which any taxing district was authorized to compromise and refund its indebtedness of every kind on terms that could be agreed on, and to issue new bonds as required. The Franklin county commissioners and the bond holders got together and the result was that the county board issued new bonds of \$253,400 to run 30 years at 6 percent.

The county enjoyed steady growth following the opening of Indian lands despite border troubles preceding statehood, and the economic

setback of the seventies.

Of Franklin county today, it may be said that it has come a long way from frontier days.

Its history is reflected in the growth of Ottawa and the origin of the small towns throughout the county. Sketches of the history of these communities appear elsewhere in this brochure.

Much of the growth and prosperity of the county has been founded on agriculture which is today and has always been one of the main interests here. Diversification of cropping has been developed to a high degree. The county enjoys the distinction ranking No. 1 in dairying in the state. The Bennett Creamery Company of Ottawa, one of the largest milk processing concerns in the midwest, provides an excellent market and ships milk products over a wide area. Livestock, poultry and grain farming are also carried on extensively.

The county is served by a network of cross-state highways, including a 4-lane section of Interstate 35 from Ottawa to Kansas City. Secondary and farm-to-market roads are mostly hard surfaced.



There are three strong banks and two savings and loan associations in Ottawa. There has never been a failure of a financial institution in Ottawa. There are also good banks at Richmond, Wellsville, and Pomona.

The county has excellent rural and small town schools, four elementary and a parochial school in Ottawa, as well as Ottawa high school and Ottawa University.

Ransom Memorial hospital of Ottawa, a county-supported institution, built in 1930, provides modern facilities for medical care. A new wing was added a few years ago. The county's present population is 20,500.



DIETRICH CABIN photographed during restoration.

DIETRICH CABIN

The log cabin, pictured above, which was built in 1859, stands on a site 100 feet south of Carnegie Free Public Library at Fifth and Main, in Ottawa. This cabin was given to the Franklin County Historical Society, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gault of Richmond, and was moved from its original location on the prairie, three miles south of Richmond, where it was built by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dietrich, grandparents of Mrs. Gault. The Dietrichs came to America from Germany in 1857, first stopping in Chicago, and coming on to Kansas by covered wagon.

When re-conditioned, it will be furnished with period furniture of the time it was in use as a dwelling, and opened as a museum.

The cabin was built of hand-hewn native walnut with mortise construction. Heavy timbers, rafters, flooring, door and window casings and the inside trim are of hand-hewn walnut. Native sandstone was brought in to rebuild the fireplace and to make the foundation. The moving was done by T. J. Bivins of Wellsville as a donation to the preservation of early history. Mr. and Mrs. Bivins and Mr. and Mrs. Gault put in many hours getting the building ready to be moved. Additions not a part of the original building

were removed, and all lumber was preserved for use in re-conditioning the cabin. Various individuals contributed services in the removal, including a welding shop, a lumberman, telephone electric linemen, Santa Fe trackmen and members of the State Highway Patrol and the sheriff's office. Others volunteered services and materials to help restore the building on its present site.

The cabin is a monument to the trials and heartaches of dauntless pioneers. The first cabin built by the Dietrichs was destroyed by a prairie fire. The cabin shown above was built on the ruins. The father died and left his widow to survive with three children. Mrs. Dietrich, leaving her three young sons at home, walked to Ohio City six miles away and back many times to get laundry and return it. She had Indian marauders, and one time border ruffians came and took food and forage. But she reared her children to become successful citizens. One was a school superintendent in Colorado Springs and Helena, Mont. One became a successful farmer and hog breeder and an Ottawa merchant. The third became a United States federal judge in Idaho.

OTTAWA, KANSAS

*Home of Ottawa's first newspaper,
"The Western Home Journal,"
Second and Main, founded in 1865.*

The original site of the city of Ottawa was two half sections of level prairie land principally on the south side of the Marais des Cygnes river. The town got its name from the Ottawa tribe of Indians, in the heart of whose reservation it was laid out. Indian ownership prevented settlement until the spring of 1864. At that time title was secured through treaty and purchase in connection with the founding of Ottawa University.

A town company was organized and incorporated by the State on Sept. 6, 1864. The organizers included Rev. C. C. Hutchinson, then Indian agent, who later founded the city of Hutchinson, and Rev. I. S. Kalloch as leading spirits. Other members of the town company were James Wind, the Ottawa Indian chief; John T. (Tauy) Jones, a Baptist minister and leader of the In-



dians; Asa S. Lathrop, the company's surveyor and attorney; Francis Cobb, C. T. Evans, John C. Richmond, James H. Lane, S. C. Pomeroy, William E. Hurr and Joseph King. Hurr and King were Indians.

Early arrivals pitched tents. After the survey, on the last day of March, Richmond built the first house at First and Walnut. It stood for many years as a landmark. Postal service was secured and Evans was appointed postmaster. The first white child born in the town was "Ottawa" Smith, son of Ed. Smith. J. H. Whetstone brought in a sawmill which spurred building. The Ottawa House was erected. In turn it served as a hotel, postoffice, stable and railroad depot.

The old capitol building at Minneola was taken down, removed to Ottawa and set up on the northeast corner of Second and Main. Here

A bird's-eye-view of Ottawa in the late 80's.



G. S. Holt opened a dry goods store. The rest of the first floor was used for offices. The upstairs provided a hall—known as Lathrop's hall—and became the general meeting place of the town and county. In it were held the courts, public meetings, festivals and entertainments. The Baptist church held services in the hall for two years, ministered by Rev. Kalloch, Rev. Hutchinson and others. Passing later into the Wilkerson house, this historic building was moved across the alley in 1876. In later years S. F. and N. B. Beeler moved it to Beach street and it became a carpenter shop. Some years later it was destroyed by fire.

On August 1, Ottawa, by popular vote, became the county seat of Franklin county. The county officers at the time were C. L. Robbins, sheriff; H. F. Sheldon, county clerk and register

byterian church at Fifth and Main.

In 1866-67, a bridge company was organized and it built a suspension bridge across the river on Main street. It was said to have been the first suspension bridge west of Cincinnati. It was operated as a toll bridge until it was paid for. The city bought it for \$10,000 and made it a free bridge in 1874. It was removed in 1882, and a new bridge built on the abutments of the old. The present bridge was built in 1926, and lengthened in 1960 as part of the river channel widening operation.

In October, 1867, the people voted 127 to 29 to make Ottawa a city of the second class. At the first election on Nov. 30, Asa S. Lathrop was elected mayor. Shortly after, the city council granted the first license to sell intoxicating drinks. Some citizens suspected that the change



Main Street north from Second Street.

of deeds; John Walruff, county treasurer; H. P. Welsh, Jacob Sumstine and Mr. Bicketts, county commissioners. Among other notables in Ottawa were P. P. Elder, who later became lieutenant governor of Kansas; C. A. Bunting, G. W. Beeman, Judge Valentine, James Davis, E. J. Nugent, and D. W. Zimmerman. The latter built a well known hotel, the Ludington house.

In 1866, Ottawa was incorporated as a town, and control of its municipal affairs passed from the town company to a board of trustees. In 1865, Kalloch and Evans founded the *Western Home Journal*, with Kalloch as editor, and this newspaper was a big factor in the early growth of the city. In the fall of 1866, a brick public school building was completed and opened. Under the auspices of Ottawa University, two departments were started, an Indian school on Hickory and Second streets with 40 pupils, and an advanced grade school for whites in the Pres-

in city government was promoted for this purpose because licenses could not be granted under the former government. In 1878, the license system was abolished.

However, Ottawa did not become as dry as the Sahara after 1878. An article in an Ottawa newspaper says: "Prohibition became effective in Kansas May 1, 1881. But liquor was shipped under the 'original package' plan—by freight or express. Also for many years it could be bought at drug stores for 'medicinal purposes.' Several 'saloons' operated before the arid era began."

The arrival of the first railroad service on Jan. 1, 1868, was a big event in young Ottawa. The Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston railroad spurred a period of great activity and prosperity for the town. Several buildings were built, a steam fire engine was purchased and a public school building was completed at a cost

of \$30,000. The Ludington hotel opened for business. The Ottawa Mills & Elevator was started at First and Main.

Little work was done toward extending the railroad south of Ottawa before the summer of 1869. The first railroad bridge was built late that year. Grading south of Ottawa was started in July. The railroad reached Richmond in 1869. The railroad used the old Cobb house, across from the present Nelson hotel, as a station until 1881, when a station building was erected north of the river across from the site of the present station. The present station was built in 1881. The roundhouse was built in 1872. The old freight station, which stood north of the passenger station, was built in the middle seventies. It was swept away by the great river flood of 1951.

Another railroad highlight for Ottawa was the securing of the L.L. & G. car and machine shops in 1872. Ottawa offered several town lots and \$60,000 for the shops and the offer was accepted. Ottawa's population at that time was 6,250. Giving the shops to Ottawa by I. S. Kalloch, superintendent of the railroad, who then lived in Lawrence, kicked up a row that cost him his job. Members of the railroad's board of directors wanted the shop facilities in Lawrence. They felt that since Kalloch had lived in Ottawa and still had interests here, he had favored Ottawa. He explained that Ottawa had put up \$60,000 and a site, while Lawrence had only offered a site. The directors grudgingly accepted his explanation and the shops came to Ottawa, but Kalloch soon resigned. He left his railroad position with a fine record of achievement. The company had 186 miles of track extending to the Oklahoma border. The L.L. & G. was leased to the Santa Fe in 1888, and purchased in 1899, at which time it became the Southern Kansas division of the Santa Fe. Of the original line between Lawrence and Ottawa, only the section between Lawrence and Baldwin is in use now for freight service. The part between Baldwin and Ottawa lies idle.

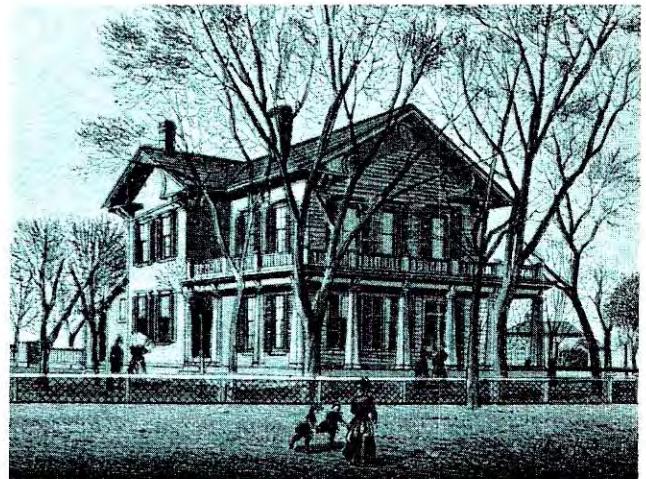
The old railroad bridge built in 1869 was replaced by a double track span in 1904. The railroad hospital at Ottawa Junction was built in 1880, eventually closed and became the headquarters of the Ottawa Sign Co. The Burlington branch of the Santa Fe from Burlington Junction, south of town, to Burlington was opened in 1880.

At their peak, the Ottawa shops employed several hundred men. They were destroyed by fire in 1883 and rebuilt at once. The machine and boiler shops were moved to Chanute in 1907, leaving Ottawa as headquarters for car repairing. A. C. Battelle leased the shop facilities some years later and increased the employment rolls from 40 to over 500 men. There was serious flood damage in 1909 and another fire in 1908 but the facilities were partially replaced. The fire loss was \$250,000. But the importance

of the shops dwindled as new type cars and longer division points came into the railroad operating picture. They finally were closed. It was not until 1942, however, that the railroad paid the city of Ottawa \$70,000 to clear the property from the provisions of the 1872 deed in which Ottawa had given the site to the railroad for the shops. This money was used by Ottawa for municipal airport facilities southeast of town. The Kansas City and Santa Fe line was opened from Olathe to Ottawa Junction in 1870.

The Missouri Pacific railroad was built from Osawatomie to Ottawa in 1880. It was not extended west until 1886 when the line was laid from Ottawa to Council Grove.

Ottawa continued to grow in the seventies. The Occidental hotel was built in 1870. The town's population was slightly less than 3,000. The Forest Mills were built on the south bank of the river at Walnut in 1872. In 1870 the First National bank was organized. The Peoples National bank came in 1871, and next year the Franklin County bank. Central school was built in 1872. Tauy Jones hall at Ottawa University was built in 1869. It burned next year and was rebuilt with use of the old walls. The Peoples National Bank built its 3-story building at 2nd and Main in 1879. There was a tornado in 1880 that damaged homes in the west part of the town, and blew over several Santa Fe box cars. In 1882 the Jefferies planing mill started, and also the Franklin Sugar mill, northwest of town, the site of the present Willis nursery packing plant. In 1883 the Excelsior mill was built at Main and Tecumseh. In the same year three fire cisterns were built in Main street. The North Side and the Second Ward school buildings were built. Ottawa Foundry & Brick plant was started in 1885. In 1886 came an artificial gas plant and an electric light plant. A street



A. P. Elder Home, 5th Elm.

railway system, operated by horse power, was also built in 1886. It ran east from Forest Park, and extended south on Main to Fifth. There were branches east and west.



The jutting two-story building on the right side is where Miss Mary F. Ward taught Ottawa's first school. Present location is the People's National Bank.

The first macadam street was built in 1887 from Tecumseh to 7th. Came also the first sewers and water works. Women got the vote in school elections. The First National bank occupied its new quarters. The Ottawa Building & Loan association was started in 1889. Charlton Cottage at O.U. was built in 1891 and the north wing of the administration building in 1892. The new courthouse was dedicated in 1893. The Rohrbaugh theater opened in 1896. Field school was built at 7th and Elm that year. The Hamblin hotel burned at 2nd and Main in 1895. Came the Ottawa Wholesale Grocery company in 1897. The fire department building on Walnut was started. The Bennett Ice Co. started in 1901, and the Mitchell Company started making poultry coops. The Centennial hotel, 4th and Walnut, burned in that year. The administration building burned at O.U. in 1902, and was rebuilt and the Ottawa Condensing Co. was organized. In 1903 the Carnegie library was built, and also the brick plant on North Locust.

In 1904, the Ottawa State Bank was chartered, and the Warner Fence Co. came to Ottawa. The Municipal Light and Water plant organized in 1905, and natural gas was first used. The Nelson hotel was built in 1907 on the site of the Nelson furniture store which was burned the year before. Contract was let for a new jail. The frame Millwork building on North Walnut was built in 1911. City hall was built at 4th and Walnut that year. State Bank of Ottawa merged with the Franklin County bank in 1912. A new Lincoln school was built that year. A. C. Carpenter opened the first oil delivery

service in 1913. Came the start of the North American hotel in 1914. Construction of the O.U. gym was started, and that year the old Chautauqua quit. The postoffice was built in 1915, the Rohrbaugh theatre burned and a brick furniture factory was built at Walnut and Tecumseh. Senior high school was built in 1916, old Garfield school in 1918. Home Savings and Loan Association started in 1919, and Memorial Auditorium was built. Ward science building at O.U. was built in 1920. The Ottawa Millwork Co. began operations at Walnut and Tecumseh and moved later to North Locust. The Kansas State bank, chartered in 1917, built at Tecumseh and Main. Masonic temple was erected in 1927. Contract was let for Ransom Memorial hospital in 1929. The Cayot store burned in 1931 at a loss of \$100,000, and the Warner Manufacturing Co. had a \$10,000 fire in 1934.

But to back track, the first Ottawa newspaper, the Western Home Journal was started by I. S. Kalloch and C. T. Evans in 1865. Over the years other newspapers were launched and passed into limbo. The Queen City Herald established in 1882 became the Herald. J. L. Bristow bought it and made it a daily in 1896. Henry J. Allen became its owner in 1897. He sold it to Ralph A. Harris and A. L. Miller in 1907. Miller moved to Battle Creek, Mich., to engage in the newspaper business and Mr. Harris became sole owner. It is now owned by his son, John P. Harris of Hutchinson. The Republican was started in 1873, and in 1902 this became the Daily Republica under the ownership of Thomas W. Morgan. He sold it to Mr. Harris who consoli-

dated it with the Herald in 1915. The weekly Times is published in Ottawa, and radio station KOFO is another means of communication.

The city of Ottawa has owned and operated its own electric and water system since July 1, 1906. The municipal plant is the successor to a privately owned plant. The first electricity was generated in Ottawa in 1888, less than four years after New York's Pearl Street station—first in the nation to produce electricity—had been put in operation. The Ottawa plant has expanded several times to meet increasing demands for service.

Natural gas distributed by the Gas Service Co., followed early years of manufacture and distribution of artificial gas by a local company starting in 1886. First natural gas was used in 1906.

After being governed by the mayor and council system since the early days, Ottawa adopted the commission form of government in 1913 with three commissioners. Headquarters of the city government are in City hall at Fourth and Walnut, the site of the historic old Centennial hotel.

Forest Park is a scenic spot of which Ottawa is very proud. Now comprising 80 acres, it started originally half that size. It was the meeting place of the old Chautauqua, and for many years the Franklin county fair, organized in 1867, met there. In recent years the Fair has been held on a tract at the southwest edge of town. In the early days boating was popular on the Marais des Cygnes at the edge of the park. Forest park now has a swimming pool and other recreational features, including baseball and softball diamonds and playground equipment. Completion of river control work will make the park still more useful.

City park, across from the Senior and Junior

high schools at Fifth and Main is another beauty spot. Its attractiveness is greatly enhanced by the Carnegie Free Public Library, built in 1903. The Library, flood-lighted at night, is an outstanding attraction.

Memorial Auditorium, at Third and Hickory, erected in 1919 as a World War I memorial, provides facilities for conventions and other large gatherings, and for entertainment programs.

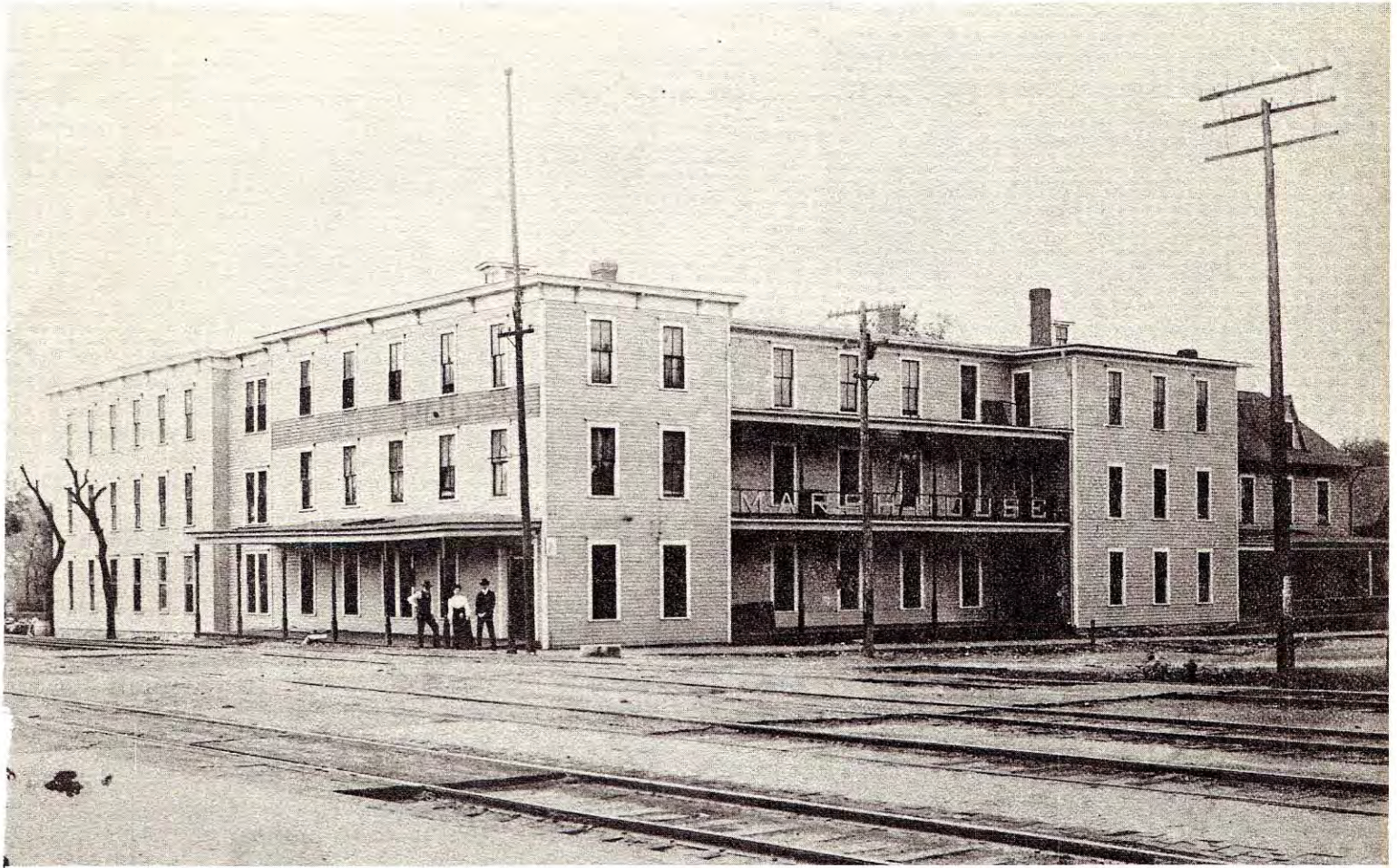
Ottawa's educational facilities are the best, including modern Senior and Junior High schools, four fine grade schools, and Ottawa University, one of the best known small colleges in the middle west. There are 28 churches, two hotels, several motels. Transportation facilities include the main lines of the Santa Fe and Missouri Pacific railroads and several bus lines. The city is served by Interstate 35 and three other major highways.

There are three strong banks, many mercantile establishments and several thriving small industries. Ransom hospital, county-operated, provides excellent hospital service. A movie theater, a drive-in theater, a Youth center, two bowling alleys and a Country Club are among the amusement facilities.

With a population of nearly 11,000, Ottawa has had a steady growth. It has never been a boom or bust town. It is a city of fine homes, including many of modern construction in several housing developments, and more new houses are under construction.

Separate sketches on Ottawa's public schools, Ottawa University, the famous old Chautauqua, flood control work, early industries and business firms and other special articles appear elsewhere in this brochure. There is also a listing of top events by years.





THE MARSH HOUSE

The Marsh House, which stood across the tracks from the Santa Fe, spanned a period of service that lasted more than 35 years. Above is a picture of it taken probably in the 90's, before it was as large as when it was razed in 1924. It was enlarged three times after the original was built in 1887. When it was removed it had 78 bedrooms. The picture of the early day hotel is the possession of Mrs. Frank Jones of Ottawa, a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marsh, owners and operators of the hotel.

The hotel was famous when the Chautauqua was at its zenith. For many years nationally known Chautauqua speakers and entertainers lodged and dined in it. Its nearness to Forest Park, the home of the Chautauqua, made it a convenient stopping place.

