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# HERITAGE OF THE GREAT PLAINS

## LIFE AND LORE OF THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

An Annotated Bibliography of the Flint Hills of Kansas

by James Hoy

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## PREFACE

This annotated bibliography of the Kansas Flint Hills (Volume XXIV) was compiled by Jim Hoy. It includes material from the Kansas State Historical Society, William Allen White Library at Emporia State University, the Spencer Collection and Watson Library at the University of Kansas, the Newberry Library (Chicago), the Farrell Library at Kansas State University, and local libraries and historical societies from counties within the Flint Hills region. Some of the material comes from Hoy's own studies of Flint Hills folklife over the last two decades. His systematic search for all bibliographic information related to the region, however, did not begin until 1986. That year he began to teach a summer course at Emporia State University called "Flint Hills Folklife." As Hoy put it, one major purpose of the class was:

. . . to teach students to seek out hard-to-find written sources [and then] . . . to get them into the field (more precisely into the pastures) and to encourage them to read the landscape and the people for clues about this distinctive culture.

Another large part of the material was gathered with the help of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 1989, which resulted in a preliminary selected bibliography entitled "The Essential Flint Hills." All other scholarly and popular references to the Flint Hills were collected by Hoy from 1989 to 1992.

Joseph V. Hickey

## INTRODUCTION

For the outsider the Flint Hills are easy enough to overlook. They have no imposing peaks, no sheer cliffs, no rugged canyons to ensnare the unwary eye. Many travelers have driven through them and never realized it, which is probably why the Kansas Turnpike used to have signs, one just past Emporia headed south, the other just before Cassoday headed north, that commanded: Enjoy Scenic Flint Hills. Similarly, for the native the Flint Hills are easy enough to take for granted: they've always been there and they always will be.

As an indigene myself I have no doubt been guilty of this apathy, but in recent years I have begun to look at the Hills with more care, whether speeding through them on the turnpike, driving the back roads, riding pastures horseback--or reading the literature. In 1986, the year I began teaching a course in Flint Hills folklife, I also started compiling a bibliography of materials related to the Hills. The core of this early collection was comprised of three articles: James Malin's "An Introduction to the History of the Bluestem-Pasture Region of Kansas," Walter Kollmorgen and David Simonett's "Grazing Operations in the Flint Hills-Bluestem Pastures of Chase County, Kansas," and Myra Lockwood Brown and John Bird's "They Don't Need Progress." The list grew slowly at first, for there is not a large body of either scholarly or popular literature dealing specifically with the Flint Hills. But then I broadened the scope to include scientific and technical articles as well as material that reflected, even briefly or tangentially, on all aspects of life within the region. The numbers shot up.

One problem in amassing written sources on life in the Flint Hills is that the Hills present no clear geographic demarcation--geologists define the area one way, cultural geographers another, agriculturalists yet another. The Osage Hills of Oklahoma, for instance, are geologically part of the Flint Hills, yet settlement and land ownership patterns in the two states caused land use in the two regions to vary: one finds more large ranches with cowherds in the Osage, more transient grazing overseen by pasturemen in the Flint Hills. The bibliography, therefore, contains a few items on the Osage Hills but does not strive for inclusiveness there, as it does with the Flint Hills.

In general I have tried to include material relating to what the USDA refers to as the Bluestem Grazing Region, an area where a significant portion of the agricultural economy is devoted to seasonal grazing of transient cattle and where controlled pasture burning has been a traditional practice. In Kansas this area includes three counties--Osage, Coffey, and Woodson--that lie to the east of the counties that contain the geologic Flint Hills--Marshall, Pottawatomie, Riley, Geary, Wabaunsee, Morris, Lyon, Marion, Chase, Butler, Greenwood, Elk, Chautauqua, and Cowley. Of these, only Chase County lies wholly within the confines of the Flint Hills. Some people would also include parts of Clay, Dickinson, and Washington within what is sometimes called the Flint Hills Upland.

I have subdivided the materials included in this index into twenty-nine topics, all of which tend to fall into two major categories, social history and

natural history. Topics included under the social history category cover the range of human endeavor in the Flint Hills--archaeology, exploration, settlement, folklife, recreation and the arts, and travel. Under the latter heading are found geological and biological topics, although materials dealing with grassland management sometimes branch over into social history as well. The subject headings should serve the function of an index to readers interested in particular topics, although there can be considerable crossover within categories. I have attempted to indicate appropriate cross references. Annotations within brackets reflect my own opinions.

One important unpublished resource that cannot fit neatly into any one of the categories of this bibliography is the Flint Hills Oral History Project, begun in the early 1970s by Loren Pennington, history professor at Emporia State University. At this point some one hundred persons have been taped, and approximately seventy of these tapes have been transcribed. Tapes and transcripts are kept at the Lyon County Historical Museum, with some transcripts also on file at the William Allen White Library at Emporia State University and at the Kansas State Historical Society Center for Historical Research in Topeka. Subjects of the interviews cover a wide range of occupations, including farmers and ranchers, school teachers, journalists, and home makers. They also represent major ethnic groups of the central Flint Hills, including Mexican-Americans and African-Americans.

It is impossible to thank individually all the many persons--students, librarians, archivists, colleagues, ordinary citizens--who have contributed to this project, but during the past several years I have enjoyed the able assistance of three graduate research assistants whose unstinting efforts deserve specific recognition: Jim Hewitt, Karen Rupp, and Mike Marchand.

## PART I, SOCIAL HISTORY



Cattle Stockyard--Alma Branch--of the AT&SF Railroad. c. 1943

*Courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.*

### LIFE IN THE FLINT HILLS: AN OVERVIEW

Each geographical region has its own distinctive folklife. In the Flint Hills one can see the effect that the tallgrass prairie has had on human beings, just as one can see the effect of human enterprise on the environment. The social life of the countryside, the villages, and the towns has been influenced by the economic necessities imposed by grass, farmland, oil, and water, while the landscape now contains more than just grass and streams--roads, utility lines, trees, ponds, fences, and buildings of all sorts.

Flint Hills denizens share much with other regions--occupations, communication systems, technology, popular culture--but each has been filtered through the special requirements that the tallgrass prairie has imposed on those who live, or have lived, here. The rhythms of life, in other words, although influenced by the outside world have nevertheless retained the tincture of land and cattle and grass. Most of the articles that follow reflect in one way or another the nature of this distinctive environment.

"Bluestem and Cattle: A Winning Team," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1970), pp. 12-13.

This brief description of the history and lifestyle of the Flint Hills ends with a quotation from Rolla Clymer on their charm and beauty.

**Brown, Myra Lockwood.** "Kansas' Ancient Flint Hills," *Dodge News Magazine*, March 1965, pp. 6-8.

This is an excellent overview of the Flint Hills at the tail end of the railroad era (c. 1890-1965, preceded by the open-range era, c. 1855-1890, and succeeded by the trucking era, c. 1965 to the present). The author, in smooth, readable prose, covers the history of the Flint Hills and includes many details of life there--the homemade pie at Opal Green's cafe in Cassoday, the pioneer story of the Norton family at Bazaar, an anecdote about Harvard-educated Jack Ferrell of Beaumont having to buy a pair of shoes for his wedding (his bride wanted him to wear something other than his customary cowboy boots). How well did the Texas-Kansas connection work in the Flint Hills? Consider the telephone-haggling over the sale price of some registered cows between a Texas buyer and a Flint Hills seller. When they got within \$500 of each other, the Texan suggested that the Kansan flip a coin. The ring of the coin carried over the telephone line, followed by the Flint Hills rancher's voice saying that it was tails, he had lost, and the Texan could pick up the cows at his price. The thought of cheating did not occur to either man.

**Brown, Myra Lockwood and John Bird.** "They Don't Need Progress," *The Saturday Evening Post*. 2 November 1957, pp. 38-39, 83-86.

Because of the broad readership and popularity of the magazine in which it was published, this article is one of the most influential pieces of journalism ever written about the Flint Hills. Accessible to a general reader, it presents a thorough and sympathetic (but objective) overview of the special features of life in the Flint Hills: the pasture business, the role of the "pasture man," oil, rodeo, the small towns (but nothing on pasture burning). Vignettes of a number of well-known residents, along with half a dozen color photographs, add human interest to the accurate presentation of the distinctive way of life to be found in the Flint Hills.

**Clark, Penny.** "Saturday Night in Alta Vista," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 17, no. 3 (1985), pp. 17-26.

From 1889 through the 1950s Alta Vista was a trading center in its area of the Flint Hills. This article, based largely on interviews, documents the folklife associated with (and the decline of) Saturday night, the usual time for farmers and ranchers to drive into town to buy supplies and sell produce.

**Ellis, Randy and Sandi Fournet.** *The Flint Hills of Kansas*. Manhattan: Kansas State University Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, 1976.

Produced as a class project in magazine-writing, this collection includes attractive photographs and articles on a variety of topics--music, entertainment, arts and crafts, history and economics, flora and fauna, land usage. Although lacking depth, many of the articles are useful, particularly the ones on stone work. Abilene and Hillsboro, however, lie outside the Flint Hills.

Fisher, John. "The Bluestem Hills-'Peace on Earth,'" *Thirty-sixth Biennial Report, Kansas State Board of Agriculture*, 41 (1947-48), pp. 20-24.

Reprinted from the *Kansas City Times* of 5 July 1948, this contemplative essay recounts a ride by an old man (from Bazaar) on a slow mare through the Flint Hills. As he ponders (the Hills tend to do that to the unhurried observer), he describes the soil and grass and history, comments on the cattle he sees (ranging from blooded Herefords to multi-colored Mexican steers), and deplors the plowed land ("insulted by man's bad farming practices") that is slowly returning to grass. He observes that, within memory of the oldest residents, only in 1938 was there a major seed year for bluestem. He credits the Indian with caring for the land, but he is wrong in stating that they did not burn the prairies.

Horn, Paul. "The Flint Hills," *The Hereford Journal*, 41 (15 May 1950), pp. 10-11, 78.

Written during the era when sometimes more cattle changed hands in the lobby of the Broadway Hotel in Emporia than in the Kansas City Stockyards, this article gives a concise, insightful look into the transient grazing industry of the Flint Hills. The author recounts a tour of pastures from Bazaar to Cassoday with an official of the Producers and Texas Livestock Marketing Association, discusses the duties of the "pasture man," and talks about the pros and cons of pasture burning.

Horn, Paul. "Sending Steers to Kansas Grass," *The Cattleman*, 59, No. 3 (August 1972), pp. 51-53, 62,64.

"It was a great day when Texans discovered what the Flint Hills could do for big, brush country cattle," says the author in this excellent summary of the Texas-Flint Hills cattle relationship. Although Texas steers had grazed here since trail-driving days, the big influx occurred in the 1920s after the fever-tick problem had been alleviated. Big steers, four and five years old, could sometimes double their weight on the bluestem grasses of Kansas and the Osage Hills in Oklahoma before being sent on to market in Kansas City or St. Joe. By the 1960s, however, public tastes had switched to younger, grain-fed beef, so the bluestem region switched to cow herds and yearlings. As late as 1972, however, there was still one Texan (88 years old) who had managed to find enough aged steers to operate at least one more season in the old-fashioned way. Especially valuable is the inclusion of many names (and some photographs) of Texas cattlemen and Kansas pasture men involved in the trade.

Howes, Charles C. *This Place Called Kansas*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952.

The Flint Hills (called here the Blue Stem Hills) are featured prominently in chapter 22, "The Grass Grows Green." The author divides the state according to its three major grasses (blue grass in the east, bluestem in the center, and buffalo grass in the west). He notes the extent of the Flint Hills and their special use as pasture for cattle. Included are references to writings by

journalists William Allen White and Rolla Clymer and to cattleman W.J. Tod of Maple Hill (and Texas and New Mexico), who specified in his will that the bluestem pastures of his estate not be plowed or overstocked.

**Howes, Charles C.** "Chisholm Trail--1949 Model," *Kansas Teacher*, 57, No. 9 (May 1949), pp. 46-48.

This article provides an excellent description of the geography, geology, history, agriculture, pasturing practices, and flora and fauna of the 5,000,000 acres of tallgrass in the Flint Hills and Osage Hills. Steers so poor on arrival that "they have to stand twice in the same spot to make a shadow" will sometimes more than double their weight within a few months. He notes that these phenomenal weight gains are the result of the limestone underlying the bluestem grasses, which is picked up and converted to calcium so that the bone structure of the steer increases and can thus hold more meat.

**Hoy, James F.** "The Flint Hills," *The Emporia Journal*, 2, No. 10 (August, 1991), pp. 6-7.

This brief summary touches on some of the major features of the cattle business in the Flint Hills: the pasturing of transient cattle, pasture burning, cattle shipping, and rodeo.

**McCormally, John.** "Bluestem," *Kansas Magazine*, (1949), pp. 47- 49.

This tribute to Kansas grass by an eminent native-son journalist speculates on the origin of pasturing Texas cattle in Flint Hills pastures and comments on the pasture business. The writing has good detail and captures local color effectively.

**Roe, Jon.** "The Flint Hills," Wichita: Eagle-Beacon Publishing Company, 25 July 1968.

Originally published as a series of newspaper specials, this 20 page pamphlet chronicles three days the author and artist Frederic James spent roaming the Flint Hills, talking to ranchers such as Wayne Rogler of Matfield Green, J.J. Moxley of Council Grove, Jack Ferrell of Beaumont, and Bill House of Cedarvale. Readable and informative, the profiles capture the spirit of place that grips Flint Hills dwellers.

**Wilson, Anne Browning, ed.** *Flint Hills Folklife*. Madison, Kansas: Madison High School, Spring 1985.

The useful material in this 64 page pamphlet of local history, lore, and photographs was collected by students in Wilson's English class.

## RANCHING AND FARMING IN THE FLINT HILLS

One of the distinctive features of Flint Hills ranching is the practice of pasturing transient cattle, of bringing in stocker steers or heifers for the summer grazing season, then sending them on to the feedlot. The articles in this section consider both technical and folk attributes of Flint Hills agriculture. See also the sections on Material Culture and on Ranchers and Farmers.



Heading Kaffir

*Courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.*

Anderson, Kling L. "Kansas Range Grasslands," *Kansas Farmer*, 18 November 1962, pp. 4-5.

This general survey tracing the use of Kansas rangeland all the way back to 1541 includes several references to the Flint Hills, which, the author notes, attained full usage by Texas cattlemen in the 1880s. Much of the article deals with proper range management, including intentional burning, which Anderson sees as an equivocal good.

Beshore, George. "Brood Cows in the Blue Stem Country," *Western Livestock*, 45, No. 10 (June 1960), pp. 21-22.

This article deals specifically with the Osage country of Oklahoma, which, like the Flint Hills, had been used for fattening aged Texas steers until changes in consumer taste and Texas cattle-raising practices effected a change. The change in Oklahoma was to go almost exclusively to cow herds. The article includes photographs and interviews with ranchers Mike Friend and Ben Culver.

Beshore, George. "Clouds over the Flint Hills," *Western Livestock*, 45, No. 11 (July 1960), pp. 12, 14, 16.

The author interviews Flint Hills ranchers Wayne Rogler of Matfield Green and Clint Squier of Beaumont concerning the change in grazing patterns, now that the aged Texas steer is no longer available for summer pasturing. Rogler foresees a movement to yearlings, whereas Squier (whose grandfather, back in the 1880s, was one of the first to contract to look after Texas steers) predicts more cow herds. [In a sense both were accurate: Chase County today is still primarily summer pasture country for yearling steers and heifers, whereas the southern Flint Hills have more cow herds.] One of the illustrations is of Rogler pasture contracts from the 1950s. The author observes that absentee owners control over 90% of the grazing land in the Flint Hills, and that it is more expensive than land in the Osage Hills.

"Bluestem Pasture Reports," Kansas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Topeka.

Over the years this branch of the state board of agriculture has periodically issued reports on grazing conditions, pasture availability, leasing rates, and other information pertinent to the cattle industry within the Bluestem Grazing Region.

Carey, James C. "Grass in the Flint Hills and Osage County," *Rangelands*, 2 (1980), pp. 181-184.

The author presents a short but sensitive history and travelogue of the Bluestem Grazing Region of Kansas and Oklahoma. He includes the observations of writers such as John J. Ingalls and Dan D. Casement and photographs of Chase County ranches and landmarks.

Clawson, Marion. *The Western Range Livestock Industry*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950.

Chapters 13 and 15, dealing with types of ranches, contain information on the Flint Hills and the practice of transient grazing during a summer pasture season. The author's comment that most Flint Hills ranches are small (160-320 acres) overlooks the fact that much grazing in the Flint Hills is overseen by custom graziers who lease large acreages of pasture.

"Flint Hills Herds Convert Bluestem Into 187,500,000 Pounds of Choice Steaks," *Wichita Magazine*, 21 (November 16, 1944), p. 11.

The role of "pasturemen" is described in this brief history of the grazing industry of the Flint Hills, which asserts that the Hills have been used for summer pasture for Texas steers since 1867. The underlying limestone is noted as the key to the nutritiousness of the native grasses, but it is not true that the Flint Hills were once a mountain range worn down by erosion.

**Generalized Types of Farming in the United States.** Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 3 (Feb. 1950), Wushington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1950.

A short section dealing with range livestock regions contains information about the Osage-Flint Hills.

**Haystead, L. and G.C. Fite.** *The Agricultural Regions of the United States.* Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1955.

This national overview contains favorable mention of the bluestem pastures in the Flint Hills and the Osage Hills.

**Hickey, Joseph V.** "The Social Impact of the Transient Grazing Industry: The Thurman Example," *Kansas History*, 11, no. 3 (Autumn 1988), pp. 201-213.

