

Some Place Names of Kansas

by

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The vast plains of Kansas were first discovered by white men when Coronado and his soldiers rode north from Mexico in 1541. Then the plains waited for hundreds of years until the pioneers came to Kansas to till the soil, to plant trees, to build homes and establish towns. When these settlers came they gave names to their surroundings, to the rivers and creeks, the hills and valleys—or they called them the names that the Indians or the French traders had already named them. The settlers gave names to their trading posts and their little settlements, and later to their post offices and the railroad stops.

The names came from many sources. Sometimes a town was named in honor of an army officer or a town-founder or a pioneer woman. Other towns were named for towns in the home state or home country of the settlers. Some towns were named for Indians, or for a grove of trees or a nearby river. Occasionally foreign words instead of English were used, or a name was composed of parts of two words. In several instances a town would get a name from an unusual incident and the settlers called it by this “chance” name.

The names found in the present research represent some towns from each county in Kansas. The names have been organized into six main categories of origin:

- Towns Named for People
- Names Based on Foreign Words
- Names of Indian Origin
- Towns Named for Other Places and Towns
- Towns Named for Natural Environment
- Chance Names

The stories about the names were gleaned from many sources: hearsay, chambers of commerce, old state histories, county histories, newspapers, recent books. Admittedly many towns have been missed, and many good stories, too. A project of this kind is a never-ending (but fascinating) task. This list, which includes some 300 town names in Kansas, is at least a fair start on a more complete place name study in the state.

Towns Named for People

Army Officers

BAZINE (Ness). A man by the name of Farnsworth gave the land for the town site to the town company. The town was named for a marshal of the French Army, whose name was Francois Achille Bazaine. Farnsworth admired this marshal very much, and so the town was named Bazine.

DODGE CITY (Ford). Dodge City was named for Colonel Richard Dodge and for Fort Dodge, which was named for General Grenville Dodge, a brother of the Colonel. Nearly three years after the town site was laid out, the great cattle herds began to appear. In 1875, some 250,000 cattle were driven here to be shipped. At this time Dodge City was the end of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. In 1884, the first and only bull fight to be held on United States soil took place here.

ELLIS (Ellis). The town was laid out in 1873 by the Kansas Pacific (now the Union Pacific) Railroad Company. It was named for First Lieutenant George Ellis of the Kansas Infantry.

ELLSWORTH (Ellsworth). The town and county both took their name from Fort Ellsworth (built in 1864), which in turn was named for Lieutenant Allen Ellsworth. This town, incorporated in 1868, owed its development to two main factors—the Texas cattle trade and the building of the railroad. It led quite a rootin'-tootin' existence during 1873 when the cattle trade was at its peak, but settled down again when the trails moved westward.

FORD (Ford). Ford was established in the 1890's and was named for James H. Ford, Colonel of the Second Colorado Cavalry. At one time the citizens of Ford laid the rails for a branch of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway in order to establish Ford as a railroad center, rather than Dodge City.

FORT SCOTT (Bourbon). Fort Scott was a site selected by a U.S. military commission in 1842 as a headquarters for troops. Nineteen soldiers erected the first garrison. Camp Scott was the name given the site, in honor of the stern old military hero, General Winfield Scott. Fort Scott was identified closely with the territorial development of the U.S. Being a part of the great Cherokee nation originally, Fort Scott was a strategic military point used to push westward the frontier for the white man.

The town of Fort Scott derived its name from the fort and is located on the historical site of the old fort. It was incorporated in 1860.

FRONTENAC (Crawford). In 1887 Frontenac was laid out as a town and named for a French general. Frontenac is often called the “melting pot of Kansas” since its inhabitants represent twenty-one nations. It is a pioneer coal mining town and began as a mining camp.

GOVE (Gove). Gove was founded in 1885 and named for Grenville L. Gove, a first lieutenant in the Kansas Cavalry. The town is located on the Union Pacific Railroad.

HARPER (Harper). Harper was founded in 1877 by a party of pioneers from Bloomfield, Iowa. The party, consisting of eleven families, laid out the town site and named their town for Marion Harper of the Second Kansas Cavalry.

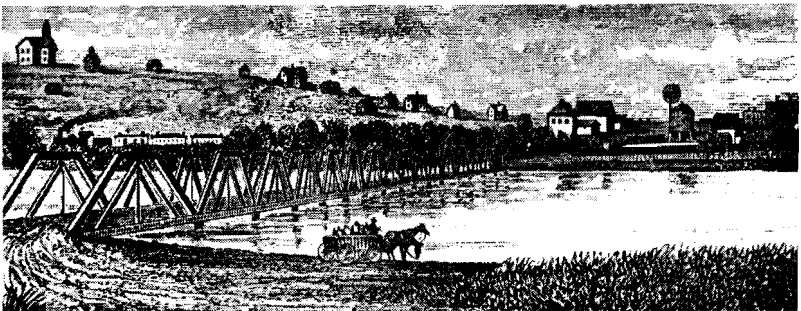
HAYS (Ellis). Hays was named for Fort Hays. The fort was named for General Alex Hays, who was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness. Fort Hays was a strategic outpost for pioneers who were traveling westward. Hays City was founded in 1867 near the site of the old fort. In 1874, a United States land office was opened there. The name Hays City is still sometimes used but it generally is known as Hays.

HOWARD (Elk). Howard City, as it was called in earlier times, was founded in 1870 by a town company of which Samuel McFarland was president. It overlooks the valleys of Elk River, Paw Paw and Rock Creeks. Later, the “City” was dropped and the town became Howard, after General O. O. Howard.

JEWELL (Jewell). Both the county and town were named for Lieutenant Colonel L. R. Jewell, a Civil War hero.

JOHNSON (Stanton). Johnson was founded by Civil War veterans in 1885, about seven miles northwest of its present site. It was called Veteran. In 1886, the town was moved to its present site and the name changed to Johnson in honor of Colonel A. S. Johnson, one of the veterans.

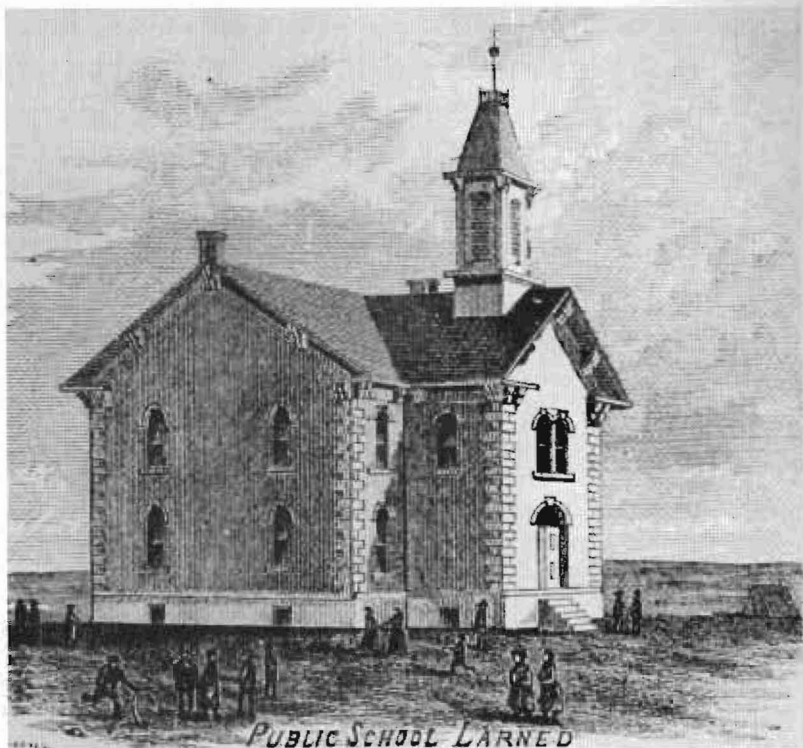
LARNED (Pawnee). Old Fort Larned was established in 1859 as a fort for the protection of pioneers traveling on the Santa Fe Trail. In



Bridge across the Arkansas River at Larned (about 1880).

1872, the town Larned was founded as a trading post. Both were named in honor of Colonel B. F. Larned, a paymaster general of the Army.

In 1874, the first public school was established. It was housed in an old saloon. Pupils sat on beer kegs before the bar which served the teacher as a desk. Nine inch red and yellow letters S-A-L-O-O-N adorned the front of the building.



LEAVENWORTH (Leavenworth). Colonel Henry Leavenworth had a trained soldier's eye when it came to choosing a site for a military cantonment. In 1827, he was ordered to select a spot on the west side of the Missouri River. The site where Fort Leavenworth stands today was selected. In 1854, a group of thirty-two men established a town three miles south of the Fort, calling it Leavenworth City, since the name Leavenworth was well known throughout the country. Later the "City" was dropped. Leavenworth was the first town in the State of Kansas.

LOGAN (Phillips). Ben Darling was the first white man to settle on the land where Logan now stands. Logan was founded in 1870 and was named by Gil Hoover for his General, John A. Logan. General Logan was later a Senator from Illinois.

It is said that Will Gray, the postmaster used to empty the mail in a tub and each person walked around the tub and picked out his own mail. The first Justice of Peace could neither read nor write but a friend taught him enough so that he was capable of filling the office.

McPHERSON (McPherson). Major General James Birdseye McPherson, for whom McPherson was named, was one of the most promising generals of the Union Army. At the time of his death he was in command of the Army of Tennessee.

After the Homestead Act was passed in 1862, many Civil War soldiers sat around their camp fires dreaming of the homes they hoped to establish in the far west when the war was over. About 750 veterans came to McPherson and vicinity after the war ended. McPherson was founded in 1872 by L. G. Skancke who was chief clerk of the government land office at Salina at the time.

MEADE (Meade). This town was founded in 1885 and was named for General George Meade. The notorious Dalton Gang had a hideout and a secret escape tunnel here which can be seen today.

NORTON (Norton). Norton was originally named Billings for a man who proved to be a scoundrel. In 1872, the name was changed to Norton for Captain Orloff Norton who was sent here to settle trouble between the settlers and the Indians.

PHILLIPSBURG (Phillips). The town was named for Colonel William A. Phillips, early day writer, politician and colonel of the Cherokee Regiment of the Civil War. The town was platted in 1872 and incorporated in 1880.

PRATT (Pratt). The city of Pratt was founded in 1884 and was named for Caleb Pratt, an officer in the First Kansas Infantry.

RUSSELL (Russell). Russell was founded in 1871 and a large number of houses and a school house were erected that year. The town was named for Captain Avra P. Russell, an officer killed in the Civil War.

SCOTT CITY (Scott). The city and county were both named for General Winfield Scott (see Fort Scott) for his services to the United States in the Mexican War. Scott City was founded in 1885 by a town company which donated several blocks of land for town improvements. A school, a court house and several churches were erected on these blocks of land.

SMITH CENTER (Smith). This town is located near the center of Smith County, which was named for Major J. Nelson Smith, Second Colo-

rado Volunteers. Smith Center was founded in 1872 by the Smith Center Town Company.

STAFFORD (Stafford). For several years this new county was inhabited by buffalo hunters, cowboys, surveyors and trappers. The first permanent town was established in 1877 and was known as "Sod Town." Four homesteads were taken in 1876 and 1877 and constituted what is now Stafford. A wagon wheel was used to mark off lots and streets. Each of the four homesteaders put ten acres into the town plot. In 1885, the town secured a writ of incorporation and was named Stafford for Captain Lewis Stafford, who had been a commanding officer of some of the soldier residents of the town in the Civil War. At one time Captain Stafford was a prisoner in the terrible Confederate States prison at Andersonville, Georgia.

ULYSSES (Grant). Ulysses was named for General Ulysses S. Grant of the United States Army and was organized in 1885. Ulysses was known as the city that moved because of a mortgage. The town company had a mortgage on the town site. Some say most of the money was used for the county seat election. When the mortgage came due, after dark one night the townspeople moved everything, even the buildings to a new site. The company was left holding the mortgage on a piece of land rather than on the buildings in a village. When the town was moved to its new location it was called New Ulysses. However the "New" was soon dropped.

WINFIELD (Cowley). In 1870, Winfield was founded and named in honor of General Winfield Scott (see Scott City), a Civil War officer and Baptist missionary. In return for the town's being named for him, Scott agreed to build a church. His church was the first stone church in Winfield. The land upon which Winfield was built was leased from Chief Chetopah of the Osage tribe of Indians for the sum of six dollars.

Coronado, in his search for "The Seven Cities of Cibola," camped where Winfield is now located. Evidence in the form of broken firearms, rusty swords and old utensils has been excavated in this area.

Famous Men

AMERICUS (Lyon). Americus was named for Americus Vespuccius who was the Italian navigator for whom America was named.

ANTHONY (Harper). This town was established and named in 1878, in honor of Governor George T. Anthony, an early day governor of Kansas. When Harper County was organized in that year, Governor Anthony was given the authority to locate the county seat and it was given the name Anthony.

ATCHISON (Atchison). In 1807, James Fields, a Kickapoo Indian, was bitten by a snake near the present site of Atchison. The site was named "Field's Snake Prairie" by the Kickapoos. In 1854, Atchison was founded and named for Senator Atchison of Missouri. For a short time the Senator was President *pro tem* of the Senate. Atchison was one of the first towns in Kansas to be connected by telegraph to the East (1859).