Mr. Marsh built much of it with his own hands, for he was a good carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh and their children operated it, and their home was in a section of the building. They moved to Ottawa from a farm near Centropolis and first conducted a hotel on Main street. Mrs. Marsh's meals were popular with passengers on Santa Fe trains, who stopped in

Old Marsh House Lodge of Chautauqua Greats.

Ottawa during meal hours, as well as with Chautauqua visitors. A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Amy King of Kansas City, Kansas, recalls that her mother served a good meal for 25 and 35 cents. Mr. Marsh was a veteran of the Civil War and he and Mrs. Marsh often entertained other veterans and their wives at free turkey dinners.

Frequent floods weakened the building, but it never dampened the spirits of Joe Marsh. After his death, his widow and children sold the building to J. V. Mitchell, who tore it down in 1924 and sold the lumber. Charles Marsh, one of the sons, became widely known as a restaurant operator in Kansas City. A number of years ago he built a hamburger restaurant on the site, which he sold before his death more than a year ago.

Mrs. King also recalls that her father and other war veterans, Peter Kaiser, S. F. Beeler, C. Fetter and others, cleared a small spot at the front of what is now known as Forest Park, for use as a picnic spot. This was the beginning of the park. These veterans also planted trees in what is now City Park, at Fifth and Main.



REV. ISAAC S. KALLOCH

The most controversial person in the history of Ottawa probably was Rev. Isaac S. Kalloch. He was also one of the most versatile and capable men among the early settlers.

He was one of the founders of the city of Ottawa, and publisher of the town's first newspaper. He was an organizer of the First Baptist church here and served briefly as its pastor, and was one of the signers of the charter of Ottawa University and the school's first president. His ability as a money raiser and organizer were largely responsible for the building of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston railroad to Ottawa. The railroad reached here on January 1, 1868. After he had moved to Lawrence as superintendent of the railroad, he was instrumental in having car and machine shops of the railroad established in Ottawa. Though Ottawa had offered more than Lawrence, directors of the railroad were disappointed that the shops were not built in Lawrence, and over this row, Kalloch lost his job. But during his tenure as superintendent, he spurred the extension of the railroad to the Oklahoma border through his efforts in raising cash subsidies and securing much land.

Writers who have given much space to the off-beat side of his character, point out that as a result of a scandal in Boston, where he was a Baptist pastor, he hurriedly came to Kansas.

But he became interested in immigration to the west. Being an abolition orator, it was natural that he came to Kansas. He has also been characterized a swindler and a cheat. In Ottawa he joined his friend, C. C. Hutchinson, then Indian agent, to manage lands of the Ottawa Indian reservation. It was charged that the two charged high fees in selling much of the land given by the government to the Indians for educational purposes.

Kalloch was born in Main in 1832. He was educated in two eastern colleges. The record shows that the first expelled him and the second gave him a degree. At the age of 18, he became pastor of the famous Tremont Baptist Temple in Boston and was in much demand as a lyceum lecturer. It was while he was pastor at Boston that he faced charges of adultery in 1857. The jury disagreed, he resigned his pastorate and he went west. Returning to a pastorate in New York for a time, he came back to Kansas and located in Ottawa. After leaving Lawrence, he served a pastorate at Leavenworth four years, and moved to San Francisco. There he doubled as pastor of a large Baptist church and as a crusading editor. His trenchant editorials led to a shooting scrape with a rival editor in which he was slightly wounded. He served as mayor of San Francisco. He lived in Bellingham, Wash., for a time before his death in 1890.



REV. C. C. HUTCHINSON

C. C. Hutchinson, early day Indian agent in the Franklin county area, was one of the founders of Ottawa. During his two years here, he was associated with Isaac Kalloch and others in organizing the Ottawa town company and in laying out the town. He was a Baptist minister.

It was his ambition to build the first house.

But early records indicated that John C. Richmond, who came in 1863, built the first house in 1864. It was located at a point which would be across the tracks north of the present site of the Ottawa Wholesale Grocery. Hutchinson was secretary, in 1855, of the Kansas State Agricultural Society which later became the

Kansas State Board of Agriculture. After leaving here he became prominent in the early history of Lawrence. When the Santa Fe railroad built westward from Topeka, he moved west and founded the city of Hutchinson in 1871.

In 1871, Hutchinson wrote a book, "Resources of Kansas," for a fee of \$2,500 from the Kansas Legislature, to attract new population to the state.

This book included pictures of Franklin county and Ottawa, among them the suspension bridge across the Marais des Cygnes in Ottawa, Tauy Jones hall of Ottawa University, a cabin near Lane known as John Brown's cabin, the Ludington hotel in Ottawa, and an old steam flour mill at Pomona. A description was given of the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston railroad, and mention was made of the railroad machine shops to be located in Ottawa.

Ottawa Events SINCE 1858



1858 Log cabin of Ottawa Indian on north bank of Marais des Cygnes river, about Walnut and Tecumseh . . . Government trail from Fort Leavenworth to Tauy Jones place, northeast of Ottawa, divided and led to Fort Scott via "Fort Scott Crossing", and to Osage Indian country via Hickory street ford.

1861 Log cabin at First and Hickory occupied by Ottawa Indian couple (wife educated in east, according to Judge C. L. Robbins, who stopped several days with them account of high water). Indian was Joe King, storekeeper for Tauy Jones.

1862 Tauy Jones ran a store in log cabin about Second & Hickory, on southbound trail. From 1854 to 1864 this was Ottawa Indian land and whites were not permitted to settle on it.

1864 First patent issued for original townsite section of land, and Ottawa Town company was granted charter, town platted, and 19 settlers moved in, first living in tents; lots sold, Young to Hutchinson, January 14. First postoffice, C. T. Evans, postmaster. Old capitol building moved from Mineola called Lathrop Hall. School district organized; Baptist church organized. Ottawa became county seat by vote August 1. Methodist church organized. Masonic Lodge organized. Population eight months after town chartered estimated at 150.

1865 First newspaper December 7. Ottawa University chartered April 21. First band of 13 members organized, directed by Prof. M. J. Stinson. Town plat filed with register of deeds February 28. Hope cemetery laid out February 7, land from Tauy Jones. First school, a 2-story brick near location present fire department.

1866 Jail built in Court House Square. \$12,500 bonds first voted for L.L. & G. Railroad. J. H. Whetstone building erected First and Main. Ottawa incorporated under law as a town June 18 by majority of 96 votes. Home of P. P. Elder (later to become lieutenant governor of Kansas) built at 504 Elm, 12 rooms brick, started in 1865. (Now the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Geo. Shader). New Baptist church at 4th and Main, first occupied December 1.

1867 First Fair Association formed. Additional bonds for L.L. & G. railroad voted, making a total of \$200,000. Suspension bridge across Marais des Cygnes started. Ottawa made second class city November 23 by vote of 127 to 29. Corner stone laid for Presbyterian church at Fifth and Main. First liquor license granted.

1868 First train on L.L. & G. railroad reached Ottawa from Lawrence on January 1. Ottawa Hardware Co. started. Ottawa Mills & Elevator, First & Main, started. Ludington House, Second & Main, open for business February 1. Suspension bridge opened as toll bridge.

1869 Wooden truss type railroad bridge built. Peter Kaiser opened harness shop at 4th and Main.

1870 Rohrbaugh Lumber Co. opened. K.C. & S.F. railroad line opened from Olathe to Junction, August 21. First National Bank organized. Tauy Jones Hall at O.U. May 1, in use (Classes had been held in 1869). Ottawa schools integrated. L.L. & G. station established in Cobb house at 2nd and Walnut. Ottawa's population 2,941.

1871 Peoples National Bank opened at 212 Main. Occidental Hotel opened by J. H. Whetstone at 1st & Main.

- 1872 City vacates lots to be given to L.L. & G. Railroad. Votes bonds \$60,000 February 17 for railroad shops. Forest Mills built on south bank of river at Walnut. A 3-story building erected at 205 Main. Franklin County Bank organized. Central school built at 5th and Main. Site and \$60,000 turned over to L.L. & G. for shops. Population of Ottawa estimated at 6,250.
- 1873 School census on September 29 lists 456. Choice Franklin county land could still be had for \$5 per acre, according to a newspaper ad by Geo. W. Hamblin. P. D. Miller becomes agent of L.L. & G. A final settlement of difficulties between Ottawa University and the Ottawa Indians over trust land is made by a U. S. Commission.
- 1874 City acquires suspension bridge for \$10,000 and removes toll charges. Bonds had been voted in 1872. Oil mill built by John Dietrich on east side of Walnut north of the bridge.
- 1875 Tauy Jones Hall at O. U. burned. First dam built across the river.
- 1876 Tauy Jones Hall rebuilt with old walls. Centennial hotel opened at fourth and Walnut.
- 1877 Classes resumed in rebuilt Tauy Jones Hall.
- 1878 Liquor licenses revoked in Ottawa after 10 years.
- 1879 Three-story Peoples National Bank Building erected at Second and Main. Railroad depot moved to north side August 21.
- 1880 Tornado struck Ottawa April 18 doing minor damage, with no casualties. Ring, Smith & Barker building erected at Second and Main with opera house. Known later as Zellner building. Name of L.L. & G. railroad changed to Southern Kansas Railway System. Missouri Pacific railroad built from Osawatomie to Ottawa.
- 1881 Church of Christ organized by members who withdrew from Christian church.
- 1882 John Jefferies Planing Mill started. Franklin Sugar Mill, northwest of town, built; later became tree packing house for Stannard and Willis Nurseries. Excelsior Mill built at Main & Tecumseh. S. B. Rohrbaugh erects 3-story building at 124 S. Main.
- 1883 First Ottawa Chautauqua held. (First mid-west Chautauqua at Bismarck Grove, near Lawrence, in 1879.) Three fire-fighting cisterns in use at Second, Third and Fifth on Main. Second Main street bridge, a steel span, built. First Lincoln school built; addition constructed later. Railroad shops burned; rebuilt at once.
- 1884 Hawthorne school built.
- 1885 Brick & Tile plant started on North Mulberry near river bank. A 3-story building at 207 S. Main and 2-story building at 107 Main erected. Locust street bridge built.
- 1886 Privately owned artificial gas plant started. Privately-owned electric plant started. City builds water works. Present Santa Fe station built. Street railway company organized. Highland cemetery laid out.
- 1887 First macadam street surface laid from Tecumseh to 7th. Horse drawn cars in use on Main street. Dunkard national picnic held at Forest Park; over 400 tents. Women voted in city and school elections for first time. Water works and first sewers in use.
- 1888 Christian church built on Cedar street. First National Bank in new quarters at Second and Main. Foundry started at First and Walnut by H. C. Branson.
- 1889 Ottawa Building & Loan Association started. Lester Greenhouse built on Hickory. Later became Jacobus, now Osburn. Electric system rebuilt.
- 1890 Building at 230 S. Main built by S. B. Rohrbaugh.
- 1891 Charlton Cottage at O. U. built.
- 1892 North wing Administration Building at O. U. constructed.
- 1893 Court House dedicated October 3. Santa Fe newspaper ad offers ticket to World's Fair at Chicago for \$11.20 round trip. S. M. Campbell, Ottawa agent.
- 1894 Ottawa University guard company of 80 formed under leadership of Maj. Robt. Atkinson.
- 1895 Hamblin House, a 3-story building at Second and Main and two other buildings burned. Three buildings erected on site. Auditorium at 317-324 Hickory burned. County Infirmary built southwest of town.
- 1896 Rohrbaugh Theater opened in 300 block on Hickory. Presbyterian church built at 3rd and Walnut. Field school built at 7th and Elm. Ottawa Herald started.
- 1897 Ottawa Wholesale Grocery Company organized.
- 1898 Marais des Cygnes river flood height of 30 to 31 feet. Washington school replaced old Central at 5th and Main. Co. K, local group of 20th Kansas, went away to Spanish-American war.
- 1899 Co. K of 20th Kansas returns from Philippines. Forest Park Memorial gate erected in honor of Co. K. First white way installed. Library on second floor of Sheldon building.
- 1900 O. U. student enrollment of 120. O. U. orchestra lists Carrie Sheldon and Howard Hayes as members. W. P. Lambertson and John Quin on O. U. team which defeated Park College in debate. Fire department building built on Walnut street.
- 1901 Bennett Ice Co. started. Underwood-

Becker building erected Third and Main. Mitchell Coop Co. organized. Centennial House burned at 4th and Walnut, site of present City Hall. Harrington house burned at Second and Walnut.

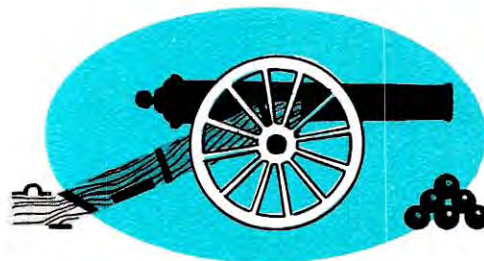
- 1902** Administration building at O. U. burned. Ottawa Condensing Co. organized. Later became Forest Park and Bennett Creamery Co. Nelson hotel built on site of old Harrington house.
- 1903** Carnegie Library built 5th and Main. Brick plant on North Locust and Wilson, now used by Lesh Oil Co. First Methodists to new church at 4th and Hickory.
- 1904** Ottawa State Bank chartered. Warner Fence Co. plant built on King street. First brick pavement laid on Main street. Highest river flood to date, crest 35.8 feet. Second railroad bridge built, replacing old one.
- 1905** City moves to take over water and light plant and starts municipal operation in 1906. Williams & Wilson elevator burned at First and Hickory.
- 1906** John Nelson building at 2nd and Walnut burned. Natural gas first used. W. A. Elliott called as pastor of First Baptist church. Contract let to S. F. Beeler to build new jail at \$13,043. Dr. S. E. Price became president of O. U.
- 1907** Nelson hotel built at 2nd and Walnut. R. A. Harris and A. L. Miller bought the Herald.
- 1908** Peoples National Bank remodeled.
- 1909** New record flood height of Marais des Cygnes, 36.75 feet. A. C. Battelle came from Chicago as superintendent of S. F. Car Shops.
- 1910** A. L. Miller sold interest in Herald to partner, R. A. Harris. Miller went to Battle Creek, Mich., as editor of newspaper there.
- 1911** Frame Millwork building on North Walnut erected. City Hall built at 4th and Walnut.
- 1912** State Bank of Ottawa merged with Franklin County Bank. Mrs. P. P. Elder died. Second Lincoln school built.
- 1913** Lesh Oil Co. organized by A. C. Carpenter. Operated first oil products delivery service (horse-drawn trucks). Ottawa Country Club chartered.
- 1914** North American building started at 3rd and Main. First planned as business building, later became hotel. Construction started on O. U. gymnasium. Last Chauqua held.
- 1915** Postoffice building completed in March. Rohrbaugh theater burned October 2. Three-story brick furniture factory building erected for George Gray at Walnut and Tecumseh. F. C. Dobson formed company to build North American building.
- 1916** Senior High School building built at 5th and Main.
- 1917** North American hotel completed. Country Club building constructed on East Logan.
- 1918** Garfield school built. Standpipe at 9th and Hickory taken down. Ottawa Car Shops burned.
- 1919** Home Savings & Loan Co. organized. Second charter granted to Ottawa Country Club. Memorial Auditorium built at Third and Hickory.
- 1920** Ward Science Hall built at Ottawa University. Ottawa Homes Co. raised \$60,350 by subscription to help relieve housing shortage.
- 1921** Ottawa Millwork of F. H. and O. E. Parks began operations, in plant north of Bennett Creamery. They purchased a plant which started in 1915. Plant later moved to North Locust, south of Wilson.
- 1922** LeMaster Syrup Factory burned, a \$12,000 loss.
- 1923** Kansas State Bank Building erected on North Main. Bank was chartered in 1917 and occupied building on South Main. First National Bank held up and robbed of \$175,000.
- 1924** Office and lavatory building erected in Santa Fe yards.
- 1925** First Methodist church addition started. Completed 1926.
- 1926** Present Main street bridge built. Junior High building replaced old Washington school. Old Hawthorne school building removed by John Nelson. New building erected.
- 1927** Masonic Temple erected.
- 1928** New record height river flood of 37.6 feet. Municipal power and water plants flooded. Several lives lost.
- 1929** Ransom Memorial hospital contract let. First movie-talkies shown.
- 1930** Construction started on Ransom hospital.
- 1931** W. L. Cayot store burned at 3rd and Main; \$100,000 loss. Dee Erickson engaged as athletic coach at O. U. Dr. W. P. Behan, new president.
- 1932** Movies shown in Memorial Auditorium, George H. Marshall became superintendent Ottawa schools.
- 1933** New addition built to Ottawa post office.
- 1934** A \$10,000 fire damaged Warner Manufacturing Co.
- 1935** New Field school built on Tremont. Dr. Andrew B. Martin became president of Ottawa U.
- 1936** New white way lights completed on South Main . . . This was driest year since 1895 and Ottawa had its longest period of water shortage in its history.
- 1937** Dr. W. P. Behan resigns as head of department of religion and philosophy at

Ottawa University and takes new position at Sioux Falls, S. D. College . . . New Eugene Field school opened.

- 1938** Another storage dam, completed on Marais des Cygnes which adds about 100 million gallons to Ottawa's water supply . . . It was voted to establish kindergartens in Hawthorne, Field and Lincoln schools.
- 1939** City water and light plant enlarged, improvements including a new steam condenser . . . Ottawa became headquarters for the Methodist church with the uniting of three smaller districts.
- 1940** U. S. 50-59 highways separation and underpass completed at south edge of town . . . Military draft came to Ottawa and lists were posted at the court house daily.
- 1941** First selectee left for Army service . . . Airport bond issue of \$90,000 approved and site approved four miles southeast of town.
- 1942** Robert W. McCoonse, last chief of Chippewa Indians, died at his home southwest of Ottawa . . . Whistle of the old Santa Fe car shops given to the city and installed at the power plant as a time signal.
- 1943** A tornado warning system was set up . . . City purchased 400 acres southeast of town for new airport.
- 1944** Work begun on new city airport . . . Ottawa Business College discontinued.
- 1945** City commissioners discussed parking meters . . . Improvements at Forest Park swimming pool announced.
- 1946** Mode O'Day Garment Manufacturing Company opened at Fourth and Main . . . City hangar moved from Conard field northeast of town to new airport southeast of city.
- 1947** Parking meters installed downtown . . . Women's Residence Hall at Ottawa University completed.
- 1948** Building which housed Bruce Manufacturing Company and Weien Furniture Store destroyed in \$300,000 fire . . . Wilson Field House completed at Ottawa University.
- 1949** An FCC permit issued for radio station KOFO . . . Recount of Ottawa's population showed city had passed 10,000 mark.
- 1950** A highway postoffice route established through Ottawa . . . Ottawa police stopped issuing warning tickets for parking meter violations and began issuing tickets carrying fines.
- 1951** A new addition for Ransom Memorial hospital approved . . . Warner Steel Products Company sold to the Comfort Equipment Company of Kansas City.
- 1952** Hickory street widened and paved from First to Fifth . . . New Garfield and Lincoln schools opened.
- 1953** A delegation of Ottawans goes to Wash-

ington, D. C. to appear before a Congressional committee to urge flood control and water conservation plan for Marais des Cygnes . . . New National Guard Armory built on West 17th street.

- 1954** Congress authorized flood control and water conservation project for Marais des Cygnes . . . New Professional office building at Fourth and Main occupied by tenants.
- 1955** South Main business district and an area in north part of town annexed . . . Two men's residence halls completed at Ottawa University. Ottawa Steel Products sold to L. A. Young Corporation.
- 1956** Bond issue of \$770,000 for Ottawa's share of local flood protection works carried by a vote of seven to one . . . Myers Library at Ottawa University built.
- 1957** New Telephone Building erected at Seventh and Main . . . First National Bank building remodeled.
- 1958** Marais des Cygnes flood control project begun . . . New Interstate highway running south of town started.
- 1959** Bids opened for building new Pomona dam by Army Engineers, important phase of flood control and water conservation for Marais des Cygnes . . . New Interstate Highway 35 completed linking Ottawa and Kansas City.
- 1960** Construction of new 3-story men's dormitory at Ottawa University started . . . Last stage of Marais des Cygnes channel work started.
- 1961** Old Locust street bridge removed in process of widening the river channel . . . First services held in new Westminster United Presbyterian church.





MINNEOLA

A mass convention was held at Centropolis, August 14, 1857. Similar conventions were held during the same summer and early fall in the Territory. The question in each convention was whether the Free State men should take part in the general election to be held October 5. They wanted the government to be controlled by bona fide citizens of the Territory, instead of as heretofore, by citizens of Missouri. Having been assured by the pledge of Gov. Walker that a full and fair vote should be had before impartial judges, they agreed to participate in the election. At that election the Free State party secured a majority, and they elected a majority of members of the Territorial Legislature.

It was at this time that the short-lived town of Minneola came into existence. Lecompton had too many pro-slavery associations connected with it to be satisfactory to the Free State Legislature as a capital. Although compelled by law to meet there, they adjourned each year for three years to Lawrence to hold their sessions. The location at Centropolis not being any more satisfactory than the associations connected with Lecompton, the idea was conceived at Lawrence of starting Minneola. Perry Fuller was the leading spirit of the enterprise. He said 1,440 acres of land, lying one mile east of Centropolis, in a fine location, could be secured for \$3,131. The several owners of the land were willing to throw their interests into a town site on condition that they be made shareholders in the town company. A large number of people were desirous of becoming stockholders and many, including several members of the Legislature, bought shares.

CENTROPOLIS

The first settlement on the site of Centropolis was by Perry Fuller in 1855. He built a frame store and traded with the Indians, securing his stock of goods from Kansas City. He soon did a large business with sales amounting to \$50,000 a year. In 1856 he took William Moore into partnership.

About this time the Centropolis Town com-

The name Minneola was suggested by E. N. Morrill. At the time the organization of the Minneola Town Company was effected, the Legislature, in session at Lawrence, passed an act under date of February 10, 1858, making Minneola the capital of the Territory. Buildings erected included a hotel and a town hall in which sessions of the Legislature were to be held, all in less than six weeks. (Eventually the town hall building was moved to Ottawa.) The Legislature that made Minneola the capital, made provision for numerous railroads, all centering there. Town lots in choice locations sold for high prices.

But the dreams of Minneola were soon shattered. The legality of the act making the town the capital was questioned. Being referred to the attorney general of the United States, he declared the law to be in violation of the Organic Act.

In the meantime the Legislature had provided for a Constitutional convention to be held at Minneola. The convention assembled March 23, 1858. James H. Lane was elected president of the convention and Samuel F. Tappan, clerk. There were 72 delegates present. To dampen the hopes of Minneola, soon after the convention was called to order, a motion was made to adjourn. The contest over this motion lasted all day and until early the morning of the 24th, when the convention adjourned to Leavenworth, reassembling there on the 25th.

