

Kansas Historical Notes

The seventy-third annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society will be held in the rooms of the Society in the Memorial building at Topeka on October 19, 1948.

Funds for restoring the old Beecher Bible and Rifle Church at Wabaunsee are being collected under the sponsorship of the Old Timers' Association of Wabaunsee. Mrs. Josephine Brown, 1126 Pierre street, Manhattan, is chairman of the committee. The church, dedicated in 1862, is being repaired and it is hoped that the restoration will be completed by the latter part of August when a homecoming celebration will be held.

Some damage to the historic rocks at Alcove Springs, six miles south of Marysville, famous camping site of emigrants traveling the old Oregon trail, was recently reported by Arthur McNew, present owner of the land. The large rock near the falls, on which initials and dates of many emigrants are carved, has been used as a camp-fire site, which has resulted in turning the rock white. Mr. McNew warns that such trespassers will be prosecuted.

The historical committee of the Meade county council of women's clubs met in the home of Mrs. W. S. Dingess of Meade, March 20, 1948. Rules for the historical writing contest sponsored by the county council were drawn up. Contestants must be adult residents of Meade county or descendants of early settlers in the county. The manuscripts must be at least 1,500 words in length. The State Historical Society will judge the entries and cash prizes will be awarded by the county council for the best stories. The contest closes September 1, 1948.

Manuscript of Volume II of "Chase County Historical Sketches" was sent to the publishers in April, 1948, the Chase County Historical Society has announced. The material was compiled under the direction of Mrs. Clara Hildebrand, historian of the society. Volume I was printed in 1940-1941. Members of the executive committee of the society are: George T. Dawson, chairman, D. M. Smith, Howel Jones, Henry Rogler, George Miller and Claude Hawkins.

The newly organized Osawatomie Historical Society elected Alden O. Weber as its first president at a meeting on April 23, 1948. Other officers are Mrs. Pauline Gudger, vice-president, and Mrs. Ruby McIntosh, secretary-treasurer. The president explained that

the purpose of the club was to stimulate and sustain interest in Osawatomie history and to work for the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, etc. The old stone church at Sixth and Parker streets was cited by Mr. Weber as an example.

A Kansas Historical Marker to "Coronado and Quivira" was erected four miles west of Lyons on highway US50-North in May, 1948. This was one of the 56 markers which the Kansas Highway Commission originally scheduled for placing several years ago, but the war and resulting material shortages prevented its erection until now. The text of the marker was printed in *The Kansas Historical Quarterly* of November, 1941 (v. X, No. 4), p. 342.

Jerry Voorhis, native Ottawan and former congressman from California, met with the Franklin County Historical Society at Ottawa May 6, 1948. Voorhis mentioned several people and business houses that he remembered from his boyhood days. He was seven years old when his family left Ottawa for California. Sen. B. F. Bowers, president of the society, presided at the meeting.

Project Report on Historical Aspects of Kanopolis Reservoir on Smoky Hill River, Kansas is the title of an interesting 34-page illustrated mimeographed review recently prepared by Merrill J. Mattes, historian of Region Two, National Park Service, of Omaha, Neb. The dam and reservoir, in Ellsworth county, were officially dedicated on May 31, 1948. A more general article by Mr. Mattes, "Historic Sites in Missouri Valley Reservoir Areas," appeared in the July-September, 1947, issue of *Nebraska History* of Lincoln. In May, 1948, the corps of U. S. engineers of the Kansas City district issued a revised 14-page report with maps of their publication entitled *Kanopolis Dam and Multiple-Purpose Reservoir*.

A story on the iron monument marking the boundary between Kansas and Nebraska was written by James C. Olson for the June, 1948, issue of *Nebraska History* of Lincoln. Mr. Olson and others recently visited the monument, originally placed at the northeast corner of Kansas in 1855, and found it in excellent repair.

Those Who Served (Newton, 1947), a 136-page illustrated booklet edited and compiled by William Jewell Sage, lists those from Harvey county who served in the armed forces in World War II, and gives brief histories of the civilian groups which were organized to further the war effort. Major work included the operation of the Red Cross railway canteen and the USO.