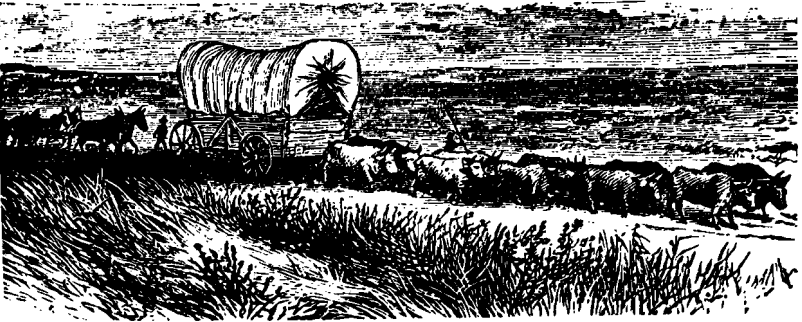
BURLINGAME (Osage). Burlingame was named for Anson Burlingame who later became United States Minister to China. Burlingame is the oldest town in Osage County. In 1855, it was started as Council City, but two years later the name was changed to Burlingame. With the exception of Council Grove, Burlingame was the most important stop on the Santa Fe Trail.

CALDWELL (Sumner). Caldwell was named for Senator Alexander Caldwell of Leavenworth, a United States Senator. Caldwell's first building (1870) was a shack that stood on the Chisholm Trail and served as a saloon. In front hung a weathered sign with the name *Last Chance Saloon* painted on one side and *First Chance Saloon* on the other. It was the last place where liquor could be bought on the road into Indian Territory. The town was incorporated in 1879.

CLAY CENTER (Clay). Clay Center was founded in 1862 and was named for Henry Clay, the famous writer, orator, and statesman.

DE SOTO (Johnson). The town was laid out in 1857 by the town company and was named for the great Spanish explorer, Fernando de Soto.

HOLTON (Jackson). Holton was named for E. D. Holton, the Milwaukee philanthropist that outfitted the wagon train of settlers who were headed for this site in Kansas.



HORTON (Brown). This town, established in 1886, was named after Chief Justice Albert H. Horton of the Kansas Supreme Court. He rep-

resented the Rock Island Railway Company when it projected a line from St. Joseph to Topeka, and a division point was established at this site.

HUGOTON (Stevens). The town was named Hugo for Victor Hugo, a French author and poet, who died the year the town site was laid out. When the post office was established, it was given the name of Hugoton lest it be confused with Hugo, Colorado, which is not far away. Hugoton was founded in 1885.

HUMBOLDT (Allen). Humboldt was named for Baron von Humboldt, a German, by the settlers of German origin who settled in Humboldt. It was organized as a village in 1866.

KINGMAN (Kingman). The town was named for Samuel A. King, who was Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court at the time the city was established in 1874. Kingman is situated on an old stage line between Hutchinson and Medicine Lodge.

MERCIER (Brown). This town was known as Germantown until World War I, when the name was changed to Mercier. Mercier was the name of a Catholic Cardinal in Belgium. The town was originally settled by three brothers by the name of Schuetz and a man named Winterscheidt.

MORRILL (Brown). Morrill was named for an early day Governor of Kansas, E. N. Morrill. The town was officially founded in 1878, although it was settled many years before.

MORROWVILLE (Washington). Morrowville was founded in 1884 and named for its founder, Cal Morrow, State Senator. The town was called Morrow until 1896, when it was changed to Morrowville. The railroad company complained that its ticket agents were confused when passengers asked for a "ticket to Morrow" (tomorrow).

ROBINSON (Brown). Robinson is named for the first Governor of Kansas, Governor Charles Robinson. The town was founded in 1871 at the time the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad was built through here.

ST. JOHN (Stafford). St. John was named for one of the early day governors of Kansas, Governor John P. St. John. The town which originally occupied this site was called Zion Valley, and was founded by the Mormons. A town company purchased the land and the name of the post office was changed to St. John in 1880.

VOLTAIRE (Sherman). Voltaire was named in honor of the famous French philosopher, Francois Marie Arouet de Voltaire.

WASHINGTON (Washington). There are two opinions about the origin of the name of this town. Some say it was named for George Washington, the first President of the United States. Others say it was

named for Washington, New York, as some of the first settlers were from New York. The town was founded in 1860 by the town company. A "company house" was built to which each member of the company contributed seven logs. The first school was held in this company house in 1861.

WELLINGTON (Sumner). Wellington was named for the Duke of Wellington of England. The city was platted in 1871 and incorporated in 1872.

Pioneers

ATWOOD (Rawlins). The name given to this town was in honor of Atwood Matheny, son of James Matheny. The father, James, was an early day minister in the northwestern area of Kansas. Atwood was surveyed and platted in 1879. In 1881, it became the county seat.

BAILEYVILLE (Nemaha). This town was founded in 1880 and was known as Haytown. It was a shipping place for prairie hay. It was settled largely by Germans. Later, the name was changed to Baileyville, named for an early settler, N. Bailey.

BALDWIN (Douglas). This town site was platted by the Palmyra Town Company in 1854 and was named Palmyra. John Baldwin, an early settler, came to Palmyra from Ohio and established a sawmill in 1858. He contributed to the establishing of Baker University, the first four year college in Kansas. The town was renamed Baldwin for this enterprising citizen.

BAXTER SPRINGS (Cherokee). In 1858, A. Baxter laid a claim in Cherokee County near a big spring flowing out of a hill. Baxter built a small tavern near the spring to accommodate the few travelers passing through the country. Pioneers settled here and when the town was named, it was called Baxter Springs. The town site was in the territory known as the Government Strip.

BIRD CITY (Cheyenne). Bird City was named for an early day cattleman, Benjamin Bird.

BUHLER (Reno). Mr. A. B. Buhler founded the town. He operated a hardware store in the early days of Buhler. He later started the Buhler State Bank.

CAWKER CITY (Mitchell). Several men were trying to settle on a name for their town which was founded in 1870. They decided to play a game of poker and the man who won was to have the town named in his honor. E. Harrison Cawker won. To make the town sound more impressive to the people back East, the men named it Cawker City rather than just plain Cawker, and so it remains to this day.

CHAPMAN (Dickinson). Chapman is located near the head of Chapman Creek which was named for an early settler, according to some stories. Others say Chapman was named by Horace Greeley, the famous New York newspaperman. The town had one of the first consolidated high schools in Kansas. Chapman was settled in 1871.

COFFEYVILLE (Montgomery). In the early days Coffeyville was known as "Cow Town." It was the shipping point for great herds of cattle. Cowboys and cattlemen by the score came to this settlement, once coveted Indian land. To this territory came Colonel James A. Coffey, a typical pioneer, resourceful, energetic and restless. Coffey was able to speak two Indian languages fluently. He established a trading post and built a home on the Verdigris River. A town company was organized in 1869 and the town was founded and named in honor of the original white resident of the village, Colonel Coffey.

COLBY (Thomas). Colby was named for J. R. Colby, an early settler in Thomas County. He had established the first post office three miles south of the present site of Colby. He agreed to move the town site if the town would be named for him. A United States land office was opened at Colby in 1894.

CUBA (Republic). The town of Cuba was named for a man by the name of Kuba. Through the years, when people heard the name pronounced, they thought of it as being spelled Cuba (the common spelling). Through misunderstanding the "k" was changed to a "c." Cuba was founded by Bohemians and Swedes in 1873, nearly two miles south of the present site. The town was moved in 1884 so that it would be on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad line. Cuba is often referred to as the Bohemian Capital of Kansas because it is the center of the largest Bohemian colony in the state.

ELWOOD (Doniphan). It seems that this town was originally named Roseport after its first promoter, a Mr. Rose from back East. This gentleman arrived in Kansas one day in 1856, looked the situation over, and decided that a spot just opposite St. Joseph, Missouri, on the west side of the Missouri River would make a fine townsite. He got backing from some Missouri capitalists and started construction on the new town which he named for himself. The town boomed. Imagine how flabbergasted the town promoters were when another man appeared on the scene and revealed that Mr. Rose was actually an ex-convict named Ingraham! Mr. Rose left town in great haste. The town name was changed to Elwood in honor of John B. Elwood, the leader of the town fathers.

HAVENSVILLE (Pottawatomie). Havensville was named for Paul E. Havens, of Leavenworth. The "-ville" was added to distinguish it from Haven, Reno County. Havensville is located on a branch of the

Union Pacific Railroad. The town was platted by the railroad company in 1878.

HAYSVILLE (Sedgwick). Haysville stands on what was once the homestead of Bill Hays, Sedgwick County rancher and one-time sheriff. The town was named for this family. Haysville is the Peach Capital of Kansas.

HERINGTON (Dickinson). M. D. Herington, a pioneer Kansas rancher, founded this town in 1888.

HILL CITY (Graham). Hill City was named for W. R. Hill (see Nicodemus). He was an early settler and one of the founders of this city. In 1890, it was incorporated with Hill as the first mayor.

HILLSBORO (Marion). John Gillespie Hill aided the Mennonites in settling in the area of Hillsboro. Originally the town was named Hill City but was later changed to Hillsboro. Hillsboro was laid out in 1879.

HOLCOMB (Finney). In 1872, Sherlock was established by the officials of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company. It was named in honor of Thomas Sherlock, Sr., a director of the Santa Fe company. The town prospered only a few months. The citizens of Garden City offered to move the town to their town, the Sherlock



Hutchinson Opera House (around 1880).

citizens, buildings and all, and most of the residents took advantage of the offer. By 1884, Sherlock began to show signs of prosperity, but that year was followed by hard times again. For the next twenty years Sherlock had no post office. In 1910, the post office was re-established and the town was renamed Holcomb in honor of D. C. Holcomb, a pioneer very active in developing that part of Finney County.

HUTCHINSON (Reno). The city was named for Mr. C. C. Hutchinson, an early day real estate agent. Hutchinson was first incorporated as a third class city of Reno County, Kansas, in 1871. Hutchinson has the largest salt mines in the world.

INGALLS (Gray). Ingalls was originally called Soule City. Later, the name was changed to Ingalls in 1844, in honor of John J. Ingalls, a friend of A. T. Soule, and a brilliant United States Senator from Kansas in the '70's and '80's.

The Eureka Irrigating Canal Company was started in 1884 to irrigate the uplands of Ford and Gray Counties. In 1887, ninety-three miles were completed. This project was often called "Soule's Elephant," after the owner, Asa T. Soule. By 1892, the flow of the Arkansas River had declined badly and the project was abandoned as a failure.

JENNINGS (Decatur). Jennings was named after the Jennings family who were early pioneers in this county. The original settlement was called Slab City. Early settlements were made up of German, Bohemian, Swede, Mennonite, and Quaker settlers.



Lawrence in 1854. Near the bend of the river is the saw mill of the New England Aid Society. (Reproduced from Isely and Richards)

LAWRENCE (Douglas). Founded in 1854 by the New England Emigrant Aid Company, this town was named for Amos A. Lawrence of

Boston, a prominent member of the company. Dr. Charles Robinson (later the first governor of Kansas) was hired by the New England financiers to look after their interests in Lawrence.

The town was the center of Free State Activities during the Territorial years. Lawrence is the site of the University of Kansas which was first chartered as Lawrence University in 1859. Through the efforts of Dr. Charles Robinson, it became the State University in 1861. Prior to the adoption of the name Lawrence, the town was called Wakarusa, New Boston, and Yankee City.

LECOMPTON (Douglas). Lecompton was named for Samuel D. Lecompte, president of the town company. The first settlement on or near the town site was made in 1854 by A. W. and A. G. Glenn, father and son.

LEHIGH (Marion). In the early days, before the origin of the town, the plot of ground where Lehigh now stands was owned by a Lee Hays. When the Santa Re Railroad was constructed in 1877, the town was established and the railroad officials called it Lehigh in honor of the Lee Hays who had owned the ground. The town was incorporated in 1901.

LEWIS (Edwards). The town is located in territory that formerly belonged to the Apache and Comanche Indians. It was founded in 1882 by a family of the name of Lewis from Virginia.

While a detachment of United States Army recruits were escorting their paymaster from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Dodge, they were attacked by Apache and Comanche Indians near Lewis. One morning wolves were heard howling. "Look out," warned an experienced plainsman, "the wolf packs that are doing that howling are Indians." Soon a herd of buffalo approached the camp followed by 800 Indians, armed and ready to attack. Several Indians fell and the others withdrew as the whites fired upon them. A squaw urged them on for a second charge. This time an Apache chief was killed. Suddenly a young Indian boy rode back from the retreating Indians, slipped a lasso around the chief's body and dragged it from the field. The boy was the chief's son, Geronimo. The soldiers, admiring his courage, held fire. Geronimo grew up to be the most able Apache warrior who ever opposed the United States forces.

McCUNE (Crawford). McCune was laid out in 1879 by Isaac McCune, from whom it takes its name. Mr. McCune owned the land and had been farming it before he laid out the town.

MILTONVALE (Cloud). Miltonvale was named for Milton Tootle, who founded the town in 1879. The Miltonvale Wesleyan College is located here.

MOSCOW (Stevens). Moscow was founded in 1913, and was named for a man by that name. The town was soon moved so that it would be on the Santa Fe Railroad.

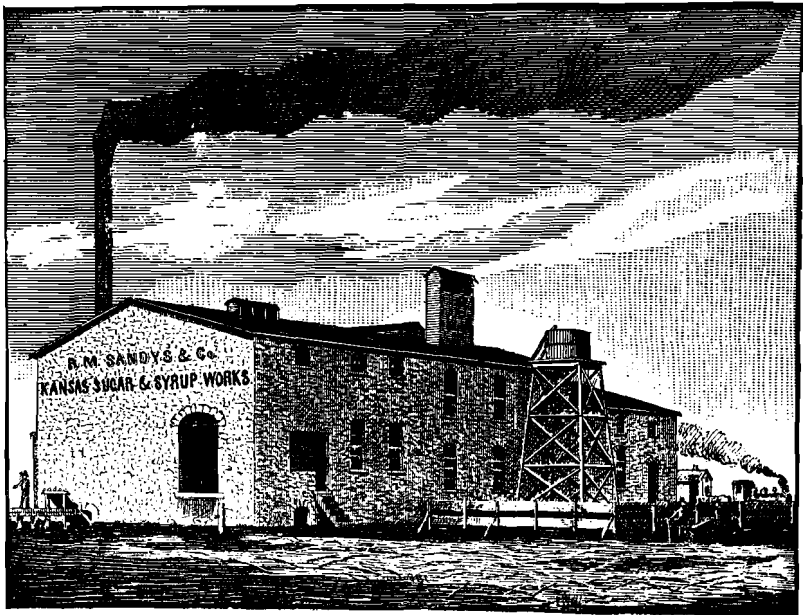
OTIS (Rush). Major E. Moderwell founded Otis in 1886, and named the town for his son, Otis.

