

CHAPTER IX.

NUTSHELL HISTORY.

Six car loads of hemp were recently shipped from Troy, raised principally by Norwegian farmers on the high prairie west of town. The price paid was \$60 a ton. -- White Cloud Chief, June, 1872.

At the house of Benj. Harding, near where Wathena now stands was held the first county election, November 24, 1854. Election of delegates to Congress.

There are still living in the County a few men who remember Jim Lane's big, bony forefinger, his bear skin overcoat, and his calf skin vest. The old folks speaking of Lane always close their remarks with the significant saying: "He was a queer Jim."

In the early sixties the county assessor found thirty or forty slaves to list as personal property. A slave was worth considerable money. A man named Davis who lived near Doniphan, traded forty acres of land for a good, healthy negro whom he took with him to Missouri. About the same time a negro slave was sold at auction in Iowa Point.

The originator of Decoration day, it is

claimed was James Redpath, who was at one time a resident of this County. While here he was editor of the Crusader of Freedom at Doniphan. Some years ago he was killed by a street car in an eastern city. Redpath was the author of one or two books on Kansas, and also of a life of John Brown.

The first meeting of the newly elected County commissioners was held at Whitehead, in October, 1855.

An early pony express rider whose route lay through this County was John Fry. He rode from St. Joseph to Seneca

The Doniphan County Agricultural, Horticultural, and Mechanical Association completed its organization as an institution of public interest, in the month of January, 1868; since which time it has been growing in public favor very rapidly, and has given an impetus to all branches of agriculture in the County. This association has received so much encouragement, and has been so active in its effect upon the products of the county, that it is deemed advisable to hold a county fair this coming fall; and arrange-

ments are now nearly completed for this enterprise. This is known to be a step in the right direction, and one that will place us much higher in the scale of improvement. -- From Smith & Vaughan's "History and Directory."

One of the first platform dances in the county was given at Ryan Station, in the fall of 1869, at which time the station was the western terminus of the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad. Elsewhere in this work will be found a sketch of this big event, prepared from notes furnished by one of the fair sex who was present with her beau.

In 1852 Wathena's wigwam was built on the spot a few rods north of the place now occupied by the steam flouring mills. It was built with a frame work of poles tied together with hickory bark, and covered with elm bark, and after the removal of the chief, it was used for a church for some time. Old Wathena cultivated a small field near his wigwam, raising an abundance of corn and vegetables. In the very early days he had a few white neighbors who found him to be a pretty good Indian, not counting his "habit of theft."

A Grange lodge was organized in School District No. 8, early in the seventies, but the grasshoppers came soon afterwards, and chewed big, ragged holes in the initiating costumes; also the goat's bellyband and crupper were gnawed and destroyed, and the lodge was abandoned.

About 1880 a vein of coal nearly two feet in thickness was discovered on the McNulty farm, in the Saint Benedict's neighborhood. The coal, which was of

fair quality, was used by many of the neighbors. Evidences of the existence of coal has been found in different parts of the County, but we never shall have coal barons for citizens, because ours is pre-eminently an agricultural County.

Going away from Doniphan County is like leaving one's mother, wife, or sweetheart. This is the substance of the testimony of many men who went away but soon wanted to return.

The disturbances of three earthquakes have been felt here. The first shock was felt April 24, 1867, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The second, almost as severe, came in September, 1871. The third, which did little more than arouse light sleepers, came one morning in October, 1896.

During the sixties ague was a common ailment. There was scarcely a farm that did not have its swampy places. Malarial poisons had their origin in those places, and until they were annihilated by cultivation and drainage, large quantities of quinine and boneset were required to preserve the health of the settlers.

About the year 1860, thousands of cattle that were being driven up from the South through the County were attacked by Texas fever and died, and for many years the prairies of the southern and western parts of Wolf River township were literally covered with their bones.

There have been two excessively dry years in the history of our County--1860 and 1901.

The proprietors of Ayer's Ague Cure at one time owned land here. In the early days before the swamps and bogs

had dried up, Dr. Ayer sold enough cure to purchase many good Doniphan County farms. There is not an old settler who will not tell you that ague was, at one time, more to be dreaded than the visits of Indians.

There was little timber on the prairies in the early days. The only groves planted during the sixties were of cottonwood transplanted from the river bottoms. A little later, locusts and box-elders were brought into use; but these were again supplanted by maple, walnut, and other shady trees. The great sleet storm of 1881 destroyed or retarded the growth of many fine groves on the high prairies.

Until about 1870, candles and tallow-dips were in general use. All reading and night work was done by those miserable lights. For a long time there was a disinclination to use the kerosene lamp, because of its reputed liability to explode; besides oil was dear, and the pockets of the old fashioned jeans were not lined with gold. Sometimes a rude lantern of tin with perforations was used for outdoor work, and this with its myriad eyes of fire, was as ghostly thing as one would wish to see when alone.

