

A HISTORY OF EARLY DAY  
BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

---

A Thesis

Presented to  
the Division of Social Sciences  
Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts

---

by  
John Simons  
August 1971

Walter W. Butcher  
Approved for the Major Department

James L. Boyle  
Approved for the Graduate Council

318351 4.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
II. THE PRE-ORGANIZATIONAL PERIOD . . . . .	6
III. ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY . . . . .	27
IV. THE COUNTY SEAT . . . . .	52
V. OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS . . . . .	73
VI. SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES . . . . .	97
VII. SUMMARY . . . . .	114
APPENDIX . . . . .	116
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	126

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Barton County Boundaries as created and as they exist today . . . . .	2
II. Coronado's route in 1541 . . . . .	7
III. The Santa Fe Trail in Barton County . . . . .	18
IV. Santa Fe Trail, Fort Zarah and Military Reservation .	24
V. Division of Stafford County in 1875 . . . . .	44
VI. Barton, Stafford and Pratt Counties as they exist today . . . . .	45

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ustrations	Page
I. Appointed County Commissioner - Berry	117
II. Appointed County Commissioner - Morris	118
III. Appointed County Commissioner - Hubbard	119
IV. Appointed County Clerk - Odell	120
V. Governor's Order of Organization	121
VI. Organization Paper of Great Bend, Kansas	122
VII. Barton County School Districts	123
VIII. Teachers Directory	124
IX. Teachers of Barton County	125

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION TO BARTON COUNTY

Barton County is located just west of the geographical center of Kansas. It is crossed by two rivers, the Walnut and the Arkansas, and several major creeks, among them Cow, Blood and Walnut. It is approximately thirty miles square. Its boundaries have varied somewhat due to the fact that it was once attached to Ellsworth County and at one time contained several townships now located in Stafford County. However, its present boundaries are the same as in 1867 when it was created by the Legislature and in 1872 when it was organized. Barton County is a part of the Great Bend lowlands which in turn are a part of the Arkansas River lowlands.

The beauty of the Barton County area was earlier recognized. Washington Irving, while visiting the area in 1832, gave this glowing account of its wilderness charms:

It presented a broad and rapid stream bordered by a beach of fine sand, overgrown with willows and cottonwood trees. Beyond the river the eye wandered over a beautiful campaign country of flowery plains and sloping uplands, diversified by groves and clumps of trees and long screens of woodland; the whole wearing the aspect of complete and even ornamental cultivation, instead of native wilderness.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas (Great Bend, Great Bend Tribune, 1912), p. 9.

TABLE I.

	R XV	R XIV	R XIII	R XII	R XI	
T. 16						
T. 17						
T. 18						
T. 19						
T. 20						
<u>BARTON COUNTY</u>						Barton County S. Boun. 1867 and at present
T. 21						
T. 22						
T. 23						
<u>STAFFORD COUNTY - 1875-79</u>						Barton County S. Boun. 1875-
T. 24						
T. 25						
<u>STAFFORD COUNTY</u>						
T. 26						
T. 27						
T. 28						
T. 29						
<u>PRATT COUNTY</u>						

Map shows Barton County's boundaries as they are today and as they were created in 1867. Also shown is the temporary boundary change that existed from 1875 until 1879.

The beauty and fertility of the area is further attested to by the fact that the southern part of the area was a favorite hunting ground of the Indians. Buffalo were plentiful in the Walnut Valley and several Indian tribes fought to control the area; the Cheyenne, Pawnee, and the Kiowa tribes all left their mark. Blood Creek received its name as a result of the Indian battles between the Cheyenne, Pawnee and Kiowa tribes about 1827 over control of the lowland area now known as Cheyenne Bottoms. Another apparent mark left by these Indian battles is the Indian burial ground on the Penka farm along the banks of Cow Creek in present Cheyenne Township. This area was sacred to the Indians.

Barton County contains two of the most famous landmarks of Western Kansas:<sup>2</sup> Pawnee Rock and the Great Bend of the Arkansas River. The geological causes of the Great Bend of the Arkansas River are not yet clearly understood. Cheyenne Bottoms is a slightly lesser known landmark in Barton County. This depression, which some believe was caused by nature and others believe was made by thousands of buffalo, is now a federal game reserve.

Today Barton County is recognized as a leader in the production of wheat and oil.<sup>3</sup> Yet the wisdom of specializing

---

<sup>2</sup>Barton County is located on the eastern edge of the Great Plains as defined by Walter Prescott Webb in his book entitled The Great Plains.

<sup>3</sup>William Frank Zornow, Kansas: A History of the Jayhawk State (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957), p. 7; and Kansas Agriculture 52nd Report (Kansas Board of Agriculture, 1968-1969) plates 20 and 21 F, lists Barton County as fourth in the state in wheat acreage.



in the growing of wheat was questioned in early day Barton County and the first attempt to find oil in 1886 resulted only in the discovery of salt water. Oil was finally discovered in the same area some fifty-five years later.

The Santa Fe Trail crossed Barton County and this fact led to some interesting results. Several supply ranches were established near present day Ellinwood and at the Walnut River Crossing in the 1850's and 1860's including one established by William Mathewson in 1853.<sup>4</sup> Several burial grounds for whites and Indians also resulted from the traffic on the Trail. The largest burial ground, located seven miles west of Ellinwood, contains an estimated one hundred persons—all in coffinless, unmarked graves. To protect the travelers on the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Zarah was established in 1864. Numerous skirmishes between the settlers, soldiers and Indians, resulting from the settlement of the area, added much to the colorful history of Barton County.

Like many parts of Kansas, Barton County owes much of its early development to foreigners. The most prominent were the Germans. The city of Ellinwood still retains the distinguishing marks of a German settlement. Many of Ellinwood's streets still have the German names they were given when the

---

<sup>4</sup>These ranches usually started out as a combination hotel and trading post. Later, as their owners acquired some livestock, usually from the Santa Fe Trail traffic, they became known as ranches.

site was organized. Besides the Germans, twenty other nationalities were present in early Barton County.<sup>5</sup>

The many items outlined above make the history of Barton County interesting. Especially worth noting is the relatively early date of organization, 1872; only five years after it was created by the Legislature. This date makes Barton County one of the earliest counties to be organized in Western Kansas.<sup>6</sup> Because of its location on the eastern edge of the Great Plains, its early success makes it one of the most important in the settlement of the central part of the continental United States. The successful settling of Barton County proved the area could be very productive and removed many of the fears of settling in the Great Plains.

---

<sup>5</sup>Mearl S. Hoover, "The Alien Contribution to the History of Barton County, Kansas," (unpublished Master's thesis, Fort Hays State College, Hays, 1930), p. 7.

<sup>6</sup>W. W. Admire (ed.), Political and Legislative Handbook for Kansas (Topeka, George W. Crane & Co., 1891), p. 204.

## CHAPTER II

### THE PRE-ORGANIZATIONAL PERIOD

It is not certain who was the first white man to see the area that is now Barton County. It may be that Francisco Velaquez de Coronado passed through the area in 1541 in search of the province of Quivira. Several authorities place Coronado in Barton County territory.<sup>1</sup> The map on the next page shows the route taken by Coronado according to these people. Whether Coronado actually traveled through Barton County or not, he was in the area more than fifty years before the first permanent English colony was established in America.

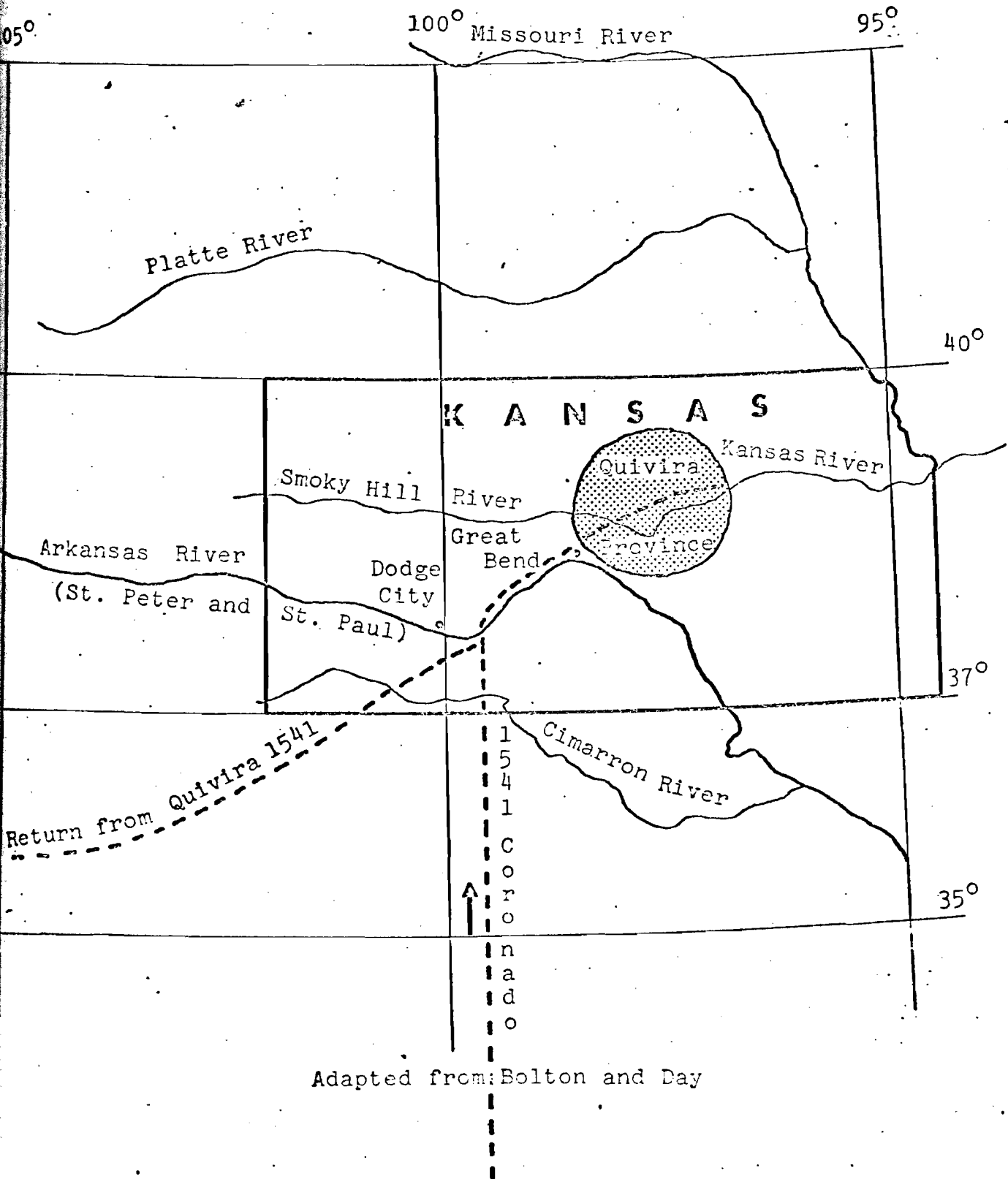
Coronado did not stay long in the central part of Kansas, but the area received his praise in a letter he wrote to his King

The country itself is the best I have ever seen for producing all the products of Spain, for besides the land itself being very fat and black and being well watered by the rivulets and springs and rivers, I found prunes like those of Spain (or I found everything they

---

<sup>1</sup>Herbert E. Bolton, Coronado: Knight of Pueblos and Plains (The University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1949), pp. 288, 290, 291; Arthur Grove Day, Coronado's Quest: The Discovering of the Southwestern States (Berkeley, California; University of California Press, 1940), pp. 249, 358 and map (appendix); Paul A. Jones, Coronado and Quivira (Wichita, Kansas; McCormick-Armstrong Company, 1937), p. 75; Horace Jones' "Coronado Rides Again" pamphlet, (reprinted by University of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, from Hobbies). Paul Jones, author of Coronado and Quivira has located several remains which he thinks indicate that some of the villages of Quivira were located near present day Ellinwood.

TABLE II.



Coronado's route in 1541 based on maps by Bolton and Day

have in Spain) and nuts and very good sweet grapes and mulberries.<sup>2</sup>

The area was undesirable, however, so far as the Spaniards were concerned because they found no signs of gold or other precious metals.

The first American that is known to have visited the area of Barton County was Zebulon M. Pike. Pike set out from St. Louis on July 15, 1806, at the head of an expedition of twenty-three white men and fifty-one Indians on a trip through the middle plains to the Rocky Mountains. One of Pike's responsibilities was to find the source of the Arkansas River.<sup>3</sup> Near midnight, on October 13, 1806, Pike's party reached the most northern bend of the Arkansas River which is located five or six miles east of the present city of Great Bend. "At 10 a.m., Oct. 28, Pike, with most of his party, went along the north bank of the river; and Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson, Pike's superior officer, with a small party, went down the river by boat."<sup>4</sup>

Wilkinson's party traveled only five or six miles down the Arkansas until they pulled ashore on the southwestern bank of the river. Wilkinson's official reason for stopping was that the

---

<sup>2</sup>George Parker Winship, "The Coronado Expedition, 1540-1542," Fourteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, Part I, p. 582, cited in Walter Prescott Webb, The Great Plains (New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1931), p. 107.

<sup>3</sup>Milo Milton Quaife, (ed.) The Southwestern Expedition of Zebulon M. Pike (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley and Sons, 1925), p. XIV (Introduction).

<sup>4</sup>Bernard Bryan Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas (Great Bend: B. B. Smyth, 1880), p. 57, citing Pike's Expedition.

Arkansas was unnavigable. However, in a letter to his father, Wilkinson was very critical of the expedition, especially concerning the lack of forces in case of Indian attack. Regardless, Wilkinson's party traveled no farther down the Arkansas than the present site of the town of Ellinwood.

In spite of the fact that Pike placed Barton County in what he described as the Great American Desert, his exploration had many results for the area. He helped open up the Great Plains to later exploration and is credited for being partially responsible for starting the Santa Fe Trail, the life-blood for many areas, including Barton County.<sup>5</sup>

In 1812, an expedition was fitted out under the auspices of Messars. McKnight, Beard, Chambers, and several others (in all about a dozen), who, following the directions of Captain Pike across the dreary western wilds, finally succeeded in reaching Santa Fe in safety.<sup>6</sup>

McKnights' party ran out of luck once they reached Santa Fe and they were seized as spies and jailed for several years.

After McKnight's party, the next white men to spend any time in the Barton County area were Major Stephen Long and his expedition. Long's expedition had traveled to the Rocky Mountains by a northern route and were on their way back East. They traveled down the Arkansas from Colorado and arrived August 9,

---

<sup>5</sup>William E. Connelley, A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), pp. 87-89; and Josiah Gregg, Commerce of the Prairies, Max L. Moorhead (ed.), (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), pp. 10-11.

<sup>6</sup>Gregg, Commerce of the Prairies, p. 11.

1820, at a point where Walnut Creek enters the Arkansas River, approximately four miles east of present day Great Bend. The expedition mistakenly believed that Walnut Creek was the Arkansas River.<sup>7</sup>

The Journal of Captain John Bell, official journalist for the expedition contains this description of the area:

It contains fine feed or pasture for our horses, shaded by the cottonwood, elm, black walnut, ash, mulberry, and coffee nut tree—we greeted this variety of timber as old friends—it seems as if we were approximating to a civilized country.<sup>8</sup>

Edwin James, a botanist and geologist noted the following about the area:

S. S. E. winds prevailed with considerable force at noon, the extreme heat was 96 degrees. During these few days past, the bison have occurred in vast and almost continuous herds, and in such infinite numbers, as seemed to indicate the great bend of the Arkansas, as their chief and general rendezvous.<sup>9</sup>

Long was so impressed with the area he rested his expedition there for a day. A deer and young buffalo cow were killed and the whole expedition feasted, finishing up with sour grapes

---

<sup>7</sup>Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas, Great Bend, Kansas: Great Bend Tribune, 1912, p. 8.

<sup>8</sup>Harlan M. Fuller and LeRoy R. Haffer (eds.) The Journal of Captain John R. Bell: Official Journalist for the Stephen H. Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, 1820, (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1966), p. 206.

<sup>9</sup>Edwin James, Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains, Volume II (Ann Arbor: Anniversary Microfilms, Inc., 1966), p. 206.

and black walnuts for dessert. Edwin James took time to look the area over and noted that the chief product was sunflowers.

Shortly after Long's expedition, Robert McKnight's party was freed from jail in Santa Fe after a nine year term and returned East with stories of possible riches that induced others to attempt the trip. In that year, 1821, Captain William Becknell made the trip from Missouri to Santa Fe. He and four companions started out with the original purpose of trading with the Indians, but fell in with some Mexican rangers who induced them to go to Santa Fe. Here they made a good profit despite the fact that they had little merchandise to trade.<sup>10</sup>

In the spring of 1822, Becknell was back in Missouri with the news of his success and also word that Mexico's recent separation from Spain had resulted in ending the restrictive trade policy with Mexico.

That adventure may be said to have established the Santa Fe trade, and Captain Becknell has justly been called the father of the Santa Fe Trail, for that which he followed was accepted as The Trail from the Missouri River to Santa Fe.<sup>11</sup>

One of the first to make the trip to Santa Fe after Becknell's return was Colonel Benjamin Cooper. He organized a company which left Franklin, Missouri early in May, 1822. His party numbered about fifteen, including his two nephews; they ha

---

<sup>10</sup>Gregg, Commerce of the Prairies, p. 13.

<sup>11</sup>Connelley, A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, p. 89.



about five thousand dollars worth of trade goods loaded on pack horses.<sup>12</sup> Shortly after Cooper's departure, Becknell resolved to continue in the trade which had given him such good returns.

Within a month after the departure of Colonel Cooper, he again took to the trail from Franklin to Santa Fe. The value of his cargo was about five thousand dollars, and there were thirty men in the expedition. On this journey, he abandoned the use of pack horses and used for his transportation, wagons drawn by mules—the first wagon train over the Santa Fe Trail and the first to cross the Great Plains.<sup>13</sup>

Becknell's expedition was anxious to reach Santa Fe before Cooper's party had a chance to saturate the market. After striking the big bend of the Arkansas and proceeding southward, Becknell decided to shorten the route to Santa Fe by striking south rather than continuing along the river westward. After a terrible ordeal across the uncharted desert, the expedition was saved when it reached the Cimarron River. They followed it west and down into New Mexico, thus starting the "dry route" to Santa Fe.<sup>14</sup>

The success of the American trade with Santa Fe led Thomas H. Benton of Missouri to introduce a bill, passed by Congress, providing for the marking of a road from Independence, Missouri through Kansas and into New Mexico to Santa Fe. On "March 3, 1825, Congre

---

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Becknell, in order to beat Cooper, turned off near the present town of Cimarron, Kansas. He proceeded west by southwest to Point of Rocks in Morton County, then on to Santa Fe. His route became known as the "Cimarron Cut Off."

passed an act authorizing the President to appoint three commissioners to carry out the act, first obtaining the consent of the intervening tribes of Indians, by treaty, to the marking of the road."<sup>15</sup> Benjamin H. Reeves, George C. Sibly and Thomas Mather were appointed and began their task in August of 1825. Thus, the Santa Fe Trail was officially established and the growth of the Barton County area assured as the great bend of the Arkansas River and Pawnee Rock became noted stopping points on the trail.

At the time of the arrival of the Santa Fe Trail through Barton County, several Indian tribes frequented the area, especially what is now the southern part of the county. The main tribes in the area were the Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Pawnee. The grassy area along the Arkansas was occupied by none of the Indian tribes but claimed by many as a favorite hunting ground.

The region was the source of more bloody conflicts between the different Indians of the plains, perhaps, than any other portion of the continent. Particularly was it the arena of war to the death, when the Pawnees met their respected enemies, the Cheyennes.<sup>16</sup>

The Cheyenne and Pawnee tribes regarded each other as honored enemies. First, one would be the stronger; then the other would gain the upper hand.

In his book, The Santa Fe Trail, Colonel Henry Inman tells of one occasion when he was stopped by a small band of Pawnees who ask him to take a message to a nearby band of Cheyennes. The

---

<sup>15</sup>Daniel W. Wilder, The Annals of Kansas: New Edition, 1541-1885, (Topeka: T. Dwight Thacher, Kansas Publishing House, 1886), p. 25.

<sup>16</sup>George Bird Grinnell, The Fighting Cheyennes, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956), p. 67.

Pawnees said they were going to defend a nearby island in the Arkansas River and they dared the Cheyennes to try to kill them. Because they were outnumbered about ten to one, the Pawnees wanted Colonel Inman to deliver the message after giving them time to reach their island defense. Inman delivered the message and witnessed the resulting battle. Much to the dismay of the Cheyennes, they were unable to dislodge the Pawnees from the island and lost twenty or thirty men trying to do so. The Cheyennes finally gave up the attempt. Then the Pawnees added insult to injury by stealing several ponies and escaping.