RICHMOND (Franklin). Richmond was probably named for John Richmond, one of the first settlers of the area. However, others believe it might have been named for Richmond, Virginia.

SCAMMON (Cherokee). Four Scammon brothers from Illinois settled in this area in 1885 and laid out the town of Scammonville. Later the "-ville" was dropped and the name became Scammon. Samuel and E. C. Scammon put down the first coal shaft and did the first coal mining in this section.

SELDEN (Sheridan). Selden was named for an early settler, Selden G. Hopkins, in 1888.

SEVERANCE (Doniphan). Severance was named for one of the three owners of the town site, John Severance. There is an account of a battle being fought on the site of Severance in 1884 between the Sacs and Foxes and the Pawnees. In 1874, a post office was built in Severance and the town was incorporated in 1877.



Sugar mill at Sterling in the early 1880's.

SPIVEY (Kingman). Spivey was named for Captain R. M. Spivey, president of the Arkansas Valley Town and Land Company.

STERLING (Rice). This town was named for Sterling Township, which was named in honor of Sterling Rosan, father of C. W. and J. H. D. Rosan, early settlers, who asked for the privilege of choosing the name. The original name of the site was Peace. The town was established in 1871 and was incorporated in 1876 by an official order of Judge Samuel Peters of Marion as the "city of Sterling."

WAKEENEY (Trego). The name WaKeeney was derived from the names of two men, Albert E. Warren and James E. Keeney. These two men were instrumental in having this town surveyed in 1878.

YATES CENTER (Woodson). Mr. Abner Yates gave the tract of land for the town site. Yates Center was founded in 1867. In 1876, two nearby towns, Defiance and Kalida, moved to Yates Center and the town was established.

Railroaders

CHANUTE (Neosho). If it had not been for a compromise between four bickering communities, Alliance, Tioga, New Chicago and Chicago Junction in 1872, the name of Chanute would not likely have been given to a town. Octave Chanute was the chief engineer of the old Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad. He gave his surname to the composite town when these four communities consolidated to form a single town. Octave Chanute was at one time chosen to do something no man had done before—bridge the treacherous, changeable Missouri River. Chanute built most of his own equipment, studied river behavior from old settlers and twice tried unsuccessfully to find solid ground on which to build the bridge. Finally, he sent to Germany for a new technique that had been used on a bridge over the Rhine and the next time he tried, he succeeded.

COPELAND (Gray). Copeland was founded in 1912 and was named for an official of the Santa Fe Railway.

EDGERTON (Johnson). The town was laid out after the building of the railroad in 1870. It was named for the chief engineer of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad.

EDWARDSVILLE (Wyandotte). A post office was established here in 1867. The town was named in honor of John H. Edwards, general passenger agent of the Union Pacific Railroad and state senator from Ellis County. The land covered by the town originally belonged to Half Moon, an Indian Chief of the Delawares. He sold it to General Smith, who in turn sold it to William Knous, who platted it.

ELLINWOOD (Barton). The town site was located and platted in 1871.

Ellinwood was named for a Mr. Ellinwood who was a major stockholder in the Santa Fe Railway Company. A few miles to the west was the old village of Zarah, and when Ellinwood was started most of the inhabitants moved to the new town.

EUSTIS (Sherman). P. S. Eustis was at an early date a ticket agent for the Burlington Railroad. The town was named for Mr. Eustis.

HEALY (Lane). This town was named for a Mr. Healy who was an official of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company.

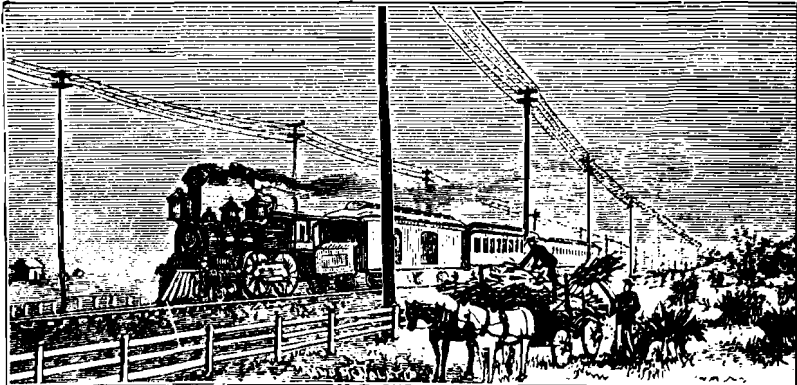
HOXIE (Sheridan). This town was named for the general manager of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, H. M. Hoxie, in 1886. The population of Hoxie was increased when it absorbed the town of Kenneth the same year.

JAMESTOWN (Cloud). Jamestown was named in honor of James P. Pomeroy, vice-president of the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1878.

LAKIN (Kearny). It is believed that John O'Loughlin was the first settler in southwest Kansas. He came to what is now Lakin in 1873 and established a store in a dugout. There being no money in the country at that time, the young pioneer merchant traded provisions for buffalo meat and bones. These in turn he traded to wholesalers for clothing, ammunition, and provisions. Lakin, actually platted in 1882, was named in honor of a director of the Santa Fe Railroad.

NICKERSON (Reno). Nickerson was named for an Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad official, a Mr. Thomas Nickerson. In 1875, the site for the town was laid out one mile east of the present location. The present site was laid out in 1878. The railroad was influential in the building of the town.

NORTONVILLE (Jefferson). A Santa Fe employee (a conductor probably) by the name of Norton went through this town daily in the



1870's. The people liked him so much they wanted to name the town for him but since there was another Norton in Kansas, they called the town Nortonville in his honor.

PARSONS (Labette). Parsons was named for Judge Levi Parsons, one of the builders of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. The town was established in 1870.

PEABODY (Marion). The officials of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company were asked by the settlers of the village of Cowsburg to decide on a different name for this little railroad stop. In honor of F. H. Peabody of Boston, the treasurer of the railroad company, the officials named the town Peabody in 1871.

PERRY (Jefferson). Perry was surveyed and platted in 1865 by the Union Pacific Railroad. It was named in 1890 for John D. Perry, an early day president of the company.

SUMMERFIELD (Marshall). This town got its name from E. Summerfield of Lawrence, Kansas, an officer of the Kansas City, Wyandotte and Northwest Railroad.

WELLSVILLE (Franklin). Wellsville was platted in 1870, and the Santa Fe Railroad Company named the station Wellsville for a man called Wells. Mr. Wells was an engineer assigned to this community by a pioneer railroad company to establish and build the first railroad in this territory.

WETMORE (Nemaha). There are apparently three rather well-known stories about the origin of this town's name. The most obvious one is that the area could boast an excess of moisture and was *more wet* than other places. Another story is that during the Civil War, a Captain Wetmore along with a number of soldiers camped overnight near the mineral springs here, and the town was subsequently named for him. However, probably the most dependable story is that Wetmore was named for a New York official of the railroad which put the Central Branch through here in 1867.

Women

AMY (Lane). This town was founded in 1879 and named by Nolen Yates who is still living in Dighton (1960). The town was once named Ellen. When a post office was established, the town company was informed there was already a post office by that name in Kansas. Mr. Yates was told to submit a list of ten short names. He did so, the first name on the list being Amy for a Miss Amy Bruner who lived near the present site of Amy. This name was chosen for the town.

AUGUSTA (Butler). In 1857 and 1858, different companies from the East established two towns on the present site of Augusta. One was

known as Arizona and the other Fontanella. It was found that the site was on Osage Indian territory and could not be sold. In 1868, the government made a treaty with the Indians whereby a twenty mile wide strip was released. This strip was bought by C. N. James for the sum of \$40.00. Augusta was founded and named in honor of James' wife. The first immigrants who rolled into Butler County in covered wagons in 1870 saw in this bustling frontier town the realization of their dreams. They found fertile valleys, beautiful streams, and valuable timber. Augusta is located at the junction of the Whitewater and Walnut rivers.

BELLEVILLE (Republic). This town was named for Arabelle, wife of A. B. Tutton, president of the townsite company of this community. The town was established in 1869.

CATHARINE (Ellis). Catharine was named for Catharine of Russia by the German Russians who settled in this area.

FLORENCE (Marion). The town of Florence was named for Florence Crawford, daughter of a former governor of Kansas. She later married Senator Arthur Capper.

IDANA (Clay). This town was named for the first two women who settled in this community: Ida and Anna were their given names.

LEOTI (Wichita). Leoti was named in 1884 for Mrs. Henry Kibbe, her maiden name being Leoti Gray. Leoti was recorded in the land office of WaKeeney and is the only incorporated town in Wichita County. Others say Leoti, meaning "prairie flower," was a white girl who was captured by an Indian chief long ago.

LURAY (Russell). During the spring of 1872, a post office was established in Lura. This name was suggested by a young man by the name of Allen who said that Lura was the name of a girl back east. She had proved false in a love affair existing between them. This had caused him to wander over this vast plain. After the railroad line was brought to Lura, the spelling was changed to Luray.

MARYSVILLE (Marshall). This town is named for Mary, the wife of Francis J. Marshall for whom the county was named. Marysville was platted by Marshall in 1855, and in the same year it was named the county seat.

MAYETTA (Jackson). The town was founded by Mrs. E. E. Lunger in 1886. She platted the town and sold sixteen of the lots immediately. She gave the railroad company about ten acres of land on condition that she be allowed to name the town. The name is a combination of Mary and Henrietta in honor of Mrs. Lunger's little daughter who had died some time before.

NARKA (Republic). The town was incorporated in 1894 after being established in 1887. Narka was named for a daughter of an official of

the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. It is said the word Narka is of Indian origin.

OAKLEY (Logan). In 1868, when the Kansas Pacific Railroad was built through Wallace County, the name Carlyle was given to a signpost along the right-of-way. No town existed then. By 1879, an early settler, a Mr. Ottken, appeared and changed the name to Cleveland. In 1885, a town site company was organized and a surveyor, David D. Hoag, was hired. He named the city Oakley for his mother whose full name was Eliza Oakley Gardner Hoag.

PEARL (Dickinson). Pearl was named for Pearl Taylor, the youngest daughter of John Taylor, who came to Dickinson County in 1872 and acquired large tracts of land in that vicinity.

ST. FRANCIS (Cheyenne). When the Herd Law was passed in Kansas in 1885, ranchers could no longer let their cattle run on open range. The people from the East became interested in the northwestern part of Kansas. Two hundred and four people had settled in this territory by 1885. The original settlement of the county was a trading post called Wano. It was located about one and one-half miles northwest of where St. Francis now stands. Everything was freighted to this inland town by horses, mules or oxen from Haigler and Benkleman, Nebraska. When the Burlington Railroad was built, it missed the trading post. The Lincoln Land Company and Captain A. L. Emerson, owner of a large horse ranch, were instrumental in getting the railroad depot built at its present location. Land was given to the people of Wano who owned property, if they would agree to move to the new location. St. Francis was incorporated in 1903, and the Francis part of the name was for the wife of Captain Emerson.

VICTORIA (Ellis). Victoria was originally two colonies—the German-Russian settlement of Herzog, and the English colony of Victoria. The English colonists settled to the south of the site in 1871 and the German-Russians settled to the north of it in 1875. When the two consolidated, the town was named for Queen Victoria of England.

Men of Varied Occupations

BONNER SPRINGS (Wyandotte). Bonner Springs was originally named Tiblow for a Delaware Indian who ran a ferry across the Kaw River at this point. There are three stories connected with the origin of the present name of this town. One is that the town got its name from the springs located nearby. Another is that it was named for Robert Bonner, editor of the New York *Ledger*. The third story is that “Bonner” means “four houses,” and the original town had just four houses. It was named by Pierre Chouteau and his brothers, who had

named Chouteau's Landing, the place which has since become Kansas City, Missouri.

BUSHONG (Lyon). Bushong was originally called Weeks. Doc Bushong was a player for the champion St. Louis Browns in 1886. The town was named for him, probably by some local baseball enthusiasts.

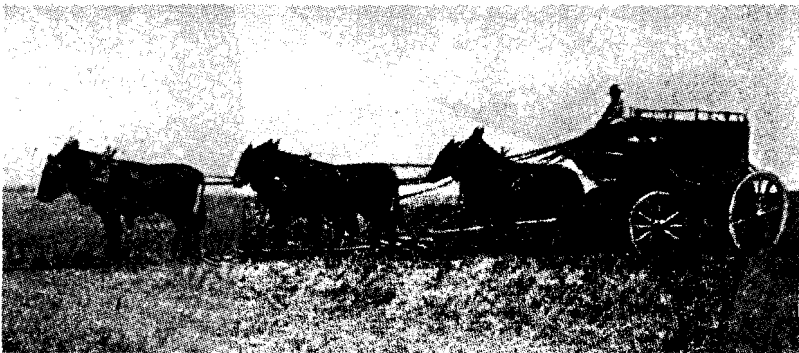
DIGHTON (Lane). This town, the county seat of Lane County, was originally surveyed by a surveyor named Richard Deighton. The "e" was dropped in an erroneous report and the town became known as Dighton. The post office was established in 1879.