At St. Joseph, the river originally flowed in front of First street. Later it ran along Fourth street, and the intervening land had disappeared. A non-resident who purchased lots soon after the city was laid out, returned in 1858, to look for them. He supposed them to be some where in the bed of the stream, but had the curiosity to ascertain by survey. They proved to be on the other side of the river in Elwood, Kansas.--Richardson's "Beyond the Mississippi."

The following brief war story we have from a fairly reliable source: In 1862, soldiers of the Doniphan County Militia on their way to meet Gen. Price on his northern march, camped at Atchison where, in the shade of night they charged, not "upon a flock of geese," but upon a ten dozen flock of chickens belonging to Mrs. Clem Rohr, putting all to death except one hoary rooster that no one would dare to tackle. Next day there was a big soup feast in the army, and the soldiers were put in good trim for the prospective fight with Price. Price having learned what our boys had done to the poultry, changed his march. No doubt had our boys met the famous raider, something would have happened; whereas, Price not appearing, there was nothing done, and those of the boys that did not visit the brewery returned to their homes with only chicken blood on their hands.

In the year of 1855, James H. Lane organized a "Danite" lodge in Doniphan, for the furtherance of his political schemes. Pat Loughlin, James Redpath and others, who had been members, became disgusted with the workings of the "order," and divulged some of the "secrets," and the thing went apart. The trouble which led to the killing of Collins in November of the same year, had its source in this lodge.

A "prize fight" in which two Doniphan County men-- Jim Loucks and Marion Steele--were the principals, was fought on the Missouri side of the river opposite Doniphan, about the year 1867. The fight was to have taken place in Doniphan but the town authorities would not permit it, and a sand bar on the Missouri

side of the river was chosen for the scene of the battle. It is said that five hundred men assembled to witness the event, which, however, proved a failure and a disappointment. For a moment there was a quick exchange of blows, which, according to accounts, were plainly heard across the river, a distance of half a mile. But the fight was lop-sided, and there was murmuring among the onlookers. The sledge-hammer blows of Steele were too much for the sleek endurance of Loucks who quietly but quickly yielded up the belt.

A Vigilance committee for the detection and punishment of horsethieves was organized on Cedar creek, in 1862. The officers were: S. N. Nesbit, R. H. N., C. E. Fox, A. S. E., S. Plotner, W. R. S., H. M. Coburn, W. C., J. Chapson, R. K., B. V. Ransom, Secretary.

On Friday, February 11, 1881, a very heavy snow fell. Next day the wind rose and the snow drifted high, blocking the railroads for nearly a week.

Pat Barlow and wife received the premium at the Fair for the best collection of babies.--Chief, Oct. 4, 1877.

The first new silver change made its appearance in Troy, in May, 1876. Cy. Leland brought \$50 of it from St. Joseph and gave it out as change.

In 1871, our County took the lead in the State, in barley raising. The harvest yielded 22,872 bushels.

The first telegraph line erected in the County was put up about 1861.

The earliest map of the County was made by Robert Tracy, in 1868. It showed congressional and municipal town-

ships, sections, etc., but was incomplete.

From April 1, to June 15, 1849, 1,508 wagons crossed on the ferries at St. Joseph, bound for California.

A pair of couriers sent out by Dr. Say, of Major Long's expedition, made the record race of their lives on the 29th day of August, 1819, when they ran from Cow Island in the Missouri (near Atchison) to the mouth of Wolf River, a distance of about thirty miles, to intercept the expedition boat on its way up the stream, and hold it for the arrival of the Doctor and his men who, returning from their prairie journey in the West, reached the river a day or two after the boat had passed up. At that time the prairies were covered with a tall, thick grass, which made travelling extremely difficult, and we may be certain that when the Doctor and his little party finally reached the mouth of the Wolf, they were a glad but tired lot.

In April, 1874, Col. Ege had a happy day in his old age, enjoying a genuine wolf hunt. With his hounds he started up a huge gray wolf on the north fork of Independence creek, and gave pursuit, circling around an area of about six miles, passing near St. Benedict's church and then striking in toward the river. The hounds overhauled the game at the railroad not far from Doniphan, after a race of about twenty miles, and a fierce fight ensued, in which the dogs were considerably cut up. The colonel came up and took a hand, when the wolf turned the fight on him. He seized his stick of timber and dealt the wolf a blow, apparently killing him. Directing a man who accompanied him to take the wolf on his

horse in front of him, the two started off with their prize; but after riding some distance, the beast returned to life, and commenced going for the man's legs, causing him to drop it; whereupon the colonel cut the wolf's throat with his pocket knife, killing him "for keeps."