Failing to become the capital, Minneola began to decline and the town passed out of existence. The delegates to this convention from Franklin county were Joel K. Goodin and Jacob G. Reese.

pany was organized with the following members: Perry Fuller, John F. Slavens, Franklin Barnes, George Powers, Samuel T. Shores, William Moore, Joel K. Goodin, George W. Smith, Benjamin C. Westfall, Samuel Mewhinney, Ralph Mayfield, Cyrus K. Holliday, William Y. Roberts and Cyrus F. Currier.

The ambition of the town company was to

found not only the county seat, but also the Territorial capital and the capital of the future state, hence the name suggested by Mr. Goodin. The town grew rapidly and lots sold for as high as \$500 each. This was in 1857 just before the similar boom growth of Minneola. In 1856 a number of business and dwelling houses were erected. Jacob Long built a trading house, and among other commodities sold liquor to the Indians. In order to break up this trade, Fuller & Moore bought Long's stock of liquor, and knocking in the heads, let it flow out onto the ground. In 1857 the Town Company built a steam saw mill, which was operated the first year by J. A. Marcell and the next year by J. M. Loos.

The year 1857 was prosperous. In all there were about 30 buildings in the town, among them four saloons and a gambling house. A school house was built in 1857. The Methodist church was organized in 1856, the Christian church in 1858, the Union Baptist in 1860, and the Dunkard in 1865. All the churches used the

schoolhouse for services, until Methodists and others built a church in 1858 which was used for a number of years by all denominations. This building was sold and another was erected by the Methodists for their exclusive use in 1880. After 1860 Centropolis made little progress.

The first newspaper in Franklin county, aside from a missionary paper published by Rev. Jotham Meeker, was started in Centropolis in 1856 by W. H. Austin. It was named the Kansas Leader. Next year it was sold to the Minneola Town Company, moved to Minneola and named, by Gen. James H. Lane, the Minneola Statesman. It was edited in turn by J. K. Goodin, Owen A. Bassett and Benjamin Sanford. When it was determined that Minneola was not to be the state capital, the Statesman suspended. The press was purchased and taken to Burlingame. The Journal was started at Centropolis in 1864 by Charles W. Goodin, son of Joel K. Goodin. It was suspended in a few months.

PEORIA CITY

Until 1857 Peoria township belonged to the Peoria, Wea and Piankeshaw Indians. In April of that year the U. S. government entered into agreement with the Indians and put the land on the market. The land was almost immediately bought up at prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$2.50 an acre. A few persons had come before that time in anticipation of the land offering.

Peoria city and township was named for the Peoria Indians, their leader being Baptiste Peoria. Peoria city is beautifully situated on a promontory projecting between the valleys of Hickory creek and the Marais des Cygnes river, about six miles east of Ottawa.

William Bateman and Alfred Johnson arrived in March, 1857. In 1860 Bateman opened a store. Next year Johnson went into partnership with him. This store was the nucleus of the town. Jacob Sumstine later operated the store, and then it came back to the Johnsons, and was still in operation by a member of the Johnson family until recent years.

Peoria figured in the strife over selection of a county seat in 1859. Peoria and Mt. Vernon (near Peoria) contended for it against Minneola and Ohio City. The county seat was then at Minneola. Peoria was successful in the vote, but was enjoined in court by Minneola and Minneola won. The first election in Peoria was held in the fall of 1857, at which there was cast but one Democratic vote.

There are some historic spots in Peoria. The original portion of the house where Mrs. Cass Coe lives, was 68 years old when she bought it

in 1918, which would indicate it was built in 1850. It is said that at an early date it was a trading post. It is known that travelers could find room and board here from perhaps the early 60's to as late as 1900 through 1910 when the John Casey family had it. Some of the travelers were preachers, salesmen and tent show people. Tent shows came through and set up near the store.

An old rock Methodist church building probably was in use as early as 1869 because a part of the Cass Coe property was then designated as the church parsonage. The Coe barn rests now on the south part of the old parsonage foundation. An uncle of the famed Bishop William A. Quayle was at one time pastor of Peoria's Methodist church, and Bishop Quayle as a boy made his home with his uncle in Peoria. As a student in Baker University, he preached in this church. The first United Brethren church, also of rock, was built on the present location in 1872. The old rock schoolhouse was in use as early as 1878 when district 14 was organized. Some say it was built in 1855. For a time it was used as a blacksmith shop. Mrs. Phoebe Rich sold the present school site on Sept. 7, 1882, signing with an X for \$50. Peoria rural high school started in 1916.

Jacob Sumstine, who came to Peoria in 1857, was county superintendent of schools before Kansas became a state. He helped to organize present school districts. He also served as probate judge and register of deeds. While he served as township assessor, he walked the en-

tire county to perform his duties.

Some of the customary violence of frontier towns occurred in Peoria. Near Howard cemetery, west of Peoria, is "Horse Thief Tree", where justice was quickly meted out to one culprit. At another time a murder was glossed over when it became known the slayer was the sheriff. The sheriff had shot the man who had jumped his claim. Two more graves in Howard cemetery are occupied by men alleged to have eaten stolen meat. The land for this cemetery was given by Harold Howard. A young man who worked for him was the first burial.

Zachary Taylor settled near Peoria in 1854, and his father's family, the Thomas Taylors, came in 1856. The Taylors were descendants of Zachary Taylor, the twelfth president of the United States. Joe Adkins was born near Peoria in 1855.

Dr. John Logan came around 1860. He sold the place where he lived to a nephew, Dr. M. L. Foster, in 1875. Dr. Foster was thought to have been in Peoria three or four years before that. When he left in 1921 he had practiced medicine in and around Peoria for 50 years.

John and Margaret Anthony preempted their claim in the east part of Peoria township in 1854. The trails to Oregon and Santa Fe both went over their land. They could often see as many as 60 wagons drawn up into a circle at night on a sheltered clearing near a spring which fed Turkey creek half a mile northeast of their cabin. Many Indians, most of them friendly, were still camped east of the creek. Some of the Indians stole the Anthonys' son Theodore and held him for three days. When they brought him back they wanted bacon. John Anthony was a barber and used cupping instruments for the letting of blood. In those days people believed illness was caused by an excess of blood. Theodore and George Anthony, sons of John Anthony, rode horseback seven miles to attend school at Stanton, in Miami county. This school was taught by William A. Quantrill in 1857. Quantrill later became a leader of Missouri border ruffians.

When Quantrill and his men headed south

OHIO CITY

A mile and a half east of Princeton is the site of Ohio City, a pioneer town and once the county seat of Franklin county. Nothing remains of it today except historic memories.

The Ohio City Town Company was organized in April, 1857, and the town was laid out the same month. It was incorporated in 1858. The streets were named for Ohio cities, including Toledo and Cincinnati. A hotel was the first building erected. It was a 2-story frame structure, the lumber for which was hauled from Kansas City. The town was to become a rest station between Westport Landing, now Kansas



Old rock Methodist church building at Peoria in use as early as 1869.

after raiding Lawrence Aug. 21, 1863, the Anthonys' Indian neighbors crept through underbrush to warn their friends. Quantrill's band, being pursued by a posse, raided the Anthony homestead of food. They gave the Anthony children trinkets and left. The posse overtook them and a battle ensued at the east edge of the Anthony farm. Several wounded men were brought back to the Anthony home to be cared for.

Edmund Lister came in 1859 and John F. Lamb in 1871. Land on which New Hope Baptist church was built was given by John F. Lamb.

When the Missouri Pacific railroad was built in 1880 it missed Peoria by a mile, and the little town failed to grow. Today it is a country village, surrounded by productive farms.

City, Mo., and Fort Scott, Kansas. Soon followed a stage barn, commissary and stone building used for a postoffice, court house, school house, and a number of homes.

The hotel burned in 1864. A second hotel was built by J. H. Cook which later became a tenant house on the farm of P. P. Elder, later a lieutenant governor of Kansas. This house was torn down in the winter of 1859-60. Elder's farm was the former town site. The first store was built by J. W. Iliff, the money being raised by popular subscription. W. E. Kibbe built the first frame house. He also taught the first school and

was the first postmaster.

The name of the postoffice was at first Bowling Green, but in time the number of Free State people increased so as to outnumber the pro-slavery men, and the name was changed to Ohio City. The building that was used for court house, school and postoffice was made of stone, 16 by 21 feet in size.

The first sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Finkbine. The first regular minister was Rev. H. C. Moys, a Methodist. P. P. Elder was the first justice of the peace, and also chairman of the county board of supervisors. The first steam mill was on Middle Creek, a short distance from the town. The town was watered by two good wells, with windmills for power. The first Fourth of July celebration was held in 1857. An arbor was built and a feast was spread at noon. Rev. Mr. Andrews was orator of the day, Rev. Mr. Finkbine was chaplain, and Mr. Kibbe read the Declaration of Independence.

One of the first, if not the first attempt to prohibit the liquor traffic by high license, was made in Ohio City. B. C. Sanford had opened a saloon. The county board attempted to close it

PRINCETON

On June 1, 1860, the U. S. government sold a half section of land to Eli Hubbard. He sold this tract to Thompson Jones in October, 1865. In 1869 the L.L. & G. railroad was extended on south from Ottawa. A siding was built near the old county seat, Ohio City. E. M. Peck of Princeton, Ill., a farmer whose immigrant car was billed to Ottawa, asked that the car be attached to the rear of a work train and be put on this siding.

No name had been given to the siding. In order to complete the billing, a name had to be given, and Mr. Peck suggested naming it for his old home town, Princeton, Ill. Mr. Peck located on a farm a mile north of the town, which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Dieterich.

In October, 1869, the town was divided into lots and blocks, and streets and alleys were laid out. The city built up rapidly and several houses were moved from Ohio City. That town had lost its fight to be the county seat. The postoffice was moved to Princeton in 1870. The first postmaster was Thomas Fletcher. The Presbyterian church was built in 1880. E. M. Peck, Henry Bacon and H. U. Bacon helped organize this church. It was disorganized in 1919. The Christian church was built in 1886 on the site of a building now in use as a city hall. The new church was built in 1896 and is still in use. Rev. Henry Martin was the first Christian minister.

by imposing a license of \$100, which he paid, and continued his business. Next year the license was raised to \$250, which he surprised everybody by paying, and he continued operation of his saloon. Later surprise was still greater when it was learned that a Mr. Weatherwax, who was an advocate of temperance, had loaned Sanford the money to pay his license.

After several election contests, Ohio City became the county seat in 1861 but by 1864 Ottawa had become a lively town, and at another election in that year Ottawa was voted the county seat. At the height of its growth Ohio City had about 150 population. As Ottawa grew, many left Ohio City. After the town was abandoned a new school building was erected on the section line. The first teacher was Miss Belle D. Davies, long time Princeton resident. After the L.L. & G. railroad was built south from Ottawa, the town of Princeton sprang up on the railroad. Some of the remaining houses in Ohio City were moved to Princeton. Several were moved to Ottawa. The cemetery was located a half mile northeast of town and included about two dozen graves. A few graves were moved to Princeton.

A stone Methodist church building was erected in 1872. In 1909 it was torn down and the present cement block edifice was built on the site. The first minister was Rev. McNulty. The first store and also the first school building were built on Main Street at the south end on the east side of the street. The first grocer was a Mr. Burnett in 1870.

The school district was organized in 1869. A bigger school was needed, so the district voted on Feb. 9, 1878, to buy an acre of land and to erect a 2-story building standing on the northwest corner of the present school yard. In 1886 an additional four acres were purchased. In 1913 a 2-story, 8-room brick building was constructed. In 1926 a gymnasium was built, and in 1929 class rooms were added for music, shop and home art use. In 1957 the east addition was built.

The first drug store was built in 1902 near the corner of Prince and Main, now the site of the Troy Brooks home. It was built by Dr. G. W. Davis and later destroyed by fire. Then a drug store was built by Dr. J. R. Thornbury on High street. The first telephone system was organized in 1903-04 and operated by Miss Belle D. Davies, in her home on Prince and High streets.

The Peoples State bank was organized in 1907, burned a number of years later, and rebuilt. In 1960 the bank was consolidated with

the Peoples National bank of Ottawa. The first depot was located near the grain elevator of today. It burned and was replaced by a depot a half block north. It was sold and removed to Ottawa in 1960. Rural mail service was started Feb. 2, 1902, there being three routes.

On Jan. 18, 1914 fire destroyed the grocery store and C. W. Gregg hardware. On Aug. 14, 1914, there was another fire that burned the R. B. Bingaman grocery, C. E. Blough hardware, Dr. Thornbury drug store, the lodge hall and a barber shop. All were rebuilt except the drug store. In 1929 Harms hall and a grocery store burned. Then in the fall of 1937 the postoffice,

POMONA

Pomona is situated 10 miles west of Ottawa on elevated land, in one of the most picturesque locations in the state, near the Marais des Cygnes river. The north side commands a fine view of timber and bluffs on the opposite of the river.

The land where the city stands was once owned by the powerful and savage Sac and Fox Indians. On Oct. 1, 1859, John McManus of Reading, Pa., by treaty acquired from the Sac and Foxes 192,310 acres in what is now Franklin, Coffey and Osage counties. He received a patent from the government. By treaty in 1861, the Sac and Fox reservation was reduced in size and the Indians were excluded from the Franklin county area.

In 1869, John H. Whetstone, agent for Reading Iron Works, purchased 15,000 acres of this land in west Franklin county, north of the Marais des Cygnes. About this time, Jonathan Parkinson bought a long stretch of land in the river bottoms north of the river. During five years previously, Mr. Whetstone was engaged in buying and selling lands at Ottawa. Ottawa had increased from 300 to over 3,000, and the population of the county had grown four fold. Mr. Whetstone planned to establish a colony. S. T. Kelsey became a partner in John Whetstone & Co. on Dec. 20, 1870. He had managed the Ottawa University Nurseries and Horticulture farm. Whetstone and Kelsey laid out small farms, and laid out and plotted Pomona. There was Main street running north and south, and Franklin street east and west. Franklin street became an immigrant trail, was later known as a branch of the Santa Fe trail. State Highway 68 now runs over it. The town contained 640 acres. A barbed wire fence enclosed each 80 acre tract outside town. They planted 130 miles of Osage Orange hedge trees as cross fences. Kelsey grew hedge as a source of supply. Many barrels of blue grass was sown on the prairies

band stand, bank, cafe and a garage were destroyed by fire. All were rebuilt. Princeton's first hotel was on Galveston, midway between Prince and High. It burned and another was built. It was torn down in 1927 and a store building and the I.O.O.F. lodge hall built.

The cemetery is in the northeast part of town, having been organized in 1867 and incorporated in 1875. Additional land was bought on the west in 1956. In 1959 it was changed to a benefit district. Princeton was supplied with electricity and the town was incorporated. In 1948 there was another fire which destroyed a large brick grocery store, in the south end of the business district.

of the colony. Pomona was named by Mr. Whetstone for the goddess of fruit.

Mr. Whetstone exacted a contract from each purchaser of land not to sell intoxicating liquors to be used as a beverage. He planted 30,000 fruit trees, and had 400 acres of apple trees. He became known as the Apple King of the county. Through grafting, he developed new varieties. He shipped apples all over the United States and exported some to Europe. He and J. L. Hawkins had started a large sorghum sugar mill, which was not successful and abandoned. Mr. Whetstone used this building and erected two others and conducted a dried and fresh apple business. He also had a cider mill. In 1898, he organized the Pomona Fruit Co. Mrs. Whetstone and Mrs. Jessie Maxey experimented at home putting up fruits, jellies and extracts for market. They met with such success that the company was formed. Twelve gasoline stoves and a large coal stove were used for boiling juices. At the peak of the business, they made from 1600 to 1800 glasses of jelly per day from various kinds of fruit, tame and wild. At one time they shipped a car of apple cores and peelings to Paris, France, for brandy making. Later they made toilet goods and bluing. All of these industries were discontinued in 1910. Mr. Whetstone also organized the Farmers Exchange in 1898 which was the forerunner of the Farmers Union Mercantile Co., now called the Farmers Union Co-op.

Rev. L. Newcomb built the first house in the colony in 1868. The first business building was erected by Rev. L. Ricksecker who operated a general store, drug store and postoffice in 1869. A. H. Stanton built a business building which was later remodeled into a hotel, called the Pomona House. Later it was called the Harrah House. It had 11 guest rooms, an office and a sample room. Nelson Reynolds erected a stone blacksmith shop in 1869. In 1870 McCord and

Wilson built a wagon shop. John Kraus & Sons erected a furniture factory in 1870.

Besides Whetstone's land purchase, there were other sizable transactions in various directions from Pomona. In 1865-66, Hon. John Palmer Usher bought from John McManus about 2,000 acres to the west. Judge Usher, a resident of Lawrence, had been first assistant secretary of the interior under President Lincoln. Later he became secretary. He died in 1889 at the age of 76. At that time a son John P. resided in Kansas City; son Linton, a cattleman was in New Mexico; and son Samuel C., a graduate of Lawrence schools lived with his mother in Lawrence. In later years John built a large stucco house on the land and resided there many years. Sam Usher was the first football coach at Kansas University.

To the south of Pomona, Jonathan Parkinson owned a large tract of land as early as 1869, lying between the river and the town. He herded cattle and sold milk in Pomona. In about 1883, Jeff Mundy went in with Parkinson in this operation. This land eventually passed into the hands of the Barse Commission Co. of Kansas City.

In 1895, Jim and John Hudelson contracted for about 2,000 acres of this land and came into possession in 1900. Some of the acreage was sold to various individuals, but the bulk of it has remained in the Hudelson family to this date. The Hudelson brothers had been in this area long before the above dates. Nicholas V. Hudelson, senior member of Hudelson & Sons, stockman of Greenwood township, came to Kansas in 1874, first stopping in Ottawa. The boys were then 5 and 7 years of age. He purchased 160 acres in Greenwood, where he began farming and feeding stock. During the winter of 1898-99 he fed over a thousand head of cattle. It is probable that he handled more stock than any other man in the county at that time. By 1899 he owned 800 acres. This he had improved from raw prairies until it ranked among the best stock farms in the locality. He bought much feed of farmers. Connected with him were his sons, John W. and James, who later became managers of a large cattle ranch of about 2,000 acres near Pomona.

John M. Dyer was a pioneer coal operator in Pomona vicinity. He came to Greenwood township in 1868, and improved a farm. For several months he was an agent of Whetstone & Barnett in the sale of their land south of the river. He had bought 86 acres. During the first year on the farm, while digging a foundation for a stable, he struck a vein of coal. In 1873, he dug out coal which he sold to the Topping mill. He opened other coal mines and took out thousands of tons of coal, supplying people in Ottawa and other towns. It was a fine quality of soft coal. Mr. Dyer was also a partner with Dr. Pasley in the drug business in Pomona.

Dr. J. F. Vigor, who came to Pomona in 1885, was for many years a doctor here. He sold out to a Dr. Minnie and returned to Ohio, but returned to Pomona and lived there until his death at 90 years. He served as city clerk and treasurer of the Methodist church many years. He combined carpentry and cabinet making with medicine. In his barn he did much of the fancy woodworking for the Methodist church.

In 1899, Abel Hensley was one of the oldest merchants in Pomona. He also operated a corn and feed mill, and carried on an exchange bank. For some years he conducted a tannery and manufactured harness and collars on a large scale. He was proprietor of a harness shop and livery business. He built a business block, several dwellings, stores and the livery barn. He had come to Pomona in 1876. He had as partners at separate times his brother-in-law, J. L. Hatfield, S. Paul, his son Frank J. and a son-in-law, Hiram Byrd. Oldtimers recall a Jewish merchant, Mr. Mindlin, who used unusual methods of advertising. He put a hypnotized man in his store window to attract attention. store window to attract attention.

H. O. Kelsey erected a flour mill in 1870 at a cost of about \$25,000. It was 2-stories, of native limestone, propelled by steam, and had up-to-date equipment. The mill burned in 1899. A livery stable was established in the early 1880's by George Parker and Sam Combs. Frank Hughes, who worked there as a boy, recalled that traveling men would be taken to the Harrah House to the sample room. To this room came Abel Hensley and others to buy merchandise. Then he would take the salesman to Quenemo and Williamsburg. About 1895, Millard Lawrence operated this livery stable. He provided a "hack" to take passengers and mail to the trains. The Chenoweth Undertaking establishment of Ottawa kept a horse-drawn hearse in the stable. Ewing Lawrence says it was his job to clean the hearse.

In 1900, E. G. Swayze built a lumber yard and rebuilt the old mill of Kelsey and Curry. The first restaurant was built in 1870 operated by William A. Jenkins for many years. It was taken down and the site used as a service station. Some of the native laths were oak and walnut. They were used by Miss Fannie Kraus in remodeling her house.

The Pomona school district was organized in 1870. School first operated on a subscription basis, in a house. The first building was erected in 1871, at a cost of \$5,000. It was two stories of native limestone and could accommodate 200 students. D. H. Starkey held an academy in the new building with over 100 pupils, operating it on a paid tuition basis. It was discontinued in 1877 at his death. In 1885 more rooms were added. It was used as the grade school for Pomona district until 1889. Music was added in 1897. A 3-year high school was held until 1911

when the fourth year was added. W. A. Vickers was principal. In 1919 bonds were voted for a Rural High School and a building was erected that year. Ten acres of ground were purchased at the east edge of town as the site. A 2-story brick was built at a cost of \$35,000. It had 13 rooms with an auditorium and a gymnasium. There have been about 636 graduates since 1889. In the spring of 1951 more bonds were voted for a new gym. The building cost \$50,000 and was ready for use in the fall of 1952. The old gym was remodeled into a shop room.

The Methodist church was organized in 1871 by Rev. William Wilkins with 35 members. The first church building was erected in 1879. A new church was built in 1894 and the old building was moved and used as a town hall. It burned in 1949. A modern new church was occupied in 1952. It is of buff brick. The Methodist parsonage was erected in 1897. The Presbyterian church was organized in 1873 by Rev. L. Newcomb with nine members. They held services in the school building until a church was built in 1879. The Assembly of God was organized by Rev. and Mrs. Charles Kersey and Mrs. Hannah Nelson in 1939. The new congregation bought the former Presbyterian church in 1940. The building burned in 1951. A new brick church was built shortly after.

The Santa Fe railroad was surveyed through here in 1872 and built in 1883. The Missouri Pacific was surveyed in 1876 and built in 1886. The Santa Fe depot, which was changed several times, is located about a mile from town. Several accidents have occurred on railroad tracks. Mrs. Will Lawrence was killed and Miss Anna Lawrence injured on Santa Fe tracks. Jim Lindsey's father was fatally injured, and John Hudelson was killed on Missouri Pacific tracks.