The author, an anthropologist, describes the social history of Thurman, a social unit he calls a "post-office settlement." In a reversal of the normal pattern in the American West, cattlemen replaced farmers in the Thurman area, which lies southeast of Matfield Green in Chase County.

**Hickey, Joseph V. and Charles E. Webb.** "The Transition from Farming to Ranching in the Kansas Flint Hills," *Great Plains Quarterly*, 7 (Fall 1987), pp. 244-255.

The general pattern in the settlement of the plains was that cattlemen replaced Indians and were in turn replaced by farmers. Many small farmers settled the Flint Hills in the early days, but for various reasons--cultural, political, economic, technological--they were replaced by cattlemen. The authors' contention that cattlemen have intentionally (if subconsciously) maintained the myth that the rockiness of the land itself mandated stock raising (rather than their having forced farmers out) is debatable, but their examination of two Chase County communities, Elk and Thurman, is thorough and instructive.

**Hilton, H.F.** "The Bluestem Limestone Pastures of Kansas," in *Twenty-Sixth Biennial Report, 1927-28.* Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1929.

The author, who ran a cattle ranch in Chase County during the 1880s, makes some interesting observations about grazing practices, fencing, alfalfa farming, rocks, climate, and the future of the cattle industry in the Flint Hills. He also suggests re-naming them with what he considers a more accurate title: the Bluestem-Limestone Pastures of Kansas.

**Hoy, James F.** "Rocky Mountain Oysters," *KS. Magazine*, (Fall 1984), pp. 20-23.

Andy Olson on his ranch south of Council Grove each spring works his Angus calves in the old fashioned way: the cattle are rounded up into pens, the cows sorted off, then ropers drag calves one at a time to two ground crews for branding, earmarking, inoculation, and castration.

**Hoy, James F.** "Studying Flint Hills Folklife," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 22, No. 2 (Spring 1989), pp. 1-2.

In this class on Flint Hills Folklife, which utilizes traditional library and archival study as well as field trips to farms and ranches, natural history preserves, and museums, students learn about the distinctive historical and contemporary lifestyle of the Flint Hills--ranching, farming, oil field culture, and small town life.

**Hoy, James F.** "Waiting for a Train," *KS. Magazine*, (September 1985), pp. 34-35, 41.

Shipping cattle by train was a major component of Flint Hills ranching folklife from the late 1800s to the mid-1960s. This essay details some cattle-shipping experiences from the Cassoday stockyards: arriving in the pasture before dawn, rounding up cattle, cutting out fat ones to drive to town, sorting and weighing in the yards, and loading onto trains.

**Isern, Thomas D.** "Farmers, Ranchers, and Stockmen of the Flint Hills," *Western Historical Quarterly*, 16, No. 3 (July, 1985), pp. 253-264.

Similar to but less sweeping in its approach than the seminal Kollmorgen and Simonett article (q.v. below), this survey analyzes the influences of geography, technology, and cultural assumptions and influences on the agricultural history of the Flint Hills.

**Isern, Thomas D.** "Farming in the Flint Hills: A Photographic Essay," *Kansas History*, 6, No. 4 (Winter 1983-1984), pp. 221-236.

These 20 photographs document Flint Hills agriculture, chiefly farming, from 1920 to 1945. Included are creep feeders, farrowing crates, hopperdozers, chinch bug barriers, and cattle sprayers.

**"Kansas Custom Grazing Directory."** Kansas Livestock Association, Topeka.

In 1987, 1988, and 1989 the KLA issued custom grazing directories. Nearly all the summer graziers were located in the Flint Hills, illustrating the special nature of ranching in this area.

**Kollmorgen, Walter M. and David S. Simonett.** "Grazing Operations in the Flint Hills-Bluestem Pastures of Chase County, Kansas," *Association of American Geographers Annals*, 55, No. 2 (June 1965), pp. 260-290.

Accompanied by a number of photographs, maps, tables, and charts, this thorough (and thoroughly documented) analysis of the grazing industry of Chase County is representative, to one degree or another, of the pasture business throughout the Flint Hills, including the Osage Hills of Oklahoma. The authors give full consideration to such things as types of soils, types of grasses, the history of transient grazing, land-ownership patterns, cropland/pasture ratio, types of ranching operations (manager pasture man, owner-lease pasture man, lease pasture man, and owner/owner-lease rancher), types of cattle and cattle

operations, and pasture burning. This is one of the most important articles about the Flint Hills.

**Lineoln, John.** *Rich Grass and Sweet Water: Ranch Life with the Koch Matador Cattle Company.* College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1989.

This uncritical but valuable account of the contemporary operations of the Koch Matador Cattle Company, which has vast holdings in several western states including the Spring Creek Ranch in Greenwood County, contains a number of positive references to the Flint Hills. Three Flint Hills cowboys, the Cross brothers, progressed from looking after pasture cattle in Chase County to the rodeo arena to becoming highly successful ranch managers for Koch Matador. The Flint Hills are often overlooked even by those knowledgeable about the cattle industry; this book, by contrast, gives the Hills their due.

**Malin, James C.** *History and Ecology: Studies of the Grassland.* Robert P. Swierenga, ed. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984.

This posthumous collection of Malin's essays includes "An Introduction to the History of the Bluestem-Pasture Region of Kansas" (see the following item), as well as several other references to the Flint Hills.

**Malin, James C.** "An Introduction to the History of the Bluestem-Pasture Region of Kansas," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 11, No. 1 (February, 1942), pp. 3-28.

This seminal scholarly article documents the history of the transient grazing industry in the bluestem-pasture region of Kansas (an area more extensive than the Flint Hills proper), with special emphasis on the distinctive feature of the use of the region as a "maturing ground" for cattle. The survey begins with the earliest accounts of stock raising at Council Grove and the mission at St. Marys in the 1840s and deals thoroughly with the origins and practice of contract grazing in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Malin concludes by noting the national economic and historical importance of the bluestem region and also its obscurity in the national consciousness.

**Mead, J. R.** "The Flint Hills of Kansas," *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, 17 (1901), pp. 207-208.

The author limits his definition of the Flint Hills to that area from Chase County south to Oklahoma. This brief synopsis focuses on their economic value, which is to provide summer pasture for cattle and sheep.

**Mohler, J.C.** *Beef Cattle in Kansas.* Topeka: Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 1935.

At the time this quarterly report for September, 1934, was written, half of Kansas was used for pasture. This thorough survey has no special section on the Flint Hills, but the area does receive attention here and there throughout.

**Montgomery, George.** "The Bluestem Is Going to Cow-and-Calf," *National Livestock Producer*, April 1961, pp. 9, 32, 39.

Written about the time that yearlings were replacing aged steers in summer pastures in the Flint Hills and about the time that trucks were replacing trains for transporting cattle, this article combines a brief history of grazing in the bluestem region (including the Osage country of Oklahoma) with the observation that cow herds are replacing summer steer-grazing operations. Cow-calf numbers in the Flint Hills increase and decrease in response to a number of variables, but the major usage remains transient grazing. Included are extended quotations from old-time cattlemen such as Ernest L. Smith of the Kansas City stockyards, Merle W. Converse of Wabaunsee County, and E.T. Anderson of Emporia.

**Morse, Theodore W.** "In the Flint Hills of Kansas," in the *Twenty-Fourth Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture, Kansas*, ed. J.C. Mohler, Topeka: 1924, pp. 171-175.

This brief but informative survey of the heart of Flint Hills cattle country contains information on area, numbers grazed, carrying capacity, shipping points, pasture rents, and land values. The author notes 1913-14 as the years that graziers began to allow proper acreage per head of livestock.

**Orazem, Frank.** "Research Note: The Impact of Economic Change in the Flint Hills," Lawrence, KS: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, No. 86-390-J, 1987, pp. 22-24.

For most of their history, at least some Flint Hills counties have derived the majority of their income from agriculture; as of the late 1980s none do. Thus, although the bluestem pastures will continue to be a major part of the economy, they no longer dominate. The author believes that the new diversified economy will be good for the region.

**Pine, Wilfred H.** "Leasing Flint Hills Range in Kansas," Bulletin 618, Kansas State University Agriculture Experiment Station, 1978.

The author reports on a 1977 study (a questionnaire mailed to 210 respondents in six counties) undertaken to learn more about leasing arrangements in the Flint Hills: parties involved, number and weight of cattle grazed, periods of grazing, pasture conditions, rental rates. Map included.

**Schaffner, John H.** *Observations on the Grasslands of the Central United States*. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 1926.

This technical (but readable) monograph on the relation of agriculture, domestic and feral animals, and fire on the condition of both prairie and plains does not mention the Flint Hills by name, but the author's observations include Chase County and, more extensively (with photographs), the tallgrass pastures of Clay County. Schaffner lived in Kansas as early as 1871 and experienced drouth, grasshoppers, and prairie fires. He also herded cattle for seven years.

One of his more provocative statements is that there were never more than fifteen million bison, far less than that at the time of the great slaughter.

**Schruben, Francis W.** "The Kansas Beef Industry," *Kanhistique*, 8, No. 9 (January 1983), pp. 10-13.

This article, which contains information about Robert Hazlett of El Dorado and Joseph Mercer of Cottonwood Falls, is drawn from Charles Wood's book of the same title.

**Shortridge, James R.** "Prairie Hay in Woodson County, Kansas," *Geographical Review*, 63, No. 4 (1973), pp. 533-52.

Yates Center, seat of Woodson County, which lies within the Bluestem Grazing Region, calls itself the Hay Capital of the World. This article discusses the reasons that native prairie hay was and continues to be an important crop for this region.

**Skeen, Lydia Andres.** *The History of the Cattle Industry of the Flint Hills of Kansas.* Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science Masters Thesis, 1931.

This thesis attempts to trace the practice of grazing cattle in the Flint Hills from the close of the Civil War to 1930, from the open range cattle drives through the establishment of the herd law and the building of railroads, from the replacement of longhorns with British breeds to the establishment of purebred herds. Although not as fully developed (especially in terms of interviews with cattlemen) as one might wish, this is an accurate and useful study.

**Thierer, Joyce.** "Kafir Culture in Wabaunsee County, Kansas, 1920-1939," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 21, No. 3 (Summer 1988), pp. 11-18.

Kafir corn, a grain sorghum raised in the plains states before the development of milo, was especially popular in the Flint Hills; Kansas was the leading producer and Butler County consistently led the state in both acreage and bushels. This article examines in detail the folklife associated with raising kafir corn and its use on the stock farms of the Flint Hills.

**Weeks, Mark D.** "From Hopperdozers to DDT: Agricultural Insects in Butler County, Kansas," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 21, No. 3 (Summer 1988), pp. 19-25.

Neither the agricultural pests discussed in this article (grasshoppers, chinch bugs, cutworms, and cattle warbles) nor the methods of combating them are unique to the Flint Hills, but these insects are and have been major problems in the tallgrass region. This survey of information from Butler County is thus applicable to other counties in the Flint Hills.

**Wibking, Robert Kenton.** *Geography of the Cattle Industry in the Flint Hills of Kansas.* University of Nebraska Ph.D. Dissertation, 1963.

This dissertation, well illustrated with photographs and charts, provides a valuable overview of the Flint Hills as cattle country: geological and natural features, history, land use, types and numbers of cattle, types of ranching and farming operations, and marketing.

**Wilcox, R.H., W.E. Grimes, Morris Evans, and H.J. Henney,** "Factors in the Cost of Producing Beef in the Flint Hills Section of Kansas," *USDA Bulletin A1.3:1454*, November 1926.

Based on a study conducted in Chase County during the time that the aged Texas steer was the chief consumer of Flint Hills grass, this bulletin describes thoroughly and in easily comprehensible fashion the characteristics of Flint Hills pastures, general market and climatic conditions during the study, the types of cattle grazed, leasing arrangements, expenses involved, weight gains, and other technical information about the pasture business in the early 1920s. According to the authors, Texas steers began to move through the Flint Hills in the trail-driving days of the late 1860s. At the time of this study, most of the cattle being pastured in the Flint Hills were from the Texas Panhandle, followed by those from central Texas and the Gulf coast.

**Wilds, Stanley R.** *An Analysis of Land Ownership and Range Management Practices in the Northern Flint Hills.* Kansas State University Masters Thesis, 1986.

This thesis studies the history of settlement in Wabaunsee County and the way in which land ownership has affected land use, particularly absentee ownership. The author also studies the practice of pasture burning and provides a brief history of experiments in burning, stocking rates, and deferred grazing. The focus of the study is the role of the private land owner in managing the rangelands of the northern Flint Hills.

**Wood, Charles L.** "Cattlemen, Railroads, and the Origin of the Kansas Livestock Association: the 1890's," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*. 43, No. 2 (1977), pp. 121-139.

The response of several Flint Hills cattlemen to various actions of the railroads proved to be one of the major factors in the formation of the state's leading association of livestock producers.

**Wood, Charles L.** *The Kansas Beef Industry.* Lawrence: The Regents Press of Kansas, 1980.

The most thorough single volume on the history of the cattle industry in Kansas, this book includes much information about the Flint Hills and such influential breeders as Robert Hazlett of El Dorado. The perspective is on the economics and technicalities of the beef industry, not on the history of ranching or the working cowboy.

Wright, Jerry. "Flint Hills Gatherin'," *Western Horseman*, May 1992, pp. 10-12, 16.

This article, beautifully illustrated with color photographs by Edye Wright, relates the author's experiences in helping to ship cattle from the historic Z-Bar Ranch during the summer of 1991. The author, a working cowboy, describes the practice of transient grazing, the terrain, and the typical equipment and horses of a Flint Hills cowboy.

## FLINT HILLS RANCHERS AND FARMERS

One of the distinctive features of Flint Hills agriculture is the mix of farmers and ranchers. Nearly all farmers in the Flint Hills also raise livestock, while nearly all ranchers in the region will also raise crops--hay, oats, milo, corn or grain sorghum for ensilage. As a result the term "farmer-stockman" arose fairly early in Flint Hills usage. See also the section on Memoirs and Personal Histories.

Casey, James C. "William Allen White and Dan D. Casement on Government Regulations," *Agricultural History*, 33, No. 1 (1959), pp. 16-21.

Although not specifically about the Flint Hills, this debate (White favored New Deal programs; Casement was a strong advocate of self-reliance), carried on by two of the most articulate voices to come from the Hills, deals with a dilemma that continues to trouble residents here (the Prairie Park controversy).

Criley, A. Elmer. "Brant Brothers Ranch, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas," *Old Farm Magazine* 2, No. 4 (February 1990), pp. 9-11.

During the fall and winter of 1930, Elmer Criley was hired by the Letz Company to demonstrate the use of a new hammermill designed to produce a mixed feed of grain and roughage from sorgho. In describing the experiment, involving nearly 1500 yearling steers, he also provides some insights into the operation of a typical Flint Hills stock ranch with its combination of cattle and grain.

Dary, Duvid. "Dan Casement--A Unique Kansan," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 3 (July 1977), pp. 1, 5.

Dan Casement, one of the country's most influential breeders of Herefords and quarter horses, had his headquarters at Juniata Farm in the Flint Hills north of Manhattan. He was named to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1958, five years after his death.

Fry, Timothy S. "The Old Read Place," *Kanhistique*, April 1987, pp. 8-10.

In 1862 John B. Moore filed a claim on a quarter section some three miles east of Strong City in Chase County. John Read bought the farm in 1908, but it was abandoned in the early 1950s as his family died out. This article,

illustrated with photographs, describes both the physical property and the way of life on a Flint Hills farm in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Kenyon, Sevie.** "Cattleman's Heritage Tied to Flint Hills," *Kansas Farmer*, 17 August 1985, pp. 4-5.

Charles Rogler walked to Chase County from Iowa in 1859, beginning an association with the Flint Hills that is carried on today by his grandson, Wayne, born in 1905. This article provides not only a brief history of the Rogler family but also of the pasture business.

**Niles, Anita G.** "Prairie Women," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1989), pp. 30-31

Although she is a native of Chase County, Jane Rogler is not a typical rancher; she uses an all-cowgirl crew to help operate her Homestead Ranch near Matfield Green. She also welcomes women visitors from all over the country to come stay on the ranch, help with the work, and learn about the Flint Hills.

**Ornduff, Donald R.** *Casement of Juniata*. Introduction by J. Evetts Haley. Kansas City: The Lowell Press, 1975.

The author, long-time editor of the *American Hereford Journal*, is well qualified to write this biographical tribute to one of the nation's foremost feeders and breeders of Hereford cattle. Casement was a range aristocrat-democrat, a wealthy stockman (and Princeton graduate) who learned in the 1890s how to be a working cowboy on his father's (later his own) Unaweeep Ranch on Colorado's Western Slope. Casement's Kansas ranch, to which he devoted himself from the mid-teens until his death in 1953, was called Juniata Farm, located in the valley of the Blue River a few miles north of Manhattan. In addition to crop farming, he maintained over 2,000 acres of pasture in what he called the Bluestem Hills, where he raised registered and commercial Herefords and registered quarter horses.

**Sanders, Alvin Howard.** "Hazlett and His Herefords," *Country Gentleman*, 94 (June 1929), pp. 12ff.

Robert Hazlett of Hazford Place, a 5,000 acre ranch near El Dorado, was renowned for his Hereford cattle, considered to be the best large collection of the breed in the world. Born in 1847, he brought his first Hereford to El Dorado in 1898 and traveled to England, among many other places, to seek out the best examples of the breed. He was particularly noted for his line-breeding program. The author calls the Flint Hills (humorously?) an "apparent extension of the Ozarks."

**Socolofsky, Homer.** "Landlord Wm. Scully," *Kanhistique*, 5, No. 10 (February 1980), pp. 1, 5.

Irishman William Scully was determined to become "America's greatest farmer," and by 1900 he owned 224,738 acres in four states. His Kansas holdings, over 71,000 acres, were in Dickinson, Marion, Butler, and Marshall counties. As

of 1980 most of Scully's American farm land (he died in 1906) was owned by his descendants, an estate worth over \$400,000,000.