From 1870 to 1875 scores of cattle and horses were killed on the St. Joseph & Denver road for which the road never paid a cent damages to the owners. A suit against the road for damages was almost certain to end in the farmer's losing the case. This state of affairs is what drove one man to take desperate measures to get revenge when it had become impossible to get justice. Following is a copy of a notice found posted upon the St. Joseph & Denver side of the depot at Troy Junction, in July, 1872:

Kansas, July 21st, 1872.

We hereby notify the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company that if the stock killing damages heretofore done is not paid up before August 1st, and if not, all travelling community will travel at their own risk, also the future damages if not paid in ten days after such damage is done. We ask no boon, we crave no mercy; but justice we will have, from Wathena to St. Francis.

(Signed) General Cassander and Co.

Some time after this an attempt was made to burn the trestles of a bridge near Norway. The trestles had been burned at their foundation, but their dangerous condition was discovered before the cars came along.

In the spring of 1873, the first complete map of the County was made by Robert Tracy. Few men of the County did more

for the people than "Bob" Tracy during his residence here.

At a County Fair held in Atchison, in 1873, a Doniphan County baby won the prize offered the best baby. His name was Buster.

A company of Voluntary Militia was organized at Syracuse, June 20, 1861.

In July, 1873, there was very high water in the Missouri--a belated "June rise."

John Parker, a Wathena man, killed a snake last Friday, on a sand bar in the river. It was of the kind known as blue racer and had no business out in the winter time.--Chief, January 6, 1896.

From the same issue we copy the following: "Jim Brown, the section foreman, caught a grasshopper. This is an open winter."

In October, 1861, some Missouri rebels running short of lead for ammunition, crossed the river to Lafayette. Stealing some 75 feet of lead pipe from the Lyman saw mill they melted it into bullets and returned without being discovered.

Nelson Abbey, of Doniphan County, has a choice ox which he has long been fattening for the entertainment of his friends in the event of Lincoln's election. Mr. Abbey was for many years a neighbor of Lincoln's.--St. Joseph Free Democrat, September, 1860.

In December, 1873, a cock fight between Kentucky and Missouri cocks was seen at Kansas City. The "Missouri" roosters, which belonged to Col. Ege, of our County, won all the victories.

In March, 1873, the sheriff sold two engines at Elwood, on execution for the personal taxes of the Denver road.

Xzovey Monteva was at one time a citizen of this County. We will give a copy of our History to the first person who shall pronounce this name without sneezing.

In 1866, a 24-page pamphlet, "The Western Tier," by D. M. Johnson, was published from the office of the Troy Reporter.

The Harroun elevator at Elwood costing \$1,000,000.00, was completed in November, 1899.

On May 20, 1856, commissions were issued to officers of the Voluntary Company in Doniphan County called the "Tigers," as follows: Alex. H. Dunning, Captain; Wm. Sublett, First Lieutenant; Chas. M. Thompson, Second Lieutenant; Sylvester Hudson, Third Lieutenant.

High upon the roll of writers for Kansas must ever remain the names of two editors and brave men who had no papers--William A. Phillips, correspondent of the New York Tribune, and James Redpath, of the St. Louis Democrat, and of the Boston press. Phillips a Scotchman, Redpath an Englishman, but both Kansas men in the heart, much abused as foreigners, they have made bright American names.--D. W. Wilder.

Father Augustine Wirth, one of Doniphan's early priests, was one of the founders of the famous St. Benedict's Abbey at Atchison. Many times he made the journey from Doniphan to Atchison on foot to attend to the spiritual wants of a few Catholic families located there. In 1860, when the fire of drouth swept over the land, it will be gratefully remembered that this good man sent East

and procured corn and provisions which were distributed to the poor at Atchison.

Zach Mooney and Melvin Baughn, horsethieves who operated in this and other counties in north eastern Kansas during the early sixties, shot and killed Jessie S. Dennis, and severely wounded another man while resisting arrest in Nemaha county, in 1866. A reward of \$600 had been offered for their capture. Baughn was captured and imprisoned, but soon made his escape from jail. However, he was recaptured and was executed at Seneca, on the 18th of September 1868.

"General" W. P. Richardson and his army were in Doniphan County, in 1856. Three of the camping grounds are pointed out by old settlers. One is a short distance northwest of the present site of Severance; another, south and west of the farm on which the Oakland school house now stands, a few miles from the Atchison county line; a third at, or near, Cottonwood Springs, south east of Troy. It was while encamped in this County that the "general" received information that "a state of actual war exists in Douglas County, and that in other parts of the Territory, within this division, robberies and other flagrant violations of the law are daily occurring by armed bodies of men from the Northern states." The quotation is from the "general's" letter written from one of his Doniphan County camps, August 18, 1856.