The Citizens State bank was chartered October 22, 1901, by E. A. May, F. E. Bodley, L. C. Bodley, M. A. Limbocker of Quenemo, and J. E. Reed of Pomona. The bank moved to a new building on April 21, 1903, and it still does business there. At the present time the bank is owned by A. A. Goppert of Kansas City. Neal Baxter is cashier.

Doctors who have served Pomona besides

Dr. J. F. Vigor, included J. T. Mackey, B. H. Pasley, Dr. Minnie, H. B. Johnson, McMahan, J. Starkweather, Corganzes, Jones and Hottle. Dr. Johnson was a member of the first graduating class. For many years he ran a drug store and sold school supplies in connection with his medical practice.

Pomona Lodge 138 A.F. & A.M. was chartered October 16, 1873. The I.O.O.F. was organized January 6, 1893. Rebekah Lodge was chartered October 10, 1893. Order of Eastern Star was organized May 14, 1908.

T. J. Mackey installed the first telephone system in 1881 or 1882. This company was abandoned in 1902 and that year F. J. Hensley opened a telephone exchange which he operated several years. It passed through several ownerships and eventually to United Telephone Co.

The Enterprise was the first newspaper, started on June 5, 1884. It was sold to A. W. Logan of Quenemo in 1902 and press and equipment were moved to Quenemo. The Republican was started October 31, 1889 by H. B. Hoyt and discontinued in 1890. It was started again in 1897 by A. S. Benton. It was taken over in 1899 by George O'Brien, who published it until 1929 when it was sold to Rev. L. B. Dobbs and moved to Williamsburg.

Rev. L. Ricksecker was the first postmaster and the postoffice was established in his store in 1870. Dr. J. W. Mackey was the second postmaster and the office was moved to his drug store in 1872. It became a first class office on January 1, 1910.

Electric lights were installed in 1914 and water was added in 1938. The beautiful City park at the west edge of town was started in 1920. Early automobile owners were A. Hensley, S. Paul and Dr. Starkweather. A picture of a parade in 1909 shows cars were in use. The Lions club was organized April 23, 1954.

A new grade school of light weight aggregate and brick veneer, was dedicated November 2, 1959. It has class rooms, kitchen, and a large multi-purpose room with stage. This room serves as an auditorium, lunch room and play room. The cost was \$170,000 to be paid by a bond issue.

LANE

Lane, located in the southeast part of Franklin County, was a favorite Indian campsite prior to formal settlement. It was also a crossing on Pottawatomie creek for the military trail connecting Ft. Leavenworth, established in 1827, and Ft. Scott, in 1842.

In material written by the late Joseph Baker, he tells of reaching the site in the fall of 1854

with his father, Joshua. Originally from Putman County, Ind., they had not seen any white men in two days of travel from Santa Fe, Mo., 10 miles south of Westport, until reaching the crossing.

There they found three Germans, the Sherman brothers, who had been living there for 12 years. Peter, the eldest, is not mentioned in his



Old Hanway cabin where John Brown hid eleven slaves early in 1859.

tories. William was the youngest and Henry, for whom the crossing was named because of his ability to talk English, seemed to be head man.

William was killed in the Pottawatomie Massacre on May 24, 1856, allegedly at the hands of John Brown and four other men, in one of the bloodiest conflicts stemming from the slavery question and attempts of Free-State men to protect themselves from Border ruffians. Henry was killed five months later when he returned to retrieve some of his property.

Dutch Henry's Crossing is now at the edge of town, but of Dutch Henry's cabin, which was a resort for Pro-Slavery settlers and border ruffians, not a trace remains. The present bridge crossing the Pottawatomie borders land held by the Shermans.

A postoffice and trading post were established in 1855 and named Shermanville. However the place was known locally as Dutch Henry's Crossing. The postoffice was abolished in August, 1856, and re-established the following spring.

On January 28, 1863, at the suggestion of Mrs. Judge John Hanway, the name of the postoffice and town was changed to Lane, in honor of Gen. James H. Lane. When the Missouri Pacific railroad was built in 1880, between Paola and LeRoy, passing nearby, a new town was laid out and platted, adjoining Lane on the northeast, and named Emerson. The new town began to build up. Dr. Jackson erected two large two-story buildings, E. R. Beeson & Co. built a store, a lumber yard opened, the Grange store was moved from Amo, and there were a hotel, a blacksmith shop and a number of dwellings.

Mr. Garrison, who built the railroad, selected the name Avondale which was retained by the station until 1881. In 1880, a petition was circulated to have the postoffice moved to Avondale. After a bitter fight between the rival towns, strife ceased in about 1881, prosperity began and peace reigned. It was then that Lane became a busy, thriving town.

The Lane Mills were built this year and a new two-story, rough coralline marble schoolhouse costing \$3,000, besides some 30 dwellings. The building was actually neither coral nor marble. It was of stone from the Hanway quarry just southwest of the town about two miles. This thriving business at one time had a payroll of 100 men. Besides furnishing stone for many of the buildings and dwellings, it provided tombstones, and lime from the kiln. The first stone postoffice in Lane, later used as a dwelling, still stands today but is used as a chicken house.

During the first six months of 1882, about 20 dwellings were erected making a total of 60. Besides these, there were about 25 business houses, two hotels, three general stores, one drug store, one boot and shoe store, two millinery stores, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, one agricultural implement depot, one marble shop, and a number of church organizations. There were about 300 residents.

Lincoln park was located just across the Pottawatomie, north from the village. In this park, in 1882, was erected a tabernacle 40 x 80 feet to which all denominations resorted for religious services.

The Lane Advance was established in 1881.

After Joshua Baker and his family built their home, it served several times as election polling place. It also was used for church services until the Baker school was built when services were held there until Baker Methodist church was built. These buildings have long since disappeared but Baker cemetery is still in use.

Today Lane has a population of 282, a gain of 82 over the figure for 10 years ago. About one-third of the population works elsewhere but find the town a good place to make their homes, and for the children to attend school.

The town is remembered for the Pottawatomie Massacre which occurred on May 24, 1856, when five men were killed allegedly by John Brown and his sons. The men were Allen Wilkinson, who kept the postoffice, William Sherman, and James P. Doyle and his two sons. It would have been regarded as ordinary murder had it been ordinary times, but it was in a new country, at a time when civil war practically existed in the border counties of Kansas.

It was said that John Brown had a plan which was "to sweep the Pottawatomie of all Pro-Slavery men living on it," when he returned to the area upon learning that Lawrence was already destroyed and an attack was expected on the Pottawatomie. Brown is reported by some

historians to have intended capturing the men and holding a trial, but when one of the Doyles attempted to escape, the plan was changed. It is reported that the men were killed with some kind of cutlasses and the bodies badly cut up. Dr. A. J. Fuller told before his death 30 years ago that his older brother Bayne turned the grindstone on which the men sharpened their cutlasses.

The story has been handed down that upon their return from going to the defense of Lawrence, John Brown and his men found the store owned and operated by Weiner and Bondi had been looted and burned. In the Doyle home they located loot from the store, which caused

some to term the massacre a just reprisal. The story of the burning of the store was confirmed by Mrs. Barton Needham, who later owned the cabin beside the store site. She could find pins and buttons for years afterward by sifting the ashes.

Conservative Free-State men strongly disapproved of the horrible massacre. This kind of warfare was not in accordance with the plans or purposes of the leaders of the Free-State movement. News of the awful affair spread rapidly through the Territory and created wild excitement. The Pottawatomie massacre was followed by a period of nearly four months of violence on both sides.

RANTOUL

One of the first settlers in the Rantoul area was Robert Reed, who came from Iowa in 1855. He went back to Iowa after a short stay, returning in 1857. By then a trading post had been established at Stanton, east of Rantoul in Miami county.

Vint Reed, one of the three sons of Robert Reed, still lives on the farm south and east of Rantoul that was owned by his parents. A settlement in that vicinity was called Reedville. The Old Rantoul school, removed a few years ago, was located near the site of the first school in the community. It was a subscription school started by Mrs. Orson Day. School was held in her home at first and then in a blacksmith shop. Two years later the first school building was erected in Rantoul where the high school now stands. This school was wrecked by a windstorm in 1869 and rebuilt at once.

Orson Day, brother-in-law of the abolitionist leader, John Brown, came in 1856. Brown already had a house built for Day, a cabin a mile and a half west of Rantoul. In payment Day sent a draft to a Springfield, Mass., arms company to pay for arms that Brown had received. The Orson Day home became a meeting house for Brown's men. A few miles south of Rantoul, John Brown, Jr., Oren Brown, Frederick Brown and Salmon Brown, sons of John Brown, selected claims and built cabins.

Other early day settlers were Hendrick Kincaid, who came in 1857; Frank Bowker, 1865; Sol A. Hester, 1856; E. D. Hawley, 1867; Simon M. Merrill, 1868; George W. Cartzdafner, 1876; the Springers, Cutlers and Greggs.

Quincy A. Seymour came in 1857. His father died and he lived on a farm with his mother until March, 1861, when he enlisted for military service. On his return from the war, he married Martha Wise, whose father built an old stone house about 1856, which is still standing in the business district. In 1882 the Sey-

mours moved to town, and succeeded in getting the Missouri Pacific Railroad to place the railroad station on their land. The railroad had been built two years before from Osawatomie to Ottawa. The original station was built on the C. C. Cutler place, west of Rantoul. At first a postoffice was opened on the Cutler farm.

It was Mrs. Cutler who gave Rantoul its name. She had read an anti-slavery speech by Robert Cutler, a prominent lawyer and a member of the Legislature of Massachusetts, and she was greatly impressed. The Cutlers became successful farmers. It was related that an apple produced on their farm took first prize in the World's Fair of 1876 at Philadelphia.

Early church services were held in homes. Eventually Baptist, Cumberland Presbyterian and Methodist churches were built.

Rantoul is in an area of oil activity. In 1904, oil was discovered on a farm east of town. The old stone house became a hotel. The population rose to between 300 and 400, many of whom had to live in tents at first. The original oil boom lasted about six years. Then the price paid for crude oil dropped to a ruinous 15 cents a barrel. Many people moved away from Rantoul and oil activity slackened. The second boom started in 1912 with discovery of oil on another farm east of town. The biggest producing well was drilled on the Fannie Seymour property. The third stage of oil operations began in 1940 when the use of water to flood old wells was started. Many wells are still being pumped that way north and east of Rantoul. Some drilling of new wells continues.

Fire destroyed most of the business district in 1914. Much of the rebuilding was done with bricks. As the town rebuilt there were two garages, a blacksmith shop, barber shop, two restaurants, a cream station, hotel, a bank (founded in 1906), meat market, three mercantile stores, ice cream parlor, lumber and grain

company. Business was so good there were three telegraph operators at the railroad station and two local and two passenger trains stopped daily. It was during the term that J. F. Duffield served as mayor that various improvements were made. He was an oil operator. New houses were built, streets were improved and a sidewalk was laid to the grade school building. Mayor Duffield was also influential in bringing electricity to Rantoul.

Bonds were voted in 1916 for a rural high

school building. Later a gymnasium was erected.

In 1921, the bank safe was dynamited and the burglars fled with a large sum of money. In 1926 the bank was closed for liquidation, but it was reorganized within four days and reopened. The bank was sold during World War I when the president went into the army. It was never reopened and the bank building became a restaurant.

IMES

Harmon Imes, wife and two older children came to Franklin county in the fall of 1865 from Illinois. They lived with a sister of his, Julie Young and family just west of Imes, while building their log cabin. Seven more children were born in this house. In 1885 he built a 3-story house now standing in Imes. This stood just northeast of the log cabin.

In 1880 the Missouri Pacific Railroad was built through the Imes farm, and the station was named for him. The town was once Lyle, then Laramore before finally becoming Imes. Harmon Imes was station agent and postmaster for 20 years. He also operated a general store. He died in 1919.

At one time Imes had two general stores, two blacksmith shops, an elevator and stockyards besides the railroad station and postoffice in a store. Imes never had a school or a church, but Mr. Imes helped to organize Pacific Valley school district 36, west of town, in 1878. Children attended school there and people went

to church in Peoria.

Mrs. W. H. (Phyllis Mock) Williams, granddaughter of Mr. Imes, who supplied the information for this article, remembers the store, the loading of grain to be shipped, and says it was quite an event when cattle were driven through town to the stockyards. Her father, George Mock, always helped.

Henry Mock owned one blacksmith shop. The house he built still stands. He died in 1905. Mrs. Williams' grandfather, Joseph Mock, lived his last years with Henry Mock. He died in 1894. Charles Kaub was another smithy. A house where Mrs. Williams was born stood north of the tracks until the flood of 1951. A little house where she lived for 18 years still stands. That place was homesteaded by William Judson in 1854. Another house still standing was built by John Mock. A cemetery just south of Imes where at least seven of the Davisons are buried was in use from 1857 to 1876.

EMERALD

About one-third of the well known Emerald community is in Franklin county, a small portion in Coffey county, and the largest part in Anderson county, but as a community it knows no county lines.

The first Irish immigrants to settle in the Emerald area came in 1857, the McManus family, followed very soon by the families of Dan Doolin, Tom and Henry Collins, Hugh McEvoy, Tom McGlenn, Mike Glennan and others. The McGraths and Reddingtons came in 1859, and the McLindons, Campbells and Grants in 1860. There were no more new settlers until after the Civil War. In 1867-68 came the John Doolins, Cotters, Mooneys and O'Neills. These newcomers had relatives here and they brought large families.

The settlers came to escape alien or landlord

rule in Ireland where they had been reduced to virtual peonage. Cheap land lured them. They built log houses. They danced and were happy here where each was a landlord in a land of boundless opportunity. They started as farmers with ox teams. When they had developed herds of cattle, tilling the soil became a side line until the free range was all fenced. That put something of a crimp in the early prosperity.

From 1870-75 the majority built better homes and the rag carpets drove the home dancers to the school house for entertainment. About 1850 the spring wagon and store carpet put the lumber wagon and the rag carpet on the bum. Later the family carriage and the Brussels carpet came on the scene. Now it's rugs and autos, but it was a long journey from the ox team to the gas wagon.

These pioneers were a hardy, healthy industrious people. Dan Doolin and John Doyle lived to be over 90 years of age, proving that hard work does not kill. Mike Glennon, Dennis Doyle and Pat McLindon lived 80 to 85 years.

The first log church was built about 1861. A stone church was erected a few years later. The present Emerald church was started about 35 years ago, costing around \$15,000. Artists from Luxembourg did the interior decorating, and it was said to be the finest cathedral in Kansas at its completion. For years there was no resident priest. A priest from Scipio drove out once or twice a month. The first resident pastor was Finis Tiagurse. He died there and is the only priest buried in Emerald cemetery.

The Emerald postoffice was established about 1868 at the home of Terence McGrath on the stage route from Ottawa to Burlington. There were always four stage horses ready at McGrath's. The stage driver rushed four horses from Ottawa, took dinner at McGrath's, changed horses, and rushed them to Burlington for supper, then back the next day. This stage

line carried passengers and mail, with freight on top, until the Santa Fe reached Garnett. McGrath had the postoffice 12 to 15 years. It was moved first to Tom McGlinn's, then to John Doolin's. At the death of Mr. and Mrs. Doolin, Rosy Doyle ran it until R.F.D. put it out of business.

In the last 70 years Emerald has turned out five lawyers, two doctors, an efficient corps of teachers and trained nurses, and many World War veterans. Two of them, Edwin McGlinchy and Andrew German died, and the rest came home. On Memorial day, flags fly over the graves of the following who took part in the Civil war: Pat Reddington, Ezra Dickson, John McEvoy, Terence McGrath, Tom McGlinn, Patrick Campbell and Daniel Doolin.

The pioneers who came from Ireland are all gone and their children are old. Many have gone hunting the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow, or have found work more profitable and less strenuous than farming. But when death comes, their last request is to be brought home to sleep with their fathers.

WILLIAMSBURG

Thirty thousand acres of land were purchased of the Sac & Fox Indians by William B. McKeen and of him by the Southern division of the Kansas Pacific Railway company, through the advice of E. M. Bartholomew at that time land commissioner of the railroad.

Attracted by the abundance of excellent coal in that area, a number of persons purchased land in 1867, among them M. V. Swift. Permanent settlements were made in 1868 by Roger Hickock, A. C. Henderson, Albert Supernaw, William Schofield and others.

James F. Dane and Mr. Schofield owned the townsite and the latter named the town Williamsburg. In June the town company built the first house, a frame one and a half stories high. The second building was of stone, erected in the spring of 1869 by Rev. C. Holman, for use as a store. After a year or two Mr. Holman sold to D. Fogle. Dr. Aitken opened a grocery store in 1870 and John Boston started a wagon shop in 1870. Lott Wainwright started a blacksmith shop in 1869.

Mr. Schofield was a born leader. He was instrumental in bringing the railroad to town. He interested an eastern man, who agreed to pay for the railroad construction work five miles at a time, after each five miles were completed. This Schofield undertook to do, and in the years 1875-76, he succeeded in getting the first train into the village. During the construction, Mr. Schofield boarded some 40 men in a

long 2-story wooden structure. In this boarding hall was organized the first Methodist Sunday school. He was credited with having donated the cemetery site.

D. Fogle, who came to town in 1869, was one of the town's leaders. He farmed until 1873, when he bought a small stock of groceries from Rev. Holman, and began a career of merchandising that continued uninterruptedly until his death in 1931. He was Methodist Sunday school superintendent for 39 years.

E. M. Bartholomew founded the bank in 1882. He was an Episcopalian and active in helping establish the Episcopal church. The bank was chartered under state law in 1898 and was conducted for many years by W. S. Finley and his son, J. R. Finley. J. W. Olson also opened a bank in 1882. The Methodist church was organized in 1868 by Rev. A. K. Johnson with about 12 members. They used the schoolhouse until 1878 when they built a stone church at a cost of about \$2,500. St. Barnabas Episcopal church was organized in 1878 by Rev. L. L. Holden. In 1882 they completed a church edifice at a cost of about \$1,400. School district 51 was organized July 16, 1868, and a schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1870. The first school was taught the following winter by Miss Helen M. Beardsley. Henry Diestelhorst was largely instrumental in securing funds to erect the Christian church. He was the town's first undertaker and embalmer, and operated

a furniture store. Here much walnut furniture was made by hand.

The town's doctors included Dr. G. K. Janes, who came from medical college to form a partnership with Dr. McMillan, who with Drs. Rogers and Robbins had been in the field before. Dr. Janes became active in many affairs. He was a bank director and a member of the school board.

J. H. Ransom came to Williamsburg before he finally settled in Ransomville. He opened extensive coal mines northeast of town and a deep shaft in town. He built a colony of homes in the northeast part of town, known as Brooklyn.

J. F. Bennett established a newspaper, the Williamsburg Gazette in 1880. He was a widely

known Masonic leader in the state. He was the eldest brother of B. D. Bennett and Mrs. Hugh Wallis of Ottawa.

Coal mining was a profitable enterprise in the Williamsburg area for many years. Within a radius of one to five miles, there were said to be deposits sufficient to last the community for generations. Mining has declined since the advent of competitive fuels. The coal in the Williamsburg area was high grade. It was mostly mined and sold direct from mine to consumer. At one time the Williamsburg Coal company had a capacity of 25 to 30 tons daily. Other mines were operated by one or two men at a mine. Coal was sold to markets within a radius of 20 to 50 miles.



RANSOMVILLE

Ransomville, three miles east of Williamsburg, was named for James H. (Cap) Ransom, who came to Kansas from Chautauqua County, New York, in 1868.

In 1879 he bought 40 acres of land in what is now Homewood township, and opened a mine to produce coal for the Kansas City, Burlington and Santa Fe Railway. As a result, the town grew to a population of 300, with 35 small frame houses, the homes of miners. Miners came from Pennsylvania and other eastern states and several European immigrants found work in the mines. Mr. Ransom opened a general store and was appointed postmaster in 1882.

During the 1890's, he began to realize the limitations of the comparatively thin vein of coal in this area and that it could not be mined in competition with the deeper veins of southern Kansas. He turned his attention to a con-

struction business and to agriculture. He purchased additional land and engaged in the business of buying and selling grain and livestock. Later, he opened the Ransomville Creamery Co., a skimming station to which farmers from many miles around brought their milk. The cream was sold and the skimmed milk hauled back to the producing farms for livestock and poultry feed. In 1906 he brought the first registered Guernsey cattle to this area and the herd he built from this foundation continues today.

At the time of his death in 1914, the mines were closed and the store and postoffice discontinued shortly thereafter. Production of coal continued in the vicinities of Williamsburg and Ransomville in varying degrees, mostly from drift mines operated by individuals to supply local needs, and continued through the thirties and forties. Mining expanded somewhat during the depression years and proved to be an important economic factor in the community.

SILKVILLE

An unusual settlement in the early days of Franklin county was Silkville, 20 miles southwest of Ottawa. It was in existence from 1869 to 1892.

Early in 1869, Ernest Valetton de Boissiere purchased 3,600 acres and by 1870 had planted 20 acres of mulberry trees, which grew rapidly. He imported silk worms from California

and later from Japan. Silk manufacture began in 1869 with the production of silk ribbons, and by 1870 broad goods were being woven. The looms had a capacity of 224 yards a day. The quality of silk was equal to that of the best Italian silk, and in 1876 won a blue ribbon at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. A small boy at the time, William Fogle recalls seeing this exhibit. He is still living at Williamsburg.

However, the enterprise was short-lived. De Boissiere came to establish a communal, a self-sufficient colony, bringing 40 workers from France, some experts in the silk field. The French silk weavers learned English and found that for the price they deposited to become members of the communal colony they could homestead a quarter section of land. De Boissiere's cooperative farm plan lost its appeal. Profits did not come up to expectations. The death of his friend, Charles Sears, who managed the operation, also was a blow to him.

It is estimated that de Boissiere spent \$130,000 in furthering his colony. A 60-room colony house which accommodated 80 to 100 persons burned in 1916. He had a library of 2,500 volumes. Included in the settlement was a large 3-story frame cheese and butter factory, a stone building for the feeding of the silkworms, a grade school, ice house, blacksmith shop, stable and barns.

RICHMOND

Although the town of Richmond was not laid out until 1870, its early history is definitely connected with the settlement of Berea, a community established in 1857. In that year Rev. J. N. Smith brought a small company of United Presbyterians to this community, located about three miles east of Richmond. Here he organized a church under the name "Berean", and in 1858 he led in the building of a church, the first church of that denomination to be built west of the Mississippi. In the same year a town was laid out, and in 1863 a postoffice was established. A school was opened in 1861, and an associate Presbyterian church was established in 1867. A store built by the town company and a half dozen houses completed the settlement.

When in 1870 the postoffice was moved to Richmond, this Berean settlement came to an end. Richmond had become a "railroad town", for in 1870 the L. L. and G. (Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston) railroad built a line to a point one mile south of Richmond.

It was ten years earlier in June of 1860 that the government had issued to a James Robb a patent on the land now known as Richmond.