## FLINT HILLS COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS

The distinctive practice of pasturing transient cattle in the Flint Hills has produced, over the years, not only countless tons of beef but an equally uncountable number of top cowhands, both male and female. As in the rest of the American West, most of these good hands have labored in obscurity, with no one to record their deeds. One might note that of the eight world champion rodeo cowboys from Kansas five have lived in the Bluestem Grazing Region, and that the first two all-around cowboys chosen at the Kansas Championship Ranch Rodeo were natives of the Flint Hills. Additional articles about notable Kansas cowhands are included in the sections on ethnicity and rodeo.

**Baldwin, W.W.** "Driving Cattle from Texas to Iowa, 1866," *Annals of Iowa*, 14 (1924), pp. 243-262.

In 1866 George Duffield of Keosauqua and Harvey Ray of Burlington, Iowa, traveled to Texas and bought cattle, then drove them back to Iowa. Duffield's diary preserves for us some of the details and the hardships of that drive. Part of their route included the Osage Hills in Indian Territory, which are described as "a high Mountainous Prairie with Lovely vallies & very fine grass . . . rough & Rocky." When they cross into Kansas, they travel up the Walnut and Whitewater Rivers, west of the rougher Flint Hills region. They see antelope as they cross the Cottonwood and camp near Lost Springs, then follow the Santa Fe Trail through Diamond Springs and Council Grove. At that point they angle northeast along Mill Creek and thence through Pottawatomie County before leaving the Flint Hills.

**Berman, Phyllis and Dana Wechsler.** "Bill Haw's Cowhand," *Forbes Magazine*, 5 September 1988, p. 48.

This brief profile of cowgirl Bobbie Kinsey Hammond competently encapsulates the role of the custom grazier in the Flint Hills. Her grandfather worked in the pastures she now runs, with the help of her son and grandchildren.

**Burke, Bill.** "The Lady Horseshoer," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 8 (December 1977), p. 13.

The Flint Hills has been home to a number of competent cowgirls, both ranch and rodeo. This article describes Rosalie Clymer, a school teacher, cowgirl, and farrier from Council Grove.



Marge Roberts winning bronc riding contest, 1941.

*Courtesy of E. C. Roberts*

**Dary, David.** *Cowboy Culture: A Saga of Five Centuries*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982.

Dary uses his native Flint Hills (he was reared in Manhattan) as the emblematic setting for the beginning of this encyclopedic study of the cowboy.

**Hanson, Edward W., ed.** "A Boston Cowboy in Kansas, 1872: The Journal of William Pit Greenwood Hayward," *Kansas History*, 6, No. 3 (1983), pp. 181-194.

This cattle drive, east to west from near Fort Scott to the gold fields of Colorado, crossed the heart of the Flint Hills, through western Greenwood and eastern Butler counties, at the peak of pasture season. Remarkably, the author made no comment whatever about his surroundings during the seven days (beginning 5 July) spent crossing the Hills, although the trail boss was obviously allowing the cattle to fatten on the grass as they moved slowly across.

**Harsh, Marie.** *The Tales of Turk*. Marion, Kansas: *Marion County Record*, 1978.

Old-time cowboy Ray "Turk" Harsh was a raconteur and a repository of the local lore of Cassoday, Matfield Green, and the central Flint Hills. His wife has gathered some of his best stories in a collection one wishes were much longer.

**Hoy, James F.** "Ed Whitney," *Old Farm Magazine*, 2, No. 5 (April 1990), p. 12.

This brief account details some of the adventures of a typical Flint Hills cowboy.

**Hoy, James F.** "Kansas and the Cowgirl," *Kanhistique*, 13, No. 10 (February 1988), pp. 1-3.

Among the cowgirls mentioned in this article are Lucille Mulhall, who once helped her father summer some cattle near Madison; Helen Ebbetts Olson of eastern Geary County, who competed in calf roping against men in Flint Hills pasture rodeos in the 1930s; Marge Roberts of Strong City, who won the women's bronc riding championship in Cheyenne in 1941; and Melba Winey Prewitt of Cassoday, who was a professional trick rider in the 1950s.

**Hoy, James F.** "Marge Roberts," *KS Magazine*, (August, 1987), pp. 34-36.

Marge Roberts learned to ride on her father's farm near Strong City and in her teens joined Clyde Miller's Wild West Show as a rough stock and trick rider. Two of her younger brothers, Ken and Gerald, became world champion rodeo cowboys, and Marge herself won the women's bronc riding at Cheyenne in the early 1940s. She was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in the summer of 1987.

Uhlenhuth, Karen. "Pink Earrings and a Pair of Spurs," *Kansas City Star Magazine*, 15 September 1991, pp. 18-21, 23.

One of the most capable hands in the Flint Hills is cowgirl Bobbie Kinsey Trayer, who, following in her late father Virgil Kinsey's footsteps, looks after thousands of head of transient cattle each grazing season.

## HEROES, HARDCASES, AND OTHER SORTS

In addition to the ranchers and cowboys and oilmen who have played prominent roles in Flint Hills history, a number of other individuals of some fame, or notoriety, have passed through the area, sometimes with lasting effect. The airplane crash that killed Knute Rockne in 1931, for instance, directly resulted in airline-industry regulations, the ramifications of which are felt even today. Sam Wood was probably as influential as John Brown in agitating for abolition, although he is not so widely known. John R. Brinkley, pioneer in transplant operations and/or medical quack, had one of his clinics in Butler County. The nation's most famous journalist, William Allen White, was a native of the area, growing up in El Dorado and later publishing the *Emporia Gazette*, although little of his writing was about the Flint Hills. And then there are the stories of lesser-known characters, both good and bad, who left an imprint on the life and times of the tallgrass prairie.

Allen, Richard S. "More on the Two Fokker F-10A Crash," *American Aviation Historical Society Journal*, 31, No. 3 (1986), pp. 228-239.

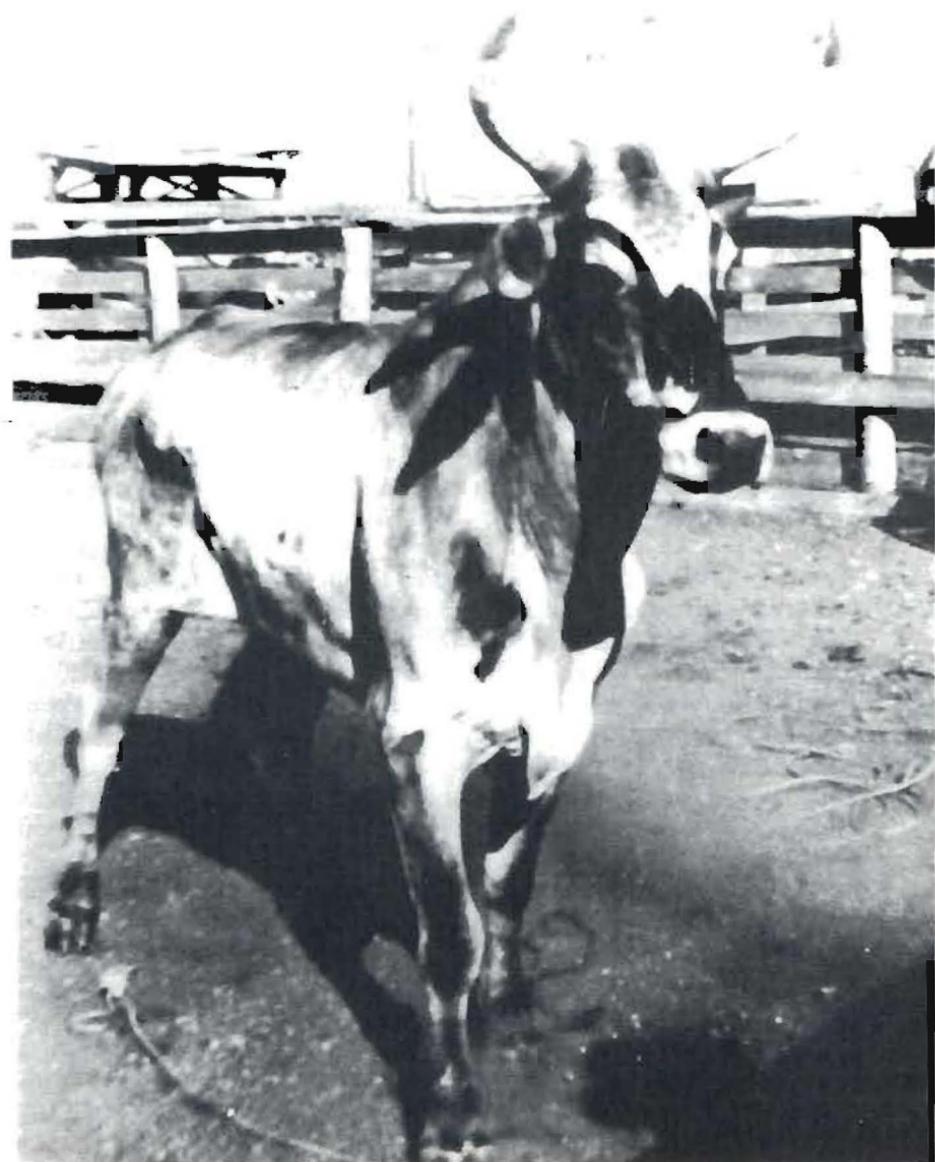
This article describes the investigation of the 1931 plane crash in the Baker Pasture near Bazaar that killed Knute Rockne, Waldo Miller, H.J. Christen, John Happer, Spencer Goldthwaite, C.A. Robrecht, Robert Fry, and Herman Mathias. Included is a description of the crash site and the Knute Rockne memorial.

Bader, Robert S. "The Great Kansas Bond Scandal," *Kanhistique*, 8, No. 7 (November 1982), pp. 1, 4-5.

In the summer of 1933 Ronald Finney of Emporia embezzled thousands of dollars worth of bonds in what was up to that time the biggest financial scandal in the state.

Bird, Roy D. "Haw Tabor, The Silver King's Time in Kansas," *Kanhistique*, 5, No. 9 (January 1980), pp. 1, 3.

Horace Tabor gained fame and fortune as a gold and silver mining entrepreneur and as mayor of Leadville, Colorado. He homesteaded from 1856-59 in Riley County south of Manhattan, where there is still a Tabor Hill and a Tabor Valley.



Outlaw steer in the Cassoday pens. Butler County, 1938.  
*Author's Collection*

**Bird, Roy D.** "Sam Wood: The Rabble-Rousing Writer," *Kanhistique*, 13, No. 5 (September 1987), pp. 5-7.

Colonel Sam Wood, abolitionist, politician, town-founder, moved from Lawrence to Cottonwood Falls (where he established a newspaper and helped to organize the Kansas Republican Party) and thence to Hugoton, where he was shot and killed in 1891 in a county-seat war. His abolitionist activities, although not so widely known as those of John Brown, were among the most nationally influential in bringing about the Civil War.

**Freeze, Larry.** "A Legend Is Remembered in the Flint Hills," *Kansas Country Living*, May 1991, pp. 4-7.

Knute Rockne was killed in a plane crash in the Baker Pasture near Bazaar on March 31, 1931. A commemorative service was held at the site in 1991, attended by a number of the people who first came upon the wreck--Frank Gaddie, Wally Evans, Edward Tinkham Baker, and Arthur Baker.

**Guisse, Eulalia, T.** "Frank Marshall," *Kanhistique*, 7, No. 4 (August 1981), pp. 10-11.

Marshall County, at the northern edge of the Flint Hills, was named for pro-slavery settler Frank Marshall, first Democratic candidate for governor in 1857. The county seat, Marysville, was named for his wife.

**Hoy, James F.** "The World's Fastest Runner," *KS Magazine*, (October 1986), pp. 56-58.

Bud Gillette of Quincy in eastern Greenwood County, well-known local foot racer in the late nineteenth century, was particularly famous for the race he threw that greatly cost citizens in his home town. Even self-righteous churchgoers put money on him because that couldn't be considered a gamble, he was so fast. Today people in the area still talk of Gillette as the world's fastest runner.

**Klintonworth, Lawrence P.** "A Personal Glimpse of William Allen White," *Kanhistique*, 8, No. 12 (April 1983), pp. 8-9.

The author visited The Sage of Emporia only two days before his death on Kansas Day, 1944. This tribute contains anecdotes about White and his career as one of the nation's pre-eminent journalists.

**Lamb, Arthur.** *Tragedies of the Osage Hills*. Pawhuska, Oklahoma: Osage Printery, 1935.

Arthur Lamb, who ran a trading post in Pawhuska (and billed himself as The Sage of the Osage), was so intrigued by the many unsolved murders in the Osage Hills (including portions of Chautauqua County), that in 1935 he compiled accounts from newspapers and court transcripts into this fascinating book. It opens with Osage Indian legends, but most of the collection recounts fights, murders, robberies, and tragic accidents. Long out of print, it was reissued

in 1965 and again in 1980 by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Red Corn of Pawhuska. [The Flint Hills have their own legends and stories of such tragedies (William Least Heat-Moon notes in *PrairieEarth* that Chase County was sometimes known as "Chase-'em, catch-'em, kick-'em" county), but they seem not so numerous, or perhaps just not so concentrated, as those of the Osage Hills.]

**Lendle, Mrs. H.G.** "Extraordinary Collector," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 12 (April 1978), p. 4.

Blanche Schwilling has turned part of her house, once a boarding house and then later the last post office in Bazaar, into a museum. Much of the collection deals with events in or near this cattle shipping center in central Chase County, events such as the crash of the Fokker tri-motor that killed Knute Rockne in 1931.

**Long, Paul F.** "Wcary Willie," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 1 (May, 1977), pp. 1, 3.

Emmett Kelly, whose clown persona, "Wcary Willie," is perhaps the most famous in the world, was born in 1898 in Sedan in Chautauqua County, where the Flint Hills merge with the Osage Hills in Oklahoma.

**Morris, Loverne.** "Life at Red Rocks, 1900-1918," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 12 (April 1979), p. 10.

Red Rocks is the name of William Allen White's sandstone house in Emporia. The author, a neighbor girl, tells of reading some of the many books found in the White household and of the 1912 visit of Teddy Roosevelt.

**Orton, Jan.** "New Life in Rosalia: A Tale of the Goat-Gland Doctors of Kansas," *Kanhistique*, 11, No. 3 (July 1985), pp. 11-13.

In 1932 Dr. O.M. Owensby left the Milford, Kansas, hospital founded by John Brinkley in order to set up his own clinic in Rosalia in eastern Butler County. Brinkley was either a daring medical pioneer or a dangerous quack, depending on how one viewed the notorious operation in which he transplanted glands from goat testicles into men to restore their virility. Owensby, one of the physicians Brinkley had hired when he himself was enjoined from practicing medicine in Kansas, came to Rosalia because of a falling out with his boss, who a year later opened a competing clinic across the street. Both had left Rosalia by 1934, but the pens that once held goats can be seen to this day just south of the railroad tracks on the east side of the road.

**Rozar, Lily-B.** "Land Dispute in Elk County," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 6 (October 1978), p. 4.

A dispute over a cabin and the land it was sitting on led to a triple slaying near Elk Falls in 1869.

**Rozar, Lily-B. "Lee Bailey of Moline," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 12 (April 1979), p. 14.**

Lee Bailey spent over sixty-three years in the photography business in Moline in Elk County, and his work documents much of that city's history. The town was named by a plow salesman for the Illinois home of his company, John Deere. One tragic event was the murder of two cattlemen who were blamed for an outbreak of Texas fever and the start of a cattle war.

**Rozar, Lily-B. "Lincoln's Cousin Buried in Elgin," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 10 (February, 1979), pp. 1, 3.**

Elgin, a famous cattle shipping point at the northern edge of the Oklahoma Osage and at the southeastern edge of the Kansas Bluestem Grazing Region, is the burial place of Romulus Lysurges Hanks, a cousin of Abraham Lincoln and the title character of Junction City writer Joseph Stanley Pennell's stark novel, *The History of Rome Hanks*.

**Rozar, Lily-B. "Polk Daniel--Early Day Editor," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 7 (November 1977), p. 4.**

Tom Thompson, editor of the *Howard Courant* in Elk County, wrote a pithy column under the name Polk Daniel. This article tells of the county-seat war that resulted in Howard County being split into two: Elk and Chautauqua.

**Ruetti, Oretha. "Mob Rule in 1884," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 11 (March 1978), p. 12.**

Sam Frayer, an itinerant farm hand befriended by Mr. and Mrs. John Pennington of Frankfort, was lynched at Marysville in March 1884, for the murder of the farm couple. He confessed his guilt to the mob, none of whom were indicted by the coroner's jury because no witnesses would come forward.

**Smith, Peggy. "The Case without Cuspidors," *Kanhistique*, 8, No. 7 (November 1982), p. 7.**

In 1912 Judge Granville Aikman of El Dorado helped to promote the cause of women's rights by appointing the first woman bailiff (Eva Rider) in the United States and instructing her to impanel a jury composed entirely of women. The first request of the jury was to have the row of cuspidors removed from the vicinity of the jury box. The case involved a land dispute between a male buyer and a female seller, with the man winning the verdict.

**Smith, Peggy. "Collecting Oral History," *Kanhistique*, 7, No. 5 (September 1981), p. 11.**

Olin Stansbury of El Dorado has conducted some 150 oral history interviews with area residents. The tapes are on file in the Butler County Historical Museum.

**Smith, Peggy.** "Dancing Instructor with a Gun," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 5 (September 1976), pp. 1, 3.