ESKRIDGE (Wabaunsee). Eskridge was named for C. V. Eskridge, owner of the Emporia *Daily Republican*, in 1896.

GOESSEL (Marion). In the 1870's, a group of Mennonites of Dutch and German descent came from Russia to America and settled in Marion County, Kansas. The kind Captain Goessel, whose ship brought them to America, lost his life when his ship was sunk on the return voyage. When the town was established, it was named in honor of the sea captain who had been so friendly to the immigrants.

GREENSBURG (Kiowa). This town was named for O. R. Green, a stagecoach driver at Kingman, Kansas. He got the nickname "Cannonball" because he always drove his route so fast and recklessly. It is said that he bragged he and his men could change teams faster than a passenger could walk around the coach! The stagecoach route is in part followed by Highway 54, and this is still sometimes called the Cannonball Highway.

In 1885 Greensburg had no post office, so the energetic citizens decided to acquire one. They drove one night to nearby Jaynesville with a sturdy wagon and team of oxen. They loaded the Jaynesville post office onto the wagon and by morning Greensburg had a post office. Later the post office inspector arrived and approved of the



A stage coach "ready to go." (Reproduced from Arnold)

change. Apparently the Jaynesville people didn't complain very much about the "transaction" because Greensburg retained its prize.

GREELEY (Anderson). Greeley was named for Horace Greeley, an American journalist and politician. The town was surveyed in 1857 and the first store opened in 1858.

HALSTEAD (Harvey). Halstead was settled by Germans in 1872 on a site laid out by John Sebastian, a representative of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. It was named for the journalist, Murat Halstead. The first newspaper was the *Zurheimath*, published in the German language in 1876.

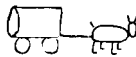
HOISINGTON (Barton). Hoisington is named for A. J. Hoisington, a newspaper publisher. He was one of the organizers of the first bank in Hoisington. The town was founded in 1886.

HORACE (Greeley). The name Horace (see Greeley) was selected by the early settlers in 1889, as the name for their town. It is named in honor of Horace Greeley. Mr. Greeley coined the famous words, "Go West, young man!"

JETMORE (Hodgeman). Jetmore was founded in 1880 by T. S. Haun, a lawyer. He named it Jetmore for a lawyer friend he admired very much. Originally, the settlement was called Buckner for the nearby creek.

LABETTE (Labette). The town was named for a French fur trader, Labette, who was the first settler. Labette was founded in 1868.

ROSSVILLE (Shawnee). Rossville was founded in 1871 on land that was formerly part of the Pottawatomie Reservation. The settlers were of French and Belgian descent. The town, originally named Edna, was renamed for W. W. Ross, the Pottawatomie agent.

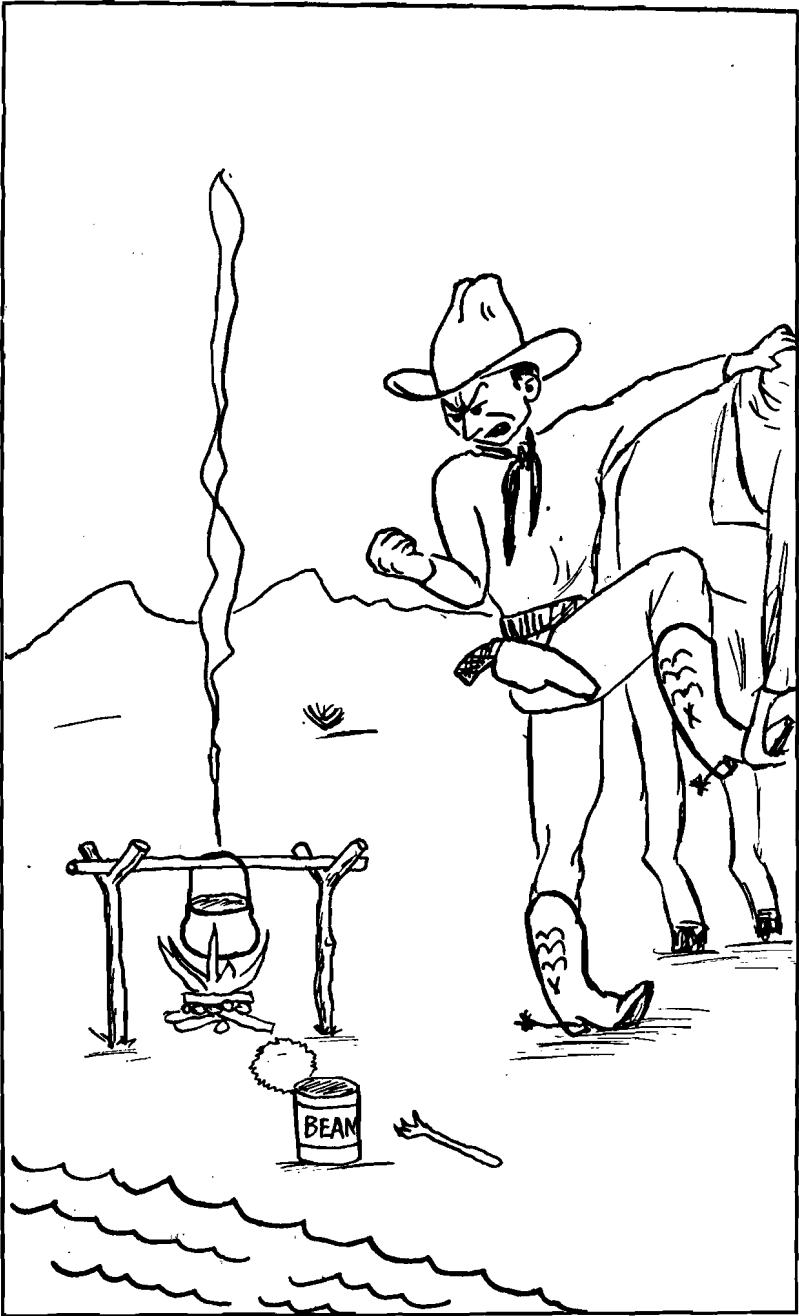


Town Names Based on Foreign Words

AGRICOLA (Coffey). Agricola is a word meaning "farmer" and is of Latin origin.

ALTA VISTA (Wabaunsee). These are Latin words meaning "high view." The town was named by Rock Island Railroad officials. The railroad crosses the watershed between the Kansas and Neosho Rivers.

ARGENTINE (Wyandotte). Argentine was derived from the Latin word "argenta," meaning "silver." The first industry in Argentine was a silver smelter.



"SIMMER ON, DRAT IT!"

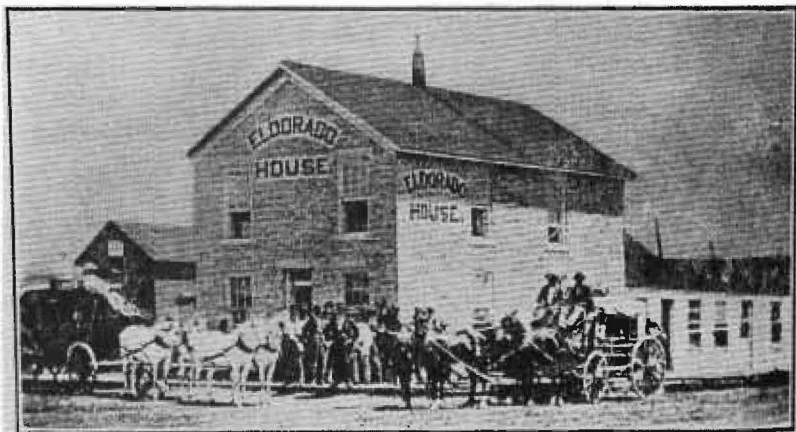
ASSARIA (Saline). The word Assaria originated from the name of a congregation of Swedish Lutherans who established a church on the site of the village previous to the incorporation of the town. The word means "In God is our help."

BELLE PLAINE (Sumner). These words are of French origin, meaning "beautiful plain." This name has been given to several towns in the United States, with similar terrain.

BELVIDERE (Kiowa). Belvidere is of Italian origin, meaning "beautiful view." The Greaver Cabin, built by one of the county's pioneer cattlemen, stands in an elm grove near the present townsite. It is believed to have served as a hideout for the Jesse James gang and the Younger brothers.

CIMARRON (Gray). This town takes its name from the Cimarron River. Cimarron is a Spanish word meaning "wild" or "unruly." There is also a story of a cowboy who hadn't had a good meal for a time, so he decided he would cook some beans over his camp fire. He was camping near the source of the Cimarron River in New Mexico. Being in high altitude, the beans would not cook as he expected them to. Finally, in disgust, he exclaimed, "Well, simmer on, drat it, simmer on!" (Others say it was a family of pioneers going west instead of a cowboy.) Thus the Cimarron River was named, and later the Kansas town.

EL DORADO (Butler). The name El Dorado is of Spanish origin. "El" is Spanish for "the" and "Dorado" means "Gilded." El Dorado means, therefore, "The Gilded." Shortly after the discovery of America, the Spanish heard of a people living in South America who had much



Stage coach scene in early-day El Dorado. (Reproduced from Isely and Richards)

gold. Once a year, one of the most handsome young men of the nation would adorn himself with gold dust from head to toe. Facing the setting sun, he would stand on the edge of a pool and dive into the water, thus washing off the gold dust. This story of the gilded man and his land rich in gold was told so often around the world that the words "El Dorado" became a symbol of riches.

Captain J. Cracklin and a party of men came from Lawrence in 1857 in quest of land in southern Kansas. They traveled the old Osage Trail. As they came west over the crest of a hill above the Walnut River, Cracklin was so inspired by the sight he saw that he exclaimed, "El Dorado!" It was evening, the sun was setting, and the valley was gilded in the sunset glow. Later, the town company, headed by Cracklin, selected the town site right west of the river and Cracklin suggested the town be called "El Dorado." The suggestion was accepted and the name which had been coined in the early days of the Spanish explorers came to Kansas to stay.

EUREKA (Greenwood). The word "Eureka" is of Greek origin. The word means "I have found it." A group of white settlers had heard of a spring in this area. They searched for many days and when it was found, the man who found it shouted, "Eureka!" Eureka was located in 1857. In 1867, David Tucker sold the land for Eureka to the town company for fifty dollars.

KALVESTA (Finney). Kalvesta was established in 1886 and was located two and one-half miles north of its present site. The name is made up of "kal" (from the Greek "kalos," good) and "vesta" (related to the Roman Vesta, Goddess of the Hearth, the symbol of the home), thus meaning the "good home" of the prairie. In 1886, the Hodgeman County *Herald* moved to Kalvesta and promoted the slogan, "Don't leave Kansas until you have seen this Goddess of the West."

KINSLEY (Edwards). Kinsley was founded in 1873 by a group from Massachusetts. After a period of crop failures in 1884, the local paper called Kinsley "the boomingest boom town in the Southwest." It was



Schoolhouse near Kinsley around 1875.

named for E. W. Kinsley, a Boston philanthropist who donated several hundred dollars for the building of the first church in the town (1875).

LA CYGNE (Linn). "La Cygne" is French for "the swan." Wild swans once nested on the Marais des Cygnes River by which La Cygne is located. Marais des Cygnes means "marsh of the swans."

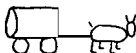
LE LOUP (Franklin). Originally Le Loup was named Ferguson for an early day merchant. The railroad company named the station Le Loup which means "the wolf" in French. The French settlers heard wolves howling at night and would exclaim, "Le Loup," so the town was given this name. The post office was established in 1870.

LIEBENTHAL (Rush). Liebenthal was settled by German people who named it Liebenthal, which means "love valley."

OPOLIS (Crawford). Originally this town was known as State Line, and was laid out in 1868. In 1876, the Girard and Joplin Railway (now a part of the Frisco) was built through the town. Its name was then changed to Opolis, a Greek word meaning "city."

POMONA (Franklin). Pomona is the Spanish name of the "Goddess of the Fruit." J. H. Wheatson's apple orchard, located near Pomona, was the largest in the state at the time the town was named. The original town site of Pomona consisted of 320 acres of land. The town was established in 1870.

SALINA (Saline). There are at least two possible reasons for this town's name: the name Salina may have originated from the name of the river on which it is located, the Saline. One story says that the Saline River was so named because of the salty content of the water; the word "salina" in Spanish means "salt pit" or "salt works." Another possibility is that Salina (originally pronounced "sa-lee-na") is an Indian word meaning "where two rivers meet," the two rivers being the Saline and the Smoky Hill. Salina was founded in 1858 by Colonel W. A. Phillips. By 1867, this town was the western terminal of the Union Pacific.



Town Names of Indian Origin

CHEROKEE (Crawford). Cherokee, originally the name of an Indian tribe, was founded in 1870 to accommodate workmen employed in the construction of the Kansas, Fort Scott and Gulf Railway (now the Frisco). The town was thought to be in Cherokee County; the error was discovered a short time later, but the name was not changed.

CHETOPA (Labette). There are two stories about the origin of this name. One is that Chetopa is the combination of two Osage Indian words, "che" meaning "houses" and "topa" meaning "four." The town was built at the site of four houses occupied by the wives of an Osage chief. Another story is that Chetopa was the name of an Indian chief who was a great friend of the first white settler, Dr. George Lisle. Dr. Lisle chose the name of his friend for the new settlement of a colony of Powhatan, Ohio, people in 1857. Chetopa was chartered as a village in 1868.

EUDORA (Douglas). In 1857, a group of Germans from Chicago, Illinois, started west to find a place to settle. After spending some time in Missouri and Kansas, they finally decided on the site where Eudora is located. The town site was secured from the Shawnee Indians and Eudora was named for the daughter of Paschal Fish, a Shawnee Indian chief. In 1859, Eudora was incorporated under the territorial laws.