Silk activities were greatly curtailed after 1882, but were retained on an experimental basis in the hope that a new machine to facilitate the reeling process might be developed. In 1886 the culture of silk was abandoned entirely.

A satisfactory economic basis for the farm was attained, but De Boissiere wanted more than this. He wanted his communal colony to expand, but found it impossible to attract enough associates to a cooperative way of life. This frustration led to his return to France in 1884. He was a member of a wealthy family near Bordeaux, a graduate with high honors from a polytechnic school, and served as an engineer in the French army. He was a violinist, and was often accompanied by Ella Fogle, daughter of Daniel Fogle, pioneer of Williamsburg.

De Boissiere returned to the United States in 1892, and expressed a desire that the property at Silkville be bequeathed to the state or to some institution for the establishment of an orphan's home or school. The property, then valued at \$125,000, was presented to the Kansas Odd Fellows lodge for an orphan's home. This home was under the direction of L. C. Stine, the father of Mrs. C. M. Harris of Ottawa. It accommodated 30 to 40 children. After a few years the Odd Fellows decided not to retain it as an orphan's home and it was sold and became a private farm. De Boissiere died in France in 1894.

This land was in turn transferred to three or four other men and finally in 1869 to the L. L. and G. railroad, later to become the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. John C. Richmond, general agent, is said to have donated 40 acres of land for the town site and to have requested that the town be called Richmond. In March, 1864, he built a home in Ottawa, its location being the northeast corner of Walnut and First streets. Evidence seems to show that Mr. Richmond was a friend of Isaac Kalloch, who was a member of the town company that established Ottawa.

In 1871 Thomas B. Kelsey moved from Berea to Richmond and built the first blacksmith shop. His brother, J. F. Kelsey, ran a general store which had been started by George Harshberger, Richmond's first merchant. This store was in the depot, which served for a number of purposes.

The first church to be organized was the Presbyterian in 1871 with Rev. Mr. Lyman as pastor; the second was the Methodist Episcopal in 1877 with Rev. Mr. Feables as pastor. At first the two congregations met in the one room

school house, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Then in 1879 the Presbyterians built their church and in 1882 the Methodists, theirs. In 1884 the United Presbyterian group decided to leave Berea and to build a church in Richmond. The St. Theresa Catholic church was built much later, in 1925. It is a branch of the Saint Boniface church at Scipio, said to be the oldest congregation in Anderson county. Two of the churches merged and formed the Methodist Community church.

The schools have kept pace with the growth of the town. In 1889 a two-story frame building was erected. In 1922 a Rural High School district was established and a new building erected. A grade school building was built in 1925, and a large modern gymnasium has been provided. An excellent small library has been established to serve the public. A recreational center has been provided in the City Park. The famous Richmond band has added entertainment.

The first bank was a private bank, started

by C. E. Putnam in 1894. The Peoples National bank started a branch in 1908 and the First National in 1919. In 1929 these two banks merged and became the Peoples National bank.

As Richmond is located in a rich agricultural district, many of the residents of that area have been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising. The 4-H program is highly developed. Richmond is called the Shetland pony capital of Kansas.

Among the early business enterprises developed before the opening of the century were a hotel, a livery barn, and a creamery. Now Richmond with a population of about 450 has a lumber yard, two general merchandise stores, a hardware and implement store, a plumbing and heating shop, four service stations, a Farmer's Co-op., a grain elevator, and a feed store. With its fine City Lake it has its own water system, and it is served by the Kansas City Power and Light company and by the Cities Service Gas company.

BEREA

Rev. J. N. Smith brought into the southern part of the county, in 1857, a small group of United Presbyterians. They united in a church called Berean. The first house of worship was erected in 1858, of native lumber. In 1870 a larger and better frame building was constructed. A town was laid out in 1858, but it did not grow as a town. A postoffice was established in 1863.

The Associate Presbyterians built a church in 1867. These two churches, a store built by the town company, a schoolhouse built in 1861, and a half dozen houses constituted the town.

When in 1870 the postoffice was moved to Richmond, a new town on the Santa Fe, three miles west, this ended the town. The settlement of Berea has remained.

WELLSVILLE

Wellsville is located in the northeast corner of Franklin county. Prior to 1870, the Kansas City and Santa Fe Railroad was laying a railroad through this section of the county and as it neared completion in the summer of 1870, P. P. Elder of Franklin county and J. J. B. Shute of Chicago, purchased the town site from J. Emerson for \$8,740.54.

Mr. Shute plotted the town site. The town was named for P. L. Wells, a civil engineer, who was working for the railroad. In August of that year, J. C. Sinclair and C. C. Cox built the first dwelling house and that fall, H. N. Brockway opened the first store. About the same time, Aaron Brown started the first blacksmith shop. The second store was opened in 1872 by Parker and Ray. A hotel was opened in 1875, originally designed as a residence, later made into a hotel. A drug store was started in 1876 by Paul Leberrier. In 1877, an elevator

was built at a cost of \$5,000 with a capacity of 1200 bushels. 1878 saw the beginning of a wagon shop and the following year, the town site was purchased by E. E. Wilkins, who pursued a liberal policy towards persons desiring to locate for business and residential purposes. This policy did much toward the building up of Wellsville.

The first school, a tuition school, was started in 1867 and taught by Mrs. Hattie Upson. In 1871, the first public school was established and the first teacher there was Miss Stella Brown. In 1881, at a cost of \$3500, a new school house was erected with a capacity of 260 students. This structure served until 1913 when another building was built and faced the east on West 6th street. New school buildings were added to the school system in 1955 and 1958.

The postoffice was established in 1872. W. S. Brockway was appointed the first postmaster

and served in that capacity for many years.

Catharine Kennedy was the first person born in Wellsville. This was in the year 1870. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kennedy. The first marriage was that of John Hefsey and Miss Della Tinny on Christmas Day 1878.

Shortly after the establishment of the town, several churches were organized and buildings were erected. The Congregational church was organized in 1873 by Rev. T. C. Kinney. A church was built that year at a cost of \$1400. They started with eight members, which grew to 50 within 10 years.

The Baptist church was organized in 1875 by Rev. J. T. Stevens and a church erected in 1877 at a cost of \$2,000. Membership in 1883 was sixty. A new church was completed in 1922. The Methodist church was organized in 1881 and a church was erected the same year. In 1901, fire destroyed that building and a new church was built in 1902. The Holiness church was erected in 1892.

On April 20, 1882, the first publication of the Wellsville News was by H. M. Bennett. Within three months of its establishment, it had attained a circulation of three hundred. In October of that year, the name was changed to

RICHTER COMMUNITY

In 1882 there was no bridge over the Marais des Cygnès river where the West Seventh road or Highway 68 now crosses. A stage operated between Pomona and Ottawa and the Wilson street road was the road over which this community west of Ottawa communicated with that city. The Santa Fe railroad was built through this area in 1883, and the Missouri Pacific came through in 1885 or thereabouts. About 1890 H. L. T. Skinner, who owned a clothing store at 202 South Main in Ottawa, built a store at Richter which was known as the Iverne Mercantile Co. It was named after his daughter, Iverne Skinner. This store was operated continuously until 1940.

According to tradition, Richter derived its name from a Missouri Pacific engineer. A blacksmith shop and one house was built about the same time as the store. The house still stands and is the home of Trem Fisher. These buildings and the farm house where B. F. Heidner lives constituted the town of Richter. About 1896 a depot was built and an agent hired by the Santa Fe. A postoffice was operated in the store with the storekeeper serving as postmaster. A star route was run from this office to the farm home of A. E. Clark, six miles north and two west of Richter, and a postoffice was operated in this home. These postoffices and the

the Transcript and printed until March, 1884. The Wellsville Globe was established in 1890 by F. S. and A. L. Rice. The Globe changed hands several times and in 1898 Asa F. Converse became the publisher, who operated the paper until his death in 1942. Mae Frank Converse continued the paper until April 22, 1957 at which time it was sold to Dean Richards.

The Wellsville bank was organized in 1885. Wellsville has continued to grow and in 1960 had a population of 984.

Wellsville had the distinction of being the "English Blue Grass Capital" of the world during the period of 1900 to approximately 1918. During this time, meadowfescue grass was grown in the surrounding country and the seed sold by auction in Wellsville.

Oil was discovered in 1915 in the area and development reached a height during the years 1917 and 1918. Oil is still being produced through secondary recovery methods.

In 1916, a community and city hall was completed at a cost of \$9,000. The year 1926 saw the installation of a city water system and plans were adopted to build a sewer disposal system.

Wellsville is the second largest town in Franklin county.

star route were discontinued with the coming of rural free delivery in 1901.

In 1896 a bridge was built across the river between Ottawa and Richter. It was a cable suspension type and collapsed in the flood of 1903. It was replaced by a steel structure which stood until 1950 when the present modern concrete bridge was built.

In 1899 a Methodist church was organized and a church building built on land donated by H. L. T. Skinner. Richter Methodist Church was dedicated in July of 1900 and services have been held continuously since that time. Prior to the building of this church, Sunday services were being held in Silver Lake schoolhouse, about a mile west of Richter.

Another Methodist church, the Oakland church, was built in 1896 and used until 1945 when the building was sold and many of the members came into the Richter church. Three school districts were included in Richter community, Silver Lake, Oakland, and Davy. Oakland school, three miles north of Richter, was given a lease by John Parkinson as school district No. 10 in Dec., 1869. This was not recorded until Aug. 4, 1900. The first school building on this site was of stone construction and seems to have been in use until 1927 when a new frame building was built. Davy school was organized

at a later date and built on land donated by Mr. Davy. Davy school is still in use but school is no longer held at Oakland. Silver Lake district consolidated with Pomona in 1952 and shortly thereafter the building was sold and removed.

In 1906 a grain elevator was built at Richter by the Williams-Wilson Grain Co. of Ottawa. Prior to the building of the elevator grain was handled manually, shelled and loaded into cars. Thousands of bushels of corn were piled on the

ground at times waiting to be shelled and loaded.

In 1915 a bridge was built across the river south of Richter making communication with land area south of the river much easier than by fording. Depot service on the railroad was discontinued about 1908 and the depot building replaced with a small shelter. For some years following removal of the agent trains would stop for passengers when flagged.

LE LOUP

Le Loup, a town eight miles northeast of Ottawa and a station on the Santa Fe, was first named Ferguson, after Robert Ferguson. He was one of the first settlers and owned the land on which the town was located. Among those who located early at Le Loup, or Ferguson, were J. A. Stonebraker, who in company with Mr. Ferguson built the first house in 1870; William Hogan, George Morley and Dr. Combs. The postoffice was established in 1870, Mr. Stonebraker being appointed first postmaster. In that year Stonebraker opened the first store. The first school was taught by Cyrus Jenkins, in

1879. The first sermon was preached in the depot building in 1872 by Rev. Dr. Pile.

Old settlers said that in the early years of the town its progress was retarded by the sale and use of whiskey.

It is written in Andreas' history that Robert M. Ferguson, farmer and stock raiser came to Franklin county from Illinois in the spring of 1876; that he was married in the fall of 1878 to Miss Mary Lister, a daughter of Edmund Lister, another extensive producer of livestock in that area.

NORWOOD

Norwood, in the northern part of Franklin county, is on the Santa Fe line between Lawrence and Ottawa. It was named for Henry Ward Beecher's novel of that title. The post-

office was established in 1873. At one time Norwood contained a store, postoffice and about 40 inhabitants. There is no postoffice nor railroad service at present.

MOUNT VERNON

Mount Vernon, a spot in eastern Franklin county not far from Peoria, was one of the early contenders for the county seat, but in reality it was not even a village. According to H. F. Shel-

don in his article on the county seat squabbles, Johnny Sands was the sole owner and the only inhabitant of the place. Mr. Sheldon refers to Sands as "a unique character." Sands operated a store.

HOMEWOOD

Homewood is a village on the Burlington branch of the Santa Fe. It is in a fine agricultural district. The railroad has no station there now, and there is no postoffice.





Cultural and Religious Activities

OTTAWA CHAUTAUQUA ASSEMBLY

Less than 20 years after Ottawa was incorporated and became a town of the second class, it gained fame in Kansas, as well as in neighboring states, as the home of the Chautauqua Assembly. This Assembly, the second largest of its kind, was established in 1883, and it brought to the Middlewest area a cultural program that enriched the lives of thousands of all ages.

It was the first offspring of the Mother Chautauqua of Chautauqua Lake, N.Y., and to understand and appreciate its purpose and program, one should trace its parentage to this original Chautauqua.

During the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant, two men embarked upon an adventure that succeeded far beyond their expectations. One of them was an enterprising business man of Akron, Ohio, Lewis Miller, who also was an inventor and the father of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison. The other was a brilliant young clergyman of Plainfield, N. J., Dr. John H. Vincent, who later became a bishop in the Methodist church. These men were concerned about the religious education of the youth, and together they sought a suitable place where they might conduct a school of methods for Sunday school teachers. They chose Fair Point on the shores of beautiful Lake Chautauqua, Chautauqua county, New York. Here church representatives of all denominations were invited to spend a few days studying together "the Word and the Works of God", and also the techniques of good teaching under competent instructors.

That was the beginning of the Chautauqua movement. On August 4, 1874, the first Assembly was opened, a two weeks session of lectures, sermons, and conferences. This Sunday School Institute became in 1888 the Chautauqua Assembly, and later was known as the Chautauqua Institute. The charter stated that it was created "to promote the physical, intellectual, moral and religious welfare of the people." Through the years this Institute has expanded its program. Each summer it still welcomes thousands of people to its Assembly, which is held during July and August. Music, science, art, religion,

university credit courses, and recreation can be enjoyed. Eighty attractive buildings have been erected. The heart of the program is supplied by the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, known as the C.L.S.C. and founded in 1878 by Bishop Vincent. Thousands have enrolled in this four-year reading course, a study of the literature and history of many nations, science, art and social issues. These classes have carried the Chautauqua program across the nation.

From this great Chautauqua Institute of New York stemmed the Ottawa Chautauqua Assembly, called at times the Mother Chautauqua of the West. The Ottawa Chautauqua borrowed and followed the original course in most respects, including the C.L.S.C. four-year reading plan. Some of the leaders and directors of the New York Chautauqua came here to participate in the Assembly.

Dr. John H. Vincent came to Kansas in 1878 to lecture before the Kansas State Sunday School Association meeting in Emporia, and according to some accounts he visited Ottawa at that time. Soon plans were made for a summer camp, and Bismarck Grove, near Lawrence, was chosen as the site for the encampment. There the first Assembly was held from August 26 to September 4, 1879. A second session was also held in Bismarck Grove.

As passenger traffic at that time was not heavy, annual encampments greatly interested the railroads, and competition arose among them for the location of this assembly. The directors submitted the site for bids. The Kansas Pacific, now the Union Pacific, owned Bismarck Grove, and the road wanted the Assembly to be permanent there. The Santa Fe favored Topeka, and the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf offered Merriam Park in Kansas City. The Kansas Pacific offered to light and police Bismarck Grove, and provide free transportation for 10 Chautauqua workers and speakers. The Santa Fe made a similar offer, but it was Bismarck Grove that was chosen for the second session. The third session was held in Hartzel Park, To-



William Howard Taft (center) a featured Chautauqua speaker arriving in 1906.

peka, and the fourth again in Bismarck Grove.

Why was Ottawa chosen as the site for the fifth session? What could Ottawa offer that was more attractive? And what about the influence of the railroads? Moreover, who was chiefly responsible in bringing the Assembly to this town? These questions can be answered, at least in part.

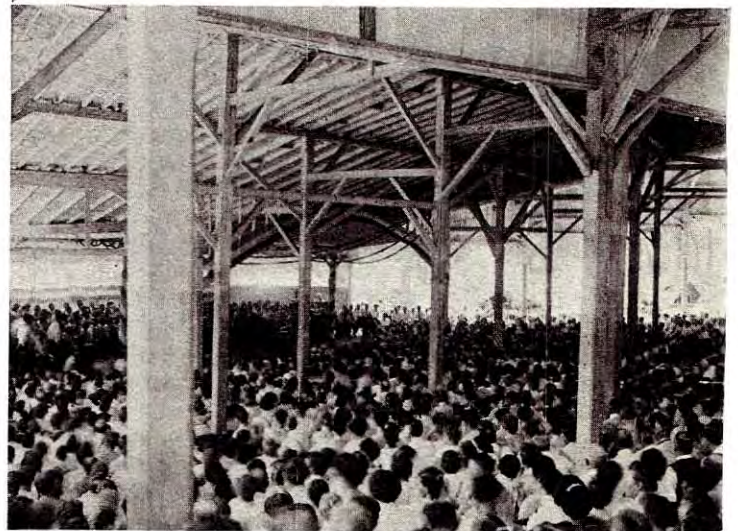
First, Ottawa could offer beautiful Forest Park, situated on the banks of the Marais des Cygnes river and located a block west of the Santa Fe station. When the original town plot was surveyed in 1864, a strip of land lying on the north side of the river was set apart and designated as Forest Park. These seven acres were covered with native shade trees. In 1870 the city increased the acreage to 37, and in 1885 17 additional acres were purchased and added to the park. The Santa Fe could appreciate the advantages of this fine park.

But even more influential were the good citizens of Ottawa who became greatly interested in the Chautauqua movement and identified themselves with it. They formed a stock company, sold stock to many Ottawans, and made

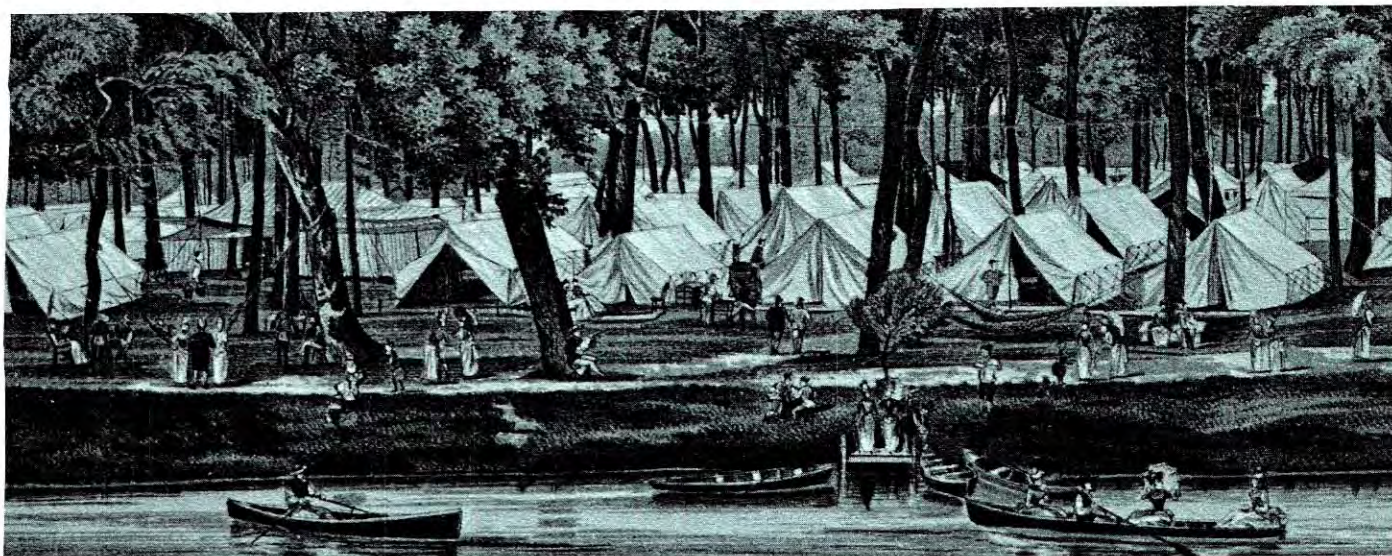
sure that the 1883 session would be held here. The Ottawa Daily Republican promoted their cause, and the citizens soon built a tabernacle in the park. This tabernacle, which seated 2,000, was modeled after the tabernacle of Lake Chautauqua, N.Y. Later it was enlarged to seat 10,000.

The Rev. Duncan Chambers Milner, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Ottawa, had a significant part in bringing the Chautauqua here. In 1882 he had been elected president of the Kansas Chautauqua and had had previous Chautauqua experience. He had been asked by Bishop Vincent to further the Chautauqua program in the middle west. Dr. Milner believed that the citizens of Ottawa would appreciate such a program, for as he wrote, "Ottawa was settled by superior people from New England and New York, also from Ohio and Illinois."

So it was that the first session of the Ottawa Chautauqua Assembly was held in the year 1883, and each year thereafter until 1914, the first regular Chautauqua in the middle west. The two weeks session each June provided people of all ages with a variety of classes and programs designed to promote the lofty ideals set by the great Mother Chautauqua. Some of the outstanding instructors who came direct from Lake Chautauqua, were Dr. Jesse L. Hurlbut, who led in Bible study; Prof. W. F. Sherwin, who led a large chorus and gave professional training to its members and who wrote the Chautauqua hymn, "Day is Dying in the West," first sung here; Frank Beard, "chalk talker" and humorist; Mrs. Isabella Alden, who wrote children's books under the name of "Pansy," and who taught children's classes; and Frances Willard, who organized the W.C.T.U. in Kansas and who promoted that organization here.



Chautauqua tabernacle brought culture and fame to Ottawa.



Camp Forest Park, about 1889, in old Chautauqua days.

The Park became a city of tents, hundreds of them, occupied for two weeks each year by Ottawa families and also by large groups from neighboring villages and towns of Kansas, and from neighboring states. As this was a family encampment, classes were provided for kindergartners, boys and girls, adults, both men and women—in fact for all. The program began at 6:30 a.m. and did not end until 10 p.m. Although there were variations through the years, the following schedule is a sample of Chautauqua activities:

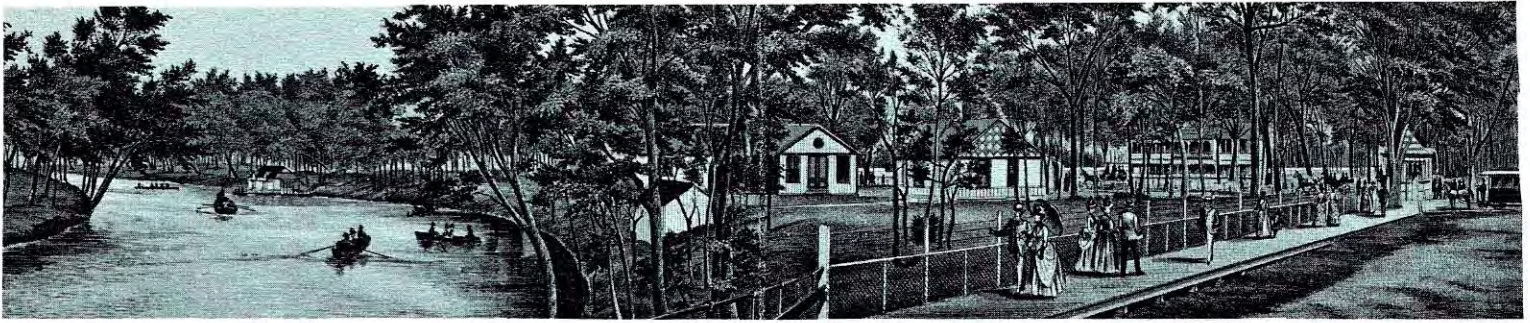
- A.M. 6:30 Morning Worship.
- 8:00 Bible study under Dr. Hurlbut.
- 9:00 A variety of classes for Sunday school workers, children, missionary groups, women's council, choruses.
- 10:00 Sunday school hour, Dr. Hurlbut; also various classes.
- 11:00 Morning lecture, literature or science.
- P.M. 2:00 Afternoon lecture, outstanding speakers; kindergarten and youth classes.
- 4:00 Normal classes, chorus training.
- 5:00 C.L.S.C. roundtable
- W.C.T.U. roundtable
- Children's singing classes
- 7:00 Concert band
- 8:00 evening lecture, or entertainment.