The many bloody fights around the area is attested to by an unnamed pioneer of Barton County who is quoted by Margaret Perkins in Echoes of Pawnee Rock:

As for bloody battles fought around the old Rock, I should judge they were numerous, for when I came here, many graves were discernible. Well I remember the fall and winter in 1872 when a party of St. Louis bone pickers camped under the shelter of Pawnee Rock. Those 16 cars, packed for shipment by my brother and me, did not contain buffalo bones only. Just how many human skeletons we packed, I cannot now say, but fully ten skulls went to St. Louis as revenue to those bone pickers. In those days, finding a human skull in this vicinity was no uncommon occurrence.<sup>17</sup>

Over the years, the Cheyenne and Pawnees added many graves to the prairies of Barton County. George Bird Grinnell notes that he was unable to find among the Cheyennes or Pawnees, any tradition which tells of a permanent peace between those two tribes.

---

<sup>17</sup>

Margaret Perkins, Echoes of Pawnee Rock, (Wichita: Goldman-Wollard Publishing Co., 1908), p. 10.

Two temporary cessations of fighting did occur in 1826-7 and after the Big Treaty of 1851.<sup>18</sup> During the temporary peace of 1826-7, the Pawnee and Cheyenne tribes fought a common enemy, the Kiowas, for control of the lowlands in the middle of Barton County now known as Cheyenne Bottoms. The Kiowas apparently won the battle for Cheyenne Bottoms. Robert Wright in his book, Dodge City, the Cowboy Capital and the Great Southwest, tells the story of how Satank, head chief of the Kiowas lost his job to Satanta. According to Wright, Satank remained at Cheyenne Bottoms in camp while most of the men of the tribe went hunting. The village was attacked by soldiers from Fort Larned. Satank was able to escape from the village without being detected by the soldiers. Many of the women and children were killed, and the Kiowas blamed Satank for running away. He reasoned that he would only have been killed had he remained, but this incident probably caused him to be demoted to a sub-chief, a post he held under Satanta.

Satanta and his Kiowas may have been more dangerous than the Cheyenne or Pawnee tribes. Satanta, for a long time, was the most feared and dreaded Indian on the plains. He finally met his fate in a rather unusual way. Satanta and two Kiowa sub-chiefs, Satank and Big Tree, were captured after a raid on a wagon train in 1871. They were transported to Jacksboro, Texas (Fort Richardson) to stand trial before a civilian court. The first time Indian

---

<sup>18</sup>George Bird Grinnell, The Fighting Cheyennes (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956), p. 72.

Chiefs were ever tried before a civilian court.<sup>19</sup> Satank was killed by soldiers during the trip when he tried to escape. Satanta and Big Tree were tried before the court of Judge Charles Seward of the 13th Judicial District at Jacksboro on July 5, 1871. They were given as fair a trial as was possible under the circumstances, but they were found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Enoch Hoag, Supt. of Indian Affairs, Larned, Kansas, beseeched the President of the U. S. to intervene. His reason for wanting to save the Indians from the gallows was to prevent the Southwestern tribes from handing out death and destruction along the entire frontier.<sup>20</sup>

Governor Davis of Texas eventually changed the Indians' sentence to life imprisonment. The two chiefs were allowed to meet with representatives of the various tribes at St. Louis to try to prevent a general war in the Southwest. Satanta, who was a noted orator, eventually persuaded the authorities to send him to Washington to present his case. When Satanta was returned to Texas and to prison, the national government convinced Governor Davis to release him, much to the disgust of the frontiersmen.<sup>21</sup>

Satanta returned to his old ways and eventually was arrested again and returned to Texas to prison. After five years there, he became despondent and committed suicide by throwing himself from the upper story of the prison to the ground. So ended the

---

<sup>19</sup>C. C. Rister, Satanta: Orator of the Plains, p. 92, Reprinted from Southwestern Review, Volume XVII, pp. 77-99, (Dallas: Autumn, 1931).

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 99.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., p. 100.

life of one of the most feared men ever to reside in Barton County.

Despite the threat in the 1840's and 1850's of Indians, such as Satanta and Satank, traffic on the Santa Fe Trail continued. The discovery of gold in California in 1849 increased the traffic through the Barton County area to the point that clashes between the Indians and the whites were commonplace. Some of the most interesting confrontations took place at the Walnut Creek Crossing, where probably the first trading post in Barton County was located.<sup>22</sup> This post was about four miles east of the present city of Great Bend. (Note the map on page 18).

The original owners of the trading post, Misters Allison and Booth, seemed to have little trouble with the Indians. But, after Booth had his head split open by an ax-wielding Mexican and Allison died of a heart attack; George Peacock got control of the post. An idea of how dangerous the Kiowas could be is gained by the story of how Peacock met his fate.

Soon after taking over the post, Peacock acquired a reputation as a dealer in whiskey; what he did not drink himself, he sold to the Indians, although such a practice was illegal. The practice eventually cost Peacock his life. The Kiowa chief, Satank, asked Peacock to write him a letter of introduction, which was to be shown to passing wagon trains so that they would treat Satank

---

<sup>22</sup>As with many trading posts, this one was later referred to as a ranch.

TABLE III.

	R XV	R XIV	R XIII	R XII	R XI
T. 16					
T. 17					
T. 18	Walnut or Wet Walnut				
T. 19	Little or Dry Walnut	Great Bend	x	Ellin- wood	Santa Fe Trail
T. 20					Arkansas River

The Santa Fe Trail struck the northern bank of the Arkansas River about one mile west of present day Ellinwood; followed the northern bank westward and crossed Walnut Creek (sometimes referred to as a river), about four miles east of the present city of Great Bend. It was on the southeast bank of the Walnut Creek crossing that the trading post was located, approximately where the (x) is on the map, and near the future location of Fort Zarah.

well. Peacock may or may not have been intoxicated when he wrote the letter for Satank, but judging from his reputation, he probably was. Satank soon found that his letter of introduction did not endear him to the wagon trains, so he persuaded someone to read it to him. The letter read as follows: "This is Satank, the biggest liar, beggar, and thief on the plains. What he can't beg of you he will steal. Kick him out of your camp, as he is a lazy, good-for-nothing Indian."<sup>23</sup> Upon hearing this, Satank took some of his braves to pay a visit to Peacock's ranch.

The ranch was a very sturdy affair; it had a folding window out of which Peacock traded with the Indians. No Indians were allowed inside. So Satank called to Peacock and told him the soldiers were coming. Peacock, fearing the soldiers had found out about his illegal trade, came out of the ranch and climbed up on the roof to check on the nearness of the soldiers. Immediately Satank and his braves fired at Peacock, killing him. Then the Indians entered the ranch and killed all the occupants except one man who was helpless in bed. Although he had only been gored by a buffalo, the Indians feared he had small pox so they avoided his room entirely.

Not all the Indian-white clashes were so obviously the fault of the whites. The Santa Fe Trail flanked the base of Pawnee Rock and here many Indian attacks took place. One attack is alleged to have given the rock its name. There are

---

<sup>23</sup>Ida Ellen Rath, The Rath Trail, (Wichita: McCormick-Armstrong Company, Inc., 1968), p. 4.



many versions of the time and sponsor. But, it was there that Kit Carson killed his first "Indian" and from that fight, which he described to Colonel Inman, the broken mass of red sandstone was given its distinctive title.

In late spring of 1826, Kit Carson, only seventeen and very inexperienced, got a job with Colonel Ceran St. Vrain, who was taking an expedition to the Rocky Mountains. Kit was already a splendid shot and an excellent horseman, but he was not an experienced trapper. His job was to hunt game, stand guard, drive the extra animals along and be generally useful.

The first Indian trouble for the expedition was at the Walnut Creek Crossing. There, half a dozen mounted Pawnees rushed out of the tall grass along the river bottom, swinging buffalo robes in an attempt to stampede the expedition's herd. They were soon driven off by rifle fire and camp was made by the Walnut Creek Crossing.

The expedition made sixteen miles the next day and camped at the Rock. The wagons were formed into a corral, and sentinels were placed on the outskirts as a precaution against a surprise attack. Kit's guard post was in front of the south face of the Rock, nearly two hundred yards from the corral.

About 11:30, a guard shouted 'Indians!' and ran the mules nearest him into the corral; the whole company soon turned out. Kit came running and the Colonel asked him if he'd seen any Indians. He said yes, he'd killed one, he'd seen him fall.<sup>24</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup>Inman, The Old Santa Fe Trail, p. 406.

The men waited for a while and when no Indians appeared, the guards returned to their posts and the camp went back to sleep. "The next morning before breakfast, the whole camp went out to see Kit's dead Indian. They found Kit's riding mule shot right through the head."<sup>25</sup> Kit was understandingly mortified by his blunder. He told Inman that he was very tired and sleepy, and he had probably gone to sleep. When he heard the guard cry out, he awoke and saw something rising out of the grass about twenty steps away. He thought it was an Indian, so he shot it dead center. So Pawnee Rock got its name from the "Indian killed there by Kit Carson in 1826.

Almost all the early travelers through the Barton County area had some sort of adventure with the Indians. James M. Fugate, writing in Smyth's Heart of the New Kansas, tells the following tale about his scouting adventures in 1853. He was with a party of fifty-seven well-armed men on their way to Santa Fe. The party first encountered Indian trouble after reaching the Arkansas Valley at the present location of Hutchinson. The Indians outnumbered them four or five to one, and the whites lost a considerable number of men; but they were determined to push on to Santa Fe. When Fugate's party reached Walnut Creek, they again had trouble with the Indians.

No event occurred during the night to show the presence of Indians; but about dawn of the next morning, as the guards were

---

<sup>25</sup>Ibid., p. 407.

turning the cattle out of the corral to graze, the Indians—Cheyennes, some 500 of them, some mounted and more afoot,—immediately tried to get possession of the cattle. Those on foot engaged the guards, while those mounted tried to get between the cattle and the corral, thus cutting them off. The firing immediately roused the camp to arms; and in the face of the firing by the Indians, the whites surrounded the cattle, and drove them back in to the corral.

After that, the fighting began in good earnest. At first Fugate's party proved too much for the Indians, and they retreated into a low sag south of the corral, but quickly returned with more energy than at first. Then forming solid lines, six or eight deep, they made a forced charge on the wagons from the south, yelling like demons, and firing through under the wagons. It seemed impossible that so few men could withstand such an assault. But the whites were prepared and firing from behind and under the wagons, gave them a warm reception as they came up.

At the east end they broke through and came into the corral; but, of those who came through, it is a question if any ever returned. They were immediately shot and clubbed with the guns. I broke my own gun-stock over the head of one of the miscreants. There were nine of them left within the corral dead. The Indians, seeing the fate that had befallen their comrades, who went through under the wagons, began a hasty retreat and were quickly followed by the entire pack as fast as they could run. They took refuge in a low range of sand hills along the Arkansas River, some 60 or 80 rods to the south, from which they emerged occasionally during the morning to harass us.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, pp. 63-64.

The encounter resulted in sixty dead Indians, and five whites killed and several others wounded. The Indians were finally chased off when Fugate's party joined up with thirty-five men sent out by the freighting outfit of Majors and Russell. However, Fugate's party had another skirmish with the Indians at Pawnee Rock, which resulted in one more wounded man. The party eventually reached Santa Fe safely, although the Indians continued to attack them every few days from Pawnee Rock to Santa

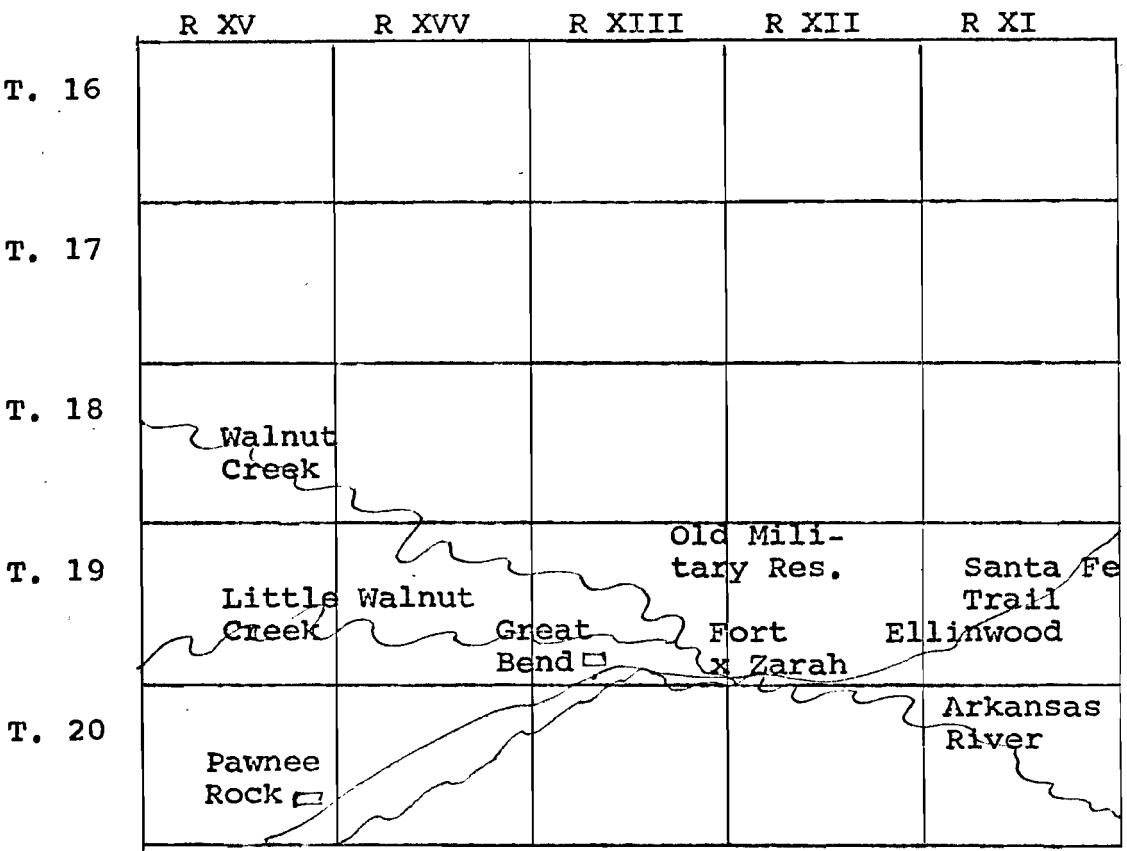
As problems increased with the Indians in the Barton County area, troops were stationed at the important Walnut Creek Crossing. In 1864, as a result of a general Indian war, three hundred recruits, detached from the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and under the command of Captain Conkey, were stationed there. Then on September 6, 1864, General Samuel R. Curtis, commander of the military district in that area, established Fort Zarah on the east side of Walnut Creek. The fort was named in honor of his son, Maj. H. Zarah Curtis, who was killed, October 6, 1863, at the Baxter Springs massacre, while on the staff of General Blunt. It was completed in 1867, and spoken of as an outpost.<sup>27</sup>

On September 30, 1868, Fort Zarah Military Reservation was established by order of the President. It was about two miles by two and three quarter miles in extent, and reached from the present Santa Fe Railroad tracks, north to the hills, almost three miles from present day Great Bend. It contained about 3,698 acres. Fort Zarah was located on the south edge of the Military Reservation. (See the map on page 24).

---

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., pp. 82-83.

TABLE IV.



The map shows the Santa Fe Trail through Barton County as well as the location of Fort Zarah and the old Military Reservation.

Fort Zarah served the area of Barton County well for about two years by which time the Indian problems in the area had disappeared. In 1869, the Fort was dismantled and the lands of the Military District were put up for public sale in July of 1874. What land was not sold was left subject to private entry.<sup>28</sup>

The last Indian fight of Barton County was fought during the fall of 1868. Homer H. Kidder participated in that fight and wrote an account of it in Smyth's Heart of the New Kansas. Kidder and eleven other men fought about seventy-five Indians along the Arkansas River about four miles southwest of where Great Bend now stands, approximately in the northwest corner of the present day Liberty township. The following is Kidder's account of that battle:

We fought them for three hours, killing six and wounding several, also killing several ponies. We lost two men in that engagement; shot with both bullets and arrows. The Indians finally left the battleground, carrying off their dead and wounded. Two or three days previous to this, I sent my colored man out for some stray stock; the Indians cut him off from the ranch, captured him, cut off his feet and limbs, skinned the whole top of his head—taking every hair, ripped him open from end to end, and left him. He crawled several rods in that condition, until he reached an elevation in sight of the ranch, and expired.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup>For a complete history of Fort Zarah, consult Lawrence C. Hammer, "A History of Fort Zarah.", Unpublished Master's thesis, Fort Hays State College, Hays, 1963. Copies of this thesis are available at the Fort Hays State College library, the Great Bend Public Library, and at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka.

<sup>29</sup>Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, pp. 82-83.

In spite of the Indian problems, permanent settlers did come to the Barton County area. As early as the early 1850's, some traders established residency along Walnut Creek and the Arkansas River. The Santa Fe Trail guaranteed growth to the area and the Indians could only hinder, not halt progress.

## CHAPTER III

### ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The first permanent settlers in the Barton County area came for the purpose of trading with travelers along the Santa Fe Trail. An attempt to decide which trading post was built first would be virtually impossible. However, most authorities agree that a former Santa Fe mail contractor named William Allison was the first, or at least head of the first party of traders, to establish permanent residence in what is now Barton County, which at that time was a part of an area known as Peketon County.

Newspapers at Lawrence, Independence, Missouri and Santa Fe ran news articles about the enterprise. On August 6, 1855, the Lawrence, Kansas Free State quoting the Independence, Missouri Occidental Messenger stated:

Mr. William Allison and Booth, known as famed prairie men, have determined to make a settlement at Walnut Creek on the Santa Fe road. A short time since . . . they started on an expedition to the gold region, their mules and provisions dying out . . . they abandoned the idea and returned here determined to settle on Walnut Creek. Booth left a month or so since and Allison this week, and from last reports of Booth's progress, he was busily engaged in building houses and corrals, etc. This is the first attempt at building by citizens made west of Council Grove.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Ray S. Schultz, "Allison's Ranch," Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter, Vol. XV, No. 4 (December, 1969), pp. 2-3.



Another account of the trading post can be found in the Santa Fe Weekly Gazette, dated March 3, 1855:

Walnut Creek Station Allison and Booth Respectfully informs their friends, and the public generally, that they have established a trading house and general depot at Walnut Creek, on the Santa Fe road; where they keep constantly on hand groceries, and provisions suitable for travelers. Also for Forage. With corrals and enclosures for the security of animals. Prices reasonable.<sup>2</sup>

Several varied descriptions of the different buildings and physical layouts exist, and this is difficult to understand unless the buildings were changed or rebuilt. The trading post may have been built of sod, logs, stone or possibly a combination of all three. The one thing that is certain is that it was built to afford strong protection against the Indians.

Allsion, Booth and John Adkins, Allison's half-brother, and apparently others like them:

Would freight such trade goods as they needed for trading with the Indians and provisions, harness, wagon repairs, ammunition and firearms to sell to the travelers upon the Santa Fe Trail, from Independence, Missouri. This business occupied their attention in the winter and in the spring and summer as soon as the grass was long enough to feed their livestock, they would freight the robes and pelts to Missouri. Furs and robes received from the Indians, and their own hunting, were taken east and the provisions and merchandise for the trade would be brought back to the Walnut. The winters would be spent in taking buffalo robes and wolves pelts.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 4.

The wolves pelts were collected with a minimum of effort. The trappers simply killed a buffalo, poisoned the meat and left it for the wolves.

The Allison trading post has a long and interesting history. As previously mentioned, George Peacock was the next owner after Allison and Booth, and he kept it until his death in 1860.<sup>4</sup> The next occupant was Charles Rath, a legendary figure in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.<sup>5</sup> Exactly how he obtained control of the ranch is not known.

Probably he bought whatever rights the Peacock heirs owned. Later he formed his own corporation and it went down in family history that he owned the Old Peacock Ranch near Great Bend in Barton County. However, the records do not bear out this claim.<sup>6</sup>

The only official papers Rath is known to have had is a certificate of incorporation signed by Isaac Sharp, Justice of the Peace of Morris County, Kansas, dated January 10, 1863, and certified by John F. Dodds, County Clerk.<sup>7</sup> Whether Rath actually had any legal claim to the ranch or not, he made his residence there.

---

<sup>4</sup>Peacock's ownership is discussed in Chapter II. By the time he acquired ownership, the trading post was commonly referred to as a ranch. In reality, it was still more of a trading post than working ranch.

