

Bypaths of Kansas History

A LIFE INSURANCE AD OF 1854

The following is an advertisement which appeared in the *Daily Commonwealth*, Boston, Mass., August 16, 1854:

Emigrants

TO KANSAS AND NEBRASKA
CAN EFFECT LIFE INSURANCE IN THE
HARTFORD LIFE INSURANCE CO.

WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE

Especially if they go for Freedom.

Apply at Boston Agency,

HARRIS, COWLES & CO.,

9 and 1 Kilby Street.

WHEN HIGHWAY BUILDING BEGAN AT HOME

From the *Newton Kansan*, October 28, 1875.

OUR ROADS—The finest natural roads in the world are to be found on the prairies of Southern and Western Kansas. No stumps, no great rocks, no swamps, and no tolls to pay. Only at the creek and river crossings is there ever any work to be done, and all of these will eventually be bridged. Notwithstanding this almost absolute immunity from labor and expense, it is not appreciated, and from the most gross carelessness, our creek and river crossings are neglected year after year, until they become little more than treacherous holes, whose function is only to break wagons and harness, and are made the fruitful source of more profanity than a hornet up a man's trousers leg. That there should be any cause for complaint in this direction is a disgrace to the country, and particularly to every man who travels over our roads in his own wagon. How simple the remedy for all the evils complained of? How easily our crossings could always be kept in perfect order, if every man when he started from home would put a shovel or spade into his wagon, and when he reaches a spot that looks as if a moments work would fix it, let him stop, get out and do it. We hope this practice is not ignored here because people are afraid of doing their neighbors some benefit. In the Eastern States this method is the rule invariably, we know of farmers who would no more have thought of neglecting their shovel when they started for town, than they would of forgetting their hat. Now we contend that it is clearly the duty of those who use the roads most to keep them in order, and no one will deny it is the farmers who should do it.