There were "special" days each year: Grand Army of the Republic Recognition day, on which graduates of the C.L.S.C. 4-year reading courses were granted diplomas and marched under decorated arches that designated attainments; Children's day, when large excursions brought hundreds of children to Ottawa; Club day and Temperance day. And special, too, were the days when U. S. presidents and ex-presidents spoke, and also distinguished states-

men and national leaders and generals. When Gen. John A. Logan spoke in 1886 the attendance was more than 10,000, according to reports, and when William Jennings Bryan lectured in 1897 attendance again was 10,000.

Among other eminent national speakers were ex-President Rutherford B. Hayes, President William McKinley, President Warren G. Harding, President William H. Taft, President Theodore Roosevelt, Gen. John Gordon, Gen. O. O. Howard, Gen. Gibson, Gen. John C. Black, Gen. Chaffee, who commanded American forces in Cuba, and the famous Corporal Tanner; statesmen Sen. Dolliver, Sen. Cummins, Gov. Johnson, Sen. LaFollette, Rep. Cannon, Sen. Gore, Sen. John J. Ingalls, Sen. Murdock, Sen. J. L. Bristow, Clarence A. Darrow, Rep. Champ Clark; churchmen and educators, Dr. Lyman Abbott, T. Dewit Talmadge, Bishops Fowler, Vincent, McIntyre, Foss, Hendrix, Newell Dwight Hillis, Rev. Frank Gunsalus, Booker T. Washington, Graham Taylor, Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, Bishop William A. Quayle, Billy Sunday, Sam Jones. Women of distinction included Jane Addams of Hull House, Susan B. Anthony, Meddie Hamilton, Margaret Hill McCarter, Mrs. M. G. Kennedy of Philadelphia, leader of Bible classes. Also there were many professional soloists and musical groups.

For all the lectures, classes and conferences, buildings had been erected as needed. First came the Tabernacle, and in turn the Dining hall, the Cottage or caretaker's home, the Secretary's office, the Hall of Philosophy with its Greek columns, the Assembly hall, all attractive and substantial buildings. Later Willard hall was built in honor of Frances Willard, founder of the W.C.T.U. and Chautauqua lecturer, and Prentis hall in honor of Mrs. Noble Prentis, leader of the Women's Council and advocate of legislation favorable to women.



Boathouse

Dining Hall

Cottage

Assembly Hall

Entrance

Panorama view of Forest Park.

What has become of these buildings, none of which now stand in the park? The many floods of the Marais des Cygnes damaged them, of course, and disuse contributed to their decadence. Since they were not needed after 1914, no money was made available for repairs. Just 10 years ago the Dining hall, the last landmark was torn down. For many years the Franklin County Fair did make use of some of the buildings, but long before the Fair was moved to a location at the south edge of town several years ago, most of the buildings were gone.

It was a series of floods in 1915 that brought an end to the famous Chautauqua Assembly, and made it impossible to carry out the program that year.

Perhaps the Chautauqua could not have been financed much longer, anyway, for it would have had to compete with the motion picture and radio, and later it would have met with television competition. Then, too, a Circuit Chautauqua had been started in this part of the country about 10 years before the Ottawa Chautauqua came to an end. Although this Circuit Chautauqua had stemmed from the original

Chautauqua, it is not to be confused with it, for it did not follow the great Chautauqua ideals and program. It was first promoted by Keith Vawter of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who was managing a bureau that supplied lecturers and entertainers for Chautauquas and who conceived the idea of organizing a Chautauqua company that would travel from town to town, thus reducing expenses. Charles F. Horner of Kansas City entered the management, and for years the Redpath-Horner Summer Chautauqua covered all states of the Southwest. Lectures and entertainments comprised the programs.

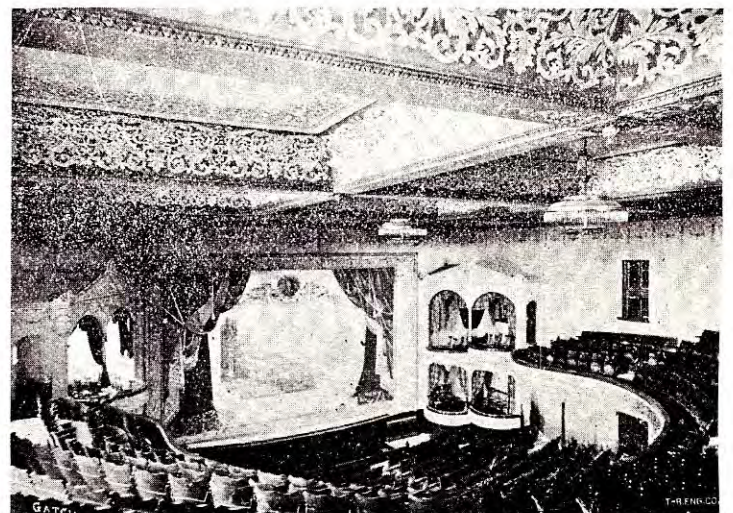
In the twenties even these circuit Chautauquas had run their course. Yet, for decades, at least, they brought to millions of people some excellent music and many lectures of great merit. They were truly a cultural force.

It can be justly claimed that the great Ottawa Chautauqua Assembly richly blessed the lives of many Ottawans of all ages and the lives of hosts of visitors from other Kansas towns and from towns of neighboring states. For 30 years it kept the faith of its founders, affording mental improvement, spiritual growth and suitable recreation for all who attended its sessions.

THE ROHRBAUGH THEATER

Ottawa's most famous theater stood on Hickory street south of where Memorial Auditorium is today. One view is of the front of the Rohrbaugh. The other shows the interior. On the curtain was a picture of Mrs. Nelle Hubbard Philippi, who was a niece of Col. Samuel B. Rohrbaugh, who built the theater. Fire destroyed the building Oct. 2, 1915.

The Rohrbaugh was opened January 31, 1896, with the great Salvini and his company presenting "The Three Guardsmen." Many famous persons and touring theatrical and musical groups appeared on its stage during its 20 years of use. People came to see plays and other entertainment from Topeka, Kansas City, Lawrence, Emporia.



Interior of Rohrbaugh theater.

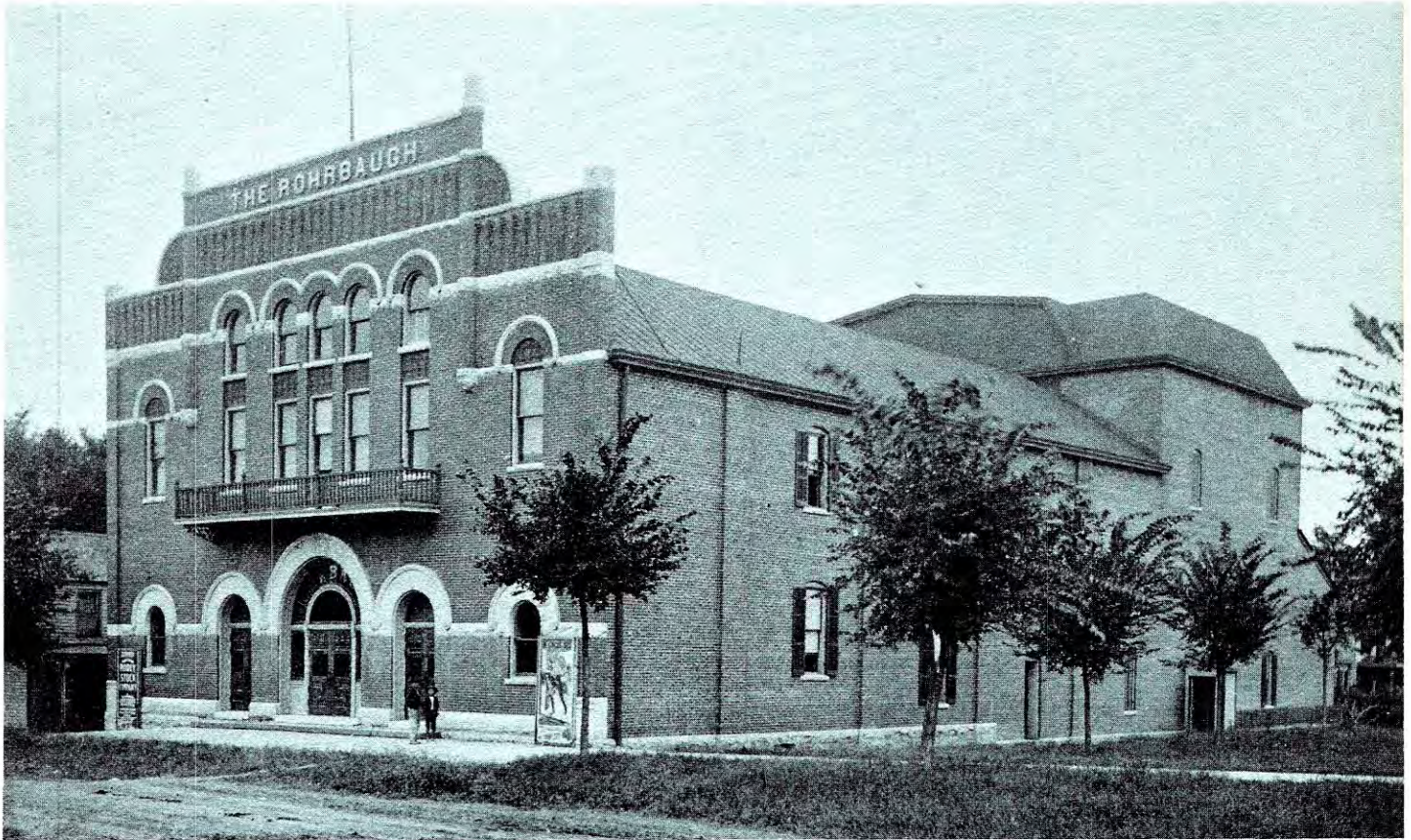
The opening night was a gala occasion, with a capacity audience of 800. Visitors included a former governor of Kansas, George T. Anthony, who after running a newspaper in Ottawa had moved to Topeka, Attorney General Dawes, State School Supt. E. Stanley, Harold T. Chase, editor of the Capital, all of Topeka; Frank Jarrell of the Kansas City Times, and Frank Montgomery of the Kansas City Journal.

Over the years such greats in the music world as singers Schumann-Heink, Nordica, Langendorff, Morini, Towne, and violinists Maude Powell and Ole Theobaldi were to thrill great audiences.

Preceding the Rohrbaugh that burned in 1915, was the Auditorium, which was conceived

by Col. Rohrbaugh. It also stood on lots on Hickory, across from the Court House. Originally built for a skating rink in 1886, Col. Rohrbaugh traded for the building in 1887 and sold it to parties who converted it into a carriage factory. But in 1889 he again became the owner, and remodeled the building into a theater, which was christened the Auditorium. This theater then was described as "best in the state and equal to any in Kansas City." Fire destroyed it on March 2, 1895. This was just three weeks after the Hamblin block fire, and included in that loss was an opera house which Col. Rohrbaugh had built. (See Hamblin House picture elsewhere.)

Col. Rohrbaugh's loss in the Auditorium fire



was estimated at \$23,000. But he was determined that Ottawa should have another theater and public hall. So with funds of his own and \$6,000 raised by public subscription, he built and opened the Rohrbaugh in 1896. It was Ottawa's pride and joy until it burned in 1915.

After the death of Col. Rohrbaugh in 1907, the theater went to his nephew, Sam R. Hubbard. In a few years was organized a theater company to take it over. The owners were Dr. John B. Davis, prominent physician, president; George P. Washburn, architect, vice president; Mr. Hubbard, lumberman, secretary; F. C. Dobson, banker, treasurer; and B. D. Bennett, ice

dealer and creamery owner. It was said that the Rohrbaugh, while serving Ottawa well, was never a financial success.

Before his death, Col. Rohrbaugh built a home south of the theater for his sister-in-law, Mrs. E. P. Hubbard, which is now the Lamb Funeral Home.

Ottawa was without adequate public hall facilities until Memorial Auditorium, a municipal building, was erected in 1919 as a war memorial.

Col. Rohrbaugh tried to fill the need for a theater as early as the seventies. After the Hamblin block at Second and Main had been

built in 1867-68, H. F. Sheldon added a third story and fitted up a town hall and court room. Later Rohrbaugh constructed a building on the south and added a stage. This was Ottawa's first opera house. This Hamblin block, including the opera house, burned a short time before the Auditorium.

Col. Rohrbaugh went into the lumber business at Third and Hickory shortly after he came to Ottawa in 1869. At his death he was rated as one of the wealthiest men in town. He had invested in real estate and erected several business buildings. His energy and enterprise were

not confined to personal profit. He was also interested in things that helped to build a better town. He was a benefactor to the First Methodist church.

Ottawa had other facilities for public gatherings that became a part of the public scene. One of these is the Ring-Smith-Barker building at Second and Main known now as Zellner hall. Built in 1885, it is still in use. Its third floor auditorium was in general use many years. Shaner hall, on West Second, also provided facilities for public meetings.

CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY

It was in March of 1873 that the Ottawa Library had its beginnings. A group of eight Ottawa women contributed one dollar each to a common fund for the purpose of forming a library. Eight books were purchased and a small circulating library was established. Mrs. M. L. Ward, Mrs. Ruth Giffen, Mrs. A. W. Adams, Mrs. H. J. Smith, Mrs. H. H. Ludington, Mrs. A. H. Knapp, Mrs. D. M. Brown and Mrs. P. P. Elder were the original contributing members.

By September of the same year, with one hundred members and ninety-seven books, the Ottawa Library Association was organized. With Mrs. M. L. Ward as president, Miss Lucy Hatch as vice-president, Mrs. L. N. Stacher as treasurer, Mrs. S. G. Norris as secretary and Mrs. H. H. Ludington, Mrs. C. D. Crane and A. W. Benson serving as the board of directors, the Ottawa Library Association began its long and successful career.

Two alert members of the board of directors, Mrs. R. S. Black and Mrs. R. A. Wasson, were directly responsible for securing through Andrew Carnegie the \$15,000 which made possible the present library building. In 1903, the stockholders and owners of the Ottawa Library Association transferred all property to the Ottawa Free Public Library. From this date on, and in accordance with existing laws, the Ottawa Library has been a tax-supported institution.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF OTTAWA

In November, 1864, Jacob Sumstine, county superintendent of instruction, formed District No. 0, which included the part of Franklin county known as Franklin township. The area was immense including what is now Ottawa, Harrison and Lincoln townships and the region west to the Osage county line. Later the Ottawa district was reduced in size and designated as No. 30, the present designation.

On October 27, 1903, the Carnegie Free Library held its formal opening in the new building designed by George P. Washburn of Ottawa. Miss Julia Walsh, Librarian, and the following members of the board of directors provided the program and reception: Mrs. A. Dobson, President; E. M. Sheldon, Vice-President; A. E. Skinner, Treasurer; Mrs. R. W. Wasson, Secretary; F. M. Harris, H. A. Dunn, J. D. Krum, William Wallace, H. Furness, W. S. Jenks, W. F. Brown and Mrs. R. S. Black.

Many improvements and developments of the building and equipment have been made possible through the generosity of some of Ottawa's citizens. Bequests from individuals interested in improving and promoting library services for the public have played an important role in the growth of Ottawa's library facilities.

The children's room, a department for those from pre-school age through the eighth grade, is a reality because of the generous bequest of Dr. Andrew Bruce Waring.

Housing some 22,000 volumes, the Library has 5,000 registered borrowers who checked 61,000 books during 1961. Those members who are currently serving on the board of trustees are: Don Madtson, President; Harold Crawford, Vice-President; James Chandler, Treasurer; Miss Louise Walker, Secretary; and Mrs. B. F. Park, Mrs. Lyman Corlis, jr., Mrs. John Kelsey.

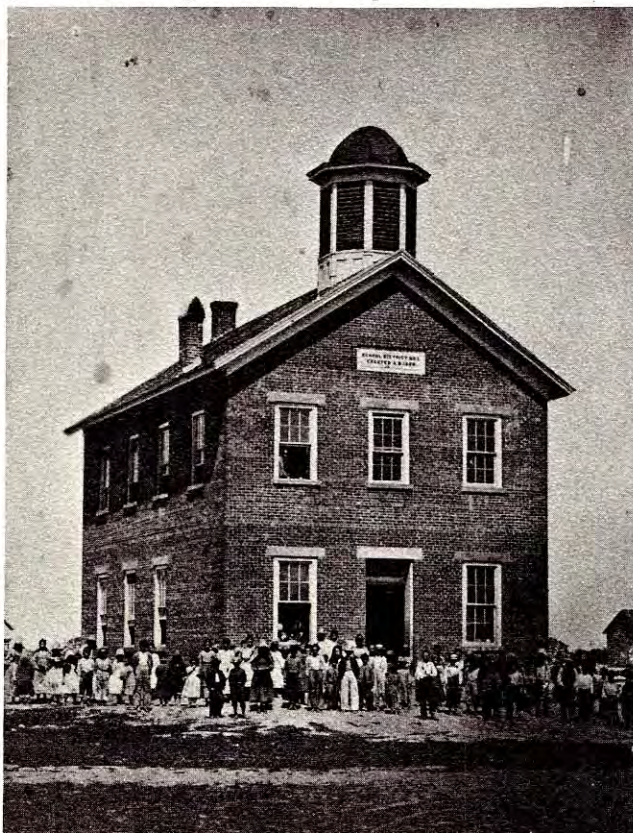
The first school meeting was held November 23, 1864. Asa A. Lathrop was made treasurer and H. F. Sheldon, secretary. Somewhat later a contract was signed by Miss Mary Ward to teach the common school of the district for \$50 a month for four months beginning January 4, 1865. Miss Ward later became the wife of Horace J. Smith, for many years president of the First National bank.



Miss Mary F. Ward . . . Ottawa's first school teacher—1865.

In 1898, Mrs. Smith writing of the first school said, "The only available room suitable for school purposes was in Town Hall, on the second floor of a two-story building moved earlier from Minneola. On Sunday this room was used for church purposes; on week days it was a court room, and the place for general public meetings; in the evenings it was a place for social affairs. A few changes were necessary to transform the church, court room and town hall into a school room. A large blackboard was installed and a few desks to supplement the long tables already there. Ottawa at that time had about 50 families, but on the opening day of school, to my great surprise there were 100 pupils en-

First school built in 1865, stood near the present fire department headquarters.



rolled, ranging in age from five years to that of the school m'am. The large number was due to the immense area of the school district. Some were refugees from the south, wanderers until the war should be over. Many were from eastern families living in Ottawa. School books of all kinds were brought which must be used because there was no money to buy others. Two of those first pupils were Jennie Whetstone, later Mrs. W. T. Pickerell, and Del Valentine, later a leading editor in Kansas. The next term of school began January 2, 1866, with two teachers for white children, and one teacher for colored children who numbered only seven.

Ottawa had been platted in 1864 and the growing little town sensed the need for better educational facilities. There was now in process



Central School at Fifth and Main, opened 1873.

of construction a two-story brick building on Walnut street between Third and Fourth streets. The building was dedicated in October, 1866. There were four teachers in the new school. It housed only white children. Colored children were taught in a building on west side of Locust street, between First and Second.

In 1867 Ottawa became a city of the second class, and therefore a school board of two members from each ward was elected. The new school board included Ed. Smith, Judd, Rev. Greaves and Milo Harris.

In 1869, William Wheeler was elected first superintendent of schools and he served several years. Through his work and planning there was improved classification, better school room work and greater unity of purpose. He took an active interest also in all cultural efforts in the new city.

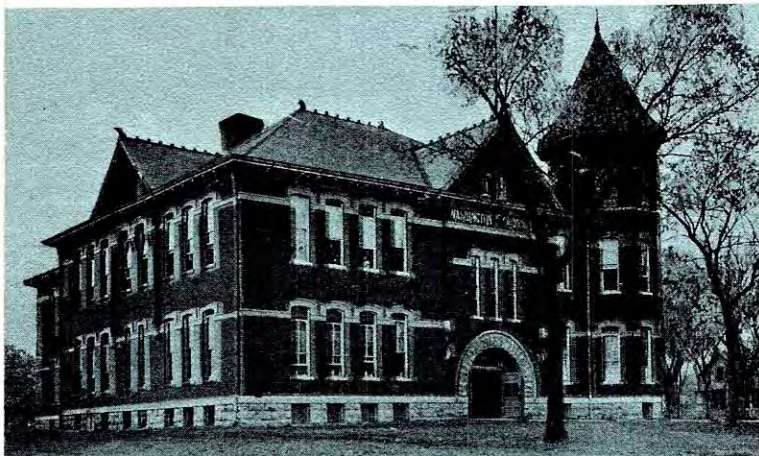
In 1870, at a meeting of the board of education, the secretary recorded that separate schools for white and colored children were done away with, because the board felt the 15th amendment could not be disregarded. Credit

should be given to these board members who dared to integrate their schools. Nearby towns of comparable size continued segregated schools for many years.

At this same board meeting in 1870, action was taken, owing to the crowded condition of the schools, in regard to erection of a central school, a union school in a central location for all the children, white and colored. The committee appointed reported as follows: "Your committee recommends that proper steps be taken immediately to procure that portion of College Park, lying on the west side of Main street, for the purpose of erecting a fine central school house, and for ornamentation of the grounds and planting of trees." This is the location of the present Junior High building. The new building was to cost \$10,000.

The big Central school of 12 rooms opened in April, 1873, was as fine as any in the state, and it was the pride and joy of early Ottawans. A public reception marked its opening. The Central school had three stories. The top floor was given over to the High School, the second floor to Grades 5-6-7-8, and the first floor to Grades 1-2-3-4. It should be noted that this building was provided during a period of "tight" money.