<sup>5</sup>Charles Rath earned a certain although not entirely desirable reputation during the last part of the Nineteenth Century. One of his more questionable activities apparently include the selling of firearms and powder to the Indians.

<sup>6</sup>Rath, The Rath Trail, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup>I am unable to determine exactly why the certificate of incorporation was filed in Morris County. The closest organized county was Saline and Barton County was not a part of Morris County.

There were other trading posts in the Barton County area at about the same time as Allison's Ranch. The legendary William Mathewson may have had a trading post at the mouth of Walnut Creek as early as 1853.<sup>8</sup> However, sources disagree as to whether it was located on Walnut Creek, Cow Creek or even possibly the Little Arkansas River. Another early trading post was built by Homer H. Kidder, a man probably less famous than William Mathewson but more important in the history of Barton County.<sup>9</sup>

In 1863, Kidder arrived in the Barton County area from Michigan. After a winter as clerk in the quartermaster's office at Fort Larned, Kidder built a ranch near what is now Great Bend. Trading for poor and lame cattle brought by freighters and drovers on the Santa Fe Trail, Kidder built up a herd of several thousand head. His luck ran out in September of 1866 when his herder was killed and all his stock driven off by Indians.

Although Kidder left his ranch for a job as a mail carrier on the Santa Fe stage line of Barlow, Saunderson and Company, he continued to keep up his ranch as he passed it on his trips across the plains. Kidder eventually returned to his ranch and is noted as one of the first permanent settlers in the Great Bend area. He became the first general retail merchant in the city of Great Bend.

As difficult as it is to determine exactly who had the first permanent ranch or trading post in Barton County, it is even more

---

<sup>8</sup> William Mathewson was the original "Buffalo Bill" long before W. F. Cody became known as Buffalo Bill.

<sup>9</sup> Biographical History of Barton County, p. 15.

difficult to determine who was the first agricultural settler. Several sources seem to agree that the first two settlers in Barton County were John Reinecke and Henry Schultz. William Cutler's History of Kansas lists J. Reinecke and H. Schultz as among the first settlers in Barton County.<sup>10</sup> B. B. Smyth writes, "the U. S. Census of 1870, found two people in Barton County. These were undoubtedly John Reinecke and Henry Schultz, natives of Hanover, Germany, who had selected a location up the Walnut and made settlement in early April, 1870."<sup>11</sup> C. P. Townsley's pamphlet on Barton County has the following table:<sup>12</sup>

POPULATION

1870-	2
1872-	250
1875-	2099
1876-	5646
1878-	12,000

The report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of Kansas for the year 1873 lists the population of Barton County as follows:<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup>William G. Cuttler, History of the State of Kansas, (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), p. 764.

<sup>11</sup>Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, p. 88. The U. S. Census of 1870 was taken in Barton County, even though it was not organized at that time; it had been created by the Legislature in 1867.

<sup>12</sup>C. P. Townsley, (ed.) Barton County: Her Growth, People, Population, Towns, Businessmen, and Etc., (Great Bend Inland Tribune, 1879).

<sup>13</sup>"Report of the State Board of Agriculture of the Legislature of Kansas for the year 1873," (Topeka: State Printing Works, 1875), p. 67.

## POPULATION OF BARTON COUNTY

<u>1860</u>	<u>1870</u>	<u>1873</u>
none	2	860

The report of Z. Jackson, census taker for the district of which Barton County was a part reports the population of the unorganized county as two in 1870 but lists them as follows:<sup>14</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>
Hahn, August	farmer	Hanover, Germany
Seighes	farmer	Hanover, Germany

However, Jackson's report also says that the two men were located on Walnut Creek near the west line of Barton County and he was unable to ascertain definitely if they were in Barton or Rush County. The probable reason for the differences in the reports is that the early residences were of the "dugout" type; generally constructed in some secluded place so that they would not be noticeable. It was possible to pass within a hundred yard of these "dugouts" without being aware of their presence even when you were looking for them. So there were probably several persons in Barton County that could not be easily located.

Some of the known early settlers in Barton County were "W. C. Gibson, Gideon F. Mecklem and son, Henry Meyer, Wm. Jans, Rudress Albrecht, Antone Wilkie, Geo. Berry, N. Fields, C. F. Brining, A. Kellar, C. B. Warden, Mike Stanton, and E. Warring." These men settled fairly close together along Walnut Creek.

---

<sup>14</sup>Great Bend Tribune, August 12, 1941.

<sup>15</sup>Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, p. 89.

M. W. Halsey and Aaron Burlison were early residents in the present day Ellinwood area and George Platt established the first claim in 1870 in the area of present day Claflin.

Usually little in the way of crops was grown during the first year of residency by the settlers, and what was raised was usually destroyed by the buffalo; who liked to wallow in the plowed ground. However, Henry Schultz did raise in 1870 five or six acres of sod corn and two acres of oats, quite an accomplishment considering the ground was broken using an ax. Most of the early settlers slaughtered buffalo and sold the meat in Russell and Ellsworth in the winter and in the summer, they dried the hides and sold them.

In 1871, Titus J. Buckbee opened the first store in the county, east of old Fort Zarah, some five miles east of present day Great Bend. The store was also established as the post office with Buckbee as its postmaster. The area began to attract more settlers in 1871, but the population remained quite small. The principal reason for this was that the nearest railroad station was at Newton, on the Atchinson, Topeka and the Santa Fe, some ninety miles distant. So Barton County, which had officially been created but not organized by the Legislative Act of 1867 that defined the boundaries of several counties, had to wait another year for her official organization because State law required six hundred inhabitants before a county could become organized as a political unit.

Early in 1872, settlers in various parts of the county got work helping with the grading on a line of the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, which was within the boundaries of Barton County by March. "On the 13th or 14th of July, the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe had completed a line to Great Bend. The Railroad crossed the county line before the end of summer."<sup>16</sup> With the arrival of the railroad, settlers poured into Barton County and the six hundred population requirement was soon met.

Prior to 1872, Barton County had been attached to Ellsworth County for taxing purposes. In 1872 when the population requirement was met and Barton County organized, there was a little trouble because some residents had already paid their 1872 taxes to Ellsworth County, but a compromise was made so that the taxes did not have to be paid again, and no court action was taken.

On the sixteenth of May, Governor James M. Harvey appointed John H. Hubbard, Thomas L. Morris and George M. Berry as special county commissioners. William H. Odell was named as special county clerk and Great Bend was declared the temporary county seat of Barton County.<sup>17</sup> "Records kept by the Kansas State Historical Society show that the county was named after Clara Barton probably because the settlers admired the work she had done during the Civil War."<sup>18</sup> This makes Barton County the only county

---

<sup>16</sup>Great Bend Tribune, (Anniversary Edition), 1936, p. 91

<sup>17</sup>See the appendix for copies of these appointment notices.

<sup>18</sup>Great Bend Tribune, October 11, 1948.

in Kansas to be named after a woman. The county was exactly square, thirty miles north and south and the same east and west. This is the same as the present size of Barton County, although the boundaries and size were changed for a short period in the late 1870's.

On May 23, 1872, the first board meeting in Barton County was held. "Thomas L. Morris was elected chairman. The various townships were named and their boundaries defined, and the first elections were set for Monday, July 1, 1872."

The results of Barton County's first election are as follows:

Great Bend was officially selected the county seat with 144 votes to 33 for Zarah, the nearest runner-up. The following county officers were elected: County Commissioner for the 1st. district, M. W. Halsey, John Cook, 2nd District and L. H. Lusk, 3rd district. County Clerk, W. H. Odell; Register of Deeds, T. L. Morris; Clerk of the District Court, J. B. Howard; Superintendent of Public Instruction, A. C. Moses; County Treasurer, E. L. Morphy; Probate Judge, D. N. Heizer; County Attorney, J. B. Howard; County Surveyor, John Farrow; Sheriff, George N. Moses; Coronor, D. B. Baker.<sup>19</sup>

The townships of Lakin, Great Bend, and Buffalo were approved.

So Barton County was born and soon began to exercise the normal functions of a county. The first recorded birth, that of George A. Hasher, took place on the second of October, 1871. The first county warrant was issued September 2, 1872, to Thomas L. Morris; the first marriage took place in November

---

<sup>19</sup>Kansas Clippings, (The Kansas State Historical Society Volume 2, pp. 19-20.



of 1872 between Johnathan F. Tilton and Miss Addie Eastey. Several towns were organized, including Great Bend in 1872, and Ellinwood in 1873. The first building was erected in Pawnee Rock in 1874 and the first claim filed in Claflin in 1871. The town of Zarah died out after losing the county seat race to Great Bend in the election of 1872 and several other towns were beginning a brief life.

But simply functioning as a county does not guarantee success as a county. By 1873, Barton County still had a population of less than one thousand. These early settlers collected and sold buffalo bones for five dollars a ton and raised a little corn and less wheat. The Report of the State Board of Agriculture shows the following planted acreage for 1873 by township:<sup>20</sup>

<u>Lakin</u>	<u>Great Bend</u>	<u>Buffalo</u>	<u>Total</u>
326	0	5,135	5,461

Barton County seemed to be a little slow in developing as the agricultural leader it appeared destined to be when organized. The probable reason for this was the:

Introduction of Texas Cattle into the region. Tens of thousands of which were driven into the county to be fattened. They created a feeling of insecurity of crops and domestic stock to such an extent that very few would venture to plant crops or invest in improved breeds of cattle.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup>"Report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature," p. 95.

<sup>21</sup>Great Bend Register, volume 3 (Great Bend, Kansas: July 20, 1876), p. 1; from "A History of Barton County", read by W. H. Odell at the 4th of July celebration at Great Bend in 1872.

Yet the spring of 1874 brought almost one thousand new settlers to Barton County. The spring was good for the planting of crops and the county settled back for an expected period of rapid growth. Suddenly in early summer, the sky turned dark and a swarm of grasshoppers struck the area. They remained only a few days but when they left only small amounts of crops remained. The trees and the fields throughout the county were almost bare. The grasshoppers were especially hard on the corn; the wheat was less affected but only two hundred acres had been planted. The settlers tried to save some of their corn by "shocking" it but was of little help. This was especially hard on the newly arrived settlers because they had no reserves built up.

Just two years old, Barton County wavered on disaster. It was at this time that Mary A. Bickerdyke or Mother as she was called, took charge. Mary Bickerdyke was born in Knox County, Ohio in 1817. During her early life she acquired a knowledge of nursing; eventually working as an army nurse in Cairo, Illinois, and becoming a "Clara Barton of the Western Front" during the Civil War. It was at this time that she became known as "Mother. In 1867, Mother Bickerdyke came to Kansas to check on the possibilities there for ex-soldiers. She was instrumental in getting loans for ex-soldiers who wanted to go West. She also managed to get the railroads to provide free passage. Mother Bickerdyke lived in Salina for a while but returned to New York after a squabble with the Union Pacific Railroad in 1867. Her two sons, Hiram and James, remained in Kansas.

In 1874, Mother Bickerdyke's sons wrote asking her to return to Kansas to live with them. She soon did so and discovered her sons were now living near Great Bend. When the grasshoppers struck that summer, Mrs. Bickerdyke immediately began to secure relief supplies for the whole area. Her efforts began before the appointment of any committees. When relief societies were eventually organized, Mary Bickerdyke headed the organization for Southwestern Kansas. Supplies were distributed at Great Bend where they were stored in the court house.

Mrs. Bickerdyke did her best to be sure everyone who needed aid got it, but she also did her best to prevent any false claims. A needy person was required to make a statement of his most immediate needs; the statement also required the listing of, and description of, all members of his family. After the supplies were received, a receipt was signed and filed. While these measures were necessary to prevent fraud, they kept some needy persons from applying for aid. So Mrs. Bickerdyke made trips all over town and around the county to make sure that no one went hungry and cold because of pride. She also tried to find some humor in the desperate situation:

Among the applicants for aid was an old German who although he was dirty and forlorn looking, still gave her the impression that he was not as destitute as many others. When he requested aid, she gave him a bar of soap and told him to clean up and come back the next day. She then took time to investigate his "needs." When he came back the next day, washed and shaven, she rigged him out in a silk hat, gloves and a swallow-tail coat.<sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup>Julia A. Chase, Mary A. Bickerdyke, "Mother" (Lawrence Kansas: Journal Publishing House, 1896), p. 131.

During 1874-5, Mrs. Bickerdyke made ten trips to Illinois to solicit aid for the West. She visited Peoria, Galesburg, Macomb, Jacksonville and other places where she was well known and never failed to secure large donations of food and clothing. For her devotion and work toward meeting the needs of the West, the Kansas Legislature passed a resolution giving Mrs. Bickerdyke a vote of thanks.

While Mrs. Bickerdyke's work greatly eased the strain on the settlers of Barton County, the crisis still existed. To add to the problem, 1875 proved to be a dry year and the problems with Texas cattle still existed. Many settlers gave up and returned to the East. Some of those who stayed were reduced to picking up buffalo bones for a living. Still, Barton County had a railroad, a fairly good water supply in the Arkansas River and several creeks, and a central location, enough factors to insure rapid growth if some good breaks were received. Fortunately, several were in the near future.

The first of these came in the Spring of 1875 when the State Legislature decided to obliterate Stafford County, which lay at the southern boundary of Barton County.<sup>23</sup> Stafford County was in its seventh year of existence, but it had a population of only fifteen or twenty, far too few for organization. Who influenced the Legislature to take action to obliterate it is not known.

---

<sup>23</sup>The State Legislature failed to completely obliterate Stafford County, and the addition to Barton County proved to be temporary. Details are provided later in this chapter.

It may have been Pratt or Barton or both; each of them had a representative in that body while Stafford was without representation since it had neither organization nor officers. The northern part of the County, which consisted of townships twenty-one, twenty-two, and twenty-three in ranges eleven, twelve, thirteen and fourteen was annexed to Barton.<sup>24</sup>

This move added to Barton County the townships of Hudson, Radium, Seward, and a large part of St. John, amounting to roughly four hundred and thirty-two square miles of Stafford County. (See the map on page 55.) This area was to become very wealthy wheat land and it added greatly to Barton County at a time when it was needed. In 1876 when the rainfall was fairly plentiful, the area was put to good use.

Another beneficial move took place during the winter of 1876 when the Kansas Legislature extended the so called "dead line" excluding Texas cattle not wintered in the North from the county. "Many times the number of acres broken in all previous years, have been turned over the present season, and made ready for crop in 1877. So the future success of Barton County as an agricultural community is full assured,"<sup>25</sup> wrote W. H. Odell, an early pioneer, when he learned of the exclusion of the Texas cattle.

The results of the two fortunate turns of events for Barton County can be seen in the population growth which shows the population going from two thousand and ninety-nine in 1875 to twelve

---

<sup>24</sup>Frank L. Steele, "Story of Stafford County" (unpublished 1952, 1953 and later), p. 10.

<sup>25</sup>Great Bend Register, volume 3, "A History of Barton County."

thousand in 1878. Other favorable events took place in Barton County during that time. Great Bend rapidly proved to be a success. Many businesses were established; a school had been organized in 1872 in Great Bend and a second school district was organized in the fall of 1872 in Ellinwood. Several churches were organized, the Congregational and Methodist Episcopal in Great Bend and the German Catholic and Lutheran churches of Ellinwood among others, and the county seemed to prosper.

In 1875, the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad brought fifteen families of Mennonite immigrants from Russia by way of Germany into the county. These people had left Russia because of disagreement with the ruler.<sup>26</sup> They started their own colony around the area of Pawnee Rock and added tremendously to the growth of that area. One of the greatest contributions they may have made was the introduction of hard winter wheat to the county. Several other persons claim to have introduced wheat to the area, so it is impossible to say for sure who deserves the credit; but it is known that the Mennonites brought wheat with them.

In 1879, Ira Brougher, county clerk, recorded 9,560 acres of wheat in Barton County. At the same time there was mor

---

<sup>26</sup>These people had originally left Germany to escape compulsory military service. They went to Russia in 1802 because the Empress of Russia signed a 99-year agreement with them allowing them to govern themselves and be exempt from military service. Because of a change of rulers in Russia, this agreement was violated.

than ten thousand acres of corn, especially of a new variety known as Egyptian or rice corn; a variety which grew with little moisture and proved to be excellent feed. The Great Bend Register carried this article in 1879:

It is with great pleasure we observe by the returns being made by the several township assessors that farmers in this county are turning their attention largely to the growing of crops other than wheat. Corn and oats especially are being planted.<sup>27</sup>

Barton County farmers were diversifying, a good sign of stability. From 1875 to 1877, three flour mills were built, two in Great Bend near the depot by W. W. P. Clements in 1876 and Sooz, Brinkman and Roberts in 1877. The other mill, built by Musil and Steckel in 1875, was located east of the Santa Fe depot in Ellinwood. Stock raising, which had always been successful in spite of the drouth and grasshoppers, was increasing. The grade of cattle improved noticeably after the Texas cattle were forbidden. Some blooded stock was raised successfully, especially by C. Q. Newcombe of "Bloomingdale Park" north of Great Bend. He raised horses of the Messenger and Black Hawk stock and cattle of the best short-horn variety. He also raised Berkshire and Suffolk pigs.

At just about the time Barton County was well on its way to becoming the fastest growing county in the state, it received a severe blow. In 1879, the Supreme Court of Kansas restored to

---

<sup>27</sup> Great Bend Register, April 17, 1879.

Stafford County that area which had been given to Barton and Pratt Counties in 1875. (See the maps on the next two pages).

The action came about because the Legislature in its attempt to obliterate Stafford County:

Overlooked the fact that the county had two congressional townships in range fifteen and their legislative action left these southwestern townships as a remnant which was still Stafford county although still unorganized, without officers and probably, at first, without settlers.<sup>28</sup>

The court proceedings which culminated in the restoration of Stafford county were initiated by Crawford, Vickers, Estle and Tyrell, all residents of the town of Stafford which at that time was a part of Pratt County. The following paraphrased article from the Great Bend Register entitled, The State of Kansas ex rel Attorney General vs John P. St. John, Governor of the State, explains the situation.

The Governor refused to appoint a person to take the census in Stafford county for the purpose of organizing under the law of 1876 because he said that the act of the legislature defining the boundaries of Barton and Pratt counties had reduced the area of Stafford county to less than 432 square miles and therefore the county was not entitled to organize. The Governor's action was not questioned; instead, this case tested the Act defining the boundaries of Barton and Pratt counties,

---

<sup>28</sup> Steele, "A History of Stafford County," p. 10.



TABLE V.

	R XV	R XIV	R XIII	R XII	R XI
T. 16					
T. 17					
T. 18		BARTON COUNTY			
T. 19					
T. 20					
COUNTY LINE					
	T. 21	These townships			
	T. 22	were given to			
	T. 23	Barton County.			
T. 24		These townships			
T. 25		were given to			
COUNTY LINE		Pratt County.			
T. 26					
T. 27		PRATT COUNTY			
T. 28					
T. 29					

The map shows how Stafford County was divided between Pratt and Barton Counties in 1875 by the Legislature. The Legislature overlooked or ignored townships twenty-four and twenty-five in range fifteen.

TABLE VI.

	R XV	R XIV	R XIII	R XII	R XI	
T. 16						
T. 17						
T. 18			BARTON COUNTY			
T. 19						
T. 20						
						COUNTY LINE
T. 21						
T. 22						
T. 23			STAFFORD COUNTY			
T. 24						
T. 25						
						COUNTY LINE
T. 26						
T. 27						
T. 28			PRATT COUNTY			
T. 29						

This map shows Barton, Stafford and Pratt counties as they were created in 1867 by the Legislature and as they exist today.

Barton, Pratt and Stafford counties were created and christened by the Legislature in 1867, Chapter 33, laws of 1867, page 51. The boundaries were again defined but not changed in 1868 by the General Statutes of 1868, Chapter 24. The Legislature by the act of March 5, 1875, took from Stafford for Barton County the townships twenty-[sic] through twenty-three of ranges eleven through fourteen and for Pratt townships twenty-four and twenty-five in the same ranges leaving only townships twenty-four and twenty-five of range fifteen to constitute Stafford county. This amounted to an area of 72 square miles.

The Kansas Constitution states that no new county shall be laid off nor any old county reduced to less contents than 432 square miles—Kansas Constitutional Proceedings 136-137. In this case, any means organized or unorganized county so the Legislative Act of March 5, 1875, is void because it is in conflict with the Constitution. So Stafford county still exists as it did prior to March 5, 1875.

A. Hammatt

Clerk of the Supreme Court<sup>29</sup>

Who, if anyone, caused the gentlemen from Stafford to initiate the action by which the case was brought to the attention of the courts is the question which remains unanswered. Some very bitter fighting took place before the court handed down its decision and it took a while for people to gain control of their emotions as can be seen from the following article which obviously blames Judge C. P. Townsley, editor of the Great Bend Tribune.