B.F. Gordy came to El Dorado, at the convergence of the California and Osage Trails, in 1868 and was noted for his raucous behavior, which included stirring up new arrivals by wild shooting with his six-gun. After one of them threw him through a window, cutting off part of his nose, Gordy left for Indian Territory, but only after leaving a park for the city. That park, and a street, still bear his name.

**Smith, Peggy.** "Smart Aleck Cub," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 4 (August 1976), pp. 1, 5.

In 1885 the reporter for the *El Dorado Daily Republican* discovered the power of words when his pointed remarks apparently not only helped gain a conviction but also the death sentence for accused murderer Orlin Larrivay (he was later pardoned). The reporter was William Allen White and the murder was the one associated with Dead Man's Hollow near Cassoday, a site about which a body of legend is still extant.

**Stebbins, Fred and Ruth Stebbins.** "The Saga of Johnny Kaw," *Kansas!*, No. 1 (1967), pp. 17-19.

This bit of fakelore, along the lines of Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill, apparently the work of Kansas State University horticulture professor George A. Filinger, celebrates the pioneer Kansas farmer of the Kaw Valley and features a statue of Johnny Kaw, leaning on a scythe, in a Manhattan park.

**Wallace, Douglass W.** "A Sunday Afternoon Lynching," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 7 (November, 1976), pp. 8-9.

In 1899 a mob in Alma attempted to lynch a black man accused of the murder of two white men from McFarland in Wabaunsee County. Although he hanged for six minutes, Dick Williams survived the lynching and was later convicted, along with James Render, of the murders. The two served fourteen years in the state penitentiary and were then paroled.

**West, Bertha.** "Yellow Tom," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 6 (October 1976), pp. 1, 5.

Thomas Allen Cullinan, known as Tom Allen, was marshal of Junction City from 1871 to 1904. He never killed a man with the gun he carried, preferring to use his fists, a weapon at which he was never bested. Drunks, gunfighters, and prostitutes all learned that Allen was in control of this otherwise unruly army town. His integrity was such that he even served a warrant against himself for receiving stolen property (he had unwittingly bought some pilfered items from a soldier), then acted as his own attorney and won acquittal.

## MEMOIRS AND PERSONAL HISTORIES

Some of the most interesting accounts of life in the Flint Hills come from the autobiographies and memoirs of people who have lived there. The authors of these accounts range from ordinary farmers, homemakers, and oil-field workers to well known cattlemen such as E.T. Anderson and Dan D. Casement.

**Allen, Charles C.** *The Saga of a Mud Road Doctor*. Quanah, Texas: Nortex Press, 1975.

Dr. Charles Allen spent his early boyhood in Saffordville, Kansas, moving to Emporia after the eighth grade. These memoirs and stories include material on these locales and on the nature of a rural boyhood just after the turn of the century.

**Anderson, E.T.** *A Quarter-Inch of Rain*. Wichita: McCormick-Armstrong, 1962.

E.T. Anderson, one of the most prominent cattlemen of his generation, was born at Burdick and later operated out of Emporia--buying cattle in Texas, pasturing them in the Flint Hills, and then putting them on feed. This collection of reminiscences includes accounts of his early experiences on the Colorado open range as well as his mature view of the cattle business.

**Boys, Samuel Evan.** *My Boyhood in the Flint Hills of Kansas 1873-1893*. Plymouth, Indiana: 1958.

Samuel Boys was one year old when his family moved to Kansas in 1872, settling in Elk County to raise stock (sheep and cattle) a few miles north of present-day Grenola. In 1882, with the free-range pastures coming under fence, the family moved to a farm on the outskirts of Grenola, which had been founded two years earlier when the railroad went through. These memoirs, written for his grandchildren, provide excellent information about early-day life on a stock farm in the southern Flint Hills: wildlife, Indians, prairie fires, food, school, games, herding, haying, shearing sheep, harvesting grain, gardening, fishing, trapping, hunting, butchering. He tells of getting drunk (unintentionally) at a circus, of custom dehorners taking the horns off Texas longhorns, of shipping by train to Kansas City in the 1880s, of July Fourth celebrations. There is a photo of Sugar Loaf Hill just north of Grenola. In 1980 he started college at Southwestern College in Winfield, then transferred to Albion College in Michigan in 1893 to help found a chapter of Sigma Nu there. Boys also wrote *The Boys Family* in 1953.

**Breese, L.W.** *Julia: A Memoir*. Chicago: R.R. Donnelley & Sons, 1905.

Julia Breese was born in Elmdale, attended college in Emporia, and then went to San Antonio for her health (consumption). She was only seventeen when she died. Her mother edited letters her daughter had sent from school and from San Antonio, interspersing her own comments and tributes from friends.

Although there is little here specific to the Flint Hills, this memoir is possessed of that universal poignancy that attends the death of youth. The story was made into an award-winning television program, "Blessed, Blessed Mama."

**Carlson, Avis.** *Small World, Long Gone.* Evanston, Illinois: The Schori Press, 1975.

Written by an author whose poetry and prose appeared regularly in *Harper's*, this memoir on frequent occasion transcends the family-history genre and takes on literary qualities. Carlson's father, Cyrus Dungan, owned and operated a stock farm near Moline in the Belknap community of northern Chautauqua County in the southern Flint Hills. Its depiction of farm (and family and community) life in turn-of-the-century Kansas is lucid and insightful, but unfortunately there is little emphasis on those elements distinctive to Flint Hills culture. A few descriptive passages on Flint Hills landscapes and on her father's cattle herd and farming operation, however, contribute to our knowledge of Flint Hills life in the post-pioneer period.

**Casement, Dan Dillon.** *The Abbreviated Autobiography of a Joyous Pagan.* Manhattan, Kansas, 1944.

It is unfortunate that Casement, a stockraiser of international renown, chose to abbreviate this account of his life, leaving out almost all reference to his many years at Juniata Farm near Manhattan in the northern Flint Hills. Casement writes well of his experiences as a cowboy on the Unawcep Range in western Colorado and as a railroad builder in Costa Rica; one wishes he had included some detail of cattle work in the Flint Hills.

**Casement, Dan Dillon.** *Random Recollections: The Life and Times--and Something of the Personal Philosophy--of a 20th Century Cowman.* Kansas City: Walker Publications, 1955.

Many of these autobiographical essays, most of them written in 1945 and 1946, touch on Flint Hills material, and one, "The Bluestem Hills," is a compendium of grazing practices found there, including pasture burning. Casement's bias is for the raising of purebred cattle instead of summer pasturing steers. He includes a paean to the beauty of the Hills and to the bounty of bread and beef produced by Kansas.

**Clopton, Glen R.** *Born to Be a Cowboy.* Valley Center, Kansas, 1990.

Born near Madison in 1918, Glen Clopton cowboied in the Flint Hills until he left for the service in 1942. During this time he, among many other things, worked on the Browning Ranch, drove cattle out of Matfield Green, delivered horses to Cassoday, and worked with such cattlemen and cowboys as Dow Gilbreath, Turk Harsh, and John Edwards. Clopton's narrative rings with fascinating details of life in the Hills.

Cooper, Helen Marie. *The Wealth She Gathered*. Ed. Gertrude Helen Cooper. Boston: Chapman and Grimes, 1950.

Helen Marie Lyon Cooper came to Kansas, then sometimes called "the Italy of America," from Minnesota in 1871, taking out a claim near Coneburg (present-day Peabody) and teaching school at a time when there were only three schools in the county. Her literate account of this pioneer time, replete with details of Indians, claim troubles, early farming methods, prairie fires, cattle herding, fencing, wild game, grasshoppers, and immigrants, places family and local history in the broader context of national events.

Downey-McPeak, Agnes M. *Should It Be Told?*, 1984.

The author was born in 1898 on a farm between Alma and Eskridge in Wabaunsec County. This privately published typescript of her memories and experiences, while it would have benefited from editing, nevertheless conveys a feeling of immediacy. Although not explicitly Flint Hills in nature, these memoirs do contain useful information about farm life (and folk beliefs) current in mid-America in the early twentieth century, and thus show the relationship between the Flint Hills and other rural areas.

Edwards, John A. *In the Western Tongue*. Wichita: McCormick-Armstrong Press, 1920.

Edwards, who ranched in Greenwood County near Eureka, was one of the eminent cattlemen of the Flint Hills in the early twentieth century. This collection of speeches and letters is primarily concerned with political matters such as markets, marketing, and packing house and governmental policies toward the cattle business. One chapter, "Blue Stem Grass," is a paean (inspired by the John J. Ingalls tribute to bluegrass, which is quoted in this speech) to the grass that is the basis of life in the Flint Hills.

Hall, Lucy E. "Reminiscences of Lucy E. Hall," *Kanhistique*, 8, No. 10 (February 1983), pp. 10-12.

Lucy Hall's parents met while attending Bluemont College and were married in Manhattan in 1874. These reminiscences, written on the occasion of her one-hundredth birthday (29 January 1982), contain information about rural life in the Flint Hills.

Harris, Frank. *My Reminiscences as a Cowboy*. New York: Charles Boni, 1930. Harris, who later worked with George Bernard Shaw, spent time on the Great Plains in his earlier years, including a winter on a ranch near Eureka with a cattleman named Reece. His account is romanticized to the point of fiction, so his failure to describe his experiences in the Flint Hills in anything other than generic terms is not as disappointing as it might otherwise have been. This book is said to have been the basis for the Glenn Ford western, "Cowboy."

**Hogboom, John B.** *The Long Line Kansas Skinner*. Columbus, Kansas: Ward Printing Service, 1986.

This privately printed collection of oil-field stories and farming reminiscences, poems, and photographs is in many ways a folk history of early twentieth century Butler County. The author, a natural tale-teller, is earthy and his narrative carries the tone of real life.

**Long, Sol.** *Reflections of a Country Lawyer*. Winfield, Kansas: Courier Printing, 1906.

Some of the amusing anecdotes in these privately-published idiosyncratic memoirs occur in the southern Flint Hills of Elk and Cowley Counties, although there is nothing specific about the Flint Hills.

**Molk, Isador.** *The Making of an Oilman*. New York: The Citadel Press, 1958.

One of the most successful oilmen in the El Dorado field was Russian-born Isador Molk. He arrived in Butler County in 1917, two years after the boom that started with Stapleton Number 1, when El Dorado still looked like a frontier town. After first dealing in pipe, Molk began speculating in drilling and oil leases. This book contains many interesting details of the oil business, as well as Molk's standing up to the anti-Jewish diatribes of the Ku Klux Klan.

**Nelson, Joseph Kibler.** *Recollections of My Early Life*. New York, 1960.

Veteran Joseph Nelson was 28 years old when he came to Kansas after the Civil War, settling first at Chelsea and later moving to a farm near Cassoday. Collected and published by his daughter, Josephine Nelson, these memoirs contain observations of early-day Butler County.

**Van Gundy, John C.** *Reminiscences of Frontier Life on the Upper Neosho in 1855 and 1856*. Topeka: College Press, 1925.

The major part of this booklet was written by Van Gundy in 1919 as a letter to the editor of the *Kansas City Farmer and Stockman*. He recounts his family's move from Kentucky to Texas and then to Kansas. He speaks of cattle drives, planting sod corn, Indians, outlaws, and the conflict over slavery. Also included are two other letters from 1925 that tell of the early history of Neosho Rapids, a small town in Lyon County.

## LITERATURE FROM AND ABOUT THE FLINT HILLS

The body of fiction set in the Flint Hills is small but growing, and there is a scattered body of poetry describing both the Hills themselves and the nature of life within the area. Greenwood County writers, particularly, perhaps aided by an active authors club, have produced some good poems. Recently several books of cowboy poetry have been published by Flint Hills authors. So far as I know, only one play set in the Flint Hills has been produced, James Steerman's prize

winning *Native Stone*. When all is said and done, the best writing about the Flint Hills has been journalistic, from Rolla Clymer's poetic editorials to Myra Lockwood Brown's articles for the popular press to William Least Heat-Moon's wonderful *PrairyErth*.

**Averill, Tom.** "During the Twelfth Summer of Elmer D. Peterson," *Farmers Market*, 7, No. 1 (Spring 1990), pp. 48-66.

A twelve-year-old boy is suddenly confronted with lots of silence and space when his family moves to a farm in Wabaunsee County. This short story follows his adjustment from urban to rural life in the Flint Hills, a movement aided by a horse given to him by a neighboring old timer.

**Brown, Irene Bennett.** *Answer Me, Answer Me*. New York: Atheneum, 1985.

This young-adult novel by an award-winning writer is set in the Flint Hills of Chase County in Greendale, a fictional town. The plot deals with the attempt of the main character, eighteen-year-old Bryn Kinney from Oregon, to discover herself through tracing the history of her recently deceased grandmother. The setting, however, is of no special relevance to the plot.

**Clymer, Rolla A.** "April's Fledge of Green," *Kansas!*, No. 1 (1967), p. 6.

A reprint of one of Clymer's tributes to the beauty and fecundity of the Flint Hills. Photographs by H.V. Lyle.

**Clymer, Rolla A.** *Farewells*, ed. William Galvani. El Dorado, Kansas: Butler County Historical Society, 1986.

Obituaries, like gravestones, reveal much about a community. Clymer was a literary journalist of the old school, and this collection, which includes obituaries of Flint Hills cattlemen and oilmen, comprises a brief history of Butler County.

**Clymer, Rolla A.** *Glory of the Hills*. El Dorado, Kansas: 1960.

Clymer, editor of the *El Dorado Times*, wrote many editorials praising the beauty and productivity of the Flint Hills. This collection contains six that follow the seasons of the year, from spring through winter. The last selection is a tribute to bluestem grass by rancher Garland P. Ferrell of Beaumont.

**Clymer, Rolla A.** "The Kansas Flint Hills," *Kansas!*, 12, No. 3 (May-June 1957), pp. 10-13.

This prose poem about the Hills and the Big Beef Steer is accompanied by five excellent black and white photographs of cattle, hills, and stockyards near Matfield Green and Bazaar.

Clymer, Rolla A. "Majesty of the Hills," *Thirty-eighth Biennial Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture*, 1952, pp. 38-39.

"Majesty of the Hills," reprinted here, was probably Clymer's most famous paean to the Flint Hills.

Clymer, Rolla A. "Springtime in the Flint Hills," *Kansas!*, No. 1, 1973, p. 1.

One of Clymer's famous tributes to the Flint Hills is reprinted here with color photographs.

Coldsmith, Don. *The Sacred Hills*. New York: Doubleday, 1985; Bantam, 1988.

The eighth volume in the Spanish Bit series, this novel is explicitly set in the Flint Hills in the days before white settlement. Although the author's main purpose is narrative, he does emphasize sense of place and includes accurate descriptions of the tallgrass prairie. The Bantam edition includes a historical introduction on the Flint Hills by James Hoy.

Elliott, Bob. *Lake Kahola*. Emporia, Kansas: Chester Press, 1970.

This novel, set primarily in eastern Chase County, does show some sense of place, particularly with scenery, but its focus is counter-cultural (similar to Brautigan's *Trout Fishing in America*). Thus there is little effort to reflect fully or accurately the folkways of the Flint Hills.

*First Anthology of the Flint Hills Writer's Club*, Eureka, Kansas, 1978.

*Second Anthology of the Flint Hills Writer's Club*, Eureka, Kansas, 1979.

Many early-day newspapers in Flint Hills counties once carried poetry by local residents, some of it reflecting the area. The long-time activity of this Greenwood County organization is evidence of the continuation of this tradition, for much of the poetry in these two volumes was originally published in the *Eureka Herald*. Only one poem in each volume, however, is specifically about the Flint Hills ("Vacation" by Ruth Ebberts and "The Kansas Flint Hills" by Willnette Wallace).

Francis, Dorothy Bremer. *The Flint Hills Foal*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1976.

This book does contain a couple of descriptions of the tallgrass and the Flint Hills, but it is primarily a stereotyped horse story for pre-adolescent girls.

Galvani, William, ed. *The Glory of the Hills: Editorials about the Flint Hills by Rolla Clymer*. El Dorado, Kansas: Butler County Historical Society, 1989.

No other author has matched Rolla Clymer's descriptions of the beauty of the Flint Hills. The prose is sometimes purple, but the sentiments are heartfelt and the portrayals accurate. Handsome photographs by Nancy Myers accompany the forty-two editorials.

**Galvani, William, ed. *Rolla Clymer: Poet of the Flint Hills*. El Dorado, Kansas: Butler County Historical Society, 1984.**

Rolla Clymer was not a poet, but as editor of the *El Dorado Times* he wrote poetic descriptions of the Flint Hills. This small book, a compilation of papers presented at a seminar on Clymer, contains a biography and a memoir of Clymer (by Charles Heilmann), an essay on Clymer as journalist (by Calder Pickett), and an essay on the literature of the Flint Hills (by James Hoy), in addition to five of Clymer's best Flint Hills editorials.

**Greene, Zula Bennington. *Skimming the Cream: Fifty Years with Peggy of the Flint Hills*. Topeka: Baranski Publishing Co., 1983.**

A native of Chase County, Greene moved to Topeka in 1933, where she wrote a popular column of personal musings for the *Daily Capital*. Occasionally she mused on her native Flint Hills, suggesting (in 1946) that they would be a good home for the United Nations, because their peaceful presence made world peace seem an attainable end. She also confronts (in 1936) the problem of defining the Flint Hills, considering the claims of Bazaar and Eureka to be the center of the Hills.

**Hammer, Charles. *Me, the Beef, and the Bum*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1984.**

The improbable (though entertaining) plot of this novel for juvenile readers centers around the adventures of a young girl and her pet Charolais steer who run away from Kansas City and spend the winter in an abandoned ranch house in Chase County.

