

Kansas History as Published in the Press

Kansas in 1860 was not as dry as people would have one believe, according to records of Federal Meteorologist S. D. Flora printed in the *Topeka State Journal*, January 15, 1944. Leavenworth and Manhattan had rain. Therefore the statement that "not a shower fell" for sixteen months is misleading. "Maybe it just 'seemed that way' to them," wrote Mr. Flora.

Articles of historical interest to Kansans in Victor Murdock's column in the *Wichita (Evening) Eagle*, include: "Ventures by Pioneers [in Allen County] in Feeding of Cattle Had Promise of Profit . . . Seventy Years Ago," February 1, 1944; "Growth of Gun in the First Century of the Country's History as It Was Seen in the Days of Wichita's Youth," February 2; "Evidence in Wichita in the First Days Here of Railroad Evolution," February 3; "Providing Dining Room For Their Passengers Once Task of Railroads," February 4; "Horse That Drew Overland Concord Into Interior Was a Herald To Communities Announcing the Coming of His Iron Competitor," February 5; "Bringing Track Gauge of Initial Railroads To a Single Standard," February 7; "Three Good Rifle Shots Fired From a Spencer by John Helms, Pioneer . . . in Southern Kansas in 1871," February 8; "Fixation of the Gauge of the Railroad Track at Prevailing Standard . . . of Four Feet Eight and One-Half Inches," February 9; "First Locomotive Here in Form Seeming Fixed, Subject To Big Changes," February 10; "Development in the United States Preceding the Conception of This City Which Made Its Growth Possible," February 11; "People in This Area Were Quick To Abandon the Old-Fashioned Covered Wooden Bridge Which Looked Like an Elongated Barn," February 12; "One Traveler, Who Was a Mathematician, Left an Account of the Operation of Chuck-a-Luck Which He Witnessed," February 14; "Echo Here in Wichita of Early Day Struggle of Locomotive Vs. Horse," February 15; "First Two Railroads To Make an Entrance Into Indian Territory," February 16; "Wichitans Had a Choice in Pronouncing Name of Neighbor—Oklahoma," February 17; "One Mining Excitement [San Juan in Colorado] Came at the Same Time With Start of Wichita," February 18; "Picturesque Figure Presented by the Scout of the Prairie Country Who Pursued His Profession Before the Railroads Arrived," February 19; "Part Played Around Wichita by the

Absence Here of the Need of Tile Drainage and Commercial Fertilization," February 21; "Travelers [Isaac McCoy and Maj. Clifton Wharton] Easily Lost by Their Companions on Early Day Prairies," February 22; "Black Bear Cub Market Here But Not Impressive in Wichita's First Days," February 23; "Husband and Wife Went To Church Ahorseback For Protracted Period," February 24; "Lines First Proposed For [Rail]Roads Southbound Into Oklahoma Country," February 25; "Passenger Car Changes Seen on the Railroads Through Course of Years," February 26; "How Good the Grasses Looked To the Pioneers Whose Ancestors Had Struggled To Keep Cattle Alive Through the Winter," February 29; "Railroad War on Weeds as Early Stages of It Were Seen in Wichita," March 1; "Quotations of Food Products Found in the Records of the First Period in Populating the Prairies Reveal Struggle of Farmers To Survive Economically," March 2; "City of Wichita's Experience With Certain Expressions Used in Conversation From Its Earliest Frontier Days," March 3; "Impressions of Animals Gathered by the Youth in Former Times Here," March 4; "Switch in This Region in Production of Wheat Feature of Early Days," March 6; "Memory of Wichitans of the Territorial Days at Start of Oklahoma," March 7; "Chapter in the History of Wheat Production and Harvesting Which Engrossed Attention of Country and City," March 8; "Events Before Opening of Original Oklahoma Found Wichitans Alert," March 9; "Points That Appeared in the Proclamation That Opened Oklahoma," March 10; "Reluctance That Arose in Presidential Mind in Opening Oklahoma," March 11; "One Holiday [Centennial on April 30, 1889, of the Formal Organization of the Republic] That Came During Wichita's Youth and History It Marked," March 13; "Advent of Soda Water in Wichita's First Days Part of Big Development," March 18; "Name [Samuel Colt] That Was Familiar To the Frontier Here Was Found on Gun Barrel," March 20; "Struggle Wichita Made When Community Neared Its Twentieth Year," March 21; "Three Openings of Land That Rang Up Curtain on the Oklahoma Drama," March 24; "Last of the Big Runs, That of Cherokee Outlet, and Its Wide Publicity," March 25; "Rise, Decline and Fall of the Osage Orange Nurseries Which Used To Distinguish the Prairies Hereabout," March 27; "Appearance of 'Pacific' in Names of Railroads With 'Central' on Wane," March 28, and "Arrival of Barbed Wire a Simultaneous Event With Birth of Wichita," March 29.