HIAWATHA (Brown). Hiawatha was founded in 1857. It is the third county seat Brown County has had; the two towns of Claytonville and Carson had the honor for short times previously. The Indians told early settlers that this site would never have a tornado or cyclone and this has held true. Hiawatha was named by Dr. E. H. Grant for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem by the same title. Hiawatha means "a very wise man."

KENNEKUK (Atchison). Kennekuk was named for the prophet of the Kickapoo Indians. He claimed to receive his knowledge and the direction for his teachings from the Great Spirit. He set forth among his followers the practice of total abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquors. He also prophesied that when he died he would rise again in three days. He died in 1856 or 1857 from smallpox. After his death some forty followers remained with his body, hoping to see the fulfillment of his prophecy, and all contracted the disease and died.

Kennekuk was platted in 1858 by William Wheeler and for some time it flourished since it was located on the wagon highways to the west. Later it became a stopping place for the Pony Express riders, where they changed horses and riders.

KIOWA (Barber). Kiowa, named for the Kiowa Indians, was originally a trading post on the bank of the Medicine River patronized by Indians and buffalo hunters. A few years previous to the establishment of the trading post the Kiowas built a lodge near the present site of Kiowa. In 1884, the Santa Fe Railroad was built. Kiowa was located four miles from it, so the town was moved to its present site.

The town played an important part in the Cherokee Strip Run in 1893 as well as in Carry Nation's crusades. She resided in Medicine

Lodge and came to Kiowa by horse and buggy in 1900, and here smashed her first saloon.

LENEXA (Johnson). Early in 1869, the Kansas City, Fort Scott and Gulf Railway was built through Lenexa. The railroad company wanted to name the station Bradshaw for a highly esteemed man in the community. Mr. Bradshaw in his modesty refused to allow this. The town was then named for an Indian princess, Len-ag-see, which name was changed to Lenexa. A post office was established here in 1871.

MINNEAPOLIS (Ottawa). Minneapolis was laid out on the banks of the Solomon River in 1866. It became the county seat of Ottawa County the same year. The name of the town was derived from an Indian-Greek combination: "mini" meaning "water" and "apolis" meaning "city," therefore "city of waters." The number of streams near the town likely suggested the name. However, some individuals say the name was suggested by Captain Pierce who came to the county from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

MISSION (Johnson). In 1830, this place was the site of the Shawnee Indian Mission and the gateway to the famous old Santa Fe Trail. Originally the town was called Shawnee Mission and served as the capital of Kansas Territory during the 1850's when the Territory was enduring the pro-slavery struggles. In 1859, the United States granted 200 acres of land to each Indian. John Prophet, a Shawnee Indian, was given 1400 acres. Today, Mission and the other cities of northeast Johnson County are located on this land. The "Shawnee" was dropped from the name of the city and its post office was established in 1940 (previously it had been a branch of the Kansas City, Kansas, post office).

MONTEZUMA (Gray). Montezuma was founded in the 1890's and was named for Chief Montezuma of the Aztec Indian tribe.

MUSCOTAH (Atchison). Muscotah is a Kickapoo Indian word with two meanings—"beautiful prairies" and "prairies of fire." Muscotah was originally laid out by Dr. W. P. Badger and Major C. B. Keith in 1856, about two miles northeast of the present town. In 1867, the Union Pacific Railroad purchased the site of the new town from an Indian and the new Muscotah was established.

NATOMA (Osborne). Major Frieling Tufts, a genuine Vermont Yankee, decided on Natoma as the name of the town in 1888. Natoma is an Indian word meaning "newborn." The town was incorporated in 1905.

NEODESHA (Wilson). The name Neodesha is a corruption of Osage origin and means "the meeting of the waters." Here the Verdigris and Fall Rivers meet. Dr. Allen McCarthey and Alex K. Phelon came

west in 1867 to carve out a fortune for themselves and to help build an empire on the prairie lands. These young men did a profitable business trading with the Osage Indians. Dr. McCarthy won the good will of the Indians by learning their language and treating the bodily ills of the tribe. In 1868, John B. Keys and R. S. Futhey came and the four men joined forces. In 1869, they surveyed and laid out the town. A town company was organized and a new town was launched. In 1871 a charter was obtained for the incorporation of the town and it was named Neodesha. In 1879 the Frisco Railroad came to town bringing many new people and new prosperity. In 1892 oil was discovered and this gave Neodesha a big chance for development.

NETAWAKA (Jackson). One story says that Netawaka is a Kickapoo Indian term meaning "fair view," and this is indicative of the geographical location of the town. A second story tells how very interested the nearby Indians were in the surveying of the town and the actions of the white men. Many of them went daily to watch the work. Keokuk, the Indian chief, suggested that since the town was built on land which was higher than the surrounding territory, it be given the name Neta Waka. These words translated to English mean "high prairie." The name was adopted but was written as one word—Netawaka. There is another interesting story concerning the origin of the name: An Indian maid called Neta fell in love with a white Army surveyor stationed on the Kickapoo Reservation. After a time he left, and Neta searched for him in vain. When she walked about the area looking for him, the tribesmen would say, "Neta wa [l]k-a." This town has existed since the late 1860's.

OKETO (Marshall). Oketo was named for the head chief of the Otoe Indians, Arkaketah. His name was shortened to Oketo by the settlers. The town was incorporated in 1870.

OLATHE (Johnson). In 1857 Dr. John Barton, a native of Virginia, came to Johnson County when the Shawnee Indians were giving up tribal titles to some of their Kansas lands. Dr. Barton staked a claim on two quarter sections. He asked the head chief of the Shawnees, "What, in Shawnee language, would you call two quarters of land covered with wild flowers? In English we would say it is *beautiful*." The chief replied that it would be "olathe." The interpreter advised Barton that "olathe" did mean "beautiful." "Olathe it shall be then," said Dr. Barton. He organized the Olathe Townsite Corporation and the town was incorporated in 1857.

ONAGA (Pottawatomie). Onaga is a derivation of the Pottawatomie word "onago." The name was selected in 1877 by Paul F. Havens, Secretary of the Kansas Central Railroad Company. The town was established the same year.

OSAGE CITY (Osage). Osage is an Indian word meaning "strong." The Osage tribe formerly resided in this area and held the land of the Marais des Cygnes and Neosho River Valleys. The town was platted in 1869, after the route of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad had been fixed.

OSAWATOMIE (Miami). Agents of the Emigrant Aid Society selected the town site, which was surveyed in 1855. Historians say the name was formed by combining the "Osa" of Osage with "-watomie" of Pottawatomie. The Pottawatomic stream unites with the Marais des Cygnes to form the Osage River near Osawatomie.

OTTAWA (Franklin). Three stories are told about the possible origin of this town's name. It may simply have been named for the Ottawa Indian tribe which migrated to Kansas around 1833. Another possibility is that Ottawa means "traders." The Ottawa Indian traders formerly lived on the town site. It is also reputed that Ottawa is a combination of the names Pottawatomie and Chippewa.

An interesting story connected with Ottawa concerns Eliza J. Wind, the child of an Ottawa Indian woman and a French Canadian. The father took his daughter to Canada when he grew tired of living with his Indian wife in Kansas. The mother followed them, stole the child and returned to the reservation, near Ottawa. There she permanently crippled the girl, believing that if she were deformed her father would not want her. Eliza grew to womanhood in Ottawa and married Judge James Wind, one of the original trustees of Ottawa University.

In 1867, Ottawa was incorporated as a city. In 1868, the first train ran into the town over the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad.

PAOLA (Miami). Paola came into being in 1855 and was incorporated by the Territorial legislative session of that year. The Paola Town Company was organized with Chief Baptiste Peoria presiding. After many years, the people began to say the town was called Paola for Baptiste Peoria, the Miami Indian chief. Baptiste's own people could not pronounce the "r" sound in his name, but changed it to "l," thus calling him Peolia or Paoli. For him the town Paola is named and for his kinsmen, the Miamis, the county is named. He was the guardian and chief of the Wea, Peoria, Piankishaw, Kaskaskia, and Miami tribes.

POWHATTAN (Brown). Powhattan is the name of a Virginia chieftain.

QUENEMO (Osage). In 1870, the town of Quenemo was established by white men. The real reason for the choice of the name is unknown, but one tradition of the Sac Indians was that some of the northern tribes long before had raided their country and had carried seven Sac

women into captivity. After being carried as prisoners far to the north, they were liberated to find their way back as best they could through the trackless forests and snow. One by one, the women perished until but one was left. That one gave birth to a baby boy and in her anguish cried "Quen-e-mo!" The nearest English translation is, "Oh, my God!" Other translations are "Something hoped for," and "I am lonely." The expression was adopted by the tribe as a name for one of the leading chiefs. There have been six chiefs of this name, two of whom lived in Osage County. Others say that Quenemo is named for an Ottawa Indian man, who lived among the Sacs and Foxes. Another story is that Quenemo was the wife of a Sac and Fox Indian interpreter, John Goodell. She swam across the Mississippi River with a child on her back to escape being shot down by the soldiers in the Black Hawk war.

SATANTA (Haskell). Satanta was an Indian chief. The word means "White Bear" in Kiowa Indian language. For years his fighting qualities made his name one to be feared on the western frontier, and in council his eloquence gained him the title of "Orator of the Plains." Satanta was arrested and put in the penitentiary for allowing his tribe to go on the warpath after having signed a treaty at the Medicine Lodge conference in 1867, saying the Kiowas would go on reservation. Growing despondent in confinement, he committed suicide in the penitentiary hospital in 1878. He is remembered as one of the greatest men of the Kiowa tribe.

SENECA (Nemaha). This town was originally named Castle Rock by J. B. Ingersoll in 1857. He was not included in the town company when it was organized. The town company immediately changed the name to Seneca, some say for the Indian tribe of that name and others say for the great Roman statesman, Seneca.

TECUMSEH (Shawnee). This town was founded in 1852 and given the name Tecumseh, which is of Shawnee Indian origin. Cyrus K. Holliday (see Topeka) offered to buy a part of Tecumseh to establish a railroad center but its founders demanded too much money and Holliday with his party proceeded on to Topeka. Tecumseh and Topeka were bitter rivals for the location of both the county seat and state capital. In the election held in 1858, Topeka won and Tecumseh began to decline.

TONGANOXIE (Leavenworth). The town gets its name from Tonganoxie, the chief of the Delaware Indians who came to Kansas around 1830. He was the great grandson of Chief Tammarad who made the treaty with William Penn for the state of Pennsylvania. Soon after the Delawares arrived in Kansas, Chief Tonganoxie established a way station on the trail from Leavenworth to Lawrence. The way station

was near the present site of Tonganoxie and was continued after the white settlers began to come to the area. The first white settlement was established in 1852 by the Quakers who were friendly toward the Delawares. They established a church in 1859 and the town was incorporated in 1866.



"Toe peek-a!"

TOPEKA (Shawnee). In 1842, two French Canadians, Joseph and Louis Pappan, established a ferry across the Kaw River at the site of Topeka. These men were probably the first white settlers in the region. In 1854, Colonel Cyrus K. Holliday came from Pennsylvania to Kansas Territory with \$20,000 and the urge to build a railroad. He and a group of New England capitalists made the forty-five mile journey from Kansas City to Lawrence on foot. They explained their proposition to Dr. Charles Robinson, agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. He was interested, and, failing to convince his visitors that Lawrence was an ideal spot for a railroad center, suggested they take a trip up the Kaw to locate a site. They proceeded up the river to the site of Topeka where they formed a town company. They purchased a tract of land from Enoch Chase, a local land owner who had purchased large tracts from the Kaw Indians. Holliday was elected president of the company and proposed the name Webster (for Daniel Webster) for the town site. The other members wanted a name with more local meaning. After much discussion, the Reverend S. Y. Lum suggested Topeka, an Omaha Indian word meaning "a good place to dig potatoes." (The Indians designated all edible roots as potatoes.) The following year a large number of New Englanders arrived in Topeka and the town thrived and grew rapidly. In 1857, it was incorporated and through the efforts of Dr. Robinson (see Lawrence) Topeka became a city and later the capital of the new state.

There is another story of the origin of the name Topeka. A Shawnee Indian and his small son were walking along the banks of the Kaw one day. The father looked down and saw his son's toes sticking through the toe of his moccasin. The father pointed to the toes and exclaimed, "Toe-peek-a!" Ever since that day, the location has been called Topeka.

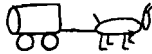
WAMEGO (Pottawatomie). The town was platted in 1866 by Hugh S. Walsh, agent for the Wamego Town Company. Although there are two possibilities, the actual origin of the town's name is uncertain. Wamego is an Indian word meaning "running waters" or "many towns." Wamego was also the name of a Pottawatomie chief.

WATHENA (Doniphan). In 1852, Wathena, a Kickapoo chief from whom the town takes its name, settled here. In 1856, the town was laid out. Chief Wathena proudly allowed the white settlers to hold church services in his wigwam.

WHITE CLOUD (Doniphan). White Cloud was an Iowa Indian chief. His Indian name was Mo-hos-ka. The White Cloud Town Company was organized in 1857.

WICHITA (Sedgwick). Wichita was first known to the world under the name of Quivira, a fabled city of gold. Hunting for Quivira came

Coronado in 1541. He found a village of grass huts inhabited by Wichita Indians, but no gold. In 1863, Jesse Chisholm came to Wichita and had a farm on the banks of the Chisholm Creek. His route southward to trade with the Indians became known as the Chisholm Trail. A trading post was established in 1864. The actual meaning of Wichita is questionable. One authority on the Wichita Indian language says it means "scattered lodges"; another authority says it means "painted faces"; some old Indians say it means "coon eyes." However, the favored definition is "painted faces" since the Wichita Indians had the custom of painting and tattooing their faces. Wichita was incorporated as a village in 1870 and as a city of the first class in 1886.