The streets, alleys, parks and public grounds of Charleston, Petersburg, Le-Porte and Mt. Vernon, paper towns of the County, were vacated by the Legislature of 1863-4.

Seven horses were killed by one train on the St. Joseph & Denver road below Norway, in May, 1874.

Two fine County bridges--Bayne's and the Leona bridge--were built in 1873. Bayne's was 101 feet in length; Leona's 77 feet.

A lady who was visiting at the home of Joshua Rittenhouse at the time of the great Wolf River cyclone on June 16, 1865, had \$800 in her trunk. The trunk was blown away with the house, and the lady never found a dollar of the money or a fragment of the trunk.

In March, 1855, there were in the Fourteenth District (this County), 655 males, 512 females, 301 natives of the United States, 46 foreigners, 1 free Negro and 35 slaves. The number of legal voters was 334. Total population, 1,167.

In March, 1867, a mail route was established from Topeka through Holton, Kennekuk and Troy. This gave the citizens of the western part of the County better mail services.

A train of fifty two wagons, six mules attached to each, passed through Wathena April 7, 1867, bound for Salt Lake City.

The macadamized road from Elwood to Wathena was completed in June, 1866.

In "An Act to incorporate the Wathena Plank and Macadamized Road Company" published in "The Statutes of the Territory of Kansas, 1855", the following are named as members of the Company:

Jno. Curd, J. C. Hull, Preston F. Moss, Wm. Ridenbaugh, Silas Woodson, Ebenezer Blackiston, Wm. Matthews, Milton Bryant, Dan. Vanderslice, Carey B. Whitehead, J. P. Blair, and M. Rodgers.

In 1867 specimens of lead ore were found in the bluffs near Wathena. At that time it was believed that lead in paying quantities could be mined from the hills in the vicinity.

David W. Morse planted the first broom corn in Wolf River township, in 1857, on the farm now owned by Wm. Webb. He had a broom factory there until 1861, when he closed it and went into the army.

The Kansas Herald, July, 1855, relates the following of Governor Reeder: "On one occasion a gentleman approached Gov. R., and said he heard a friend at Weston, Mo., remark that if Gov. Reeder returned to the Territory he would gather up a company of men, ten thousand if necessary, and search every part of the Territory, if need be, to find and hang him. The governor very cordially thanked his informant for the intelligence, and remarked: 'Tell your friend that whether he comes at the head of ten hundred or ten thousand men, it will make no difference; I shall never be mobbed; and your friend, if he makes demonstrations in that direction, may rest assured that his minutes are numbered, for I will put a ball through his head, though I know I shall be cut into inch pieces ten minutes afterwards. I shall pursue my legitimate business uninterrupted, else the invader of my rights shall pay the forfeit.'"

James H. Lane, very frequently referred to as the "grim chieftain" owned a pre-emption claim near Doniphan, in 1857. On this land he set up a saw mill and made other improvements which he soon afterwards sold, in order that he might take a more active part in the Border troubles. Jim would have done better to

have held to his Doniphan County farm.

Item from a letter dated "Whitehead, June 1, 1854": There is a story abroad that at all the ferries over the Missouri river they have a cow tied, and a committee to watch emigrants. They ask, "What animal is that?" If the emigrant says "A cow," he goes over, but if he answers "A keow," he is turned back.

Here is a paragraph that was of interest to the young man of fifty years ago: "At half past five o'clock on the morning of March 4, 1854, after a night session, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill passed the Senate by a vote of 37 to 14. The title of the Bill is 'An Act to organize the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska.'"

The winter of 1898-9 lacked only 15 days of being six months long. It began the 16th of October with a big snow-storm.

Forty years ago many of the farmers and their families went to church in carts drawn by oxen, and, strange to relate, they were seldom late for the opening of the services.

About the year 1882 the corn planter was put aside and the checkrower brought into use. A few years later, the lister and drill supplanted the checkrower.

The first steam threshing outfit appeared along about 1876, and the cumbersome horse power had to go to the iron pile. The engine of the outfit was drawn by horses. The traction engine soon drove it out of business.

Very often in the early days Indians were induced by the whites to steal horses for them. If caught, the Indians steadfastly refused to inform on their abettors,

taking their punishment in silence. We find the following in the Chief, October, 1860:

"On Sunday, the 23d, three Iowa Indians crossed the river and proceeded to the vicinity of Sharp's grove, in Holt County, Mo., where they stole three fine horses, which they swam across the river and took to their village. Maj. Vander-slice, the Indian agent, getting wind of it took possession of the horses. On Wednesday a large body of men came over in pursuit of the horses and found them at the agency. The horses and three Indian thieves were given up and taken over to Holt. It is pretty well ascertained that some white men assisted or encouraged the Indians in this business, but the latter would make no revelations. The Indians were soundly thrashed and sent home the same night."