**Heat-Moon, William Least. "PrairyErth," *The Atlantic*, September 1991.**

This excerpt from Heat-Moon's book of the same name features profiles of Chase County residents Tom and Syble Bridge, who have endured numerous Cottonwood River floods in their Saffordville home; Paul and Leola Evans, who survived a tornado in 1949; Jane Koger, who operates her 6,000 acre ranch with an all-woman crew; and Jesse Mehojah, Jr. of Kaw City, Oklahoma, one of the last of the Kansa fullbloods, whose ancestors once hunted the Flint Hills.

**Heat-Moon, William Least. *PrairyErth (A Deep Map)*, New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 1991.**

The author spent nearly eight years visiting the people and walking the roads, fields, and pastures of Chase County in producing this analysis of life on the tallgrass prairie. One sees the good, the bad, the beautiful, and the ugly through eyes that are sympathetic but uncompromisingly honest. The genre is journalistic, an extended (627 pages) personal essay informed by thorough mastery of many aspects of life in the Flint Hills: historical, sociological, poetic, anthropological, biological, geological. Heat-Moon is an uncommonly perceptive observer of human nature, erudite but unpretentious with an enviable ability to

turn a phrase. This book is without doubt the single most important work of literature to be written about the Flint Hills.

**Hind, Steven.** *Familiar Ground*. Lawrence, Kansas: Cottonwood Review Press, 1980.

In those half dozen poems in this collection set in the Flint Hills, the author, a native of Madison in Greenwood County, accurately captures spirit of place.

**Hind, Steven.** *That Trick of Silence*. Topeka: Washburn Center for Kansas Studies, 1990.

Some of the best poems from *Familiar Ground* are reprinted here, along with many new ones, including some set in the Flint Hills. No one writes better Flint Hills poems than Hind.

**Killoren, Robert.** *Rising Out of the Flint Hills*. Shawnee Mission, Kansas: BkMk Press, 1972.

The title is misleading; this collection contains not a single poem about the Flint Hills.

**Lindsay, Vachel.** *Adventures while Preaching the Gospel of Beauty*. New York: Macmillan, 1928.

The poet's account of his walk across the middle of America in 1912 tells of a night at a professor's house in Emporia ("the Athens of America") and of being turned down for a job stacking alfalfa by the owner of the Clover Hills Ranch in Chase County. Although he does not call them by name, Lindsay notes that the Flint Hills are range country, different from other areas he has walked through: "I am getting into the range region. . . I am really West."

**Markley, John R.** *Too Thick to Drink, Too Thin to Plow: Poems of the Cow Country*. 1984.

The author of this privately published collection of cowboy poetry is a veterinarian. Many of these entertaining poems reflect the vicissitudes of the profession as he has experienced them in his Elk County practice.

**Matthews, Jack.** *Pictures of the Journey Back*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973.

The single brief reference to the Flint Hills in this novel, by an Ohio poet who spent a year as writer-in-residence at Wichita State University, typifies the obtuseness of those who cannot comprehend the beauty of the tallgrass prairie: ". . .rolling prairie land covered with buffalo grass [sic] and approximately one snarled thorn tree per thousand acres. The sight of this land in late autumn would blight the eyes of a vulture. . . ."

**McBeth, Tom.** *Home Place Tales and Trails*. 1991.

Reared near Leon and living near Latham, Tom McBeth has spent much of his life in the Flint Hills, as is evident in many of the poems in this collection. In 1991, the author was the first cowboy poet from Kansas to be invited to appear at the annual gathering in Elko, Nevada.

**McCosh, Imogene.** "Spectrum," *Heritage of Kansas*, 8, No. 1 (1975), p. 4.

This poem reflects the pride of the native in the understated attractions of the Flint Hills.

**Montgomery, Evelyn I.** *Giant on the Wall*. Bornsville, North Carolina: Celo Valley Books, 1991.

Not much fiction has been set in the Flint Hills, despite its distinctive folklife. Montgomery has drawn on her own childhood to convey a convincing picture of life on a small Flint Hills stock ranch during the 1920s. The line-drawings and one-page vignettes on such topics as one-room schools, household and barnyard chores, branding, and folk beliefs add much to the charm and value of this book.

**Nelson, Raymond S.** . . . *and the Kansas Wind Blows*. Hillsboro, Kansas: Hearth Publishing, 1991.

"The Flint Hills" is one title in this collection of poems about Kansas, and two or three others touch upon the Hills in one way or another. The author's emphasis is on nature--appearance, vegetation, animals--not ranching, but the description of the Hills is heartfelt and accurate.

**Pickard, Nancy.** *Bum Steer*. New York: Pocket Books, 1990.

Part of the action of this Jenny Cain mystery occurs in the Flint Hills, although on a fictional setting: the Crossbones Ranch near the town of Rock Creek in Hood County. The ranch is suggestive of the Z-Bar Ranch near Strong City in Chase County, although the author owns the Panther Ranch in the same county. Details of plot, such as going out to check a pasture full of springer heifers in the middle of the night or leaping a cattle guard during a rain storm, sometimes stretch credulity (a not uncommon hazard of formula fiction), but the Flint Hills are portrayed positively and, in general, accurately.

**Richards, Joseph.** *Blue Stems*. White City, Kansas: Richards Publishing, 1984.

The author, born in 1905, has lived in Morris County since he was four years old and has been writing verse all his adult life. Several of the poems in this collection deal with the changing seasons of the Flint Hills, and one, "The Cattleman," is a composite portrait of the many ranchers Richards came in contact with during his many years as a stockman and as a real estate agent.

Schouten, Elva Young. *Tales of a Work'n Cowgirl*. N.d., n.p.

This privately printed collection of cowboy poetry contains several poems that reflect the author's roots in the Flint Hills near Latham in southeastern Butler County.

Stebbins, Fred and Jeanne Stebbins. "Hollywood Comes to Kaasas," *Kansas!*, No. 1 (1972), pp. 21-23.

The western movie "Bad Company," with Jeff Bridges, was filmed in Kansas in 1971, most of it in the Flint Hills and in Flint Hills towns--Elmdale, Madison, Severy, Matfield Green, Florence. [Emporia has served as the setting for a number of films: "In Cold Blood," "Murder Ordained," "Mary White."]

Steerman, James. *Native Stone*. Unpublished play, 1987.

This two-act drama, set in contemporary Chase County, won first prize in the 1987 national play-writing competition sponsored by the Arrow Rock (Missouri) Lyceum and was first performed there that year. Two years later it was performed at Emporia, Kansas. The author, who as a youth often visited the Chase County ranch of his grandfather, Sam Stauffer, teaches at Vassar College.

Underwood, June, producer. "Blessed, Blessed Mama." Emporia State University Instructional Media Center, 1981.

This adaptation and dramatization of *Julia: A Memoir* by L. W. Breese (see the section on Memoirs and Personal Histories) won a national ACE award for excellence in cable television in 1981.

White, William L. "Flint Hill Rhapsody," *Progress in Kansas*, Topeka: Kansas Chamber of Commerce, June 1935, pp. 21-22. Also published on p. 172 of the *Kansas Yearbook* for 1937-38, another publication of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

Reprinted from the *Emporia Gazette* this paean observes that painters have generally been unsuccessful in capturing the majesty of the Flint Hills because "you can't paint silence." In order genuinely to feel the Flint Hills, one must watch their slow changes over a long period of time, such as the many different hues of green (and other colors), taken on by the grass.

Whitefield, Jim, producer. *The Flint Hills of Kansas*. Kaw Valley Films, 1988.

This half-hour documentary of the Flint Hills, beautifully photographed in sixteen millimeter film (but available in videotape), shows the Hills in all seasons of the year. Included are accounts of Indians, railroads, the Pony Express, trails, cowboys, and ranches. Especially effective are the scenes of pasture burning and driving cattle.

**Whittemore, Margaret.** *Sketchbook of Kansas Landmarks.* Topeka: The College Press, 1936.

Several sites within the Flint Hills are described and depicted in this historical survey, including Indian Caves (Alta Vista), Indian Guide Hill (Peabody), Soden's Mill (Emporia), the Chase County Courthouse, and several sites in Council Grove: Kaw Mission, Last Chance Store, Custer Elm, Council Oak, and Post-Office Oak.

**Wright, Jerry A.** *Blood, Sweat and Steers: A Collection of Cowboy Poetry.* Columbus, Kansas: Ward Printing, 1990.

The poems in this privately printed collection reflect the cowboying experiences acquired by the author during his work on various ranches in Chase and Greenwood counties. The book is illustrated with black and white photographs by the author's wife, Edie. A second collection of Wright's poems, *Partners in Rhyme*, is scheduled for publication in 1992.

## ART AND ARTISTS IN THE FLINT HILLS

Without question the best known artist to have lived in the Flint Hills area was Frederic Remington, who operated a sheep ranch near Whitewater in Butler County in the early 1880s. The most critically acclaimed artist native to the area was Gladys Nelson Smith. Neither she nor Remington, however, represented the Flint Hills in their work. Among those well known painters who have used the Flint Hills as subject matter are Laurence Coffelt, J.R. Hamil, Frederic James, Judy Mackey, and Robert Sudlow. Many photographers have attempted to capture the sometimes elusive beauty of the Flint Hills, perhaps none so successfully as Terry Evans or Daniel Dancer. Two art galleries within the region that are particularly noteworthy include the permanent collection at Kansas State University and the Coutts Gallery in El Dorado.

"Coutts Memorial Art Gallery," *Kansas!* No. 3, 1973, pp. 23-24.

Early in 1965 four men from El Dorado were killed in the crash of a light airplane. One of them was Warren Hall Coutts III, an attorney in practice with his father, who was also an art collector. As a memorial to his son, the elder Coutts established the Coutts Memorial Art Gallery. The holdings range from the work of artists from Kansas and the Flint Hills region to those of the American West (Remington and Russell, among others), to such European masters as Degas, Picasso, and Dali.

**Dancer, Daniel D.** *The Four Seasons of Kansas.* Introduction by William Least Heat-Moon. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1988.

Many of the photographs in this excellent collection of color photographs are of Flint Hills scenes.

Dary, David. "Frederic Remington in Kansas," *Kanhistique*, 1, No. 12 (April 1976), pp. 8-10.

Remington, the famous western artist, had a sheep ranch in Butler County in 1883, although he spent more time raising hell than raising sheep.

"Elegance in the Flint Hills," *Kanhistique*, 10, No. 10 (February 1985), pp. 2-3.

The permanent art collection at Kansas State University in Manhattan, which numbers some 1500 pieces, began with two paintings by Birger Sandzen. Other artists include John Steuart Curry, Gordon Parks, and Thomas Hart Benton.

Evans, Terry. *Prairie: Images of Ground and Sky*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1986.

This fine collection contains several color photographs from the Konza Prairie and other sites in the Flint Hills.

"Focusing on the Flint Hills," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1979), pp. 1-3.

This pictorial features four of Pat Duncan's color photographs of Flint Hills scenes: a cattle drive, an old school house, a pioneer limestone house, and a grain elevator amid bluestem grass.

Foresta, Merry, ed. *Between Home and Heaven: Contemporary American Landscape Photography*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1992.

This collection of essays and color photographs documents a special exhibition, held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art, of the current work of the nation's best landscape photographers. The Flint Hills are presented beautifully by Terry Evans and Larry Schwarm. Schwarm has made a specialty of capturing the striking images of pasture burning in the Hills.

Glynn, Daniel. "Elk Falls--an Arts Community," *Kansas!* No. 2 (1985), pp. 30-31.

This article describes the work of several artists (pottery, painting) who had recently opened studios in this village in the southeastern part of the Bluestem Grazing Region.

Hamil, J.R. Text by Sharon Hamil. *Return to Kansas*. Lawrence: Southwind Press, distributed by University Press of Kansas, 1984.

These water colors, reflecting the subdued beauty of Kansas, include several scenes from the Flint Hills.

Hammond, Geraldine. "Kansas Varieties--A Mosaic of Picture-Poems," *Heritage of Kansas*, 7, No. 1 (February 1963), pp. 1-31.

Many of the "picture-poems" (photographs with poetic captions) from this issue, which opens with a short poem about the Flint Hills, depict Flint Hills scenes.

**Howes, Charles C.** "Artist of the Flint Hills," *Kansas!*, No. 2 (1968), pp. 26-27.

Laurence Coffelt, whose studio was in Emporia, was born at Sycamore Springs in the center of the cattle country of northeast Butler County, and became a full-time artist in 1961 after a career in outdoor advertising. His paintings are distributed throughout the country and have hung in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. An earlier issue of the same magazine (No. 1, 1965, pp. 13-15) contains a photograph of the artist and a two-page color reproduction of his painting, "Thoroughbreds of the Plains."

**Lyle, Wes and James Fisher.** *Kansas Impressions: Photographs and Words.* Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1972.

Many of the scenes in this excellent collection of black and white photographs are from the Flint Hills.

"Marlowe Woodcuts," *Kansas!*, No. 4 (1966), pp. 18-19.

Margaret Lowe Burke began working with this distinctive art form (designs in wood, from simple to ornate, cut out by band saw and oiler tools and framed in wood) in 1931 and her products have since circulated throughout the world. Her shop is in Americus in Lyon County.

**Pappas, Betty J.** "A Treasured Jewel," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1982), pp. 14-15.

One might not expect to find a world-class art collection in the Flint Hills, but the Warren Hall Couetts III Memorial Museum of Art, located in El Dorado, is just that. Begun by Warren Hall Couetts, Jr., after his son was killed in a plane crash in 1965, and opened to the public in 1970, the intentionally varied collection includes American primitives, Western American art, local and regional artists, and internationally renowned masters such as Thomas Hart Benton, Alexander Calder, Chagall, Dali, Degas, and Picasso.

**Reed, Nan.** "Judy Mackey, Cattle Country Artist," *Kansas!*, No. 2 (1975), p. 27.

Probably no one has painted the Flint Hills more accurately or feelingly than Judy Mackey, who currently lives at Saffordville in Chase County and has a studio in Cottonwood Falls. Her husband, Ken, sculpts and has roots in the Flint Hills near Madison where his father and uncle, Bob and Shorty Mackey, were among the top pasture hands of the area.

**Rowley, Patric,** with photography by Steve Harper. *Artists: A Kansas Collection.* Wichita: Artists Registry, Inc., 1989.

At least two of the forty-four artists profiled in this book (Robert Sudlow and Bea Opelka) portray the Flint Hills in their paintings.

Samuels, Peggy and Harold Samuels. "Frederic Remington, the Holiday Sheepman," *Kansas History*, 2, No. 1 (1979), pp. 3- 13.

This famous artist of the American West for a brief period in his rambunctious youth owned a sheep ranch in northwest Butler County, on the western fringes of the Flint Hills pasture land.

Simmons, Linda Crocker. *Gladys Nelson Smith*. With an appreciation by Josephine Nelson. Washington, DC: The Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1984.

Although her paintings are not of the area, Gladys Nelson Smith is probably the most critically acclaimed artist to have been reared in the Flint Hills. Art historians have placed her work with that of Sargent, Eakins, and Cassatt. Pages 25 and 26 of this guide to the 1983-84 exhibition of her work at the National Museum of American Art contain references to the family farms at Chelsea and Cassoday, both in Butler County.

Sadlow, Robert. *Landscapes in Kansas*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1987.

Many of the water colors in this collection were inspired by the author's visits to the Rogler Ranch near Matfield Green in Chase County.

Taft, Robert. "V. The Pictorial Record of the Old West," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 16, No. 2 (May, 1948), pp. 113-135.

This installment of a continuing series recounts Frederic Remington's somewhat raucous sojourn on a sheep ranch near Whitewater on the western part of the Flint Hills upland. Sheep and cattle raising began in the eastern Flint Hills almost simultaneously with the opening of Kansas Territory in 1854.

White, Lyle Alan. *The Pioneer Spirit*. Kansas City: Walker Publications, printed by the Lowell Press, 1986.

Four or five of these outstanding black and white photographs from Kansas and Nebraska are of the Flint Hills.

Wood, Scott and Frank Daymond. *Reflections of Kansas 1900-1930: A Prairie Postcard Album*. Wichita: Daywood Publishing Company, 1988.

This fascinating collection of 312 vintage picture postcards from Kansas contains several scenes from the Flint Hills area--fall corn at Alta Vista, the Herington Ladies' Band playing at Burdick, the Cottrell round barn in Marshall County, the oil fields of Butler County, the Cottonwood Falls-Strong City street car. The only cattle shipping scene is from Elgin.

## SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RODEO

Recreational activities in the Flint Hills range from hunting, fishing, and ball sports to horse racing and rodeo. Casey Stengel once played town-team

baseball in Butler County as a ringer in a game between two oil-camp towns. The Flint Hills Rodeo at Strong City has been held annually since the mid-1930s, while rodeo-like contests and exhibitions were being conducted within the region as early as the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Over the years the Bluestem Grazing Region has produced five world champion cowboys, and the town of Cassoday bills itself as the Prairie Chicken Capital of the World. See also the sections on Cowboys and Cowgirls and on Ethnicity.

**Crane, Mary.** "For the Young People of Kansas," *Kansas!* No. 1 (1984), pp. 30-31.

Camp Wood, near Elmdale in Chase County, was donated to the YMCA in 1915 by Stephen Wood. It has undergone a major revival since its reorganization in 1980.



Potato race at street fair, Cassoday. Butler County, c. 1910.

*Author's Collection*

**Flannigan, Mike.** "And They're Off," *Kansas!*, No. 2 (1985), pp. 20-22.

Written a few years before Kansas voters legalized pari-mutuel betting, this article describes Eureka Downs. No history of the track itself or of racing at Eureka is given, but for many years this has been the major horse racing site in Kansas.

**Hoy, James F.** "From Folk Game to Professional Sport: Early Rodeo in Kansas," *International Folklore Review*, 2 (1982), pp. 143-151.