Towns Named for Other Towns and Places

American

ALMENA (Norton). Most people agree that Alma got its name from Alma, Michigan. However there is a legend that a Pawnee Indian maiden named Alma gave her name to the town in token of the Pawnees' friendliness to the early settlers. At one time the Pawnee tribe had a large camp near here and after a heavy rain, even yet, it is possible to find arrow heads in the area, which is called the Prairie Dog Valley.

ALTON (Osborne). This town was originally called Bull City after General H. C. Bull, one of its founders. A nickel was flipped and he won the honor of having the town named for him from Lyman Earl, another founder. In 1879, General Bull was killed by a pet elk, along with three men who tried to rescue him. The horns of the elk were hung in a little shop on Alton's main street. In 1885, the name was changed to Alton for Alton, Illinois, where many of the settlers had previously lived. Alton, Illinois, was named for Alton, England.

ALTOONA (Wilson). The town was named for Altoona, Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1869 by a town company of which Dr. T. F. C. Todd was president.

ASHLAND (Clark). The Ashland Town Company was organized in Winfield, Kansas, in 1884. Among the members were several Kentuckians, so the new city was named for Ashland, Kentucky.

Two great cattle trails of the Southwest, one from Texas to Fort Dodge and the other from Santa Fe to Sun City, crossed at Ashland.

The town was a center for immigrants, traders, and cowboys who followed their herds along the trails.

BELOIT (Mitchell). The town was named Willow Springs in 1868 for a nearby fresh water springs surrounded by willows. Because there was a post office of such a name in Douglas County, the name was changed to Beloit for Beloit, Wisconsin.

The first homesteader on the site of Beloit was Aaron A. Bell, who came to Kansas from Illinois. His deed to the land was burned in an Indian raid before it was recorded, so his title to the property had to be settled in court.

BURLINGTON (Coffey). The Burlington Town Company was incorporated in 1857. The town was named for Burlington, Vermont.

CIRCLEVILLE (Jackson). It is reputed that Circleville was so named because the first settlers kept circling around the prairie in that area, searching for a location. However, another story says that this town, founded in 1863, was named for Circleville, Ohio, from which the settlers had come.

COLDWATER (Comanche). Coldwater was named for Coldwater, Michigan, because the first settlers were from that area.

COLUMBUS (Cherokee). Columbus was first known as The Center, The Geographical Center, and Centralia. Finally, A. U. Peters, an early settler from the state of Ohio, named the town Columbus in honor of Ohio's capital. The first settler in the city was John Appleby, who arrived in 1868.

CONWAY SPRINGS (Sumner). Hiram Cranmer founded the town so Cranmer Springs was suggested for a name. However, a claim holder who had come to the community in 1875 was made the first trustee of Conway Township and naming the town was left up to him. He named it Conway for his home town in New Hampshire. He was also an admirer of Moncure D. Conway, an American author. The railroad officials decided since it was endowed with the already famous springs, the word "springs" should be added. Thus the name Conway Springs was adopted and the town was incorporated in 1886. Later the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company advertised that at its division point at Conway Springs, the water was 99.99 per cent pure, the purest water on its lines.

COURTLAND (Republic). The first settlement (1895) was one mile north of the present site of Courtland, and was called Prospect. Fred S. Cooper was instrumental in bringing the Rock Island Railroad through this area. When the railroad was built, the town was moved and its name was changed. Cooper, who was also a baseball organizer, came from Cortlandt, New York, where baseball was origin-



The Great Arkansas Valley with Hutchinson in the distance (about 1880).

ated. The city was named for the city in New York, but the spelling was changed to Courtland.

DELPHOS (Ottawa). Delphos was platted in 1870 and named for Delphos, Ohio. In 1879, half of the town was destroyed by a tornado. Delphos was famous as the yearly camping ground of the Society of Spiritualists, which was organized in 1877.

ERIE (Neosho). Originally this town was called Erie City. There are three ideas as to the origin of this name. Some say the town was named for Erie, Pennsylvania; others say it was named for the Erie tribe of Indians; and others say it was named for Lake Erie. There was formerly a large lake by that name northwest of the town. Erie was founded in 1866 as a result of a compromise between two rival towns in the community—Old Erie and Crawfordsville.

FREDONIA (Wilson). The first building was erected on the town site of Fredonia in 1868. The town, named for Fredonia, New York, was incorporated in 1871. Twin Mound, a rival town just north of the present location of Fredonia, was refused its petition for a post office as there was another Twin Mound in Kansas. The two settlements were combined under the name of Fredonia.

GENESEO (Rice). This town is named for Geneseo, Illinois, the home town of the president of the town company.

GIRARD (Crawford). One day in 1868, a deer sped across the prairie on which the town of Girard now stands. At a point which now marks the southeast corner of the public square, the deer fell victim to the trusty rifle of Dr. C. H. Strong. Dr. Strong had left Crawfordsville that morning with the intention of locating a new town. He placed a stick as a marker at the spot where the deer fell, and named the place Girard in honor of his birthplace, Girard, Pennsylvania. He immediately applied for a charter and organized the Girard Town Company which promoted prospective builders. The town soon got a post office, and eventually it became the county seat after a bitter fight with Crawfordsville.

HADDAM (Washington). Haddam was founded in 1869 and was named for Haddam, Connecticut.

HARTFORD (Lyon). One of the founders of Hartford, Harvey D. Rice, named the town for Hartford, Connecticut, in 1857. The town was laid out in the shape of an "H."

LA CROSSE (Rush). This town, laid out in 1876, was called Rock Castle for a short time. There are several stories as to why it was named La Crosse. One is that it was renamed when W. S. Taylor, formerly of La Crosse, Wisconsin, moved his paper, the *Rush County Progress*, from Rush Center to this town. Another is that it was named La Crosse (from an erroneous idea that the words mean "the cross")

because it lies in the center of the county. A third story is that La Crosse may have got its name from a game which was played by the Indians.

LEON (Butler). Leon was probably named for Leon, Iowa. However, others say it was named for the first newspaper editor and his wife. The editor's name was Noel and his wife's name was Lona. Leon was founded in 1879 and was first named Noble.

LOUISBURG (Miami). Originally Louisburg was called New St. Louis. The name was changed to Louisburg in 1870 when the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad was built through the town.

LYNDON (Osage). Lyndon was named for Lyndon, Vermont. The town was founded in 1869, immediately after the Sac and Fox Indians gave up their possession of the land and the area was opened for settlement.

MANHATTAN (Riley). Manhattan was originally two towns, Poleska and Canton. In 1854, a New England group led by Isaac T. Goodnow consolidated these towns into one and called it New Boston. In 1855, eighty settlers arrived from Cincinnati, Ohio. They were granted one half of the New Boston site and named it New Cincinnati. They later compromised and named the town Manhattan after the New York City borough.

MANKATO (Jewell). In 1872, this town was known as Jewell Center because it is centrally located in Jewell County. The name was changed to Mankato in 1880 because the old town name was being confused with Jewell City. Mankato was named for Mankato, Minnesota.

MERIDEN (Jefferson). Meriden was surveyed by a Mr. N. Colby, a native of Meriden, Connecticut, and he named the site for his old home town. The post office was established in 1872, the same year the town was platted. In the spring of 1960, the Connecticut town raised a contribution of \$2000 to help its namesake in Kansas, which had just been devastated by a tornado.

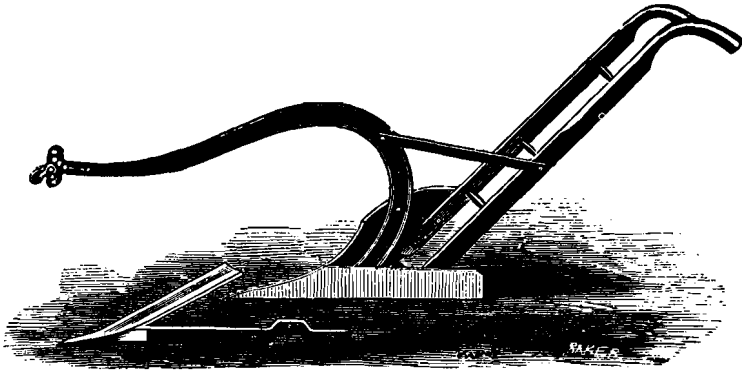
MOLINE (Elk). Moline was laid out in 1879, the survey being made by Major J. H. Chapman for the Moline Town Company. Moline was named for Moline, Illinois. The settlers were making use of the Moline plows, which were manufactured in Moline, Illinois.

MONMOUTH (Crawford). Monmouth was laid out in 1866, and is the oldest town in Crawford County. The mail was carried to it by horseback from Fort Scott until 1879, when a narrow gauge railroad was built from Cherokee to Parsons, passing through Monmouth. L. Monlove laid out the town on his own homestead and named it in honor of Monmouth, Illinois.

NEWTON (Harvey). This town was founded in 1871 and was named by the early settlers for Newton, Massachusetts. There was a rumor that the Santa Fe Railroad would build its line through or near the town. Six weeks later when the railroad company announced its coming, 2,000 people had arrived. By the time the grading gangs had come, there were 6,000 people and twenty gambling tents were going full force on Main Street. Prior to the coming of the railroad, cowboys had herded their cattle along the Chisholm Trail to Abilene where they loaded the herds on the Union Pacific. After the railroad reached Newton, the Chisholm Trail was no longer used north of the tracks.

NORWICH (Kingman). Norwich was named for Norwich, Connecticut.

OBERLIN (Decatur). Oberlin was originally called Sappa Post Office, named for the creek running past the location. Later when it was platted in 1878, it was called Westfield, but since there was another town by this name in Kansas, the name was changed to Oberlin for Oberlin, Ohio. Oberlin was incorporated in 1885.



WHO KILLED THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT?
"I," SAID THE GRANGER, "WITH MY TEAM AND FLOW,
I KILLED THE DESERT."

ONEIDA (Nemaha). Oneida was founded in 1873 by Colonel Cyrus Shinn of Virginia. Colonel Shinn gave a free lot to anyone who would settle here. He forbade the sale of liquor, thus creating one of the first prohibition towns in Kansas. The original name, Shinn town, was changed to Oneida as soon as the colonel died. Oneida was named for Oneida, Illinois. The town was planned after Chicago and the streets were named after those in that city. In 1872, a post office was established at the farm house of Henry Kerns on the site of the present town.

OSKALOOSA (Jefferson). Oskaloosa was named and laid out after the plan of Oskaloosa, Iowa. The town was settled in 1855 by Dr. James

- Noble. Oskaloosa, one of the oldest towns of the county, was incorporated in 1869.
- OSWEGO (Labette). Oswego was the outgrowth of a trading post established by John Matthews in the early 1840's. Up to 1865, there were no other white persons in the community and the place was called "White Hair's Village" because an Osage Indian chief of that name made his home there. In 1865 white settlers came and the settlement was known as Little Town. Two years later the Oswego Town Company was organized and the town was named for Oswego, New York, the old home of many of the new settlers. Another story that is often heard is that Oswego was named by children as they played in the Neosho River at the falls. As they prepared to jump over the falls, they would yell "Os we go!"
- PITTSBURG (Crawford). Pittsburg was laid out in 1876 by Colonel E. H. Brown. In a short time there were one hundred inhabitants. Being a mining center, the town was named for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- READING (Lyon). The town site was originally owned by the Reading Iron Works Corporation of Reading, Pennsylvania. Reading was named for the Pennsylvania city and a post office was established in 1870.
- SCRANTON (Osage). Scranton was named for Scranton, Pennsylvania. Scranton was started as a mining camp in 1871 and was incorporated as a town in 1880.
- SOUTH HAVEN (Sumner). South Haven was established in 1872 and was named for South Haven, Michigan.
- SPRING HILL (Johnson). Spring Hill was named for Spring Hill, Alabama. The town was surveyed in 1857 and was named by James B. Hovey, the first settler.
- SYRACUSE (Hamilton). Prior to 1873, the town was called Holliday in honor of Cyrus K. Holliday (see Topeka). In that year a colony from Syracuse, New York, settled here and changed the name to Syracuse.
- WATERVILLE (Marshall). In 1867, the plan was to extend the Central Branch Railroad (Missouri Pacific) 100 miles west of Atchison. At this point the land was purchased and a town platted in 1868. Mr. Osborne, superintendent of the railroad, named the town after his home town in Maine. The town was incorporated in 1870.
- WAVERLY (Coffey). This town was laid out in as nearly an exact replica as possible of Waverly, Indiana. Waverly was platted in 1878 by Isaac Pierson and the town company was chartered in 1880.
- WESTMORELAND (Pottawatomie). This town was platted in 1871 by Volney Baker and was named for Westmoreland, Pennsylvania.
- WESTPHALIA (Anderson). Westphalia was named for both Westphalia, Germany, and Westphalia, Iowa. Some of the Germans who

settled Westphalia, Iowa, came to Kansas and settled here. In 1880, a town was platted at this site and named Cornell. Later, a Missouri Pacific Railroad station and a post office were established under the name Westphalia. The name of the town was then officially changed to Westphalia.

WINCHESTER (Jefferson). Winchester, named for Winchester, Virginia, was located in 1854 by William A. Gardner. This town was on the route of an old military road and by 1857, quite a large settlement had grown up here.

Foreign

ALMA (Wabaunsee). This town was named by the Germans who settled it in 1867. They came from the city of Alma, Germany.

CLYDE (Cloud). Clyde was named for Clyde, Scotland, by a pioneer of Scotch ancestry.