Townsley of the Tribune blames the defeat of Barton County on several gentlemen who went to Topeka at their own expense to work for Barton County. It is proper for our friend to do this. It was he who pledged his support to Stafford county last year, in return for votes as a delegate to the state convention, even for so small an office as that did he

---

<sup>29</sup>Great Bend Register, May 1, 1879.

offer to sell out our city and county. Last winter, in the heat of the county line fight, he addressed private letters to the Legislature urging that no attention should be paid to Hoisington, Evans, Buckland, Clayton, Campbell, Miller, that those parties did not represent the people of Barton County. In all respects he acted as an attorney for Stafford county, except giving his personal presence before the Legislature. How many pieces of silver this Judas obtained for the betrayal of our county we do not know. We are told by a Stafford man that the price was \$25, and suppose it was no more.<sup>30</sup>

One week later, the newspaper carried another article which attacked Townsley as follows:

And now with our county divided, Townsley boldly announces that those who labored for Barton County are traitors, while he is immaculate and pure like the shameless prostitute who seeks to hide her life of shame by braggingly proclaiming on the streets that she is purer than her virtuous sister.<sup>31</sup>

Regardless of who was responsible for the case reaching the courts, once there, the decision seemed to be clear-cut.

(1) Stafford county had definitely been created and recognized as a county even though it had never been organized by an election.

(2) The Constitution of Kansas provides that no county in the state shall have an area of less than 432 square miles.<sup>32</sup> The action of the Legislature, reducing the size of Stafford County to 72 square miles was thus a direct violation of that constitutional provision and was therefore unconstitutional.

---

<sup>30</sup>Great Bend Register, May 8, 1879.

<sup>31</sup>Great Bend Register, May 15, 1879.

<sup>32</sup>Kansas Constitution, Article 9, Section 1.

Apparently the Legislature had the right to discontinue the existence of a county, before its organization, but it had no right to reduce its area to less than 432 square miles as it had done, inadvertently, in the case of Stafford county.<sup>33</sup>

The court's decision was a costly one for Barton County. Since 1875, when it had been given to Barton County, the northern part of Stafford County had grown rapidly. The most populated area was Zion Valley, just north of present day St. John. This community of "Latter Day Saints" rapidly made the area's good farming land productive.

The fighting for land was not the only losing battle Barton County fought during this time. The battle for population, without which a county cannot develop, also proved to be a losing one.

From 1880 to 1882 about as many people left as entered, mainly due to the fact that the crops of the former year were extremely light and those of 1881 were not much better. Another factor was the lure of the mountains which encouraged many young people to travel westward. The 1881 population according to township assessors was 10, 121 a decrease of 198 from 1880.<sup>34</sup>

But as the end of the first ten year mark of Barton County history approached, the years of trial were over. Even with the slight decrease in population around 1880, the county had a numerical growth as large as any county in the State and

---

<sup>33</sup> Steele, "A History of Stafford County," p. 33.

<sup>34</sup> Cutler, "History of the State of Kansas," p. 764.

larger than most during the ten year period from 1872 to 1882. The next years would see more of the same. Great Bend continued to grow rapidly; Ellinwood became a prosperous little city. The area around Pawnee Rock had developed into one of the best farming regions in the state. The Missouri-Pacific built a branch line through the central part of the county and the town of Claflin was organized along it in the eastern part of the county. The Missouri-Pacific also built a branch line from its main division, which had reached the present city of Hoisington in 1886, to Great Bend. This greatly increased the freight and passenger traffic over the Missouri-Pacific and helped the growth of both Great Bend and Hoisington. Wheat was firmly established as a money making crop, but the importance of diversification in agriculture was realized:

Barton County stands at the front in crops of all kinds, but for want of space can only give of wheat, corn and rye; in 1884, wheat sown 84,518 acres; yield 2,112,950 bushels, being third in the State in bushels and first in yield per acre; in 1886—41,127 acres, yield 740,286 bushels being first in the state by 167,086 bushels. . . .<sup>35</sup>

Much of the drop in wheat acreage was due to the fact that nearly 20 thousand acres more corn were planted in 1886 than in 1884.

The discovery of oil, which was first sought in 1886 by a group which included Don Dodge, Cap Lewis, Clayton and Ed Moses A. C. Fair, D. N. Heizer and others, was in the future. In 1886, the group used steam engines to drill down some 1,365 feet but

---

<sup>35</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, Kansas: Its History, Resources and Prospects (Wichita: Eagle Printing House, 1890), p. 24.

all they encountered was salt water. The well's location was on Charles Hulme's farm some three miles northeast of Great Bend. At approximately the same location, some fifty-five years later, oil was discovered.

By 1888, there were more than eighty schools in Barton County. The first secondary school in the county had been established in Great Bend in 1885. The Barton County Teachers Organization had been in operation for ten years. The Great Bend Improvement Association had been formed and the eventual result in 1888 was the Central Normal College of Great Bend, which served the area well for fourteen years. A court house costing more than twenty thousand dollars stood proudly as the seat of government in Great Bend. The Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Congregationalists among others had relatively new church buildings in one of the towns within Barton County.

Several newspapers were being published by 1888 at various locations within the county. Great Bend had at least three, The Great Bend Register, the Inland Tribune, and the Arkansas Valley Democrat; plus at least one foreign language newspaper, the Kansas Volksfreund, that operated from time to time. Ellinwood had the Ellinwood Express. Claflin had the Claflin Clarion; Pawnee Rock, the Pawnee Rock Leader; and Hoisington, the Hoisington Echo.

Many new businesses were in operation within the county, especially at Great Bend. Even Cheyenne Bottoms had been put

to use with a greyhound coursing being held there in 1886. Indeed the people of Barton County had proved not only the possibility but also the pleasantness of living in the "Great American Desert."



## CHAPTER IV

### THE COUNTY SEAT

The city of Great Bend is located on section twenty-eight, township nineteen, range thirteen west of the sixth principal meridian. It is situated just north of that point in the Arkansas River where it starts to make the great bend eastward. Exactly how it came to be located at that point is a confusing story.

In 1871, the "Quincy Town Company"<sup>1</sup> was looking for a location for a town along the proposed route of the Santa Fe Railroad in Barton County. Tite Buckley was sent by the company with \$250 to Topeka to get the Santa Fe to establish a side track near the site of Fort Zarah. The Fort stood vacant at the time. Buckley failed in his effort but he did not tell the town company; instead, he left the country. So the Quincy Town Company selected section thirty-four, township nineteen, range thirteen, east of present Great Bend and southwest of old Fort Zarah as the site for its town.

Meanwhile, a town company with J. H. Prescott as president had been organized and had gone to Salina and filed on section twenty-six, township nineteen, range thirteen under the

---

<sup>1</sup>The town company was known as both the Quincy and Great Bend Town Company because most of the stockholders were from Quincy, Illinois.

Town Site Pre-emption Act. The Santa Fe Railroad missed both sections filed on by the two town companies. So the Quincy Town Company changed its location from section thirty-four to section twenty-eight. On July 29, 1871, a company was chartered and selected the townsite of Great Bend. Shortly thereafter, the new town was christened Great Bend by Hiram Bickerdyke.<sup>2</sup>

Many of the officers and stockholders were from Quincy, Illinois, as can be seen from the following list published in the Arkansas Valley in July, 1872:

#### OFFICERS

J. L. Curtis, President, Keokuk, Iowa  
 M. F. Bassett, M. D., Vice-President, Quincy, Ill.  
 C. R. S. Curtis, M. D., Corresponding Secretary,  
 Quincy, Illinois.

#### DIRECTORS

Hon. D. L. Lakin, Land Com'r, A.T.&S.F. R.R.,  
 Topeka, Kansas.  
 Hon. T. J. Peter, Gen'l Manager, A.T.&S.F. R.R.,  
 Topeka, Kansas  
 Hon. A. L. Williams, Attorney of Company, Topeka, Kansas

#### ADDITIONAL STOCKHOLDERS

James Israel, Esq., Mt. Vernon, O.; Judge T. J. Mitchell, Quincy, Ill.; Rev. R. F. Shinn, Paysor, Ill.; Rev. W. E. Johnson, Jacksonville, Ill.; T. L. Morris, Great Bend, Kansas; Hon. John T. Morton, Topeka, Kansas.<sup>3</sup>

The winter of 1871-2 was a very hard one and very little was done toward the advancement of the town until spring. The

---

<sup>2</sup> A Pictorial History of Great Bend, (Great Bend: April 5, 1961), p. 14; A reprint of material in the Great Bend City Directory (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk Company, 1961).

<sup>3</sup> Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, p. 106.

prospect of the early completion of the railroad and the close proximity to the southern ranges gave Great Bend an advantage as a desirable shipping point for Texas cattle. In 1867, the Legislature had passed a Quarantine Bill which established a quarantine line or "deadline" as it came to be called, running north and south across the state through Ellsworth County just west of present day Ellsworth. Texas shippers had ignored this line for several years on the way to places such as Abilene. The lethal splenic or Texas fever was not the only result of allowing Texas cattle into an area. Such things as trampled crops and torn-up towns also resulted at times so the settlers were anxious to have the cattle trade move west. As the railroad pushed west through Kansas, the Texas cattle trade moved west with it.

On July 25, 1872, the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad reached Great Bend and helped give it a start as a cattle town.

At this time, the principal business activity was in the cattle trade and large herds of cattle from northern Texas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma were driven from the pastures in those states, north to the nearest railroad point from where they were shipped to the eastern markets. George N. Moses was one of the pioneers in this business and drove the first herd of cattle through Great Bend from Texas in 1872.<sup>4</sup>

It seems appropriate that the first building on the townsite was Drover's Cottage, afterward the Southern Hotel.

---

<sup>4</sup>A Pictorial History of Great Bend, p. 14.

When the cornerstone was laid, the whole town turned out for the occasion. This amounted to some eight men and two women. The first proprietor of the "Cottage" was Colonel Thomas L. Stone. Tom was a very large man with a huge, bushy mustache. He usually wore an open-necked red shirt, with the sleeves rolled up to his shoulders; above his pants, Tom wore his old army sash; around his waist, a couple of pistols stuck out. He was a very fierce looking man but he had a very mild nature and a kind heart. Tom loved a good practical joke. An incident that occurred in the "Cottage" demonstrates the character of the man and reveals a scene that might frequently occur in any early day Western hotel.

A kind of snob of a traveling man came along one day and put up at the "Cottage." It so happened that one of the chief articles of diet on that particular day was "hash," and when the traveling man's was laid before him he demanded beefsteak and said he would not eat "hash." The waiter went out and told Tom; and the guest, thinking that the steak would be forthcoming in two or three minutes, sat waiting the waiter's return, when in stepped Tom with his characteristic red shirt on and the sleeves rolled up, and in his hand a huge carving knife. As soon as he entered the dining room he demanded, in stentorian tones, where that \_\_\_\_\_ was that said he would not eat hash. Instantly, the traveling man seized his knife and fork, and all at once, to the intense merriment of others who knew Tom, discovered that hash was quite palatable food.<sup>5</sup>

Most of the early buildings in Great Bend were dance houses and saloons. Many of them were located on what is now Main (then Curtis) Street, south from Lakin avenue. Some of

---

<sup>5</sup>Cutler, History of the State of Kansas, p. 766.

the more noted were the Rome, operated by Jack Conkey and George Morrel; the Nueces which opened in 1875; Cutler's Place operated by Chet Cutler; and the First and Last Chance operated by H. T. Holmes.

There were a few square fronted shacks built with lumber hauled in from Russell. A. C. Moses built the first frame house and Edwin Tyler the second in Great Bend. According to some sources, Tyler operated the first store in Great Bend; other sources give M. S. Ketch and a Mr. Sheek credit for the first store. Both stores sold groceries, overalls, tobacco, liquor and other general merchandise to the twenty-five or thirty settlers in town.

There were a few other business concerns besides saloons and general stores. E. J. Dodge operated a blacksmith shop which did a thriving business. A. S. Allen opened a drug store at what is now the location of the First National Bank, in the spring of 1872. For three years there was no other drug store between Allen's and the west line of the State. This drug business was the origin of what became in the twentieth century Gates Drug Store of Great Bend.

More businesses were opened in 1872. Ed Markworth opened a grocery and provisions store; E. L. Morphy opened a hardware store on the east side of the city square and John Cook operated another grocery store also on the east side. The John Typer family came in the spring of 1872 and during the following summer, built the "Typer House," on the east side of the city square. It was a two-story frame building of considerable size, and at the time,

it was deemed a magnificent hotel for Western Kansas. The real estate firm of Bunnell and Moses was also established in 1872, as some forty-two buildings in all were put up that year. Great Bend's first post office was built approximately on the site of the present county jail, at Kansas and Park Avenue.

The year 1872 drew to a close very auspiciously for Great Bend. During late summer, the town was organized as a city of the third class, and A. A. Hurd was elected mayor. In September, final proof was made and a patent for section twenty-eight applied for by the mayor to the United States Government. U. S. Certificate number 3261 signed by U. S. Grant on the eighteenth of December, 1872, granted the patent for section twenty-eight to A. A. Hurd, Mayor in Trust for the occupants.<sup>6</sup> "These, under the laws of Kansas, were considered to be the Great Bend Town Company, most of whom resided in Quincy, Ill. Accordingly a deed was made to said town company by the mayor."<sup>7</sup> The settlers of Great Bend were very upset at this turn of events; upon learning that the United States courts had decided that the provision making a non-resident town company occupants was not in keeping with the spirit of the laws of Congress, the actual occupants brought suit against the Great Bend Town Company to set aside the deed from the mayor to the Town Company.

The suit never was ruled on because a compromise was made with the Town Company by which those who were bona fide

---

<sup>6</sup>See the appendix for a copy of this certificate.

<sup>7</sup>Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, p. 105.

occupants on September 6, 1872, were to divide up the town site according to the investment each had made in improvements. The man that had invested one hundred dollars, for example, received half as many lots as the man who had invested two hundred dollars.

Morton, Rugar and Howard were charged with the re-surveying, appraising and apportioning the town site among the eighty bona fide occupants. After the distributions were made, part of the compromise was that the occupants would deed over to the Town Company one-half of the lots that made up their quota. In this manner, the matter was finally settled and each of the eighty bona fide occupants found himself to be a good deal richer than he had supposed.

So Great Bend became a city, but what a city! A very lively crowd occupied it as can be seen in the following incident which occurred in Great Bend during the winter of 1872-3. A lawyer of rather questionable habits became drunk one winter night and fell down in the street. Being unable to get up, he lay where he fell and when he was discovered the next morning, he was nearly dead. This lawyer, named Godfrey, was carried to the office of Doctor Baine but he soon died. His relatives were notified by telegram of his death and they sent word that they would come for the remains. The next day, a terrible storm set in and snow drove all the roads shut and completely stopped travel for several days.

On Sunday, the fourth day after Godfrey's death, the people of Great Bend gathered in the post office where they usually met

crack jokes, tell stories and help themselves to some whiskey from the barrels that stood at the rear of the store in which the post office was located. After drinking a while, the fact that Godfrey was still not buried came up. After some more drinking and discussion, they decided that they had stood the unpleasant situation long enough and determined to bury his remains. Two lumber wagons were hitched up, Godfrey's body was loaded on one, and as many men as could crowded in on the other. The whole group started for a place north of town where a grave had already been dug several days before. Quite a few men followed on horseback.

Accompanying the funeral procession was a dog belonging to one of the men. As the dog began to chase rabbits, one after another of the horsemen dropped out of the procession and joined him. Between chasing rabbits and following the corpse, the grave site was finally reached. After shoveling out the snow, and lowering the remains of Godfrey into the grave, another attorney named Copeland, whose habits were not the steadiest, said it would be appropriate if he would make a few remarks, since no minister was in Great Bend at the time. Copeland began his remarks and just as he reached the most touching portion, a fellow named Baker cried out that the dog was after another rabbit and away went the crowd, helter-skelter across the prairie, leaving Copeland to finish his address to the silent, dreamless sleeper.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup>Cutler, History of the State of Kansas, p. 768.



Great Bend had its characters as does any city, and although it grew rapidly during the next few years after its birth, it had somewhat of a problem. In 1873 through 1875, the cattle trade centered in Great Bend.

This trade would usually commence about the first of June, and continue till towards the middle of October. A natural consequence of this trade was lively times for the merchants while it lasted, and for the orderly and peaceably disposed of the community, a constant dread. The advantages in trade were more than counterbalanced by the disadvantages to society. The class of people that the cattle trade attracted to Great Bend, was that class of thugs and harlots that are a curse and a dread to every community, and when the Legislature in 1876, passed a law fixing the "dead line" thirty miles west of the west line of Barton County, the people of Great Bend felt relieved.<sup>9</sup>

The "dead line" restricted Texas cattle from the area unless they had wintered one winter in the State. As a result of this law, the cattle trade moved west from Great Bend, centering for a while in Dodge City.

While many of the community feared the thugs and riff-raff brought to Great Bend by the cattle trade, it did contribute greatly to the rapid growth of the city and there were actually not too many dangerous moments. This was probably due to the presence in Barton County of George Nelson Moses. G. N. Moses had served three terms as county sheriff before his marriage to Miss Ida Mitchell in 1873, when he decided to give up his job as sheriff.

---

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 765.

G. N. Moses moved to Great Bend and went into business with the firm of Burton, Odell and Moses. Even though he became a businessman, Moses still remained a peace maker with a reputation for dealing with Texans, which he earned in incidents such as the following which occurred while Moses was still Sheriff of Barton County.

During the time the cattle trade was coming from Texas to Great Bend, and before it shifted to Dodge City, a Texas gun fighter became abusive and chased most of the citizens off the street while he ran the town. The marshal and assistant considered discretion the better part of valor, so they avoided the gun fighter and set out to find Moses. In the meantime, the gun fighter amused himself while sitting on his pony by shooting at the occasional citizen who showed in sight. Moses was informed of the situation concerning the gun fighter. Telling the marshal to stay where he could come into the fight in case he was shot, Moses walked down the street and up to the Old Rome Saloon where the tough man was viewing the landscape. The man started swinging his gun hand towards Moses, when the latter spoke to him pleasantly and the gunman stopped to see what was coming next. Moses was not trying to pull a gun and still kept coming. It puzzled the Texan. As the Sheriff got near enough he reached up his hand as though to shake hands, and the next minute the gunman was off his horse and G. N.'s grip on his shoulder made him forget all his belligerency. Moses turned the Texan over to the marshal after a lecture on the matter of getting drunk and making a fool of him

When the gunman was turned loose, he made a bee line back to Texas and spread the word about the sheriff who was brave enough to face him without using a gun.<sup>10</sup> The presence of such a man as Moses made Great Bend a relatively safe place.

When the cattle trade came to an end, Great Bend had its best year of improvement since its organization. In 1878, the number of buildings in the town doubled. In that year, J. H. Hubbard, the Moses brothers and Burton built a structure known as the Union Block on the west side of the city square. The building was twenty-five by one hundred and forty feet by sixteen feet to the ceiling and the basement contained one hundred and fifty-two square feet of space. It was built of fine stone and brick. Several offices were located on the first floor and the top floor contained Union Hall, one of the best opera houses in the West. J. W. Lightbody built a large stone building also on the west side of the square and there in connection with W. J. Wilson of Burlington, Kansas, and Saunders and Wilson of Newton, Kansas, put in the finest and largest stock of goods up to this time in Barton County. Known as the "People Store," it was the only one in the county occupying two floors.

On Maggie Street, now Forest Street, C. P. Townsley put up a two-story brick and stone building; the lower story of which was fitted up for, and used as, the post office while the upper story was used by Townsley as a newspaper office. This was a

---

<sup>10</sup> Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas (Great Bend: Great Bend Tribune, 1912), p. 28.

much needed improvement for the city. Great Bend had several newspapers before this time, but never a large newspaper office; which indicated a degree of permanency.

The first newspaper published in Barton County was The Arkansas Valley, of which there were only a few numbers issued. The editor of the paper was S. J. McFarren. The first number was issued in July, 1872, being dated July 18. It was a 7-column paper, well filled with interesting reading matter, local news, and advertisements. It was printed at the office of the Lawrence Tribune, Lawrence, Kansas.<sup>11</sup>

The second number of the Arkansas Valley was issued in 1873. The price of the paper was two dollars per year; and since there were only two issues in the year that would make the price one dollar per number. The second number of the paper was the last for McFarren; he returned to his home in the East. Samuel Maher took charge of the newspaper and in April, 1873, changed the name of the paper to the Barton County Progress. In May, Maher discontinued the publication of the paper and in the last part of June, H. Perrine Stults purchased the plant and continued it under the same name. In the fall of the same year, Stults sold the paper to J. F. Cummings of Topeka who at first did well, then began to neglect the paper, and eventually lost possession of it to a company headed by G. L. Brinkman. The end product of this company was the Great Bend Register, which first

---

<sup>11</sup>Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, p. 163.

appeared as a weekly on the ninth of May, 1874. A. J. Hoisington got control of the Register in 1877, and he began to print a reliable newspaper.