This article documents the popular Burdick Field Day (an agricultural fair and community celebration) and its rodeo, held between 1910 and 1923 in this small Morris County town on the western edge of the Flint Hills.

**Hoy, James F.** "Kansas Rodeo Champions," *KS Magazine*, (Winter 1985), pp. 35-41.

Kansas has produced eight world champion rodeo cowboys, more than any other except five states. Five of these eight (Gerald Roberts, Ken Roberts, John McBeth, Joel Edmondson, and Sonny Worrel) have lived in the Bluestem Grazing Region. [This does not count Fred Beeson who, in the days before official world championships, twice won Cheyenne, tantamount at the time to a world title.]

"Lusty Life of the Rodeo," *Kansas!*, No. 2 (1967), pp. 14-16.

A brief history of the cowboy sport with profiles of the Riding Roberts family (Marge, Ken, and Gerald) of Strong City and of Kurly Hebb (misspelled Heeb) of Fall River.

**Millbrook, Minnie Dubbs.** "Hunting and Fishing Near Florence, 1878," *Kanhistique*, 9, No. 7 (November 1983), pp. 3-4.

In 1878 an Englishman writing under the name St. Kames recounted his hunting and fishing experiences at Florence, following a train ride up from El Dorado, part of a tour throughout the state that he reported at length in *Field and Garden*. He tells of jug-fishing for catfish, of shotgunning for prairie chicken, and of the dangers of prairie fires. This selection was reprinted in the *Florence Herald* of 15 March 1879.

**Niles, Anita G.** "Prairie Chicken Capital of the World," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1990), pp. 17-18.

Each year hundreds of hunters from across the country converge in northeast Butler County to breakfast at the Cassoday Cafe, then tramp the surrounding pastures or wait at the edges of soybean or milo fields for a shot at a prairie chicken in one of the last areas where this once-numerous bird is still common.

**Paullin, Ellen.** "Memories of Camp Wood," *Kanhistique*, 13, No. 3 (July 1987), pp. 6-7.

The author, who attended Camp Wood in the Flint Hills near Elmdale in Chase County in 1930 and 1931, describes the activities of the camp, the people she met there, and the effect they had on her life.

**Reynolds, Irene.** "Rodeos-the Roughest, Toughest Sport-Amen," *Kansas!*, No. 2 (1973), pp. 2-5.

This survey of major rodeos in Kansas features photographs from the 1972 Flint Hills Rodeo in Strong City.

**Rozar, Lily-B.** "Historic Hound Dog Hunt," *Kanhistique*, 5, No. 10 (February 1980), p. 7.

Sometime around the 1920s Willard Morss of Howard in Elk County organized a hunting club called "The Greyhound Men," whose members would go out horseback each November 11 and hunt coyotes with dogs, not guns. [Coyote hunting, whether with horses and dogs, four-wheel-drive pickups, or guns, has always been a popular sport in the Flint Hills.]

**Rozar, Lily-B.** "Six Cups of Chocolate' and a Sample Sale," *Kanhistique*, 6, No. 11 (March 1981), p. 10.

In 1897 a number of women in El Dorado sponsored an entertainment, "Six Cups of Chocolate," as a fund-raiser for the establishment of the first public library in that town. The Carnegie Library that eventually resulted from this effort was dedicated in 1912.

**Smith, Peggy.** "When Kafir Was King," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 2 (June 1977), pp. 1, 5.

Before the introduction of milo, kafir corn was the most important small grain raised in the Flint Hills, the grain serving as feed for chickens, hogs, and feedlot cattle and the fodder making excellent winter feed for cow herds. From 1911 through 1929 El Dorado hosted an annual Kafir Corn Carnival, a three-day celebration that featured, among many other entertainments, floats and booths made of this grain sorghum.

**Smith, Thayne.** "Prairie Chicken Hunting," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1972), pp. 18-19.

This illustrated article describes the hunting season of the greater prairie chicken, whose major stronghold in Kansas is the Flint Hills.

**Smyser, Craig.** "Growing Up on a Cavalry Post," *Kanhistique*, 11, No. 9 (January 1986), pp. 10-11.

In the early 1920s the author spent some of his youth on Fort Riley, where his father was an officer. He describes the pastimes popular there at the time--bicycle polo, football, exploring the countryside, and horseback riding.

**Stinson, Pat.** "Flint Oak Ranch," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1988), pp. 12-13.

Near Fall River in the southeast portion of the Bluestem Grazing Region is a hunting preserve and lodge begun by Ray and Winona Walton in 1978. In addition to a European pheasant hunt and regular upland bird hunting, Flint Oak Ranch also has skeet shooting facilities and has hosted the World Tournament of Champions of Sporting Clays.

**Sykes, Mildred S.** "It Wusn't All Work," *Kanhistique*, 10, No. 4 (August, 1984), pp. 12-13.

The author recounts stories of foot races, hunting, fishing, and baseball, as told to her by ninety-nine-year-old Clark Singleton, whose family moved to

western Woodson County in 1884. The story of an unnamed man from Quincy who threw a race, then left town with the crooked race promoter, is that of Bud Gillette, whose exploits as a foot racer are still talked of in the east-central Flint Hills.

## MATERIAL CULTURE OF THE FLINT HILLS

One can tell much about a region by examining its material folk culture. In the Flint Hills, as might be expected, many of the structures, both historical and contemporary, are related to agriculture: fence posts, high-pole gates, cattle guards, barns, hay sheds, cattle rubs, creep feeders, windmills. The vernacular architecture of the towns in the region, particularly the stone houses, is noteworthy, as are those stone arched bridges still extant.

Clark, Nick L. "The Old Stone Church," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 4 (August 1978), p. 11.

West of Maple Hill in Wabaunsee County stands a vine-covered stone church, first erected by New Englanders in 1882. Destroyed by a fire in 1952, the church was rebuilt in 1963 and is still in use.

Clark, Nick L. "Quilting Keeps Them Happy," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 11 (March 1977), p. 4.

Kansas quilts and quilt makers have played an important role in the history of this folk art, and many Flint Hills communities had organizations, such as Ladies Aid Societies, that served as quilting guilds. The Ladies' Quilting Group of Maple Hill, still active at the time this article was written, had been meeting for some forty-two years.

Daniels, Angie. "Peabody Rancher Turns Leathercraft into Art Form," *Kansas Living*, 2, No. 4 (Spring 1992), pp. 10-13.

In a small shop built into a barn near Peabody is an assortment of antique saddles, Indian artifacts, buffalo skulls, new and used tack, a number of leather-working machines, and several new saddles in various stages of completion. Since 1970 Pete Hiebert has been making saddles, bullwhips, bridles, chaps, and other western equipment.

Farrar, Jan Orton. "Herd Laws and Hedge Posts: Fencing in a Kansas County," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 21, No. 3 (Summer 1988), pp. 3-10.

The nineteenth century quarrels over fences and who should build them, crop growers or cattle owners, were especially rancorous in the Flint Hills, where grazing on the tallgrass uplands had been an important part of the local economy from early on in the settlement period. This article details the history of fencing disputes, laws, methods, and materials in Butler County. One cannot necessarily

extrapolate from this experience to the rest of the Flint Hills because herd and fence laws were implemented by local option on a county-by-county basis.



#### Pioneer Bluffs

The Home of Flint Hills pioneer Charles Rogler. Chase County, c. 1885.

*Courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.*

Green, Harold V. "The Great Round Barn of Fred Cottrell," *Old Farm Magazine*, February 1989, pp. 13-15.

This brief article relates the author's memories of and some facts about an unusual barn located near Marysville in the northern Flint Hills.

Green, Harold V. "The Romance of the Barn," *Old Farm Magazine*, August 1989, pp. 17-18.

This article gives information about and a photograph of the Drennen round barn near Blue Rapids in the northern Flint Hills. The barn was built in 1913, is 92 feet in diameter, 40 feet high, and could feed 100 cattle at one time. It is still operational and in good condition.

Greer, Larry. "Chapman Post," *Barbed Wire Gazette*, August 1978.

In 1903 Philip Chapman of Council Grove took out a patent on a type of fence post found only in the Flint Hills--a pipe set into a hole drilled into a

chunk of limestone. [According to local tradition this type of post was invented and first built in the early 1880s by Exodusters, black settlers who came into Kansas after the Civil War. A colony of these settlers was located at Dunlap. Many of these posts are still in use today, although none have been built since the 1920s.]

**Hoy, James F. "The Cattle Guard: Folk Technology in the Flint Hills of Kansas,"** *Kansas Quarterly*, 13, No. 2 (Spring 1981), pp. 45-55.

A cattle guard is a kind of automatic gate, a grid of pipe or rails spaced over a pit in the roadway that cattle hesitate to cross. Winner of the 1981 Seaton Award for non-fiction, this article contains both a field study of the use of cattle guards in the Flint Hills and a survey of the history and development of this device of folk technology.

**Hoy, James F. "Kansas Bootmakers: Jim Holenbeck,"** *KS. Magazine*, (April, 1986), pp. 56-57.

The subject of this profile is a hoot and saddle maker who has his shop on land that his great-grandfather bought on Deep Creek north of Alma in 1880.

**Hudson, Mark S. "New Life for Wamego's Columbian Theater,"** *Kanhistique*, 17, No. 10 (February 1992), pp. 8-9.

Originally built in 1895, two years after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the Rogers Music Hall in Wamego is today being renovated. Over the years it has been used as a theater, a movie house, a ballroom, and a gallery. Today more paintings from the Columbian Exposition are found here than anywhere else in the United States.

**Isern, Thomas D. "Between Science and Folklore: Images of Extension from the Flint Hills of Kansas,"** *Agricultural History*, 60, No. 2 (Spring 1986), pp. 267-286.

From the 1920s through the 1940s many county agricultural extension agents included in their annual reports photographs of folk devices built in response to particular needs. Fourteen photographs from Flint Hills counties are reproduced in this essay illustrating such things as chinch bug barriers, creep feeders, and grasshopper catchers.

**Johnson, Alma D. "The Old Barns,"** *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 5 (September 1978), pp. 8-9.

Among the various historic and scenic barns described and pictured in this article is the three-story barn on the Z-Bar (formerly the Spring Hill) Ranch north of Strong City in Chase County. Built by cattle king S.F. Jones in the 1880s, it is one of the biggest barns extant in Kansas. It is built into the side of a hill and has a ramp into the third floor so that a horse could be ridden or driven into any of its three floors.

Jones, Carroll J. "Molasses Days," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 5, (September 1977), p. 4.

The author tells of the annual Molasses Day celebration at the Mill Creek Museum seven miles west of Alma in Wabaunsee County.

Kent, James Eldon. "Bridging the Gup." *The Territorial*, 10, No. 1 (January/February 1990), pp. 11-12.

The Dutch Creek bridge in northeast Cowley County, unusual for its S-shape (given by its approaches) was built in 1904 and is still in use today. This article also provides background on the history and construction of stone arched bridges, many of which can still be found throughout the Flint Hills.

Long, Paul F. "Limestone--the Stuff of Beauty," *Kanhistique*, 6, No. 10 (February 1981), pp. 8-9.

Post rock limestone from the the Smoky Hills was formed during the Cretaceous period, but the Permian limestone of the Flint Hills is older. This article, with photographs, describes many attractive buildings from both areas of Kansas. Of special note are the Chase County courthouse, the Z-Bar Ranch, and the Sauble Ranch.

McKinney, Florenee. "Old Houses Have Seen Time Pass By," *Kansas Farmer*, 20 April 1946, pp. 14, 17.

The Flint Hills contain many striking examples of limestone architecture. This illustrated article gives a brief history of the Denison house in Manhattan and the Davis, Jones (Spring Hill or Z-Bar Ranch), Wood, and Blacksbere (Clover Cliff Ranch) houses in Chase County.

Rollins, Laurie. "The Old Strong Farm," *Kanhistique*, 7, No. 5 (September 1981), pp. 10-11.

This old stone farm house, now within the city limits of Manhattan, was built in the 1860s and is still standing. Henry Strong, an abolitionist, bought his farm in 1860 and used it as a station on the underground railroad.

Ruetli, Oretta. "Waterville--from Cowtown to Victorian Showplace," *Kanhistique*, 5, No. 1 (May, 1979), pp. 1, 3.

The author describes and provides photographs of some of the Victorian architecture, wooden and stone, of Waterville in Marshall County.

Sykes, Mildred S. "Platt House," *Kanhistique*, 7, No. 1 (May 1981), p. 5.

The author describes the restoration of a home built in Manhattan in Riley County in 1871-72.

Wilson, Nita. "Log Cabin North of Cambridge," *Kanhistique*, 8, No. 5 (September 1982), p. 2.

Henry and Alonzo "Doc" Wilkins built a fourteen-by-twenty foot log cabin four miles north of Cambridge in Cowley County in 1872. It was still standing at the time this article was published, although not in the best of repair.

Wilson, Nita. "Tisdale's Old Stone House," *Kanhistique*, 7, No. 3 (July 1981), p. 13.

Not much is left of Tisdale, but a two-story stone house, originally a hotel built in 1873, marks the site of the village that once aspired to be the county seat of Cowley County. A photograph of the building appears on page 13 of the August 1981 issue of *Kanhistique*.

## ETHNICITY IN THE FLINT HILLS

There is no single dominant cultural group within the Flint Hills. Rather the settlement patterns here resulted in a mosaic of ethnicity, much like the rest of Kansas. In historic times the two Native American tribes that inhabited the Flint Hills were the Kansa (or Kaw) in the north and the Osage in the south. Travois trails are still visible in some parts of the Hills. Place names in the Flint Hills--Chelsea, Cambridge, Reading, Westmoreland, Matfield Green--suggest that many of the early settlers were British. Among other groups to be found here, persons of Swedish descent are common near Burdick and in parts of Greenwood County, while Welsh, many of whom became prominent cattlemen in the central Flint Hills, settled in Lyon and Coffey counties. Major settlements of German immigrants occurred in various places throughout the Flint Hills, along with smaller French and Slavic communities. The Exoduster movement in the 1870s resulted in the resettlement of ex-slaves onto small farms in Morris and Wabaunsee counties, while in the years around the turn of the century Mexicans were brought in by the Santa Fe to work on the railroad.

In more recent years refugees from Southeast Asia have moved into some of the larger towns within the Flint Hills area, such as Winfield. For further information on the original ethnic groups of the Flint Hills, see the section on Archaeology, Pre-history, and Native Americans.

Athearn, Robert G. *In Search of Canaan*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1978.

Dunlap, site of a colony of Exodusters and of a school for black children in the later 1870s, is described briefly in this study of the many ex-slaves who came into Kansas after the Civil War.

Berneking, Carolyn E. "The Welsh Settlers of Emporia," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 37, No. 3 (1971), pp. 269-280.

This article describes the social and cultural effects the many Welsh settlers had on the Emporia area. Particularly important was the musical heritage, maintained to the present in the annual St. David's Day concert.

**Buchanan, Bruce.** "A Vice-Presidential Visit to a Small Town," *Kanhistique*, 11, no. 9 (January 1986), pp. 4-5.

On 24 October 1930 Frank "Chief" Haucke, candidate for governor, and Charles Curtis, native Kansan and Vice President of the United States, made a campaign stop at Dunlap, a town of 300 on the Morris-Lyon county line. The part-Indian Curtis had lived as a youth with his grandparents on the Kaw reservation near Dunlap.

**Childears, Frances Lewis.** *The Welsh Pioneers on Coal Creek, School District 27, Lyon County, Emporia, Kansas.* 1965.

This history of a neighborhood located between Olpe and Emporia covers the years 1857 to 1960. It includes information on school, church, music, and social activities as well as photocopies of Emporia *Gazette* clippings on the Welsh of Lyon County.

**Clark, Penny.** "The KKK in Alta Vista," *Kanhistique*, 11, No. 6 (October 1985), pp. 2-3.

The author bases this article on an interview with R.S. Nelson, who was Exalted Cyclops of the Alta Vista branch of the Ku Klux Klan, which was strong in the mid-1920s (115 members out of a population of 450). Their major efforts seem to have been aimed at Catholics rather than blacks; according to Nelson, at one meeting "a colored quartet from Emporia...entertained the crowd" before the lecture on the principles of the Klan. The KKK was most likely as active in the Flint Hills as in other areas of Kansas and the midwest during this time period.

**Force, Frances A.** "The German-Apostolics of Gridley," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 22, No. 2 (Spring 1989), pp. 14-19.

Gridley, which lies in the eastern part of the Bluestem Grazing Region, was the site of a major settlement of German Apostolics. Many of the families, whose descendants still live in the area, arrived in the 1870s and 1880s.

**Hickey, Joseph V.** "Pap' Singleton's Dunlap Colony: Relief Agencies and the Failure of a Black Settlement in Eastern Kansas," *Great Plains Quarterly*, 11, No. 1 (Winter 1991), pp. 23-36.

In 1878 Benjamin "Pap" Singleton helped some two hundred former slaves from Tennessee move into an agricultural settlement near the village of Dunlap in southeastern Morris County. Although the experiment ultimately failed in establishing a permanent black farming community in the Flint Hills, it did allow various black families to become successful citizens of the state. This article was the winner of the 1991 Frederick C. Luebke Award. [Black settlers at Dunlap are credited with inventing and manufacturing the "patent post," a type of fence post unique to the Flint Hills. See the section on Material Culture. In

late 1991 the last black resident of Dunlap, London Harness, moved from his farm into a nursing home in Emporia.]

Hickey, Joseph V. "Welsh Cattlemen of the Kansas Flint Hills: Social and Ideological Dimensions of Cattle Entrepreneurship," *Agricultural History*, 63, No. 4 (Fall 1989), pp. 56-71.