EMPORIA (Lyon). Emporia as a name probably comes from the Latin word "emporium," meaning "market" or "trade mart." There was once a country in Africa, a great financial center, which was called Emporia. Emporia, Kansas, was named for this country with the fond hope that the Kansas town would one day rival its ancient namesake.

GLASCO (Cloud). The town of Dell Ray was founded in 1870. It was incorporated in 1877 and the name was changed to Glasco in 1886. The story is related that it was named Glasgow since there were a number of Scottish families living there at the time. When the town documents were filled out, the name was misspelled by the clerk and it became Glasco.

HANOVER (Washington). Hanover was named for Hanover, Germany, by the early settlers who were German emigrants.

LONGTON (Elk). This town was founded under the name of Elk Rapids in 1870 by a company of six men. Later the name was changed to Longton for Longton, England.

MELVERN (Osage). The town was platted in 1870 by a town company. Originally it was named Junction Hill. People of Scotch descent settled here and changed the name to Malvern for the Malvern Hills in Scotland. When the charter was returned, the spelling had been changed to Melvern, so Melvern it remained.

OLPE (Lyon). Olpe, incorporated in 1905, was named for Olpe, Germany. The first settlers were of German origin.

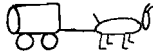
SEDAN (Chautauqua). Sedan, established in 1871, received its name from Sedan, France, where the Battle of Sedan was fought.

STUDLEY (Sheridan). Studley was settled by former residents of Yorkshire and named for Studley, England. The residents have tried to reproduce the gardens and homes of old Yorkshire. The town was established in the 1880's.

TROY (Doniphan). Troy was named for the ancient city of Troy in Asia Minor. Troy was located in 1885 by the county commissioners, who ordered James F. Forman to lay off eighty acres for the town site. The town was incorporated in 1860.

WAKEFIELD (Clay). A man by the name of Richard Wake was commissioned by a group of people from Wakefield, England, to find a tract of land in Kansas suitable for settlement. When the settlers arrived here from England in 1869, the town was named for their home town in England.

ZURICH (Rooks). Zurich was settled by French Canadians who named the town for Zurich, Switzerland.



Towns Named For Natural Environment

Animals

BISON (Rush). Bison was the name chosen after the first choice, Buffalo, was turned down by the Post Office Department. There was already a town by the name of Buffalo in Kansas. In the early days, many buffalo were seen roaming the prairies in this area.

BUFFALO (Wilson). Buffalo was named for the shaggy animal which roamed over the county within the memory of the Indians residing there. The town was founded in 1867.

DEXTER (Cowley). Robert Bonner (see Bonner Springs) of the New York *Ledger* was also a horseman. He owned a famous trotting horse by the name of Dexter, for which this town is named. The Dexter Town Company was first organized by some citizens of Emporia in 1870, but the town was not platted until 1875.

Minerals

CARBONDALE (Osage). Carbondale was so named because of its location in a coal-mining district. The town was founded in 1869, the first buildings being erected by the Carbon Coal Company.

GALENA (Cherokee). Galena designates the physical quality which makes it the greatest lead and zinc mining region in the world. Web-

ster's dictionary defines the word "galena" as "sulphide of lead." Galena was settled in 1877 after the discovery of lead ore in this area.

Rivers and Springs

- ARKANSAS CITY** (Cowley). Arkansas City was established in 1870 as Walnut City. Later the name was changed to Delphi, then to Creswell. In 1872, the town was incorporated as Arkansas City. It is located at the junction of the Arkansas and Walnut Rivers. Arkansas City had been booming along for nineteen years by the time the first surge of land-hungry settlers rushed through town for the Run of 1889 in the then unexploited territory in Oklahoma. It has always been a bustling trade center for a vast area extending into Oklahoma. Some records indicate that a colony of French traders and explorers, pushing north from Louisiana, established a trading post in the area as early as 1750. The city is called "Ark City" by all in that area today.
- BIG SPRINGS** (Douglas). In the 1850's the springs (which are now dry) provided the only watering place between Lawrence and Deer Creek, just east of Topeka. The Free State Party held its first convention here in 1855. The town was established in the 1850's.
- BLUE RAPIDS** (Marshall). This city is located at a point on the Blue River known as Blue Rapids. When the town was established, it was named for the rapids.
- CANEY** (Montgomery). This town was originally known as Cana and later became Caneyville, a name it retained for years. Caney was the name taken when the city became incorporated. Caney was so called for the Caney River which had been named by the pioneers because of the luxuriant growth of cane near the river.
- CEDAR VALE** (Chautauqua). Cedar Vale is located in a valley near a cedar bluff on Cedar Creek. A pioneer, admiring the view, said it reminded him of a town by the name of Cedar Vale that he had read about in a novel and requested that if ever a town be located here, it be named Cedar Vale. Shortly after this a town company was organized and the name Cedar Vale was adopted. Cedar Vale was located in 1870 by a town company on land filed upon by E. H. Davis. Davis refused to deed the land to the company but was finally persuaded to do so under threat of hanging.
- CHERRYVALE** (Montgomery). Cherryvale was named for its location in the valley of Cherry Creek. It was founded by the Kansas City, Leavenworth, and Southern Kansas Railroad in 1871.
- ELK FALLS** (Elk). Elk Falls was named for the waterfall in the Elk River near the town. When the white man first came to Kansas, there were many elk in the Elk County area. Elk Falls was founded in 1870.

FALL RIVER (Greenwood). Fall River is situated on the Fall River, thus the name. The town was laid out in 1879 by the Fall River Town Company.

GEUDA SPRINGS (Sumner). Originally this town was called Geuda; later the "Springs" was added. It is named for the nearby mineral springs of the same name.

KANSAS CITY (Wyandotte). Wyandotte City was laid out in 1843 by the Wyandotte Indians, who came to Kansas from Ohio and Michigan. In 1855 the Wyandottes received permission to dispose of their property to the white men, which they promptly did. In 1857, a post office was established in the town which was named Wyandotte. Other towns sprang up in the vicinity—Quindaro, Argentine, Rose-dale and Armourdale. In 1869, Kansas City was incorporated and in 1886, there was a general consolidation of these towns into one large city of first class. Kansas City was named for the Kansas River or the Kanzas River, as the Indians called it.

MEDICINE LODGE (Barber). Medicine Lodge derived its name from the nearby Medicine River whose waters supposedly had healing qualities. The thick grove at the junction of the two streams, Medicine River and Elm Creek, furnished a favorite camping place or lodge for the Indians. They met there on occasions under the guidance of their medicine men, performed their rituals and cleansed their systems with plentiful drinks of the sacred waters.

NEOSHO FALLS (Woodson). This town, located on the Neosho River, was settled in 1857, and is the oldest town in Woodson County. In 1870, Neosho Falls was incorporated.

NEOSHO RAPIDS (Lyon). Neosho Rapids has had a greater variety of names than any other Lyon County town. It has been named Florence, Neosho City, and Italia. Finally in 1869, Neosho Rapids was selected. The town site is located on the Neosho River not far from the rapids.

SHARON SPRINGS (Wallace). Sharon Springs, founded by the Western Town Company in 1886, was named for the sulphur springs located nearby. It was originally called Eagle Tail for the creek which runs close by.

SOLOMON (Dickinson). Solomon, being located at the mouth of the Solomon River, is named for the river. The word "Solomon" is believed to be a corruption of the word "salmon." Solomon was founded in 1865 under the name of Solomon City on land belonging to H. Whitney, a member of the town company. Later the "city" was dropped.

VALLEY FALLS (Jefferson). In 1855, four men paced off the land and drove stakes to mark their claims. This was the beginning of what is

now Valley Falls. In the spring of 1856, the town was surveyed and named Grasshopper Falls. Isaac Cody and his son Will (Buffalo Bill) were among the first settlers in this area. They supplied the Union Pacific Railroad crews with 4,862 buffalo in eighteen months. For many years the settlers disliked the name Grasshopper Falls. In 1875, through an act of the Legislature, the name was officially changed to Valley Falls. The town is located near the Delaware River where there are falls.

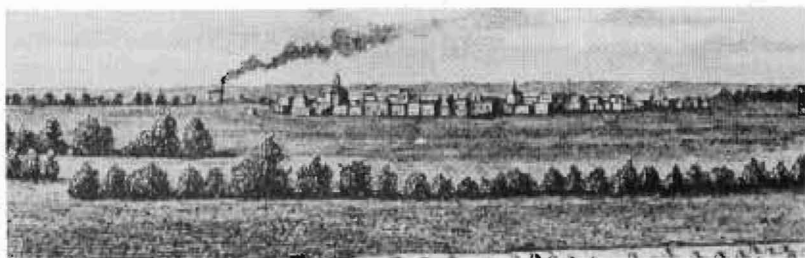
WALNUT (Crawford). Originally, this town was known as Glenwood, but in 1877 the name was changed to correspond to the name of the post office, Walnut, so named because of its location near Walnut Creek.

Topography

ALTAMONT (Labette). The name Altamont is indicative of its geographical setting. The word means "high elevation" or "high hill."

FAIRVIEW (Brown). Fairview was named for its elevated position from which a "fair view" of the surrounding territory is possible.

GREAT BEND (Barton). Coronado's expedition extended through the present site of Great Bend in 1542. In 1806, Zebulon Pike's exploration party, on its way to the Rocky Mountain region, camped at the "great bend" of the Arkansas River for a time before continuing westward. In 1870, a group of pioneers settled around the site of Great Bend. The "great bend" of the Arkansas River became a fabled point on the Santa Fe Trail. It was a watering and resting place and an ideal spot for obtaining meat from the vast herds of buffalo. The city was incorporated in 1872 and at this time was officially named Great Bend. Soon there was a rail line to further speed the growth of the territory.



The Arkansas Valley at Great Bend (about 1880).

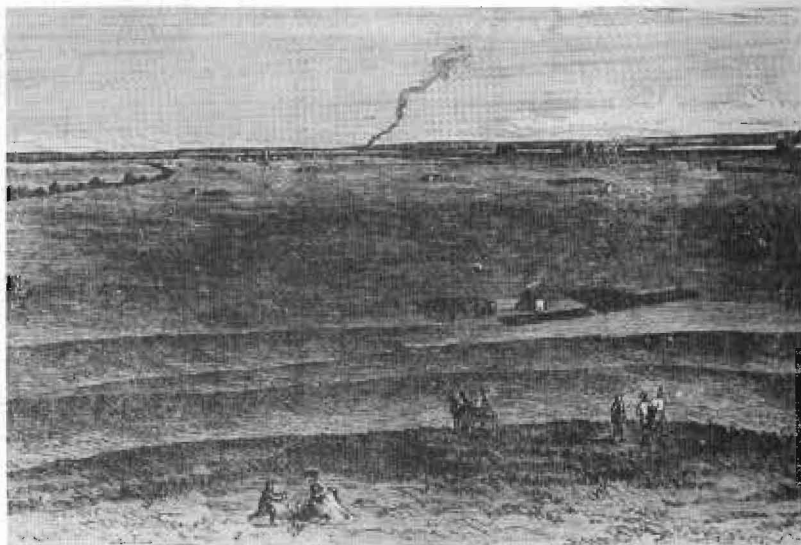
HIGHLAND (Doniphan). Highland is situated on the highest elevation in the county. This accounts for its being named Highland. The town

site was first occupied by missionaries in 1837. In 1855, J. P. Johnson took a claim at this site and drove stakes to locate a town. In 1857, the town company was organized and the site platted. Highland College is located here and is the oldest educational institution in the state. It originated in 1837 as a Presbyterian mission among the Iowa and Sac Indians.

JUNCTION CITY (Geary). The name Junction City was given the town because it is located near the junction of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers on the site of an old Kaw Indian village. This is one of the historic cities in the state. In 1860, Junction City was made the county seat of Geary County. In 1866, the Union Pacific Railroad was built through the town, giving impetus to its growth.

MONUMENT (Logan). Monument was named for the rock formations in the area. These rocks have been likened unto monuments.

MOUND RIDGE (McPherson). Mound Ridge was named for the township in which it is located and the elevation of the town site.



Great Bend seen from Pawnee Rock (about 1880).

PAWNEE ROCK (Barton). The town is located on the old Pawnee and Santa Fe trails which lie to the south and west. There is a rocky promontory known as Pawnee Rock which juts out over the bottom land of the Arkansas River. Long ago the rock was a lookout point for the Pawnee Indians. The town is named for this landmark.

PLAINVILLE (Rooks). Plainville was named when W. I. Griffin, the first settler, made application for a post office in 1875. He made this

application to the Justice of Peace. Since a name was required, Mr. Darland, the Justice of Peace, suggested Plainville because the surrounding area was a high level plain between the Solomon and Saline River valleys.

Trees

BURR OAK (Jewell). There were many burr oak trees in the vicinity where this town was established in 1870. Burr Oak got its name from these trees.

CEDAR BLUFFS (Decatur). This town got its name from the cedar trees on the bluff south and east of the town.

CEDAR POINT (Chase). Originally this town was named Cedar Grove. It was named for the large number of cedar trees in the surrounding community.

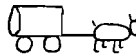
ELMDALE (Chase). Passengers on the Santa Fe trains always watched for the elm trees in this region. The town was named Elmdale because it was necessary to remove an elm tree for the right-of-way. Elmdale was incorporated in 1904.

GLEN ELDER (Mitchell). Glen Elder was first platted two and one-half miles northeast of its present site and named West Hampton. It was moved to the present site in 1871 and a flour mill was built.

LINWOOD (Leavenworth). Originally, Linwood was named Journey Cake for an Indian chief by the same name. Later the name was finally changed to Linwood for a tree.

MULBERRY (Crawford). Mulberry was originally known as Mulberry Grove. It was named for a grove of wild mulberry trees where Indians, soldiers, traders and pioneers often camped. It is located on the old military road between Fort Scott and Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. It was granted a post office in 1866.