In 1884 the Second Ward School was built at Fifth and Poplar. It was replaced by Hawthorne in 1926. The first North Side school, later to be called Lincoln, was built in 1883. It was replaced in 1912. The present spacious Lincoln was built in 1952. The first Eugene Field building at 7th and Elm was erected in 1896. The



Washington School, Fifth and Main, was completed in 1898.

present fine Field building on Tremont was built in 1935. The first Garfield school was built at 11th and Cedar in 1918, and the present one at 12th and College in 1952.

The Senior High building at Fifth and Main was built in 1898. At that time there were 1,710

students in the public schools and the High School enrollment was 168. Incidentally, the Senior High location was first occupied by Central later known as Washington.

During the 1916-17 year, the high school became so overcrowded that classes were held at City library, City hall and over the Kaiser drug store. Bonds were voted in 1918 for a new high school building. Junior High was built in 1927.

School boards have been elected from representative citizenry. Sometimes women are chosen. Mrs. Myra K. Mottram and Mrs. W. H. Clark were early day members, and in recent years Mrs. Fred Kaiser has served.

In the nearly 90 years since the election of Mr. Wheeler as first superintendent, there have been 12 superintendents: Calvin Esterly, P. S. Halleck, G. I. Harvey, A. S. Olin, Frank P. Smith, William Sinclair, James H. Adams, A. L. Bell, A. F. Senter, George H. Marshall and Henry Parker. The long tenure of service by these superintendents has contributed to successful administration.

The moral and physical as well as the educational needs of the children have been considered. Curriculums have been enlarged in recent years. Television and the Joplin reading plan have been introduced. Ottawa is rated Class A and is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. High school graduates may enter the State Universities with their High School diplomas.

Today Ottawa has six modern school buildings, a faculty of 109 teachers, including superintendent and principals. There are special teachers for music, guidance and speech correction, a school nurse and truant officer.

For more than 50 years instruction in music has been given. At first there was vocal instruction only. Now instrumental music is included. Some years ago Ottawans took pride in a High School orchestra organized and directed by the late Clarence A. Peacock. This organization took national honors. Today there are good bands and choirs.

Athletics is a popular extra-curricular activity, which includes team competition. The late R. E. Gowans, long-time High School principal (1907-1943), did much to promote interest, competition and prowess in athletics. Regular physical education classes are conducted.

Parent-teacher associations are active in each school.

A high tribute was once paid in the Kansas City Star to Ottawa's strong interest in public education: "In the early days when other towns went in for real estate booms and blueprint railroads, Ottawa went in for education. When Ottawa was poor and interest rates were 2 percent a month, Ottawa gave the bonds for a new schoolhouse a big majority. In poverty, Ottawa laid the foundation for its schools of today."

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

In 1837 Missionary Jotham Meeker came from Shawnee Mission to minister to the Ottawa Indians, recently moved from Ohio to what is now Franklin county. He fostered a taste for education. While he was here he and John Tecumseh (Tauy) Jones became acquainted. Jones was an interpreter on the Pottawatomie Indian reservation, adjoining the Ottawa reservation. Born of mixed parentage, his father English, his mother Chippewa, he was educated at McCoy's Mission Station in Fort Wayne, Ind. and at Colgate (Madison) University, where Jotham Meeker had been trained. He came to Kansas in 1838. He was an able successor to Jotham Meeker among the Ottawa Indians. He was a successful farmer and business man, as evidenced by the beautiful home that he built on Tauy creek, northeast of Ottawa, at a probable cost of \$20,000. Mr. Jones' second wife, Jane Kelley, was a missionary to the Ottawas. He died in 1873, his wife Jane in 1901.

John Tecumseh Jones was regarded as the founder of Ottawa University, for he encouraged the Ottawa Indians to make a grant of land for the college. On Feb. 27, 1860, the Territorial Legislature approved a charter for Roger Williams University, a project which was not promoted because of the approaching Civil War. That year Mr. Jones in the first state convention of Baptists, at Atchison, suggested that the Indians endow a school with a grant of land. As a result, Indian leaders met with the trustees of the non-existent Roger Williams University, and it was agreed that the Indians furnish a section of land on which the college was to be located and 20,000 acres additional as a trust, to be administered by a board of trustees, four Indians and three whites. The Baptists agreed to build, equip and operate the school. This agreement was ratified by a government treaty in Washington, July 24, 1862. The treaty provided that 5,000 acres be sold for funds to erect a building.

The charter for the University was granted April 21, 1865, by Probate Judge William Tulloss. Isaac S. Kalloch, one of the trustees served as president of the college 1866-68.

In 1866 a school was opened in a building on the corner of Hickory and Second streets, opposite the present postoffice site. At first both Indians and whites attended, but soon there was a division, the whites attending a school in a building on Main street. In the spring of 1869 the first college building on the campus was completed. This building in its remodeled state today is called Tauy Jones Hall.

The Ottawa Indians moved to Indian Territory in 1869-70, and probably because they no longer lived here, friction began to arise. The

Indians filed a suit in Franklin county district court in 1871, alleging mismanagement of the school. It was claimed that the facilities were not being used in a proper manner. Robert Atkinson, who was the school's business manager, secured several continuances of the hearing for about two years. Then the Indians' representatives went to Washington seeking redress of what they thought were wrongs. Congress passed an act in 1873 to give the school property back to the Indians. Atkinson went to Washington, got the ear of President Grant, and persuaded the President to issue a stay of execution. At the next session, Congress repealed the law and an investigation was ordered. Congress set up a commission which went to Lawrence



Tauy Jones Hall, first building at Ottawa University, completed in 1869.

and held hearings. As a result, the issue was settled. It was provided Ottawa University was to have one-half of 1,280 acres, including the college farm and site. The other half went to the Baptist Missionary Society. John C. Richmond and H. F. Sheldon were designated to make the selection of the 1,280 acres. Final agreement was signed Oct. 29, 1873. From 1876 to 1881 Philo Williams, a graduate of Dartmouth, served as president, and from 1881 to 1883, T. M. Stewart was president. During these terms the two leaders faced financial difficulties.

With a new board of trustees in control, the management of the college improved. It was in 1883 that Dr. Milan L. Ward was chosen as president. He served until 1887, when he resigned and became head of the mathematics department in Bluemont college, Manhattan, later to become Kansas State Agricultural college. But Dr. Ward soon returned to Ottawa University as head of the mathematics department. A scientist, he imparted a scientific emphasis, and it has prevailed to this day. Ward Science Hall was named in his honor.

The first commencement of the college was held in 1886, with one graduate, Joseph W. Stokes. Two years later there were two, Alice

Boomer and Jennie Sherman. Prior to 1887, the Academy, or preparatory school, was the main part of the institution. Under the leadership of George L. Sutherland (1887-1890) the college department took the lead. He promoted an endowment campaign. Dr. Franklin Johnson, president from 1890-1892, made a distinct contribution to scholastic standards. His memory is perpetuated as the author of the college hymn, "My Ottawa." Charlton Cottage, still in use as a girls' dormitory, was built in 1891. Mrs. O. C. Charlton was active in raising funds. Dr. T. W. Colegrove served as president 1892-96. He was a great scholar and did much to raise scholastic requirements.

For nine years (1896-1905) Dr. J. D. S. Riggs served as president. During this period the new administration building was built, and rebuilt after a fire gutted the building on the eve of the 1902 session. The endowment was increased and the student enrollment reached 650, including students of the academy and business college. For one year, 1905-06, Dr. R. A. Schwegler served as acting president. He went to K.U. as a member of the faculty there.

Dr. Silas E. Price, pastor of Ottawa First Baptist church, became president in 1906 and served 18 years as an able administrator. Ottawa University made remarkable progress. The building program included a new stone gymnasium to replace an ancient wood structure, a fine science building named Ward Hall, the reconditioning and remodeling of the old science building, to be known thereafter as Tauy Jones Hall, and the building of the Central Heating Plant. Under Dr. Price's leadership the curriculum was expanded, the faculty increased, and the student enrollment increased to 490. For the first time deans were employed to aid in the administration of the school. A spirit of loyalty and cooperation was engendered in the college and among Kansas Baptists. Two well known teachers, Dr. Rolvix Harlan and Dr. Charles O. Hardy were members of the faculty.

Upon the resignation of Dr. Price in 1924, Dr. Erdmann Smith succeeded. During his term, 1924-31, a campaign to raise \$750,000 was started. By Dec. 31, 1928, \$556,742 was pledged, of which \$214,572 was received. General economic disturbance made collections difficult. In 1925 the Academy was discontinued. By 1930 the college enrollment had fallen to 225 students.

OTTAWA CHURCHES

First Baptist was organized in 1837, when Rev. Jotham Meeker was a missionary among the Ottawa Indians. Meeker died in 1855, and John T. (Tauy) Jones, who had been associated with

After Dr. Smith left, Dean Warren P. Behan became acting president and served from 1931 to 1935. During those difficult years his kind, generous and fair spirit instilled the confidence of the students, faculty and trustees, and friends, but the financial problems were not solved.

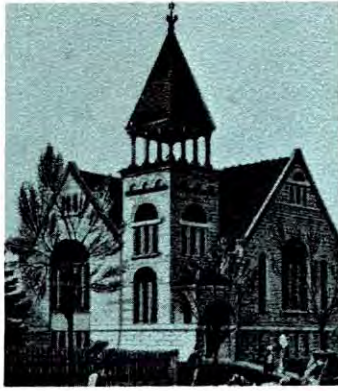
To face these problems Dr. Andrew B. Martin was chosen president, assuming his duties in October, 1935. During the 25 years of his administration several financial campaigns were inaugurated. Some large gifts have greatly contributed to security. Dr. and Mrs. George E. Myers, former students, gave \$300,000 for the fine Library building, and C. O. Mammel \$250,000 for the beautiful Art Center.

Dr. Martin has led in the greatest campus development of the college. Under his direction five new buildings have been erected—three residence halls, the Myers Library, Mammel Art Center, and Wilson field house, the latter named for a long time head of the biology department, a greatly beloved teacher. A new residence hall for 104 men will be completed in 1961, and in the planning stage is a Student Union building. Other projected developments include enlargement of Ward Science Hall, a second residence hall for women, and a chapel—perhaps to be realized by the time the college celebrates its Centennial in 1965. At the observance of Dr. Martin's 25 years as president in October, 1960, the women's residence hall was named Martin Hall in his honor.

The student enrollment has passed the 500 mark and the faculty staff includes 42 teachers. The curriculum has been expanded, a new plan of general education introduced, and an honors study program developed. The University is controlled by an elected board of trustees. It is a cooperative agency of the Kansas Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention. The campus of 33 acres has a dozen buildings, and there are four others used as dormitories off campus.

Fires have taken their toll. In 1875, the only college building, now Tauy Jones Hall, was gutted by fire. It was rebuilt. A new administration building was destroyed by fire in 1902. From the disaster there arose a new and larger building which was opened in 1904. In 1945 fire partially destroyed the gymnasium. It was rebuilt for student dining, and the new Wilson Field house was erected.

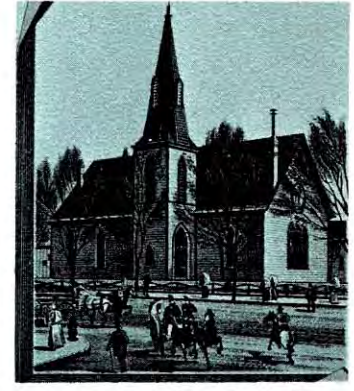
him, and was an ordained minister, became pastor and remained in that capacity until dispersion of the Indians in 1870. He held services in a small schoolhouse for Indian children.



*First Christian Church on Cedar,
south of Third.*



*United Presbyterian Church,
Third and Walnut.*



*Congregational Church as it ap-
peared at Third and Hickory.*

The Second Baptist (now the First Baptist) was organized in 1864. Rev. I. S. Kalloch was chairman and Rev. C. C. Hutchinson secretary at the organization meeting. The first building was erected in 1865 at Fourth and Main. The original part of the present building at Fourth and Hickory was erected in 1886. The auditorium portion was occupied in 1895. An educational wing was added in 1958.

The First Methodists organized in 1866. A large edifice was erected at Third and Walnut next year. It was the largest church building in town. In 1903 the church built the present church at Fourth and Hickory, and the Evangelical Lutheran church, which later disbanded, took over the old Methodist building. The Methodists dedicated their Sunday School Temple, adjoining the main building, in 1926. A small chapel was provided in 1959.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1866. After holding services in Pickrell hall and the schoolhouse on Walnut, in 1867 a stone building was built at Fifth and Main. The present building at Fifth and Main was constructed in 1895. The Congregationalists, who had a church at Third and Hickory, and the Presbyterians formed the Federated church in 1916 and this arrangement continued until 1958, when Congregationalists became members of the Presbyterian group. The name was changed to Westminster United Presbyterian. The church has completed recently a new edifice at 13th and Maple.

The Christian church, formed in 1866, first had a building at Fifth and Locust, erected in 1872. In 1888 the Christians built on Cedar between Third and Fourth, and in 1958 the present fine structure at 11th and Hickory was erected. The building at Fifth and Locust was sold to Grace Episcopal in 1889.

The United Presbyterian church was organized in 1867, and later the group erected a building at 6th and Cedar. The present building at Third and Walnut was erected in the early nineties. The building at Sixth and Cedar was used for a time by the Church of the Brethren.

The Third Baptist church (Negro) was organized in 1867. Later the name was changed to Bethany Chapel. The house of worship is at Second and Poplar.

The first Catholic church in Ottawa, the Church of St. Joseph, was organized in 1869. The first building, started in 1871, was started on Poplar between Fourth and Fifth. While incomplete a gale wrecked it. Services were held in various town-halls, and a small house of worship was arranged in a dwelling on Mulberry and Third in 1884. This was enlarged later. Sacred Heart church was erected on the present site at Fourth and Cedar in 1907. After this was destroyed by fire, another edifice was built in 1913. That building burned and another new church, the present one, was built in 1940. For a number of years a church for persons of Mexican ancestry, known as Guardian of Angels church, stood at Locust and Wilson.

The First Congregational church was formed in 1870. A house of worship was built at Third and Hickory in 1871. The Congregationalists federated with the Presbyterians in 1916 and in 1958 merged with the Presbyterians.

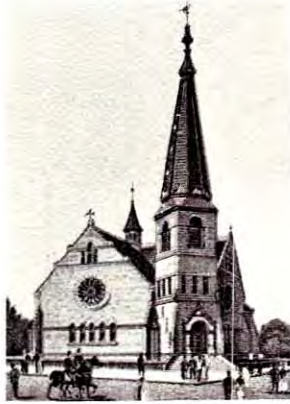
The African Methodist church was organized in 1869. The present building on Oak between Fourth and Fifth was constructed in 1879.

Grace Episcopal church was organized in 1867. Worship was held in various places, and in 1889 a building at Fifth and Locust was bought from the Christian congregation. The present beautiful edifice on that site was built in 1950. Many prominent Ottawa citizens were members of Grace church over the years. The local congregation was known as Holy Comforter Episcopal Mission after its organization until about 1890, when it became Grace church. It is interesting to note that Grace Guild was organized in 1887.

The Swedish-American Lutheran church was formed in 1879 and built a stone building at Fifth and Cedar.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in 1874 and built at Third and Cedar.

The Church of Christ organized in 1881. Most



First Baptist Church, Fourth and Hickory.

of the members had been identified with the Christian church. Their withdrawal was occasioned by the introduction in the services of instrumental music and other innovations. They built on Main between Fourth and Fifth.

Other churches organized at later dates include:

Seventh Day Adventists 1884, built at Ninth and Main; in 1912 moved to building at 9th and Sycamore. Church of Brethren bought building at 9th and Main.

Free Methodist 1901. Built church at 735 N. Oak in 1903.

North Baptist 1888. Built at Red Jacket and North Cedar in 1895. Built new church at Oak



First Methodist Church, which was located at Fourth and Walnut.

and Wilson in 1953.

Trinity Methodist. Organized as North Ottawa Methodist 1884. First church at 634 North Oak. Moved block north in 1912. Built present church at 630 North Cedar in 1953.

Methodist Protestant built at 615 North Main in 1879. Later became Wesleyan Methodist.

Christian Science 1906. Bought Congregational property at 3rd and Hickory in 1918 and moved building south in same block.

Other denominations have been organized in Ottawa in recent years. Among those which have erected new buildings are Faith Lutheran at 312 East 12th, Assembly of God 520 East 13th, and Calvary Baptist 925 West 7th.

EARLY ORGANIZATIONS

Franklin Lodge No. 18, A.F. & A.M., oldest of the secret orders in Ottawa, was instituted in 1864. Ottawa Lodge No. 128 was formed in 1871. Royal Arch Masons, Tancred Commandery and Union Chapter of Eastern Star followed. Masonic groups now meet in the Masonic Temple between Fourth and Fifth on Main, which was built in 1927.

Ottawa Lodge No. 24, I.O.O.F., was instituted in 1867.

Knights of Pythias was incorporated in 1867.

Franklin Grange was organized in South Centropolis township in 1873. Several other similar groups to promote agricultural interests were soon formed.

Early Ottawa Women's Clubs

The M.P.M. literary club organized Nov. 20, 1882. Columbian Shakespeare literary club organized in 1893. Edward Hand Chapter, D.A.R., was founded Nov. 24, 1899.

Ottawa's Musical Heritage

Ottawa has long been known for music. One of the first big assists to this was the building of the Rohrbaugh theatre in 1896. This made it

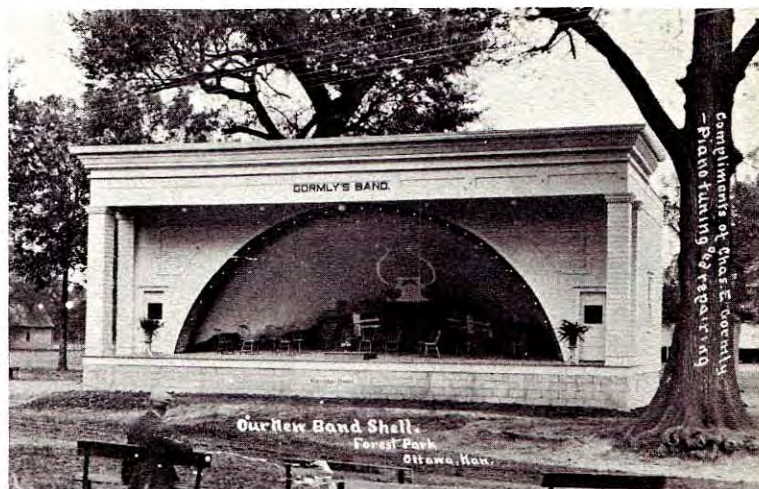
possible to bring in the best in music and plays. Soon many great names in music appeared in Ottawa. Included were Maude Powell, violinist, Melba, Mm Schuman Heinke and many others. One of the first large groups was the First Regiment band about 1900. This was composed almost entirely of professional musicians. This band soon became the Ottawa City Band, or the Gormly band. Chas. E. Gormly conducted this band for many years, It marched and played in surrounding towns as well as in Ottawa. A modern band shell was erected in the Forest park for this band to perform in. It still stands. In 1912 "Sampson and Delilah" was performed by a group under the direction of J. W. Bixel of Ottawa university.

After the first World War a drum and bugle corps was organized. This group gained as a winner in national contests. This was a brilliantly performing group and played in many parades. Also in the twenties another outstanding musical organization began to develop, the Ottawa high school orchestra. Under the untiring efforts of C. A. (Brick) Peacock this group came from virtual obscurity to gain national recognition. In 1932 this orchestra traveled to

Cleveland to win top honors in the national orchestra contest. In 1933 this group went to Chicago again to take first place. In the spring of 1934 their beloved leader "Brick" died of pneumonia. Under the very able direction of Prof. N. de Rubertis of Kansas City this group carried on. They brought the national orchestra contest to Ottawa. Musicians from all over the U. S., several thousand youth and adults came to Ottawa. This presented a real housing problem. Ottawa again came through with first place.

Through the years Ottawa University the Skilton club and other musically interested people have brought to Ottawa such famous musicians as Bohimer Kryl, John Charles Thomas, Fisk University choir, Frances Yeend, Hilde Sohmer, Solvig Lunde, Whittemore and Lowe, and E. Power Biggs.

In addition to helping bring many musical groups to Ottawa, Prof. Edgar D. Kerr of Ottawa University has presented his choirs in the Messiah, the Elijah and other beautiful works. Space will not permit mention of the thousands of other musical contributions to the musical heritage of Ottawa.



Gormly's bandstand, Forest Park, Ottawa, Kansas, built in 1910.



Industries of Early Ottawa

1864-5—J. H. Whetstone built a steam sawmill, and it was a big factor in early building operations in the new town.

1867—Ottawa mills located northwest corner First and Main by Kirby & Wright. Capacity 100 barrels flour daily; 2,500-bushel elevator operated by steam. Stone building two stories with frame attic. Building destroyed by fire



Feb. 17, 1958.

1870-71—A. Gottschalk & Co. furniture factory located at Second and Ash, west city limits. Frame building. Plant operated by steam; made mostly household furniture from local walnut; operated about 10 years and shipped products over five or six states. Henry Ott was secretary of company many years. Site now used by city for storage yard and garage.

1872—Forest Mills situated on Walnut south of river and west of Santa Fe tracks. Large frame structure built by O. W. Baldwin and Frank Pope; dam and elevator added in 1875; water used mainly as power, but steam was available for emergencies; capacity 125 barrels flour daily; elevator with capacity of 24,000 bushels.

Old steam locomotive, which reached Ottawa on January 1, 1868, over L. L. & G. line on completion from Lawrence to Ottawa.



Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R. Depot, S. K. DIV.

This mill burned July 13, 1885. John Kinneard was owner at time.

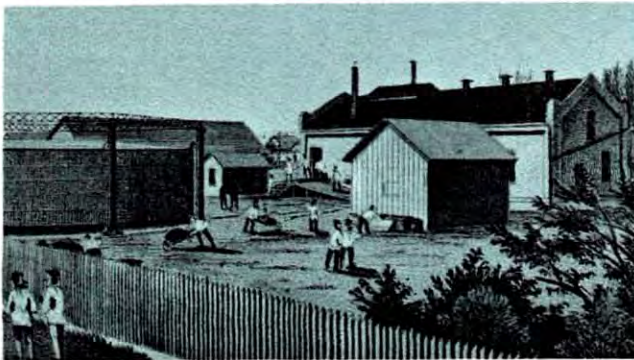
1872—Machine shops and Roundhouse of L.L. & G. railroad between Locust and N. Walnut, north of Tecumseh. To secure shops city voted \$60,000 bonds and donated ground worth \$7,000. City accepted \$70,000 from Santa Fe in 1942 to clear property from provisions of 1872 deed. In 1880's about 200 men were employed at the shops.

1874—S. D. Clark Foundry located at 120-124 N. Main, in a 2-story stone building 60x70, in which castings were made and general machine work was done. In 1890's Armour & Co. used building for poultry house. Later it was O. L. Taylor's poultry house. About 1926 it was torn down and smaller buildings erected. In 1960 these buildings removed in the flood control operation.