About March 12, 1862, a rebel named Fulton stopped at the house of a widow named Hays, near Troy, put his horses in the barn, fed them, and made himself at home generally. Mrs. Hays remonstrated, but Fulton paid no attention to her. She then sent word to Joe Nixon, who responded promptly. Calling Fulton out of the house, Nixon shot him, seriously wounding him.

Doniphan County apples beat all the world at the Centennial, in 1876.

In March, 1876, there was a big snow. In a cut a quarter of a mile long, above Norway, the snow was twenty-six feet deep, and trains were stopped for a week. Digging out the snow was as difficult as taking out the original dirt.

"Pole Pavey," mentioned in Twain's

book, was a resident of White Cloud in 1858, and piloted the "White Cloud" on the famous expedition up the Nemaha, July 4, 1858.

On Sunday night, August 16, there was an unusually gorgeous display of the aurora borealis.

T. J. Ingalls says that while making a trip up in Doniphan County, a few days ago, he heard a terrible rumbling near the Atchison and Doniphan County line. It sounded like a big eruption, or like cars crashing together. The sound travelled from east to west, and seemed to come from under the ground. Ingalls was so much interested in the phenomenon that he stopped at several houses to discuss it, and was told that the remarkable noise was common in that vicinity. Ingalls has bored a great many wells and says his experience leads him to believe that there is an enormous cavern under the ground in that vicinity, and that the sound is probably caused by falling rock. In boring the well at Forest Park, he says the drill went through a large cavern, and hundreds of barrels of water were pumped into it without filling it up. Casing finally had to be put down before the drilling could be continued, delaying the progress of drilling for a week. -- Atchison Globe, 1905.

The three big earthquakes occurred on the following dates: September, 1865, April 27, 1867, and October 31, 1895.

A very large meteor appeared in the north eastern sky about 9 o'clock on the night of December 27, 1875. It was seen to burst into fragments, and about two minutes later a report like that of a can-

non was heard over a wide area of country.

The spring of 1858 brought plenty of rain. Immense crops of corn were raised by Doniphan County farmers. Jake Bursk, near Syracuse, had more corn than he knew what to do with. He had a lot of it piled up on the prairie and sold it to the freighters out of the pile at ten cents a bushel. Mr. Bursk used to say: "I'm going back to Ohio where I won't be bothered with such big crops of corn. A man will get rich too quickly out here in Kansas." The next year the crop was not so large, and the year after that, 1860, the great drouth came to burn up the country. Five years later Adam Brenner was paying \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel to Syracuse farmers for their corn and they did not have to deliver it, either. Immense freight wagons with four-inch tires, draw by half a dozen yoke of oxen, hauled the shelled corn from the farmer's cribs across the plains to the frontier towns. Some time later, in the early 70s corn took another tumble and was again selling at a discouragingly low price--fifteen cents a bushel. Not until 1874-5, when the grasshoppers became the unwelcome guests of the country, did the price again advanced to a paying figure.

It would appear from the following that there was some danger incident to travel, even in the early day, through civilized lands, and that grandma and grandpa must have had considerable courage to have ventured on a trip "out West."

Summary of the steamboat disasters on the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi rivers during 1854:

Total steamboats sunk, 71
 " " burned, 23.
 " " destroyed by collision, 9.
 " " exploded, 10.
 " loss of property, \$2,570,000.00.
 " " life by these calamities, 355.

During the years 1861-2, a favorite crossing place for the Jayhawkers with stolen horses was at Bellemont, where a ferry was owned and operated by a man named O'Brien. While the Doniphan County soldiers were stationed at Elwood this boat was taken into their charge. Pat. Kirwan, who later became a lieutenant, was sent with sixteen men to take the boat down stream, that it might be in view of the camp. The boat was on the Missouri side when Kirwan and his men started, but before they had reached the Kansas landing, the boat was on its return trip to Bellemont. Kirwan and his men concealed themselves in the timber near the landing, and when the boat landed they leaped aboard and ordered the captain to "put'er nose down stream."

The Secretary of the State Historical Society in answer to a request to prepare a historical paper has received a letter from Hon. J. P. Johnson, of Highland, in which he says that he is the person who ran the first Kansas survey line. That was the fortieth parallel line; the line separating Kansas and Nebraska surveyed in 1854, from the Missouri river to the sixth principal meridian. Associated with Mr. Johnson in making the astronomical calculations for this survey was Captain Robert E. Lee, then of the U. S. Army, afterwards of the Confederacy. Mr. Johnson has been a resident of Kan-

sas since 1854. He is familiar with the facts of many stirring events of those early times, and it is to be hoped that he will put his recollections into writing as requested by the Historical Society.--Topeka Commonwealth, January, 1878.

