

## PREFACE.

WHEN the marking of the old Santa Fé Trail was first suggested to the Daughters at the State Conference in Ottawa in 1902, no one had very much idea of the great undertaking it would prove to be.

Five years later, Mrs. W. E. Stanley, State Regent, announced the completion of the marking of the trail with ninety-six markers. This was at the State Conference in Leavenworth. Mrs. A. H. Horton, who had been appointed as a committee of one to find some one to write the story of the marking of the trail, reported that she could find no one willing to write and issue the pamphlet, so the subject was dropped.

When Mrs. George Thacher Guernsey, of Independence, was elected State Regent in 1908 and confirmed in 1909, she was not long in seeing the need of a state historian, as the Daughters in Kansas had done many things worthy of record. At the next Conference, held in Topeka, in 1909, Mrs. C. W. Bitting called attention to the fact that at the next State meeting an amendment to the by-laws, creating the office of Historian, would be submitted. In Lawrence the next year, in

1910, the amendment passed, and Mrs. T. A. Cordry, of Parsons, was elected to the office of State Historian.

With seventeen years' history, from 1894 to 1911, gathered from old reports, letters, and records, the task was a long, and at times a difficult one.

The Historian compiled the story of the marking of the old Santa Fé Trail separately, thinking that it might be published some day. Parts of the story are gleaned from the letters of the old settlers to Mrs. Stanley and Miss Meeker, and every bit of it is true and authentic. The letters and reports are in the Historian's box now.

In placing this in book form, we hope to keep the memory of the old Trail alive, so that our children need never inquire, "Where is it?"

Mrs. T. A. Cordry,  
State Historian, Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution.