

INTRODUCTION

This little book is the oldest written story of Barton County, Kansas, and surrounding area. While the directory part covers many other counties and even State and Federal officials, the historical section is mostly confined to Barton County, the townships, and three cities—Great Bend, Ellinwood and Pawnee Rock. The towns that came with the Missouri Pacific Railroad were not included. The reader should bear in mind that this booklet was written and published in Great Bend just 8 years after the organization of the City of Great Bend, the organization of the county and the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad.

The author and publisher of this little work, Mr. Bernard Bryan Smyth, was a very capable and farsighted printer of the pioneer towns of Ellinwood and Great Bend. He was also a Civil War Veteran, Homesteader and an Ellinwood School Teacher, he later moved to Topeka. He undertook this work for the purpose of boosting the area and to entice emigrants from the east. His aim, in all probability, was to show the dubious that civilization with all its culture, societies, education and refinement was to be found in this supposedly "wilderness." We think his efforts were successful.

So that his efforts, and the gems he preserved, are not forever lost, it behooves us to reprint this little volume as a facsimile and with the hope that someone or some group will undertake to complete his original undertaking of preparing Volume II or bringing the work up to include the present time.

It certainly is significant that the original volume was printed by hand set type in Great Bend, eighty years ago. Now the preservation of this valuable information given in this book is

an exact reproduction accomplished with the use of a modern process by Miller Printers in Great Bend.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Carlos Miller of Great Bend, Kansas, owner of the Miller Printers for his generous cooperation in this undertaking.

We are also deeply grateful to the Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas, who so generously lent one of the two original copies it owns for this work and without which the work obviously could not have been accomplished.



Ray S. Schulz

Great Bend, Kansas
January 1960