On the afternoon of May 13, 1883, a small cyclone from the south west lifted the roof off the house of the old Jones nursery in Troy, then occupied by Frank Welton and did considerable damage to the trees, etc. This little twister first made its appearance in the eastern part of Wolf River township on the Lyons farm two miles south west of Moray, where it tore a door from the dwelling house, and destroyed some trees in the orchard. Passing on to the Gray farm immediately on the north, it broke the tops off some tall cottonwoods in the long row extending from the road into the field. A small willow tree some four or five inches in diameter, standing in the road was twisted around two or three times, but was not broken off. The tree is still standing and still bears the marks of its wrestle with the wind.

The first time table on the Rock Island went into effect on Sunday, November 21, 1886.

In the fall of 1886, 27,000 barrels of apples were shipped out of the County.

Rev. James Shaw, a pioneer Methodist preacher, first located at Geary City. In 1886 he wrote an interesting book entitled "Reminiscences of a Pioneer Preacher."

One of the very first school teachers in the County was Charles Rapplye, who taught Columbus and Palermo, in 1857-8.

The first County Fair was held at the Troy Fair Grounds, in August, 1868.

The first men in the County to start in quest of a fortune to be made by threshing grain was Loyd and Sargent, about the year 1861. They did work for farmers in three townships--Wolf River, Center, and Wayne. They had a J. I. Case separator propelled by horse power. The grain came from the machine in a small spout near one of the hind wheels, and was caught in a half bushel measure. A count of the number of bushels was kept by placing pegs in holes in the side of the machine. There was no straw-carrier for this first machine, the best natured of the "hands" being sent to carry away the straw and stack it.

John Doms, who died on his farm midway between Wathena and Troy, in September, 1885, was born at Brussels, Belgium. When a boy his playground was the field of the battle of Waterloo, where he picked many relics of the famous fight. He served in the Crimea and for a portion of the time was in the employ of Lord Raglan, the British commander. After the war he travelled in many European countries as interpreter to an English officer, he having been able to converse in four different languages. He was married at St. Peter's cathedral, London. In 1872, a cyclone destroyed his house, killing his wife and leaving him with a family of five little girls who proved themselves excellent little women by helping their father keep house. One of the girls--Elizabeth--became a writer of very good verse. Selections from her writings appear in their proper place in the Authors' Chapter in this work.

A few old trading posts on the Missouri are here named: Bellemont, or Whitehead, post was established in the spring of 1852; Wathena post, established April 1852; Elwood post, established in the fall of the same year, and Doniphan post in 1853.

A pair of brass galleys originally belonging to the outfit of the Doniphan Constitutionalist was for many years preserved in the office of the Chief by Sol. Miller. Perhaps the pair is still in the office.

John Brown left Chicago for Kansas Territory, August 23, 1855, with a heavily loaded wagon and reached Ossawatamie, October 6. He walked beside his wagon and shot game for food.

One of the first, if not the very first, peddlers was Pat Barlow, an eccentric character who, though lame and homely, had the happy knack of getting married occasionally. There was not a house in all the country where Pat hadn't sold a table cloth or a red handkerchief. He died in St. Joseph late in the eighties.

During the years 1873-4 the County paid a bounty of five cents for gopher scalps. Some time later a bounty of a nickel was offered for rabbit ears and many a boy made pocket money until the bounties were withdrawn.

An immense amount of lumber was manufactured at White Cloud, Lafayette, Iowa Point, Geary City, Palermo, and Doniphan, during the sixties, and some of it is still doing service.

Richard J. Gatling, inventor of the world-famous Gatling Gun, once wrote to Sol. Miller asking him to retract some-

Earl Marble was a sentimental, poetical character, and wore his hair long, flowing down over his shoulders. In the summer of 1860, during the hot political campaign of that year, one night on the occasion of some Democratic blow out, some of the young southern Chivalry of St. Joseph gave a chase to Marble and Thompson, clipping off Marble's flowing locks, and beating Thompson like a carpet. Later, Marble went East and became editorially connected with the *Waverly Magazine*, about 1872.

The town of Charleston on the Missouri flourished for a time, but soon lost its vigor and fell into rapid decay. It is said that when the population dwindled to two men, these two got into a quarrel, one killing the other.

In the spring of 1863, pneumonia was very prevalent in the County, and was singularly fatal, baffling medical skill.

A slight earthquake shock was felt at White Cloud, at 8:30 on the morning of August 13, 1865.