The area around Emporia was settled by Welsh, who, according to local wisdom, taught thrift to the Scots. Many of these industrious Britons became active in the cattle business, where their cautious ways and economic conservatism established them as major landholders and cattle graziers in the central Flint Hills. Today many descendants of pioneer Welsh families in and around Lyon and Coffey counties are still active in the cattle business.



Doctoring a heifer in the Cassoday pasture. Butler, County, c. 1905.

*Author's Collection*

Hoy, James F. "Bill Pickett in Kansas," *KS. Magazine*, (September 1986), pp. 36, 47.

Bill Pickett, the legendary black cowboy who invented the sport of bulldogging, is said to have twisted down, with his teeth, over 5,000 steers in his lifetime. The two best surviving photographs of Pickett in action were taken at the Burdick Field Day rodeo in 1915 (or at the Middle Creek rodeo in the same year--area residents dispute the point), which Pickett had attended with Bob Woods, a black roper and rider from Strong City.

Hoy, James F. "Black Cowboys," *KS. Magazine*, (November 1986), pp. 48-50.

Although never numerous, black cowboys such as Bill Brewer of Madison, Bob Woods of Strong City, Gene Lowery of Reece, and London Harness of Dunlap have had an influence in the Flint Hills and on cattle work there.

Livingston, Barbara. "The French Colony of the Cottonwood Valley," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 22, No. 2 (Spring 1989), pp. 3-10.

Among the ethnic groups that settled the Flint Hills are the French who, beginning in the late 1850s, settled near Cedar Point and Florence on the border of Chase and Marion counties. This account, in relating the experiences of many of the families who comprised this group, contains interesting details of pioneer life.

Millbrook, Minnie Dubbs. "Charles Curtis, Boy Jockey," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 7 (November 1978), pp. 5, 11.

Charles Curtis, Vice President of the United States under Herbert Hoover, was one-eighth Kaw Indian and spent three years of his youth (beginning at age six) with his maternal grandparents on the Kaw Reservation near Council Grove. This article recounts his riding abilities and his experiences as a jockey.

Pantle, Alberta. "History of the French-Speaking Settlement in the Cottonwood Valley," part 1, *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 19, No. 1 (1951), pp. 12-49; part 2 *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, 19, No. 2 (1951), pp. 174-206.

The first French settlers came to the Cedar Point-Florence area of western Chase and eastern Marion counties in 1857, a migration that proceeded apace until the mid-1880s, when over 60 families lived in the area. Many of their descendants live there today, with names such as Lalouette and Soyey common in the area. With photographs.

## LOCAL AND COUNTY HISTORY AND HISTORIES

Although neither geographers nor geologists can agree on the precise boundaries of the Flint Hills themselves, there is general agreement that the Bluestem Grazing Region includes all or parts of the following counties: Butler, Chase, Chantauqua, Coffey, Cowley, Elk, Geary, Greenwood, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Morris, Osage, Pottawatomic, Riley, Wabaunsee, and Woodson. The following section, subdivided by county, contains entries that deal primarily with county history or with the history of communities or locales within each county.

One important resource not included specifically below is the late nineteenth or early twentieth century "illustrated atlas" or "standard atlas" issued for counties throughout the country by such publishing companies as Edwards Brothers of Philadelphia or the Bird and Mickle Map Company of Chicago or the George A. Ogle Company, also of Chicago. These folio-sized books contain statistics, brief histories, plats of towns, maps showing rural land ownership, and drawings or photographs of persons, houses, and farm and ranch buildings.

### BUTLER COUNTY

**Borger, Harold.** *A Pictorial History of Rosalia, El Dorado, Kansas: Butler County Historical Society, 1972.*

Rosalia, in eastern Butler County, has had a colorful history as a cattle-shipping center. It was also home to one of Doc Brinkley's medical transplant clinics. This book provides a good pictorial documentation of the town.

**Ellis, Erna, ed.** *History of Latham, Kansas.* Latham, Kansas: Latham History Book Committee, 1985.

Latham, in the southern part of Butler County, is typical of many of the small towns of the Flint Hills, surrounded as it is by bottomland farms and extensive upland pastures and lying far from a major highway. Most of these early trading centers have dwindled in population and economic importance over the years, and Latham is no exception.

**Ensz, Roland H.** *Plum Grove, Brainerd, Whitewater, and Potwin from 1870-1900.* Emporia State University Masters Thesis, 1970.

These four towns on the western edge of the Flint Hills upland in Butler County were greatly affected by railroad activity during the latter part of the nineteenth century. This is the area in which Frederic Remington owned a sheep ranch in 1883. A number of old photographs are included, including one of a sod house, something of a rarity in the Flint Hills area.

**Harsh, Marie.** *A History of Cassoday, Kansas.* Marion, Kansas: *Marian County Record*, 1976.

This brief account, written for the occasion of the Bicentennial, contains photographs and entertaining vignettes on various aspects of life in a small Flint Hills cowtown.

**Hoy, James F.** *Cassoday, Cow Capital of Kansas: A Memorial History.* El Dorado, Kansas: *Butler County Historical Society*, 1984.

Written for the centennial of the author's hometown (which acquired its nickname from the cattle shipping at the Santa Fe stockyards on the north edge of town), this uncritical history contains (in addition to the usual family histories) information about cattle shipping, rodeo, local tales and legends, and other aspects of Flint Hills lore and folklife.

**Klintworth, Lawrence P., ed.** *The Kingdom of Butler--Her People: A Volume of Biographies.* El Dorado, Kansas: *Butler County Historical Society*, 1980.

This representative collection of 248 brief biographies and family histories of Butler County residents contains a number of entries that give information about stock raising, farming, the oil business, or other distinctive elements of life in the Flint Hills. Among others these include painter Laurence Coffelt (who was known as "The Artist of the Flint Hills"), oil man Isador Molk, and cattlemen James Teter, Robert Hazlett, and Harry Wilson.

**Klintworth, Lawrence P.** *True Tales of the Kingdom of Butler.* El Dorado, Kansas: *Butler County Historical Society*, 1981.

Klintworth has assembled a fascinating collection of anecdotes about a variety of topics dealing with people, agriculture, historical incidents, and the oil industry of the Flint Hills. The tales may indeed be true ones, but many of them are rich in folklife.

**Milbourn, John D.** *Chelsea: the Town, Township, Community and Cemetery.* Bountiful, Utah: *Family History Publishers*, 1990.

Begun as a record of the Chelsea cemetery, this book is a rather complete compilation of information about a Flint Hills community that today lies under Lake El Dorado. The town was founded in 1857 and served as an Indian-raid buffer to Emporia. Included, in addition to thorough cemetery and church records, are old newspaper accounts, reprints of historical accounts of early settlers (horse thieves and buffalo hunting), tax rolls, census records, and a description of El Dorado's Kafir Corn Carnival.

**Mooney, Vol. P., ed.** *History of Butler County, Kansas.* Lawrence: *Standard Publishing Company*, 1916.

This thorough county history and excellent source of information makes note of the Flint Hills and its distinctive agriculture with chapters on livestock

and Kafir corn. Among other topics are oil, horse thieves, pioneer times, and six chapters of anecdotal reminiscences.

**Roberts, Ricky L.** *Chelsea: An Anthropological Study of a Nineteenth Century Western Frontier Town.* University of Kansas Ph.D. Dissertation, 1986.

Chelsea, in Butler County, had a brief existence as a town, from 1857 to 1878, but it continued as a community until the area was covered by a reservoir in the later twentieth century. The earliest settlement is described and the author provides good general background, although the overall tone is technical and academic.

**Stratford, Jessie Perry.** *Butler County's Eighty Years: 1855-1935.* El Dorado, Kansas: 1934.

The first half of this book is an eclectic history of the county, its towns and townships. Fascinating accounts of murders and Indians and pioneer life are interspersed with more mundane lists of county officials, civic clubs, and the Red Cross in Butler County. Among the more interesting items: The first all-woman jury in the United States was impaneled (in a civil suit involving a land dispute) in Butler County; the Kafir Corn Carnival was an agricultural festival unique to El Dorado; and the famous El Dorado Oil Field was initiated by the discovery of Stapleton Number One on 1 September 1915. The second half of the book is a collection of biographical sketches of leading citizens.

**Stratford, Jessie Perry and Lawrence P. Klintworth.** *The Kingdom of Butler: 1857-1970: A History of Butler County, Kansas.* El Dorado: Butler County Historical Society, 1970.

Butler County, the largest in the Flint Hills (and in Kansas), was organized in 1855 as one of the original 33 counties in the state. Its major products have been cattle, grain, and oil, all dealt with in this readable, anecdotal history.

## CHASE COUNTY

**Chase County Centennial: 1872-1972.** Chase County Centennial Committee, 1972.

This commemorative volume contains biographies, community histories, and photographs.

**Chase County Historical Sketches.** Cottonwood Falls, Kansas: Chase County Historical Society, 4 vols., 1940, 1949, 1966, 1984.

These four volumes, although organized, assembled, and indexed somewhat haphazardly, can, if used judiciously, provide the researcher with a wealth of history and lore about Chase County in particular and the Flint Hills in general. A majority of the pages are taken up with family histories, but even here much information about pioneer life and about traditions special to the

Flint Hills can be found. Fortunately, the first two volumes were undertaken early enough to include material from those who remembered events from the nineteenth century.

**Ellsworth, D.A. "History of Chase County, 1854-98," *Chase County Leader***

These yearly chronicles, apparently drawn largely from early newspapers, were compiled and published in weekly installments in the local newspaper. Although spotty, brief, and rarely providing commentary or perspective, this compilation is nonetheless a source of useful information about pioneer and early settlement life in the central Flint Hills.



Cattle in the Bazaar Stockyards. c. 1920.

*Courtesy of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.*

Hickey, Joseph V. and June O. Underwood. "In the Name of the Thurman Church: Women's Clubs and the Revitalization of a Flint Hills Neighborhood," *Locus*, 1 (Fall 1988), pp. 65-83.

Female voluntary associations were an important factor in the development of rural culture in the plains region. This article examines the role played by such organizations in revitalizing a rural Flint Hills neighborhood between the years 1900-1920.

Livingston, Barbara. "Cottonwood Falls Day," *Kansas!*, No. 2 (1988), pp. 18-19.

Each summer since 1977 Cottonwood Falls, county seat of Chase County, has held an old-fashioned Saturday night, recreating the atmosphere of the days when surrounding farmers and ranchers would come into town to do their trading and visiting.

Menke, Daniel D. "The Chase County Park of 1935," *Heritage of the Great Plains*, 22, No. 2 (Spring 1989), pp. 11-13.

This article examines racial attitudes and the role of folklore in tracing the efforts in the early 1930s to construct a county park west of Cottonwood Falls and in explaining the abrupt cancellation of the project in 1935.

"Remembering Chase County Grandmothers," compiled by the Chase County Branch of American Association of University Women, 1985.

This 55 page privately printed booklet is comprised mostly of short biographies with additional pieces on food, the Bazaar Ladies Aid society, and Wilhelmina Morgan, mayor of Cottonwood Falls in 1889.

## CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

*The History of Chautauqua County, Kansas.* Chautauqua County Heritage Association. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987.

A thorough (902 pp.) overview of the county that links the Flint Hills with the Osage Hills, this collection contains information about communities (including the rough-and-ready cattle-shipping cowtown of Elgin), schools, churches, businesses, organizations, and families. Especially interesting is the section on stories and legends.

## COFFEY COUNTY

Christy, Wanda, compiler. *Coffey County Today: A Glimpse into its Past, Present, and Future.* 1987.

One learns that Coffey County celebrated its first Fourth of July in 1858, that famous airplane manufacturer, Olive Ann (Mellor) Beech was born and

reared on a farm near Waverly, and that Gridley was once called the Hay Capital of the United States. Among the many photographs included are several of early agriculture--haying, binding, threshing, and branding on the Jones Ranch.

**Hawkins, Nancy S.** *Simply Astounding!: Lebo, the First 100 Years, 1986.*

Lebo, in Coffey County, lies within the Bluestem Grazing Region. Most of this centennial volume is immaterial to an understanding of the Flint Hills, although Lebo was the home of many Welsh cattlemen who were important in the development of the grazing industry of the Flint Hills, including the "Cattle Jones Boys," Evan and Walter, whose millionaire philanthropy has posthumously benefited thousands of children in Lyon, Coffey, and Osage Counties.

**Redmond, John, compiler.** *First Hand Historical Episodes of Early Coffey County, c. 1955.*

The selections for this booklet, articles that had previously appeared in the Burlington *Daily Republican*, were compiled by John Redmond and published after his death. Old settlers recorded their first-hand accounts of Indians, grasshopper invasions, horse thieves, and cattle herding.

## COWLEY COUNTY

**Hinsey, Lois MacAllister.** "Cherokee Strip Living Mnsenui," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 8 (December 1976), p. 13.

The Cherokee Strip Museum at Arkansas City was opened in 1966. Arkansas City, at the western edge of the Flint Hills area, was the major jumping off point for both the Oklahoma Run in 1889 and the Cherokee Outlet Run in 1893.

**Millington, D.A.** "History of Cowley County, Kansas," *The Winfield Courier*, 31 July 1900.

This special edition contains much legendary material: that De Soto reached what is now Cowley County in 1537, mined for silver in the Flint Hills (where excavations can still be seen in Liberty Township), and discovered the Fountain of Youth in present-day Geuda Springs; that Coronado reached the site in 1542; that Indians annually burned the buffalo grass, which was replaced by bluestem when whites arrived in 1869. While such material must be used with caution, the sections on agricultural, business, and community histories are good sources of information. Some locally prominent race horses receive special attention.

**Oldroyd, Bess Riley and Ruth Norris Berger, eds.** *Between the Rivers: Pioneer Tales of Arkansas City, Kansas.* Ni-chon-cka Series, vol. 1. North Newton, Kansas: Mennonite Press, 1969.

Arkansas City was first settled in 1869 by pioneers who displaced the native Osage. This eclectic collection contains interesting detail of pioneer and post-pioneer life, including insights into the early cattle drives and railroad shipping, and many bits of folk belief.

Oldroyd, Bess Riley and Dorothy Oldroyd Lampert, eds. *Between the Rivers: Stories of the Eighties and Nineties in Arkansas City, Kansas*. Ni-chon-cka Series, vol. 2, North Newton, Kansas: Mennonite Press, 1975.

Arkansas City was the center of activity preceding the 1889 Oklahoma Land Run and the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run, stories of which are included in this collection. Other material focuses on the early history of the town itself.

Reed, Jim. "The Cherokee Strip Run," *Kanhistique*, 10, No. 4 (August 1984), pp. 8-11.

The major jumping-off point for the land rush into the Cherokee Outlet, as well as into Old Oklahoma in 1889, was Arkansas City. It is estimated that Kansas lost 60,000 residents on 16 September 1893, a population shift that, according to some acerbic observers, raised the intelligence level of both states.

Rinchart, Violet (Mrs. Bennett). *Blaze Marks on the Border: The Story of Arkansas City, Kansas, Founded 1870-1871*. North Newton, Kansas: Mennonite Press, 1970.

This miscellany contains, among other things, several pieces of short historical fiction, a history of Arkansas City, some biographies, features on neighboring towns, and stories of the 1893 Run.

Wilcox, Sally. *Winfield and the Walnut Valley*. Winfield Bicentennial Commission. Arkansas City, Kansas: Gilliland's Publishing, 1975.

Beginning with detailed accounts of Indian history associated with the area and moving through pioneer days to the time of publication, this history gives a thorough and readable account of Winfield and environs. Although the Flint Hills are not specifically featured, there is material on ranching (Magnolia Farm is featured in one section) and on small towns, including Douglass, Burden, Cambridge, and Latham. The section entitled "The People" highlights leading or famous citizens, although several of the entries (such as Jesus Cordoba who "became Mexico's leading bullfighter," Buffalo Bill Cody who "operated Bill Cody's Trading Post on West Ninth," and Zaek and George Miller who "put Winfield on the map as home of first rodeo") cry out for further details.

## ELK COUNTY

*Elk County: A Narrative History of Elk County and its People*. Elk County Historical Society, 1979.

Elk County is one of the least populated of the Flint Hills counties. The annual Independence Day rodeo at Moline is one of the longest-running in the

state. This history contains information about conditions and people of the southern Flint Hills.

## GEARY COUNTY

**Henry, Put.** "Territorial Days," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1990), pp. 26-28.

The first territorial capital of Kansas was located on the grounds of what is now Fort Riley. In 1855 Governor Andrew Reeder called the first meeting of a Kansas Legislature, to be held in a stone building that is now a museum. Beginning in 1987 the museum has hosted an annual living history celebration, with Civil War re-enactments and a black powder rendezvous.

**Jeffries, John B. and Irene Jeffries.** *Garden of Eden*. Junction City, Kansas: Geary County Historical Society, 1978.

This local history is distinguished from others of the genre in that it is primarily pictorial. Most of the photographs are of Junction City and were taken by Joseph Judd Pennell, whose 30,000 glass plate negatives, made between 1891 and 1922, are housed in the Kansas Collection of the Spencer Library at the University of Kansas.

**McKinney, Don.** "Old Soldiers Never Die," *Kanhistique*, 17, No. 10 (February 1992), pp. 5-7.

The author's father, a Wyoming cowboy, joined the cavalry in the fall of 1941 and was stationed at Fort Riley to train recruits at the Cavalry Replacement Training Center. The remount horses were, he said, "The finest horseflesh you ever laid your eyes on!" While at Fort Riley he played polo and sneaked off the post to compete in rodeos, including the Flint Hills Rodeo in Strong City.

**Offen, Charlotte.** "Chief, Last Cavalry Horse," *Kanhistique*, 5, No. 3 (July 1979), p. 13.

Fort Riley, headquarters for Custer, among others, was the site of the last unit of horse cavalry in the nation, which was officially disbanded in January 1950. On 24 May 1968 the last cavalry horse on the army rolls, Chief, died at the age of thirty-six.