In contrast to the stormy background of the Register, the Inland Tribune first appeared as a weekly paper at Great Bend on August 12, 1876. It was published by C. P. Townsley, former circuit judge of the 5th Judicial circuit of Missouri. At first the Inland Tribune was printed at Townsley's home, then eventually moved to his new office on Maggie Street.

Another newspaper, the Arkansas Valley Democrat was started in May, 1877, by the Great Bend Publishing Company; Isaac T. Tlint was editor and manager. The first number appeared July 21, 1877, and for several years, not an issue was missed. This publication gave Great Bend its third established newspaper.

Many more new businesses were in operation in Great Bend by the end of 1878. C. F. Wilner built a furniture store on Maggie street, not far from the Inland Tribune. The Troilett brothers and D. Merton each built stone and brick business buildings. The "Occidental Hotel" built by C. E. Birdsale and the "Central House" built by John Barth, both frame buildings, were erected in 1878. Three elevators were put up and the Walnut Creek Mill was also greatly enlarged and refitted with new and improved machinery. These facilities for handling grain became more and more important to Great Bend as more and more wheat was

grown in the area. The development of these facilities in the Great Bend area was far from easy.

The first attempt to build a mill in Barton County was made by some settlers from Iowa, in 1875, on the banks of the Walnut near the mouth of Dry Creek. The mill was to be financed by subscriptions.<sup>12</sup> The owners of the mill required a loan of thirty thousand bushels of wheat from the farmers to be paid back in flour, in installments, at stated times. A dam was built on the Walnut but no mill was built by the dam site because the required wheat loan was not subscribed by the farmers.

In 1876, W. W. P. Clement arrived in Great Bend from Kalamazoo, Michigan, and immediately set about building a steam mill near the Santa Fe depot. By August of 1876, the mill, with three sets of bars capable of grinding three hundred and fifty bushels per day, was ready to begin operation. A second mill was erected in 1877.

Messrs. Sooy & Brinkman built a large water mill on the Walnut below the railroad bridge. Just as it was about completed, it was demolished by a tornado which swept down from the north, devastating a country about six miles wide, from Carr creek, Mitchell county, by way of Bosland on the K. P. and No. 3 school-house west of Ellinwood, to Zion Valley. This was on the 16th of August, 1877.<sup>13</sup>

Sooy was not discouraged by the turn of events and he eventually rebuilt his mill. By December of 1877, he had the mill in operation. The water in Walnut creek proved insufficient

---

<sup>12</sup>Smyth, The Heart of the New Kansas, p. 154.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., pp. 156-157.

to keep the mill running, so Sooy tried to divert the water of the Arkansas River by use of a race. When this failed, he moved his mill bodily to a point just south of the depot in Great Bend. Here, a steam engine was installed, and the Walnut Creek mill began successful operation.

Probably the most successful of the grain elevators built was the Moses Brothers Grain Company. By the 1890's, it had grown to be the "largest grain elevator in central Kansas. In addition, they have no less than twenty-five large elevators scattered along the line of the Santa Fe R. R. in western and central Kansas."<sup>14</sup>

The rapid growth of Great Bend was slightly delayed by the only fire of any consequence in early day history. It took place in 1878, occurred in September and originated in the furniture store on Maggie street. One of the workers, who slept upstairs over the store, for some reason decided to light the lamp and go down stairs. On the way down, he stumbled and fell; the lamp fell ahead of him and crashed on the floor. The oil instantly burst into flames and quickly put the whole place in a blaze. The alarm was immediately given but no fire department existed in Great Bend at the time, so before the fire was finally extinguished, "the store and four others in the immediate vicinity were destroyed, with an estimated lost of \$220,000."<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup>The Irrigation Era (Denver: Irrigation Era Pub. Co., 1898), p. 16.

<sup>15</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, May 7, 1961, p. 4.

Despite the fire, by 1880, Great Bend was firmly established as a thriving community.

It had its Masonic lodge (St. Omer Commandery), Mt. Nebo Chapter, Great Bend A. F. and A. M.; its Odd Fellows Valley Lodge No. 95; Catholic, Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches, a string band, a coronet band, a circulating library operating out of the drug store, several private music teachers, and three saloons.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to its social and business life, the people of Great Bend and Barton County were beginning to be interested in their heritage. In September of 1879, an old settlers meeting was held on Cow Creek at the home of John Machin. Among other things accomplished was the organization of a permanent historical society which agreed to hold semi-annual meetings. Two of the meetings resulted in the holding of a Fourth of July celebration in Great Bend in 1881, and a memorial service for James A. Garfield in September of 1881.

Great Bend did not grow very much during the period from 1880 to 1883 for several reasons. First, the whole county grew slowly during that period because of drought and the poor farming conditions. Secondly, from December, 1882, to February, 1883 Great Bend experienced a small-pox epidemic.

Near the end of November, 1882, a Negro named Gilmore on his way to New Mexico, became sick and got off the train in Great Bend. Somehow, he found his way to a one-room shack in the north east part of town; which was occupied by an old Negro man named

---

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.



John Howell. Here Gilmore became quite sick and the next day, the county physician, Doctor J. Frank Lightfoot, was called to see him. Doctor Lightfoot first stated that Gilmore's problem was a hang-over; then upon his second visit, declared Gilmore's malady to be mountain fever. The next day, Doctor Lightfoot left for the far west. "Whether he knew Gilmore's disease was small-pox is not known, but he knew, no matter what the nature of the disease may have been, that he, being County Physician, it was his duty to attend him. Instead, he immediately took his departure from town."<sup>17</sup>

Doctor W. H. White of Great Bend next went to see Gilmore and upon seeing him, declared his case to be one of small-pox, and that of the most malignant type. Howell's shanty was closely quarantined but it was too late. One after another of Great Bend's residents were stricken down. The whole town was soon quarantined. The schools were closed by order of the Major; most of the meetings in town were called off. In an attempt to calm fears the paper advised its readers:

Reader, don't be afraid this paper will communicate the smallpox. It is entirely disinfected and besides has not been within 60 rods of a house where small pox is. The only smallpox this paper has had was the day after election.<sup>18</sup>

Many people died from the small-pox epidemic, some fifteen in all, and a few people had the disease and recovered although

---

<sup>17</sup>

Cutler, History of Kansas, p. 766.

<sup>18</sup>

Great Bend Register, December 14, 1882.

they retained its mark. The people of Great Bend were so frightened that they refused to bury the dead. To ease the panic of contact, Doctor Franklin P. Dunn, who came to Great Bend from Ellinwood, gathered up the dead bodies at night, with the aid of a dark skinned man who was badly pocked from the disease. These were buried in a "mass grave in the west part of town. Dr. Dunn was later referred to as Doctor, nurse, and undertaker."<sup>19</sup>

After a period of little more than three months, the epidemic came to an end. "Public Christian worship and the smallpox came together to this town and the smallpox left."<sup>20</sup> Besides the dead, Great Bend lost a County Physician as the Inland Tribune carried the notice that, "Dr. Lightfoot has located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and will not return here."<sup>21</sup>

The fear of small-pox in Great Bend prevailed for a long time. In July, 1962, the accidental discovery of several old coffins and their skeleton remains touched off a controversy about the possibility of the graves being those of the 1882 epidemic victims. The Daily Tribune carried the following article to reassure its readers. "Dr. William Evans, County Health Officer, said today that even if the remains were those of smallpox victims, th

---

<sup>19</sup>Barton County Historical Society (Great Bend: 1967), Volume 1, Number III, p. 103.

<sup>20</sup>Great Bend Register, December 21, 1882.

<sup>21</sup>Inland Tribune, December 8, 1882.

bones today 'definitely would not' carry any germs or virus of the disease."<sup>22</sup>

Great Bend slowly recovered from its bout with small-pox. One thing that helped speed its recovery was the opening up of a brick plant in 1886. The first attempt to mold bricks had been at the Pickering Kiln on Walnut Creek north of Fort Zarah sometime in the early 1870's. Bricks for the first elementary school in Great Bend, built in 1873 on the location of the present Public Library, came from Pickering's kiln. For some reason or another, the Pickering kiln declined, and the next attempt at making bricks was by the Morrison brothers in the early 1880's<sup>23</sup> Their kiln was at the point on Dry Walnut Creek where it joins Wet Walnut Creek, north of Great Bend. In 1885-6, the Morrison Hotel, later the Great Bend Hotel, was erected with bricks from the Morrison kiln. But again, the Morrison kiln did not prove too successful.

In 1886, B. J. Kelly came to Great Bend from Emporia, Illinois, where he had been in the brick business.<sup>24</sup> Kelly, with his brother and Dave Heizer established a kiln on West Walnut creek, north of old Fort Zarah. Eventually, the Kelly Brothers bought out what remained of Pickering's kiln but instead of

---

<sup>22</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, July 26, 1962.

<sup>23</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, May 7, 1961.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid. This writer knows of no Emporia, Illinois. Most likely the Great Bend Tribune meant Emporia, Kansas.

locating the brick plant next to the kilns, they located it just on the north edge of Great Bend, "in order to establish the industry in this city."<sup>25</sup>

Some of the first contracted buildings put up with brick from Kelly's kiln were the G. A. R. building, the George Moses place, Dave Heizer's home, the Shepler Hotel (later the Parrish Hotel), and the Clarke building.

So, with the help of a few industries, Great Bend again began to grow and become a progressive city. 1887 was a period of rapid growth and property values rose quickly. After looking at the advertising section that follows from the Inland Tribune, who can doubt that Great Bend had become a sophisticated city? A cure for anything and everything is offered.

St. Jacobs Oil—The Great German Remedy for Everything;  
 Red Star—Cough Cure.  
 Benson's Porous Plaster; several offers to cure such things as cancer, opium habit, and ruptures.  
 Cockle's Anti-Bilious Pills—Great English Remedy;  
 Prickly Ash Bitters—cures stomach, blood, liver.  
 Harte's Cream Balm Catarrh—cleanses the head;  
 Swayne's Ointment—cures itching skin and piles.  
 An offer to replace lost limbs.<sup>26</sup>

Today Great Bend is a progressive and growing city. In 1962, it had the "second highest per capita retail sales in the state."<sup>27</sup> It has the Westport industrial subdivision on the

---

<sup>25</sup>Ibid.

<sup>26</sup>Inland Tribune, August 14, 1887.

<sup>27</sup>"Facts About Great Bend, Kansas: The Fastest Growing City in the State," an information bulletin by (Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 1962), p. 1.

west side; and a new five million dollar Medical Center. The present population of Great Bend is approximately twenty thousand more than half the entire population of Barton County. Recently, the Barton County Community College, a Junior College, was completed a few miles northeast of Great Bend. Plans are already underway for the centennial in Great Bend in 1972.

## CHAPTER V

### OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS

By 1888, Barton County included several cities besides the county seat, Great Bend. Ellinwood and Pawnee Rock were organized about the same time as Great Bend. Before 1888, Hoisington, Claflin, Albert and Olmitz had also been organized. There were several towns which played an important part in the growth and economy of Barton County at the time, even though they were destined to remain unincorporated and in some cases, dwindle away entirely.<sup>1</sup>

#### I. ZARAH

Zarah, one of the first towns in Barton County, was also the first to die. The Fort Zarah Town Company was chartered on May 31, 1871. It located the town site of Zarah on section twenty six, township nineteen, range thirteen west. However, the Fort Zarah Town Company's plans to be located on the route of the Santa Fe Railroad through Barton County did not materialize so the town was abandoned and they cast their lot with the Great Bend Town Company.

The Zarah Town Company was chartered at Ellsworth, Kansas on June 8, 1871, with Judge James Miller as President.<sup>2</sup> The

---

<sup>1</sup> See appendix, page 126-128.

<sup>2</sup> The Zarah Town Company was an entirely different company, and not the previously mentioned Fort Zarah Town Company.

charter was signed by five members of the Company and attested to by the county clerk of Ellsworth County, Samuel Buckmirster. The site of Zarah was filed on and Mister H. Meriton employed as surveyor and company engineer. The plat of the town site of Zarah states that the location was partially in section thirty and partially in section thirty-one of township nineteen, south of range twelve west. The town site was in the shape of the letter L and contained one hundred and twenty blocks, plus streets and alleys. The papers filed by the town company state that there were less than one hundred inhabitants.<sup>3</sup>

Although Zarah never did have a large population, it became a very busy community. At one time, Zarah had a two-story hotel and restaurant owned and operated by Dick Strew and his wife; a saloon and restaurant owned and operated by Dave Greevers; a livery stable owned and operated by John Roberts and John Moore; a saloon that was owned by Lee Hertzig and operated by Ed Martz; a United States Post Office and a blacksmith shop that was owned and run by George Towers. A number of homes were erected on the town site in 1871 and 1872. Before the post office was established in Great Bend, citizens of this area got their mail at Zarah.<sup>4</sup>

Probably the most widely known building in Zarah was a big general store owned by Perry Hodgden and Titus J. Buckbee

---

<sup>3</sup>Tom E. Cooper, "A Brief History of Zarah," Vol. I, No. 2, Barton County Historical Society Publications, (Great Bend: 1966), p. 46.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 48.

and operated by Buckbee and his wife, Nettie. Buckbee operated the first post office in Zarah in his store. Titus and Nettie were a popular young couple and several social events were held in their store. The first dance in Barton County was held there on Christmas Eve in 1871. Reportedly, everyone had an enjoyable time.

Zarah also had her moments of violence, mostly due to the cattle trade from Texas that favored it for a period of time. In the winter of 1871, a Texas cattleman named James Jameson wintered a herd of several thousand cattle near Zarah. One of the cowboys of his outfit was shot and pistol-whipped to death by Harry Lovett, a citizen of Zarah. Court records of the case have not been found so there must have been no trial. The judge at the hearing apparently ruled that it was a case of justifiable homicide. Despite the violence it brought, the cattle trade meant economic prosperity for Zarah.

When the Texas trail herds were driven through Barton County, on their way to Ellsworth and Abilene, the herds were stopped for rest near Zarah. As the opposition of the Barton County settlers mounted against the Texas cattle moving across their land, it is recorded in the history of Ellsworth that Titus J. Buckbee owned the only piece of land along the Arkansas River, that the Texas cattlemen were allowed to use as a crossing on the river. The trail bosses bought their supplies at Buckbee's store and the necessary blacksmith work was given to George Towers, to say nothing of the whiskey that was bought and consumed at the town's two saloons. The money received from the Texas cattle trade was no doubt the life blood of the town.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., pp. 48-49.



While the cattle trade sustained Zarah for a period of time, any hope that the town would grow was soon dashed.

When Barton County was organized in 1872, there was a period of intense rivalry between the citizens of Zarah and Great Bend as to which town would become the permanent county seat. When Great Bend reached an agreement with the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad which placed Great Bend on the route of the railroad and missed the town of Zarah, the inevitable took place. In the first county seat election, Zarah lost out by one hundred and eleven votes and Great Bend became the county seat. The loss proved to be too much for Zarah and after the last Texas trail herd passed through in the fall of 1874, the end came swiftly. Some of the houses were sold to farmers in the area and most of the businesses moved to either Ellinwood or Great Bend. By 1875, there was little left to mark the town. Its location today is not marked except as another wheat field.

Zarah's experience was by no means unusual. In the early days of Kansas, when town sites could be located upon the Public Lands and be pre-empted for one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, a number of town companies were chartered. Their members usually surveyed the town site, filed upon it, and hoped that their town would grow and prosper. Some of them did. Others faded away and men saw their dreams shattered and their hopes crushed into the dust of the Kansas prairies. Such was the fate of the proud little town of Zarah, which once stood about three and one half miles east of Great Bend.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 46.

## II. HOISINGTON

The plat of the city of Hoisington was completed on September 30, 1886, and was filed for by the Central Kansas Town Company on December 7th. Hoisington was named in honor of Colonel A. J. Hoisington, an early day banker and newspaper man, who played an important part in helping to settle the town.<sup>7</sup>

The Missouri Pacific reached the western edge of what was to become Hoisington and this same year, 1886, the Ed. K. Hoch family arrived in a covered wagon and located just outside what is now Hoisington. He was one of the earliest settlers in the area. Like many such settlers the Ed Hoch family subsisted on what ducks, geese, and prairie chickens Hoch shot while traveling to and from Great Bend. Among other early settlers was the Calvin Jack family, which included nine children. The railroad guaranteed growth to the city of Hoisington, especially after it ran a branch line south to Great Bend.

In 1887, the town of Hoisington, the railroad station of Monon and the post office of Beuna Vista were combined to form the city of Hoisington. A petition was presented to the Barton County board of commissioners requesting that Hoisington be made a city of the third class under the articles of incorporation. The petition stated that the population exceeded two hundred and fifty and less than two thousand.

---

<sup>7</sup>Tom E. Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," Vol. I., No. 4 Barton County Historical Society Publications, (Great Bend: 1970 p. 164.

Hoisington was organized as a city of the third class on November 11, 1887, and the first city election was set for December 6, 1887. The voting place was the office of the Central Kansas Town Company. The results of the first election were as follows:

The vote for mayor resulted in a tie 76 votes each for E. M. Carr and P. Johnston. The tie was decided by lot, E. M. Carr being declared the winner. For Councilmen, Alex Dennis, Geo. A. Orr, John Johnston, S. Boxwell, and John Barreimas. Police Judge, A. H. Baker, R. M. French was appointed city treasurer. James Eaves was appointed city marshal but he resigned and S. P. Reed was appointed in his place.<sup>8</sup>

Hoisington was like most new towns, had dirt streets, board walks, and flagstone crossings. During rainy weather, Main Street became a mud hole, cut up by horses, buggies, carts, and wagons. At one time the mud became so bad that the street commissioner hauled in straw and brush in the hopes that it would provide a solid bottom for the street, but the straw and brush only made it worse.

Women's dress when Hoisington was young consisted of leg-o-mutton sleeves, wasp waists, high top shoes, ostrich plumes, numerous petticoats and dragging skirts which were quite a problem on muddy streets. The first gap that opened a new age was the appearance of a two inch slit in one side of a skirt that swept the sidewalks.

---

<sup>8</sup> Roy J. Cornelius, "Early History of Hoisington, Kansas," Vol. I., No. I., Barton County Historical Society Publications, (Great Bend: 1965-6), p. 5.

One evening a good looking woman got off the train, well dressed in black and horrs [sic] her skirt was slit up far enough to expose part of the calf of her leg—this happened to be noticed by the men and some of the women immediately started the order to run the hussy out of town.<sup>9</sup>

Since Hoisington was a railroad town, Brotherhood dances were popular and were presented fairly regularly. Watching passenger trains was also popular entertainment. Train number three arrived in the evening and as many as seventy-five to one hundred people would be at the depot to see "the train come in."

Among the early day opera house performances were Dora Thorne, Camille, Sappho, and sometimes coming to perform under a tent was Uncle Tom's Cabin, which always drew a crowd. "The Face on the Barroom Floor" and hypnotism shows were also popular.

A. L. Peugh established the first barber shop in Hoisington and operated it for many years. The price of a shave for many years was ten cents and a hair cut was twenty-five cents. When Peugh installed a bath tub, he charged twenty-five cents per bath. Beauty shops were unheard of in early day Hoisington, so Peugh did a good business among the ladies.

By 1888, Hoisington has such refinements as a school house, a baseball team and plans for a bank. They were well on their way to becoming a progressive city. At the present time, Hoisington is a second class city with a population of about four thousand five hundred.

---

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 8.

### III. CLAFLIN

The first government record that mentions Claflin is the entering of a claim by George Platt on a section of ground which is the location of the present city. Platt arrived in 1870 and built a dugout home on the west side of his claim, which is on the east side of the present city. Platt did not remain long. His daughter died in 1872 and after burying her about one hundred and fifty feet southwest of his dugout, Platt attempted to sell his land. Failing in this, he gave up his claim and returned East.

Fannie Wickham came to Claflin in 1872, and re-entered half of the Platt claim for her son, Jim Wickham, a minor. The other half of the claim went to a Mister Richardson. In 1875, Fannie Wickham paid eight hundred dollars for her half of the Platt claim, and then proceeded to sell it to J. H. Williamson, except for a lot which she kept for a home site. Williamson kept the claim and it was on his land that the town of Claflin was finally laid out.