One night in the summer of 1863, Kit Williams and Tom Osborn slept in the court house yard at Troy. Next morning when they went to hunt up the sheriff to pay for their night's "lodging" they complained to him that the windows of their "hotel" had been left open and that they had caught cold.

In 1872, the "Bob-tail" railroad was built from Wathena to Doniphan. A few years later the track was removed.

At the Columbian Fair held in Chicago in 1893, the State prize for peaches was taken by Doniphan County.

A cable has been shipped from St. Louis by the Western Union Telegraph Company to sink in the Missouri river to connect St. Joseph with Kansas.--*Wathena Reporter*, May 30, 1867.

This from the *Athens Press* of February 15, 1867, was discouraging reading for the struggling farmers of that trying period:

"A gentleman yesterday brought into the office a bottle of young grasshoppers which he picked up on his farm in this vicinity. It appears that the few warm days of last week brought these young insects to the surface, and that the extreme cold weather of Friday and Saturday last was not severe enough to kill them. Such being the case, we shall have a much larger crop of grasshoppers the coming season than we had last summer. When the warm weather of the spring has brought this grand army to the surface, we shall be eaten up alive, unless they take wings and fly away. Farmers are much alarmed in anticipation of the appearance of this plague.

A big camp meeting for the Troy, White Cloud and Hiawatha Circuits, was held on Wolf River, near Quick's bridge, April 3 and 5, 1866.

In the middle sixties there were nineteen postoffices in the County, as follows: Columbus, Charleston, Doniphan, Elwood, Geary City, Highland, Iowa Point, Lafayette, Normanville, Mt. Vernon, Palermo, Ridge Farm, Syracuse, Walnut Grove, Troy, Wathena, White Cloud, Whitehead, and Wolf River.

In April, 1867, the County Commissioners purchased 220 acres of land for a

poor farm, of Charles Richter, "about three miles from Palermo, on the Pottawatomie road." Consideration, \$4,500.

"Windy Friday," December 4, 1885. Twenty-four hours steady blow.

In September, 1854, Daniel Todd and his entire family consisting of six persons were kidnapped from their home near White Cloud, and taken to Missouri where they were sold into slavery. Making escape, Todd joined the Union army. After his discharge from the army, he gathered up all of his children that he could find and returned to White Cloud, where he lived for many years afterward.

Lewis V. Fleming purchased the St. Joseph and Elwood ferry of Ebenezer Blackiston, in August, 1866, paying him \$50,000. During the first half of the following month he crossed to St. Joseph over 12,000 head of cattle, mostly Texan steers.

Along in the middle seventies engines on the St. Joseph & Denver road bore the names of the stations painted in beautiful letters just under the windows of the cabs, and so familiar with the engines were many of the boys living near the road, that they could give the name of an engine merely having heard its whistle. Many a nickel and dime changed hands on bets made between youngsters, and the loser lost no time in getting better acquainted with the engines. In those days to get a nodding acquaintance with the engineer or fireman was an honor much sought for by the small boy. Many a bunch of wild grapes, and more than one hatful of plums fell into the hands of the condescending trainmen who, in passing

up the steep grades, dropped a gallant salute to the girls, or tossed a nod to the boys gathered beside the the track to see the train go by.

In a railroad wreck which occurred about two miles north of Doniphan, Dec. 3, 1875, two men from Lincoln, Nebraska, were crushed to death.

The Darwin post office was discontinued in April, 1888.

May 15, 1859, a hail storm and wind did great damage in Wayne township, especially at Doniphan, where many houses were unroofed or blown down.

June 4, 1860, Harriet Newman sold to Aaron P. Quick, for \$700, a fifteen-year-old negro boy named George Washington Gater. The bill of sale was acknowledged before Samuel C. Benight, deputy clerk of the Territorial District Court.

Pat Barlow, famous as a local peddler, was killed at St. Joseph by an electric car, October 6, 1893.

Father DeSmet, S. J., passed through this country travelling on foot, in 1840. He was then on his way to the North West Territory to preach the Gospel to the Indians. As he journeyed across the country following the general direction of the St. Joseph and Oregon Trail, he collected plants and wild flowers, classing and catalogizing them, for he was a Naturalist as well as a preacher.

Miss Elizabeth Turkleson, who successfully filled the position of assistant principal of the Troy High School for four years, carried off the honors at a Teachers' examination held in June, 1904, in St. Joseph, for positions in the city schools. Her average was 91 per cent. There were

fifty four other applicants, and but nine of them passed. Miss Turkleson is one of the best teachers in this part of the State. She is a daughter of C. O. Turkleson, one of the very early settlers in north eastern Wolf River township.