SYLVAN GROVE (Lincoln). This town was named for the twin groves on the banks of the Saline River. These are located near the town.

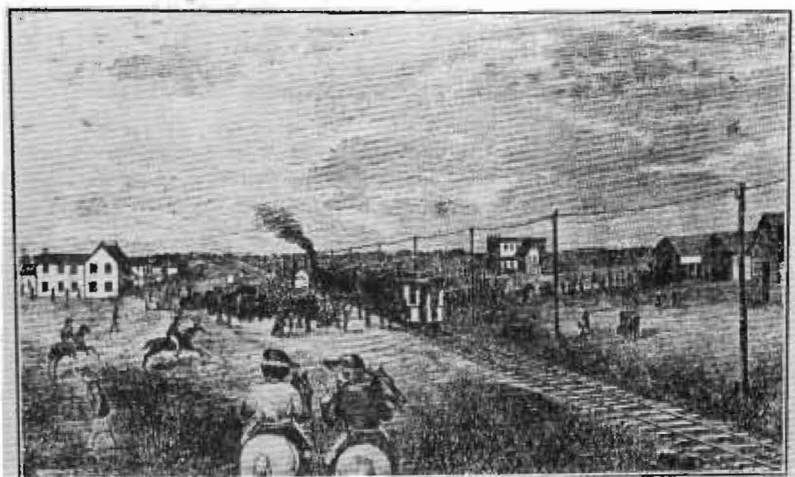


Chance Names

ABILENE (Dickinson). There seem to be different opinions on who named Abilene. Some say it was suggested to the founder of Abilene, Mr. C. H. Thompson, in 1861. Others say Mrs. Tim Hersey, wife of the first white settler of Abilene, suggested it. Regardless of whose

idea it was, the name ultimately comes from the ancient tetrarchy of Abilene, a division of Judaea, which is mentioned in Luke III:1. This Biblical land, lying northwest of Damascus, had as its capital city Abila. Abilene is the Greek form of the name Abila, which experts think likely means "meadow." It has also been translated as "city of the plains."

Abilene, Kansas, was incorporated as a third class city in 1869. By 1871, it was one of the roughest, toughest towns on the continent, mainly because of the Texas cattle trade. In that year, some 200,000 cattle were marketed here.



Abilene in the 1870's. (Reproduced from Isely and Richards)

ARGONIA (Sumner). Argonia is named for the ship in the myth "Jason and the Golden Fleece." Jason sailed to Colchis in the ship *Argo*, in quest of the golden fleece. This is the only town in the United States bearing this name. It was incorporated in 1885 and had the first woman mayor in the United States, Mrs. Susamie Madora Salter. She is still living and celebrated her one hundredth birthday in 1960. The name of the town was suggested by a young lawyer of Wellington, whose father was a member of the town company.

COLONY (Anderson). This town is named in honor of a colony of people who came from Ohio and Indiana and settled here.

COLWICH (Sedgwick). In the early days of Kansas, there was a railroad called the Colorado-Wichita Line. Colwich is a compound of Colorado and Wichita. The Colorado-Wichita Line went through Colwich.

CONCORDIA (Cloud). The pioneers who staked out the site for the county seat of Cloud County did so with no discord. This was unusual in those days because there was usually much competition between towns for the county seat honor. Without bickering or fighting, they quietly organized a new settlement in 1870. As a result of the harmony prevailing, the town was named Concordia.

COUNCIL GROVE (Morris). Council Grove was the starting place of the old Santa Fe Trail. Beyond the grove of oak trees on the town-site, there was little useful timber near the Trail for miles and miles. It was a favored meeting place for Indians and white travelers alike. Because of the need for a marked road, a U.S. Commissioner signed a treaty in 1825 with the Osage Indians under the Council Oak, for a right-of-way through the lands. In 1827, Kit Carson cut the name Council Grove on a buffalo hide and nailed it on the Council Oak. Thus, Council Grove received its name—because it was a spot where people met and held council, and because of the grove of oaks. Today Council Grove is known as the city having the greatest number of early day Kansas historical sights within it.

ELMO (Dickinson). It is reputed that Elmo acquired its name in an unusual manner. There was, in the early days, a dugout on a small hill near the present site of the town. At that time the town was called Banner City. A stranger, talking to one of the settlers, pointed to a tree near the dugout and asked, "What kind of a tree is that?" The settler answered, "Elm!" In response the stranger said, "Oh!" The name of the town was changed to Elmo.

ENTERPRISE (Dickinson). It is said Enterprise was so named because its first settlers, German and Swedish immigrants, were so full of enterprise and progressiveness. The town was laid out in 1872.

GARDEN CITY (Finney). The Fulton brothers, J. R. and J. D., established the village in 1878. Railroaders called the collection of makeshift houses along the Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way, Fulton. The story goes that Mrs. Fulton was searching for a permanent name for the settlement. One day a tramp going through town stopped at the Occidental Hotel, which was operated by the Fultons. During a conversation with him, Mrs. Fulton happened to mention her search for a town name. Looking out the window at her beautiful garden, he suggested the name Garden City. The name was accepted at once, and those who have followed the Fultons have worked to make the town live up to its name.

GOODLAND (Sherman). The founding and incorporation (1887) of Goodland was the outgrowth of bitter rivalry among a number of pioneer towns in this area. Eustis, Sherman Center, Itasca, Leonard, Gandy, and Voltaire were all striving to become the Sherman county

seat. After Goodland won the county seat election in 1887, the other towns began to disappear within a few years. There are two reports on the origin of the name. One is that Goodland was named for an early promoter of the town. Another story is that a pioneer at a town counsel meeting remarked, "This is *good land*." The name Goodland was adopted by the counsel from his chance remark.

GRENOLA (Elk). Originally, there were two small villages located within a short distance of the present site of Grenola. Canola lay to the south and Greenfield to the north. When the Santa Fe Railroad built the railroad through from east to west, the settlers moved all the buildings from both villages to a site near the railroad, and they called their new town Grenola, a combination of Greenfield and Canola.

HOPE (Dickinson). The Santa Fe Railroad established a station at this point called Wegram. Hope was the name selected for the post office located here in 1871. The railroad officials consented to changing the name of the station to Hope.

INDEPENDENCE (Montgomery). In 1869, a little band of men headed by R. W. Wright left Oswego, Kansas, with the hope that somewhere in the newer regions of the state they might find a favorable spot and become the founders of a city. They went south and west to the valley of the Verdigris River. They found rich agricultural country and stopped at Montgomery City. Failing to obtain satisfactory dealings with the town company there, they determined to depend upon their own resources and to found a city that should bear in its name the spirit that prompted its establishment, namely, *Independence*.

An entire section, 640 acres, was selected, surveyed, and laid off into town lots. Within a week after the town was founded a newspaper called the *Independence Pioneer* was published, being printed at Oswego. The town became widely advertised and a group of eighteen families of emigrants from Indiana came to Independence. Just outside the town this bold and unique inscription was erected on an establishment: "Bred and Pize for Saile Haur," meaning "Bread and Pies for Sale Here." In 1870 the town was incorporated. By 1872 a branch railway known as Bunker's Plug was completed to the town and Independence had a population of 2,382 people.

Another story is that Independence means "hope." When the settlers found this place to live, they felt new hope.

KANOPOLIS (Ellsworth). Kanopolis, founded in 1886, is a combination of the names Kansas and Centropolis. The town is situated near the center of Ellsworth County, the central county of Kansas. Kanopolis was formerly Fort Harker.

KANORADO (Sherman). Originally this town was named Lamborn (1889). It is located about one mile from the Kansas-Colorado state

line. It is the highest point in the state. The name Kanorado is a composite of Kansas and Colorado. The name was changed to Kanorado in 1903.

KINGSDOWN (Ford). This town was founded in 1887. One evening during a card game, the players decided to turn their railroad camp into a town and agreed to name it for the first card drawn from the deck. It was a king.

LIBERAL (Seward). The city of Liberal was supposedly named because of an early day pioneer being so "liberal" with the water of his well. In early days it was the custom to charge for water. He gave the water from his well at no charge to the people passing through the arid plains. His homestead became known as the "Liberal Well." When the Rock Island Railroad extended its line to this point, the town was named Liberal. Liberal is located in the heart of the great plains, with a trading area covering the corners of five states—Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico, as well as Kansas.

LINDSBORG (McPherson). Lindsborg as a name has the following history: Among the locating committee and among the members of the first town company and colony were such names as Lindahl, Lindberg, Lindgren, Lind and Lindey. The first part of all these names, "Lind," was taken and the Swedish word "borg" was added. "Borg" means "castle" in Swedish.

LOST SPRINGS (Marion). In the early days in Kansas there were apparently some beautiful springs on the Santa Fe Trail beyond Coun-



"A friend of the past."

cil Grove. A settler built a tavern near the springs, but business was not too good since the spring water was so refreshing and the pioneers preferred it. After becoming somewhat discouraged, the tavern keeper decided to fix things so he could sell his wares. He covered the springs and told any person who asked about them, "The springs are lost!" Thus the name Lost Springs was born.

There is another story on the origin of the name. The first group of pioneers to travel this trail found some springs, but when the next wagon train came by, the people were unable to find them; thus the vicinity became known as Lost Springs.

NICODEMUS (Graham). This is the only all-Negro community in Kansas. The town was named for the legendary Nicodemus who came to America on a slave ship and later purchased his liberty. It was first settled by Exodusters in 1877 under the sponsorship and encouragement of Topeka Negro leaders, Benjamin "Pap" Singleton, and W. R. Hill (see Hill City). The people spent a miserable winter here because they had spent all their savings for railroad fares. They were resented by the white settlers and so received little aid. Soon Hill was forced to flee because the white settlers' feelings were so strong against him. Later, however, he returned and was held in high esteem.

NORCATUR (Decatur). Norcatur is located just over the line of the two county lines of Norton and Decatur. The name is a composite of the two county names.

PALCO (Rooks). The name is a composite of Palmer and Cole, the names of two railroad officials.

PARADISE (Russell). The town of Paradise was originally called Ivamar in honor of the most popular girl here. However, one day a traveler passing through in the spring of the year looked over the beautiful country and said, "Paradise!" It has been known by that name ever since.

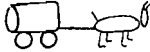
PROTECTION (Comanche). A settlement was started here when people began coming in large numbers in 1884 and 1885. It was platted by the Red Bluff Town Company in 1885. Owen Connaughton and Marble L. Baxter named the town Protection because of their dedication to the "protective tariff" which was the principal issue in the election of 1884 when Grover Cleveland was elected President. There are also reports of the town being named Protection because the fort at Red Bluff, built in 1885, was protection from the Indians. Red Bluff is about four miles from Protection.

RICHFIELD (Morton). The town was established in 1885 by the Aurora Town Company. A. T. Spotswood, who laid out the town, named it Richfield because he thought it would prove to be a *rich field*.

- SABETHA** (Nemaha). An ox caused this town to get its unique name! According to one story, at least, a man headed toward California during the gold rush got as far as Northeastern Kansas when his favorite ox got sick and died. It was the Sabbath when the ox died. The man changed the word a bit and named the camp Sabetha in honor of his poor old animal. The camp in time became a town and today has over 2000 people. The first real settlement was made in 1857, but Sabetha was not incorporated until 1874. Another story is that a temporary fort was established at this spot on Sunday. The town was named for the fort, and the name is a corruption of Sabbath.
- ST. GEORGE** (Pottawatomie). St. George, platted in 1857, lies in the Black Jack Hills and is one of the oldest settlements in Pottawatomie County. It was at one time the county seat. It lost the honor to Westmoreland and the people in nearby towns were enraged. It is reported that at the time of the voting for the county seat, Wamego had all of the employees of the Union Pacific Railroad vote on the issue regardless of their legal residence, and that St. Marys registered names from the tombstones in the old cemetery for use in voting.
- ST. MARYS** (Pottawatomie). The name is taken from the St. Mary's Catholic Mission founded in 1848 for the education and spiritual instruction of the Pottawatomie Indians. St. Marys was platted in 1866 and was the first community in the county to be settled.
- ST. PAUL** (Neosho). This town was originally Osage Mission. The mission was established by the Jesuits in 1847. Later the name was changed, and that of the apostle St. Paul adopted. The town company was organized in 1867, and the town was organized in 1869.
- SCANDIA** (Republic). Scandia was first settled in 1869. It was colonized by the Scandinavian Agricultural Society of Chicago. The name Scandia is a contraction of New Scandinavia. Scandia was an important trading point in the early days, being in the line of the shortest route to the homestead country from Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska. Near this area in 1806, Captain Zebulon Pike raised the first American flag to be raised in Kansas.
- SHARON** (Barber). Sharon was founded by members of the Christian Church. The name was suggested by the Biblical reference to the "Rose of Sharon" (Song of Solomon II:1).
- STOCKTON** (Rooks). The broad open prairies of Rooks County invited the stockmen to this area. Vast grazing areas pastured thousands of cattle. The early (1872) settlers, being largely stockmen, named the town Stocktown. Later the "w" was dropped and it became Stockton.
- TRIBUNE** (Greeley). Tribune was named for the New York *Tribune*, Horace Greeley's newspaper (see Greeley). It was founded in 1886 and was made the county seat in 1887.

UNIONTOWN (Bourbon). This name, referring to the Union of the great United States, has occurred in many places in the country. This is one of Kansas' earlier towns, the post office being established in 1856 and the first school being held in 1860.

WESKAN (Wallace). Weskan gets its name from the first three letters of each of the words "Western Kansas."



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I also wish to acknowledge and express my deepest appreciation for the brochures, newspapers and personal letters, from which much of this information was derived.

Anniejane H. Cover

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