From the time the first claim was filed in 1870 until the town was finally started, many settlers came into the area. Among them were A. H. Dougan and his wife, who in the fall of 1878 came by way of train to Ellinwood. The Dougans built a sod house in which they lived until 1886. At that time, they hired Pat Nary and Martin Kehoe to build them a stone house. The Dougans were a typical frontier family and their house was

typical of their times. The Dougans came to stay, and expected their house to last. They were not disappointed, for their house still stands today, although it is unoccupied.<sup>10</sup>

In 1885 and 1886, Jay Gould, the famous financier and railroad promoter sold stock in the Missouri Pacific to persons in the Claflin area. By the spring of 1887, the Missouri Pacific had laid rails through the region. The railroad built a depot south of the tracks and called the settlement "Giles City" after Stelle Giles, who lived nearby.

A town company was soon organized, and their plans called for building south of the railroad tracks. However, W. A. Giles of Indiana who owned the land would not sell the forty acres the company wanted.<sup>11</sup> The town company then went north of the tracks and purchased land from Williamson. The Claflin Town Company with Stelle Giles as President filed for record the townsite plat of Claflin to the Barton County Register of Deeds on March 31, 1887. Judge O. P. Hamilton surveyed the site and laid out the town of Claflin in a corn field. The city was named after Judge Hamilton's wife whose maiden name was Claflin.<sup>12</sup>

The first official resident of Claflin was R. L. Hamilton who built and operated the S. S. Chatten Lumber Company. Next

---

<sup>10</sup>Information on the Dougan family from an interview with A. H. Dougan's daughter, Mrs. Lora Casey of Claflin on July 2, 1970.

<sup>11</sup>No relationship between W. A. Giles and Stelle Giles was found.

<sup>12</sup>Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," p. 166.

came a Mr. Graham from Geneseo. He lived for a time with Hamilton in an old office building.<sup>13</sup> This arrangement must not have suited Williamson for he soon built a hotel on the east side of Main Street. The third arrival to Claflin was Mel Cummings of Ohio, who served as the first railroad agent fro the Missouri Pacific. Cummings boarded with a Mister Giles, southwest of town.

"George Norris built the first building on the town site, a wooden frame structure. J. H. Cannon came in 1887 and built a store on the corner where the Buehler store now is. He started the first bank there, the Bank of Claflin."<sup>14</sup> Norris had a furniture store and later became Claflin's first undertaker. Some of the other businesses that followed were a hardware store operated by M. C. Elmore; a cafe built and operated by Mister Cas Dermitt; and an elevator built by Graham and operated by A. A. German. The elevator was powered by a blind horse brought from Missouri by Godfrey W. Gibier and sold to the mill. Charles Bucker operated a general blacksmith shop. The Claflin Clarion, published by Charles Vert began operation in 18

The first school was held in Claflin in 1887 in a building on the east side of Main Street, owned by Mister Cannon.

J. P. Storks came to Claflin in 1887 and engaged in the trade of painter and paper hanger as the town began to gain some class.

---

<sup>13</sup>O. A. Copple, "History of Claflin," Claflin Clarion, June 19, 1947.

<sup>14</sup>Copple, "History of Claflin," p. 1.

Claflin was organized as a city of the third class by an order of the Barton County Commissioners on July 18, 1901. The first city election was held August 2, 1901.<sup>15</sup> At the present time, Claflin is a quiet little city of the third class with a population of approximately one thousand.

#### IV. ELLINWOOD

Ellinwood is on a natural route from the Mississippi to the Southwest and it probably was a stopping point for bands of Indians centuries before white men ever saw Kansas. The Spaniards were quite likely the first whites to visit the present site of Ellinwood.

Paul Jones of Lyons has located the remains of several Indian villages near Ellinwood and believes that this section was a portion of the fabulous Quivira. If that is the case, Coronado and his Conquistadores probably were the first white men to set eyes on Ellinwood.<sup>16</sup>

When the Santa Fe Trail was established, the Trail met the north bank of the Arkansas River, on the west edge of present day Ellinwood. This point of contact was one of the favorite camping places along the trail. Wagon trains often stopped to camp, and soldiers and traders visited the area frequently. One of the three great Santa Fe Trail burial grounds was near the

---

<sup>15</sup>Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," p. 166.

<sup>16</sup>Ellinwood Leader, November 10, 1955.



west line of Ellinwood. Most of the people who died after crossing Cow creek, which was located to the east in Rice County, were buried there. In the late 1860's, a haying party was attacked and massacred near the Ellinwood area. So the region was well known before the town of Ellinwood was organized.

About the first of August in 1871, Milton W. Halsey, temporarily a resident of Atlanta (present day Lyons) drove over to the Arkansas River and camped for the night with some prospective land buyers from Wichita. The next day, Halsey and his companions drove over to Fort Zarah, and spent the next day engaged in a buffalo hunt. As Halsey returned to Atlanta, he noted the advantages of the area along the Arkansas River around present day Ellinwood. "Halsey decided that if the Santa Fe Railroad should build up the valley he would locate here, thus the first claim was taken."<sup>17</sup> Halsey marked this claim by piling up a small mound of dirt and sticking a shingle into it. He then returned to Atlanta.

On November 9, 1871, Halsey, satisfied as to the future route of the Santa Fe Railroad, returned and took possession of his claim. He finally filed on it November 13, 1871, some three months after first marking it. On Halsey's trip to take possession of this claim, he brought his friend, William H. Grant, and Grant also settled on a claim. However, Grant later

---

<sup>17</sup>Ellinwood Leader, (comp), Twentieth Century Souvenir, (Ellinwood: 1901), p. 1.

sold his claim and returned to Ohio where he remained for three years before once again settling in Ellinwood. Because of Grant's short stay in Ellinwood, there is some confusion as to the second permanent settler in Ellinwood. The Ellinwood Leader in 1901 listed Aaron Burlison as the second permanent settler.<sup>18</sup> The same paper in a publication in 1955 listed Colonel John R. Ellinwood as the second permanent settler and Burlison as the third permanent settler.<sup>19</sup> Grant is not considered permanent in either case but the confusion is caused by Ellinwood who was a Santa Fe civil engineer and therefore questionable as a permanent settler. Also a good case could be made for Grant, as he did return to Ellinwood.

Halsey, who was a carpenter by trade, with Burlison's help, built the first house in Ellinwood. "It was a board and timber box house, 12 x 24, with 8 foot ceilings."<sup>20</sup> It took two days at a cost of five dollars per day for hauling to get the boards from Ellsworth.

"About Thanksgiving day, Halsey moved his wife from Atlanta to Ellinwood. Thus, she became the first permanent woman resident in the eastern one-third of Barton County."<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup> Ellinwood Leader, November 10, 1955.

<sup>19</sup> Twentieth Century Souvenir, 1901, p. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

Mrs. Burlison soon joined her husband and both families lived in the single box house until 1872, when Halsey built a dugout for his family. When Halsey moved out, Burlison opened a store in the west half of his house.

In November, 1871, Halsey got up a petition for a post office to be named after his friend, Colonel Ellinwood. Burlison who was a friend of Halsey's but disliked Ellinwood, objected to naming the post office after Ellinwood. Halsey insisted, and when the post office opened on February 1, 1872, it was named Ellinwood. When the townsite plat was finally filed, the name Ellinwood was carried on and went down on record as being the official name of the town.<sup>22</sup>

In 1872, the as yet unofficial town of Ellinwood received a boost in population when many residents of Zarah moved there. Several businesses were moved; J. L. Roberts moved a house and livery barn, George Towers moved his blacksmith shop and Rugar and Greever moved a building first used as a hotel and later as a store. The town grew little though until the summer of 1872 when the railroad arrived.

Shortly after the railroad's arrival, the town grew large enough that the Arkansas Valley Town Company filed the township plat of Ellinwood.

The certification of ownership and dedication of the original plat of Ellinwood is dated September 6, 1873, and is signed by Alden Speere, President of the Arkansas Valley Town

---

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

Company. But, the town could not file the plat until it got title from the Railroad Company and the latter company could not obtain title from the government until the road was built to the west state line. This was completed in December, 1873.<sup>23</sup>

In 1873, Ellinwood was the nucleus of a large German settlement coming into Kansas. A portion of the town was being offered in lots at very reasonable prices to settlers; C. B. Schmidt was just the man to take advantage of such a situation. Schmidt was the German Immigration agent for the Ellinwood region. He made maps of the area to encourage immigration and on his maps, he marked the region adjacent to Ellinwood, "Germanis." That is the reason Ellinwood was long referred to as "Little Germany."<sup>24</sup> The success of Schmidt's efforts can be seen in the following description of Ellinwood in 1880.

Ellinwood is a live town, containing about 600 inhabitants, four-fifths of whom are Germans. It is almost a German town exclusively, and everything is conducted according to German ideas. The business men with scarcely an exception are all German. They have their saloons, where they meet for conviviality, and their brewery where their beer is manufactured.<sup>25</sup>

In 1874, Ellinwood grew very rapidly and many improvements were made, especially in the number of dwelling houses erected. Two of the towns most successful businessmen arrived

---

<sup>23</sup> History of Ellinwood, (Ellinwood: Historical Committee 1953), booklet prepared for Ellinwood's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, p. 2.

<sup>24</sup> Twentieth Century Souvenir, p. 2.

<sup>25</sup> Cutler, History of Kansas, p. 769.

that year, F. A. Steckel and Vancil S. Musil. Steckel put up a good frame building on Washington (Main) Street and opened a general merchandising store with a drug store included. This was called the Deutsche Store. In November, Musil opened a much needed lumber yard.

The grasshopper destruction of 1874 was a severe check on immigration and the following year was one of but little progress. Another factor affecting progress was the Texas cattle drives throug the area. Since farming was the dominant pursuit for residents of the Ellinwood area and the Texas cattle trade was considered detrimental to their interests, the farmers took drastic measures to stop the cattle drives from coming through their area. The farmers assembled in the community school building in 1875 to make plans and the following proclamation resulted

We, as an association of farmers of Lakin township, do hereby notify all herds of Texas cattle to keep their herds out of Lakin township, on penalty of being prosecuted to the fullest extent of law; and further, We do hereby pledge ourselves to stand by and assist each other in the prosecution of the law.<sup>26</sup>

Fortunately, the cattle trade was ready to move to the west as it was ordered to do by the "deadline" law, so trouble was avoided.

The four year period from 1874 to 1878 saw little growth in Ellinwood but some significant events did take place. In 1875

---

<sup>26</sup>"Barton County Clippings," from the Great Bend Library files, from an article entitled, "Ellinwood Warned Texans to Keep Out" by Gordon Bieberle, Staff writer for the Great Bend Tribune.

Musil and Steckel built a flour mill, the first one to operate successfully in Barton County. The mill consisted of a single vertical bar and was capable of grinding about one hundred bushels a day. Another major accomplishment that took place during the four year period was the completion in 1875 of a very substantial iron bridge across the Arkansas River. In 1876, Steckel and Musil opened a large farm implement business and Mathias Rader put up a drug store. But, the growth rate remained slow until 1876.

On April 22, 1878, a petition signed by almost all the qualified voters of Ellinwood was presented, and an order of organization as a city of the third class was signed by the Honorable Samuel R. Reters, Judge of the Ninth Judicial District. The first city election was held in May, 1878, at the office of J. D. Ronstadt.

Mr. F. A. Steckel was elected mayor. Elected to the City Council were W. M. Manledorf, Wm. Meisner, G. W. Ashton, J. W. Conroy and O. M. Dotson. George Towere was elected Police Judge and H. M. Reints was appointed city clerk. At the first council meeting, J. J. Holton was appointed city marshal; Mathias Dick, city treasurer; and Gardner, city attorney.<sup>27</sup>

The good crops of 1878 brought new life to immigration and attracted many new settlers to the Ellinwood area. That year saw the building of the first substantial business house in town, in the shape of a solid two-story brick building on Washington street. The first floor of the building was used as a store while

---

<sup>27</sup>Twentieth Century Souvenir, p. 3.

part of the upper story was occupied as a printing office by the Ellinwood Express and the rest used by the city as a council chambers. Also in 1878, Mathias Rader built a good frame store building and the Brinkman brothers built a large elevator with a capacity of twelve thousand bushels. Several other houses and businesses were erected, and by 1880 the town had a physician, Doctor Barr.

The year 1881 was chiefly notable for the completion of the branch of Santa Fe road from Florence to Ellinwood, where it connected with the main line.<sup>28</sup> Besides the advantages to transportation and shipping this line brought employment for a good many persons in Ellinwood, as it caused the putting up of a good stone round house, with stalls for the locomotives. The company also built a five mile side track, and opened up an extensive material depot where rails, ties, fence, posts, and other material were stored to be used as needed. The Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad company assisted to a great extent in advancing and furthering the improvements of Ellinwood.

As Ellinwood's business life advanced, its social and religious life kept pace. By the late 1870's, a Catholic and a Lutheran Church, as well as a Methodist Mission, served the area. Ellinwood's first school opened its doors in 1873. By 1888, Ellinwood had two school districts and both were kept very busy.

At the present time, Ellinwood is the third largest city in Barton County with a population of approximately two thousand

---

<sup>28</sup> Cutler, History of Kansas, p. 769.

eight hundred. It is a progressive little city and seems to take pride in its early history as witnessed by the fact that it has a fairly active Historical Committee.

## VI. PAWNEE ROCK

The town of Pawnee Rock is located in the extreme southwest corner of Barton County, in the shadow of the Rock by the same name. "This point was selected for a town site early in 1872 by George M. Jackson, the leader of a colony from the famous blue grass region of Kentucky."<sup>29</sup> Jackson was a land agent for the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. He brought about thirty men to the vicinity of Pawnee Rock in March of 1872, but many of them left before the railroad arrived in 1873. But with the arrival of the railroad many more settlers came to the rich agricultural area.

The original townsite plat of Pawnee Rock was completed on May 26, 1874, and filed for record in the office of the Barton County Register of Deeds, on May 28, 1874, by the Arkansas Valley Town Company.<sup>30</sup>

Some of the earliest settlers were W. C. Hatter, Dennis Logan, S. P. Leitner, D. M. Sutherland, T. C. Polk and John W. Smith.

"The first building other than the railroad depot built in 1872 was the Pawnee Hotel, built in 1874."<sup>31</sup> Other early buildings include a general merchandising store operated by C. Gano and a blacksmith shop operated by A. Coon.

---

<sup>29</sup>Great Bend Register, June 20, 1876.

<sup>30</sup>Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," p. 166.

<sup>31</sup>Great Bend Register, October 2, 1879.



Since Pawnee Rock was primarily noted as an agricultural colony, the grasshopper plague in 1874 and the drought year in 1875 delayed its growth for some time. The railroad brought fifteen families of Germans to the area in 1875. These Germans came to America to escape military service. They did not settle directly in Pawnee Rock as the railroad had hoped. Instead they built their own little village about one mile east of the present town of Dundee (unincorporated).

The slow growth of Pawnee Rock can be seen in the population chart which lists its population as only one hundred and fifty, in 1879, five years after its beginning.<sup>32</sup> With the arrival of better farming years in the late 1870's, Pawnee Rock added some important businesses. In 1878, a flour mill owned by the Bowman brothers was opened. It became very important to the town as Pawnee Rock became a supply and shipping point for grain. An elevator was built in 1878 and operated by A. Garverich and W. H. and Eli Bowman.

As Pawnee Rock continued to grow, four agricultural implement businesses were opened; A. Garverich's and S. P. Leitner's in 1877, C. Gano's in 1878 and Gwinn and Tullis' in 1879. Three lumber yards were opened in 1877, J. Lindas', A. Garverich's and Gwinn and Tullis'. A. W. Metcalf, who was postmaster, also opened a general store with almost three thousand dollars worth of stock

---

<sup>32</sup>Townsley, Barton County, pamphlet, p. 8.

in 1878. Two physicians made their residence in Pawnee Rock, M. L. Daniels in 1871, and E. E. Putman (licensed) in 1879.<sup>33</sup>

On May 2, 1887, Pawnee Rock was organized as a city of the third class by order of the Barton County Commissioners.<sup>34</sup> The first city election was held on May 17, 1887; the voting place was at the school house. An interesting campaign was carried on prior to the election. The central issue was the town's pool rooms and whether or not they should be allowed to remain in operation. A coalition party, which ignored the question of the pool rooms, was elected.

William Bunting was elected Mayor. City Councilmen elected were L. K. Benfield, John Helper, William McDougal, W. H. Bowman and William Walton. J. D. Welch was the first city clerk; J. W. Ratcliff, city attorney; Earnest Smith, city treasurer and Alvin Iles, city marshal.<sup>35</sup>

At the present time, Pawnee Rock is basically an agricultural community with a population of approximately five hundred. There are very few businesses in the city, due mainly to its close proximity to Great Bend and Larned, thirteen and six miles distant respectively. The only newspaper, The Pawnee Rock Leader is no longer in operation. But there are many fine houses and new school buildings, and the area receives some tourist trade from

---

<sup>33</sup>Before License laws were passed in the United States, many physicians were self-proclaimed. Therefore, the presence of a licensed physician in a town as small as Pawnee Rock is significant.

<sup>34</sup>Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," p. 166.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

visitors to the Rock. There is enough to mark Pawnee Rock as a permanent if not growing community.

## VI. ALBERT

The only other incorporated towns in Barton County by 1888 were Albert, located approximately thirteen miles northwest of Great Bend, and Olmitz, approximately sixteen miles north and a little bit west of Great Bend.

The original townsite plat of Albert was completed on June 19, 1886, and was filed for record in the office of the Barton County Register of Deeds on June 25, 1886, by the Arkansas Valley Town Company. It was named in honor of Mr. Albert Kraisinger, an early day settler who did much for the people of that community.

What little growth Albert ever experienced was mainly due to its being on the Great Bend to Scott City division of the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. At the present time, the population of Albert is about two hundred. The town never did obtain much size or importance but it once contained one of the more active churches in Barton County, the St. Paul's Lutheran Church which did not have a building but did conduct services as early as 1871.

Among those first coming to this part of Barton County, Kansas and settling here in the '70's were:

Julius Both and family, 1871  
Frank Tammen, 1872  
Thomas Tammen, 1873

Marquart Jurgensen & family, 1874  
Gustave Grunwald and family, 1874  
Rev. Hengist and family, 1875

---

<sup>36</sup>Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," pp. 166-167.

John Tammen, 1873  
 August Reimer, 1873  
 Martin Ummen, 1873

Christian Geil and family, 1876  
 Jacob Geil and family, 1876  
 John Mausolf and family, 1876

#### Date of Arrival not Known

Martin Hemken  
 Heine Rents  
 John Rankin  
 Carl Beye  
 Andrew Beye

Ado Folkerts  
 John Kush  
 Fred Neese  
 Herman Dierks  
 Fredrick Schiefelbein

Aaron Bortz  
 Hans Peterson  
 John Juregesen<sup>37</sup>

### VII. OLMITZ

Olmitz is located on the Missouri Pacific Railroad about sixteen miles northwest of Great Bend.

The original townsite plat of Olmitz was completed on January 20, 1887, and was filed in the office of the Register of Deeds of Barton County on January 25, 1887, by James E. Andrews and W. V. McCracken. Olmitz was named after the capital of Moravia, a political subdivision of Czechoslovakia.<sup>38</sup>

The town never achieved much importance or size and at the present has so few residents as to be almost deserted.

### VIII. UNINCORPORATED TOWNS

Several unincorporated towns in Barton County have been of economic importance.<sup>39</sup> In the early days, Beaver, Boyd,

---

<sup>37</sup>"93 Year History; 1871-1964," pamphlet prepared by the St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation, Albert, Kansas, 1964, p. 5.

<sup>38</sup>Cooper, "Early Day Barton County," p. 168.

<sup>39</sup>Robert W. Baughman, Kansas Post Offices, (May 29, 1828 August 3, 1961), Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas 1961. Consult appendix, pages 126-128 for a complete list.

Dundee, Heizer, Hitchman, Odin, and Redwing, all had their moments of glory. But with the arrival of good roads and better means of transportation, people drove to the large cities to do their shopping and most of the smaller towns dwindled away. The only unincorporated town of much importance today among those mentioned is Odin, which although its population is only a few hundred, still maintains a twelve year school system.

## CHAPTER VI

### SCHOOL AND CHURCHES

By 1888, there were more than ninety school districts and fifty churches in Barton County. Any attempt to write about all of them would take more space than this chapter will allow. Instead, this chapter will cover some of the first schools on all levels of education and some of the earliest churches of each denomination in Barton County. It will be noted that the educational and religious requirements of the people were more than adequately met.