Votes were cast in three different townships in the County at the election held March 30, 1855. Returns as follows:

Doniphan--Pro-slavery votes, 313; Wolf River, 57; Burr-Oak, 256. Doniphan--Free Soil, 30; Wolf River, 15; Burr-Oak, 2. Doniphan--Scattering, 3; Wolf River, 6; Burr-Oak, 48. Total, Doniphan, 341; Wolf River, 78; Burr-Oak, 306. Total legal, 200; illegal, 530; Number voters, 334.

Miss Eva Ryan's "Literary Women of Brown County" appeared in October 1894. Miss Ryan was a Severance girl.

The post office at Orr Station was established in January, 1894, with Luke Clem as postmaster.

A good authority states that Mary Hempstead Keeney, the second wife of Manuel Liza, was the first white woman to ascend the Missouri river, passing the green shorelands of what is now Doniphan County.

Times were hard in the spring of 1858. A saw mill was sold by a constable to pay a debt of forty dollars, and a house and lot were sold to satisfy a debt of thirty dollars. The owner of the last named property knew nothing of the legal transaction until it was over.

Wm. Kirby, of Doniphan, published his book, "Mormonism Exposed" in July, 1893.

A Doniphan County man, Charles W. Stewart, suggested the name of St. Joseph. He also suggested naming the streets running east and west for Robidoux's children.

One of the first Fourth of July celebrations in the County was at a point on Rock Creek below the present site of Brenner, in 1859. Col. Ege was one of the speakers on the occasion; also some Mexican war soldiers made talks. Late in the day there came up a big hail. The stones were very large. They broke all the panes in the north windows, and left deep dents in the doors. Many a gay picnicker got his head thumped that evening.

In June, 1886, the Rock Island began securing abstracts of titles of land for the right of way of the road. This was the first sign of a "sure go."

April 3, 1885, lightning struck the powder magazine on Prospect Hill in St. Joseph, and exploded six thousand pounds of powder. The shock was plainly felt at Wathena and Troy, windows having been cracked at the former place, by the concussion.

The County has been visited by two very remarkable hail storms. The first came on the Fourth of July, 1857. The second came May 28, 1899, passing over the northern townships. The hail remained in heaps three to four feet deep for many days. While the first great storm was remarkable for the size of the stones that fell, the second was noted for the depth of the hail drifts.

January 13, 1899, the mercury stood at 30 degrees below zero, and there was a

great deal of suffering. One year later, on the same day of the month, the mercury stood at 60 degrees above zero. There was no frost in the ground. Gophers were at work. After a few heavy rains the skies cleared up and there was a period of spring weather. There was not a particle of ice in the creeks.

The White Cloud Chief reported a plague of locusts in June, 1862. "They may be heard night and day, and are to be found on every bush. We have seen nothing like it since the days of Pharaoh."

On May 17, 1857, School Districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were organized.

The highest point in the County is said to be Mount Lookout, near Eagle Springs. Another elevated point is Schwab Hill, half of a mile east of Bendena.

It is now a rare sight to see a young lady working in the field with her brothers. The complexion of the girl of today would scarcely permit her to venture for any length of time beyond the barn, but it may truthfully be said of many of the old girls (of course they are married long ago) that they helped their brothers make the County out of doors, for there was no work on the farm that they would not cheerfully undertake. And what they undertook usually was done well. It was no unusual sight to see a young lady at work shocking wheat, raking hay, or even plowing corn. Of course those girls could not boast of having lily-white arms and hands, and peach blossom complexions, but they had brave hearts, healthy bodies, and clear minds; and time has proved that they had the virtues and qual-

ities that go to make good wives, and mothers.

How many of our young men have read the old story of "Harry and the Guide-Post"? How many know what a guidepost is? Thirty years ago the guidepost was the travelers' encyclopedia. It stood with its spreading arms at a cross-roads, indicating both distance and direction of the towns which, at that time, were "few and far between." "To Kennekuk, 20 miles," "To Troy, 9 miles," "To Syracuse, 3 miles," once familiar signs on the prairie, long ago have been torn down, and we venture to say that no young man of the present generation has ever seen even the remains of one of those old time friends.

Colonel Ege heard the famous debate between Webster and Hayne. He walked sixty miles to be present.

According to the following statement, our state was a lonely place half a century ago:

There is not, at this moment, August 1, 1854, a town or village in Kansas or Nebraska.--E. E. Hale in "Kansas and Nebraska."

As late as 1857, Brown County people received their mail from the Iowa Point post office. There was an ox-team mail weekly, kept up by local contribution.

We will continue to tar and feather, drown, lynch, and hang every white-livered Abolitionist who dares to pollute our soil.--Squatters' Sovereign, August 28, 1855.

The famous "Squatters' Sovereign Association" was formed June 24, 1854, at J. R. Whitehead's, near Bellemont.