Ottawa Oil Mill established just north of river on Walnut, built by John Dietrich, owned and operated by G. T. Potterf; castor and linseed oil manufactured. Plant steam-operated and had one 500-ton hydraulic press. This site now occupied by Bennett Creamery Co.

Ottawa Soap Factory, 217 S. Poplar, started by E. M. Sheldon and C. S. Lathrop. In 1879 Sheldon became sole owner. About 300,000 pounds of soap made annually, mostly for laundry use.

1879—Willis Nursery, 5th & Cherry, started by A. Willis, sr. in combination office and store house, 30x60 feet. In 1909 formed partnership of A. E. and Ola Willis, son and daughter. In 1924 shortly after death of F. H. Stannard, the Willis interests took over Stannard's Nursery



including the packing house on West Wilson. In 1929 concern incorporated. Now operated by John Pinney and Harold Crawford.

Stannard Nursery started by Brewer & Stannard as Star Nursery. Had packing plant on West Wilson, which was location of old sugar factory. Stannard business taken over by Willis Nursery in 1924 after death of Stannard.

1880-1909—Ice Houses. About 1880, Heck & Son had a building 50x60x25, Pontiac and Locust on river bank. In 1887 office was at 101 S. Hickory. An 1899 map shows J. H. Ransom as owner of this building and two others to the west on Willow. About 1901 B. D. Bennett had an ice and coal business. A 1912 map shows one building left on Willow street. As late at 1909 Bennett was cutting ice there.



Waterworks plant built in 1889 by private capital.

1882—Franklin Sugar Co. located on present site of Willis Nursery packing house on West Wilson. This was a large 3-story stone building with a frame story on top, and was rated at 200 tons of cane capacity daily. While 2-cent sugar subsidy prevailed, plant operated; after this was discontinued it closed down.

Furniture Factory, Sawmill and Planing Mill established on Hickory just south of river, an enterprise of J. Jefferies & Company. Principal building was 30x60, 2-story frame, with large stone drying room and engine room 15x30; employed 10 men. This plant operated through the 1880's and early 1890's. An insurance map of 1899 shows plant closed. Site became a city parking lot and was taken over in 1960 for flood control operations.

Ottawa Gas works, constructed in 1886.

1883—Excelsior Mills built and operated by H. D. Crane & Co. at northwest corner Main and Tecumseh; 120 barrels flour capacity per day. Basement, 2-story stone, third floor frame, with stone boiler and engine rooms attached. Plant suffered many losses from floods, especially in 1928 and 1951 when it was operated by Ross Milling Co. Purchased and now used by Ottawa Co-Op Association for grain storage and other purposes.

1885—Branson & Hill Steam Elevator, between Hickory and Cedar on First street. Opened with 20,000-bushel capacity. W. S. Williams owned one there about 1893. Later was Williams & Wilson. At present plant operated by Charles T. Geiger. Two elevators burned on this site.

Ottawa Brick & Tile Works, 301-31 N. Pollock, Pollock and Baldwin. Capacity 1.5 million brick and 100,000 tile annually; employed 15 to 20 men. Believed plant operated about 15 years.

1886—Light and water plant located one mile west of Ottawa on the river. Built by private capital and operated as such until city of Ottawa acquired plant for \$70,000 in 1906. Was moved to present site at west edge of Ottawa in 1907, only the pumping plant remaining at the river location.

Ottawa Gas Co., 115-21 N. Oak. One large brick building where gas was manufactured and there was a 30,000 cubic feet gas holder. This was built by eastern capital and acquired by A. P. Elder and E. H. Becker in 1894. They operated it until the Ottawa Gas & Electric Co. started natural gas distribution in 1935.

1887—Ottawa Foundry Co. started on site of old Forest Mills at First and Walnut; stone foundry building and frame machine shops. A.

P. Elder was also one of the incorporators. Castings for the Santa Fe were made and other local machine work done. This plant was acquired by Charles H. and Fred P. Martin and became the nucleus of Ottawa Steel, operated by the Martin Bros. until they sold it to L. A. Young Spring & Wire Corporation of Detroit. The old foundry building was removed for flood control work.

Carriage Factory, 317-21 S. Hickory; frame building built by Roberts & Co. for a skating rink, but secured by Rehkoff Bros. in which they operated a carriage factory for three years. S. B. Rohrbaugh, pioneer lumberman, made an auditorium of the building and added a stage and loft. This building burned on March 7, 1895.

Street Railway started in May by J. P. Harris, David Miller, L. C. Wasson and others. Horse drawn cars used. Line started at Forest Park gates, ran east to Main, south to 5th, east to Cedar, and south to Ottawa University. There was also a line to the west side, on Fifth to Ash. Fred H. McCune has three shares of stock made out to John Pollock.

1893-95—Work Cracker Factory, on Main in a 2-story business building. Met with financial difficulties. According to the Republican: "Could not compete with 'cracker trust' which flooded the field with goods so low that minor enterprises could not compete." Work plant was taken over by a stock company called Western Cracker & Candy Co. but this was soon moved from Ottawa.

1896—N. H. Skourup's Creamery, 416-18 East Third. One story frame 25x80 with 20x20 boiler and engine room. He had operated a creamery at Richmond three years before coming to Ottawa. He sold to Bennett's in early 1900's.

OTTAWA BUSINESS FIRMS

In 1867, Francis Mellowish came to Ottawa from Bloomington, Ill., and started a jewelry and "spectacle" business. He was first at Second and Main, later near the center of the 100 block and in 1890 in the building at 316 S. Main. When Francis died in 1908, brothers Ambrose and Fred took over the business. The firm was then devoted entirely to optometrist work. After Fred's death in 1929, Miss Anna Mellowish took charge. A. Berglund became manager in 1932 and later the owner.

The Ottawa Hardware Co. was organized in 1868 by H. C. Branson and A. M. Blair. It has continued in business at the same location until the present time. C. W. Esterly was manager until 1908. That year E. S. Sheldon bought Esterly's interest and H. F. Sheldon bought Blair's interest, and it became known as the Ottawa Hardware Co. Warren and Clarence Sheldon held stock in the company, until Clarence sold his interest and started an implement business.



H. D. Crane and Company's Mill.

It is now operated by Marvin G ntner.

D. DeFord started a drug business in 1866. In 1890 Dan and Jim DeFord bought the business from their brother and ran it until 1903 when E. H. Thompson and W. A. DeFord, a brother of the original owners, became the owners. W. A. DeFord quit the drug business and went to New York where he became prosecuting attorney. Later he was the personal attorney of the publisher, William R. Hearst. He retired and moved to California. This store eventually passed out of existence.

S. H. Lucas started to work for the W. R. Laws and Brothers Drug Co., located where the Kramer drug store is now. In 1868, Laws died and Lucas took over the business. He moved the store to where the Fred Kaiser drug store now operates, a building built by S. R. Rohrbaugh. In 1897 he sold to G. F. Kaiser, father of Fred. In 1899 Lucas started another drug store in the 300 block on Main, and ultimately moved the store to the present location of the Snyder drug store. In 1907 his son Raymond took charge, and eventually Wayland Blair became a partner and later the owner. Blair sold to Snyder.

After G. F. Kaiser bought the original Lucas drug store in 1897, he called it the Kaiser Pharmacy. In 1925 a brother, John Kaiser became a partner. After G. F. Kaiser died in 1927, John took full management, with Fred Kaiser, son of G. F. Kaiser, as a partner, and the name was changed to Kaiser Drug Co. In 1937 the Kaisers opened a second store in the 400 block on Main, and in 1945 John took full ownership of this. Fred remained at the other store.

The beginning of the present First National Bank was in 1867 when P. P. Elder and John Walruff, then county treasurer, formed the P. P. Elder & Co. bank. In September of 1870 Elder and Walruff organized the First National Bank. The bank was first located in the old Ludding-

ton house, which stood where the building occupied by the Wassmer Clothing Co. now stands. The present bank building at Second and Main was built in 1888. In 1923 the bank was held up and robbed of \$175,000. Part of the loss was covered by insurance, and the stockholders made up \$50,000 from their own pockets to cover the full loss. Frank J. Miller became president of the bank in 1908 and continued until his death in 1934. In the spring of 1936 R. M. Clogston came from Elkhart, Kansas to become head of the institution.

The Peoples National Bank was chartered Nov. 8, 1871. The present 3-story building at Second and Main was erected in 1879. It has been remodeled several times. Influential men who were early associated with the bank as officers and directors included J. P. Harris, Peter Shiras, S. B. Rohrbaugh, A. Franklin, William Shiras, F. M. Shiras, W. B. Kiler, R. A. Harris, F. M. Harris, William Wallace, B. D. Bennett, A. L. Cook, J. W. Hudelson and others. George Lister became president of the bank in 1953.

S. B. Rohrbaugh started the Rohrbaugh Lumber Company in 1870 and operated it until 1900, when he formed a partnership with Charles H. Constant. In 1901 S. R. Hubbard secured an interest in the yard. Charles H. Constant sold his interest to Harlan C. Constant and moved to Lawrence. It became known as the Hubbard-Constant Lumber Co. in 1921.

Lester Greenhouse was started on Hickory, south of 8th, in 1889. Later it was operated by C. A. D. Jacobus and at present is owned and operated by James Osburn.

The Ottawa Laundry was started by John Z. Clark in 1894. He built on West Second in 1905, the present location. Mrs. Wallace Wells and her late husband, and her sister, Miss Marjory Clark operated the business for many years. They sold it in 1957 to Floyd A. Jacobs.

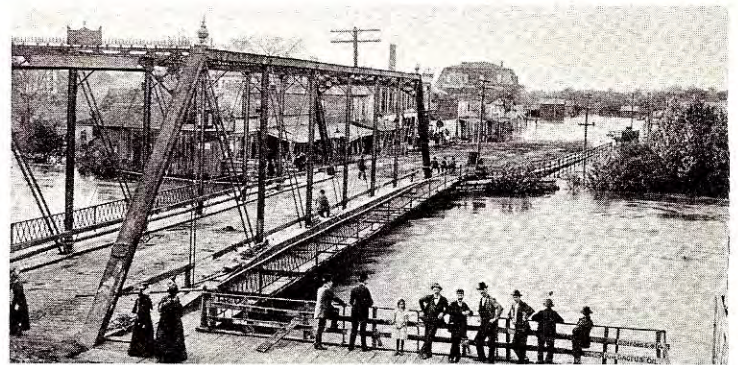
MARAI DES CYGNES RIVER

Through the approximately 100 years of Ottawa's history, the Marais des Cygnes river has furnished the people of the town with water, and has also been the barrier to normal growth of the community.

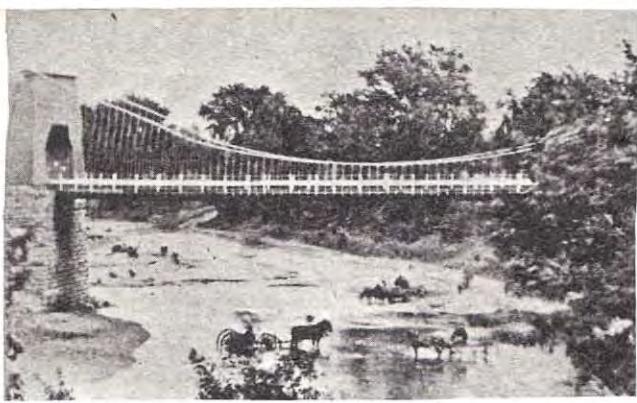
Ottawans have always had to keep the river in mind in making plans for activities, and choice industrial sites of the community have been subject to frequent flooding.

In the recorded history of floods, covering the period of more than 60 years, the floods of the river have averaged one about every 13 months—sometimes floods of major magnitude, and at other times only minor or moderate overflows.

These floods have dealt heavy blows to the agricultural economy of the valley, upon which



High water, May 16, 1898, Main Street Bridge.



Main Street suspension bridge, 1868.

Ottawa depends.

Now the picture is being changed.

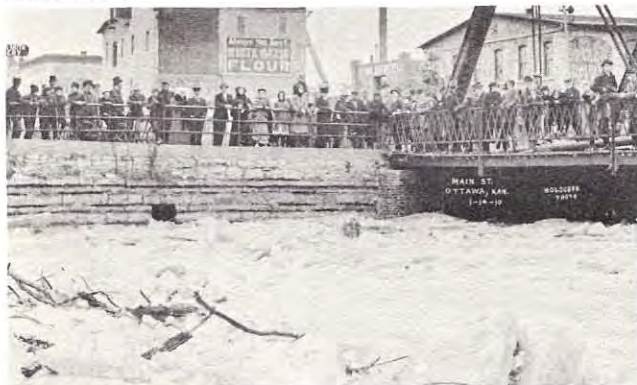
The Corps of Engineers of the United States Army is in the midst of construction work on projects that will curb the floods and also impound sufficient water for releases to keep the river flowing properly in periods of light rainfall.

Two of the river projects are already under construction, one a local protection works of levees and channel widening at Ottawa, and the other an impounding reservoir in the upper valley known as Pomona reservoir. Also to be built in the upper valley will be Melvern reservoir.

In operation, the reservoirs impound great quantities of flood waters temporarily, then release the excess rainfall run-off in an orderly manner. The permanent lakes to be impounded in the two reservoirs will be used to keep the stream flowing in periods of drought.

Through the operation of this system of control floods will be reduced on farmlands of the valley and the burden of floods will be removed from Ottawa and other river communities.

Since the turn of the century the Marais des Cygnes has produced some disastrous floods, in addition to numerous minor and moderate overflows.



Ice gorge at Main Street bridge January 14, 1910.

Eighteen times since 1904, the river has climbed to stages ranging from 6 feet to 19 feet above the flood stage, which is 23 feet.

These major overflows were in 1904, 1909, 1915, 1922, 1927, 1928, 1938, 1941, 1944, 1945, 1947 and 1951. In some of those years, including 1915, 1944, 1945 and 1951, the floods of major magnitude hit the valley as many as four times

in a single year.

In July, 1951, the most disastrous flood in the town's history struck, the river going to a stage of more than 42 feet, 19 feet above flood stage. Early residents told of other great floods before the turn of the century.

Greatest flood prior to that time was that of 1844, before the founding of Ottawa.

Stories handed down by the Indians to the early settlers, told of a flood that reached from "bluff to bluff" in 1844. While no written record of such a flood in the Marais des Cygnes Valley exists, the year coincides with the recorded figures of floods on the Kaw and Missouri rivers. Marks pointed out by Indians indicate that the flood in the Marais des Cygnes Valley was similar in stage to that of 1951.

Ottawa's loss by flood damage in the 1951 flood was placed at \$5½ millions, and many businesses of the community were forced to borrow to the limit of borrowing power to remain in business in the community.

Since then the valley has been fortunate in not experiencing disastrous floods of major magnitude, and if this good fortune continues for a few more years, the valley people can look forward to a life free of danger from the river.



View of Main Street during big flood of 1951 at Third and Main Street.

How Our River Came By Its Name

This is a fanciful story, a legend, a handed-down account. Perhaps it was started a hundred years ago by some romantic dreamer. Or it may have stemmed from an actual incident a thousand years ago. Who are we to say, or to doubt?

A long time ago, the story goes, before any white man came to this region we know as Ottawa, a band of plains Indians made their home on the banks of our river. Life was rugged but happy in the village of teepees. Cooking, hunting, telling tall tales around the night fires were the routines of the days. Romance, too, was a part of living. The young braves and maidens plighted their love, were married and raised

their families.

All was not peaceful. For frequently the warriors, old and young, had to fight other tribes, always with just reason. The Indians who lived here were nobly born and given to wisdom in living.

One spring day, the Chief called for all warriors to go with him on a mission to subdue a tribe of thieving Indians in a nearby land. It was sad news for one stalwart Brave and the beautiful maiden he loved. Their parting was full of sorrow.

The fighting was hard but our Indians were victorious. The first man back to the village shouted news of the victory and there was joy until he began telling of those who perished. And one of the dead, he said, was the lover of

the Indian maiden in our story.

She was bereaved at the news. Her life was worthless now, she thought. So she ran to a bluff overlooking the river and threw herself into the waters.

At that instant her lover, very much alive, arrived in the village. He was shocked and distraught at the news of his sweetheart's tragic death, so he sped to the bluff above the river and hurled himself into the waters.

When people of the village reached the bluff, they saw nothing at first. Then suddenly two beautiful white swans appeared, gliding on the rippling waters, nothing else.

And to this day, we call our stream the Marais des Cygnes, river of the swans.



Franklin Countians

IN MILITARY SERVICE

In the spring of 1861 there were about 2,500 inhabitants in Franklin county, scattered along the northern and eastern borders, and a settlement in the Ohio City area a little south of the center. Indians occupied the rest of the county on their reservations. There was little village life and no rallying points. Those who wanted to enlist went to Lawrence and other places outside the county. Company D, 12th Infantry, was the only company wholly recruited in the county.

The county furnished individuals or squads to almost every regiment organized in the state, and nearly every able bodied man was under arms. Kansas participated in the bloody battle of Wilson's Creek in 1861, and in other engagements. The little town of Minneola had five men killed in this battle. In 1864 the Tenth Kansas militia was called to repel the threatened invasion of Gen. Sterling Price. This regiment was recruited from Franklin and Anderson counties. There were no battles or skirmishes within the limits of the county.

The first Kansas soldiers to serve on foreign soil were members of the famous 20th Kansas Regiment, commanded by Col. Frederick Funston of Iola, who became a brigadier general. This regiment served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

Company K, largely recruited from Franklin county, was a unit of this regiment. Included in its membership were men from Garnett, Mound City and Pleasanton. Capt. Edmund Boltwood of Ottawa, a Civil War veteran, led Company K. J. F. Hall of Pleasanton was first lieutenant,

and R. S. Parker of Ottawa, another Civil War veteran, was second lieutenant. The 47 members of the outfit that became Company K left for Osawatimie on May 5, 1898, to perfect enlistment. They went to Topeka for physical examinations and were mustered in on May 10.

C. E. (Bert) Steele, who lives with his son Howard and wife north of Richter, is the only surviving Franklin county member of Company K. Now 86 years of age, he is still in fairly good physical condition except for failing eyesight, and recalls vividly his service in the Philippines. He is one of about a half dozen veterans who are members of Ottawa Edmund Boltwood Post, Spanish American War Veterans. The others were in other outfits.



AEF returned home, stop over for parade on way to Funston to be discharged.

From Topeka, Company K went to San Francisco and sailed from there to the Philippines. They served near Manila against Aguinaldo, who was in insurrection against the United States. They reached Manila on Dec. 1, 1898 after an 80-day trip. On Feb. 4, 1899, Aguin-

aldo's army attached U.S. positions. Company K and other volunteer soldiers engaged in a holding operation until regular troops arrived. They were on duty several months, and at one time, Steele recalls, were on the line under fire for 27 days. Before Aguinaldo surrendered, many of the Americans had become disabled or had been killed or died of smallpox and tropical diseases.

Company K returned to Ottawa in October, 1899. Preceding their arrival the grateful people of Ottawa had built a fine Memorial gate at the entrance of Forest Park. The company was 86 days at sea on the return. A sham battle was fought in Forest Park between the Philippine veterans and a local guard company, simulating the fighting in the Islands.

Hundreds of young Franklin countians served in World Wars I and II. Many were wounded and several lost their lives. The records of Kansas State Headquarters of Selective Service at Topeka indicate the following for World War II (male and female): Enlisted, (all branches) 898; inducted, (all branches) 1347. The records on file in the state office show the following for World War I: Enlisted 139; inducted 92. These figures are limited to Army personnel only, the state office having no records for other branches of military service in that war.

Warren Black Post, American Legion, World War veterans, was organized in Ottawa in 1919. The Ottawa Veterans of Foreign Wars post was formed in 1948.

Veterans of the Civil War flocked into Kansas and settled down. Many came to Ottawa, and some of them played leading roles in the building of our city. They filled places of public trust, and engaged in business, industry and professions. Some were minus legs and arms which they had lost in the War Between the States, but they were stalwarts, with energy, ability and leadership.

George H. Thomas Post, Grand Army of the Republic an organization whose members were Civil War veterans, was one of the earlier posts. This organization united these veterans and helped to make them a power in politics, public affairs and in all the activities of the community. It was estimated that around 800 veterans' names were on the rolls of the Ottawa Post, from its establishment in 1880 until the last veteran had passed to his reward in 1940. Judge Peter Kaiser was the last survivor.

The G.A.R. was accorded a special room on the third floor of the new courthouse when it was occupied in 1893. This room has remained as it was in the beginning, the Ladies of the G.A.R. taking over as its custodian after the Post went out of existence. In this room is one of the finest collections of Civil War mementoes to be found anywhere. There are large pictures on the walls of early day Ottawans. Guns and uniforms of the war are included in the collection, and numerous volumes of history of the

war period. Title to this collection was turned over to the Franklin County Historical Society in 1960.

Among Ottawa veterans who attained state-wide prominence were Judge A. W. Benson, who became a member of the Kansas Supreme Court, and George T. Anthony, newspaperman who served as governor of the state. Four Ottawa veterans were elected commander of the Kansas Department of the G.A.R. They were Col. J. N. (Curly) Harrison, John P. (Jack) Harris, George P. Washburn and J. H. Getty. Col. Harrison was credited with securing a legislative appropriation to build the Memorial Building, in Topeka, now the headquarters of the Kansas State Historical Society.

There were also active G.A.R. Posts in other towns in Franklin county.

OTTAWA'S FUTURE

What is in Ottawa's future? Can the City's population expand to 20,000 by the year 1980? It sounds like a big jump, but it is not unreasonable to hope for such growth.

Just now, in this Centennial Year, Ottawa is emerging from conditions which have blocked normal progress.

The City has been hit by floods of the Marais des Cygnes River repeatedly through its century of existence, and between the floods there have been some droughts that all but wiped out the City's water supply.

Under construction now are two of a series of flood control projects, under supervision of the Army Engineers, that will remove the flood hazard and will boost the water supply for the valley. Reservoirs will impound excess flood waters temporarily, and will retain sufficient quantities to keep the river flowing properly in periods of scant rainfall.

Thus, desirable industrial sites will be removed from flood zones, and Ottawa and other river communities will have adequate water supplies. The control of the river will also remove the threat of frequent flooding from farm lands upon which Ottawa depends heavily.

The new Interstate 35 highway has made Ottawa, in reality, a part of the Kansas City area, which should be a great advantage to Ottawa's future growth.

Changing of conditions alone, however, is not the thing that brings about growth of a community. It will not just happen.

The people must have the desire for a growing community. The people must bring in the industries and make other improvements. With this spirit on the part of the people the city of Ottawa can grow to 20,000 population by 1980. Without this spirit to take advantage of the changes that are being made, the City will not grow and will not take its proper place among other communities of the Middlewest.

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