#### I. SCHOOLS

The first elementary school in Barton County was a private school. It was organized in the spring of 1872 and taught by James R. Bickerdyke. Shortly after the opening of this school, several others were opened within the county and so began the school system of which the Barton County citizens are so proud.<sup>1</sup>

The first school district, Number 1, was organized in June of 1872. This district was under the direction of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Ellsworth County, A. Hownson,

---

<sup>1</sup>Merle S. Hoover, The Alien Contribution to the History of Barton County, Kansas, Unpublished Masters thesis, Fort Hays Kansas State College, 1930, p. 21.

since Barton County had no County Superintendent until July of 1872. School District Number 1 included Great Bend and its immediate vicinity. The first board members were J. C. Martin, G. W. Nimocks and D. N. Heizer.<sup>2</sup> The first school board meeting was held June 15, 1872, in John Hubbard's store in Great Bend. Teachers hired were, James Bickerdyke, Mrs. H. Ingersold, J. A. McClellan, Charles Dodge, Miss C. Storrey, Miss Haddie Hartman, Miss C. Bacon and Andrew McKinney. They were paid from twenty to fifty dollars per month. A. C. Moses was the first Superintendent of Public Instruction in Barton County. At first, classes were held in a frame building north of the court house park.<sup>3</sup> The main courses offered were the three "R's" and spelling.

The first elementary school building in Great Bend was built in 1873. It was a square, two-story building located on the present site of the Public Library.<sup>4</sup> It was later moved and served as a private residence for a period of time.

The original school house overflowed and by 1879, a temporary school on the east side of the city square in Great Bend was in use. At this time, the Great Bend schools were under the charge of Principal G. G. Sampson, assisted by Mrs. L. A. Collings of the Grammar department. Miss Nettie Dick was in charge of the Intermediate school and Mrs. Anna Parker had charge of the Primary

---

<sup>2</sup>Great Bend Tribune, Anniversary Edition, August 12, 1936

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, May 7, 1961.

or "over-flow" school.<sup>5</sup> By 1882, a new school had been built in Great Bend at a cost of six thousand dollars.<sup>6</sup> This put to an end use of the "over-flow" school.

In the fall of 1872, Ellinwood was organized as school District Number 2. Its first teacher was Miss Carrie Bacon. She taught a term of about four months for which she was paid one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The first two months of the school term were conducted in a small frame building owned by William Misner; the last two months were spent in the new school house, a small one-story brick building erected during the summer and early fall of 1873.<sup>7</sup> The contractor was John McDonald, the same man who was hired to build the court house in Great Bend.

The second term of school in District Number 2 was taught by Mortimer B. Filts. The term was from November 15, 1873, to March 15, 1874. The third term, from September, 1874, to June, 1875 was taught by B. B. Smyth. At the same time, James Bickerdyke was teaching the first term of school in District Number 3, located just west of District Number 2.<sup>8</sup> Some of the early principals in District Number 2 were Winslow L. Bay, W. M. Chalfant, and Aaron Bars.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>Arkansas Valley Democrat, March 16, 1879.

<sup>6</sup>Great Bend Register, June 22, 1882.

<sup>7</sup>Twentieth Century Souvenir, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup>Consult appendix, pages 124-125 for a list of teachers in early day Barton County.

<sup>9</sup>Twentieth Century Souvenir, op. cit.



In the spring of 1874, the Barton County Teachers Association was formed for the purpose of aiding in the advancement of education. The organization of twenty members met once a month. B. B. Smyth was the first president of the Association.

By 1881, there were 87 organized school districts in Barton County with a school population of 3,368. There were 97 teachers in the county and they taught an average term of five months. This exceeded the four month requirement than being required by the State of Kansas.<sup>10</sup>

Schools were controlled by a three-member board, elected in each school district annually by all persons, regardless of sex, over twenty-one years old.<sup>11</sup> W. M. Chalfant, county superintendent at this time, had general responsibility for all the schools. A Normal Institute, for the benefit of teachers, was held every summer at Great Bend. Barton County and the State of Kansas assisted in paying the expenses of this Normal Institute.

By 1888, school districts were opened in all sections of Barton County.<sup>13</sup> In addition to the elementary public schools, many of the churches, especially the Lutherans and the Catholics, operated their own parochial schools. "The first Catholic school

---

<sup>10</sup>Great Bend Register, June 22, 1882.

<sup>11</sup>Arkansas Valley Democrat, March 15, 1879.

<sup>12</sup>Great Bend Register, op. cit.

<sup>13</sup>Consult page 123 of the appendix for a map of school districts in Barton County.

was organized at Odin in the early eighties . . . . Alois Strong was the first teacher and received a salary of \$20 per month."<sup>14</sup>

The first secondary school was organized in 1885 in Great Bend. The high school building stood at the corner of Forest and Stone. William Reese, assisted by Miss Rebecca Smith, conducted the school.<sup>15</sup> The graduating class of 1888 consisted of one member. This was Miss Florence Poole. She was the lone graduate because all the other original members of her class transferred to Central Normal College and did not continue their high school work.<sup>16</sup>

In the 1880's the men of Great Bend had formed an organization called the Great Bend Improvement Association. Their basic aim, the formation of a college in Great Bend, was realized in 1888 when the Central Normal School opened. For the first year, the school was under the control of the Congregational Church. D. E. Sanders served as the first President. The following article was written about the college in 1890:

This institution is but a little past two years old and is already taking rank among the best institutions of learning in our country; it has at this time over two hundred students in attendance and is daily increasing. A large and commodious brick building of twenty-four rooms, pleasantly located, with boarding houses, rooms and conveniences

---

<sup>14</sup> Hoover, The Alien Contribution to the History of Barton County, Kansas, p. 24.

<sup>15</sup> Great Bend Tribune, November 16, 1914.

<sup>16</sup> Great Bend Tribune, August 12, 1936.

for students surrounding it, makes it pleasant, healthy and in every way deserving the patronage it has now and in the future will receive.<sup>17</sup>

The Central Normal College later became the Nurses' home immediately north of the St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend. Until its closing in 1902, it served the area well.

## II. CHURCHES

An attempt to list chronologically the churches of Barton County would probably result only in causing disagreement. But as nearly as can be determined, the first church building was erected in 1876. This was the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church located four miles north of Ellinwood.

Sometime in 1874, a group of German immigrants from the area north of Ellinwood drew the attention of Reverend Felix Schwembergh, pastor at Newton, Kansas. These German immigrants were thorough Catholics and they desired the comforts of their religion. So Father Schwembergh in the summer of 1875 began to make monthly trips on horseback to his new charge, almost one hundred miles from Newton.

Some of the early Catholic leaders in the settlement north of Ellinwood were: William Kliesen, Peter Kimpler, Emil Kramp, Carl Koehler, George Helfrich, August Koutschinsky, Joseph

---

<sup>17</sup>[Kansas Immigration Bureau], Kansas: Its History, Resources, and Prospects, p. 24.

Luntz, Henry Achatz, Jacob Klein, Peter Klein, J. J. Klein and Christian Olbert.<sup>18</sup>

Mass was first said June 4, 1875, in one of the pioneer homes. As the months passed, the pioneers began to long for a real church so they could worship properly. Soon work was started on the church building and the entire community turned out to help. The men did not neglect their farming but every spare minute was spent in construction of the church.

Upon completion of the frame structure in 1876, it became the center of Catholic worship for the whole area. Settlers from Ellinwood, Odin, Bushton, Dubuque, Claflin, and Hoisington came to Sts. Peter and Paul to worship.<sup>19</sup> Father Schwembergh got the young settlement off to a good start, then left in 1877. Father Michael Emmer was his successor, but he soon returned to his native home in Bavaria. The Reverend Francis Hundhausen became the third priest and in 1878, when the parish was completed, the first resident pastor. The fourth priest to attend the mission, was Reverend J. C. Schurz who was also pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Ellinwood. The Reverend L. Epp succeeded Father Schurz at Ellinwood; and had charge of Sts. Peter and Paul mission for fourteen years. During these years, Father Epp built the second church and the first school.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, January 22, 1961.

<sup>19</sup>Catholic Advance, Wichita, Kansas, November 7, 1931.

<sup>20</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, January 22, 1961.

This second church and first school were erected in 1886. The present church was erected in 1892, and the present school building was dedicated in 1927.<sup>21</sup> The little community around Sts. Peter and Paul has served as the spiritual and cultural center for many Barton County residents since 1874 and show few signs of decreasing in importance today.

St. Mary's at Odin was another early day Catholic church in Barton County. Catholic families in the Odin area originally walked to Ellinwood where Mass was read. In 1877, Odin became a mission of the Sts. Peter and Paul church north of Ellinwood. In 1878, the parish, under many difficulties, built a frame church building which was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The church was dedicated by Father Hundhausen and Mass was celebrated there once a month.<sup>22</sup>

Father Shurtz took charge of the Odin community in 1879. He paid monthly visits from his parish in Ellinwood. In 1881, Odin got its first resident pastor, Father Emmerich.<sup>23</sup> Father Emmerich served the Odin community for several years and accomplished a great deal during that time. A home was built for the pastor; the first Catholic school in Barton County was opened; the parish debt on the church was paid off; missions were established in St. Dominic, later known as Cain City, Dubuque, Olmitz

---

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>Catholic Advance, Wichita, Kansas, November 7, 1931.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

and nine miles north of Hoisington; and the original St. Mary's church of Odin was enlarged.<sup>24</sup>

Other early day Catholic churches in Barton County included the Great Bend Catholic Church built by Reverend B. Wolf, and the St. Joseph's Church of Ellinwood. Although they had no real church building, the Catholics around Claflin built a school house and regular services were held there beginning in the 1880's until 1905 when a church was built.

The first church in Great Bend was the First Congregation Church, organized on August 10, 1872, at a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Moses. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Moses, other charter members were: Miss Ida Mitchell, Mr. D. N. Heizer, Mrs. Holland, Mr. J. R. Bickerdyke and Mr. E. B. Cowgill.<sup>25</sup>

The first Congregational Church grew out of a community Sunday School started on September 24, 1871. The first religious organization in Barton County, the Sunday School originally met at the home of Mr. J. H. Hubbard, on Walnut Creek. The church, originally called the "First Church of Christ of Great Bend," was organized under the direction of Reverend J. G. Merrill, general agent of the American Home Missionary Society. In August of 1873, the church was renamed "The Congregational Church of Great Bend, Kansas, and the articles of incorporation were filed."<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, February 28, 1963.

<sup>26</sup>Percy Silling, "History of the First Congregational Church: Great Bend, Kansas," unpublished research paper at Fort Hays State College Library, 1961, p. 1., quoting Fifty Years, 1872-1922 (Great Bend: 1922), p. 1.

The first meetings of the church were held in private homes and then in various store buildings. However, the congregation soon resolved to build a church and in 1873, they received a grant of five hundred dollars from the Congregational Union to aid in the building. Plans for a building were approved and construction soon began.

They started to build the first building of sandstone but due to hard rains, this building fell down before it was completed and was replaced by a frame structure which was dedicated in 1879 at a cost of \$2,500.<sup>27</sup>

The Congregationalists built a church in 1910 at an estimated cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. The church was located at Broadway and Stone streets, approximately the location of the first church building. The church was torn down in the 1950's. Another Congregational Church was erected by 1880 in Buffalo township. J. Vetter of Pawnee Rock was the pastor.

The history of the First Methodist Church of Great Bend reaches back to the earliest days of the city. The church was first organized in the spring of 1873 and was first known as the Great Bend Circuit, a mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>2</sup> At the time of organization, the charge was composed of Larned, Ellinwood, Walnut City (now Rush Center) and Great Bend.

---

<sup>27</sup>Great Bend Tribune, July 19, 1947.

<sup>28</sup>Great Bend Daily Tribune, February 28, 1963.

There were eleven charter members of the Great Bend circuit, "Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Renolds, Mr. and Mrs. George Butler, Mrs. Rachel Slack, Mrs. A. Hartman and her daughter Haddie."<sup>29</sup> A. Hartman of the South Kansas Conference was appointed pastor.

Shortly after the first meeting in 1873, the Sunday School was organized. At first, services were held in a store building on the south side of the city square; later they were held in the school house. The church services were moved to the court house as soon as it was finished and they continued there for several years.<sup>30</sup>

A. H. Naftzger became pastor in 1877. Soon after his arrival, an enterprise was started to erect a church building. Subscriptions were taken and work soon commenced.

Much praise is given to the pastor for his activity. He is said to have worked on this building with his own hands, and that he inspired everybody with his spirit, so that by the middle of the following October the work was well in hand. The size of this first church building was 30 x 50 feet. It was dedicated by Bishop Thomas Bowman on January 20th, 1878. It stood on the northeast corner of the block on which the new church stands.<sup>31</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>Consummation: 1873-1924 (Great Bend: 1924), pamphlet by the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Great Bend, Kansas, p. 3.



Thomas Audas became pastor in the spring of 1878; C. M. Wysong became pastor in March of 1879, but retired in June due to failing health, and C. M. Ashbaugh was appointed to fill out the remainder of the year. In the spring of 1880, L. M. Gates became pastor. He was apparently an active and energetic man as many changes took place during his three years of service. The parsonage was greatly improved and the debt on it paid off; trees were planted on the parsonage lots. The Sunday School was improved and there was a good revival. In 1882, the charge paid the pastor's thousand dollar salary for the first time.

The Reverend Gates was an aggressive man. [sic.] It was stated that outside the church he made enemies and some friends. He was said to have attacked vice in every form; he vindicated the prevalent vices which crept into all frontier towns.<sup>32</sup>

P. P. Wesley was appointed pastor in the spring of 1883. S. H. Enyeart was appointed in the spring of 1885. During this year, more than two hundred and fifty dollars was spent to improve the church. Enyeart was again appointed in 1886 and during this boom year, the church changed locations. Taking advantage of inflated real estate values, the existing church and parsonage were sold at high prices and a new church and parsonage were built on adjoining lots on Forrest Avenue (then Maggie Street).

---

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

By 1887, the Methodists not only had a new church and parsonage in Great Bend, they had a church building in Ellinwood. The location of the present Methodist church in Great Bend is the same as the one built in 1886.<sup>33</sup>

One of the first religious groups to have services in Barton County was the Lutherans of the town of Albert. In the fall of 1871, the Lutherans of Albert banded together and sought the services of the Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod. Upon their request the mission board sent a minister to them, but just who the first man was to preach at Albert is not certain.<sup>34</sup> The first services were few and far between, and were held at different homes in the area.

The preacher would ride the circuit and every so often come to a family's home. Then the man of the house would ride to every home telling them that they were having church at his house. The families would come by wagon pulled by oxen, horseback, horse and wagon and many would walk.<sup>35</sup>

Pastor Hoelzel served the area from about 1872 to 1875. In the fall of 1875 or the spring of 1876, Pastor Hengist, a member of the Ohio Synod, took a homestead near Albert and served the Lutherans of the area until 1880 when he received a call to Missouri.

---

<sup>33</sup>[City of Great Bend] Fifty Years, 1872-1922, 1922, p. 7.

<sup>34</sup>93 Year History: 1871-1964, (Albert, Kansas: 1964), pamphlet prepared by the St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation of Albert, Kansas, p. 5.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

In 1876, regular services were began under the organized church called St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The first services were held in District 11 school house and this continued to be the home of the church for many years. It was not until 1886 that the congregation was incorporated and a place for a church site considered.<sup>36</sup> After much discussion over several years, both a school and church were built. The school is no longer used but the church still stands.

Another very early Lutheran Church in Barton County was the German Lutheran Church built in Ellinwood. This church was erected in the 1870's. No real early Lutheran church existed in Great Bend but the Lutherans held services at various places throughout Barton County in the 1880's, and a number of Lutheran schools were operated.<sup>37</sup>

Most of the other churches began services in Barton County in the 1880's. The first Christian Church in Great Bend first met in 1881 in the court house.<sup>38</sup> Later services were held in the G. A. R. Hall and other public buildings. In 1882, the church was organized with J. M. Wickham as pastor. The congregation bought a lot and built a foundation for a church, but the church split up and ceased to meet. The Christian Church of Great Bend was re-organized in 1900.

---

<sup>36</sup>Ibid.

<sup>37</sup>Great Bend Tribune, Anniversary Edition, August 12, 19

<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

Other Christian Church services in Barton County include the one held in Walnut Township. This Church of the Brethern met at the Blood Creek school house, No. 93. Ellinwood had a Christian Church service and Sunday School which met at Kattenhorn's Hall.<sup>39</sup>

Present day Baker Avenue Baptist Church in Great Bend had its beginning in 1887.

The Reverend J. V. Allison, pastor of the Pawnee Rock Church, assisted in the organization and preached for the congregation until the first pastor was called. Under the leadership of the Reverend George Burdick, as part-time first pastor, the group met for worship in various homes of the community under the name of The First Regular Baptist Church. In September, 1887, the first dues (of 62¢) were paid to the Arkansas Valley Association for a total of thirty-two members. The first name to be listed on the cradle roll of the church was that of Harry Marsh. . . .<sup>40</sup>

Baker Avenue Baptist Church was not built until the early 1900's. The Baptists also had services in Pawnee Rock and in Ellinwood where they met once a month in the school house.<sup>41</sup>

In 1885, the Presbyterians organized a church in Great Bend. J. W. Thompson served as the first resident pastor.

---

<sup>39</sup>Ibid.

<sup>40</sup>75 Anniversary: 1887-1962 (Great Bend: 1962), pamphlet by the Baker Avenue Baptist Church of Great Bend, p. 1.

<sup>41</sup>Great Bend Tribune, Anniversary Edition, August 12, 1936.

Charter members were: Mrs. Sarah Garvin Glenn, William Glenn, Mrs. Hanna Allison, Robert A. Allison, Byron Glenn, Joab Harper, Mrs. Martha Harper, W. E. Harper, Mrs. Mattie Elstrom Harper, Dr. J. B. Ness, Mrs. Josephine Ness, J. K. and Mrs. Humphrey.<sup>42</sup> The first Presbyterian church stood at the location of the present church, Williams Avenue and Broadway. Ellinwood also had an early day Presbyterian service. It was held every other Sunday in the school house.<sup>43</sup>

In addition to the above church services in Barton County, the Friends (Quakers) held services every alternate Sabbath at the school house in District Number 28 in Buffalo Township.<sup>44</sup> Several other denominations may have held services in various parts of Barton County. Certainly some of the small communities and groups of immigrants had services of their own. However, records of these meetings are not readily available.

In Barton County, by 1888, there were churches of practically every denomination and progressive schools in all areas. Traditionally, people look for the means of satisfying their spiritual and educational needs before or shortly after making their home in an area. Therefore, the

---

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

<sup>43</sup>Smyth, The Heart of New Kansas, p. 32.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid.

importance of the churches and schools in the development of Barton County can hardly be overestimated. They helped make Barton County a nice place in which to live and raise a family.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY

This history of early day Barton County is not complete. With more study and research, other areas could be covered and the areas covered in this paper improved upon. However, much of the rich early history of Barton County has been covered.

Barton County's early importance was due to several things: a good water supply, outstanding landmarks and rich farming land among others. However, these items might have gone unappreciated for several years longer had it not been for the Santa Fe Trail. Too much stress cannot be placed on the importance of the Trail in bringing about the settlement of the "Great American Desert."

Partially as a result of the Trail, Barton County had its Indians and its Indian-white clashes. It had Fort Zarah for the purpose of providing protection against the Indians. It had famous Indian scouts such as Kit Carson and William (Buffalo Bill) Mathewson. But its Indian problems are not what made Barton County great, although they did add much color to its history.

From its early days as a part of the Santa Fe Trail, Barton County grew rapidly in importance. Yet it was another transportation route that led to its organization. Until 1872 and the coming of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, Barton County, even with all its seeming advantages, did not attract enough people to organize formally as a county.

With the coming of the railroad, people poured into Barton County, and it was well on its way to becoming a leading county in Western Kansas. The railroad led to the development of all the major cities in Barton County; Great Bend, Ellinwood and Pawnee Rock on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and Claflin and Hoisington on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Surely Barton County points out the importance of the railroad in settling the "Great American Desert."

Barton County, like many counties of Kansas, owes much of its development to foreigners. "The 1880 population of Barton County was 10,482—2,216 were foreign born and 1,289 were Germans."<sup>1</sup> Much of the influence of foreigners in Barton County can still be seen today, especially in Ellinwood.

Barton County had its share of problems but seems to have taken them in stride. As 1972 approaches, Great Bend and Barton County are getting ready to celebrate their first one hundred years. With their history, they have much reason to be proud of what they will celebrate. Hopefully, this brief history will help them become more aware of their rich heritage.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hoover, Alien Contribution to the History of Barton County, Kansas, p. 3.



## APPENDIX

copy

The State of Kansas

To all who shall see these presents Greeting:

Know ye, That I, James M. Harvey, Governor of the State of Kansas, reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, patriotism and abilities of George M. Berry, on behalf and in the name of the State, do hereby appoint and commission him, Special County Commissioner for Barton County and do authorize and empower him to discharge the duties of said office according to law.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State.