**Pride, W.F.** *The History of Fort Riley*. Ft. Riley, Kansas: 1926.

Written by a cavalry captain, this history begins with Coronado and other early explorers, gives details of construction (the first camp was established in 1852), and tells of steamboats plying up the Kaw and of frontier characters such as Wild Bill Hickok. Emphasis is placed on the cavalry school and accounts of hunting and polo games by army personnel. Maps are included.

Rozar, Lily-B. "The Founder of Fort Riley," *Kanhistique*, 9, No. 6 (October 1983), p. 13.

Major Edmund A. Ogden founded Fort Riley in 1853. Two years later it was made into a cavalry post, the year that Ogden died of a cholera epidemic then sweeping the fort.

## GREENWOOD COUNTY

*The History of Greenwood County, Kansas.* Greenwood County Historical Society. Wichita: Josten's Publications. Two vols., 1986, 1990.

These are exceptionally well researched, written, edited, illustrated, and bound collections of local and family histories. The sections on farming, ranching, oil, and local legends are particularly valuable for understanding the culture of the Flint Hills. Volume two contains a number of poems, from settlement times to the present.

"Lonely Graves Never Forgotten," *Kanhistique*, 1, No. 1 (May, 1979), p. 4.

A small cemetery north of Madison in Greenwood County contains the grave of William Godfrey (d. 1872) and three other members of his family. Godfrey was one of the early pioneers in the area, arriving in 1859.

Reser, Jean S. "History of Greenwood County, Kansas." *Eureka Herald*, September 22 and 29.

Printed in installments in the local newspaper and described as a "condensed version of a projected history," the author gives a brief survey of events in the history of Greenwood County. Included, among other things, are explorations, trails, early settlers, Indian stories, and local Civil War activities. Hugh Glenn's trading post, however, had to have been in Oklahoma near the mouth, not in Greenwood County near the source, of the Verdigris.

## LYON COUNTY

French, Laura. *A History of Emporia and Lyon County.* Emporia, Kansas: Emporia Gazette Printers, 1929.

Introduced by her long-time employer William Allen White, French's history focuses on the town that has long been a major trade center for the central Flint Hills. The Exoduster movement receives some attention, but the only reference to agriculture concerns the introduction of alfalfa into Kansas in 1882 by H. Parkman of Sunny Slope Farm.

Hey, French I. *A Brief History of Soden's Mill 1860-1941*. Emporia State University Masters Thesis, 1960.

William Soden's water-powered grist mill located on the Cottonwood River at the southern edge of Emporia was typical of the many mills that once were found throughout the Flint Hills. As of 1992 only the mill at Cedar Point in Chase County still stands, although it is in need of serious repair.

McDaniel, Ted F., ed. *Our Land: A History of Lyon County Kansas*. Emporia, Kansas: Emporia State Press, 1976.

Well illustrated with period photographs, this bicentennial history gives information on each town and community in the county. It also includes sections on schools and colleges, ethnicity, and institutions such as the county fair.

"Tombstone Inscriptions from Lyon County Cemeteries." 27 volumes, 1939-1991.

Between 1939 and 1953 the Lyon County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recorded the inscriptions from tombstones in all forty-two cemeteries in Lyon County. Between 1982 to 1991 the Flint Hills Genealogical Society updated the original list and indexed the inscriptions.

Webb, Charles E. "Emporia, the Athens of America, Is Just Ahead. . .: A Datebook of Famous Visitors to Emporia." Emporia, Kansas: Emporia State University Endowment Association, 1978.

Beginning in pioneer times and coming down to the date of publication, with names of visitors and purpose of visit listed for each day of the year, this log demonstrates the surprising variety of cultural opportunities--actors, lecturers, politicians, authors, artists, musicians--that have been available to residents of the central Flint Hills.

*A Memorial to Pioneers of Lyon County 1855-1875*. Emporia, Kansas: Gazette Publishers, 1922.

This booklet, illustrated with many photographs, contains lists of names and events in the early history of Emporia.

## MARION COUNTY

Berns, Joan, W.V. Krause, and Ruth Murray. *Peabody--The First 100 Years*. Peabody, Kansas: Gazette-Herald, 1971.

Peabody, on the western edge of the Flint Hills region in Marion County, is said to have had more train wrecks within its city limits than any other town its size in the country. In addition to the usual family, community, and church histories, there is also much about Indians, windmill manufacturers, the state's first free library, and other interesting facts. Besides oil, crops, and cattle Peabody was also known for its race horses. World champion trotter Joe Young (grandsire of Dan Patch), is buried on a farm three miles west of town.

**Bruner, Hazel C. *Days to Remember: The Burns Community 1864-1970*. North Newton, Kansas: The Mennonite Press, 1970.**

This brief history of a farming community on the western edge of the Flint Hills contains a section of photographs, lists of businesses and officials, a few selections from early newspapers, and brief accounts of area schools and churches, but suffers from the lack of narrative.

***Burns, Kans. 100-Years 1880-1980*. Burns: Centennial Executive Committee, 1980.**

With photographs and a few specially written family stories interspersed, this history tells the story of Burns (originally St. Francis City) through judiciously selected excerpts of old newspapers. Burns was an early railroad shipping point for Flint Hills cattle, and many important ranches had headquarters near there.

**Dale, Wanda, Chairman Centennial Book Staff. *1872-1972 Century of Pride: Florence Centennial*. Florence, Kansas: Bulletin Printing Company, 1972.**

The first white settler came to the site of present day Florence (on the western side of the Flint Hills in Marion County) in 1858. This centennial history, illustrated with historical photographs, provides a comprehensive survey of the major features of a small town in the Flint Hills. Topics covered include railroads, cattle grazing, stone quarrying, oil exploration, and ethnic groups. One section describes the town at the time of publication, and another gives "I Remember" stories of a number of long-time residents. Fred Harvey built his first hotel, and the second of his famous restaurants, along the Santa Fe line in Florence.

**Hawkins, Sheila. "Peabody--Kansas Silk Center in 1885," *Kanhistique*, 1, No. 2 (June 1975), p. 13.**

Various attempts were made at raising silkworms in Kansas: all failed, but Peabody, on the western edge of the Flint Hills, had a reeling station and had produced over a ton of cocoons by 1885.

**VanMeter, Sondra. *Marion County Kansas, Past and Present*. Hillsboro, Kansas: Mennonite Brethren Publishing House, 1972.**

Sanctioned by the Marion County Historical Society and compiled (and well indexed) by a professional historian, this is a comprehensive history of the county. Each town and trading center is given a chapter, as are such topics as Indians, springs, trails, railroads, immigration, and agriculture. The Flint Hills receive specific mention, as do many prominent ranches in the bluestem portion of the county.

## MARSHALL COUNTY

Dary, David. "Waterville--the Forgotten Kansas Cattle Town," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 12 (April 1978), pp. 8-9.

For two years beginning in 1868 (a year after Abilene became a cowtown) Waterville, in the northern area of the Flint Hills, was a cattle shipping center on the Union Pacific. One reason longhorns were brought here was to graze on the bluestem grass, according to contemporary observers.

Guise, Byron E. and Eulalia T. Guise. *An Affair with the Past: From the Otoes to the Astronauts*. Privately published, 1987.

This book is comprised of a collection of news stories that give a chronological account of the high points of the history of Marshall County. Among the contents are chapters on pioneer stories, Indians and bison, daily farm life, horse power, trains, ghost towns, bank robberies and murders, folk entertainments, and the Pony Express. [The nation's only surviving Pony Express station is in Marshall County.]

## MORRIS COUNTY

Collins, Sharon. "The Hays House," *Kanhistique*, 5, No. 11 (March 1980), pp. 1, 5.

Seth Hays, a cousin of Kit Carson and a grandson of Daniel Boone, established the Hays House in Council Grove in 1857. Over the years its paying guests have included George Armstrong Custer and Jesse James. The hotel portion of the establishment was closed during the depression, but the restaurant, operating in the same building with many of the original architectural and structural features visible, is today one of the most celebrated in Kansas.

Gutsch, Helen E., Dee Gutsch, and Naomi Nelson, eds., *Through the Years: History of Burdick, 1887-1987*, 1987.

Unlike many centennial histories, this privately printed volume does not include family histories, but it does give background on many of the community institutions (such as the railroad, schools, post office, churches, businesses, and organizations) of this Swedish town on the western edge of the Flint Hills. Also included are photographs of and information about the Field Day rodeo, including appearances by bulldogger Bill Pickett in 1915 and 1917.

Harris, Cecilia. "A Succulent Slice of History," *Kansas!*, No. 3 (1988), pp. 18-19.

The Hays House in Council Grove has been in the business of supplying meals to the public continuously since 1857, making it the oldest such restaurant west of the Mississippi. Restored by Charlie and Helen Judd in period style with

much of the original structure visible, the restaurant is now owned by Rick and Alisa Paul. History and folklore permeate the establishment, such as the tale of a group of late nineteenth century cowboys coming in for a drink and finding the Ladies Aid Society holding a bake sale on the bar. So the cowboys bought up all the cakes, folded up the table cloths, moved the ladies out, and opened up the bar. Seven recipes for house specialities, including brisket and cranberry-strawberry pie, are included.

**Leonard, George, et al., eds. *Clarks Creek Township, Morris County*. Abilene, Kansas: R & D Printers, 1980.**

This local history documents in prose and photographs the northwest Morris County town of Latimer and environs and the families who have lived there. While containing nothing special on cattle, the book is good on farm and small-town life outside the major pasture areas of the Flint Hills.

**Long, Paul F. "Trees and the Pioneers," *Kanhistique*, 2, No. 3 (July 1976), pp. 1, 5.**

The Post Office Oak and the Council Oak at Council Grove are described, along with some discussion of the use of native lumber by early pioneers in the Flint Hills and of early schools there made of logs.

**Maloy, John. *History of Morris County, Kansas: 1820-80*. n.d.**

Published serially from 26 February 1886 through 24 December 1886 in the *Cosmos*, a Council Grove newspaper, this history of Council Grove traces both the mundane and the exciting: Santa Fe Trail trading center, horse thieves, Indians, temperance rallies, lists of city officials. The work was apparently taken up through 1890 in the *Republican*, although not in this particular volume, yellowed newspaper columns pasted onto crumbling sheets bound between hard cover, held by the Kansas State Historical Society.

**Offen, Charlotte. "Council Grove's Treasured Old Bell," *Kanhistique*, 4, No. 4 (August 1978), p. 13.**

Sitting atop Belfry Hill, Council Grove's alarm bell was purchased in 1863 by Sam Wood from a church in Lawrence and delivered by ox team. After years of service (from warning of fires and Indian raids to summoning children to school), the bell fell from its rotted tower down the hill before being restored to its present location in 1901.

**Reed, Jim. "Trees Important in Kansas History," *Kanhistique*, 3, No. 12 (April 1978), p. 10.**

Among the historic trees listed are the Custer Elm, the Council Oak, and the Postoffice Oak at Council Grove.

## OSAGE COUNTY

**Carswell, Roger.** *The Early Years of Osage County.* North Newton, Kansas: Mennonite Press, 1982.

This history includes materials on the Sac and Fox Indians who once had a reserve in present Osage County, on county seat fights, on coal mining, and on saloons and dancing girls from the frontier era.

**Copple, O.A.** *History of Osage City and Osage County.* N.p., n.d.

This privately printed history contains information about the settlement and early history of Osage County, including newspapers, schools, churches, transportation, clubs, banks, and other towns within the county. There are no family histories, nor no special sections on agriculture, but coal mining, which was an important early-day industry in the area, is described.

## POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

**Crevecoeur, Ferdinand Francis.** *Old Settlers' Tales.* Onaga, Kansas, 1902.

This collection contains historical and biographical sketches of the early settlement and settlers of northeast Pottawatomie County up the year 1877.

**Hoobler, Dorothy Newcomer.** *And They Called the Site "St. Marys."* St. Marys, Kansas: Valley Ho! Publishing Company, 1978.

St. Marys, lying along the lowland area of the Kansas River, is one of the oldest communities in the Flint Hills area, tracing its roots to the founding of a Jesuit mission to the Potawatomie Indians in 1848. This volume is a collection of historical articles published in the local paper during the nation's bicentennial celebration.

**Nelson, Jay.** *A Centennial History of Olsburg, Kansas.* 1980.

Olsburg, in the northern Flint Hills, was settled primarily by Swedes and Norwegians. This history, well illustrated with photographs and anecdotes, presents an interesting picture of small-town and agricultural life.

**Owens, Inez Roberts.** *Welcome to Wamego, Kansas, 1866-1976: The American Bicentennial Year, 1776-1976.* Manhattan, Kansas: Ag Press, 1976.

This composite of photographs, captions, and excerpts from early newspapers, while lacking organization and a clear line of development, contains much information about Wamego but has little if any relevance for the rest of the Flint Hills.

## RILEY COUNTY

*History of Wild Cat Valley.* Compiled by Wildcat Extension Homemaker Unit, Riley County, Kansas, 1980.

Keats, as the chief town in Wild Cat Township just northwest of Manhattan, receives major attention in this local history. Businesses, schools, churches, and organizations are documented in text and in photographs. There are sections on stone cutting and meat curing, and the volume concludes with copies of maps and drawings from the early plat book of the township.

Slagg, Winifred N. *Riley County, Kansas.* New York: Theo. Gaus' Sons, Inc., 1968.

Broader in scope than many county histories, this book relates the settlement of Riley County to events in the settlement of Kansas. Included are accounts of the Native American inhabitants, early explorers and trails, the New England Emigrant Aid Society, pioneer life, towns, steamboats, land companies, mills, telephones, and street cars. Accounts of the various towns of Riley County are included, along with family histories and photographs.

## WABAUNSEE COUNTY

*New Branches from Old Trees: A New History of Wabaunsee County.* Wabaunsee County Historical Society, n.d., n.p.

Although primarily a compilation of church, cemetery, family, and township histories, this 912 page book (apparently published at the time of the Bicentennial) does contain some information about ranchers and farming in this area of the Flint Hills.

"Pioneering in Wabaunsee County," *Kansas Historical Collections*, 11 (1909-10), pp. 594-613.

Several authors contributed papers to this article in which they relate their experiences with such things as Indians, weather, land offices, the militia, vigilance committees, Texas cattle, and the Santa Fe Trail.

Thierer, Joyce. *Volland: A Flint Hills Trading Community.* Emporia State University Masters Thesis, 1986.

In 1887 the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad extended its tracks into Wabaunsee County in the north-central Flint Hills, and soon Volland was a major shipping point for Texas cattle. By the mid-1960s, however, trucks had replaced trains in the movement of cattle, and the stockyards at Volland were torn down. Today only a couple of abandoned buildings mark the site where the bustling village once stood.

Thomson, Matt. *Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas, with Stories of Pioneer Days and Glimpses of Our Western Border*. Alma, Kansas: 1901.

Reprinted in 1973 by Robert F. Stuewe of the *Alma Signal-Enterprise*, this fascinating collection of biographies, photographs, lists of county records, and eclectic stories of practical jokes, murders and lynchings, Indian raids, and hitching rides in cattle cars is an important repository of the early history and folklife of a county sometimes called "the Switzerland of Kansas."

## WOODSON COUNTY

Powls, David M. *History of Woodson County*. Yates Center, Kansas: Yates Center News, 1987.

Woodson County, while outside the Flint Hills proper, lies within the Bluestem Grazing Region and the western half of the county, in particular, shares much of the same agricultural methodology. Yates Center at one time led the nation in tonnage of prairie hay shipped, Batesville was a major cattle-shipping point, and the Kimbell Ranch for years has grazed transient cattle.

## FAMILY HISTORIES

Family histories, often reproduced by photocopy machine and circulated by mail or at reunions, are sometimes deposited in local libraries or historical society archives. These collections, if they go beyond mere genealogical lists by including anecdotes and memoirs, can be an important source of information about pioneer or post-pioneer life in a given area, such as the Flint Hills.

Fitzgerald, Anne. *Rock Creek Crossings: Six Generations on the Kansas Prairie*. Wichita: Eagle-Beacon Publishing Co., 1991.

The Yeager family settled on Rock Creek west of Bazaar in Chase County in the 1850s. This account, originally published as part of the "Kansas Roots" series in the *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*, traces six generations of the family. Among other things, the authors explore the difficulty of staying on the land.

Gladow, Dianc M. *Rich Heritage*. Emporia, Kansas: Professional Printing Center, 1983.

This history of the Gladow family contains information about rural life around Alma in the north-central Flint Hills, including a reprint of a newspaper account of a 1907 train wreck near Volland.

Glick, Frank Ziegler. *They Came to the Smoky Hill: History of Three Generations*. Manhattan, Kansas: Sunflower University Press, 1986.

This lengthy family history contains much about the town of Junction City, but little of the rural surroundings.

Johnson, Margaret Anderson. *A History of the Anderson Family*, Lindsborg, Kansas: Barbos Printing Company, 1988.

One of the pre-eminent cattlemen in the Flint Hills during the first half of the twentieth century was E.T. Anderson of Emporia, who was born and reared near Burdick in Morris County. Selections from his book, *A Quarter-Inch of Rain*, are reprinted amidst the genealogical charts.

*Log Cabin Days*. Riley County Historical Society, 1929.

This collection of family histories and memories of earliest pioneer times contains information about what is now Riley County in the 1850s (including an invasion of bison in 1857).

Olney, Elaine and Mary Roberts, eds. *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie: Kansas Counties Clay, Geary, Marshall, Pottawatomie, Riley, Wabaunsee, Washington*. Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976.

Brief histories of each county preface short family histories of the pioneer families that settled there. The editors call it a "people history"; its chief value is to genealogists. Maps and lists of post offices and school districts are included, as is a complete index of surnames.