Done at Topeka this sixteenth day of May A. D. 1872.

James M. Harvey

Attest:

W. H. Smallwood

Secretary of State.

J. S.

No. 331

Copy

The State of Kansas.

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Know ye, That I James M. Harvey, Governor of the State of Kansas, reposing Special Trust and confidence in the integrity, patriotism and abilities of Thomas S. Morris, on behalf, and in the name of the State, do hereby appoint and commission him Special County Commissioner for Barton County and do authorize and empower him to discharge the duties of said office according to law.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the same to be affixed the Great Seal of the State.  
Done at Topeka this Sixteenth day of May  
A.D. 1872.

James M. Harvey

Attest:

M. H. Smallwood, Secretary of State

(214)

The State of Kansas

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:

Know ye, That I James M. Harvey, Governor of the State of Kansas, reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, patriotism and abilities of John H. Hubbard, on behalf and in the name of the State, do hereby appoint and commission him, Special County Commissioner for Barton County, and do authorize and empower him, to discharge the duties of said office according to law.

In testimony whereof I have herunto subscribed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State.

Done at Topeka, this sixteenth day of May A.D. 1873.

James M. Harvey

L.S.

Attest:

W. H. Smallwood

Secretary of State.

ILLUSTRATION IV.

*W. H. Odell's Commissioners Special County Clerk* 120.

No 332

The State of Kansas

To all who shall  
See these presents, Greeting:

Know ye that  
I James M. Harvey Governor of the State  
of Kansas, reposing Special trust and confi-  
dence in the integrity and patriotism and  
abilities of William H. Odell, on behalf and  
in the name of the State, do hereby Appoint and  
Commission him Special County Clerk for Barton  
County, and do authorize and empower him  
to discharge the duties of said office, according  
to Law.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto  
L. S. subscribed my name, and caused to  
be affixed the Great Seal of the State,  
Done at Topeka this sixteenth  
day of May A.D. 1872

James M. Harvey  
Attest W. H. Smallwood  
Secretary of State

Whereas it appears from the records in the office of the Secretary of State that a census of Barton County has been taken according to law, properly sworn to by three resident free holders of said County showing a population of over Six hundred (600) inhabitants, citizens of the United States. And Whereas, more than forty inhabitants free holders in Barton County, have petitioned for the appointment of three Special County Commissioners and one Special County Clerk, and have selected the Town of Great Bend in said County as the temporary County Seat, now

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I James M. Harvey have appointed and Commissioned the Special County Commissioners and Clerk asked for in that petition, and do hereby declare the town of Great Bend, the temporary County Seat of Barton County.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State.

Done at Topeka this 16th day of May A.D. 1872.

L. S.

By the Governor  
W. H. Smallwood,

James M. Harvey  
Secretary of State

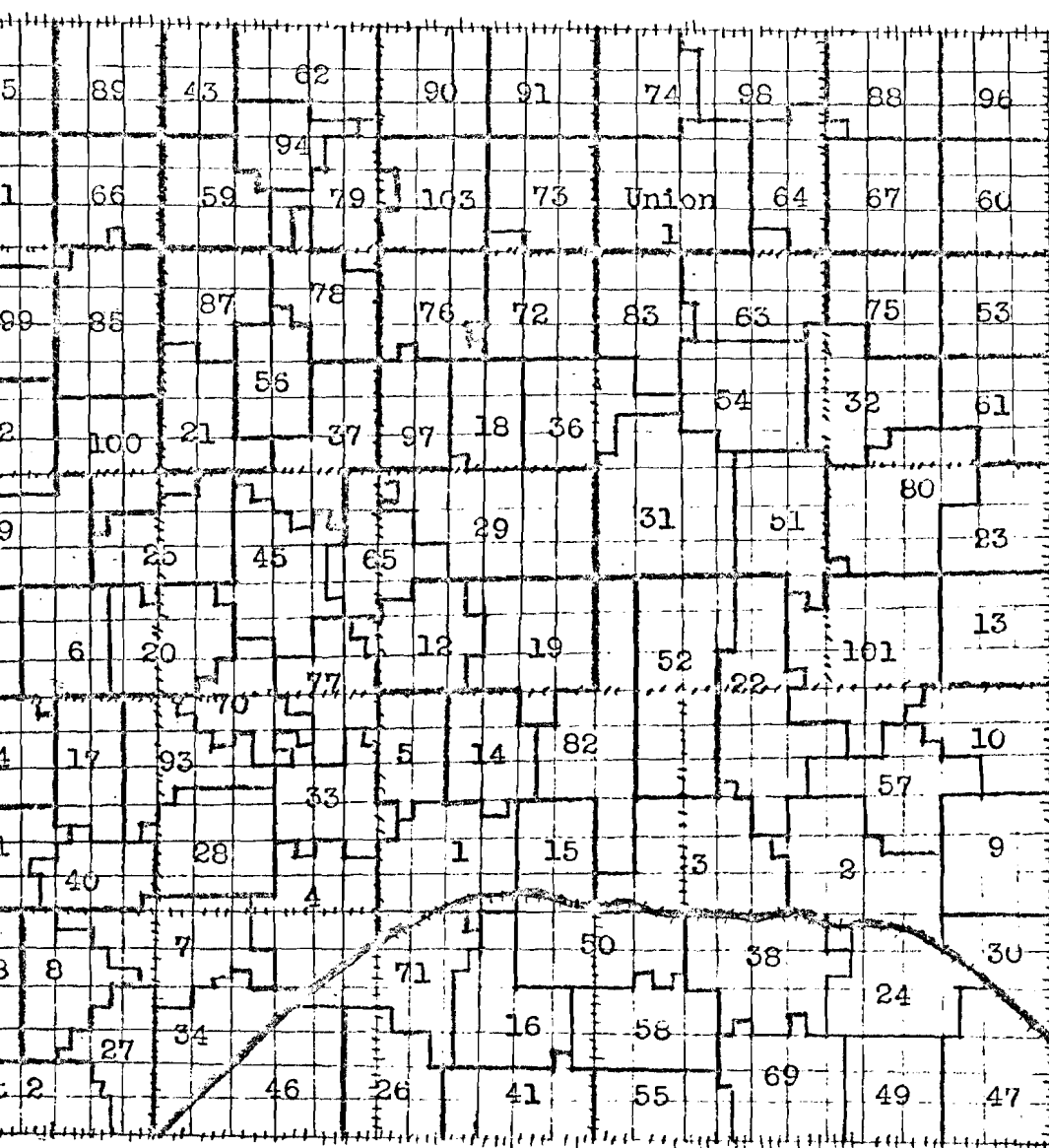
Governor Harvey's Proclamation  
Establishing Barton County  
With Great Bend  
As County Seat

The United States  
to  
A. A. Hurd  
Mayor of Great Bend

The United States of America  
To all to whom these presents shall  
come greeting: Whereas, A. A. Hurd <sup>122</sup>  
Mayor of the City of Great Bend Barton  
County Kansas in trust for the

General use and benefit of the occupants of the townsite  
of the "City of Great Bend" in said County according  
to their respective interests, by virtue of the act  
of Congress of March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1869, entitled "An Act  
for the relief of the inhabitants of Cities and  
towns upon the public lands" has deposited in  
the General Land Office of the United States a  
certificate of the Register of the Land Office at  
Salina Kansas, whereby it appears that full  
payment has been made by the said A. A. Hurd  
Mayor as aforesaid, in trust as aforesaid according  
to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24<sup>th</sup> of  
April 1820, entitled "An Act making further provis-  
ion for the sale of the public lands" for the whole of  
section twenty eight in Township nineteen South of Range  
thirteen West in the District of Lands Subject to  
sale at Salina Kansas containing six hundred  
and forty acres, according to the official plat  
of the survey of the lands returned to the General Land  
Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been  
purchased by the said A. A. Hurd Mayor as aforesaid in  
trust as aforesaid — Know ye, that the United  
States of America in consideration of the premises, and in  
conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made  
and provided have given and granted, and by these presents do  
give and grant unto the said A. A. Hurd as aforesaid in trust  
as aforesaid and to his successors the said tract above described  
to have and to hold the same together with all the rights  
privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatever  
nature there to belonging unto the said A. A. Hurd Mayor as aforesaid  
in trust as aforesaid and to his successors and assigns in trust  
as aforesaid

In testimony whereof, Ulysses S. Grant President of the United  
States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent and the seal  
of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed  
Given under my hand at the City of Washington this eighteenth day  
of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and  
seventy two and of the independence of the United States the thirty  
sixth By the President  
U. S. Grant  
Wm. S. Williamson Secretary  
General Land Office



BARTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS - 1930

Section Lines \_\_\_\_\_

Township Lines ++++++

School District Boundaries \_\_\_\_\_



## ILLUSTRATION VIII.

## TEACHERS DIRECTORY

## S T A T E T E A C H E R S I N T H E N E W K A N S A S

<u>No. Cert.</u>	<u>Name of Teacher</u>	<u>Post-Office Address</u>	<u>Grade of Certificate</u>	<u>Certificate Expires</u>
70	David J. Evans	Great Bend	State 3 years	July 21, 1880
79	L. G. A. Copley		State 5 years	Jan. 1, 1883
84	Oscar F. McKin	Wellington	State 5 years	Jan. 1, 1883
86	Emma V. Stewart	Wichita	State 5 years	Jan. 1, 1883
92	Jas. R. Bickerdyke	Great Bend	State 3 years	Jan. 1, 1884
95	Frank A. Norton	Newton	State 5 years	Jan. 1, 1882
98	Bernard B. Smyth	Great Bend	State 3 years	Jan. 1, 1882
99	G. G. Sampson	Great Bend	State 3 years	Jan. 1, 1882
102	J. R. Campbell	Hutchinson	State 3 years	Jan. 1, 1882

## COUNTY BOARD OF EXAMINERS

County Superintendent W. M. Chalfant, ex-officio.  
 B. B. Smyth, Term expires January 14, 1880.  
 Miss Nettie Dick, Term expires January 14, 1880.

## TEACHERS OF BARTON COUNTY

<u>Name of Teacher</u>	<u>Grade of Certificate</u>	<u>Certificate Expires</u>
Mrs. L. A. Collings	A 7	Sept. '80
Mrs. Anna A. Lewis	A 7	Sept. '80
W. S. Trent	A 7	Sept. '81
R. S. Davis	A 7	Sept. '81
Luella Miller	A 7	Sept. '81
Winfield L. Bay	I 15	Mar. '80
Grace M. Buckland	I 14	Apr. '80
Ella V. Hicks	I 10	May '80
Nettie Dick	I 7	Sept. '80
R. S. Rearick	I 7	Sept. '80
Geo. Hauser	I 7	Sept. '80
Isaac G. Seltzer	I 7	Sept. '80
Mary L. Rearick	I 7	Sept. '80
Carrie Thompson	I 7	Sept. '80
Laura Thompson	I 7	Sept. '80
Etta Long	I 7	Sept. '80
J. H. Lucky	I 7	Sept. '80
L. M. Jones	I 7	Sept. '80
Emma Mitchell	I 7	Sept. '80
A. McKinney	I 7	Sept. '80
John A. Blackburn	I 13	Oct. '80
Electra Grant	I 13	Oct. '80
Maggie Dawson	I 13	Oct. '80
J. G. Siebold	2 I	Mar. '80
John Bement	2 I	Mar. '80
Alice Mitchell	2 I	Mar. '80
A. S. Smith	2 I	Mar. '80
Mattie Lee	2 I	Mar. '80
Mary E. Johnson	2 I	Mar. '80
Lora Lewis	2 I	Mar. '80
Ella Lewis	2 I	Mar. '80
Liberty McKinney	2 I	Mar. '80
Mary McKinney	2 I	Mar. '80
Lutellus Baldwin	2 I	Mar. '80
Jeanette Names	2 I	Mar. '80
Jennie Flint	2 I	Mar. '80
Mrs. A. Bell	2 II	Apr. '80
G. W. McMasters	2 I	Apr. '80
Lizzie Smith	2 II	Apr. '80
J. S. Province	2 II	Apr. '80
W. H. Toomey	2 13	June '80
Geo. Cotton	2 13	June '80

## BARTON COUNTY POST OFFICES

<u>Town</u>	<u>Date P. O. Established</u>	<u>Date P. O. Discontinued</u>	
Albert	8-22-1887	-----	(from Bartholdi)
Alliance	5--3-1881	6-15-1895	(est. Barton Co. now in Ellsworth)
Bartholdi	2--3-1887	8-20-1887	(from Clarence to Albert)
Bartondale	11--4-1878	12-15-1891	(est. in Barton County)
Beaver	6-19-1919	-----	
Bloomington	9-19-1876	2-19-1883	
Bonewitz	5-15-1882	10--9-1884	
Boyd	7-27-1904	10-15-1937	(from Maheshville)
Buena Vista	7-27-1879	4-14-1887	(to Hoisington)
Brooklyn	11--9-1883	11-20-1887	
Cheyenne Bottoms	8-19-1875	8-10-1877	
Claflin	5-27-1887	-----	
Clarence	10-26-1874	2--3-1887	(to Bartholdi)
Deanville	4-23-1879	10-12-1881	(to Stafford County)
Dubuque	2-17-1879	4-30-1909	(to Russell County)
Dundee	10--3-1881	6-14-1902	
(re-established)	3-12-1915	10-15-1943	
Ellinwood	8--5-1872	-----	
Fort Atkinson	8--4-1855	6--5-1857	

Fort Zarah	4-28-1865	7-28-1886 (from Kiowa est. Marion County)
(re-established)	7-17-1868	7--7-1870
(re-established)	6-15-1871	7--6-1871 (to Zarah)
Galatia	6--3-1889	-----
Gere	5-29-1878	12-15-1881
Great Bend	7-31-1872	-----
Heizer	3-20-1891	5-15-1954 (from Heizer ton)
Heizerton	4--4-1887	3-20-1891 (to Heizer)
Hoisington	4-14-1887	-----
Kenilworth	7-27-1879	12-31-1898 (to Staffor County)
Kiowa	4--8-1864	4-28-1865 (to Fort Zarah)
Leoville	4-23-1880	6-17-1881 (to Nathan)
Lott	3-16-1880	5--9-1882
Maherville	6-23-1874	6-27-1904 (to Boyd)
Millard	7-24-1877	8-31-1906
Milwaukee	6-14-1878	10-27-1887 (to Staffor County)
Nathan	6-17-1881	2--9-1887 (to Leovill)
Odin	5-21-1877	2-14-1906
(re-established)	9--1-1950	-----
Olmitz	4-11-1881	-----
Pawnee Rock	8-28-1872	-----
Peace Creek	5-26-1876	7-31-1905 (to Staffor County)
Pride	3--7-1879	9-18-1883

Putnam	9-27-1878	4-27-1883	
Redwing	10--7-1892	10-15-1896	
(re-established)	8-18-1903	7-31-1955	
Roberts	1-15-1896	10-31-1906	(to Russell County)

---

Robert W. Baughman, Kansas Post Offices: May 29, 1828-  
August 3, 1961, (Wichita: McCormick-Armstrong Co., 1961), pp.  
160-161.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A. Books

- Admire, W. W. (ed.) Political and Legislative Handbook for Kansas. Topeka: George W. Crane & Co., 1891.
- Biographical History of Barton County, Kansas. Great Bend, Kansas: Great Bend Tribune, 1912.
- Bolton, Herbert E. Coronado: Knight of Pueblos and Plains. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1949.
- Chase, Julia A. Mary A. Bickerdyke, "Mother". Lawrence, Kansas: Journal Publishing House, 1896.
- Connelley, William E. A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1919.
- Cutler, William G. History of the State of Kansas. Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883.
- Day, Arthur Grove. Coronado's Quest: The Discovering of the Southwestern States. Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 1940.
- Fuller, Harlan M. and LeRoy R. Haffer (eds.). The Journal of Captain John R. Bell: Official Journalist for the Stephen H. Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, 1820. Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1957.
- Grinnell, George Bird. The Fighting Cheyennes. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1956.
- Inman, Colonel Henry. The Old Santa Fe Trail. Topeka: Crane and Company, 1908.
- James, Edwin. Account of an Expedition from Pittsburg to the Rocky Mountains. Volume II. Ann Arbor: Anniversary Microfilms, Inc., 1966.
- Jones, Paul A. Coronado and Quivira. Wichita, Kansas: McCormick Armstrong Company, 1937.
- Kansas Agriculture 52nd Report. Topeka: Board of Agriculture, 1968-1969.
- [Kansas Immig. Bureau] Kansas: Its History, Resources and Prospects. Wichita, Kansas: Eagle Printing House, 1890.

- Moorhead, Max L. (ed.). Commerce of the Prairie. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.
- Perkins, Margaret. Echoes of Pawnee Rock. Wichita, Kansas: Goldman-Wollard Pub. Co., 1908.
- Quaife, Milo Milton. (ed.). The Southwestern Expedition of Zebulon M. Pike. Chicago: R. R. Donnelley & Sons, 1925.
- Rath, Ida Ellen. The Rath Trail. Wichita: McCormick-Armstrong Comp., Inc., 1968.
- Smyth, Bernard Bryan. The Heart of the New Kansas. Great Bend Kansas: B. B. Smyth, Book and Job Printer, 1880.
- Webb, Walter Prescott. The Great Plains. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1931.
- Wilder, Daniel W. The Annals of Kansas: New Edition: 1541-1885. Topeka: T. Dwight Thacher, Kansas Pub. House, 1886.
- Wright, Robert. Dodge City: The Cowboy Capital and the Great Southwest. Wichita: Eagle Printing House, 1813.
- Zarnow, William Frank. Kansas: A History of the Jayhawk State. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1957.

#### OTHER PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS

- "A Pictorial History of Great Bend" (Great Bend: 1961), reprint of Material in "Great Bend City Directory."
- "Barton County Doctors" (Barton County Historical Society, Great Bend, Volume I, 1967).
- "Consummation: 1873-1924" (Great Bend: 1924). Prepared by the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Great Bend.
- Cooper, Tom E. "Early Day Barton County" (Barton County Historical Society, Great Bend, Volume I, Number II).
- Cooper, Tom E. "A Brief History of Zarah" (Barton County Historical Society, Great Bend, Volume I, Number II, 1966).
- "Facts About Great Bend, Kansas: The Fastest Growing City in the State" (Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 1962).

- Hammer, Lawrence C. "A History of Fort Zarah" (unpublished Master's thesis, Fort Hays State College, Hays, 1963).
- "History of Ellinwood" (Ellinwood Historical Committee, 1953).
- Hoover, Mearl S. "The Alien Contribution to the History of Barton County, Kansas" (unpublished Master's thesis, Fort Hays State College, Hays, 1930).
- Jones, Horace "Coronado Rides Again" (reprint from Hobbies) Kansas City, Missouri: University of Kansas City.
- "93 Year History: 1871-1964" (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Albert, Kansas)
- "Report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of Kansas for the year 1873" (Topeka: State Printing Works 1875).
- Rister, C. C. "Satanta: Orator of the Plains" reprinted from Southwestern Review (Dallas, 1931).
- Schultz, Ray S. "Allison's Ranch" (Kansas Anthropological Association, Volume XV, Number IV, 1969).
- "75th Anniversary: 1887-1962" (Baker Avenue Baptist Church of Great Bend, 1962).
- Sillins, Percy "History of the First Congregational Church: Great Bend, Kansas" (unpublished research paper, Fort Hays State College, Hays, 1961).
- Steele, Frank L. "Story of Stafford County" (unpublished research paper, St. John, Kansas, 1952-1953).
- Townsley, C. P. (ed.). "Barton County: Her Growth, People, Population, Towns, Business men and Etc." (Great Bend: Inland Tribune, 1879.)
- "The Irrigation Era" (Denver: Irrigation Era Publishing Comp., 1898).

#### C. NEWSPAPERS

- Barton County Clippings (compiled by the Kansas State Historical Society).
- Claflin Clarion, 1888-1947.



Ellinwood Leader, several isolated papers.

Great Bend Daily Tribune, May, 1961 and others.

Great Bend Register, many references in the 1880's.

Great Bend Tribune, (Anniversary Edition, 1936).

Great Bend Tribune, many references in the 1880's.

Inland Tribune, (Great Bend) references in the 1880's.

Kansas Clippings (compiled by the Great Bend Public Library.)

The Dodge City Globe, August 13, 1931.

Topeka Capital, March 13, 1924.

Twentieth Century Souvenir, compiled by the Ellinwood Leader, 190

#### D. PAMPHLETS

Hoisington Echo, late 1880's.

Arkansas Valley Democrat, 1870's-80's.

Catholic Advance.

#### E. INTERVIEW

Mrs. Lora Casey of Claflin, July 2, 1970.